

Subject: [DPNeBlast] Ela Township resident initiative; Stimulus Web Site, Ela Forum, how to act on CN

Date: Thursday, March 5, 2009 6:24 PM

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

Reply-To: deborah.barry@deerparkneighbors.com

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

Conversation: Ela Township resident initiative; Stimulus Web Site, Ela Forum, how to act on CN

host_name

Greetings, Neighbors

DON'T MISS!

**CANDIDATE FORUM, SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2-4PM, THE BARN, PRESENTED BY
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BARRINGTON**

We regret that we will not be permitted to record the event, but we will try to find out how those of you who cannot make it can hear the proceedings. More later.

We were, indeed, late to get to our Monday Night at Caribou—and we heard about it. However, count on us to be on time, 7:30pm-10pm, any Monday there isn't a Village Meeting. In the evening, the coffee shop is home to many local high school and college students, who are doing homework, blogging, job searching on their wireless computers and more than fascinating to talk with. (Not to worry, no boom-boom music, Caribou is still a warm, comfortable place to kick back at any hour.)

Our young people are very politically astute: they speak knowledgably on a failed economic policy, deficits, the damage done by special interest groups, Free Speech—and not just here in Deer Park. Conversations ranged around equal opportunity in jobs and education, traffic, shopping, dining. We all know contemporaries who have been either downsized out of a career or, as one of the few still employed, carry a work load of two or three former colleagues. Now imagine looking for your first job in this economy. But the youngsters we met face an uncertain future with optimism that hard work will open doors for them. They are the future of our country, and we're feeling very good about that.

STIMULUS PLAN

>From Ed Sullivan, 51st Legislative District

“Governor Pat Quinn has launched a new website that provides information and transparency to the federal stimulus package. The website, www.recovery.illinois.gov, is a tool for every taxpayer interested in the \$787 billion federal stimulus package.”

Guess what? This site can be used to apply for grants from the stimulus plan! Check it out, and maybe someone should forward this link to our very own lobbyist! As Ed Sullivan says, “the website is a gateway to federal stimulus money in areas available.”

<http://gov.recovery@illinois.gov>

<http://cmap.illinois.gov/recovery>

Bob Dean, bdean@cmap.illinois.gov, 312-386-8834

ELECTION NEWS

Daily Herald, front page, 3/2/09: “The contest for Deer Park village president, between incumbent President Scott Gifford and Trustee Bob Kellermann, is less about different perspectives on a problem and more about how well things are running already.”

<http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=276171&src=25>

Registration: March 10 is the last day to register to vote before the April 7 Consolidated Election. New registrants must be U.S. citizens, 18 years old on or before the election, residents of their precinct for 30 days immediately before Election Day, and must provide two forms of identification. Registration is available at the county clerk's office, 18 N. County St., Waukegan, and at most municipal, township and library facilities. *Anyone has moved since the last election must notify the clerk's office in writing with the new address.*

Village of Deer Park, 23680 W. Cuba Road, Phone: (847) 726-1648

Tues., April 14, 7:30pm, Location TBD, ELA TWSP. RESOLUTION

This is the only day of the year for Ela Township residents to propose and vote on what YOU want the township to do. Registered voters will vote on all business put forth on the agenda, including this proposal for a more transparent Township Government, aimed at better reporting to 40,000+ citizens. Call the Township office at 847-438-7823 to confirm the location (and DPN will eBlast and post on our web site as soon as we know).

Resolved: That the Ela Township Board maximize the transparency of its governance by: 1) posting the township budget on the township's website within 14 days of its adoption, 2) video recording all township meetings and arranging to have them broadcast on a public

access cable channel available to Ela Township residents and posted on the township website, and 3) posting all approved Ela Township expenditures, specifying amount and payee, on the township website.

PS on behalf of DPN: Isn't this just what we have been asking of our own Village government for at least the past three years! Perhaps if this passes at the township level, our own elected officials will be persuaded to do as well for Deer Park residents.

IN THE NEWS

3/3/09, Pioneer Press: "John Barron, recently appointed publisher of the Chicago Sun-Times, was named publisher of Pioneer Press and North Shore Magazine as well on Tuesday....'Local news is more important than ever before," he said. "And we're uniquely positioned to do it very well."

