



OJAI VALLEY GREEN COALITION

Newsletter Issue 2

April/May 2008

Coalition and Community

Spring has sprung and the Coalition with it. Just days away is the first in a series of Coalition action committee community presentations. Each brought to you the 4th Thursday of the month. Everything is provided except you may want to bring a seat cushion and one for your neighbor if you have it. Let's come out and support the incredible efforts of our committed volunteers. This is an opportunity to show

our fellow citizens and officials (who have all been formally invited) we are motivated to make Ojai Valley a model green and sustainable community.

We know you have the flier notice on the refrigerator but just as a reminder...

members while participating in our eco-treasure hunt. There will be composting and worm farm workshops on this year's program, along with a film series. All attendees are encouraged to walk, ride, pogo or hop on the Ojai Trolley to the campus. If you're an early bird join the EarthWalk, EarthRide folks coming from Cluff Vista Park. Starting at 9:30am, it's a festivity on to itself.

For all the details go to www.earthdayojai.com. ▲

In and Around Town

March 27, 6:30pm, Chaparral Auditorium, Ojai. 'Naturally Building Our Future' Coalition presentation.

April 9, 3pm, VCREA Plan Room, Ventura. Greening Your Project thru Energy Efficiency Workshop. Info at www.vcenergy.org.

April 12 and 13, Ojai Trees Tree planting, Linda 640-0381.

April 12, 9am-4pm, Ojai Valley Museum Earth Day event. Located at 130 W. Ojai Ave. Free to all.

April 13, 11am-4pm, Oak Grove School Campus. Annual Earth Day Celebration. www.earthdayojai.com.

April 19, 10am-Noon, Low-flow Irrigation Workshop, Ojai Community Demonstration Garden

April 21, 9am-4pm, Watershed-friendly LID & Permeable Pavements Workshop. Registration & fee. www.coastal.ca.gov.

April 24, 6:30pm, Chaparral Auditorium, Ojai. 'Food, Farm & Eco-Eating' Coalition presentation.

May 22, 6:30pm, Chaparral Auditorium, Ojai. 'What is a Watershed' Coalition presentation.

www.ojavalleygreencoalition.org

The Ojai Valley Green Coalition Presents *Ecology and Community*

A Monthly Social to Educate & Engage

March 27

'Naturally Building Our Future'

April 24

'Food, Farm and Eco-Eating'

May 22

'What is a Watershed?'

**Chaparral Auditorium
410 E. Ojai Ave.
7pm-8:30pm**

In between our presentation offerings are two Earth Day events. The Coalition will have an information table at the *Ojai Valley Museum Earth Day* event, April 12 (see calendar). There will be a Native Plant and Pottery sale, along with programs, children's activities and Chumash Ethnobotany.

This year the Coalition partners with Oak Grove School for the 9th Annual Earth Day Celebration. Talk with action committee

Start Saving Today

The Waste Management committee will be set-up at all Coalition events with a mini-recycling area. They will continue to look for outlets for recycling the hard to recycle items. Start saving and bring in the items below. We'll tell you the story behind them all when we see you at the events:

- *Wine & Champagne corks
- *DVD/CD's incl. jewel cases
- *Household Batteries
- *Cell phones, chargers okay
- *Ink and laser cartridges

The phones and cartridges are a fundraiser for the Coalition. If we can send in 100 qualifying ink cartridges by March 31 we get an extra 100 dollars! If you have a collection, please bring them to the presentation on Thursday. Thank you! ▲

Walk, Bike, Ride.....

Do you stay in your house all day and all night? Though there may be a few folks out there in this category, I suspect the majority do cross the threshold into the greater Ojai Valley and beyond. This begs the question of how we choose to get around. Do you walk? Ride a bike? Skateboard? Drive a car? A motorcycle? An electric car? Perhaps you even ride the bus or participate in a carpool? We have many choices for meeting our transportation needs.

Beyond our decision of *mode of transportation*, we then have the decision of *frequency of transportation*. Do we drive around the Ojai Valley multiple times in the day or do you combine trips? What about participating in a no car day?

These are some of the questions the transportation committee of the Ojai Valley Green Coalition is trying to explore. Beyond these basics, we really don't have an agenda. This is where you come in. What ideas do you have pertaining to transportation in the Ojai Valley? What are the issues? What could be done differently? Who needs to talk to whom to improve the environmental impacts of

transportation? Think differently. Think radically. No idea will be dismissed. *From Transportation chair, Kenley Neufeld, OVGC web blog. Kenley can be reached at kenley@neuhouse.com.*

Excerpts from one respondent: "I think Ojai is ready for a Car-Free Day! How about making Ojai Day a Car-Free Day! How about this year we work with the Ventura County Bicycle Coalition and participate in National Bike to Work/School Day in May. All of May is National Bike month.

