

WELL NEWSLETTER – August 22, 2006

Calendar of WELL Events

September 4 – Labor Day Picnic Noontime, Willits City Park

Bring a picnic and your family to this informal, summertime gathering.

September 11 – Coordinating Committee elections 6:30pm, Willits Community Center

Come VOTE, or be voted for, WELL's first Coordinating Committee! See the Governance Document for more details and check our website:

<http://www.willitseconomiclocalization.org/WELLCandidateStatements082006.pdf>
to read the candidate statements.

Please arrive at this meeting on time. We will begin at 6:30 with a Membership drive. In order to vote, you must be a current member of WELL. For more details on membership, please see our website:

<http://www.willitseconomiclocalization.org/WELLMembershipDocJuly2006.pdf>

September 25: Speaker Event: Garden & Farm Presentations

6:30pm, Willits Community Center – 121 E. Commercial St.

At this evening you will hear presentations about the Brookside Community Farm, Marin Street Garden, the Gleaners, and Spring Grove Healing Garden.

This will also be a time to advertise October "C'mon Home to Eat" events and can be a venue for anyone who's involved in local food production to have a poster or mention it.

Other Events

September 10 - Willits Wellness Network Monthly Meeting Noon – 2pm, 130 Tuttle Lane or 475 E. Valley

An opportunity for health care providers to connect, for all those interested in promoting the localization of community, public, social, mental, environmental and natural health, the sourcing of natural remedies and medical supplies, health education, etc. Call Diane: 456.9514, for more information.

The Now and Then Film Series – Fall 2006 schedule:

All films to be shown starting at 7PM at the Little Lake Health Center, 45 Hazel

Suggested Donation of \$5.

SEPTEMBER 14th - ENERGY FILMS covering wind, ethanol, photovoltaics, geothermal

"WIND POWERING NATIVE AMERICA" (19min) - the conception and building of the 750 Megawatt plant in the hills of the Lakota nation
"WE WERE WARNED - TOMORROW'S OIL CRISIS" (43 minutes) - interviews on our present energy scenario and a look into the possibilities of the future.

OCTOBER 5TH - "OUR DAILY BREAD" an upbeat film depicting the creation of community revolving around food production

OCTOBER 19th - "FED UP" - Overview of our food production system from the Green Revolution to the Biotech Revolution and what we can do about it... including historical footage of Monsanto's development of GMO's

NOVEMBER 10TH – "Rainwater Collection for the Mechanically-Challenged" (37 minutes) – An inspirational and how-to video about collecting your water from the sky.

Cities for Climate Protection Campaign comes home.

"The Cities for Climate Protection™ (CCP) Campaign enlists cities to adopt policies and implement measures to achieve quantifiable reductions in local greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, and enhance urban livability and sustainability. More than 650 local governments participate in the CCP, integrating climate change mitigation into their decision-making processes."
(From the ICLEI website – see the link below.)

The Willits City Council will decide whether or not to sign this resolution on **Wednesday, August 23**. This is a summary of the agenda item:

BRIEF SUMMARY: Climate change caused by greenhouse gas emissions threatens to disrupt most aspects of daily life and must be addressed. Action must be universal and undertaken by individuals as well as governments at local, regional, state and national levels.

The City of Willits has the opportunity to take a leadership role in the effort to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by joining a coalition of other cities in adopting a pledge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions over time. The Cities for Climate Protection resolution has been adopted by many other cities, including the cities of Sonoma County as well as Fort Bragg and Point Arena here in Mendocino County.

Some reasons to adopt the Cities for Climate Protection resolution include:

By reducing greenhouse gas emissions as much as possible, the City will be doing what it can to address the serious problem of global warming.

By taking a leadership role to reduce fossil fuel emissions, the City will be setting an example for its citizens to follow, actively demonstrating that global warming is a serious issue that must be addressed.

By joining a coalition of other cities, the City of Willits will add momentum to the message that this is a problem of serious concern to our citizens, and hopefully the higher levels of government will get the message.

Reducing fossil fuel usage will result in cost savings to the city.

Converting to renewable forms of energy will stimulate local businesses that specialize in alternative energy technology and innovation.

The resources and assistance of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) will be available to the City through membership. Jason Bradford has offered to pay the membership fee (\$600) for the first year.

I have attached the resolution being considered, you can also read it at our website:

<http://www.willitseconomiclocalization.org/WillitsCCPResolution.pdf>

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors Resource Committee is also recommending adoption by the board. Stay tuned about when it is on the schedule.

