

Subject: [DPNeBlast] 2nd installment taxes due; officials contact info, unemployment rally; editorial and CN update

Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2009 11:02 AM

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Conversation: 2nd installment taxes due; officials contact info, unemployment rally; editorial and CN update

host_name

DATELINE, DEER PARK, MONDAY, AUG 31, 2009

URGENT:

From Lake County Treasurer Robert Skidmore, 847.377.2323

Second installment of real estate taxes due Sept. 3rd. Taxpayers will not receive a bill in the mail. Lake County residents should be aware that the second installment of their real estate taxes is due Thursday, September 3rd. A second bill not be mailed to homeowners. Taxpayers may also make payments online by credit card or E-check at:

<http://www.lakecountyil.gov/treasurer>

There is a convenience fee charged by the processing company for those paying online. E-check has a flat fee of \$1.40 per Pin # with a maximum of \$25,000.00 per transaction.

UPDATE

We see that now most Village officials can be contacted by email as well as phone from the village web site. We don't know when this update was made, but it's a positive one:

http://www.village.deer-park.il.us/village_officials.htm

VILLAGE OF DEER PARK COMMUNITY FORUM, Sunday, October 18, 2009, 1-3pm, the Barn.

This forum was one of the promised events of the Kellermann campaign, and is a follow-up to the community survey recently distributed and reported.

You can also see the main actions from last week's VODP BOT meeting:

<http://www.village.deer-park.il.us/default.htm>

KICKOFF TO UNEMPLOYMENT RALLY, SEPTEMBER 9-16.

Join with your family, friends and neighbors to send the message that we need jobs now. Meet with your Senator or State Rep at their local district office, in

preparation for the March 2010 Unemployment Rally on Illinois' Legislative Day held at the Capital Building in Springfield March 2010. This local action requires a few individuals who are unemployed or underemployed to speak to officials, to encourage those who represent us to speak on our behalf when it comes to the stimulus money we are supposed to be getting. They want that money to be put to use getting people back to work rather than in someone's pocket or in some corporations' "savings" account. It is time for our elected officials to stop the charade and start working together, representing their constituents and creating jobs now.

Read the flyer: http://www.deerparkneighbors.com/sources/UnemployRally_2010March.pdf

Contact:

Rachel Thompson, (day) 630-467-2713

Or call Sandy at 217-891-5281 or Mary at 630-247-8905.

AROUND THE TOWN

BAILEY BANKS & BIDDLE

We wanted to talk with this store directly, and while its future in Deer Park is uncertain, there is NO CLOSING DATE SET. To have a store of this quality in our town is important. If you want to keep it here, shop there! In fact, with the current discounts—all "As Is/Where Is" (meaning the same piece costs much more at another BB&B location)—what a great way to stock up for the holidays, anniversaries, birthdays. There are affordable pieces as well as major purchases at unheard of prices. "Nothing held back." Plus, the Woodfield location charges Cook County taxes. P.S. The free gift wrap is quite beautiful and elegant.

20530 North Rand Road, Ste. 422, Deer Park, IL 60010,
847-726-4450

<http://baileybanksandbiddle.com>

CARIBOU COFFEE

Slipping out for our much needed Monday caffeine fix, we had forgotten about the special deals at Caribou. Many thanks to Kelly for providing this coupon for DPN members—and thanks, too, Kelly, for the special table for our meetings. This may be a "national," but there's a lot of local, community feeling at this coffee shop.

Download the coupon:

deerparkneighbors.com/adart/caribou_bou2.pdf

By the way, if you aren't aware of it, the Lake Zurich Area Chamber of Commerce has a "Hot Deals" site: Members can post their own specials, and everyone can take advantage of the deals:

http://lzacc.com/membership_hotdeals.html <http://lzacc.com/membership_hotdeals.html>

Also check back frequently for deals at Deer Park Town Center:

<http://shopdeerparktowncenter.com/go/coupons.cfm>

BIAGGI'S SUNDAY BRUNCH.

When we have a special occasion, we are most likely to head for Biaggi's. Won't burden you with the whole story, but our first drop in to Biaggi's back in December of 2002 was one of the reasons we decided to move to Deer Park. We understand that all the Biaggi locations are chef-owned in part. Over the many years we have been going there, the food has been wonderfully consistent, the quality always very good to excellent, the service is friendly without being obnoxiously in your face, and the sound level keeps conversation a feature of the meal. Above all, Biaggi's provides a real value. That's why it's so popular with families. (Insider's tip: Friday, Saturday and especially Monday are less prone to include the "little ones.")

