

LIONCREST HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
NEW ALERT TO ALL LIONCREST RESIDENTS

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Have you heard that the Canadian National Railroad is purchasing the EJ and E (Elgin, Joliet, railroad) that runs through our community? This will affect you! Please plan to attend the meeting on the 15th of January.

The Village of Matteson is hosting a Public meeting with railroad representatives. The meeting location will be at the Matteson Holiday Inn, on Tuesday, January 15th (during the times of 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and again from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.).

(Please reference a portion of an editorial taken from this Sunday's Southtown Star).

Federal Agency Needs To Hear EJ&E Concerns

In our area, the EJ&E runs from the Indiana state line through Lynwood, Ford Heights, Chicago Heights, Park Forest, Matteson, Frankfort and New Lenox. If the sale is approved, Canadian National plans to increase trains from six to 28 per day. All but one of the rail crossings are at grade, and some have no gates. The EJ&E intersects nearly all the major north-south roads in the area, including Western, Cicero, Central, Ridgeland and Harlem avenues and Pfeiffer, Wolf, Schoolhouse, Cedar, Nelson and Gougar roads. It's not hard to envision clogged roads resulting from a near-constant stream of freight trains. It's also not hard to envision delays to emergency personnel, more noise and ill effects to the local economy.

What's more, Canadian National says the additional trains will increase the amount of hazardous materials from 51 to 353 carloads per year and overall freight from 35,300 to 227,000 gross tons per day.

So it's important that the Surface Transportation Board knows how we feel about a proposal that could prove detrimental to our towns. Ed Paesel, the executive director of the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association, said the public's response could have a significant impact on the board's decision, and whether the federal agency would negotiate with the rail company on issues such as mandating overpasses at crossings.

Quadrupling the number of trains each day could seriously affect the quality of life in our towns. The Surface Transportation Board needs to be aware of local concerns with this proposed sale.

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