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Subject: Happy Autumn--lots of news
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Greetings, DPN subscribers. Recent news from newspapers, last week's board meeting and our meanderings around town. Meeting details available by viewing our DVD collection. You will have to SCROLL DOWN to read this entire transmission.

Lots of recent newspaper coverage. In the Pioneer Press (both Barrington and Lake Zurich weeklies): Last week, a story on the proposed sales tax increase; yesterday, a story on the upcoming DP 50th Anniversary Celebration. Today in the Herald is another story about Sunday's village celebration. Our DPN web site has links to local papers, and explanations how to use their sites.

Here's an interesting item: In today's Chicago Tribune in the Metro section, page 2: "Thursday's [Chicago City Council] meeting featured the first-ever Webcast of the council's proceedings." Something for this village to consider?

Staff: Jim Connors is staying on as Deer Park's Village Administrator.

Board Meeting: Last week, we were upstairs in the barn (you can see the room Sunday at the celebration). Trustees sit in a straight line, unable to see each other easily (and no microphones yet), but facing the public.

Lots of meeting time spent on Vehe, with Trustees Rotter and Kellermann pretty consistently voting against approving ongoing expenses. Trustee Kizior made a speech with words to the effect that we're going to go on with the Barn, regardless of the bottom line cost. If we understood the discussion, it now appears that the bonding company was no more up to its job than was the original contractor, Clarke.

And now, the windmill. Thanks to Pres. Gifford's tie-breaking vote (Kellermann, Plautz and Rotter voted no, Kizior, Pratscher and Thrun voted yes), the Vehe Foundation will accept an anonymous gift for half of the cost (and none of the ongoing maintenance) to erect a 25-foot windmill. Some people think it's a frivolous distraction from the big picture—getting the Barn on a revenue-producing footage. But if you like the idea, a portion of refreshment proceeds at Sunday's 50th Anniversary Celebration, 12-5pm, Vehe Farm, will go to the windmill fund.

Pres. Gifford now plans to get resident feedback, at least on a proposed sales tax increase (up to 1%), which requires a referendum (slated for Feb.). In other words, this cannot happen without YOUR approval. All inflows from this

additional sales tax would be earmarked for infrastructure. Pres. Gifford made a point that 90% of the shoppers at Deer Park Town Center don't live here. Does this mean he likes the idea that other people can fund our shortfalls? But as of today, the surrounding communities (Lake County Barrington, Kildeer, Lake Zurich and Long Grove) have the same sales tax as we do. Would our increase put us at a competitive disadvantage? On the other hand, Cook County Board is now considering a sales tax increase.

Remember the recent campaign in Deer Park? Not one word about this sales tax increase. What we did hear from candidates Kizior, Bridge and Pratscher at the open forums (DPN was not permitted to record these) was that the Vehe and Dahm debts would soon be retired, and then there'd be more funds for roads and drainage. Until then, we would have to live through some hard times.

Now, Pres. Gifford says our roads and drainage are victims of aging. But many of the public and Trustee Kellermann point out how many millions were diverted from the roads program to the Vehe property.

Meanwhile, with fabulous new stores in town (Apple, Crate and Barrel, Dicks, and more), we're already set for more sales tax to accrue. What are the village's priorities, once debts are retired? Where's the financial plan?

Here's an idea we have: Ask the Vehe Foundation to assume responsibility for everything from the ground up on the "Municipal Campus," with the exception of the Village Office. Let them fund future improvements through private donations and grants. They have a \$4 million leg up on that project. Meanwhile, the Village Board could focus on the rest of town with the inflows we already can count on.

Trustee Rotter is also looking for citizen feedback. He will hold a Parks Open House, Thursday, Oct. 18, 2-4 and 6:30-8:30, with public comments from 7-8. There will be displays showing the current state of the parks, and both residents and stakeholders (those outside organizations that want to use Deer Park's parks) will be heard.

Smoking fines? Our village board refused to consider its own non-smoking ordinance. Now that Smoke Free Illinois is law, the board is willing to consider collecting fines from scofflaws. Way to take a stand, trustees!

News around town: Wolf Camera is coming to Town Center Promenade, and a number of the other stores and services are open for business there. Lane improvements on Long Grove Road between Rand and Quentin are under construction.

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