



Newsletter of the Delaware County Planning Department

PLANNING MATTERS

Issue 14
Summer 2010

Wheels Turned on Annual Bike-to-Work Day

The grounds of the Delaware County Court House at Front and Olive Streets were the site of the annual Bike-to-Work Day festivities on Friday, May 21, 2010. Each year, Bike-to-Work Day caps off Bike-to-Work Week, a national campaign to encourage bicycle commuting. Hosted locally by the Delaware County Transportation Management Association (DCTMA) and the Delaware County Planning Department (DCPD), this year's celebration was presented by Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union.

More than 15 commuters, including County Council member Tom McGarrigle, left their cars at home for the day and rode their bikes to work. The DCTMA and DCPD provided breakfast items and held a raffle with food and prizes donated by local businesses such as Crozer Keystone Health System, Custom Bagel, Earth and State, House, Wawa, Cycle Sport, 320 Market Café, e.f. Interior Designs, and CycleFit of Delaware County. David Bennett, an avid

cyclist and member of the Delaware Valley Bicycle Club, walked (or rode!) away with the top prize - a brand new Cayne Rambler bicycle, courtesy of Drexel Hill Cyclery.

"We're very happy to provide this opportunity and appreciate the support of County Council, Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union, Crozer Keystone Health System, the Delaware County Planning Department, and so many of our local businesses," said Cecile Charlton, Executive Director of the DCTMA. "Bicycling is a great alternative to driving to work for

many people and offers the opportunity to support a healthier environment and get some exercise."

The Delaware County Transportation Management Association is a private, nonprofit, non-partisan organization dedicated to improving the transportation network serving the County. The DCTMA provides a forum where employers and municipalities as well as local, county, and state agencies and transit authorities can cooperatively address transportation issues and coordinate cost-effective and efficient

(Continued on page 3)

In This Issue:

Director's Column	2
Billboard Article Follow-up	2
DCPD Website Update	2
Bicyclist's Baltimore Pike	3
Heritage Commission Awards	5
Upcoming Events	6



County Council member Tom McGarrigle (left) and Delaware County TMA Executive Director Cecile Charlton (right) congratulate grand prize winner David Bennett (center) at the annual Bike-to-Work Day held May 21 in Media.

Article On Billboard Regulation Draws Strong Response

In the Spring 2010 issue of *Planning Matters*, DCPD announced that the Community Assistance section had prepared a model billboard ordinance and sent it to all County municipalities. The ordinance advises communities that they have the option of employing the model ordinance as written or revising it to suit their local conditions and preferences.

DCPD decided to prepare the ordinance because a billboard company, Bartkowski Investment Group (BIG), had recently challenged the billboard regulations of several Delco municipalities for not adequately addressing billboards in their ordinances. The Townships challenged included Marple, Springfield, and Haverford. In response to these challenges, many

Delaware County communities launched efforts to either rapidly prepare new billboard regulations or, where regulations existed, to make them consistent with current legal and constitutional requirements. In order to assist these municipalities, DCPD prepared a model billboard ordinance designed to reasonably control billboards and protect landscapes while allowing legitimate advertising provisions and meeting constitutional standards.

Even before the ordinance was fully completed, many individuals, including attorneys, state officials, County officials, and others, requested copies of the ordinance. In comparison with other articles and issue papers DCPD has prepared in the past, this ordinance generated some of the greatest interest. This

feedback is encouraging and emphasizes the wide coverage of *Planning Matters* within the planning, municipal government, legal, and related professional communities.

DCPD will continue to use the *Planning Matters* newsletter as a vehicle to publicize future articles, ordinances, or issue papers on timely planning, zoning, and similar topics.

DCPD Website Update

Contractors and consultants interested in finding out what projects DCPD currently has out to bid should bookmark the link to the new **Contracted Services Opportunities** page on the DCPD website: <http://www.co.delaware.pa.us/planning/sidebarpages/contractedservices.html>.

