

2009 REPORT



*Imagine* **Grinnell**

A QUALITY OF LIFE FOUNDATION

## Executive Director Message

# Who We Are

*First of all, I want to thank you for your support of Imagine Grinnell in 2009!*

Imagine Grinnell is fortunate to have members and community partners who believe in our mission to improve the quality of life for our people, promote a healthy environment, and complement economic development efforts. This year, 2010, we are celebrating our 25th anniversary.

Yet we find that even today some people in our community are not familiar with Imagine Grinnell, and they do not know that we have been around for 25 years. You can help us get the word out about Imagine Grinnell. I ask that you share our message with a friend, family member, or colleague this year – and let them know we are much more than those bike trail folks!

Whether it is cleaning parks, local foods, or hosting energy-related workshops, Imagine Grinnell is an organization committed to a variety of community enhancement projects (including bike trails) that improve the quality of life for our community. With your support in 2009, Imagine Grinnell:

- Cleaned several parks and the bike trail.
- Weeded the rain garden at Arbor Lake.
- Organized events such as 2nd Saturdays, Bike Clinics, and Grinnell Bike Week.
- Continued the Grinnell Energy Lending Library.
- Worked with our community partners for the International Walk to School event.
- Provided a scholarship to a deserving high school student.
- Supported other initiatives highlighted throughout this report.

In addition, Imagine Grinnell made several organizational changes this year. We moved our offices to the Ahrens Foundation building in an effort to further collaborate and share resources with Greater Poweshiek Community Foundation. The board of directors also made the decision to establish an endowment to ensure the sustainability of the organization for another 25+ years.

Together, we have accomplished many wonderful things this year. I am incredibly thankful for the support of our members, community partners, and the Imagine Grinnell Board of Directors. It is my pleasure to work with so many talented people in our community.

I hope you enjoy the 2009 report. Share the message of Imagine Grinnell with our community. Together we celebrate Imagine Grinnell's 25th anniversary!



Executive Director Melissa Strovers

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa Strovers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Melissa Strovers

## Board of Directors

Denise Lamphier

*President*

Monique McLay Shore

*Vice President*

David Ness

*Treasurer*

Amy Kalkbrenner

*Secretary*

Chris Bair

Rob Clower

Craig Cooper

Brent Jaeger

Lonn Lease

Tom Marshall (*founding member*)

Bill Maschmeier

Matha Pinder

Jim Powers

Elizabeth Queathem

Howard Raffety

M.J. Zimmerman

### **Executive Director**

Melissa Strovers

*Imagine Grinnell is a membership-driven organization.*

*Join or renew online at [www.imaginegrinnell.org](http://www.imaginegrinnell.org)*

*The gifts listed on these pages reflect contributions made to the Imagine Grinnell annual fund drive: November 1, 2008 – October 31, 2009.*

