

**Subject:** [DPNeBlast] Communications, Election Event, a thank you, CN/EJ&E, TARP funding  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 25, 2009 8:53 PM  
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**Conversation:** Communications, Election Event, a thank you, CN/EJ&E, TARP funding

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Greetings, Neighbors

To celebrate the THIRD ANNIVERSARY of Deer Park Neighbors, the Village has decided to lighten our load by providing a Board of Trustees Meeting Highlights on the front page of their web site. OK, we're kidding. The village HAS posted the highlights of the last two month's meetings—but we doubt they did it support DPN. On the other hand, perhaps our providing that information over the last three years has set a good example. We will, of course, continue to comment in these eBlasts about the village's activities.

Also, did you get a CTY communication today? That would be a voice mail and/or email regarding the upcoming Candidates Forum, sponsored by the Village (see below for details). We take the Village to be sincere in wanting all of you to participate in this election. But where was the CTY to announce the recent hearing on candidate petitions? Why are some events blasted, and not others? Why did it take President Gifford one solid month to respond to DPN and/or find a sponsor for an alternative event. (You will remember, the 2007 League events was sponsored by the League and held at the Barrington Area Library.)

Well, as our mothers used to say, "the better the day, the better the deed." Meaning, of course, there's never a bad time to do a good thing.

Regardless, we all need to assess President Gifford and all the candidates not solely on being generous in their appearance, but on the record.

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#### ELECTION

More information throughout this eBlast, and do keep your eyes on our Election Page. We welcome your suggestions or additions to our web site.

<http://deerparkneighbors.com/pages/election.html>

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## MEETINGS

DISTRICT 95 combined PTOs will host school board candidate forums regarding the April 7, 2009, ballot. Open to the entire community, attendees can submit questions. Please contact your PTO/Booster President for more information.

- WED, 3/4/09, 7:30pm, Lake Zurich Middle School North, 95 Hubbard Lane, Hawthorn Woods
- MON, 3/9/09, 7:30 pm, Lake Zurich Middle School South, 435 W. Cuba Road, Lake Zurich

SPECIAL MEETING of the Board of Trustees, Monday, 3/23/09, 7pm, at the Barn, to work on the budget for the next fiscal year.

If you attend only one meeting in the two-year period between elections, this is the single most important. As the board visits each area of village spending, you will be brought up to date on where the village stands. You might even decide for yourself if the monies in the Village checkbook are “reserves” or simple monies on deposit. In any case, since both President Gifford and Trustee Bob Kellermann are both serving on the board and running for President, this is a terrific opportunity. Deer Park Neighbors will, of course, be there with video camera.

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## EVENTS

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BARRINGTON, Sunday, March 8, 2009, 2-4pm, the Barn

Oddly enough, we cannot find this event on the League website, but there will be a Candidate Forum sponsored by the Village of Deer Park at that time and place. You will have two hours to hear the views of 2 presidential candidates and 6 candidates for trustee. Our understanding is that--we do not yet have this directly--you will have the opportunity to submit questions, some of which will be asked of the candidates.

Two years ago, DPN was NOT permitted to film the League event (nor were any of the more traditional news organizations). We are seeking information as to how you might have an opportunity to view the League recording, should you be unable to attend. Details certainly will eventually appear at:  
<http://www.lwvba.org/calendar.htm>

FASHION SHOW/LUNCHEON, to benefit Hospice of Northeastern Illinois, Sat., March 14, at Concorde Banquets. Tickets \$35/ea. Call Kristin at Hospice of NE

IL, 847-381-5599, x368, to RSVP with your credit card number before 3/4/09.

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A NOTE FROM ADVOCATE GOOD SHEPHERD HOSPITAL  
*(Message for your site)*

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To the Folks at *Deer Park Neighbors*:

While I'm an admitted political agnostic on Deer Park civic issues, I wanted to take a moment to drop you a line and thank you for your terrific, ongoing coverage of the Canadian National - EJ& E railroad takeover story. It's an outstanding example of the power of the communication medium you've cultivated in your DPNeBlasts.

