Puyallup Riverwalk Murals
BY ERNIE BAY, FRIENDS OF THE PUYALLUP RIVERWALK

The Puyallup Riverwalk is fast becoming an outdoor art gallery thanks to the work of local artist Mike Hollins and several generous sponsors. Mike is a graduate of the Seattle Art Institute and is the Puyallup Fair Junior High Art Superintendent. Mike’s latest work is a virtual rookery of four giant herons beneath the State Route 512 (SR512) freeway as it crosses the Puyallup River just north of East Main Street, in Puyallup. The work was completed in early August and continues to delight people of all ages. The herons are the fourth art work Mike has created along the Riverwalk since 2009. Three pieces were commissioned by the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition with financial support from the Puyallup Kiwanis Foundation, Kiwanis Club of Puyallup, Valley Arts United, and several private individuals. The fourth and longest work, a 210 foot string of giant salmon along a retaining wall just east of SR512, was done by Mike pro bono as a gift to the City of Puyallup. Other works include a trio of salmon beneath the Puyallup Meridian Street Bridge and a giant collage of salmon, lures, aquatic insects and a perky frog beneath the BNSF railroad trestle located next to the Puyallup/Sumner highway bridge.

Mike Hollins begins the first of four heron murals. Photo by Ernie Bay

A whimsical trailside aquarium beneath the BNSF RR tracks. Photo by Ernie Bay

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5
Tom Gibson Accepts Award

John Selby presents the Rainer-To-Ruston Rail-Trail Relay and Ultra (R2R) Founder’s Award to Tom Gibson for his outstanding contribution to the event. Tom donated countless hours of his time toward revitalizing and maintaining the R2R website which has been greatly appreciated. 

Photo by Ernie Bay.

Foothills Trail Coalition Board

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Publisher:
The Trail Line News is published quarterly by the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition, P.O. Box 192, Puyallup, WA 98371. Our website is http://www.piercecountytrails.org/ and our email address is foothillstrail@gmail.com.

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The mission of the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition is to assist Pierce County communities in the creation, maintenance and usage of a connected system of non-motorized trails for healthier people from Mt. Rainier to Puget Sound.

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TWBC Government Affairs Report

by Bob Myrick, Tacoma Wheelmen Bicycle Club and Coalition Member

During the June 21st meeting of the Tacoma Wheelmen Bicycle Club (TWBC) the following items were discussed:

1. Three trail segments received funding in the past months. The Bud Blanchard Trail will be built in Eatonville running from the school complex downtown out to the Pack Forest and the future Mashell State Park. Sumner will be adding two segments of their trail. Edgewood will build 1.4 miles of the Interurban Trail, in the Jovita Boulevard area, and eventually connect with the Milton Trail.

2. Swan Creek Park. Steve Brown and I have been attending planning meetings as Metro Parks works with a Consultant to improve the park. There will be good bike access available in the park with a long trail running north and south on the high ground. Provisions are also being made to allow the construction of a mountain bike trail system.

3. Puyallup Trails. I continue to lobby Puyallup TWBC members to stay busy getting local government to build the Dixie Spur (JEB Three Way) between Shaw Road and 134th Avenue East near the Meeker Trailhead. We also want Puyallup to improve the Meeker Water Ditch into a real trail.

4. BPA Trail. Steve Brown, John Selby, and I continue to explore getting the BPA Trail down the hill into Tacoma and lobbying for the City to take action. The trail is discussed at our monthly Coalition for Active Transportation meetings.

5. Pedal Pierce County. Joyce Clifford has decided to try and offer rides on the weekends that will be oriented towards attending community fairs and events.

6. Bike Map. The new Pierce County bike map is now available.

The TWBC Government Affairs Committee meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Harvester Restaurant in the Stadium District at First and Tacoma Avenues. There are no meetings in September and October. Please come join us again on November 1st.

Build trails; save dollars

by Bill Hilton, Editor Trail Line News

According to a new policy statement from the American Heart Association, published July 25, 2011, preventing heart disease before it starts is a good long-term investment in the nation’s health. Published in the Circulation: Journal of the American Heart Association, the policy statement summarizes years of research on the value of investing in prevention, particularly through community-based changes to make it easier to live a healthy lifestyle.

One of the points emphasized and important to the society as a whole was that every dollar spent on building trails for walking or biking saved three dollars in medical costs.

