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## Biking & Walking News

Ira S. Weiss, Editor

March 28, 2010

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bicycle One Hiring

Bicycle One is looking for two new staff members this season. Bicycle One is a full service bicycle shop in Gahanna offering Cannondale, Trek, Raleigh, Electra and several recumbent brands of bicycles. The position opening is for sales, but some mechanic work may also be part of the job. Applicants should be over 16 years old and have some cycling experience. Applicant must also be able to work at least 25 hours a week through September. Please email info@bicycleone.com for information or stop by to fill out an application. Thanks to the Westerville Bicycle Club for this announcement.

Editorial: Be counted

Protect your best interests: Respond to census survey

Tuesday, March 23, 2010 2:51 AM

Ohio and your hometown want you to fill out your census form. And you should do exactly that, for the good of the state, your community and you and your neighbors. Oh, yes, and also to cut expenses in a federal budget desperately in need of slashing. No matter how nosy the federal government might appear to be by asking for your phone number, your age and whether you own or rent your home, keep in mind that failure to respond only hurts yourself and your community. That's because whether and how you respond not only will determine how much clout your community and Ohio have in Congress, but also will be used to gauge how much federal money will be spent in your community and this state. <http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/editorials/stories/2010/03/23/be-counted.html?sid=101>

LAB Awards Bicycle Friendly Business Awards in Central Ohio

I am reaching out to you to let you know that the League of American Bicyclists recently gave the following Ohio businesses Bicycle Friendly Business awards. I have also included a contact at the business for your convenience. We were impressed with their and wanted to make sure you knew of the great work they were doing to promote bicycling in the workplace. We also see this as a great bit of information to distribute to advocates around the nation so that you too can celebrate the great work of local businesses.

Name of Business	Award Designate
Gahanna YMCA of Central Ohio	Bronze
Trek Bicycle Store of Columbus	Silver

To see a full list of the Winter 2010 award winners visit:

http://www.bikeleague.org/programs/bicyclefriendlyamerica/bicyclefriendlybusiness/pdfs/bfb_awards_winter_2010.pdf

To read the national press release visit: http://issuu.com/bikeleague/docs/bfb_winter10_pr

And to read more about the Bicycle Friendly Business program visit:

<http://www.bikeleague.org/programs/bicyclefriendlyamerica/bicyclefriendlybusiness/about.php>

To see the complete list of our awardees in our Bicycle Friendly America programs see:
<http://www.bikeleague.org/programs/bicyclefriendlyamerica/bicyclefriendlyyearbook/index.php>

Thanks!

Alison Dewey

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Clean Air Award Nominations

Do you know an individual, organization or business that has accomplished outstanding leadership in improving air quality in central Ohio? If the answer is yes, please take a few minutes to fill out the Clean Air Award Nomination Form at <http://airquality.morpc.org> by Friday, April 23, 2010. Each year MORPC recognizes central Ohioans for their success in developing a specific initiative that reduces air pollution in our region. The awards will be presented at MORPC's Summit on Sustainability & the Environment, which will take place on Tuesday, October 5, 2010 at COSI. Your nomination is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your support.

Online Registration Now Available for May 4 State of the Region Event

State of the Region - Tuesday, May 4, 2010 - Greater Columbus Convention Center, Battelle Grand Ballroom - 11am-Reception, 12noon-Luncheon, Awards

Register now to attend MORPC's State of the Region luncheon. The event will take place at the newly renovated Battelle Grand Ballroom at the Columbus Convention Center.

<http://mid-ohioregionalplanningcommission.createsend5.com/t/r//ohjdr/dlitm/r>

The State of the Region is MORPC's premiere event for our region. It is unique and significant in its purpose to bring together nearly 1,200 of our region and state's top political, business and civic leaders to celebrate our community's accomplishments and present the key challenges facing our vibrant 12-county region. The hallmark of the event is the keynote address. Each year, MORPC selects a nationally-recognized speaker who is able to provide insight into cutting-edge issues facing our region, state and nation. This year the event will include a special address from the leadership of the US Health & Human Services Department.

