

# Pumpkinvine

Volume 17 No. 3

December 2008



## Trail extension under construction

### 3.4 miles added to Pumpkinvine north of CR 28

By spring 2009, the finished portion of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail will expand to 5.14 miles with the addition of 3.4 miles between CR 28 and CR 33. A portion of those miles, the half mile between CR 28 and CR 127, is already finished. Most the trail between CR 26 and CR 33 was also paved this fall, but construction ended in mid-November before the section between CR 127 and CR 26 could be finished.

“Construction was delayed because of cold and wet weather,” said Larry Neff, superintendent of the Elkhart County Park Department. “We also had some unforeseen delays because one of the adjacent landowners asked us to move the trail west of Hoover Ditch. These land swaps needed park-board approval and take time. We liked the swap because it meant we had one less bridge to build, and we could use those funds for other trail amenities.”

Neff expects the construction to be finished in time for the 2009 Pumpkinvine bike ride, June 20.

Funding for CR 127 to CR 33 is from an Indiana Trails Grant, and funding for CR 28 to CR 127 is from a grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. Both are administered through the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

Bontrager Excavating was awarded the contract to build trail from CR 127 to CR 33 (Phase 5A). A table showing the various phases of the trail and the stages of construction is on page 4.



▲ Phase 5A2: Rolling asphalt south of CR 26.



◀ Phase 5A3 (CR 26 to CR 33): Workers put down 10 feet of asphalt on the west of CR 33.



◀ Phase 5A1 (CR 28 to CR 127): Looking north from CR 28. This section was finished in September 2008.

### Elkhart Truth reports on trail progress

For another perspective on recent trail work, see the article in the Nov. 24 *Elkhart Truth*.

"<http://www.etruth.com/Know/News/Story.aspx?ID=467971>"

The link is also on our website:

"<http://www.pumpkinvine.org>" [www.pumpkinvine.org](http://www.pumpkinvine.org).

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## From the president

### 3.4 miles and counting

What's the significance of the Elkhart County Park Department adding 3.4 miles to the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail north east of Goshen between CR 28 and CR 33 by spring 2009? Let me count the ways.

**1. Trail supporters in Goshen are getting a developed section of trail close to home.** Most of our members live in the Goshen area and thought that the next section of the trail to be finished would be the seven miles between Middlebury and Shippshewana. They thought that because that's what the Friends have been saying for the last three years. After all that section received federal enhancement funding in 2004 and 2005.

But amazing things happen with trail development when funding come through the Department of Natural Resources and not the Department of Transportation. From the time the park department received the funding until work began was around six months. It's true they didn't finish all 3.4 miles in November as they had hoped, but that wasn't the fault of the builders. Wet weather and a last minute land swap involving the park department delayed construction.

**2. Adding 3.4 miles to the 2 miles already completed north and south of SR 4 makes the trail a cycling destination.** Until now, I've always told people who ask me about riding on the Pumpkinvine that, yes a section is open, but it is only two miles long. I know that distance isn't going to interest most serious cyclists. Now the trail is a respectable 10-plus miles round trip. If you add a ride to the trail at the beginning and end, the distance is a real workout. For example, from my house on the south side of Goshen to CR 33, the round trip is 16 miles – a comfortable one-hour workout (on one of my good days!)

**3. The asphalt surface is great for roller bladders.** The asphalt is a nice change of pace for cyclists, too.

**4. This 10 miles of trail has the potential to add a trail-only family route to the annual Pumpkinvine bike ride.** The ride committee is considering how to incorporate that idea into the 2009 ride.

**5. The new miles provide a traffic-free transportation route into Goshen.** Cyclists who live north east of Goshen can use the trail to shop in town.

**6. These miles are tangible evidence that the dedication and hard work of the Friends' board and supporters has paid off.** For the past decade we've been promising our supporters a trail, and although grants were received to pay for it, no major portions were built. That's frustrating, to say the least for everyone.

**7. For the board members of Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc. seeing this section finished brings tremendous satisfaction.** I can't begin to tell you how many meetings, proposals and drawings, not to mention the legal sparring (over 15 years) went into making this section of the trail a reality.

You can ride or walk the half mile between CR 28 and CR 127 now. Come spring, when the section between CR 127 and CR 33 is finished, I hope you will ride all the new miles and enjoy a beautiful and varied section of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail.

– John D. Yoder



Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc. are cyclists, hikers, equestrians and naturalists who are working with area park departments to create a linear park and greenway on the former Pumpkinvine corridor between Goshen, Middlebury and Shippshewana, Indiana.

Learn more about the Pumpkinvine and Rails Trails issues, or see back issues of our newsletter at: [www.pumpkinvine.org](http://www.pumpkinvine.org)

# Volunteers needed for the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pumpkinvine Bike Ride

By Danny Graber, Bike Ride Chair

June 20, 2009 will mark the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the Pumpkinvine Bike Ride, and that milestone is a genuine cause for celebration. This ride gives cyclists of all ages an opportunity to explore the country side of Elkhart and Lagrange counties on routes of 15, 26, 44, 67 and 104 miles, with outstanding food stops (SAGS) about every 15 miles.