I'm grateful for your contribution to informing residents and furthering the conversation about this important issue. Approximately one third of all EMS runs to Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital originate from the "wrong side of the tracks" - the side a great many of your readers reside on - and therefore, with 20-some daily two-mile long trains soon serving as rolling barriers to cardiac and trauma services for the residents we serve, people need to know what the Canadian National's plan brings to our communities - along with its European Union-bound shipping containers.

CN has a long and chequered history of operation when it comes to their records on safety, environmental and community partnership, and in fact, just in the 2007 Canadian Parliamentary session, they were called in to answer to the Canadian people's representatives about safety issues and their dismissive approach to Canadian communities in which they operated. We should expect no more from them as business partners in our newly-formed civic shotgun marriage.

Keep up the good work,

Mike Deering  
Director of Communications & Gov't Relations (Corp)  
Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital, 450 West Illinois Highway 22, Barrington, IL  
60010

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AND SPEAKING OF CN...

At last week's VODP meeting, \$5,000 was approved to contribute to the legal defense fund to appeal the CN/EJ&E deal.

From our own Rita Finley

As if they couldn't let well enough alone for themselves, Canadian National wants the United States taxpayer to bail them out.... They aren't saying that directly but by challenging the STB mandate that CN pays part of 2 grade separations desperately needed along the EJ&E (in Aurora and Lynwood), they are essentially going to make the US taxpayer foot the bill.

If CN doesn't pay--we all pay--(and they profit). As Mayor Weisner points out this is an example of the bad faith CN has been exhibiting. In the Daily Herald, CN asks the courts for a better deal on the EJ&E merger

<http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=274292>

And CN challenges cost for suburban overpasses

<http://chicagobreakingnews.com/2009/02/canadian-national-cn-overpasses-aurora-lynwood.html>

This from FightRailCongestion.com

In a February 23 maneuver, CN notified the Surface Transportation Board (STB) that it is appealing to the federal courts the Board's direction that CN must pay for a significant portion of the costs associated with creating grade separations in Lynwood and Aurora. TRAC is not surprised by this move as we have maintained all along that CN has no real intentions of working with communities to mitigate the harms its operations will cause in the region. In its letter to the STB notifying it of the appeal (the letter can be found on the TRAC website at [www.FightRailCongestion.com](http://www.FightRailCongestion.com)) CN congratulated itself on committing to 108 voluntary mitigation measures while pointing out that this particular grade separation mandate from the STB was more than it could bear as it would be just too expensive!

TRAC has a couple of issues with CN on the matter. First, let's take a look at some of what constitutes CN's voluntary mitigation:

- "For each of the public grade crossings on EJ's rail line, Applicants (CN) shall provide and maintain permanent signs prominently displaying both a toll-free telephone

number and a unique grade-crossing identification number in compliance with Federal Highway Regulations." Here we have CN volunteering to obey the law!

- When it comes to hazardous materials transportation, CN will "comply with the current Association of American Railroads (AAR) "key route" guidelines, found in AAR Circular No. OT-55-I, and any subsequent revisions." Here we have CN saying it will abide by normal industry operating procedures. Given CN's record of disregarding Canadian law in this area, perhaps we SHOULD be grateful for that concession!

- About needed grade separations along the EJ, here's what CN has volunteered: "Applicants shall, upon request, work with municipalities and counties in support of securing funding, in conjunction with appropriate state agencies, for grade separations where they may be appropriate under criteria established by relevant state Department of Transportation. Applicants shall contribute their statutorily required amount of funding to the cost of the grade separation." It's never been a secret that CN believes it's best that taxpayers underwrite most of the cost of grade separations to facilitate its profitable operations. But, where's the cost-benefit analysis here and who is representing the taxpayer to get the best deal from CN? According to CN in its recent legal appeal, NO ONE has that right!

