

BMTS Article Digest August – September 2018

BMTS Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee Members:

The following is a compilation of articles that may be of interest to BMTS Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee members. This and past digests can also be accessed in the Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee page of www.bmtsonline.com.

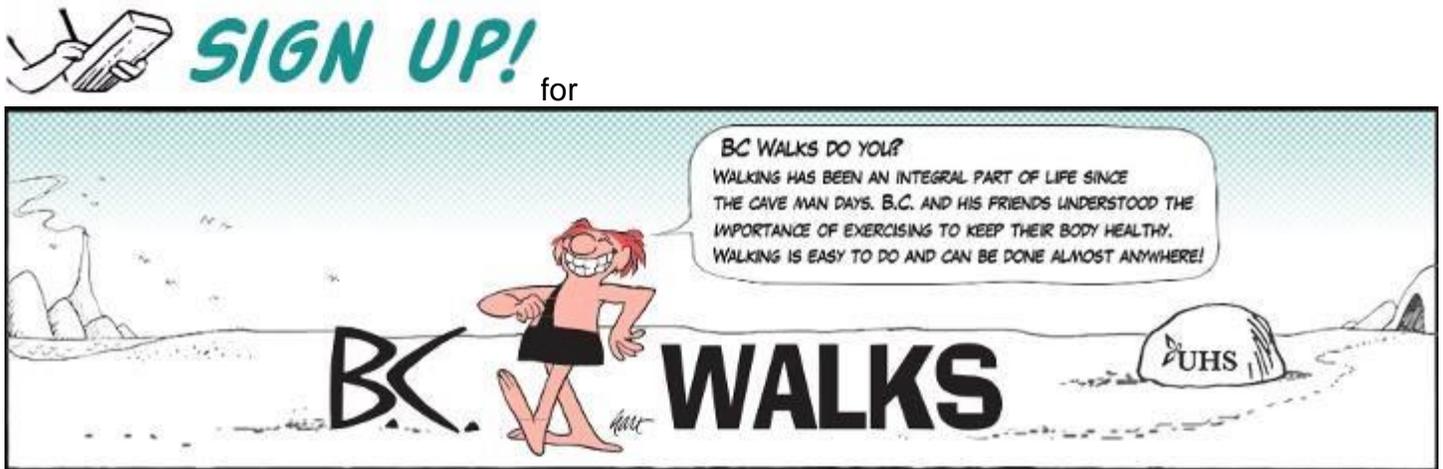
Scott



Take a look at the National Center for Bicycling & Walking's newsletter, **CenterLines**. You can also arrange to have it emailed directly to you.

See <http://www.bikewalk.org/newsletter.php>.

CenterLines is the bi-weekly electronic news bulletin of the National Center for Bicycling & Walking. **CenterLines** is our way of quickly delivering news and information you can use to create more walkable and bicycle-friendly communities.



Go to www.BCWalks.com!

Check out these websites for Bike & Pedestrian Information!



<https://www.facebook.com/coexistnys/> and <https://www.youtube.com/user/CoexistNYS> or www.capitalcoexist.org

In particular, view the interactive educational video clips.

21-year-old bicyclist fatally struck by car in Town of Walton

Maggie Gilroy

Binghamton Press & Sun-Bulletin

Published 10:54 a.m. ET Sept. 4, 2018 | Updated 11:07 a.m. ET Sept. 4, 2018

A 21-year-old Treadwell resident died after he was struck by a vehicle in the town of Walton on Friday night.

Delaware County Sheriff's Deputies said the collision occurred on State Highway 10 around 7:30 p.m.

Officials say Aaron Tubbs was operating a bicycle northbound on State Highway 10 when he was fatally struck by a vehicle operated by Michelle Mason, 66, of Hamden.

Mason and her passenger were uninjured.

The cause of the collision is under investigation.

Deputies and Investigators at the scene were assisted by members of the NYC DEP Police, NYSP Collision Reconstruction Unit, as well as Walton Fire and EMS.

Southern Californians are tossing electric scooters into ocean, burning them: report

Published August 13, 2018

[FoxNews.com](https://www.foxnews.com)

Residents in Southern California who feel they've had enough of the electric scooter craze are reportedly resorting to vandalism in an effort to vent their frustrations.

They allege they cause numerous traffic accidents and scooter pilots tend to rush through the streets ignoring traffic signals.

The Los Angeles Times reported on Sunday that workers at Santa Monica Beach and Venice have seen these pay-per-mile scooters tossed into the ocean and trash cans.

One police officer in Venice said his officers have seen them stacked 10 feet high, but these cases are not being called in.

"If we have to prioritize the allocation of our time and resources, first and foremost we're going to prioritize the preservation of life," Lt. Michael Soliman told the paper. "Protection of property comes second."

Cities like Milwaukee have initially pushed back on Bird and its competitors, LimeBike and Spin, by issuing cease-and-desist orders. But some have ultimately relented and decided to give the scooters a chance.

Bird, a scooter rental company that operates in about 30 cities, previously removed them from Denver and Salt Lake City before resuming operations recently under a pilot program in those locations. Portland, Ore., is also allowing Bird scooters under a pilot.

There is even an Instagram account called Birdgraveyard, which appears to celebrate the scooters' destruction. It has over 28,000 followers.

“We do not support the vandalism or destruction of any property and are disappointed when it takes place,” a Bird spokeswoman told the paper. “Nor do we support the encouragement, celebration or normalization of this behavior.”

A Bird spokeswoman hopes those who see any vandalism report it.

These electric scooters, which can go up to 15 mph, have proliferated in places across the country in recent months, often without warning to city officials who have grappled with how to regulate them. They could be found left in the middle of sidewalks, which could be an eyesore in a neighborhood. These companies point to their overall affordability and the fact they reduce car traffic.

