

Bike Club: *Sarasota-Manatee Bicycle Club*

The Sarasota-Manatee Bicycle Club (SMBC) is dedicated to bicycling for recreation, fitness, exercise, sport and transportation. The club is also committed to bicycling education and safety.

Members receive safety information via email on a monthly basis, videos are posted on the website and ride leaders are present at every club ride to go over best practices. The club has League of American Bicyclists Cycling Instructors (LCIs) in leadership positions. Beyond the club activities, members and LCIs volunteer to serve the community via educational programs with the North Port Parks and Recreation Department and the Boys and Girls Club of Sarasota County. These programs benefit youth by engaging them in active transportation and educating them on traffic principles to become better future motorists.

SMBC coordinates with other local cycling clubs and the City of Venice Police Department to host the Gulf Coast Ride of Silence. The ride annually attracts over 100 cyclists and is conducted with the upmost respect, silently and slowly. The club is also represented on the Sarasota County Bicycle Pedestrian Trail Advisory Committee whose purpose is to review plans, develop ideas and make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners to improve bicycle, pedestrian and trail access and safety throughout the county.

Off-Road Promoter: *Kearns Hiett, Tallahassee Mountain Bike Association*

Affiliated with the Southern Off-road Bicycle Association (SORBA) and the International Mountain Bike Association, the Tallahassee Mountain Bike Association (TMBA) is a local, member-driven club that exists to protect access to trails, advocate for new trail development, host events large and small, and, in general, have a good time doing what members love – riding mountain bikes. Kearns Hiett leads TMBA's Beginner Mountain Bike rides. Each Sunday, he leads a group of beginning riders on trails throughout Tallahassee and Leon County. He has a passion for the sport and is incredibly patient and competent at helping first time riders get started. He is always fun, spectacularly competent and leaves every first-time rider feeling welcome and more capable than they felt upon arrival.

Law Enforcement Agency: *Town of Kenneth City Police Department*

The Kenneth City Police Department has developed a comprehensive community-based policing philosophy which has been implemented throughout the organization. The Community Policing team is responsible for increasing interaction with the community by deploying the use of a police bicycle detail for proactive neighborhood patrols and contacts. They plan and coordinate many crime prevention and educational programs and events to foster a stronger partnership between the residents, business owners, local leadership groups, school representatives, church leaders and other local organizations.

Some of the many events include “Coffee with a Cop,” “Walk with a Cop,” “Shop with a Cop,” “National Night Out,” “Halloween treat trail,” “National Walk to School Day,” “Casting with a Cop” and “Biking with Badges.”

The Community Policing Team is committed to the department’s core values of knowledge, compassion, professionalism, and dedication and continue to aid in our success. They bring real meaning to the words in their mission statement, “Provide proactive and innovative law enforcement services to our community through a partnership which consists of trust, understanding and collective results.”

Chief Kevin Riley recently held a High Visibility Enforcement event for other law enforcement agencies to witness firsthand how community engagement can be rewarding for all. This event was to showcase how everyone works together to increase awareness of and compliance with traffic laws in an effort to reduce pedestrian and bicyclist crashes, fatalities and serious injuries on all our roadways.

Educator: *Lucy Gonzalez-Barr*

Lucy Gonzalez-Barr serves as the Safe Routes to School Coordinator for Lake, Marion and Sumter Counties, in addition to working at the Center for Urban Transportation Research in Transportation Demand Management. Outside of her job, Lucy goes out of her way to inspire girls and young women to bicycle. She works with volunteer women riders that serve as mentors to ride with girls ages 6 through 16. The groups go out and ride together and develop cycling skills in a safe, judgement-free environment.

Lucy is also part of the core founding team of Florida NICA – National Interscholastic Cycling Association – to bring the sport of mountain biking to schools as a competitive sport, much like football or baseball. Florida NICA creates an equal, inclusive environment to promote health and fitness as well as trail stewardship.

Supporting Agency: *Forward Pinellas, Whit Blanton Executive Director*

It is reassuring that Forward Pinellas, under the leadership of executive director Whit Blanton, understands the complexity of transportation crashes and does not shy away from fulfilling the mission to forge effective partnerships among public agencies, citizens and the business community for improvements.