“People often don’t realize the power to stay healthy is in their own hands,” said William S. Weintraub, M.D., lead author of the state and the John H. Ammon chair of cardiology and cardiology section chief at Christiana Care Health System in Newark, Delaware. “But it’s not something many individuals or families can do alone. It takes fundamental changes from society as a whole.”

The American Heart Association also called on policy-makers to ensure communities are built with exercise in mind and to include sidewalks and bike trails.

Prevention will pay for itself,” said Gordon Tomaselli, M.D., American Heart Association president. “Not just monetarily, but also by lengthening and improving the quality of life people can enjoy. More importantly, these changes won’t just affect us today -- they’ll have a positive impact on generations to come.”
Networking for Trails:

Edgewood & Milton Interurban
by Diane Kerlin

At the July 26th meeting of the Edgewood City Council a motion passed which approved contract documents and awarded grant funding for construction of the Edgewood Interurban Trail project to Tucci & Sons, Inc.

This trail construction, from 114th Avenue heading west toward Milton, is exciting to think about since we will finally have paved trail on the Edgewood link. Quite possibly, a ribbon cutting ceremony may occur before the December issue of the Trail Line News is published!

Leach Creek Trail: Three Steps Closer to Reality
by David Swindale, AICP, Director, Planning and Development Services

The City of University Place has made some significant progress recently towards completing a trail segment along Leach Creek.

This month the City is set to close on a 15 acre parcel located east of Alameda Way, West of Orchard Drive and South of Cirque Drive. This property is being purchased from the Tacoma School District with grant assistance from Pierce County Conservation Futures $685,000 and Washington State Recreation and Conservation, $65,000 (RCO grant #10-1157A).

The property is undeveloped, with uplands, creek frontage, wetlands and will be a tremendous asset to our park system. This property has the potential to accommodate a ball field, trails, restrooms, passive open space and a trailhead for the trail down Leach Creek to Chambers Creek Canyon, Chambers Bay and the Puget Sound.

The City acquired the west side of the Creek in this location in 1996 in conjunction with the Martha Vineyards subdivision.

In 2003 the City sought to purchase a 500 foot long trail easement along Leach Creek. Before the easement could be secured the property owner sold the property. The City continued to seek the easement with the new property owners who sold the property to a third property owner who was not interested in the trail easement. The new property owner divided the property into four lots just before the housing bubble burst. This

Sumner Trails
by Bill Hilton, Editor, Trail Line News

A recent article in the Bonney Lake and Sumner Courier Herald, “Trail is a walk on a long road,” by Staff Writer Daniel Nash (July 20, 2011), briefly touched on the city of Sumner’s trails which extend from Steward Road to the north, to the southern border of the city where it connects to the Foothills Trail that goes to Orting, South Prairie, eventually Buckley and Mt. Rainier National Park.

One of the points the article emphasized was that Sumner’s trails are incomplete and scattered into seven sections. While funding is a challenge for many sites when it comes to connecting and/or building trails it appears the City of Sumner is not about to give up.

City Public Works Engineer Ted Hill advised, he and the Public Works Department are working on plans to fill in nine of 11 gaps which prevent the trail from being unified. According to the article, the remaining two gaps are obligated for completion by private developers who own the lots. Hill stated under ideal conditions that the planning and construction would be completed within a decade.

Hill also indicated the southern-most gap in the walking trail in the neighborhood of State Street and West Main Street, is 90 percent planned and just may be ready for construction as soon as next summer.

The city of Sumner is reapplying for a federal grant(s), which it did not receive in the first two attempts, under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Hill sounded hopeful and stated, “But the city that did receive the last grant received it for a trail system, so it was good to know that we were in the right ballpark.”

Here’s to wishing the city of Sumner well in working toward developing their trail system.

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Leach Creek Trail Continued from Page 4

Last but not least, the City is in the final stages of the acquisition of approximately 16,000 square feet of landlocked property on the west side of Leach Creek located between property acquired in conjunction with the Martha Vineyards subdivision to the north and the trail easement described above to the south. This property is being purchased with the help of the RCO. Document recording is expected to take place by the end of August.

Murals Continued from Page 1

Mike has been extremely generous with his time and talent. At no additional cost he has quickly restored sections of the latest fish mural beneath the BNSF tracks, below Mama Stortinis, after it was damaged by vandals. Such mural damage is uncommon; there is a code of respect among most graffiti artists (rule does not apply to taggers). Murals are a good investment. Many murals in Puyallup have remained unmolested by graffiti artists for years, and even minor tagging incidents to artwork are rare. Experience has shown that simply painting over graffiti nearly always invites new desecration, while sponsoring murals, such as those pictured, proves to be a good investment not only in time and money saved from not having to continually repair them, but also in public enjoyment and community improvement.