The ride benefits the Friends in several ways. It introduces visitors to our community, gives the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail great visibility, and raises money for the day-to-day operations of the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc.

The ride started in 2000 after the first 1.75 miles of the trail were finished. Since then we've told participants that their support would help extend the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail. Yet, each year we had the same 1.75 miles of trail to show for their support. It made us appear as we weren't being candid about their support leading to trail development.



Cathy Miller prepares sandwiches at the Middlebury SAG.

Now we have the evidence. The completion of another 3.4 miles of the trail between CR 28 and CR 33 next spring will give riders over 5 miles on the Pumpkinvine in route to Middlebury and demonstrate the fact that their support has made a difference.

But, why am I telling you about a bike ride that is six months away? Because as the ride has grown, so has our need for volunteers to park cars, register riders and serve food at the SAG stops. And the planning has to begin now.

That's where you come in. We need help with a few critical jobs for the 2009 ride. Here are six:

- **Food Purchaser and Coordinator:** This task is not as difficult as it may seem. The quantities and where to buy the food have already been established. The heaviest day of work is the day before the ride. You must be available all that day and part of the day of the ride.

- **Paper Goods Purchaser and Coordinator:** This job involves buying all the paper goods for SAG stops and distributing them the morning of the ride. We have already determined the quantities and where to purchase these supplies.



June Yoder helps park cars at Abshire Park.

- **Route Logistics Coordinator:** This person makes sure all route logistics are in place, including roadside signs, port-a-potties delivered and stationed properly, and that there is no new construction on roads the ride will use. It also involves helping paint the directional road arrows on the route.

- **County Line SAG (#4) Co-team Leaders:** Work one four-hour shift as SAG leader at an Amish farm.

- **Weather Monitor:** Monitoring weather from a reliable source, like on a computer, on the day of the ride and notifying stationary and roving SAG leaders by cell phone about inclement weather. This job can be done from home or at home base. If the sun shines, you can be a sleeping volunteer.

- **Traffic Guards:** Several are needed for busy intersections for four-hour shifts.



Carl Metzler and Ruthann Peachey help with registration.

And what is your reward? The tangible ones are a free T-shirt, plus all the food served at the SAGs and at home base. The intangible ones are seeing the happy faces of hundreds of riders who enjoy this unique cycling experience that furthers the development of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail. Being a volunteer is a rewarding in both ways.

For more details, e-mail me at [dannysg@verizon.net](mailto:dannysg@verizon.net) or call at (574) 266-4265 (home) or at (574) 370-6192 (cell).

## The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Pumpkinvine meeting and dinner

The 8<sup>th</sup> annual meeting and dinner of the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail will be Tuesday, April 28, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. at the Greencroft Senior Center, Goshen. Our speaker for this year will be Bob Bronson, Section Chief Grants Planning, Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Join us to share a delicious meal and to hear an update on the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail project.

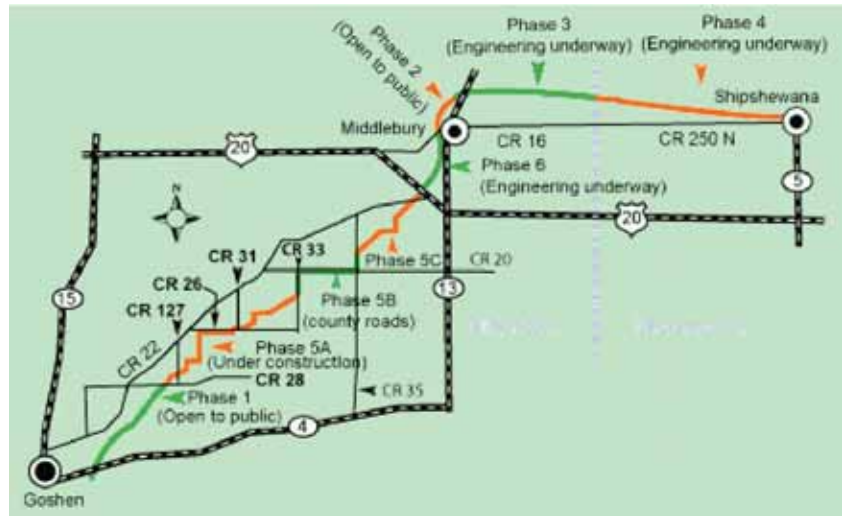
Put this date on your calendar  
**The 10<sup>th</sup> annual  
Pumpkinvine Bike Ride  
June 20, 2009**

(The third Saturday in June)

**New! A new 3.4 miles of the  
Pumpkinvine Nature Trail.**

# Trail work continues

This map and table shows the various phases of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail. The different sections of 5A are not labeled on the map. See the table below for those details.