## 2009 *Imagine Grinnell* Membership Campaign

### Corporate Donors

#### **Elite Corporate Members**

*(gifts of \$1,000 or more)*

Brownell Family Foundation

Grinnell College

Grinnell Regional Medical Center

City of Grinnell

#### **Prestige Corporate Members**

*(gifts of \$500 - \$999)*

Grinnell State Bank

#### **Crown Corporate Members**

*(gifts up to \$499)*

Ahrens Park Foundation

American Family Insurance

Bikes to You

Carriage House B & B

Carroll's Pumpkin Farm

Cirks Financial Services

Claude W. & Dolly Ahrens

Foundation

Community First Credit Union

Dental Associates

Donaldson Company, Inc

Edward Jones Investments

Family Dentistry

Family Medicine

The Grinnell Area Chamber of Commerce

Grinnell Implement Store, Inc

Grinnell Realty

Hy-Vee

Iowa Telecom

Loucks/Buren Orthodontics

Malcom Lumber

Manatts, Inc

Mayflower Homes, Inc

Medicap Pharmacy

Monsanto

Poweshiek Agency

Poweshiek Mutual Insurance

Ramsey-Weeks

Schild Law Office

RJ Properties, LLC

Smith Funeral Home

Total Choice Shipping

Vander Linden Construction

Wal-Mart

Wes Finch Auto Plaza

### Lifetime Members

Miriam Baumann

Dr. Peter Boeke

Dr. Warren and Carolyn Bower

Fred and Susan Capers

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Burtwin Day

and Jewel Kintzinger Day

John and Catherine DeMeulenaere

John and Alice DeRooi

David and Ann Ferguson

Larry and Donna German

Troy and Julie Gosselink

Tom and Alesia Lacina

Bill Lannom

Sharp and Linda Lannom

Dr. H.R. and Rhea Light

Dr. Carney and Laura Loucks

Thomas Marshall

Forrest and Joan Mitchell

Frances Peak

Ned and Reba Postels

Jim Powers and Dave Thompson

Elizabeth Queathem

and Vincent Eckhart

Alice Renaud

Ken and Miriam Saunders

Dion Schrack

David and Carol Smith

Don Starnes

Russell and Dorothy Stoker

John Stone

Vernon and Loretta Van Wyk

## 2009 *Imagine* Grinnell Membership Campaign

### Individual, Family, and Patron Members

Jonathan Andelson and  
Karin Stein  
Todd Armstrong  
Linda Aron and  
Michael Watson  
Chris Bair and Meg Jones Bair  
Glen Baker  
Michael and Barb Baker  
Dr. Robert and  
Miriam Baumann  
Dr. Scott and  
Delphina Baumann  
Russell Behrens and  
Nicole Brua-Behrens  
Charles and Esther Bethel  
Rachel Bly and Bob Hamilton  
Clem and Leona Bodensteiner  
Jonathan Brand and  
Rachelle LaBarge  
Barbara M. Brown and  
David Lopatto  
Greg and Bonnie Buntz  
Donald and Terry Burkhead  
Raymond and Judy Bush  
Robert and Nancy Cadmus  
Doug and Virginia Cameron  
David Campbell and  
Karen Lowell  
Doug and Lorna Caulkins  
Marc and Marion Chamberland  
Gloria Clay  
Richard Cleaver  
Robert and Nancy Clower  
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William Crosby  
Dr. David and  
Francesca Cunningham  
Brandon and Jennifer Davis  
Ron and Cindy Deppe  
Elizabeth Dobbs  
Houston and  
Kimberly Dougharty  
George and Sue Drake  
Charles and Mari Duke  
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Robert and Sandra Falck  
Jeff and Gina Finch  
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Stanley and Gail Greenwald  
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Otto and (Josephine) Effie Hall  
Montie and Betty Hammond  
Elizabeth Hansen  
Roger Hill and Vida Praitis  
Chad and Melissa Hull  
Chris and Judy Hunter  
Brent, Dawn and Kyle Jaeger  
Clark and Annie Jensen  
James Jolly and  
Leslie Gregg -Jolly  
F. Austin and Kim Jones  
Malissa and Chris Juni  
John and Amy Kalkbrenner  
Rita Cecilia Knight and  
Gary Mertens  
Susan Kriegel  
Jerry and Dorrie Lalonde  
Denise Lamphier and  
Charlie Clements  
Steve and Karen Langerud  
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Leo and Barbara Lease  
Russelle Jones Leggett  
Dr. H.R. and Rhea Light  
Todd Linden  
James and Betty Ludden  
Kent and Katherine McClelland  
Johanna Meehan and  
Maura Strassberg  
Dr. Matt and Amy Miller  
Phillipe Moisan and  
Claire Hassett-Moisan  
Carol Molison  
Mark Montgomery  
Erik and Larissa Mottl  
Michael Munley and  
Nancy Owens-Munley  
David and Kris Ness  
Eleanor Osland  
Bryan and Theresa Pagliai  
Roger and Dorothy Peterson  
John and Emily Pfitsch  
Edward and Karen Phillips  
Dorothy Pinder  
Martha Pinder  
Elizabeth Queathem  
Howard and  
Ann (Suzy) Raffety  
Jim and Wendy Ramsey  
Sue Ramsey  
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Montie and Suzanne Redenius  
Jack and Diane Robertson  
John and Madge Ruchotzke  
Robert Samson  
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Greg and Sherry Wallace  
Bill Weeks Family  
Joann Wells  
Robert and Kim Wemer  
Diane L. Wilson  
Lesley Wright and Don Doe  
M.J. Zimmerman

## Imagine Grinnell Finds New Home at Ahrens Foundation

In May 2009, Imagine Grinnell moved its offices to the Claude W. and Dolly Ahrens Foundation at 1510 Penrose St. on the eastern edge of Grinnell. The move allows for greater efficiency in the continued collaborative work of Imagine Grinnell and the Greater Poweshiek Community Foundation.

The story began in the fall of 2007, when Imagine Grinnell and GPCF developed a partnership born out of their shared missions to improve quality of life in the community. Founded in 1989, GPCF's primary goal is to assist donors in efficiently and effectively supporting nonprofit organizations that make life better for people in Poweshiek County. Through its relationship with the Ahrens Foundation, GPCF has provided Imagine Grinnell with administrative and asset management services since January 2008.

It was a natural next step to relocate the Imagine Grinnell offices to the Ahrens Foundation. The Imagine Grinnell board believes the move will allow for greater collaboration between the organizations and help stimulate Imagine Grinnell's continued growth and visibility in Grinnell.

"We have already benefited from the expertise the Ahrens Foundation team brings to the table. We also have appreciated this new 'living arrangement,'" says Imagine Grinnell's current president, Denise Lamphier. "The entire board is excited because this move is helping Imagine Grinnell achieve greater efficiencies in serving the Grinnell community. That means our board and executive director can focus on the good work that needs to be done to keep Grinnell one of the coolest communities on the planet."



## Parks Spruced Up for Spring

On the first weekend in May, community members gathered to clean up Central and Jaycee Parks to welcome the 2009 spring season to Grinnell. This year, Imagine Grinnell and Sarah DeLong from the Grinnell Garden Club collaborated to ready the parks for the coming biking/walking/running season.

