



# Citizens Advocating Responsible Energy **CARE** **Communicator**

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## **CARE and the DiFrancos offer *Night of Fine Dining* July 12**

The Citizens Advocating Responsible Energy (CARE) organization and the DiFrancos will present *A Night of Fine Dining* on Saturday, July 12, 5 to 7:30 p.m., at the Montville Community Center located on the east side of Rt. 528 just south of Rt. 6 in Montville.

The menu will consist of chicken Marsala, green beans Almondine, red roasted potatoes, deluxe salad, roll and butter, dessert, and coffee or soda.

Admission to the event is by pre-

sale ticket only. Tickets are \$15 per person, and may be obtained from most CARE members, or by calling 440-968-3917 or 440-636-5153.

All proceeds will benefit CARE.

**Sign CARE's  
online petition!**



**To add your name visit  
our website at:**

**[www.caregeauga.org](http://www.caregeauga.org)**

## **What's New**

### **Volunteers needed to testify at OPSB hearings**

OPSB Hearings for The Geauga County - 138 kV Transmission Line Supply Project likely will be held in July. Two types of hearings are involved in this segment of the process: public hearings and an adjudicatory hearing.

The Public Hearings are intended to allow the Administrative Law Judge to hear testimony from citizens. Witnesses at public hearings need not be affected property owners. Anyone wanting to make his or her voice heard has a right to testify at the public hearings.

The Adjudicatory Hearing is the evidentiary hearing intended for the parties in the case. (CARE's motion to intervene as a party in the case was granted; others are pending.) At this hearing, the parties, through their attorneys, present exhibits, call witnesses, cross examine the witnesses of other parties and submit briefs.

If you are interested in making a presentation at either of the Public Hearings, or if you want to be considered to be a witness on behalf of CARE at the Adjudicatory Hearing, please contact Jim Galm, e-mail [jgalm@caregeauga.org](mailto:jgalm@caregeauga.org), (216) 346-0782, as soon as possible.

## **What your townships are saying about the proposed power line . . .**

### **Thompson Township Resolution #31-07 adopted April 1, 2008**

The Thompson Township Board of Trustees met in special session on April 1, 2007, at the Thompson Ledges Park Building, in consideration of the welfare of the residents of Thompson Township affected by the possible decision by the Ohio Power Siting Board in the matter of the application of the First Energy Corporation for certification of the Geauga County 138kV transmission line project, do hereby wish to make the following known:

In consideration of the possible decision to have the First Energy Corporation, Geauga County 138kV transmission line pass through the property of residents of Thompson Township, we the Trustees of said township, wish to voice our concern for our residents' health, safety, financial loss and displacement from their homes, ask that the proposed Clay Street and State Route 528 paths be dropped from consideration. Furthermore, First Energy Corporation should submit safer paths farther east in more rural areas with less impact on homes, farms and land or using existing right-of-ways. Any stipulations contained in the Final Decision of the Ohio Power Siting Board Report need to benefit the well being of the residents and the land of Thompson Township and favorably impact all future generations.

## **CARE CONTACTS**

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<b>Mike Youshak,</b> Vice President	<a href="mailto:myoushak@caregeauga.org">myoushak@caregeauga.org</a> - (440) 636-5294
<b>Sharon Blankenship,</b> Secretary	<a href="mailto:sblankenship@caregeauga.org">sblankenship@caregeauga.org</a> - (216) 337-5849

**CARE meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month at the Montville Community Center, next to the Fire Station on Rt. 528, just south of US Rt. 6, Montville. Everyone welcome.**  
**The next CARE meeting will be Thursday, July 3**  
**Find us on the Web at [www.caregeauga.org](http://www.caregeauga.org)**

### **CARE to take part in Thompson 4th of July**

CARE will participate in the traditional 4th of July observance on the Public Square in Thompson. A variety of cold refreshments, plus children's games will be offered at the CARE tent. CARE members will be on hand to answer questions about the proposed power line.

### **Show your support!**



**Display a  
CARE  
Yard Sign  
For yours  
Call Pat at**

**440-636-5153**

# June 23 conference could set dates for postponed public hearings

## What your townships are saying about the proposed power line . . .

### **Montville Township Resolution 11-5-2007 adopted November 5, 2007**

WHEREAS, the Montville Township Board of Trustees, Geauga County, Ohio believe that the proposed Geauga County 138kV Transmission Line Supply Project, Case No. 07-0171-EL-BTX that will follow along Route 528 from the Lake and Geauga County borders to the potential site for a substation installed along Mayfield Road in Claridon or Huntsburg townships of Geauga County will have a negative impact on the residents, property owners and environment, we do understand the need for additional power in certain areas.

