



# OJAI VALLEY GREEN COALITION

Newsletter Issue 7

October 2008

## Take the Green Tour and Then Come to the Party!

Have you ever seen a straw bale building, or a cob-constructed one? Would you like to cut your pool-filtering costs in half? Do you know how a tankless water heater works? See and learn about all this on Saturday, October 4, at our Green Home and Building Tour. There'll even be a garden roof of growing succulents at one of the five residential and commercial tour sites. Interpretive signs will help you understand just what about the insides and outsides

of these buildings is green. Talk to designers and contractors about green-built features, and take home free literature to help you "green" your own home or business.

After the tour, which will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., there'll be an evening reception at the Ojai Foundation's new green-built Council House. Organic wine and light organic fare will be provided, and Flamenco guitar music by Russ Baggerly will enhance the ambience. The evening will include a short program in which the Council House designer, Jane Carroll, will discuss the process of green design and construction, as well as how she worked within existing building codes. Ventura County Supervisor Steve Bennett will present the Green Tour site owners with plaques of appreciation for their willingness to lead by example.

Our Transportation Committee will be on hand in the will-call parking lot area to help tour-goers organize impromptu carpools, thereby reducing traffic and carbon emissions, and free shuttle bus rides from the will-call area to the Ojai Foundation will be available.

Ticket vouchers may be purchased at Meiners Oaks Sash and Door, 109 E. El Roblar in Meiners Oaks, and Ecologic Life, 109 S. Montgomery, Ojai. Will-call will be at 407 Bryant Circle. Tickets may also be purchased at [OjaiValleyGreenTour.com](http://OjaiValleyGreenTour.com). Vouchers will be redeemed for tour programs/maps at will-call

on the day of the tour. The pre-event ticket price is \$15 for the tour and \$25 for the evening reception. (Add \$5 on the day of the event.) For more information, call the Green Coalition at (805) 653-0445. ▲

## Sustainable Building Professional Forum

On Wednesday, October 29, at 6:30 p.m., a sustainable building forum will be held in Ventura at the Poinsettia Pavilion, at 3451 Foothill Road. The Ojai Valley Green Coalition is an in-kind sponsor of this event for the building industry. If you're a professional who is impacted by building codes or involved with their regulation, please contribute to this dialogue. David Eisenberg will be the keynote speaker, with a panel discussion to follow.

Many changes are taking place in how today's buildings and developments are designed and built, as well as in how they're regulated. Yet a disconnect still exists between, on one hand, the level of the changes in codes and standards and the programs being put into place, and on the other hand the level of change needed to adequately respond to what the scientific community tells us is needed today. Faced with the realities of a lower-carbon future, along with growing concerns about the supply and cost of energy, water, and other critical resources, we need to look beyond old assumptions about

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## In & Around the Valley

Oct. 4, Green Home & Building Tour and Reception. Visit website [www.ojaivalleygreentour.com](http://www.ojaivalleygreentour.com) for details.

Oct. 8, 3 pm, VCREA Conference Room, Ventura: Energy Efficiency Plan Review. Info at [www.vcenergy.org](http://www.vcenergy.org).

October 18, Ojai Day: Visit the Coalition booth. Screening at Ojai Theater of Air: *The Search for One Clean Breath* **cancelled** for this date.

Oct. 25, HHW Collection Day: Call (805) 658-4323 for an appointment.

Oct. 27, 6 pm, USGB C4 presents Ted Reiff of The Reuse People. Patagonia Firehouse Community Room, 259 W. Santa Clara St., Ventura.

