

Evanston's Future!



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
Evanston Food Policy Council
Evanston's Global Warming Initiative*

Network for Evanston's Future

*GENERATION to GENERATION
Creating a Sustainable Community*

June 2007

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

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Calendar

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| June 2, 10:00 am | The Talking Farm Education Committee Meeting
Location: Levy Center Library, 300 Dodge Ave., Evanston
Contact: Patsy Beneveniste, pbenveni@chicagobotanic.org . |
| June 18, 7:00 pm | Evanston Food Policy Council Meeting
Location: Home of Linda Kruhmin, 1422 Greenwood, Evanston
Contact: Debbie Hillman, DLHillman@sbcglobal.net , 847-328-7175 |
| July 14, Noon to 4:30 pm | Permaculture Fundraiser with Bill Wilson of Midwest Permaculture
Location: Friends Evanston Meeting House, 1010 Greenleaf St.
Contact: Linda Kruhmin, info@thetalkingfarm.org , 847-651-1197
See Around Town for more details. |

Visit www.evanstonfuture.org and click on [Calendar of Events](#) for upcoming meetings and activities.

Network Updates

Around Town:

Adopt-a-Beach Kick Off

Alliance for the Great Lakes' Adopt-a-Beach season is just reviving up for action. Everyone can take part in taking care of the Great Lakes! Families, schools, businesses and community-based groups participate in this year-round program by conducting litter monitoring and water quality testing along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Adopters work with the Alliance to locate a beach to adopt and record litter and water quality data.

To learn how you can become an Adopter, contact Frances Canonizado at the Alliance for Great Lakes, fcanoizado@greatlakes.org or 312-939-0838.

Support Transit Funding Letter Campaign

Now is the time to write a letter in support of funding for CTA, Metra and Pace transit services. Without an immediate \$226 million to support public transportation, northeastern Illinois faces increased road congestion and air pollution due to fare hikes and service cuts as commuters will be forced to travel by car. Additionally, the fare hikes and service cuts will disproportionately affect senior citizens, people with disabilities and others that really upon the services to commute to/from work, conduct errands, etc.

With new leadership at the helm of CTA and RTA's proposed strategic plan, "Moving Beyond Congestion", this funding crisis can be a thing of the past. Rep. Julie Hamos, Chair of the Illinois House Mass Transit Committee, has introduced legislation (HB 1841) to reform the RTA as an integrated, coordinated mass transit parent agency. The Bill also creates a new "Regional Transit Innovations Fund" from any new dollars.

A letter to Governor Blagojevich, House Speaker Michael Madigan, and Senator Emil Jones has much more influence than postcards or petitions. Tell them to support funding. And yes, an increase in taxes to help fund the agencies might be needed. Below are the mailing addresses for your convenience.

Governor Rod R. Blagojevich, 207 Statehouse, Springfield 62706

Michael J. Madigan, Speaker of the House, 300 Capitol building, Springfield 62706

Jones: Senator Emil Jones, Jr., President of the Senate, 327 Capitol Building, Springfield 62706

To learn more about HB 1841 and other transit funding strategies, please visit <http://www.juliehamos.org/>.

The Talking Farm Volunteer and Fundraising Events

Volunteer Opportunity

Wave your "Fruit and Vegetable" flag in the Evanston Fourth of July Parade! The Talking Farm, a new member of the Evanston community is taking to the streets on July 4th and welcomes you to join them. Contact The Talking Farm at info@thetalkingfarm.org.

Attend a Meeting – Become a Part of The Talking Farm

The Talking Farm welcomes people to join various committees to help plan site design, production, education, marketing, fundraising, and business development.

Joint Site Design and Production Committee Meeting

Contact: Doug MacDonald, flwrmac@hotmail.com

Education Committee Meeting

Contact: Patsy Beneveniste, pbenveni@chicagobotanic.org, 847-35-6945

Network Updates

Business Plan Development

Contact: Carolyn Zezima, info@thetalkingfarm.org, 847-864-2316

Marketing/Public Relations

Contact: Debbie Hillman, dlhillman@sbcglobal.net, 847-328-7175

Fundraising

Contact: Liane Casten, lcasten@sbcglobal.net, 847-869-9144

Permaculture Fundraiser with Bill Wilson of Midwest Permaculture

A fundraising event for The Talking Farm includes an organic lunch. Permaculture is a creative and artful way of living, where wastes become resources, productivity and yields increase, work is minimized, people and nature are all preserved and the environment is restored and even enhanced - all by thoughtful planning and a respectful approach to life.

Bill Wilson of Midwest Permaculture will facilitate a class on permaculture. For more information on Midwest Permaculture, please visit www.midwestpermaculture.com.

\$35 pre-paid, \$45 at the door. For more info, please contact: Linda Kruhmin, Treasurer, info@thetalkingfarm.org, 847-651-1197.

Network Updates

Evanston Food Policy Council

(Submitted by Debbie Hillman)

Landmark Legislation Passes Illinois General Assembly: Rep. Hamos Chief Sponsor of an Agriculture Economic Development Bill

By a unanimous vote (57-0), HB1300: Illinois Food, Farms, and Jobs Act, passed the Illinois Senate in late May. This follows the March 27th passage by the Illinois House (108-8) of Rep. Julie Hamos's major agricultural bill, which she first introduced in February as a way to revitalize rural communities by bringing back to Illinois production of table food.

Many Illinois residents, including many state legislators, do not know that more than 90% of our food currently is grown outside of Illinois. Yet, 80% of Illinois land is still farmland, growing primarily corn and soybeans. Through an intense lobbying by many members of the large coalition supporting this bill, legislators have come to understand that producing local and/or organic fruits and vegetables is much more lucrative for farmers and can be done on small acreage. This broad statewide coalition, led by Evanston Food Policy Council, Illinois Farmer-Consumer Coalition, Sustain, and Illinois Stewardship Alliance, have come together to support connecting the large Illinois urban centers with Illinois farmers who want to grow local and/or organic foods.

On the Senate side, Senator Jacquelyn Collins of Chicago's South Side was the chief sponsor. With two urban legislators taking a major interest in what were traditionally seen as rural issues -- food and farming, Sen. Collins and Rep. Hamos are showing how a previously divided state can come together around a central life question: How do we make the freshest, most nutritious food available to all the people of Illinois?

Network Updates

The bill now awaits Governor Blagojevich's signature, following which the Governor will have 60 days to appoint a Task Force to make policy and appropriation recommendations to support local food systems in Illinois. The Evanston Food Policy Council is remaining active in the larger coalition in order to make recommendations for membership on the Task Force as well as recommendations for Task Force operations. For information, contact: Debbie Hillman, 847/328-7175 , DLHillman@sbcglobal.net.