Murals Continued from Page 1

by Ernie Bay, Board Member

Advertise your membership and show your pride!

For the past three years a few lucky Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition members have featured our logo as a large 6-3/4 inch circular decal on the rear, or rear window, of their vehicles. After several requests, including from members who now own new vehicles, we have purchased a limited supply of these striking decals in three formats: black lettering on white background, black lettering on clear background, and white lettering on clear background. The white on clear is popular for rear window display and does not interfere with driver vision.

Decals are now available at $10 dollars each and may be ordered by phone or mail at Foothills Rails-To-Trails Coalition, P.O. Box 192, Puyallup, WA 98371. By prior notification decals may also be viewed and purchased at our regular weekly or monthly meetings. When ordering, please specify number of decals and choice of black/white, black/clear, or white/clear.

Foothills Trail Decals:

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.

Corey Wilkins, LUTCF, Agent
"Inside the Poodle Dog Pavilion"
Fife, WA 98424

253-922-8746
Memberships/Donations

The Foothills Rails-To-Trails Coalition is a non-profit organization with a mission to assist Pierce County communities in the creation, maintenance, and usage of a connected system of non-motorized trails for healthier people from Mount Rainer to Puget Sound.

Those wishing to make a denotation to support the continuing efforts of the Foothills Rails-To-Trails Coalition can do so at the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation website: http://www.tacomafoundation.org/page10002505.cfm

Once at the website simply click on the large “Donate” button highlighted in yellow and follow the instructions on the page.

Thanks for your consideration
Foothills Rails-To-Trails Coalition

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Peterson, Brian & Anna
Phibbs, Philip and Gwen
Pierson, Beverly

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Calendar of Events

Meetings:

Monthly Board Meetings:
Open to all members and are generally held on the 4th Thursday from 7-9 p.m. at the Puyallup Public Library, south entrance. Monthly meetings may be rescheduled, so check our website at www.piercecountytrails.org for changes.

Charlie Chat - Weekly Luncheon:
Informal luncheons from 12-1 p.m. at Charlie’s Restaurant, 113 East Main, Puyallup. All are welcome to come and share what they have been doing to promote the mission of the Coalition. No business is conducted even if a quorum of members is present.

Courtesy Patrol Meetings:
Scheduled on 2nd Saturday of each month at High Cedars Golf Course, 149th St. Ct. E., Orting. No-host breakfast starts at 8 a.m. and the casual meeting at 9 a.m. with a free-for-all discussion about the past, present and future of the Courtesy Patrol. Guest speakers and training sessions are often included. Contact Jerry Larson at 253-845-7219 or Capt2Wheeler@comcast.net.

Friends of the Riverwalk Committee:
We are an informal group of volunteers devoted to the enjoyment and betterment of the Puyallup Riverwalk. Please join us for most Monday mornings* at 9 a.m. at Community Resource Center, 107 S Meridian, Puyallup.

*call prior to confirm in case of cancellation.
Ernie Bay 253-848-7718 bugtrail@aol.com
Bob Kastama 253-435-1637 kastamaq@gmail.com
Puyallup City Parks 253-841-5447

Events:

Work Parties RSVP to Don Partington at 253-820-8411 or cedarfamily@comcast.net

South Prairie Salmon Run
Saturday, September 24th marks the 6th annual South Prairie Salmon Run in one of East Pierce County’s friendliest towns. The race consists of 5K and 10K runs, 3K and 5K walks as well as a Kids Fun Run. The activities begin at 8:45 a.m. with the Kids Fun Run followed at 9 a.m. by the other events. Registration is $20 before September 10th and $25 from September 10th on. Registration forms are available at the South Prairie Town Hall or at Trailside Espresso which serves as the start and finish of the race.

Trailside Espresso hosts a Salmon Bake after the race with contributions going to the Foothills Coalition. This event has increased in popularity with 80 participants last year.

Come and join the festivities and look for the Salmon with running shoes!
For more information contact southprairie.salmonrun@gmail.com or call 360-897-8253.

Western Washington State Fair Sept 9-25
Sign up to man the Coalition booth online at our website. It’s fun and you get a free pass into the fair.

