

Eau Claire Bike/Ped Times

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Local News

Chippewa Valley to Host the first annual 'Firecracker' of a bike race

WORS (Wisconsin Off Road Race Series) has joined up with area volunteers and race director Phil Johnson to bring mountain bike racing to the Valley for the first time. **The Chippewa Valley Firecracker** is scheduled for July 3rd at Lowes Creek County Park. The race promises to be a challenging and fun ride in beautiful Lowes Creek County Park. .

The course is described on the WORS website as *"Fast rolling trails and virgin singletrack twisting and turning through Lowes Creek County Park. Open sections provide opportunity to hammer while technical singletrack will test your skills with tight corners, and obstacles."* **The Chippewa Valley Firecracker** has several races to appeal to all riders, from youth (6 miles, 1 lap), citizen (12 miles), Sport (18), Comp (24) to elite levels (24 and 30 miles). The Minnesota State Championship has also gotten in on the action and for the first time the two mega groups of Midwest Mountain biking have teamed up to put on a great event.

Along with the race there are several activities leading up the Sunday's race. Saturday features an opportunity to pre-ride the course, a Fazolis pasta feed for \$5, a Saturday night snack and a movie compliments of Festival Foods, free on-site child care during the race, free hat to all participants, post race sandwiches from Subway, massages, concessions, a race video and a cool down mist machine. What an unbelievable two days of fun! Register online at <http://www.wors.org/register/index.php> or by mail postmarked by June 26th to WORS, 8675 Rolling Hills Road, Custer, WI 54423. Hotel accommodations and on-site camping are available.

Book your stay, pass the word, do whatever it takes, but don't miss out on **The Chippewa Valley Firecracker** bike race July 3rd.

- Submitted by Drew Brandenburg of Eau Claire

City of Eau Claire: Ride Your Bike To Work Day

Tuesday, May 17, 2005

(Rain Date: Thursday, May 19th)

All employees are encouraged to ride their bikes to work. The City of Eau Claire promotes wellness, safety, and a clean environment. Give it a try and ride your bike to work.

Bike Rally in Owen Park

Tuesday, May 17, 2005

11:30am-1:30pm

Employees are encouraged to walk or ride their bike

to Owen park during their lunch break.

- Music by Rock-n-Roll To Go www.rnrto.com
- Free Lunch (while supplies last, for bike riders and walkers only)
- Bike Maintenance Information
- Drawing Every 30 Minutes for Adult Bike Helmets
- Beverages Provided
- Eau Claire City Transit – Bike Rack Display

- Events Organized by: Eau Claire Police Department and Eau Claire Parks & Recreation.

National News

Complete Streets Amendment Comes Up Short in Senate Vote First vote ever on concept generates bipartisan support

America Bikes initiative to get the "Safe and Complete Streets" amendment included in the federal transportation bill was defeated in a floor vote, 53-44 in the US Senate, on Wednesday May 11th. The bill would have required states and large Metropolitan Planning Organizations to adopt policies to build 'complete streets' that accommodate all road users, including bicyclists and pedestrians.

The America Bikes coalition generated hundreds of calls in support of the amendment, and support was broad - during floor debate Senator Harkin held up a placard with a partial list of organizations that submitted letters in support (see below). The vote was a milestone: it was the first time that the complete streets concept was debated and voted on in either chamber of Congress.

During floor debate Senator Harkin emphasized that this measure would ensure that transportation agencies integrate bicycle and pedestrian planning up front. He listed the many benefits of bicycling and walking, including improved health and reduced congestion and pollution.

To see how your senator voted and to read more on the debate visit www.americabikes.org and follow the links.

Among the organizations supporting the complete streets amendment:

AARP
America Bikes
America Walks
American Heart Association
American Planning Association
American Public Health Association
American Society of Landscape Architects
Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations
Natural Resources Defense Council
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Surface Transportation Policy Project

America Bikes member groups:
Adventure Cycling Association
Thunderhead Alliance
Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals
Bikes Belong
International Mountain Bicycling Association
League of American Bicyclists
National Center for Bicycling and Walking
Rails to Trails Conservancy

- *The America Bikes team*