



# Willits Economic Localization Newsletter

## The WELL Bucket

Volume 13, Issue 2

March/April, 2018

### Community Events March & April 2018

Mar. 3, 12:30-4:00, Garden class at Phoenix Rising, see page 5

Mar. 5, 6 p.m., Transportation Needs public meeting with the County Board's Second Access Ad Hoc Committee at Willits Community Center

Mar. 6, 5:30-7 p.m., ATW program on Cannabis as Medicine at Willits Center for the Arts (WCA), page 3

Mar. 8, 9:30-12:30, Healthy Mendocino County Summit at Willits Community Center, see NCO, page 7

Mar. 10, 5:30-7:30, annual Sip Some Soup (benefit for Willits Daily Bread) at the Community Center

Mar. 12, 6:30 p.m., WELL Coordinating Committee at Willits Hub

Mar. 19, 5:30-7:00 p.m., Cultivate Wellness Studio hosts a "Spring Seed and Start Swap", at Willits Grange, 291 School St. Bring seeds and starts to share. Hosts/contact: Claudia Wenning 354-3111 and Michelle Cummins 972-1601

Mar. 20, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Cultivate Wellness, same as Mar. 19 but in Laytonville, 44650 Hwy 101, next to Napa Auto Parts.

Mar. 23, 5:30 p.m., Caring Kitchen 6-month Anniversary at Parducci Vineyards, see NCO, page 7

Mar. 23, 7 p.m., Now & Then Film "Juliette of the Herbs" at the Grange; come at 6 p.m. for local herbalists – see page X

Mar. 25, 8-11 a.m., Grange Pancake breakfast

Apr. 7, 12:30-4:00, Garden class at Phoenix Rising, see page 5

Apr. 9, WELL CoCom (see Mar. 12)

Apr. 14, 3 p.m., Candidates Forum in Covelo, see page 1

Continues on page 10

### POLLINATOR PRESENTATION: APRIL 15

by Lyn Talkovsky

Join us for an inspiring slide show presentation on rearing Monarch butterflies and planting for local pollinators on Sunday April 15, 4 p.m., at the Willits Environmental Hub, 630 S. Main St.

Chris Ineich, plant ecologist and teacher at Sonoma State University and Mendocino College, documents his experience raising monarchs at home with his young daughter. His talk and beautiful photos inform us about the plight of monarchs, other butterflies, bees, and all pollinators, and how we can provide valuable pollinator habitat in our own gardens.



This is a free event hosted by WELL. With luck we may have some pollinator plant starts or seeds to give out. (Bring any that you wish to share!)

There will also be a brief WELL membership meeting to elect several members of our Coordinating Committee.

### CANDIDATES FORUMS FOR 3rd DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

The 3rd District seat on the County Board of Supervisors will be open, since appointed Supervisor Georgeann Croskey is leaving at the end of the year. This important position representing our northern region of the County has attracted many candidates. They will all compete in the Primary Election held on June 5th. If no candidate gets a majority (50% plus one), the top two will go into a run-off on Nov. 6th.

To help voters learn about the candidates and their positions, three candidates' forums are being planned, cosponsored by the Willits Environmental Center, WELL, and other groups. Each forum will include some advance questions as well as an opportunity for the public to ask questions. Here's the schedule:

Covelo, Sat. April 14, 3 p.m. at the Covelo Library  
Willits, Thurs. April 19, 6:30 p.m. at Willits City Hall  
Laytonville, Sat. April 28, 3:30 p.m. at Harwood Hall

## GROW YOUR OWN ORGANIC FOOD IN BROOKTRAILS

A valuable resource for ALL the residents of Brooktrails is now in its 6th year. As Spring arrives, our wonderful and incredibly productive garden is waking from its deep and restorative sleep. Our 24 members are now getting ready to plant their veggies, flowers and fruits, and we look forward to another bountiful harvest this season with organic squashes, garlic, kale, tomatoes, beans, sunflowers, potatoes, greens, chives, onions, grapes, strawberries, raspberries, apples and more!