THEREFORE, the Montville Township Board of Trustees insists that the Ohio Power Siting Board re-evaluate the intended route so that existing working farmland does not take the brunt of the upgrade. First Energy has a number of lines running from substations along state routes where poles still have open space to accommodate more insulators. We are proposing that these existing poles be put to use rather than creating a new power-line corridor through eastern Geauga County. The existing right of way on Mayfield Road would be an alternative to this proposal, as would St. Rt. 11 east of the proposed area. State Route 11 already has vegetation cleared and there would be little or no impact to homeowners as the area is currently undeveloped. The need for additional power is there and the board does not dispute that issue. We just ask that existing corridors be used to their potential before creating new ones.

THEREFORE, the Montville Township Board of Trustees request that the proposed Rt. 528 route be abandoned and an existing civil corridor be put to use for the power update.

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### **Huntsburg Township Resolution #2007-132 adopted December 18, 2007**

WHEREAS, the Huntsburg Township Board of Trustees, Geauga County, Ohio are aware that the American Transmission Systems, Inc. (ATSI), a subsidiary of FirstEnergy Corp., is proposing to construct a 138kV power transmission line passing through Huntsburg Township and

WHEREAS, we, the board of trustees, do realize there is a need in surrounding communities for additional electrical power, however we feel this additional 138kV line should impact the least number of people and residential property and

WHEREAS, our community is residential and agricultural and the proposal before you breaks up many Huntsburg farms, thus limiting their ability to use their farmland to its full potential and causing a financial hardship. The proposals before you do not consider the severe impact on our agricultural community.

WHEREAS, our residents as well as the members of this board feel there is a serious safety issue involved and this proposal sends far too much power through a residential area, as well as causing the residents financial loss and displacement from their homes.

WHEREAS, no consideration has been given to the fact that a cleared corridor will be an attractive nuisance for all terrain vehicles and trespassers creating a liability for the property owners.

THEREFORE, as elected township trustees of Huntsburg Township we recognize the serious concerns and strong opposition our residents have raised over this proposed 138kV transmission line and we must request that the proposed routes State Route 528 and the alternate Clay Street be abandoned and an existing civil corridor be considered for this transmission line.

**Similar resolutions and letters of support have been adopted by:  
Chester Township - April 29, 2008, Claridon Township - April 28, 2008,  
and Troy Township - August 23 and December 13, 2007.  
CARE thanks all these Township Trustees  
for their kind support.**

Administrative Law Judge Janet Stoneking will convene a telephonic conference on Monday, June 23, during which she, the legal representatives of the Geauga County 138kV Transmission Line Project applicants, FirstEnergy subsidiaries American Transmission Systems, Inc. and The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, and the legal representatives of CARE, will review the status of the case with a view toward setting early dates for the two Geauga County public hearings and the Adjudicatory Hearing to follow in Columbus.

A brief Adjudicatory Hearing made necessary by a legal technicality took place in Columbus on May 21. After a brief discussion on procedural matters, the hearing was adjourned pending further notice from the Power Siting Board. In the course of the abbreviated hearing, Judge Stoneking responded to a question from the Applicants' attorney about setting new dates for the public hearings by saying, "The parties discussed off the record the status of discovery and other issues. Based on that information the Administrative Law Judge is not inclined at this point to include the local public hearing dates and the evidentiary hearing date in any entry published prior to the June 23 status conference."

Ranking high among the possible causes for further delay in the proceedings is the fact that a number of additional entities have filed requests to intervene. Among them are Huntsburg Township (filed 4/2/80), and the Geauga Park District (filed 6/2/80). During the May 21 Adjudicatory Hearing counsel for the applicants noted the possibility that the City of Chardon may shortly be filing a request. Judge Stoneking replied, "Just to briefly respond to your concern about the intervention cutoff, my understanding is that based on the Power Siting rules, that the normal intervention by right, that time frame has expired. However, the rules also provide that parties may intervene for just cause. So based on what's put forth in the motions for intervention, we would make a decision based on that, and I do understand if those parties do intervene and want to conduct discovery, that may impact the balance of the schedule." As of June 11, nothing having to do with a request to intervene by the City of Chardon has appeared on the case docket.

Watch CARE's website for the latest information.