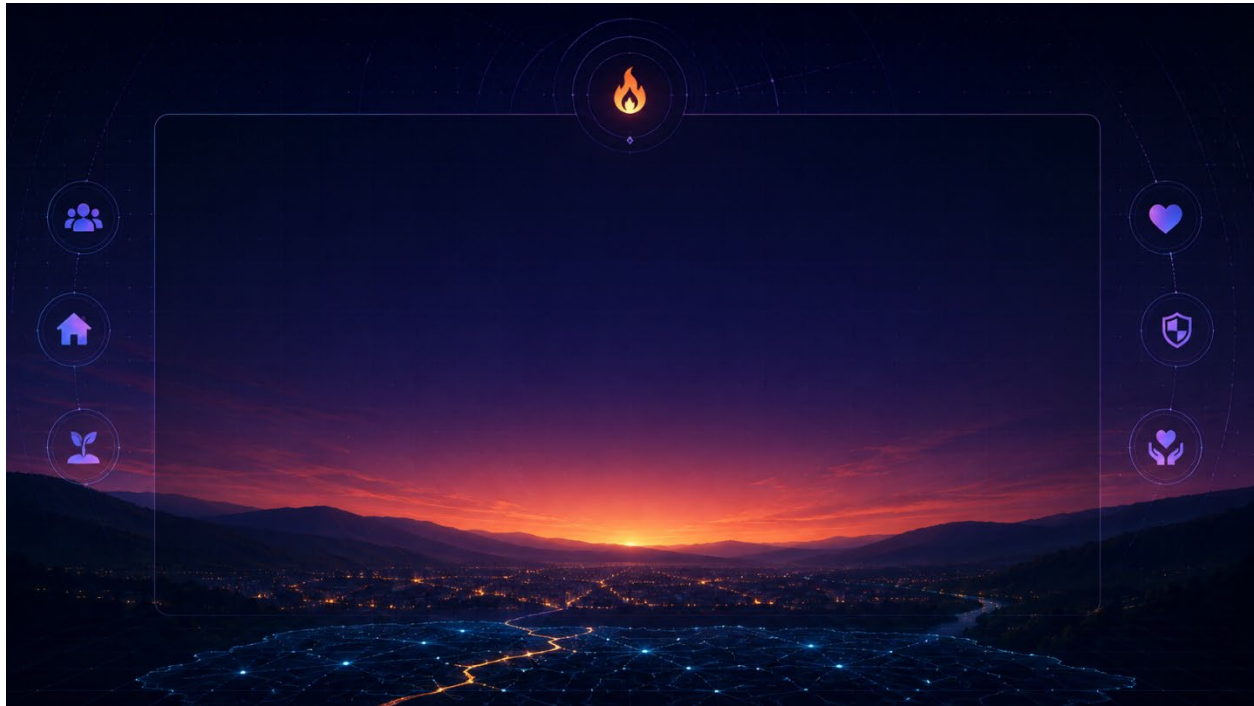


The Hearth



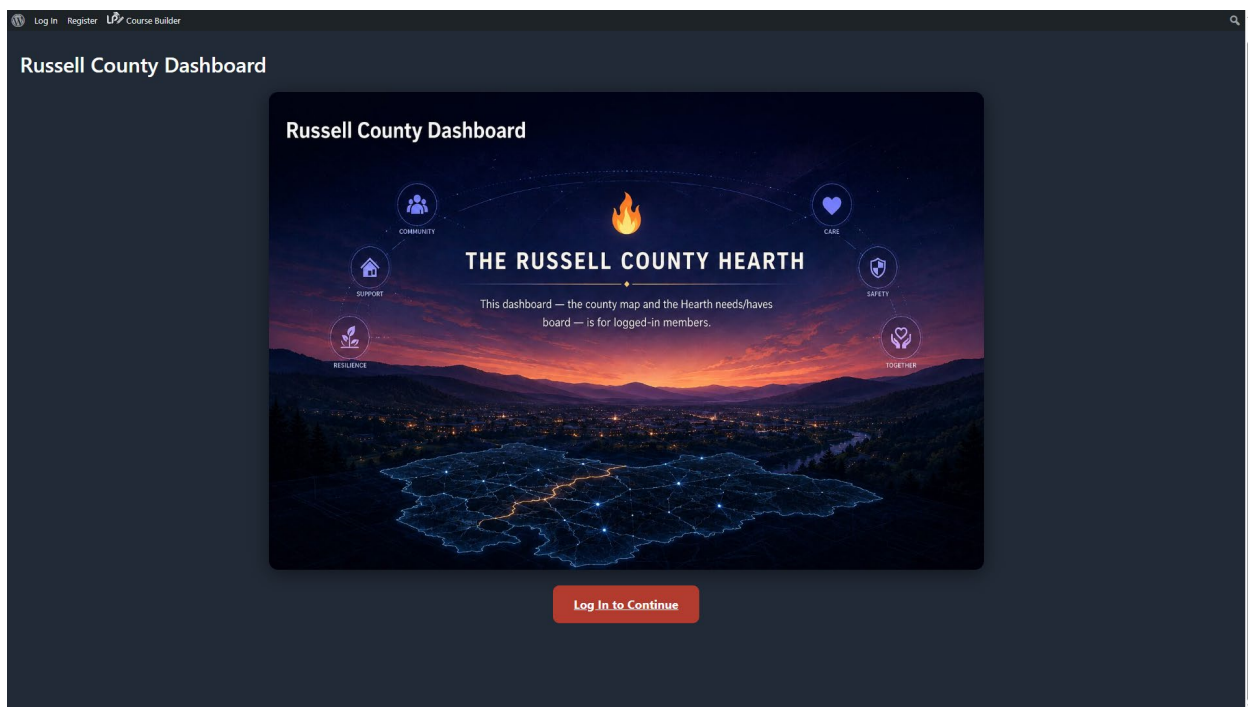
User Manual, v 1.1

By: Christopher D. Hartpence

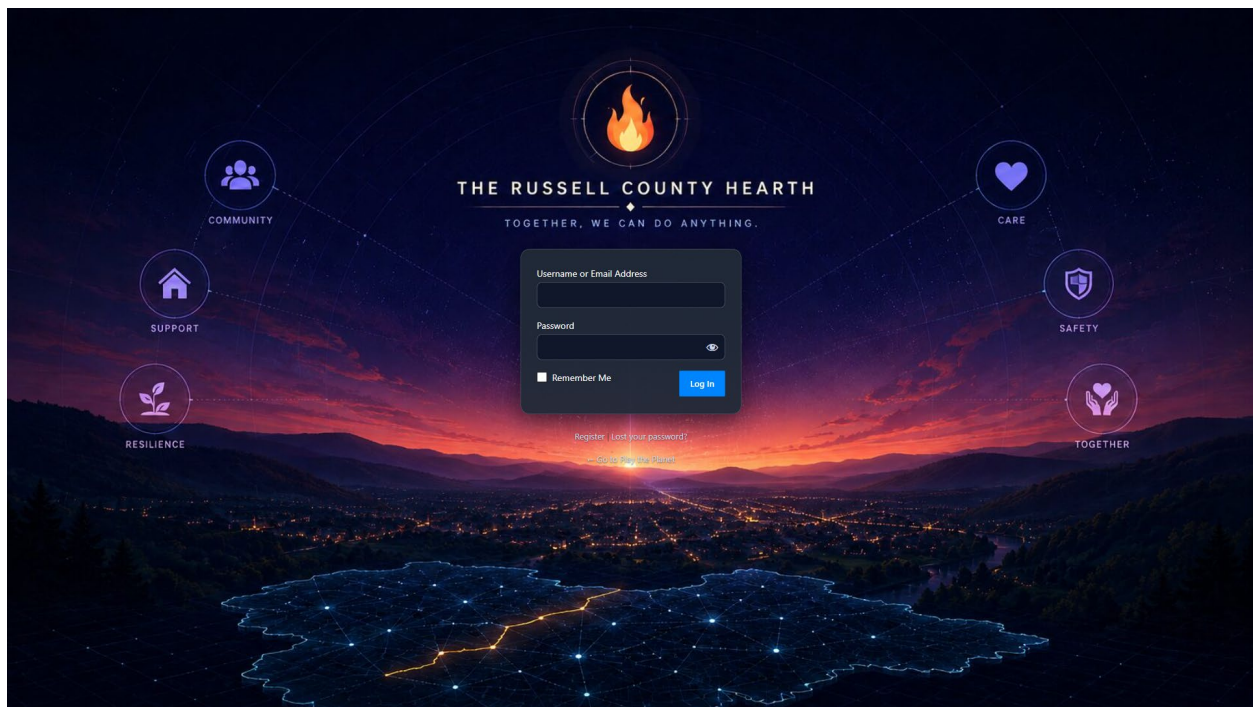
A digital way of connecting those in need, with those who can help

To begin using the Hearth, go to this web page: <https://www.playtheplanet.net/russell-county-dashboard/> (as this project grows, we'll incorporate additional counties – same idea, to get to a county specific URL, just remove the “russell-county” bit and type in your county name – if nothing comes up, you can easily create it by creating an account and Playing the Planet!).

If you're not logged in (and you probably won't be), then you'll get a login screen that looks like this:



When you click login, you'll be taken to this screen:



If you've already completed the registration process, this is where you'll type your username and password.

If you're not registered, click on the "Register" link near the bottom of the little form shown.

The registration form looks like this:

Log In Register

Home

Registering for this site is easy. Just fill in the fields below, and we'll get a new account set up for you in no time.

Account Details

Username (required)
ptpmusicarchive@gmail.com

Email Address (required)

Choose a Password (required)
8(yH2y^9Rj
Strong

Hint: The password should be at least twelve characters long. To make it stronger, use upper and lower case letters, numbers, and symbols like ! " ? \$ % ^ & *.

