

Subject: [DPNeBlast] Register to Vote!; TRAC needs CN field monitor locations; offer from Caribou; Update on new Open Meetings Act
Date: Monday, January 4, 2010 5:26 PM
From: Deborah Barry, Secretary <deborah.barry@deerparkneighbors.com>
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Conversation: Register to Vote!; TRAC needs CN field monitor locations; offer from Caribou; Update on new Open Meetings Act

host_name

Greetings, Neighbors

DATELINE, DEER PARK, MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 2010

MEETING

PLAN COMMISSION TONIGHT, 1/4/10, 7pm, at the Barn, continued Public Hearing on the "Little Paws Inn" proposed on Rand Road.

Welcome to 2010—no more worrying about calling the year “the oughts” or the “double ohs” or whatever. This decade is now into its tweens/teens! And Deer Park Neighbors is looking toward starting its 5th year! My, how time flies when you’re engaged in your community. Thank you to paid subscribers and sponsors who keep this enterprise going. And join us on the Social Network—it’s free, it’s interactive and it’s fast! Find us on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

VOTER INFORMATION

If your children turn 18 before Feb. 2, 2010, they may register to vote. The deadline for regular registration is tomorrow, 1/4/10, but there are additional ways to register and vote early for the February balloting. YOU MUST RE-REGISTER if your address has changed recently. Also, a new law called "grace period registration and voting" extends the regular registration deadline by 14 days, allowing voters to register to vote up to two weeks before an election. However guidelines limit when when and where grace period registrants can vote.

Ballot requests can be made for the February 2, 2010 election via email request to VotingByMail@lakecountyiil.gov or by calling (847) 377-2406. Voters participating in the primary election must provide a party preference when requesting a ballot.

<http://www.lakecountyil.gov/countyclerk/default.htm>
<http://www.cookctyclerk.com/ELECTIONS/Pages/default.aspx> (you can ignore the Google Maps error message)

Review "What's on my ballot":

<http://lakecountyil.gov/countyclerk/elections/what%27sonmyballot/default.htm>

<http://www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections/Pages/default.aspx>

COMMUNTER DISCOUNT AVAILABLE AT BARRINGTON METRA STATION

Thanks to Rita Finley for bringing this to our attention. As always, please check detailed information with the original source. In brief:

The South Commuter Parking Lot is for BACOG area residents (BACOG residents are those individuals who live within the **incorporated limits of one the BACOG member Communities**, these include: Barrington, Barrington Hills, **Deer Park**, Lake Barrington, North Barrington, South Barrington, Tower Lakes). Residents of the Village of Barrington take precedent over the BACOG Villages in the issuance of a South Lot Permit, only BACOG area residents may get a permit for the South Lot. South Lot permits are available for \$150 per calendar quarter. There are no guaranteed parking spaces for the South Lot; the Village limits the number of permits sold for this lot to maximize the daily use of spaces while minimizing the possibility that a space may not be available to a permit holder. **Spaces are available and utilized on a first arrived priority basis.**

The North Commuter Parking Lot provides general parking on first come first parked basis. The charge for the lot is \$3.00 per day (effective February 1, 2009) and commuters are encouraged to purchase rechargeable smart cards which are accepted at all payment stations. The rechargeable smart cards initial cost is \$20, with \$5 for the cost of the card and an additional \$15 for parking. **The cards can be recharged inside the Train Station, please remember to keep your card for recharging so you can avoid paying the \$5 charge for the cost of the card.** A limited number of the pay stations also accept cash payment. An alternative method of paying for parking in the North Lot is to purchase a parking permit for the lot for \$180 per calendar quarter. **The Permit is not prorated and is non-refundable.** Commuters please note, there is no guarantee of a parking space, even when a permit is purchased. Typically the lot is filled between 7:00 and 7:30 in the morning. To ensure you are able to get a parking space you may want to arrive at the lot before 7:00 AM.

The village web site lists a Parks and Recreation Advisory meeting for 7pm, Wed. Jan. 6, at the Barn. View the Agenda here:
deerparkneighbors.com/meetings/2010_01-06_PARA-Agenda.pdf

At the last VODP BOT meeting, there was a great deal of discussion about the technicalities of forming these committees—whether there is any distinction between a committee and a board, between ad hoc or permanent groups, official or unofficial. What we heard—but as always, we await the approval of the official minutes of the meeting—is that if a group is doing village business, the village should clearly identify who is involved and what their assignment is. All of this dovetails with recent (and endless!) discussion about Vendors vs. Volunteers and the enhanced Ethics Ordinance that is being drafted.