Members working in garden.

### GOOD NEWS

Garden space is available. If you live in Brooktrails and would like to have your own plot please contact Freddie at 459-5267.

For more information visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/brooktrailscommunitygarden>

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# CITY OF WILLITS NEWS by Mayor Madge Strong

Things have been hopping at City Hall. First, in January, the City Council selected and contracted with Stephanie Garrabrant-Sierra to be our new City Manager, starting March 15. Meanwhile Interim CM Bob Perrault continues to fill in admirably. We are also happy to welcome back Scott Warnock as Chief of Police, after his long (& successful) medical leave.

The Revitalization-Economic Development (Revit-ED) Committee has progressed on plans for a civic billboard alongside the Bypass and will be seeking funding for that project. They are also providing guidance to planner Dusty Duley on a proposed commercial vacancy ordinance, which will likely come back to City Council late March or April.

The Caltrans Ad Hoc Committee meets with Caltrans reps on March 1st, 2pm, and will be scheduling a public forum this Spring for Caltrans and City staff to explain the plans, schedule & process of the "relinquishment project" on Main St. Construction is anticipated to begin late May. (Meanwhile, the City also approved some repaving projects, with matching funds from the State, to extend the life of several side streets.)

Another important item is a possible rent stabilization ordinance for the City's mobile home parks. Interim CM Perrault is seeking City Council review on this at our Feb. 28 meeting. Depending on the Council's guidance, this matter may come back for further action later in Spring.

Quite a few projects have been processed by staff under the City's new medical cannabis ordinance, with several now nearing operation. We'll continue to look at how well that is working. City Attorney Jim Lance is looking into a possible excise tax on such businesses to go on the November 2018 ballot.

Once new CM Stephanie is on board, we expect to schedule a goal-setting meeting and then get to work on the 2018-19 budget. In the wings are the Housing Element and General Plan updates.

City Council meets every 2nd and 4th Wednesday, with a public comment period near the beginning of the agenda at 6:30. Suggestions, complaints, etc. are always welcome! Come see how the sausage is made! Also feel free to contact me at 459-1493 or mstrong@cityofwillits.org.

## CANNATOURISM EVENT REPORT

On Sunday, Jan. 21 the Grange was host to about 100 people sharing ideas, optimism and concerns about the potential of "cannatourism" in our region.

The keynote speaker was Brian Applegarth from Emerald Country Tours and the Calif. Cannabis Tourism Assoc. He is already running tours in Sonoma and suggests a region-wide Canna Trail from Santa Cruz to Arcata.

A panel of speakers included: Amanda Reiman from Cannaflo of Redwood Valley, Genine Coleman of the Mendocino Appellations Project, Brooke Horowitz of Emerald Exchange, Karen Byars of Mendocino Canna Resource, Matt Kurth, Humboldt Canna tour founder, Swami Chaitanya and Nikki Lastreto of Swami Select of Laytonville.

A common concern was that "farmers are hurting as costs of licensing soar and prices plummet." Panelists stressed the need for the right kind of tourism and mentioned such events as farmers markets, yoga, health and wellness classes.

After the panelists, people chose small groups that talked about: tourism issues and ideas, such as creating cannabis farming and herbal medicine classes, a commercial cannabis kitchen and restaurant and cooking school, bud and breakfasts, cannabis Airbnb and cannabis farmers' markets.

Annie Waters and Richard Jergenson organized the event on behalf of the Grange. It is hoped that participants will continue networking on these opportunities.



New Date!

*Jude Thilman, Medical Cannabis Educator and Owner of Dragonfly Wellness Center*

## Cannabis is Medicine:

### Changing the Narrative with Education

Tuesday, March 6, 5:30-7:00 PM

Jude Thilman, Medicinal Cannabis Educator

Cannabis has been used as an herbal healing therapy for centuries. Researchers understand the science behind medicinal cannabis, but the public remains ill-equipped to choose and use the cannabis medicine that is right for them. Join us to learn about the science of cannabis medicine and to get answers to your questions about this controversial plant.

