

Subject: Notes on home security; CN update; Shop local; In the news

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Conversation: Notes on home security; CN update; Shop local; In the news

NOTES ON VILLAGE SECURITY

Chief Lou Rossi, Kildeer Police, asked that we remind you of two common kinds of home invasions: door-to-door scams aimed at getting inside your home and crimes of opportunity. It takes only a few moments for burglars to grab cash and jewelry, and make a quick getaway.

Turn ON outdoor lights and leave them on all night. CLOSE garage doors. LOCK the door between the garage and house if you're working in the yard. ARM YOUR ALARMS at home and on your car. LOCK your cars, especially if they are parked in the drive or on the street. REMOVE all valuables—GPS, computers, toll way change and iPass, etc.--or stash them in the trunk when you get out of the car. At the malls, if you don't feel safe to walk to your car, ask for a security escort.

ALWAYS CALL 911, wherever you are, to report suspicious activity. Your prompt report may be the important piece to establish patterns of activity the police want to identify.

This recent story from Highland Park paints the picture very well:

11/19/10 <http://triblocal.com/highland-park-highwood/2010/11/19/burglars-target-three-homes-on-same-block/>

DEER PARK REJECTS CN OFFER

After a number of special meetings and many opportunities for residents to speak out, the Board of Trustees decided to turn down Canadian National's offer of a cash settlement of \$200,000.

Much to this town's credit, President Bob Kellermann and Administrator Jim Connors were able to bring CN not only to the table, but into site visits as well as a public meeting for a Q&A. This is to CN's credit as well. CN's spokesperson (and our own village attorney) made it clear that rail law, antiquated as it is, overwhelms the rights of local communities. CN's position was that it needn't do anything at all for Deer Park, as conditions here did not rise to a level that required any mitigation. He also made it clear that the one offer was non-negotiable nor would it be repeated.

Everyone had the same question in mind: Why was CN offering this cash at all? What was the urgency? Certainly the pressure of settlements in so many surrounding communities was felt by the board. Yet word on the street is that those communities were not happy with the execution of the settlements.

The offer to Deer Park (included in the 11/15/10 board packet, http://www.village.deer-park.il.us/Board%20of%20Trustees/meeting_minutes_BOT.htm) would have included something akin to a gag order, relinquishing rights to future negotiations and a

requirement to leave TRAC (<http://fightrailcongestion.com>), among other conditions.

At the end of the day, the \$200k would not have covered any kind of realistic mitigation for noise, vibration or crossing delays; the amount equaled about \$13,000 per home (were the cash to be applied in that way)--scarcely a few new windows or trees to baffle noise. Those residents were more than willing to wait and see what time would bring. In fact, a house-to-house survey resulted in unanimity (one home not responding) to reject the CN offer. Although these conversations were focused on the households, both the board and the audience were also keenly aware of village-wide and regional challenges, especially to emergency response and transport.

Despite a public perception to the contrary, the sale of the EJ&E to CN is NOT yet finalized, as far as we understand. Meanwhile, the rail traffic increases, as does the UNDERREPORTING of blocked crossings and stopped trains—by a factor of 100 or more. That's why YOUR reporting of all CN incidents remains crucial, and there is a simple online form to take care of this:

<http://fightrailcongestion.com/form.html>

SHOP LOCAL—EARLY AND OFTEN

It's hard to think of anything you need to buy that isn't available right here in Deer Park. The Deer Park Town Center web site includes current special offers. Note that many of the stores are offering bonus gift cards when you purchase gift cards:

<http://www.shopdeerparktowncenter.com/go/mallEvents.cfm?promosOnly=1>

They also list upcoming Caroling performances for your enjoyment:

- Friday, December 10: Saint Viator High School, 5pm-6pm
- Thursday, December 16: Sarah Adams Elementary School, 6:30pm-7pm
- Friday, December 17: LZ Girl Scouts Troop 573, 3:30pm-5pm
- Saturday, December 18: Barrington High School Madrigals, 2pm-4pm
- Saturday, December 18: Lake Zurich High School, 5pm-7pm

What's happening at the Town Center Promenade (Dick's mall)? Who knows. There is no mall web site, a marketing omission of the worst kind. Let's hope that future developments, when brought to Deer Park's board and commissions for consideration, will be required to include a substantive, ongoing marketing and advertising program. Meanwhile, putting the Promenade on the map should be a top priority for the new Tourism Committee—which, we hope, will be staffed at the December meeting.

We also look forward to the new village web site, which will list all local businesses and be kept up to date.

IN THE NEWS

Former Deer Park President Scott Gifford was photographed in a new story:

11/16/10 <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/northnorthwest/ct-met-walsh-bean-1117-20101116,0,4451683.story>

Nearby restaurant drafts on Deer Park image—perhaps they owe us half their restaurant

tax revenues!

11/10/10 <http://www.pioneerlocal.com/barrington/entertainment/2869486,entertainment-nwlake-tablehopping-11110-s1.article>

Recent coverage of the sales tax referendum

11/9/10 <http://triblocal.com/lake-zurich/2010/11/09/sales-tax-boost-shouldnt-harm-shopping-officials-hope/>

HONORING A LOCAL ENTREPRENEUR

Maybe it's our small-business bias or our two new grandchildren, but Deb and Al were tremendously impressed to meet a young mother at Northbrook Court whose bright idea turned into an organic, American-made BabyHug™. Swaddling is a passion for young parents; this system is star years ahead anything we've seen. Looking for a fabulous gift for a newborn or parents-to-be?

<http://www.sillymonkeybaby.com/>

Wish this was available in Deer Park? Why not bring these kinds of kiosk businesses to display in empty store fronts in our malls. Between their attracting customers via their own web sites and adding interest for shoppings walking by, we could give local entrepreneurs a boost and possibly develop some future full-time tenants.

CALLING ALL CANDIDATES

Deer Park Neighbors invites you to a guaranteed placement in the best news publication in town—this eBlast. You are welcome to submit up to 250 words announcing your candidacy and providing your contact information. Your release will be published without editing or comment.

We're confident many of our readers would be happy to visit your campaign web site, sign your petitions, host candidate coffee hours and more. Just ask!

For you, the voters, remember that you can sign ONE petition for EACH of the open seats. So, for example, if you were so inclined, you can sign a petition for each of three candidates for the four-year terms, but only one for the unfulfilled term. Simple, right? And NO, your signing a petition does not, in any way, obligate you to support or vote for that candidate—this is simply the process for candidates to enter the pool and start the conversation.

Sundown Wednesday is the first night of Hanukkah. May each light remind us of the miracles all around us and rededicate ourselves to peace in our time.

Remember, together we are stronger!

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Deborah Barry, Secretary | Al Barry, President

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