South End Neighborhood Association

Volume 1, Issue 3

April/May 2016

South End News

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Annual Bike Repair Day with a New Twist

By Jackie Dupont

This year our annual Bike Repair will be a little different. We will also be including repairs for bikes in general. For the past 9 years the South End Neighborhood Association has partnered up with teens from the South End Teen Center and community volunteers to reduce, reuse, and recycle! By repairing well-loved bikes donated to the bike swap, teens learned how to maintain their bikes as well as the value of repairing instead of discarding. While we still encourage folks to bring your dusty, well-loved, or out grown bike to KVCAP and donate to our Bike Swap, held May 21, 9-11am at KVCAP, we are also offering to repair bikes in general!

Do you have a bike that doesn't work, but not sure how to fix it? Are you confused about what the problem might be? We invite neighbors to bring their bikes in for a tune up and assessment. Come down on May 1, from 1-4pm at KVCAP, 97 Water St. to learn how to replace a chain, fill a tire, replace a hose or adjust a seat.

Tools and replacement parts will be available!

Time to Spring Clean

by Jackie Dupont

For many years now the South End Neighborhood Association has partnered with Colby College and other community groups to get the South End ready for Spring. Every year the neighborhood association focuses on helping the elderly, disabled, and other neighbors remove bulky waste and yard debris that are too large to be picked up by the regular trash disposal. Volunteers also pick up trash from city streets and public parks to spruce things up. "I'm so glad they do this. There's no way I'd be able to get rid of it on my own," said Sharon Latulippe, as she stood in her driveway in front of a clean yard last year.

Spring will soon be upon us again, and so will the 15th Annual South End Clean Up Day. April 30 marks the 15th annual clean up, which began in 2001. It was during that year that the neighborhood met to discuss ways to minimize blight and improve the quality of life, and the annual cleanup day was born.

Partnering with students from Colby College to participate as part of their Colby Cares Day, an annual day of community service that will also take place on April 30th, the neighborhood seeks to improve the quality of life in the South End and empower folks to take pride in their surroundings and feel good about where they live. For the past several years, the Colby football team and the South End Teen Center have helped neighbors with this event and it continues to make a large

Spring Cleaning continued on page 3

Efforts Underway to Revitalize Waterville

By Laura Meader, Assistant Director of Colby College

There's a lot of buzz on Main Street these days—change is in Waterville's future. A major new employer has moved into the city, long-vacant buildings downtown have new owners, and partnerships between town officials, business owners, and educational leaders are gaining traction. Change can be exciting, but it can also cause uncertainty. What could these changes mean for Waterville residents? What opportunities will they bring? How can residents get updates and get involved?

When Colby College's new president, David Greene, took office in 2014, he shared his vision of bringing sustained economic vitality to Waterville and transforming Main Street into a healthy, walkable downtown that is welcoming to our diverse community. The first step was establishing partnerships with Waterville's business and civic leaders. Together, they formed a consensus to leverage Waterville's existing strengths while making strategic investments to stimulate growth.

Economic Vitality

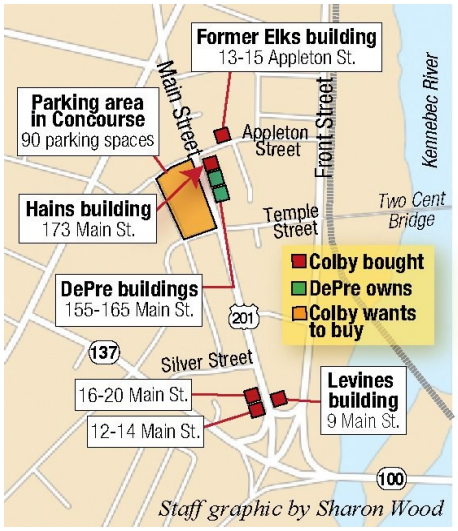
Sustained economic vitality in Waterville is paramount, and a multi-pronged approach focused on bringing in new, 21st-century jobs is underway. First, Collaborative Consulting, an IT consulting firm, announced in December its plans to create 200 tech jobs in Waterville. Entry-level jobs as well as positions for professionals, students, and interns will become available as the company gets established. Collaborative's first cohort of 10 employees from the Central Maine area began training in February and several additional employees are already working in the Hathaway Creative Center.

