

Tour through Plainville encourages local bicyclists

Local advocates for the designation of Plainville as a Bicycle Friendly Community saw a few — actually hundreds — more supporters in town Sept. 20 when cyclists traveled through on a two-day bike trip.

The riders were employees of the DaVita Corporation, which provides resources for kidney care in the United States. The trip was intended to raise awareness of general kidney health and treatment issues while providing an outing for people who enjoy active vacations. The tour was organized by Backroads, a company that offers active travel adventures.

Grace Lutheran Church, 222 Farmington Ave., provided the rest stop for the cyclists as they traveled from Great Barrington, Mass. to Madison. The first riders arrived from Simsbury, where they had stayed the night before, at 8:15 a.m.

Some travelers flew by the rest area with a wave while others stopped “for a bike tour rest stop version of a fast food drive-thru window,” said Jim Cassidy, a member of Plainville’s Bicycle Friendly Committee. Cyclists arrived in groups as large as 15 people and at one point there were approximately 60 people milling

about for snack food, sports drinks or water, using the portable toilets or, in a few cases, making a minor bike repair or adjustments.

The Rev. Steve Brisson and his wife, Sarah, greeted the riders at the church.

Four separate rest stops were planned for the day and 475 cyclists were anticipated, although the actual number of participants was not known. Bicycle and rider shuttles were available for cyclists who did not want to continue riding in the rain.

“Things went fairly smoothly with cyclists and motorists on Farmington Avenue giving each other utmost consideration as they negotiated traffic encounters. We are grateful for this as we continue to advocate for a more Bicycle Friendly Community here in town,” Cassidy said.

— Robin Lee Michel



Photo courtesy James Cassidy

Dozens of bicyclists stop on Sept. 20 at Grace Lutheran Church, 222 Farmington Ave., while on an adventure tour from Great Barrington, Mass. to Madison.

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