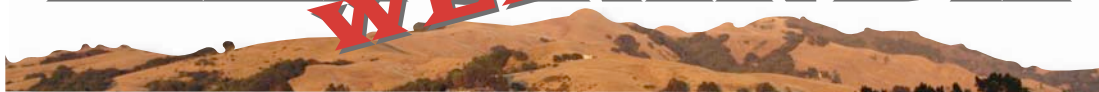


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Biking the Talk

By Sophie Braccini

They had to rent a bike from the police department because they do not own one (yet), but they were ready on April 23rd at 7:30AM by Si Si Café in Moraga to start their day with a bike ride to St Mary's College. Moraga Mayor Lynda Deschambault and Town Manager Phil Vince had promised St Mary's Director of Scheduling and Promotion Bill Sullivan they would come to support Saint Mary's Bike-to-School Day, and they 'biked their talk.'

"This is our third year organizing this event," says Sullivan, "it is part of our campus-wide sustainability effort, like the 'flip the

switch' campaign to reduce our energy usage." Sullivan, a self-described bike-nut, pedals from his Concord residence two or three times a week. This year, despite a grim weather forecast, the event enticed more than fifty cyclists to use their legs to come to school.

"I loved the personal contact with the people I passed," commented the Mayor over the breakfast offered by the College, "you see things in a different and fresh way and it brought back memories of my high school days when I was biking to school." She noticed first hand that many bike trails in town compete for space with parked cars

and that some things could be improved. Vince had a great time, too, "You're not separated from people like in cars, passers-by do say 'hi.'" He promises to do it again and keep his New Year's commitment of getting on his bike more often.

He will have other opportunities to bike, like "Bike to Work Day" on Friday May 16th. "Our event was inspired by the annual "Bike-to-Work Day" that's happening all over America," says Sullivan, "next year we will reach out to the community and help local school districts promote 'self-propelled' days."



Moraga Mayor Deschambault and Town Manager Vince get ready for their bike ride

Photo Sophie Braccini