Developing existing downtown properties into modern spaces is another strategy. Colby has purchased five properties on and around Main Street and private investors have purchased others. Plans for these buildings are still being determined, but a mixture of retail, office, and mixed-income housing are among the options.

To manage the college's downtown real estate and to work closely with other businesses and organization on Main Street, Colby has hired Paul Ureneck as director of commercial real estate. Ureneck brings 30 years of real estate development experience to Waterville. A series of meet-and-greet gatherings with Ureneck will be scheduled this spring.

Downtown Density

Having more people live downtown is also key to building economic vitality downtown. The City of Waterville has agreed to sell property on the Concourse to Colby to build an apartment complex for approximately 150 students as well as some faculty and staff. Colby students are already involved in Waterville through volunteering and civic engagement activities, and apartments downtown will focus on that commitment and increase the density of people living on Main Street. Retail space on the building's first floor will add to Waterville's tax base.



Staff graphic by Sharon Wood

Revitalizing continued on page 5

Spring Cleaning *Continued from page 1*

impact. Volunteers today are picking up less trash than they were 15 years ago. A lot of residents don't have cars, so getting rid of large amounts of waste or old furniture can be a challenge.

"We want our neighborhood to look nice. There's not a lot we can do about people's homes and the way they live or what businesses look like, but by doing this we can make a difference in how the neighborhood looks overall," said Heather Merrow, long time member and original founder of SENA.

To volunteer, please meet at the KVCAP parking lot, 97 Water St., where volunteers will receive instructions, gloves, and trash bags. We'll have a few rakes but please bring your own if you have them. Dumpsters will be available from 10-1pm Saturday April 30th. A big thank you to City of Waterville, Maine and Central Maine Disposal! Lunch will be provided as a Thank You to our volunteers provided by Mainely Brews Brewhouse & Restaurant! Be sure to thank these folks for supporting the neighborhood!
We CAN take large bulky items like mattresses and chairs, etc; electronics will be taken to recycling; metal and refrigerators; yard waste like branches. We CAN NOT take hazardous liquids like oil paint, pesticides, and other hazardous wastes like light bulbs, batteries and construction materials.
We are asking for donations for some items. All donations will go towards supporting the clean up costs and other SENA programs.

Metal items are to be kept separate and they are free.
We will have pick up trucks to help bring things to the dumpsters if you do not have a truck or vehicle. Please call in advance to schedule a pick up. 207-877-5297 SENA reserves the right to not pick up anything that could be dangerous and cause injury.

Suggested Donations:
$10 for each furniture and mattress
$5 for TV's 25" or smaller
$10 for TV's larger than 25"
$5 computer monitors
$5 tires ($4 without rims)
$25 for any appliance with freon

South End Fire Station

By LT. Scott Holst and Theresa Rodrigue

Waterville's fire house on College Ave is hard to miss, but what many people don't know is that the city's fire department was once housed in a central station and three sub-stations across the city. "The Plains," today's South End Neighborhood, was home to one of these firehouses, Station 3. This firehouse most commonly remembered and written about was located on Water St. However, prior to the Water St location, different houses in the neighborhood were used as firehouses. While Station 3 remained the consistent name of the firehouse, it was also referred to by the equipment being used by the fire department.

The Water St firehouse was built in 1900 and housed the old Hand Tub Waterville 3. The Hand Tub was a cart with a large bucket of water. Fire fighters would put a hose into the bucket and hand pump the water using long bars on each side of the cart. After the placement of hydrants in the area, the old Hand Tub gave way to a hose cart pulled by horses, Hose 3. This type of engine used a suction hose that could be dropped into a river or connected to the hydrant. Finally, in the 1920's, Waterville purchased a motorized fire engine, Engine 3.

Theresa Rodrigue, a long time South End resident, remembers an old fire whistle that blew a number that was assigned to a

Fire Station continued on page 6

Firefighters Spark a Win

By Steve Soule

The 2016 Battle of the Badges Basketball Game was played in early March. It is the eighth year of this community event, where local police and firefighters play for bragging rights and raise money for the South End Teen Center. Fans were eager to see if the defending champion, the police, would walk with a 2 year winning streak. This year the Teen Center was represented by Tyler, playing with the police, and Meghan, playing with the firefighters. Both teams played a good game, but in the end, the firefighters triumphed, winning 30-14 and claiming the trophy. While the game was fun, the real winners were the 67 teens of the South End who visit the Teen Center.

