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Animal Farm

June 5: Notes on the two new suburban Democratic congressional candidatesBy **Eric Krol**

Tuesday, June 05, 2007

Spent today reporting and writing stories about two new suburban congressional candidates for next year. In the 10th District, it's Jay Footlik, a former Clinton White House aide, whose candidacy means there'll be a primary for the right to face Republican U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk (Wilmette's Dan Seals is seeking a rematch against Kirk). In the 16th District, it's Barrington Hills Village President Robert Abboud, who will spend some of his own money to run against Republican Congressman Donald Manzullo.

The stories will appear in Wednesday's print edition and be available elsewhere on this web site. But I couldn't possibly pack all the information I learned into the dead-tree version, so here are some more tidbits on each candidate:

10th District notes

More information on Jay Footlik:

- Biographical: He turns 42 in October. His artist wife was born in Brazil but raised in Israel. They have a 2-year-old daughter, Yardin. Family is in the process of moving back to the district and staying at his brother's house in Vernon Hills while looking for a place.
- Resume: Footlik worked on the Clinton campaign in 1992 while in law school. Then he worked on the transition team and went to the DNC. At the White House, he was special assistant to President Clinton in the Office of Public Liaison. He was responsible for Jewish outreach. After a brief stint at a PR firm to pay off student loans, he helped Shimon Peres start a peace institute and went back and forth from Chicago and Israel for four years. From there, he worked on Joseph Lieberman's 2004 presidential campaign and then Sen. John Kerry's as a senior advisor. Then a consulting firm he started with Yitzhak Rabin's son.
- Money: Footlik doesn't plan to self fund and needs to work to pay the bills.
- On how he became a child actor: His parents divorced

FEEDBACK

- Send your comments on this post to animalfarm@dailyherald.com.

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- July 17: Potential Peterson replacements
- July 17: Giuliani taps Webb for panel
- July 16: Notes from Footlik interview on war
- July 14: Rod's \$600 make-up job
- July 13: In case you missed it...
- July 12: Footlik flip-flop?
- July 12: Birkett to run again in DuPage County
- July 11: Illinois GOP to host straw poll
- July 11: Gov has plan, but won't say what it is
- July 10: Clinton catches Obama in Illinois?
- July 9: At the Gov. Blagojevich event...
- June 9: Kirk has another big fund-raising quarter
- July 8: Duckworth won't run again
- July 5: Well, he promised no more business as usual
- July 5: Oberweis files congressional paperwork
- June 29: Franks backs Clinton
- June 28: Democratic debate story
- June 28: See, it's not just us
- June 27: Froehlich faces the music
- June 27: Give money to Roskam --- or the illegal immigrants win
- June 26: House GOP says Kirk has special needs
- June 25: Q and A with Froehlich on the flip
- (Updated) June 25: Froehlich to switch parties
- June 22: Column plug

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- Carpentersville finally settles controversial audit and finance panel
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- Police and illegal immigrants: a local dilemma
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- Cubs fall, but not to Bonds
- Not debut Kendall wanted
- Woods prepares to play creatively
- Falcons' Vick indicted
- Sox still looking to deal

BUSINESS

- War fuels research in prosthetics
- United unions to picket again
- Abbott shareholder sues board over failed \$8 billion unit sale
- Dow Jones board endorses sale to Murdoch
- Murdoch poised to buy Dow Jones

when he was 5. Mom sent him to acting school at 7. She wasn't one of these pushy stage moms and he actually really liked it. Did school plays and community theater. At age 12, had his first professional theater audition for a Studs Terkel play at the Goodman Theater and got the part. Footlik had some TV ads and small TV parts before getting small roles in "Teen Wolf" and "Iron Eagle." You can check out his IMDB page here: [Footlik acting career](#)

He's still a Screen Actors Guild member.

- My question: OK, you were in "Teen Wolf." Aren't you also the Boy Who Cried Wolf? After all, I've been hearing about you running for Congress since 2002. His answer: "I am going to run this time. I've thought about it for a long time. I've never taken the serious steps (before). Never filed papers before for U.S. Congress. Not until 2006 did I really jump in and start to meet with people and manifest a serious interest in doing anything."

- On why he's best-suited to take on Kirk: "Living there, working there, interacting with cultures in the Middle East informs my position on these issues. I would be stronger where Mark (Kirk) is probably perceived to be strong."

- Campaign team: Craig Smith, a White House political director under Clinton, is his general campaign consultant. Simon Behrmann, who grew up in Highland Park, is the campaign manager. The two met on the Kerry campaign. Footlik has filed his FEC candidacy statement and rented Northbrook office space.

- Lauren Beth Gash, of Tenth Dems and a former Kirk foe in 2000, on the prospect of a primary: "I think the fact that there are several people showing an interest in running in the 10th is testimony to the fact that Mark Kirk is extremely defeatable."

"I would say that last time (2006), I was a very vocal and supporter of a primary because I felt it was important that our candidates get out there in front of voters and the press...Everything else being equal, I would like to avoid a primary. It would certainly be my preference to not have a primary at this point....I think it would be unfortunate if Democrats went after each other."

