

**Winter
2014**



Sugarloaf Mountain Newsletter

SUGARLOAF DODGES BULLET

By: David F. Webster, Exec. Secretary/Treasurer

Stronghold, Inc. received notice on July 14, 2014 from the Community Development Division Frederick County, Maryland Board of Appeals that the Old Line Arsenal, LLC, filed a Special Exemption to establish a shooting range/club on the 262 acres contiguous with Sugarloaf Mountain. A public hearing was to be held at Winchester Hall on Thursday, July 24th at 7:00 PM. Public comments are limited to four (4) minutes for individuals and ten (10) minutes for bonafide organizations.

Unbelievable! This exception, if approved, would destroy 100 years of Gordon Strong's dream of preserving Sugarloaf Mountain for all to enjoy this unique area, which offers every sort of wilderness beauty.

Thankfully, our neighbors on June 28th and 30th met, 66 strong, to establish a leadership team, appoint a treasurer, establish e-mail distribution lists, create a website, search for a lawyer, distribute signage, partake in community outreach, exchange ideas and encourage everyone to participate at the July 24th hearing. Sugarloaf Alliance was born.

The Sugarloaf Alliance attorney, Leslie Powell, attended the July 14th meeting to discuss the case and answer questions. All present were instructed on how to respect and present their individual testimonies. (No duplications.)

At the July 24th hearing, 200-300 people were signed up and present to voice their individual objections to the Old Line Arsenal special exception. Old Line's lawyer requested a continuance which the Board of Appeals granted. The date given was Thursday, August 28 at 12:00 noon. This was the weekend before the Labor Day celebration when most people were either working or going away for the three days.

Incredibly, the turnout was just as strong at the 12:00 noon hearing as on the July 24th hearing. The Old Line Arsenal obviously got the message and passionately, with a sigh of relief to all present, withdrew the application. All were delighted, as were we at Stronghold.

Congratulations to the Alliance and to all who participated in its successful endeavor.

The Stronghold Board of Trustees expresses their sincere thanks and appreciation to the Sugarloaf Alliance, and to our wonderful neighbors for preserving Mr. Strong's dream of quiet, natural beauty for all.

Special thanks are extended to the news media, and to the following families: The Winklers, Kaplans, Wards, Nick C., Bosselmans, Waltans, Ridge Kelley Committee, every opposition letter writer, and the Valois.

Special note: Keep the Sugarloaf Alliance active and attentive to all the special exceptions and future challenges we may encounter here in our unique southern corner of Frederick County.