Of course, the game wasn't the only thing fans came for. The Teen Center held a bake sale, offering hundreds of sweet treats made by our very own teens. Decal Gymnastics provided the halftime show, entertaining the crowd with flips and tumbling. The Waterville Jr. High Chorus sang the National Anthem. Cappza's Pizza held a halftime shoot-out, where one audience member was chosen to try to make a foul shot and three pointer for cash. That lucky student made both and walked away with $150!

Each year, the community game has grown bigger and bigger, making over $1000 this year. Look for the game to be broadcast on local channel 7, CATV. We hope to see you at next year's game.

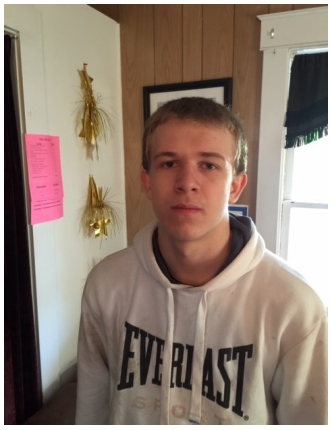
Thanks to our game sponsors:
- Mainely Brews
- New Dimensions FCU
- Toast Express
- South End Neighborhood Association
- Eric's Restaurant

The South End Teen Center is located at 5 Libby Ct. in Waterville Youth in grades 6-12 are welcome to come after school from 2:30-5:00.
FMI call 207-873-5621

Meet the Teens

Zac
Age: 15
Favorite classes: English, JMG
Favorite food: bacon pizza, cheeseburgers

I like the teen center because I am around people, and they have sports and snacks.



Cody
Age: 16
Favorite classes: History
Favorite food: macaroni and cheese

I like coming to the teen center because it gives me fun things to do after school.

Revitalizing *Continued from page 2*

The property is the parking area where the farmers' market is located. Farmers' market leadership is supportive of the revitalization project and committed to staying downtown. The market will stay on the Concourse in 2016, and Colby has agreed to help the market identify a new home downtown and pledged to help ensure its success in other ways.

Another important factor is improving traffic flow, parking, and the pedestrian experience. The City of Waterville, the Maine Department of Transportation, and Colby jointly hired a traffic consultant to look at these issues. That study is underway, and multiple opportunities for the public to learn about progress and offer feedback have been and will be offered.

Get Involved
Your involvement and input are essential. Please attend public discussions, read the Morning Sentinel, and stay up to date by subscribing to Colby's blog about unfolding downtown developments at www.colby.edu/downtown. When you subscribe, you will get an email every time the blog is updated, and questions can be sent to downtown@colby.edu.

We all want to live in a beautiful, safe city with economic opportunities, affordable housing, and a vibrant downtown. Together, we can make Waterville that city.

Contact
Assistant to the President and Director of Planning Brian Clark, a member of President David A. Greene's senior leadership team, works closely with city leaders, business owners, and arts and cultural organizations to leverage Waterville's assets and create sustained economic growth. He can be reached at brian.clark@colby.edu or 207-859-4612. Director of Commercial Real Estate Paul Ureneck oversees the development of properties owned by Colby and works closely with the Main Street community to improve the downtown experience for tenants, property owners, businesses, and patrons. He is available at paul.ureneck@colby.edu or 207-859-4617.

Sisters Coming Home: An Interview

By Jackie Dupont

Visiting with sisters, Julie Lyon and Jean Sidmore (née Gorneau), there is an air of excitement as we talk about their memories of the South End, particularly King St. where they, along with their 6 other siblings grew up. "King St. was my world," recalls Julie. "We grew up on King St. at the dead end. In the winter the parents blocked off the road so the kids could slide, or we'd ride go-carts or roller skate."

