



Willits Economic Localization Newsletter

The WELL Bucket

Volume 9, Issue 4

July/August, 2014

Schedule of Events July & August

July 5, 5-10pm – Wowser BBQ, Open House and Dance, 330 E. Commercial St., see page 6

July 14, 6:30pm – WELL Coordinating Committee meeting at WAG building, 221 S. Lenore St. (WISC Complex)

July 17, 7pm – Film “The Organic Life” at Little Lake Grange, see page 5

July 27, 8-11am – Grange Pancake Breakfast

July 30, 7pm – Pre-Kinetic Carnivale Costume-Making Workshop at the Grange, Rm 10. Corset presentation and working on aprons, jackets, vests, etc. Call 459-6362 for more information

August 6, 7pm - More Pre-Carnivale Costume-Making: Bustle and faux-bustle. Bring fabric, skirts, satin sheets, petticoats, underskirts

Aug. 9-10 – 3rd Annual Kinetic Carnivale at Rec Grove Park, see page 4

Aug. 16, 4pm – Annual Garden Party at Phil & Kathy Shuster’s, 1660 Center Valley Road, a benefit for Willits schools to promote art, music and libraries. Food, drink, live music, auction and raffle. Tickets \$25 at the gate or at Cat’s Meow or Goods’ Stamp Shop.

Aug. 21, 7pm – Now & Then Film TBD at the Grange

Aug. 23, 7pm – Garden Tour. See page 1

Aug. 24, 8-11am – Grange Pancake Breakfast

Sept. 4, 6:30 – WELL Coordinating Committee meeting at WAG building, 221 S. Lenore St. (WISC Complex)

ANNUAL GARDEN TOUR: AUG. 23

By Paul Jacobson

This year’s farm tour will be mostly a tour of community gardens in and around Willits, giving participants a chance to discover these gems alongside our busy streets. According to Wendy Copperfield, one of the event coordinators, “We’re choosing August to tour the gardens because they are particularly beautiful at this time of year.”

The annual event, this year co-sponsored by WELL and NCO (North Coast Opportunities), will begin at the WISC garden, which is located behind Recreation Grove near the corner of Lenore and E. Valley Rd. and then proceed throughout the area in a caravan tour. Registration will be between 9:30 and 10:00am on Saturday morning August 23. Participants will be provided with a map of area gardens. Carpooling will be ar-

ranged at this time along with an itinerary of gardens to visit. Snacks and refreshments will be offered throughout the day.

If you are unfamiliar with the numerous community gardens around Willits this will give you a chance to see what community residents have done to grow their own food and help beautify the world around us.

Some of the gardens included will be the Brooktrails garden, Brookside School garden, Charter School garden, the WISC Community Garden, and a highlight of visiting the Grange Farm School.

For more information contact Paul Jacobson at 459-1418 or Wendy Copperfield at 456-9429. The NCO/WAG/WELL office is located at 221 S. Lenore Ave. just north of the WISC buildings behind Recreation Grove.



Folks enjoying last years Garden Tour — Photo by Paul Jacobson

Anti Fracking Ordinance to be put on November Ballot! Signatures Turned in for Community Rights Ordinance

Residents concerned about the availability and quality of local water formed the Community Rights Network of Mendocino County (CRNMC) to place an ordinance on the November ballot. After public forums, media and major volunteer efforts, the group turned in

es. As Peter Norris, spokesperson for CRNMC, says: "Residents of Mendocino County feel strongly that decisions about water here should be made locally and should be focused on the rights of community and our ecosystems, and enforced by law."

"...We have the right to decide what happens to our environment ...not some distant corporation."

6,356 signatures on June 26th at the County Elections Office in Ukiah – far more than the 3,500 or so required to qualify the initiative for the ballot.

The Mendocino County Community Bill of Rights Ordinance asserts the right of residents to ban the use of fracking for the extraction of hydrocarbons, as well as the use of local water for fracking outside the county, or storage or transport of poisonous fracking waste through the county.