Profile Details

Name (required)
This field may be seen by: Everyone

Street Address (required)
This field may be seen by: Only Me

City (required)
This field may be seen by: Only Me

State (required)
This field may be seen by: Only Me

ZIP Code (required)
This field may be seen by: Only Me

☐ Email me a weekly summary of needs & offers at the Russell County Hearth. (Optional — unsubscribe anytime with one click.)

Complete Sign Up

We will not sell or trade your information for any reason

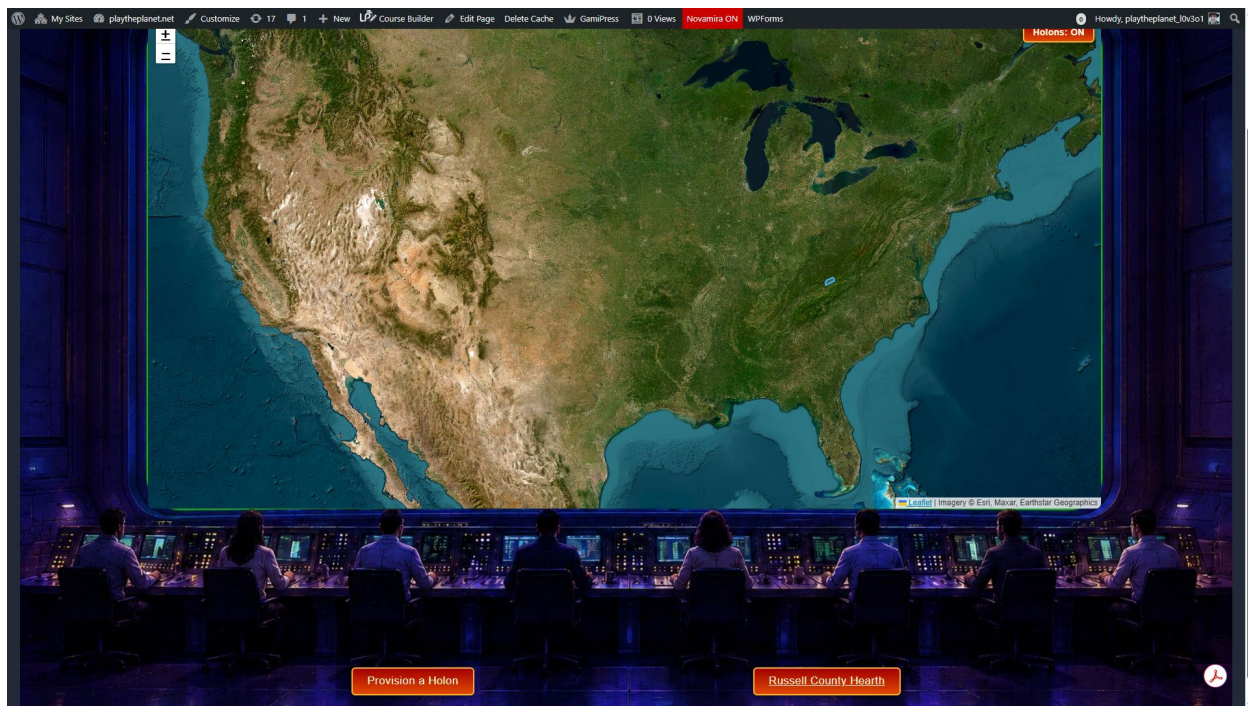
Note – we require your address at registration for two reasons:

- 1) Internally, we plan on building a rewards system for those who help others. It's not live yet, but it's in process.
- 2) We plan on implementing an "X miles from me" feature in future iterations which is only possible if we have an address to start from.

