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OCCA plans Bike to Work Day

Otsego County Conservation Association has convened a standing committee, Otsego Regional Cycling Advocates, whose charge is to promote bicycling in Otsego County as an enjoyable, healthy, safe, and environmentally friendly activity for people of all ages and abilities. To get things under way, ORCA is organizing a local "Bike to Work Day" on Wednesday.

"ORCA is encouraging county residents to bike or walk to work to the extent possible on May 13 in particular, but, in general, as often as possible," said Dennis Savoie, ORCA founding member.

In the Cooperstown area, there will be five "Bike to Work Day" check-in locations: Cooperstown Elementary School, Cooperstown High School, Bassett Healthcare at Beaver and Fair streets, Clark Sports Center and Pioneer Park. Bike racks will be provided to ensure the safety of parked bicycles. Cooperstown check-in locations will be staffed from 6:15 to 10 a.m. and can be identified by a canopy tent. A snack and beverage will be provided to all participants and participation will be recorded.

Those who wish to participate may register online at www.occainfo.org to indicate their interest.

"This service will give us a heads up as to how many people to expect at check-in locations," OCCA President Martha Clarvoe said.

"If participants would like to see a check-in location in their area for next year, they should note this when they register," Clarvoe said. Clarvoe also said that competition between local businesses for the most employee participation is encouraged and that the goal for the event is to reach 100 participants.

"We hope local businesses will offer incentives for employee participation," Clarvoe said. "Our goal is to have 100 participants, and we're asking employers to help make this happen."

To join ORCA or to obtain more information about Bike to Work Day, contact Clarvoe at 547-4020 or martha.clarvoe@mail.occainfo.org. For more information on OCCA, or to donate, call 547-4488 or visit www.occainfo.org.