

REPORT

Volume 2, Issue 3

HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE TAX LEVERAGES \$2,973,597 IN GRANTS

The enactment of the Township open space tax has made the preservation of 1,931 acres possible and it has also qualified the Township for matching funds from state, county and non-profit programs.

The Township recently received planning incentive grants that will provide \$2,350,000 from the 2003 New Jersey Green Acres program. These grants were available because the Hopewell Township voters supported the enactment of a municipal open space tax.

The State Agricultural Development Committee provided \$181,305 towards the Faille farm development easement purchase this spring. To date, the Mercer County Open Space Committee has approved grants of \$442,292 for five of the Township's preservation projects.

The Township has spent \$8,369,651 that will be offset by \$2,973,597 in matching grants. This means that the Township's average cost per acre will be reduced from \$4,335 to \$2,794 thanks to this grant funding, leveraged by the Township's open space tax.

THE TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE TAX IS ON THE NOVEMBER BALLOT

The November 4, 2003 General Election Ballot will have a question asking Township voters to indicate whether or not the Hopewell Township ("municipal") open space tax should be increased from the current three cents (\$.03) to a total of four cents (\$.04). If approved, the owner of a property valued at \$200,000 will pay \$20 more in open space tax each year starting in 2004. This owner's annual municipal open space tax bill will increase from \$60.00 to \$80.00 in 2004. This additional cent, given the current Township's assessed value, would raise an additional \$225,000 in tax revenue annually.

(continued on page 4)

LOOK INSIDE FOR:	PAGE
Preserved Lands Chart	2
Township Preservation Projects	2
Land Preservation Map	3
General Election Voting Deadlines	4
From the Neighborhood: Mt. Rose	5
Historic Landmarks, Buildings and Vistas Photo Contest	6
Hopewell: A Historical Geography	6
Composition of HopewellTwp Tax Bill	7
Fall Health Programs	8
Free Rabies Clinic	8
6th Annual Mayors Breakfast	8
Fall Public Works Services	9
Township Holidays	9