

Effort to break world bike riding record expands countywide

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The World's Greatest Bicycle Parade Committee today announced that a Family Fest will be held in Davis' Central Park on Sunday, Oct. 3, in conjunction with the effort to break the world's record for most bicycles in a parade.

"Breaking a world's record is a big job, requiring lots of organizational work, a small army of volunteers, dedicated sponsors, and supportive community leaders," said committee spokesperson Dave Rosenberg. "So we're planning a Festival in Central Park as our way of saying 'thank you' to the bike riders and volunteers for an expected job well done."

Bike parade participants, bike route volunteers, family members, and spectators are invited to Central Park immediately after the conclusion of the parade. The Festival in Central Park will feature a hot dog, vege burger and hamburger BBQ put on by the Davis Firefighters. There will be a variety of side dishes and beverages. Those over 21 can enjoy an assortment of adult beverages in the Beer and Wine Garden.

The Festival in Central Park will also feature the "Tour de Fun" with lots of activities for the kids. Children can test their agility in the bounce houses, have their faces painted, ride the ponies, take a spin on a bicycle-propelled carousel, or practice their swings at the inflatable batting cage. Kids running low on energy can re-tool at the cotton candy or the snow cone booths.

Live musical entertainment will also be scheduled at Central Park throughout the Festival, and commemorative Bicycle Parade T-shirts will be available along with other collectables at the souvenir booth. "We want the Festival at Central Park to be a fun and relaxing event for the entire family," said Committee Co-chair Holly Bishop, who is in charge of Festival organization. "After setting the world's record, I'm sure the participants, volunteers and spectators will want to kick back and enjoy knowing that we've brought the record back to the USA."

The Davis Odd Fellows have announced a citywide effort to break the world's record for "largest parade of bicycles" - a record recognized by the Guinness World Record Book. The attempt to set a new record will be made on Sunday, October 3. Thousands of bike riders are expected. Details will follow in the coming weeks, but the event is expected to start early in the morning and end around noon, followed by the family-friendly Festival in Central Park.

The Bicycle Parade Committee has opened a website for the public at the following address: www.worldsgreatestbicycleparade.com. In the next few weeks, participants can register for the parade on line. The parade is open to the general public, and the Odd Fellows invite bike riders from throughout California to join the parade, break the record and help raise money for the Davis Schools.

Visitors to the website can gain access to a Facebook page - World's Greatest Bicycle Parade - where they can learn more about the parade and interact with fans, Odd Fellows, businesses, and organizations that support the effort. There will also be access to a Twitter feed - @bicycleparade - which will provide timely updates and links to additional resources regarding the parade. Finally, the website sports a blog at www.worldsgreatestbicycleparade.com/blog/ that will contain the latest information and news about the parade.

In addition to making the attempt to break the current world's record, the effort hopes to raise a significant amount of money to benefit the Davis Schools through the Davis Schools Foundation. Bike registration fees after expenses will all be funneled to the Davis Schools Foundation. The Odd Fellows are also seeking individual, business and corporate sponsors who will contribute to the Davis Schools Foundation.

The Odd Fellows hope to include many community leaders, groups and clubs in the effort. Numerous community leaders have already endorsed the effort, including State Senator Lois Wolk, Assembly Member Mariko Yamada, Davis Mayor Ruth Asmundson, City Council members Sue Greenwald, Lamar Heystek, Don Saylor and Steve Souza, City Council Members-elect Joe Krovoza and Rochelle Swanson, County Supervisors Helen Thomson and Jim Provenza, and Davis School Board President Tim Taylor and School Board members Sheila Allen, Susan Lovenburg, Richard Harris and Gina Daleiden. The entire Davis City Council and the entire Davis School Board have endorsed the effort.

The current record is 3,515 bicycles, held by Bangkok, Thailand.