

Officers of the Friends of Wyckoff

Chair: Brian Scanlan
Co-Chairs: Michael Brienza and Diane Sobin
Secretary: Andrea Mateo
Treasurer: Susan Steele

Members of the Executive Committee (in addition to the officers above):

Heidi Cassells, Martin Costello, Peg Conley, Janet Gaglione, John Nolan, George Pitts, Gail Scanlan, Ray Steele, Robert Traitz, Linda Vreeland, Chris Wilson

Want to help us? We need you!

Join a Friends of Wyckoff Committee:



Fundraising:

help organize future fundraisers

Publicity:

assist with web content, printing and mailing

Programs:

recruit speakers for future Friends events

Wyckoff School Liaison:

assist with environmental education and oversee community service

Email: info@FriendsofWyckoff.org if you would like to help.



NEWS Briefs

Rebuilding the Tree Canopy Along Wyckoff Avenue



The Friends of Wyckoff in cooperation with the Wyckoff Reformed Church celebrated Arbor Day by planting two more shade trees near Wyckoff Avenue, continuing a project begun last year. The Red Oaks are 12 feet high.

Among the trees the Friends of Wyckoff planted on Arbor Day was the "Masker Oak," in honor of World War I hero Zachary Masker. Masker is the first soldier listed on Wyckoff's monument to the fallen on Wyckoff Avenue.

Composters Available

Help us achieve our goal of distributing 100 composters. We've got 29 to go! The "Earth Machine" garden composter is \$42 and available by emailing:



info@friendsofWyckoff.org. See our website for details.

"Kilowatt Ours"

We've donated a copy of "Kilowatt Ours" to the Wyckoff Public Library. "Kilowatt Ours" is an award-winning, 55-minute documentary that helps draw the lines between the sources of our electricity and the consequences of our energy consumption. Viewers will also learn how they can dramatically cut their own energy bills.



Recent Open Space Preservation Deals

Allendale is moving forward with its plans to preserve most of a 3-acre parcel known as Orchard Commons. Allendale Mayor Vince Barra negotiated a \$4.8 million purchase of the property, which is being financed by the Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund, state Green Acres, and Allendale's local open space fund. A half-acre will be built upon with eight to 10 units of affordable housing for seniors or the disabled to help satisfy affordable housing requirements. A committee of residents is working on a plan to landscape the remainder of the site.

Two New Milford farms – Perrone's and Klinger's – were saved in March with \$1.54 million in grants from state, county and municipal open space funds. The farms date back to pre-Revolutionary times.



News

For the Garden Town in the Garden State

www.FriendsOfWyckoff.org

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Friends' Electronics Drive A Success



Thank you to everyone who supported our spring electronics recycling drive! We stopped counting the cars dropping off old computers and televisions after we reached 275. At times we were so busy there wasn't time to count.

We collected enough material to fill two 20-foot box trucks floor to ceiling and several vans. We collected about 400 computers and monitors, 250 televisions and about 1,500 printers, VCRs, fax machines, modems, radios and keyboards. It's wonderful to keep all this stuff out of landfills and reduce the cost of refuse collection. Volunteers also collected five, five-gallon buckets of household batteries and 200 cell phones. We estimate we collected about 14 tons in all.

Special thanks go to Friends of Wyckoff secretary Andrea Mateo, who organized the event, and to the two dozen volunteers from the Eisenhower Service Project, the Ramapo High School Environmental Club and Friends of Wyckoff who were on hand to help residents unload. We would also like to extend our gratitude to the Wyckoff Reformed Church, which loaned its parking lot for the event.

Working computers and televisions were donated to Urban Exchange, a Wyckoff-based charity that partners with organizations in Paterson to supply computers and other electronics to working families in Paterson. Other material was broken down into its components and recycled. Cell phones were donated to charity.

Save the date: We are planning a fall electronics recycling drive on October 4. Check www.FriendsOfWyckoff.org nearer the date for details.

CALENDAR

JUNE

June 2

Making Your Yard Bird Friendly
7:30 pm, Larkin House, 380 Godwin Ave., Wyckoff

June 3

Primary Election Day
Polls open 6 am to 8 pm. Please be sure to vote.