After a successful collaboration this year, Imagine Grinnell and the Grinnell Garden Club plan to partner up for future parks clean-ups to promote community building.



## Imagine Grinnell's Volunteer Energy Manager

Roger Hill is helping Imagine Grinnell achieve its energy goals.

Hill is no outsider to energy management. He has been a steady hand in the energy industry for just shy of two decades. From his home office in Grinnell, Hill currently works as senior consultant for Navigant Consulting (formerly known as Summit Blue Consulting), which provides professional consulting services to the utility and energy industry.

Hill's areas of expertise include building retro-commissioning, energy audits, energy use analysis, building energy simulations, utility program impact analysis, and more. His recent professional projects include work for the University of Iowa and the University of Northern Iowa, where he helped find energy savings at three buildings that paid for the cost of the studies and implementation in less than one year.

Hill has earned credentials as a certified energy manager. He has a master's degree in Building Technology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a B.S. in engineering and a B.A. in political science from Swarthmore College.

*So, imagine Imagine Grinnell's delight when Hill agreed to serve on our energy committee AND offer a free review audit to qualified organizations that make the decision to join Imagine Grinnell during its 2010 membership campaign.*

Below, Hill gives us an overview of why he thinks Imagine Grinnell is important—and explains why he volunteers for this quality of life organization.

### How did you first get involved with Imagine Grinnell?

I became aware of Imagine Grinnell (Grinnell 2000) after we moved here in 2001 and we saw all of the good work it was doing. We have been particularly interested in the bike trail and the E-Community partnership with Alliant Energy.

### How long have you been a member of Imagine Grinnell?

For the last 6 years.



### You are offering energy consulting sessions to businesses that join Imagine Grinnell. Why are services like this so valuable? And how does it fit with the Imagine Grinnell mission in your opinion?

I hope that business that participate with this offer will learn how they use energy and subsequently use it more wisely to save energy to increase the profitability of their business. The business adage is that a dollar saved flows directly to the bottom line and is equivalent to \$5-\$20 of sales in terms of profits. I am pleased to help my local businesses because I see how much they do for the community. Every fundraiser and community event has huge commitments from our local business leaders, and this is a way that I can share my expertise with them. It is widely known among the energy services professionals that the small business market is the hardest to reach, due to lack of time and resources. I hope to be able to cut through some of the hype and clutter to help our businesses make simple and cost-effective choices to improve their profits and strengthen their position to continue serving our community. Imagine Grinnell is a community organization and the businesses that make life in Grinnell so appealing are an important part of our community

*Continued.*

**What has surprised you most about working with Imagine Grinnell?**

The commitment of those involved. They get things done. I love the bike trails and Second Saturday events. I think their work for the skate park has been great as well.

**How do you think Imagine Grinnell makes a difference in the Grinnell community?**

IG provides the forum for people to get out and be active and enjoy our community.

**What do you wish other people knew about Imagine Grinnell?**

I wish there was more publicity available about the energy kits at the library and the resources there for people to conserve energy on their own. IG worked a long time with Alliant Energy, and those kits are one of many products from that partnership that will continue to pay off down the road.

**What might someone be surprised to know about you?**

I am sure that many do not know what I do professionally. I don't have much of a presence around town on my own in that respect. I have been an energy engineer working in the conservation field for more than 19 years.

**What would you tell someone who is thinking about getting involved with Imagine Grinnell**

If there is a project that you think would make Grinnell a better place to live by bringing the community together, these are great people to work with.

**What do you do when you aren't volunteering? Who are your family? How long have you lived in Grinnell?**

We have lived in Grinnell for eight years now. My wife Vida is a biology professor at the college, and my sons Kendall, 8, and Ezra, 4, can be seen biking with us all over town. I have been on the board at the Grinnell Community Day Care and Preschool for more than five years, and I lead a den of Cub Scouts. I love to eat different foods and experience different cultures. I am thrilled by the restaurant additions in town in the past several years.



## Making Imagine Grinnell History

The files, their pages slowly surrendering to age, overflowed in the Imagine Grinnell offices for years. Almost 25 years of history—uncategorized, unorganized, and untouched—were shelved wherever space was available by Imagine Grinnell directors over the years. The formula seemed simple enough: information exists; therefore, it must be put somewhere, anywhere.

As the Imagine Grinnell board began to prepare for the organization’s silver anniversary in 2010, it became apparent that something needed to happen with its history and artifacts to ensure they would be around

for future generations. An institution evolves because people ask the question: “How did we become who we are today?” If we didn’t bring order to the past, Imagine Grinnell might lose the answers to that question.

That’s how Imagine Grinnell found the keeper of all Grinnell history, Dorrie Lalonde. She is the volunteer archivist at Grinnell’s library, formerly Stewart Library and now the Drake Community Library. Imagine Grinnell (once known as Grinnell 2000) turned its history collection over to Lalonde’s care so that it could become a part of the library’s permanent collection.

