Beer approved for Ride to Rock

Event set for September in Pickens

MIKE EADS
MICHAEL.EADS@INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM

PICKENS - The annual Ride to the Rock will include a beer garden this September that organizers think will draw a big turnout.

The Pickens City Council voted 6-1 Monday night to let the Rotary Club of Pickens use the city's amphitheater and provide a beer garden for cyclists and their guests. The club stages the annual event, which includes 40-kilometer, 60-kilometer and 100-kilometer routes that take riders around Table Rock, Pumpkintown and Caesars Head.

Ride Chairwoman Linda Cassell told members that last year's ride attracted a record 135 riders to the former Chevolet dealership on Ann Street, thanks in part to offering riders beer. She predicted the event could draw more than 200 riders this year if Rotary could bring in a beer vendor again.

"Cyclists like to be able to sit down and have a beer after their ride," said Cassell. "We had zero problems last year with the beer garden. ... Every major cycling event in the Southeast has them, and cyclists just expect them."

Police Chief Travis Riggs said the beer drinkers were set off in a special section after last year's ride and presented no problems for his officers.

"We had no issues at all, and I mean none," Riggs told council members. "I don't care how big it is, as long as they have a separate section."

Councilman Fletcher Perry asked about potential liability issues for the city. Both Cassell and City Administrator Bruce Evilsizor as-

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sured him insurance coverage will be in place.

Cassell said signup information for the Sept. 16 ride should be available at pickensrotary.org soon.

In other business, Riggs told the council that his department's new K-9 officer is off to a good start. Zenia has been on the job for two weeks and local schools have been requesting visits from her. She has made her first bust, too.

"On her first shift, she found drugs in somebody's fuse box in their car," Riggs said.

Zenia will be the guest of honor April 1, when the city hosts Paws for Celebration, set for 10 a.m. to noon on the Doodle Trial at 124 Railroad St.

The police chief added that he's reviewing applicants for the city's opening on his department's second shift, but he didn't say when he expects to conduct interviews or make a hire.



Pickens City Police Chief Travis Riggs

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