

"Our aim:
To fear God,
tell the truth
and make money."

H.C. Paddock
1852-1935

Opinion

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DuPage Board Dist. 2; Glen Ellyn parks ballot

DuPage County Board Dist. 2

There is one contested seat in DuPage County Board District 2, for a 4-year term. Democrat Elizabeth Chaplin and Republican Jeff Redick are both strong candidates.

District 2 covers all or parts of Clarendon Hills, Downers Grove, Elmhurst, Glen Ellyn, Hinsdale, Lisle, Lombard, Oak Brook, Oakbrook Terrace, Villa Park, Westmont and Woodridge.

Redick defeated longtime incumbent Irene Stone in the spring GOP primary. He would make himself visible in the district as an advocate for his constituents. He opposes new taxes to bolster county financing, believing the county would do better to trim spending and improve financial planning. Redick believes county board salaries are too high.

Chaplin, too, would favor cutting county board salaries and benefits to make savings in the budget. She also wants the county to look at folding the DuPage County Election Commission into the DuPage County clerk's office for savings.

Chaplin, a member of the DuPage Water Commission, would also support transferring the quarter-cent sales tax collected by that commission to county government to help fund government operations. Surpluses from that commission are already being used to fund county government. We don't like that idea and neither do some DuPage County mayors and village presidents.

Chaplin's candidacy shouldn't be judged on this position alone. But it does become problematic given that Chaplin also said she would like to keep her water commission post, if she can, if elected to the county board.

This raises questions about whether she could, without conflict, serve the interests of the water commission while simultaneously supporting taking its funds to help fund county government.

Redick would come to public office with the capability to become an independent voice not often heard on this board. He did not come up through the county political ranks; indeed, Redick was not supported by county GOP lead-

ership in his primary campaign. We also think the board could use more members taking a harder look at saving money through spending cuts and following through on votes to do such, though Redick should not take an extremely hard line on human service spending.

Redick is endorsed on the strength of his knowledge of issues, desire to heighten communication with his district, and his potential to be an independent-minded board member.

'Yes' to Glen Ellyn parks plan

In the spring primary, the **Glen Ellyn Park District** sought permission to borrow \$12.5 million to buy land and tear down and rebuild its Main Street Recreation Center.

We recommended a no vote at that time. Among other things, we noted strong opposition to this proposal from a local preservation group that did not want a building of historical significance to be destroyed. The park district's request was rejected by voters.

The park district has since listened to community concerns. That is reflected in its proposition on the November ballot. If the borrowing plan is approved, the Main Street Recreation Center will be renovated, not torn down.

Plans to enlarge the Lake Ellyn Boathouse have been dropped, which drops the bonding request to \$11.9 million. Needed indoor recreation space will be provided at a new facility in Ackerman Park. More open space will also be purchased. Land contiguous to existing parks is being eyed.

If the request is approved, there will no net increase in taxes. The projects will be funded by new debt replacing debt about to be retired. If the request is rejected, the owners of a \$300,000 house will save \$70 annually when existing debt is paid off in 2007.

The park district has attempted to work with the community in the wake of its defeat in the spring rather than arrogantly tuning them out. We recommend a "yes" vote this time around.

Fence Post

Wrong reason to hike electricity rates

Commonwealth Edison is planning to raise electricity rates in January of 2007. According to Exelon, Commonwealth

GREAT NEWS!

OUR POLLS SHOW WE MIGHT WIN!

WELL, WHEN I SAY "WE"
I DON'T NECESSARILY
MEAN "YOU"



*U.S. has paid price
to nurture the illusion
of complete security*