

Subject: [DPNeBlast] How to make a better village web site: Missing links; Ela township reminder; Questions about Stimulus Plan,
Date: Sunday, April 5, 2009 11:37 AM
From: Deborah Barry, Secretary <deborah.barry@deerparkneighbors.com>
Reply-To: deborah.barry@deerparkneighbors.com
To: "dpneblast@deerparkneighbors.com" <DPNeBlast@deerparkneighbors.com>
Conversation: How to make a better village web site: Missing links; Ela township reminder; Questions about Stimulus Plan,

host_name

Greetings, Neighbors
DATELINE DEER PARK, SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2009

HOW EASY IS THIS?

When we as citizens demand a more comprehensive village web site with full access to public documents (without the barrier of FOIA requests), we look to Lake Zurich as one nearby example of a job well done. Their site provides the ability to blast emails out, as well as for you to request information from different departments, including a blast of the agenda for each upcoming meeting. They even devote a section to CN issues.
<http://volz.org>

Clearly identifying ourselves as residents, we inquired about costs from their vendor:
<http://civicplus.com>

Their program, which is purchased by 450 other clients, has a one-time set-up and an array of add-on modules. We are not comfortable sharing salespeople's pricing, but clearing identifying ourselves as interested citizens, we learned that the entire program is easily affordable. We would say the village would have money left over if they set aside \$35,000 in the '09-'10 budget. And remember, most of the set-up costs are one-time only. They can, for that or less, go nuts with additional available features, for a user-friendly and content rich web site. The site is so automated, current staff could easily keep the site up to date.

This web site would cost be provided at a contract cost, without the change for the kinds of overruns we see annually on, say, the Barn's maintenance. Given their many business-friendly features, it is likely that the increased exposure to potential shoppers alone would fund the expenses via increase in sales taxes. And everyone will benefit from much more

broad-ranging and including content online, including the Vehe Farm Foundation.

Regardless of who wins on Tuesday, an excellent way to professionalize further the Village office procedures is to take advantage of readily available turnkey solutions. In other words: "Outsource." It's the 21st century, ladies and gentlemen. Let's catch up.

SPEAKING OF TECHNOLOGY

We had emails from a few readers, some new to our eBlasts, who had trouble with the links in the last few days. So they are tested and repeated here for your benefit. If you have a problem, simply hit REPLY and write us a note what document or site you are having trouble with. We'll email you the document personally. Or call 847-867-1876. We are generally very platform independent and user-friendly, but we pride ourselves on personal service, so just call or email. Here we go:

Both slate's materials (we will add what we received Saturday by Sunday pm)

Link to citizen endorsements and Open Letters from Candidates (we welcome more of these)

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

CAMPAIGN WEB SITES:

Gifford Slate: <http://VoteDeerPark.com>

Kellermann Slate: <http://SaveDeerPark.net>

TERRIFIC TOOL! The Daily Herald offers a terrific Election Summary page, so that you can find the latest information on races and referendums:

For Deer Park:

http://www.dailyherald.com/news/politics/elections/2009/community/deer_park/

For Lake County:

<http://www.dailyherald.com/news/politics/elections/2009/county/lake/>

And for our Neighbors in Cook County:

<http://www.dailyherald.com/news/politics/elections/2009/county/cook/>

The Herald has made its endorsement:

<http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=280059>

Pioneer Press endorsement is available online (we didn't see it in our print editions):

<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/barrington/news/forum/1482795.ba-editendorse-031909-s1.article>

DPN's analysis of the possible outcomes of Tuesday's polling
http://deerparkneighbors.com/pages/2009_endorsements.html

And on the same page, DPN's Endorsements
http://deerparkneighbors.com/pages/2009_endorsements.html

So, to see the UNOFFICIAL record of votes, please visit:
<http://deerparkneighbors.com/pages/election.html>

Official, approved village minutes, dating back to 2001
http://www.village.deer-park.il.us/Board of Trustees/meeting_minutes_BOT.htm

Friday's Pioneer Press online coverage of the use of public funds to disseminate information:
<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/barrington/news/1510220,ba-deerpark-040309-s1.article>

Two recent Letters to the Editor in support of Bob Kellermann's campaign and slate:
<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/lakezurich/news/forum/1503535,lz-lettersforweb-040209-s1.article>

Pioneer Press story reviewing the debate between President Gifford and Trustee Bob Kellermann in their races for the presidency for 2009-2013
<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/barrington/news/1506181,ba-deerpark-040209-s1.article>

State Senator Dan Duffy's call for transparency in government:
<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/evanston/news/forum/1491690,pp-duffy-032609-s1.article>

ELA TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING REMINDER FROM BARB EVANS
[Ed. Note—the advocacy coming before Ela Township parallels our own concerns here in Deer Park; you must support this initiative as well, and again, we ask that a volunteer video this meeting. Please contact DPN or Barb Evans.]

Why Attend Ela Township Annual meeting on April 14?

