



# Willits Economic Localization

## The WELL Bucket

Volume 6 – Issue 4

July / August 2011

### Schedule of Events

#### July & August

July 9, 4 - 6 pm

Michael Ruppert speaks on  
Transition,

Willits Center for the Arts, see page 2

July 10, 9 am - 5 pm

Brooktrails Community Garden  
Work Day, see page 2

July 11, 6 pm

WELL CC Meeting

WAG building, 221 E. Lenore Ave.

July 15, 7 - 9:30 pm

"Farmageddon - the Film," Little  
Lake Grange, see page 6

July 21, 7 pm

"Queen of the Sun: What Are the  
Bees Telling Us?"

Now & Then Film Series, Little Lake  
Grange, see page 4

July 24, 8 - 11 am

Grange Pancake Breakfast  
Little Lake Grange

July 28, 4:30 pm

Willits City Council's Public  
Forum on W. Commercial St.  
Improvements, City Hall

July 30, 4 pm

"Transition Town" Community  
Gathering

Rec Grove Park, see page 1

August 6

Final Ecology Action Garden Tour  
Plus mini-classes, see page 4

August 8, 6 pm

WELL CC Meeting

WAG building, 221 E. Lenore Ave.

*continued on page 2*

### Edible Garden Tour

**Saturday, August 27**

**10 am to 1 pm**

WELL is having our 6th annual edible garden tour!

This year we're featuring small in-town gardens  
within walking distance, both to honor and encourage local  
home gardeners and to reduce our carbon footprint.

Meet at the front of the Little Lake Grange at 10 am,  
and we'll have maps of where to enjoy our  
neighbors' lovingly tended gardens.

#### We still need more in-town gardens for the tour.

If you have one or know of one, please contact Kimbal  
at 456-9128 or Madge at 459-6675, or email Madge at  
mstrong@willitsonline.com.

We'll have some cool drinks and snacks available for a  
nominal donation; the tour will be free.

Come enjoy a stroll of home gardens at your own pace, ask  
gardening questions, and admire the abundance that is  
possible in a small space.

### "Transition Town"

### Community Gathering

**Saturday, July 30 at 4 p.m.**

A year ago 44 community members attended Transition Town  
training to learn more about localization and creating greater  
resilience within our community. The next step in the process is to  
have a community celebration for people to share and envision  
revitalization and resilience for Willits. Last month a group of us met  
to move the process forward. We are pleased to announce an  
invitation to our entire zip code and beyond to bring your ideas to  
the table.

*continued on page 2*

**"Transition Town"***continued from page 1*

The Transition Town model was developed in part based on the earlier work of WELL in our community. Now the original ideas are spreading all over the country and world in the form of Transition Towns. The passions and gifts of all the people in our community are needed to create a stronger more sustainable Willits.

One of the things that makes Willits a Transition Town already are the resources we share, the model of networking and bringing people in, the Film series, the Farm tours and encouragement of local gardening, food and water awareness, and forums for speakers on community needs such as transportation.

On July 30th, at 4:00 p.m. at the Recreation Grove Park we will have a community gathering. Mark your calendar! We will have a joyous time with music, free food, an auction of "green" items, networking and generating our direction. We want everyone's ideas. Our combined passions and gifts will create a stronger, healthier, more invigorated community. For more information contact Peter Norris at 707-456-9968.

*— Peter Norris***Michael Ruppert Speaks**

On Saturday, July 9th at 4 pm Michael Ruppert will be a guest speaker at the Willits Center for the Arts. He is the author of "Confronting Collapse" and "Crossing the Rubicon." He will be speaking on: Economic Collapse; Governmental Collapse; Self Sufficiency; The Transition Movement; Building Resilient Community; Mental and Physical Preparation for Uncertain Times Ahead. Extensive Q&A to follow.

Please come and voice your concerns. Suggested Donation \$10-15, no one turned away.

**U-Pick at Brookside Farm in July**

Brookside Farm will be offering you-pick fruits and vegetables through July. As of early July, available produce includes broccoli, strawberries, onions, chard, kale, garlic, scallions, lettuce, turnips, cherry tomatoes and more. Farmer Antonia will be hosting You-Pick and guided volunteer hours:

Monday: 4pm – 7pm; Tuesday: 4pm-7pm; Wednesday: 9:30am-noon; Thursday: 9:30am-2pm; Friday: 9:30am-noon. Email [apartridge@ncoinc.org](mailto:apartridge@ncoinc.org) to get on the list for weekly updates about what's ripe for picking and what volunteer tasks are needed that week. Volunteers earn \$50 gift certificates for every 10 hours of farm work. Brookside is also looking for members of its advisory council: Come to the next farm tour and potluck dinner on Tuesday, July 12 at 5:30 p.m. at the farm. Info: 272-1395.