New these past few weeks is a **Sunday Brunch** special menu (in addition to the full menu and full bar that is always available), about which we heard from Manager Tony Marlotti. Served from 11-3, the sit-down brunch will always include the fish special from the regular menu. Other recent offerings were American Breakfast Panini, Carmelized Banana French Toast, Sausage Florentine Frittata and Seaside Eggs Benedicts. This brunch menu is available only at a very few Biaggi's, DPTC being one. So if you've had enough of the chain restaurant breakfast or buffets of food that has been sitting out for who-knows-how long, give Biaggi's a try.

JUST OUT OF TOWN

When we first moved into this area, downtown Barrington seemed to have a lot of closings. We took ourselves for a walk Saturday afternoon—probably the quietest weekend of the year with school re-opening next week—and found some delightful newer local shops. At present, our Bailey Banks & Biddle is not taking benchwork (watch repairs, settings, etc.) at this time, but Long Jewelers in downtown Barrington genuinely welcomes those customers. "We never want anyone to be embarrassed to come with a small request [we bought a \$2 earring back]. We are happy to accommodate." Brian earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. While studying jewelry making and design, he handcrafted pieces and worked as a bench jeweler

to hone his goldsmith skills. After graduation, Brian founded Long & Co. in 1997.

Long & Co. Jewelers, 105 E. Main St., Barrington. 847-381-7790
<http://www.long-and-co.com>

EDITORIAL NOTES ON THE AUGUST VODP BOT MEETING

You don't have to spend much time at the meetings to see the repeating pattern of some big issues in this village—and the lines formed up thereto.

You will be glad to hear that former President Scott Gifford and former Trustee Howard Thrun were presented with service awards. Howard made some very gracious comments, thanking in particular the village administrators, past and present. We echo his appreciation for those professionals as well as for the efforts of all the paid staff.

Howard went on to talk about the Barn, as had Pat Plautz last month. Not to make too fine a point of it, but it does seem that some members of the previous boards seem determined to defend the spending on the Barn. That is their right.

However, Howard went so far as to say, and we paraphrase: not only was the Barn never intended to make a profit, it was never intended to break even.

We are constantly stunned that neither the Foundation nor the previous Boards of Trustees ever considered how the building and grounds would be maintained over time. Oh yes, there's a book of rental policies, contracts, fees (which are continually being revised)—but no solid marketing plan or periodic appropriation to fund real-world advertising. No Facebook. No YouTube. No LinkedIn. C'mon people, it's the 21st Century.

Since when did covering a community center's expenses get to be a dirty word? It's not as though Deer Park has a whole lot of spare cash sitting around; there are continued talks of the so-called "reserve" slipping below \$1,000,000. Besides, we're reluctant to buy into the "community center" theory until we see the 1st floor bathrooms open to the public from dawn until dusk, and maybe a dog park at Vehe as well. Not many of us take our butterflies out on a leash!

We're also somewhat concerned about the fee-waiving policy for non-profits. Yes, we applaud community organizations working together. But, there's a significant line item on our tax bill for the Library and for the school district. So why do they get the use of our facility for free? Someone has to scrub the johns and plow the parking lot and sweep the floors.

We are all more than cognizant of the danger of taking on, for example, a house without being able to maintain it or pay ongoing costs. Such behavior has led to a sorry state of affairs in the economy—even putting aside the idea that certain special interests promoted that mind set to people who could ill afford the consequences.

To make another comparison, churches and synagogues are dreamed of and built—but always with a plan for meeting operating expenses. As noble as it is to create a setting for the faithful to come together as a community—no religious edifice would stay open for long if there were no means to meet the maintenance costs.

We would be more supportive if there were a solid plan in place to promote shopping and dining in Deer Park to every single attendee at every single events—but we don't see that kind of effort--yet.

Still, it's more than past time to put differences aside and look to the future. Deer Park Neighbors has spoken many times about the necessity for a Business and Economic Development Committee being established in Deer Park, utilizing the expertise of residents and local business owners in Advertising, Media, Marketing, Public Relations and Special Events, to create a business plan and means of funding the same—grant applications, increased sales tax income, joint ventures and so forth.

There were concerns expressed at the August meeting about setting standards for maintaining business properties, inspecting them periodically and enforcing the standards. An BizDev Committee could do that, as well as pulling the owners and managers together to create special events, direct mail pieces, village-wide “shopper-tunities,” and much more.

We understand that sales tax income is lagging this year, maybe 20-25%. In the real world, these days, that's called “flat.” In other words, the village is actually in a good position to cash in once the consumer economy opens up—but only with a plan in place, with ongoing, consistent marketing of Deer Park as a destination.