It's been almost ten years since I spent the day bicycling around town with a planner to show where we need bike racks. There are a few--but not nearly enough. Remember the Golden Rule: Bike parking must be as convenient as car-parking. No fair making cyclists park blocks away from their destination when cars can park ten feet from the entrance."

Go to OVGC website to read full text and [Ten Reasons Why Bicycles Are Good](#).

Valley residents have many options and resources for commuting.

www.commutesmart.info has a wealth of information,

Continued on page 4 Bicycle

Earth Hour 2008

Bringing the world together to address climate change – 8 p.m., March 29, 2008.

Cities around the world are switching off their lights for one hour on March 29 in a symbolic action on climate change. Think how you spend the more than 8,700 hours that make up a year. Turning off the lights for just one hour shows we can adjust the way we lead our lives; we can make the small changes necessary to stabilize our climate. Help deliver a powerful message. www.earthhour.org ▲



Classifieds

Bringing the OVGC together with the community.

Do you have seat cushions collecting dust in a closet? Donate them to the Coalition and we'll share them when we have sit down events. Contact Deborah at 649-8631 or coordinator @ojaivalleygreencoalition.org

Photographer wanted to document Green Coalition events and its volunteers for archives and various publications.

Ojai Valley Land Conservancy's spring Friday night presentation series starts soon. Check it out at OVLC.org.

Center for Sustainability lectures & workshops. www.ce.sbccc.edu/environment.htm

'Guerrilla Green': *to undermine the enemy in the hue lying between yellow and blue.*

Thank goodness winter is pretty much done. If I had to put the thermostat back to 68° one more time after my husband turned it up to 69 or even 70°, I was going to have to get physical. We fuss about this conservation point all winter long. I'm not saying 68° isn't a tad chilly but its mind over matter with an extra layer of clothes thrown in. I rant and rave about the energy and cost savings at 68° and it being the federal government's recommended setting. My husband is unphased; he doesn't feel he should have to wear long johns, beanie and neck scarf in his own home! He makes his point by blowing into his hands to warm them, wrapping a blanket around him while walking through the house or standing in front of our ancient wall furnace for long periods of time when it is on. I am unphased. Poor guy. The only thing tougher to live with than this conservationist; is this cheap conservationist. Can't wait for August when the AC argument starts.

Editor's Corner

☀ 9TH Annual EARTH DAY Celebration ☀

☀ April 13 ☀ 11am-4pm ☀ Oak Grove School Campus ☀



Coalition Action Committees

“Knowledge is Power, When Put into Action”

This second issue finds the Coalition Action Committees discussing collaborative projects. One of their first questions is how do we work independently and yet collectively while not duplicating each other, the city or the county.

One solution being discussed is maps. “Geography plays a roll in nearly every decision we make. Choosing sites, targeting market segments, planning distribution networks, responding to emergencies, or redrawing country boundaries—all of these problems involve questions of geography.” Two very distinct map ideas have emerged; both valuable for their unique uses.

The first is a GIS map. What is GIS? It stands for Geographical Information System and it “allows us to view, understand, question, interpret and visualize data in ways that reveal relationships, patterns and trends in the form of maps, globes, reports and charts.” This would be invaluable to the action committees to visually see what each is doing through overlays on a base map, what support is already in place and what obstacles exist in the Valley. It would also be a powerful tool for the Coalition when engaging decision-makers in the public, private and government sector. Curious to learn more – www.gis.com can fill you in.

Another type of map was shared with the committee chairs by Dulanie Ellis, Food & Agriculture co-chair. She discovered a “Community Green Map” while in Vancouver, Canada. This map, folded up like any travel map, charts a community’s natural, cultural and green living resources. And as pointed out on the map – “plans, especially detailed plans, are based on maps. The plan lays out the use of land. If people aren’t involved in deciding what constitutes the important features or components of the community by discussing and mapping it, then in the minds of planners, these may not exist. That’s why we need learning and dialogue opportunities such as community maps.” The full spectrum of this idea can be read at www.greenmap.org. Their tag line – think global, map local!