Jude Thilman is a medical cannabis educator and the owner of Dragonfly Wellness Center. She offers presentations to patient groups and health providers, as well as counseling for individuals seeking to learn about cannabis medicines.



Call 456-9676 for more information.  
Email: [atwforhealth@gmail.com](mailto:atwforhealth@gmail.com)  
Visit: [avenuestowellness.org](http://avenuestowellness.org) for more speaker topics.

- How does Cannabis Heal?
- What Conditions can it Treat?
- What is CBD and how does it work with THC?
- Can I utilize Cannabis without getting high?

WILLITS Center for the Arts  
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FREE to the public.  
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## TURNING PASSION into PROFIT Report by Madge Strong

WELL'S Town Hall forum on Feb. 25 succeeded in generating lots of ideas and providing resource information, inspiring nearly 50 people crowded into the Willits Hub.

In brief, some of the potential resources include Economic Development & Financing Corp's (EDFC's) small business loans, West Company's free and personalized business consulting services, the Chamber of Commerce and Willits's new Tourism Board serving as a clearinghouse and promoter, and the City's efforts to include economic development in its plans and to streamline the permit process.

Several presenters, including Jim Smith, Jason Morash, and Janae Stephens, pointed out the opportunities to broaden the customer-base of local entrepreneurs through the internet, creative marketing and personal networking. Others are looking for a market niche that needs filling in our community, such as Danny Church of Gateway Games and Laura Toomey Rowland, seeking to start a unique food vendor business. Much of their advice applies not only to start-ups but also may benefit existing businesses in town.

Facilitator Emily Rose Smith kept us on schedule, opening it up to audience ideas and Q&A for the second hour. Some of the ideas generated included:

- Opportunities for micro-enterprises to co-locate and share resources.
- Creating an artisans showcase – 'live-action' ceramics, woodwork, jewelry, clothing crafts, etc. – as a collective plus locally-made food & specialty items for sale.
- The need for an expanded, safer Post Office, perhaps combined with community space, restaurants, etc.
- Many ways to "spruce up" Willits visually, such as banners touting our attractions, flower baskets, painting drab walls, cleaning up the entrances to town (both north & south), creating mini-parks on Main Street.
- Capitalizing on the famous Skunk Train, developing the depot area.
- Better, attractive signage about Willits on Hwy 101, and also on S. Main Street to encourage coast-bound tourists to go into the business district.
- Improving broad-band access, and also using the internet to promote Willits' many attractions and unique services and businesses.

Several people commented that it takes a combination of inspiration, maybe desperation, and definitely persistence to create a successful business, and the same is true for launching any improvement project, whether through getting grants, changing planning or zoning, building up volunteer efforts, etc.

The forum was recorded by KLLG; contact Michael Foley at [foleymw@gmail.com](mailto:foleymw@gmail.com) to find out when the program will be aired. Several local media were present and will report. You can also email [mstrong@willitsonline.com](mailto:mstrong@willitsonline.com) to get contact info on the presenters and/or to be added to a list to receive further information.

## WELL FINANCE REVIEW & 2018 BUDGET

by Madge Strong & Emily Rose Smith

WELL continues to be financially stable on a shoestring budget. The chart shows income & expenses for 2015 through 2017; we've been in the black each year. It also presents our 2018 adopted budget, projecting a slight shortfall of \$320.

As always, our main income is from donations and memberships, with newsletter ad income helping offset newsletter costs.

Main expenses are data management, newsletter, rent, and insurance. Four groups share low-cost rent at the Willits Hub, but we are (collectively) short about \$4,000 for the 2018 year. Anyone willing to help with major donations, grant-writing and/or fund-raising events? We also continue to cosponsor events, some of which reimburse us for using our insurance coverage.

