

Subject: [DPNeBlast] New strategy on CN rail, CUSD 95, Concorde Banquets and more

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From: Deborah Barry, Secretary <deborah.barry@deerparkneighbors.com>

Reply-To: deborah.barry@deerparkneighbors.com

To: "dpneblast@deerparkneighbors.com" <dpneblast@deerparkneighbors.com>

Conversation: New strategy on CN rail, CUSD 95, Concorde Banquets and more

host_name

Greetings, Neighbors.

We've posted links to the following stories on our home page, <http://deerparkneighbors.com> <<http://deerparkneighbors.com>>

- Lake Zurich Courier Editorial on CUSD 95 meeting—our comments below
- Quentin School closing decision document (see "Education" page, too)
- Link to Surface Transportation Board's Decision (STB following their scoping period) on the Canadian National acquisition (CN) (more below on how to respond to news stories)
- Sadly this past weekend, a young man was killed on the freight tracks in Hoffman Estates. You should the read the news stories. Village of Lake Zurich has a great CN link <http://volz.org>

>>MOTHER'S DAY AT DPTC: Until 5/10, spend \$150 or more on a Gift Card from Deer Park Town Center, get a complimentary \$20 center gift card. No activation fee, purchase in person (Visa, MasterCard, cash, check) at the MANAGEMENT OFFICE (next to Smith & Hawken).Ground delivery available, phone orders 847-726-7755, Visa & MasterCard.

>>KILDEER BOARD OF TRUSTEES, Monday, May 5, 7:30 pm, Kildeer Village Hall CONCORDE BANQUETS is back to speak to the board. Whatever Concorde plans to do will likely affect many homes here in Deer Park, as well as Kildeer and Unincorporated Ela Township. Citizen action was very effective last summer to help convince the board to say "no" to a 105-foot outdoor entertainment venue. So if you live within a mile of Concorde, this affects you. In any case, it's interesting to see how another village runs a meeting.

>> SCOPING DECISION You can read the whole document, but we feel that this section is of great importance, and we quote:

Transportation Systems

There are approximately 140 highway/rail at-grade crossings on the EJ&E line that may

experience longer traffic delays due to increased freight rail traffic resulting from the proposed acquisition. Although existing CN crossings on lines into downtown Chicago would experience less 7 of 25 train traffic and fewer delays as a result of the proposed acquisition, a number of commenters expressed concern about the potential impact of increased freight rail traffic on local transportation systems, including congestion and delays at highway/rail at-grade crossings, and potential impacts to community emergency response capability.

Consistent with the Draft Scope of Study, the EIS will evaluate the impact of the proposed transaction on local transportation systems and intercity Amtrak services, vehicular delays due to increases in rail-related operation, and increased train traffic on movable railroad bridges as result of the proposed transaction. Since no changes in intermodal activity or truck traffic have been identified, analysis of truck traffic as identified in the Draft Scope of Study does not appear warranted. Other issues of concern to be included in the transportation systems impact evaluation are described below. (See rest of report)

We are following closely with a number of individuals to be certain that we are alerted to the next period of public comments. (new strategy to respond to CN's PR, see below)

>>LONG GROVE ROAD CREW Join us on Saturday, May 17, 10:30-noon, to pick up litter on Long Grove Road (even those last stubborn snow banks will have melted by then). Meet up at the Barrys', 412 Bramble. If you bring your own broom handle, Al will fashion you a quicker-picker-upper, and we'll provide safety vests and bags. Refreshments at the Barrys home immediately following. It would be nice to see some DP public officials on what is really a fun walk—and good exercise.

>>NEW EQUIPMENT FOR OLD FARM PARK. This neighborhood is really cut off from any recreational areas that can be reached on foot. They have been asking for 20 years, and recently presented a petition with 53 signatures at the Parks Forum.

We are proud of the residents who have so politely and persistently succeeded in having their needs met, even in a deficit budget. Compare the six months spent on this request to the 20 months Deerpath Road residents spent to get their two speed humps (only one of which was ever installed). Times are changing, thanks to you.

