

From: deerparkneighbors@comcast.net
Subject: Catching up, accepting award, moving forward . . . and a meeting!
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: : DEER PARK NEIGHBORS RECOGNIZED On Tuesday, Dec. 12, Deer Park Neighbors were presented with the CAC's Citizen Initiative Award in recognition of DPN's outstanding civic engagement activities that are building significant and informed community participation among the residents of Deer Park. Frankly, the only thing more humbling than being recognized by the Citizen Advocacy Center (<http://citizenadvocacycenter.org>) was the company of our fellow recipients. Of course, we share this award with each and every one of you; you are the force behind DPN, and together, we are stronger.

: : AGENDA, VODP BOT Been to a good Board of Trustees meeting lately? Did you know that three seats will be up for election this April? Wouldn't you like to take a little time to see your trustees in action? Attached is the agenda for Monday night's meeting, 7 pm, Quentin School.

: : WHEN IS A MEETING NOT A MEETING? When it's a Deer Park Neighbors Open Forum, that's when! Everyone gets to speak, and no one's keeping time—except the janitor at the library. Because we could have talked all night!

Trustee Pat Ekstrom announced her candidacy for re-election to the Board of Trustees. As soon as we know who else is running, DPN will be hosting candidate forums. (No, DPN is not putting up candidates, we're not a political organization.) Are you interested in exploring running for trustee or another office? It costs nothing to explore the idea. Packets for trustee candidates are available at the Village office, and it takes only 41 signatures on your petition to get on the ballot.

Parks Captain Sara Guarisco gave a superb summary of the "State of the Parks," handing out a map of the VODP public parks and summarizing her efforts to date. Big picture: Sara wants the village to take a break before rushing into Trustee Dave Kizior's plan for Town Center Park. Sara thinks that village residents should be surveyed as to what they want in that location. After all, the parks belong to us all. Do you want to see \$400K+ spent on ball fields? Or do you find the idea of a family-oriented park (Sara's got a great idea for a sprinkler park) next to the mall more appealing? Do you have a better idea? Send Sara an email, sara@guarisco.net.

And come to Village meetings—the budgeting year begins May 1, so now is the time to speak up and speak out on this and any matter that will require funding!

But wait, there's more! Officer Justin Rundall, Kildeer Police Department, joined our meeting for an hour of questions and answers. A little bit of myth busting here, a lot of home security information there, plenty of great stories and lots of laughs. If you've ever felt that we're second class citizens in our "rent-a-cop" system of police protection, just a few minutes with Officer Rundall will change your mind. We'll be posting some of his info on our upcoming web site (yes, we're working on it—any volunteers to help?!?)

You can email Justin at jrundall@kildeerpolice.com. He also recommends putting the numbers for the police department into your automatic dialing on both your home and cell phone.

Emergency: 911

Dispatch: 847-438-6010

Administration/Records: 847-438-6644—you can leave a message for Justin at this number.

Be sure to pick up a copy of the "Home Security Survey" at the Police Station, 21911 Quentin Road—it's a real eye opener and a checklist for securing your home and grounds.

We loved meeting at the Barrington Library. When you are next there, don't miss a chance to check out the library's shelf full of VODP video tapes of public meetings filmed by our own stalwart Dick Chay.

Our next guest speaker is a major voice in local news coverage.... Watch your blasts, we'll set a date in the next few days.

: : Season's greetings, happy healthy holidays to you and your families and please, be extra careful in and around all the construction on the east side of town. Take a breath and slow down, wherever you go—your families will thank you for the extra care you take.

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