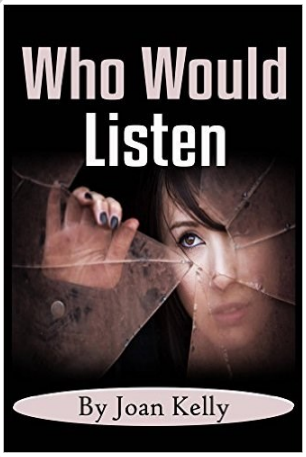
Julie and Jean's grandparents, Mémé and Pépé, also lived with them, as did many aunts and other relatives over the years. "Ma Tante Donut, because she made these incredible potato donuts, and Ma Tante Rose. 'Tante' means aunt in French." It wasn't unusual for multiple generations to live in one home at the time for many reasons. "The elderly didn't go into a nursing home then. Most didn't speak English either." Julie and Jean's parents also did not speak English natively, but rather learned English from their children as they learned it in school. "My dad would say 'I don't know what you want. Ask me in French,'" Jean smiles as she describes asking her dad, Alcide Gorneau, for a quarter. Alcide primarily worked at Scott Paper Mill, but you would often find him on a ladder painting houses for folks, as well as doing carpentry and plumbing. The sisters' mother, Doris, kept the house and family in order, "We would come in

Sisters continued on page 7

Julie Lyon and Jean Sidmore, nee Gorneau

"It was a tight neighborhood," says Julie, Jean nods. "You say South End and radars come out like a tuning fork." The sisters want more people in the South End to connect with each other.

Local Author Publishes First Book



By Kathryn Kelly

Last year at this time, Joan Kelly didn't expect to be a published author. But on March 3, Joan met with the community for her Waterville book signing at the home of Chris Moody on Summer Street. Chris Moody's fine home on Summer Street was a wonderful place to gather for this book signing. Chris, who is always a most gracious host, modestly says, "That's what neighbors are for."

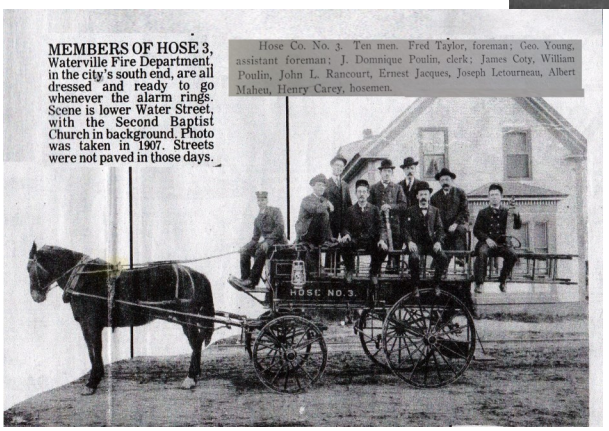
Joan, a resident of Augusta, is a student at UMA and works in multiple capacities for NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). Joan and her mother, Kathryn Kelly, have been active participants in Waterville's community for many years. Kathryn lives on Water Street and is a member of SENA. While growing up, Joan spent time between her mother's home in Waterville and her father's home in Vienna. She attended SAD #9 schools (Vienna, New Sharon, Farmington) except for 2 years of home schooling in Waterville.

Joan's book, *Who Would Listen*, was published in November. This work of fiction was originally written by Joan when she was in high school. A teacher encouraged her to write and he expressed his hope that she would eventually get it published. Joan engaged a writing consultant from London, who encouraged her through the publication process.

Who Would Listen is a short easy-to-read book about a young girl in crisis. Her search to find someone to talk to about her deepest needs is a thought provoking and engaging story that resonates with people of all ages. The book can be purchased from Amazon.com or directly from Joan at 11joan.kelly@gmail.com

Fire Station *Continued from page 3*

street so people would know where the fire call was coming from. She would go to station 3 to get a paper of all the numbers and streets. She remembers that 22 was the highest number on the list. When the whistle blew the number, she would look it up on the paper and would know fire fighters were going. She would also go to the station to visit her cousin, Bob Rodrigue. Bob was a Fire Captain and served at Station 3 for many years.



The Station 3 was used until 1980 when it and the other two substations in Waterville were closed as a cost saving measure. The house sat empty for about a year before it was purchased to be used as a single family residence. Today the house still stands and is privately owned.

Sisters *Continued from page 5*

and say we were bored and she'd have something for us to do, like sweep or do the dishes and we'd find something we had to do outside 'no thanks!'" Sometimes it ended up with the kids sweeping the streets of sand and salt left behind after winter. "Everybody was given a broom and we swept the streets. The City didn't do it."

