

## **Dist. 99 'hiding behind cowardly argument'**

I was disappointed to read in the Oct. 6 issue that Community High School District 99 rejected another offer from Woodridge to buy the 45-acre parcel at Center Drive in Woodridge. It is too bad that they can't reach an agreement, and I cannot help but think that Julia Beckman, the District 99 School Board president, has become buried in her own dishonesty and embarrassment.

To disagree on the value of the land is a matter of opinion. I think it is worth the appraised value of \$10 million, and maybe you think I'm crazy. That is your right. If you think it is worth \$25 million, I think you're crazy. That is my right. It is a matter of opinion and we just disagree. Neither one of us is lying, though.

But Julia Beckman and the District 99 School Board are avoiding the discussion altogether, hiding behind their cowardly argument that the land is not for sale. It reeks of dishonesty, and a childish inability to accept even the possibility of being wrong.

If there is future news regarding this issue, it is important to bear the following in mind, because it is true. On April 11, 2005, the Community High School District 99 School Board agreed to offer their 45-acre property for sale, located at the intersection of Woodridge Drive and Center Drive in the village of Woodridge. The decision to sell the property was based on a pressing need to address facility maintenance/improvement projects and the opinions of community residents. "A one-time event such as this should not be used to fund on-going operations, however, it is appropriate to use these proceeds for long-term investment purposes or for major capital improvement projects," said Mark Staehlin, District 99 controller. Terms and conditions of the sale were made available to possible investors by Newcastle Advisors, described by District 99 as "assisting in the potential disposition of the property by sale."

**Craig Kraus**

Woodridge