

## **Update from MHC President Steuart Pittman:**

### **\*\*\*\*MHC Save the Horse Farms**

*"Remember the bill that we wrote and passed in Annapolis last year that says that what we do on our horse farms is agriculture? Well, many of our county officials still tell us we are something other than agriculture. They hit us with absurd zoning laws that either prevent people from establishing horse farms, limit what we can do, or sometimes even put us out of business.*

*By the time you read this MHC will have held its first statewide meeting to kick off a campaign to fight back. The first phase is research. We will collect not only every county's laws that affect horse farms, but also those that are being used against us simply because of the way bureaucrats interpret them. We also need to know all of your case stories. We understand that when folks are trying to get zoning permits, or are trying to avoid being caught out of compliance, the last thing they want is publicity. That's OK. We won't share your stories if you don't want us to. We just need to know how the county laws are being used against us so that we can write new laws.*

*Once the research is complete we will issue a report along with model county laws that can be applied anywhere. The final phase will be for MHC members in each county to take their proposed changes to their county councils for adoption. Horse people in any county are encouraged to call themselves the (county name) County Horse Council and make themselves a local political voice to represent horse farms. MHC will back you up.*

*If we are to make Maryland "Horse Country" once again, we must start where we are being hit the hardest: at the county level. Please get involved in this work. This campaign is an all-volunteer effort. We need you."*