



By Ezra Mann, eman@pvdemocrat.com | May 5, 2016

Ideal weather, family fun for bike event

Conditions may just about be as good as they can get as Pauls Valley is set to welcome Valley Rally back to town this Saturday.

Returning for the 21st year, the bike ride has received an impressive response as 116 riders have pre-registered for the event, according to PV Parks and Recreation Director Jennifer Samford.

Set to get going at Wacker Park at the Reynolds Recreation Center, people are invited to come out and support a cause that will benefit the whole community.

"We're going to have a really great turnout. That's the most pre-registered riders we've had in the history of the event," said Samford.

We put the event on and they come and spend time in our community. I would hope that they would have such a good experience they would come back and spend time in our community."

There will be a route for every level of rider once they hit the trails at 9 a.m. and Samford noted a majority of them will be taking the longest route, which is a 67 mile trek through locales like Falls Creek and Daugherty.

For those seeking something less challenging there is also the 47 mile version that goes to Davis, 28 mile jaunt to Wynnewood and back, as well as the second year of the five-mile family fun ride.

"One of the things I really enjoy is getting to meet some of the riders, before and after they ride and being able to show them PV hospitality," said Samford.

"A lot of our riders are repeat riders, they try to ride our ride every year."

Samford noted something unique to this year's ride will be the honoring of a local WW II Veteran, R.B. Wadley. He will be serving as a master of ceremonies and along with an introduction there will be a reading of his biography.

"We are going to honor his service. One of our guys on the committee knows him and thinks a lot of him," said Samford. "These WW II veterans are not going to be around forever, so we need to honor them."

In the end, Samford noted none of it would be possible without their volunteers from local riders to law enforcement helping keeping everyone safe. There are five rest stops manned by volunteers, including a few by Wynnewood and Pauls Valley Boy Scout troops.

Volunteers will also include individuals from the local community groups, Allies for Better Living. They will be getting a part of the proceeds toward the X-treme Summer Fun day camp.

People can still register the day of the ride as there will be goody bags and plenty of food before and after.

It is \$15 for a single rider for the five-mile ride, \$35 for other routes and \$40 for tandem bikes.

"It's a pretty beautiful ride, that's one of the comments we hear," said Samford, noting how it is mostly a rural route, with some highway miles. "They love the ride course."