

June-July 2009
Sustainably Speaking

Green Groups

by Mick Winter

This issue's column focuses on activities that are connected in some way with sustainability and community building. Some are particularly money-saving, a pretty good idea considering the current economy. There's a lot happening in our community, and many opportunities for you to get involved.

Napa Neighborhoods

Neighborhood organizing in Napa, as in many other towns, comes and goes, usually in response to crime, historical or tree preservation, or developers. Thanks to Napa councilmember Peter Mott, a new coordinating committee called Association of Napa Neighborhoods has formed to assist and mutually coordinate neighborhood associations. The goal is to have permanent neighborhood associations throughout Napa. You can contact Mott at pmott@sunmasterco.com for more information.

Napa Neighborhoods (as defined for planning purposes by the City of Napa)
<http://tinyurl.com/napaneighborhoods>

Old Town Neighborhood Association

www.napaotna.com

Old Town Napa resident Lisa Gottfried of DigitalWeavers.com has created a website for her neighborhood, and is available for consulting with other neighborhoods who would like to establish their own online presence.

Browns Valley Community Advocates

www.savebrownsville.com

In Harms Way

Citizens for Napa Creek Neighborhood Flood Protection

www.inharmsway-napa.org

South Napa Area Coalition

cmptelcom@sbcglobal.net

For more information and a list of websites and books on revitalizing neighborhoods, visit
www.villagenapa.com/neighborhoods.

Community Gardens

Napa now has a community garden available to any resident. The garden is located at the corner of Trower and Jefferson Streets, on land made available by the Napa Valley Lutheran Church. The garden has 50 plots ready for 2009 with an additional 100 available in the coming years; each plot rents for

\$50/year. The city of Napa has helped to provide the initial water hookup to the garden, and plot rental fees primarily cover water usage fees and other site maintenance activities.

Napa Community Garden
www.napacommunitygarden.org (not yet operative)
SW corner of Trower and Jefferson streets
Lena Septimo - info@napacommunitygarden.org
707.261.6316

Village Napa

There's a new website in the Napa Valley devoted to sustainability issues. It's called Village Napa – The Green Guide to the Napa Valley. [Full disclosure: I created the site].

Village Napa is the online place that residents of the valley can turn to when they want to know about energy saving, online resources both local and worldwide, and tips for leading a more sustainable and money-saving life. The website includes a forum for discussion of local issues, and free Napa GreenAds where locals can post classified ads that are green-related—jobs, equipment and services.

You'll also find listings of all key businesses and agencies in the county that are involved in sustainability, many ideas that can be used in our homes and community for recycling, saving money, and improving our neighborhoods and community. Out-of-the-ordinary topics such as local currency, traffic calming, and barefoot walking, as well as car-pooling and home gardening. Lots of useful, informative and entertaining videos, too.

Village Napa
www.villagenapa.com

Napa Green Drinks

Napa Green Drinks, run by Josh Wright, is the local chapter of GreenDrinks.org, an international organization with nearly 500 chapters in 49 countries. Every month people working in, or interested in, the environmental field gather together in informal sessions to meet new people, see old friends, chat about green things, find employment, develop new projects, and get new ideas.

Napa Green Drinks meets at several locations. For the date and location of the next meeting and other news, visit the website.

Napa Green Drinks
www.napagreendrinks.org

Sustainable Napa County

The Peter A. and Vernice H. Gasser Foundation has launched the non-profit organization Sustainable Napa County to “bring together local business, agriculture, nonprofit, and government entities as part of a comprehensive, collaborative campaign to measurably improve conditions for a healthy, prosperous Napa County”. Its mission is to “take action for economic vitality, environmental health,

and social equity.”

SNC's initial efforts have been focusing on helping nonprofit-owned buildings become more energy-sustainable. It also recently successfully lobbied for the City of Napa's new building code with its stringent green standards.

Sustainable Napa County
www.sustainablenapacounty.org

Napa Time Bank

Local residents have recently founded an organization called *Napa Time Bank*. It's affiliated with more than 300 Time Banks throughout the United States and in 21 other countries. [Another disclosure: I'm involved with this one, too.]