Forward Pinellas staff engages the public, fosters creative problem-solving and cultivates a team environment. They are accessible, knowledgeable and sincere, even when things are not going well. In 2018, the County was named to be the most dangerous place to ride a bicycle by the Wall Street Journal, and was deemed a League of American Bicyclists bronze level Bicycle Friendly Community. In 2018, Forward Pinellas received five applications for their Complete Streets program; up to \$100,000 is available for the development of concept plans and up to

\$1 million is available for construction projects in coordination with the Florida Department of Transportation. The program was started in 2016 and clearly is making a difference.

Pinellas County is a great place to bicycle, thanks in no small part to Forward Pinellas staff always working and always seeking to align goals and actions across jurisdictions to make it so.

Program: *Mobility Week, Libertad Acosta-Anderson, Florida Department of Transportation District 5*

In 2016, Central Florida kicked off its inaugural Mobility Week as a celebration of activities intended to promote multiple transportation options and encourage safe travel behavior. The driving force for this celebration came from FDOT District 5 Transit and Rail Supervisor Libertad Acosta-Anderson.

In 2017, the event grew to 45 partners working together to host 36 events across Central Florida to promote safe multimodal transportation choices. Highlights from the week included five group bicycle rides, five walking tours with elected officials and the public, professional workshops and over 28,000 FREE transit rides.

In 2018, this annual Central Florida collection of outreach events for safe multimodal transportation choices went statewide. The 2018 FDOT Mobility Week featured the Mix-It-Up Challenge which invited all Florida residents to explore riding a bus, taking the train, a bike, walking, ride sharing and teleworking. There were also proclamations from the City of Orlando and the City of Casselberry to support Mobility Week.

Bicycle Professional: *Darlene Culpepper, City of Venice Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator*

Darlene Culpepper serves as the City of Venice part-time bicycle and pedestrian coordinator within the City Engineering Department. It's not unusual to have a bicycle and pedestrian coordinator who enjoys riding; but it is unique when the coordinator has their own ride open to the public. Darlene hosts the City of Venice Monthly Bike Ride from City Hall on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10AM, for a distance of six miles.

These monthly rides encourage folks to consider cycling around town while promoting a safer environment for cyclists. More cyclists equal more visibility and awareness to motorists, which in turn provides more opportunities to practice how all of us share the road. The popularity of the monthly rides has led to Historic Bicycle Tours, a four-hour adventure led by Darlene and Venice Museum and Archives staff.

It's one thing to work part time for the City of Venice and quite another to be full time passionate about cycling, safety and building community.

Citizen Bike Advocate: *Ray Booth, Suncoast Cycling Club*

Ray Booth has been a member of the Suncoast Cycling Club for many years serving in multiple capacities. He currently serves as treasurer and membership director and is affectionately known as 'Mr. Saturday morning.' His leadership in promoting safe cycling is seen weekly as he organizes the group rides, communicates with members and takes responsibility for everyone's safe return. Ray teaches safe bicycling skills and is an inspiration to Suncoast Cycling Club members for his ability not only to do the right thing, but to encourage others to do the right thing by example.

Citizen Bike Advocate: *Mark Schiefer, Gulf Coast Velo*

Mark Schiefer has been a strong supporter, advocate and motivator towards bicycling awareness and education in Charlotte, Sarasota and Manatee Counties. In 2018, Mark founded the Gulf Coast Velo (GCV) cycling club with a focus on three cornerstones: cycling safety, operational transparency and no drama. As a result, GCV membership has grown rapidly. Members of GCV enjoy safe group rides and safety classes including first aid and how to react if a crash were to occur. GCV also began organizing a women's charity ride, The Tour De Femme, which takes place in May (National Bike Month).

Mark also founded and organized the Safe Cycling Coalition which coordinates clubs from Lee, Charlotte, Sarasota and Manatee Counties as well as representation from the Sarasota/Manatee MPO and the Florida Bicycle Association. The group is focused on working toward improving safe cycling identifying local opportunities to promote safe cycling education and support FBA at the state level for good legislation.

Mark is also a cycling enthusiast who rides 230 miles per week, races and participates in any worthwhile charity event. He has been a go-to source of information for fellow club members or any cyclists about anything cycling in the Gulf Coast area.

Bicycle Business: *Fit & Fuel Café*

Mark Trudeau opened Fit & Fuel Café in 2011 in North Naples, just two doors down from his bike shop, Naples Cyclery. Mark took the opportunity to combine the separate units, increasing the size and doubling the number of seats available. The café, which reopened in June 2018, welcomes guests with a casual, warm atmosphere and a menu that offers many healthy, organic choices as well as locally roasted Panther Coffee. Some of the sandwich items on the menu are "Granny Gear" with roasted turkey and brie, the "Derailleur" with roast pork, ham and Swiss cheese, "The Tour" with roast beef and provolone cheese and "The Century," a black bean veggie patty.