"It was a tight neighborhood," says Julie, Jean nods. "You say South End and radars come out like a tuning fork." Julie tells a story of when she was a girl, getting hurt in a soap box/bicycle accident on the street, "Next thing you know there's tons of parents out there, an immediate crowd where just a minute ago it was just kids with soap boxes. If someone got hurt, the parents would be out there." Jean adds "It belonged to us first. I feel like I've come full circle moving back here." "We feel like we've come home," Julie adds.

This close knit feeling and sense of neighbors watching out for neighbors isn't entirely a thing of the past. "You think you're alone, but you're not. People are always watching," Julie remarks. Jean concurs "We sit on our front porch and say 'hi.'" The sisters now live on Summer St. She points out the window, "you see her walking her dogs? She walks her dogs every day. If a few days went by that I didn't see her, I would get worried and call."

They name a few other folks they see regularly, including an older couple that walks hand in hand, their neighbors who moved from Colorado and a "flamingo war" they had with them, in which they pranked each other with decorative flamingos. "People would ask us 'where are the flamingos today?' That was a lot of fun."

The sisters want more people in the South End to connect with each other. "They'll get there," Jean speaks of the new, younger families and people who initially don't make eye contact. They talk about helping young women "pushing a carriage while hauling Save A Lot bags and it's a blizzard," or it's cold and their carrying large bags of laundry to the mat. "I feel bad that Ron's has closed. Now they have to walk with huge grocery bags they can barely carry. There was a time when there were stores everywhere in the South End." With the stores gone, we talk about other ways to connect neighbors and help each other, whether it's to sell intricately laced doilies or homemade quilts and other crafts, or an online space to trade or donate medical equipment. These ideas and many others are a testament to the bond that folks in the South End still feel for one another, new and old, to improve the quality of life for everyone in the neighborhood. "The South End feeling; you're not a stranger."

Clockwise from the top left: Doris Gorneau with her sisters, Alcide Gorneau surrounded by his children, Alcide Gorneau, and Doris Gorneau.

Are you a long term resident of the South End? We'd love to hear your stories and share your memories!

Contact Anna Holdener at the SETC (207-873-5621) about submitting an article or interview.

Editor's correction: the article printed in the last newsletter Feb. 1, 2016, "Interview with Charlie Poulin" in which the author stated that the South Grammar School was located where the George J. Mitchell now exists, was incorrect. South Grammar was located where the Muskie Center now exists.

Neighborhood Business Profile: **Play Ball, LLC**

What does Play Ball specialize in? How is it different?

Play Ball is a specific baseball and softball retail store that specializes in a more specific product line, such as the AXE bats for baseball and softball, that you won't find in a box store. Play Ball has the exclusive deal for the state of Maine for these specialty bats. We're also an in-door training facility specializing in hitting and pitching. We have half hour and hourly rentals for tunnels, special team rates, and private lessons available. I train the Portland Sea Dogs and provide expert certified instruction.

Name of Owner:
Matt Young

When they opened:
March 5, 2016

Contact info:

207-616-3770

Hours of Operation:
M-F: 12-8, Sat: 8-6, Sun: 10-3

Where did you grow up? How did you decide this is what you wanted to do? Was there an "ah-ha" moment?

I was born and raised in Oakland, Maine and I graduated from Messalonskee High School. I'm a baseball lifer and always dreamed of owning my own facility and making my life in baseball. A year and half ago, my fiance and I put together a full year plan, make baseball a viable living that's what I would do with the rest of my life. It's now a 4 year plan and we're ahead of schedule. I also coaching Varsity Baseball at Messalonskee, I'm the VP of Oakland Youth Baseball, and I sit on the board for Messalonskee Cal Ripken, which is a youth rec program for house and travel all stars. I'm trying to re-energize baseball in central maine. It used to be a powerhouse and those days have kinda slipped behind us and I don't buy it that we're losing these players to lacrosse. The youth programs haven't been serving the youth in a way that keeps them engaged long term, so I'm involved in all levels to foster that long term involvement. I learned valuable life lessons through the sport, what it means to be a teammate part of a team, how to fail and improve, win and lose gracefully, relationships, social aspect of baseball, it's had a part in all parts of my life, baseball has provided it all.

Why and how did you choose this location?

