

March 17, 2007

Dear Editor,

Unsurprisingly the issue of "The Ravine" continues to simmer. It is good that thorough consideration be given to all facets of this important matter. In the meantime, we must not let our perspective be clouded. The foundation has been laid for a progressive move by the Township of Wyckoff.

-A solid majority of voters accepted an increase in our property taxes to preserve open space.

-Wyckoff has been described as 85% developed. We don't know the exact percentage but do know precious little open space remains.

- The loss of income if the land is acquired by the town vs. the cost of servicing the homes and families who would live there was certainly taken into consideration by the voters approving the referendum. It is said that *at best* development vs. non-development of the land would be a break-even situation. With matching state and County funding we believe the town will even save money by keeping that land more or less as is.

In 39 years of living here we have seen significant changes and more will come (e.g., Boulder Run). The challenge is to save as much as possible of what is good and what represents the basic character of Wyckoff. We see "The Ravine" as part of that.

Sincerely,

Tom and Mary Bugel

Wyckoff