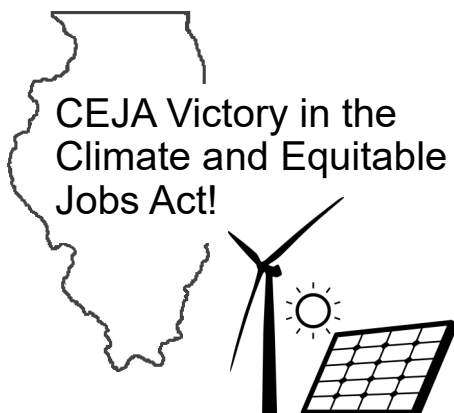




# Tallgrass Sierran

November/December 2021

THE HEART OF ILLINOIS GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB ♦ P.O. Box 3593, Peoria, IL 61612 ♦ [hoi@illinois.sierraclub.org](mailto:hoi@illinois.sierraclub.org)



## CEJA Victory in the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act!

BY JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Thanks to all who phoned, emailed, sent in letters-to-the-editor, attended press events and rallies, and in so many other ways helped to make it clear that climate action can't wait. Governor Pritzker signed the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act on September 15th.

Now the work of seeing the many excellent provisions in the bill move forward needs to be done. Read summaries of this nationally significant climate legislation in the legislation fact sheet and listing from the Peoria Democratic Central Committee of key provisions enacted by the Governor that can be found on the HOI Sierra Club website at <https://www.sierraclub.org/illinois/heart-illinois/ceja-victory-climate-and-equitable-jobs-act>.

## Inside . . .



**Bird Seed  
Order Form**



**HOI Group  
Excom Ballots**

## Peoria Park Board Says No to the Pavilion in the Park

BY JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

**Hurray for the Peoria Park Board! This public body listens to the public.**

At their October 13th regular meeting, Peoria Park Board members spoke to concerns about various aspects of the Pavilion in the Park, LLC. Board members also commented on the many postcards, emails, and calls they had received from members of the public opposing the Pavilion project. The pavilion group had withdrawn their application on October 5th but said they would return in 2022. The group proposed leasing 18 acres of

Donovan Park for a climate-controlled, open pavilion with seating for 1500 under the roof and seating for 500 outside, along with an estimated 650 car parking lot.

It should be clear to the Pavilion, LLC, that there is no reason they should return with their request in 2022. Thanks to all the HOI members who responded to email alerts, made phone calls, sent in comments, attended meetings, and assisted with yard signs. Send a Thank You to your Park District representatives! Peoria Park Board member contact information is available on the Peoria Park District website.