This page, also accessible from a link in the lower right-hand corner of the main DCPD page, was recently created due to the high volume of RFPs and RFQs generated by EECBG projects but will remain a fixture on the DCPD website to facilitate outreach to consultants. Be sure to check it often!

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Delaware County Planning Department website. The main content area is titled "Contracted Services Opportunities" and includes a sub-section for "Request for Proposals (RFP's) and Request for Qualifications (RFQ's)". A sidebar on the right lists "Planning Sections" such as "Site Map", "Community Assistance", "County & Regional Planning", "Environmental Planning", and "GIS & Info Services". The website header includes the Delaware County seal and the text "Delaware County, Pennsylvania - Rich in Culture, History and Commerce".

THE DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

At DCPD, we have a long history of offering opportunities to students and young professionals just starting out in the planning field. This year was no different: we had a remarkable group of summer interns assisting our staff in many different sections and gaining knowledge and experience that will help them as they begin their careers.

We would like to extend our thanks to interns Zachary Barner, Veronika Foltynova, Ryan Judge, Matthew Popek, and Greg Prichard. Interns were hired in the Environmental, Transportation, County and Regional, and Historic Preservation sections, but they had plenty of opportunities to work across sections and explore regional issues as well.

We would also like to officially welcome on board Dan Seaton, GIS & Information Specialist, who started with DCPD as an intern in the summer of 2009 and was able to convert that experience into full time employment with the County.

John E. Pickett, AICP
Director

Bike-to-Work Cont.

(Continued from page 1)

transportation management strategies for Delaware County. Through coordinated planning and cooperative efforts, the DCTMA helps to promote a cleaner, healthier environment, to sustain the quality of life, and to enhance the economic vitality of Delaware County. For more information, go to www.dctma.org or call 610-892-9440.

The mission of the Delaware County Planning Department's

Transportation Planning section is to improve mobility for all Delaware County residents, employees, and visitors in a manner that provides a choice of travel modes, increases safety, reduces pollution, improves health, enhances communities, and reduces sprawl. For more information, contact Tom Shaffer, Manager, at shaffert@co.delaware.pa.us or 610-891-5217.



Left: Snacks and prizes were generously provided by event sponsors. Above: Bike-to-Work Day participants gather at Front and Olive Streets in front of the Courthouse.



“Bicycling is a great alternative to driving to work for many people and offers the opportunity to support a healthier environment and get some exercise.”

- Cecile Charlton, DCTMA Executive Director

Bicycle Commuting Route Through Delaware County Upgraded

Readers of the now defunct *Philadelphia Bulletin* newspaper on April 30, 1978 had the pleasure of reading about Douglas Bedell's bicycle commutes from Swarthmore to his office in the Bulletin building on Market Street in West Philadelphia. He offered an account of his adventures in biking to work to let people know that there is a highly efficient alternative to costlier trains and clogged highways, not to mention the health and environmental benefits of bicycling. Those types of benefits are even more important today!

The route that Bedell used to get to and from his job is called Bicyclists' Baltimore Pike (BBP) in Delaware

County. No, it doesn't use Baltimore Pike! It uses roads with less traffic that parallel Baltimore Pike but still provide a direct east-west route. It connects Swarthmore, Morton, Rutledge, Secane, Aldan, and Yeadon with West Philadelphia and University City. One day in the summer of 2009, the Delaware County Planning Department (DCPD) counted 60 adult bicyclists on the route in Swarthmore.

The map below shows the primary roads that BBP uses – Yale and Franklin Avenues, Providence and Baily Roads, and Longacre Boulevard. On the western end in Nether Providence Township, it connects

with the Leiper Smedley Trail, which leads to the Thomas Leiper House, the Wallingford Community Arts Center, and the County's Smedley Park. On the eastern end, the route ties into bicycle lanes on Whitby Avenue and the Cobbs Creek Trail.

About ten years ago, the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission studied several bicycle commuting routes in suburban Philadelphia, including BBP in Delaware County. DCPD, PennDOT, the Clean Air Council, and the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia also participated. Out of this effort came some federal highway

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

funding to bring these bicycle routes up to federal and state engineering and safety standards. Making improvements to bicycle routes would not only make bicyclists safer, but would also encourage more bicycling and reduce the potential liability exposure for the state and the municipalities.

