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[Noble launches bike patrol](#)

By Jocelyn Pedersen [The Norman Transcript](#)

NORMAN — Chief Keith Springstead of the Noble Police Department announced the beginning of its full-time bicycle patrol program this week. The program is being made possible by donations received from local businesses and citizens. The funds raised allowed the police department to acquire a bicycle and related equipment without the use of scarce city funds. Chief Springstead said he wants to personally thank everyone who contributed and showed support for what promises to be a valuable asset to the department. The bicycle and equipment were purchased from Pedal Place in Norman, he said.

Considering the number of parks and special events that Noble has, and evaluating the needs of the citizens and the department, Chief Springstead and his staff determined that utilizing a bicycle patrol would enhance their ability to provide a safer and more visual deterrent to crime. Other benefits the bicycle patrol offers are cost effectiveness and the ability to patrol areas that may be unreachable by patrol vehicles. Chief Springstead added that the public views officers on bikes as being more approachable than officers in patrol cars.

Chief Springstead said implementing a bike patrol was instrumental in continuing his plan for a more community-oriented police force. He said benchmarks to achieve include being a department that takes the citizens' concerns and fears into account, holding officers to a higher standard and being an organization where members believe no officer should be unfriendly or feel superior to anyone else.

“Involving the general public and getting buy-in from the community is essential for our growing department and community,” Springstead said. “I was so encouraged that enough money was donated that we were able to not only purchase a bicycle but the equipment to outfit the officer with much needed gear.”

Full-time officer, Anthony Valentine, and Reserve Officer, Stephen Teel, now make up the core of the bicycle program.

Chief Springstead said both officers are eager to utilize the training they received to serve the community in a positive and proactive manner. Citizens are encouraged to speak with the officers and view the bicycle that was purchased solely through donations.