Pierce County Trail Conference Nov. 9
See details on page 9
**Active Transportation**

*by Dixie Gatchel, Coalition Coordinator for Active Transportation*

Isn’t it time to focus on the basics of what it will take to connect Pierce County Trails into a regional active transportation network?

Our somewhat atypical summer is almost melding into fall and soon will be just another page in the Puget Sound weather history books. Foothills Coalition founders dreamt of a non-motorized trail through the Carbon River corridor which they called the Tahoma to Tacoma. The dream still lives today in the hearts of our Foothills Trail leaders and advocates. Trail loving volunteers foster the dream as they toil to maintain a right-of-way along the abandoned track of the old Northern Pacific Railway. Awareness of and advocacy for such a trail grows as runners and walkers, in the hundreds, make their way along the rugged pathway in the annual Rainier to Ruston Rail-Trail Relay and Ultra (R2R). The popularity and phenomenal growth for the R2R, celebrating its 10th anniversary on National Trail Day, June 02, 2012, assures the lofty dream for a formal, accessible trail will happen in the future. Not in my lifetime, surely, but as I joke: “I’ve not so long to live if I die of old age.”

It’s unlikely federal funding to further trail projects will be forthcoming from the 112th Congress which appears hopelessly gridlocked. Does it not behoove us to do what is doable now and concentrate on competing for private grants and donations to connect missing parts of the Pierce County trail network? As chair of the Foothills Coalition grants and Active Transportation committees, I suggest our Directors prepare a comprehensive, strategic plan setting forth the ways and means in which to connect missing links in our Pierce County Active Transportation Regional Network. (See map of network at http://www.railstotrails.org/.)

The recently released committee outline of the bipartisan transportation bill, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (Map-21), consolidates seven core highway programs from the current SAFETEA-LU law into five. The existing program provides some funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects as well as air quality initiatives and other innovative plans. However, MAP-21 makes no mention of dedicated funding for biking and walking in the existing Transportation Enhancements program, a point of deep concern for bicycle and pedestrian users. The outline does not specify any revenue sources outside of gas tax receipts from the Highway Trust Fund but does seek to attain “optimum achievable authorization depending on resources available and in a way that does not increase the deficit and can achieve bipartisan support.” How nebulous, if not impossible, is that?

Each and every one of us can keep the dream alive by constant contact with our representatives in the House and Senate. Chew their ears off with the following facts:

In tough economic times, governments have to make the most of every tax dollar spent. That is why Active Transportation (walking and bicycling) projects stand out! With fewer federal dollars available, these projects can be completed at a low cost, are highly popular and significantly improve mobility. Further, these projects

Continued on Page 9

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**What is Active Transportation?**

AT = 🚴‍♂️ + 🧣 + 🌍 + You

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**Cascade Water Alliance**

toll free: 1.877.299.0930
cascadewater.org

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**Richard Q. Cockrell, D.C.**

15324 Main St. E., Suite B
Sumner, WA 98390
Telephone: (253) 863–5323
Fax: (253) 863–2034
Mon, Wed, Fri 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM
2:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Tuesdays 7:00 AM – 12:00 PM
The ForeverGreen Council invites you to save the date for the sixth annual Pierce County Trails Conference this fall in Tacoma. With the theme of “Building Trails, Building Constituencies,” this year’s conference not only aims to provide you with updates on trail projects across Pierce County, but also focuses on how planners, advocates, and other stakeholders are working together to keep trail progress moving forward in our communities.

A full invitation, conference agenda, and registration information will be available in September. Check the ForeverGreen website for more conference information or contact Executive Director, Jane Moore at (253) 307-9873 or drjanemoore@comcast.net.

The ForeverGreen Council would like to thank outgoing executive director Jayme Gordon for her hard work and wish her well in her next role – motherhood. Jayme has expertly led ForeverGreen through its early years and helped to set a good foundation for future work. Former board member Jane Moore will assume the duties of executive director and will help the organization continue its work of facilitating the implementation of a system of multi-use trails that links each community and jurisdiction in Pierce County.
Membership makes a difference!
The work we are doing is made possible because of your membership and generous support. Credit cards accepted.

$20 Single
$30 Family
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Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition
P.O. Box 192, Puyallup, WA 98371-0021

The mission of the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition is to assist Pierce County communities in the creation, maintenance and usage of a connected system of non-motorized trails for healthier people from Mt. Rainier to Puget Sound.

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