**Schedule of Events***continued from page 1***August 13, 4 - 8 pm****Rotary Garden Party Benefit**

Shusters, 1660 Center Valley Rd. Info:  
John Cross, 459-1277

**August 27, 10 am - 1 pm****WELL Edible Garden Tour**

Meet at Little Lake Grange, see Page 1

**August 28, 8 – 11 am****Grange Pancake Breakfast**

Little Lake Grange

**Ongoing Events****Every Thursday, 3 – 6 pm****Farmers Market, City Park****First Three Thursdays of the month,****6:30 – 7:30 pm****Power Down Meditation & Meeting Circle, City Park****Brooktrails****Community Garden****Workday, July 10**

Come to the new garden located across the street from the Brooktrails Lodge (look for the sign ... the garden is at the bottom of the driveway) for a community workday and potluck, Sunday July 10 starting at 9 a.m.

This workday open to the public and is a potluck so bring something to share and, if possible, your own plates, cups and cutlery. If you don't know what to bring to the potluck, contact the potluck coordinator, Jenn Ramming at [jenn-nalene@gmail.com](mailto:jenn-nalene@gmail.com)

Very nice half-barrels will be sold as a benefit for the garden, and we will be signing up new garden members at \$10 per membership.

Come have a look, hang out, help out, and EAT [yum]! More info: call Freddie at 459-5267.

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## Brookside Farm

## People-Powered Produce

... would like to thank WELL for its support.

Brookside Farm welcomes volunteers to work in a beautiful setting and learn how to garden in Willits. Low income volunteers can earn up to \$20 per week in Farmers' Market credits.

Interested? Contact Antonia at 272-1395

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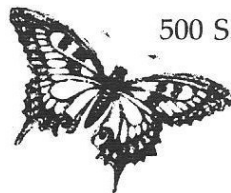
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**Now & Then Film Series presents:****“Queen of the Sun: What Are the Bees Telling Us?”****Thursday, July 21 at 7 pm**

*Queen of The Sun: What Are the Bees Telling Us?* is an investigation to discover the solutions to Colony Collapse Disorder; a phenomenon where honeybees vanish from their hives, never to return.

Queen of The Sun follows the voices and visions of beekeepers, philosophers, and scientists around the world, all struggling for the survival of the bees. This film emphasizes the biodynamic and organic communities who have differing opinions from many

commercial beekeepers and are overlooked in other films.

Queen of the Sun follows colorful, alternative and inspiring beekeepers from all around the globe as they keep bees in natural and holistic ways.

**Take the time to listen to and take care of the honeybees in your neighborhood.**

**Little Lake Grange Hall, 291 School St, Willits**

Donations of \$5 (children free) are greatly appreciated & will be used to renovate the hall, also to purchase films & equipment

*Organic Popcorn, Fair Trade chocolate & snacks for sale benefit the Grange Restoration*

**FINAL ECOLOGY ACTION GARDEN TOUR AUG. 6**

The final 5- to 6-hour Ecology Action Research Mini-Farm/Garden Tour is set for Aug. 6, 2011. These tours give a good intro to GROW BIOINTENSIVE sustainable mini-farming, what our practical research site is accomplishing, and how our sustainable method relates to world agriculture.

Tours include participant introductions; a discussion of the overall world challenges that humankind faces in the areas of soil, food, and nutrition; an exploration of the connection between thinking globally and acting locally; a tour of the garden and discussion of several crops in particular; and 30-minute mini-classes on double-digging, composting, seed propagation, sustainable home garden crops, and cooking with solar ovens.

For more information and to pre-register online, see “Tours” at [www.growbiointensive.org](http://www.growbiointensive.org).

