

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Sarah Krisch, Madison County Planning Department (315) 366-2377

On the Old Erie Canal Towpath Trail, Great Chances for Group Cycling this Summer

Central New York communities are coming together to offer organized bike rides through the Tuesdays on the Towpath ride series and the Tour the Towpath event. These events are perfect for anyone looking to cycle the Erie Canalway Trail with a group this summer. Cyclists of all levels are invited to experience the Canalway Trail and surrounding communities during these fun, recreational rides.

Tuesdays on the Towpath is a series of eight recreational bike rides in and around the Erie Canalway Trail. Hosted by local canal-related museums and organizations, these social rides are free to attend and take place on select Tuesdays from May to August. The rides are mostly off-road and they are appropriate for anyone with some biking experience. Each ride highlights a different section of the trail and features a unique speaker. Pick out a few to try, or come to them all!

All rides start at 6 pm and finish by dark. Helmets are required to ride. Before each ride, find route details and speaker information on the Old Erie Canal of CNY Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/OldErieCanal/>



A 2015 Tuesdays on the Towpath ride in Chittenango

Schedule of Rides:

May 24: *Canastota ride; meet at Canastota Canal Town Museum*

June 14: *Onondaga Lake West ride; meet at Onondaga Lake Visitor Center*

June 28: *Chittenango ride; meet at Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum*

July 12: *Fayetteville ride; meet at Canal Landing Park*

July 26: *DeWitt ride; meet at Old Erie Canal State Park Trailhead*

August 2: *Syracuse ride; meet at Erie Canal Museum in Downtown Syracuse*

August 9: *Oneida ride; meet at Madison County Historical Society*

August 23: *Onondaga Lake North ride; meet at Griffin Visitor Center*

4th Anniversary of the award winning

2016 Tuesdays on the Towpath

A series of recreational bike rides along the Erie Canal in Central New York

Join us on Tuesdays May-August!
Come experience the most well-known canal in history!

May 24: Canastota Ride Hosted by Canastota Canal Town Museum
Meet at Canastota Canal Town Museum: 110 Canal Street, Canastota

June 14: Onondaga Lake Ride, West Hosted by Camillus Erie Canal Park
Meet at Onondaga Lake Visitor Center: 280 Restoration Way, Syracuse

June 28: Chittenango Ride Hosted by Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum
Meet at Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum: 717 Lakeport Rd, Chittenango

July 12: Fayetteville Ride Hosted by Matilda Joslyn Gage House
Meet at Canal Landing Park: Limestone Plaza, Fayetteville

July 26: DeWitt Ride Hosted by Town of DeWitt
Meet at Old Erie Canal State Park Trailhead: 5100 Butternut Drive, East Syracuse

August 2: Syracuse Ride Hosted by Erie Canal Museum
Meet at Erie Canal Museum: 318 Erie Boulevard East, Syracuse

August 9: Oneida Ride Hosted by Oneida Rail Trail Committee
Meet at Madison County Historical Society: 435 Main Street, Oneida

August 23: Onondaga Lake, North Hosted by Onondaga Historical Association
Meet at Griffin Visitor Center: 106 Lake Drive, Liverpool

All rides meet at 6:00 pm and finish by dark
Rides begin and end at the same location
FREE: We welcome all riders who have had some experience riding
Helmets required

Before each ride, find route details and speaker info on the Old Erie Canal of CNY Facebook page!
Bike rentals available from Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum
Questions? Call 315.687.3801

Save the Date!
TOUR THE TOWPATH
August 6-7th
A supported 36-mile bike ride from DeWitt to Rome along the Old Erie Canal Towpath trail! 1 and 2 day options!
More info at www.townofde Witt.com/TourtheTowpath.aspx

Explore and learn along the ride! Each ride will feature unique sites and a speaker

For riders looking for more adventure, the second annual **Tour the Towpath** is a 36-mile supported recreational bike ride which takes cyclists from DeWitt to Rome along the Old Erie Canal Towpath Trail in the Erie Canal State Historic Park. The two day ride includes overnight camping, swimming and live music in Canastota. There is also an abbreviated one day ride option. Last year over 50 people participated in this event!

All riders will be given a passport with a map and guidebook highlighting things to see and do along the way. Participants will enjoy exploring quaint communities, multiple museums, shops, and restaurants as they cycle along the most famous canal in history. The ride will end at Rome's Canalfest in Bellamy Harbor Park. Riders are welcome to participate in the ongoing festivities including fireworks at the end of the night. For an additional ten dollars, cyclists can ride a narrated cruise boat from Bellamy Harbor through Lock 21 and back. The boat will include refreshments, a cash bar, prizes and celebratory activities for riders.

The two-day ride option starts at 10 am on August 6th in DeWitt. Free camping

accommodations are provided on West Hickory Street in the Village of Canastota, or riders can make accommodations at a nearby hotel. The two-day riders will continue from Canastota to Rome on August 7. A vehicle is available to carry camping gear between destinations.

The one-day ride option starts at 8am on Sunday August 7 in DeWitt.

Syracuse Bicycle will accompany riders and provide bicycle support.

The cost is \$30 for adults and \$15 for children under 15. Children under 6 are free. Advance sale tickets for the boat ride are an additional \$10. Registration and more details can be found at <https://www.usacycling.org/register/2016-1692>.

Updates about the event and photos of last year's event can be found on the facebook page facebook.com/OldErieCanal

Riders must arrange their own transportation to and from the event.

Questions? Contact Christine Manchester at the Town of DeWitt office: (315) 446-3910 x 137 cmanchester@townofdewitt.com

Tour the Towpath
August 6-7, 2016
A 36 mile recreational bike ride from DeWitt to Rome along the Old Erie Canal State Park Towpath Trail

This event is held under USA Cycling permit 2016-1692

Two Day Option- August 6-7
Split the 36 miles into two rides. Ride 18 miles from DeWitt to Canastota on Saturday August 6 starting at 10 am. Enjoy lodging or camping, showers, entertainment, eateries, and swimming in Canastota. Breakfast provided. Ride the final 18 miles to Rome on August 7. Eateries, tours and adventures along the way. Option to cruise through a lock on the barge canal from 4-6. Stay for Rome's Canalfest and fireworks!

One Day Option- August 7
Ride the 36 miles from DeWitt to Rome on Sunday August 7. Ride starts at 8am. Explore communities, museums and eateries along the way. Option to take a canal cruise from 4-6 in Rome. Enjoy Canalfest and fireworks after!

Register [usacycling.org/register/2016-1692](https://www.usacycling.org/register/2016-1692)
more info townofdewitt.com/TourtheTowpath.aspx

\$30 /adult
\$15 /child
\$10 /cruise (optional)

NEW IN 2016: CRUISE THE BARGE CANAL AFTER THE RIDE!



A group of riders starts the 2015 Tour the Towpath



A group of friends riding Tour the Towpath in Canastota

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