	A	B	F	H	Q	R
1	<b>WELL: Budget 2017 vs 2013-16 Actuals</b>					
2	GENERAL FUND		2015	2016	2017	2018
3	<b>INCOME</b>		<b>Yr-end</b>	<b>Yr-end</b>	<b>Yr-end</b>	<b>Budget</b>
5	Ind. Donations		1,564	1,349	635	1,000
6	Memberships		2,751	3,074	3,935	3,500
7	Sales/Sponsors/Events		787	31	0	50
8	Newsletter Ad Sales		900	720	600	600
9	<b>Total Income</b>		<b>6,002</b>	<b>5,174</b>	<b>5,171</b>	<b>5,150</b>
11	<b>EXPENSE</b>					
12	Grants Allocated		50	100	0	0
13	Contract - Data Mgmt		694	863	719	1,200
14	Contract - Newsltr Ed		900	750	640	900
15	Honorariums		300	0	0	0
18	Website Mgt		155	155	155	200
19	Postage/Delivery		180	241	76	100
20	Office Rent		1,200	1,400	1,800	1,800
21	Rent for Events		160	0	0	0
22	Printing/Posters/Ads		411	190	267	300
23	Newsletter Costs		436	458	511	550
25	Equipment & Supplies		24	339	427	1,564
26	Liability Insurance		1010	458	500	200
27	Insur. Reimbursement		(535)	(400)	(450)	(400)
28	Bank Charges		38	38	15	0
29	PayPal Fees/Taxes/Dues		110	34	87	120
30	<b>Total Expense</b>		<b>5,132</b>	<b>4,626</b>	<b>4,592</b>	<b>5,470</b>
31	<b>Net Income/Expense</b>		<b>870</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>(320)</b>

# Phoenix Rising Garden Classes

by Ron Woolsey

Upcoming classes are 1st Saturdays: March 3, April 7, and May 5, from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Garden and classes are located on the West side of North St. between Redwood and Pine in Willits. All classes are free, donations are appreciated.

Phoenix Rising Garden is a model village garden dedicated to education and inspiration. A by-product of these objectives is a healthy donation of vegetables to our local food bank most of the year.

The inspiration, labor and financing for the garden comes from Ron Woolsey of Living Sculpture Studios. Ron is also the instructor for our monthly classes. The intention of these classes is to give you ongoing access to a model garden and someone to personally guide you through the seasons.

Ron began seriously landscaping in high

school. After the Navy he attended Napa Junior College and studied horticulture and environmental studies. From there he sought out the best of the best and found ways to work-study with them. He spent two years on the educational staff with Allan Chadwick in Covelo, created the Ashland Horticulture Training Project that brought in local experts in all fields of horticulture, he acquired a Master Gardener certificate and attended classes at the University of Ashland. Ron was also lucky enough to spend a summer

traveling around northern California with Masanobu Fukuoka. At Phoenix Rising we try to blend Chadwick and Fukuoka's philosophy and technique.

Classes will be based on the interests of the students who show up and the needs of the garden in the season. For more information call Ron at 489-5408 and leave a message when and where to call back.



Ron Woolsey talking about Phoenix Rising at WELL's 2015 Garden Tour  
photo by Madge Strong

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The Now and Then Film Series and the Mendocino County Herb Guild present:

## JULIETTE OF THE HERBS

**Friday, March 23rd at 7 p.m.**

Come meet local herbalists between  
6 and 7 p.m. before the film begins.

Little Lake Grange ~ 291 School St. ~ Willits

For more than 50 years, Juliette de Bairacli-Levy lived with the Gypsies, nomads, and peasants of the world, learning their healing arts. Her well-loved, now-classic herbals for animals and children were some of the first herbal books available in this country.

After the film, herbalists will also be speaking briefly about the Mendocino County Herb Guild and its current projects, the topic of Herbal Medicine Sovereignty, and answering questions.

More on **Juliette** including short clips here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hBY76schtNU>

Your Donation of \$5 to \$20 or more will be used to support our film series & Willits area herbalists. As usual, we'll be serving heirloom organic popcorn with real organic butter.

