

Evanston's Future!

A Monthly Electronic Newsletter of

*Evanston's Energy Future
Evanston's Transportation Future
Evanston Interreligious Sustainability Circle
Evanston's Affordable Housing Future
Citizens Lighthouse Community Land Trust*

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All Network for Evanston's Future groups welcome new members, at any time and at any level of interest or participation.

Evanston's Transportation Future: Special Strategy Meeting

(submitted by Debbie Hillman)

The Chicagoland Bicycle Federation has a long history of successful activism in the Chicago area on behalf of bicycling. Now, mirroring the worldwide evolution of transportation planning, the Federation has recently expanded its mission to advocate "Healthy Streets" for everyone. Leading this new approach is the Federation's long-time (now former) Executive Director, Randy Neufeld, who can take much of the credit for the Federation's successes on behalf of bicyclists, including Evanston's bike plan. (It's not his fault it hasn't been implemented!)

On July 14, Randy will join ETF's regular meeting to help us strategize about pedestrian issues in Evanston. Because this topic involves so many issues – faded crosswalks, snow shoveling, enforcement of traffic laws, designing developments with pedestrians in mind (including bicyclists, people using canes and walkers, people with motorized mobility aids), sidewalk obstacles, etc., etc. – we are hoping to prioritize our wish list, as well as to expand our own thinking about design and planning.

ETF has identified three goals regarding pedestrian issues that will frame the discussion:

1. Change driver behavior vis-a-vis pedestrians. E.g., stop at crosswalks, stop driving through stop signs and red/yellow lights, obey speed limits – maybe just basic politeness?? People who have

traveled in California remark how motorists there are much more respectful of pedestrians. We already have adequate state laws; now we need enforcement and education.

2. Ensure that all new construction optimize pedestrian uses/facilities; conversely, prevent new construction that obstructs/endangers pedestrians. Have a plan to “retrofit” older parts of the infrastructure to make them more pedestrian friendly.

3. Educate the public, elected officials, and city staff about designing/building more “complete” streets – complete in that they acknowledge equal rights of all transportation modes and perhaps favor less polluting, less dangerous modes (walking, bicycling, transit).

The meeting will take place Thursday, July 14 (7:30 PM, Evanston Civic Center, Room 2200). Everyone is invited. Contact: Debbie Hillman 847/328-7175 DLHillman@sbcglobal.net

“Healthy Streets” Campaign

Below are excerpts from Chicagoland Bicycle Federation’s position paper, “Toward Healthy Streets: Diagnoses and Prescriptions for Northeastern Illinois”.

Health – n. Freedom from disease or abnormality.

Healthy – adj. Conducive to good health.

Healthy streets are places where students chat on the walk to school, where the elderly enjoy the shade of a tree, where a mother and daughter ride bikes together, where neighbors meet at the bus stop, where it is safe for children to run and play. Healthy streets encourage safe, convenient and physically active transportation.

Unfortunately, most streets fall far short of these ideals. In far too many city and suburban communities, people feel increasingly frustrated by the hard realities they face. One needn’t be an expert to identify some of the key symptoms of unhealthy streets:

- Traffic crashes, injuries, and deaths
- Congestion, traffic jams, and stress
- Reckless driving and road rage
- Paved over green space, lack of street trees
- Scarcity of pedestrians and bicyclists
- Communities divided and isolated by highways

The Chicagoland Bicycle Federation has launched the Healthy Streets Campaign. Streets need to be redesigned around the needs of people rather than myopically catering only to motor vehicles. Our goal is to make physically active transportation safe, convenient, and fun. The Healthy Streets Campaign aims to win a balanced transportation environment that more wisely allocates resources and space to encourage walking, bicycling, and public transit; and recreates streets to better serve all aspects of community life.

Healthy Streets: A New Approach

In addition to avoiding injury or disease, healthy people need two basic ingredients: nutrition and activity. Nutrition is what we put in, and activity is what we put out. Healthy streets are safe streets, places where we have little risk of being injured. Healthy streets are also active streets, places where we are enabled and encouraged to get the physical activity we need to stay healthy. They are where we play, walk, greet our neighbors or how we get to school, work, shopping, or the park. Healthy streets are the nutrients, the lifeblood, for our activity. Just as we recommend food pyramids and “balanced meals”, we also recommend balanced transportation systems: streets built for everyone, and streets

built for health....

The Prescription: The Healthy Streets Initiatives

We believe that Healthy Streets can be created through a coordinated regional or local campaign that integrates education, marketing, enforcement, and street design. Key initiatives:

Safe Routes projects make walking and biking safer and more attractive for special groups such as students and seniors, and enable non-motorized travel to special destinations such as schools, shopping, transit, and parks....

Drive with Care is an integrated campaign to stigmatize and stop reckless driving....

Home Zones are protected ultra-low speed zones in residential and commercial areas where walking, biking, playing, socializing, and green space have priority....

Sunday Parkways are traffic-free times on weekends and holidays for biking and walking on a network of selected streets....

Complete Streets. A street is not complete until all modes are accommodated!....

Go Healthy! is an individualized marketing program which motivates people to build active travel into their lives....

Local Organic Farm Announces New CSA

(submitted by Debbie Hillman)

One of Evanston's Farmers' Market farmers has begun a Community Supported Agriculture program. For those of you unfamiliar with CSA, it is an annual membership arrangement with the farmer. The farmer provides a weekly box of fresh produce (in this case, organic), you pay up front for the entire season and pick your box up weekly at a local location.

The basics of The Land Connection CSA (Henry's Farm, Teresa's, TLC) are:

Season: June 15 – November 23

Cost: \$550 (paid in one or two installments)

Pick-up: Wednesday, 4 – 6 PM, a house in northwest Evanston

Contents: 7-9 items each week, feeding a family of 4 omnivores or 2 vegetarians

Optional: eggs for additional cost

Contact: Terra Brockman 309/678-2672 or terra@mtco.com More specifics are available on request (a brochure, sample boxes, etc.). You can also get on a weekly electronic mailing list for updates on farmers' market produce – plus recipes. And pray for rain!! Believe it or not, they're hurting worse in the Bloomington-Normal area than we are in Chicago.

Calendar

July 5: Citizens' Lighthouse Community Land Trust Meeting 7:00 PM (Evanston Civic Center, Room 2404). Contact: Betty Sue Ester: akjyskb@ameritech.net

July 14: Evanston's Transportation Future Meeting. 7:30 – 9:00 PM (Evanston Civic Center, 2100 Ridge, Room 2200) Contact: Rick Martin rmartin101@comcast.net (see details above)

July 27: Evanston's Energy Future Meeting, 7:30 – 9:30 (Call for location.) Contact: Joel Freeman 847/328-3555 ext. 216

Through August 14: Sustainable Furniture: Chicago Designers Respond. Chicago Cultural Center (78 E. Washington). Contact: Chicago Furniture Designers Association <http://www.cfdainfo.org/>

August 24: Evanston's Energy Future meeting, 7:30 – 9:30 (Call for location.) Contact: Joel Freeman 847/328-3555 ext. 216

Sept. 17: Farmers' Market Non-Profit Day.

