



# Trail Talk

A publication of Aboite New Trails

Improving lives for citizens of Southwest Allen County and surrounding communities.

## Upcoming Events

Sunday, Oct. 14, 1-4 p.m.

**Get Caught on the Aboite Trails!**

Get caught walking, riding or rolling on the current 8 miles of Aboite Trails any time between 1 and 4 p.m., and catch free prizes while supplies last. Check out our Web site ([www.aboitenewtrails.org](http://www.aboitenewtrails.org)) for specific Aboite Trails locations, or contact Jean Kaste at 969-0079 to volunteer for this event.

Saturday, Oct. 20, 7-11 p.m

**Ballroom Dance Party at the Fort Wayne Dance Collective**

Proceeds will benefit Aboite New Trails, the Fort Wayne Dance Collective and Young Leaders of Northeast Indiana. No dance experience necessary! For further details, visit [www.aboitenewtrails.org](http://www.aboitenewtrails.org)

## Construction Update

Check out the chart below for the remaining 2007 ANT construction projects. And visit our Web site ([www.aboitenewtrails.org](http://www.aboitenewtrails.org)) for future projects.

Trail	Length & Connectivity	Sponsor	Approx. Cost	Proj. Completion
Liberty Mills	(1 mi.) Amber Rd Trail (by Co. Hwy.) to Homestead Rd Trail	City of FW and Aboite Trails donors	\$240,000	October 2007
Homestead	(0.7 mi.) Summit M.S. to Liberty Mills Rd Trail	City of FW and Aboite Trails donors	\$260,000	June 2008
Homestead/Aboite Center Int'section	(0.2 mi) Trail realignment, new rest area and pedestrian x-ing	Aboite Trails donors	\$23,000	June 2008

## Best Wishes to Sharon Repka

Aboite New Trails extends its gratitude to Sharon Repka for her years of service. Sharon joined ANT founders Stephanie Schultz and Lynn Reecer in 2001 to help build the Aboite Trails system after her husband was tragically killed while riding his bike on a county road. The Ronald Repka Foundation, which Sharon founded in his memory, contributed one of the first donations to Aboite New Trails, allowing for the completion of a feasibility study that became the backbone of the Aboite Trails Plan. As vice president of the ANT board, Sharon led efforts in fundraising, government relations and community outreach to support ANT's mission. Sharon now focuses her efforts on the Share the Road campaign, which she initiated in 2001. Thank you, Sharon, for your dedication to ANT!

## Trail Ends Here Without Your Help!

*Bill Zielke, Vice President, Aboite New Trails*

We at Aboite New Trails hope you're enjoying the more than 8 miles of Aboite Trails along Scott, Eggeman, Aboite Center, Liberty Mills and Homestead Roads. Nearly 20 more are in the plan, design or construction stages. That's remarkable progress considering our grassroots beginnings. It shows that the right passion, vision and determination can make things happen. And it's due to the support and commitment from our community. However, without continued and ongoing support, the trails end here.

Many of you have received the door-hangers our volunteers have distributed throughout the Aboite neighborhoods claiming "The Trail Ends Here". Or perhaps you've seen the signs scattered throughout the township stating a similar claim. It's not a scare tactic. It's reality. We are a unique grassroots organization installing a \$13-million bike and pedestrian trail system that will leave a permanent legacy for the region. Along with healthier community members, a thriving economy, a pleasant and preserved environment, and a more vibrant city, our community (read: YOU and your family!) will forever benefit from having the Aboite Trails system. Already, our trails experience heavy use by happy neighbors and visitors. Let's not take this newfound quality of life for granted. Please ensure the trails continue. Become a donor today or renew your pledge for Phase II of our system. Without your help, the trails end here.

## Did You Know...?

Approximately 25 percent of all cars on the road during morning rush hour are providing transport to school. The Aboite Trails represent a major opportunity to reduce traffic congestion, thereby improving air quality and community health. This fall, local students and sports teams are already using the Aboite Trails for alternate transportation. Pictured right, two Homestead lacrosse players take the Vann Family Trail to practice.



## Call for Volunteers

Enjoying the trails? Help them continue by donating your time or resources to Aboite New Trails!