

# Saving 'Woods' can aid region

Remington Woods, about 419 acres of woods that are partially in Stratford, but mostly in Bridgeport, comes to mind on stifling hot days like we've witnessed recently. Are we going to act proactively to save the woods from being developed into an office park, or will we let the moment and the opportunity to save them pass us by?

Whenever we have to cut trees, for development or for one pragmatic reason or another, we remove layers of protection that all of us need. Yet, few of us really think there is anything that we can do to save trees and open space in general.

Even though our air in Fairfield County was found by the National Lung Association in 2005 to be the 13th worst in the country, with only 12 counties in California and Texas having worse air, we

think that there is little we can do to help clean up our air and forestall rising asthma rates in our communities.

As I was taking my morning walk before writing this letter, I thought that if enough of us speak up now, we can help preserve this most valuable asset. Citizens are urged to talk to candidates and elected officials about various issues; why not ask them their position on saving Remington Woods from the chainsaw?

I urge readers to learn more about this treasure right here in our midst. If you have a computer, you can see pictures and read the history and important information at <http://www.friendsofremingtonwoods.org>. You may find yourself wondering "Why cut a nearly pristine forest that has been growing pretty much as it is since colonial times when there are so many despoiled

areas in Bridgeport that should be cleaned up and redeveloped?"

To destroy Remington Woods, which provide protection to us all, would be a travesty: Development gone very wrong.

When you go outside, think of how much trees add to our quality of life. Then make a call, e-mail or write your elected officials and ask them what they plan to do to help preserve Remington Woods from development. It's up to us in the Greater Bridgeport community to take care of our valuable assets. By helping to preserve Remington Woods, the largest contiguous urban woodland in the Northeast, we are contributing to our health and quality of life, now and for the future.

**Cleo Sonneborn**  
Easton