

Letter to the Editor for the GAZETTE – 5/13/2005

Dear Sirs:

There's nothing like taxpayer revolt and an impending election to concentrate politicians' minds! County Executive Duncan and some members of the County Council are thus wondering whether they dare – for the fourth straight year! – exceed the voter-imposed charter limit on property taxes and approve a whopping 9.6 percent overall spending hike.

The resounding answer from our neighborhood is NO! It's time for our elected representatives to practice real fiscal discipline. The County Council should resist the kind of arrogant grandstanding that marred the FY 06 Capital Budget Hearing (May 3) and, instead, deal seriously with citizens' proposals to save money.

In particular, we wonder why the County Council wants to approve the School Board's plan to spend over \$20 million on the new Seven Locks Elementary "replacement" school on Kendale Road, one that our 6000-family coalition and PTA do not want. Why spend money on a site that requires cutting down over nine acres of trees and installing a huge storm water management system next to a designated flood area? Why spend money when – for less than half the estimated price! – the School Board could expand the current Seven Locks Elementary and rescue students from trailers one year sooner?

Bottom line for budget negotiations this month:

- Save the school that serves as the vital heart of our neighborhood!
- Save scarce green space at Seven Locks and Kendale!
- Most to the point: **SAVE MONEY!**

That is the simple \$10 million proposition from our community to the County Council and County School Board!

Sincerely,  
Geoffrey Wolfe  
And Sandy Vogelgesang  
Seven Locks Coalition  
9009 Charred Oak Drive

Bethesda, MD 20817  
301-365-2347  
E-mail: [everest.associates@erols.com](mailto:everest.associates@erols.com)