Carrying on the idea of partnering not duplicating, committees will also be discussing how to best partner with the city and other organizations to expand and implement Ojai’s ‘Roadmap to a Sustainable Ojai’. It is important to also remember the majority of the Ojai Valley is in the unincorporated area of Ventura County. How does the Coalition influence, learn about and promote positive environmental changes to county codes and regulations? Committees will have the challenge of meshing the policies of both government entities into our singular Coalition mission. ▲

OVGC Coalition Coordinator Named

It has been just six months since a meeting at Chaparral High School, where over 125 committee volunteers began work on the goals of the Ojai Valley Green Coalition. Since then education, advocacy for policy change, and actions have reached such a level that this new organization, whose mission is to make the Ojai Valley a model green sustainable community, has found it necessary to designate an official ‘Executive Coalition Coordinator.’

The Ojai Valley Green Coalition is pleased to announce the appointment of Deborah Pendrey of Oak View to this key volunteer position. Her duties include overseeing the planning, communication and execution of the many events and activities planned by the various OVGC Committees. Deborah has lived in the Ojai Valley for 7 years and has been involved in the supply aspect of ‘green’ construction materials. Her leadership, enthusiasm and passion for “all things green” make her highly qualified to serve in her new capacity.



If you want to understand what California’s state and local governments are doing to create healthy communities and a vibrant, green economy, you can’t miss the Green California Summit. This is the event for anyone who wants to be part of a green revolution that is changing the world.”

April 7-9, 2008, Sacramento Convention Center

For more information and to register www.green-technology.org

Progress in Sustainability

The City of Ojai has unveiled the 'Roadmap to a Sustainable Ojai'. The Coalition applauds this important step. It is apparent a lot of research, thought and time went into the development of the map. You will see correlations between the map categories and the Coalition action committees. View a copy of the map on the Coalition website. The Roadmap will also be available for viewing and comment at the March 27 presentation. The Coalition plans to respond and work with the city to expand and further the map's agenda. While the 'Roadmap to a Sustainable Ojai' is still in the city's planning stage, the Coalition will keep members updated with changes and progress.

It's here! Ventura County Building Code Guidelines for the Installation of Residential Graywater Systems. California Plumbing Code Chapter 16 provides the permitting requirements for the installation of residential graywater systems. Our Building & Construction committee will be working on interpreting the code into layman terms. The new code can also be viewed on the Coalition website along with the Ojai Roadmap. ▲

Bicycle continued from page 2

which includes locating Park & Ride lots and tips such as [10 Steps to Ride Your Bike to Work or School](#).

Did you know the Gold Coast transit system offers two Ojai Express bus routes? One goes to the Government Center on Victoria Avenue and the other to the Oxnard Transit Center. Bus routes and bike routes in Ventura County can be found at www.goventura.org along with the [Draft Ventura Countywide Bicycle Master Plan](#). Note appendix G: Ojai Existing and Proposed Bikeways Network.

Other Resources:
www.californiabikecommute.com/checklist.pdf Bike to Work Checklist.

www.bikeleague.org/programs/education/index.php League for American Bicyclist - Bicycle Education.

Remember our beloved local trolley system. The Ojai Trolley operates seven days a week, from 7:15am to 5:40pm on weekdays and from 9:10am to 4:53pm on weekends. The fare is 50 cents for regular riders, 25 cents for seniors 65 years plus young and children age 5 and up. Infants and ADA qualified passengers ride for free. All vehicles are wheelchair accessible and air-conditioned. For information call 640-2642 or go to trolley@ci.ojai.ca.us . ▲

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- The Ojai Post
- Ojai Trees
- Symphony of Life Spiritual Center

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www.ojaivalleygreencoalition.org

COALITION WISH LIST FOR EARTH DAY, CAN YOU HELP US?

VOLUNTEER – FOR APRIL 12 SATURDAY SET-UP OR APRIL 13 SUNDAY BOOTH STAFF.

LOAN – A POP-UP CANOPY (7 DOWN, 3 MORE TO GO). WE COULD ALSO USE 10 – 10'X4' TABLE CLOTHS OR EVEN SHEETS. WE WON'T PUSH OUR LUCK AND ASK FOR MATCHING.

DONATE – PRODUCTS OR SERVICES TO OUR ECO-TREASURE HUNT 'GREEN' GIFT DRAWING.

TO HELP OR SUGGEST IDEAS, CONTACT DEBORAH AT COORDINATOR@OJAI VALLEYGREENCOALITON.ORG. THANK YOU!