



NEWS ADVISORY

Nov. 27, 2012

For immediate release

City Holds Pre-Holiday Bike Auction Wednesday, Nov. 28

Looking for a new bicycle for yourself or as a holiday gift for a loved one? The City's upcoming auction of about 60 recovered bicycles includes a great selection of mountain bikes, road bikes, cruiser, and children's bikes. Many bikes are nearly new; some are quite old.

"It might be cold, but it's still a great time to be thinking bikes," says Ben Weiss, Missoula's Bicycle/Pedestrian Program Manager. "The next bike auction is coming up, and the holiday season is the perfect excuse to go buy a recovered bicycle."

The bikes will be for sale on Wednesday, Nov. 28, at Gardner's Auction Service at 4810 Highway 93 South. The auction starts at 5 p.m.

The bicycles to be auctioned have been recovered by local law enforcement; typically, they have been lost or stolen. The City keeps the bicycles for 60 days. After that, any that are not claimed by their owners are sold at auction.

"Right before an auction, I check the recovered bikes against the list of stolen bike reports," Weiss said. "We were able to reunite four people with their bikes this week."

The bikes can be viewed from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on the day of the auction. Cash or local checks with identification are accepted for payment.

Once a bike is purchased, the new owner will want to protect it from theft by registering at the City Treasurer's office, at The University of Montana Office of Campus Security, or at the University Center Box Office. Four-year licenses are required for bikes ridden within the city limits. They cost from \$5.00 to \$10.00; family discounts are available. Licenses help the City Bicycle/Pedestrian Office return found bikes to their owners. Revenue from license sales also helps support safety and environmental education in Missoula.

For more information about the auction or Missoula's Bicycle/Pedestrian Office, call Program Manager Ben Weiss at 552-6352.

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