

Bike Safety is everyone's responsibility

The weather is finally turning for the better, which means residents of all ages will be taking their bicycles out for the season. A bike ride can be a great way to spend family time together, experience the beauty of our community, or get into a healthy routine while utilizing "green" transportation. While it's true that bicyclists of all abilities should be familiar with and follow basic safety rules, in reality bike safety is everyone's responsibility.

Motorists also need to be aware of the ways they can "share the road" and help keep our roadways safe for everyone. Our town government is committed to addressing transportation issues in a manner that balances community character with improvements to intersections and roads that benefit bicyclists, pedestrians and motorists alike. Examples of the Town of Pittsford's commitment to this end are found in our 2009 Comprehensive Plan and its implementation.

One goal identified in our 2009 Plan is to ensure that the town's transportation system serves a variety of users, including bicyclists and pedestrians. Another goal is to create a walkable and bikeable community with various alternatives for people to get around town. With these goals in mind we work daily toward improving a well-connected system of sidewalks, trails, and bicycle lanes that provides many options for Pittsford residents.

Recent proposed work on Stone Road exemplifies this approach. The Monroe County Department of Transportation proposed a highway improvement project that included the paving of Stone Road from Pinnacle Road to Clover Street. Included in this project was a widening to facilitate wider lanes and five foot shoulders on either side. The Town listened to resident input and worked collaboratively with County staff to develop a compromise plan to propose construction of a separate multi-use trail for pedestrians and bicycles in lieu of wider shoulders.

Through new development and transportation improvements the Town of Pittsford will continue to make the enhancements necessary to sustain a bike and pedestrian-friendly community. We ask bicyclists and motorists alike to learn and follow road safety practices. An opportunity to do so, while also helping those in need, is coming up in early May.

The Town of Pittsford Recreation Department is partnering with the Rotary Club of Pittsford to offer the Pittsford Community Bike Drop and Rodeo on Saturday, May 7 from 10:00am to 2:00pm in the parking lots of Pittsford Mendon High School and Thornell Farm Park. Used bicycles will be collected at the "Bike Drop" and donated to R Community Bikes, Inc., a local organization that repairs and distributes bicycles free of charge to meet basic transportation needs as well as recreational needs of children and adults.

The free interactive Bike Rodeo will teach the importance of bicycle safety, highlighting rules of the road, proper safety wear and equipment, and bicycle maintenance. Other activities will include helmet fittings, bike inspections and bike riding skill stations for those who bring a bike and helmet to use.

I encourage you to get your bike out this season, have fun, and share the road responsibly. For more information on the Pittsford Community Bike Drop and Rodeo visit our website www.townofpittsford.org. As always, should you have any comments please contact me at bcarpenter@townofpittsford.org or stop in and visit me at Town Hall.