This is the first milestone toward local self governing authority to protect the county's water resour-

Residents are working with California-based human rights organization Global Exchange, the public law firm Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund and anti-fracking organizations statewide. As CRNMC's website states: "We are a group of concerned citizens dedicated to educating our communities on best practices in asserting our sovereign rights to local self-governance. We believe we have the right to decide what happens to our natural environment and ecosystems and not some distant corporation."



Activists gathered 6,356 signatures to qualify the initiative that asserts the right of residents to ban the use of fracking in Mendocino County!

If passed, Mendocino County will join over 160 communities—from big cities to conservative rural townships across the US -- that have protected the health and welfare of residents and local ecosystems by asserting their right to decide what happens where they live.

For more info, go to www.cmmmc.org

Greywater Talk & Workshop in Petaluma

Petaluma isn't local, but if it's convenient and you're interested in developing a greywater system, there's a free talk on Thurs., July 10th, 7pm, and a free "Laundry-to-Landscape Greywater System Installation" workshop Sat. July 26th, 9am-1pm. For info, go to www.dailyacts.org or contact Ryan Johnston: ryan@dailyacts.org or 707.789.9664

WHAT IS WELL?

Willits Economic Localization

Vision: An enduring local economy that provides health and security for our community.

Mission: To foster the creation of a local, sustainable economy in the Willits area by helping residents to learn valuable skills and to take action, and by partnering with other organizations to share knowledge and support projects that build a thriving community.

Caltrans Bypass New Developments

By Madge Strong

The saga of the Bypass continues on a roller-coaster of ups and downs! In mid-March the Water Board had barred importing fill to the wetlands until Caltrans could come up with compensation for 2- to 4-years delay in implementing promised mitigation. (The restriction did not apply to moving fill from the southern interchange excavation to the north, which proceeded during May and June with night-time trucking down Main Street.) On June 13th, the Water Board staff ruled that Caltrans had offered sufficient compensation, and they approved the just-issued revised Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (MMP).

Save Our Little Lake Valley (SOLLV) and other citizens' groups immediately rebutted the ruling in testimony at the Water Board's June 19th meeting and in letters to the resource agencies and Congressman Jared Huffman. Huffman had an earlier exchange of correspondence asking Caltrans to specify why they rejected the option of modifying the northern interchange design. SOLLV again thoroughly debunked Caltrans' claims.

Meanwhile, SOLLV had a moving gathering of about 100 local citizens and Native American tribal leaders at the northern wetlands on June 8th. Pomo Indian tribes have been outraged at Caltrans' flagrant violations of ancestral sites, and they called for a miracle to protect both the natural and cultural resources of the valley.

Amazingly, miracles came! On June 20th, the Army Corps of Engineers suspended Caltrans' permit due to serious, ongoing viola-



...SOLLV had a moving gathering of about 100 local citizens and Native American tribal leaders at the northern wetlands. Pomo Indian tribes have been outraged at Caltrans' flagrant violations of ancestral sites ...

tions, including delays in mitigation and lack of assured funding. That suspension bars any work in "U.S. waters", which includes creeks and wetlands, but allows other work on the bypass to continue.

Another miracle was the decision of the American Indian Movement (AIM) to culminate their 500-mile Spirit Run in Willits on June 26th, highlighting the need to protect ancestral sites and calling for downsizing the northern interchange.

What will happen next? There is such an obvious solution: the simple design modification using the roundabout as the northern terminus of the bypass avoids an estimated 25-30 acres of fill and destruction of both wetlands and cultural sites. At the same time, it could reduce the need for so-called "wetland creation areas," with their own destruction, expense, and uncertainty of success.

Check SOLLV's website www.savelittlelakevalley.org for the latest news.

Green Uprising Potato CSA

By Sara Grusky

Here is a great opportunity to support local farmers (like us!) in growing food for you and the community. And, if you (and your kids!) like to get your hands in the dirt, there will be opportunities to come out and help.

How does the Potato CSA work? You will receive 2.5 lbs of potatoes weekly for 20 weeks (roughly from July/August to December). We are growing several heirloom varieties including Mountain Rose, Sangre, Russian Banana Fingerlings, Apple Rose Finn, Desiree, Red Lasota, and Yellow Finn. The cost to join is \$100. You can pick-up your potatoes Thursdays at the Willits Farmer's Market or come by our farm.