Ticket prices are \$65 per person and \$650 for a table of ten. Table Sponsorship with name recognition is also available for \$1,500. Sponsorship opportunities are also still available by contacting Amy Lowe at alowe@morpc.org or 614-233-4135.

SAFETY

Using a cell phone behind the wheel is like driving drunk, say experts

By John Horton, The Plain Dealer

March 25, 2010, 3:53AM

One out of nine motorists operates under the influence of a cell phone. They might as well be drunk. More than one out of every four traffic crashes -- or roughly 1.6 million annually -- involves someone chitchatting or texting behind the wheel, according to a recent report released by the National Safety Council. This inattention kills thousands every year, by some estimates. It injures hundreds of thousands more. The risk is obvious by now, as study after study makes clear. Yet drivers keep dialing up danger.

http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2010/03/using_a_cell_phone_behind_the.html

Ira: If using a cell phone behind the wheel is like driving drunk, then what we need is a redirection of an old and effective organization – Let's call it MADD – Mothers Against Distracted Driving.

New law might not make roads safer

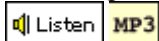
March 28, 2010

If you haven't done it yourself, you've probably been in a vehicle when it's happened. An accident barely avoided, or maybe a minor crash caused, because the driver was texting, "tweeting" or otherwise distracted by technology. Chillicothe and many other small Ohio communities have been waiting for the state to sort out what it will do, and this week, action occurred. The Ohio House passed a bill that would ban texting while driving, and those caught doing it would be fined up to \$150. The state senate still must approve the bill before it would become law, but proponents already are touting the bill's ability to "save lives." Texting while driving is a bad idea, but the idea that "we have to do something" is flawed thinking.

<http://www.chillicothe Gazette.com/article/20100328/OPINION01/3280309/1014/OPINION/New-law-might-not-make-roads-safer>

Columbus Prepares Texting While Driving Ban.

Tom Borgerding, WOSU News (2010-03-22)



COLUMBUS, OH (wosu) - Columbus City Council early next month will consider a ban on texting while driving. The sponsor of the proposal says promotes it as "common sense" legislation that's needed to keep city streets and highways safer. WOSU's Tom Borgerding reports. Columbus council member Andrew Ginther says too many drivers are putting others at risk when they text behind the wheel. "So it's time for the largest city in the state of Ohio to take action on this issue that's affecting everybody's safety." But the scope of the problem of texting while driving is hard to measure. "We don't have statistics that tell us exactly how big a problem it is."

http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/wosu/news.newsmain?action=article&ARTICLE_ID=1626610

City To Hold Second Public Hearing On Texting Ban

By Amanda Murphy

Published: March 25, 2010

COLUMBUS, Ohio –

City officials will hold the second of two public hearings on the proposed texting while driving ban Tuesday. The legislation was proposed by Columbus City Council's Public Safety Committee as a necessity for improving roadway safety. City officials hope a law on the books would help change perceptions of the problem of texting while driving. "All forms of distracted driving are dangerous, but texting while driving is especially dangerous because it takes drivers' hands, eyes and mind off the road, said councilmember Andrew Ginther. "When a driver's attention is not completely on controlling their vehicle, it puts the driver, their passengers, other motorists and pedestrians in danger." A fine up to \$150 will be given to those violating the ban, which will be a primary offense and result in a minor misdemeanor. The hearing will be held Tuesday, March 30 in Council Chambers at City Hall at 5 p.m. It is open to the public.

http://www2.nbc4i.com/cmh/news/local/article/city_to_hold_second_public_hearing_on_texting_ban/33997/

Village eyes ban on texting behind the wheel

Wednesday, March 24, 2010 1:55 PM

By GAIL MARTINEAU

ThisWeek Staff Writer

New Albany wants to be among the next Ohio municipalities to ban texting while driving. Council members were scheduled to hear the first reading of an ordinance Tuesday, March 23, that would ban texting or surfing the Internet while driving. According to the legislation, the ordinance would ban drivers from "sending, reading or writing a text message or accessing the Internet." It would be considered a secondary offense, meaning police could ticket drivers only if they were stopped for another offense. The offender would be charged with a minor misdemeanor. The provision would not apply to emergency vehicles, to people reporting emergencies or to drivers who are parked or removed from the traffic flow. "If you look around, we are certainly not the first municipality in central Ohio to try to deal with the issue," said village spokesman Scott McAfee. "I think a lot of it is trying to proactively deal with the legitimate safety issue just like a lot of other municipalities in central Ohio are doing."

