

WELL NEWSLETTER – November 24, 2006

Calendar of WELL Events

November 27 – WELL Plenary

6:30PM, Willits Community Center - 111 E. Commercial St

This is our first plenary meeting since we elected a Coordinating Committee, adopted our Strategic Plan and Governance documents, and launched our “DriveWELL” membership project. We want to take this time to update everyone on Coordinating Committee activities and help people plug into Project Teams.

We have a full evening planned. Jason Bradford and Brian Weller will debut a presentation that they will be offering before the start of each future meeting. It has been designed to give newcomers the context for localization. The Coordinating Committee will then give an overview of the general direction and issues before us followed by a presentation from each member describing their role and responsibility they are assuming for a specific part of the Strategic Plan. Time will be set aside for questions & answers and for new members to identify and plug into the projects and teams that interest them. Hope you will be there with us.

December 11 – WELL Quarterly Meeting – Stone Soup & Storytelling

6:30PM – Little Lake Grange – 291 School Street

We will not be having Coordinating Committee elections as previously thought. See below for more details. Instead we are going to come together to share food, tell stories (with a couple of professional story-tellers), and informally update each other on our projects. We will be making Stone Soup. We will have one pot for vegetarian soup and one for meat soup. Bring a cutting board, a knife, and your favorite soup ingredient to add to the pot. We will tell stories while the soup is cooking. Bring your favorite story, poem or song to share with the WELL community!

January 11 – Community Forum: Highway 101 Bypass

6:30PM, Willits Community Center - 111 E. Commercial St

WELL has sent a letter to the Willits City Council supporting a two-lane bypass over a four-lane bypass. See below for more details. As a follow-up to this letter, WELL is hosting a community forum where folks can come and voice their opinion about the bypass. The evening will open with a presentation showing why a two-lane bypass is adequate for Willits and what some non-bypass options could be. Following this presentation, we will have a community discussion about this important issue.

Other Events

The Now and Then Film Series – Winter 2006 schedule:

All films start at 7PM at the Little Lake Health Center, 45 Hazel, Willits
Suggested Donation of \$5.

January 18th – “Ripe for Change” – This fascinating documentary explores the intersection of food & politics in California over the last thirty years. Today while organic food is the fastest growing sector in agriculture, most large-scaling farming is still addicted to the use of fossil fuels. 55 minutes

February 15th – “Taken for a Ride” – PBS award winning documentary about the intentional takeover & dismantling of America’s interurban short line rail systems by General Motors, Firestone Tires, etc. 60 minutes

March 15th – “Global Gardener” – Permaculture with Bill Mollison. Learn how permaculture weaves together microclimate, annual & perennial plants, animals, soil, water management and human needs into intricately connected productive communities. 120 minutes

April 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 GMOs and interviews with farmers, scientists, government officials and activists. 58 minutes

December 1 – Possibilities for the Reuse of Georgia Pacific Site – Ft. Bragg

This meeting will be at the Fort Bragg Town Hall, corner of Main and Laurel Streets, in Fort Bragg, from 7 to 9 PM. The meeting is sponsored by the Alliance for Democracy and NHUDG, and is free, although the hat will be passed to help cover expenses. For more information call the NHUDG office at 964-2477 or come by 330 N. Franklin, Suite 8, Tuesdays and Thursdays 10-3. Or call Jim Tarbell at 964-1323 or George Reinhardt at 961-1863.

December 2 – Cohousing Chat – Ukiah

A small subdivision is being planned in South Ukiah that will combine the advantages of private homes with the benefits of more sustainable living, including shared common facilities and ongoing connections with neighbors. Ukiah Valley Cohousing is hosting an informational presentation and discussion on December 2 from 1 PM to 3 PM at River Oak Charter School, 555 Leslie Street, Ukiah. Childcare will be provided. For more information contact Ukiah Valley Cohousing at (707) 391-8628 or peace@pacific.net.

