I t happens anytime a new business joins our association; I look it up on the Internet. The look is primarily to collect a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) link to use on our website. Sometimes it’s a business webpage or a Facebook page URL that then becomes a link on our website so that our business members may be patronized. The process doesn’t take much time and it gives me the opportunity to learn a little more about the business than just the name.

A few months back the association received a new business membership from Jack the Bike Man. Somehow I knew this was not going to be a routine URL Internet search. When I read through the company website, I knew this was something special.

Jack the Bike Man is a children's bicycle charity. Featured in numerous newspaper articles, MSNBC (2012) and the book “Legendary Locals of West Palm Beach” by Janet M. DeVries and Ginger Pedersen, Jack the Bike Man is more than a charity and the man who started it. Jack the Bike Man is a story worth telling over and over again, and it has for the last 17 years.

The story has a simple beginning, as most great stories often do. Jack says:

“In 1999 a young Spanish speaking man was falling off of his bike in front of my house. I noticed that the front brakes were not attached. I went into my house and got a screwdriver and a pair of pliers, then repaired the brakes and the young man no longer had to crash into the curb to stop. He was very happy and an immediate friend.”

These are the words of Samuel H. Hairston III, founder of and also known as Jack the Bike Man. He tells his story on his website and gave me permission to reprint. Sure, I could just copy and paste the words from the web and leave it at that, but I wanted to hear Jack tell his story, so I asked for a meeting. Lucky me, back in September during a multi-day business trip to South Florida, I met Jack. He stayed true to his story of how a simple bike repair changed his life. I soon learned, however, that what seemed to be a simple fix had put him on a path that not only changed his life, but saved it.

Jack continues to tell his story on the web, "Shortly his friends would come by and ask for help in getting their bikes road worthy. A few of my friends heard me speaking of this unusual activity at my house and gave me some old bikes to repair.

These bikes I would give the children and young men needing transportation to work.

These neighbors were for the most part Migrant Workers from Guatemala. When I assisted them with their bike problems a trust developed. When a problem or other issue would come up in their lives, they would come to me for help. This produced many new friends for me. The best result of these new friends was that I was able to put my attention onto others and their needs and not on my poor health. This produced tremendous improvements in my health as the elimination of a very stable walking devise. Now I only use a walking cane to stabilize my balance. My overall health saw major improvements.”

What is not often talked about is that Samuel H. Hairston is of the largest family in America – The Hairston clan [see The Hairstons: An American Family in Black and White by Henry Wiencek]. Jack alluded to this background briefly during my visit. Yes, he is a descendent of a prominent family, but also yes, he drank that privilege away in college and his family somewhat disowned him. Jack admitted to me that he was in bad shape and somewhat numb to life prior to that fateful day. That brake repair is what opened the door for Jack to make a name for himself. He adds:

During this time, I became an advocate for improving the safety of my neighborhood. This brought even more new people into my life. These people were from many walks of life. This brought to me several benefits. Not only did people give me many more bikes, they recognized me for my work assisting the Migrant Workers in the Northwood Area [which later would include a Christmas Bicycle Gift program for the children].

Soon my effort was brought to the attention of one of the Assistant State Attorneys in Palm Beach County. Marty Epstein made arrangements for the Drug Farm to present me with bikes that had been repaired by the inmates for presentation of those bikes to kids in my neighborhood.

Someone called Jamie Holmes of WPTV and told him what I was doing. He became interested and called me to do a story. He came on a day that I had planned on delivering a bike to a young man 12 years old. The camera was able to get some real good shots of the child and his other brothers (continued on page 4)
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T he Florida Bicycle Association was founded by people like you who want to make Florida a better place to ride a bicycle. Our projects and programs that benefit bicyclists are made possible primarily through membership and sponsorship to our organization. Simply put, without membership, sponsorship and donations, the Florida Bicycle Association would not exist. Keep bicycle enjoyment alive in Florida and help us in the fight against bicycle fatalities. Join FBA!

Did you know your membership donation to FBA is tax-deductible?

FBA is a 501(c)(3) education and charitable nonprofit corporation. You can join FBA online or download and mail an application from our website, www.floridabicycle.org. You can request an application to be mailed to you by contacting Becky Afonso at 813-748-1513.

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The Florida Bicycle Association (FBA) was incorporated in 1997 for educational and charitable purposes. FBA is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt corporation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations, including membership dues, are tax deductible. A copy of the current financial statements may be obtained by contacting FBA.

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Jack the Bike Man
(continued from page 1)

and sisters. After the show aired there were hundreds of phone calls. People called and offered me bicycles all over South East Florida. The calls came from Ft Lauderdale to Vero Beach and out to Okeechobee. To my surprise people called and wanted to send checks to help me with my effort. This program is where Jamie Holmes started calling me "Jack the Bike Man," It stuck and now I am famous all over the place.

The popularity of the bike repair started to develop problems of growing too fast too soon. Storing 100 donated bicycles in his back yard provided opportunity for theft; Jack had to find a suitable storage facility. He was offered space in the Northwood Business District. Jack states:

With all of the publicity on the bike project and my other efforts in helping people in need, the program started to grow. Suddenly the 12 bikes the first year built up in three years to over 100 bikes for Santa Claus. I also was nominated for the Prestigious Jefferson Award and was a finalist for this honor.

Fast-forward to today – what has become of that simple act of kindness is amazing. The non-profit is currently housed in a 15,000 square-foot warehouse that Jack will tell you is too small (another 10,000 square-feet would be nice).

There are numerous partnerships with corporations and local companies, including two Florida Bicycle Association business members, J&B Importers and Wheels of Wellington bike shop. [Wheels of Wellington is where Jack found an issue of our Messenger and decided to join FBA.]

