

## Yorklyn Development Comments

It was a terrible day for all of us who live in or near Yorklyn De when one day we were on Yorklyn Road and saw that the beautiful natural property at the corner of Old Wilmington Road and Yorklyn Road had been clear cut with no warning. That property was a valuable natural habitat, with huge mature trees and other plants that served to clean our air, house our wildlife, and beautify our home area. Suddenly it was gone, and the wildlife had nowhere to go but to try to find homes on our nearby properties.

After the initial shock, we dug into what had occurred, (and it required digging, because it was all done with the least possible visible notice to the community), and we learned that DNREC was intimately involved. This was another shock. DNREC stands for Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control. One of their functions is supposed to be to protect our natural resources, and instead they partnered with a for profit builder to destroy them.

To make matters worse, the involvement of DNREC in this project made it possible for the builder to skirt the entire Unified Development Code of New Castle County, giving him free rein to put whatever he wanted there and to do it without regard for its impact on the surrounding area and all of us who live there.

If that wasn't enough of a horror, we then learned that Quarry Walk was only 1 of 3 properties that have all been lumped into the Auburn Valley Master Plan, making them all exempt from the NCC code. The original Auburn Valley Master Plan only included the parcel named Mill 6. Now, it includes Mill 6, Mills Edge, and Quarry Walk, allowing for 129 townhouses to be built in this heretofore pristine natural area and that none of them would be required to adhere to the Unified Development Code of New Castle County.

As residents of the area, I believe we have a right to know what research was done in advance of this project to determine the impact on the community, including a traffic study, an assessment of the impacts of the incredible increase in population density, and the effects that destroying all of these many acres of natural habitat would have on the environment as well as on our surrounding properties.

After having ridden roughshod over all of us to get to this point, the builder is now asking for help to make his project more financially feasible by allowing him to forestall the expense of building a sewage pumping station by installing sewage holding tanks on the property instead so that he can build and sell some units to fund the remainder of the development.

Some may try to label this as progress, but when one entity benefits and thousands of local residents who had no say in what was about to be done to them are damaged, that is not progress. It is bias, favoritism, and circumventing the laws and regulations that have been put in place to protect us all. It's up to our governing officials to take charge and disallow this blatant abuse of one wealthy entity's power.