Several years ago, PennDOT’s design consultant met with representatives from every municipality along the route to explain the project, gather information, and discuss preliminary designs for the facility. After negotiating with several of the municipalities about the nature of the improvements, the local governments and PennDOT agreed on what would be done to make the route safer and more noticeable.

Most of the improvements involve signage. Signs that identify the route, indicate turns, and provide mileages to destinations were installed. Official bicycle lanes were proposed in several areas, but because of PennDOT’s onerous policy that

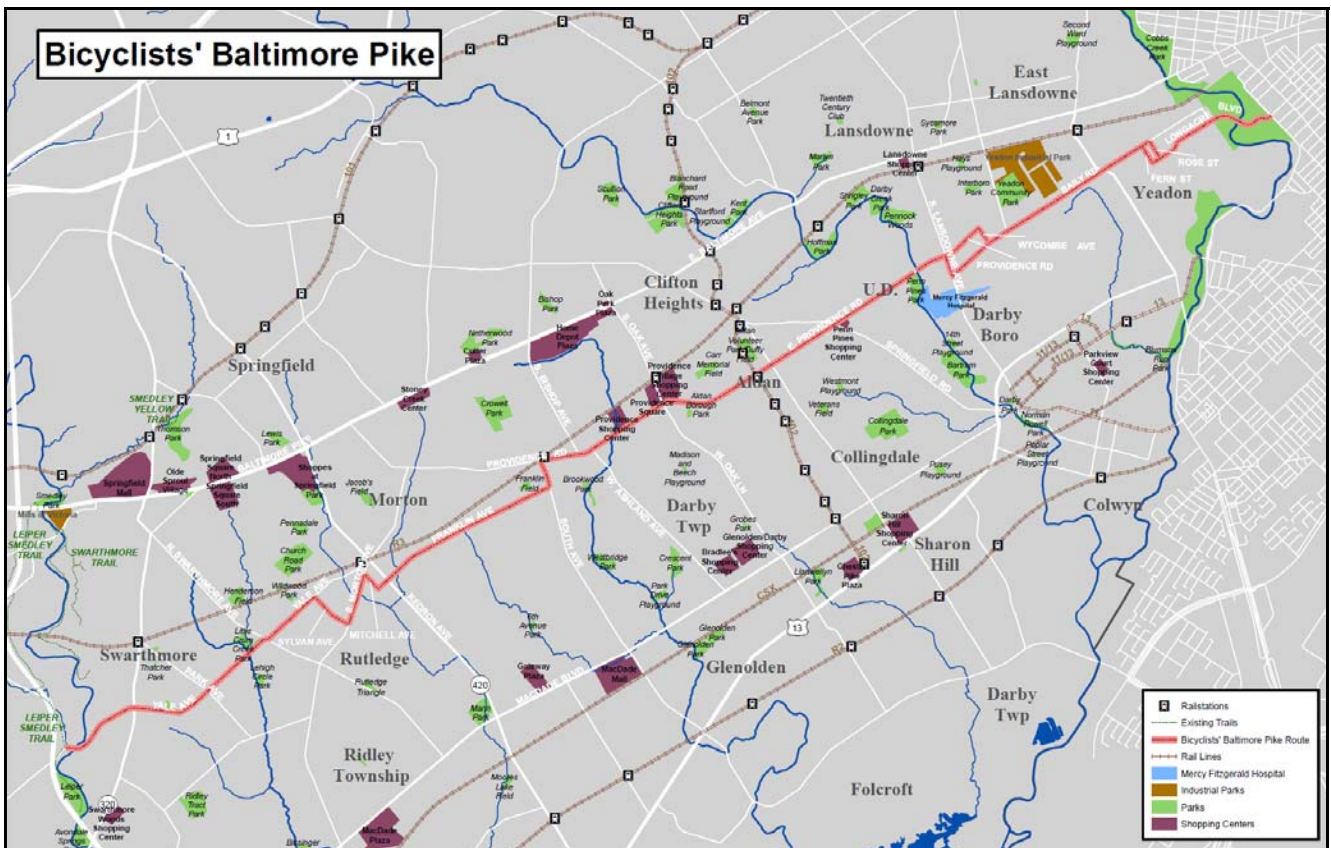
requires municipalities to maintain and plow bicycle lanes on state roads, all official bicycle lanes were eliminated. A handicap ramp and crosswalk were provided at the intersection of Rose Valley and Avondale Roads to provide an accessible connection between BBP and the Leiper Smedley Trail. Bicycle safe drainage grates were also installed.

