



Common Ground Athens

Front Porch ::: the newsletter of Common Ground Athens

Fostering progressive social change in Athens and beyond **Fall 2004**

Common Ground's Progressive Resource Center: the Search for Space Continues

As Common Ground moves into the autumn of 2004, the crisp Athens air infuses and inspires us in our continued search for a home for the organization, which will serve as a nexus for progressive change and resource sharing in Athens. The Space Committee of Common Ground has been meeting regularly with local commercial real estate owners, checking out available locations for the perfect fit.



We are encouraged that we will find an appropriate, centrally-located space before the end of the year. To help us reach our goal, the Fundraising Committee has been diligently soliciting funds. Plans are also underway for upcoming benefit events. Of course, we always welcome your help! If you would like to learn more about how you can help out, please send an email to commongroundathens@yahoo.com

Join the Common Ground Grassroots Fundraising Squad!

Interested in applying your many talents to helping raise much needed funds for Common Ground? Contact Andrew at andrew@uga.edu to learn more!

Common Ground Athens Seeks Volunteers for First Board of Directors

Our first interim board has worked hard to build a strong foundation for the organization. Now we'd like to once again seek the involvement of the Athens community. Common Ground is currently soliciting volunteers to serve on our First Board of Directors. To find out more information about becoming a member or serving on the Board, contact us at

commongroundathens@yahoo.com

Thanks are due to our interim board and corps of dedicated volunteers, without whom Common Ground would be pie in the sky: John Bash, Pete Brosius, Susannah Chapman, Scott Eustis, Christine Gaston, Andrew Hunt, Andandam Kavoori, Brian Holland, Ray MacNair, Kristi Maddux, Angela Modugno, Patrick O'Brien, Beth! Orcutt Monica Palta, Jessica Seares, and Ellen Walker.

New Common Ground Website!

The illustrious Technology Committee for Common Ground has been hard at work over the past few months redesigning the Common Ground website. Along with a new site design, a major new feature of the website is the progressive events calendar. Common Ground members, affiliates and others can easily submit items for the calendar by using the online form on the Events page of the website. The technology committee loves to hear feedback from our users; if you have comments or suggestions or experience problems with the site, please send an email to commongroundathens@yahoo.com.

Please visit

www.commongroundathens.org



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AFFILIATE SPOTLIGHT

*We are grateful for the support of our affiliated organizations:
ACLU-UGA, Athena's Shield, ACC-Greens, Athens Grow
Green Coalition, Athens Global Justice Collective, Athens
Religious Society of Friends, BikeAthens, Citizens Not Suspects,
Doubts About War, Ecolibrium, Economic Justice Coalition,
Georgians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty, and the
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Athens.*

Tour de Sprawl 5 a Huge Success

The recent Tour de Sprawl, co-sponsored by BikeAthens and the Athens Grow Green Coalition, successfully furthered the program's reputation as an educational, progressive, and enjoyable fixture in Athens' special events scene. In its fifth incarnation, the 3-day Tour de Sprawl broached new territory this year, addressing the theme "Green Solutions for Tomorrow's Pollution."



photo courtesy of Brent Buice

The Tour kicked off September 22nd with a free "Green Home Workshop" at the newly renovated Little Kings Club on the corner of Hancock and Hull streets. Dennis Creech, the Executive Director of Atlanta's Southface Institute, spoke to a packed house about Southface's "green" building design techniques, pragmatic approaches

to making homes and apartments more environmentally conscientious.

The next night, Walter Brown, co-president of Atlanta-based GreenStreet Properties, delivered the Tour's keynote address: "The Coming Green Urbanism" about the benefits of planning sustainable, human-scale developments. Afterwards, numerous environmentally-oriented student organizations hosted a wine & dessert reception at the Founders Memorial Garden, which coincided with a highly successful silent auction fundraiser, where guests bid on bicycle accessories, photographs, and a signed R.E.M. tour poster.

Saturday, of course, brought the Tour itself, a 16-mile bike and bus ride around Athens-Clarke County. During the beautiful, cloudless ride, 150 participants, including many elected officials, learned about environmentally sound stormwater management, "green" building techniques, and smart growth development. Donated refreshments and ACC police escorts facilitated the day's safe and immensely enjoyable ride.

For more about BikeAthens and the Tour de Sprawl, visit www.bikeathens.com. For information on the Grow Green Coalition, see www.athensgrowgreen.com.

- by Brent Buice

Get Involved!

If you share our vision of vibrant progressive democracy in Athens, please visit our website to learn about ways your talents can be utilized. Or better yet, get in touch with us at

commongroundathens@yahoo.com.

Everyone can pitch in his or her own way, and we hope that you come away very satisfied with the result! Whether a long-time activist or an interested citizen, your support will bring us closer to the world you want to see.