

# MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP

## OPEN SPACE & FARMLAND PRESERVATION COUNCIL

### AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

*Fall 2009*



#### NOVEMBER BALLOT QUESTION DETERMINES FUTURE OF OPEN SPACE

November 3rd, New Jersey voters will determine the future of preserving open space in the state. Statewide, Public Question #1 will be presented to voters as the, “Green Acres, Water Supply and Floodplain Protection, and Farmland and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 2009”. This initiative will determine whether or not the public would like to continue to preserve open space, farmland and historic sites via a bond measure. This bond act will authorize the state to issue \$400 million in bonds, which would continue to fund New Jersey’s open space preservation programs. **Passage of the bond referendum will cost each New Jersey household an average of \$10 per year, less than \$1 a month.**

Millstone Township benefited greatly with monies that were made available with the passage of The Garden State Preservation Trust referendum in 1998. The Open Space and Farmland Preservation Council, in conjunction with the Township Committee, acquired Garden State Preservation Trust (GSPT) funds which amounted to 50 to 60% of the monies used in local land preservation. Through all programs, Millstone Township has preserved over 6,000 acres of open space and farmland, with hundreds of additional acres in queue for preservation. However, the monies in the GSPT have been spent, and without immediate action our precious resource of open space and farmland could be lost forever.

Benefits of preserved land exceed the costs, economically as well as emotionally. Jobs are created with the construction of parks and with the restoration of historic landmarks, as well as from farming and fishing industries and outdoor recreation activities. Open space preservation benefits Millstone Township and its residents directly by enhancing the quality of life. As a community that serves as the headwaters for five major watersheds, it helps to protect our clean drinking water supply and reduces the impact of floods and storms. Open Space provides parks for our children and keeps our community attractive and safe. Parks and natural areas provide places for horse back riding, hiking, jogging and other physical activity, which increases fitness and well-being. These areas also reduce air pollution impacts on public health.

Additionally, New Jersey is the most densely populated state in the nation. We lose more than forty acres of open space everyday to development. At the current rate of growth, our state is projected to reach full development within the next 30 years, which is why we need to act now. “Given that land prices are lower than they have been in years, we now have an extraordinary opportunity to continue investing in open space,” said Tom Gilbert of the Trust for Public Land.

The benefits of preserving our state’s open space and farmland areas are immeasurable and far reaching, affecting generations to come. Without immediate action, our state’s precious resource of open space and farmland could be lost forever. ***Make your voice heard on November 3rd.***

For additional information, go to [www.NJKeepItGreen.org](http://www.NJKeepItGreen.org).

**Make your voice heard on Tuesday, November 3rd. VOTE!**

Resident  
Millstone Township, NJ 08510

The Millstone Township  
Agricultural Advisory  
Council would like to thank  
the Farm Market vendors  
and customers for a  
wonderful second season.

Township of Millstone  
Agricultural Advisory Council  
Open Space & Farmland Preservation Council  
470 Stage Coach Road  
Millstone Township, NJ 08510

**November 3**  
**VOTE**



Carol Howarth, Ashley Shaffer and Betty Legg at Millstone Day.

Miss New Jersey and Millstone resident, Ashley Shaffer, was all smiles at Millstone Day. Miss Shaffer graciously greeted guests, posed for pictures and spoke with visitors about her platform, "A Healthy Weight, to Feel Great!". Miss Shaffer's appearance at Millstone Day was sponsored by the Agricultural Advisory Council to encourage residents to maintain a healthy weight by following a diet that includes plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables. Council members handed out locally grown apples donated by Asprocolas Acres farm. The Ag Council encourages residents to purchase locally grown produce which is fresher and more environmentally friendly than produce that is imported or shipped long distances.

While attending Millstone Day, Miss Shaffer was presented with the Mayor's Award for Outstanding Service by Mayor Nancy Grbelja. She also received a State Proclamation presented by Assemblywoman Caroline Casagrande. Pictures of the event can be found on Miss Shaffer's blog which can be accessed from the Miss NJ

Education Foundation website at [www.missnewjersey.net](http://www.missnewjersey.net). Ashley will be competing in the Miss America Pageant on January 30, 2010, which will be held in Las Vegas and broadcast live on TLC. The Ag Council wishes Ashley all the best in the upcoming competition!

Photo by Betty Bailey

### **Millstone Township Agricultural Advisory Council**

*Tony Romano, Chairperson  
Shirley Pinhas, Vice Chairperson  
George Asprocolas  
Pat Butch  
Chet Halka  
Randy Peck*

We're on the web at  
[www.millstone.nj.us](http://www.millstone.nj.us)  
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### **Millstone Township Open Space & Farmland Preservation Council**

*Pat Butch, Chairperson  
Merrill Siedman, Vice Chairperson  
Tony Alves  
George Asprocolas  
Manny Blanco  
Charlie Denardo  
Christopher Kau  
Michael Kuczinski  
Diane Morelli  
Tony Romano  
Kristin Schloss*

### **Millstone Township Committee**

*Nancy A. Grbelja, Mayor  
Bob Kinsey, Deputy Mayor  
Michael Kuczinski  
Fiore Masci  
Elias Abilheira*

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