Oct. 27, 7 pm, City Council Candidates Environmental Forum at Chaparral Auditorium, 414 E. Ojai Avenue

Oct. 29, 6:30 pm, Green Building and Beyond Forum, Poinsettia Pavilion 3451 Foothill Road, Ventura

## Save the Date

November 3, Ojai Reads at the library  
December 20, Day Without A Bag Campaign

[www.OjaiValleyGreenCoalition.org](http://www.OjaiValleyGreenCoalition.org)

## The Coalition's Waterway Cleanup

On Saturday, September 20, twenty-two volunteers from the Ojai Valley gathered on Highway 33 near Matilija Dam with the goal of picking up as much litter as they could in three hours. The Ojai Valley Green Coalition and Mary Maranville of the Ventura County Conservation Resource District coordinated the cleanup. The event also partnered with the annual California Coastal Cleanup Day (taking place on the third Saturday of each September for twenty-four years now), which in turn is tied in with the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup—the largest organized volunteer event in the world.

We didn't head down to the beach because, well, we have plenty of litter in our own backyard, and the thought was, "Let's catch the litter before it heads to the ocean." Information from the Coastal Commission's after-event press release bears out the appropriateness of that idea:

*Past Coastal Cleanup Day data tell us that most (between 60-80 percent) of the debris on our beaches and shorelines comes from inland sources, traveling through storm drains or creeks out to the beaches and ocean. Rain or even something as simple as hosing down a sidewalk can wash cigarette butts, bits of Styrofoam, pesticides, and oil into the storm drains and out to the ocean.*

The press release further echoes the sentiment of the volunteers:



*The California Coastal Commission is asking all Californians to take responsibility for making sure trash goes where it belongs: securely in a trash can, recycling bin, or hazardous waste dump when appropriate.*

Cleaning up between south and north Matilija Road, plus gathering litter from Rice Road off of Fairview, our band of enthusiastic volunteers picked up two hundred twelve pounds of bagged trash and recyclables, plus at least a thousand pounds of large items such as couches, tires, lawnmowers, and construction material. You read that right—folks have been using an embankment off south Matilija Road as their personal landfill. So, with this mass of debris, it would have been impossible to do the job right without the generosity of E. J. Harrison, waste hauler for the city of Ojai and other parts of the valley. Through the efforts of representative Nan Drake, not only did the company drop off and pick up a forty-yard roll-off bin at no charge, they also waived dumping fees.

As demonstrated by all the volunteers and E. J. Harrison, it takes a village . . . ▲

≈≈ Many Thanks to the Sponsors of Our

Green Home & Building Tour and Reception ≈≈

Ojai Foundation ~ Ventura County Contractors Association ~ Ojai Valley Directory  
 Allen Associates ~ MakeOjaiBetter.com ~ Casa Barranca ~ Ojai Community Bank  
 Frontier Paint ~ Consolidated Disposal ~ West Wood Construction ~ Reel Screens  
 Ojai Valley Insurance ~ E. F. Moore & Co. ~ Ecologic Life ~ California Solar  
 Ojai Pool Store ~ T & T Kitchen ~ Ojai Valley News ~ Russ Baggerly  
 California Solar Electric ~ Meiners Oak Sash & Door ~ David Bury & Co. Architects



"Eating is an agricultural act." –Wendell Berry

"It is also an ecological act, and a political act, too." –Michael Pollen



## Coalition Action Committees

"Knowledge Is Power, When Put into Action"

**Building & Construction – Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues., 7 pm, Chaparral High School, 414 E. Ojai Ave., conference room in breezeway next to Administration Bldg.** The committee is evaluating the best way to communicate with its members. They are also adapting a system used by the City of Santa Monica to promote green building practices. Chairperson Reggie Wood is preparing site #2 for the Green Home & Building Tour on Oct. 4.

**Communication & Publicity – Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Thurs., 6:30 pm, 202 W. Aliso St.** Committee members have been creating display ads and writing and editing press releases and calendar items for the Green Home & Building Tour, the monthly presentations, the Waterway Cleanup Day, the OVGC bicycle valet at Ojai Day, and the Candidates' Forum.

**Events – Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Mon., 5 pm, 221 E. Matilija St., Ste. J.** Call (805) 653-8445 for time and confirmation. This committee is providing support for the monthly presentation series, the Ojai Reads project, and the upcoming Green Home & Building Tour.