The Bird app shows where they're available. Riders, who must scan in their driver's license, unlock one by scanning a bar code for an initial charge of \$1. It then costs 15 cents a minute to ride one. Once done, riders take a picture of where they left the scooter to make sure it's properly parked.

Beverly Hills has reportedly banned scooters for six months.

“If you imagine just walking on the sidewalk and somebody on a scooter at 15 miles an hour hits you, it can be fatal,” Beverly Hills councilmember Lili Bosse said last month after the California city voted to ban the devices for six months, following similar edicts and warnings in places like West Hollywood, Seattle, Saint Paul, Nashville, Boston and Miami.

Fox News' Greg Norman and The Associated Press contributed to this report

URL
<http://www.foxnews.com/tech/2018/08/13/southern-californians-are-tossing-electric-scooters-into-ocean-burning-them-report.html>

PARENTS

Mom Investigated by Cops, Children's Services for Letting 8-Year-Old Walk Dog Alone

Corey Widen (right), daughter Dorothy and dog Marshmallow near their Wilmette, Illinois, home

Chris Walker/Chicago Tribune/TNS via Getty



KATE HOGAN

August 23, 2018 12:00 PM

It was a walk to remember — or forget.

Earlier this month, 8-year-old Dorothy Widen took her family dog Marshmallow for a walk around the block near her family's suburban Chicago home. When she returned, there was a knock on the door — but instead of her expected playmate, it was the local cops, according to the *Chicago Tribune*.

As it turns out, a neighbor had called authorities after seeing Dorothy alone with the dog, stating the child was less than 5 years old and had been outside and unattended for 90 minutes, NBC 5 reports.

“For something like this to happen to me, there's something really wrong,” Widen, 48, who home-schools her daughter, told the *Tribune*. “She was gone for five minutes. I was in the backyard and I could see her through the yard.”

After a chat, cops cleared Widen of any wrongdoing — but two days later she received a call from the Department of Children and Family Services after the same neighbor seemingly called the agency to complain about the instance again.

“The funny thing is ... I'm a joke with my friends because my kids are around me all the time,” Widen added to the *Tribune*. After posting about the saga on Facebook, Widen heard from other mothers who'd experienced similar investigations.

“These are upper-middle class, stay-at-home moms who have been investigated because someone didn't have anything better to do with their time and called the police on them,” she said.

In a statement obtained by PEOPLE, the DCFS said the case was closed. “The hotline narrative said the caller reported that the child was 5 years old or less. The caller reported calling police before about the girl playing in a parking lot,” the statement read. “We went out and investigated, and the investigation has already been unfounded. We don't control the calls that come into our hotline. Something made someone think there was a concern, and we don't know without checking it out.”

Widen is the latest in what appears to be an increasing number of moms who have had the police called on them for allowing their children to play outside unsupervised or leaving them in a car to run into a grocery store; author Kim Brooks wrote an op-ed in the *New York Times* about having a warrant for her arrest issued after leaving her 4-year-old in a car on a cool day with the windows cracked to run a five-minute-errand. She mentioned other similar cases, including a mother who let her child go to the park unsupervised and another who had to leave her children in the car when she couldn't find childcare during a job interview; both were arrested and their children removed from their custody. A Texas mom was arrested for letting her children play in her cul-de-sac while she watched from her lawn.

Every state has different laws about the age in which children can be left unsupervised; a handout from the Child Welfare Information Gateway (last updated in 2013) states that children in Illinois need to be 14, though in Oregon they can be 10, and in Maryland, 8.

Instead of firm ages, many states simply offer guidelines about milestones and safety measures related to leaving children alone, and in March, Utah became the first state to pass a law about “free-

range parenting,” stating that child neglect does not include “permitting a child, whose basic needs are met and who is of sufficient age and maturity to avoid harm or unreasonable risk of harm, to engage in independent activities.” According to the *New York Times*, such activities include walking or biking to and from school, playgrounds and nearby stores.

For her part, Widen hopes this is a lesson in the dangers of mommy-shaming and stranger intervention with parenting decisions.

“Everyone needs to allow the parent to do what is best for their family,” she told the *Tribune*. “No one will dictate my parenting choices.”

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Thursday, 6 September 2018

1 in 4 don't exercise; rich nations fare worst

Brett Molina

USA TODAY

A study from the World Health Organization said one in four people worldwide are physically inactive, putting them at greater risk for diseases such as hypertension and diabetes.

The data published Tuesday in the journal *Lancet Global Health* found 28 percent of adults globally don't exercise, a figure unchanged from 2001.

“This puts more than 1.4 billion adults at risk of developing or exacerbating diseases linked to inactivity, and needs to be urgently addressed,” read an excerpt from the study, which also notes declines in mental health and quality of life for people who don't exercise enough.

Guidelines from the Department of Health and Human Services suggest adults participate in some type of muscle strengthening activity at least twice a week, along with moderate aerobic exercise for 150 minutes a week or 75 minutes a week if vigorously working out.

Studies have shown that exercise and a healthy diet can lower the risk of health problems such as diabetes or cardiovascular disease. In April, a study published in the *American Heart Association journal Circulation* found exercise, a healthy diet and other factors could add more than 10 years to your life.

The WHO study showed women were less physically active than men, with 32 percent failing to exercise enough, compared to 23 percent of men.

Countries with higher incomes tended to show higher rates of inactivity. In low-income countries, the percentage of physically inactive people was 16 percent, compared to 26 percent for middle-income nations and 37 percent for high-income countries.

The least-active regions were Latin America and the Caribbean.