There are programs at Jack the Bike Man that allows young adults to learn bicycle maintenance and repair. The 'students' simply pick out a bike to repair, learn the entire process of the mechanical workings of the bike, repair the bike, and then put it on the floor for someone else to enjoy. Jack is very adamant that his students learn first to work for and provide for someone else and take pride in that work before working on a bicycle that will ultimately become their own as a reward for all their efforts.

The non-profit partners with local schools to provide bicycles to use as art projects for the students that then become bicycles for rent or sale. The students enjoy the challenge to express their creativity and take pride when their artwork is appreciated with a purchase.

And then there are the events. The Dyer Hill Challenge has been held on the last Sunday in March for the last nine years as a fund-raiser for Jack the Bike Man. This endurance mountain bike race of two, four or six hours is run by Tom Rassiga of The Bicycler in West Palm Beach. This event is for all ages and includes a special 10-minute ride around the top of the hill for children under the age of eight.

Pedals & Pancakes is an open house event to bring awareness to Jack the Bike Man. Started as a means to help people find the charity's location, the open house features pancakes cooked by local Cub and Boy Scouts using their kitchen trailer. The next open house will have the local police department on hand to register bicycles.

But the heart and soul of the non-profit is the Christmas Bicycle Gift program. Last year, 180 volunteers came out to assist with a one-day Christmas giveaway of over 900 bicycles. Jack estimates about 6,000 bicycles a year are donated; these are repaired, rented or sold to raise money for students to provide bicycles to use as art projects for the students that then become bicycles for rent or sale. The students enjoy the challenge to express their creativity and take pride when their artwork is appreciated with a purchase.

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Deep Vein Thrombosis Prevention
by Jim Dodson

Within the last six months, I have had two experiences, fit cycling friends develop a deep vein thrombosis (blood clot) in their leg. Both of them developed their DVT as a direct result of riding longer distances and becoming dehydrated. Apparently, I was part of the 74 percent of Americans who do not understand the danger of DVT related to cycling. I am not a physician and nothing in this article should be considered as medical advice. That being said, I want to alert readers to what I have learned.

A DVT occurs when a blood clot forms in the blood vessels, typically in the lower leg or thigh. DVTs are dangerous and can lead to a fatal condition, such as a stroke or pulmonary embolism if the clot moves to the heart, the brain or the lungs. It is known to affect up to 2 million Americans per year. What was most shocking to me is that most of those affected are athletes.

Most cyclists and runners understand how easy it is to get dehydrated while exercising, particularly in Florida. Dehydration makes your blood thicken due to the loss of water in the bloodstream. When blood thickens, it moves slower in the veins. The reason this problem inordinately affects athletes is that most of those affected are athletes.

A lower resting heart rate means the blood moves the lower their resting heart rate. A lower reason this problem inordinately affects thickens, it moves slower in the veins. The of water in the bloodstream. When blood cising, particularly in Florida. Dehydration how easy it is to get dehydrated while exer-


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Does your place of employment offer matching gifts to non-profits? Think FBA!

Does your place of employment have a United Way campaign? Think FBA! All you need to do is designate Florida Bicycle Association, Inc. as your charitable organization on your pledge form.

These are great ways to stretch your contribution to FBA even farther!

Joining is easy. Just visit our website at www.floridabicycle.org. Click the "Join Us" link at the top of the page, use the online or download a brochure option, or you can request an application to be mailed to you by contacting Becky Afonso at 813-748-1513 or becky@floridabicycle.org.

Bicycling is one of life's simple pleasures to enjoy, not fear. Join or donate to the Florida Bicycle Association and let's ride together for Florida bicycling excellence.

BLUE LIGHT CORNER

Frequently Asked Questions
Lt. Katie Heck, Community Services/Public Information Punta Gorda Police Department, Agency member of FBA

I it is not uncommon for someone outside of law enforcement to question why or how some decisions and actions are taken by officers. For this reason, this issue's Blue Light Corner will answer a few frequently asked questions in order to provide a law enforcement perspective.

Q: Why do police officers seem to enforce some traffic laws more than others?

A: An officer's general mission when it comes to traffic enforcement is to ensure the safety of everyone on the roadway; vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians. In any community, there will be a few types of violations that lead to the most crashes or other conflicts. These will likely be the most commonly enforced by police via a traffic stop. In our community of Punta Gorda, due to the one-way roads, vehicles frequently turn from the wrong lane, which can cause great danger to other vehicles and cyclists as well. Violations such are addressed in an effort to reduce crashes. As a mode of education, when something new is introduced to the community such as bike lanes or pedestrian crossings, extra enforcement is given to the addition to increase awareness.

Q: Why, at intersections, are police officers in their cars and not out directing traffic?

A: This would certainly depend on the situation. In many instances of crash scenes or blocked lanes, traffic actually flows more smoothly when an officer doesn't interfere. Drivers slow down, and merge and/or stop when needed based on their desire to avoid a crash. The addition of an officer giving direction outside of that natural flow can lead to longer back-ups and more confusion about right of way. If it was for a large group of bikes traveling on the roadway, officer interference may be dependent upon permits to close a road. Officers may be placed at intersections by the event or city/county government for the sole reason that their presence encourages drivers to be more cautious in the area.

If you would have questions regarding law enforcement behavior, here's your opportunity to ask! Submit questions to heckp@pgorda.us.
Wheels of Justice – Ask a Lawyer

Don't be That Guy!

by J. Steele Olmstead, Esq. – Attorney J. Steele Olmstead practices law statewide from offices in Tampa. He has been helping bicyclists back on the road since he was a tech in his brother's shop in Tallahassee. Instead now he does it in front of a jury.

Most of us drive automobiles. All of us drive bicycles. Anybody who does is aware of the ongoing difficulty of law enforcement enforcing our laws and the wider motoring community to observe those laws. Allow me to make some humble suggestions on how you can, while on the road, bring awareness to us.

