

PUBLIC FORUM

End the political negativity

Public Forum:

The vicious negative personal attacks on the incumbent candidate for village trustee, Ellen Eckman, have been going on for months. My hope is that they will end and Eckman will be re-elected on April 6.

Eckman is keeping her campaign positive. She will tell you about what she has accomplished in her first three years as a trustee — and what she hopes to accomplish in the next three years — in her literature, in her letters to the editor and in person. She won't deceive you.

Historically, letters to the Forum increase noticeably during the two weeks before the election. My prediction: You will see negative outbursts from several individuals. These letters will accuse Eckman (and probably Jeff Hanewall, too) of one thing or another, even calling their names. Haven't we had enough? The Mark Kohlenberg and Kellie Lang forces have given our village an "attack mentality." It will continue if Pat Krieger and Michael Phinney are elected. It's the same thing all over again.

The ultimate negative campaign can be found at www.shorewoodvillage.com. Geoffrey Davidian, who in my opinion seems to be an ally of Phinney and Krieger, created the Web site and named it to give it false legitimacy. It shamelessly attacks good stewards of Shorewood, both past and present, especially Eckman. Everyone should log on to see what has happened to the political discussion in Shorewood. If you dare to publicly question or criticize Kohlenberg or Lang or the candidates they support, you will find yourself on that Web site, an object of scorn or derision.

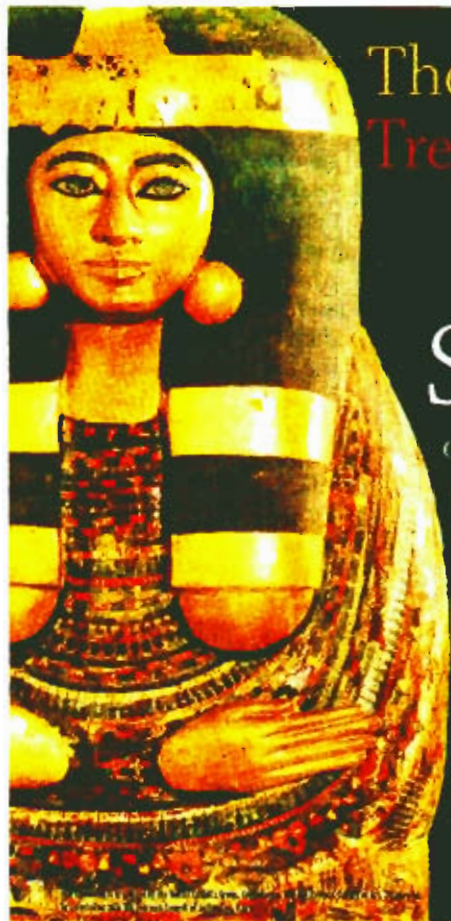
When you read the words of the candidates supporting civility and open discourse, look to see if they speak out against the Web site. Or do they find it convenient to allow such attacks against their neighbors?

When you see these negative attacks in the Forum and on the Web, consider the sources. Think about what has happened to our village and what the future holds if these voices are allowed to prevail.

It is time to stand up and be counted. Vote for Ellen Eckman and Jeff Hanewall, two volunteers who actually follow the Golden Rule.

Anne Dow
Shorewood

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