

[Home](#) / [News](#) / [Local](#)

Corvallis goes car free



Share Clark, 5, of Corvallis rides up and down First Street with a little help from Colin Cigarran of Corvallis on Sunday afternoon during the Car Free Festival downtown. (Jesse Skoubo | Corvallis Gazette-Times)

[Buy Now](#)

September 22, 2014 6:00 am • [By Anthony Rimel, Corvallis Gazette-Times](#)

[\(5\) Comments](#)

Ready? Set? Go slowly!

As the announcer began the race with the unusual addition, 12 bicyclists began to ride. A few small children missed the point of the race and peddled across as fast as they could, but most of the cyclists were peddling slowly, carefully balancing on their bikes.

More than 50 seconds later the last bike crossed the finish line, about 10 meters from the start, and won the race.

The race was one of many activities at the fifth annual Car Free Festival, which was promoting Car Free Day, which is today.

The event, organized by the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, had about 20 booths and vendors, including bicycling groups, health care advocates, clean energy supporters, and health care advocates.

Annette Mills, of the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, said the event had about 500 participants.

"We need to be using fewer fossil fuels," she said.

Mills said that people don't have to be car free everyday, but the coalition hopes that the day will convince people to find ways to get around without driving. She added that Corvallis has a strong bus system and a great infrastructure for biking.

"We have Car Free Day to get people to explore their options," she said.

Mills said that by having the festival on Sunday afternoons they are able to draw in young families, a major group they target.

"We had a lot of young families (today)," she said.

Scott Carroll, of Corvallis mountain bike advocacy group Team Dirt, ran bike skills obstacle course at the event for kids.

Carroll said participating in the event was a way to promote bicycling among youth, which he values as a way to address childhood obesity and lack of activity.

"We want to support the whole cycling scene," he said.

Carroll said that he often bikes to work, but occasionally struggles with riding because he has to get his kids to school, or when he is late.

However, he said that this year, he is making a renewed commitment to bike commuting so he is a better example for his kids.

The organizers of the event hope that people will find alternative transport today, and have eight sites around Corvallis where they are offering support to car-free commuters between 7 and 9 a.m. The "neighborhood check points" will have food drinks, prizes and bike safety checks.

The checkpoints are: First Alternative Co-op South, at 1007 S.E. Third St. at Chapman Place; the Skate Park at Second Street and "B" Avenue, under the highway bypass; Western View Center at 35th Street near Southwest Philomath Boulevard; First Alternative Co-op North, 2855 N.W. Grant Ave. at 29th Street; Corvallis High School, 1400 N.W. Buchanan Ave., on the 11th Street side; Northwest Hills Community Church, at 3300 N.W. Walnut Blvd.; Crossroads Christian Fellowship, at 2555 N.W. Highland Drive; and Cheldelin Middle School at 987 N.E. Conifer Blvd.

For more information, visit www.sustainablecorvallis.org or call 541-230-1237.

Anthony Rimel covers K-12 education. He can be reached at 541-758-9526 or anthony.rimel@lee.net.

Copyright 2014 Corvallis Gazette Times. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Tags [Willamette Valley](#), [Sustainable Transport](#), [Corvallis Oregon](#), [Car Free Day](#), [Annette Mills](#), [Cycling](#), [Corvallis Sustainability Coalition](#), [Team Dirt](#)

More Local Stories

[Registration underway for Grief Support Series](#)

[Police Log \(Sept. 26\)](#)

[Fire Calls \(Sept. 26, 2014\)](#)

[Brownsville stands firm on pot dispensary moratorium](#)

Recommendations

[Boy who fell to his death was trying to avoid bee](#)

(Corvallis Gazette-Times)

Sponsored Links

[State Police: Body found east of Corvallis, Oregon](#)

(Corvallis Gazette-Times)

[Brownsville stands firm on pot dispensary moratorium](#) (Corvallis Gazette-Times)