In our opinion, here's the bottom line. Every other municipality where we've worked has a more fully developed committee system; that necessarily relies on volunteers who are qualified for the work they undertake. The workload among the Board of Trustees is seriously out of balance, with two trustees doing absolutely nothing and a third very lightly scheduled. The other three trustees and president carry the brunt of the workload—as well as the majority of the budget. We also have a very small staff, most of them part-timers. This village needs to move into the 21st Century. There's no disrespect to elected officials or staff to say, "You need help."

How can we move forward? By leveraging the expertise and professional experience of residents in a clear manner, credentialing them, placing them on committees (by appointment or self-nomination) and assure that accurate records of their deliberations and recommendations are shared with elected officials staff and—most important—with the public. These committees will NOT vote on any spending, but they will be free to explore vendor relationships, including—where appropriate—using village residents as vendors.

These "openings" should be communicated to the public, and the opportunities should be available to all interested. "Doing with less" is very different from "doing less." How many endless board deliberations could have been (and now often are) bottom-lined by inviting input from a professional who happens to be in the audience.

This is our resolution on behalf of the Village of Deer Park: Resourcing solutions from among the residents and business owners in town...as long as the appointment and the bidding processes are both transparent. (Isn't it time to bid out the work of Village consultants as well?)

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Kelly Stam, Manager, 847-438-8396, SM728@cariboucoffee.com

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http://deerparkneighbors.com/sponsor_art/caribou_10OFF.pdf

NEW STATE LAW ON OPEN MEETINGS AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

We thank our contact at the Lake County Clerk's office for providing this link to the Attorney General's site regarding the new law on Open Meetings Act taking effect 1/1/09:

<http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/government/index.html>

IN THE NEWS

12/31/09 Barrington Courier-Review "The Biggest Stores of 2009"

Deer Park makes news yet again!

<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/barrington/news/1963685,barrington-yirweb-123109-s2.article>

12/31/09, BA Courier-Review

New laws in effect: <http://www.pioneerlocal.com/pioneerpress/1961987,pioneer-press-newlaws-123109-s1.article>

12/31/09, BA Courier Review

District 220 Amends budget: <http://www.pioneerlocal.com/barrington/news/1965185,barrington-d220notes-122409-s1.article>

12/31/09, Daily Herald, Lake Co's top stories of 2009:

<http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=346912>

1/1/10 Suburban mayors look ahead

<http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=347566>

1/4/10, Suburban mayors challenged in 2010

<http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=347643>

KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE TRACKS

from <http://fightrailcongestion.com>

Because the region has created a strong record of complaints against CN around excessive noise, vibration and quiet zone violations, the

STB has agreed to institute a field monitoring process that will evaluate what is occurring along the EJ. TRAC is still in the initial stages of working with the STB to define this process and when the monitoring will begin, but we need your help to expedite this process once the details are ironed out!

While TRAC has an excellent record of complaints that has pinpointed some hot spots for noise, vibration and quiet zone violation problems, we want to insure that the list we provide to the STB is fully comprehensive. IF YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED RECURRING PROBLEMS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE FIELD-MONITORED FOR NOISE AND/OR VIBRATION LEVELS, PLEASE LET US KNOW. IN ADDITION, WE WILL NEED YOUR AGREEMENT TO ALLOW THE STB CONTRACTORS TO GAIN ACCESS TO YOUR PROPERTY FOR SETTING UP THE EQUIPMENT.

If you are interested in participating in the field monitoring process, please contact TRAC by e-mail at info@fightrailcongestion.com. We will need specific information from you:

- The nature of the problem (i.e. excessive noise, excessive vibration, quiet zone violation)
- Your name
- The exact street address of the problem location (and whether it is a business or residential location)
- Your contact information (both phone and e-mail)

Once we have the monitoring plan finalized with the STB, we will provide the Board the list that TRAC has created so that the field monitoring process can begin. The deadline for getting these requests into TRAC is Sunday, January 10. Please feel free to distribute this e-mail freely if you know of someone who has been troubled by CN's operations and might be interested in serving as a monitoring location.

To everyone in the region, thank you for your ongoing efforts to register complaints about CN operations as they occur!

SAY HELLO WHEN YOU SEE YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS
<http://deerparkneighbors.com>

Remember, together we are stronger!

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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