

TO THE VOTERS OF EAST NOTTINGHAM TOWNSHIP

The Open Space Referendum was voted on and passed by East Nottingham Township residents in November, 2004. Since then, with the help of the County, 605 acres of farmland have been preserved as open space. This is ground that can never be sold to developers.

East Nottingham administers two taxes on its residents. One is the millage property tax which is currently at zero. The other is a 1.5% earned income tax. Of this 1.5% tax, 0.5% goes directly to the school district; 0.5% goes to the township's general fund, which is its operating fund; and the last 0.5% goes to the Open Space Fund. From this comes the money to preserve our farmland.

Currently the township has incurred approximately \$4 Million of debt through open space preservation. The township collects about \$700,000 a year through the open space tax, which is then applied to the \$4 Million debt. So assuming we were to stop preserving ground, it will take more than five years for us to pay back the current debt we have.

But why would we want to stop preserving our farmland? Think about it. **For every acre we preserve, we save the school district about \$20,000 in taxes a year, forever.** The school tax is one that keeps on taking and will always increase and will never go away. Whereas the 0.5% earned income tax for the Open Space Program will eventually end, when there is no more open space to preserve and all related debt has been paid off.

So if anyone is saying they can eliminate 1/3 of the East Nottingham Township's taxes, this is what they are referring to. It's that 0.5% earned income tax that has preserved all that acreage that would otherwise have had houses eventually built on it.

If you would like to know more about how the Open Space Program works, please call East Nottingham Township. The Township will be happy to provide you with all the information you require.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF EAST NOTTINGHAM TOWNSHIP

Chairman - Leo M. Levandowski, Vice-Chairman- Michael P. Miller, Supervisor- Percy Reynolds,
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