**While Dorrie spends much of her time immersed in the past, she most definitely thinks about the future. She wrote the following essay to share her thoughts about being Imagine Grinnell’s new archivist.**

“My husband and I have been supporters of Grinnell 2000/Imagine Grinnell since its inception in 1985, although we have not been actively involved. Following my resignation from my position in the Poweshiek County Auditor’s office in 1997, Lorna Caulkins asked me if I would be interested in volunteering my time in the archives at Stewart Library, sorting and arranging the materials that had accumulated over time. (My background is in Classics, and I operate on the assumption that there is very little a Classics major cannot accomplish.) What I thought would be a matter of a couple of years’ involvement has developed into more than a decade of enjoyment and gratification, primarily because organizations, families, and individuals have not only added to the collection over time but have made use of it as well. With the opening of the new Drake Community Library, there is even more space for records documenting the town’s history.

“A year ago, Monique Shore asked whether the archives could accommodate the vast quantity of material that had accumulated in the Imagine Grinnell office. This past year has been devoted to organizing, preserving, and documenting the contents of the various

tubs and boxes that arrived. All paper materials have been transferred to acid- free containers, all newspaper articles Xeroxed, with the originals sequestered in separate envelopes to prevent acid damage to other materials, and all metal objects removed. (Early on, I came to the conclusion that many of those associated with Imagine Grinnell were compulsive staplers.)

The final result is most impressive! The components of the collection occupy 15 boxes and cartons at the present time, and the section devoted to projects undertaken by Grinnell 2000 alone occupies 41 folders and boxes. While not all projects were immediately successful, to this organization we owe such programs as Grocery Store Waste Reduction, Highway 146 Beautification, the Positive Energy Project, the Poweshiek Leadership Program, the Central Park Playground, Trees Forever, and many more.

The collection gives credence to the idea that Grinnell 2000/Imagine Grinnell has had a beneficial and lasting impact on our community. I am proud to offer my congratulations for a job well done in the upcoming 25th anniversary year.

## Imagine Grinnell Donates 10K to Drake Library in Honor of Archivist

Late in 2008 the executive committee began thinking about the 25th anniversary of this organization. One of our highest priorities was to get a solid grasp on our history: how it began in 1985 as Grinnell 2000, and what projects it has been involved in over the past 25 years. We have had varied leadership since 1985, and records were piled in boxes, with no real order or consistency. The goal of documenting our organizational history seemed daunting. That's when it was suggested that we consider turning over our historical documents to the archives at the public library. A meeting with archivist Dorrie Lalonde informed us that by turning them over they would become the property of the library and a part of the permanent collection. The library would organize the documents and provide secure, climate-controlled storage in acid free archival boxes, thus ensuring the long-term survival of the materials and their inclusion as part of the history of Grinnell.

In the year since, Dorrie has spent untold hours sorting through boxes filled with disorderly files, slides, photos and newspaper clippings. She has made archival copies of the important documents and organized everything by project and timeline. The Grinnell 2000/Imagine Grinnell files now fill one section in the archives of the new Drake Community Library. All who care about the organization can be assured that its history will now always be accessible to anyone who is interested.

As the new library was opened and the community learned that there were still funds needed to complete the building fund, the Imagine Grinnell board discussed making an additional gift to the library. We reviewed the hours put in by Dorrie, who volunteers her time as the archivist, and the great service that was done through the archives project. The board unanimously voted to make an additional gift of \$10,000 (in addition to \$15,000 given previously) to go toward the general building fund, and to make this gift in honor of Dorrie. It is our belief that the emphasis the library has placed on housing the archives of Grinnell history is of great value to this community. Dorrie's incredible service and generosity with her time and expertise is something that deserves recognition. Her solicitation of historical records of organizations such as ours ensures that the community history will be preserved for future generations. This is one of the greatest services provided to this community by the library. Dorrie has been the guiding vision for the library archives, and hopes that eventually enough funds will be raised to purchase collapsible shelving for the archives. This would allow three times as much space for local historical documents, space that will surely be filled as she continues her quest to provide a comprehensive history for all of Grinnell.



## 25th Anniversary Celebration Coming Soon To You

Imagine Grinnell is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. As part of the celebration, Imagine Grinnell is planning to partner with the Grinnell schools to have a poster/essay

contest on how they Imagine Grinnell in the next 25 years, based on our mission of improving the quality of life, promoting a healthy environment, and complementing economic development efforts. The celebration will wrap up with a community-wide event that will include a motivational speaker to present on land stewardship and other environmental issues and announce the contest winners. More details about the celebration will be coming soon!



### **“Splash!” Campaign Receives 15K to Purchase “Green” Products**

Imagine Grinnell donated \$15,000 to the Splash! Campaign to purchase three tankless water heaters for showers, which will reduce the amount of natural gas used to heat portable water.

Imagine Grinnell made this gift because of the E-community incentive program the foundation worked on with Alliant Energy. During the three-year program, Imagine Grinnell worked with the community to reduce energy consumption. In 2006, Imagine Grinnell received \$271,000 from Alliant Energy for its efforts. The \$15,000 donation to the Splash! Campaign is a part of that incentive money from Alliant Energy.