At its most basic level, time banking is simply about spending an hour doing something for somebody in your community. That hour goes into the Time Bank as a “Time Dollar”. You then have a Time Dollar to spend on having someone doing something for you. It's a simple idea, but it has powerful ripple effects in building community connections. Because there is no monetary value assigned to services, Time Banking is non-taxable.

The Napa Time Bank's website is where you register and list what you would like to do for other members. You earn Time Dollars after each service you perform and then get to spend them on whatever services you want from the listings.

The Napa Time Bank was started for two reasons. One is to bring people of the community closer together by providing an opportunity for neighbors to help neighbors, one hour at a time. We all benefit in many ways from that interaction.

The second reason is to give people a way to save money during a time of economic hardship. Through the Napa Time Bank we can save money ourselves, and help other members of our community save as well. We do this by sharing something which is distributed equally among all of us—our time. We are all given the same amount of time each day. How we use it is our choice, but in the Napa Time Bank everyone's time is equal, no matter our age, occupation, economic level, or abilities.

Napa Time Bank
www.napatimebank.org

Freecycling

A grassroots and entirely nonprofit movement of people who are giving (and getting) stuff for free and thus keeping good stuff out of landfills. Need something? Just ask. Getting rid of something? Someone probably wants it.

Napa County Freecycle
[www.freecycle.org/group/US/California/Napa County](http://www.freecycle.org/group/US/California/Napa%20County)

Farm to Home

Local and regional farms supported by subscribers that weekly receive boxes of (usually organic) fruits and vegetables. Costs vary, as do the size of the boxes, and range from \$13 to \$25 a week.

Capay Organic - Farm Fresh to You
(Organic Food Delivery)

23808 State Highway 16
Capay, California 95607
800.796.6009

www.farmfreshtoyou.com

Family owned and operated organic farm located in the Capay Valley in neighboring Yolo County delivers direct to your home.

Comida Carneros
(Member supported farm)
Napa

707.343.6470

www.comidacarneros.blogspot.com

Community-supported family farm just outside the city of Napa. Members pick up food weekly at prearranged locations in valley.

Organic Abundance
(Organic Food Delivery)
Napa CA
707.251.5500

www.organicabundance.com

Locally-owned service delivering regional organic produce weekly or bimonthly to your home.

Planet Organics
(Organic Food Delivery)
Sonoma CA
800.956.5855

www.planetorganics.com

Sonoma based family-owned company home delivering organic fruit, produce, food products, and non-food products.

Riverdog Farm
PO Box 42
Guinda CA 95637
530.796.3802 Fax: 530.796.2222
www.riverdogfarm.com

A 70-acre CSA organic farm in Guinda in Yolo County that has been delivering fresh produce to the Napa Valley since 1994. In fact they started in the valley. Delivers to pick-up locations in Napa, Yountville, Oakville and St. Helena.

Farmers Markets

Calistoga

Farmers Market
Sharpsteen Plaza, across from the City Hall at 1235 Washington Street
707.942.8892
Saturdays, May through October
8:30 am to noon
calistogafarmersmarket@ymail.com

Napa

Chef's Market

Downtown Napa

707.257.0322

Thursdays, Late May through July. 5 to 9 pm

www.napadowntown.com/chefs-market1.html

Farmers Market

Napa Valley Wine Train Station

1275 McKinstry Street

707.252.7142

napafarmersmarket@gmail.com

Tuesdays and Saturdays (7:30 am to noon), May – October.

St. Helena

Farmers Market

Crane Park (corner of Grayson)

707.486.2662

www.sthelenafarmersmkt.org

Fridays, May - October. 7:30 am to noon

[Shauna - I also have listings for all the small family produce/fruit farms in the valley, but I doubt if you need any more copy]

Blurb for end of article:

Mick Winter is the host of VillageNapa.com—the Green Guide to the Napa Valley. He's also the author of "Sustainable Living for Home, Neighborhood and Community" (www.sustainablelivingbook.com). He can be reached at mick@villagenapa.com.

Here is the blurb for the front of the magazine:

Mick Winter is a former advertising copywriter, meditation instructor, intelligence agent, wildlife film scriptwriter, Canada-dwelling expatriate, winery tour guide, and ne'er do well. He lives in Napa, hosts NapaNow.com and VillageNapa.com, and is the author of "Peak Oil Prep: Prepare for Peak Oil, Climate Change and Economic Collapse", and "The Napa Valley Book".