

Dear Mayor Fiorenzo:

I am almost 26 years old. I spent nearly 20 years of my life- growing up in the pristine, beautiful hometown of Wyckoff, NJ. I have so many fond memories of impromptu adventures with friends through the creeks, and open-space land near my old 501 James Way address. My dad ran through Wyckoff every morning, every single day that he lived there. He loved the trees overhead and on either side, cheering him on. My dad's random routes often led to the discovery of hidden gems that we never even knew about. The Ravine was one of those places. I remember going there with my dad, having adventures throughout the brush.

It was a sacred place to us. One that was full of stories, adventures, and a loving, innocent time spent between father and daughter. As I grew up and Wyckoff became more and more populated, places like the ravine slowly became new subdivisions of big houses and with it- a little piece of the Wyckoff as I knew it slipped away. I remember when the old farm house on Wyckoff Ave near the back end of Eisenhower School was torn down and the farmland around it was turned into modern day McMansions, when the old Barn disappeared and slowly, in the name of turning land into \$- all we have are giant fortress-like houses...the charm and natural beauty that drew my parents (and thousands of others) to Wyckoff is slowly slipping away. Soon, children will have little more than the secluded, organized landscapes of their backyard to explore.

I no longer live in Wyckoff. I went off to college in Massachusetts and my dad sold our house in June 2000. It was too big for the two of us, especially with me in college most of the year. Only a month later- he was killed in a car accident. Now, with family no longer there- I live in Oakland, CA and go back 'home' to Wyckoff, where my roots are- about twice a year. I made the rounds, drive pass my old house, get a bagel at Wyckoff bagels, sit by Zabriskie pond, go to Abmas Farm. Maybe I'll stop at Bennett Books, owned by the parents of a girl I played softball with at Ramapo. But just the other month when I was there, I noticed all the signs-up. Save The Ravine. I thought, oh no. It seems like every time I go back another piece of Wyckoff's history is destroyed, another stop light goes up. Well, here we are- at the crossroads of history and faced with the decision to preserve Wyckoff as a beautiful, unique, historical town...or just another suburb with countless subdivisions. Will you be the ones who put your foot down, stand up and say 'no'? Or will you just watch someone turn a profit on one of the last remaining natural beauties that Wyckoff has. To me- the ravine is a prime example of 'right' from 'wrong.' Don't let them take away a piece of OUR town to replace it with a piece of ANYTOWN.

Sincerely,

Eva Silverman

Oakland, CA