Transparency of government and accountability may be the new buzz words for our time, but do not take it lightly given the corruption and problems we have already experienced in our state and federal governments. On April 14, 2009 at 7:30 pm at the new Ela Town Hall, located at 1155 East Rte 22, Lake Zurich, registered Ela township voters will be given the opportunity to bring the Ela Township government into the 21st century and vote to request a more transparent government 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.

While it may seem obvious that taxpayers should have easier access to government information, especially with the internet and ease of technology – DO NOT ASSUME this will be accepted lightly. There will be excuses such as the information is available if you visit the Ela township office.

Yes, at a cost, if you want copies. Why not make the information available 24 hours, at your convenience, for free? Already I notice what was petitioned (above) has been conveniently streamlined on the agenda. For example, the requirement that approved expenditures specify amount and payee on the township website was not listed. Does that mean, taxpayers will not be provided this information? Why?

Come to the Annual Ela Township meeting and find out. If we have learned nothing from the Blogovich and other corruption scandals, there is a cost to a lack of transparency and accountability of government. Come, make your voice heard, and your vote count on April 14.

Barbara Evans, Deer Park, IL

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSIONS ABOUT LOBBYING FOR STIMULUS FUNDS, from our own Rita Finley

I stumbled on this--a ban actually exists with Lobbyists discussing stimulus funds with officials (below some are trying to change this)- wonder how this impacts what we paid \$60,000 for?

<http://www.newser.com/article/d97985q00/lobbyists-public-interest-groups-ask-white-house-to-end-ban-on-lobbyists-discussing-stimulus.html>

FYI--more \$ available for roads? Will the lobbyest tell Deer Park about this??

<http://www.chicagobusiness.com/cgi-bin/news.pl?id=33536>

And some research conducted by candidate for Trustee Dale Sands

The following quotes are directly from the White House Press Room. I did not find the full text of the Executive Order with regard to Lobbyist as the Ethics page was under review and being updated. But what I did find certainly calls the question on the ethical use of Lobbyist for this purpose:

Bringing the Outside In <<http://www.whitehouse.gov/search/link.aspx?id=692900&i=1&mlt=0&q=http%3A//www.whitehouse.gov/blog/09/03/20/Bringing-the-Outside-In/>>

; Decisions about how Recovery Act dollars are spent will be based on the merits. Let me repeat that: Decisions about how Recovery money will be spent will be based on the merits. They will not be made as a way of doing favors for **lobbyists**. Any **lobbyist** who wants to talk with a member of my administration about a particular Recovery Act project will have to submit their thoughts in writing, and we will post it on the Internet for all to see.

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies, 3/20/09 <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Memorandum-for-the-Heads-of-Executive-Departments-and-Agencies-3-20-09/>

or in response to improper influence or pressure. We must also empower executive department and agency officials to exercise their available discretion and judgment to help ensure that Recovery Act funds are expended for projects that further the job creation, economic recovery, and other purposes of the Recovery Act and are not **used** for imprudent projects. To these ends, I hereby direct that for any further commitments, obligations, or expenditures of funds under the...

Remarks of the President in Welcoming Senior Staff and Cabinet Secretaries to the White House <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/RemarksofthePresidentinWelcomingSeniorStaffandCabinetSecretariestotheWhiteHouse/>

a government that is truly of, by, and for the people. As I often said during the campaign, we need to make the White House the people's house. And we need to close the revolving door that lets **lobbyists** come into government freely, and lets them **use** their time in public service as a way to promote their own interests over the interests of the American people when they leave. So today we are taking a major step towards fulfilling this campaign promise. The executive order on...

Executive Order - Ethics Commitments <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/ExecutiveOrder-EthicsCommitments/>

appointed on or after January 20, 2009, shall sign, and upon signing shall be contractually committed to, the following pledge upon becoming an appointee: "As a condition, and in consideration, of my employment in the United States Government in a position invested with the public trust, I commit myself to the following obligations, which I understand are binding on me and are enforceable under law: "1. **Lobbyist** Gift Ban. I will not accept gifts from registered

We welcome any and all information, focusing right now on issues impacting Tuesday's election.

APRIL SCHEDULE

After the election on Tuesday, DPN will be much quieter, for two reasons. First, we will all need a break after this campaign. Two, Deborah will be out of the office for a few weeks. And so, we are looking for one volunteer to film the April 20 VODP BOT meeting. It need be nothing more than "point and shoot," then burn to DVD to put at the Library.

We hope that very early in the new administration, the village board will demonstrate the political will to at least do their own video recording of meetings, as well as—almost important—the simple, cheap purchase of additional microphones, so that each person on the dais can be heard in the audience, on the village recorder (audio only) and on tape. There is more than \$40,000 of A/V equipment in that Barn, used too infrequently to justify that cost. There are also, we believe, 24 high speed internet connections.

So we hope to see ALL the seated trustees bring their laptops so that they have instantaneous access to previous board minutes, the Municipal code, online mapping systems, and all those government web sites that would answer questions before they cast a vote. We have worked for an informed electorate, but nothing has happened to inspire an informed board. The village should also purchase one of the excellent municipal web authoring software services, to ramp up the content and ease of use of the village website.

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