Features at the new family aquatic center, set to open in Summer 2010, will include a pool with zero depth entry, lap lanes, diving boards, adventurous slides, and play structures in the shallow end for younger children. In addition, plans call for other amenities like shaded areas around the pool, a lazy river, and ample green space with a large deck.



## Swick Receives Service Scholarship

Whitney Swick stands as a role model for other youth in the Grinnell community by her commitment to civic engagement. Swick has shown dedication to service and helping her community with nearly 400 hours of community service in the last year. For her service, Swick received Imagine Grinnell's 2009 service scholarship. A 2009 graduate of Grinnell High School, Swick now attends Olivet Nazarene University in Illinois, where she continues her service-oriented activities.

Imagine Grinnell's \$500 scholarship is awarded to graduating high school students that exhibit a commitment to youth civic engagement in their communities. Eligibility for the scholarship awarded each May is based on a minimum of 200 hours service in the community over the previous 12 months. Applicants must also be a graduating Grinnell High School student.

From collecting food through the "Trick or Treat so Kids can Eat" initiative, working with M.I.C.A, or raising money to support cancer research through "Relay for Life", Swick demonstrated great dedication. She also volunteered at her church by helping with Vacation Bible School, mentoring her 8th Grade Faith Friend, playing in the bell choir, and participating in "Youth Strike for Christ."

For more information about the 2010 Imagine Grinnell Service Scholarship, visit the Imagine Grinnell website at [www.imaginegrinnell.org](http://www.imaginegrinnell.org).



facebook

### Become a Fan of Imagine Grinnell!

Imagine Grinnell now has a Facebook page. Check it out by searching Imagine Grinnell Foundation in the search box on Facebook. If you have a Facebook page, please invite your friends to become a fan. This is a great way to stay connected and informed about recent happenings with Imagine Grinnell!

## Imagine Grinnell and Partners Earn Harkin Grant for Year Two



Imagine Grinnell in collaboration with the Local Board of Health and the City of Grinnell, received Year Two funding from the Harkin Grant for the Iowa Healthy Communities Initiative.

The grant, totaling \$10,922, will be used to increase the capacity for wellness in Poweshiek County. This includes the continuation of Imagine Grinnell's 2nd Saturdays events, which were funded through the Year One proposal, and adding two additional programs—the Bike and Hike to Work program and the Bike and Hike to Shop program.

“The Harkin Grant will provide essential funding for continuing the 2nd Saturdays events and kicking-off the Bike/Walk/Run programming that will encourage all Grinnellians to live less sedentary lives and incorporate exercise into their everyday routines,” says Robin Mann, Poweshiek County Board of Health Chair.

The Harkin Grant is given to organizations that work with their local board of health to plan, implement, and evaluate strategies that contribute to health promotion, prevention, and delay or mitigate chronic diseases. The Poweshiek County Board of Health, the City of Grinnell, and Imagine Grinnell along with partners Grinnell College, Bikes to You, Grinnell Regional Medical Center, and the Grinnell Bike Club joined forces in the strategy to improve health and living conditions in Grinnell. The strategy primarily focuses

on the expansion of the Grinnell Area Recreation Trail and promoting the integration of walking and bicycling into the community's daily routine. The 2nd Saturdays program, the Bike and Hike to Work, and the Bike and Hike to Shop programs are designed to promote the use of GART and promote healthier living.

The Bike and Hike to Work program will begin in the spring of 2010 and will work with area employers to encourage employees to commute by bike or foot to work by using the GART. Employees will benefit from incentives offered through their employers and be entered into a drawing for other prizes.

The Grinnell Area Chamber of Commerce will roll out the Bike and Hike to Shop program in May. Local shoppers who bike, walk, or run to participating businesses will receive a free t-shirt or sweatshirt and will be entered into a drawing each month beginning in May through July for \$100 in Chamber bucks.

Have questions about the Bike and Hike to Work or the Bike and Hike to Shop programs? Call Imagine Grinnell at 641-236-5518 to get more information about the grant and how your business can get involved in the programming.





## Friends and Families Hit the Trail for 2nd Saturdays

The 2nd Saturdays season kicked off with enthusiasts of all ages hitting the trail to participate in a timed 5k/10k walk or run or a 5k, 10k, or 20k bike ride on Saturday, May 9.

Now in its third season, the monthly events were held May through September, with the goals of increasing appreciation of the trail, promoting healthy activities, and fostering connections among the runners, walkers, and cyclists who met on the second Saturday of every month.

Keeping track of the participants' times was easier this year, thanks to a grant Imagine Grinnell received from Poweshiek County Alliance to purchase a stopwatch and printer to record the start and finish times for bikers and walkers.

