

**Daily Herald (Arlington Heights, IL); 3/30/2003
Fence Post.(News)(Letter to the Editor)**

Candidate is wrong about pool economy

In the Daily Herald's endorsement of Stan Eisenhammer, a statement was made that is based on an uninformed approach to the words "practical and economical."

Eisenhammer's view that "a continuing relationship that provided access to park district pools was a more practical, economical approach" is neither practical nor economical when the effected (sic) communities are taken into consideration.

The current approach is not "practical" for the community because high school use of park district facilities ties up already overcrowded community aquatic facilities. Whether it is early mornings, weekends or convenient after-school use, taxpayers do not get to use their community pools due to the high school's "practical" solution.

It doesn't really seem like much of a "practical" solution for the students they serve either.

How much valuable studying and family time is wasted on travel to and from facilities?

Park districts are rightfully focused on recreation, while schools are rightfully focused on instruction and competition. Not a very practical mix. Neither is the status quo economical.

While it may seem frugal or thrifty to share aquatics facilities in this way, it is really short-sighted. With the money already spent benefiting only swimming teams, the district could be bring huge benefits to all the students, athletes and the communities they serve by spending just a little more.

While the status quo may seem frugal or thrifty, how does one explain to the District 214 taxpayer in River Trails, Mount Prospect, Rolling Meadows, or Prospect Heights Park Districts who subsidize the Park Districts of Arlington Heights and Buffalo Grove who get year round use and benefit from those pools while most of the District 214 taxpayers receive nothing but swim teams and the bill.

In fact, District 214's pool agreement with the Buffalo Grove Park District benefits mostly people who attend Stevenson High School rather than a 214 school. I am not sure who is the best candidate for the school board when looking at all the issues and I will continue to search, but I do know that Eisenhammer is wrong about this issue.

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Mount Prospect