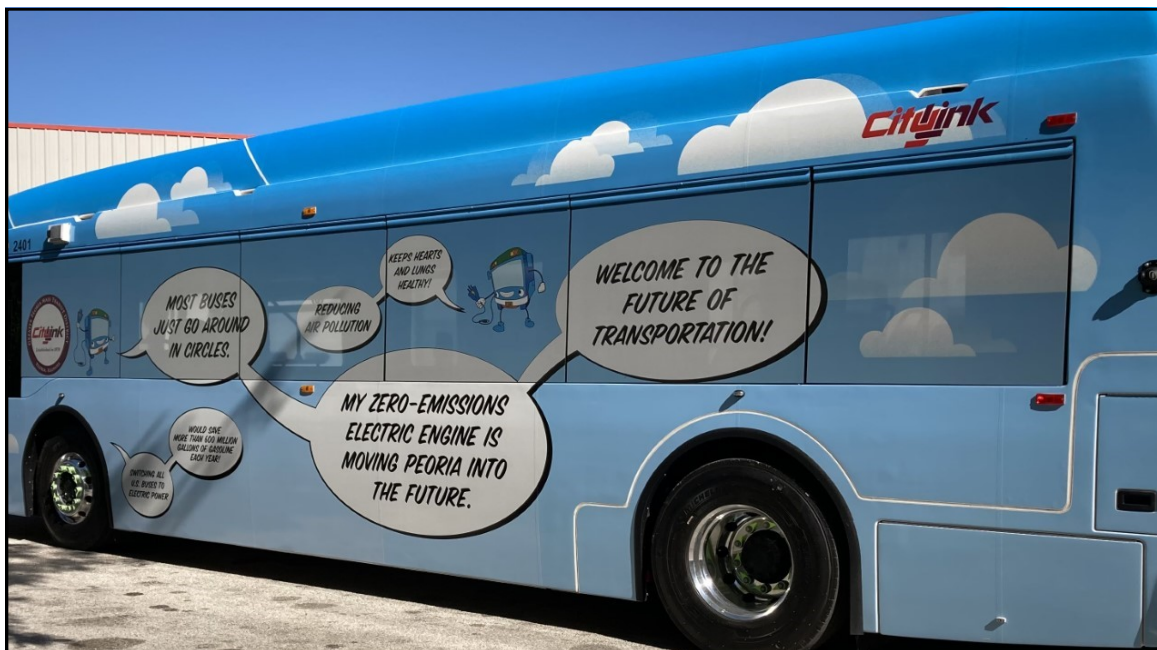
Part of the southeast corner of Donovan Park that could be destroyed for a roofed pavilion and large parking lot.



**SIERRA  
CLUB**

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet





WELCOME TO THE FUTURE OF TRANSPORTATION

REDUCING AIR POLLUTION

KEEPS HEARTS AND LUNGS HEALTHY

## CityLink Unveils New Electric Buses

Photo: Robin Nolting

CityLink unveiled three new Proterra battery-electric buses on September 8th in Peoria. One of the buses (pictured above) and the accompanying charging infrastructure was purchased as the result of a \$1.23 million grant from the Edwards Settlement Fund Distribution. The fund distribution, totaling \$8.6 million to benefit local area projects, was the result of a 2013 lawsuit filed by the Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council and the Respiratory Health Association against the owners of the E.D. Edwards coal-fired power plant in Bartonville. The HOI Group participated in the grant selection process in early 2020 which selected CityLink as one of the recipients.

## Owner Fails to Address Local Concerns about the Edwards Coal Plant Ash Pond

BY JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

### Much Frustration with Illinois Power Resources Generating LLC Corporate Staff Presentation

Thirty-seven members of the public listened and asked questions of representatives from Illinois Power Resources Generating LLC, an affiliate of Vistra subsidiary Luminant, at the Pere Marquette Hotel, October 13th, during an evening session with poor microphone quality and responses from the corporation representatives that failed to satisfy local concerns. The meeting was to discuss the timeline, site activities, data collection, and additional measures to be taken with respect to evaluating closure of the coal ash impoundments at the site. The site has a 90 acre unlined coal combustion residuals (CCR) pond that is in Illinois River floodplain soils and an area with a high groundwater table.

Local concerns include that the toxic laden ash is in contact with the groundwater and that the ash should be removed to a state-of-the-art landfill with protective liners and monitoring, located away from the Illinois River. Corporation annual reports on coal ash dust, water monitoring, and other environmental issues can be found at

<https://www.luminant.com/ccr/>. These reports and the October 13th session were the result of Sierra Club litigation regard-

ing proven groundwater contamination at Edwards and several other Illinois Power Resources Generating LLC coal plant sites.



Tracy Fox gives comments at the Edwards coal plant public session about coal ash ponds closure given by Illinois Power Resources Generating LLC staff, October 13th in Peoria. Photo: Joyce Blumenshine



# Heart of Illinois Sierra Club

## Holiday Bird Seed Sale



Support your local Heart of Illinois Sierra Club and stock up on bird seed to get you through the winter! All seed is from Kelly Seed Company. All sales must be pre-paid by the order deadline. Call 309-634-1381 for more information.

