

Subject: [DPNeBlast] BOT Meeting, Welcome Barb Evans, Assessment Freeze, Recycling
Date: Sunday, July 19, 2009 10:12 AM
From: Deborah Barry, Secretary <deborah.barry@deerparkneighbors.com>
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Conversation: BOT Meeting, Welcome Barb Evans, Assessment Freeze, Recycling

host_name

Greetings, Neighbors

DATELINE: DEER PARK, FRIDAY, JULY 17M 2009

It's very quiet around Deer Park this summer, or rather, the summer is so gorgeous, people are out and about enjoying this glorious community—not whining (too much) about local issues. Again, we at DPN want to thank the generosity of so many Neighbors who have visited, emailed, called, sent cards and food to help while our secretary is undergoing a rather length recuperation from knee surgery. Well, things don't always go exactly as planned—which is precisely when good Neighbors are so important!

MEETING: VODP BOT Monday, July 20, 2009, 7pm, at The Barn

Download the Agenda Packet at the Village web site or:
http://deerparkneighbors.com/sources/VODPsources/2009_07-20_BOT_AgendaPacket.pdf

BARB EVANS APPOINTED TRUSTEE

We wish the best of luck to the sixth trustee on the VODP Board of Trustees, Barb Evans. Now, with a complete roster, we look forward to seeing the Kellermann administration's make real progress. Full story:

<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/lakezurich/news/1626675,lake-zurich-trustee-061809-s1.article>

ETHICS ADVISOR

One matter that will be a particular interest to DPN members is that, at last, this Village is having serious conversation about appointing an ethics advisor. For those who are not up on this matter, our Municipal Code, in keeping with state law, provides for an Ethics Advisor, but does NOT require one. In other words, we could have had one long since. Wouldn't that have been helpful when residents were distressed by what appeared to be a previous village attorney's

double and triple representations, or during those endless discussions about who should hold the Barn remodeling documents (invoices, certifications, waivers) or when a previous village President read an intimidating, anti-Free Speech statement before each session of Public Comments.

In our opinion, we need more than just an advisor; we need to codify a clear cut procedure for reporting, investigating and resolving ethics matters.

According to the Memo on the Agenda, prepared by Administrator Jim Connors, President Kellermann would like to amend the village code to delete the requirement that the Ethics Advisor be a Trustee. This seems self evident—especially since a major issue to be handled by an Ethics Advisor is conflict of interest. Clearly, that advisor should NOT be a Trustee, or a paid staff member, a vendor or consultant to the village or a volunteer (such as a member of a village committee). Let's get this done, done right, and right away.

RESIDENT SURVEY

You will also be interested to learn of a Resident Survey being prepared to distribution; we hope you all will participate in the final survey. See item 9-E-i on page 60 of the Agenda Packet. DPN hopes this kind of mining of public sentiment will be a regular part of the board's annual calendar. Very progressive.

REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAMS

Another matter about which you should know more is the Reimbursement Program for Homeowners Associations. See item 9-G-iii on page 71 for a copy of the current program describing how HOAs can be reimbursed for maintenance of right of ways, etc. We think this is an important opportunity for the board to consider that not all subdivisions have formal HOAs, but nevertheless have public areas that need better maintenance. Those who head their HOAs will want to follow this discussion. It will take place a way into the meeting; you can enter a village meeting at any time, but to make a public comment, you would need to sign in before 7pm.

Being summertime, there's lots of interest in bicycling. You may be interested to learn more about the intergovernmental agreement proposed between Kildeer and Deer Park to connect the bike path to the Town Center Promenade (or the Dick's mall, as it's better known). We've extracted a map for you:

http://deerparkneighbors.com/sources/VODPsources/2009_07-20_BOT_AgendaPacket.pdf

NOTE TO THE BOARD: It could be a good idea to make it less restrictive to be qualify to make a public comment. The current system is to sign in before the meeting begins at 7pm. But parents of youngsters are not available at 7pm, and others may not be free to sit through the many hours of BOT meeting. Perhaps the opportunity to request a Public Comment could be repeated once or twice during the meeting: before the Reports from the elected officers and perhaps again before "New Business." These are easy things to implement, if the board is open to them.