First and foremost while riding a bicycle you are an ambassador of our lifestyle (I've written about this before). Pretty much everyone in the community knows that you are a cyclist. Your family certainly does and your coworkers most likely do. The folks are a cyclist. Your family certainly does and everyone in the community knows that you are an ambassador of our lifestyle (I've road, bring awareness to us.

Suggestions on how you can, while on the road, still be that guy. Years ago a grandmother and grandson were walking on the beach in Clearwater. Disturbed by all the washed up sand dollars, the little boy started picking them up to look at them. After examining them and seeing moving spines on the live ones, he took one, curled his arm and tossed it back into the water. As he bent to pick up another, his grandmother said, “Sweetheart, there are so many of them, you can't make a difference by throwing them back.” The grandson paused to look up to his grandmother from the live sand dollar he had just picked up. As he threw it into the water, he said, “It makes a difference to this one.”

Jack the Bike Man

(continued from page 4)

He was his happiest when on his bike. She gave it to me so his Spirit would continue in another child. His mother said, “I spent well over two hours with Jack at his warehouse. There was so much to see and so many good things to talk about. The amount of donated bicycles is overwhelming, but Jack keeps a clean warehouse and a systematic approach to storage. The children's bicycles, the adult bicycles, the special needs bicycles (yes, the non-profit repairs and donates hand-crank and other specialized bicycles), tires, rims, parts – everything you need to build or repair a bicycle all have a place in the warehouse. Jack adds:

When I had the nice big bike shop a lot of miracles happened. The young children would come after school to work or just to say hello. Sometimes they would have a problem that worried them and would talk to me about it. This was a very spiritual experience for me. Some kids just came to pick out a bike while others liked to come and fix the bikes for the kids that were not able to repair their own bikes. Some would pick out a badly damaged bike and repair it for a special friend and I would let them give it to the friend.

Some of these kids were headed towards the life of crime in gangs. The bike shop was able to build their self-esteem and the gangs suddenly were not an issue.

Someone once asked me what is the best part of my job as executive director of Florida Bicycle Association. Without hesitation I answered, “Meeting people.” People have stories to tell and I like a good story, especially those with a positive spin. I wish I could meet all our members and who knows, maybe over time I will. It certainly was a treat to meet one of our newest business members, Jack the Bike Man.

It's time to start spreading the word on those little-known benefits of cycling – how we support the community! Tell us what you, your bicycle club or local bicycle business is doing above and beyond the ride to give back to the community. Is it volunteering at a children's bicycle rodeo? Fund-raising for charity? Hosting a food drive? We want to know! Go to our website and click the SPIN THIS tab at the top.
The Florida Bicycle Association turns 20 in 2017 – YAY! So just how will an education and advocacy non-profit membership-based organization celebrate? Why, working harder than ever, of course!

Let's start with advocacy. For the 2017 Florida legislative session, we are seeking to expand the current Move Over law [FS 316.126(b)] to include bicyclists, pedestrians and first-responders – we feel PEOPLE need to be part of this important law. We will keep supporting bills for vulnerable road users and anti-texting bills to make texting a primary offense. We will also monitor for any legislation that jeopardizes our Share the Road specialty plate funding. Last session FBA successfully defeated an amendment that removed the association from the plate proceeds and we are ready to do it again if needed.

Our members will continue to receive email updates during the legislative session. Information will also be posted on our website and blogs. Successful legislation that ultimately saves lives is what the association is fighting for and we couldn't do it without the generosity and support of our members.

Education is an everyday task for the association. Our Complete Streets Savvy program continues to be requested and presented. The revision of Florida Bicycling Street Smarts is complete and will be ready for distribution in 2017. FBA and the Florida Department of Transportation’s Alert Today Florida campaign will continue to create and distribute bicycle and pedestrian safety information to the public, including but not limited to the Florida Bicycle and Pedestrian Law Enforcement Guide.

20 years of Florida bicycling education and advocacy deserves special recognition. This is no easy task and yet our history is filled with accomplishments. It’s time to take stock of how solid we are, have been and will continue to be moving forward.

Let’s get this party started! Share your happy cycling moments with FBA and we’ll send you a pair of limited edition 20th Anniversary SockGuy socks (while supplies last). These photos will be featured on our Facebook page throughout the year along with our history highlights.

20 Years of Florida bicycling education and advocacy deserves special recognition. This is no easy task and yet our history is filled with accomplishments. It’s time to take stock of how solid we are, have been and will continue to be moving forward.

Merry and Bright!
Van Fleet Offers Taste of Real Florida

By Jack Cormier – Communications Specialist, Central Florida’s Polk County Parks Sports Marketing

I f you are looking to spend time out of the house for the day but you don’t mind pulling – a lot – while half the day, give the Van Fleet and Island Trail the chance to show you what it can offer. For a little more than six miles, you can enjoy plenty of shade from old growth oaks on the northern side. They also serve as excellent places for birds to perch. You might spot a blue jay or a white tern at the southern end of the connecting Audubon TECHO Trail.

This trail is one of the few where you will see other people. It is considered one of the most remote areas in Florida. Be prepared for moisture and strong winds in the fall and spring. The most popular stretch for walking and running is the section from the Three Bridges that span the Withlacoochee River.

While the trail may seem desolate, help is not far away. If you need water, a rest, or a place to park, you will be surrounded by bike shops, parks, or rest areas. There are plenty of benches along the trail, so be sure to pack a quick snack. If you walk or run, consider stopping at some of the restaurants, picnics, or parks mentioned on your adventure.

The road narrows back to two lanes with bike lanes and a shared use path along the Tamiami Trail. Transportation has made several improvements along this corridor. Thanks, FDOT!

