

# CITIZENS FOR THE PRESERVATION OF PLEASANT VALLEY



November 30, 2008

Mr. John F. Barr, President,  
Washington County Commissioners  
100 West Washington Street, Room 226  
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740

Cc: Kristin Aleshire, Terry Baker, John Barr, James Kercheval, William Wivell, Joseph Kroboth

Dear Mr. Barr,

A group of interested citizens are currently forming a non-profit, 501(c)3 corporation known as Citizens for the Preservation of Pleasant Valley, CPPV, whose mission is to preserve the unique historic and scenic qualities of the southern part of Washington County. The Pleasant Valley area is rich in beauty and history. Impacts on the special character of the valley should be an important consideration in all decisions by the Washington County Commission.

While supporting the need for enhanced emergency communications, as well as consumer (cell phone) communications, many citizens have concerns about the need to preserve the scenic views and the history of Southern Washington County as the area develops. Many feel that the process used in implementing the County wide emergency communication plans has, to date, not adequately included the interests or participation of local citizens. For example, the site at Keep Tryst and Sandy Hook Road has seen a cell tower erected with little or no public input. We are also aware of recent testing at this location for additional cell communications.

CPPV believes that the public's right to expect a transparent government is compatible with maintaining Public Safety. We are troubled by reports from citizens that the County is refusing reasonable access to information and participation. We hope you are aware of the history of concerns expressed by citizens, the National Park Service and others, which in our opinion confirm this observation.

To help ameliorate this situation, we request notification by the County of events including, but not necessarily limited to, the following: all future site tests, all site evaluations, and all Board and public discussions relating to cell tower or cell communications for the Keep Tryst, Sandy Hook, Valley Roads and Rt.340 corridor. This notification should be given in a reasonable amount of time before the event.

To re-iterate, we recognize the need for enhanced emergency communications in Washington County, and our goal is to be supportive of this initiative. However, some local residents feel that they have been treated as adversaries, and not as partners or citizens. Hopefully, this may be resolved. Should you wish to discuss our concerns please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Citizens for the Preservation of Pleasant Valley

Group contact information:

Email - [cppv@upshotmd.org](mailto:cppv@upshotmd.org) or [comments@upshotmd.org](mailto:comments@upshotmd.org)

Web site - [upshotmd.org](http://upshotmd.org)