

# Carroll County Times

**Hitting the road for a good cause** *By Erica Kritt, Times Staff Writer*  
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Four hundred and eighty-one bikers climbed over the hills and through the woods of Carroll County Saturday morning and afternoon, all to support the West End Place Adult Day Services.

The Tour de Carroll, now in its fourth year, is the nonprofit's major fundraiser. Riders pay \$25 to follow a mapped-out route through Carroll County. After finishing, the riders get a free lunch and a T-shirt.

All of the registration fees and raffle ticket money goes directly to the nonprofit. The 2007 Tour de Carroll raised approximately \$16,250.

"It was a wonderful ride [with] beautiful scenery," Brian Coble, of Gettysburg, said. "We are going to make it a yearly event."

Riders must agree with Coble, as each year the number of riders has increased.



Last year riders could choose from an eight-mile family ride, a 30-mile loop, or a 56-mile loop. This year only the eight-mile stayed the same.

Last year's 30-mile ride increased to become a 36-mile route and the 56-mile increased to 63 miles, which is a full 100 kilometers.

Dave Yonkoski has helped to create the routes for the past two years. He said that Carroll's terrain is very

similar to that of Belgium, where the Tour of Flanders is held annually.

The course was filled with many rolling hills and windy roads.

"Carroll County is a premier cycle place," he said.

Yonkoski said that the ride brings people to Carroll from all around the state and the country.

This year, cyclists from Massachusetts, Georgia and South Dakota participated, according to Noelle Floreen, event chairwoman and coordinator.

Dean Camlin, an architect from Westminster, didn't have far to travel.

He lives on Pennsylvania Avenue, just blocks from the starting point at Dutterer Family Park in Westminster.

Camlin did the ride last year and said afterwards he drank a quart of water and took a nice long nap, but it was worth it.

Camlin said he has been biking since he was a child and enjoys both the exercise and efficiency of bicycling.

"I like being able to cover a good distance, but still being able to appreciate the scenery," he said.

The 52-year-old said that the 63-mile ride was also a way to prove himself.

“I’m trying to deny my age. I’m 52 and I don’t feel like it,” he said. “I like staying fit.” Yonkoski said Camlin isn’t the only one out there in his 50s or older.

Yonkoski, who is in his 60s, said that most of the riders on the shorter routes were younger than 30, whereas the longer routes drew the older bikers.

Yonkoski tests out all the routes more than once before putting the final map together. He said that if he can survive the course, then most people can.

Jim Resh and his children Bryanna, 15, and Josh, 12, came to the event intending to do the eight-mile family fun ride, but instead opted for the 36-mile route.

“Biking is such a nice thing to do,” Jim Resh said.

The family said that the course was tough, but they had fun.

“We looked as happy going down the hill as we looked pained going up it,” Jim Resh said.

Bryanna Resh said that after the ride in the near 80-degree weather, a cold shower was all she could think of.

“I was proud of them,” Jim Rush said of the way his children handled the long route.

### **About West End Place Adult Day Services**

West End Place is a nonprofit that cares for mentally and physically frail senior citizens in the county.

The clients receive medical care and structured activities at West End.

West End averages 30 clients a year, according to Marilyn Modracek, program manager at the adult day-care center.

“I think it is a necessary service and it relieves caregiver stress,” said Modracek.

West End is part of Family and Children’s Services of Central Maryland, which provides counseling to victims of domestic violence and at-risk adolescents, among other services.