http://www.thisweeknews.com/live/content/newalbany/stories/2010/03/24/0324natexting-ban_In.html?sid=104

Village may follow suit in text ban

*The violation would be considered a second offense and a minor misdemeanor and carry a maximum fine of \$150.
By SARA R. JOHNSON

Published: Wednesday, March 24, 2010 3:07 PM EDT

New Albany has taken a stance on the dangers associated with texting while driving. New Albany Village Council had a first reading for an ordinance that, if passed, would prohibit drivers from "sending, reading, or writing a text message or accessing the Internet while driving." The ordinance was discussed at council's regular meeting held on Tuesday, March 23. The ordinance, which was initiated by council member Steven Pleasnick, is aimed at reducing the risk of accidents, he said. "The purpose is the issue of safety and while we don't have specific numbers of accidents that have been caused, we can certainly surmise that there have been accidents caused by the inattention of drivers while they have two thumbs on an instrument in their vehicle and their knees on the steering wheel," Pleasnick said. Passing the ordinance would allow for improved roadway safety for drivers, passengers, pedestrians and bicyclists, according to the ordinance language. "This is not only a danger to themselves, but a danger to other citizens who may be on bicycles, walking or even crossing the street, where they can be the victim," he said.

http://www.snponline.com/articles/2010/03/27/new_albany_news/news/nacouncil%20_20100324_0140pm_11.txt

Johnstown mulls texting ban for drivers

BY JESSIE BALMERT • Advocate Reporter • March 25, 2010

JOHNSTOWN -- Johnstown Village Council is considering a ban on texting while driving to keep residents safe from distracted motorists. The council agreed to review ordinances from other municipalities with texting while driving bans to see how they could tweak the statutes to fit Johnstown, Councilwoman Joyce Evans said. Councilman David Keck requested the Safety and Service Committee discuss legislation to ban texting and cell-phone Internet usage at its meeting at 6 p.m. today. The committee will review wording similar to the ban in front of New Albany's council, but it also could discuss prohibiting any non-hands-free cell-phone usage while driving, Village Manager Judy Edwards wrote in an e-mail. If passed, Johnstown would become the first place in Licking County to ban texting while driving.

<http://www.newarkadvocate.com/article/20100325/NEWS01/3250361/1002/Johnstown-mulls-texting-ban-for-drivers>

Committee still mulling texting ban

Wednesday, March 24, 2010 1:58 PM

By NATE ELLIS

ThisWeek Staff Writer

A committee that will determine if text-messaging while driving will be against the law in Pickerington isn't ready yet to send the measure to the full city council for a vote. Council's safety committee heard testimony on March 17 from two people who said their loved ones were killed by motorists using cellular telephones. Although the committee did not take action to send a proposed ban on texting while driving to the full council, it also didn't quash the proposal, which has been pushed since last November by Councilman Jeff Fix. Chairwoman Cristie Hammond said the committee needs more time to study the issue, as well as how -- if at all -- Pickerington should legislate all uses of cell phones by motorists. "I don't think we're ready to take any action at this point," she said. "There's more discussion that needs to be had." In the meantime, fellow safety committee members Tony Barletta and Gavin Blair maintained action should be taken to prohibit drivers from sending and receiving text messages while behind the wheel, but they prefer to let Ohio legislators pass a uniform, statewide ban. "It's a statewide issue," Blair said. "I think you're actually seeing the pressure built up on (state legislators) now with the TVs covering it, with the newspapers covering it." http://www.thisweeknews.com/live/content/pickerington/stories/2010/03/24/0324pktexting-ban_In.html?sid=104

