

**Subject:** [DPNeBlast] It might as well be spring--if only!

**Date:** Sunday, April 13, 2008 7:34 PM

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**Conversation:** It might as well be spring--if only!

host\_name

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Greetings, Neighbors

## CALENDAR

>>Monday, April 14—the two-year anniversary, as best we can document, of Deer Park Neighbors' eBlasts. Happy birthday, Deer Park Neighbors.

>>Monday, April 14, 7pm, the Barn, Plan Commission Public Hearing on accessory uses (sheds, etc.)—YES, the public will have an opportunity to ask questions

>>Monday, April 21, 7pm, the Barn, Board of Trustees, VOTE ON BUDGET EXPECTED

>>Tuesday, April 22, Canadian National Shareholders meeting, 10am, Peninsula Chicago

>>Thursday, April 24, CUSD District 95 expected to vote on Quentin School closing

## NOTE

>>LEAF BURNING begins April 15, ends May 15, weekends ONLY 10-6. Please be considerate of our neighbors who have breathing difficulties or airborne allergies. To learn more, [www.co.lake.il.us/elibrary/press/2006/LeafBurning.pdf](http://www.co.lake.il.us/elibrary/press/2006/LeafBurning.pdf)

You all know our motto: "Together, we are stronger!" So all together now, close your eyes and think: "Sunshine. Sunshine. Sunshine." Hey, it might work!

But as the rains continue, if you see standing water in that does not drain within 24 hours, you should contract Trustee Bob Kellermann, [bobkellermann@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bobkellermann@sbcglobal.net) with specific details and photos, if possible.

3/31 BUDGET TALKS drew such a crowd, you would have thought the village had a lot of money to spread around. In fact, it's a deficit budget again. (See our "Docs and DVDs" page to review the draft budget—to be voted on 4/21.) That's why the board is talking about trying again in November for a sales tax referendum, and going for the full one percent allowed by law.

The trustees actually discussed why the last referendum failed to pass. We heard Trustee

Kizior ask (in so many words), “Did people really think the money wouldn’t go for roads?” Yes, Dave, in our opinion: Residents a) did not believe the board as presently constituted would allocate new dollars to roads and drainage, because b) residents were shocked by the public spending on Vehe property development.

So now is the time for both the board AND the public to understand the referendum process better. Some of the trustees and President Gifford seem to feel that it’s a mistake to limit the wording of the referendum too much, as needs could change down the road (no pun intended). For example, Trustee Kizior spoke about “residents’ desires” for projects like bike paths or walking paths, although at the Roads Forum, public sentiment was overwhelmingly about drainage issues.

Then we learned from Administrator Connors, it takes only an ordinance (not a referendum) to rescind a sales tax. In other words, should the roads budget ever be lower than restricted funding, a future board can fix the imbalance. We never knew that; did you?

Whatever the board does about trying again for the sales tax increase, they are (or should be) on notice: Residents are watching how trustees vote, not just what they say. Talk is cheap; spending is a public trust. Is there enough time from now until November to regain trust? Or will residents wait until the board election in April 2009? With not one but two cameras recording public meetings, you can review the trustees’ voting records in complete detail. DVDs are archived at the Barrington Library, and we’re confident Deer Park Watchdog will be posting at YouTube during campaign season.

Meanwhile, as to Vehe, there’s not one penny in the draft budget for new Vehe development. That’s a positive step. But according to the Lake Zurich Courier, “Vehe’s budget is about \$59,000 which includes maintenance, advertising and the Vehe Farm coordinator’s salary.” And now the village is looking for a part-time Maintenance Coordinator, another necessity, and another expense.

Advertising is a good idea, since current projections are for only one wedding and two meetings per month, for an income of only \$24,000/year. Now is the time to stop griping and start thinking about possible renters for the Barn. Because just sitting on its foundation, that Barn at present represents a “negative delta.”

Who will take responsibility for the Barn’s delayed opening? Our understanding is that a final accounting is underway, so that legal action can proceed.

But did the foundation board ever intend that Community Center should be in use, all week long, day and night, year around? Financially, we owe it to ourselves to see that this building gets the use it deserves. It takes a village—to rent out the Barn. Any suggestions? Contact Yvonne Keith, deerparkevents@comcast.net

**ROADS AND DRAINAGE** To patch, or not to patch, that is the question. Whether 'tis nobler to suffer the thump, thump, thump for a while longer, and to take arms against the sea of drainage troubles. Trustee Kellermann urges: Launch a long-term program to fix the underlying drainage failures that—in addition to wear and tear—are causing our roads to collapse and properties to flood. Amusing as it may be to see fishes on Old Farm Road, the damage suffered by homeowners all over town is nothing to laugh at.

**CHARLES QUENTIN SCHOOL** It appears that a decision on closing Quentin Schools will be made by CUSD 95 School Board on April 24, 7pm, Lake Zurich High School, Small Auditorium. We've posted a few recent news stories "Above the Fold" on our web site's front page, and you can visit <http://lz95.org> for more information, including a Q&A on the subject.

**CONCORDE BANQUETS** We were all ready for the owner of Concorde Banquest last Monday, then he didn't show up for his agenda appearance before the Kildeer Board. He's also the owner of a number of nearby parcels. So clearly, some project is shaping up.

Residents from Kildeer, Deer Park and unincorporated Ela Township were frustrated, but clearly committed to remain informed and vocal on any proposed development. There simply isn't any physical buffer between residents and this particular business. Impact is no respecter of municipal boundaries: noise, odors, traffic, public safety—the surrounding areas are all affected.

**EMERALD ASH BORER** If left unchecked, the borer will destroy most of the ashes in North America, which represents as much as 20% of our canopy. Many of these trees will be lost on private property. Two defenses: diversify your landscape now, and inspect, treat or remove ash trees on your property. The tree you ignore could infect those around you. To learn how to recognize this pest, see <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/index.cfm> Deer Park needs to get a plan together—and a budget—to deal with this particular threat in terms of the ashes on public property.

**KILDEER POLICE** Chief Jeffrey Lilly is expected at the Monday 4/21 VODP BOT; one of the conditions of the new police contract is that the Chief and the board communicate more often, face to face. We like communication! To learn more about the Kildeer Police Department , go to <http://www.kildeerpolice.com>

**AN AMUSING SIDE NOTE** While none of the trustees is (to our knowledge) on our eBlast list, nevertheless, they all seem to read our emails. We heard one senior trustee quote us at the budget talks—and then we realized, the quote was from an eBlast, not something we'd said at Public Comments. So we're thinking, instead of reading other people's email, just subscribe.

Now, for those of you who not only read our eBlasts, but also believe in what we're trying to accomplish, please visit our web site to upgrade your free subscription, <http://deerparkneighbors.com/pages/subscribe.html>

We're looking for subscribers who value our efforts at 10 cents a day. And don't forget, there are those lovely green ribbons for your front yard! We deliver!

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