Contact us at: (707) 216-5549, homesteadingsara@gmail.com.

3rd Annual Kinetic Carnivale: Full Steam Ahead!

Mendocino County Museum's third Annual Kinetic Carnivale is steaming into Willits for the weekend of Saturday, August 9, 10am-7pm and Sunday, August 10, 10am-4pm. This kinetic and steampunk festival returns with many fan favorites including the popular kinetic handcar races; the Whimsy Circus, where children can swing on a giant bed and enjoy jugglers, games, crafts and performances; and the evening spectacular known as the Grand Ball. New this year is a steampunk-themed art show!

Visitors will experience myriad activities and craft and food vendors. Vintage or steampunk costumes are encouraged. The Carnivale will feature daily entertainment from bands to burlesque. Also on offer will be rides on restored rail cars, historic and steampunk-themed workshops, lectures and discussions, and sundry Mu-

seum exhibits such as the Victorian Sweat Shop, featuring vintage sewing machines. Handcar races will be held at the local Skunk Train Depot, where creatively designed vehicles on paired tracks compete for prizes for beauty, ingenuity, and speed.

At 7 pm on Saturday, the Kinetic Carnivale Grand Ball will kick off at the Museum's Engine House, with guests in fantastical costumes and a variety of exciting musical, theatrical and fire-based performances.

Admission is \$10 per day for adults, \$2 for youth (13-18 years) and free for kids 12 and under. This includes entry to the Museum, as well as the Carnivale and handcar races. Advance tickets to the Grand Ball are \$35 per ticket (\$60 for a pair). For more information and ticket options, please visit <http://www.KineticCarnivale.com>, or email us Info@KineticCarnivale.com.



Folks at last years Kinetic Carnivale.

www.kineticcarnivale.com. All event proceeds help fund the Mendocino County Museum's new exhibits, artifact conservation, and educational programs.

[Adapted from article by Paloma Patterson]

Why a Public Bank?

By Mary Zellachild

Austerity's the mantra of the day, nationwide, worldwide—and certainly in our county. Programs have been deeply cut, workers laid off, critical infrastructure unfunded. So what are the chances of turning this situation around?

One of the possibilities is to start a county public bank.

What is a public bank anyhow? It certainly isn't Santa Claus, handing out gifts right and left. Public banks are owned by the people, through their representative government, such as a city, county or state and are subject to the same regulations as privately owned banks. But the difference is that the purpose of public banks is to serve the public interest, while private shareholders in privately owned banks have

been using our money for speculative purposes.

The only depositor in a public bank is the city, county or state that runs it. Its deposit base consists of the revenues and fees obtained in its jurisdiction. However, none of these deposits are spent. Just like any bank, this deposit base allows the bank to issue bank credit (\$9 for each \$10 in the deposit base) which the bank can then loan out at 4% interest or more. That accumulated interest is what a public bank uses to fund needed infrastructure in its jurisdiction, make loans to small businesses and finance other projects that keep money in the community, create jobs and spur economic growth. However, a public bank does not compete with local, community banks. Rather, it part-

ners with community banks and credit unions, who administer and service the loans.

If the government created a public bank, interest would return back to the people, changing austerity to prosperity. That's why there's great interest right now in creating public banks. The Mendocino County Chapter of the Public Banking Coalition is in the process of educating county officials and the general public on the benefits of starting a public bank. This is an ongoing effort which we hope will eventually get a measure on the ballot for the public to vote on.

Anyone wanting more information on this issue, or who would like to work with the MCCPC on this effort, can contact me at maryzel@willitsonline.com.

May 2014 Town Hall Meeting Report

In May, the fifth Willits Town Hall meeting was held, on the subject "Our Community Rights: What Are They? Are We Losing Them?" In her introduction, moderator Carlin Diamond commented about how issues of food, health, education, public safety, services of many types, clean and plentiful water and air affect us collectively, as do decisions about how our tax money is spent.