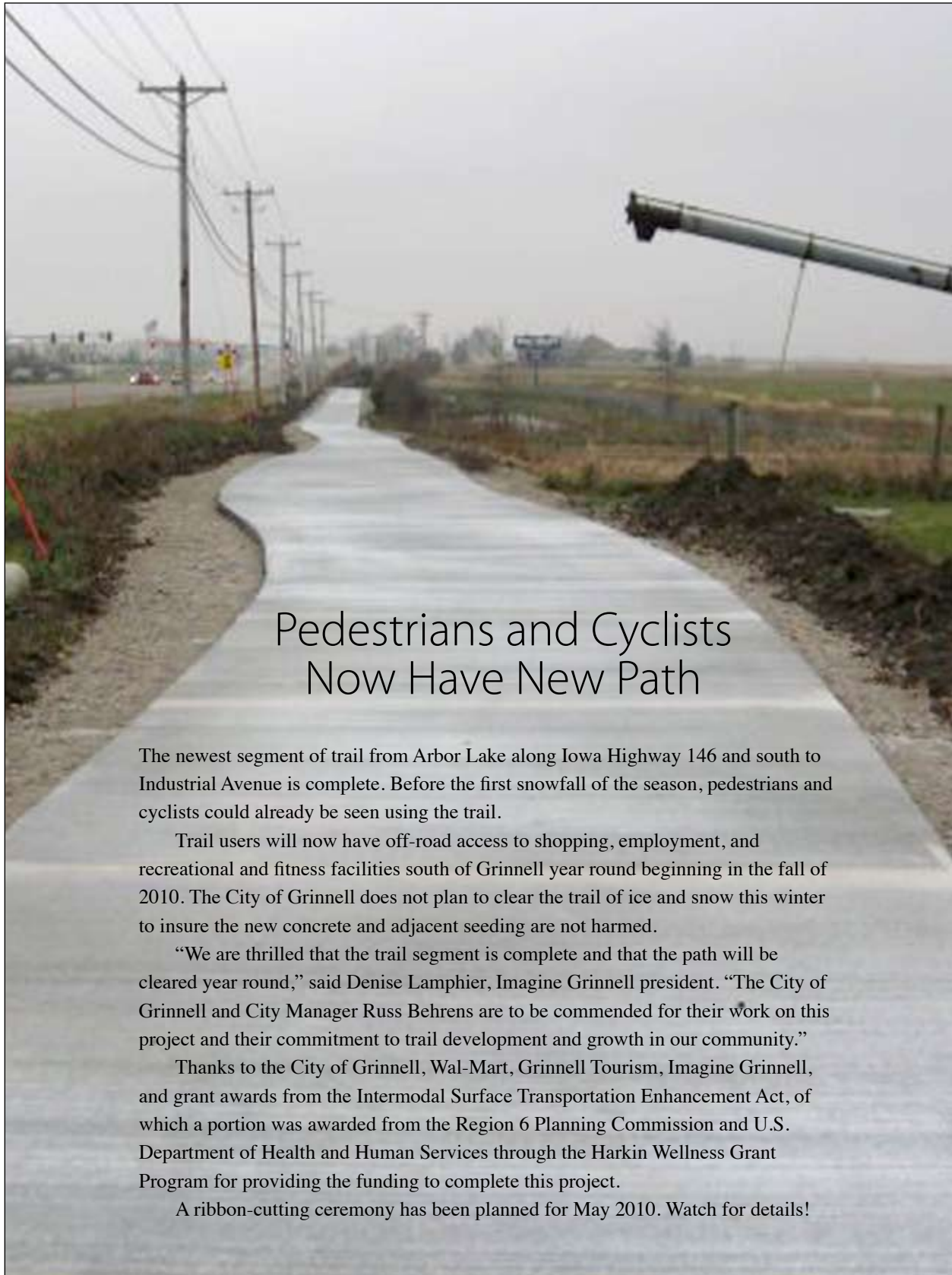
This 2nd Saturdays season, we saw a significant increase in the number of participants, including families with children of all ages either walking or riding with their parents or being pulled along in a burley. Last year, we had a total of 74 participants. This year that number increased to 124, a 60 percent increase. We are delighted

with the turnout and look forward to an even greater number of participants in 2010.

2nd Saturday events would not be possible without the support of our sponsors including: Total Home Service, Grinnell College Pioneer Bookshop, Lonnski's Pub and Deli, Hy-Vee, McNallys, Fareway, Brown Shoe Fit, Grinnell Recreation Department, Grinnell Regional Medical Center, Glass Gift Box, Van Ersvelde Decorating, and Bikes to You.

For the season finale, Bikes to You donated a \$150 gift certificate and Grinnell Park and Recreation donated a four pass to the new aquatic center. Greg and Bonnie Buntz received the family four pass to the new aquatic center and Suzanne Tanner won the \$150 gift certificate from Bikes to You.

At each event everyone is a winner – whether it is a snack, drink, or a prize, no one walks away empty handed! Mark your calendars now for the 2010 2nd Saturdays kick-off on May 8. Don't miss out on the fun!



## Pedestrians and Cyclists Now Have New Path

The newest segment of trail from Arbor Lake along Iowa Highway 146 and south to Industrial Avenue is complete. Before the first snowfall of the season, pedestrians and cyclists could already be seen using the trail.

Trail users will now have off-road access to shopping, employment, and recreational and fitness facilities south of Grinnell year round beginning in the fall of 2010. The City of Grinnell does not plan to clear the trail of ice and snow this winter to insure the new concrete and adjacent seeding are not harmed.

