

Letter: The true 'Friends of the Parks'

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I received a campaign mailer supporting candidates for the Park Board. It was "paid for by Cook County integrity PAC." The website IllinoisSunshine.org lists this PAC as related to the Republicans of Maine Township committee, with park board candidate Jim O'Donnell listed as chairperson and treasurer.

The mailer uses the "Friends of the Parks" name and logo and complains about the property tax increase by the Park Ridge Park District without mentioning that the amount added to the typical property tax bill this year is \$3.42, the price of a cup of coffee at Starbucks! Park district property tax increases are limited since 1994 by state law to the inflation rate or CPI.

Yes, the park district budget, 62 percent funded by membership and program fees, has a small surplus, which will be used for park improvements. Do the Republican candidates really want to run the park district at a deficit like the state government? Google "Cook County Integrity PAC". Republican — yes! Integrity — none. Vote for the nonpartisan candidates for the park board: Joan Bende, Jim Phillips, Laurie Mallin and Carol Becker. The true "Friends of the Parks."

Jim Phillips

Park Ridge

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