

## **District 99 land must**

### **remain open for all**

I'm a Woodridge resident since 1968. My father raised eight kids here, and we have always felt Woodridge to be a family town and a place that cares about people and the land we share. The 45 acres owned by Community High School District 99 is a place Woodridge residents can gather for celebrations, or just to walk their dogs, ride bikes or enjoy watching the deer and wildlife. We need to preserve this land for generations for the same reasons.

This is land that should be saved so that we as a town have a place to gather and enjoy its beauty, to know it will be here for what it was intended for. It was intended for families to enjoy the trees, the grass, the animals and its space, to share for all, as is. We have no other place!

I live here because of the small-town feel, and I love that we have our forests and our pretty views of the lakes and open space. The drive down Center and Woodridge drives has always been a treat due to the open feel and the beauty of the land as you pass by. Let's not lose that.

We need this land kept as it is, with no buildings on it or the thought of townhomes popping up on it. We need to have our space to lay out a blanket and watch our fireworks, or see a band play, or just to enjoy a meal and watch our kids run.

This land means a lot to all of us and it would be a great loss if it did not stay as it is. We need our open, green space to stay for generations to come, so that they will enjoy the same beauty as we have. Give them the same opportunity we have had to enjoy this land.

Please keep our 45 acres as it is, and realize it's a gift we enjoy. The thought of the traffic we could face, or the loss of beauty to Woodridge, will be a tragedy. We can't get that back if you build on it.

Please, I speak for us all when I say we need this land to stay as it is or we will lose the place where we gather as a town. Have you ever laid a blanket on concrete? It's not the same.

***Mark Filipiak, Woodridge***