**Energy – Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs., 7 pm, Chaparral High School, 414 E. Ojai Ave., conference room in breezeway next to Administration Bldg.** The committee is working on a solar presentation slated for next February. They've also discussed the possibility of a certificate of recognition for homeowners who install green systems. A draft for a proposed light-pollution ordinance is also in the works.

**Environmental Health – Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed., 6:30 pm, at Rainbow Bridge.** Call Marleen at (805) 279-2101 to participate on this committee. The group evaluated an EPA assessment for schools and found it too lengthy. They're creating a more abbreviated form for schools to use in conducting their own self-assessment. It will focus more on the health of the students, rather than on green building principles.

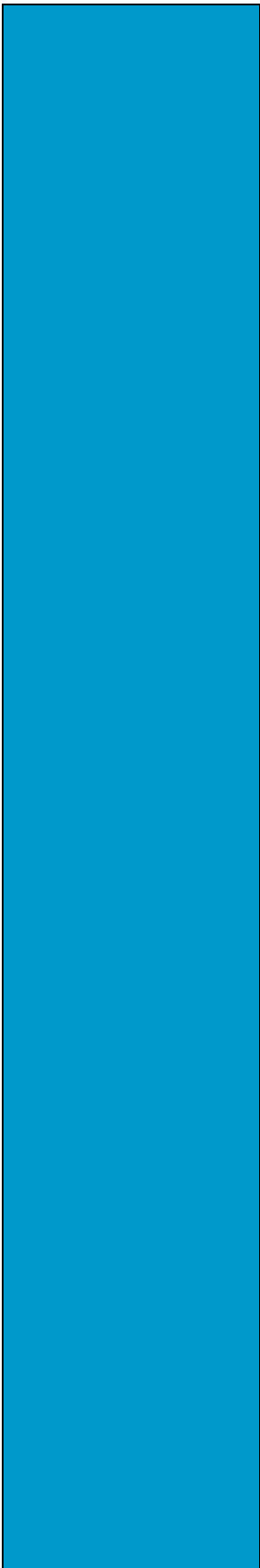
**Food & Agriculture – The next meeting will be on Thurs., Oct. 9, 6:30 pm, and will be a picnic potluck at Bill Roberts' garden, 687 W. Villanova Rd., Ojai.** Email [dulanie@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dulanie@sbcglobal.net). About 100 people attended a special event by the committee on September 27 at which Rose Hayden-Smith inspired attendees to plant Victory Gardens. A tomato tasting produced rave reviews. The Grow Food Party Crew helped create a film about community-shared planting shown at the event.

**Resource – Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Mon., 6 pm, Chaparral High School, 414 E. Ojai Ave., in Tim Baird's office.** The committee is working to identify new sources of revenue for the Green Coalition.

**Transportation – Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Tues., 7:30 pm, 308 Drown Ave., Ojai.** The committee will be providing bicycle valet parking for those who ride their bikes to Ojai Day on October 18. They'll also help organize impromptu carpools at the Green Home & Building Tour on October 4.

**Waste Management – Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs., 7 pm, Chaparral High School, 414 E. Ojai Ave., conference room in breezeway next to Administration Bldg.** Committee members toured the Gold Coast Transfer Station to see how recyclables are processed. They're exploring the possibility of partnering with Ojai Community Bank for an e-waste event. The Waterway Cleanup Day was a big success.

**Watershed – Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Weds., 7 pm, 276 Avenida del Recreo.** Please email [brian@biorc.com](mailto:brian@biorc.com) for information. The committee is focusing on bioswale restoration and education. They've identified a possible grant to allow them to clean up the Fox Street Barranca, now choked with trash, nonnative plants and trees, and toxins.