### NEW SEED COMPANY by Luke Allen

Open-pollinated and local and regional farmer-grown, hand-crafted, market-ready varieties of seeds are now available in Willits!

Go to [sundialseed.com](http://sundialseed.com), email [info@sundialseed.com](mailto:info@sundialseed.com) or call 341-SEED. We can meet up at the Farmers Market or ship online.

### CHIPPER NEEDED:

The Butler Community orchard, located at Ridgewood Ranch outside of Willits, is looking for a larger chipper to manage and compost all of the pruning branches from our orchard. We would love to find something that we could fix up or that is cheap to free or just borrow on occasion. Contact: [gingerthunderxoxo@yahoo.com](mailto:gingerthunderxoxo@yahoo.com)

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### WELL Coordinating Committee 2018

Paul Jacobson, 459-1418, [4paul@gmail.com](mailto:4paul@gmail.com)

Tim Rice, 456-1146, [tim@multitalents.net](mailto:tim@multitalents.net)

Laura Toomey Rowland, 354-3410,  
[lauratoomey@comcast.net](mailto:lauratoomey@comcast.net)

Madge Strong, 459-1493, [mstrong@willitsonline.com](mailto:mstrong@willitsonline.com)

Lyn Talkovsky, 621-3215, [lyn@twinberry.net](mailto:lyn@twinberry.net)

There are currently two vacant seats. If interested, come to a meeting or call Madge at 459-1493.

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## LOCAL FOOD PLEDGE UNDERWAY

The Local Food Pledge is a growing community of people who believe conscious, ethical sourcing of food is paramount to the evolution of society as a whole. We are striving to source our food, herbs, spices, etc. as locally as possible, with a focus this year on high caloric and nutrient dense foods. Together we create buying power and have the ability to source products in bulk. This makes for more environmentally friendly and cost effective results.

Planning meetings are underway now. The Local Food Pledge will formally initiate June of 2018 and end June of 2019, probably to start right up again! Currently, we are recruiting pledgers, farmers, gardeners and restaurants. Pledgers will determine what is local for them, pledging a percentage of their budget spent or mass of food consumed. We want to encourage as many people to join us on this mission as possible, even if you can only make a small increase in eating locally this year.

Another focus of this group is to make use of resources that are already available and underutilized. Group gleaners of fruit and nut trees (we hope to work closely with the

Grateful Gleaners), harvesting of potentially excess produce, canning, and preserving are a few examples. If we work together it's amazing how much we can provide for each other. The Mendo-Lake Food Hub is another resource we are excited to be connected with. Helping to deliver, store, and place orders is an extremely valuable piece of this puzzle. We will also be supporting the Grange Grains project. We are so grateful to have these incredible resources already in place.

Pledgers, farmers, gardeners, or restaurants who wish to play a part in the Local Food Pledge, please contact [localfoodpledge@gmail.com](mailto:localfoodpledge@gmail.com). Our meetings are generally twice a month and you'll be sure to be kept in the know by joining this email list.

Note from the editor: Here's a link to an article about the vision and importance of everyone growing food for each other.

<http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/43090-a-radical-vision-for-food-everyone-growing-it-for-each-other>

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## NORTH COAST OPPORTUNITIES HAPPENINGS

by Tarney Sheldon

### Healthy Mendocino Project:

Interested in learning about and creating positive change with the Healthy Mendocino Project? Do you already work in one of the five Priority Areas addressing poverty, housing, mental health, family wellness, or childhood trauma? If so, register to attend the "Healthy Mendocino Summit" on March 8, 2018. Details and registration link are on [www.healthymendocino.org](http://www.healthymendocino.org)

### Caring Kitchen Project:

Support a local community project in Willits – the Caring Kitchen Project! The Caring Kitchen's 6-month Celebration Event is planned for Friday, March 23, 2018 at Parducci Wine Cellars. Tickets for the event are available online at <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3348883> and more information about the Caring Kitchen in general can be found at <https://www.ncoinc.org/programs/caring-kitchen-project>

### NCO's 50th Anniversary:

Did you know that North Coast Opportunities is celebrating their 50th Anniversary this year?! Be sure to thank your local Head Start teacher, childcare licensing staff, Gardens Project leaders, School of Adaptive Agriculture educators, Market Match coordinators, and Caring Kitchen staff... all are contributing to the continued success of NCO in serving Lake and Mendocino Counties.