EXTENSION FOR SENIORS' PROPERTY ASSESSMENT FREEZE

The County Board approved extending the deadline from July 1 until August 31, 2009 at its July 14 meeting.

Who? Lake County senior citizens 65 years old or older, whose income does not exceed \$55,000.

What? May qualify for a property assessment freeze, if the property is their primary residence.

When? Now through August 31

Where? Applications must be submitted to the
Lake County Chief County Assessment Office
(847) 377-2050

18 North County Street - 7th Floor, Waukegan, IL

OR any one of the 18 township assessor offices to pick up an application and ask questions.

<http://www.lakecountyil.gov/Assessor/TownshipAssessors.htm>

Why? Exemptions can help taxpayers save money on their property taxes.

Download the Forms

<http://www.lakecountyil.gov/Assessor/TaxRelief/SeniorCitizen%27sAssessmentFreeze.htm>

RECYCLING HOUSEHOLD ELECTRONICS

For Lake County residents only; No commercial, institutional or governmental materials will be accepted. All items must be free of any packaging material and operating manuals. Household chemical wastes will not be accepted. This program is sponsored by SWALCO (the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County, IL).

Cuba Township (Road District)

28070 W. Cuba Road, Barrington
Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (excluding holidays)

Accepted Items: Personal Computers, Monitors, Computer Drives, Keyboards, Modems, Mainframes, Scanners, Printers, PDA Organizers, any type of telephones, Televisions (any size), Stereos, MP3 Players, CD Players, DVD Players, VCR's, Cameras, Video Games, Fax Machines, Shredders, and Small Household Appliances, holiday lights, microwave ovens (FREE OF PACKING MATERIALS AND MANUALS)

Items NOT Accepted: Broken Glass, Air Conditioners, Dehumidifiers, Large Household Appliances, Lead Acid Batteries, Electric Fixtures, Fluorescent Light Bulbs, Compact Disks, Software Disks, Tapes, Liquid or Chemical Waste, and Packaging Materials.

For information on Household Chemical Waste collections:

<http://www.lakecountyil.gov/swalco/DisposalGuide/HouseholdChemicalWaste.htm>

<http://www.lakecountyil.gov/swalco/CollectionEvents/HouseholdWasteCollectionEvents.htm>

CN/EJ&E

DPN is still surprised to hear that locals know little or nothing about the acquisition of the EJ&E rail line by the Canadian National—but they certainly cannot fail to notice the frustration of long freight trains blocking cars and trucks. We will continue to share reports from our own Rita Finley and from TRAC; we urge you to sign up to receive news directly from TRAC at <http://fightrailcongestion.com>. If you did not see the original broadcast, you will find that PBS did a good overview:

PRINT: http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/transportation/jan-june09/railroad_06-18.html

VIDEO: <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/video/module.html?mod=0&pkg=18062009&seg=5>

FROM TRAC RE CANADIAN NATIONAL

The Regional Answer to Canadian National (TRAC) is asking both the Federal Rail Administration (FRA) and the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to ***increase their oversight of Canadian National following the recent tragic derailment that occurred in Rockford.***

<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/barrington/news/1659564,barrington-ejeupdate-070909-s1.article>

In correspondence to both agencies, TRAC has pointed out that both agencies have the authority over CN to ask it to revise its safety plan to insure that CN's actions on matters relating to operational safety begin to mirror its promises. Additionally, both agencies have the power to impose additional safety requirements and take action based on CN's demonstrated failure to adhere to its safety plan. The recent incident in Rockford is the third CN-related accident in Northern Illinois since January; in January a CN train derailed in Buffalo Grove and in March another CN train sparked a brushfire in Plainfield and Joliet. The following statement can be attributed to TRAC:

"The issue of safety has been one of the top issues for the communities and residents impacted by the CN/EJ merger. Unfortunately, CN has misrepresented its commitment to public safety and its record. Their own government gave them low safety marks and since January we've seen three major incidents. It's time for the federal government to enhance its oversight based on the safety meltdown at CN to protect the communities since CN is unwilling to do so."

