

From: deerparkneighbors@comcast.net
Subject: Agenda, taxes, celebrations
Date: September 16, 2007 8:11:40 PM CDT

>>Monday night is our Village meeting (agenda attached). You will notice that the Village is moving to put a referendum on a sales tax increase on the February ballot. Be there to hear to discussion, Monday, 7pm, Vehe Barn.

I don't know about the rest of you, but I never heard a word about sales tax increase during the election. I'm not saying the tax increase is a bad idea; after all, visitors to our businesses will pay as well as we ourselves. But if passed, how will those new inflows be spent?

At a meeting several months ago, I asked the board to get very specific about how the new hotel tax would be applied to spending. And how will the new retail tax be spent? Roads? Drainage? Parks? A windmill at Vehe?

>>If you had water damage recently, you should show up to put a human face on flooding. It's easy to say that this was a 500-year rain or that the Deer Park infrastructure is aging. But is that the problem, or are we all paying for a failure of maintenance?

If you feel your voice isn't being heard, perhaps it is because you haven't shown up to speak in recent memory.

>>Review the schedule of events for the Village's 50th anniversary celebration, Sun., Sept. 30 (attached).

>>You don't have to be a gear head, or even a Mac user (as I've been for two decades) to love the Apple store, which--along with the new Crate and Barrel--represents retail icons right here in our own hometown.

How do YOU feel about the distinctive storefronts? We've heard comments that the ultra-sleek storefronts defy the overall look of Deer Park Town Center. For myself, I think the facades are like beacons in a dreary, same-old/same-old retail landscape. Also, check it out: Crate and Barrel has its logo facing south on the "back side" of its building. Brilliant. Puts to rest the argument that the south side of DPTC can never generate shoppers. Crate and Barrel certainly knows how to market.

>>Here's a fun idea. This Friday, Sept. 21, a 9 am, there is a "Girlfriends Coffee" at Caribou in DPTC; the first 250 ladies get a goodie bag. Al and I are crazy about the store manager, Kelly. And while I am a Starbucks stockholder, I spend

my coffee dollars right here in Deer Park. The whole weekend is full of promotional events, see <http://shopdeerparktowncenter.com>, click on events.

>>Give our animal friends a helping hand—or rather a helping of your Wall Street Journals. Al and I recently met Raymond Hinkle, DVM, Hilltop Animal Hospital—thanks to an introduction by Mike Behrens of Behrens Landscaping. See, that's what this organization is all about, getting to know your neighbors. Your previously read copies are exactly the right size for the hospital's outdoor runs, so please, recycle by donating them at 597 W. Lake Cook Road, 359-7688.

Now, some of the above is personal opinion. All of you are welcome to scroll down and skip anything that doesn't interest you. More important, you are welcome to hit "Reply," and give us a piece of your mind. We'll publish the most interesting comments on our new Editorial page on the web site.

See you Monday evening at Vehe Barn.