

BIG Changes are coming to Ira's Biking and Walking Newsletter!

A few issues ago (December 27th to be exact) I commented on how Road Runner had imposed a limit on the number of recipients I can send to in a given hour or 24 hour period. I noted how that makes delivery of this newsletter very difficult. I asked for your help in dealing with this problem. I got many excellent suggestions and changes are coming beginning next week.

Ben Weiner suggested that I use a great e-mail marketing product called Constant Contact <http://www.constantcontact.com/index.jsp> Consider Biking uses the program and through the generosity of Jeff Stephens and the Consider Biking board this newsletter has become a Consider Biking product.

Beginning next week you will receive my newsletter from Consider Biking so please make sure you allow **Consider Biking [iweiss@insight.rr.com]** to get through. The newsletter will also be available on the Consider Biking Website <http://www.considerbiking.org/category/newsletters/>

The Subject line will read:

Ira's Bicycling and Walking Newsletter

Ira S. Weiss, Editor

I hope you will continue to enjoy this newsletter. As always, let me know if you no longer want to receive it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming APBP webinars to be hosted at MORPC:

Feb 17: Cycle Tracks
Mar 17: ADA
Apr 21: Bicycle Parking Programs
May 19: Law Enforcement in Bike/Ped Safety Programs
Jun 16: Policy Promotion
Jul 21: Bicycle Boulevards
Aug 18: Road Diets
Sep 15: Integrating Ped and Bike Facilities with Transit
Oct 20: Roundabouts
Nov 17: Smart Growth Connection
Dec 15: Bike Boxes

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Have You Completed the MORPC Survey Yet?

Have you completed the survey for "Shaping our Future: The Regional Plan for Central Ohio"? The survey can be found at <http://regionalplan.questionpro.com/>. Help us reach our goal of 10,000 responses!

Brad Westall Update:

2010 will be a busy year for greenways in Columbus...and well it should be. We have lots to share.

Olentangy Trail

Starting with the hard news---the trail will be closed between Pacemont and Patterson for a sewer improvement project. I've attached the detour (which of course has to rely on High St.). Utilities has promised us this will be very quick, mostly February and March.

OSU is building the trail @ Herrick Bridge and the Drake Union!!! (I'll let Steve Volkmann chime in on this--he's done all the hard work.) Many of you have already heard about it. This is a fantastic improvement. It will mean a Cannon Drive work around the campus trail section for a season...but I think we all will rejoice when this is all done. Congratulations Steve on patience and perseverance.

Safety Improvements

We will be out on the path this spring with some needed safety improvements:

1. Re-striping the centerline of the Olentangy
2. Improving the sharp turn hazard areas (especially downtown @ the Confluence Bridge)
3. New trailhead maps and signage

Scioto Trail

A new bridge is now under construction: the first ever bikeway project in the west side – the Scioto Hilltop Connector bridge. This bridge will span the Scioto from McKinley Ave. to the existing trail from Grandview Ave. to Riversedge. Actually, there's a ton of projects in the next two years in the near west side/Grandview areas. I attached a PowerPoint slide rather than try to write down all of this. In short, we will have seamless connectivity from Harrison West to Hilltop, from Upper Arlington to downtown.

This was a long time coming, with lots of planning, coaxing, and discussion.

Note: Keep crossing your fingers on congress, the state, and the city on continuing their crucial support for projects such as these...it is the lifeblood of our move towards an active transportation Mecca.

Alum Creek Trail

A 2 mile section from Innis Park to Sunbury Road is now under construction. Thanks to MORPC's stimulus funding set aside. This is a key segment---we only have two short segments left, and this entire trail will be complete---22 miles from Westerville to Obetz, including a direct connection to downtown/Columbus State. You will hear more about this...we need your continued voice and support, even if your are an Olentangy Trail regular or on-street regular (or like most of us, both)

Land Acquisition

It takes land to do these projects. Right now we're quietly working some major greenway corridor acquisition projects on the Big Walnut (wait until you experience this river corridor---unbelievable). Also 2 miles of major work on Clover Groff, a tributary of the Big Darby (for you far west siders)

And our key partner Metro Parks is extremely busy---both with construction and acquisition, and soon they will be taking on a big hand with trail security and maintenance. Watch the news for the 11 mile Camp Chase Rail Trail on the west side and the Blacklick Trail. They are single handedly finishing the Blacklick Trail; including some very difficult projects @ Rt. 33 and Hines Road on the far east side. Three Creeks to Blendon Woods, with direct connectivity to downtown and everywhere in the metro region. (Within two or three projects, folks, you will be able to ride so far you'll need provisions and a tent.)

