

## Bike in York Week rides again

By BILL LANDAUER Daily Record/Sunday News York Daily Record/Sunday News

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Growing up in Dallastown, Mike Stephenson found that bicycle riding was rarely conversation fodder for grown-ups -- unless it was his parents worrying over him pedaling his own bike next to passing cars.

Now, things are different, he said. The 32-year-old says he's still pedaling next to cars, but at least access to safe biking is something local adults are discussing.

Cyclists in York "have had a good couple years," Stephenson said.

The city installed bike lanes on both East and West King Street, from Broad Street to Belvidere Avenue. And it's ramping up for its second Bike in York Week May 14 through 19.

Stephenson has been popping as many wheelies as other local bikers over the city's newfound friendliness to cyclists. It's even better for Stephenson, in fact, since the pandering has meant more business at his job at Adventure Cycling and Fitness.

More people in West York are buying and fixing up bikes and riding to work in the city, he said Friday at the shop in West Manchester Township.

Shortly after the doors opened at 10 a.m., Stephenson worked on a tire while customers wandered among the skinny-tire roadsters, the thick-tire mountaineers and even a unicycle or two. Stephenson said they've sold four or five of these single-tire bikes in the past year.

The most common new bike purchases at Stephenson's shop are hybrids -- bikes capable of handling both on- and off-road cycling.

Programs like Bike in York Week helps bring in customers, he said.

Rain dampened last year's inaugural Bike in York Week, when the paint was still fresh on the King Street bike lanes. The week of bike-related events is sponsored by Eat, Play, Breathe York and is in conjunction with National Bike Month and the League of American Bicyclists' Bike to Work Week.

This year, rather than closing off one lane of Philadelphia Street to traffic as they did in 2011, York plans to mark a lane for mixed use, said Cori Strathmeyer, a director at the YMCA of York County. Drivers will share a lane with bicycle riders.

According to state law, Strathmeyer said, Market and Philadelphia streets are supposed to be designated as bicycle routes. City officials selected King Street as a better spot for bicycle lanes, though, because it's not as heavily used as Market Street, she said.

Denise Lessner of Fawn Grove rides her bike on the Heritage Rail Trail County Park and other off-road locations in southern York County.

"I wish there were more (biking events) in the city," she said, wheeling her own recently-adjusted mountain bike out of Adventure Cycling and Fitness.

She hadn't heard of Bike in York Week, but said she planned to check it out.

York physical therapist Francie Delaney, one of Bike in York Week's organizers, said she recently gave up owning a car in favor of her two hybrid bikes. She has attachments like trailers she uses for hauling some smaller items.

She uses a friend's car for hauling big items, she said.

The added bike lanes are nice, but it still doesn't spell biking utopia to Stephenson. Many local roads don't have adequate shoulder space. And some that do have the added problem of rumble strips.

Still, York seems to be moving in the right direction, Stephenson said.

"It wasn't even a discussion when I was growing up," he said.

**What:** Bike in York Week. During this time, the community is encouraged to participate in a variety of activities that involve commuting by bicycling throughout the city on temporary and permanent bike routes. Participants who log their miles will have the opportunity to win prizes.

**When:** May 14 through 19

**Events:** "Ride Over Lunch Bike Ride" noon to 1 p.m. May 15. Riders will gather at the Lafayette Plaza Parking Lot near 31 N. Pershing St.

Celebration event at Sovereign Bank Stadium 10 a.m. to noon May 19. The festivities will include a group bike ride through the City of York at 11 a.m. and participation from bike-related vendors.

**Motorists:** No lanes or roads will be closed.