

GOP chair, official quarrel in Bloomingdale Township

April 26, 2001 | By John Chase, Tribune staff reporter.

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The fight that broke out this week at a Bloomingdale Township Republican Party meeting was not what you would call an enlightened political debate.

During the organization's monthly meeting Tuesday, township GOP chairman Hank Gianvecchio and one of the precinct committeemen, James Cadell, got into a quarrel. What happened next still is at issue, but voices were raised, someone shoved the other and police were called.



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No charges have been filed, Bloomingdale police said. But the incident highlights growing fissures within the township party as residents in the Medinah area, where Cadell lives, have become increasingly disenfranchised with the Republicans who dominate local government.

Cadell and supporters of Gianvecchio, the township assessor, agreed that Tuesday's incident at the Bloomingdale Golf Club began after Gianvecchio, who was overseeing the meeting, chose not to recognize Cadell during a roll call of committeemen. Cadell was elected the Republican committeeman for the 5th Precinct.

"He went from calling on the 4th Precinct to the 6th," Cadell said.

A Gianvecchio supporter at the meeting said Gianvecchio ignored Cadell because Cadell was the campaign manager for a group of residents in Medinah who ran a losing campaign against the Republicans for township offices earlier this month.

The residents, who live in an unincorporated area, were upset about plans by DuPage County to widen Medinah Road and

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feel that township leaders have not represented their interests.

"To us, Cadell's actions mean he is not a Republican, so he was not recognized at the Republican meeting," the Gianvecchio supporter said. "It's as simple as that."

Gianvecchio did not return phone calls seeking comment.

But the snub irked Cadell, who stood up and approached Gianvecchio, repeating: "Precinct 5 is present."

After a few minutes of this, Cadell said Gianvecchio grabbed him and pushed him onto a table. Cadell said he never touched Gianvecchio, but Gianvecchio's supporters said the two pushed each other.

Either way, Bloomingdale police were called to the scene. Charges had not been filed by Wednesday evening, but Cadell said he may seek them.

"They have no right to ignore me," Cadell said. "Since I'm elected by the people of my precinct, they don't have a choice but to accept me."

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