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### Wildomar group raising money for cityhood effort

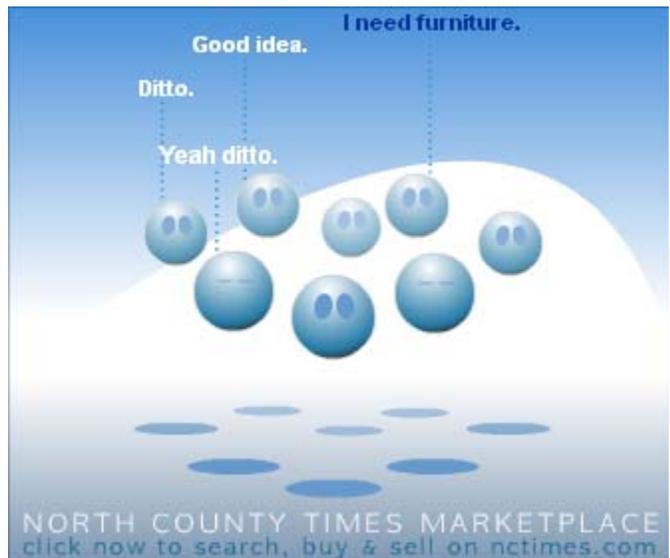
By: The Californian -

WILDOMAR ---- It's small tokens such as soda cans and inscribed bricks that paint a bigger picture of how eager people in this community are to propel themselves into cityhood.

Wildomar Incorporation Now, a grassroots group that has spent five years fighting for local control, is holding myriad minor fundraisers to raising money needed to pay for financial studies and educational efforts.

The Riverside County Board of Supervisors currently governs the 22-square-mile community between Murrieta and Lake Elsinore. Supervisor Bob Buster is the lone county voice for Wildomar's issues. Residents are pushing for cityhood so decisions on police, fire and development can be made by people who have a Wildomar ZIP code.

More than \$81,000 has been collected by hosting dinners, casino nights, recycling cans and other items and selling T-shirts or decorative bricks that are intended to eventually pave the walkway to a city hall. WIN members hope to raise an additional \$29,000, but said they will make do with whatever contributions come in.



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Small fundraisers may not mean large sums of money, but members of WIN said it's enough to pay for informational leaflets and the group's Web site.

"Every bit pays for something," WIN treasurer Bridgette Moore said. "Every fundraiser we have ---- knock on wood ---- has been successful, whether it's \$300 or \$3,000. The Wildomar residents always turn out."

There is a slew of ways for residents to contribute: dropping aluminum cans, old cell phones or used ink cartridges off at the Chamber of Commerce office, attending the fifth Casino Night on May 12, sporting a T-shirt that reads "Wildomar Cityhood Road to the Future" or buying a \$50 brick for a city hall.

WIN chairman Bob Cashman said the support for the smaller fundraisers has tapered off a bit.

"People are turning their cans in, all right, but they have to remember that we're out there," trying to raise money, he said, adding that events such as a casino night are more successful because people prefer to socialize rather than drop items off.

Though casino nights rake in big bucks ---- the last one brought in more than \$11,000 ---- it is the T-shirts and bricks that are adding a personal touch to the battle for cityhood. Out of the 200 shirts that were printed, 47 are left, Moore said. She also said about 50 bricks have been sold to people who are inscribing their names or slogans such as "Wildomar Forever."

Moore said she expects more items will sell as cityhood gets closer to being a reality.

"As the momentum grows, people will start buying them more," she said. "When you see it happening, the light at the end of tunnel, everyone will say, 'I want to be a part of history.'"

The nearly 30,000 people who live in Wildomar may cast their ballots as soon as November to decide whether to make the transition from community to city. Voters will also be asked to select five City Council members at the time of that election. If successful, Wildomar will have its own voice by Jan. 1.

Some have questioned whether Wildomar can sustain itself as a city. Although it was settled in 1886 around the same time as Murrieta, Lake Elsinore and Temecula, it remains a semirural area, though rows of homes are starting to sprout up among the dusty hills.

A 68-page comprehensive fiscal analysis shows Wildomar could amass \$12 million through sales and property taxes and business fees in its first year. That report was released last week.

"We've already got our own identity," Cashman said. "It's a pretty small community, but it's been a long-lasting community. It's a community that's pretty interesting, a blend of the old and the new."

## **TO GET INVOLVED**

Wildomar Incorporation Now is seeking donations of all sorts to help raise about \$29,000 needed to pay for various incorporation studies and publication materials. Here are some ways

to donate:

- Drop off aluminum cans, old cell phones and ink cartridges to the Chamber of Commerce, 33751 Mission Trail.
- Donate an old car, boat or recreational vehicle at "Cars 4 Causes"
- Buy a yard sign for \$5
- Buy a WIN T-shirt for \$10
- Buy a brick for \$50
- Buy a ticket for the fifth annual Cityhood Casino Night that will be held May 12

All items can be purchased by logging on to [www.WildomarWIN.org](http://www.WildomarWIN.org).

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