

# Ringwood Acres Homeowners Association

## Sewer Rate Position Paper

There's a battle taking place right now in Ringwood. All of us in Ringwood Acres have a large financial and emotional stake in the outcome of this battle, since it involves our families' most important asset - our homes.

Depending on who you talk to or what paper you read there are many different parties at odds with each other in Ringwood, but the question before us right now is very simple - who is going to pay for the upgrade of the James Drive Sewage Treatment Plant? Given the town council's years of inaction in finding a reasonable solution to this long standing problem we are now in a CRISIS because a debt payment of \$100,000 on the bonds which were issued to upgrade the plant in 1989 is due on January 1, 1993. Another payment of \$80,000 is due 7/1/93.

We need to stay clearly focused on this ONE SIMPLE QUESTION - who is going to pay for the plant upgrade?

The COUNCIL thinks 109 homeowners alone should pay the \$180,000 due in 1993:

- *on top of what is already a much higher fee than the average septic user pays*
- *on top of what may well be the highest user fee in the country*
- *for something the town/state ordered done when the development was first built*
- *for a plant which the town planned to make part of a larger town-wide system and then abandoned*
- *for something which we were forced to upgrade because of actions taken by the council and the RBSA*
- *for something everyone in town benefits from since the DEP forced the upgrade after the town sought to reclassify High Mountain stream as a means of blocking higher density development in Ringwood*

The RINGWOOD ACRES HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION thinks the town should SHARE the burden.

- *We ARE NOT asking for a handout - we ARE asking for the town to accept it's **responsibility** and not **abandon** it..*
- *We DO NOT want a **judge** to decide this - at the expense of every taxpayer in town (including us) - we DO want the council to exercise the **leadership** which they were elected to provide.*
- *We DO NOT want the **lawyers** to reap the biggest benefit from this problem - we DO want **all of ringwood** to benefit by showing that Ringwood is a good town which can solve its problems effectively without involving the rest of the world.*
- *We DO want to see **all of Ringwood** benefit by avoiding costly and wasteful legal action which will **raise everyone's taxes** and **hurt everyone's property values!***

Feelings are running high. When the sewer issue comes up in conversation most people outside of *RAHA* angrily ask "Why should I pay for your sewers when you don't pay for my septic system?" The question on the minds of most homeowners in *RAHA* is "How in the world can the town charge us \$2,700 a year to flush our toilets?"

To answer both of these questions and to be able to explain our position to our friends and neighbors in the rest of Ringwood, the Public Education Committee of *RAHA* has been meeting regularly to study the issues. While we don't have all the answers, we do have a much clearer understanding of where we are now and how we got here. We believe that while legal action may be inevitable, it is crucial that we also "take our case to the people".

In the coming days we will have more comprehensive material available. Our hope is to clearly and accurately explain each of the important issues in this complicated dispute so that you can understand them. If you can, talk to friends and neighbors outside of *RAHA*. Help them to see what the true story is and how this issue will have an effect on every Ringwood homeowner.

***IF THE COUNCIL ABANDONS US ON THIS ISSUE WHO  
WILL BE NEXT?***