Safety committee espouses waiting on legislature to ban texting

By RACHEL SCOFIELD

Published: Tuesday, March 23, 2010 6:37 PM EDT

Despite pressure from the rest of City Council, the Pickerington Safety Committee is not ready to support a citywide ban on text messaging while driving. Committee members agreed a statewide ban would be more effective than having individual laws for each city and village. Representative Gerald Stebelton, who represents Fairfield County in the Ohio House, told council House Bill 415 passed unanimously and has moved out of committee and he expects the entire House to discuss it within the next few weeks. Of the eight bills the state currently is considering to outlaw phone use while driving, House Bill 415 is the most realistic, Stebelton said. Rather than banning all cell phone use while driving, it specifies text messaging and designates the violation as a primary offense.

http://www.snponline.com/articles/2010/03/27/pickerington_times-sun/news/pktexting%20_20100322_0224pm_2.txt

Council members take second look at text ban

(by Alexa Libert, staff writer - March 24, 2010)

Some Pickerington council members may be rethinking their stance on the issue of a citywide ban on texting while driving. During the March 17 safety committee meeting, individuals shared their personal stories of loss and pleaded for the city to enact such legislation. Sharon Montgomery of Gahanna addressed the committee and some of the concerns previously raised. The distracted driver that killed her husband and disabled another individual received only a \$75 fine, she said. "Some of you want to wait for the state to act, that would of course be preferable," she said. However, she added, "the state legislature has had at least one bill on this issue every session since 1997. I don't hold much hope that they will act on the house bill (HB 415)," she said. Montgomery also addressed the issue of education in driver's ed classes as suggested by Councilwoman Tricia Sanders. "The problem with relying solely on education is, education tells us we shouldn't do this because we're likely to crash, but human nature tells us, it won't happen to me," Montgomery said. "So we're going to have to have a law that says you are not allowed to do this because you are likely to crash." Education will increase compliance with the law, but it can't take the place of the law, she said. Regarding Councilwoman Cristie Hammond's previous concern over enforcing the law, Montgomery responded "enforcement challenges are problems to solve, not reasons for inaction." <http://www.columbusmessenger.com/NC/0/7993.html>

NPR's Car Talk guys take on driver distraction

By Christina Hernandez | Mar 23, 2010

Tom and Ray Magliozzi, the hosts of NPR's weekly radio show, *Car Talk*, cultivated a huge audience of listeners by making vehicle problems hilarious and fascinating — even for those, like myself, who would never describe themselves as “car people.” Now, through a partnership with the **University of Utah Applied Cognition Laboratory**, the brothers are using their popularity to fight distracted driving. The **Driver Distraction Center**, recently launched on the Car Talk website, is full of information meant to raise awareness of the dangers of driving while distracted by technology. <http://www.smartplanet.com/people/blog/pure-genius/nprs-car-talk-guys-take-on-driver-distraction/2814/>

IRA: Technology, part 1

March 26th, 2010

Phone disabling: Technology takes it beyond the driver's seat

Posted by Sam Diaz @ 2:30 am

One of the problems trying to be solved by startups at CTIA Wireless this week was that of texting while driving. A handful of companies were on-hand to showcase tools that disable phone usage or reroute calls to voice mail while the owner is driving. One company even had a cool marketing message about giving teenagers another reason to hate their parents. One company, Safe Driving Systems, showcased its flagship product, called Key2SafeDriving, which installs in a car. The device detects when the car is running and sends a signal to the registered phone to reroute calls to voicemail and inform callers, via text, that the driver will respond when he or she is no longer driving. <http://blogs.zdnet.com/BTL/?p=32376&tag=nl.e539>

IRA: Technology, part 2 – On the other hand...

James Cameron Looks Ahead to 3D Cell-Phone Films

03.25.10

by Chloe Albanesius

In a rather odd match-up, director James Cameron, Twitter co-founder Biz Stone, and the U.S. chief technology officer Aneesh Chopra closed out this year's CTIA trade show in Las Vegas this morning in a keynote that touched on 3D, piracy, the Google-China situation, and government intervention in wireless issues. Why was Cameron, director of the 3D sci-fi extravaganza *Avatar* at a cell phone conference? 3D on your mobile device, of course. "The way in which we take in our media and the way we interact is all through screens today, whether it's desktops, laptops, small screens, and now with the rising curve in mobility, it's all about mobility," he said. Cameron predicted that in the next five years, 3D technology will move from the big screen and TVs to laptops and smartphones. And the technology is such that with a smaller screen, you don't need 3D glasses. "This is where the big breakthrough is going to come," he said. <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2361824,00.asp>

