

**Subject: CAC 15th Anniversary; H1N1, RECENT NEWS ON FOIA**

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**Conversation:** CAC 15th Anniversary; H1N1, RECENT NEWS ON FOIA

Greetings, Neighbors

DATELINE, DEER PARK, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2009

VODP BOT MEETING, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 7PM, THE BARN

**SAVE THE DATE: OPEN FORUM, VILLAGE OF DEER PARK, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1-3PM, AT THE BARN.**

SHAKE HANDS, HUG OR BRUSH OFF?

School's back in session is just one reason to be concerned about the upcoming flu season. Every business greeting, every meal out, every place you go where people congregate—all represent opportunities to pick up a bug. We have noticed that the simplest solutions seem to be forgotten: covering your mouth when you cough or clear your throat, covering your nose when you sneeze, and by all means either washing that hand or keeping it in your pocket until you can. (Coughing into your sleeve is even better.)

Turns out, business etiquette is hitting a wall when it comes to how to handle that offered handshake. Have you seen the "elbow bump"? Is a friendly pat on the back sufficiently friendly and respectful. Or are you taking a "hands off" position during flu season? What are YOU doing to keep well?

There's good news on the vaccine front. One dose of the new H1N1 vaccine may prove protective:

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20090911-710874.html>

Meanwhile, at District 95. "Though Community Unit School District 95 has had no confirmed cases of H1N1 flu virus, the district is working to prevent the disease, partly by drowning it in a sea of hand sanitizer. We're really, really pushing hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette," District Supervising School Nurse Andrea Bonkowski said. "We've asked everybody who enters the building to please use the hand sanitizers." Full story:

<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/lakezurich/news/1747473,lake-zurich-d95h1n1-090309-s1.article>

## IN THE NEWS

Barrington Courier-Review, 9/3/09 “In all, the FOIA changes mean Illinois residents will have more access to how their government works, more teeth in their appeals when government refuses to give up that information and, hopefully, a more open and transparent government.” Full story;  
<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/barrington/news/1745918,pioneer-press-foiaedit-090309-s1.article>

### Other recent FOIA-related Editorials:

Daily Herald, 8/29/29/09 “The Chicago-Kent College of Law opened its Center for Open Government last week, offering free counseling and legal representation to overcome roadblocks people face when trying to obtain information. Using the resource should be fairly simple, **Director Terry Norton** said. If you suspect an open meeting violation or your FOIA request has been rejected, call the center at **(312) 906-5045**.” Full story.

<http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=317538>

Learn more about the Center for Open Government:

<http://www.kentlaw.edu/news/releases/cog.html>

Daily Herald, 8/19/09 “In any case, it doesn't have to be this way. We, the governed, and you, the government, are not at odds. We are partners. Openness now may well bear the force of law, but if we all focus on the underlying foundation of the law - the notion that people cannot govern themselves effectively without information - not only will that force never need be applied but the processes of government will also work better for everyone.” Full story  
<http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=314638>

## TRANSPARENCY BEGINS AT HOME, AND STARTS WITH BLOWING OPEN THE DOORS.

The best way to avoid a strain on staff time answering FOIA requests is to post documents more freely. Anything and everything that is discussed in a public meeting is already “public”; post it online. Additional documents that might be developed after a motion is approved can also be posted. The digital audio records of the board meetings and other open meetings, post them. Right now, our online software is limited, but simple, affordable, turnkey solutions, such as those in operation in Lake Zurich, could be implemented here. The dollars are insignificant—as the benefits are amortized year after year. What we need is the political will to make it happen.

Think of the phone calls and labor it will save when village staff can answer document requests by saying, "It's all online, searchable and organized for your research."

DPN has asked the Village to utilize Adobe PDF technology to create the Agenda packet that is posted before each meeting, making searchable results rather than scanning the documents. The necessary software to print to PDF is affordable, easy to use and allows you to combine different types of documents (photos, sound and type) into one larger doc. Properly PDF'd documents are also eminently searchable by the automated search engines such as Google/ Yahoo and AOL; that could result in more visits to the village web site, which in turn could lead to more visitors in the actual world.

But the bottom line is this: You. The citizenry must take an interest in what your local government is about. It is not necessary to wait until your particular ox is gored; take an interest in the process, so that you are prepared and informed should the time arise when your ox happens to get in the way of village progress.

#### AROUND TOWN

We had a service call to the Apple Store in DPTC; they say that business has been consistently superb, "there's no down time," according to one Genius. We have to say, you really do an appointment for service questions, or expect a bit of a wait. We also notice a large population of over-60 shoppers, particularly first-come computer purchasers. We're delighted they're shopping in Deer Park.

#### WELL DONE, NORMAN LUC

Norman Luc, from Deer Park, along with 3 other seniors at Barrington High School achieved perfect scores on their ACTs. Norman, however, hit the perfect 36 on his first try! All the top scoring students went out of their way to recognize that each student has special talents.

<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/barrington/news/1749134,barrington-perfectacts-090309-s1.article>

#### SPECIALS, TUESDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

Biaggi's is promoting \$10 on any pasta entres every Tuesday in September. It's all good, in our opinion. Say hi to manager Tony Marlotti, and tell him Deer Park Neighbors sent you.

847-438-1850, <http://biaggis.com>

#### CONGRATULATION TO CAC

If you don't know the Citizen Advocacy Center, you should. "The Citizen Advocacy is a non-profit, non-partisan community legal organization dedicated to building democracy for the 21st century. Center community lawyers and volunteers focus on strengthening the citizenry's capacity and motivation to participate in civic affairs, building community resources, and improving democratic protocols within our community institutions. Through public education, community organizing, issue advocacy, and precedent-setting litigation in state and federal courts, the Center forges ahead with programs to advance civic life. The Center is a free public resource to the community."

Please visit their web site to learn more:

<http://Citizenadvocacycenter.org>

CAC has been invaluable to DPN since our inception, and we have, in turn, helped them on other projects. This is a remarkable initiative, and to see it survive even in the worst economic times demonstrates how much their supporters value our freedoms—and doing something concrete about it! CAC is celebrating its 15th anniversary with a dinner, speakers. Join them. DETAILS AT END OF THIS EMAIL.

#### CAC DETAILS

The Citizen Advocacy Center's  
PEOPLE HAVE THE POWER  
15th Anniversary Celebration & Fundraiser

Saturday, September 26th  
Monty's Banquet Hall  
703 S. York Rd., Bensenville  
7:00PM Cocktails, 8:00PM Dinner  
Tickets: \$60 per person; \$100 per couple; \$500 per table of 10.

The Citizen Advocacy Center is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization. Every dollar over \$22 for each ticket is tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

Please RSVP by September 18. (If you have not received an invite in the mail, please call us at 630.833.4080 so we can take your dinner reservation.)

Keynote Speaker: Patrick Collins

In the wake of Rod Blagojevich's federal indictment, Governor Pat Quinn created the Illinois Reform Commission in January, 2009 with Mr. Collins as its Chair.

The Illinois Reform Commission was an independent advisory body charged with examining government practices and ethics for the purpose of making comprehensive reform recommendations to clean up Illinois' political system. Within 100 days of convening, the Illinois Reform Commission produced recommendations in the areas of open government, campaign finance, redistricting, procurement and ethics laws.

Honored Guests: Theresa Amato, Esq., Founder, Citizen Advocacy Center; Charlene LaVoie, Esq., Community Lawyer, Office of the Community Lawyer; Dr. Claire Nader, President, The Shafeek Nader Trust for the Community Interest

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**Deborah Barry**

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