

On the road

They're peddling biking

By Dave Varga
staff writer

Venturing out beyond your subdivision streets on a bicycle can be a dangerous proposition. You may know the roads from driving a car, but balancing on two wheels can be a whole new ride.

"When a person becomes a rider you may go out of areas you're familiar with. Once you go out of your neighborhood, say if you want to visit a friend in St. Clair Shores, it's kind of difficult to know which roads to ride without a map," said Chuck Briggs, a member of the Greater Detroit Bicycle League.

And maps for bicycle riders should tell them more than the names of streets and where they lead. At least, that's what the GDBL and SEMCOG (Southeast Michigan Council of Governments) thought.

The two acronyms groups got together two years ago to start putting together a series of maps that rate roads on how suitable they are for bicycling.

The finished products are available free at SEMCOG's offices or by sending \$1 to "Bike Maps," SEMCOG, 800 Book Building, 1249 Washington Boulevard, Detroit, 48226.

THE BICYCLING group's interest, is obvious, but why was SEMCOG involved?

"Part of our transportation system management plan is to support non-motorized transportation and these maps will serve that purpose," said Arthur Slabosky, transportation engineer with SEMCOG.

That system management plan aims to get the most efficient use of current roads, without major repairs, according to Carmine Palombo, transportation manager.

"One way to get better utilization out of road space, in some cases, is to encourage more use by bicyclists," he said.

Major streets on the maps are color coded to show whether they have low, medium, high or very high intensity traffic. The lower the traffic level, the better.

Of course, traffic isn't the only barometer used in rating. The width of the road in relation to the traffic level

is also an important consideration that went into rating the streets.

An interpretation on the map notes that some roads may have wide outside lanes or paved shoulders which may not be reflected in the ratings.

SOME ROADS such as Quarten, Big Beaver or 16 Mile — whatever you care to call it — run through the entire four colors of the rating spectrum.

Where it starts, at the border of West Bloomfield and Bloomfield townships, Quarten Road is rated best for biking with the lowest traffic intensity level. From Franklin Road to Telegraph it is a medium intensity road for traffic. The rating moves up to high intensity from Telegraph to Lahser, then up to the worst rating for bikes, very high intensity all the way from Lahser to Adams.

The intensity level drops back down a notch on Big Beaver from Adams through Troy down to Rochester Road, where it picks back up to the highest intensity level all the way to Dequindre.

Other roads have very little change in rating as they travel through Oakland County. For instance, Lahser Road is fairly consistent from the city of Southfield through Beverly Hills,

Bloomfield Township and Bloomfield Hills. It is rated neither at the top or bottom of the scale, but either high intensity or medium intensity on its entire length through the county.

NOT ADDRESSED in the maps are important considerations like smoothness of the road surface or scenic value of the path.

Bill Frey, president of the GDBL and co-author of the map, said the conditions of road surfaces change too quickly to rate.

"In the past five years, for instance, 12 Mile Road has gone from terrible to great to terrible again," Frey said.

The state's unpredictable weather keeps the future of a road surface in doubt too, Briggs said. Elizabeth Lake Road, he said, has deteriorated to the point that "it's so full of holes, so bad you should virtually stay off a bike on it."

As for scenic routes, "that was not the particular intent of these maps," Slabosky said. "It was simply to note for any road in the area how suitable the road would be to ride a bike on."

The maps would be more useful for newer areas like Troy and West Bloomfield, rather than older areas, Briggs said.



Biker Becky Schroeder follows a pathway north on Orchard Lake between Walnut Lake and West Bloomfield High School.



Jeff and Julie Turczyn of Birmingham ride their bikes along a marked route at Eton and Melton in eastern Birmingham.

GARY CASKEY/staff photographer

cable connection

Monday, Aug. 26

- 12 noon — Fitness Fever. Dance aerobics.
- 1 p.m. — Mock Rock Video.
- 1:30 p.m. — Music, Montessori and Orff.
- 2:30 p.m. — Sports in Motion.
- 3 p.m. — Kiefer Lee, live.
- 6 p.m. — Fitness Fever. Dance aerobics.
- 7 p.m. — Mock Rock Video.
- 7:30 p.m. — Music, Montessori and Orff.
- 8 p.m. — Sports in Motion.
- 9 p.m. — Kiefer Lee, live.