CN's Safety Record

Following the Rockford incident that resulted in the death of one woman and injuries for nine others, TRAC believes that it is time for both the FRA and STB to look at CN's poor safety record and impose stricter safety restrictions on the company based on a number of additional factors:

- The FRA's 2008 safety data shows that CN has the highest rate of accidents per mile of the six largest railroads in North America.
- A 2005 Canadian Government Report that audited CN's operations, and found that 54% of CN locomotives, 50% of its train brakes and 26% of the CN-maintained crossings were found to be defective. In a report released by the Canadian Parliament, CN received the lowest grade level possible on implementing safety management systems (SMS) designed to offset accidents and other safety hazards.
- A "climate of fear" that CN has fostered for

employees trying to report safety-related problems.

QUIET ZONES—DEFINITION AND LOCATIONS

<http://www.stbfinancedocket35087.com/html/quietzoneinfo.html>

Federal Rail Administration's Rules on Use of Locomotive Horns:

<http://www.fra.dot.gov/us/content/1318>

For more information or to review a copy of the TRAC request to the STB and FRA, visit <http://fightrailcongestion.com>

DRIVE DEFENSIVELY

Can't help but notice how many more young drivers are out at all hours in the summer. And so often, driving their parents' great big, oversized vehicles, while on their cell phones talking and/or texting. And driving too fast.

We all were young once...Is there anything more delicious than summertime and a new driver's license! But please, take some time to set limits for your young drivers: No cell phones, especially no texting when at the wheel. (Obviously, a good reminder for ALL drivers). If you must use a cell phone, hands free ear buds and headsets are safer than driving one handed and distracted. Also, let's all be very careful when backing out of driveways or around corners where the view is blocked by overgrown shrubbery and trees. It's bicycle season, and youngsters may be playing ball or riding bikes in the streets (one of the down sides of a community without sidewalks).

HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

With such unusual weather all this year, our property is truly a mixed bag. Many of our perennials are out-performing anything we've ever seen—as are the weeks, particularly the thistle! And the Austrian Pines are really in trouble.

Since this problem is evident throughout the area, we have to ask: What have you tried for your ailing firs? What's worked, if anything? In doing our research, we found this terrific list of sites that you may want to bookmark for all kinds of botanical information:

<http://www.chicagobotanic.org/plantinfo/links>

We've offered these ideas before: Seasonal sales of native and care-free plants for our gardens, held on the Vehe property. The village could work with a local landscaper like Behrens to obtain materials at best prices. Or, how about holding a plant exchange (like a cookie exchange) where you could bring plants of which you have too many and trade with someone else. Another fun idea would be a simple program whereby your extra perennials could be planted in the village park near to you. Lovely as some of the parks are, there's very little color, and there are so many carefree perennials that could be planted and left virtually without maintenance. The HOA could do the labor twice a year to weed and mulch the plants; the village could provide the materials and a water truck a couple of times a season. We've learned from the Road Crew project that people really do want to be involved—sometimes, we all just need a framework to become more engaged.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES FOR LAKE COUNTY

All the Lake County email address suffixes have changed from co.lake.il.us to lakecountyil.gov. For example, to reach the County Clerk, please use CountyClerk@lakecountyil.gov when contacting our office.

...WHICH BRINGS US TO SOCIAL NETWORKING

You'll notice that many municipalities and government agencies are developing simplified domain names, as well as establishing their presences on YouTube, Facebook, LinkedIn and so forth.

The whole social networking and video sites are legitimate parts of any media communications plan—even if a lot of the amateur content can be silly. DPN continues to get hits on our Canadian National-related videos; in fact, we were initially contacted by a production company that was preparing a series on the local impact of CN for the Jim Lehre Hour on PBS and were able to put them in touch with the locals who have led the communications efforts on this matter (see CN above).

Sites like YouTube rank very high in the search engines; there's really no faster way to get a message out.

The social networking sites, which are underwritten by sponsorships and advertising, provide free “file drawers” online that save time and money compared to programming, posting and hosting large video and audio files on individual web sites. Here is an opportunity for the Village to post more information without undertaking additional expenses. Ask your kids!

Enjoy the rest of your summer, and take advantage of outdoor time to get to know more of your Neighbors. Remember, together, we are stronger!

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