

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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CONTENTS:

Energy:	ComEd Franchise Agreement
Energy:	Wind Report
Housing:	Inclusionary Ordinance
Transportation:	Pace & CTA Public Hearings
All Groups:	Farmer's Market Day
Energy:	Illinois Renewable Energy Fair
Calendar	

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

Updated Franchise Agreement Between Evanston and ComEd

In July the Evanston City Council approved the latest franchise agreement negotiated between the City and ComEd. This approval is based on the recommendations of the City's negotiating team, which included members of the City Council and key members the Energy Commission. This agreement extends the previous franchise agreement until July of 2007 with an emphasis on electric service reliability for ComEd's customers in Evanston. It stipulates more in-depth reliability reporting to the City and requires further identification of system upgrade projects.

The transition period for electricity deregulation in Illinois is scheduled to end December 31, 2006. At that time, it is anticipated that the electric industry's current

uncertainties and the effects on related electricity supply will be better understood for developing the next franchise agreement.

Wind Energy Group: Location, Location, Location

Since the wind group's proposal for a new wind turbine was turned down by the Ecology Center, a new location is being considered. The Northwestern University campus sports the best location in Evanston which takes advantage of open space and better quality offshore winds. The wind turbine of choice would be a Bergey 10KW or possibly the new Bergey 50KW which is still not available.

Northwestern University's student group "**Engineers for a Sustainable World**" has expressed a strong interest in helping the wind group with the project. They can begin fall semester. The following are a few ideas for shaping this project:

1. The engineering students could design the 120' tower and construct it in class (possibly NU funded). Perhaps the tower becomes a new light weight, attractive, unique design that takes advantage of new manufacturing technology, perhaps pre-cast concrete, using NC milled foam molds.

2. NU students could design the mounts connecting the tower to the old observatory foundation (possibly NU funded).

3. The turbine could provide the electricity to charge up the Evanston "ELECTRIC MODEL T" car, conceived and constructed by Evanston resident Charlie Sheridan. The vintage character of the Model T could very well attract media attention in many Evanston such as parades, or to transport the mayor to special events, which would leave people with a fresh and positive view of how wind energy can be used. NU also has electric vehicles that could be powered by the turbine if it could supply enough energy. Perhaps the wind turbine could power a charging station for vehicles.

4. The students may want to design the charging station and/or the storage area for the vehicles (there is a lot of thought needed on this part of it).

Future projects for students may include the continuation of this project.

Contact: Ross Vagnieres ross@rvdstudio.com

Evanston's Affordable Housing Future: Inclusionary Housing Ordinance

While affordable housing is in the news regionally because of the recently passed Illinois Affordable Housing and Appeals Act, in Evanston the topic seems to be on the back burner. Meanwhile, the Community Development Department has

determined that for the first six months of 2004 median house sales rose to \$380,000 and the Plan Commission is studying whether they should recommend that the Evanston part of the National Louis University property currently on the market should be rezoned from university use to R-1 (single family only) or to a possible higher R zoning. Almost certainly, if it is zoned R-1, it will be a development of homes costing \$1,000,000 and up, while if greater density is permitted with a higher R zoning, there could potentially be some more affordable units built there.

If an inclusionary housing ordinance had been passed in Evanston, such a development would be required to include a proportion of affordable units. The latest news on Evanston's proposed inclusionary housing policy is that, in cooperation with the city, Business and Professional People in the Public Interest is drafting two proposed ordinances. One would require that developers set aside affordable housing units in condo conversions. The other would amend the zoning ordinance in an unspecified way. Since it has been fully 3 months since the proposal was presented to the aldermen, there needs to be exerted some pressure to move this forward. Letters to the editor of the local papers as well as calls and letters to your aldermen are needed. This change will require LOTS of public pressure.

Petition. If you agree that affordable housing should be included in the many buildings going up in Evanston, please sign your name to a petition on the Evanston's Affordable Housing Future website. We need lots of names on the petition before we present it to the Committee.

<http://www.evanstonhousing.com/guestbook2k/petitionform.php>

A call directly to your alderperson or a letter would also be effective ways to make your wishes known about this issue.

Contact: Sue Carlson sdsue@sbcglobal.net

Evanston's Transportation Future: Pace & CTA Public Hearings

On July 22 Pace held a public forum to review and solicit comments on its recommendations for route revisions in the North Shore Service Area. Most ETF members support the improved Evanston service, which includes the extension of the 250 route from Des Plaines to the O'Hare Kiss 'n Fly, giving Evanstonians direct service to the airport. Other improvements include a new route 211, linking Evanston and Northeastern University via Main and Crawford, terminating at Purple and Brown Line stations; also, route 208 is to be extended to Woodfield Mall.

On July 27 CTA will hold a formal public hearing on whether to make its current North Shore experimental bus routes permanent. ETF supports that action, on the grounds that, paradoxically, it will be easier to make adjustments on individual routes once the current experimental phase is ended. Also, "permanent" status on the current routes will facilitate serious marketing efforts to increase ridership.

The major focus by both Pace and CTA bus planners has been on routes for the last year or so. Now that the routes studies are nearing completion, ETF believes that it is time for new direction to (among other things):

1. publicize and market the new routes, employing the principles of Community-Based Social Marketing, which identifies barriers to use of public transit and solutions to these barriers;
2. agitate for additional public funding for more service;
3. study the possibility of a Transportation Management Association (TMA) to coordinate the numerous agencies at work in paratransit service.

Farmer's Market Non-Profit Day: Volunteers Needed

Once again the Evanston's Future groups have reserved a space at the day set aside for non-profit organizations at Evanston's Farmers' Market. The date is Saturday, September 11, 7 – 1:00 PM. Volunteers are needed to set up and staff the table. If your group has brochures or other handouts you'd like to include, please let Gina know. *Contact:* Gina Letierre amazonpaganqueen@yahoo.com

Upcoming Event Reminder: Third Annual Illinois Renewable Energy Fair

The Illinois Renewable Energy Association (IREA) supports sustainable energy development in Illinois. IREA provides hands-on opportunities for the Illinois public to learn about the benefits, potentials, and uses of renewable energy and energy-efficiency for our homes and businesses.

When: Saturday, August 7, 9AM–6PM and Sunday, August 8, 9AM–5PM.

Where: Ogle County Fairgrounds, 1440 Limekiln Rd., just north of Hwy. 64 west of Oregon (about 2 hours west of Chicago's Loop)

Special Field Trips are planned: \$3/person (Sign up in advance – space limited)

Friday	6 – 7:00 pm	Energy Efficient Homes (exhibitors)
Saturday	6 - 7:00 pm	Energy Efficient Homes
Saturday	6 – 8:30 pm	Earth Sheltered Home
Sunday	5 – 7:30 pm	Mendota Hills Wind Farm

To purchase tickets, send email with name, address, field trip and number of tickets wanted to: sonia@essex1.com You will be notified if there is still room. Also,

volunteers are needed to work at the Fair in 2-hour slots. If interested, send email to sonia@essex1.com.

Who to Contact for more info: IREA President: Bob Vogl, , 1230 E. Honey Creek Road. Oregon, IL 61061 (815) 732-7332, sonia@essex1.com

Calendar

Sept. 1: Evanston's Energy Future Meeting. 7:30 – 9:00 PM, Friends Meeting House (1010 Greenleaf, Evanston). *Contact:* Joel Freeman jf@grummanbutkus.com or Derek Supple d-supple@northwestern.edu

Sept. 11: Farmer's Market Non-profit Day. 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM – Evanston's Future groups will have a table. *Contact:* Gina Letierre amazonpaganqueen@yahoo.com