For specific information about facilities within various parks, visit these website:

Evelagades National Park (Stark Valley with bicycle rentals available).

South Florida Cycling from Naples to Everglades City

By Patty Huff

B eautiful cool weather has arrived in Florida and the St. John’s River to Everglades City (SJRTEC) bike tour offers people getting outside and enjoying nature. The SJRTEC is the perfect ride to experience the natural beauty and diversity of the Everglades, and choose to ride. Mountain biking skills – lots of big hills, hard pack to soft sand, so picking a line, hard pack to soft sand, so picking a line – is just one of many water sports you will see along the trail. South Florida Bicycle Association (SFBA) Administrative Assistant Laura Hallam.

The SJRTEC is constructed as an ORV challenge; this trail isn’t for you. But if you are familiar with southwest Florida, Everglades City is a small, historic community where citrus was once cultivated. Among the many unique features along this corridor is the unique wildlife to spotting, especially from the series of three rock roads, be prepared for dust! There is a Ranger shack at the entry and you can park here – pull off so you don’t block the gate. The roomy entry is open prairies and some Pine Flatwood/Wetland areas where citrus was once cultivated. You’ll also see grazing horses. You’ll also see grazing horses. You’ll also see grazing horses. The road narrows back to two lanes with bike lanes and a shared use path.

Many sites are relatively close, so the best way to experience the area is to have a plan. For example, in the everglades, you can see alligators, birds, and other wildlife. The beauty and diversity of the Everglades, save that for the next trip! All in all, enjoy the beauty and discovery of the Everglades and you can know that for the next few people you encounter also value and share the love of the unique environment.

Florida Bicycle Association

Van Fleet and Island Trail Loop Opportunity

By Herb Hillier – President of the St. John’s River to Everglades City

W hen you look for that next trail for your family and friends, you will find that the SJRTEC offers a variety of trails for all ages and abilities. The SJRTEC provides unique opportunities that are not found on any other trail in Florida. The SJRTEC Loop offers a variety of trails for all ages and abilities.

The SJRTEC Loop is a great source of information regarding park facilities (food, water, parking, amenities, etc.). We are excited to share with you the beauty and diversity of the Everglades.

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**Competing for $100 million, Six-Year Grant**

Florida Greenways & Trails Foundation

**by Joe Beckman, FGTF President**

1008Change is a MacArthur Foundation competition for a $100 million grant to fund a proposal that promises real and measurable progress in solving a critical problem of our time. The Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation is among the applicants who have completed MacArthur’s in-house review. Our proposal, which emphasizes sustainable communities, cities and regions, is now under consideration by outside reviewers. Their decision on finalists for the award will be announced in late December.

The Foundation’s 1008Change proposal is intended to accelerate the development of a safe, scenic and accessible system of greenways and trails within the state of Florida and to market the success of this effort as an exemplar for what others can do to realize the economic, health and recreational benefits of greenways and trails. Initially, the plan calls for building coalitions of support at the local and regional level that sustain trail creation, community economic development, urban renewal and healthy lifestyles. These efforts will bring together local community leaders, planners, citizens groups, developers and others for the purpose of building communities centered on alternative transportation, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and sustainable development. Next, through matching grant programs, the Foundation will support planning, design and environmental feasibility studies for community trail development that will close the gaps in the proposed regional system. A portion of these matching grants will be reserved for small rural communities and urban cores in order to “seed” amenities such as landscaping, restrooms, parking areas and signage in communities that lack the taxing capacity or local effort needed to enhance greenways and trails. Finally, systematic sponsored research on the benefits of trails, expanded partnerships with other non-profit and for-profit entities at the state and regional level, and commitment to the vision of Florida’s safe, scenic and “sun-sensational” trail system will be key elements as the Foundation continues its work.

MacArthur intends to select up to ten finalists for the award, and these finalists will be vetted at meetings held in Chicago in mid-January.

**Annual Awards**

It’s time to nominate worthy individuals and organizations for their significant service and contributions to bicycling in Florida during 2016. The awards bring attention to the efforts and achievements of those who forward FBAs vision for all Florida bicyclists to be safe, respected and encouraged to bicycle for transportation and recreation.

Categories include but are not limited to: Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Bicycle Club, Off-Road Club or Advocate, Enforcement Officer or Agency, Educator or Regional Trainer, Trail Manager or Promoter, Bicycle Friendly Community or Business, Supporting Agency, Program or Event, Bicycle Business or Store Advocate, Bicycle Professional, Citizen Bike Advocate, Developer, Elected Official Champion, Volunteer, Special Recognition.

Please go to our website, floridabicycle.org, to submit your nomination online or mail your nomination to FBA, PO Box 2452, Oldsmar, FL 34677 (please include your contact information with mailed nominations).


Recipients announced March 1, 2017 to kick off Florida Bike Month.

**Thank You, Billy**

The Florida Bicycle Association would like to take this opportunity to thank Billy Hattaway for all his efforts as Florida Department of Transportation’s District 1 Secretary and as the department’s Pedestrian & Bicycle Focused Initiative champion.

We wish all the best to Billy and look forward to his continued success as he pursues a new position as the Director of Transportation for the City of Orlando.

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EMPOWERMENT FOR UNLIMITED TRAVEL
Questions about the laws related to bicycling?

Ask Geo @ FIBikeLaw.org*

by George Martin

As part of the Bicycle Law Enforcement Program, FBA maintains FIBikeLaw.org to provide a place to ask questions about the laws. Questions come direct to FBA via the “Contact FBA” form from floridabicycle.org as well as other sources. Herein is a very limited sample of questions and answers found on the site. Go online for more.

Yield to Bicyclists and Pedestrians at Intersections?

Q: Barry asked: If I’m driving a car and approach an intersection with a stop sign. Do I yield to pedestrians and cyclists approaching on a sidewalk or are they supposed to yield to vehicles in this instance?

