

CITIZENS FOR THE PRESERVATION OF PLEASANT VALLEY



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Info you might want to know:

1. First Responder Tower Update
 - Short Hill Tower Alternative
 - A Saturday date for promised test?
 - Cincinnati's experiences with a similar system
2. CPPV Membership Meeting, Wednesday, Jan 27, 2010
3. County Commissioner Contact Information

First Responder Tower Update

Short Hill Tower Alternative

The ability of our first responders to communicate is important, and the County does deserve credit for considering an alternate site in the Valley, but it is hard to escape the reality that this tower will be huge and ugly. It is not an 80 foot "stealth" cell phone tower which somewhat blends in with the trees. Instead, it is a 190 foot high truss structure, and sticks out well above the trees. **However, there may be an alternative, where we may be able to both minimize the impact on local citizens and have a tower!** We are still double checking the details, but what follows is our current understanding: There is already a 150 foot truss tower on the top of Short Hill Mountain, on the Virginia side of the Potomac River. **Why build a new tower in the Valley if an already existing one on the edge of the Valley will work? Even if they must build a new tower, why can't they build it next to the already existing tower to minimize the impact on residents?** Apparently, the reason the County has not even considered this site is that they want all the land to be in Washington County. They will argue not to use Short Hill, but it is not clear that they have a valid technical reason not to. The County has resisted sharing information about the tower with the public, claiming that it is proprietary. **Don't we deserve for the County to explain to us, in a way which we may independently verify, why we must have a new tower if there is already location which would serve the purpose?**

A Saturday date for promised test?

There are several proposed locations in the Valley. To determine how the tower will look, the County has performed several "balloon tests." Unfortunately, the last test was performed incorrectly. There are hints that the County may not repeat the tests, even though the balloons were in the wrong locations. ***If the County insists on placing the tower in the Valley, don't they owe us a test performed correctly, and on Saturday so that citizens may observe the test, without taking a day off from work?***

Cincinnati's experiences with a similar system

The new system is a proprietary system made by Motorola. ***Let us hope we have better luck with this system than Cincinnati has!*** Read the article entitled "Dropped calls put firefighters in danger" for yourself.

<http://news.cincinnati.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/AB/20100114/NEWS01/1150345/>

The article starts off "Hamilton County firefighters hate a communication system that taxpayers spent \$35 million on because it doesn't do what it's supposed to do when they're in a burning building: Let them talk to each other."

CPPV Membership Meeting, January 27, 2010

Please plan on coming to our next general membership meeting on Wednesday January 27, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. It will be held at the Rohrerstown Ruritan (in the old schoolhouse across from the park) 21023 Rohrerstown School Rd, Rohrerstown. Refreshments will be served.

We will be having our election of the board for Vice President, Secretary, and At-Large member. In addition, we will be updating you about the issues that the group worked on over the past year and seeking input about what to do for the next year. Your voice is needed to ensure a balanced, representative view of the Valley.

County Commissioner Contact Information

If the tower situation concerns you, please consider writing letters and/or emails to the Commissioners!

Washington County Board of Commissioners
100 West Washington Street, Room 226
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Telephone: 240-313-2200, Fax: 240-313-2201

Email all the Commissioners: commissioners@washco-md.net

Email the Commissioners individually:

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Terry Baker	- tebaker@washco-md.net
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