

**Johns Hopkins might betray wishes of late activist who sold it Gaithersburg farm, Washington Post, December 17, 2011**

Comment:

"...it's sad that Banks's deepest wish — to prevent overbuilding on what are now rolling, grassy fields at Belward Farm — is at severe risk of being bulldozed.

And it's doubly sad, and even shameful, that the culprit that might betray her is the very institution that she trusted to honor her desires: Johns Hopkins University."

This is exactly what the residents who live near Belward Farm have been saying for 4 years. Ms. Banks wanted a minimally intrusive academic or medical campus that would maintain the character of her farm and serve as a legacy to her family who had owned Belward Farm for over 100 years.

We told the President and other officials from Johns Hopkins...they didn't care. They want the money.

We told County Executive Ike Leggett. He didn't care because the county wants the money.

We told the Montgomery County Council. Most of them didn't care because the developers who contribute to their campaigns want the money.

Ms. Banks trusted Johns Hopkins. She knew they understood what she wanted for her farm and she was willing to sell it to Hopkins for a gift price in order to ensure that her intentions were honored. She even trusted them to write the contracts. Unfortunately, her trust was betrayed by Johns Hopkins right from the beginning.

When big money is involved, ethics and morality fly out the window. Shameful indeed!