

Subject: Correction, CN RR, Coupon and Sales Tax

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From: Deborah Barry, Secretary <deborah.barry@deerparkneighbors.com>

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Conversation: Correction, CN RR, Coupon and Sales Tax

BE A DEER PARK BUSINESS BOOSTER

SEE WEB SITE FOR CARIBOU COFFEE COUPON

CORRECTION: The next village board meeting is Tuesday, Feb. 19 (due to President's Day on Monday). 7 pm, the Barn. (See end of email for those of you new to village meetings.)

CN Rail Meeting with Melissa Bean and Mark Kirk. Monday, 6:30, Lake Zurich HS Performing Arts Center, details on our web site. This event is imperative if you are unfamiliar with the railway acquisition issue. Also, at the meeting you will have a last chance to create your written comments, which will be transmitted to the Surface Transportation Board. If you cannot attend, information on making comments NO LATER THAN FEB. 15 posted on our web site.

SALES TAX REFERENDUM was defeated. Voter turnout was high, and close to 60% of residents voted against the sales tax increase. Details on our Elections page.

EDITORIAL

We are thinking a great deal about events of the past couple of weeks and will write more in our next email blast regarding the tremendous surge of neighbor-to-neighbor communication that has occurred during the debate over the sales tax. If there were ever a grass-roots effort, the passing of the yellow "No Sales Tax" signs from one neighbor to another was simply amazing. Deer Park Neighbors can take absolutely NO credit for this campaign—the work of one resident and countless neighbors--although Al and Deb were glad to have a sign in our yard.

If anyone had any doubts before, it became absolutely clear that the sales tax was and is—in the minds of residents—tied to the continued spending of public funds on Vehe over the last few years as well as the failure of the referendum wording to strictly limit how the funds would be used. The Daily Herald reported that President Gifford didn't think it was in the best interests of the village to do limit the spending. We respectfully disagreed.

The most common question asked over these past weeks was: "What's up with those Vehe people?" From the huge amount of public monies used to fund a special interest project to the vast amount of time wasted at board meetings to listen to tales of bluebirds and butterflies, residents are sick and tired of Vehe. President Gifford has said that he never

heard a word against the project. There are two lessons here: our President needs to get out among his constituents more, and residents need to express themselves to President Gifford and the trustees instead of just complaining to each other.

Communicating to our leadership would be easier to do if the village would establish an email box for each board member and President Gifford, as other towns and villages do. In the meantime, you can address hard copy letters to them at Village Hall or their homes. If the matter is not confidential, you are welcome to copy Deer Park Neighbors on the letters, and—with your permission—we will post them and any response you receive and would like to share.

We also encourage all of you to express yourselves in letters to the editors of our two local papers, the Daily Herald and the Pioneer Press, who devote time and space to coverage of Deer Park. And again copy us. See the Editorials page where a resident did just that.

Here's what needs to happen regarding Vehe:

1. The board stops all spending on Vehe right now. (Pepper has had enough income from a no-bid contract, income that is quickly approaching the same amount to RE-do the Barn interior as was budgeted for the original interior renovations.
2. The board makes it clear that the Barn belongs to the village. We were shocked when we went to vote at the Barn that the election judges had been told NOT to use the "museum space" for voters. The broken toilets (judges had to walk over to village hall for the bathroom) are simply scandalous and unacceptable.
3. The contract for the Vehe Farm Foundation to manage the Vehe property for another 5 years is either rescinded completely or revised to reflect the requirement that any and all projects or work are funded entirely by private donations and grants. That includes anything and everything that was included in the original budget like the outbuildings and new visions like the "floating island" and the bridge over the wetlands. The board had no difficulty failing to fund the second speed hump on Deerpath; they can be as stringent with Vehe. Wouldn't be a bad idea to put a termination clause in the contract, too, just in case the foundation doesn't do its job well. The foundation has a \$4,000,000 leg up on their visions; let them raise the flag of Vehe in the philanthropic marketplace and see if anyone salutes.

We have never, since we moved here to Deer Park, felt that this community was so connected and so much engaged with each other as we have been in the last few weeks. We must not let that connection taper off. Yes, we're all busy, and yes, we all have many other responsibilities and interests. But if you do not watch your village government in action, at least a few times a year, you really have abrogated your citizenship rights. Ensure that your voices continue to be heard by attending public meetings.

VILLAGE STICKERS: The village now offers a \$5 vehicle sticker. These are NOT mandatory, but are helpful if you drive in other communities that do require a vehicle sticker. Ours are permanent, so you buy only once (or until you get a new car!). At \$5 apiece, if 2,000 cars were stickered, that's \$10,000. That would be the second speed hump on Deerpath, and the other requested for Deerpath, south of Long Grove. Or that could fund the engineering for maybe 100 projects under Trustee Kellermann's trial program on completing small road/drainage projects. Or it could pay for the video cameras and editing software so that the village could finally keep its commitment to televise Village meetings. Amazing how many different ways there are to spend \$10,000—which is why you'll want to be at the next few village meetings as the board gets into budget matters.

UPDATED REGULARLY...that's the <http://deerparkneighbors.com> web site. We try to keep blasts to a minimum, but post daily to the web site. Check in often: the most frequently updated pages are the Home Page and Press Room. YOUR contributions in the form of Editorials or White Papers on local issues are most welcome. Web traffic has doubled again over the last week, a rate of growth that is phenomenal. Please patronize our business supporters, and if you have a favorite place in Deer Park, encourage them to advertise with us.

GREEN RIBBONS—We will happily drop some off for your subdivision. Our cheerful ribbons have taken a beating this winter. Let's refresh our message: **“Together, we are stronger.”** Just email for free delivery! We know that many of you are printing out our emails or web pages to give to neighbors who do not have web access. You are welcome to continue to do that—and thanks!

PROPERTY TAXES--A Fresh Start: How to Reform the Illinois Property Tax System, Sunday, February 17, 4:00pm, Byron Colby Barn, Jones Pt Rd & Rte 45, Grayslake. More Info: <http://citizensactionproject.org> This should be a very interesting presentation, with a suggested \$20 contribution at the door.

PARENT UNIVERSITY—open to all Deer Park residents, Sat., March 8, 2008 at Middle School North. For information, call 847-540-4702 and leave a message, or visit <http://lz95.org> and look down the page under “Updates.”

REWARD: We are offering a reward—a paid subscription to Deer Park Neighbors—for anyone who has information regarding the theft of our car magnet while we were at Vehe Barn to vote Tuesday.

BOARD MEETING INFO FOR NEWBIES: We recommend bringing a flashlight for traversing the parking lot. Arrive 10-15 minutes early to sign in if you want to make Public Comments, otherwise there is no record of attendance. Coming early also gives you time to review the Agenda Packet (those are the documents that the trustees review to prepare for the board

meeting. Deer Park Neighbors always provides links to the agenda, any memos and recently approved minutes at our web site, the Friday or Saturday prior to the meeting. Simply click on the eyeglasses at <http://deerparkneighbors.com>, your link to important documents.

Come late; leave early (and of course, quietly). You will recognize Al and me from our lime green sweaters so introduce yourselves. Some of us have met only by phone and email; it's great to put a face to your name.

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