The guest speakers were clear and informative, presenting four individual viewpoints concerning community rights. Charline Ford, local rancher and business woman, spoke about a proposed regulation from the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers that would expand the definition of WOTUS—Waters of the United States—covered by the Clean Water Act. All water, even on private property—rain catchment, ponds, streams, wells—would be included and require permits.

Lynn Kennelly, Director of Willits Chamber of Commerce, said she had hesitated to be a speaker because she knew so little about the subject. However, after doing research on the definition of terrorists on the websites of Homeland Security and the Justice Department, the more fearful she became about the restrictions, invasion of privacy and regulations by agencies. Basically, by their definitions, all of us could be considered terrorists.

Margaret Koster, Co-chairperson

of the Move to Amend Coalition of Mendocino County, stated that the government is supposed to be composed of people who represent each one of us. However, the government is now supporting the rights of corporations over those of individual persons. Move to Amend is working to get a constitutional amendment passed that would state: "Money is not speech and human beings, not corporations, are persons entitled to constitutional rights."

Karina McAbee has been a student of democracy for 15 years, currently with the Community Rights Ordinance network. She stated that local people have the right to make their own decisions, rather than having them made by governments or corporations far away from us. The group has developed and gathered signatures for a county-wide initiative measure to be put on the November ballot, protecting clean local water, including a ban on fracking. (See separate article on page 2.)

A lively discussion and Q&A followed. When someone asked how to get involved, Margaret answered "Get informed and do what you can do. Every bit helps." The next Town Hall Meeting will be in September. If you are interested in being part of the planning meeting for the next Town Hall, call Carlin Diamond at 459-4850.

Now and Then Film Series Presents:

The Organic Life

A Grange Farm School Fundraiser

July 17th - 7pm

Little Lake Grange

291 School St., Willits

Local Food for your visual taste...a Farmer Made in Sonoma County!

The quest to earn a living from one's passion is not unique to farming, but striving to survive from a traditional lifestyle in modern-day America is both poignant and revealing, as the film opens a window into the truth behind increasingly popular quixotic ideals...

Spoiler Alert! Despite numerous setbacks and painful lessons, the year is ultimately a success and both the farmer and the filmmaker learn that the most rewarding up-sides of this organic life are simply the daily pleasures—cold mornings giving way to the California sun, hands in the earth, freshly-laid eggs, a crop of delicious corn, a myriad of seasonal vegetables on the kitchen table.

Suggested Donation of \$5-\$100 helps the Grange Farm School go forward into their first season.

Organic popcorn and chocolate, refreshments for sale by the Grange. (707) 459-6362 for info.



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**Plan Ahead: Celebrate WELL's
10th Anniversary • Thurs. Oct. 16th!**

Starts at 6:30 at the Willits Grange!
We'll have films, displays, and celebrate the dozens of success stories in making Willits a model of localization and sustainability. Also a "birthday" cake! More details to come in next newsletter!

Gleaners Support Local Gardens

By Marilynn Boosinger

The Willits Grateful Gleaners are gearing up for another season of harvesting fruits, vegetables and nuts that would otherwise go to waste. We provide fresh produce to local schools and agencies, such as Willits Community Services & Food Bank, Our Daily Bread, the Kids Club and after-school programs. In addition, we help fund worthwhile agricultural projects through donations and an annual plant sale.

This year we divided roughly \$1000 in our account between the Brookside School Farm, run by Amanda Senseman and Lucas Howerter, (912) 398-8688, and the Grange Farm School, managed by Antonia Partridge and administered by the Little Lake Grange, 272-1395. Both of these organizations are worthy of your support and are in need of further funding as well as volunteer workers.

The Grateful Gleaners welcome all who wish to help with gleaning. We emphasize safety and working at your own pace. If growers have a surplus of unsprayed fruit or veggies we would appreciate your letting us harvest and distribute them where needed in our community. Leave a message at 513-9489 and we will be in contact with you.

Wowser: July 5th Fundraiser and Beyond!

