

August 13, 2007

West Essex Tribune
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The Livingston Skate Park Committee has received the endorsement of the Town Council to proceed with design, development and fund-raising for an outdoor skating facility. The Committee, which convened a number of years ago following requests from community youth, has worked over the past year with representatives of the Healthy Community Healthy Youth Initiative, Livingston High School's Community Action Club, the West Essex YMCA, and the United Way of North Essex to explore options and develop plans for a community skate park.

In order to finance the project, a fundraising committee has been established under the chairmanship of Marty Meyers. Mr. Meyers was instrumental in the successful development of the Livingston Dog Park and has now committed himself to the Skate Park effort. In his words: **"The creation of a skate park and teen center will provide kids opportunities to develop their skills and talents socially and athletically. Individual sports and recreational activities are just as important as team sports. By supporting the skate park we are not only showing the kids we care about their safety, but that we also care about their interests. I think that any issue that looks to protect the safety and welfare of the children of our community while enhancing their level of enjoyment deserves our full support."**

Several years ago, the Town Council earmarked \$25,000 for a feasibility study to look into the construction of a skate park. All other funding is expected to be raised privately through grants and donations. The Skate Park and Teen Center have already received the financial support of the Livingston Town Center and United Way's Livingston Community Fund. The Town Center has donated all fountain proceeds collected between Memorial Day and July 4th while the Livingston Community Fund has generously offered a Challenge Grant. According to the terms of LCF's Challenge Grant, a minimum of \$30,000 must be raised before the fund matches those donations dollar for dollar, up to \$30,000. The United Way of North Essex will provide fund management.

For further information, to make a donation, or to get involved in the fundraising effort, please contact Marty Meyers at LivSkatePark@yahoo.com.