**Order Deadline:** December 2, 2021

**Pickup Day:** Saturday, December 4, 2021, 9 to 11 a.m.

**Pickup Location:** Kelly Seed and Hardware Parking Lot, 202 Hamilton Blvd., Peoria

**Optional Delivery:** Free delivery within 15 miles of Peoria. Delivery is on Saturday, December 4, 2021. Or take advantage of our Early Bird Delivery to get your seed before December 4.

**Reminder: I purchased** \_\_\_\_\_ bags of \_\_\_\_\_ bags of \_\_\_\_\_ **For** ☐ Pickup  
 \_\_\_\_\_ bags of \_\_\_\_\_ bags of \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Delivery

✂----- Mail bottom with check ----- Keep top -----

| Seed  | Size   | Price    | QTY | Subtotal |
|---|--------|----------|-----|----------|
| Black Oil Sunflower   | 25 lbs | \$ 18.00 |     |          |
|   | 50 lbs | \$ 31.00 |     |          |
| Striped Sunflower   | 25 lbs | \$ 18.00 |     |          |
|   | 50 lbs | \$ 33.00 |     |          |
| Sunflower Hearts  | 10 lbs | \$ 14.00 |     |          |
|   | 25 lbs | \$ 29.00 |     |          |
|   | 50 lbs | \$ 55.00 |     |          |
| Wild Bird Mix<br>cracked corn, black oil sunflower,<br>red milo, white milo, white millet                 | 25 lbs | \$ 13.00 |     |          |
|   | 50 lbs | \$ 22.00 |     |          |
| Songbird Mix<br>black oil sunflower, striped sun-<br>flower, sunflower hearts,<br>safflower, white millet | 20 lbs | \$ 13.00 |     |          |
|   | 35 lbs | \$ 21.00 |     |          |
| Nyjer (Thistle)   | 10 lbs | \$ 14.00 |     |          |
|   | 25 lbs | \$ 31.00 |     |          |
|   | 50 lbs | \$ 58.00 |     |          |
| Safflower   | 10 lbs | \$ 11.00 |     |          |
|   | 25 lbs | \$ 25.00 |     |          |
|   | 50 lbs | \$ 41.00 |     |          |
| No Waste Mix<br>sunflower hearts, cracked corn,<br>red millet, white millet                               | 20 lbs | \$ 21.00 |     |          |

| Seed   | Size    | Price    | QTY | Subtotal |
|--|---------|----------|-----|----------|
| White Millet   | 10 lbs  | \$ 7.00  |     |          |
|  | 25 lbs  | \$ 15.00 |     |          |
|  | 50 lbs  | \$ 28.00 |     |          |
| Peanuts in Shell   | 5 lbs   | \$ 11.00 |     |          |
|  | 25 lbs  | \$ 45.00 |     |          |
|  | 50 lbs  | \$ 82.00 |     |          |
| Peanuts No Shell   | 10 lbs  | \$ 16.00 |     |          |
|  | 25 lbs  | \$ 35.00 |     |          |
|  | 50 lbs  | \$ 66.00 |     |          |
| Cracked Corn   | 20 lbs  | \$ 7.00  |     |          |
|  | 40 lbs  | \$ 13.00 |     |          |
| Shelled Corn   | 25 lbs  | \$ 8.00  |     |          |
|  | 50 lbs  | \$ 13.00 |     |          |
| Ear Corn   | 25 lbs  | \$ 14.00 |     |          |
|  | 50 lbs  | \$ 23.00 |     |          |
| Fruit and Nut Mix<br>black oil sunflower, striped<br>sunflower, sunflower hearts,<br>peanuts (no shell), raisins | 10 lbs  | \$ 11.00 |     |          |
|  | 20 lbs  | \$ 20.00 |     |          |
| Suet Cakes   | 1 dozen | \$ 17.00 |     |          |

**Total Amount Due** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Check one:** ☐ Pick-up ☐ Delivery (Dec. 4) ☐ Early Bird Delivery

### Early Bird Delivery!

As soon as we receive your order and payment, we will contact you to schedule your bird seed delivery anytime before Dec. 4.

