

# Forcing cars off the road

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LEN LAHMAN — MERCURY NEWS

Laura Kessinger, a Santa Cruz insurance company employee, continues on to her job after having breakfast Tuesday at the Civic Center.

## Bike-to-Work day gets into high gear

BY TERRI MORGAN  
Special to the Mercury News

The streets were filled with bicycles Tuesday as hundreds of Santa Cruz County residents left their cars at home for the fifth annual Bike-to-Work day.

"It's been a smashing success," said Kristin Anderson, who coordinated the event. "We're still tabulating the figures, but so far we've counted way over 1,000 participants."

Piet Canin, an adviser to the event, said 17 people rode their bikes from one end of the county to the other to get to work. "One guy biked up to Watsonville from Pacific Grove," he said.

The most intrepid seemed to be those who work in the bicycle industry. Among them was Kevin Kenney, who pedaled about 45 miles from his home in San Jose to his engineering job at Kestrel Bicycles in Watsonville.

"I told everybody at work it was mandatory, so I figured I'd better do it," said

Kenney, who traveled back roads through Morgan Hill and over Hecker Pass in about three hours. "I'll probably leave about 4:30 this afternoon for the ride back," he noted.

Liz Bradley biked from Los Gatos to Soquel for her job with Giro, a manufacturer of bicycle helmets. She said she planned to do it more often: "It's really not a bad ride."

In addition to avid cyclists, the event attracted many recreational riders.

"This was the first time (riding to work) for me," said Kathleen O'Halloran, who pedaled her bicycle from her home in Boulder Creek to her job at the Bike Rack in Scotts Valley. "It was delightful. I'm hoping to get it on the agenda for myself at least once a week."

O'Halloran said about 140 other cyclists showed up at the Bike Rack on Tuesday morning, one of five sites where hungry riders could get a free Bike-to-Work breakfast. And Anderson estimated an equal number of cyclists bypassed the Scotts Val-

ley breakfast site and went straight to their jobs at firms like Seagate Technology and Borland.

At Cabrillo College, about 150 bicyclists took advantage of the free breakfast, said volunteer Noah Chandler. But judging by the number of bicycles locked to racks, trees, and handrails on campus, dozens of students cycled to school and went directly to class.

The Cabrillo College visitor's parking lot is normally packed, noted Marc Duisenberg, who was offering free chain-cleaning and minor bicycle tune-ups for event participants at the school's amphitheater. "Usually people are sitting in their cars with their motors idling, waiting for a space," he said. "Today it's less than half full."

Anderson, who ironically was forced to use her car to get to four of the free breakfast sites, said driving across the county was a breeze because so many people left their automobiles at home. "I wish it was like this every day," she said.