HEALTH

Furniture changes as public gets bigger

Sunday, March 28, 2010 2:55 AM

By Mary MacVean

Los Angeles Times

The question can be delicate to pose to a furniture shopper: "Oh, sir, um, maybe, ah, you'd like to see something a bit, um, sturdier?" We are, as a people, as a sitting-in-chairs public, big. Bigger than we ought to be, health authorities frequently tell us. And bigger than many standard chairs of years past were made to hold comfortably. So the scale of furniture has increased during the past decade — to suit both the size of homes and the size of their occupants, said Max Shangle, professor and chairman of the Furniture Design Department at Kendall College of Art and Design in Michigan. Some plus-size furniture proudly flaunts its generous proportions, but in many cases, manufacturers and retailers rely on subtle marketing.

http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/home_garden/stories/2010/03/28/furniture-changes-as-public-gets-bigger.html

LOCAL NEWS

Editorial: Short takes

Tuesday, March 23, 2010 2:51 AM

TWO YEARS ago, the city of Columbus asked voters to approve a bond issue that would pay for, among other things, many miles of new bike trails. Voters did their part by approving the bond issue. But bicycling enthusiasts are still waiting. Unfortunately, the recession has caused the city to put the brakes on its bike-trail plans. With a budget in deep trouble, city officials decided last year not to take on additional debt. The city simply could not afford to borrow the money needed for construction. Besides, it just wouldn't look good to be building bike trails at the same time that recreation centers were closing because of a lack of money. That was the right call. Yes, having bike trails improves the quality of life for current residents and likely could be a factor in attracting new residents - or persuade some young folks to stay in the area. But installing the trails must be done smartly. City officials are wise to wait. <http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/editorials/stories/2010/03/23/short-takes.html>

Ira: Lancaster has the Fox Trail. Anyone for a Wolfe Trail?

Shaping our future

Variety of groups hope to have a hand in crafting the Columbus of tomorrow

Sunday, March 28, 2010 2:54 AM

By Marla Matzer Rose

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Crystal balls are getting quite a workout in central Ohio. A host of groups are planning, studying, celebrating, "visioning" Columbus in 2012 ... 2015 ... 2020 ... 2050. There's the 2010 Downtown Columbus Strategic Plan, which is seeking public input on what Downtown should look like in 10 years. That would coincide with 2020 - the year that the Columbus Partnership has targeted with its Columbus 2020 economic-development plan. But don't forget 2012. Not because it's the year that Mayan legend says could mark the end of an era. The year 2012 is the city's bicentennial, which has its own

committee. <http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/business/stories/2010/03/28/shaping-our-future.html>

City Council paves way for road improvement projects

* Most repairs will take place on streets Downtown and in the far northeast quadrant of Columbus.

By GARTH BISHOP

Published: Monday, March 22, 2010 11:22 AM EDT

A handful of roads within Columbus borders will see resurfacing work in the near future, thanks to a recent bond sale by the city auditor's office. Columbus City Council last week gave the city Public Service Department the go-ahead to spend about \$3.52 million in bond money to resurface the streets. "Sixteen streets ranked by

transportation engineers as those most in need of repair will receive funding through this legislation," said Councilman Hearcel Craig at council's March 1 meeting. The work entails basic milling, overlaying and replacement of striping, said Megan Blackford, the city's deputy director of public service. It also will include adding and replacing curb ramps. The process to pick which streets to resurface takes into account high traffic speeds, high traffic volumes and low pavement condition numbers, Blackford said.

http://www.snponline.com/articles/2010/03/27/the_booster/news/bomcolresu_20100315_0106pm_2.txt

Dublin Roundabouts

More work in store on Avery-Muirfield
Wednesday, March 24, 2010 1:44 PM
By JENNIFER NOBLIT
ThisWeek Staff Writer

