

# Ride of Silence

Bicycle safety ranks of great importance in Southern Arizona, especially as Green Valley and surrounding area residents prepare for the Ride of Silence. Bicyclists group together every year and ride to remember those that have been lost or injured in bike accidents.

Three times as many bike lanes are on the Santa Cruz Valley streets than in 2005, and the number of riders expects to grow for this year's

Ride of Silence on May 18, as well. The ride starts at 6:00 pm at East

Center and volunteers and locals will attend at 5:30 pm for snacks

before the race, according to event planners, Santa Cruz Valley Bicycle Advocacy Committee (SCVBAC).

Especially as gas prices continue to rise, the importance of riding bikes becomes more important. Even though Tucson sometimes has one of the cheapest places for gas in the nation, gas still nears \$4.00

per gallon.

The Ride for Silence event raises awareness that bike riders are going to become more prevalent along the road as gas prices go up. They want cars to pay attention to them and share the road to prevent deaths and injuries from bike and car accidents. Southern Arizona has been recognized as one of the most bicycle-safe places from the League of American Bicyclists. However, our towns still have room for improvement with sharing the roads and increasing bike lanes, according to SCVBAC.

The number of bike riders continues to grow. The bicycle committee expects to attract over 100 riders again this year and hopes for even more than last year's 100-plus riders, according to SCVBAC.

In Green Valley, they project the number of bike lanes this year to grow. They have plans set up to create bike lanes along Sahuarita Road, the I-19, North Abrego, Hughes Access Road and Alvernon, Pima Mine Road and possibly more. Some construction has already started for these roads.

