



# Willits Economic Localization

## The WELL Bucket

Volume 2 – Issue 22

November 5, 2007

### Schedule of Events

#### November & December 2007

**November 5**

[WHAT Meeting](#)

WELL Office – 10:00 am

**November 5**

[Elder Talk IV](#)

Little Lake Grange 6:30 pm

**November 12**

**Coordinating Committee Meeting**

WELL Office 2:00 pm

**November 12**

[MCRS Meeting](#)

Little Lake Grange 6:30 pm

**November 15**

[Now & Then Films](#)

**"Escape from Affluenza"**

Little Lake Health Clinic – 7:00 pm

**November 20**

[Willits Briarpatch meeting](#)

Yum Yum Tree Restaurant 1:30 pm

**November 26**

[WELL Plenary Meeting](#)

Willits Community Center 6:00 pm

**December 3**

**Coordinating Committee Meeting**

WELL Office - Noon

### Elder Talk IV

#### Little Lake Grange

#### 291 School St.

**November 5 - 6:30 pm**

In the Fourth Elder Talk, we will hear from Community Elders - MERVIN PINCHES and HANK STROCK. Learn about how the Northwestern Pacific Railroad was operating in the 20th Century... More stories of early years in Laytonville and North County including agriculture, ranching, horses, wild foods, transportation and more.

### Willits Health Action Team (WHAT)

**1<sup>st</sup> Meeting – Monday November 5, 2007**

**WELL Office 713 S. Main St., #A – 10:00 am**

Did you walk to school when you were a child? Did you ride your bike? How do your kids get to school now, how do your neighbors kids? Are you aware of the alarming rate of obesity among our population, even in our children? Walking is the most natural form of exercise, our ancestors have been doing it at least as long as we have been a species. The Willits Health Action Team proposes to lay out a 10,000 step walking path in Willits (that's about five miles), that goes close to our schools, has public art along the way, involves the neighborhoods it goes through, and encourages all of us to get on our feet and walk.

Our first meeting will be at 10:00 am on Monday, November 5, at the WELL Office. We will meet to look at some possible routes, lay out strategy, and go for a walk. I hope to see so many of you that we won't all fit in the office. In case you have never been here, the WELL Office is right across the street from the County Skillet. We are on the South East corner of Oak and Main, in the front office.

Jed Diamond is spearheading WHAT. If you have questions or suggestions contact Jed at 459-5505 or by e-mail at [jed@menalive.com](mailto:jed@menalive.com).

### WELL Plenary Meeting

**Monday, November 26, 6:00 pm**

**Willits Community Center**

**111 East Commercial**

This will be our last plenary meeting of 2007. We will be following the format established at our meeting in October:

6:00 to 6:30 pm: Nosh (local finger food potluck); Tables for Projects to display what they are doing and recruit; Short project meetings

6:30 to 6:45 pm: Community Announcements

6:45 to 7:15 pm: Brief Project Reports

7:15 to 8:00 pm: Large Circle Open Forum, using a talking stick format

8:00 to 8:30 pm: More Nosh; Finish up conversations

8:30 pm: Clean up and lock up

Come to put in your views, and hear what's going on!

***The Willits Garden Club***

November's monthly meeting features  
Donnalee Hart, N.D., speaking on  
**Herbal Remedies**

Monday, November 12; 1:00 p.m.  
Golden Rule Mobile Village Clubhouse  
16100 North Highway 101  
Public welcome

***Wallace Global Fund Grant Renewed***

On Wednesday we received a phone call from the Wallace Global Fund to say that they have renewed the \$50,000 grant they made to WELL for another year. This generous grant has been vital to the progress we have made this year. With these monies we have opened our own office and staffed it almost full time. We have produced events, produced this newsletter, given mini-grants to vital programs, and generally accomplished much more than we would have without it.

