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April/May 2016

May is National Bike Month

May is National Bike Month, a celebration of cycling that is sponsored by the League of American Bicyclists and observed in communities from coast to coast, including right here in the North Central Texas region. So whether you bike to work, to school, for pleasure, or out of necessity, National Bike Month is an opportunity to celebrate your efforts to use an alternative to driving alone; reduce traffic congestion; improve our air quality and your health; and increase the money you save.

WHY BIKES?

- » **BIKING IS FUN:** Biking brings people together, encourages discovery, and fosters community engagement.
- » **BIKING IS HEALTHY:** Bicycling can integrate physical activity into our daily routines.
- » **BIKING IS GREEN:** Biking curbs your carbon footprint, reduces air pollution and reliance on fossil fuels
- » **BIKING SAVES MONEY:** Biking cuts parking, gas and other driving costs while reducing traffic congestion

Don't forget that you can find Biking Buddy matches on TryParkingIt.com. There's a place for everyone, from the beginner cyclist to the highly confident expert cyclist and

everything in between. You set your biking skill level. If you're interested in sharing your love of cycling with new riders, then register as a Biking Mentor. National Bike Month is the perfect time to find your new biking buddy!

National Bike Month Dates to Remember:

- Bike to School Day: May 4, 2016
- Bike to Work Week: May 16-20, 2016
- Bike to Work Day: May 20, 2016

For more information on National Bike Month events throughout the North Central Texas region, please visit [Bike to Work DFW](#).

Keep street safety in mind this spring during National Bike Month

Not only during National Bike Month, but every day, the Look Out Texans campaign encourages North Texans to watch out for one another and follow safety practices while bicycling, walking and driving together.



When bicycling, always wear a helmet. Check that equipment is working properly in advance. Since state law requires people to operate bicycles with the same rights and duties applicable to operating a motor vehicle, stop and yield at traffic signals and signs and use hand signals when you're turning, changing lanes or stopping.

Likewise, people driving should respectfully treat bicycles as motor vehicles. Allow at least three feet when passing. If you're parallel parked, look before opening a car door. Never block or park in a bike lane. Preventing people from riding in these lanes creates unsafe circumstances for everyone.

This National Bike Month, resolve to prioritize safety.

The Look Out Texans campaign features North Texans helping bring a greater sense of community and respect to our roads. Understanding how people bicycling, walking, and driving should interact together is important to improving safety on area roads and protecting our friend, families, and neighbors. To see more tips and learn about Look Out Texans, visit www.LookOutTexans.org.

Take the DART challenge and ride your bike in May



The graphic is split into two main sections. The left section has a blue background and features the text 'WIN PRIZES Bike and Ride' in yellow and white, a silhouette of a person on a bicycle, and a yellow arrow pointing right. Below this, it says 'DART Bike to Work Challenge May 1 thru May 31, 2016'. A list of instructions includes 'REGISTER', 'RIDE YOUR BIKE', and 'LOG YOUR TRIPS'. A note states 'Top three participants will win the following prizes from Richardson Bike Mart.' Below that, a table lists prizes: 1st Place (\$100 Gift Card), 2nd Place (\$50 Gift Card), and 3rd Place (\$25 Gift Card). The right section has a yellow background with the DART logo and 'let's go.' at the top, a circular logo for 'try parking it' in the middle, and the 'RICHARDSON Bike Mart EST. 1942' logo at the bottom.

WIN PRIZES
Bike and Ride

DART
Bike to Work Challenge
May 1 thru May 31, 2016

- REGISTER
- RIDE YOUR BIKE
- LOG YOUR TRIPS

Top three participants will win the following prizes from Richardson Bike Mart.

1st Place	\$100 Gift Card
2nd Place	\$50 Gift Card
3rd Place	\$25 Gift Card

DART *let's go.*

try parking it

RICHARDSON
Bike Mart
EST. 1942

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) is hosting a Bike to Work Challenge to help encourage riders to use bicycles as an alternative to driving during the month of May.

Cyclists can help the environment, improve their health and earn bragging rights by riding as much as possible to win gift cards from Richardson Bike Mart worth up to \$100.

Eligible participants must be residents of DART cities; Addison, Carrollton, Cockrell Hill, Dallas, Farmers Branch, Garland, Glenn Heights, Highland Park, Irving, Richardson, Rowlett, Plano and University Park or have a work destination that begins with the "75" zip code.