**Pumpkinvine phases in geographical order from south to north: Goshen to Middlebury to Shipshewana.**

Phases	Location	Miles	Managing Agency	Status
1	State Road 4 to CR 28**	1.75	Goshen Park Dept.	Opened in 1999
5A1	CR 28 to CR 127	.54	Elkhart County Parks	Completed in 2008
5A2	CR 127 to CR 26 & 31	1.61	Elkhart County Parks	To be completed in 2009
5A3	CR 26 & 31 to CR 33	1.24	Elkhart County Parks	To be completed in 2009
5B	CR 33 to CR 35	1.7	(County roads)	No current plans
5C	CR 35 to CR 22	1.6	Elkhart County Parks*	Funding still needed
6	CR 22 to Wayne St.	1.2	Town of Middlebury*	Projected completion in 2011
2	Wayne St. to York Dr., Middlebury	.64	Town of Middlebury	Opened in 2005
3	York Dr. to Elkhart Co. - LaGrange Co. line	2.4	Elkhart County Parks*	Funded; projected completion in 2009 or 2010
4	Elkhart Co. - LaGrange Co. line to CR 850 West***	4.7	Town of Shipshewana*	Funded; projected completion in 2009 or 2010
	<b>Total Miles</b>	<b>17.38</b>	<b>17.4</b>	

\* These sections are still owned by the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc.

\*\* The Goshen Park Dept. purchased an additional .75 miles of the Pumpkinvine south of SR 4 directly from Penn Central (SR 4 to Rock Run Creek) and others (Rock Run Creek to N. 5th St.).

\*\*\* At the present time, the Town of Shipshewana is working on several options to bring the trail from CR 850W to downtown Shipshewana.

# Volunteers help with trail maintenance and fencing

By Bob Carrico

The Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc. share the costs of purchasing and installing new fences along the Pumpkinvine corridor with neighbors, as required by Indiana fence law. In 2008 Friends collaborated with neighbors to build about 5,000 feet of fence. Many of these installations require preparation work that is also shared with the neighbors.

On September 20, seven volunteers worked along side a neighbor, Cal Lehman and his brother, to clear trees, brush and old fence from over 600 feet of fence row just east of the Elkhart-LaGrange County line. The work was completed by noon, and Earl Yoder installed the new fence a few weeks later.

Another project between CR 33 and CR 26 is along the Phase 5A trail presently under construction. The 1,873-foot fence row was cleared over a period of 18 months, and then an excavator was hired to remove stumps and fill low spots. The new fence separates the new trail from the neighbor's pond and also will confine his horses and cattle on his property.

The Friends' board wants to thank the following volunteers for their help with trail maintenance this year:

Elvie Bontrager      Danny Graber      Byron Yoder  
Dean Linsenmeyer      Buddy Dyck      Gary Chapman.

Last spring when Elkhart County Parks learned that they had received a grant to build 3.4 miles of trail from CR 28 to CR 127, the Friends took control of about two miles of corridor in that section that we had permitted adjacent farmers to cultivate until construction was imminent. This action added about six acres to the area we needed to mow during the summer. Thanks to the following volunteers who donated their time and equipment to mow the Pumpkinvine corridor in Elkhart and LaGrange Counties:

Beth Snider      Dale Eash      Mike Baxle  
Quinn Holdeman, Jr.,      Clarence Yoder      Rick Miller.

## Corporate sponsors now signing up for 2009

Corporate sponsors for the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc. received recognition through a display of their company name or logo on a variety of Friends' literature and presentations, depending upon the level of contribution.

Examples include the Friends' web site, [www.pumpkinvine.org](http://www.pumpkinvine.org); this newsletter; presentations to community service clubs; the Pumpkinvine bike ride

brochure; signs at bike ride SAG stops; and signs and banner at the annual meeting. We are grateful for the support in 2008 of the 15 organizations listed below.

Details on the levels of support can be found at [www.pumpkinvine.org](http://www.pumpkinvine.org) or by contacting Jim Smith at [kneesrus@comcast.net](mailto:kneesrus@comcast.net) or 574-536-7033. We look forward to hearing from you.

### Platinum Sponsor



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You may become a supporting member of the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail or renew your membership by completing the form below. Your tax-deductible donation will be used to complete the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail and goes toward paying the day-to-day expenses of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, Inc. No board members receive remuneration.

By showing your Friends' membership card, you are eligible for discounts on specified purchases at the following area bicycle shops: All about cycling + fitness, Elkhart; Family Bicycle, Elkhart; Lincoln Avenue Cycling and Fitness, Goshen; House of Bicycles, Osceola; and Union Cycle Works, Shipshewana.

## Has your membership expired?

If the date on the label of this newsletter has passed, it's time to renew your membership in the **Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail**. Membership levels are:

- Individual \$30     Family \$40     Sustaining \$60     Contributing \$100     Patron \$250  
 Benefactor \$500     Benefactor Bronze \$1,000     Benefactor Bronze \$2,500     Benefactor Gold \$5,000     Benefactor Platinum > \$5,000

Send your membership payment to:

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