“We are thrilled that the trail segment is complete and that the path will be cleared year round,” said Denise Lamphier, Imagine Grinnell president. “The City of Grinnell and City Manager Russ Behrens are to be commended for their work on this project and their commitment to trail development and growth in our community.”

Thanks to the City of Grinnell, Wal-Mart, Grinnell Tourism, Imagine Grinnell, and grant awards from the Intermodal Surface Transportation Enhancement Act, of which a portion was awarded from the Region 6 Planning Commission and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services through the Harkin Wellness Grant Program for providing the funding to complete this project.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony has been planned for May 2010. Watch for details!

## International Walk to School Day Spurs Commuting the Old-Fashioned Way

The Grinnell-Newburg School District joined schools from around the world to celebrate International Walk-to-School Day on October 7 with a district-wide contest encouraging all of the district's families and students to take a break from driving and walk or bike to school.

Grinnell's Police Department stood by with extra patrols to keep an eye out as walkers and bikers of all ages arrived at school the old-fashioned way. Some students arrived with friends and some with family members. All headed out a little bit earlier than usual on the bright fall morning to stretch their legs, get some exercise, talk and joke with friends and family, and do their part in helping the environment.

Motivating many students was the chance to win a free class pizza party and \$100 in Chamber Bucks for their

teacher. The winning classrooms were: Ms. Galbraith's second grade class at Fairview (with 67 percent participation), Ms. Mikel's kindergarten class at Bailey Park (with 50 percent participation), Ms. Elliott's fourth grade class at Davis (with 80 percent participation), Ms.

Hollibaugh's 6th grade class at the Middle School (with 80 percent participation), and Mr. Kastendick's 1st period, Modern European History, class at the High School (with 83 percent participation).

Event supporters included Imagine Grinnell, Grinnell Parks and Recreation, Grinnell College, the Grinnell Police Department, the Chamber of Commerce, Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance, Total Choice Shipping, and the Iowa Department of Transportation.



### Imagine a Debris-Free Trail

The Grinnell Area Recreation Trail saw some power cleaning this spring. Eighteen volunteers tackled the strip from the Iowa Valley Community College all the way to Rock Creek State Park on April 18 despite the sprinkling weather. The GART was a treasure trove of trash. Among this year's finds, volunteers discovered two TVs, a microwave, and a truckload of trash.

Thanks to Monique and Robbie Shore, Craig and April Cooper, Liz Queathem and Vince Eckhart and family, Amy and John Kalkbrenner, Greg and Bonnie Buntz, Vida Praitis, Bob and Kim Wemer, and Kevin and Mary Emge for coming out to the trail clean-up!



## Grinnell Bike Week Encourages the Community to Get Moving



Imagine Grinnell and its partners tailored Bike to Work Week 2009 (May 11-15) to meet community goals and needs. Dubbed “Grinnell Bike Week,” the event extended the target participant group beyond commuters to include

all members of the Grinnell community.

Community members were encouraged to integrate biking into aspects of their personal, professional, and school lives through weeklong specials such as Get Moving Monday, where proof of wearing a helmet earned cyclists a free 12-ounce coffee from local coffee shops.

Two free educational biking workshops, “Commuting by Bike” and “Bike Maintenance 101” were offered before the week’s events commenced to teach community members the basics of safe riding. These workshops were taught by Mark Wyatt, executive director of the Iowa Bicycle Coalition, and Craig Cooper, owner of Bikes to You in Grinnell. The courses were funded by a Grinnell College Mini-Grant.

Grinnell Bike Week kicked off on May 9, with Imagine Grinnell’s first 2nd Saturdays bike/walk/run event of the season. The number of participants for

our May event significantly increased over last year. In May 2008, eight people registered for the event. In May 2009, 23 people took part in the event.

After 20 people registered with BikeIowa.com to commit to commuting to work by bike during Bike to Work Week 2008, we revamped our programming and aimed for a 50 percent increase in the number of people who registered with BikeIowa.com for 2009. This year, Grinnell ranked ninth in the state of Iowa with 72 registered riders indicating they were commuting from Grinnell to employment destinations. Grinnell ranked eighth for those commuting to Grinnell by bike with 70 registered riders. The number of employers also rose significantly. Grinnell College ranked ninth in the state overall with 38 registered riders. Grinnell Regional Medical Center had a solid showing with seven registered riders, as did the City of Grinnell with five riders.

“Thanks to Imagine Grinnell for sponsoring Bike to Work Week in Grinnell,” said Greg and Bonnie Buntz of Grinnell. “We noticed more bikes on the streets than usual and the bike workshops made it quite a success. We especially enjoyed the workshops. We learned new safety tips for riding our bikes in traffic, and new and better ways to keep our bikes in good, and safe, working order.”



## Energy Program Explores Ways to Help Residents and Business Owners

Imagine Grinnell's energy program has started several new endeavors this year to help area residents and business owners save money and help the environment. Here are a few of the program additions and changes that occurred this year:



### Reorganization

In January 2009, Imagine Grinnell learned that The National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) hired Rich Dana, who headed up the Imagine Grinnell Energy Program, as an energy specialist.