DART and the North Central Texas Council of Governments have partnered on this first ever Bike to Work Challenge where participants must log their daily commute activities at www.tryparkingit.com. The website is free and was developed to record the miles ridden and to assist commuters in finding and utilizing alternatives to driving alone.

Biking to work makes more sense than ever considering all of DART's bus and rail connections. Customers can ride their bikes to any station and use one of more than 140 bike lids to store their bicycle. They can also take advantage of bike racks on every bus and train to combine bicycles and transit. Bicycles are permitted on any DART vehicle, all Trinity Railway Express trains and the Dallas Streetcar. Learn more by visiting www.DART.org/bikes.

More information on the DART Bike to Work Challenge can be found at <http://www.dart.org/bikes/2016biketoworkchallenge.asp>.

Get in on the TryParkingIt.com April Rewards Madness

During the month of April, you can enter any Try Parking It Rewards Contest after logging only one alternative commute trip on the site! So get in the Rewards Game by using the Trip Calendar to log your alternative commute trips and instantly earn points!

These points can be redeemed for fabulous rewards donated by our Try Parking It G.R.E.E.N Reward Partners! These local businesses recognize and support commuters who are trying alternative commutes. They are a huge reason why our Try Parking It site is so popular!

Use TryParkingIt.com to find compatible carpool partners, cycling, walking or transit buddies, available vanpools or transit options. It's your one-stop site for all information on alternative commuting in North Central Texas! By logging trips on the site, you can see how your commuting choice impacts your money saved, emissions, costs and calories.

The deadline to log your April commute trips and enter the available contests is May 5, 2016. It only takes a minute to log your trips and get points! Try Parking It and help relieve traffic congestion, improve air quality, and earn points today!

G.R.E.E.N Reward Partners





CHAD ROOKSTOOL
SALON



Upcoming Events

MayFest - April 28 through May 1:

Mayfest is Fort Worth's premier family-friendly festival.

Encompassing 33 acres along the Trinity River in Trinity Park, Mayfest has a myriad of activities for the whole family in one of the best greenspaces in town.



Live music, festival food, carnival rides, bounce houses, free children's activities, petting zoo, performing arts groups, paddleboats, rock-climbing, zip-lining, people-watching, art and gift market, 10K and 5K USATF certified runs, student art contest, and so much more. Mayfest is located in Trinity Park, 2401 University Drive in the heart of Fort Worth.

Information: www.mayfest.org.

- Via [Trinity Railway Express \(TRE\)](#) to Fort Worth ITC Station, then the T's bus route 7. Bus stops are located on University Drive.
- Note: Last eastbound TRE train to Dallas Union Station departs ITC Station at 9:46 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9:54 p.m. on Saturday. No TRE service on Sundays.

Denton Arts and Jazz Festival - April 29 through May 1:



The free event is produced by the Denton Festival Foundation, Inc. and will take place Friday, April 29 through Sunday, May 1. Festival goers will experience seven stages of continuous music, fine art, crafts, food, games, and information booths at the beautiful Quakertown Park.

Ride the A-train to the Euline Brock Downtown Denton Transit Center and transfer to Connect Routes 4 and 5 to get to all the musical entertainment, food and fun! Don't forget to find the DCTA booth for great info and fun freebies!

Information: www.dentonjazzfest.com.

- Via **DCTA A-train** to Euline Brock Downtown Denton Transit Center. Board
- DCTA Connect Route 4 or 5

Irving's 6th Annual Bicycle Fest - May 7:



Irving is celebrating the 2016 Bike to Work Week, May 16-20, by hosting the sixth annual Irving Bicycle Fest from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at North Lake College, 5001 N. MacArthur Blvd. in Parking Lot 21, near the tennis courts.

Bicycle Fest focuses on providing a free opportunity for event attendees to learn more about bicycling in and around the Irving area. Attendees receive general bicycling information, safe routes for commuter bicycling, transit options for commuting throughout DFW, basic on-the-spot bicycle checks and information about bicycling gear. Information: cityofirving.org.

- Via **DART Rail Orange Line** to North Lake College Station

Cinco de Mayo Downtown Festival - May 7:

Enjoy the 4th Annual Cinco de Mayo Downtown Festival in the historic Downtown Garland Square. Celebrate history, culture and fun. Students of all ages from the local Garland area schools will be performing on the center stage between 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Featured performances by G.I.S.D Mariachi Estrellas, Ruth Roach Elementary Folklorico, South Garland High Folklorico and Garland High School Folklorico.



