

Dear Editor,

I have been reading about grumblings about the establishment of the open space trust fund in Wyckoff. We know about this man making the complaints—he's the same fellow who railed against the Wyckoff library having a capital reserve fund, when what the library trustees are doing is responsibly and carefully making sure that they have enough money to make needed improvements in the library when the time comes. The town does the same thing, accruing for fire trucks and other equipment, should we abandon that practice, too?

If you are opposed to ever-escalating taxes, then you ought to be in favor of open space preservation as it is the development of our town which has driven up taxes as school and municipal services struggle to keep up. I can't believe that some think that sticking more houses on every available lot (even no matter how badly suited for development) is going to reduce taxes. There are many reasons for the high property taxes in New Jersey, and one of them is that we are the most densely populated of the fifty states.

It is a very low tax and expires after five years (\$39 a year on the average home in Wyckoff, which is assessed at \$780,000). Other towns have open space taxes such as the one approved by the voters last November (despite opposition from people who ought to know better) and have used them to bring in large grants from state, county and private sources to acquire open space. I can only hope our elected officials get on board, put aside politics, and do what's best for the residents of Wyckoff. It will not only ease our local tax burden, it will improve our quality of life.

Sincerely

Gail Scanlan