



Community Connection

CityTrails™



SUMMER/FALL 2005

ST. PETERSBURG BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN PROGRAM

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 2



"St. Petersburg will be a city with a balanced transportation system designed to move people safely and effectively. Pedestrians and bicycle facilities shall be designed, encouraged and celebrated as indicators of a healthy city."

*St. Petersburg CityTrails
Master Plan Vision*

DID YOU KNOW?

More bicycles than cars have been sold in the United States over the past 12 months, with rising gas prices prompting commuters to opt for two wheels instead of four.

Source: WASHINGTON (AFP)

Figure '8's Give Way to Safer Bicycling Options

When you were a kid, you may remember riding your bicycle haphazardly in the road and up and down the sidewalk. You had the wind in your hair and didn't have a care in the world. No figure '8' was too difficult. It was the feeling of freedom.

Times have certainly changed from that of yesteryear. More people mean more cars, and more cars mean more crashes. Whether you are a kid learning to balance on a bicycle for the first time or an experienced rider just shy of "Lance Armstrong" supernatural skills, it's clear that we have a problem...err...challenge ahead of us to keep bicyclist crash counts low. The 2004 Mean Streets Report, by the Surface Transportation Policy Project, identified the Tampa Bay Area, including St. Petersburg, as the second most dangerous place to walk and the tenth most dangerous place to ride a bicycle in the country. Last year in St. Petersburg, pedestrians contributed 8 fatalities and 126 injuries, and bicyclist contributed 3 fatalities and 164 injuries to the total number of crashes.



Mayor Rick Baker, City Council, and the Transportation and Parking Department are working to escape the grips of the Mean Streets report. "The CityTrails Master Plan identifies 150 miles of bicycle lane and side path locations throughout the City," says Troy Salisbury, the city's Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinator. "More facilities create safer environments which will assist with reducing our crash numbers."

"Facilities are not the only answer to reducing the number of crashes", Salisbury says, "we're also educating the public through a series of safety programs through schools, YMCA, community organizations, etc., and then enforcing laws through our police department." City officials are confident that providing such facilities, educating the public, and enforcing existing laws will create a safer environment for cyclists and motorists and will decrease the number of crashes in the City.

October is Florida Greenways & Trails Month

Each year, the Florida Office of Greenways and Trails designates October as Greenways and Trails month in Florida. The purpose is to focus attention on Florida's existing greenways and trails and to involve residents and visitors in creating a statewide system of greenways and trails.

To celebrate, Pinellas County and the City of St. Petersburg have scheduled joint events in October. Information is available on <http://www.pinellascounty.org>.



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*This E-zine is made from
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"Yield to Pedestrians": A Valuable Piece of Advice



How valuable? How about \$114.50 valuable (\$80 plus tax, tag, title and stupidity fees)? That is the going rate for motorist who fail to yield to a pedestrian at a mid-block or intersection crosswalks.

In 2004, crashes due to motorist failure to yield at a mid-block or intersection represented 10 percent of all crashes. Eleven of the pedestrians were senior citizens ages 65 and older.

Within the next few months, the City of St. Petersburg Police Department will be increasing pedestrian yield enforcement campaigns whereby police officers will ticket those not yielding. So, if you are a driver of a vehicle and you see a pedestrian attempting to cross at the crosswalk, take the extra time to yield. If you are a pedestrian, cross in crosswalks or intersections, and thank drivers that yield. Working together is the only way to make the streets safer for everyone and save you a little money.

International Walk to School Day

On October 5, 2005, in over 35 countries worldwide, school children and their families stepped out of their sport utility vehicles and sedans and hit the pavement for International Walk to School Day. St. Petersburg is one of the many cities throughout the globe who participated in this event which was started in 1994.



This year, six schools in St. Petersburg participated in Walk to School Day including: Bay Vista Fundamental School, Bear Creek Elementary School, Blanton Elementary School, Sexton Elementary School, Lakewood Elementary School, Lealman Elementary School and Northshore Elementary School.

First Major Bicycle Lane Corridors Complete

You may have noticed an extra travel lane along 1st Avenue North and South and 66th Street. No, they are not travel lanes for the newest Mini Cooper. As part of the CityTrails program, bicycle lanes have been installed from Bayshore Drive to Pasadena Avenue and the Pinellas Trail. This is the latest of many completed projects to come.

CityTrails Program has New Web Site

You can now go directly to the Bicycle Pedestrian and CityTrails program by directing your browser to <http://www.city-trails.org>. You can find updated program information, events, safety information, and important web links from this site. Bookmark it today and stay up to date!

Until next time, Wave to Drivers that Yield!