This email started as a heads up about an unfortunate trail detour near the OSU wetlands and has turned into a newsletter. I apologize for the length. Please respond with any comments you have. This is becoming a very large regional system, and I hope to keep in contact with as many of you as possible.

Please forward this email to your riding/running/skating/walking/birding friends out there. Thanks for your support!

Olentangy Trail Detour – Pacemont Avenue to Patterson Avenue

January 26 to April 2

A 1.5 mile segment of the Olentangy Trail will be closed, between Pacemont Avenue and Patterson Avenue, from January 26 to April 2. A detour will be posted beginning from Pacemont Avenue to High Street, south to North Street, to Neil Avenue, then west on Patterson Avenue to return to the trail. From the south, the detour will route from Tuttle Recreation Center at Patterson Avenue, east to Neil Avenue, north to Dodridge Street, east to High Street, north to Pacemont Avenue, then west to return to the trail. The closure is due to a sewer improvement project. Additional questions or concerns can be directed to njdomenick@columbus.gov (Sewers and Drains) or 645-2441 (Recreation and Parks).

Land Use and Urban Design Survey

Hilltop Stakeholders: If you weren't able to make it to the last Public Workshop, please take a few minutes to complete the Survey on Land Use/Urban Design DRAFT Plan recommendations at: <http://columbus.gov/hilltop.aspx>

Safe Routes to School supporters – Program Manager Opening

We will soon be interviewing for the Program Manager position, but are still accepting applications in the interim. This is a great opportunity to take your hands-on Safe Routes to School experience and apply it to the national level. If you are interested, please go to <http://www.saferoutespartnership.org/media/file/ProgramManagerJobDescription.pdf> to view the job description and how to apply.

Sincerely,

Margo Pedroso

Deputy Director

Safe Routes to School National Partnership

SAFETY

January 23, 2010

Talking on cell phones while driving is dangerous

Motorists who gab on their cell phone or fire off text messages obviously aren't focused on the road, and their distracted driving has serious consequences for highway safety. The National Safety Council said 1.6 million crashes per year are caused by drivers who talk or text. That's 28

percent of all accidents on U.S. highways, a significant percentage that warrants attention. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood has said dealing with distracted drivers is one of his priorities, and it needs to be. The Transportation Department's figures show that 16 percent of fatal crashes in 2008 were caused by drivers whose attention was diverted in some way. That translates into 6,000 deaths per year and half a million injuries. ... Louisiana is one of 18 states, along with the District of Columbia, that have outlawed texting while driving. In that state, the fine ranges from \$175 for a first offense to \$1,000. Congress is considering legislation that would tie federal highway dollars to texting bans. But states have been slower to outlaw the use of handheld cell phones while driving. Only seven states and the District of Columbia currently have such laws, and a measure to ban the use of hand-held cell phones in vehicles in Louisiana went nowhere during the last legislative session. LaHood said he supports a ban on mobile phone use while driving, and he should use his position to encourage states to address the issue. In the meantime, however, motorists should use common sense. Even if it's not illegal, talking on cell phones while driving is a dangerous practice that drivers can and should avoid. Also, parents should stress the danger to their teenagers. -- The Times-Picayune, New Orleans
<http://www.lancastereagle.com/article/20100123/OPINION04/1230309/1014/OPINION/Talking-on-cell-phones-while-driving-is-dangerous>

January 23, 2010

HEARING SET FOR DEMASTRY SENTENCING

LANCASTER -- The sentencing hearing for Caitlin DeMastry, 22, of Lancaster, will be at 11 a.m. Feb. 8 in the courtroom of Common Pleas Judge Richard Berens. A jury found DeMastry guilty Wednesday of involuntary manslaughter and tampering with evidence, both third-degree felonies, after a weeklong trial. They acquitted her of a first-degree felony charge of aggravated vehicular homicide. DeMastry drove the vehicle that struck and killed Charles "Charlie" D. Cain, 27, as he walked to his home along Sheridan Drive the morning of Feb. 22. DeMastry faces up to 10 years in prison. During the presentence investigation, she is not jailed but is wearing a GPS monitor.
<http://www.lancastereagle.com/article/20100123/NEWS01/1230317/1001/NEWS/HEARING-SET-FOR-DEMASTRY-SENTENCING>