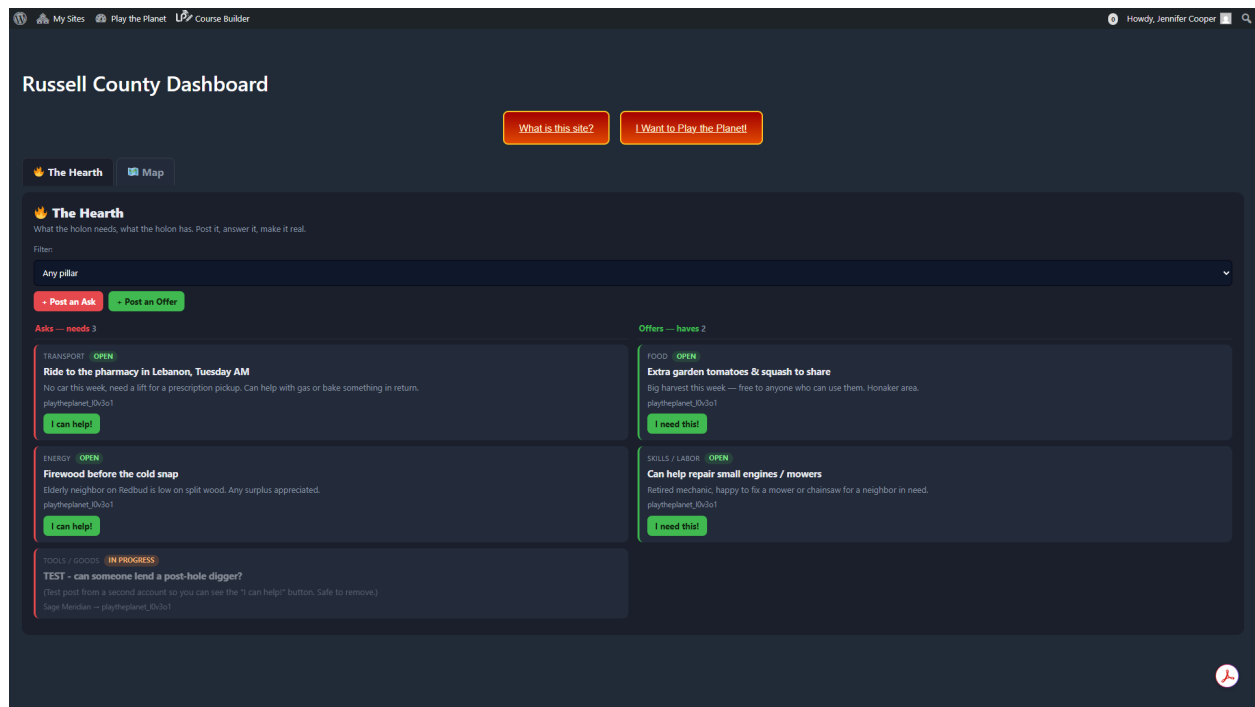
Under no circumstances will we ever trade, sell, or make any sort of transaction with the information you provide to us. That's not why we built this tool.

Fill out the registration form and you'll get an email to activate your account. As soon as you've activated, you'll be able to log in.

The very first time you log in, you'll get taken to the main Play the Planet page which looks like this:



If you do, just click on the "Russell County Hearth" button (bottom right) and you'll be at the dashboard. Note that there are two tabs here, Hearth and Map – if you click over to the map tab, you'll be able to toggle different filters on or off that show data relating to Russell County. It's interesting but beyond the scope of this user guide, which is focused on using the Haves and Needs (that other stuff, we're using for further development of Play the Planet). This little guide is all about the Hearth tab, which looks like this:



There are two categories of “stuff” listed here: Haves and Needs. If you have something extra and you want to offer it to people in the community, you’d “Post an Offer” and it would show up on the right side of the board.

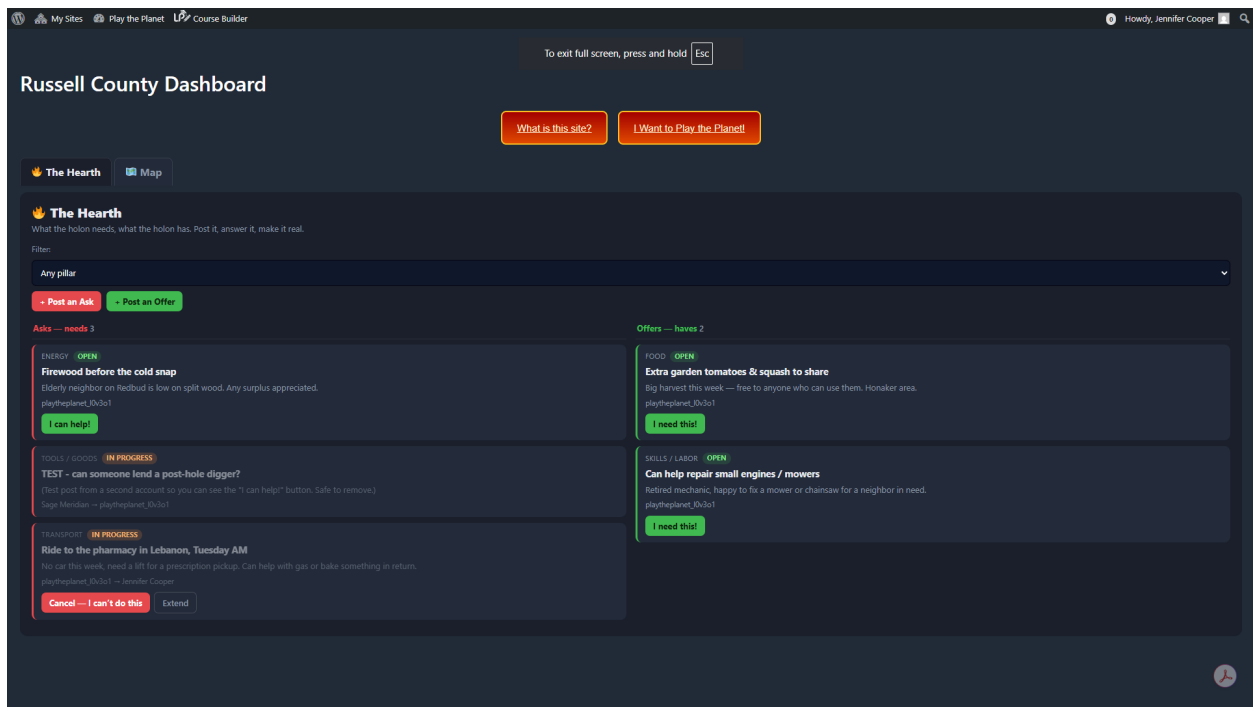
If you need a specific thing, you’d “Post an Ask” and it would show up on the left side of the board.

