

# Farmington Valley Trails Council

# Greenway News



## President's Letter

Spring again! And with it comes our ability to use the newly built trail in East Granby and Granby. With that new pavement, the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail is now almost 21 miles long and one of the finest recreation and commutation facilities in New England. The last small bridge was installed in January, and there are still some paving, fencing, signage and amenities to be installed. As many of you know we have raised and pledged \$36,000 to East Granby for the re-designed Salmon Brook Bridge Project which finally went to re-bid on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately it is once again \$170,000 over budget. I urge you to send donations to the "Salmon Brook Bridge Fund" c/o our address. We will match contributions one to one up to an amount not yet set by our Board. We must raise the money to allow the town to move forward with the project. Re-bidding has proven to be ineffectual. See our Website for more information.

We still await the go-ahead from ConnDOT to re-bid the .35-mile Suffield project, which needs either more money sourced to help with the shortfall, or a redesign cutting out one of the unnecessary bridges demanded by DOT. There has been no word from DOT, and until there is the project cannot be re-bid. Once again, I will ask that if you are a resident of Suffield, I urge you to call or write your elected officials to let them know that the trail is still in jeopardy and needs their help to push DOT to a decision on the design and to provide funding for potential shortfalls. We are partnering with the Farmington Rotary Club and the Town of Farmington to put up a rest-stop pavilion at the new RT 4 parking lot on the River Trail. It should be substantially completed (cont. page 3)

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## FVTC Hosts Trail Summit

By Dwight Weed

Imagine getting on your bike in Simsbury and making your daily commute to Hartford on a paved, traffic free multi-use trail. Expanded commuting, recreational and tourism opportunities were among the topics addressed on March 6, 2008, when more than 100 trail enthusiasts gathered at Reno's Restaurant in Simsbury. The restaurant was the perfect site for the summit since it sits at the likely intersection of the East Coast Greenway and the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail and offers a wide and tasty selection of menu items. Organized by Simsbury businessman and trail activist, Steve Mitchell, and hosted by the FVTC, this well attended event featured speakers from both sides of the political aisle as well as representatives from several state agencies and the private sector.

The Simsbury Board of Selectman, led by Mary Glassman, and Simsbury State Representative Leslie Schofield pledged support for trail connections which will link the East Coast Greenway to the Canal Trail. This support was echoed by Bloomfield State Rep. Faith McMahon and Town Counselor Joseph Merritt marking the first time Bloomfield so actively participated in East Coast Greenway discussions. Bloomfield's support for this trail connection is critical because most of it would lie within the town along the route of the "Griffin Line" railroad. The Griffin Line corridor contains an active rail line that runs north/south from the Hartford town line to just north of Day Hill Road near the Windsor town line. In order to connect to the Canal Trail, the route will either run along SR 189 or over what appears to be an abandoned railroad right of way leading to Tariffville. Rep. McMahon reported that Bloomfield already has a plan in place to design and build this section of trail. The cost of the project would, unfortunately, be high. Counselor Merritt described the route and noted numerous wetland and water crossings which dramatically increase the cost of any project. Nevertheless, Bloomfield appears ready to do everything necessary to make this dream a reality. (cont. page 3)

### Members and Friends

**REMEMBER:** your news and ideas can appear in our newsletter. Send or e-mail your news and we will make every attempt to include it for the next edition. This time around we had no space at all left over, our apologies.

## The Pro's Corner

### We've asked our area bike shops to impart their wisdom!



Springtime means tune-up time for your bike. When you pull that bike down from its hook in the garage or basement all you want to do is fill the tires and just get out there for a ride. But if it's been a while since you jumped on your bike, here are a few tips:

**New cables and housings:** they can make your bike feel new and are one of the most neglected parts on your bike. Want to go like the wind? Start with new cables.

**Oil good chains/replace worn out chains:** They don't last forever. A well oiled or new chain will shift better and help you focus on your ride not your shifting.

**Tires should be round and full of air.** Of course, they should also have good tread. If you see sidewall cracks or flat spots replace before your ride. Don't get stuck with a tire you should have replaced.

**Brakes:** If the pads are worn or not properly aligned you will not stop properly. Take the time to inspect your brakes.

**Wheels:** Although bike wheels are incredibly durable, check for loose spokes and that the wheel is running true (no wobble). Also make sure that the cassette locking ring is tight.

**Large bearings like bottom brackets and headsets** don't need adjustment or replacement too often, but if you hear or feel grinding then it is time.

If anything's in doubt, play it safe and have it checked out by a qualified bike shop.

## 11th Annual Trails-in-Motion Event



### Questions?

### Comments?

Call us at:  
(860) 658-4065

Saturday, June 7th, 2008 marks the date for our 11<sup>th</sup> annual Trails-in-Motion tour. The tour promotes public awareness of the rails-to-trails initiative in the Farmington Valley and is in conjunction with National Trails Day. All events will start and finish at the Iron Horse Boulevard lot in the center of Simsbury, CT. Once again, local police and other area organizations and businesses will be partnering with us.

This family oriented day is designed for trail users of all abilities. The premier events are the 10, 30, and 50-mile bicycle tours utilizing the trails and allowing participants to enjoy some of the most spectacular scenery in the Farmington Valley. Routes for walkers, riders and inline skaters are also available. A light breakfast, cue sheets and give-aways are provided at the start. There are rest stops along the way, with food, water, and energy boosters. Area bike shops will provide support at the start/finish. All the registrants should finish at roughly the same time due to staggered starts. Door prizes include a grand prize of a new bike donated by Benidorm Bikes of Canton.

**Scheduled Starts:** 50-Mile Bike Tour 8:00AM; 30-Mile Bike Tour 9:30AM; 10K Walk/Run/Skate 9:30AM; 5K Walk/Run/Skate 10:30AM; and the 10-Mile Bike Tour 10:30AM. Registration fees for members of the FVTC are \$25 for adults, \$40 for families and \$5 for children under 12. For non-members, \$30 for adults, \$50 for families and \$5 for children under 12, but the additional cost goes toward a discounted membership in the organization for the year. Participant donations go directly to construction, beautification and maintenance of the trails and may be tax deductible.



**FARMINGTON VALLEY  
GREENWAY NEWS**

This publication is written and formatted by board members. We thank Data Management Inc. for contributing the printing of this publication. The Farmington Valley Trails Council is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit corporation dedicated to advocacy, education, beautification and building multi-use trails in the Farmington Valley of Connecticut. Contributions to the FVTC are generally tax-deductible.

**Contact Information**

Farmington Valley Trails Council  
P.O. Box 576  
Tariffville, CT 06070  
Phone: 860-658-4065  
Fax: 860-658-4065  
Email: [info@fvgreenway.org](mailto:info@fvgreenway.org)

**We're on the Web!**

**[www.fvgreenway.org](http://www.fvgreenway.org)**

# Your Support is Important!



Check desired box and enclose membership fee:

- \$10 Senior 65+ / Junior under 18
- \$20 Single
- \$30 Family
- \$100 Friend
- \$500 Sustaining Member
- \$1,000 Lifetime Benefactor

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (days) \_\_\_\_\_ (eves) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to be contacted for volunteer opportunities? Y / N

Comments?

Detach and mail to FVTC, P.O. Box 576, Tariffville, CT 06070

Farmington Valley Trails Council  
P.O. Box 576  
Tariffville, CT 06081

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