January 21, 2010

DeMastry cleared of vehicular homicide, guilty of lesser charges

BY MORGAN DAY

The Eagle-Gazette Staff

LANCASTER -- The verdicts rolled out -- not guilty, guilty, guilty -- eliciting sobs from a courtroom full of family members and friends hanging on every word. After nearly 20 hours of deliberation during the span of three days, the jury acquitted Caitlin DeMastry of aggravated vehicular homicide, a first-degree felony, but found her guilty of the two lesser charges of involuntary manslaughter and tampering with evidence. DeMastry's vehicle struck and killed Charlie Cain on Feb. 22 as he walked along Sheridan Drive. For more than a week, supporters of DeMastry and Cain arrived at the courtroom for DeMastry's jury trial, eager for a conclusion to the case in which neither side really could win. "It was ridiculous. She should have been guilty," said Cain's stepfather, Danny Miller, after Judge Richard Berens read the verdicts. "She was drunk, and the last thing I can say is 'DeMastry.'" Witnesses testified the 22-year-old defendant and niece of former Fairfield County Sheriff Gary DeMastry was drunk and driving with a suspended license at the time of the collision, which occurred around 3:20 a.m. Cain's body was forced through the windshield while DeMastry drove about 30 seconds to park in the lot of her residence, Somerford Square Apartments, according to testimony.
<http://www.lancastereagle.com/article/20100121/NEWS01/1210309/-1/NLETTER01/DeMastry-cleared-of-vehicular-homicide--guilty-of-lesser-charges?source=nletter-news>

LANCASTER CRASH

Jury opts to convict on lesser charges in pedestrian's death

Thursday, January 21, 2010 3:19 AM

By Mary Beth Lane

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

LANCASTER, Ohio -- A Fairfield County jury yesterday acquitted a Lancaster woman of aggravated vehicular homicide but convicted her on the lesser charges of involuntary manslaughter and tampering with evidence. Caitlin M. DeMastry, 22, faces a maximum sentence of five years in prison for each of the convictions, which are third-degree felonies. Common Pleas Judge Richard E. Berens did not immediately schedule a sentencing date. DeMastry ran down a pedestrian while she drove home after what prosecutors called a night of bar-hopping Feb. 22. No tests were conducted to assess blood-alcohol content because DeMastry initially lied to authorities and said someone else was behind the wheel. DeMastry was driving north on Sheridan Drive at 3:20 a.m. when her Honda Accord struck Charles "Charlie" Cain Jr. The impact nearly severed him at the waist, with his arms and torso embedded in the windshield on the passenger side and his feet dangling, according to trial evidence. Cain, 27, who had a history of depression, was walking home after being released from Fairfield Medical Center, where police took him for a psychological evaluation several hours earlier after he argued with his fiancée and was thought to be suicidal. DeMastry drove for three-tenths of a mile with Cain embedded in the windshield, stopping in the parking lot of her apartment complex, where she called 911. She told the first firefighter on the scene, "Whoa, dude, I'm drunk."

http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2010/01/21/demastry.ART_ART_01-21-10_B3_0RGC81S.html

HEALTH

More than 20% of teens show abnormal cholesterol

Friday, January 22, 2010 2:53 AM

By Rob Stein

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON -- At least one of every five U.S. teenagers has abnormal cholesterol levels, boosting the risk of heart disease, federal health officials reported yesterday. A national survey of Americans ages 12-19 found that more than 20 percent had at least one abnormal blood fat level. The rate was 43 percent among obese adolescents. "The current epidemic of childhood obesity makes this a matter of significant and urgent concern," said Ashleigh May, of the division for heart disease and stroke prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She led the analysis. Although the latest government data suggest the epidemic might be leveling off, at least one-third of youths are overweight or obese.

http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/national_world/stories/2010/01/22/wp_teen_cholesterol_0122.ART_ART_01-22-10_A7_GTGCG30.html?sid=101

Get active to curb your diabetes risk

Guys: need motivation to get moving? A new study says exercise can help you ward off type 2 diabetes. Research published in December's "American Journal of Medicine" examined whether body mass index, or BMI, and physical activity affected a man's risk of developing diabetes. Over 20 years, 20,000 men who were healthy at the trial's outset annually reported their height and weight (to determine BMI) and activity level. Scientists analyzed the data to see whether these parameters were associated with an increased risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

<http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/usaweekend/index.html>