A: When on a sidewalk or crosswalk, a bicyclist has the same rights and duties as a pedestrian.

s. 316.2065 – Bicycle Regulations
(9) A person propelling a vehicle by human power upon and along a sidewalk, or across a roadway upon and along a crosswalk, has all the rights and duties applicable to a pedestrian under the same circumstances.

(10) A person propelling a bicycle upon and along a sidewalk, or across a roadway upon and along a crosswalk, shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian and shall give an audible signal before overtaking and passing such pedestrian.

Golf Carts in Bike Lanes

Q: Alan asked: Perhaps you can give some advice as to the legality and options we have regarding our GSCCDD Board decision to convert the designated bicycle lanes in our community to ones which permit golf carts to utilize those lanes.

A: I live in Ft. Myers in the Pelican Preserve Community. The GSCCDD, which now own the major roads in our development, has painted over the bicycle chevrons and declared the lanes are no longer strictly for bicycles. These lanes were planned bicycle lanes by the developer. Our community action group understands that the four-foot shoulder lanes should be exclusively for bicycles and that golf carts should be operated in the regular vehicle lanes. Their plan is to conduct a traffic study and make a recommendation based upon that.

Have you heard of this kind of conversion before?

My question is regarding the legality of this conversion and our options since there is a statute which says bike lanes are for bicycles only.

I don’t know the nature of your community. I will assume it is governed by the state statutes regarding the state highway system.

s. 316.003 – Definitions
(77) Street or Highway
(a) The entire width between the boundary lines of every way or place of whatever nature when any part thereof is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular traffic;
(b) The entire width between the boundary lines of any privately owned way or place used for vehicular travel by the owner and those having express or implied permission from the owner, but not by other persons, or any limited access road owned or controlled by a special district, whenever, by written agreement entered into under s. 316.006(2)(b) or (3)(b), a county or municipality exercises traffic control jurisdiction over said way or place;

Local authorities may enact ordinances related to golf carts on sidewalks under certain circumstances. That does not seem to include operating golf carts in bike lanes.

s. 316.008 – Powers of Local Authorities
(7) A county or municipality may enact an ordinance to permit, control, or regulate the operation of vehicles, golf carts, mopeds, motorized scooters, and electric personal assistive mobility devices on sidewalks or sidewalk areas when such use is permissible under federal law. The ordinance must restrict such vehicles or devices to a maximum speed of 15 miles per hour in such areas.

Other statutes apply to the operation of golf carts in the roadway.

s. 316.212 – Operation of Golf Carts on Certain Roadways
(The operation of a golf cart upon the public roads or streets of this state is prohibited except as provided herein:
(1) A golf cart may be operated only upon a county road that has been designated by a county, a municipal street that has been designated by a municipality, or a two-lane county road located within the jurisdiction of a municipality designated by that municipality, for use by golf carts. Prior to making such a designation, the responsible local governmental entity must first determine that golf carts may safely travel on or cross the public road or street, considering factors including the speed, volume, and character of motor vehicle traffic using the road or street. Upon a determination that golf carts may be safely operated on a designated road or street, the responsible governmental entity shall post appropriate signs to indicate that such operation is allowed.

Above, you state that bicycle lanes are “strictly for bicycles” and “four foot shoulder lanes should be exclusively for bicycles.”

I believe the statute to which you refer is this:

s. 316.074 – Obedience to and Required Traffic Control Devices
(1) The driver of any vehicle shall obey the instructions of any official traffic control device.

Bike Lanes Required?

Q: Anon asked: The Palmer Ranch Association in Sarasota County is proposing a large community center on Palmer Ranch Parkway where there is NOT a bike lane. From what I see from the plans NO bike lane is under consideration at the Planning Commission’s Public Hearing on Dec 1st. I see this as a real safety issue. Can you tell me what Florida Statute applies as to the need or requirement for a bike lane? This area is well used by bikers as we have a long bike/walking trail called ‘The Legacy Trail’ nearby and bikers come and go and use this piece of roadway from all directions. I plan to speak at the Public Hearing as the proposed community center requires a ‘Land Use Change’. It is presently zoned for single family homes only. Any help much appreciated.

A: Bicycle facilities are required when any change is made to a state roadway. See this post: http://fibikelaw.org/2012/06/bike-lanes-required/

It appears that Palmer Ranch Parkway is a county or municipality roadway and not a state roadway and is not guided by the mandatory requirements of s. 335.065. Rather, it is controlled by the Florida Greenbook.

In 335.065, the word “shall” is used. Note the use of “should” in the Greenbook. Also note the use of the term “are not required” when discussing exceptions. I’m not sure how to interpret that.

Clearly, FDOT is trying to convey that bicycle facilities are desirable and should be given full consideration in planning roadways.

s. 316.2065 – Bicycle Regulations
(3)(a) Any person operating a bicycle upon a roadway at less than the normal speed of traffic at the time and place where it is driven, or the conditions then existing shall ride in the lane marked for bicycle use or, if no lane is marked for bicycle use, as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway except under any of the following situations:

3. When reasonably necessary to avoid any condition or potential conflict, including, but not limited to,....substandard-width lane, which makes it unsafe to continue along the right-hand curb or edge or within a bicycle lane. For the purposes of this subsection, a “substandard-width lane” is a lane that is too narrow for a bicycle and another vehicle to travel safely side by side within the lane.

Bicycle lanes are not just for bicyclists. They tend to provide separation between bicycles and motor vehicles. In narrow lanes, one of the most dangerous things a bicyclist might do is keep right, encouraging unsafe and illegal passing within the lane by motorists.

Lacking bike lanes, there will be traffic conflicts.

