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Letters



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A visit with Green Hanson founder Marianne DiMascio

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2011 10:42 AM

The Green Hanson group will celebrate four years this March, and they are as busy as ever with several events planned in the coming month, including their annual Earth Day festival in April. Group founder Marianne DiMascio stopped by the Express office recently to talk about the group's purpose and share some of their plans.

What is Green Hanson? Our tagline is: 'Building a sustainable community,' and the idea is to bring the community together around green issues such as sustainability, conservation and energy efficiency. Some groups are really focused on energy and climate change, and that's a piece of ours — we want people to think about what's going on in the environment and how to save energy — but the other piece that's really strong is how do we make it a more livable community. Are there ways that we can get more bike paths or sidewalks or just getting more people to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

Is there a particular 'green' issue you feel most passionate about?

I've always been interested in the outdoors, conservation and recycling, and then when I saw 'Inconvenient Truth,' I was amazed at the impact that we are having on the earth. I thought I'd like to be part of the solution and not just part of the



problem. The part that's really important to me is the community part — that there's a way to bring people together who care about similar things and have fun and do things that are good for yourself, good for the earth and good for others. What are some activities you have coming up? In May, we're having a Tour de Coop — it's a tour of backyard chicken coops for people who are interested in raising chickens. We're trying to partner with Hanson Grain to talk about some of the issues and some of the things you would need to know to raise chickens. We'll probably meet at Hanson Grain and have a map of three or four places with chicken coops where people can visit.

We also started a community garden; we have plots available at the old hospital site. This is the third year for that and we have about 12 plots. What we'd like to do is see if anyone's interested this year in getting a plot or two and giving the food to the food pantry. Some other towns have church groups that plant and grow food and give it to the food pantry. It would be wonderful to have fresh food for them. We're looking to see if any town group would be interested in doing that.

Green Hanson is offering energy audits — how does that work? There are two types of audits you can get for your house. There's a free energy audit through the utility company.

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We [Green Hanson] are doing something that's a little different. We have one of the thermal cameras where you can see where the heat is escaping from your house — it's a camera that Sustainable South Shore purchased — and we will be doing audits with that the week of March 7 for people that are interested in having a look at their house and ways that they can save energy and save money. It's \$25 if you're a member of Sustainable South Shore and \$50 if you're not.

What's happening with the upcoming trash pickup day?

The second annual Clean Up, Green Up is on April 9 from 9-11 a.m. We're looking for 'hot spots' — as the snow melts, the roads are so filthy. What we did last year is we cleaned up around the Town Hall and then we went down Route 14 with the Boy Scouts and a bunch of volunteers and we cleaned up this big stretch and a couple of other spots around town. We also asked people around town to clean up around their house and neighborhood. It was really successful. We had maybe 50 people who came down to Town Hall to help clean up and a few others that e-mailed that they were doing the same.

What other activities are you bringing back this year?

Last fall we had a Walk to School Day with Maquan. We'll be doing another one in the spring. It was a real community event because we had a couple hundred kids and parents walking from Kiwanee up to Maquan and Indian Head. Some people biked or walked from home. After that, there did seem to be a little uptick in people biking and walking to school. The key part of that is once you're a member of Walk To School's programs for a year, you're eligible for the program that can make some upgrades to your school and the area surrounding your school.

What are your plans for Earth Day?

We've done an Earth Day festival for three years. We're still working on the date but we may be doing it with the Hanson Children's Museum as a joint event. We have a lot of kids activities, and we try to use recycled materials and plant seeds. We usually have a DJ or a band. We have local groups like the Water Department and Conservation Commission at the event. And we have vendors that sell green products.

- Pembroke sports altered due to threat of EEE virus
- Pembroke boys finishing school in focus
- Pembroke residents join Girls On The Go
- Power outage calls for change
- Power outage calls for change

Sports

- Sailors shut out Titans for first loss of season
- Titans trounce Hull to start the season
- Vercollone cross-country era starts off strong
- Panthers crush Quincy and Middleboro to start 2-0
- Girls soccer let leads slip away in first two games of season
- Moylan's pick saves Whitman-Hanson against South Boston
- Changes aplenty for girls soccer
- Veteran volleyball team has high hopes for 2011
- Golf ready for title defense
- The Tale of the Tape: I am Lion

Obits

- Shirley M. Doyle, 78
- Alexander Y. Murray, 82
- Melissa Triantafillou, 42
- Karen A. Shionis, 53
- John M. Baxivonus, 82
- Marilyn Healy, 75
- Theo Edna Tyni, 93
- Lorraine M. Faxon, 85
- Elaine M. Foster, 62
- Irene F. Rogers, 62

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