More roundabouts are planned for Avery-Muirfield Road, with construction starting in 2014. Dublin City Council this week got an update on roundabouts planned for Avery-Muirfield Drive at Perimeter Drive and Perimeter Loop Road/Hospital Drive. Jeannie Willis, assistant city engineer, told council members during Monday's meeting that the design of the new roundabouts is scheduled for funding in the capital improvements program, or CIP, in 2011. Land acquisition is planned for 2012 and construction is slated to begin in 2014. According to the staff memo, the two roundabouts are expected to cost \$500,000 for design and \$3.5-million for construction. The new two-lane roundabouts will "facilitate the flow and increase capacity at these intersections," Willis told council members.

http://www.thisweeknews.com/live/content/dublin/stories/2010/03/24/0324duavery-muirfield_In.html?sid=104

Two counties try again for first park taxes

May 4 is 10th vote for Fairfield, 7th for Licking; economy a hurdle this time
Monday, March 22, 2010 2:52 AM
By Mary Beth Lane
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

The county park systems in Fairfield and Licking counties are asking their voters on May 4 to approve their first property taxes to maintain their parks, nature preserves and historical buildings and pay for programs. This is the 10th time on the ballot for Fairfield County Historical Parks and the seventh for the Licking Park District. Both systems operate mainly with money from their counties' general funds. Officials in both systems say they are struggling because county commissioners in recent years have cut funding to balance their budgets. Funding to Licking parks was cut in half this year.

http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2010/03/22/copy/two-counties-try-again-for-first-park-taxes.html

Genoa accepts grant for Safe Routes program

Friday, March 19, 2010 9:43 PM
By CHRIS ALEXIS
ThisWeek Staff Writer

Genoa officials want to give local students a safer route to school. The township trustees recently accepted a \$4,000 grant from the Ohio Department of Transportation to develop a Safe Routes to School travel plan. The Safe Routes to School program focuses on identifying anything that would prevent students from having a safe walk to school, including not having a proper sidewalk or crosswalk. The grant covers only the creation of a plan to solve problems and not construction of any improvements, which would be funded through future grants or public funds. Township officials in 2009 applied for the grant after discussions with the Westerville and Olentangy school districts, both of which have schools in the township, said Genoa assistant administrator Joe Clase.

http://www.thisweeknews.com/live/content/sunbury/stories/2010/03/19/0321susafe-routes_In.html?sid=104

Granville may seek grant for pathway

BY BRIAN MILLER • Advocate Reporter • March 27, 2010

GRANVILLE -- Granville officials are weighing the requirements associated with receiving state money for a Burg Street pathway as they decide whether to submit an application for a state grant. The state has ruled the village is eligible to apply for a Transportation Enhancement Program grant that would provide up to 80 percent of the cost of a pathway on a .8-mile section on Burg Street from Thresher Street north to the village limit. The Ohio Department of Transportation, which funds the grants, has placed certain restrictions on the path design. One key requirement:

It must be a minimum of 14 feet wide, plus 3 feet of shoulder.

<http://www.newarkadvocate.com/article/20100327/NEWS01/3270317/1002/Granville-may-see-grant-for-pathway>

Tracking the Orders Road leisure trail

(by Dedra Cordle, staff writer - March 23, 2010)

Last October, leaders from the city of Grove City and Jackson Township held a public forum to discuss the construction of a leisure path along Orders Road and to gather the community's input on the project.

Overall, residents expressed approval of the leisure trail, but brought up a few concerns such as traffic, traffic signals along busy streets, and the path potentially being seen from their backyards. On March 22, the city and township held a second informal public meeting to discuss where the project stands, and to gather even more input from the community. Jackson Township Administrator Mike Lilly said the leisure trails, which will be a part of a larger initiative to establish multi-use trails throughout Grove City, would be broken up into two phases. Phase one would connect Hoover Road to the YMCA. The estimated cost for this phase is \$764,000. "The reason phase one is higher than the second phase is because there are high signalized intersects," said Ryan Andrews, project manager of the consulting firm EMH&T. "Because of the stream, there will possibly be pedestrian bridge sections along that part of the path." According to the preliminary map, there would be three pedestrian bridges created.