16th District notes

More information on Robert Abboud, potential Manzullo foe:

- On writing his own check to pay for the race: "We have to raise money. Part of the issue of raising money is to determine what the interest is. I'm not a believer that people should sort of buy their way into office...Money buys you the ability to be able to get your message out there, but people still have to vote for you. I'm going to put some of my own money in."

- On the Jeffersonian ideal of public service, getting in and getting out: "I could not do 20 years of sausage making. You would have to commit me to an asylum when you got done."

- Campaign team? He's in the process of putting the team and a web site together. "We're trying to understand what people's interests really are. This is not some sort of party attack on Manzullo. I'm kind of not a regular Democratic party guy," Abboud told me.

- Abboud could expound at length on any topic I threw at him. His top issue seems to be the \$9 trillion national debt. "A crushing debt. People do not realize the difficulty that the debt puts on us," he said.

The U.S. needs to cut the debt by addressing the revenue side of the pie. Make the Gross National Product bigger. "In a global economy, you cannot buy your way to prosperity. Retail activity alone can't be the backbone of economy. It's got to be manufacturing. Create added value into the marketplace."

- June 21: Tidbits from this week's GOP meeting
- June 19: Capitol Cheap Trick
- June 18: A big bowl of state budget clam-up chowder
- June 18: Live coverage of GOP show in DuPage tonight
- June 17: Full version of Romney Q and A
- June 14: Working 9 to 5
- June 12: GOP finds Bean foe
- June 8: Give the kids a chance
- June 6: Mr. Popularity and overlooked quotes
- June 5: Notes on the two new suburban Democratic congressional candidates
- June 4: Obama notebook
- June 2: Budget blow up
- June 1: Who voted for what
- May 31: Rate freeze shenanigans Part 2
- May 31: Schools and schooling
- May 30: New Democrat for Hastert seat
- May 29: Bruised egos or prepping for a political dish best served cold?
- May 28: Politics, pap smears and partisanship
- May 26: Did Blagojevich pull an Edgar?
- May 24: Madigan wrong?
- May 24: Is Rod's reclusiveness hurting his effectiveness?
- May 17: Not a good day to be a Cub fan. Then again, what day is?
- May 16: Vote for Hill's theme song
- May 15: Dems starting to notice Manzullo
- May 14: Suburban Durbin challenger surfaces
- May 10: McCain raises money in Chicago
- May 10: Action on Dearborn Street today
- May 9: Live pseudo-blog on House GRT hearing
- May 8: Meet George Jetson
- May 4: Update on our Blagojevich scoop
- May 3: (UPDATED) Obama gets security detail
- May 1: Freebees, smokes, sex offenders and recess
- May 1: How your lawmakers voted on state smoking ban
- May 1: Blagojevich on smoking ban, tax, electric rates
- April 30: One less candidate in the 8th District
- New poll shows GOP prez race tight in Illinois
- April 26: Democratic debate notebook
- April 26: Democratic debate story
- April 26: How suburban lawmakers voted on abortion, Harper college
- April 25: Don't believe everything you hear at the Capitol
- April 20: Dissecting

Abboud advocates very little federal spending overseas, especially for strategic defense components. He also wants to bring manufacturing back to the United States. "When I buy a component, do I buy from here or China? A CEO buys from China because it's much cheaper. But there's less worker safety and product safety so it only appears that it's cheaper," he said.

His solution? "Readjust the playing field: if you get the advantage of being a big American company, you've got to play for Team America. Because the Chinese companies are playing for Team China."

Suggested denying Mexico access to U.S. markets until they increase product safety rules. "I don't believe NAFTA and CAFTA and so-called free-trade agreements have produced a viable increase in the economy of the United States. It doesn't do you any good to get a head of lettuce four cents cheaper if your family doesn't have a job," he said.

- On Abortion: "Nobody likes abortion. It's the law. I support that law. I support the woman's right to choose. It's a decision between a woman, her family, her church, her physician. The federal government has no underlying responsibility in this regime."
- On gay marriage: "If you can make a family that legitimately supports children, that's a no-brainer for me. Just not an issue for me. A constitutional change (to ban gay) marriage? No. I'm pro-family. I don't care how you put the family together."
- On gun control: He's a gun owner who used to be competition trap shooter at Purdue. He shoots with the village police department and says he supports right to bear arms. "Gun control is a local issue. The landscape of the country and the 16th District is so different." In Barrington Hills, you can shoot with a permit. Not so in Rockford.
- On tax cuts: If they put the country no longer on sound financial ground, it comes back to hurt you. The \$406 billion a year on the national debt is a tax and money that goes overseas. A tax people don't see. "Bush didn't cut taxes at all. He raised it because of the creation of this gigantic debt," Abboud said.
- On tort reform and health care: Abboud supports tort reform to protect doctors. He also suggests a national health insurance pool for catastrophic coverage.