## A Successful Victory Garden Gathering

More than a hundred local residents came out on September 27 to enjoy an heirloom tomato tasting and hear an impassioned presentation on the home gardening movements of WWI, WWII, and today. Rose Hayden-Smith, a Food and Society Policy Fellow at UC Davis who lectures nationwide about food security and sustainable food systems, spoke on the history and current status of the Victory Garden movement. She shared that, during WWI, American gardeners were able to triple exports of fresh produce to Europe, where hungry citizens had been fighting for three years. There was a burst of applause when Hayden-Smith pointed out that Eleanor Roosevelt dug up the lawn of the White House to install a Victory Garden during WWII, endearing her to home gardeners everywhere. Check out [www.eattheview.org](http://www.eattheview.org) to join the current movement to replicate that White House garden with our next president. The Victory Garden movement is being reborn nation-wide, and Hayden-Smith applauded the efforts of the Ojai Valley Green Coalition to join the growing list of those who are inspiring folks to take up their trowels.

The attendees enjoyed a tasting smorgasbord of colorful tomato varieties from organic farmer Phil McGrath's fields. Food & Agriculture Committee Chair Dulanie Ellis-La Barre showed a short film she recently produced, *Grow Food Party Crew*, about how to turn work into play and build community through group gardening. The film is available for \$5 ([dulanie@walkyourtalk.tv](mailto:dulanie@walkyourtalk.tv)). Other members shared information on meatless eating choices, a Bio-intensive planting project in Russia, the Ojai Trees nonprofit project for neighborhood reforestation, and Food for Thought's school garden initiative in the valley. Other informative websites: Rose Hayden-Smith's blog at [http://ucanr.org/blogs/VictoryGrower\\_Blog](http://ucanr.org/blogs/VictoryGrower_Blog) and for food and society policy [www.foodandsocietyfellows.org](http://www.foodandsocietyfellows.org). ▲

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how we will address these emerging crises.

No sector contributes more to the problems, or presents greater opportunities going forward, than the built environment. A new dialogue is needed to open the doors to truly sustainable practices. This dialogue must be able to cut across the artificially constructed boundaries between disciplines and areas of regulatory responsibility, to create a regulatory system that is as deeply integrated and comprehensive in balancing risk and innovation as the leading-edge projects now being planned and designed to surpass the current minimum standards.

For more information on the forthcoming forum, visit the Coalition website and click on this upcoming event on the right side of the home page, or contact Carolyn Hernandez at [greenbuildingandbeyond@gmail.com](mailto:greenbuildingandbeyond@gmail.com) or (805) 272-8092. ▲

## A City Council Candidate Forum

Candidates for the two open positions on the Ojai City Council will face off in a forum presented by the Ojai Valley Green Coalition and the Ojai Post on October 27, just a few days before the election in November. Unlike other candidate forums, this one will focus on environmental issues specific to the Ojai Valley. The seven Ojai Valley Green Coalition action committees, will provide questions specific to environmental issues facing our community. Tim Baird, President of the Green Coalition's Board of Directors, will act as moderator, and will submit the questions to the candidates. Green Coalition members and the general public are invited to attend this free

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Tim Baird, President
- Scott Eicher, Vice President
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#### Nonvoting Members:

- Cindy Cantle, Representative - Supervisor Steve Bennett's Office
- Steve Olson, Representative - City of Ojai

### MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

- City of Ojai
- County of Ventura, District 1 office
- Ojai Unified School District
- Ojai Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Ojai Valley Youth Foundation
- Oak Grove School
- The Ojai Foundation
- Design + Vision, Inc.
- The Pure Body Institute
- The Ojai Post
- Ojai Trees
- Symphony of Life Spiritual Center

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**(805) 653-8445**

**Online Donations Accepted**

event. The forum will be presented as this month's meeting within our regular community presentation series, at the Chaparral High School Auditorium, 414 E. Ojai Avenue in Ojai, and will begin at 7 p.m. For more information, visit our website at [ojaivalleygreencoalition.com](http://ojaivalleygreencoalition.com) or call us at 653-8445. ▲