



# **SUGARLOAF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER December 2014**

"Protecting our rural legacy"

*How to contact us:*

*Sugarloaf Citizens' Association*

*Beth Daly, President*

*Linden Farm, 20900 Martinsburg Road*

*P.O. Box 218, Dickerson, MD 20842*

Visit our Web site: [www.sugarloafcitizens.org](http://www.sugarloafcitizens.org)

## **Seasons' Greetings from Sugarloaf Country!**

2014 was a busy year for our volunteer team at the Sugarloaf Citizens Association. As an organization dedicated to the protection and promotion of the Agricultural Reserve's rural legacy, Sugarloaf took action and met challenges on many different fronts. Below is a short synopsis of some of our most significant work and achievements this past year:

**Global Mission Church** — Plans to build a 118,000 square foot mega-church facility—larger than the Nashville Convention Center—on a piece of property in rural southern Frederick County with no public sewer or water are on hold because of legal action brought by Sugarloaf, MCA, and local residents.

**Old Arsenal Gun Range** — The applicant withdrew its proposal for a gun range when faced with a well-organized campaign that expressed resident and local business concerns. Sugarloaf joined the Sugarloaf Alliance and many others to testify before the Frederick County Planning Board in opposition to the proposed large-scale, high caliber gun range at the base of Sugarloaf Mountain, a designated conservation area.

**Ten Mile Creek** — Sugarloaf was one of the earliest members of the Ten Mile Creek Coalition (TMC). Sugarloaf board members testified in front of the Montgomery County Council and Planning Board; met with elected officials and planning board staff; and, financed scientific research. Thanks to the TMC efforts, there will be hundreds fewer acres of asphalt, making for a healthier creek, sole-source aquifer and emergency drinking water supply for over 4.3 million in the metro area.

Although Sugarloaf remains a volunteer organization, and has been since its inception nearly 42 years ago, it sometimes takes more than sweat to get the job done right. It costs money to employ land use attorneys and environmental researchers whose expertise is invaluable to our past successes. Please check out our website @ [sugarloafcitizens.org](http://sugarloafcitizens.org) and consider making a contribution either online or mailed to the above address.

There is more work to be done in 2015, including advocacy for broadband access in the Ag Reserve and a MCPS rural schools policy. Please join us and thanks in advance for your support.

Warm Wishes for the Holiday Season!

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