### Power of Produce (POP) Club:

Save the Date: The (POP) Club will be returning to the Willits Farmers Market for four Thursdays in May 2018. All kids ages 5-12 are invited to participate in fun food activities, taste tests, and will receive \$4 in "market bucks" to buy a fruit or vegetable of their choice at the farmers market.

For more info, go to [www.ncoinc.org](http://www.ncoinc.org) or call Tarney at 462-1950.

## FARMERS CONVERGENCE Report by Michael Foley

The 6th Annual Farmers Convergence was held at Ridgewood Ranch on February 20th, with over 150 participants and a variety of organizations represented. The Convergence has been organized every year by North Coast Opportunities as a vehicle for farmers to gather, network with buyers and supporters, and learn about the latest challenges and opportunities facing farmers and ranchers in the area.

Gloria and Stephen Decatur were featured speakers. Their Live Power Farm in Covelo was a pioneer of the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) movement in California and a leading farm education center for 30 years. Gloria and Stephen told the story of their farm, laid out some of what they've learned, and discussed the way forward as they step back from full-time farming. The rest of the day was spent in workshops, a lunch catered by Ellen Bartholomew of Ridgewood Ranch and featuring local ingredients, and an evening mixer with wine and food from local producers.

Participants heard Paul Kaiser of Singing Frog Farm in Sebastopol, Adam Gaska of Mendocino Meats, and Gowan Batiste of Fortunate Farms discuss "carbon farming," techniques for enriching soil and sequestering carbon as a strategy to counter global warming. Michael Foley led a workshop on "lean farming," tips and techniques for "working smarter, not harder" to increase revenue and relieve some of the burdens farmers face. Paul Kaiser headed up a popular workshop on no till farm-



Michael Foley leads a workshop Photo by Ree Slocum Photography

ing techniques and Elizabeth Kaiser discussed building and managing CSAs. Another popular workshop focused on the humane slaughter of poultry, led by Ruthie King and Eliot Hartley of the School of Adaptive Agriculture. The workshop also featured the county's first portable poultry slaughter facility, whose efficiency and ease of use impressed participants. There were also workshops on pest management, compost building, seed cages for safe propagation, mushroom cultivation, and ranching with wildlife.

Representatives of West Company were on hand to distribute free QuickBooks software to farmers. Sara Grusky introduced participants to the Local Food Pledge. The Yokay Seed Project at Ukiah Library held a seed swap, and a new local seed company, Open Circle Seeds, introduced their line. In all, the Convergence was a varied and stimulating event.

## School of Adaptive Agriculture News by Michael Foley

The School of Adaptive Agriculture at Ridgewood Ranch recently hired two new part-time staff, rounding out its staffing for the year. Britta Baskerville will serve as Program Coordinator for the coming season, and Jes Pearce will be Student Life Coordinator for the two Practicum Program semesters. Britta comes with a degree in Agroecology from UC Berkeley, where she also worked as coordinator for the student garden. She has had extensive experience with both livestock and crop production as an intern at a number of farms and is eager to share her knowledge with students and beginning farmers.

Jes Pearce was garden manager at Ecology Action's Research Farm until late last year. She has lots of experience in garden education and a passion for compost. She will be helping students get acclimated in the residential Practicum

Program, organize meals and other activities, and help out with field trips. She is also pursuing her passion on a small plot of farm school land, where she will be developing medium scale composting techniques to recycle the ranch's waste stream, provide high quality finished compost for the various gardens and farms sharing the ranch, and hopefully evolve to a compost business.

