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## 'Chicken Outlaw' Appeals to Mayor and Council

With chickens in undisclosed location, Jeff Delvecchio is on a mission to bring Scrappy Coco and friends home.

By [Ann Piccirillo](#) | [Email the author](#) | [March 27, 2012](#)

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Former "[Chicken Outlaw](#)" Jeff DelVecchio appeared before the mayor and council Monday night asking them to consider forming a Green Team as part of becoming a [Sustainable Jersey community](#).

Sustainable New Jersey is a certification program for municipalities in New Jersey that want to go green, save money, and take steps to sustain their quality of life over the long term.

Standing before the mayor and council, DelVecchio cited [Lyndhurst](#) as a town that allows backyard chickens--they are licensed like dogs and cats. He also mentioned one man's fight in Wayne that mirrors his. Wayne allows the keeping of up to 25 chickens on two or more acres, but resident [Victor Alfieri](#) has three hens on a much smaller lot and is fighting to get the ordinance changed to make Wayne a more sustainable place to live.

That is DelVecchio's goal. To make New Milford a more sustainable community. The DelVecchio's have installed solar panels, they drink organic milk, use only organic diapers, have two compost bins, and recycle everything that can be recycled. Also, rather than erecting a fence to enclose their backyard, they planted bamboo to create a natural border. They also plant a vegetable garden so that their family has fresh vegetables all summer long.

For DelVecchio, hens fit into the cycle of sustainability. The freshly laid eggs are a healthier alternative to store bought, and the shells can be used for fertilizer.

Bolstered by Board of Health liaison Randi Duffie telling him that the Board of Health will discuss the ordinance prohibiting backyard chickens, DelVecchio is hoping that they will consider changing the ordinance.

"I'm not going away," DelVecchio told the mayor and council. "I'm going to continue to fight to change the law."

What do you think of Jeff DeVecchio's attempt at changing the "chicken law"?

I think it is great. I support him.

I'm all for sustainability, but I'm not sure how I feel about having chickens next door to me.

I'm totally against it. I want to buy my eggs at the grocery store.

Total votes: **81**

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*This is not a scientific poll.*

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**AML**

9:48 am on Wednesday, March 28, 2012

And I would like to raise goats so that I could make my own cheese! For all those folks in favor of having chickens in one's backyard....I would like to see how you feel when they are cackling and making noises all hours of the day, not to mention the rodents that will be attracted to them. When a family of rats invades your home, let's see what you will say then. This will open up a whole pandora's box of what animals one resident can and cannot have. A cow is also considered a farm animal and I would also love to have one so that I can have fresh milk! It has to stop somewhere! I say leave New Milford and go on a farm in Iowa. For one person and for the mayor and council to spend time on this frivolous issue only solidifies the fact that people need to get lives and deal with issues that are of substance!

[Reply](#)



**Jeffrey DeVecchio**

10:24 am on Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Let me once again say that there is nothing preventing people from owning goats or cows in New Milford. The noise that 6 chickens make is nothing compared to the dogs, lawn mowers, leaf blowers, etc that are already allowed. Chickens make no noise at night, unlike dogs. Chickens do not attract rodents. As a matter of fact, chickens will eat mice. Food attracts rodents as does garbage, bird seed, etc. Maybe we should make everyone keep their garbage indoors? For a frivolous issue, you and many other people have spent a considerable amount of time discussing it. How frivolous can it be? Who are you to tell me to move anywhere? I have a right to live where I want. Perhaps you should move if you don't like what I am proposing.

**Denise**

12:30 pm on Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Bravo Jeffrey for standing up to what you believe in. I agree with all that you have said. As for AML-I highly doubt that the majority of New Milford residents would run out and buy 6 chicks right away. I believe only a handful of residents will follow Jeffrey's lead, hopefully, when the ordinance gets passed.....

Reply

**Arlene M. Baladi**

4:45 pm on Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Kudos to Jeffrey for continuing his fight for sustainability, and to keep his chickens...let the Board of Health regain its reason and pass a NEW ordinance!

Reply

**Evangeline Kartanos**

11:39 am on Thursday, March 29, 2012

Hey Jeffrey, I think all your efforts are great. You should have the right to feed your family how you see fit. I live in New Milford and I have no problem with the chicken issue. You seem to be doing everything the right way. It sounds like you are very clean and efficient. I think what the fear may be is if this is allowed, more people may want to do the same. Unfortunately, not every one is as clean and considerate as you. The fear may be that they will be opening the town to alot of problems. Keep fighting I wish you luck.

Reply



**Denise**

12:16 pm on Thursday, March 29, 2012

Evangeline, all agreed. CAN EVERYONE HEAR ME NOW!? As I said above, I don't think every resident in New Milford is going to go running out right away and buy chickens so they can have their own eggs. I agree, Jeffrey seems very dedicated to his cause.....

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