



May 2026 FVEAA Newsletter

Fox Valley Electric Auto Association

fveaa.org

The FVEAA is a Not-For-Profit Illinois Corporation and the Chicago-area chapter of The Electric Vehicle Association

When: Friday, May 15, 2026

Doors open at 6:45 pm The meeting starts at 7 pm and will run until about 9 pm.

Where: 102 S 2nd St, Geneva, IL 60134

Map: [Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva](#)

Virtual Meeting: [Zoom Meeting Link](#)

Dial-in for audio-only users: Call: 312-626-6799 Enter Meeting ID when prompted: 95901481473# Participant ID: (blank, just #) *6 mutes/unmutes

Meeting Agenda:

6:45 Virtual meeting begins to test connections and chat

7:00 Introductions

7:20 Tom Jones from EVgo “*My Experiences at EVgo and as an EV Driver*”

8:20 Break

8:25 Ted Liu - “*2026 Chicago Auto Show*”

8:40 Marty Belovicz - “*The Quest for Charging Near my Apartment*”

9:00 Adjourn

President's Words

Tracey McFadden

Greetings all,

Warmer weather has finally arrived, bringing more opportunities to get out and spread the word about the many benefits of driving electric vehicles. We look forward to participating in EV events throughout our area in the coming months.

Last Month's Artificial Intelligence Presentation: On Friday, April 24th, FVEAA member Tom Coleman offered a fascinating, informative, and yet alarming talk on artificial intelligence (AI). AI data centers pose many problems, among them:

- 1) **Financial Burden:** The immense power demand can strain the electrical grid, leading to increased utility rates for local households as infrastructure upgrades are passed on to consumers.

2) **Water Scarcity:** Cooling systems can "guzzle" up to 5 million gallons of water per day. This strains local water supplies.

3) **Reliance on Fossil Fuels:** To meet immediate, massive power needs, some utilities have delayed closing fossil fuel plants or proposed reviving retired gas plants. This directly undermines state and national carbon reduction goals.

4) **Environmental and Climate Challenges:** The rapid expansion of data centers often outpaces the transition to green energy, leading to "climate chaos."

5) **Noise Pollution:** HVAC systems and backup generators create a constant hum that can reach 96 decibels. Residents have reported sleep disturbances, chronic stress, and hearing loss as a result.

Upcoming Advocacy Trip to Springfield: Come along for a fun time as we head to the Capitol on Saturday, May 30th, to stand up for fair utility costs, clean water, and climate action in Illinois. No experience needed—and no pressure to speak. Just being there makes a huge difference. We will be joining others from across the state to support the POWER Act, a bill that ensures large data centers cover their own costs—not pass them on to families through higher utility bills and strained resources.

EV owners have a direct stake in this issue because transportation electrification depends on a reliable, affordable, and increasingly clean electric grid. Thoughtful planning for new AI data centers will help ensure Illinois can support both technological innovation and continued EV growth.

A free bus will depart from the UU church in Geneva (where we have our monthly meetings) that morning and return around 6:30 p.m. Registration for this event is required, and lunch will be provided. It would be helpful if you could register as soon as possible. If you can join us, [please sign up using this link](#).

Last Month's Rivian Meeting and Drive: A big thank you to Rivian representative Katie Allenson for speaking to our group and providing an opportunity to test-drive the R1S. Everyone enjoyed the experience and appreciated the chance to have their questions answered. We also enjoyed a great lunch together at Aurelio's Pizza.

Earth Day at Peck Farm Park Sat., April 18th, 2026 was an excellent, though chipper day with EVs well represented. Thanks to all who participated, Ted Liu, Jeff, Bruce, Ben Schmidt plus a bonus walk-on (drive-up?) guest, Joel Sisto with his VW IDBuzz - see the photos below in the newsletter.

Aurora Greenfest: The Aurora Greenfest on May 2nd was a rousing success. Six EV's and their owners were at the event. Our group was placed at the entrance bridge to the event, so we had good visibility, and a lot of interest among people walking past. Our FVEAA members answered questions about range, charging times, operating costs, etc. According to Ted Liu, "I don't recall many or any (EV) naysayers ...definitely a lot less than events in past years." Ted believes gas prices are making people take a hard look at switching to EVs. Parked next to us was also a BlueBird electric School Bus on display.

This Month's Meeting: Our guest speaker this month will be Tom Jones, Vice President of Site Development at EVgo, who will join us via Zoom. He will speak about EVgo and his own experience as an EV driver. EVgo is one of the nation's largest public EV fast-charging networks, operating more than 5,280 charging stalls across 47 states as of May 2026. This will be a great opportunity to learn more about EV fast-charging infrastructure, EVgo's current and future initiatives. Be sure to bring questions for Tom. His bio is included below.

If time allows, we may also hear from our Vice President, Marty Belovicz, who will share some of the challenges and solutions he encountered while finding charging options after moving into a new apartment. In addition, Ted Liu, FVEAA board member, will share his impressions of the 2026 Chicago Auto Show.

Stay Charged!