The School is still accepting applicants for the Spring and Summer Practicum Programs, a 12 week immersion in the sustainable agriculture movement, with classes, lab work, hands on experience, and field trips to over 20 farms in Sonoma, Lake, and Mendocino Counties. For more information go to <http://adaptiveagriculture.org>. Or email: [office@school-of-adaptive-agriculture.org](mailto:office@school-of-adaptive-agriculture.org).

## CO-COM SUMMARIES

**Jan. 8, 2018**

New attendees of CoCom include Jason Morash, fairly new to Willits, who does marketing consulting, and Janice Haschak, teacher and long-time resident. Also kudos to new newsletter lay-out person Neil Richardson.

We discussed the 'Making Willits Thrive' event Feb. 25, refining the theme and inviting many potential presenters. (See article this issue.)

We continue follow-up of members who have not yet renewed. See Feb. 19 notes below.

We discussed a potential grant application from the Comm'ty Foundation for an artisan showcase festival and/or ongoing collective, but later determined that this project didn't meet their criteria. However this idea, possibly a return of the Kinetic Carnival along with sculptures, music and local food, may be pursued in the future.

We had hoped to have a Spring event featuring and honoring Dave & Jenny Watts, but it is later determined that their plate is full with selling and moving. Other ideas are still percolating (see Feb. 19 notes and articles in this issue).

**Feb. 19, 2018**

We agreed to be a co-sponsor of the 3rd District Supervisors candidates forums. We also continued refining the program and logistics for our Feb. 25 "Turning your Passion into Profit" forum. For the near future, we decided to host an educational forum with a guest speaker on pollinator-friendly plants. Later in Spring or Summer we hope to have a public tour and report on the Little Lake Valley mitigation lands. (Most of these, and other reports and events we discussed, are covered in articles in this issue.)

Emily Rose reviewed the status of membership and advertiser renewals. There are still about 50 of our 2017 members not yet renewed; we'll follow-up with email and, if needed, phoning. She also presented a four-year financial review and budget for 2018, covered in this issue. We briefly discussed ways to expand memberships via Facebook, tabling, and seeking business memberships. Details will be worked on at next meeting.

Next CoCom meetings will be March 12 and April 9, 6:30 p.m. at the Willits Environmental Hub.

## GRID ALTERNATIVES IN WILLITS

by Justin Fricker

Grid Alternatives – which installed the new solar panels at the Grange last year - is excited to continue our North Coast solar work here in Willits. We look forward to providing more no-cost solar electric systems to low-income homeowners in the local community.

We're currently working with another homeowner here in Willits with a planned installation scheduled for late March. The installation will include local Americorps service members participating in the installation work. The installation will include 12 panels, covering approximately 80% of the homeowner's electricity costs and saving around \$600 annually on the electricity bill.

Grid Alternatives also hopes to work with City of Willits on incorporating energy conservation measures in the future General Plan update.

To find out more about Grid Alternatives, contact Justin Fricker, North Coast Outreach & Development Coordinator, at 456-4852 or [jfricker@gridalternatives.org](mailto:jfricker@gridalternatives.org).



Alternatives construction staff following the Little Lake Grange install last May. From left to right Wyatt Atkinson, Cora Saxton, Matt Wheeler.

**Community Events  
March & April 2018**

Continued from page 1

Apr. 15, 4 p.m., WELL Presentation on Pollinators, see page 1

Apr. 19, 6:30 p.m., Candidates Forum in Willits, see page 1

Apr. 22, 8-11 a.m., Grange Pancake breakfast

Apr. 28, 3:30 p.m., Candidates Forum in Laytonville, see page 1

**Ongoing Events**

Thursdays 3-5:30 p.m., Farmers Market at the Grange

Second & 4th Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m., Willits City Council

**GROW OUR MEMBERSHIP!**

In addition to renewing your own WELL membership, share the newsletter with friends or neighbors and encourage them to join. It's an easy, effective way to promote the well-being of our community.



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**WHAT IS WELL?**

Willits Economic Localization is a 501 ( c ) 3 non-profit, membership organization. All donations are tax-deductible.

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

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

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