

## WELL NEWSLETTER – December 7, 2006

### Calendar of WELL Events

#### **December 11 – WELL Quarterly Meeting – Stone Soup & Storytelling**

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

At this event we are going to come together to share food and tell stories (including a few professional story-tellers). We will be making Stone Soup. We will have one pot for vegetarian soup and one for meat soup. Bring a cutting board, a knife, a bowl, and your favorite soup ingredient to add to the pot. We will tell stories while the soup is cooking. Bring your favorite story, poem or song to share with the WELL community!

#### **December 18 – WELL Coordinating Committee Meeting**

The next WELL Coordinating Committee Meeting will be held on December 18 at 6PM at 121 West Commercial Street.

#### **January 8 – Community Forum: Highway 101 Bypass**

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

WELL has sent a letter to the Willits City Council supporting a two-lane bypass or a redesign of the city streets over a four-lane bypass. As a follow-up to this letter, WELL is hosting a community forum where folks can come and voice their opinion about the bypass. The evening will open with a presentation showing why a two-lane bypass is adequate for Willits and what some non-bypass options could be. We will also provide an update on the results of the MCOG Technical Advisory Board meeting on December 20 and the MCOG Board Meeting on January 8. Following the presentation, we will have a community discussion about this important issue.

### Other Events

#### **The Now and Then Film Series – Winter 2006 schedule:**

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

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

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

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

**April 19<sup>th</sup> - “Fed Up”** - Overview of our food production system from the Green Revolution to the Biotech Revolution and what we can do about it including historical

footage of Monsanto's development of GMOs and interviews with farmers, scientists, government officials and activists. 58 minutes

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

All are invited to the first annual Noyo Food Forest Black Tie Boogie! This event will take place on December 16, 7pm-2am, at Portuguese Hall in Fort Bragg, featuring live music, a local foods feast, silent auction and cocktails. Noyo Food Forest is a group of people in Fort Bragg focused on cultivating a sustainable, affordable and accessible local food system by providing opportunities for education, enterprise, and community involvement. For questions please call 964-0218 or email us at: [noyofoodforest@riseup.net](mailto:noyofoodforest@riseup.net)

### **January 8 – MCOG Board Meeting – Ukiah**

At this meeting the MCOG Board will choose which Willits Highway 101 bypass option it will submit for funding to the California Transportation Commission. This meeting will be held at 10AM in the Ukiah City Council Chambers, 300 Seminary Avenue, Ukiah.

### **January 18 – Interview with “Ripe for Change” Filmmakers**

Joanna Wildoak will interview the makers of “Ripe for Change” on KZYX&Z at 9AM on January 18. You can hear this interview and then see the movie later on the same day. See above for movie showing information.

### **Of Interest**

#### **Highway 101 Bypass Update**

Several items of interest are coming up concerning the bypass. On Wednesday, December 13 Phil Dow of MCOG will provide a report on the bypass to the Willits City Council. This meeting will be held at 7PM in the Willits City Council Chambers, 111 East Commercial Street. MCOG will consider recommending a two-lane bypass option to the California Transportation Commission. MCOG will draft both a four-lane and a two-lane option at its Technical Advisory Board meeting on December 20. The MCOG Board will potentially choose between these options at its meeting on January 8 at 10AM.

It is also interesting to note that the four-lane bypass may disrupt plans for the new sewage treatment plant in Willits due to land requirements for this option. Costs for the bypass (and other major capital projects) are currently increasing by approximately 25% per year.

#### **Brookside Farm Seeks Support**

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

#### **Willits Action Group Receives a Grant**

WAG has received a grant from the California Endowment to plan for a local food systems network here in Willits. Cyndee Logan of WAG has been involved in the WELL Food Group,

much of the grant proposal was developed around WELL-inspired work, and the grant aims to support our goals. Congratulations everyone!

## Office Notes

### **New WELL Website**

We have redesigned the WELL web site. I hope you will find it easier to read and more informative. The web site is becoming a large repository of information regarding local resource and policy issues, drawing not just upon the work of WELL, but historic documents also. Check it out here: [www.willitseconomiclocalization.org](http://www.willitseconomiclocalization.org).

Also, please note that in our effort to maintain transparency, we post all Coordinating Committee meeting minutes on our web site typically within one week of the meeting. You can find those minutes here: <http://willits.postcarbon.org/node/69>. Also, please remember that Coordinating Committee meetings are open to everyone. The meetings occur every two weeks. The next one will be at 6PM on December 18 at 121 West Commercial Street, Willits.

### **WELL Annual Report**

The first ever WELL annual report has been published. You can download it here at: <http://willits.postcarbon.org/files/well/WELL2006AnnualReport.pdf>.

### **WELL E-Mail Policy**

In late November the WELL Coordinating Committee adopted a policy detailing how the WELL e-mail list can be used.

- Only the WELL Admin Team will send e-mails to the entire WELL e-mail list
- The Admin Team will send a maximum of one e-mail per week to the entire list.
- Anyone who wants to send something to the list should e-mail the WELL office manager by 12 noon on Tuesday for distribution on Thursday of the same week. The reason for this is that when we send the newsletter to the newspaper, we have to send it to TWN by noon on Wednesday for Friday publication. If we have a fixed deadline each week, everyone will know what it is.

Please note that any WELL member wishing to publish a letter to the WELL membership may send the letter to the WELL office and we will publish it without editing. We have not yet adopted a policy for reaching members who do not have e-mail due to cost and time considerations. WELL will continue to publish two newsletters per month via e-mail and in the Willits News.

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

Cheers,  
Suzie

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