**Mail order form and check for amount due to:**

Heart of Illinois Sierra Club  
 P.O. Box 3593  
 Peoria, IL 61612

**Thank you for supporting the  
 Heart of Illinois Sierra Club!**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Optional: Send me an email reminder on December 2 to pick up my birdseed.

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_



## 2021 HOI Excom Election: Rules and Procedures

Ballots Due December 15

1. You must be a HOI Sierra Club member to vote.
2. Vote for up to 4 candidates for a 2022-2023 term to the Heart of Illinois Group Executive Committee.
3. Joint memberships may use Ballots #1 and #2.
4. Mail ballot(s) to: Heart of Illinois Sierra Club  
P.O. Box 3593  
Peoria, IL 61612
5. Write the name of the voting member(s) on the outside of the envelope containing the ballot.
6. Ballots must arrive at the Sierra Club's mailbox by Dec. 15.
7. Ballots will be counted by the Election Committee on Dec 15.

### Alisha Granderson

I wish to remain on the Sierra Club board because the environment is extremely important to me. I believe everyone should have access to clean air, water and food. It shouldn't be an option, but a requirement.

Being on the Sierra Club executive board, we've discussed several important issues and topics and fought hard to bring environmental changes to our community. That makes me proud as a citizen to know that major changes occurred because of the hard work that was put into it.

We've had some major bumps, hurdles and setbacks to jump but each were tackled and overcome. Some were easier than others but together, we made our impact on our communities, society, our state and the nation as a whole.

I am going to continue doing work to ensure that each and every person is given their natural born rights to have a clean and safe environment. A clean and safe environment is not an option but a necessity and being on the Sierra Club executive board means that the fight for human rights continues. Justice WILL be served!

### Dave Grebner

In my forty-five years as a member of the Sierra Club, I have served on our HOISC executive committee several times. With the environmental challenges facing our planet, our nation and our community, it is more important than ever for us to be active in working for positive change. Protecting the nature, air, land, and water around us takes some time and energy, but what we put in we get back multiplied. I would welcome the opportunity to continue to work with the Heart of Illinois Sierra Club to help in this effort.

### 2021 HOI Sierra Club Excom Election Ballot #1

\_\_\_\_\_ Alisha Granderson  
\_\_\_\_\_ Dave Grebner  
\_\_\_\_\_ Diane Jorgensen  
\_\_\_\_\_ Robin Nolting

### 2021 HOI Sierra Club Excom Election Ballot #2

\_\_\_\_\_ Alisha Granderson  
\_\_\_\_\_ Dave Grebner  
\_\_\_\_\_ Diane Jorgensen  
\_\_\_\_\_ Robin Nolting

