

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 EVANSTON's FUTURE groups welcome new members, at any time and at any level of interest or participation.

Farmer's Market Day: Volunteers Needed – it's Fun!

Evanston's Future groups will have TWO tables this year at Evanston's Farmer's Market Non-Profit Day, September 11th. Volunteers are needed for set up and kibbitzing; hand out fliers and information sheets, talk to your fellow citizens. According to last year's experience, people are interested in sustainable issues. One hour, two hours – whatever you can spare. (See specifics in Calendar section.)

A Sustainability Vision for Evanston: Draft Statement

During Earth Month, under the sponsorship of the Network for Evanston's Future and over 50 other Evanston organizations, 100 residents spent an evening envisioning a Sustainable Evanston. What would our city look like in five years, in 10 years if it were seriously to move in this direction? This vision statement is still in process, but can be viewed -- and edited. The draft is in "wiki," an Internet software which permits collaborative editing. Take a look, and add your thoughts.

To view and/or edit: <http://evanstonfuture.net/wiki/index.php?title=Vision>

Evanston's Transportation Future

The following items were discussed at the August 26th meeting:

-- ETF is sending a **letter to Pace** in general support of the new North Shore bus routes suggested in the **North Shore study**, including strong approval on some specific route changes. The letter also encourages Pace to continue and expand their involvement with the community, especially in the areas of marketing and amenities.

-- Sharon Feigon reported that the **car-sharing program** in the Chicago area (I-Go) is growing rapidly and that Evanston and Rogers Park have been targeted for the next expansion sites.

-- Consolidation and streamlining of **paratransit options** are becoming a focus of state and federal governments, as well as locally. Kerwin Terry is hosting a committee meeting for all those interested in helping to facilitate a needs assessment in Evanston and the surrounding area (see details below). All interested people are invited to help.

-- ETF's next sphere of action looks to be **pedestrian issues**, including safety, traffic calming, sidewalk sizes (especially at new developments), wheelchair access. A committee has been formed (coordinated by Derek Supple).

New Energy Conservation Code in Illinois (that means Evanston!): A Good Idea and It's the Law

On August 13, 2004, Gov. Rod R. Blagojevich signed House Bill 4099, creating the **Energy Efficient Commercial Building Act**. The bill requires the Capital Development Board (CDB) and the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to write and enforce a statewide energy efficiency code for all new commercial buildings and all commercial buildings undergoing renovations, alterations, repairs or construction of an addition. CDB will adopt the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) as the new statewide code for Illinois. The IECC establishes minimum design and installation standards for a building's lighting, windows, walls, roofs, insulation, heating/cooling/ventilation, and other building systems. DCEO will provide

energy code education programs for local government code officials and for building designers, engineers, and contractors.

“We expect this new, statewide energy efficiency code to not only reduce energy costs but also to reduce air pollution, leading to a healthier state for all of us,” said Gov. Blagojevich.

“With an eye to the future, this law will make sure we take full advantage of energy efficiency efforts, both protecting the environment and saving on energy costs in the long-term,” said Rep. Julie Hamos (D-Evanston), chief sponsor of the legislation. “I am delighted that the Governor has signed this into law.”

In Evanston, the state law had support from the Evanston Environment Board, the Evanston Energy Commission, and City of Evanston’s Community Development Department. Any volunteer assistance with implementing this code in Evanston is appreciated.

Evanston Energy Commission Needs Members

The Evanston Energy Commission has openings available for people with technical backgrounds related to any of the following: electrical systems, power generation, energy supply, energy management, building mechanical systems, utilities, and related fields. Due to recent member retirements, term expirations, and relocations, several vacancies need to be filled. The Energy Commission is a volunteer advisory body to the Administration and Public Works Committee of the Evanston City Council.

Recent activities have focused on the City’s franchise agreement with ComEd and issues related to adoption of an energy conservation code. Scheduled meetings are typically two hours long held during the first week of each month. Applications can be found online at the City of Evanston’s website. Applicants meeting the membership criteria are selected by the Mayor. If you or someone you know may be interested, please apply!

Contact any of the following people for more Energy Commission information:
Del Leppke, Chairman (847/475-4251)
Dennis Marino, Asst. Dir. of Community Development for Planning (847/866-2928 x2263)
Joel Freeman, Member (work: 847/328-3555 x216)

Upcoming Event Reminder

What: Annual Solar Tours

When: Saturday, October 2, 10 AM–2 PM.

Fee: None

The National Tour of Solar Places is held every October throughout the United States. In over 100 communities in 42 states, solar homeowners open their doors to visitors to demonstrate the renewable energy and conservation features of their homes. The tour highlights solar energy technologies that are working right now, in real places for real people.