LOCAL NEWS

High school football: Amanda's Hinton leaves for Chillicothe

Thursday, January 21, 2010 3:22 AM

By Steve Blackledge

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

The dean of area football coaches is moving on, or going home as it may be. Ron Hinton, who guided Amanda-Clearcreek to a 285-90-3 record and two state championships in 29 seasons, resigned to accept the coaching position at Chillicothe. Hinton, 58, has lived in Chillicothe for 37 years. He cited several reasons for the timing of the move. "One, Amanda means an awful lot to me and I was always adamant about leaving on a positive note," he said. "Our varsity was 10-0 so I feel the program is in good shape. Second, I always promised myself I didn't want to stay too long and get stale. "Third, we're going through a real tough time here with failing levies, leaving us with a \$500 pay-to-participate fee. Finally, in all of my years of teaching here, I was never in the same location as my kids and rarely got to see their school activities. Now, I have that opportunity with my three grandchildren."

http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/sports/stories/2010/01/21/hsfb_0121.ART_ART_01-21-10_C6_JVGC8MT.html

Ira: Why put a football story in a bike/ped newsletter? Coach Hinton, a man of supreme influence, has been an enthusiastic and vocal supporter of building a multi use path in Amanda. He could be counted on to talk with recalcitrant landowners. He will be sorely missed. Chillicothe – you're getting a great one.

January 22, 2010

It would be appropriate to name bridge after Brad Cosenza

Editor, the Gazette:

A recent letter in the Gazette recommended the new bike/pedestrian bridge over High Street be named in honor of Delbert Doles and Doris Hill. Delbert and Doris have worked long and hard on the Tri-County Triangle Trail, and I applaud them for their efforts. However, if naming of the bridge is being considered, I certainly recommend that the bridge be named for Brad Cosenza, the long-time director of the Chillicothe Parks and Recreation Department. Through his efforts and leadership, several state grants were secured that paid for almost all of the \$1.4 million cost of the bridge. He was also actively involved in the design of the unique bridge. He now is in the private sector, but because of his many years and dedication to the parks and recreation programs, we have many projects to enjoy that are used daily and were paid mostly with state grants he obtained. They include the bike/pedestrian trail on the floodwall, the children's playground in the park, the development of the park annex, Manor Park, the Bicentennial Memorial and park entrance, the renovation of Poland Park and Southern Playground and the planting of hundreds of trees throughout the city. I am unaware of any recognition of his contributions to the city, and I think it would be very appropriate to name the bike/pedestrian bridge in his honor.

<http://www.chillicothegazette.com/article/20100122/OPINION03/1220319/1014/OPINION/It-would-be-appropriate-to-name-bridge-after-Brad-Cosenza>

City sewer project to divert bike path

* Temporary detour is needed because of work required to improve pipes.

By KATHLEEN L. RADCLIFF

Published: Monday, January 18, 2010 5:48 PM EST

Cyclists who ride the Olentangy Bike path between Weber Road and Patterson Avenue should keep their eyes open for a detour in the near future. Columbus city staff is scheduled to begin a project to reline a roughly 3,000-foot long section of the 78-inch diameter Olentangy Main Trunk

Sewer, beginning this week, said George Zonders, utilities spokesman.

"This is a pretty major project, and we intentionally chose to do it during this time of year to reduce the impact on bike riders," he said. Planning for the project began when camera work within the sewer line revealed there were places where the concrete has corroded, he said. "The sewer is not leaking, but there are spots where the metal rebar is visible," he said.

The actual work on this project involves reinforcing the interior of the sewer with cured-in-place pipe technology, which involves inserting a resin-saturated tube into the sewer through existing manholes instead of digging trenches, he said. The cost of the project is \$2.58 million, 50 percent of which is federal stimulus money, he said. "It's very cost-effective in that it extends the life of the existing sewer and in fact reinforces the existing structure," Zonders said.

http://www.snponline.com/articles/2010/01/23/the_booster/news/bosewer%201-20100118_0505pm_2.txt

104-acre park slated in Delaware County

Property along Rt. 23 funded in part by 2008 levy

Wednesday, January 20, 2010 3:07 AM

By Dana Wilson

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Preservation Parks of Delaware County plans to open a new park in 2012 on a scenic, 104-acre plot of woods and farm fields untouched by developers. The site, named Big Run Preserve, was purchased Friday for \$5.2 million and partially funded by a property-tax levy approved by Delaware County voters in 2008. The parkland stretches across Liberty and Orange townships, south of Hyatts Road and west of Rt. 23. Park officials want to protect the land and its streams, which flow into the Olentangy River, and share the shale cliffs, waterfalls and rock formations with visitors. "It is almost otherworldly," said Rita Au, the park district's executive director. "We're very excited that we're able to preserve it, because it is unique and very unusual for Delaware County." Au envisions forest trails and a picnic shelter. Plans also include converting former cropland back into prairie. The 104 acres will be combined with an adjoining 75 acres the park district already owns.