SEPTEMBER

September 22

Local screening of "Our Vanishing Past"
Larkin House, 7:30 pm

SEE INSIDE

Planting the berm at Eisenhower

Update on Ravine appeal

CHCC "working with Wyckoff" on big development proposal

Wyckoff's "teardown epidemic" featured in documentary

"Freecycling" gains popularity

June 2 Presentation to Feature Ideas for Reducing Water, Fertilizer Use on Lawns

Mike Krug, program director of Weis Ecology Center in Ringwood, a NJ Audubon site, will be the featured speaker at the Friends of Wyckoff meeting on June 2. Krug will discuss how homeowners can convert some of their lawns to a more natural habitat using native species, and as a result make their yards more "bird friendly." Use of native

plant species can greatly reduce the use of fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides and water. Krug, who has a degree in Environmental Science, is an avid naturalist with extensive experience in environmental education.

Participants are encouraged to bring pictures of their yards if they would like Krug to make suggestions about how to garden for birds in their surroundings. Krug will speak on Monday, June 2, at Larkin House, 380 Godwin Avenue, in Wyckoff at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

www.FriendsOfWyckoff.org
P. O. Box 302 Wyckoff, NJ 07481

Friends of
WYCKOFF



Wyckoff Township Committee Fails to Act on Open Space Trust Fund

The Wyckoff Township Committee does not appear to be taking any steps to make use of the municipal Open Space Trust Fund to lure grants for open space preservation from Bergen County or the state, although the fund was approved by Wyckoff voters in 2006. It's standard for towns with local open space trust funds to establish an Open Space Committee composed of local residents to do an inventory of available properties and make recommendations for preservation. The Township Committee has not set up the Open Space Committee nor has it taken any other steps to determine the best way to use the fund.

The Township Committee was forced by state law to put the public question concerning the Open Space Trust Fund on the ballot in 2006, because it was petitioned by 1,429 registered voters (more than twice the number required at the time). The Township Committee decided not to put the public question of a tree ordinance on the ballot in 2006, despite being asked by 1,375 registered voters to do so.

Join Friends of Wyckoff or Renew Your Membership

YES! I'd like to be a Friends of Wyckoff member and help improve the quality of life in our town.

- Renewal New Member
- \$25 \$50 \$100
- _____ Other

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE

EMAIL*

Checks should be payable to "Friends of Wyckoff". Please send to: Friends of Wyckoff, P.O. Box 302, Wyckoff, NJ 07481

*Please provide your email address to help us save on paper and snail mail costs. Your email will be used solely for communication from us, and will never be rented, lent, or sold.

DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

PLANNING BOARD APPROVES TEAR DOWN WITH VARIANCES

On May 14 the Wyckoff Planning Board unanimously approved the demolition of another historic house in the Wyckoff Business Triangle, just four days after NJN aired a one-hour documentary on the issue (see page 3). This latest home will share the fate of the Depew and Vreeland homes. (Cornelius Vreeland designed the original streets and business triangle of Wyckoff.) While the absence of any historical district designation makes teardowns inevitable, what is surprising is that three vari-



The Depew house has been replaced by a large stucco structure.

ances were allowed for the new building. Among the variances sought - but apparently not needed - was one that will allow for 62% lot coverage for impervious surfaces, just a few months after the Township Committee touted its newly passed ordinance allowing a maximum of 40% coverage. The new ordinance does not apply to some zones.

CHCC DEVELOPERS "WORKING WITH WYCKOFF TO RESOLVE SOME ISSUES"

A May 1 article in the Hawthorne Press quotes Hawthorne Borough Attorney Michael Pasquale stating that the CHCC is in discussion with Wyckoff officials to amend its plan for a major complex first proposed as 258 apartments to be built on 19 acres of forest stretching between Wyckoff and Hawthorne.

"I believe they're working with Wyckoff to resolve some issues," Pasquale said. Pasquale stated that the CHCC recently met with the Hawthorne Economic Development Committee, which has no power to vote on the project. Pasquale said that a revised "conceptual plan" was presented to the Hawthorne Economic Development Committee, but could not confirm if Wyckoff officials had seen the plan.

As originally proposed, the complex was to rise four stories high and cover an area equal to 14 football fields. To accommodate the large increase in traffic caused by the project, parts of Sicomac Avenue will be expanded to four lanes. The land is currently zoned for single-family homes with minimum lots of 25,000 square feet (Wyckoff) and 18,750 square feet (Hawthorne) so variances will be required for both change of use and steep slopes. Other variances may also be required. **For more information and to sign up for email updates, visit www.SaveTheWoods.org.**



The CHCC may be presenting a revised plan for its large apartment complex in the upcoming months.

