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WINTER BIKE AUCTION SET FOR THIS WEEK

Bikes for sale at Gardner's Auction Service March 6

More Missoula residents than usual have kept riding their bikes during this light-snow winter. And for non-winter riders, spring will be here soon.

"It's time for our winter bike auction," said Ben Weiss, Bicycle/Pedestrian Program Manager, "and this is a great time to get a bike."

About 60 bikes will be going to auction next Wednesday, including a great selection of mountain bikes, road bikes, cruisers and children's bikes. Many bikes are nearly new; some are quite old.

The bikes will be for sale this Wednesday, March 6, at Gardner's Auction Service at 4810 Highway 93 South. The bike auction starts at 5 p.m.

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

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 Bicycle/Pedestrian Office, at The University of Montana Office of Campus Security, or at the University Center Box Office. Bike licenses are required by ordinance and are valid for 4 years from the date issued. They cost from \$5.00 to \$10.00; family and organizational discounts are available. Licenses help the City Bicycle/Pedestrian Office return found bikes to their owners. .

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