- On controlling noise, vibration and noxious air emissions, here's what CN is volunteering: "Applicants, to the extent reasonably practicable, shall adopt efficient fuel saving practices that may include a range of operating practices that will help reduce locomotive emissions, such as shutting down locomotives when not in use and when temperatures are above 40 degrees." Hmm, who decides what is reasonably practicable in these situations? That's right – CN! We wonder how often shutting down stalled locomotives will be "reasonably practicable."

- Concerned about the future of the STAR line or your current Metra train schedule being interrupted by freight

traffic? Here's what CN has volunteered: "Applicants shall work with other railroads to establish reasonable and effective policies and procedures to prevent other railroads' trains from interfering with Applicants' trains." "Work with" is an awfully nice weasel phrase that provides no real guarantees for Metra commuters!

The second issue we have with CN is its self-serving logic in making this appeal. CN complains that if the grade separation mandate stands it could cost them about \$160 million in mitigation or more than 50% of the cost of the transaction price. Well, the TRAC communities never asked for this deal to happen and have had to invest significant funds to defend our interests against CN that we will NEVER recoup. CN, on the other hand, can earn back ALL of its investment on the EJ in short order by its operations on the line.

Let's take this self-serving CN thinking a step further to examine the cost burden this transaction could end up dumping on U.S. and Illinois taxpayers. Unfortunately, the EJ is not in the middle of nowhere. The rail line is in the middle of a fast-growing and vibrant metropolitan area and it is completely lacking in the infrastructure that makes it possible to integrate CN's proposed operations into our communities. The only solution is to build that needed infrastructure to the tune of about \$2 billion! Yet, knowing that this is what the American taxpayer is facing as a cost burden, CN has the nerve to whine about the necessity to pick up a mere \$160 million!

Something needs to be done. We need some answers from Washington about what our elected officials plan to do to rein in CN's predatory self-serving actions. Contact your Member of Congress and let them know what you think of CN's latest attempt to railroad our communities! Contact information can be found at:  
<http://FightRailCongestion.com>.

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#### IN THE NEWS

March 4 is day one of the new reality under Canadian National, but will the increase in traffic happen right away? Perhaps not. "The signs are up but motorists shouldn't worry just yet about increased train traffic on some rail crossings in Mundelein and other areas, village and railroad officials say."

<http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=273429&src=3>

Note, too, the commentary that follows most news stories these days. Not a very courteous discourse, but one that seems to drill down to the emotions, if not the heart of the issues. You, too, can comment. We offer some guidance for those of you new to the process of posting your opinions online at our Press page.

<http://deerparkneighbors.com/pages/pressroom.html>

Well, it may come as a surprise to some of you that our very own village is right out there competing with big cities, counties and states, for TARP funds. And we're not alone in our fight. The Board of Trustees has agreed to pay a DC lobbyist \$60,000 to speak up on our behalf. I guess you could say President Gifford is playing with the big boys now—and hasn't this nation done well with lobbyists!

<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/barrington/news/1437914,ba-deerpark-021909-s1.article>

Frankly, we would have expected that the paving contractors, blacktop vendors, truckers *et al*, those who most likely belong to national unions and/or trade associations, might have their own lobbyists pitching for these funds.

So, what do you think? Is this a bold stroke of genius or a gamble Deer Park cannot afford? Or a Hail Mary pass to save face in the face of what is certain to be heavy spring flooding? We really would like to hear from you. Oh, and by the way, both Trustee Kellermann and Rotter voted NO to this spending.

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It continues to fascinate us that every two years, village issues bubble up to the surface in the (thankfully) brief campaign season. What you don't know can hurt you. And all of us. Please, be an educated voter. And do, as Village Clerk Susan Meyle urged in today's CTY message, register to vote.

Together, we are stronger!

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Deborah Barry, Secretary | Al Barry, President  
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