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CGE NEWS

July 2020

Welcome to Our New President and Board Members!



Welcome to CGE's new president, **Rachel Rosner**, a life-long Evanstonian, former classroom teacher and Program Naturalist, a ClimateReality Leader, trained by Al Gore, and a proud Leadership Evanston Alum. She is delighted to be working with such a phenomenal team of experts to usher in the next chapter of CGE. She replaces **Hal Sprague**, who led CGE during 2019. Thanks and kudos to Hal for his efforts!

We're also pleased to introduce our enormously talented and committed new board members:



Joel Freeman is an engineer who, among many contributions, co-authored Evanston's Climate Action Plans in 2008 and 2012.



Susan Kaplan is an environmental lawyer, researcher, and writer who teaches at Northwestern with particular interest in environmental health.

Jean Saunders brings a deep marketing background and an interest in supporting local food systems.



Allison Sloan co-leads Natural Habitat Evanston and brings deep expertise and experience in plant life, trees, and birds.

Finally, CGE welcomes ETHS students **Jacob Brodsky** and **Lily Aaron** to our board, which means that the board now has a total of four students, the most we've ever had!

Black Lives and Environmental Justice in Evanston

Members of CGE's [**Environmental Justice Evanston \(EJE\)**](#) group co-wrote [**an article**](#) that appeared in the Evanston RoundTable on Juneteenth. The article covered what environmental justice is, how it affects Evanston, and what those who are concerned about it can do to support EJE's efforts to address it. The article makes clear that "there is work going on right now in Evanston to achieve environmental justice, and that work needs your support."

EJE has also been working with the City on an environmental justice resolution, which had been progressing through the steps needed for adoption by the city council. While progress was halted by the coronavirus outbreak in March, efforts on the resolution should restart in July.

On a related note, results of [**the Waste Transfer Station Air Quality Study Report**](#) are now available. The six-month study was conducted last year due to ongoing concerns regarding the [**Transfer Station**](#) at 1711 Church St. Among the report's recommendations: "prioritizing nitric oxide and formaldehyde as parameters of greatest interest for any future work." Also high among the priorities are sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide. The City will hold a final community meeting so that residents can share comments, concerns and questions with the consultant and City staff. The date is still being determined.

Greenbuilt Tour Features Evanston Home

The [GreenBuilt Home Tour](#) gives you a chance to visit Illinois houses with attractive, affordable, and sustainable building practices. This year's virtual tour features an [Evanston home](#) - an all-electric ADU (accessory dwelling unit) coach house built behind an existing two-flat that demonstrates how sustainability and social equity can work hand-in-hand. The virtual tour of the Evanston home is July 8 at 3:30 p.m. You can tour other homes on July 15,22 and 29. [Register here for all tours.](#)

Find Out About Community Solar in Evanston

If you can't put solar panels on your home but want to support new renewable energy in Illinois with no upfront investment, you can now become a community solar subscriber. You will save money while also supporting local renewable energy. Join Trajectory Energy Partners and CGE for this live webinar via Zoom to learn about community solar in Evanston. The presentation will cover program details, savings benefits, contract terms, how to sign up, and more. It will be followed by Q&A.

When: Tuesday, July 21, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

[Register here.](#)

Book Discussion About the Flint Water Crisis

Watershed Collective's first-ever book discussion will take place virtually on Saturday August 1. It will focus on Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha's book [What the Eyes Don't See](#), about the Flint water crisis. RSVP to water@greenerevanston.org to receive a link to the event

When: Saturday, August 1, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Food Forest and Produce Sharing Update

Edible Evanston is resuming its group tours of the Food Forest. You can schedule groups of up to 15 people (with masks) by emailing foodforest@edibleevanston.org. A minimum \$25 group fee is requested. Edible Evanston expects to resume their Work & Learn schedule in July, but [check their website](#) for details. They are also

continuing volunteer workdays weekday evenings (and soon, on Saturdays) by sign-up only on their website.

Produce sharing began in late June and continues weekly through October. Drop your garden produce in coolers placed around town and Edible Evanston will deliver the produce to Hillside Food Pantry for needy families.

When and where: Friday/Saturday at McCormick & Twiggs Community Gardens (**except** July 3-4). Tues/Wed at James Park and Elks Park Community Gardens, and Ridgeville Community House.

“Evanston Recycles” is Still Happening on July 11

Evanston will host its 10th annual recycling event on Saturday, July 11, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, at ETHS, 1600 Dodge Ave. This year, due to COVID-19, the City will be collecting ONLY electronic waste and documents for shredding. No other items will be accepted. Call 311 with questions.

Help the Evanston Rebuilding Warehouse

Do you care about reducing waste in landfill? Then consider donating to the **Evanston Rebuilding Warehouse** as it begins moving into its new, larger location this fall. The warehouse reclaims building materials and sells them at low cost to the community; proceeds support their education, job-training and job-development programs. What's not to like, right? [Donate here.](#)

Shape Evanston's Energy Future by Taking This Survey

The City wants to hear your priorities for Evanston's energy future as it works to improve the air we breathe, lower utility bills, support healthier, cleaner jobs, and achieve 100 percent renewable energy to fight the climate crisis. [Provide your input to the Energy Future survey.](#)

You can also find out how the City is moving forward with its energy

plans at a webinar on Tuesday, July 7 from 12:00 – 1:00

p.m. [Register here.](#)

The Fund for Evanston Trees

If you love Evanston's big elms and the benefits they bring to our neighborhoods, here is a way to help them and to help all Evanston residents enjoy them. CGE has established a Fund for Evanston Trees administered by the Evanston Community Foundation (ECF). Its primary purpose is to demonstrate our community support for city elm trees on parkways, in parks, and on other public lands. You may know the City is working to treat all public elm trees to prevent the devastating Dutch Elm Disease. But the fund may be used to help where the City can't. It will also help when public elm trees in underserved areas are infected and nearby residents cannot cover the cost of treatment. If elm treatment is fully funded or other events change the need for elm funding, the fund may support efforts for the care and maintenance of trees and green spaces throughout Evanston (public or private). Environmental justice for underserved neighborhoods and alignment with the City's Climate Action and Resilience Plan will guide fund spending decisions.



**Fund For
Evanston Trees**

 Citizens' Greener Evanston

[Contribute online here](#) and enter "Fund for Evanston Trees" in the Other box. Or send a check, payable to Evanston Community Foundation with "Fund for Evanston Trees" in the memo line to:

Evanston Community Foundation
1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 535
Evanston, IL 60201

Sustainability in Evanston's Schools

There has been great progress District 202, which this year passed a sustainability resolution, hired a sustainability coordinator, and implemented composting in one of the ETHS cafeterias. ETHS students also formed a Sustainability Committee, which has been working diligently over the last year with administrators and the school board to help the school implement Evanston's Climate Action Plan and build environment and climate study into the curriculum. The group includes community experts, and its student co-leads are also CGE board members.

During the spring, the committee submitted a letter to administration offering to contribute to development of ETHS's sustainability plan and made several recommendations, including the hiring of a D202 sustainability director and including climate and sustainability in the curriculum. They have also distributed a petition to administrators and board members asking ETHS to take five actions that would help for healthy, less toxic grounds and athletic fields. [Sign their petition here.](#)

In District 65, sixth graders tackled Evanston's most pressing environmental issues in their science classes. While still at home, they chose an issue of waste, water, or air quality from Evanston's [Climate Action & Resilience Plan](#) and tried to develop solutions to each. [Check out their projects here.](#)

Please note that there will be no newsletter in August.



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