

Bike safe out there, y'all

Over the past five years, the Lafayette area has seen a growing number of cyclists injured or killed by motorists on the road. In an effort to resolve this problem, Broussard & David, cycling advocacy group BikeLafayette and Lafayette Consolidated Government are teaming up to educate motorists and cyclists on the rules of the road.

The first annual Bicycle Safety Festival is 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. June 4 at Parc Sans Souci.

“In this refreshing era of smart growth and planning, the aim of this event is to educate our community about bicycle safety,” Blake David, founding partner of the firm. “It’s to help motorists and cyclists enjoy safe and lawful use of our streets.”

A few weeks ago, [we published a piece on bike to work week](#). While most of the feedback from readers was positive, a significant amount consisted of legitimate concerns over fear of sharing the road with motorists. Overall, the consensus is a lack of feeling safe when traveling on a bike in this town.

During the comprehensive planning process, the public expressed the desire for a community where bicycling and walking are safer and more available modes of transportation.

“Events like the Bicycle Safety Festival help make cycling more accessible to people by providing information and tools to ensure safe cycling—which is critical as bicycling becomes more popular and more available,” said Carlee Alm-LaBar, Lafayette Consolidated Government director of Planning, Zoning and Development.

David said he sees it all too often, “In Acadiana, there have been far too many cyclists injured or killed in preventable bicycle accidents.”

Many times, he represents a client who sustained a preventable injury because they were not following the rules.

“Safety begins with awareness of the growing bicycle presence, and knowing the rules of the road for bikes and cars,” says David.

The morning of the festival will be filled with all cyclists need to know for safe cycling with some fun mixed in. The Bicycle Festival features an instruction on bicycle safety, bike helmet fitting and bicycle inspections. Free adult and youth certified bicycle helmets will be given away to the first 300 participants, and free bike lights are available while supplies last. Ride or bring your bike to the Festival to be registered for free (save \$5) with the Lafayette Police Department. Registering your bike makes it so much easier to find if it gets stolen.

If you complete a short bicycle safety course, you could win a free bicycle (\$300 value), from Hub City Cycles and Bike Lafayette. The festival will also have food, drinks and live music by Zydeco Radio. Bring the kids for fun activities like a bike obstacle course, a stationary bike race and helmet decorating stations.

Don’t own a bike but are curious about the rules of cycling? Motorists are encouraged to attend as well.

“We just want to help everyone enjoy the smart growth that our community is embracing,” David said.

The cycling movement is not going away. Now is the time to be proactive. Here is your chance to have fun while doing so.

Want to go?

What: Bicycle Safety Festival

When: 9 a.m. -12 p.m. June 4

Where: Parc Sans Souci

More information: <https://www.facebook.com/BikeLafayette/events>