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- [Return to Election front](#)

shenanigans

- April 20: Suburban roll call on ComEd rates
- April 19: Power plays
- Double duty?
- April 18: Taxes, horses, Bo Derek and smoking
- April 17: Welcome back
- Straight talk on the phone
- April 10: Today's friend, tomorrow's foe
- Mitt in Chicago Thursday
- Rod vs. Jesse
- April 4: A very special session
- March 28: Obama, fair queens and state fruits
- March 28: How they voted on illegal immigrant driver's licenses
- March 27: Spring Break Grandpa Pate
- Cross to lead Giuliani's Illinois team
- March 23: Suburban delegations splits on Iraq vote along party lines
- March 22: McCain Illinois team shaping up
- March 21: Guns, staffers and new faces
- March 20: Making a statement Blagojevich style
- March 20: Governor draws line in the sand
- March 19: For once, Illinois not part of scandal
- March 15: Manure and cakes
- March 14: Our governor, hot Cross and headlines
- March 14: Civil Unions on hold
- March 14: Freshman 50-caliber
- March 12: A message to you, Rudy?
- March 12: Catching up
- March 7: Budget day leftovers
- Blagojevich budget speech --- live pseudo-blog
- March 6: Blagojevich budget story
- March 1: How suburban lawmakers voted
- Feb. 28: Proving every bad deed is covered forever
- Feb. 28: "America's Mayor" to raise money in Chicago March 12
- Feb. 27: Power rates and political etiquette
- Feb. 26: The whole story
- Feb. 22: Who's behind closed doors?
- Feb. 21: How to make friends
- Feb. 20: Lobbying and cervical cancer
- Feb. 19: He's back
- Feb. 15: Ryan, Obama and Iowa, plus snow
- Feb. 13: Snow days
- Mrs. Obama addresses husband's critics
- Stroger booed at Obama rally
- Feb. 10: Barackstock Buzz Kill
- Feb. 9: Foreign press, food and exiled suburbanites
- Feb. 8: Countdown to Barackstock

- Feb. 6: It's not a party until ...
- Feb. 1: Where would you rather be?
- Berrios new Cook Dem chairman
- Feb. 1: Schwarzenegger and Blagojevich
- Blagojevich's big legal bills
- Sen. Obama, you forgot one
- Jan. 30: It's the quality, not the quantity
- Jan. 29: Trial balloons
- Jan. 26: Tastes Great, Less Filling
- Jan. 26: The tab
- Jan. 25: So much for another George Ryan run
- Jan. 24: One of these things is not like the other
- Jan. 23: No south beach Super Bowl for Edgar
- Jan. 22: It's never too early to react
- Breaking news: AG Madigan asks court to lift parental notification ban
- Jan. 18: Why not Springfield?
- Jan. 18: Suburban super group?
- Jan. 16: Getting a piece of Barack
- Jan. 15: Reagan defeats Nixon for '07 White House
- Cook County Dem chair Lyons passes away
- Jan. 11: Try to get your head around this
- Jan. 10: Reheated Democratic leader leftovers.
- How'd they vote on the minimum wage increase?
- Madigan in twin shocker!
- Jan. 9: Senate lauds suburban man, belated inaugural ball fodder
- Jan. 9: Read all about it, lawmaker donates paycheck to charity
- Cook County Democratic Chairman resigns
- Jan. 7: An HMO for ET?
- Jan. 5: Obama's Wake
- Jan. 4: Historical Coincidence?
- Roskam sworn in
- Memo Wars: Episode III: Revenge of the Speaker
- Good News for 2007: State follows own law
- Dec. 15: Second to last column of year
- Dec. 14: Tragedy on the way to majority?
- Dec. 12: A member of Team Roskam's future
- Nov. 30: Ryan's habits hard to break
- No GOP meeting this Saturday
- Nov. 15: Ring My Bell
- Nov. 14: On the first day of session
- Nov. 13: 'Twas the night before session
- Nov. 6: One thing you won't be seeing Election Day
- Nov. 5: Oops she did it again
- Nov 4 (late): Green Party

governor candidate was a Socialist

- Nov. 4: Saturday on the trail
- Nov. 3: New Osama flier, Topinka TV ad
- Nov. 3: Promises and the gov race
- Nov. 3: Roskam's VFW...updated
- Nov. 1: Duckworth paying for volunteers
- Oct. 31: Tricks and treats
- Oct. 30: Late-breaking fund-raising news
- Oct. 29: Poll results and Sunday musings
- Oct. 27: Rod, Lisa, and the subpoenas
- Oct. 27: Cook County Board President debate
- Oct. 26: At least he'd use the mansion
- Oct 26: Sex in the 33rd Senate District
- Oct. 24: Desperately Seeking Edgar
- Oct. 24: Speedos, guns in schools, and the 6th District race
- Irony
- Cash Flow
- The Blagojevich Outtakes
- Logistical nightmare
- Obama in '08?
- Rod's new TV ad
- Lovie Smith for Cook County Board President?
- Awkward politics
- Between the lines on Obama book
- Suburban congressional fund-raising numbers
- The Giving Season
- Logistical woes and the president
- Blagojevich gets Biblical
- Hastert weirdness
- Suburban congressional roundup
- The McCain Game
- Friday musings
- School Daze
- Ads in the 8th District
- 6th District update
- The debate notebook
- Animal Farm Version 1.0

ON POLITICS



ERIC KROL

Why some suburban lawmakers oppose RTA plan