

Community News

A flat tire will no longer stop bikers in Gifford

Christina Tascon
YourNews contributor

VERO BEACH -- If you ride a bike in Gifford, there is now a spot to keep you moving even if your wheels fall off.

Bike Walk of Indian River County has installed a Bike Pad Repair Station in two locations in Gifford and the first of those was at the Gifford Youth Achievement Center. Students at the center will also be given safety classes during the summer and taught how to use the station when they need to repair their bicycles.

Three more stations will be installed around the county in the future. But in an economically challenged area, bicycles are vital and not just for recreation. A bike is the difference between being able to get to school or work on time; waiting for a ride on the bus, or paying precious dollars for an Uber.

During a BWIRC's safety and basic bike maintenance training at Crossover Missions, one of the young recipients asked where they could put air in their



Melanie Coppola, CEO of the Live Like Cole Foundation, GYAC executive director Angelia Perry, Malcolm Allen, owner of Orchid Island Bike & Kayaks, Indian River County commissioner Joe Flescher, GYAC director of public relations and facilities operations Freddie Woolfork and Hugh & Laura Aaron from Bike Walk of IRC. CHRISTINA TASCAN

tires near their neighborhood in Gifford. Although many people rely on bikes for transportation, there is no public place

to pump up tires or make minor bike repairs.

Out of that grew an idea of providing

bike maintenance stations in the Gifford community. This project was led by Bike Walk which provides bicycles to people in the community who need a bike but cannot afford one and funded by members of Vero Cycling, Live Like Cole Foundation and Orchid Island Bikes and Kayaks.

Stations offer a place to load and stabilize a bike so that riders can change a tire or work on other parts of the bicycle with attached wrenches and a device to pull the tire. A ribbon cutting at the Gifford Youth Achievement Center was attended by Melanie Coppola, CEO of the Live Like Cole Foundation, GYAC executive director Angelia Perry, Malcolm Allen, owner of Orchid Island Bike & Kayaks, Indian River County Commissioner Joe Flescher, GYAC director of public relations and facilities operations Freddie Woolfork, and Hugh & Laura Aaron and board members of Bike Walk of IRC.

"This is truly a valuable asset to everyone who uses a bicycle in this community," said Flescher.

DFL board member honored at cane ceremony

Michael Stewart
YourNews contributor

VERO BEACH -- Dogs For Life board member and Gold Star mother Michelle Dale was honored recently at the Navy UDT Seal Museum annual Purple Heart Cane Ceremony.

At the event, custom carved eagle head canes made by the Indian River Woodcarvers were presented to Purple Heart recipients from all branches of the military. Dale's son Dale Kridlo received his Purple Heart award posthumously for fatal injuries he suffered during combat operations in Afghanistan in 2010.

Dale said for her to be among so many brave men and women whose sacrifices to their country stretched back to World

War II was overwhelming, but as she remembered her son, she tried to be "strong, like he was strong."

Dogs For Life, a perennial sponsor of the annual event, was present for Michelle's award at the Navy UDT Seal Museum. From our booth, we provided information on our service dog program to the veterans' community. Present at the event were DFL founder Shelly Feger, board member Perry Martin with Sassy, along with service dog teams Judy Schmidt with Bentley and Michael and Gala Stewart with Good Girl.

If you want more information about Dogs For Life, would like to donate towards training a service dog for a disabled veteran call 772-567-8969.



Michelle Dale receives purple heart cane in honor of her son Dale Kridlo. MICHAEL STEWART




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