Tracey

May Guest Speaker Bio

Tom Jones is Vice President of Site Development at EVgo, where he leads the strategy and execution behind the nationwide deployment of fast-charging infrastructure for electric vehicles. In his role, Tom sits at the intersection of real estate, infrastructure, and energy transition—overseeing everything from site origination and landlord partnerships to complex lease negotiations and delivery at scale.

He works closely with national retailers, institutional property owners, utilities, and internal engineering and legal teams to bring charging stations from concept to operation in real-world, highly regulated environments. His work focuses on balancing speed of deployment with disciplined risk management, compliance, and long-term asset performance.

Tom brings a practical, execution-driven perspective to the challenges of scaling EV infrastructure, informed by hands-on experience navigating land use, easements, environmental and ADA requirements, and host partnerships across diverse markets. His leadership is grounded in turning ambitious clean-energy goals into infrastructure that actually gets built.

Vice President's Words

Marty Belovicz

Fellow EV team members:

I will be working with the Fox Valley mall and complex. I am also looking for a few other EV events -information forthcoming.

I would also like to see what interests and projects you would like to see or help with. My email is martin.belovicz@mail.com, and my phone number is 847-321-5734.

Board Member / Historian's Words

Christopher Sharp

Nothing this month.



Jay Womack, organizer of the Peck Farm Park Earth Day event on April 18th, along with Ben Schmidt and Ted Liu.



Joel Sisto with his VW ID Buzz, along with Ted Liu and Jeff Miller enjoying the brisk morning at Peck Farm Park Earth Day



Tom Coleman presentation



Tom Coleman presenting on AI





Katie Allenson and Mike Moravek taking a test drive of the Rivian R2S



Doug Brezina, Jeff Miller, Ted Lowe, Bob Baker lining up for a drive

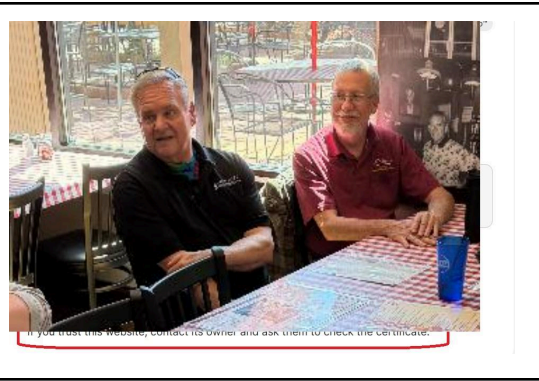


Kurt Moreland taking a selfie

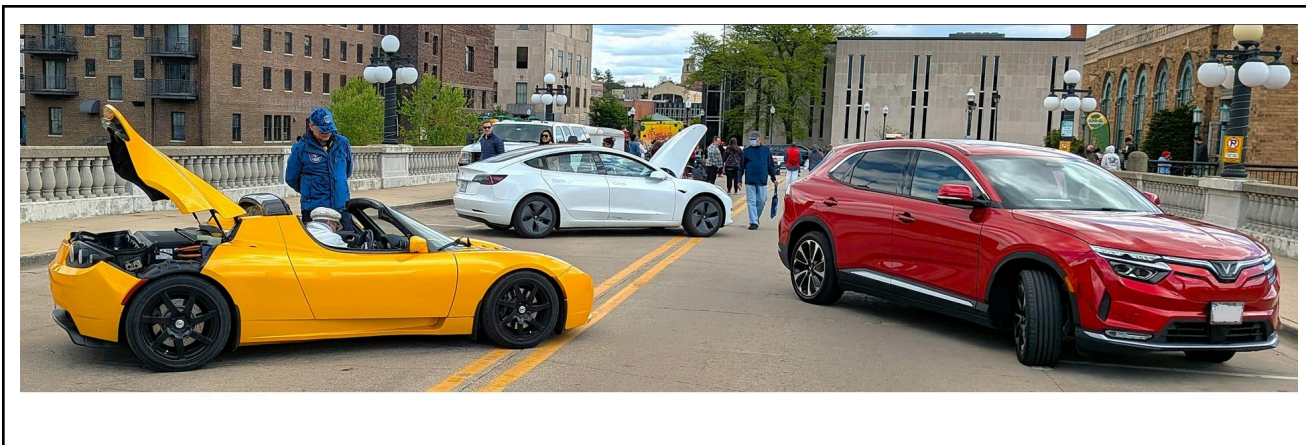


Pizza Lunch at Aurelios in Geneva after the morning drives.





Aurora Green Fest May 2, 2026 Bruce Jones, Tracey McFadden



Jaclyn Feakins with her beautiful (vintage) Tesla Roadster (and our FVEAA banners in the background on the bridge!)



Judd Lofchie and Bob Kaplow



Bruce Jones and Ted Liu



Judd Lofchie's Vinfast EV



Andy Brainard driving his Genesis GV70



Bluebird electric school bus driver and Ted Liu



Upcoming Events

Rich Hirschberg

Upcoming Advocacy Trip to Springfield:

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VFW Post 5151 Vehicle Show

Tentative date: TBD - delayed due to lack of vet volunteers

Tentative times: 10 AM to 3 PM

Location: TBD (possibly Caputo's Fresh Market, 1250 E Lake St., Hanover Park, 60133)

Website: <https://Post5151VehicleShow.weebly.com/>

Resurrecting my old vehicle show with trophies, prizes, DJ music, a silent auction, mustache contest, charities, business sponsors, and other fun items

Take care, Rich Hirschberg (c/t) 847.347.7171

Login to our FVEAA website for access to lots of member-only tools!

