

Subject: [DPNeBlast] A contest for VODP President, info for petition signers, CN new, other local items

Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2009 12:45 PM

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

Reply-To: deborah.barry@deerparkneighbors.com

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

Conversation: A contest for VODP President, info for petition signers, CN new, other local items

host_name

Greetings, Neighbors

First and foremost, we want to send all of you our best wishes for health and prosperity in 2009. The past year has been especially tough for our neighbors, whether it be from the continued flooding or the deep financial woes. Thank goodness, the recession doesn't seem to impact the Town Center too much--yet.

We had a wonderful holiday, with family coming in from out of town. It's a reminder that family and friends is what we all work so hard for. Also, it is fascinating to see Deer Park through visitors' eyes—they have no baggage about the village's administration, lack of affordable housing, poor infrastructure or frequent damage to local homes from flooding. So we come to a renewed appreciation of the beautiful countryside and the amazing conveniences we have living so close to everything. That—and gas prices well below \$2/gallon, so we can enjoy it all!

ELECTION NEWS

We can report that both President Scott Gifford and Trustee Bob Kellermann will vie for the next term as president. The election is in April.

Gifford was collecting signatures in the Briargate neighborhood this weekend. It's interesting that he was so far East in town, rather than sticking close to his own home (which is very close to Vehe Barn). Kellermann has notified us by email.

We expect to see him and Kellermann throughout the village. Bob mounted a very aggressive, very physical campaign two years ago when he ran for Trustee; he seemed to be everywhere.

Today, we are sending an invitation by email to both Gifford and Kellermann to participate in a Q&A on the issues—an informal debate that will allow both questions from the floor and questioning each other. We are offering three dates for this event. And of course, we'll record the proceedings. As soon as we have a date, we'll eBlast that to you.

And we certainly hope that there will be a race for the three available trustee seats—it's not unusual for people to hold back until closer to the filing date, Jan. 26. See below.

FROM THE MUNICIPAL CODE:

§ 30.02 ELECTIONS AND TERMS OF OFFICE.

(A) The term of office of the Trustees shall be four years and until their successors are elected. After the first election, three Trustees shall be elected by the electors of the Village for a four-year term at the regular Village election held on the third Tuesday in April of each odd numbered year, as provided by statute.

(B) The term of office of the Village President shall be four years. He shall be elected by the electors of the Village at the regular Village election held on the third Tuesday in April of each fourth year.

(C) Vacancies in the offices of Trustee or Village President shall be filled as prescribed by the ILCS Ch. 65, Act 5, § 3.1-10-50. ('77 Code, § 2.02)

Remember, Gifford has been elected President only once; his previous service in that chair was to complete Rick Karl's unfinished term. Scott has served in other capacities for around 15 years.

We urge both Gifford and Kellermann to provide us with his resume, curriculum vitae and/or any other background materials that will help the residents know him better.

And make yourselves available to the press, as well. You can read what the other local village presidents are thinking about going into 2009 (but sadly, nothing from Gifford in this story):

“Village presidents resolve to make their towns better”:
<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/lakezurich/news/1357720,lz-resolutions-123108-s1.article>

SIGNING PETITIONS

We talked recently with the Lake County Clerk's office to be clear about the role of residents in signing candidate's petitions to be placed on the ballot. The biggest misunderstandings are who can sign and how often. You must be a registered voter, registered at the time you sign. PLEASE DO NOT SIGN if you are not currently registered to vote; your signature could become a reason to challenge that petition.

As to how many petitions you can sign, there is a rumor going around that you can sign only one. CLARIFICATION: You can sign only one petition for EACH OFFICE. So you could legally sign one petition for president and three for trustees (there are three separate trustees seats to be filled).

Signing a petition DOES NOT require you to vote for that person; your signature merely goes toward fulfilling the requirements for a name to be placed on the ballot. Let's all be open and receptive to candidates who may come to your home; remember, they are campaigning in some of the year's worst weather, and a few minutes of your time talking with them will make us a better informed electorate. There is no better measure of a candidate than your own opinion, formed in a one-to-one dialogue.

Finally, here's one tip to reach a genuine consensus: Verify! If you hear something about a candidate, check it out, either with the candidate himself/herself or through public records. Rumor-mongering and disinformation should have no place in this campaign. Just the facts, that's our motto.

SHOP LOCAL

Many of the local communities have "shop local" programs and promotions in action. We do not have such a program here in Deer Park; we would love to see one. But we do have these eBlasts, and want to remind you that every time you choose a Deer Park store or restaurant, you help the village's bottom line via the applied sales/service tax. We are fortunate to have so many high-quality national retailers located here, but these stores remain open ONLY when the local cash register justifies the ongoing investment. So don't use these "bricks" only for returns on your "click" purchases; transact your business right here in town.

DISTRICT 95

"As part of a curriculum review, the Community Unit School District 95 board reflected on its beliefs and values of the school district at a recent meeting." Read the full story:

<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/lakezurich/news/1347924,lz-programs-122408-s1.article>

DEER PARK IN THE NEWS

Very interesting that in the Barrington Courier-Review' "Top 10 stories of 2008," Deer Park was two of the top stories: #8 was the Vehe Barn (not one, but two reporters covering for Pioneer Press); the focus is on Deer Park's demand that the surety company reimburse the village \$978,924. Number 9 was the rejection by the voters of the sales tax referendum—readers being reminded that the proposed referendum failed to earmark dollars for roads and drainage only.