http://www.dispatchpolitics.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2010/01/20/copy/bigrun.ART_ART_01-20-10_B3_PRGBU5L.html?adsec=politics&sid=101

January 21, 2010

Granville narrows pathway application to Burg Street

BY BRIAN MILLER

Advocate Reporter

GRANVILLE -- The Granville Village Council chose to pare down the scope of an application it will make for state pathway funds. The council voted Wednesday to support "a letter of interest" to the Ohio Department of Transportation as a possible first step in receiving funding for a pathway on Burg Street. But a proposal to submit an initial application for funding for a bridge to Raccoon Valley Park failed on a tie 3-3 vote. Councilman Steve Mershon, who voted against the bridge application proposal, said the bridge would be a "huge structure" and lacked support from neighbors or respondents in a community survey performed last fall. "At the end of the day, the village won't build it," he said. "Why spend time planning it?" He said he supports a proposal for much less expensive suspension bridge at the same location. The state's Transportation Enhancement Program could furnish up to 80 percent of the cost of both projects. The cost of the bridge is estimated at \$1 million to \$1.2 million and the Burg Street pathway at \$1 million, according to a memo from the village staff to council members. Both projects were on a list of five pathway clusters in the village and Granville Township recommended by a citizens advisory committee in fall 2009.

<http://www.newarkadvocate.com/article/20100121/NEWS01/1210346/1002/Granville-narrows-pathway-application-to-Burg-Street>

January 21, 2010

It's better for county to restore parks funding

It's just been five years since Licking County commissioners voted to increase the county's sales tax by a half-cent without a vote of the public. We reluctantly supported the decision because of the many strong arguments commissioners made about the financial health of county government and the many demands for services in a growing community. But we also cautioned commissioners that they must find a way for county government to live within its new revenue environment permanently, noting taxpayers will not tolerate an increase in the sales tax every decade or so. And to their credit, that's largely been done as evidenced by their proactive management of the county's budget during this extended recession and recent decision to eliminate 18 positions for 2010. But there is one small exception worth noting. Commissioners cut funding for county parks and bike trails by more than 50 percent in 2010, costing the Licking County Park District \$330,000. That's forcing the park district onto the ballot with a very small 0.2-mill levy proposal that would cost property owners just \$6 for every \$100,000 of property value. Thus, taxpayers are being asked to again pay more for services historically funded by county resource, albeit a very small amount. Voters have defeated four county parks levies in the past 18 years, including a 0.7-mill levy in 2006.

<http://www.newarkadvocate.com/article/20100121/OPINION01/1210350/1014/OPINION/It-s-better-for-county-to-restore-parks-funding>

Pataskala

City plans to expand its trail system

Saturday, January 16, 2010 5:02 PM

By GAIL MARTINEAU

ThisWeek Staff Writer

Pataskala planning and zoning director Dianne Harris wants to make the city more pedestrian-friendly. She hosted a meeting Tuesday, Jan. 12, to hear residents' ideas about an extended trail system in Pataskala. Harris is in the process of applying for a \$179,739 grant through the federal department of transportation and plans to ask Pataskala council members to approve a resolution to move forward with the grant at the Jan. 19 meeting. The deadline for submission is Feb. 1. The grant would help create about one mile of asphalt-paved trail, which would run between the Bright Waters subdivision through Municipal Park and the Pataskala Cemetery to the Pataskala Ridge area near state Route 310. The trail would be about 3,400 feet and would hook up with the existing path near Pataskala Ridge. It would be open to walkers, runners and non-motorized vehicles, such as bikes. "The department of transportation has gotten very concerned with air quality and traffic congestion, and they perceive that if folks can get used to walking more and using bicycles more, then they can cut down on some of that air pollution," she said.

http://www.thisweeknews.com/live/content/lickingcounty/stories/2010/01/16/0117!scity-trail-system_ln.html?sid=104

OTHER NEWS

TeamRadioShack.com is Here

The official Team RadioShack website has arrived. Explore the site and be the first to meet the team as they bring the heat to the Tour Down Under.

http://click1.mail.livestrong.com/apsvmclqbtznhmlmnygrmnvhhlnpmzdhlvhlspmdtl_idmvycybhbc.html