

# Yard signs, ribbons posted to convey views to Dist. 99

By Maureen Wilkey

Correspondent

Throughout Woodridge and Downers Grove, residents are tying green ribbons around the trees in front of their houses and posting signs on their property encouraging Community High District 99 to "keep green space green." About 400 volunteers are taking part in an organized campaign to encourage District 99 School Board members not to sell the land originally intended for a third high school to a developer.

"We just asked for whoever in their heart really feels that this is an important issue," said Phil Labak, a Woodridge resident who has played a role in organizing the volunteers. "I've seen people in almost all areas of the district coming out to support us."

About 30 volunteers are serving on the yard sign committee, headed by Joni Mimnaugh of Woodridge. Mimnaugh said she sent out an e-mail asking volunteers to start creating their own yard signs while the committee sought funding to buy signs. On her way to the first meeting of the yard sign committee, Mimnaugh said she saw at least 20 yard signs.

Continued from Page 1

"There were at least four or five blocks with five signs per block," she said. "And the word is spreading, about five more people than had originally signed up showed up at the committee meeting. People are definitely telling their friends."

Labak said the word about the green ribbons on the trees was spread exclusively through e-mail, but several people are already taking part. The volunteers have about 20 action items they hope to accomplish this summer to meet their goals. Labak said the main goals of the volunteers are to increase responsiveness, get the land sold to the village and balance the budget of the School District.

"We're all done with the planning part of the project, and we're still seeing a lot of response from new volunteers," Labak said.

Labak has started a Web site, [www.keepgreenspacegreen.com](http://www.keepgreenspacegreen.com), to keep volunteers up-to-date on the latest events. The volunteers are planning to set up a booth at Heritage Fest in Downers Grove, Friday to Sunday, June 24 to 26, as well as marching in the Fourth of July parade. The Web site also provides links to the e-mail addresses of District 99 board members so volunteers can write to express their opinions. Mimnaugh said she was happy to see people from all areas of the district and all ages participating.

"Half of the people who signed these petitions are from Downers Grove," she said. "And my 16-year-old son has gone to the board and told them that this land is the area he used to enjoy as a child, and he hopes that ... no one would take away their childhood memories, so he hopes they won't take away his."