**WELL Coordinating Committee 2011**

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**WELL 2011 GENERAL MEETINGS**

**Jan. 23 – Water & Energy Forum**

**Feb. 27 – Swap Meet**

**Mar. 27 – Growing Home Gardens**

**April 17 – Guest Speaker Charles Bush**

**May 21 – Barn Dance**

**June 26 – Transportation Forum**

**Aug. 27 – Walking Garden Tour**

**Sept. 25 – Guest Speaker**

**Oct. 23 – Emergency Preparedness Forum**

**Nov. 20 – Community Brainstorm /  
Talking Stick**

*Details: Check [www.well95490](http://www.well95490) and future newsletters*

# California Department of Food and Agriculture tells Green Uprising Farm to “Cease and Desist”

July 1, 2011

*Dear friends, family, newspaper editors, and those who seek wholesome food in their local community:*

On Thursday June 30<sup>th</sup> during the weekly farmer's market in Willits, California, my husband Michael Foley was served a notice of violation from Jim Dentoni of the Calif. Dept. of Food and Agriculture.

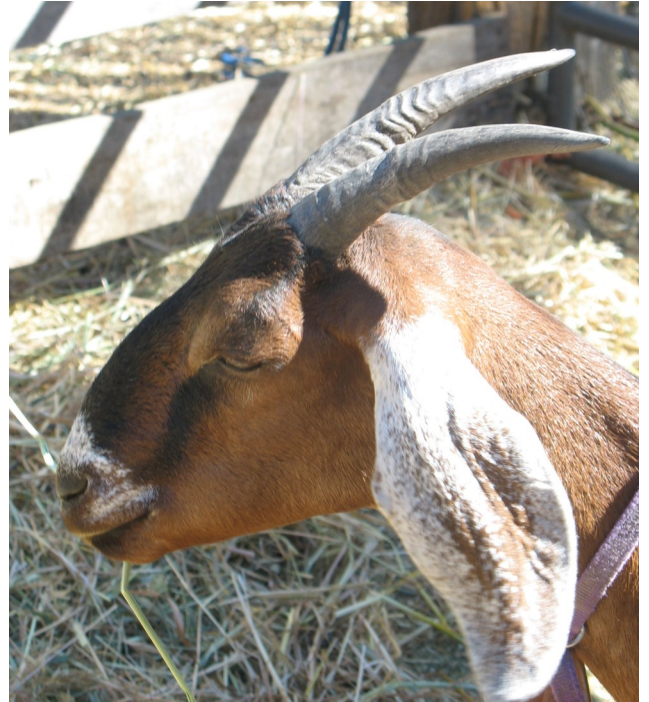
The notice said: “You are hereby ordered to cease and desist the sale of, and giving away, of any and all raw or pasteurized dairy products from any unlicensed dairy and/or processing milk plant.”

My husband and I run a small family farm called Green Uprising at Blackberry Bend where we reside with our children and grandchildren.

In addition to providing the community with fresh fruit and vegetables grown without artificial pesticides and fertilizers, we board, feed, and milk ten adult goats for shareholders who have purchased ownership interest in the herd.

According to the Calif Dept. of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) this is a threat to the public health. Our children, our grandchildren, friends, family, neighbors and shareholders all drink raw milk directly from the teats of goats boarded at our farm (my goodness!) and we are all alive and well, happy and healthy.

In fact, if you go back three or four generations most everyone who consumed milk drank it raw from a family farm in their community. But, according to CDFA, our shareholders don't have the right to drink raw milk from a goat herd they have purchased an ownership interest in.



**In addition to providing the community with fresh fruit and vegetables grown without artificial pesticides and fertilizers, we board, feed, and milk ten adult goats for shareholders who have purchased ownership interest in the herd.**

According to CDFA, they know better than you what's good for you. And, they think that pasteurized milk from a feedlot dairy where large amounts of antibiotics are used (due to the unhealthy conditions) and Bovine Growth Hormone (a genetically engineered artificial growth hormone) may be given to stimulate milk production, is healthier than the milk I hand milk into glass jars from my ten precious goats. You have got to be kidding...

We have agreed to temporarily cease and desist providing milk to those who have ownership interest in the herd. But, we are committed to fighting the intrusions of a “nanny state” that imposes its misinformed notions of food safety.

We will be gathering our shareholders for a meeting and, with legal counsel from the Farmer to Consumer Legal Defense Fund, we will be

*Continued on page 6*

# "Farmageddon - The Film"

**Friday, July 15th at 7 pm  
Little Lake Grange**

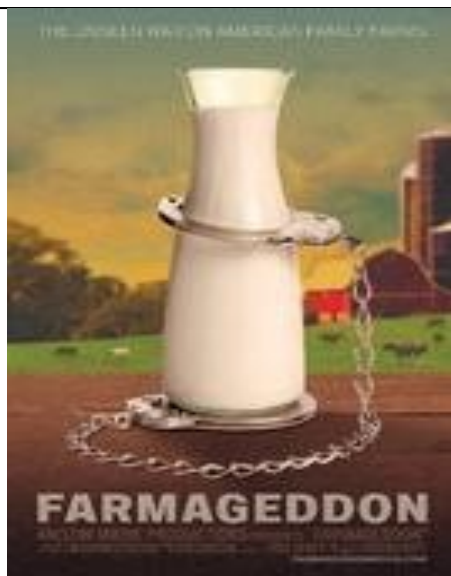
Discussion afterwards  
with the owners of  
Green Uprising Dairy

by *Annie Waters*

Americans' right to access fresh, local, healthy foods of their choice is under attack by federal and state agencies.