>> VIDEOS OF CUSD 95 school board meetings are now hosted on Google. Go to <http://video.google.com> <<http://video.google.com>> to view. The 4/24/08 meeting, at which the decision to close Charles Quentin School was made, is not yet posted as of this email, but you can read the decision at our web site, under "Everyone's Talking."

>>REDRAWING THE CUSD 95 BOUNDARY Did you know that you can volunteer to resolve where students will go to school once Quentin is closed. Link to application at our web site

on the “Education” page.

>>WHY YOUR PRESENCE MATTERS In our opinion, it is only when residents show up at public meetings—village board, school districts, any public meeting—that the human element becomes part of the process, and more important, part of the execution of decisions. There is much work to do now that Quentin is to be closed. Your voice will impact the solutions that are developed. More important, can you imagine the results if Deer Park residents don't participate (see application on our “Education” page)

And the same is true—so true—right here in Deer Park. Whether the issue is road repair, open space, park development, sales tax increases, village services or the Canadian National acquisition, the people sitting on the other side of the railing at public meetings work for you. When they deliberate and decide in an empty room, it's easy to consider only the opinions of their own colleagues and friends. That only natural; we all do that. But sometimes the evening news, a piece on the radio, a conversation at a business meeting, and the lights go on: “I never thought of that!”

Our responsibility, as citizens, is to light those lights, early and often, in Deer Park and throughout the region.

>>NEW STRATEGY TO OPPOSE CN RAIL ACQUISITION A number of organizations, including the Fight Rail Congestion coalition and Advocate Good Shepherd, recommend that each of us takes the time to respond by posting a comment at online news sites. Of course, snail mail is also useful, but posted comments may be read by hundreds or thousands of online visitors—certainly by CN personnel.

Here's how to comment online:

First, you go to the individual story at a news site or blog; next to or below the story, there is usually a link to “comment” or “post,” or something like that. You click on that link to proceed, at which point you will be asked to provide some personal information, and create a password for yourself. We are of the opinion that your personal information will be safe at recognized entities—the Sun Times News Group, Chicago Tribune, etc. (The procedure is similar for most legitimate “blogs.”)

Why do they ask for personal information? This is a software feature that helps distinguish human visitors from “robot” visitors that might spam or overload a web site. (Yeah, we know...remember just talking on the old front porch!) When you revisit that site in the future, you “log in” immediately or at the point that you make your comments.

One more hint: Write your comments in a text program, then copy and paste them into the comments portion of the web site. This will save a lot of time, as web site fields can be

very slow to fill with text.

Fewer than 4,000 comments were gathered during the STB's "scoping period," although that is more than expected for a "small transaction" (which is what this acquisition is considered!) One reason the number may be smaller than we'd hoped is that villages, organizations and even groups sent one comment with many signatures. NOT ANY MORE. Each person must speak as an individual, so that the numbers of comments will reflect the actual level of anxiety we have. There are some 190 communities. If 100 individuals from each community were to respond, that would be 19,000 comments.

>>NEW STORE DPTC: BeautyShoppe.biz is a beauty retail superstore, 3,0000 professional hair care products, cosmetics, etc., next to Pier 1 Imports. Salon services, too.

>>BIRTHDAY PARTY GIFTS: If you don't have youngsters at home, you might not have been into StrideRite. Stop in for a fabulous selection of intelligent, educational, affordable toys. And this store is locally owned and operated. It's just east of the Gazebo, and right across the way is Lori's Designer Shoes, for women, another locally owned and operated store.

>>VILLAGE OF LAKE ZURICH is posting updates on Canadian National as well; they have a "Notify Me" link for updates. We have interviewed their Village Planner, Vijay Gadde. You can watch that on YouTube, search "deerparkneighbors" YouTube is a very useful community action tool

See you soon!

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Deborah Barry, Secretary | Al Barry, President
847-867-1867 <http://deerparkneighbors.com>
Deer Park Neighbors, 412 Bramble Lane, Deer Park, IL 60010

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