The form you fill out when posting an Ask or an Offer is pretty much the same – the “Ask” form is shown below:

The screenshot shows the Russell County Dashboard with a dark theme. At the top, there are navigation links: 'My Sites', 'Play the Planet', and 'Course Builder'. The user 'Howdy, Jennifer Cooper' is logged in. The main heading is 'Russell County Dashboard'. Below it are two orange buttons: 'What is this site?' and 'I Want to Play the Planet!'. The 'The Hearth' section is active, showing a form to post an ask or offer. The form includes a filter dropdown set to 'Any pillar', buttons for 'Post an Ask' and 'Post an Offer', a 'Post an Ask (something you need)' section with fields for 'Short title', 'Details (optional)', 'Pick a pillar', 'Est. value \$ (optional)', 'How many people/units do you need?' (set to 1), and 'Auto-close if no one helps by (optional)'. At the bottom, there are two cards: 'Asks -- needs 1' for 'Ride to the pharmacy in Lebanon, Tuesday AM' and 'Offers -- leaves 2' for 'Extra garden tomatoes & squash to share'.

Note that details are optional but the more detail you can provide about what you need or what you are offering, the better. Also note that if you need multiples of the same thing, you can specify a number: (ex: “I need three people to come help me clean out an old storage building on Tuesday.”) – then, when someone clicks that they can help, that number decrements until all of the needed spots are filled.

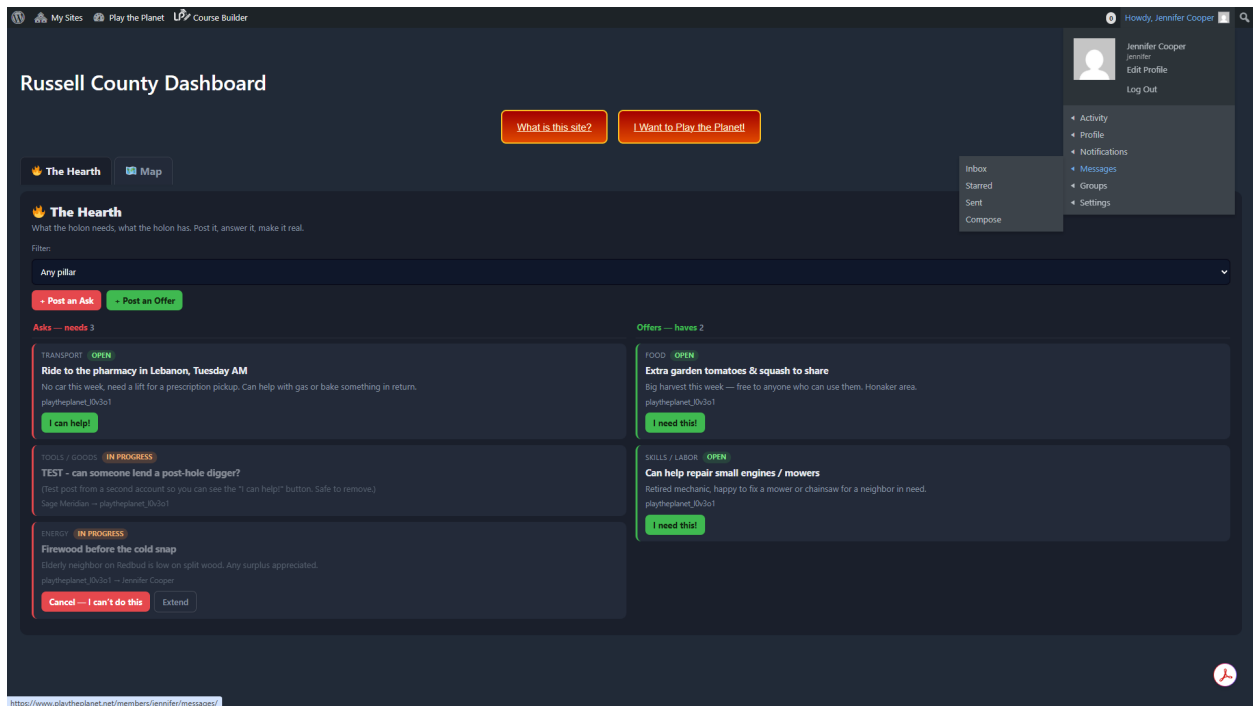
Also note that if you click to say you can do a thing, you have the option to change your mind:



And if you do, then that card goes back into the active pool.

