

We had a great talk with Kildeer Police Officers Rundall and Kroop the other day. They noted that it's important for people to be extra careful; wet weather, rushing on errands, everyone excited about the holidays—it all makes us more vulnerable to careless mistakes, driving and walking. Let's take good care of each other this holiday season!

To put your home on the Kildeer Police watch list during vacations, call 847-438-6010. Stop your mail and newspaper deliveries, too.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- * Groot continues yard waste collection through Tues., 11/11
- * Leaf burning can continue, weekends only, 10am-6pm through Sunday, 12/16.
- * Special Meetings of the Board of Trustees on sales tax (see below)
- * Letter to the Editor, <http://dailyherald.com/story/?id=84277>., also published in Thursday's Barrington Courier.

SALES TAX MEETINGS Tues., Dec. 11, and Wed., Jan. 9 at the Barn, 7pm. These will be official board meetings and all trustees are expected to attend. While not an open forum as we had for parks, there will be questions from residents. Every word spoken will be captured on the Village's MP3 recording, there will be official minutes, and of course, Deer Park Neighbors will provide gavel-to-gavel coverage on DVD.

You will vote on this referendum on Tuesday, Feb. 5—and we all must turn out to vote, so results are truly representative. Meanwhile, we'd like your thoughts by return email. With your permission, we'll post comments at our web site.

WORDING OF THE ORDINANCE, per the minutes of Oct. 15, 2007: *“Shall the Village of Deer Park impose a tax on persons engaged in the business of selling tangible personal property (goods) and services within the Village in accordance with 65 ILCS 5/8-11-1.3 and 5/8-11-1.4, at the rate of not more than .5% of the gross receipts from such sales, for expenditure on public infrastructure such as road and drainage improvements?”*

The trustees voted unanimously to put this on the ballot, although there was no financial forecasting, no input from DP business owners, no research as to why the surrounding communities haven't raised their sales tax. Just discussions about what the voters might agree to, which brought the request down from “up to 1%” to up to .5%.”

Deborah Barry has been quoted as being in favor of this sales tax increase. But that was before she knew that there is, in fact, no limitation on how the trustees might spend the inflows. There isn't even a clear definition of infrastructure; clever words might label all kinds of spending “infrastructure.” Would a \$45,000 playground at Vehe be infrastructure? Sidewalks in subdivisions? \$400,000 of ball fields at Town Center Park?

The village only recently imposed a hotel tax (but not until after the hotel deal was already done); yet the board has not determined where those inflows would be spent.

WHY WE GO TO MEETINGS. With Cubs' bleacher seats going up to 45 bucks, where can you get great entertainment (and maybe keep score). Village meetings, that's where! DPN would like to see one adult from each household spend one half hour at three public meetings a year. Village meetings are kind of like lima beans: You really won't know if you like them until you try them. Three meetings, and you might get hooked. Six meetings, and you just might be tempted to run for office.

If you've read this far, you must like our email blasts. We'd appreciate your upgrading your subscription to a paid level. Many of you did so when we first formed, but that was almost two years ago! See our web site for subscription options, <http://deerparkneighbors.com>.

We've added a Town Center Promenade page, and we're on our way down the Rand Corridor. If you have a business, here or elsewhere, we'd welcome your advertising on our web site.

For techies out there, our web stats show about 60% of you use Windows 2000, 35% use WP. Just under 2% use OSX, something likely to change with the new Apple store in town. In the little over a year we've been online, page views have increased by a factor of six, bandwidth by a factor of 10.

* VODP BOT (Village of Deer Park Board of Trustees) 2008 SCHEDULE: TUESDAYS 1/22 and 2/19, MONDAYS 3/17, 4/21, 5/19, 6/16, 7/21, 8/18, 9/15, 10/20, 11/17, 12/15.

Al and Deborah Barry