

Dear Editor,

We owe it to ourselves to be informed on the issues of the Wyckoff Municipal Open Space Trust Fund when we vote on Tuesday November 7, 2006.

The acquisition and preservation of land as open space is considered one of the strongest tools governments can use to define municipalities, limit growth and retain community character and preserve natural landscapes and historic resources.

We can see the result of huge property tax increases when development is not slowed. In order to slow development we must be armed with many defenses. Goodwill and the hope that developers behave responsibly can not and should not be counted on. We can't stop development, but we should be able to guide it and define our town and protect open space for future generations. Developers should not tell us what our town will look like - we the residents have that right and responsibility.

The Municipal Open Space Trust Fund will add to our defenses. For the average Wyckoff homeowner, \$39 per year will add approximately \$230,000 annually which would increase the townships ability to access greater state and county funds for the purchase of Wyckoff, and only Wyckoff land for preservation. The Municipal Open Space tax will allow us to have a consistent, well planned source of revenue to gain matching state and county funds. This tax increase of approximately \$39 is fully tax deductible. So not only will the State and County help us preserve Wyckoff lands, but our Federal Government is helping too.

What can you do as an individual? Vote yes on November 7 for The Wyckoff Municipal Open Space Trust Fund.

This is an investment issue, a quality of life issue, a growth issue, a future cost issue, an environmental issue. It is an investment in the future of Wyckoff. I know this is something that I would be proud to say that we accomplished together as a community to help save the remaining 100 acres of precious undeveloped land here in Wyckoff.

Peg Conley  
Wyckoff