Farmageddon tells the story of small, family farms that were providing safe, healthy foods to their communities and were forced to stop, sometimes through violent action, by agents of misguided government bureaucracies, and seeks to figure out why.

Instead of focusing on the source of food safety problems — most often the industrial food chain — policymakers and regulators implement and enforce solutions that target and often drive out of business small farms that have proven themselves more than capable of producing safe, healthy food, but buckle under the crushing weight of government regulations and excessive enforcement actions.



<http://farmageddonmovie.com/>

This is happening here in Willits now! Green Uprising Farm has received notice of violation from the California Department of Food and Agriculture demanding that they "cease and desist" the sale or giving away of milk produced at their small dairy.

Green Uprising has been providing wholesome, fresh milk to shareholders who have purchased an ownership interest in their herd for some time.

Come and hear their story and find out how you can help protect our local food supply.

**It's time to claim and demand our human right to grow our own foods locally! GET INVOLVED!**

**Send a Fax to Your Legislators:  
Ask Them to Co-Sponsor & Pass HR 1830**

Go to <http://www.farmtoconsumer.org/petitions/pnum1079.php>

**Read more about raw milk and your rights:**

<http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2011/06/15/ron-paul-vs-the-fda-milk-police.aspx>

## **Cease and Desist** — *continued from page 5*

discussing all possibilities available to ensure that everyone has the right to drink the milk of their choice.

By the way, when I went out to the barn and told Floppy, Rosemary, Persimmon and the rest of the flock to cease and desist producing milk they told me I was crazy, they were hungry and I better get to work milking them, now.

So, what am I supposed to do with the gallons and gallons of milk filling the fridge, Jim Dentoni? My mother, who was a child during the Depression, taught me never to waste good food.

Why is it so easy to shut down a small family farm? Why does the California Department of Food and Agriculture believe that Hostess Twinkies, Lucky

Charms or Coca Cola are safe foods, but that raw milk produced at our farm is dangerous?

Here's a deal I would be more than willing to make. I don't believe that raw milk is a public health threat, but we would gladly cease and desist the production of raw milk if the following real public health threats and real threats to the future of our planet would also cease and desist.

For example, how about shutting down nuclear power plants, offshore oil drilling, fracking operations, or asking coal companies to cease and desist mountaintop removal and shutting down coal-fired electricity plants.

Sincerely,

**Sara Grusky  
Green Uprising Farm at Blackberry Bend**

# **WELL Coordinating Committee Briefs**

## **May 9, 2011 Meeting**

The main focus of this meeting was evaluating WELL goals for 2011. Several CC members are working on improving organization at the office. We need ideas for how to better expand and engage membership.

The May 21 barn dance is one kind of outreach, and tabling at events continues. The newsletter, website and a facebook page are on-going. We should generate more articles for TWN. Guest speakers are also a draw.

New CC member Peter Norris is eager to follow up on last year's Transition Town (TT) training with a gathering (with multiple sponsors) for "community visioning". We suggested a date of July 30. Several people will invite groups to attend and co-sponsor. The event will include music & food, followed by brief presentations, and forming interest groups.

We are planning ahead for an Emergency Preparedness forum on Oct. 23, hopefully with Tom Alman as main speaker plus other key people.

Local food continues to be a primary focus, with ongoing support for Brooktrails, Brookside, WISC and other garden projects. Helping find sustainable funding for Brookside School farm is critical. Annie is doing summer cooking classes. Michael Foley is still working on a farmer training project with WELL grant funding. We also are planning the Aug. 27 walking garden tour.

The many transportation issues facing Willits are to be addressed at WELL's June 26 forum. Follow-up will still be needed on projects, including the Willits Creek trail.

It's suggested that health issues stay on the long-term agenda, perhaps with another forum next year. Business development and reskilling are also important, but for now WELL is not able to take a lead role. Perhaps some leaders will come forth at the TT gathering.