You will want to read both local papers' year-end summaries, most of which stories do impact us here in Deer Park:

Barrington Courier-Review

<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/barrington/news/1356667,ba-yearender.article>

Lake Zurich Courier

<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/lakezurich/news/1356668,lz-yearendreview.article>

In the Daily Herald, their top suburban stories included the CN controversy, sales taxes (of course):

<http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=261894>

And in their focus on the Northwest Suburbs, sales taxes and CN are consistent, with coverage of the Des Plaines river flooding also top of mind:

<http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=260331>

For those of you unfamiliar with browsing online newspapers, please see our "Press Room" page for some tips, and we recommend that residents DO create log ins at local news sites, so that you can leave your comments for other's to see. Let's make 2009 the year that move local voices are heard. Also coming soon: Increased local coverage from Chicago Tribune. To see how Tribune is operating in communities south and west of Chicago, please visit:

<http://triblocal.com/>

CN NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SPEAK OUT

To date, Deer Park's voice in the CN controversy has been very soft—the powers-that-be seem to be relying on other organizations, TRAC and BACOG in particular, to speak out on behalf of this region. Given the unique challenges at the Cuba Road/Cuba Marsh RR crossing, we hope that protection of the environment and access to Good Shepherd Hospital is a campaign issue. Meanwhile, President Gifford could put Trustee Howard Thrun on this task, as Thrun's commission is Public Safety.

>From Suzanne Devane:

I am linking you to a January article from Canada's Financial Post magazine.

<http://www.financialpost.com/magazine/story.html?id=1086939#commentform-narrow>

We have Hunter in a coughing fit as he talks about the selfishness of people who don't want CN to buy the EJ&E in the context of highlighting him as God's gift to railroading. As he talks about CN's profitability, he fails to mention the numerous safety infractions by his company as he pursues those profits. The most recent example being the Dec. 18 article on Transport Canada charging CN with improperly moving dangerous goods. I thought that you and your networks might wish to weigh in on-line with your comments on Hunter and CN.

Story in Daily Herald about Barrington Law Suit over CN:

<http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=262272>

From FightRailCongestion.com:

In a January 5 petition the the STB, Will County joined the Barrington area communities in filing a request with the STB that it stay its decision approving the CN acquisition of the EJ. The Will County filing can be viewed in the documents section of the www.FightRailCongestion.com website.

To review copies of both legal filings, visit www.fightrailcongestion.com <http://www.fightrailcongestion.com> . Both are found under the documents tab -- the stay petition in "STB-related Documents" and the federal court appeal in the section on "Litigation and Legal Matters."

From Rita Finley:

READ ON, FOR A PERSPECTIVE REGARDING US STEEL AND THE CN ACQUISITION:

Hello all- even though the EJ&E sale got regulatory approval on 12/24 it is not effective until 1/23- missing the 12/31 deadline, so the seller, US Steel could stop the sale.

CN's projected traffic of their trains alone will MAX out the EJ&E line according to the environmental study. What doesn't add up is that when Union Pacific dropped their objection of the EJ&E sale they stated they plan to run the same number of trains in the future that they currently run on the EJ&E (no more than 3/day at any given point). And what about traffic from US Steel's customers?

US Steel has been a good neighbor for the past decades -- please read email ASAP below on how you can write a quick note to the CEO of US Steel. Our region's future is worth fighting for. Otherwise this will end up tied up in

appeals (Will County has already hired attorneys to file an appeal and more are expected to follow.)

Also- you might find this recent article of interest - does US Steel really want to enable turning the EJ&E into a freight superhighway bypass bringing a tsunami of Far East Goods into America when the steel industry is pushing for "Buy America"?

http://www.themoneytimes.com/news/20090103/steel_output_in_sharp_decline-id-1046286.html

----- Forwarded Message: -----

From: Stop the Trains <stopthetrains@me.com>

To: Undisclosed recipients: ;

Subject: YOUR HELP IS NEEDED AGAIN! LET'S DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE-AND NOT LOOK BACK AND SAY "I WISH I HAD!"

Date: Sun, 4 Jan 2009 15:49:55 +0000

We all need to keep working to Stop the Trains.

It would be very helpful to have an avalanche of letters into U.S. Steel asking them not to close the deal with CN. We need to raise a lot of doubts on how well their customers will be serviced given that the J will be maxed out with CN traffic ALONE. Laud U.S. Steel for being such a good neighbor in the region for DECADES!!! Make the case that the line is vital to future regional mass transit (The Star Line) that could easily co-exist with their business needs. Let them know the impact this transaction would have on your life and your community.

Biographies of U.S. Steel execs are on this link: http://www.ussteel.com/corp/company/exec_bios/index.asp. Look at the links and seek out commonalities/contacts that leverage communications. It includes alma maters, organizations and boards they are involved in, etc. If someone has a personal contact with one of these execs, it would be helpful to reach out to that person.

Letters asking U.S. Steel to walk away from the deal can be directed to:

John P. Surma
Chief Executive Officer
United States Steel Corporation

600 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-2800

Letters to the US Steel CEO can be faxed to 412-433-1109, attn:
Ronnie

This needs to get rolling quickly before U.S. Steel has the chance to say publicly what its intentions are in regards to closing. Please write immediately.

I hope you all will lead the charge on this!!!

----- End of Forwarded Message

If any of you is interested in providing community information for this web site, please be in touch by email or phone. Let's make 2009 a year of change—for the better.

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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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