HEARING ON RAVINE APPEAL SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 5

Judge Jonathon N. Harris will hear the appeal made by the Save the Ravine Alliance of the Wyckoff Planning Board's approval of the subdivision planned for the 11-acre Deep Voll Ravine tract. Attorneys for the Save the Ravine Alliance submitted their legal brief earlier this month. Among other arguments, the brief states that that the Planning Board's failure to comply with Wyckoff's steep slope ordinance and its approval of a faulty stormwater management plan is "arbitrary, capricious and unreasonable" and that the approval should be reversed. The brief also argues that the Planning Board's refusal to allow cross examination of the developer's witnesses until months after they had testified were prejudicial to the Save the Ravine Alliance. The hearing is scheduled for September 5, 9 a.m. in New Jersey Superior Court in Hackensack. To read the brief, please visit: www.SaveTheRavine.org.

Cont'd. on Page 3

Wyckoff Featured in Documentary on the "Teardown Epidemic"

Wyckoff is featured as a victim of the teardown epidemic in "Our Vanishing Past," a documentary about the loss of historic homes, buildings and neighborhoods and who is working to save them. Created by award-winning writer, producer, and director Lynn Kosek Walker, the film describes how teardowns:

- raise taxes which can force long-time residents living on fixed incomes out of their houses
- reduce the supply of more affordable starter homes
- destroy the character of neighborhoods and downtowns with out-of-scale structures
- result in the removal of large numbers of mature trees
- harm the environment by the creation of large amounts of debris

The film also features the town of Lambertville, where historic preservation helps safe guard homes and businesses and is a key ingredient in the town's remarkable revival. Lambertville designated a historic district that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Officials also passed a preservation ordinance that gives this special area protection from teardowns. The ordinance requires that the town's Historic Preservation Commission review any building being considered for demolition. The Commission uses the Department of Interiors standards to establish the architectural value of each building, and those of architectural value are preserved.

As Lambertville's Mayor Dave DelVecchio said, "The historic nature of the community is one of the selling points. The way the town looks, the way the town feels, and if we allow teardowns all over the place, it wouldn't have the look or the feel that it does."

DON'T MISS IT!

A copy of the DVD is available at the Wyckoff Public Library.

Friends of Wyckoff is screening the documentary on September 22 at 7:30 p.m. at Larkin House.

You may watch *Our Vanishing Past* anytime on the web at: <http://njn.net/television/specials/ourvanishingpast/>

RAVINE APPEAL - Cont'd. from Page 2

The Save the Ravine Alliance is seeking donations to offset the costs of the appeal. Checks should be made payable to the Save the Ravine Alliance and sent to: Save the Ravine Alliance, P.O. Box 476, Wyckoff, NJ 07481.



This cornerstone, dated 1893, was uncovered during an archeological dig at the ravine. It is unclear whether it came from a bridge or a building, such as a mill.

Volcanoes vs. Donuts

Volcanoes are killing trees. Mulch volcanoes, that is. When mulch is piled up into a cone around a tree trunk it will soften the bark and become prone to insects, fungus and rodents. It also prevents water from reaching the tree's roots. A mulch donut - with 2 to 4 inches of mulch around the tree without touching the base of the trunk, provides water to the roots and helps the tree get ready for winter. For newly planted trees, mulch is placed out to one foot beyond the root ball. Enlarging the mulch circle a foot or two each year allows for continued root growth and healthy trees.

For more information on proper mulching visit: www.treesaregood.com/treecare/mulching.aspx.



"Freecycling" Gains Popularity

Faced with the ever-increasing cost of municipal garbage collection, particularly because of record-high fuel prices, towns across the country are looking for ways to reduce the quantity of refuse trucked to landfills. In addition to standard recycling, some municipalities are setting up "freecycling" centers. Freecycling allows residents to give away usable but unneeded items to others, including computer equipment, clothes, furniture, toys and appliances. Items are brought to exchange centers to give away.

There is also a local free recycling group at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Bergen-countyFreecycleTM/>

Planting the Berm



The Eisenhower Service Project and the Friends of Wyckoff sponsored two "plant-the-berm" Saturdays at Eisenhower Middle School in May. Sixteen volunteers raked out rocks and planted wildflowers and perennials on the northern half of the 300-foot long, 8-foot high berm of leftover soil from the Eisenhower expansion. Above are Friends Executive Committee Member Chris Holstrom Wilson (left) and Friends co-chair Diane Sobin.