

'Gearing Up' for 65,000 miles, \$650,000

I'm always interested in talking with people, and I am really intrigued with people who are committed to endeavors that set them apart from the herd.

So when a friend of the greater Wormley family told me her father would celebrate his 65th birthday by Gearing Up for Good on his 6,500-mile bicycle trek to raise \$650,000 for the support of people suffering from Parkinson's disease, I was all ears.

Little did I know then that I would have the opportunity to meet Joe Motz on the Woodstock Square last Thursday morning on the seventh day of his 90-day mission. The movie "Groundhog Day" lured him to our town.

It's not hard to find a cyclist on the Square. One just looks for someone wearing a cycling jersey and pants. I found Joe and two members of the Barrington Bicycle Club at Starbucks. When Danny and Lena learned he planned to ride from Barrington to Woodstock on U.S. 14, they offered to escort him on less-traveled and more-scenic roadways, including Country Club Road.

"The barns were great," Joe said. "I grew up on a farm."

Joe seemed to have all the time in the world to talk with me. I was the one who was concerned about him being short of his halfway-point for the day. His daily goal is 85 miles.

Unlike many who traverse the greater Midwest and West on two-wheelers - in Joe's case, from Cincinnati to San Diego and back to Cincinnati - he is going solo. He doesn't

have an advance crew or someone trailing behind. His hybrid bicycle has only a couple of small pouches in the front - one of which holds the hammock he sleeps in every night.

His goal is to find a park or camping area by the time he "tires out" each day. "One night I just found a spot where I could tie the hammock between two trees," he said.

When I asked about food, he pointed to a pouch that fit in the triangle of the bike's frame and said, "I have a sandwich in there, and I buy dehydrated foods like dates and raisins and fresh fruits like bananas."

Concerned about his going it alone, I asked more questions.

"I have a virtual support team," he said. His team is a group of 10 family and friends who are back in Cincinnati. Three are responsible for "Kids Corner," which is easily accessible on the trek's web page, gearingupforgood.org. Two are raising money; one is responsible for safety logistics and is Joe's emergency contact; and one is the content manager for the web page and Facebook. His wife, Jane, is his card "handrouter" to generate interest among bike clubs and retailers.

I'd done a bit of research, so I knew Joe is the CEO of Motz Corp., a successful and recognized provider of natural and synthetic turf, having



Cheryl Wormley
Declarations

outfitted ballparks for the Atlanta Braves and the Los Angeles Dodgers among others. I also knew Gearing Up for Good grew out of his reading "Halftime: Moving from Success to Significance."

"At this stage in my life, both professionally and personally, I have come to realize that I have an opportunity before me. One that will allow me to take on a grueling physical (and perhaps even larger mental) challenge with the greater mission of bringing cognizance to a serious brain disease - Parkinson's," he said on the website.

So, why Parkinson's? Though no one in Joe's family has suffered from the disease, it had struck loved ones of several of his employees.

The money raised will provide financial support for the development of a pilot and the first in a series of satellite centers in partnership with University of Cincinnati Gardner Neuroscience Institute. The centers will offer treatment options to reduce gait and balance problems and the tremors that result from Parkinson's and other nervous-system disorders.

When we talked Friday, Joe had logged more than 400 miles, and he said the fund total had moved above \$100,000. He can be followed at gearingupforgood.org, where donations also can be made. Photos and updates are posted daily on Facebook - Gearing Up For Good.

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As a design professional, it was embarrassing to watch.

Moreover, the plan itself is entirely wrong for our community, and the dwelling designs are ho-hum, to put it mildly.

Seemingly, the developer's daughter has all along left the Plan Commission, the mayor, the City Council members, and our citizens with the misleading impression that she is an architect.

She may have taken some architecture classes in college. Or, perhaps she even majored in architecture.

However, apparently she did not serve an apprenticeship and lacked the skill and/or knowledge to pass the necessary tests to become a licensed architect.

That being the case, she is actually not a qualified architect.

Has she left a false impression in the minds of the credulous individuals who will be making the decision to approve or disapprove the project?

Further, she has no staff and claims she will be designing all 85 homes and two four-story apartment buildings ... personally. That is a preposterous assertion.

If the Woodstock City Council swallows this developer's story, it will be a blunder from which Woodstock will never recover.

It is predictable that, in short order, those houses will not be the "gingerbread, white picket fence, storybook" homes the developer would like us to imagine.

By contrast, as a practical matter, many if not most will inevitably

become rental property, with broken trampolines and rusted bicycles in weed-filled yards.

Founder's Crossing will become an embarrassment to Woodstock and a sad legacy for our mayor, as he moves on to his other interests.

In brief, that project is irredeemably inadequate.

My recommendation to the city is to commission a brilliant architectural and planning firm to develop an ideal plan for the former Die Cast site.

Then, seek accomplished homebuilders to implement the ideal concept in order to create a community as beautiful as Victorian Village, where yours truly and our mayor reside.

Michael Stanard
Woodstock

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