North Shore Solar Tour: Typically includes homes in Skokie, Evanston, Wilmette, Winnetka, Lincolnwood, and Zion. Homes are often open houses and homes that are "outdoor viewing" only. Maps will be available with addresses for homes on the tour. The Tour includes single family houses and lists additional addresses for solar installations not on the tour. You can expect to see solar thermal panels (used for heat and hot water), solar photovoltaic panels (PV) for electricity generation, and several homes integrate panels into the architecture of the building.

Coordinating organization: Solar Service, Inc., 847/677-0950.

Look for updated event info online at:

<http://www.solarserviceinc.com/>

<http://www.illinoisrenew.org/events/events-annualsolartour2003.html>

<http://www.ases.org/>

<http://www.iseanetwork.org/events/>

Evanston's Affordable Housing Future: Inclusionary Housing Ordinance

Carol Balkcom's recent letter to the *Evanston Review* (8/19) was right on target. Condo proposals continue to roll in yet no action is forthcoming from the city on the proposed Inclusionary Zoning ordinance. Carol mentioned the planned 80 units for the Shure Bros. site, but there are more. The 21-story building proposed for the 1500 block of Maple (100 feet above allowable height) includes 165 condos. Thirty-four units are proposed for the old Vineyard Church building on Ridge while just to the north another 60 condominiums are slated for a 7-story building on the lot across from Hecky's. And this doesn't count the 237 condos already approved for Clark & Oak, the 253 coming at Sherman Plaza, and the 248 Optima units just being completed on Elgin.

Add these numbers to the 1500 plus other condo units already completed in the downtown area and still **ONLY 11 OF THESE 2500 PLUS UNITS HAVE BEEN OR ARE PROPOSED TO BE SET ASIDE AS AFFORDABLE UNITS, AND THOSE FEW WERE IN EXCHANGE FOR BEING ABLE TO EXCEED HEIGHT AND DENSITY LIMITS FOR THE SITE.**

Meanwhile, the proposal for an Inclusionary Housing ordinance languishes in the city's Community Development Department with no scheduled introduction to the Planning and Development Committee.

Who knows--perhaps our alderpersons are thinking that the high-priced condos will become such a glut on the market that they will lose their value and decline into the affordable range. Just recently, I learned from a local realtor that several early buyers of already constructed condos have had to sell their units at below the price they paid for them. Either they found the poorly insulated (due to Evanston's antiquated building code) units too expensive to heat and cool or they couldn't pay the high condo assessments or taxes, but whatever the reason, it doesn't seem that the developers are the ones being penalized, just the home buyers.

We are still seeking signatures on a petition asking aldermen to act on Inclusionary Zoning. If you agree that affordable housing should be included in these many buildings going up in Evanston, please sign your name to the petition on the Evanston's Affordable Housing Future website
<http://www.evanstonhousing.com/guestbook2k/petitionform.php>

Three Congregations Make Sustainability Pledge

The Evanston Circle is challenging religious congregations to make a commitment to sustainability in all areas of their life together: their facilities, liturgy, education program, and use of resources. Three congregations have signed on so far: Evanston Friends Meeting, Sheil Catholic Center at Northwestern University, and the Unitarian Church of Evanston. For more information, contact Steve Perkins, 773/278-4800 ext. 155

Habitat Restoration Work Day

The Evanston Interreligious Sustainability Circle will cut buckthorn and plant seeds at Harms Woods on Sunday, October 3. The work session will begin with a brief religious reflection; then we're down to work. The work day is appropriate for all adults and young people 9 years of age or older. Let us know if you are coming. And bring others from your religious congregation. (See details in Calendar section.)

Calendar

Sept. 9: Committee on Paratransit in Evanston meeting. 5:00 PM (Council for Jewish Elderly, 1015 W. Howard, 1st floor). Contact: Kerwin Terry 847/556-8450.

Sept. 11: Farmer's Market Non-profit day. 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM. (Evanston's Farmer's Market, University & Oak).
Contact: Gina Letierre amazonpaganqueen@yahoo.com

Sept. 12: Evanston Circle Meeting. 2-4 PM (Friends Meeting House, 1010 Greenleaf).

Sept. 22: Evanston's Transportation Future Meeting. 7:30 – 9:00 PM (City Hall, Room 3650). Contact: Rick Martin rmartin101@comcast.net

Oct. 2: North Shore Solar Tour (see above article).

Oct. 3: Circle Habitat Restoration Work Day. 1-4 PM (Harms Woods). Contact: Steve Perkins, , 773/278-4800 ext. 155.