December 4 – MCOG Public Hearing for Unmet Transportation Needs – Ukiah

MCOG will consider needs for public transportation services that would benefit a significant number of people and are not currently provided. This hearing applies to transportation service needs for fiscal year July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. In addition to public testimony, MCOG will hear needs reported to Mendocino Transit Authority throughout the year, and findings of MCOG’s Social Services Transportation Advisory Council. Issues may include but are not limited to: 1) transit services for the elderly, people with disabilities, and low-income or economically disadvantaged persons; 2) adequacy of both private and public transportation services, and 3) service improvements needed to meet expected travel demand. All interested persons may present testimony at this hearing. This event will begin at 1:30PM or as soon thereafter as possible, at Ukiah City Council Chambers, 300 Seminary Avenue, Ukiah, CA. For more information, contact the MCOG office at 707-463-1859.

December 16 – Noyo Food Forest Black Tie Boogie – Fort Bragg

All are invited to the first annual Noyo Food Forest Black Tie Boogie! This event will take place on December 16, 7pm-2am, at Portuguese Hall in Fort Bragg, featuring live music, a local foods feast, silent auction and cocktails. Noyo Food Forest is a group of people in Fort

Bragg focused on cultivating a sustainable, affordable and accessible local food system by providing opportunities for education, enterprise, and community involvement. For questions please call 964-0218 or email us at: noyofoodforest@riseup.net

Of Interest

Highway 101 Bypass Letter to the Willits City Council

At a recent meeting the WELL Coordinating Committee discussed its concerns about the planned Highway 101 bypass through Willits. This week the Coordinating Committee sent a letter to the Willits City Council requesting that it reconsider the Council's support for a 4-lane bypass. Alternatively, we proposed that the City Council consider a two-lane bypass or no bypass at all in light of cost savings, preservation of agricultural land, peak oil, and climate change. A copy of the letter was also sent to John Pinches, MCOG, Caltrans, Diane Feinstein, Barbara Boxer, Mike Thompson, Patty Berg, Patricia Wiggins (new State Senator), and the California Transportation Commission. You can read the letter here:

<http://willits.postcarbon.org/files/well/WELLCityBypassLetter1106.pdf>

Brookside Farm Seeks Support

Brookside Farm is seeking support from the Willits community in a number of ways. Local businesses can donate goods and services. People can volunteer labor. Financial support in any amount is greatly appreciated. The farm is also seeking Founding Members to give \$1000 in return for a share of the 2007 harvest and help building the farm infrastructure. If you would like to contribute to the development of a local food system in any of these ways, please call Jason at 456-0760. Check out the Brookside Farm website at:

<http://www.energyfarms.net/willits>.

Richard Heinberg Article: "Fifty Million Farmers"

Richard Heinberg has written an article discussing his views on how the U.S. can produce enough food for itself in light of reduced fossil fuel input. As you might imagine from the title, he advocates de-industrializing food production by creating a much larger number of small farms. Read the article here: <http://www.energybulletin.net/22584.html>.

Membership News

We are now 226 strong, 79 of which are WORKING Members. Plans for December and early January include an outreach to other local organizations, groups and churches. This effort will be spearheaded by Brian Weller. Anyone wanting to join him in this venture is MOST welcome. Freddie has not met her self-inflicted goal of 100 members by Thanksgiving (26 more or no turkey gravy for her).

Coordinating Committee Election Update

While reviewing the Governance document this week, we discovered that we were incorrect about holding Coordinating Committee elections in December. The next elections will be in March 2006. Fortunately, no one besides the five current Coordinating Committee members who had agreed to short terms (Ron Greystar, Jason Bradford, Rachel Olivieri, Mary Zellachild, & Liam UiCearbhaill) had submitted their names for election. We apologize for this error.

If you would like to be taken off this mailing list, please let me know and I will gladly oblige.

Cheers,
Suzie

Suzie Gruber, Office Manager
Willits Economic Localization - WELL
Renewable Energy Development Institute - REDI
75 N. Main St. PMB 234
Willits, CA 95490
707.459.1256
well@redinet.org