

The Martinsburg Police Department is initiating a new program for the summer of 2013. "OPERATION SAFE SUMMER" will begin on Friday June 7, 2013 and all officers are instructed to issue as many tickets as they want, and will be targeting children under 12 years of age. If you are under 12 years of age and are caught wearing an approved helmet while riding a bicycle, ***you will receive a ticket!*** Relax, the ticket is not a fine. The MPD Safety Ticket entitles the safe rider to a free hot dog or ice cream novelty at Oakley's Oasis (the snack bar at the Hershberger Memorial Pool). Hopefully this program will encourage our youngsters to wear a helmet and ride safe.

According to the Pennsylvania statute, "A person under 12 years of age shall not operate a pedalcycle or ride as a passenger on a pedalcycle unless the person is wearing a pedalcycle helmet meeting the standards of the American National Standards Institute, the American Society for Testing and Materials, the Snell Memorial Foundations Standards for Protective Headgear for Use in Bicycling or any other nationally recognized standard for pedalcycle helmet approval. This subsection shall also apply to a person who rides:

- (1) upon a pedalcycle while in a restraining seat attached to a pedalcycle; or
- (2) in a trailer towed by a pedalcycle."

If you are under 12 years of age and are caught riding a bicycle without a helmet, you can receive a citation which results in fines and costs. It's a law that was enacted for the safety of our children.

Personally, I enjoy issuing MPD Safety Tickets a lot more than those costly citations. Please teach your children to be safe when riding their bicycles. We also have Bicycle Drivers Safety Manuals that you can pick up at our office, free of charge.

HAVE A SAFE SUMMER!