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Oconee Forever to promote smart growth

Group hopes controversial films will jump-start discussions

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By Carlos Galarza (Contact / Staff Bio)
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WALHALLA — The local chapter of Upstate Forever is hoping to use a monthly film series to jump-start an ongoing discussion on sustainable communities and smart growth.

Oconee Forever member Chanda Morrison said Tuesday she would like to organize a focus group interested in promoting smart growth locally.

Morrison hopes to get the ball rolling Thursday with the 7 p.m. screening of "Wal-Mart: The High Price of Low Cost," at the Oconee Heritage Center (OHC), 123 Browns Square Dr. in Walhalla. The center is located across from the Oconee County Courthouse. A donation of \$5 to OHC is encouraged.

Other documentaries to be shown during the "Green Screen Film Series in Oconee County," include "The Future of Food," an eye-opening look at genetically modified foods; "A Crude Awakening: The End of Oil," which examines the world's dependency on crude and the likely mayhem its depletion would bring; "Who Killed the Electric Car?," which investigates the forces that caused GM to pull the plug on the vehicle of the future; "Trashed," which investigates the fast-growing garbage industry; and Michael Moore's "Sicko," which is a provocative look at the nation's out-of-sync health care system that leaves more than 40 million Americans uninsured.

"These films are compelling and relevant to our lives," Morrison said in a statement. "I believe this type of casual yet informative setting can lead to further discussion and action about topics associated with these films.

Morrison said to date, the focus of Oconee Forever has been land conservation, but she would like to expand the group's scope to include smart growth and sustainable communities.

Upstate Forever advocates sensible growth and preservation of the region's natural resources.

For more information about the Green Screen Film Series or Oconee Forever's sustainable communities/smart growth focus group, call Morrison at 864-647-0068.

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