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Subject: It takes a village...
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Hello everyone, Al and I are just back from our travels, so while we had a blast, we haven't sent an e-blast in a while. He's attacking the weeds and asked me to send along the latest news.

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: : PUBLIC MEETING IN THE BARN We knew this day had to come, and Monday, July 16, 7 pm, the Board of Trustees will meet in our very own, what is now called "Deer Park Vehe Barn." I know many of you haven't turned out to a meeting in months, if not years, but I think we owe it to ourselves to acknowledge the opening of the Barn. Whether the Vehe Farm project has cost \$3.2 million, \$3.9 million or something else, it is what it is, and we need to see it fully utilized and returning on our investment. I'm sure many of you would have ideas for what to do with this building. You are welcome to join or depart the meeting (quietly) at any time, but if you want to speak at Public Comments, you have to sign up just before the meeting.

: : LONG GROVE ROAD Please RSVP We can use more volunteers for our patrol of the verge of our adopted highway, Long Grove Road between Deerpath and Rand Roads. We are going out next Saturday, July 21, at 7:30 a.m. Meet at the Barrys', 412 Bramble (take Long Grove to Briargate). Volunteers are invited back to our deck for brunch (and fresh supplies of green ribbons). We we do need you to let us know in advance who and how many are coming, so we have sufficient safety vests and enough food for everyone! If your spouse and/or kids are home that morning, please ask them to join us after the clean up for brunch, about 9 am. Call 847-867-1867 or email deerparkneighbors@comcast.net.

: : LET'S BE CAREFUL Summer--beautiful, longer days and lots of extra drivers out there, including our inexperienced, impulsive teens. There has already been one near-fatal bike/car collision. Every day, there are walkers, bikers, skateboards, joggers, tourists and, of course, our deer and geese. Nice backup on Long Grove yesterday while Mother Goose and her gaggle strolled across the street. Let's just all slow down 5 miles an hour. Be especially watchful backing out of driveways, too--our youngest residents are so vulnerable and often

careless.

: : CONCORDE BANQUETS There is a story in this week's Pioneer Press, <http://pioneerlocal.com>, select Barrington or Lake Zurich, and read "Concorde Plan in Limbo." "The owner of Concorde Banquets wants to reconsider his proposal to construct an outdoor pavilion on the property, a Kildeer trustee said." You will remember that a number of us in Deer Park who live quite near Concorde as well as the Kildeer and unincorporated Ela township homeowners were very concerned about outdoor amplified music at a business that is open 7 days a week. The nearest residents also had fire protection concerns. We heard a lot of "nothing we say matters" and "businesses always get what they want," but, in fact, when you are organized, have your hands on the facts, are patient and persistent--we worked for a number of months on this issue--residents' voices do matter. Too bad the owners, residents and village couldn't just sit down together to work out a balanced project that respected everyone's needs, but my point is, every voice matters. Community action doesn't always succeed, but residents who don't bother to speak out will never make a difference.

: : SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES We have new businesses open at Praedium (Deer Park Promenade). In addition to Dick's, there is a Cosi, Jamba Juice, a UPS store, there will be a dry cleaner, a kitchen design studio and more. Remember when you were new in town, how nice it was when someone stopped by to say welcome. We can do that for new business operators, too. I know how many long time residents feel that the sleepy village days you loved are gone--that's true everywhere. Our recent trip took us to Norfolk, Baltimore, Annapolis and Maumee (Ohio)--and yes, every place is beginning to look the same, same architecture, same materials, same storefronts. What makes our village special is the people who live here, so let's make these new places our own, with our patronage and enthusiasm. A every bit of sales tax in the village helps our bottom line, so shop Deer Park first.

: : DISTRICT 95 As many of you know, there is a recommendation to close Quentin School at the end of '08-'09 as well as doing some redistricting. We've attached the recommendations of the Facilities task force. "The Board of Education and school district administration will be seeking input from the community prior to acting upon the task force's recommendation. The Board is expected to take formal action on the recommendation in early 2008." DPN knows that the safety and education of Deer Park children matters to the whole village and, frankly, impacts our property values. So read this report, whether you have children in school or not.

Hope to see you at Monday's meeting or at our road cleanup and brunch.