Tuesday, Aug. 27

- 12 noon — Mardi Gras.
- 2 p.m. — Insight.
- 2:30 p.m. — Survival '85.
- 3 p.m. — Music for Dining.
- 3:30 p.m. — Oakland County Parks & Rec. Nature Center Dedication.
- 6 p.m. — Mardi Gras.
- 8 p.m. — Insight.
- 8:30 p.m. — Survival '85.
- 9 p.m. — Music for Dining.
- 9:30 p.m. — Oakland County Parks & Rec. Nature Center Dedication.

Wednesday, Aug. 28

- 12 noon — Pony A South Farmington Baseball All Star Game.
- 3:30 p.m. — Golfing.
- 6 p.m. — Pony A South Farmington Baseball All Star Game.
- 9:30 p.m. — Golfing.

Thursday, Aug. 29

- 12 noon — Community Upbeat.
- 12:30 p.m. — Cooking with Class. Summer Party #2.
- 1:30 p.m. — Shores of Your Mind.
- 2 p.m. — Insight.
- 2:30 p.m. — Art in the Street. Chuck Waterhouse.
- 3 p.m. — Life Style. Irish Festival.
- 3:30 p.m. — Shades of Difference. North Farmington High School soap opera.
- 6 p.m. — Community Upbeat.
- 6:30 p.m. — Cooking with Class. Summer Party #2.
- 7:30 p.m. — Shores of Your Mind.
- 8 p.m. — Insight.
- 8:30 p.m. — Art in the Street. Church Waterhouse.

cop calls

Snow blower, bicycle snatched from garage

An unattached garage was broken into Wednesday evening on W. Hinglow in Farmington Hills. Thieves took an electric start snow blower valued at \$250, a 10-speed bike valued at \$200, a 21-inch chain saw valued at \$250, and a gas chain saw valued at \$150.

Barbecue grill snatched

A propane grill valued at \$300 was stolen from a

residence on Barfield in Farmington Hills Monday evening.

Tools stolen from shed

Assorted tools valued at \$2,615 were stolen from an attached shed at a residence on Broadway in Farmington Hills, early Monday morning. A sliding door was left open. Stolen property included a chain saw, tool box, an electric hammer and boring drill, a bore hog drill, and a hammer drill. Police have no suspects.

obituaries

MARIE L. SCOTT

Miss Scott, 63, of Farmington Hills died Aug. 14 in Botsford Hospital. Miss Scott was a saleswoman. Surviving is her brother, Wilfred. Services were at St. Christopher's-St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Detroit, with the Rev. William Lieber officiating. Burial was in Woodland Cemetery, Detroit. Arrangements were made by the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington.

ANDREW R. MARCHEFF

Mr. Marcheff, 19, of Detroit died Aug. 17 in William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak. Mr. Marcheff was a computer programmer. Survivors include his parents, Andrew and Elaine Marcheff; brother, Anthony; grandparents, Mar-

jorie Romeo and Andrei Marcheff.

Services were at the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. Robert Marshall officiating. Burial was in Roseland Park Cemetery, Berkley.

RICHARD H. BLUE

Mr. Blue, 31, of Livonia died Aug. 18. Mr. Blue was a truck driver for H.A. Smith Lumber & Supplies.

Survivors include his son, Richard; a daughter, Jacqueline; parents, Richard and Eva Blue; grandmothers, Eileen Ralph and Anna Blue; brothers, William, Patrick, Thomas and David.

Services were at the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. Ronald J. Jorwak officiating. Burial was in Glen Eden Cemetery, Livonia.

Ron Chereskin wool dress slacks



If you're looking to upgrade your wardrobe, Ron Chereskin would like to help. For example, these brown "pipeline" slacks of 100% wool not only feel great, they look even better. The pleated styling and fine line stripe with bold line stripe pattern give these slacks a very distinctive look. And when you combine these slacks with a striped flannel shirt, a sweater vest or a cardigan sweater, you've got a handsome addition to your wardrobe. \$48. From the Ron Chereskin collection. Made in U.S.A.

Men's Slacks/Separates. Available at Northland, Eastland, Oakland, Fairlane and Twelve Oaks stores only.

HUDSON'S

USE YOUR HUDSON'S SHOPPING CARD, YES! "MasterCard" or "The American Express" Card.