



# *The* Wonder Springs Chronicle

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## The Wonder Springs Chronicle

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## Special Report: *The energetic economic outlook*

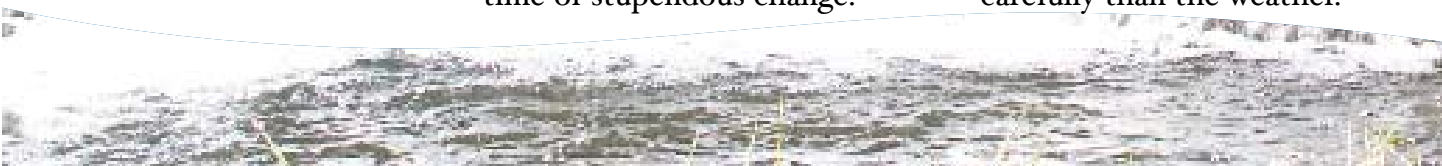
In a little over a week, we will know the results of the Presidential and other important elections in the United States. At no time in America's past has the election come during a time of such energy and economic uncertainties.

Many have already cast their votes, but still some prefer to journey to the polls to express their opinion, others still are pondering, who to vote for, or whether to vote at all?

At Wonder Springs we believe neither major candidate has addressed the truly important issues, all are spouting talking points of a failed energy and economic agenda from an era now past. Hence one could again assume neither really has a plan, the advisors, or the leadership credentials to take the United States and the world through this time of stupendous change.

Just a couple of months ago, energy was the important topic everyone was talking about. Energy independence will save us 700 billion a year we are now sending overseas. Now all talk is about the financial bailout, how low will the stock market go, what happened to all the wealth?

What follows is generally called a SWAG, about where we are, and where we are heading in the near term future, no matter who is elected President. Perhaps the most frightening thing is not the numbers here, the thing that most people should ponder is that better numbers probably exist nowhere else among the expert institutions that are supposed to be part of the solution. Hence they are not part of the fix, they are the problem. We will portray this data in terms of the price of a gallon of gas, something we all track now more carefully than the weather.



The energy independence market cost of a gallon of gas will be about 3.50 per gallon. That is based upon the fact that all these new wells, technologies, and forms of spin and wishful thinking are going to cost a whole lot more, than the true, world value of a barrel of oil. Most of that new energy will come with a direct cost of 80-100 a barrel or more. The simplest reason that America is not energy independent at this time is that it is just too expensive.

The infrastructure of America, in energetic terms, is perhaps half that or 1.75 per gallon. For a number of years now we have all been paying in the neighborhood of about 2.25 per gallon. We have maintained prosperity by simply borrowing that money and wealth from the future to maintain, a now more familiar, "upside down" lifestyle. That 700 billion mentioned earlier, while not directly cause and effect; is generally the right idea.

The price of oil continues to fall on the world markets, with the price of gasoline lagging a few weeks to a month, depending on local market conditions. It will not be that long until we are again at short term historic values, essentially in excess of the energetic infrastructure by about 0.50. It may go lower than that, because of true supply and demand outside the control of energy market manipulators but they will try to maintain that level of energy we have come to accept.

The green, global warming, sustainability crowd, wants to bring about a new world order, through regulating energy intensive industries, to save the planet from other humans. These taxes, or incentives as they will be called, will quickly bring the price of gasoline back into that range of the energy independence value.

The problem is that they will form an energetically intensive government bureaucracy to manage this system. Hence that tax will never go away, and really does nothing to increase the true wealth of the underlying infrastructure, now running at a huge deficit. So this green concept of gas, if adopted, will mean that the average Joe will be paying 5.00 per gallon on 1.75 wages.

These real ratios truly mean a change in lifestyle, no matter where you take them. Stuff

will decrease, especially globally produced stuff. That is because energy and economic markets work, no matter how government and corporate moguls attempt to spin the short term results. We can mess with debt, credit, and all sorts of smoke and mirrors, but the long term results mean less stuff, and nothing, or no means to replace it the material stuff. There is no free lunch.

Therefore an opportunity, based beyond a spurious assumption, emerges in all of this. That premise is that people are stuff also; economic and energy consumption machines, evolved and continuing to evolve out of randomly ordered DNA, somehow overcoming the natural laws of thermodynamics.

We can however, create wealth through human resourcefulness. That means we can increase infrastructure, to that magic 3.50 energy independence value, by humanizing, or accepting the humanity in all we do. What this really means is the creation of a completely new human service sector. This new way of looking at things is really how we got here in the first place.

The fundamental building blocks of humanity are a continuum, beginning with the individual, to the family, up to a community, then to the tribe, and nation. This really is bottom up, pretty much as the founding fathers of the American experiment; set up the experiment. Ladies and gentlemen it worked quite well for a 150-200 years. What happened after that is money and stuff completely replaced people, especially other people, as the focus of our aspirations.

What is really going to happen, whether we embrace the change, or continue to drag everyone and everything else down with us, is that Natural Laws, are again going to rule. It really is not environmentalism as it is now spun, but more conservative conservatism.

Generally speaking instead of buying a new Lexus, you take a fishing trip with the family. If you really want to be rich, you pay to take some poor urban kids on a fishing trip and you get to come along. For those more urbanely refined, you could take in the symphony, or a ball game with the same.

To try and give this a name, let us call it a People Infrastructure Ethos. It replaces a Material Infrastructure Ethos, in which land and people

have no value other than as an ever increasing commodity, or what we could exploit or extract from it and them. Humpty Dumpty fell off that wall, and we cannot put the dude, back together again.

This new People Infrastructure Ethos, based upon the energetic reality of Natural Law, is not only the last best hope for humanity, it is the key to a future where mankind takes seriously his and her created responsibility as a gardener and a steward of creation. Human personalities were created in the image of God to carry out that task, and to empower others along that pilgrimage trail.

We can provide incentives to bring this reality into existence more rapidly, most successfully by reinvesting our remaining wealth in people and their ideas, rather than stuff creation. Governments by their very nature cannot, and should not make those determinations. Taxes should be designed to build physical infrastructure, to build stuff that free market conditions can never do.

The up or down governmental redistribution of wealth schemes of both the political right and the political left should be abolished. Private wealth needs to seek to build or rebuild what was once known as the commons. This commons includes both land commons and common human values, or what is historically called Common Grace. This is done, by the people, for the people, according to their abilities, and their continuing education in the reality of reality. This is a tall order, a complex challenge, but there really is no other alternative.

Think about that as you cast your vote, or more importantly as the aftermath of the election, the bailout, and the bubble become resonant in this unique age. Life is the ultimate blessing; it is time we again promoted it to its proper level of importance.