In the back of the café, a fitting studio is a hub of cycling activity. Using the Retül Fit System, fitters help cyclists and triathletes of all experience levels find the right fit for their needs. The two businesses together now occupy approximately 7,000 square feet total with an 8' x 8' free flow opening that connects the cycle shop and the café.

Fit & Fuel is a great place for cyclists to meet up before and after a ride. Several clubs gather for happy hour and camaraderie. Fit & Fuel continually supports and promotes cycling and cycling activities.

Bicycle Friendly Community: *The Villages*

In 2018, The Villages was recognized by the League of American Bicyclists as the first Gold Level Bicycle-Friendly Community in the state of Florida. This achievement would not be possible without the work and dedication by three factions within the community.

First, Diane Mirkin, Chair of The Villages Bicycle Friendly Advocacy Council, the group that painstakingly completed the 55-plus page application.

Second, John Rohan, Director of The Villages Recreation and Parks Department who served as a resource for information used in said application.

And last but not least, the Sumter Landing Bicycle Club, to which there are many reasons but one of particular note is this: Of the 101 League Cycling Instructors in Florida, nearly one-fifth are right here thanks to their dedication to education of bicycling best practices.

Trails Promoter: *Kraig McLane*

Kraig McLane has worked tirelessly for over twenty years to bring multi-use trails to Putnam County. His vision of a “Hub” for cycling has helped others to support Florida’s multi-use trail system which includes trails that connect Lake Butler to Palatka, Palatka to St. Augustine and ultimately a regional Shared Use Non-motorized paved trail system (SUN Trail) known as the St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop.

Kraig serves on the St Johns River to Sea Loop Alliance and is instrumental in making sure Palatka and Putnam County are taken seriously in the state trail discussion. To this point, Kraig chaired a committee to nominate the City of Palatka to become the Florida Office of Greenways and Trails’ fifth “Trail Town.”

Volunteer: *Laura Aaron, Bike Walk Indian River County, Inc.*

Bike Walk Indian River County, Inc. (BWIRC) is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3), community coalition working to make Indian River County a safe, more accessible and more comfortable place for people to ride bicycles and walk. Laura Aaron is one of the BWIRC’s founders and an active BWIRC board member/officer. She participates in every facet of the organization, providing insight and expertise to advance the mission. True to her cycling role of stoker on the tandem, Laura has endurance and strength, provides the power to climb the hills and keeps our organization centered on our cause.

One example of Laura’s quiet leadership occurred earlier this year. BWIRC awarded bicycles to local boys from low income families who had accomplished certain academic and

behavioral milestones. BWIRC's volunteer LCIs (League of American Bicyclists Cycling Instructors) taught them bike safety and basic bike maintenance. Upon learning that the boys did not have access to air pumps or any of the basic tools necessary to keep their bikes operating properly, Laura was inspired to raise money so that BWIRC could purchase and install a bike maintenance work station with an air pump in the boys' neighborhood. She named the new project "Pump Us Up!" Laura herself was already "pumped up" with enthusiasm for making the stations a reality.

Laura immediately started writing grant applications and implemented grassroots efforts to generate support for her "Pump Us Up!" program. She initially hoped to raise \$1,500 to cover the cost of one work station. So far, she has raised over more than three times that amount. Laura also recruited Malcolm Allen, owner of Orchid Island Bike and Kayaks, who generously agreed to order, assemble, install and maintain the work stations at no cost.

Two work stations have been ordered. One is being installed in the boys' neighborhood at the Gifford Youth Achievement Center and the other is being installed adjacent to a bus stop at a local community health clinic. Through Laura's fundraising success, Bike Walk Indian River County is planning at least two additional work stations: one to be installed at the local transit hub and another near a newly completed community multiuse trail.

Many cyclists take for granted having the ability to maintain their equipment, either with tools they own or at their local bike shop. Laura's initiative and new awareness of the lack of these resources resulted in this tremendously successful campaign to keep bikes rolling in our community. Work stations provided through "Pump Us Up!" will benefit the entire community.

