

Welcome to Muscatine



Brought to you by the Muscatine Journal

July 2016

muscatinejournal.com/ragbrai



Welcome to Muscatine!



We're happy to have you visit us and invite you to experience the warm Midwestern hospitality you'll find here. Muscatine is nestled on the banks of the Mississippi, the only place where the north-south river runs east to west. Our friendly neighbors, churches, social groups and businesses will be on hand to greet you as you arrive from your journey across Iowa.

After you dip your tire, be sure to explore Muscatine, the "Pearl of the Mississippi." We encourage you to celebrate with us at our 58th Annual Great River Days event, enjoy the food, drinks, live music and family fun. Area businesses, historic museums, scenic bike paths and local parks all await your arrival. You're invited to spend the night and make a weekend out of it.

Whatever your inclination, **Muscatine is a great place to celebrate.**



City Hall, 215 Sycamore St.
Muscatine, IA 52761-3840
(563) 264-1550
Fax (563) 264-0750

MAYOR

April 20, 2016

Welcome RAGBRAI participants! We have been waiting 10 years for you.

We had such a blast having you here in 2006 that we've been working hard to make your 2016 visit even better. We have added lovely features to our riverfront: The Clammer statue, a nod to our rich history as the Pearl Button Capital of the World (hence our theme: Muscle Down to Mussel Town), and the Mississippi Mist water feature, symbolizing the many steam boats that graced our shores bringing us many visitors, including Mark Twain, who then resided here with his brother, Orion, for the summer of 1855.

We are looking forward to seeing you on the 30th. We have much to show you: <http://visitmuscatine.com>. You'll want to make plans to catch our sunset, noted by Mark Twain, and enjoy the only bridge on the Mississippi lighted with colored LED lights at night.

"And I remember Muscatine - still more pleasantly - for its summer sunsets. I have never seen any, on either side of the ocean, that equaled them."

"The sunrises are also said to be exceedingly fine. I do not know. "

- Mark Twain

Sincerely,

Diana L. Broderson
Mayor of Muscatine

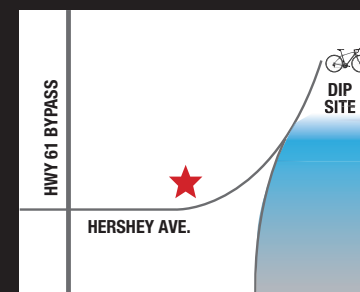
"I remember Muscatine for its sunsets. I have never seen any on either side of the ocean that equaled them" - Mark Twain



MEET YOUR TEAM HERE BEFORE YOU DIP!

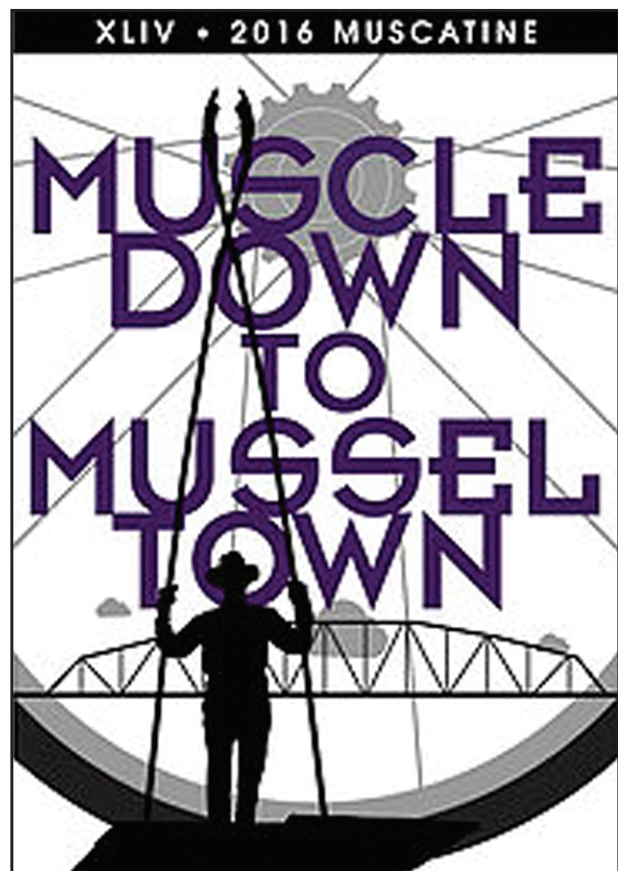
Join us 1 mile from dip site on the route!
Across from the giant M!
Hot Grill • Cold Drinks

1033 Hershey Ave., Muscatine
aguyandagrill.com • 563-260-0229



About Our Theme

By Peggy Senzarino of
The Muscatine Journal



“Muscle Down to Mussel Town” was chosen as Muscatine’s theme as the ending town for the 2016 Register’s Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa.

