

Subject: [DPNeBlast] CN, Public Hearing, Concorde, Apology, and much more
Date: Tuesday, June 24, 2008 1:38 PM
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Conversation: CN, Public Hearing, Concorde, Apology, and much more

host_name

COMING UP

Concorde Banquets is definitely on the Kildeer Agenda on Tuesday, June 24, 7pm, for their Committee Night. The Building/Zoning Committee will review Concorde Special Use Matters in a Work Session.

Monday, July 7, 7pm, the Barn. **Continued Public Hearing on proposed subdivision at 21624 Rainbow Road**, Deer Park, IL, Rainbow Hills subdivision (allowing a second residence on a two-acre plot). Whatever happens in this one property, the implications to all of Deer Park are significant. This is a fascinating conversation, and you may ask questions at a public hearing.

BE THERE ON CANADIAN NATIONAL

Rally against the train expansion to be held at Memorial Park, Barrington, (on NE Corner of Hough and Lincoln) on Sunday, June 29th at 1 p.m. Come and show your concern! See bottom of newsletter for Federal Elected Officials' contact information (your voice DOES matter).

TAKE ADVANTAGE!

>>Thank you to **Good Shepherd Fitness Center**, who has made a special offer to Deer Park residents: **NO FEE** registration. Visit <http://deerparkneighbors.com/pages/health.html> (our "Your Health" page) for the offer and link to a wellness video.

Do you know a woman over 35 who is without health insurance? (Don't we all!) Be sure she knows about the **Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program**, from which she can receive **FREE** screening and low-cost treatment for breast and cervical cancer. Young women with symptoms may also qualify. Call 888-522-1282 or visit <http://cancerscreening.illinois.gov>

>>**High school senior** seeking a part-time job in community. Strong computer skills, including three years of graphic design. Experience working with electronic/media. Good customer service skills. Available immediately. Email: mktodd@sbcglobal.net [<mailto:mktodd@sbcglobal.net>](mailto:mktodd@sbcglobal.net).

>>Neighbor Rita Finley reminds us: The sale of the year is June 26-28! **Annie's Attic**, 100% of proceeds help local people in need. Clothes, toys, books, furniture, tools, electronics, designer items – even 200 brand new wedding dresses for \$50 each. Please click for more info: <http://anniesatticinfo.org>

Need to sharpen your **lawn mower blades**? Bring them to Al (call 847-867-1867) for the keenest edge in Deer Park. No charge, and lots of great conversation!

MISSED THE VODP BOT MEETING?

Resident Jerry Kryska, Deer Park Place, spoke at public comments on June 19, yet again, to make clear to the board of trustees what the distinction is between construction issues and maintenance issues. Jerry wonders why the village pays a building inspector (budgeted to \$70,000 for the current fiscal year), if the inspections carry no weight. For example, it seems some ejector pumps are out of code; the comment was heard from the board that the pits are sealed up and no one can see the installation. When we were kids, inspections for plumbing, heating and electric were made before equipment was closed up. (We are being sarcastic, of course!)

DID HE APOLOGIZE?

Speaking of which: When is an apology not an apology? When the referenced string of remarks were “sardonic, or perhaps sarcastic.” [Free Online Dictionary definition of sardonic: “Scornfully or cynically mocking.”] That was the best Attorney Paul Keller had to offer Trustee Bob Kellermann regarding his words to Bob at the May meeting. But Bob, as always, was stalwart, calm and a gentleman. Since Bob wasn't offered a genuine apology, he can be excused for not accepting it.

Meanwhile, what did President Gifford think of the flap? Deborah Barry read into the record an email she'd sent President Gifford, which Gifford never responded to. (Posted on our editorial page). Gifford also said nothing until Deborah left the podium, then called out that he didn't agree with her. Deborah asked whether Gifford disagreed that Keller's outburst last month was inappropriate or that Keller owed Bob an apology? “I didn't say that,” replied Gifford.

Hunh?

SEE IT FOR YOURSELF, AND THEN EXPLAIN IT TO US

Kick back with the complete DVD—of this or any other meeting--available at the Barrington Public Library or from Deer Park Neighbors.

The content of public speech is an issue everywhere. See this posting from Pioneer Press while it lasts; or if expired, call DPN and we'll read it to you:

<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/wauconda/news/forum/1001076,wk-letter-061208-s1.article> <<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/wauconda/news/forum/1001076,wk-letter-061208-s1.article>> or go to <http://pioneerlocal.com> <<http://pioneerlocal.com>> and type in “free speech Deer Park.”

VEHE FINAL ACCOUNTING

Attorney Keller said that it's time to get a full accounting on the Vehe project, in anticipation of making a claim against the original failed contractor, R&W Clarke, and/or the bonding company, not ever registered in Illinois.