WELL officially endorses this initiative at both levels. You can read a lot about this at the following website: <http://www.iclei.org/index.php?id=800>

If you would like to call your Supervisor or send a letter of support, here is some contact information:

Board of Supervisors Office

501 Low Gap Road, Room 1090
Ukiah, CA 95482

bos@co.mendocino.ca.us

(707) 463-4221

(707) 463-4245 Fax

To express yourself to **city council members**, please use the following contact information – please note Karen Oslund’s corrected email address:

Tami Jorgensen, Mayor tjorgensen@willitsonline.com

Ron Orenstein, Vice Mayor rborenstein@saber.net

Karen Oslund, Council Member koslund@instawave.net

Holly Madrigal, Council Member one_visionary@yahoo.com

Denny McEntire, Council Member dennym@harwoodp.com

111 E. Commercial Street
Willits, CA 95490
(707) 459-4601

Some points to make in your statement could include the following:

Climate change severely threatens the economy and health of California.

To prevent the worst effects of climate change requires that total consumption of fossil fuels be systematically reduced, year after year.

The public needs leadership and coordination to create an energy efficient, renewable-based economy.

Making these changes will give us greater economic diversity and stability, and a cleaner and quieter environment.

Mendocino County has the knowledge base to work across public and private sectors to make this happen.

If you want to learn more about climate change see the latest articles at:

www.energybulletin.net

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training Offered in Willits

CERT Training classes include disaster preparedness, disaster fire suppression, basic disaster medical operations, and light search and rescue operations.

Space is limited in these excellent classes, so if you're interested, please register early.

There are five class times on Tuesday nights from 6 – 9:30pm, from September 12 through October 3. There is also a Saturday session. The cost for all of this training is only \$10.

Classes will be held at the Willits City Hall.

For more information or to register: 984.7226 or krobinson@saber.net

If you'd like to see the flyer for this event, which has more detailed information, please see our website:

<http://www.willitseconomiclocalization.org/WillitsCERTTraining.JPG>

Town Hall Meeting:

Meeting the Global Warming Challenge: National Security, Conservation and Green Technology

Wednesday, August 23, 2006 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Lucchesi Community Center, 320 N McDowell Blvd., Petaluma, CA

Sponsored and hosted by Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey

With panelists

LARRY FAHN, former National President, Sierra Club; Executive Director, As You Sow

ANN HANCOCK, Climate Protection Campaign

DELL TREDINNICK, Project Development Manager, alternative energy specialist, City of Santa Rosa

OTHERS TBA

For further information, please call Rep. Woolsey's office 707.542.7182 or 415.507.9554

Other News

Food News

Whole Foods is a questionable enterprise, because of its size and corporate nature, however, perhaps this item which Janice recently sent me could help redeem them:

I just came across a news article about the company Whole Foods describing how they are committing to support more local vegetable growers and producers of sustainably-raised meat, poultry and dairy animals. The article is in the July 26, 2006 issue of the San Francisco Chronicle.

Whole Foods is giving \$10 million a year in low-interest loans to help small local farmers/producers. For the Bay Area, local is defined as within 200 miles radius of the area, as far north as Garberville, definitely taking in Willits. This appears to be an opportunity for some of the WELL folks who want to launch these undertakings.

There is more information on the Whole Foods website – it's not really clear whether any local farmer's could be privy to this money, but it's worth checking out if you're interested: <http://wholefoodsmarket.com/products/locallygrown/>

Get Involved

WELL is a volunteer based organization. Our staff time pales in comparison with the dedicated efforts of all of you. Now that we are bringing our governance work to a close, we need volunteers to fill many of the roles we have created. If we are able to find steady and committed people to help, what we can accomplish in the next year is impressive. Take a look at the Governance Document to see which Team you might like to join. Reading the Strategic Plan will give you an idea of what each Team will be working on in the next year.

Transportation

Annie Weller is putting together a presentation about WELL's transportation ideas, projects and vision to be given to other local community groups. If you have a project, an idea or would like to help, *please* contact her: 459.4499 or abweller@pacific.net

Harvest Dance

There is a party in the works! I know a lot of you had a great time at Brian Weller's fabulous birthday party. Plans are currently well underway for a joint benefit involving WELL, REDI and the Grange on October 28. There will be costumes and music and food, dancing, auction.....

In order to have another fun and successful event, we have one very important role to fill: that of **Volunteer Coordinator** for that evening's event. Of course, we will also need all sorts of volunteers in various areas – I will keep you posted on that soon. For now – is there someone out there with some energy who'd like to help us have a financially successful, FUN event? Please call the office. This could be you – this could be fun!