By Cyndee Logan

Wowser (Willits' maker and learning space) is holding a big fundraiser, Saturday July 5th from 5 to 10 pm, at 330 E. Commercial Street. We will have a BBQ for those who want to eat, and the band TRACORUM will be playing Rock'n soul, gospel; thunder-funk. This will be a great way to come and get familiar with Wowser and it's support of localization in our community. As always, members pay 1/2 price at Wowser events. Soon we will be starting a membership and sponsorship drive to help keep our efforts going. Wowser has applied for its own 501C3 and is awaiting the IRS letter. No person working at Wowser is paid, we are an all volunteer, membership based community workspace.

Continuing our on going remodel and tool buying efforts, we have passed our inspection for the center workshops, and will be finishing them shortly. This will give Wowser a separate work area for sewing, jewelry, electronics, computers and a member storage area. Yeah! We will also be starting our metal forge this summer! We now have a 40 ton press, English wheel, band saws, industrial sewing machines and surger; and a 54" printer along with all the other tools we have acquired.

As to new businesses start-

ing at Wowser: Two of our Youth have started businesses; Alex Rodrigues has a website called Willits Kids need work where youth post their resumes, from yard work to babysitting, and adults who need work done can match up with local youth who want to work. We will link to our website, Wowser.org shortly. Shy Silverstein is starting a screen printing business; and Alex has also started manufacturing his own German Wheel.

We are offering lost wax casting every Tuesday night at 5:30pm. We also are hosting the Society for Creative Anachronism every other Wednesday night at 6PM, members are welcome to come by and watch the martial art of sword-fighting. This is a wonderfully creative group of people whose knowledge of costume making, survival skills, and metal working is a valuable asset to our community.

We offer classes in 3d printing, welding, woodworking, electronics, solar, electricity, furniture refinishing, sewing and summer sessions of: make a dory; 3d printing; German Wheel use, and build your own computer. Please contact us if you are interested in taking a class by emailing cyndee@Wowser.org or calling 707-459-9697; or just stop by and check out our new tools!

WELL CoCom Summaries

May 12, 2014

We began a discussion of how to commemorate our 10th anniversary this fall, with film showings, displays, publicity, etc. To be continued next meeting.

We're still working on the re-vamp of our website, but meanwhile posting events. We also send email notices of upcoming events to our members. We're looking for a new newsletter editor.

We reported on our 'Save Water & Energy' PACE event (informative though not very well-attended) and the Candidates' Forum we co-sponsored (very well-attended and well-organized).

June 9, 2014

10th Anniversary Plans: Long-time WELL activist Richard Jergensen will help us commemorate the occasion on Oct. 16th, with a showing of films, power point, displays, and presentations of success

stories. (See page 5.) Richard Jergensen and CC members will work on plans, invitations and publicity.

NCO Garden Tour: Paul Jacobson is working with a leadership group planning a tour of local food gardens in August. WELL hopes to co-sponsor this tour, in lieu of doing our own annual tour this year. (See article on page 1.)

We thank Jennifer Poole for her years of excellent work as our newsletter editor; Sue Ellen Parkinson will be our new editor/designer, with Madge Strong over-seeing content.

WELL will serve as fiscal sponsor for the EBT Food Stamp Program at Farmers Market, waiving administrative fees. In addition to such sponsorships (allowing tax-deductible donations to projects aligned with WELL's mission), we also often help groups with our insurance coverage.

We heard updates on other events, e.g. Community Rights and Bypass-related events, covered

elsewhere in this newsletter.

Holly Madrigal is on hiatus from the CC during campaign season. She reports that she'd like to do another Bike Show, but it may have to wait until next year.

Next Meeting will be July 14th. No meeting planned for August. Starting Sept. 4th, we will shift regular meeting dates to the first Thursday of each month.

Webinar on Healing Ourselves and the World

By Jed Diamond

My wife, Carlin, and I came to Willits in 1991 because we wanted to live in a town that was small enough to support community and rich in creating a culture that cares. Many of our local problems are ones that impact people everywhere. One of the issues that guides my work locally, and in the larger world community, is how we can heal our relationships with ourselves, each other, and the planet we all share.

