

Subject: [DPNeBlast] Meeting, CN continues, elections, and more
Date: Monday, November 17, 2008 1:13 PM
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Conversation: Meeting, CN continues, elections, and more

host_name

Greetings, Neighbors

>>Monday night, 7pm, at the Barn, the newest episode of the VODP Board of Trustees. See our Docs and DVDs page for more information. And be there before 7pm to sign up for public comments.

For us, the top three points of interest will be:

- “Deer Park Place Maintenance Punch List”—Resurfacing one’s driveway is maintenance; tearing the entire driveway, if the drainage was installed improperly and caused the driveway to fail—that’s a construction flaw, in our opinion. And that’s just one problem on a very long list. These residents have done a good job of speaking up for themselves. LZ Fire District will be on hand to discuss the fire sprinklers, another tale of woe.
- Rainbow Hills subdivision ordinance—a lot of conditions will be attached to this ordinance, but as several of the trustees themselves said, who’s going to enforce these conditions down the line? The group of residents who oppose this subdivision have been well-organized, well-informed, polite and persistent. And made good friends in the process.
- President Gifford will report on the Vehe Barn Bond Claim. Will we, at last, hear see a comprehensive review on all spending? Earlier in the agenda, the board will have to deal with another Vehe invoice, for work completed a year ago!

But don’t take our word for it; there’s always a surprise or two in store.

Think you can’t understand this stuff. We promise: Spend some time at three meetings, or read through the last year of minutes—this isn’t rocket science, it’s your hometown.

Speaking of Vehe, there is still pushback from residents—all you have to do is mention the words “the Barn.” There are only a few key reasons:

- if the Barn was intended as a commercial building, why spend public funds and why no

- plan for covering operating expenses)
- if the Barn is a municipal building, why not include up-to-date offices for village staff
- there's much left to do on the property, and there's no plan for funding that—DPN has asked frequently, when is the fund-raising campaign to being?
- the relationship between the board and the Vehe Farm Foundation is too close

The bookkeeping on Vehe will be untangled—eventually. And no one criticizes the dedication of the volunteers whose impressive efforts belie their very small contingent. In other words, the push back on Vehe isn't personal, it's professional. And we're pretty confident, it will be one of the major issues in April's election.

We believe it was Trustee Rotter who said that the entire property should come under the oversight of the Parks chairman, who would report to fellow trustees as needed.

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 Cost effective punch card available!

ON CANADIAN NATIONAL

This issue continues to be one that all of us—residents and business owners alike—must continue to watch, and continue to provide our feedback. Your elected officials should be providing the kind of updates other villages provide. You'll find some excellent coverage—and a wonderful song, “No Monster Trains”--at Village of Lake Zurich's web site:
<http://www.volz.org>

And many links available at Barrington's front page:
<http://www.ci.barrington.il.us/>

From our own Rita Finley:

First, a reminder of tomorrow's STB hearing which starts at 9:00 central. Below is the link in case you care to watch or listen to it while you are working. I think it will give us a glimpse on STB current thinking.

<http://www.stb.dot.gov>

Go to: "Information Center"/"Webcast"/"Live Video" on the home page.

Second, the article below is worth reading; it speculates on Obama's appointment for the Secretary of Transportation. Oberstar is mentioned which could be terrific as he was a co-sponsor of HR6707.
<http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=250980>

>From FightRailCongestion.com

We've heard from numerous members of the business community that they are less than pleased that CN used the Illinois Chamber of Commerce as its booster in a November 6 ad in the Daily Herald that supports CN's acquisition of the EJ. Folks want to know what Chamber CEO Doug Whitley could possibly be thinking when it comes to supporting a deal that is likely to cost Illinois taxpayers more to fix than CN would pay in state taxes for the next 80 years!

Yes, the Chicago area is gridlocked with rail freight, and that's why the public-private partnership called CREATE developed. It is a well-planned and logical solution to fixing the problem for all railroads and for all impacted communities. Instead of working to get that plan fully funded, CN wants to take a short-cut that won't fix the freight gridlock – it will only expand it. With the next 20 years promising a doubling of rail freight in the greater Chicagoland area, isn't it time for the region to take charge of developing a real solution and not allow CN to con us into supporting a deal that is short-sighted AND will be a black pit for taxpayer dollars?