<http://www.columbusmessenger.com/NC/0/7990.html>

Hikers get first look at trail

By KURT MOORE • The Marion Star • March 28, 2010

MARION - Trail enthusiasts and supporters of the Marion County Park District braved burrs and briars on Saturday to get a sneak preview of what will become the Marion Tallgrass Trail. The Friends of Prairie Parks, a volunteer support group for the park district, led the hike through the trail's first three miles. The trail, which runs along a former Erie-Lackawanna railroad corridor, will run 12 miles from Holland Road west to the Hardin County line. While there is much work to be done on the trail and millions of dollars needed to complete it, the walk was a victory lap of sorts for supporters who at times didn't expect to get this far. "We're delighted to be where we are now," said Dan Sheridan, a local cyclist and a member of the park district's board of trustees.

<http://www.marionstar.com/article/20100328/NEWS01/3280304/1002/Hikers-get-first-look-at-trail>

Pickerington closer to raising Diley Road speed limit

Wednesday, March 24, 2010 1:41 PM

By NATE ELLIS

ThisWeek Staff Writer

Motorists on Pickerington's portion of Diley Road are one step closer to legally picking up the pace after city officials continued their support of the proposal last week. Pickerington City Council approved the second reading of proposed legislation on March 16 to increase the speed limit on Diley Road from 35 mph to 45 mph. The measure now needs just one additional reading before a final vote and the required 30-day waiting period to become law. That could happen as soon as April 6, council's next regularly scheduled meeting. "The speeds that are being driven on that road already are consistently 45 mph," Councilman Brian Sauer said. "If you drive 35, you're getting passed." Earlier this month, city engineer Greg Bachman proposed raising the speed limit on the portion of Diley Road that stretches from Hill Road North to the city's water treatment plant just south of Fox Glen Drive. He said the roadway was geometrically designed for 45 mph, and many residents have complained it is a speed trap at 35 mph. http://www.thisweeknews.com/live/content/canalwinchester/stories/2010/03/24/0324cwidiley-road_in.html?sid=104

Gahanna and Reynoldsburg team up for 5K walk/run

By PAMELA WILLIS

Published: Tuesday, March 23, 2010 4:46 PM EDT

Gahanna and Reynoldsburg Schools are racing to rev up school spirit with a registration competition for the inaugural Spirit Sprint 5K Run/Walk. Sponsored by The Cardinal Orthopedic Institute to benefit both districts' Safe Routes to Schools programs, the Spirit Sprint 5K will begin at 9 a.m. Sunday, April 11 at the Cardinal Orthopedic Institute, 170 Taylor Station Road. Race day registration begins at 8 a.m. Cardinal is creating a family-friendly carnival atmosphere for the event, bringing in inflatables, plus music and refreshments for all participants, said Stephanie Rauschenbach, Cardinal's marketing director. "The schools will bring their mascots and Chick-fil-A will bring their cow mascot, and we may also have the high school bands or the cheerleaders lining the course for the route," Rauschenbach said. The race for registration has already begun as the districts try to register the most race

participants. The school district with the most registered participants will earn 75 percent of the registration proceeds and the runner-up will earn the remaining 25 percent. Runners not affiliated with either school are also welcome, Rauschenbach said. A T-shirt and refreshments will be provided to all participants and awards will be presented to the top five male and top female finishers. Rauschenbach said she brought the idea for the walk/run to Tricia Moore, community outreach coordinator for Reynoldsburg City Schools, and Moore suggested the tie-in to both districts' walk and bike to school programs.

http://www.snponline.com/articles/2010/03/27/gahanna_news/schools/ghrywalk%203_20100323_1224pm_2.txt