Article and photos by Ron Cunningham

Those sentiments might well have been the central themes of this year’s Share The Road Celebration of Cycling event, held in Gainesville on Oct. 28-29. It was a time to remember those who came before us, to recognize those who continue to work on behalf of safe cycling and to set the stage for a more prominent role for cycling in Florida – to transform Florida into The Cycling State.

Honoring the Past:

Saturday, Oct. 29 dawned a clear, crisp autumn morning. Dozens of cyclists assembled on the campus of the University of Florida to embark on a two-mile Ride of Silence.

With a Gainesville Police Department escort in the lead and Bike Florida’s own Share The Road van bringing up the rear, the cyclists made their way to downtown Gainesville’s newly opened Depot Park.

Anchoring the northeast corner of the park are six “rammed-earth” sculptures - memorials created in 1997 by friends and family members of a group of cyclists who left Gainesville the morning after Christmas in 1996 on a ride to St. Augustine.

Two of the cyclists would not return.

At about noon on that day, on a lonely rural road in Clay County, while riding in a pace line, all six cyclists were run down from behind by a distracted driver in a pickup truck. The driver was not tested for alcohol use and was never charged for his deadly act of negligence.

Two cyclists were killed and the others were severely injured. Among the dead were Margaret Raynal – one of Florida’s most respected safe cycling advocates – and Doug Hill, manager of a Gainesville bike shop. The accident, and the failure of police to charge the offending driver, sent waves of shock and outrage throughout Florida’s cycling community.

Bike Florida recently raised $16,000 to restore the sculptures, and the Oct. 29 dedication was a time to remember the victims of that crash - and to resolve anew our collective determination to make Florida roadways safe for all users. At the suggestion of the sculptures’ artist, Eric Amundson, the site was renamed the Share The Road Memorial. And newly installed signage asks visitors to take the Share The Road Pledge to “CONSIDER THE SAFETY OF BICYCLES, PEDESTRIANS AND MOTORISTS ALIKE WHEN USING THE PUBLIC ROADWAYS...”

Celebrating the Present:

At our Oct. 28 award luncheon Bike Florida and the Florida Bicycle Association presented this year’s Share The Road awards to those organizations and advocates that continue to work to make Florida a more bike-ped friendly state. Among this year’s honorees:

Leadership Award: To Ft. Lauderdale, for being the first city in Florida - indeed, in the entire southeast United States - to adopt a Vision Zero plan. The City’s ambitious goal is to eliminate traffic-related fatalities and injuries by employing a range of enforcement, engineering, education, encouragement and evaluation strategies.

Visionary Award: To Ryan and Jamie Altman, founders of Gainesville’s Freewheel Project, a non-profit bicycle collective established to help make cycling safer, more accessible and more affordable for low income residents, children and others.

Visionary Award: To B. Kraig McClain, founder of Tallahassee’s Joyride Bicycle Collective, an organization dedicated to making cycling a more family-friendly and inclusive activity in Florida’s Capital City.

Volunteer Award: To Earle and Lois Richards, for their years-long work in support of numerous cycling events throughout Florida. Earle Richards passed away this year and his contributions to cycling will not soon be forgotten.

Media Award: Dedicated to Wayne Ezell, a longtime Florida newspaper journalist who, since his retirement, had become a key member of the North Florida Bicycle Club’s leadership team. Wayne was killed this year in a crash while riding in Iowa’s RAGBRAI tour.

President’s Award: To Ron Cunningham, who is retiring after four years as executive director of Bike Florida.

(continued on next page)
Two-Tired Bicycle Business

In March of 2013, I sold my car! For the first time since my teenage years, I did not own a motor vehicle. It was strange at first, but I quickly learned to love it. My original motivation was to lose weight. I always had a hard time with self-discipline when it came to exercise. This was a way to force myself into riding a bicycle almost everyday, and probably lose weight and become much healthier and happier. In addition to the health aspects, I was looking forward to saving money and stress related to owning and maintaining a motor vehicle.

After easing into it with the help of my wife and her minivan, I was soon a full-time bicycle commuter. It was 22 miles round trip to my office here in sunny, hot, Southwest Florida. I had learned how to ride a bike at a very young age, and this skill had not gone away. What I didn’t know how to do was drive my bicycle. As in, how to operate it among other vehicles in the safest, most comfortable way.

Luckily, I found the Florida Bicycle Association and the Cycling Savvy program. The techniques I soon learned literally changed my life. I was comfortable, happy, and truly enjoying my time on the bicycle. I ran into a few issues with motorists and law enforcement here and there, but overwhelmingly it has been a positive experience.

After being inspired by others, I purchased a bicycle trailer from Bikes at Work, an Ames, Iowa company, who is “devoted to providing bicycle-powered products and services to help people accomplish useful work.” I quickly realized the potential. I combined that with my love of environmental conservation and my hatred for gas-powered lawn equipment to form Two Tired Services.

Two Tired Services is a bicycle-powered company that focuses on gas-free and emission-free services. The main services currently offered are lawn care, landscaping, and gardening. I do this with a combination of manual and electric tools. I have a long-tail cargo bike capable of hauling materials, from which I pull the 8’ trailer that has been customized with re-purposed pontoon boat rails. This is my ‘landscape trailer’ that I carry 1 or 2 lawn mowers, a blower, a string trimmer, as well as other related garden and lawn tools.

One major challenge has been establishing a large enough service area. When the trailer is fully loaded, it can be difficult or nearly impossible to travel distances covered by conventional lawn-care companies. Trying to service a customer 20 miles away would require 4 hours travel time round-trip, as I can only achieve 10mph or so average at best.

I have enjoyed doing this part-time business so much that I recently resigned from my great job of 13 years. I am now focusing all my attention on Two Tired Services. I can't believe that it is my business so much that I recently resigned from my great job of 13 years. I am now focusing all my attention on Two Tired Services.