Overall, we feel we are accomplishing a lot with limited resources. We should keep seeking more volunteers for projects and offering our organization strengths to other groups as momentum for transition grows.

In addition to the goals discussion, Annie Waters and Richard (RJ) Jorgensen reported on a \$1,000 grant received by WELL earmarked for the Now & Then Film Series from the estate of Henry Dakin (a fan of the films and of WELL). This will be used primarily to buy new films. The Series has been drawing good audiences, donating films to Main St. music, and will now be starting film showings in Ukiah as well.

RJ also reported on potluck meetings on Sundays of a new Power Down group focused on reducing energy use.

## **June 6, 2011 Meeting**

On June 6 the WELL Coordinating Committee met at the WAG office and discussed many of the upcoming events. The Transportation Forum discussion was very lively, especially the idea about having a bike parade at Recreation Grove park preceding the forum and then biking to the Grange en masse. We really let our imaginations fly. Reality, however, was another story and the bike parade never happened. Perhaps with some advance planning and community announcements we can make it happen for a future event.

Another topic was the Michael Ruppert talk scheduled for July 9 at the Willits Center for the Arts. We coordinated public service announcements, logistics, poster and flyer production and website posting. We also talked about the upcoming Open Space event for the Transition Initiative and how Transition and Willits Economic Localization can work together.

July is a very busy month with events happening about every other week. In light of all that is happening WELL decided to not be in the July 4th parade. All in all it was a very productive meeting and — as at every WELL meeting — many other good and necessary things were discussed to help make Willits a wonderful place to live.

*Complete minutes will be posted on our website: [www.well95490.org](http://www.well95490.org)*



# Notes on WELL Transportation Forum

by Madge Strong

**H**ow do and how can Willits area residents get moving? That was the question addressed by five presenters at a transportation forum sponsored by WELL (Willits Economic Localization) on June 26 at the Little Lake Grange.

The subjects covered included the status of the CalTrans freeway bypass, the Sherwood Road/101 intersection, rails and trails opportunities, the Willits Creek trail, Brooktrails 2<sup>nd</sup> access, downtown improvements, south Main St. safety, the Railroad Ave./Baechtel Road or Shell Lane connection, and “testimonials” from people using alternatives to vehicles.

## 101 Bypass:

Holly Madrigal, Willits City Councilwoman and member of the WELL Coordinating Committee, provided an update on the CalTrans 101 bypass. This controversial project, in the works for decades, is still in limbo. In June last year, the California Transportation Commission approved the project (hoping to qualify for 80% federal funding), contingent

## *Options for reducing traffic congestion and improving pedestrian and bike safety*

on CalTrans obtaining required permits. Due to the project's unprecedented impact on wetlands and inadequate proof of mitigation, the Army Corps of Engineers refused to issue a permit in time for the federal funds deadline.

Since then, CalTrans has apparently worked out an agreement with the Corps to allow a 2-lane bypass (rather than the planned 4-lane freeway), and may have other State funds for the project. However, there is still a major glitch on the wetland mitigation acreage – a huge area of Little Lake Valley – as to whether grazing use can continue.

Given the on-going uncertainties, CalTrans is planning to host another public meeting in late July or early August. Stay tuned!

At least three other issues are linked to resolution of the 101 bypass: relinquishment of Main St. to the City of Willits; the Sherwood Road/Main Street intersection; and alternatives for a second access



Downtown Main Street between Van Lane and Mendocino Ave is dominated by asphalt and motor vehicles. 70% of the 80-foot right-of-way is given to motorists while only 30% is reserved for non-motorists (pedestrians and bicyclists).



With more efficient use of space Main Street could enjoy bike lanes and a landscaped median featuring native trees and plants, as well as public art. This sketch has 50% of the right-of-way benefiting non-motorists and commerce.

Graphic from Willits Main Street Corridor Safety Plan, February 2011

route for Brooktrails. Diagrams of a proposed Sherwood Road redesign were available. See below for the other two issues.

## Rails/Trails:

Larry Stropes and Lisa Mace from the Willits Rotary Club discussed the concept of multi-use trails, sometimes along side existing or unused railroad rights-of-way. Rotary is pledging a high-priority effort this year to get some trails underway, citing examples in Ukiah, Healdsburg, Ft. Bragg and other locations. Several potential trail segments are easily identified in Willits, such as along Haehl Creek or along the RR in back of Safeway. They believe a public/private coalition of groups, along with grant funds, could get this happening.

