



# Yreka City Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 8

August 31, 2009

## Back to School & Traffic Safety

School is back in session! As always, I am sure the summer was too short for most students. Many children are now walking or riding their bikes to school. As drivers, we need to remember to be on extra alert, as children may dart out into the street at a moment's notice. Speeding cars colliding with a person walking or riding a bike, especially a child, will most likely result in serious injury or death. Nobody wants that to happen, so slow down and use caution, especially around the schools. Children need to remember to walk on the sidewalk and look both ways before crossing the street. Use the crosswalks and make sure any oncoming cars are going to stop before stepping out in front of them. Parents, if your child is riding their bike to school, remember they must wear a helmet. A bike helmet is the most important piece of biking equipment. They should wear it at all times, even for short trips. It can save your child's life. When dropping your child off at school from your vehicle, please park next to the curb. We have seen an increase in double parking lately. This is dangerous and illegal. Take a few extra moments and park in a safe spot. The members of the Yreka Police Department hope that each child will be safe on their way to and from school and that they have an enjoyable new school year.

By: Chief Brian B. Bowles

### Important Numbers

City Hall/  
Water Division  
(530) 841-2386

Fire Department  
(530) 841-2383

Police Department  
(530) 841-2300

Public Works  
(530) 841-2370

Senior Program  
(530) 841-2365

### Elected Officials

Tom Amaral  
Mayor

Jim Griffin  
Mayor Pro Tempore

Rory McNeil  
Councilmember

David Simmen  
Councilmember

Jason Darrow  
Councilmember

Liz Casson  
City Clerk

Michael Pavlik  
City Treasurer

### Shocking Statistics

•716 bicyclists reportedly died on US roads in 2008.

•98% of bicyclists killed in 1999 reportedly were not wearing helmets.

•More than 47,000 bicyclists have died in traffic-related accidents in the US since 1932.

•About 540,000 bicyclists visit emergency rooms with injuries every year.

•Nearly half of all bicycle fatalities occur to children under the age of 16.

•On average, a pedestrian is injured in a traffic accident every 8 minutes.

•On average, a pedestrian is killed in a traffic accident every 111 minutes.

#### **Bicycling Safety Tips**

- Wear a properly-fitted bike helmet at all times.
- Check your bicycle's tire pressure and brakes regularly.
- Go with the flow of traffic.
- Observe all traffic laws and signals, just as automobiles do.
- Watch for parked cars pulling out or opening doors.
- Wear bright-colored clothes that make you more visible.
- Watch for and avoid road hazards such as potholes, broken glass, gravel, & puddles.
- Walk across busy streets or find alternate routes.
- Avoid riding at night or in wet weather.
- Stay alert at all times.



#### **Pedestrian Safety Tips**

- Children under 10 years of age should not cross the street alone.
- Use sidewalks whenever available.
- Cross at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks.
- Look left, right, and left again before crossing.
- Make eye contact with drivers before crossing.
- Walk, don't run, across.
- Watch out for cars backing out of parking spaces and driveways.

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S a f e Routes to School is an international movement that has taken hold in communities

throughout the United States. The concept is to increase the number of children who walk or bicycle to school by funding projects that remove the barriers that currently prevent them from doing so. Barriers include lack of bike lanes, unsafe sidewalks, secure storage areas, and programs to promote walking and bicycling.

Thirty years ago, 60% of children living within a 2-mile radius of a school walked or bicycled to school. Today, that

## Safe Routes to School

number has dropped to less than 15%. Roughly 25% commute by school bus, and well over half are driven to/from school in vehicles. Back then, 5% of children between the ages of 6 and 11 were considered to be overweight or obese. Today, that number has climbed to 20%. These statistics point to a rise in preventable childhood diseases, worsening air quality and congestion around schools, and missed opportunities for children to grow into self-reliant, independent adults.

Safe Routes to School Programs are intended to reverse these trends by funding projects that improve safety and promote

walking and bicycling within a collaborative community framework.

The City of Yreka Department of Public Works has been approved for a grant of \$400,000 for a Safe Routes to School project. The project will install speed feedback signs, safety lighting, and crosswalk and pavement markings; construct curb ramps; and enhance enforcement and education efforts. The improvements will be constructed on portions of Evergreen, Oregon, Lennox, Jackson, Knapp and Gold Streets. The engineering for the project is underway and the construction will be completed next year.

## Keep the Creeks Flowing

Reduce flooding, improve your property values, and help sustain our water resources in the North State! Several areas of the creek system are owned and maintained by the City of Yreka, but most areas are privately owned. City crews do not enter private property to maintain drainage-ways. We need your help to ensure that storm flows are conveyed through town without causing flood damages to downstream properties. If you are unsure whether you own the creek or drainage, or if you have other questions, please give us a call at 841-2336 and we'll try to help you figure it out.

Here's how you can help:

- .Use weed-eaters or mowers to trim grasses, weeds, and other vegetation on the banks of creeks and drainages.
- .Keep trees trimmed/pruned above the height of typical water flow.
- .Bag up and dispose of (or compost) clippings, leaves, and garbage.
- .Use only aquatic-friendly herbicides and pesticides near waterways.
- .Remove blackberries without disturbing roots below the soil surface where ever possible.
- .Eliminate noxious weeds like Starthistle, Marlahan Mustard, and Whitetop on your property by cutting or digging them out before they produce seeds.



Because the seeds of these noxious weeds tend to be very persistent, you can reduce the opportunity for them to spread to new locations by placing them in a dark plastic trash bag and allowing them to sit in the sun for a few weeks before disposing of them in the trash. Check out [www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants](http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants) or [www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/ipc/weedinfo/](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/ipc/weedinfo/) for pictures and more information.