In the evening from 4:00 to 10:00 p.m. don't miss the live entertainment with Julians Keeper, La Furia Urbana, Frank Garza Y Su Herradura Nortena, La DezZ, Jerry Deleon and South Bound and Ricky Guzman. Information:

www.cincodemayogarlandtx.com.

- Via [DART Rail Blue Line](#) to Downtown Garland Station

Dallas Cinco de Mayo Parade and Festival - May 7:

The Dallas Cinco de Mayo Parade and Festival is an annual celebration with a parade, festival and car show. It is held on historic Jefferson Boulevard and is produced by the Oak Cliff Coalition for the Arts, a non-profit 501(C)3 organization whose purpose is to promote the arts and education.



The parade starts at 10 a.m. at 223 W. Jefferson (Oak Cliff Cultural Center) and ends at 600 S. Polk Street. The festival and car show are held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Jefferson Boulevard. Enjoy live music, DJ's on every block, vendors

and a beer garden. Information: www.oakcliffarts.org.

- Via DART Bus Route 11, Bus Route 21 and Bus Route 444
- Via [D-Link \(Route 722\)](#) (Monday-Saturday)
- Note: DART Bus Route 11 and D-Link (Route 722) will be detoured from Jefferson during festival hours. Detour details to be announced.

Star Parties in the Farmers Branch Historical Park - May 10:

People of all ages are invited to view the sun and stars through high powered telescopes from sunset to 9 p.m. Viewings are free and open to the public. Members of the Texas Astronomical Society of Dallas will provide a variety of telescopes available for safe viewing of the sun and the night sky. In addition, participants are encouraged to bring personal telescopes. Inclement weather date on May 12. Information: www.farmersbranchtx.gov.

- Via [DART Rail Green Line](#) to Farmers Branch Station, then a short walk

Taste Addison - May 13 through May 15:



Get ready to tame your taste buds, Taste Addison features more than 30 restaurants participating in the long-standing event taking place May 13-15. Restaurants included are Addison Grill, Kampai Sushi & Grill, Texas de Brazil and The Saffron House along with dozens more of your favorites.

With such a wide selection there is sure to be a dish that appeals to even the pickiest of eaters. Make sure you save room for the sweetest treat of all - The Band Perry! Taste Addison is at Addison Circle Park, 4070 Addison Circle Drive. Information: TasteAddisonTexas.com.

- Via Addison Transit Center, then a short walk

Dallas Bicycle Safety Fair - May 14:

The Dallas Bicycle Safety Fair on the Cotton Bowl Plaza at Fair Park from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. is designed to teach safe bicycle riding skills to children ages five to 14 and their parents. During the event, youth participants would be taught safe riding techniques through an obstacle course that recreates real-life situations (Bicycle Safety Rodeo). Adult cyclists are invited to participate in "Fit in the City" health fair hosted by GDYLP and bicycle safety workshops. Bicycle owners will have the opportunity to have their bicycle checked for safety. The South Dallas/Fair Park Active will sponsor bicycle tours of the South Dallas and Fair Park communities and businesses including Bonton Farms, Bexar St. Reinvestment, Opportunity Park, Parkland Clinic, South Dallas Cultural Center and many other locations. This project promotes bicycling throughout South Dallas as new bike lanes are being installed. Register for the bike tour:

<http://www.raeshope.org/event/south-dallasfair-park-active/>

- Via **DART Rail Green Line** to Fair Park Station and MLK, Jr. Station

Home Depot Asian Festival - May 14:

The Home Depot Asian Festival returns for its 26th year and is bigger than ever! This FREE family event at Fair Park features authentic Asian cuisine, cultural performances, unique products and artwork at the Asian World Market, children's activities, healthy living, games and many other activities!



The festival showcases more than 20 Asian cultural performances; ranging from dance, martial arts, acrobats, dragon dances, hula dancers and many more. Begin the

festival with the Faces of Asia Cultural Procession and then stop by the Asian Costume Photo Booth. You can also check out the cooking demonstrations at the healthy living corner and get your free health screening. Be sure to keep your children entertained at the "Passport to Asia for Kids" and your belly happy with delights from the assorted food trucks and vendors offering authentic cuisines of Asia. Festival hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Information:

dallasasianfestival.com.

- Via **DART Rail Green Line** to Fair Park Station and MLK, Jr. Station

Disclaimer: Event information is provided as a resource only and does not include all events occurring throughout the region. Remember to confirm route and departure information before starting your trip.