## Willits Creek Trail:

Another very important trail would link Brooktrails to downtown Willits along Mill Creek and Willits Creek. This trail used to be open to the public in the 1980's and 90's but was closed by private landowners due to vandalism. Bob Whitney is part of a group working with the Golden State Land Conservancy; they have already bought 21 acres plus access at the town-end of this trail, which will be open for use by appointment only. They are still working on agreements that could enable some access to the connecting trail.

Continued on page 9



**Transportation Forum** — *Continued from page 8*

While grants or one-time funds may secure and develop trails, a key issue will then be on-going maintenance. Whitney suggested a "Little Lake Recreation District" that would secure on-going tax funds. An audience member mentioned places that arrange community management.

The next speaker, Mike Chapman, Director of Brooktrails Community Service District, also emphasized the critical value of the Willits Creek trail, since bike and pedestrian use of Sherwood Road is a disaster waiting to happen.

**Brooktrails Second Access:**

Chapman's main topic was the need for a second vehicular access route in and out of Brooktrails. Sherwood Road, designed for 2,500 vehicles per day, is now carrying an average of 9,000, not to mention what would happen in the event of an emergency.

There are illustrations of six different potential routes currently being evaluated in a \$459,000 study by MCOG (Mendocino Council of Governments). This project is linked to final plans for the 101 Bypass, since the route should connect efficiently with Main Street near the north intersection of 101.

**Downtown Improvements:**

The improvements on W. Commercial Street, though controversial (especially the lack of a right turn lane onto Main Street), can be a model for more pedestrian- and bike-friendly designs. The Willits City Council has scheduled a public form on the W. Commercial St. improvements on Thursday, July 28, at 4:30 p.m. at City Hall. Topics include the configuration of the planters, the street-side outdoor dining, and other issues.

Such a design was developed by volunteer residents and businesspeople for a segment along Main St. between Van Lane and Mendocino Ave., but the City Council narrowly rejected the project, despite available Prop 1B funding. The Main Street group has been inactive since that rejection.

Two council members, Bruce Burton and Victor Hanson, have been negotiating with CalTrans over what improvements are expected before CalTrans relinquishes N. Main Street when the 101 bypass is built.

**S. Main St./Other Road Improvements:**

The portion of Main Street south of Highway 20 will continue to be owned by CalTrans even after a bypass is completed. Although City staff had urged

CalTrans to make safety improvements for years, the recent fatality on that stretch has raised the red flag, and CalTrans is now considering pedestrian crossings with a raised median.

CalTrans is apparently also looking at the possibility of restoring a right-hand turn at the

intersection in front of Safeway.

Another long-standing pedestrian accident waiting-to-happen is a crossing on Highway 20 at Blosser Lane/Coast Street. The City has similarly urged CalTrans to make safety improvements. (Barring pedestrian crossing there



seems unrealistic.)

A connection from Baechtel Road to Railroad Ave/Shell Lane is another potential project that could significantly reduce congestion on S. is currently rebuilding the RR Ave. bridge, but further steps have not yet been pursued.

**Alternatives Testimonials:**

The final section of the afternoon forum was hearing from people using alternatives to vehicles to get around, both what works and what doesn't. Most bicycle-riders bemoan the lack of safety along (and lack of alternatives to) Main Street, especially south of Highway 20.

On the other hand, they say biking is healthy, energy-efficient, low-cost, and fun! A Willits Biking Club is being formed. It is critical to keep your bike safe (air in tires, good chains and brakes, lights). All bikers and pedestrians are urged to wear white or bright, as well as having lights, at dusk and night!

Ben Wilcox described the different rules that apply to Segway riders, treated somewhat more like pedestrians than bicyclists.

Mary Zellachild spoke out for pedestrians as well as for keeping our public transit options. She feels better promotion of MTA could increase ridership to reverse or avoid service cutbacks. Roy Krausen notes his experience that bus connections to the Bay Area work very well.

WELL will post links on these subjects on the website: [www.well95490.org](http://www.well95490.org).

Where we are



Where we want to be



WILLITS

## 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.

**WELL is a 501(c)3 non-profit, membership organization. To find out more, become a member, or make a tax-deductible donation, check [www.well95490.org](http://www.well95490.org), or leave a message at 707-459-7076.**

**WELL EMAIL:** [office@well95490.org](mailto:office@well95490.org) **Website:** [www.well95490.org](http://www.well95490.org) **Phone:** (707) 459-7076



**Willits Economic Localization**

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