

Did You Know . . .

By Chief Matthew Workman
Vernonia Police Department



On April 29, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., the Vernonia Police

Department, Vernonia Middle School Leadership Group,

Metro/West Ambulance Volunteers, and several other sponsors will be putting on a Bicycle Safety Event (Rodeo) at the Vernonia Middle School. The event will include safety education/training, multiple safety stations, a skills course for all ages, safety equipment, raffles, prizes, and lots of free stuff. We hope to also have fire-truck rides and public-safety equipment displays. Registration starts at the Middle School, rain

or shine. All ages are welcome and encouraged to participate. We especially would like to see parents come learn with their children.

The Vernonia Police Department has received two grants to pay for increased enforcement of bicycle laws and pedestrian safety on Bridge St. Through our efforts to educate bicyclists on state laws and city ordinances, we continue to see violations of the helmet law and

of the city ordinance prohibiting bicycles on the sidewalks along Bridge St. and in the downtown areas. The grant will help fund enhanced enforcement, establish a diversion program, purchase helmets, fund the bicycle safety event.

The other grant that was obtained is specified for Pedestrian Safety Enforcement. The grant application was filed in response to numerous complaints about vehicles and

pedestrians failing to yield to each other on Bridge St. This has created several dangerous situations and near-accidents. The grant will pay for an officer to attend specialized training and for enhanced patrols. The enhanced patrols will be in the form of pedestrian decoy operations to take place this spring summer, and fall. Please be wary of pedestrians and children in the crosswalks, especially in inclement weather.

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