5K to benefit Safe Routes to School

Wednesday, March 24, 2010 2:04 PM

By DAVID S. OWEN

ThisWeek Staff Writer

The Safe Routes to School programs in Gahanna and Reynoldsburg will benefit from an inaugural Spirit Sprint 5K run/walk hosted by the Cardinal Orthopedic Institute on April 11. One district, however, will benefit more, depending on which community has the most registered participants. Stephanie Rauschenbach, marketing director for the Cardinal Orthopedic Institute, said the school district with the most registered participants will earn 75 percent of the proceeds from the event and will be presented with a trophy. The runner-up will receive 25 percent of the event proceeds. All proceeds will go to the districts' Safe Routes to School programs. Rauschenbach said when the idea for the run/walk came up, she approached both Gahanna and Reynoldsburg school officials. "When we originally had the idea, I reached out to community outreach coordinator for Reynoldsburg schools, Tricia Moore, and she latched on to it," Rauschenbach said. "Tricia actually suggested the Safe Routes to School tie-in because both school systems are developing programs.

http://www.thisweeknews.com/live/content/reynoldsburg/stories/2010/03/24/0324rb5k-benefit_in.html?sid=104

Safe Routes to School meetings slated

Published: Wednesday, March 24, 2010 5:53 PM EDT

Parents of children attending Whitehall elementary schools and those living near the schools are invited to attend a battery of building-specific meetings to share their views about the safety of children walking or riding bicycles to school. The meetings, set Monday through Wednesday, March 29-31, are part of a Safe Routes to School initiative to help build sidewalks and other infrastructure to improve pedestrian safety in school zones. "We want to hear from parents and neighbors about how often (children) are walking, how many are walking or riding, and any challenges or obstacles they might encounter," said Zach Woodruff, public affairs coordinator for the city of Whitehall. The first meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 29, at Etna Road Elementary School, 4531 Etna Road. Another will be held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 30, at Kae Avenue Elementary School, 4738 Kae Ave., and the final meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 31, at Beechwood Elementary School, 455 Beechwood Road. Each meeting is specific to the host school building, so parents and neighbors are asked to attend the meeting at the school their children attend or the one nearest their residence.

http://www.snponline.com/articles/2010/03/27/whitehall_news/news/whsaferout_20100324_1115am_2.txt

OTHER NEWS

\$10 TO \$40 EACH

'Bike Guy' in Lima has deals on wheels

By Heather Rutz

THE LIMA NEWS

LIMA, Ohio — A bicycle is an uncomplicated thing. Earl Ehrhardt is an uncomplicated guy. They make a nice fit. Ehrhardt's front yard typically is covered with repaired bikes for sale. Big and little. Training wheels. Baby seats on the back. Ten-speeds. A chopper-style boys bike. They all run between \$10 and \$40. "My hours are whenever I'm home," Ehrhardt said. "If I'm not home, I'll be back later." Ehrhardt, a retired railroader, will be 78 in a month. The bikes are something he enjoys, something to keep him busy and put a little money in his pocket. "Every kid needs a bike," he said. "When I was little, there were three of us and I was the youngest. We had one bike. Guess how much I got to ride it? Not much." Ehrhardt picks up bikes at yard sales and out of the trash. He thinks people have too much money these days, to throw away perfectly good bikes that just need a little repair.

ODOT names teams that will compete to design new Inner Belt Bridge

By Karen Farkas, The Plain Dealer

March 24, 2010, 2:45PM

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- Three teams of engineers, designers and contractors will spend the next 134 days creating what each hopes will become the new \$450 million Inner Belt Bridge. The Ohio Department of Ohio Transportation has named the design/build teams that will compete to build the five-lane span over the Cuyahoga River. They include and out-of town firms, and all of the design firms have worked on bridges with bicycle/pedestrian lanes... But as the teams begin work, ODOT has not yet determined if the proposals should include an option to add a bicycle/pedestrian lane, which would be separated from traffic. ODOT Director Jolene Molitoris is still looking at all factors, weeks after receiving requests from local and national politicians to add a bicycle/pedestrian lane to the bridge and a letter from Gov. Ted Strickland asking her to determine whether a bike lane is possible, ODOT spokesman Scott Varner said Monday. The agency has said such lanes are not feasible on the Inner Belt Bridge because of such factors as cost and safety. "She has asked the staff to take a look at the issue with new eyes," Varner said. "We have to determine at what point we can still make the decision and not risk jeopardizing the federal stimulus funds and timetable."

http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2010/03/odot_names_teams_to_compete_to.html

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