Keller outlined five line items to be accounted for on the Barn (interior or interior/and exterior) or the entire 14-acre property:

- Total cost
- Cost overruns
- Items in Clarke contract but NOT done
- Rework of items in Clarke contract and done badly
- Cost of items not part of original Clarke contract (example, final grading around Barn to fix the flooding of the first floor and the replacement of the lift station so the toilets work)

So, who would you expect to do this accounting? No, really, take a guess. Trustee Kellermann, a CPA, who has been asking for this accounting since the campaign in 2007? Or perhaps, Trustee Dave Kizior, Finance Chair, who was on the board during construction? Perhaps our full-time Village Treasurer, Terry Stade?

But no, Keller suggests Jim Peterson do this work. Let's be real clear here. Jim Peterson is a principal in the architectural firm that designed the interior of the Barn. Jim Peterson is also a member of the Vehe Foundation board, the “volunteer” Project Manager who oversaw the Barn's conversion and, it seems to us, one of one of many, many people who are completely indemnified by the agreement signed this year between the Village of Deer Park and the Vehe Farm Foundation (and written by Keller's firm, who represents both the village and the foundation).

But wait, there's more. Trustee Rotter asked if Peterson expected a fee, and if so how much. Rotter's contention is that if Jim Peterson volunteered to be Project Manager, the final accounting would be part of the PM's scope of responsibilities. Should Peterson be paid? A rousing "of course he should be paid" came from Foundation members Pat Winkleman and Terri Bridge from the floor. The rest of the trustees were pretty much silent.

You see why we need an ethics officer in Deer Park?

SALES TAX REFERENDUM

IT'S BAA-ACCK. Trustee Plautz, to her credit, made it clear that time is running out if the board intends to put another sales tax referendum on the ballot this November. She asked the attorney to clarify that the August meeting was the last opportunity to pass the ordinance required to place the sales tax on that ballot. (I think he said 65 days before the election.)

Which means, the board would have to direct the attorney to write the ordinance to put the referendum on the ballot. That takes a month, so the JULY MEETING IS THE LAST CHANCE TO BRING THE SUBJECT UP.

How will this board vote? Previous discussions have included talk of "going for the whole 1%," and questions of how to put a tighter fence around the monies. But nothing's been drafted, nothing's been placed before the trustees, nothing's been noticed on a meeting agenda.

And will YOU—the residents—get more than five minutes to air your views?

President Gifford, you wanted a "Community Center," now you've got it. Send out an email to invite your residents and your board and the press, and set a date for an open forum—or two—on the sales tax.

Oh, and by the way, this time around, the Village should ensure that every store manager in Deer Park is invited to the forum. After all, who knows more about sales taxes than the businesses that collect them. We've talked to dozens of them. Haven't met one that wants the tax increase, but we haven't reached everyone—yet.

It's pretty much this board as constituted who spent down the treasury on the Vehe project; quite often, President Gifford cast the fourth vote for spending. Now they want the residents and out-of-town shoppers to rescue the budget.

WHICH COMES FIRST, THE REFERENDUM OR THE DEER PARK ELECTION?

Why not make the referendum an election issue, and decide on all three--the sales tax, the new trustees and the next president—in April.

What else might be part of the April election conversation? Leadership, fiscal responsibility, drawing the line between public good and private interests, increasing cash flow, expanding the brand of this village, taking charge, developing a vision, striving for measurable benchmarks from trustees.

AROUND THE TOWN

Funniest comment of the last couple of weeks has to be from—what shall we call him—a local “delivery person.” He wants to know “what genius took out the circle drive at the Vehe property?” He’s annoyed how the three-pont turn he now has to make slows down his route. You all will remember, there used to be a complete 360 circle drive, all nicely paved, that made it so easy to pull in, around and out at Village Hall and the Barn. The foundation recommended (really, insisted) on its removal. It was considered “not authentic,” as if no one on a farm knew how to drive in a circle.

SPONSORS

You have to admit, these emails are the most fun you have sitting in a chair. Isn’t this a great time to take out an annual subscription (form on line, or just mail a check to Deer Park Neighbors, Ltd., 412 Bramble, Deer Park, 60010). For just \$36.50 a year, you help support our web site and enable us to reach out by mail to those neighbors who don’t have internet access. Good for one full year, a couple of green ribbons, and a DVD of your choice.

See you around the village, and keep those emails, calls and web visits coming—and keep on FORWARDING these emails. Together, we are stronger.

Rep. Melissa Bean
1622 E Algonquin Road, Suite L
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Phone: 847-925-0265
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Rep. Mark Kirk
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Northbrook, IL 60062
Phone: 847-940-0202
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Sen. Dick Durbin
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