

Subject: [DPNeBlast] Forum tomorrow!; feedback on lobbyist; in the papers; Rita on CN
Date: Saturday, March 7, 2009 2:04 PM
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Conversation: Forum tomorrow!; feedback on lobbyist; in the papers; Rita on CN

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Greetings, Neighbors

DATELINE, DEER PARK, SATURDAY, MARCH 7

Don't miss the Candidate's forum **Sunday, 2-4pm, at the Barn**, sponsored by the Village and moderated by the League of Women Voters of Barrington.

Remember, Deer Park Neighbors will NOT be permitted to film the event. We will quickly report what we see at the high points of the forum, but we cannot (yet) find any way you can see the tapes. We have one last inquiry in to the League—cross your fingers.

Actually, because we have been struggling for almost six weeks to set up our own forum , we find the League's rush to forum disappointing. Why not put the forum closer to the end of the campaign, and have enough time to really promote it? With a couple of thousand residents, we could easily have—with notice—a really big audience.

We'll be counting heads, so please, do turn out. Go ahead, bring the kids, as so many neighbors have done recently. What a wonderful example to set for your kids, participating in the public process. Maybe the next generation will be more likely to speak up and speak out!

LET'S READ THE PAPERS

Transparency isn't just a word, it's a way of doing business!

“How quickly good ideas spread. About a month and a half ago, we used this space to congratulate DuPage County Auditor Bob Grogan on his novel approach to transparency in government. Grogan decided to post the county's monthly expenditures online. It was, we noted, ‘tantamount to opening the county's checkbook for the world to see.’”

<http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=275633>

Guest Essay in Barrington Courier by Karen Darch and Tom Weisner

On March 4, the Canadian National Railway Co. can begin increasing train traffic along the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Rail Line, which stretches 198 miles through the Chicago area. The Regional Answer to Canadian National (TRAC) coalition represents citizens in more than 30 suburbs strongly opposed to this rail acquisition due to the significant safety, economic and environmental impacts to the region. Throughout the process, CN has disputed many concerns TRAC has brought to bear; and, in most cases, dismissed them outright as rhetoric. Yet, with aptly named "monster" trains poised to roll through our neighborhoods, coupled with the lack of effort by CN to brace communities for this dramatic change, it will be quite easy for the region to differentiate between rhetoric and fact.”

<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/barrington/news/forum/1461034,ba-essay-030509-s1.article>

“What we also hope is that CN will take steps to make this transition less painful for all involved. CN won the battle to buy the EJ&E. We think they should live up to the conditions of that approval and work harder to mitigate the concerns of the affected communities.”

<http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=275885>

“Also from Charles Quentin, the Dover Ponds, Deer Valley and Farmington neighborhoods will attend Isaac Fox School, as will Hidden Valley, South Rand/Mansard, Deer Park Estates, Boschome, Sturm, Swansway, Shirley Road/Rand Court, Rue Valley, High Knoll and Prestonfield neighborhoods.”

<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/lakezurich/news/1460944,lz-boundaries-030509-s1.article>

“Barrington Community Unit School District 220 recently compiled results of its first Parent Satisfaction Survey and officials were encouraged by results.”

<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/barrington/news/1461025,ba-survey-030509-s1.article>

LOBBYIST

We’ve had a lot of feed back on the Gifford Board’s hiring of a lobbyist. To be fair, this issue has stirred up more commentary (and anger) than any since the sales tax referendum. On Monday, the day we covered this distribution of unbudgeted municipal

funds, our web statistics DOUBLED. And doubled again when we shared Ed Sullivan's information as to how citizens could "suggest a project" for available funding.

Al Barry said it best: "For those those of you who don't have sixty grand lying around, why not try this free federal website. Hey, maybe the trustees should check also it out. I think that's called 'hedging.'" And Deborah suggests, with flash flood warnings this weekend, as you stand ankle deep in your yard or mop your basement, de-stress with this soothing mantra. "Lah-bee, lah-bee, lah-bee." Let's put it out there in the universe, folks, who knows what will happen? Even a blind squirrel finds an acorn, once in a while.

We'd all also like to really understand, how did the board freed up \$60,000 with the stroke of a pen, while they have pinched pennies on advertising the Barn for rental, charitable contributions, even supporting TRAC (as they have, but not nearly enough)?

FROM OUR OWN RITA FINLEY ON CANADIAN NATIONAL

Among the 33 towns along the EJ&E, CN has managed to reach agreements with just 11. The 11th one "strategically" came yesterday - the day CN was allowed to start running trains - and as you can see below CN had their PR agency working overtime to make sure it got more press than it deserved.

The truth is by a 2:1 margin, the majority of towns along the EJ&E remained opposed to this acquisition. Today's Barrington Courier-Review has a guest essay written by Karen Darch and Tom Weisner explaining their real and legitimate concerns. (See above) Can you believe CN representatives refused to attend a recent meeting to discuss the status of implementing mandated safety measures? So much for the promises of corporate responsibility and community cooperation... Rolling the trains before mitigation shows CN's talk is, well, just plain talk. Rita

(AMM) CN Railway inks pact with another town along EJ&E
<http://www.metalbulletin.com/Article/2120073/Iron/AMM-CN-Railway-inks-pact-with-another-town-along-EJE.html>

CN reaches EJ&E-related mitigation agreement with West Chicago
<http://www.progressiverailroading.com/news/article.asp?id=19832>

CN settles with Illinois city over track dispute
http://www.forbes.com/fdc/welcome_mjx.shtml

Progressive Railroading | CN reaches EJ&E-related mitigation ...
<http://www.progressiverailroading.com/freightnews/article.asp?>

[id=19832](#)

CN reaches mitigation agreement for EJ&E acquisition with West ...
<http://www.yardlimits.com/forums/news-bin/9502-cn-reaches-mitigation-agreement-ej-e-acquisition-west-chicago-illinois.html>

ANGRY? TURN IT AROUND

Do you remember the movie "Network"? Do you remember Albert Finney as the newscaster who asked his audience to open their windows and shout, "We're mad as hell, and we're not going to take it any more!" The whole city of New York dropped their remotes and opened their mouths.

That mood is sweeping the country. The people want common sense, not commonplace. We yearn for leadership, not bureaucracy. The system is broken, we want transformation. Take a look at one man who isn't afraid to demand straight answers. Don Manzullo (you are still watching our posting of his rocketing speech at the CN Forum this summer on YouTube/DeerParkNeighbors) Now see this!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UP73cK3GXdo>

Together, we ARE stronger!

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