**Thank You, Wallace Global Fund!**

## MCOG Meeting

### MEETING NOTICE

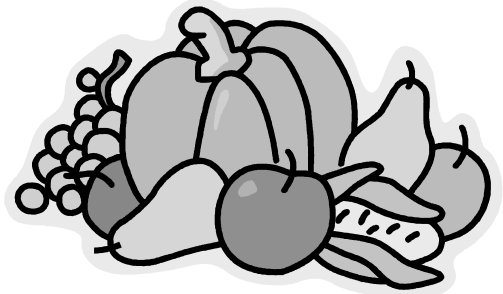
**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) will meet on **Monday, December 3, 2007** at 1:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as possible, at Ukiah City Council Chambers, 300 Seminary Avenue, Ukiah, CA, to consider the following item.

#### **Public Hearing - Unmet Transit Needs**

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, 2008 through June 30, 2009. 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. For more information or to submit written testimony, contact the MCOG office at 707-463-1859.

Janet M. Orth  
MCOG Deputy Director



#### **October 26 - Local First Harvest Moon Celebration a Big Success! Downtown 4 - 8 pm**

They did it again! Local First got us all walking the streets, enjoying a beautiful Fall evening, buying from local merchants, talking to each other, and generally having a good time.

There were jugglers, belly dancers, and musicians. The Boy Scout sets up a climbing wall. Local First gave away prizes on the Big Spin. Shops and restaurants were open late, popcorn and pies were tempting to everyone (along with that soup that the Purple Thistle was serving), and Brookside Farm raffled off a Really Big Pumpkin.

Comments were overheard "I didn't know we had 'that' in Willits!"

Local First is planning more of these evenings, with dates still to be announced. Lynn Kennelly says that they want to do "three or four of them each year."

Watch for the next one, and don't miss the fun!

**If you want to get involved with Local First, call Lynn at the Chamber of Commerce 459-7910.**

## What Others Are Saying

### **Resource Insights:** Independent Comment on Environmental and Natural Resource News

In August Internet Blogger Kurt Cobb visited Willits. In October he published a series of four articles talking about the localization movement in Willits as well as the implications for other areas and their localization campaigns. The articles are too long to reprint in our newsletter, but they are interesting reading. He is supportive of our efforts, and thought provoking in their critique. Copies will be available in the WELL office, including the comments that have been posted in response to the articles. You can also find them online at:

<http://resourceinsights.blogspot.com/>

The headline and first paragraph of each article are listed below.

§

**Sunday, October 07, 2007**

#### **Willits and the problem of slow knowledge**

All eyes in the peak oil movement are on Willits, a small town of about 5,000 in northern California's Mendocino County. Willits became an experiment station of sorts for peak oil preparedness when Ph.D. botanist Jason Bradford left the University of California-Davis in 2004, moved his family to Willits, and began preparations for an imminent, irreversible decline in world oil production.

§

**Sunday, October 14, 2007**

#### **What's the definition of local?**

Peak oil activists in Willits, California have convinced city officials, the chamber of commerce, and even the Rotary Club that focusing on locally owned and operated businesses is an important step in preparing for the onset of world peak oil production. At first this seemed simple. The community would be encouraged to patronize businesses owned and operated by people who live in and around Willits or, more specifically, the Willits zip code.

§

**Sunday, October 21, 2007**

#### **Willits meets the S-curve**

Brian Weller arrived in Willits, California 12 years ago. A transplant from England, he brought with him corporate training experience which has come in handy in his work with Willits Economic Localization (WELL). The project is an attempt to implement one of the key strategies for meeting the challenges of world peak oil production, relocalization.

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**Sunday, October 28, 2007**

#### **Is Willits a post-peak oil paradise?**

In Willits, California it's hardly worth it to tune in to the weather report from May through October because the report is nearly always the same: "It's going to be another great day in northern California!" The mellow California sun ascends into a clear, azure sky over the low mountain ridges that surround the Little Lake Valley. Cool, dry nights turn into warm, dry days. The air is some of the cleanest in the United States.

Willits Economic Localization (WELL), P.O. Box 42, Willits, CA 95490 (707) 459-7076 Fax (707) 459-7077

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E-Mail: [office@willitseconomiclocalization.org](mailto:office@willitseconomiclocalization.org)

Website: <http://www.willitseconomiclocalization.org>

## Gleaners Season Coming to an End

By Marilynn Boosinger

**The Grateful Gleaners** are winding down the harvest season, which stretches from May to November. We are pleased to announce that we harvested over four 1/2 tons of food this year! Most of it was due to a bumper crop of plums, pears, and apples, but also includes cherries, berries, persimmons and walnuts. We would like to thank the growers whose generosity provided the bounty and the volunteers who harvested and distributed food that otherwise would have gone to waste.