Ted Lowe

You can use the many membership-only tools on our website after you login! If you haven't logged in to our website already, please check your email for instructions and login to check it out! Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks!

FVEAA On Facebook - Join Us! Like Us!

Ted Lowe

The **FVEAA Facebook group** has 137 members as of 12/10/25! If you're on Facebook but not in the group yet, please join us! If you're not on Facebook yet, please consider joining so you can join our group there. This group supplements our forums because it is much easier to use, read, post pictures and videos and get notifications. Please let me know if you have any questions/comments/suggestions. Hope to see you there!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/889497691136309/>

Here is the **FVEAA's Facebook Page**. Like Us!

<https://www.facebook.com/FoxValleyElectricAutoAssociation>

FVEAA On YouTube - Check out our videos!

Ted Lowe

The **Fox Valley Electric Auto Association** has a YouTube channel! Subscribe to us and check out our videos! We've had this channel for many years but we're going to start using it more to attract new members and promote EVs. Please let me know if you have some FVEAA-related videos to post.

<https://www.youtube.com/@evsforever/videos>

Membership Update

Ted Lowe

Keep an eye on the **active paid-up** members count! Many members have taken advantage of the multi-year renewals offered on the website! **Please renew** & recruit new folks!!!



FVEAA Membership Report

as of 2026-05-11 05:58:04

Count of Members by Type

Membership Type	Count	Paid Up
Business	1	1
Family	4	4
Individual	57	56
Lifetime	2	2
Reciprocal	1	1
Totals	65	64

Other Statistics

Statistic	Value
% Paid Up	98.5%
Avg. Paid Up Days	400.9 days
% With Email	96.9%

Encouraging Our Membership To Grow and Some History

Ted Lowe

We live in a large metro area with 8 million people and EV adoption is growing, so we should be able to grow the FVEAA! **Please invite your friends, neighbors, family, colleagues**, etc. to FVEAA meetings and Events. Volunteer to attend Events on behalf of the FVEAA (with or without an EV)! Your ideas on how to help grow the FVEAA are welcome at any time, thanks! Howard Hansen had a **great idea**... giving an FVEAA membership as a gift!

Our membership count peaked at 255 members in October 2008 when gas was nearing \$5 per gallon! We were also attending lots of invitational Events with our converted EVs. The first Tesla Roadster was just coming into being. **Let's get out there and grow the FVEAA!!!**

Monthly Treasurer Reports

Mike Moravek

I post a brief Treasurer's Report to our forums around the time our monthly newsletter is published.

I am publishing our various cash balances (Money Market, Checking, PayPal) to this location:

[FVEAA Committees > Finance > Treasurer Reports](#)

This area of the forums can only be seen by FVEAA members. As a State Of Illinois Non-Profit Corporation, we have no requirement to publish our assets or financial statements publicly.

To make it easier to see the latest Treasurer Report, here is a forums tip to display latest posts on top:

<https://www.fveaa.org/forums/index.php?topic=1825.msg5662#msg5662>

Feel free to contact me at moravekmike@gmail.com if you have any FVEAA financial matters to discuss. Thank you!

Membership Renewals

Ted Lowe

Our membership system sends out “renewal reminder emails” before your membership is due. You will receive up to 3 before being marked “not renewed” (inactive). The sooner you renew, the fewer emails you will receive :) So please pay attention to your email from the FVEAA and renew online using this link (for the easiest approach for all of us):

<https://www.fveaa.org/renew> **THANK YOU for your continued support of the FVEAA!**

FVEAA Membership Application Form - Version 2023-12-04

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State Zipcode: _____

Phone: _____ Phone Type: Home ___ Work ___ Cell ___

Email: _____

Please check one: New Member _____ Renewal _____

How did you hear about the FVEAA ? _____

Membership Types and Annual Dues (please circle one):

Individual	\$20 (1 year), \$38 (2 years), \$56 (3 years)
Business	\$100
Premier Business	\$250
Charter Business	\$500
Youth (21 or younger)	\$10

Newsletter Delivery Type (please circle one): No Newsletter Electronic

Please make checks payable to "FVEAA" and postal mail it with this membership application form to:

FVEAA**PO Box 214****Wheaton, IL 60187-0214**

Attn: Membership

FVEAA Charter Business Members

Illinois Alliance for Clean Transportation (IACT)

Samantha Bingham
2 N LaSalle St #950
Chicago, IL 60602
Email: info@il-act.org
Web: <https://il-act.org>



Illinois Alliance for Clean Transportation (IACT) (formerly known as Chicago Area Clean Cities) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit working to promote the use of clean fuels for clean air throughout Illinois. Our alliance includes people from private business, academia, government, scientific research and energy and environmental services. Our main goal is to help with the adoption of cleaner transportation options.