

## **Oshkosh's Second Annual Walk or Bike to Work on Fridays Month**

It's May, which can mean only one thing – it's time for me to announce once again, with all the power invested in me as Community Columnist, Oshkosh's Second Annual Walk or Bike to Work on Fridays Month.

I'm announcing it again because last year's was such a resounding success. There were, believe it or not, literally *handfuls* of people responding to my call, using their actual flesh and blood limbs to power their way to work and back! You may in fact know some of them. They were the ones you didn't see standing there waiting for the elevator, panting heavily after the arduous trek from the parking lot.

We've already gotten a number of local "celebrities" committed to the campaign. Stew "Got the Bike Out Twice Last Year" Rieckman has already signed a pledge promising to increase his participation a whopping 50%!!! Alex "Lives As Close to His Job As I Do" Hummel is aiming for an infinite percentage participation increase. Mark "Mr. Executive" Harris has arranged for his parking spot to be relocated exactly 6 spaces farther away from his office door, for an invigorating twice a day stroll. And fellow columnist David "W. F. Buckley Wannabe" Hayford will be using a ladder to get into his Humvee instead of using his usual electronic lift.

Plus, the entire Oshkosh Common Council has joined the effort. All seven of them have pledged to bicycle to their May 27<sup>th</sup> meeting, even though that particular Friday in May falls on a Tuesday this year. You can expect to see all of them at the council meeting, still clad in their form fitting spandex biking jerseys and shorts. What a beautiful sight that will be!

And I understand some anonymous donor is providing a set of skinny tired bicycles with unpadded seats for the entire City Street Engineering staff, to give them an opportunity to bike to work and back. It's wonderful how those guys will get a chance to experience our local pavement like they never have before. Plus an opportunity to traverse on bicycle our various bridges and the many challenging intersections they've designed for us. Gee, it should be fun.

And if you think last year's prizes were something, this year's list will knock your socks off. A highly unreliable source claims that Target will be giving away its entire stock of 30" to 34" belts to this year's walking participants. There are reports that Mercy and Aurora will be taking turns providing free colonoscopies to a few lucky walkers and bikers each week. And an unconfirmed rumor suggests that Norm Mueller, despite all my arguments that it defeats the purpose of the campaign, is planning to give a free used car to one of the participants.

Because of all the complaints from last year, we've streamlined the registration system that qualifies you for all those prizes this year. All you have to do is to write your name, address, and phone number on a 3 by 5 card. Carry it in your pocket on your trek to or from the office. If during the trip, as you stumble along under the hot sun, half delirious from the exertion, you happen to see a blonde in a bikini wearing a pink carnation, give her the card. It's that easy!

So once again, pull out those old Nikes from the hall closet, or dust off the old Schwinn. Get ready to get some fresh air, and some healthy exercise, while winning fabulous prizes. And if you don't win anything, remember, next May is only 12 months away!