The food went to many community organizations, including Willits Community Services, Our Daily Bread, the Kids' Clubs, the Senior Center and the school cafeterias. The gleaners themselves took a portion of the harvest home, and some of the gleaned food was served at the second annual Harvest Festival dinner held at the Grange. We were even able to send several hundreds of pounds of pears & apples to the Fort Bragg food bank, which was pleased to receive the fresh fruit. One of the ripple effects of our efforts is that more people than ever are taking it upon themselves to harvest their excess garden produce and deliver it to the food bank.

Although there is still a bit of gleaning to do, the Grateful Gleaners team leaders officially ended the season with a four-star potluck dinner at Marilyn Darrow's home. Along with good food, we shared our experiences and discussed how we would tackle the project next year. Thanks again to all of you who pitched in to help make this a successful gleaning season!

## Mendocino County Railway Society Meeting (MCRS)

**Monday November 12, 6:30 pm**  
**Little Lake Grange**  
**291 School Street**

On October 28 the MCRS met at the Little Lake Grange to take stock of the process of getting rail to Mendocino County. Richard Jergenson gave an informative presentation on the status of the NCRA (North Coast Rail Authority), SMART (Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit), and local options for Willits.

There were some lively discussions, a talk by a activist involved in (successfully) getting Light Rail started in Sacramento, and the realization that there is a lot of work to do.

If you would like to be involved, please attend this next meeting on Monday, November 12, at the Grange. For information call Richard Jergenson at 459-6362.

## GULP Goings On

**URGENT MEETING REGARDING MASONITE** Monday, November 5, 6-8 p.m., Board of Supervisors Chambers, 501 Low Gap Road Meeting with County Agencies and hopefully State Department of Toxic Substance Control. THE opportunity to ask questions and express concerns about possibility toxicity and the lack of oversight of the demolition in progress at the former Masonite site. Many of your friends and neighbors in the Ukiah Valley are gravely concerned and respectfully request your presence at the meeting to lend support. If you can not come to the meeting, please send word of your concerns to the Board of Supervisors, the State Dept of Toxic Substance Control. AND please help us spread the word throughout the county. There seems to be gross neglect in the headlong rush to get the site cleared.

**PRESENTATION BY BROCK DOLMAN** Thursday, November 15, 7 p.m. "Trending to the Wild: Restoring Wildlands Biodiversity", Ukiah Civic Center, 300 Seminary Ave., Ukiah

Brock Dolman will teach us how to think about a piece of land, using OAEC's program as a case study. He will offer hands-on, low-budget, site-specific methods for the restoration of water tables, wildlife, and plants. Some methods include spot burning, replanting native bunch grasses, and digging contour swales.

Brock Dolman is a thought-provoking speaker whose style is pragmatic, poetic, and often amusing. An ornithologist and wildlife biologist by training, Dolman is also a Sonoma County Fish & Wildlife Commissioner, a board member of the Russian River Watershed Council, an occasional advisor to various water control agencies, and a nationally recognized permaculture instructor and consultant. The work of Dolman and the OAEC has been so effective that the California Department of Forestry, the University of California, and the California Department of Fish and Game include the OAEC on their teaching-tour circuits. For more information about the OAEC's programs go to [www.oaec.org](http://www.oaec.org).

This Peregrine Audubon Society program is free to the public, though donations will be gratefully accepted.

**Now & Then Film Series*****Presents*****"Escape from Affluenza"**

This PBS documentary, which first aired in 1998, delivers the bad news about the destructive impact our lifestyle is having on ourselves as well as our environment and then the good news about what many families, individuals, businesses and community groups are doing to reduce consumption while enriching their lives. A serious subject presented in an entertaining and uplifting manner!