I work in Willits as a writer, counselor, and health-care provider. I speak at conferences throughout the world, but would rather save planetary resources by doing web-based conferences. Recently I've created a Grand Rounds Men's Health Webinar to help men and their families throughout the world. With an enlightened and engaging faculty of 20, including spiritual and scientific experts, we're offering the full conference for free to anyone who would like to sign up: <http://menalive.com/grand-rounds/>

For more information contact me: Jed@MenAlive.com

"A Fierce Green Fire" Film Launch

Many local folks saw "A Fierce Green Fire" at last year's Mendocino Film Festival debut in Willits. The film has been a phenomenal success, with over one million viewers at showings in festivals, theaters, colleges, home video, web-streaming, on "Democracy Now," and capped by broadcast on "American Masters" – the most prestigious series on public television on Earth Day 2014. It looks like it has made it over the hump into the culture at large.

Our ambition is to make "A Fierce Green Fire" one of the defining films about the biggest movement the world has witnessed—a tool that enlightens, inspires and activates. When folks in screening

after screening ask, "What can we DO?" we advise them not to go it alone: to reach out and join active groups like 350.org, Greenpeace, Greenaction, or Occupy, (and the groups in your own communities) which are all working hard to save the planet.

Coming next, Director Mark Kitchell is expanding on the theme with "California Green Fire"—three stories: saving the redwoods; the rise of organic agriculture; and air pollution/clean energy, from LA smog to the Global Warming Solutions Act.

—Excerpted from a "Thank You" email from Mark Kitchell & the Fierce Green Team


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HEMP – A Change In Policy?

Doug Fine, an author who spent over a year in Willits researching a book about marijuana, has now written "Hemp Bound." Hemp, he says, is the non-psychoactive cousin of marijuana. He finds the U.S. ban on hemp to be a "head-scratcher." In a recent Op-Ed, he says, "U.S. policy is finally acknowledging that hemp can help restore our agricultural economy, play a key role in dealing with climate change and, best of all, allow American family farmers to get in on a hemp market that, just north of us in Canada, is verging on \$1 billion a year."

Fine lists some of the historic and productive uses of hemp. He quotes Colorado farmer Ryan Loflin: "Hemp takes half the water that wheat does, and provides four times the income. Hemp is going to revive farming families in the climate change era." However, Fine notes that there is still a long way to go to change U.S. policy! For more info, go to <http://dougfine.com> or see his Op Ed at <http://www.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-oe-fine-hemp-marijuana-legalize-20140626-story.html>.

Farming For The Future

"As the impacts of anthropogenic climate disruption continue to escalate, drought, wildfires, flooding and other extreme weather events continue to intensify and last longer as a result... In the United States, this looks like ever-increasing food prices, growing evidence of overt animosity towards the government, and increasing economic and health concerns."

In an article by renowned journalist Dahr Jamail, he goes on to say, "silver linings are emerging from the darkening clouds," and describes in detail a small farm on the outskirts of Houston TX. The farm looks a lot like Green Uprising, Golden Rule, the new Grange Farm School, and several of our other local gardens.

To read the whole informative article about this innovative community farm, go to <http://truth-out.org/news/item/24520-farming-for-the-future>.

RELATED LOCAL NEWS:

Mayor Holly Madrigal says she will bring to City Council an item to potentially reverse the City's ban on medical marijuana dispensaries. Check on upcoming City Council agendas (usually 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month).

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Haehl Creek Trail Open!

Our community has a beautiful new walking trail at Haehl Creek – the first and only public trail within the City of Willits!

After years of planning and effort, a work party June 26th and 27th completed the trail that runs 3,100 feet along the creek, just west of the new hospital, behind the hospital garden. A bunch of volunteers, some equipment, and support from the Rotary Club were instrumental in bringing the trail to reality. It's shady, fairly level, and it is ready to come enjoy!

Additional work is planned later this summer and fall, including concrete tables and benches and informational kiosks. Volunteers are needed for completion of the



Workers at the Haehl Creek Trail site.

remaining elements. To help, contact Mike Aplet at 459-6413 or mike.aplet@gmail.com.

WELL Coordinating Committee 2014

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