Even though I grew up in Oakland, the South End has been dear to my heart because I spent a lot of time in the South End playing hockey at the South End Arena on King St. and played little league baseball on the field next to this shop. It's now the parking lot. I did my research on the car traffic, economic development, the Hathaway, and thought what better way to bring something back to the South End and do something for the kids. All the jobs that are coming are great, but there hasn't been a lot of talk about what we can do for the kids and young adults.

APRIL VACATION SPECIAL HITTING CLINIC

April 18th,19th,21st
8am - 10am

$90.00 Reserve now,spots are limited!

What would you say most motivates you? What are you most excited or passionate about? What are the goals you most want to accomplish?

Reinvigorating youth participation and get parents, grandparents, and other adults to play with their kids. It's one of the key things I want my business to be about and be able to provide that at a reasonable rate. You can spend a quality hour with your child here. I get people in here who aren't really baseball people who get an hour with their son or daughter and they love it. I'm really passionate about being family oriented. Baseball, as an American pastime, is supposed to be passed down from generation to generation. I feel an obligation to a sport that has done great things for me and to fill in that gap and pass it on. When people think of America it's hot dogs, apple pie and baseball.

A positive and safe place for the kids and parents to bring their kids is my passion. I want to eventually have a solid program to provide after-school tutoring service, get a workout done then do their studies, have a scholar program at the high school level, find the college that will allow them to play baseball and find scholarship money to help them out. There's a lot out there and they just need someone to point them in the right direction and that's something I also feel very passionate about.

SENA's Vision: SENA is a group of neighbors and supporters who work, with an equal voice, to revitalize and energize the SE neighborhood.

SENA's Mission: The South End Neighborhood Association (SENA) is a strong group of concerned citizens who are playing a key role in the revival of the neighborhood. Members of SENA are active agents of change in the neighborhood with an investment in seeing the neighborhood thrive. Current neighborhood activities include an annual clean up, bike swap, and neighborhood festival in partnership with National Night Out and the Waterville Police Department.

For more information visit us on the web or email sena.waterville.maine@gmail.com or call 2107-877-5297

"Like" us on Facebook at "South End Neighborhood Association (S.E.N.A.)"
https://www.facebook.com/groups/SENA.Waterville.Maine/

Did we miss something happening in the neighborhood? Contact Anna Holdener at the SETC (207-873-5621) about submitting an article.

Upcoming Events

Apr 7, 2016
5:00-7:00pm, Waterville Police Station
Quality of Life Meeting
Learn about and get involved with the Neighborhood Watch (5-6pm). Stay for the Housing Committee (6-7pm).

Apr 9, 2016
9:30-11:30am, Maine Children's Home, Eskelund
Monthly SENA meeting
Come learn about what is happening in Waterville's South End. Optional social hour and light breakfast starts at 8:30 and neighborhood business begins at 9:30.

April 30, 2016
10am-1pm, 97 Water St
15th Annual Neighborhood Clean Up
Meet in the KVCAP parking lot for instructions, gloves, and trash bags. Please bring a rake if you have one.

May 1, 2016
1-4pm, 5 Libby Ct
10th Annual Bike Repair
Bring your bike down for some light repair. Get your bike looked at and learn how to replace a chain, fill a tire, replace a hose, or adjust a seat.

May 12, 2016
5:00-7:00pm, Waterville Police Station
Quality of Life Meeting
Learn about and get involved with the Neighborhood Watch (5-6pm). Stay for the Housing Committee (6-7pm).

May 12, 2016
9:30-11:30am, TBD
Monthly SENA meeting
Come learn about what is happening in Waterville's South End. Optional social hour and light breakfast starts at 8:30. Neighborhood business begins at 9:30.

May 14, 2016
9 am-3pm, Legion Hall
21 College Ave
PAT Project Vaccine Clinic
Bring your pets down for a FREE Vaccine Clinic.

May 15, 2016
9am-3pm, Humane Society
100 Webb Rd
PAT Project Mobile Spay/Neuter Services
Bring your pets down for a FREE spay and neuter services. For transportation and additional information contact the Community Spay/Neuter Clinic at 207-721-8395 or check the website or Facebook page

May 21, 2016
9-10:30am,
South End Teen Center,
7 Libby Ct
10th Annual Bike Swap
Need a bike or have one that doesn't work too well? Bikes are first come, first serve with priority given to neighborhood children, so get here early! Free helmets and bike safety course.