With this change, the energy committee regrouped and recruited several new volunteers to serve on the committee including: Roger Hill, an 18-year veteran in the energy and consulting industry; Ryan Ness, who is a member of the "Grinnell Green Task Force" and a City employee who specializes in building and planning; and two Grinnell College students who live in Eco-House, an energy focused residence for students: Lizzie Behr and Nathan Pavlovic. The committee is led by Chris Bair and includes Rob Clower and Liz Queathem. Please contact Imagine Grinnell @ 641-236-5518 if you are interested in joining the committee.

### New Partnership with MICA

This year, Imagine Grinnell sat down with representatives of MICA to explore ways that we might work together to offer energy efficiency programming to low-income residents.

As a result of the meeting, MICA invited Imagine Grinnell to present during its Financial Fitness Workshop. As part of this workshop, Imagine Grinnell led a segment dealing with energy efficiency. Attendees

of the program learned low-cost energy saving ideas such as door weather stripping, removal of window AC units, and other energy savings tips.

Using the Imagine Grinnell Energy Library toolkits, a window film application, caulking and use of the kilowatt meter was demonstrated. Participants were also given a residential customer self-audit checklist that requires minimum effort and expense and delivers immediate savings.

### Energy Consultations to Imagine Grinnell Business Members

Beginning November 1, 2009, new Imagine Grinnell business members giving a contribution of more than \$100 will be eligible to receive an energy review. Roger Hill, an independent energy consultant, will provide the energy consultation. Roger brings more than 18 years of experience in energy analysis and consulting. (See Hill article). Topics covered in the consultation include: energy use and cost, as well as current energy consuming equipment. Most importantly, Roger will discuss no-cost and low cost opportunities for reducing energy consumption and costs.

To arrange your energy consultation, please contact Roger Hill at 641-236-3848 or via e-mail at [rhill@iowatelecom.net](mailto:rhill@iowatelecom.net). Consultation must be scheduled prior to June 30, 2010.

## Membership Appreciation Dinner a Success

On a busy Thursday in February, Imagine Grinnell board members served a delicious pasta dinner at Lonnski's Pub and Deli to 63 members of the community.

For those who wanted to learn more about the Grinnell Area Recreation Trail or Green Energy Projects around town, the annual dinner and silent auction was a great way to learn about Imagine Grinnell's latest achievements, have fun with the wait staff, and bid on wonderful silent auction items.

Complete with good conversation, door prizes, and a silent auction, the dinner was a wonderful celebratory and community-building event. The silent auction raised \$1,008, while tips totaled to \$532.

Imagine Grinnell would like to thank all those who attended, donated to, and served in the event for their committed involvement. Thank you for making the evening a success and continuing to invest in your community!



## Green Drinks



Greendrinks is a monthly opportunity for Grinnellians to come together and discuss environmental issues, projects, technologies, etc. in a very casual atmosphere. The event is usually held on the first Thursday of every month at Saint's Rest. Past topics have included local foods, home energy efficiency projects, green remodeling, renewable energy, political campaigns, letter writing campaigns, and water quality issues. Anybody is welcome and the group is always looking for new projects or issues to discuss.

## Community Garden



In the summer of 2008, a group of Grinnell College students started a local foods project. With the assistance of Imagine Grinnell, students coordinated an internship in sustainability with three high schoolers at a neighborhood garden.

This year the students continued their project by starting a community garden at Miller Park by Lake Nyanza. Imagine Grinnell's summer intern, Patrick Budding worked with the college students in the garden once a week. Gardening was a new experience for him, but he was up to the task. He helped weed and plant, and this assistance allowed the students to maintain the garden.

The project will continue into its third summer in 2010. The Grinnell Area Local Foods Alliance will manage the project's funds and coordinate college student internships. Imagine Grinnell has been a valuable resource in helping the students sustain this endeavor.

## Skatepark



What started taking shape 10 years ago has become a reality for skaters in the Grinnell community.

Skateboarding enthusiasts now have access to a new skate park located at the corner of 8th and Prince Streets. The City of Grinnell and the Skate Park committee made impressive progress on the skate park development thanks to donations from local organizations, student run activities, and fundraisers. To date, the Skate Park has raised \$30,000 of the \$60,000 needed. Currently, six of the eight elements have been made. Additional funding is needed to build the two remaining elements and to purchase a security system, safety signs, and benches. For more information, contact Kelly Rose at 641-236-2604.

## Garden Club



In 2009, the club started with its annual plant sale, which raised funds for our public projects. Two of our members designed the plantings for the large planters in the central business district, and club members helped with the actual planting in June. We also expanded our ornamental border along the east side of the community center with the addition of globe blue spruce, black-eyed susans and coreopsis. Club members maintained this bed as well as plantings in Merrill Park, Central Park, Miller Park and the healing garden at the hospital. In the fall, the club sponsored several talks on gardening topics.



is a grass roots organization  
that stimulates initiatives which:

- Improve the quality  
of life for our people
- Promote a healthy  
environment
- Complement economic  
development efforts

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