



Friends of Wyckoff Sponsored Events

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 converting portions of your lawn to native plant species can greatly reduce the use of fertilizers, herbi-

cides, pesticides and water. 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.

Planting the Berm

The Eisenhower Service Project and the Friends of Wyckoff sponsored two "plant-the-berm" Saturdays at Eisenhower Middle School this month. Sixteen volunteers raked out rocks and planted wildflowers and perennials on the northern half of the 300-foot long, 8-foot high berm of soil leftover from the Eisenhower expansion.

Celebrating Arbor Day in Wyckoff

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.

Electronics Recycling Drive A Success

More than 275 residents supported the electronics recycling drive in March, contributing 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. About 14 tons in all were kept of landfills, saving local tax dollars.

Please save the date: we are planning a fall electronics recycling drive on October 4

Composters Are Good for Your Garden and Your Wallet

"Earth Machine" garden composters are available for pick-up in Wyckoff. Composters are \$42. Reserve yours today by emailing info@friendsofwyckoff.org or calling 201-921-4541. Help us achieve our

goal of distributing 100 in our first year—we've got 29 to go! Every composter put into service helps reduce municipal refuse collection costs.

In Case You Missed It...News That Hasn't Been in the Local Papers

What Are the Plans For the Wyckoff 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.

Wyckoff Featured in Documentary on "Teardown Epidemic"

Wyckoff is featured as a victim of the "tear-down epidemic" in *Our Vanishing Past*, a documentary about the loss of historic homes, buildings and neighborhoods and who is working to save them. You may watch *Our Vanishing Past* anytime on the web: <http://njn.net/television/specials/our-vanishingpast/>. The DVD is also available at the Wyckoff Public Library.



The Depew house has been replaced by a large stucco structure.

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 four-story 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 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.

The land is currently zoned for single-family homes 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.

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



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.

of the subdivision planned for the 11-acre Deep Voll Ravine tract. Among other arguments, the appeal cites the Planning Board's failure to comply with Wyckoff's steep slope ordinance and state storm water management regulations. 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.

Planning Board Approves Teardown 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 above). While the absence of any historical district designation makes teardowns inevitable, what is surprising is that three variances 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.

Want to be on our mailing list for development updates? Send an email to: info@friendsofwyckoff.org.

What's your opinion? Contribute to the Wyckoff blog at: www.FriendsOfWyckoff.org

Help support us in our environmental initiatives and our role as a watchdog on development issues in our town.



www.FriendsOfWyckoff.org

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