



The Grassroots Gazette fosters community dialogue and participation throughout Southwest Wisconsin

DODGEVILLE SCHOOL BOARD PRIMARY ELECTION

TUES, FEB. 21

4TH ANNUAL GRASSROOTS FESTIVAL IN MAZOMANIE

SAT., FEB 18

CANCELLATION OF PLATTEVILLE HEARING ON CONTROVERSIAL MINING

BILL Legislative leaders in Madison have cancelled the hearing in Platteville that was to have allowed public discussion of a controversial mining bill that weakens environmental and public safety protections. The move comes in an attempt to pass the bill before the end of the session. Sen. Dale Schultz is said to have serious reservations about this legislation. He needs to hear from you. Call Sen. Schultz's office at (800) 978-8008.

Tues., Feb. 21 (Dodgeville) VOTE IN PRIMARY ELECTION FOR DODGEVILLE

SCHOOL BOARD. Four people are running for the at-large seat on the Dodgeville School Board. The candidates are former board president Missy Hottman who wants to ensure that children receive the best education possible and is concerned about the state impact on finances, curriculum and staffing; John A Gardner II who believes the most pressing issues are "budget constraints, retaining/recruiting quality staff and overcrowding"; current board member Donald Kreul who thinks a major issue is "making our schools a safe place so no child gets hurt getting to and from school" and David Gollon who wants to provide quality education without creating too much of a financial burden on property taxes. Limited polling places will be open: City of Dodgeville, Town of Dodgeville, Village of Ridgeway, Town of Ridgeway and Town of Linden. Anyone living in another polling area will vote at the Dodgeville City Hall, 100 E. Fountain Street (basement of Dodgeville Library).

Sat., Feb. 18, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Mazomanie) 4th ANNUAL WISCONSIN

PROGRESSIVE GRASSROOTS FESTIVAL At this all-day workshop, with Matt Rothschild and Mike McCabe as keynoters, you'll have a chance to meet candidates for Wisconsin Governor in the late afternoon. In breakout sessions, you'll find out how to start a Grassroots group, how to build a successful community think tank, how to run for office, how to effect change in the health care reform debate and much more. Registration (donation \$14 including lunch) begins at 8:30 a.m. LOCATION: Wisconsin Heights High School, 10173 State

Hwy 14, Mazomanie WI 53560. For more information contact Nate Timm at nptimm@chorus.net or (608) 220-0139.

Tues., Feb. 21, 7 p.m. (Mineral Point) MEET THE 2nd CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES (to replace Rep. Tammy Baldwin) Meet the candidates -- State Rep. Kelda Roys, Dave Warzala, Matt Silverman and State Rep. Mark Pocan -- at this Mineral Point Q&A session at the Gray Dog restaurant, 215 High Street.

Fri., Feb. 17, 1 p.m. (Dodgeville) WINDOWS INTO GAZA: A Book Discussion of *Miral* by Rula Jebreal at the Dodgeville Public Library, sponsored by Grassroots Citizens for Peace and the Dodgeville Library. Contact Jane Kavaloski at Kavaloski@countrysspeed.com FOR MORE INFORMATION check out our website at http://www.grassrootswi.org/citizens_for_peace/

Wed., Feb. 29, 7 p.m. (Dodgeville) SO WHAT IS ACT 21? The Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter of Trout Unlimited will host a round table discussion of Act 21 at Stonefield Apartments, 407 E. Madison. People concerned about conservation and environmental issues will want to be there to understand the new rule, Act 21, signed into law by Gov. Walker which some fear may reduce public input and increase political influence in the decision-making process regarding conservation issues.

Wed., Feb. 29, 5 p.m. (Madison) COMMUNITIES DARING TO LIVE THE FUTURE NOW Author Deborah Frieze will be in Madison to talk about her new book *Walk Out, Walk On: A Learning Journey into Communities Daring to Live the Future Now*. It chronicles diverse communities around the world that are self-organizing and using their ingenuity to create healthy and resilient communities. Location: Goodman Community Center, 149 Waubesa Street, Madison For tickets go to <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/226612>

INTERESTED IN BEING A HOST FAMILY? Mike Humke, one of our Grassroots members, brought this opportunity to our attention. He and his family have participated for several years in Project Self-Help and Awareness (PSA), which places children 8 to 18 from rural Mississippi with Wisconsin families every summer. Everyone benefits - the kids get a glimpse of life beyond their communities often leading to successful careers. The host families experience a culture they know little about. Great friendships are often the result. Contact Mike Humke at michael.humke@dot.state.wi.us to learn more about the local experience. Also check out www.psaprogram.org or contact Myron Geiser at 921-759-9923.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat., March 3, 8:30 to 12:30 p.m. (Dodgeville) LAND MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP Learn from the experts about invasive plants, prairie and grassland birds, the merits of prescribed fire, how to discover the environmental and human history of your land and whether your land might support biomass projects. Location: Health and Human Services Building, 303 W. Chapel. Contact Katie Abbott of the Military Ridge Prairie organization, Katie.abbott@rcdnet.net or 935-2791 to register.

Tues., April 3 SPRING ELECTIONS -- get absentee ballots early! Important races and issues will on the ballot. In Mineral Point, a school referendum will seek to maintain existing programs, facilities and equipment (more details on the school website.) In Dodgeville, two candidates are running for mayor for the first time in many years and all four city council seats are up for election. A number of important Iowa County board races are in contention. Be sure to get an absentee ballot early if you are going to be out of town. See the Dodgeville Chronicle's website for a complete description of what races will be on the ballot:

<http://www.thedodgevillechronicle.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=8&ArticleID=2244>

Sat., April 14, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Dodgeville) IOWA COUNTY ENERGY FAIR Save the date for this annual fair, sponsored by UW Extension and Grassroots. Exhibits this year will highlight solar, wind and geothermal for your home, farm and business. You'll hear from the experts as well as homeowners who have learned, sometimes the hard way, about the pros and cons of these alternative energies. In the afternoon, you're invited to tour local homes which have wind, solar and geothermal installations - where you can quiz the homeowners in person.

\$10. Register by April 9. FOR THE REGISTRATION FORM, go to the Grassroots website at http://www.grassrootswi.org/sustain_iowa_county/

Sat., April 28, 6 to 9 p.m. (Barneveld) COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS FREE

CLINIC AUCTION. At this fun event, you'll have a chance to bid on one -of-a-kind experiences such as a Norwegian dinner for eight, Japanese cooking classes for six, a house call from a computer whiz, a weekend away at a charming Italian-style guest cottage in Texas, and much more. The event, to be held this year at the Deer Valley Lodge, on Hwy. 151 in Barneveld, supports the great work the Dodgeville-based Free Clinic does. More details to come.

GRASSROOTS CITIZENS OF WISCONSIN, an energetic group of over 1000 people in Iowa, Sauk, Crawford, Richland, Lafayette and Grant Counties who are interested in taking an active role in improving government and promoting rational discussions of local, state and national issues. For further information, or to add a friend to our mailing list, please contact: Shirley Barnes, Grassroots Citizens of Wisconsin, 2473 Mt. Hope Road, Dodgeville, WI. 53533, 608-623-2109, e-mail: grassroots@merr.com.

To remove your name from our e-mail list, please click on "Reply" and write "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.