The route goes by or near business districts in Swarthmore, Morton, and Yeadon and the Providence and Providence Village Shopping Centers. It allows bicyclists to access several R3 train stations, including Morton, Secane, and Primos. Employees who work at sites along the route, including the Delaware County Intermediate Unit, Yeadon Industrial Park, and Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital, could use the route to bicycle to work. And, of course, it guides commuters who wish to bike to work or other destinations in West Philadelphia and University City.

DCPD envisions an extension of BBP farther to the west to connect with the Chester Creek rail-trail. The County is currently undertaking engineering for phase 1 of the Chester Creek Trail between Lenni Road and Chester Creek Road in Middletown and Aston Townships. When the entire Chester Creek Trail is built between Wawa and Upland, an extension of BBP would provide bicycle access through Nether Providence Township and Brookhaven Borough to the rail-trail from communities along BBP in central and eastern Delaware County.

Because of the anticipated access to the scenic Chester Creek Trail, as well as a means to commute to points all along Bicyclists’ Baltimore Pike, the BBP will provide communities with another benefit to promote what makes each community a wonderful place to live, work, and play!

The Bicyclists’ Baltimore Pike uses roads with less traffic that parallel Baltimore Pike but still provide a direct east-west route, connecting Swarthmore, Morton, Rutledge, Secane, Aldan, and Yeadon with West Philadelphia and University City.



Heritage Commission Presents 32nd Annual Preservation Awards

County Council joined the Heritage Commission on May 4, 2010 in presenting the 32nd Annual Preservation Awards, along with a resolution recognizing May as Historic Preservation Month.

Each year, the Heritage Commission asks individuals, organizations, and municipalities to nominate projects that have contributed to preserving the heritage of Delaware County. The award recipients are selected for outstanding contribution in four categories: Site Preservation, Publications, Special Programs/Projects, and Individual Achievement.

Four awards were presented for **Site Preservation**. Art Sulzer and Elizabeth Gallagher received an award for the rehabilitation of a home on Peter Gamble Drive in Concord Township that was built in several building campaigns beginning in the 1790s. Awards for rehabilitation were also presented to Dr. James Bonner for the historic Blosinski Farmhouse in Edgmont Township, originally built in the 1840s, and to Jim Nappi for a 19th century farmhouse on Saw Mill Road in Newtown Township. The final site preservation award went to Cynthia Wein of the Walden School for restoration of an early 20th century stone schoolhouse in Upper Providence Township.

Awards for **Publications** were presented to two projects. The first award, presented to Kathleen Clarke and Jean Shibe, honored *Images of America-Sharon Hill*, a compilation of historic images illustrating the growth of Sharon Hill. Lindy Constance Wardell of Darby accepted the award for "Mt. Zion Methodist Meeting,

Established in 1808," the story of one of the first Methodist churches in America and its families.

Three projects received the **Special Programs/Projects** award. The Haverford Township Historical Society was commended for its "Llanerch Crossing Park" project that commemorates the "Battle of Llanerch Junction," a standoff between the railroad and the trolley in 1895. "Doors of Historic Thornbury Township," a poster by Margaret Walker, features architectural and historically significant doorways of Thornbury. Also honored was "The Most Notorious & Colorful Characters of Delaware County," a lecture of joint collaboration between Aston, Nether Providence, and Rose Valley Historical Societies presented by Nancy Webster.