Cash is king, and whether you agree that it's OK to use the General Fund to fund the Barn development, but not Roads and Drainage—or you feel just the opposite—the fact remains, we're running out of cash. Increase the income, and more things are possible. This village can survive, thrive and even soar—with solid, professional planning for the future. Including seeing the Barn run as a

business—which in NO way diminishes the fact that it preserves open space or provides some recreational opportunities.

It's time to act—the seeds to be planted will take time to bear fruit, but the longer this village delays, the longer our recovery will take.

Now, let us just end this editorial by saying, these matters all came up in the first hour of the meeting, during Public Comments. So if you do nothing else, do turn out for that first hour. The room has been full for months, now, but there are extra chairs and a loft. It's genuinely interesting stuff, wherever your own interests lie—and it is your home town.

We'll look forward to listening to the audio recording of this meeting. Remember, you can request the recording of this or any meeting by contacting the Village Clerk. We drop off blank DVDs to have the MP3 copied on it, and pick it up when it's ready. Until such time as this village can either webcast or broadcast the meetings, the audio recordings are easy to follow, with the agenda or official minutes in hand, and are the only way you can know precisely who said what and when. So take an interest—and we have asked this board to make posting these audio files to the internet a priority.

FROM TRAC

TRAC JOINS THE STB IN CHALLENGING CN ON ITS REQUEST FOR TRACKAGE RIGHTS ALONG RAIL LINES RELATED TO THE EJ TRANSACTION

Communities ask board to hold CN accountable and reexamine its decision approving the EJ transaction.

CHICAGO—The Regional Answer to Canadian National (TRAC) is petitioning the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to take a careful look at a recent request by Canadian National (CN) to increase its trackage rights on its rail lines throughout the City of Chicago and suburbs. In a move that went virtually undetected, on August 5, 2009, CN filed 17 simultaneous Trackage Rights Exemption requests with the STB asking that it be allowed to change the flow of train traffic on its Chicago area railroad subsidiaries, Elgin, Joliet Eastern Railway (EJ), Illinois Central Railroad Company, Wisconsin Central, Grand Trunk Western Railroad and Chicago, Central Pacific Railroad. This request could allow CN the ability to significantly increase the number of trains that operate along the EJ line and its subsidiaries in dozens of towns including Chicago, Mundelein, Schiller Park, Broadview, Joliet, Frankfort, Markham, Buffalo Grove and parts of Indiana.

In response to CN's trackage rights request, the STB responded, "Neither CN nor any of the carriers submitting these notices has explained how the notices relate to each other, or

how they would impact the operational information provided to the Board in CN-EJ." The STB further directed CN to "submit this information, as well as a color-coded map showing all 17 proposed trackage rights exemptions, by August 21, 2009."

According to TRAC, CN's August trackage rights filings were an effort to obfuscate the reality of their impact on the EJ transaction. CN offered a cursory response to the STB clarification request that, in part, says the exemption requests are "to increase the flexibility of its operations among its subsidiaries."

TRAC believes that CN's response to the STB is inconclusive and further points to the coalition's belief that CN was not forthright with its full plans for expansion along the EJ and its true impact on those "Winner" communities that were promised they would benefit from the transaction.

Late Thursday, TRAC filed two petitions with the STB; the first asking the Board to reopen its decision to approve the purchase of the EJ by CN and seeking a supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. The first filing reads in part, "this petition is based on new evidence and materially changed circumstances, and supplementation of the EIS is warranted in order to address substantial changes in the proposed action, and significant new and relevant circumstances and information." The second petition asks the STB to stay a decision on the trackage rights question until the STB determines how it will impact its decision granting approval for CN's acquisition of the EJ.

"CN's request for 17 trackage right waivers raises a red flag and forces us to question why CN waited until after the transaction was approved by the STB to file this request," says Karen Darch, Barrington Village President and TRAC co-chair. "We are thankful that the STB is examining CN's request as these latest filings indicate that the original environmental review was based on weighing positive benefits to communities that aren't going to prove real or lasting."

"This should have been included in CN's original request to the STB for approval of its purchase of the EJ," says Tom Weisner, Mayor of Aurora and TRAC co-chair. "We warned that CN was publicly underestimating its true plans for expansion while the purchase was under review by the STB. This could prove to be a devastating blow to communities already suffering from additional train traffic as well as those communities that were promised freight traffic relief."

To view or download the documents mentioned above visit www.fightrailcongestion.com.

Please take time to attend local meetings of your Board of Trustees, Ela Township Board, BACOG—something, anything, to do your part as a citizen in this democracy!

Remember, together we are stronger, and transparency is the Saran Wrap that keeps the sense of community well preserved!

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Deborah Barry, Secretary | Al Barry, President
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Deer Park Neighbors, 412 Bramble Lane, Deer Park, IL 60010

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