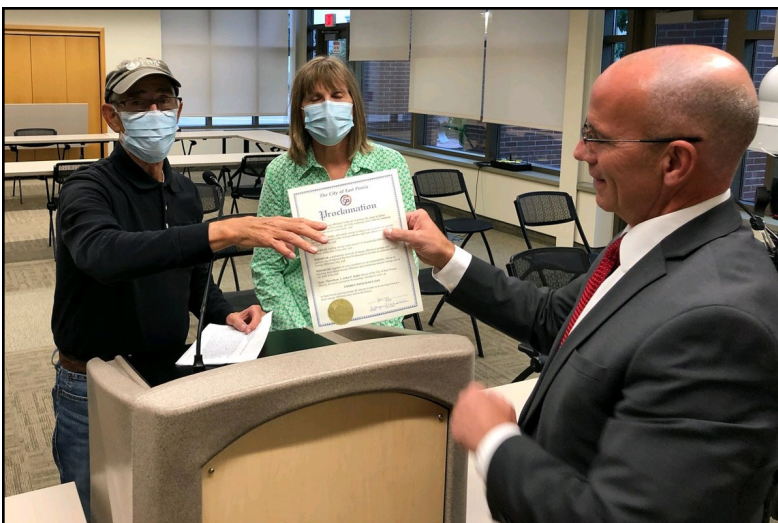
### Diane Jorgensen

I am concerned about the environment, the use of natural resources and the preservation of natural habitats. As a nature lover I want future generations to have the opportunity to enjoy and appreciate the sights and sounds of wildlife, waterfalls, running streams and rivers, to stand in awe of panoramic views, and to have clean air and water. This is why I have always tried to be an active participant in recycling and reusing and a supportive member of Sierra Club having served on the Executive Committee for many years. Through Sierra Club I have become more educated about our environment and the need to be vigilant. It would be an honor to be considered as a member of HOI Sierra Club Executive Committee.

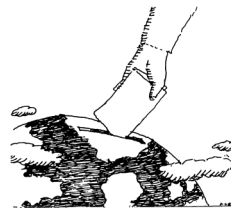
### Robin Nolting

Hello. I'm Robin Nolting, an active member of our local and national Sierra Club. And, I am currently Vice Chairperson on the Heart of Illinois Sierra Club Executive Committee; something that I am proud and very blessed to be part of! Part of this includes representing, advocating, and volunteering for HOI Sierra Club. Throughout my life, I have enjoyed hiking the Sierra Nevadas - from Lake Tahoe's sequoias, to the redwoods around San Francisco; the Grand Canyon and the Arizona Sedona area; Pennsylvania's trails and parks, Maine, Washington, Oregon, and Southern California's national and state parks. This year was the Rockies!!!

I am, also a mother, past Girl Scout leader, school volunteer tutor, and substitute teacher! I have volunteered at Dixon Mounds archaeological digs and have volunteered at our local animal shelter. I plan to continue these adventures throughout the rest of my life - as the beauty and health of our country's lands are always in my heart! I look forward to serving Sierra Club Executive Committee, again! Thank You!



## Please Vote! HOI Group Election and the Illinois Chapter Election Matter



It just takes a moment to send in your Heart of Illinois Group election ballot contained in this newsletter. Watch for your Illinois Chapter Sierra Club state Sierra board environmental update and Chapter board election ballot coming soon! You should receive a mailer from the Illinois Chapter with news and your ballot for the board members who decide on actions and allocation of resources for our state Sierra Club. Your Illinois Chapter ballot can be voted electronically or by mail. Mailed in ballots must be postmarked by December 15th for counting. Your HOI local group ballot is in this annual print edition newsletter and your response will be appreciated!

## Energy Efficiency Day Proclamation

East Peoria Mayor John Kahl presented a proclamation in recognition of Energy Efficiency Day on October 6th. Receiving the proclamation are Bob Jorgensen of HOI Sierra Club and Connie Canterbury of East Peoria Green. All citizens need to remember that energy not needed because buildings are energy efficient is the first step in slowing climate change.





If you feel like getting outdoors, join me for an unofficial hike along the Rock Island Trail at 1:00 p.m. November 28. My dog, Scooby, and I will be walking the trail starting at the Alta parking area. Be prepared for beautiful fall colors and peaceful countryside. Questions? Contact me at "doggiedad@mtco.com" or 309-222-7941. - *Dave Grebner*

Web: [sierraclub.org/Illinois/heart-Illinois](http://sierraclub.org/Illinois/heart-Illinois) Email: [hoi@illinois.sierraclub.org](mailto:hoi@illinois.sierraclub.org)

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**Secretary, Conservation Chair**      Joyce Blumenshine      309-678-1011      joblumen@yahoo.com

**HEART OF ILLINOIS**  
*Sierra Club*  
P.O. Box 3593  
Peoria, IL 61612