<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/evanston/news/1458501,pp-barron-030309-s1.article>

CN—from our own Rita Finley

CONTACT YOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND PRESIDENT OBAMA: Let them know what you think about CN's legal action to avoid paying mandated grade separation mitigation. Then, ask them about what they plan to do to rein in CN! For links on how to contact them go to: www.fightrailcongestion.com <<http://www.fightrailcongestion.com/>>

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/il08_bean/022709cnappeal.html

Washington, D.C. - In a bipartisan joint letter to the Surface Transportation Board (STB), several Members of Congress joined Congresswoman Melissa Bean (IL-08) to express concerns about Canadian National's appeal of the STB decision requiring the company to pay their fair share of mitigation efforts in Illinois and Indiana communities. Joining Bean on the letter were Representatives Peter Visclosky (IN-1), Donald Manzullo (IL-16), Judy Biggert (IL-13), Peter Roskam (IL-6), Bill Foster (IL-14), and Deborah Halvorson (IL-11).

"This action shows, yet again, that despite their promises, Canadian National never had the best interests of Illinois and Indiana communities in mind," Rep. Bean and her colleagues wrote. "While we believe the Board did not go far enough, we hope the Board will vigorously defend this misguided challenge to the STB's authority."

The text of the letter is below:

February 27, 2009

Anne K. Quinlan
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

RE: Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation
Control—EJ&E West Company (STB Finance Docket No. 35087)

Dear Ms. Quinlan:

We are writing regarding Canadian National's (CN) recent filing with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) outlining CN's plans to challenge the STB's Final Mitigation Conditions (FMC) in the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. This action shows, yet again, that despite their promises, Canadian National never had the best interests of Illinois and Indiana communities in mind. While we believe the Board did not go far enough, we hope the Board will vigorously defend this misguided challenge to the STB's authority.

CN is particularly critical of the Board's FMC requiring CN to fund two grade separations in Lynwood (at 78.5 percent CN cost) and Aurora (at 67 percent CN cost). This request comes as many communities beyond Lynwood and Aurora that deserve at least the same level of funding from CN for grade separations are being asked to unnecessarily to shoulder the entire burden of building grade separations. As the Board knows, grade separations along the Elgin, Joliet, and Eastern rail line (EJ&E) are the most effective way to mitigate traffic and safety issues.

CN believes these STB mitigation requirements were "unwarranted and unlawful" and that STB has "no authority to impose this environmental condition over the objection of [CN]." These serious challenges to the STB's authority and ability to properly protect communities from the effects of rail transactions raise questions about the authority of the Board and its ability to properly regulate the railroad industry. CN's arguments in their filing, if found true, would bolster the argument for stronger regulation of our nation's

railroads, an issue that is currently being debated in Congress.

In an open letter to residents of communities affected by the EJ&E purchase dated February 2, 2009, CN CEO Hunter Harrison wrote:

Knowing that much work lies ahead, we pledge to all communities along the EJ&E line that CN will share information, listen to your concerns and collaborate with your officials to identify and implement creative solutions to lessen the impact on individual affected communities. We make this commitment because doing the right thing is who we are.

CN's latest action has broken that pledge and follows a history of showing no regard for the negative impact this transaction will have to communities along the EJ&E. Our communities did not seek CN's freight traffic and therefore have no sympathy for the costs imposed on them by the Board. As the Board is well aware, our communities are very disappointed in the lack of adequate mitigation required of CN. This court challenge of the STB ruling affects not only the grade separations in question, but raises concern about the future of other commitments and agreements CN has made. We encourage you to use your full oversight rights and responsibilities to ensure that CN meets their requirements and we look forward to working with you to ensure that happens.

Sincerely,
Rep. Melissa Bean
Rep. Peter Visclosky
Rep. Don Manzullo
Rep. Judy Biggert
Rep. Peter Roskam
Rep. Bill Foster
Rep. Deborah Halvorson

Remember, Neighbors, together, we are stonger!

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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

To add or remove an address from this email list, simply hit REPLY and put the word "ADD" or "REMOVE" in the subject line, then hit SEND. Should you choose to remain on our email distribution list, Deer Park Neighbors will use email addresses to transmit information of interest regarding Deer Park Neighbors and community issues. Deer Park Neighbors also will not sell email addresses to other organizations for commercial purposes.

DPNeBlast mailing list

DPNeBlast@deerparkneighbors.com

http://deerparkneighbors.com/mailman/listinfo/dpneblast_deerparkneighbors.com