

Walkers, bikers focus of event

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NEWBURGH — The Orange County Citizens Foundation's third annual placemaking conference will examine how expanding opportunities for pedestrians and bicycles can turn a good community into a great one.

Speakers and panels at the conference, set for March 11 at Mount Saint Mary College, will present a complete analysis of the concept known as nonmotorized transportation, including economic impact, technical challenges, funding sources and health benefits.

"We want to encourage more communities to factor walkability into their planning," said Nancy Proyect, president of the foundation. "There's a real — and growing — constituency for it in Orange County, among the young and old, runners and walkers, bicycle riders and horse riders."

Bruce Fisher, director of the Center for Economics and Policy Studies at SUNY Buffalo, and Rob Lane, director of design at the Regional Plan Association, will be the keynote speakers.

Other participants will include representatives of the NY-NJ Trails Conference, Parks & Trails NY, Orange County Runners Club and the Street Plans Collaborative.

Representatives from the City of Kingston will discuss the city's complete streets program and from the Town of Lloyd, the Walkway Over the Hudson.

Reservations for the conference, which runs from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and includes lunch, should be directed to the foundation at 469-9459 or www.occitizensfoundation.org. The cost is \$60 for foundation members and municipal officials and \$70 for nonmembers.

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