Join a Community Traffic Safety Team

One common goal of each Community Traffic Safety Team is to reduce the number and severity of traffic crashes within their community. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is active in the support of Community Traffic Safety Teams. Each FDOT District has a CTST Coordinator who works closely with the CTSTS in their geographic area, and the Central FDOT Safety Office acts as a liaison to the District Coordinators. For information (meeting times, locations, people) regarding CTSTS in your community, visit FDOTdot.state.fl.us/safety/78-YourCommunity/YourCommunity.shtm
### January

#### January 8 (Sun)  
**Venice FL**  
**Piggie's Revenge Endurance Challenge**
A challenging endurance race/ride consisting of 10,20,40,60+ miles of off-road goodness in Sarasota County Florida. Get ready for a self supported single track,gravel, dirt, sand and water ride. This year we will also have a Pigget Ride: 10 miles of great double track riding perfect for beginners. The 20 and 40 options will have single track riding more suitable for mountain bikes, the 60 mile is a gravel grinder and includes some road riding. The big loops will connect several wilderness areas. Choose the marked 10, 20, 40 MTB loops or the 60 mile gravel/monster cross with GPS track. 1800 Mabry Carlton Pkwy, Venice, FL 34292.

#### January 16-20  
**Cross City FL**
[gulfcoasteventstours.com](http://gulfcoasteventstours.com)  
Tour package consists of 5 days and four nights; cycling on Florida’s beautiful Gulf Coast, other attractions include a visit to Historic Yulee Sugar Mill, see the Mermaids perform at Weeki Wachee Springs, and see the Manatees at Crystal River. www.gulfcoasteventstours.com/

#### January 22 (Sun)  
**Cape Coral FL**  
**The 26th Annual Tour de Cape**
Presented by the City of Cape Coral Parks & Recreation Department offers a 5K run on Sat. Jan. 21, and on Sun. Jan. 22 there are four cycling courses that travel through the City of Cape Coral, one of the largest cities in the state. The Tour De Cape offers a 15mi., 30mi., 60mi and 100mi. course. All rides start in Cape Coral. Choose from several options to these destinations – Trenton, Cross City, Cedar Key and Horse Shoe Beach. (727) 457-6994. www.chieflandbicyclefest.com

### February

#### February 19 (Sun)  
**Clermont FL**  
**Tour Latino Waterfront Park FL**
Fourth annual cycling fundraising event benefiting Prospera, supporting Hispanic entrepreneurs in Central Florida to create more sustainable businesses and jobs in our community. 7AM, Palm St. Clermont, FL 34711. Ride options include 100, 70, 50, 25 and 10-mile bike routes with 2 timed sections in the 70 and 100 mile rides. Latin Food, Music and Awards. DOMINO tables at the finish. Prize drawings donated by sponsors and supporters, exclusively for event riders. Winners drawn from bib numbers, but you do need to be present to win. Call 407-428-5872 or visit prosperausa.org. http://tourlatino.org/

#### March 3-5  
**Chiefland FL**  
**Chiefland Bicycle Ride**
Three fun-filled days riding on Florida’s Gulf Coast Trails. All rides start in Chiefland. Choose from several options to these destinations – Trenton, Cross City, Cedar Key and Horse Shoe Beach. (727) 457-6994. www.chieflandbicycletfest.com

#### March 11-12  
**Naples FL**  
**Pan-Florida Challenge for Hungry Kids - 180 Miles 2-Day Ride**
Epic ride across Florida from Naples to Fort Pierce over two days. Together we RIDE to END Kids’ Hunger. 1 meal at a time. Our challenge goal is 2,000,000 meals. Fully supported ride, comprehensive online fundraising support, 2017 Pan-Florida Challenge Cycling Jersey, multiple food & water stops every 20 miles, and SAG Support. Excellent overnight accommodations on Lake Placid. Day 1 Finish Party, Dinner and Breakfast, with Activities on the lake. Awesome Finish Line Party & Medals for your major accomplishment. Awards, prizes, recognition for top fundraisers, and bragging rights for life! 100% of riders’ donations fund meals for hungry kids. Registration fee $50. Fundraising minimum also. After February 1, the price to register is $75. www.panfloridachallenge.org/

### March 11 (Sat)  
**Dunedin FL**  
**Ride 4 the Animals 2017**
Highlander Park. Benefits Suncoast Animal League. Ride at a leisurely pace, enjoy one of two shorter routes, or challenge yourself to “ride with the big dogs” for a metric Century along the Gulf Beaches. Well stocked rest stops and a SAG driver along the route. Stay and enjoy Mutt March Event. Receive a free beverage from the beer truck and complimentary lunch item. Other food available for purchase from vendors. Fun Raffle prizes! T-shirts for all who pre-register. Support the dogs and cats in need! Sign up today for EARLY BIRD PRICING! Ride4theAnimals.com

### March 12 (Sun)  
**Fort Myers FL**  
**Nineteenth Annual Royal Palm Classic**
Details to follow! royalpalmclassic.org

### March 18-22  
**Fort Myers FL**  
**Ends Cycling - Key West Bike Ride**
Pray, Pedal, Repeat! At Ends of the Earth Cycling, we host multi-day cycling tours throughout the United States to promote and resource global youth ministries. We do this, not just with hard-core cyclists, but people just like YOU! Join a Christ-centered cycling tour investing in global youth ministries through prayer, awareness, fundraising and a whole lot of fun! http://EndsCycling.com/tours

### March 25 (Sat)  
**Monticello FL**  
**Monticello Bike Fest**
100/60/30/10 miles. Registration through http://www.caamevents.com. Race begin at 7:30am - 10am at 420 W Washington St., Monticello, FL 32334. Rates are $55 - $70. Enjoy a ride on our beautiful, quiet canopied roads. www.monticellojeffersonfl.com

