



Sandy Spring-Ashton Rural Preservation Consortium PreserveAshton.net

SSARPC, Post Office Box 518, Ashton, MD 20861

October 31, 2008

Fred Nichols
Nichols Management, Inc.
18623 Brooke Road
Sandy Spring, MD 20860

Dear Fred:

The founders of the Sandy Spring/Ashton area had as one of their priorities quality education. The addition of the Goddard School to the area clearly is compatible with the goals the founders had for the area, and we commend you for the idea of bringing an institution such as the Goddard School to Sandy Spring.

We are also pleased that the building housing the school will be named after the Thomas family – one of the first families that brought us the community we all enjoy and love today.

At the same time, we want to make sure that you understand that we are very much concerned about the vision of the Sandy Spring/Ashton Master Plan and how it relates to the design of the Thomas building. The Master Plan, as you know, has many guidelines to insure that the community remains rural and will develop into a more walkable community where people will want to go from one area to the next without driving.

The Thomas Building will be at the entry way into downtown Sandy Spring, and as such, will set the tone for what people expect to see as they travel along Route 108 into Sandy Spring. As we mentioned in past meetings with you, we believe that the architectural plans that we have seen thus far do not meet the intent and the guidelines of the Master Plan.

We hope that we will be able to work together, as we have done in the past, to insure that the needs of the Goddard School and offices are met, and at the same time, that the Master Plan guidelines are met in order to keep the area's rural atmosphere. We truly believe it would be wonderful to be able to go to the Planning Board with a design that we can all support.

Sincerely,

Michelle Layton, Co-Chair

Donna Selden, Co-Chair