

Step Up to the Challenge Winners

It started in the pouring rain and ended on a beautiful spring day. In between, dozens of Town residents vied to walk more and drive less in the Climate Protection Committee's "Step Up to the Challenge" walkathon. The goal of "Step Up to the Challenge" was to raise residents' awareness of how easy it is to walk instead of drive to nearby destinations. Walking instead of driving is good for health, the environment, and local businesses and it reduces our individual carbon footprints. At the kickoff event on March 15 participants received free pedometers and many set off on a soggy "Tour de Bethesda" to test out the gizmos. Spirits were high in spite of the rain and most "Tour-ists" returned wet but happy to the Town Hall where a prize drawing was held for the survivors.

Dozens of Town residents attended the final award ceremony and hometown Earth Day fair on April 19. As they gobbled up free Ben and Jerry's ice cream treats, the fair-goers learned about climate change, home energy efficiency, solar energy options, and composting. Twenty people left the fair with free compost bins in hand.

The results were impressive. Almost one hundred people registered to participate, a third of whom submitted their final Achievements Diaries at the end of the month. The 33 people submitting their records walked a total of 6,038,667 steps or approximately 3020 miles during the four-week challenge. Prizes were awarded to walkathon participants in several categories. The winners were:

- 1) **Most steps walked:** Anne Ebbighausen walked 346,655 steps (almost 175 miles)! Anne received a \$100 gift certificate from Modell's to buy a new pair of walking shoes (since, obviously, the ones she had were worn out). Anne is an exchange student at BCC High School living with the Seidels.
- 2) **Fewest miles driven:** Peg and Don MacGlashan drove only 67 miles during the month. The MacGlashans received The Energy Detective (TED), a smart meter which shows how much electricity is being used in the house, its cost, trends and projections in energy use, and historical data. Michael Whelan, Live Green, LLC donated the time to install the TED.
- 3) **Most Family Members Participating:** The Kynochs (Brent, Dale, Mackensie, Kendall and Cole) won the prize for the most family members participating. The Kynochs won a free energy audit generously donated by Live Green, LLC (www.livegreenhome.com).
- 4) **Farthest destination reached:** Pat Damico walked 5 miles round-trip to the Westwood Shopping Center off River Road! Pat won a gift certificate to Modell's.
- 5) **Most destinations reached on foot:** Amy Marella-Carpenter logged more than 100 destinations! Amy won The Energy Detective (TED) smart meter including installation.

Congratulations to all who participated in the challenge! The Climate Protection Committee hopes that this will serve as an inspiration to everyone in the community to Step Up to the Challenge of climate change and walk more so they can drive less.