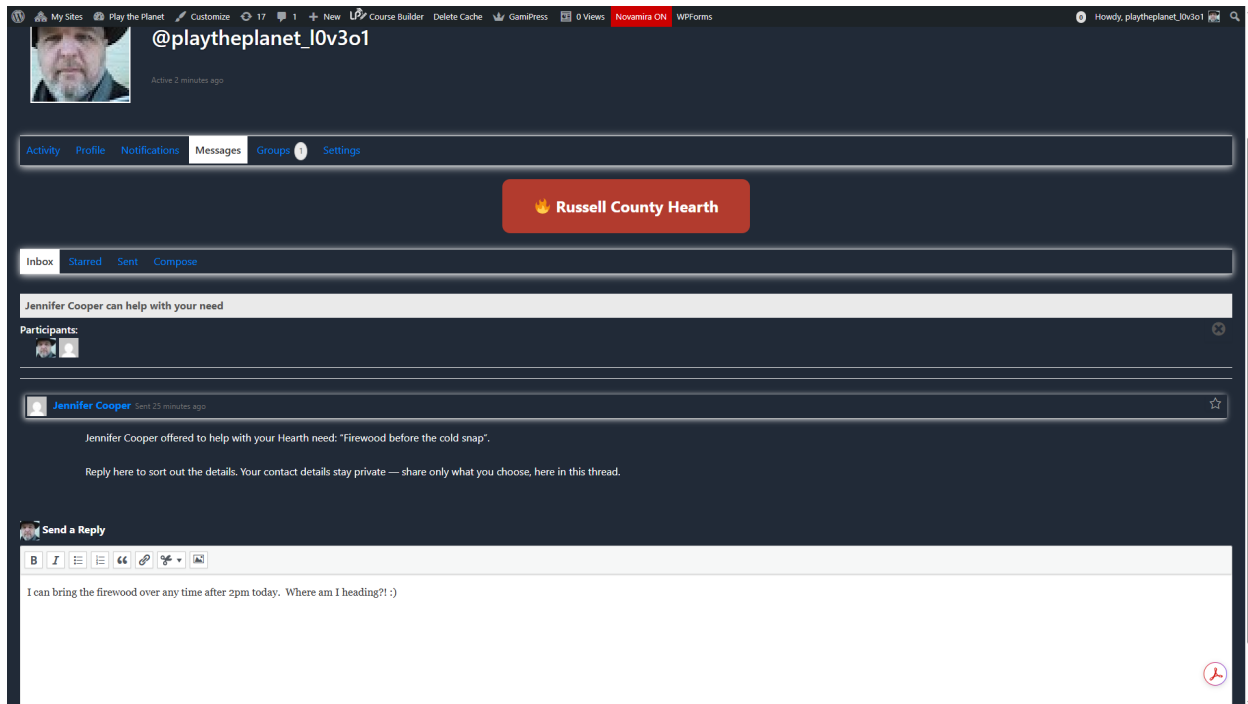
When you click “I can help” (Ask) or “I need this!” (Offer), it opens a private conversation between you and the person who made the card.

These messages appear in your personal inbox on the website.