Bottom line, we have no idea why Doug Whitley would support CN with so little evidence to prove this deal is good for the region. Why does Doug Whitley think he knows more about this deal than the planners at the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) do? CMAP has explicitly commented that the regulatory review of this deal has, "not included a thorough cost-benefit analysis." That being the case, why are we supposed to believe that what's good for CN is good for the region? Because CN says so??!!

If you want to ask Doug Whitley why he puts CN before the people of Illinois, give him a shout at 312.983.7100 or dwhitley@ilchamber.org.

IN THE NEWS

>>[Canadian National: US Appeals Court Rejects CN's Mandamus Lawsuit:](#)

"In an opinion just released today, the U.S. Appeals Court for the District of Columbia rejected CN's request to force the STB to make an expedited decision on its proposed acquisition of the EJ. The court ruled that CN failed to meet the standards for requesting

such an extraordinary legal remedy.” Read the full opinion at <http://fightrailcongestion.com>

You’ll enjoy this story, which could have been written about Deer Park:
The Doings, 11/04/08 ““The Village Board needs to show it is capable of doing anything other than fighting...They're trying to make us [residents] feel guilty about the sewers and roads”
Full story <http://www.pioneerlocal.com/hinsdale/news/1260577,do-WEBsalestax-110408-s1.article>

APRIL 2009 ELECTIONS

- Terms expire for:
- President Gifford
 - Trustee Patricia Plautz
 - Trustee Joel Rotter
 - Trustee Howard Thrun

Petition packets available now at the Village Hall (the white farm house on the Vehe campus). While you’re there, why not part with the 5 bucks to get an auto sticker for your windshield. It’s not much—it just says, “I live in Deer Park.”

You will also find even more detailed information at the Lake County Clerk’s site:
<http://www.co.lake.il.us/cntyclk/elections/candservices/petitionpacket.asp>

Circulation of ends on January 26, 2009. Petition packets are filed at the local Clerk’s office from January 19-26, 2009. Our clerk Susan Meyle’s hours for receipt of petitions are listed at the village’s web site:
<http://www.village.deer-park.il.us/default.htm>

AROUND TOWN

>>CUSD 95 Boundary Study Committee. 20 residents of School District 95 are working to find the best way to realign middle and elementary school attendance. The committee’s final recommendations will be made at a public meeting on Jan. 15, 2009, LZ High School Performing Arts Center, 6pm. Meanwhile there is lots of information at the committee’s web site:
<http://www.lz95.org/lzboe/boundary.htm>

>>Retail sales tax, it’s a good thing—for Deer Park! We mentioned marketing plans before,

so where is the village's marketing outreach for our retail community. Competition for shopping dollars is hotter than ever, even more so in a very slow economy. And with the opening of Arboretum, attracting shoppers to Deer Park is more important than ever. Here at our house, we're making a commitment to get all holiday gifts here in our hometown—the stores are quiet, so don't wait for the after-Thanksgiving rush (oh, please, let there be a rush!). You can get excellent service today!

Are you aware of the amount of other proposed retail development that challenges our own stores? If it looks like there's a strip mall going up everywhere you look, you're right. Not to mention the recent opening of the Arboretum in South Barrington, which duplicates many of our Town Center stores. THAT'S WHY WE NEED A MARKETING PLAN that spread the word around the region that Deer Park's low retail sales tax makes it worth the drive, especially with gasoline prices down.

It's a shame Deer Park doesn't have a grocery store, or a drug store. These kinds of necessity shopping would shore up the village bottom line when disposable incomes dry up. We've heard that Walgreen's wants a freestanding store to replace their Cuba Road locations. What other categories of shopping would YOU like to see here?

>>Hampton Inn. The hotel is moving along, may even be open by summer. We hope to see a strong cross-promotional program between the hotel and the Vehe events coordinator.

Deer Park really does offer just about everything you would need for a wedding weekend. Or corporate sales meeting? Smaller trade shows. Craft fairs. Art festivals. Charitable fund-raising events. If you have events coming up that your neighbors would like to know about, please email us, info@deerparkneighbors.com or call 847-867-1867.

>>Coming soon: a somewhat reorganized web site—your suggestions most welcome, as is your writing about a local issue that you're passionate about. We'd love to share your photography, and your children's drawing as well. You don't need to know a thing about web coding; we'll do that for you.

Have a most joyous Thanksgiving. Here's to family, community, country—and so much to be thankful for

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Deborah Barry, Secretary | Al Barry, President
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Deer Park Neighbors, 412 Bramble Lane, Deer Park, IL 60010

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