**7:00 pm, Thursday, October 18**  
**Little Lake Health Center**  
**45 Hazel St.**

**Enter by back door in parking lot**

***Free Admission! Everyone Welcome!***

**Suggested Donation of \$5 to Help  
 Build WELL Film Library**

**Briarpatch Meetings**

Do you own a local business? Are you thinking of starting one? Are you interested in a sustainable approach to business? Are you looking for a network of local business people that help each other?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you may want to attend a Willits Briarpatch meeting.

"Our purpose is to support local businesses, and small business owners, by meeting every other week to share information about what are working in our businesses, help each other solve problems, bring in guest speakers of mutual interest, and network with other individuals and organizations."

For further information contact Jed Diamond (459-5505 or by e-mail at [Jed@MenAlive.com](mailto:Jed@MenAlive.com))

**Tuesday: November 20**  
**Tuesdays 1:30 – 2:30 pm**  
**at the Yum Yum Tree Restaurant**

**[LocoGopher.com](http://LocoGopher.com)**

Take a look at this site. You can register your business or list your favorite local business. Listings are free. You can look for businesses based on how far they are from any given town. The mileage is listed and a map is provided along with contact information. Many businesses and services in Mendocino County are already listed. For instance, when I enter 'Coffee' and 'Willits, California' I get the results below. If every business in Willits is entered, then we can all find local businesses easier.

- 01

**Paradise Juice & Coffee Bar** Distance: 0.48 miles

★★★★★ 349 S Main St  
 Restaurants - Coffee House Willits, California 95490  
 707.456.0155
- 02

**Espresso Express** Distance: 0.7 miles

★★★★★ PO Box 326  
 Coffee Brewing Devices Willits, California 95490  
 707.459.1890
- 03

**Mama Java** Distance: 0.83 miles

★★★★★ 25 W Mendocino Ave  
 Restaurants - Coffee House Willits, California 95490  
 707.456.9224
- 04

**Ydes Brewed Awakening** Distance: 0.9 miles

★★★★★ 1437 S Main St  
 Restaurants - Coffee House Willits, California 95490  
 707.459.7055
- 05

**International Roasting Systems** Distance: 26.1 miles

**2007 Winter Solstice Spiral Dance**

Friday, December 21st, 7pm  
 Willits Community Center  
 111 E. Commercial St  
 \*\*\*\*\*

A celebration of midwinter with an evening of songs, dance, storytelling, candle lighting, and a drum jam!  
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Bring the family, drums, rattles, an offering for the Food Bank  
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Suggested donation \$5 - sponsored by the Spiral Dance Collective  
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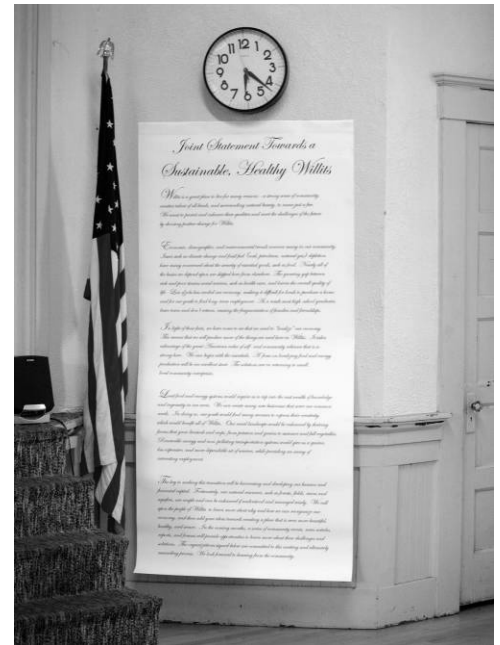
email [abweller@pacific.net](mailto:abweller@pacific.net) or call 459-4499 for more information

**Mayor's Water Conservation Challenge**

**Tip: Fix your leaks. If every faucet is turned off, your water meter should not be moving. If it is, look for the leak.**

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**Joint Statement For A Local,  
Sustainable Economy**

<http://www.willitseconomiclocalization.org/JointStatement>

Photo by Sue Coop

As we enter this Holiday Season, may each of you stay happy and healthy, and may we all remember to look for local sustainable ways to celebrate.

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