### April

#### April 9 (Sat)  
**Fort Myers FL**  
**Tour de Parks 2017**
Non-competitive bicycle tour of Sarasota Parks, including the Legacy Trail. Rides lengths: 20/35/62 miles. Starts 7:30am at Historic Venice Train Depot. Registration fee includes breakfast, lunch, on-course refreshment stations, SAG support and tech T-shirt to the first 650 registrants. Entry fees are $35-$45 depending on when you register. No rain date. No refunds. Most of the proceeds are used to support The Legacy Trail and efforts to expand it 8 miles to downtown Sarasota. See the Friends of The Legacy Trail website to register and for more information. www.friendsofthelagacytrail.org

### Florida Bicycling

#### Street Smarts  
**CyclingSavvy Edition**
**Riding Confidently, Legally, and Safely**  
**Coming Soon in 2017**
FDOT Districts

District 1
Cities: Bradenton, Fort Myers, Naples, Sarasota
Counties: Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Lee, Manatee, Okeechobee, Polk, Sarasota
FDOT Bike/Ped coordinator: Providence Nagy, 239-225-1983; Bike/Ped Safety Specialist: vacant; SUN Trail Coordinator: Bessie Reina, 863-519-2656
FBA Member Bicycle Clubs: Bonita Bay Bicycle Club, Caloosa Riders Bicycle Club, Polk Area Bicycling Pedalers Bicycle Club, Peace River Riders Bicycle Club, Polk Area Bicycling Association, Sanibel Bicycle Club, Sarasota-Manatee Bicycle Club

District 2
Cities: Gainesville, Jacksonville, Lake City, St. Augustine
FDOT Bike/Ped Coordinator: Derek Dixon, 904-360-5653; FDOT Bike/Ped Safety Specialist: Jennifer Graham, 904-360-5636; FDOT SUN Trail Coordinator: Barony Bennette, 386-961-7878
FBA Member Bicycle Clubs: Gainesville Cycling Club, North Florida Bicycle Club, Suwannee Bicycle Association

District 3
Cities: Destin, Panama City, Pensacola, Tallahassee
Counties: Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Wakulla, Walton, Washington
FDOT Bike/Ped Coordinator: Olen Pettis, 850-330-1543; FDOT Bike/Ped Safety Specialist: Andrew White, 850-330-1653; FDOT SUN Trail Coordinator: Olen Pettis, 850-330-1543

District 4
Cities: Fort Lauderdale, Fort Pierce, Palm Beach, Stuart
Counties: Broward, Indian River, Martin, Palm Beach, St. Lucie
FDOT Bike/Ped Coordinator: Alexander Barr, 954-777-4284; FDOT Bike/Ped Safety Specialist: Tom Miller, 954-777-4073; FDOT SUN Trail Coordinator: Lisa Maack, 954-717-2253
FBA Member Bicycle Clubs: Capital City Cyclists, Emerald Coast Cyclists
FBA Member Bicycle Shops: The Great Bicycle Shop (2 locations)

District 5
Cities: Cocoa Beach, Daytona Beach, Kissimmee, Melbourne, Ocala, Orlando
Counties: Brevard, Flagler, Lake, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Sumter, Volusia
FDOT Bike/Ped Coordinator: Deborah Tyrone, 407-482-7897; FDOT Bike/Ped Safety Specialist: Chad Lingensfelder, 386-943-5336; FDOT SUN Trail Coordinator: Heather Garcia, 386-943-5077
FBA Member Bicycle Clubs: Florida Freewheelers, Sumter Landing Bicycle Club, Orlando Runners & Riders
FBA Member Bicycle Shops: The Cycling Hub, Village Cycles (2 locations), Greenway Bicycles, Orange Cycle, Full Circle Cycle, Retro City Cycles, Brick City Bicycles, Winter Garden Wheel Works

District 6
Cities: Key West, Miami
Counties: Miami-Dade, Monroe
FDOT Bike/Ped Coordinator: Zakary Lata, 305-470-5308; Bike/Ped Safety Specialist: William Abin, 305-470-5406; FDOT SUN Trail Coordinator: Lisa Colmenares, 305-470-5386
FBA Member Bicycle Club: Everglades Bicycle Club, South Florida Triathletes
FBA Member Bicycle Shop: Mack Cycle & Fitness, Elite Cycling & Fitness

District 7
Cities: Brooksville, Clearwater, Port Richey, St. Petersburg, Tampa
Counties: Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas
FDOT Bike/Ped Coordinator: Christopher Speese, 813-975-6405; FDOT Bike/Ped Safety Specialist: Alex Henry, 813-975-6256; FDOT SUN Trail Coordinator: Christopher Speese, 813-975-6405
FBA Member Bicycle Clubs: Central Florida Randonneurs, Florida Panthers Tandem Club, St. Petersburg Bicycle Club, Suncoast Cycling Club
FBA Member Bicycle Shops: Bike Sport, Chainwheel Drive (2 locations), Jim’s Bicycle Shop, Hampton’s Edge Trailside Bicycles, University Bicycle Center, Two Foot Drive (mobile shop), AJ’s Bikes and Boards

SHARE for SOCKS - 2017 marks our 20th Anniversary

Time to celebrate! Show your support for FBA by sending your action bicycle photos during our “Share for Socks” campaign. You could win a pair of limited edition 20th Anniversary FBA SockGuy socks!
Email your action photos to becky@floridabicycle.org.
While supplies last!

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(I have. That’s why I’ll fight so hard for you.)

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Visit our website, floridabicycle.org, for additional FBA Member club and shop information.
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CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Applauds the Florida Bicycle Association for its efforts in making our community a healthier one by providing education and inspiration of cycling.

See you on the road!

Kenneth L. Scearce, CPA
David A. Satcher, CPA
Carla M. Hansen, CPA

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