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Press Release

EVENT RELEASE

“GET HEALTHY EVERETT “ - BIKE TO THE SEA

Anyone interested in good music, good people, and a great cause, to **Bike to the Sea’s** annual fundraiser and membership drive on **November 14th!** The event is called **Bicycle Blues**, and proceeds will go toward extending the **Northern Strand Community Trail**, an all-purpose trail that will connect Everett, Malden, Revere, Saugus and Lynn by non-motorized modes of transportation. For only **\$15**, you get a **membership to Bike to the Sea**, **great music by Melanie and the Blue Shots**, **light refreshments, cash bar**, and plenty of **information on how you can get involved in this exciting project!** So join us for a fabulous night of music and dancing to support OUR community trail!

Additional Material about Melanie and the Blue Shots / Bicycle Blues Event

When Melanie Moore was growing up in Malden, she never dreamed she would be returning as the singer in the band. But that is exactly what she is doing on November 14 with “Bicycle Blues starring Melanie and the Blue Shots.” She and the band are coming back to Malden to help Bike to the Sea’s big membership drive and to keep the Northern Strand Community Trail moving along. New members and current members alike will be treated to an exciting evening of music and dancing at First Parish, Universalist at the corner of Elm and Pleasant in Malden, a co-sponsor of this event.

“We don’t sing ‘my wife and dog left me blues.’ We are upbeat. We want to get you up dancing.” reports Melanie, who is now Melanie Moore Mangum, living in Royalston, Massachusetts with her husband and daughter.

“I always wanted to live in a small town in the country. I love it out here. And so many interesting people live here.” said Mangum, Royalston’s Town Clerk. “Most of the band are from Royalston. Our manager who plays sax, Jim Bennett, has his own band, Tabasco Fiasco. Our rhythm guitarist Noah Siegel is a mushroom expert. Phil Leger on drums is Board of Health Chairman for four towns. Matt Hickler, bass and vocals, is a professional biologist .” Two more band members, Jim McCrae on keys and vocals, and Al D’Ambra on guitar, live in nearby central Massachusetts communities.

But how did all this talent come together in one small town? Open Mike at the Town Hall is the answer. The librarian sent Mangum over because one of the bands needed a singer.

Manager Bennett remembers that first day. “We were doing a song Melanie had never heard. It was a tricky one, but she nailed it first time through. She is an incredibly quick study, always right on. She’s funny and charismatic too.”

Mangum readily admits she doesn’t read music like the other band members. “If I hear it once, I can sing it.”

All that musical talent comes through the Moore side of the family, all self-taught. Mangum’s grandfather, Wes Moore, was a big musical influence in her life. She grew up in Malden listening to Glen Miller and Broadway show tunes at her grandparents’ house. She and her grandfather sang barbershop quartet together in the car, and she remembers when he took her on the train to Boston to see “Annie” and have a hot fudge sundae at Bailey’s. “I wanted to be Annie.” reminisced Mangum.

“I liked acting in plays and going to movies at the Granada Theatre in Malden Square. I never sang in public. When I first started with the band, I was petrified. I had my hands in my pocket when I performed. Now I found out I like being on stage.” said Mangum, “And I never would have gotten involved if the librarian hadn’t told me.”

“We aren’t a traveling band. Mostly we do local fundraisers.” But Mangum was eager to return to Malden and help her old hometown support the Northern Strand Community Trail. She remembers learning to ride her bike on Waite Street Extension, near the proposed route of the trail. “My bike had a banana seat and was blue and white. I used to ride that thing everywhere.”

Mangum had never experienced rail trails until she moved to central Massachusetts. She and her family enjoy the Norwottuck Rail Trail and the Mass Central Rail Trail. She thinks it’s great that Everett, Malden, Revere, Saugus, and Lynn are going to have a rail trail of their own, the Northern Strand.

And that is why Bike to the Sea Is looking for more good members. New members are needed from all five cities to do everything from meeting with legislators and city officials, urging them on, to bringing a wheelbarrow and hauling stone dust. “There is a roll every member can fill.” said board member, Ginny Mullen, of Revere.

“The more members an organization has, the more money it can attract. When we apply for grants, the foundations look at our membership numbers.” said Janet Green, president of Bike to the Sea.

“We have a trail building grant.” reports Bike to the Sea Vice-president Clay Larsen. “The summer of 2010 will be an all summer long trail building effort. We are entering a new phase of trail development with concrete results, moving from the planning stage to the pre-construction stage. Volunteers are needed!”

And merely for joining Bike to the Sea and supporting this worthy trail, one gets treated to “Bicycle Blues starring Melanie and the Blue Shots.” Only members are able to reserve one of the 100 tickets to this November 14 event which is expected to sell out.

To join Bike to the Sea and attend Bicycle Blues, go to biketothesea.com.

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For additional information please contact Matt Laidlaw, Director of Communications, City of Everett.

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