Elected Official Champion: *Deputy Mayor Peter O'Flinn, City of Bonita Springs*

Deputy Mayor Peter O'Flinn has demonstrated his outstanding leadership both in the City and throughout Southwest Florida to advocate for complete streets as the best way to realize the City's vision of human scale development and quality of life. He made this issue his #1 priority. As a result of these efforts, Bonita Springs received national recognition by Smart Growth America as one of the 12 communities in the United States for its exemplary work on implementing complete streets.

Peter has led the effort to educate the public about the value of roundabouts and road diets, which has been critical to bringing these changes to Bonita Springs. Equally important, is his commitment to bring to reality a rails-to-trails trail to connect Bonita Springs and Estero (10 miles) and make it part of the statewide network, with a vision of how to take these two cities to the next level.

Peter has built strong relationships with the Greenways and Trails Foundation, Florida Department of Transportation, Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Conservation Fund.

Elected Official Champion: *Kathryn Starkey, Pasco County Commissioner, District 3, New Port Richey*

The Tri-County Trail Connection won the 2014 Future of the Region Development/Infrastructure Award from the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council. Today, the future of the region is here and the Tri-County Trail Connection on the cusp of completion.

Commissioner Kathryn Starkey has been and continues to be the champion of this connection and for Pasco County. Her experience, accolades and public service record are admirable and inspirational. Prior to settling in the Tampa Bay Area, Kathryn lived in France, Spain, the Dominican Republic and Venezuela. She is a 35-year resident of the Tampa Bay Area. Kathryn is married to Jay B. Starkey III, a member of a Tampa Bay pioneer family. The Starkey name may sound familiar to those in the Tampa Bay area as there is a direct connection to Kathryn and Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park.

This regional park covers over 8,300 acres of land and is a cooperative venture between the Southwest Florida Water Management District and Pasco County Parks and Recreation. The park has 19 miles of mountain bike single-track trails and the multi-purpose trail within the park consists of 7.3 miles of paved surface and it connects to the Suncoast Trail (42 miles) which runs along the west side of the Suncoast Parkway.

The connection of the Suncoast Trail and the Tri-County Trail Connection will complete the 'Starkey Gap' of the SUN Trail Coast-to-Coast Trail. Commissioner Starkey made this completion a priority and anticipates completion by summer of 2019. The completion will create continuous multi-use paved trail from downtown St. Petersburg to the Suncoast Parkway trailhead at US 98 in Brooksville.

Special Recognition: *Conan Bickford*

Conan Bickford serves as the Security/Safety/Transportation Manager at Lake Highland Preparatory School (LHPS) of Orlando. In 2015, LHPS funded a CyclingSavvy course for the department, which enabled CSIs to bring the course directly to the campus. Since then, Mr. Bickford has continued to prioritize safety by sending new staff to attend the courses, most recently in January 2019. This commitment to safety and funding educational programming is unique among businesses (of any kind) in Central Florida.

Special Recognition: *Michelle Avola, Naples Pathway Coalition*

Naples Pathways Coalition (NPC) works to create safe, bikeable, walkable communities in Collier County. They analyze data and legislation to make a case for roadway improvements or enhancements, serve on key committees that implement change and attend and testify at public meetings to affect change and raise awareness of issues.

NPC educates motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians through programs and special events.

NPC works with the Collier Metropolitan Planning Organization to create its Comprehensive Pathways Plan. Executive Director Michelle Avola regularly attends MPO meetings as well as monthly Bike/Ped Advisory Committee meetings and Naples City Council meetings.

Naples Pathways Coalition is the recipient of 2017 Best of Naples Award in the Associations/NonProfits category by the Naples Award Program. Each year, the Naples Award Program identifies organizations that have "achieved exceptional success in their local community and have enhanced the positive image of nonprofits through outstanding service to their constituents and our community. These exceptional organizations help make the Naples area a great place to live, work and play." Naples has received the League of Bicyclists Bronze Award for 2015-2019.

Special Recognition: *Betsy Holl, FBA*

Betsy Holl joined the FBA team in 2003 as the bookkeeper and liaison to the CPA. But she became much more than just a bookkeeper. She became a dear friend and advisor due in part to periodic meetings to review financial reports. The meetings always began with sharing news about family and friends before delving into the accounting.

As a QuickBooks ProAdvisor, Betsy had many other clients, but always found time to answer questions or explain how to create specific reports. Last December she broke the news that she was closing her bookkeeping business to take on a full-time position. We were sad but excited about the new role she would be undertaking and the benefits it would provide for her family.

Betsy's award presentation was recently made during a Sunday brunch that seemed a perfect way to thank her for her 16 years of service.