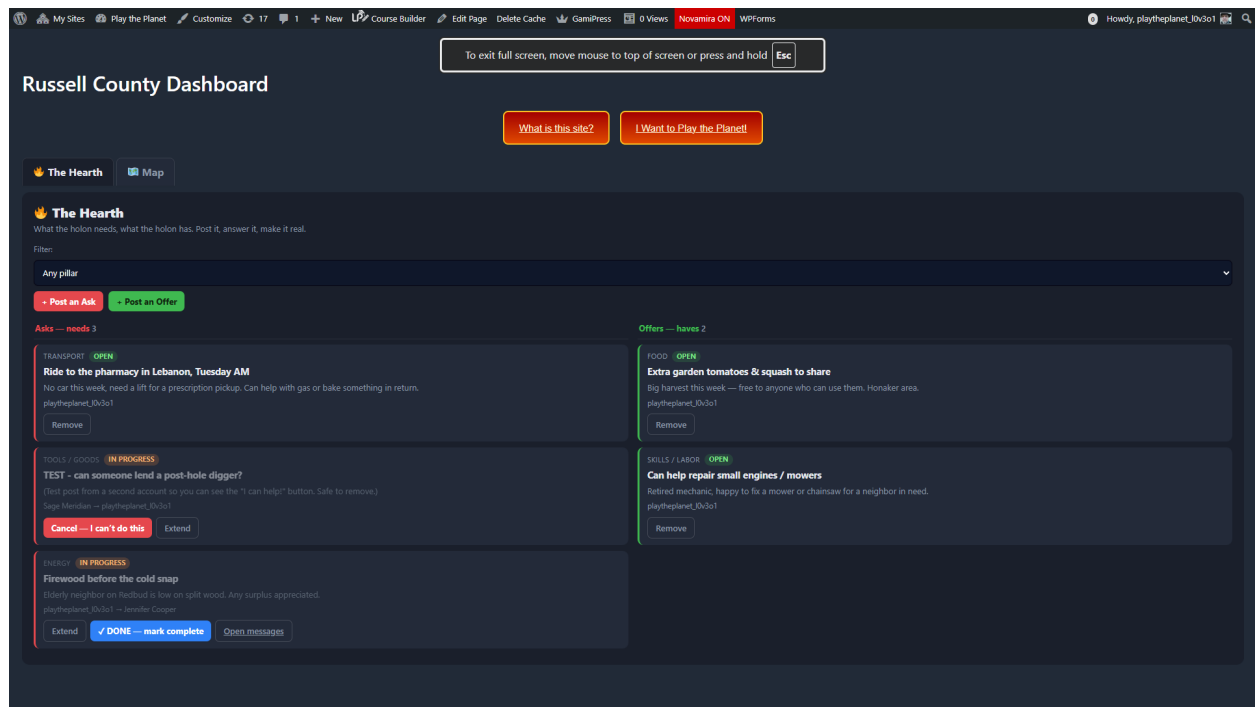


This allows you to message back and forth, give the other person your address so they know where to come, or get that person's address if you're going there to pick up a needed item (this way, you're not sharing your location information in public).

Here's a screenshot of an example exchange of messages:

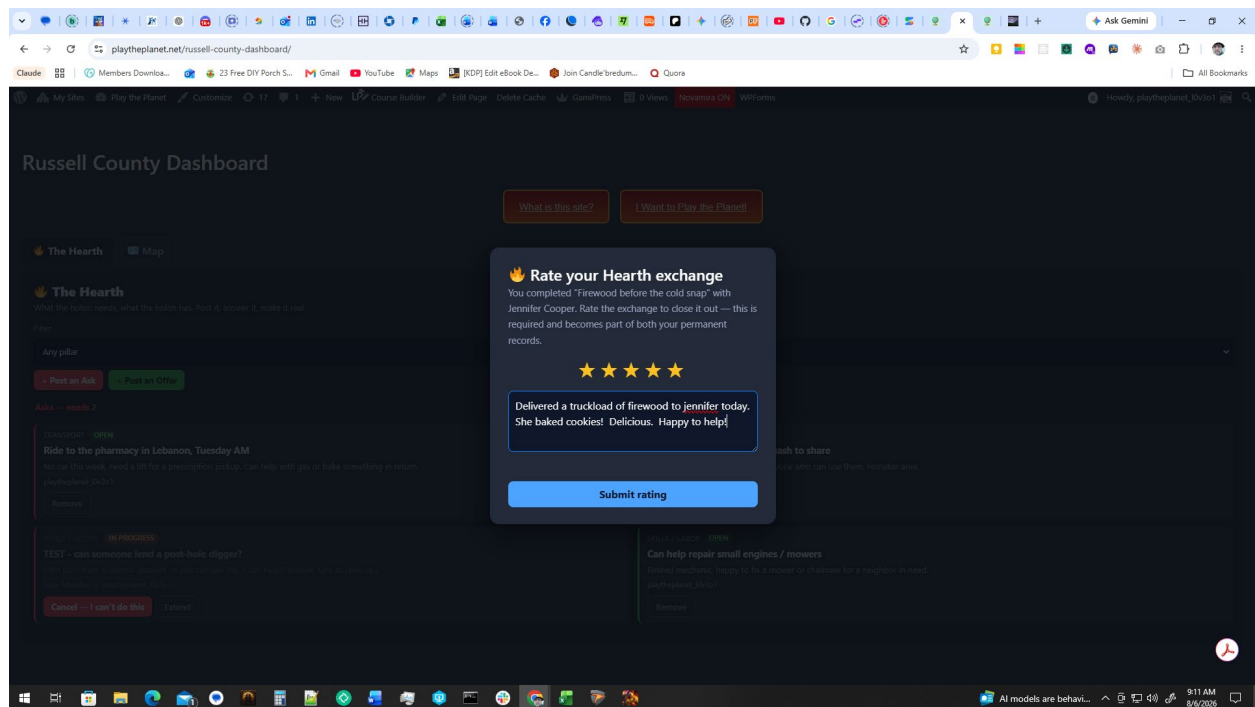


Note that an item is closed when the person who published the items clicks on the button that closes it. Following our firewood example, here's what it looks like from the user who put that "Ask" in:



What happens after an item gets marked as done is crucial and is the thing that holds the entire system together.

The next time that the person who closed the event logs on, they'll get the following popup:



And, the next time the person on the other side of the interaction logs on, they'll also get a popup like this, which allows each side to rate the other—contrast this with, say, Ebay,

where buyers get to rate sellers, but sellers don't get to rate buyers – in this app, both parties get to rate and both parties build up a reputation over time.

This system automatically builds trust. After all, if you see someone with a single 5-star rating...that could be gamed. You could get a friend to post a need, you answer it and you both get five stars.

But...if you see someone with 150 ratings and an average of 4.8 stars (or whatever) – you can't game that. That's real reputation and standing. That's a person you can count on.

And on the other side, if you're a person who needs help on a regular basis and you're an absolute joy to work with, you'll come away with a super high rating too, which means that when you have a new need, people are going to be more likely to respond because you've got a stellar reputation.

