

Woodridge has offered 'fair price' for school lot

In a letter to the editor, District 99 School Board member Craig Greenwood attempts to imply that the 44-acre parcel of land District 99 owns in Woodridge has a value of \$44 million.

This is a gross exaggeration supported by failed logic. Not to mention that it is inconsistent with Mr. Greenwood's own 2005 statement that the property is worth \$18 million. The village of Woodridge commissioned an appraisal in 2004 that assessed the value of the 44 acres at \$8.5 million.

A July 20, 2006, appraisal valued the land at \$9.2 million. Woodridge, in an attempt to bring a quick resolution to this matter has extended an offer to District 99 of \$10 million, more than either of the appraisals valued the land. The development of this property should be determined by the community in which it is located. The Woodridge community has identified that this land should be open space and has offered a fair price.

Indian Prairie School District 204 is paying \$257,000 an acre for a third high school in Naperville. Is Mr. Greenwood serious when he says that undeveloped property in Woodridge is worth four times that amount?

Furthermore, I believe it is necessary to remind everyone District 99 decided not to honor the 1978 agreement it had with the village of Woodridge regarding this land.

District 99 is the one that approved and placed advertisements along with press releases proclaiming that the land was for sale and suitable for high-density townhome development. District 99 is the board that has paid Newcastle Development over \$125,000 to date to market and sell this land for high-density development.

And yet, District 99 wants the village of Woodridge to overlook the fact they will not honor an agreement between our two boards from 1978 and take them at their word that they have no intention to sell this land. This is a leap of faith, on behalf of the citizens of Woodridge, that I am not willing to take.

John Curran
Trustee
Village of Woodridge