Jim Higgins of Radnor Township received the **Individual Achievement Award** for his vision, leadership, and perseverance for the restoration of the Wayne Train Station.

The presentations also included the 14th annual **Leedom B. Morrison Award**, an award to honor projects that have contributed to preservation of the historic character of Chester City – one of the most historic cities in our state. This year the Morrison Award was presented to "The George Raymond Papers," an exhibit at the Widener University Archives that was

inspired by the late George Raymond, a former President of the Chester Branch of the NAACP. The project archived Mr. Raymond's collection of scrapbooks illustrating efforts to reduce racial discrimination in Delaware County.

The Heritage Commission of Delaware County is a volunteer body appointed by County Council. Its mission is to oversee the rich heritage of Delaware County. It has been recognizing worthy preservation projects and people throughout Delaware County for the past thirty years.



Left: Saw Mill Road – This 19th century farmhouse was renovated, adapted, and expanded into a modern home while retaining Colonial charm and craftsmanship.

Above: Llanerch Crossing – This site informs through murals, landscape design, and descriptive historical signage, not only about the historic confrontation between the railroad and trolley companies, but also the development of the suburban neighborhood of Llanerch.

Top: Wayne Train Station – Jim Higgins of Radnor Township, without any prior experience, led a movement to renovate the deteriorating station and platform sheds.

UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAYS, SEPTEMBER 16, OCTOBER 21, NOVEMBER 18, 4:00 p.m. – Delaware County Planning Commission Meetings, Delaware County Council Meeting Room.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3 – TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5 – The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association 2010 Annual Conference, “Cultivating Strong Communities.” Join professionals from across Pennsylvania for this annual conference at the Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square in Lancaster, PA. For more information including preliminary program and registration, visit www.planningpa.org/events_conference.shtml.

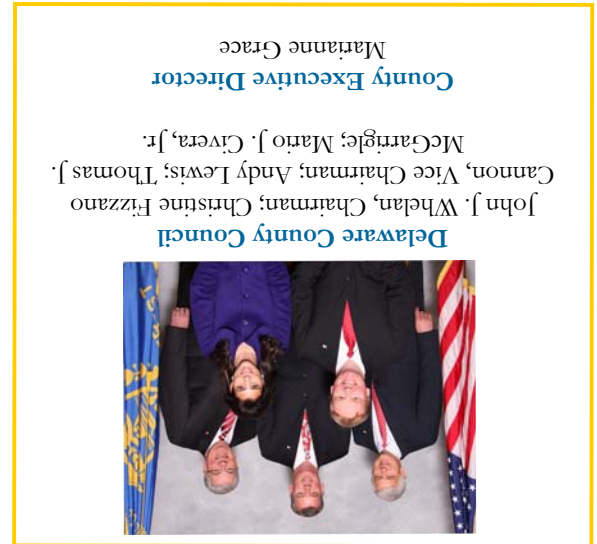
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 – Come out for Delaware County’s **6th Annual Riverfront Ramble.** Events will be held from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the John Heinz Wildlife Refuge in Tincum and Market Square Memorial Park in Marcus Hook, and 12:00 noon – 4:00 p.m. at Chester’s waterfront.

HELP THE DELAWARE COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT GO GREEN!

To sign up to receive the electronic version of Planning Matters, please send us an email at Planning_Department@co.delaware.pa.us.

By requesting the newsletter electronically, you help us cut back on paper and postage, plus you get the latest Delaware County planning news delivered right to your inbox!

Printed on Recycled Paper



Delaware County Planning Department
Court House/Government Center
201 West Front Street
Media, PA 19063
Office Location: Toal Building, 2nd & Orange Streets
Phone: 610-891-5200
Fax: 610-891-5203
www.co.delaware.pa.us/planning
planning_department@co.delaware.pa.us

PRESORTED
STANDARD U.S.
POSTAGE PAID
MEDIA, PA
PERMIT NO. 588