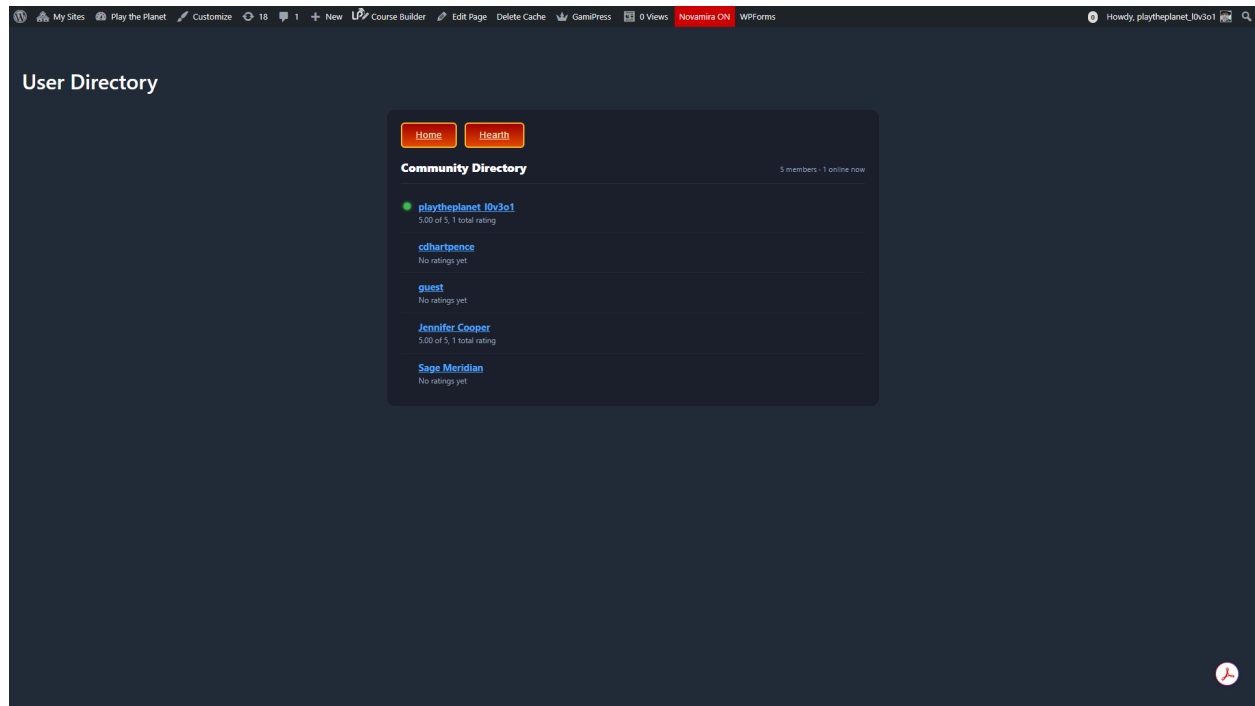
This is a powerful tool then, that allows people who may not know each other to gauge trust and reliability.

That's why the rating system is a mandatory part of the system. If you ignore the rating, you'll get nagged about it until you take a second to do it.

You can see your community rating by viewing your profile. Here, you can see that Jennifer has an average rating of 5 stars on a basis of 1. This number is updated in real time with each new rating.

The screenshot displays a user profile for Jennifer Cooper. At the top, navigation links include 'My Sites', 'Play the Planet', and 'Course Builder'. The user's name 'Jennifer Cooper' is in the top right. The profile header shows a placeholder for a profile picture, the handle '@jennifer', and a status 'Active 1 minute ago'. Below this is a tabbed interface with 'Activity', 'Profile', 'Notifications', 'Messages', 'Groups', and 'Settings'. The 'Profile' tab is active, showing 'Jennifer Cooper' with a 'COMMUNITY RATING' of 5 stars from 1 interaction. A review snippet reads: '★★★★★ Delivered a truckload of firewood to jennifer today. She baked cookies! Delicious. Happy to help!'. Below the review are five status boxes: 'XP Coming soon', 'LEVEL In development', 'NP Coming soon', 'BADGES Coming soon', and 'GC WALLET Coming soon'. A 'YOUR DETAILS (PRIVATE)' section follows, with an 'Edit' button and text stating 'No details yet — click Edit to add your name and address.' and 'Your address is stored privately and is never shown to other members.' At the bottom is a red button for 'Russell County Hearth'. The footer contains links for 'View', 'Edit', 'Change Profile Photo', and 'Change Cover Image'.

Here's the thing about community rating though: It's only useful if you can find it quickly and easily. So we've added a user directory



And that's it, in a nutshell.

Try it out. Use it. And if, in using it, you find a deficiency, or something you wish it had, shoot me a note (cdhartpence@hotmail.com). If it's a feature I can add, I'm happy to do it. My main goal is to create an easy to use platform that connects people who need stuff, with people who have the capacity to help. And to make it scalable when we're ready to do that.

-Chris