The winning theme was submitted by Dennis Palmer, of Muscatine. The Muscatine RAGBRAI XLIV Committee

selected Palmer’s idea out of the 84 submissions it received.

Palmer’s idea was selected because it incorporated the physical aspect of the ride with Muscatine’s unique history as the former “Pearl Button Capital of the World.”

He also helped to design the logo which features a clammer, the bridge silhouetted against the spokes of a bicycle wheel.

“We were thrilled to have received so many theme submissions,” Janet Morrow, RAGBRAI Muscatine project lead, stated in a press release. “It’s great to see our community getting involved in this annual state-wide event that will show off our beautiful riverfront and community to 15,000 or more national and international visitors on July 30th.”

Palmer submitted several theme ideas to the RAGBRAI committee.

“The clammer is like the best symbol we have,” he said. The bike spokes “gave a sunny kind of look to it.”

He has a background in design. Palmer worked for Bridgestone Bandag in the company’s advertising department.

Emergency Numbers

AMBULANCE—911

312 E. Fifth St. Suite 2
Office— 563-263-9233

FIRE— 911

312 E. Fifth St. Suite 2
Office— 563-263-9233

POLICE— 911

312 E. Fifth St. Suite 2
Office— 563-263-9922

HOSPITAL

Trinity Muscatine
563-264-9100

STORM SHELTERS

Muscatine Center for
Strategic Action (MCSA)
312 Iowa Ave.



208 W 2nd Street Muscatine, IA



Our Outdoor Patio Overlooks Dip Site!
featuring blues by Ernie Peniston
Noon - 3pm



Strawberry Farm
Bed and Breakfast



*Pleasant
Accommodation
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Country Elegance*

3402 Tipton Road, Muscatine, Iowa
(563) 262-8688

linda@strawberryfarmbandb.com • www.strawberryfarmbandb.com

RAGBRAI rolls into Muscatine and Louisa counties

Nathan Wendt

Nathan.wendt@muscatinejournal.com

MUSCATINE, Iowa — After riding nearly 400 miles in six days, riders on the Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa, will conclude their journey with a 49.7 mile ride on day seven of RAGBRAI to reach the end destination: Muscatine.

Along their way to Muscatine, some 15,000 cyclists will travel through Washington, Columbus Junction, Fredonia, and Letts, Iowa.

On Saturday morning, the riders will depart Washington, beginning their last leg of the journey with a 22.8 mile ride to Columbus Junction, which will also have a downtown filled with vendors and entertainment.

The first stop will be at Eden Park where there will be information booths to direct riders. The riders will then proceed towards the Columbus Junction downtown.

The riders will come into Columbus Junction under the viaduct, otherwise known as where Highway 92 crosses

over Main Street. Columbus Junction RAGBRAI committee member Mallory Smith said the viaduct will offer the riders a "grand entrance."

Once the riders hit the downtown, Smith said there will be a "good showing" of the downtown businesses as well as other features.

"We'll have photo ops at the Swinging Bridge, where riders can walk across it but not ride on it," Smith said.

Smith also said Simply Soothing will be bringing out their bug mobile. Roadhouse 22 and Dairy Sweet will be taking part in RAGBRAI as well.

Once the riders finish their stop in Columbus Junction, they will travel 1.9 miles to Fredonia.

Then it's on to Letts, which is an 8.3 mile ride from Fredonia.

Letts Public Library Director and RAGBRAI committee member Karen Koppe said the riders will be cheered on by the L&M High School cheerleaders as they pass through town.

In downtown Letts, there will be food



Bicyclists will make one last stop at Ardon Creek Winery in Letts before heading to Muscatine to dip their tires in the Mississippi River. The pre-ride team is seen here.

vendors, as well as a DJ and a beer garden.

The riders will then continue to their second to last destination: Ardon Creek Winery.

Ardon Creek Winery Owner Mike Furlong said they will be breaking out various kinds of wine and have different types of food.

"We'll have different concessions with Amish pies, wood fire grill pizza, funnel

cakes and other festival food," Furlong said.

The winery will also have four types of beer for riders to try, as well as serving wine by the glass or bottle. One of the wines they will be serving is their Commission Man Red, a wine that Furlong described as dry with hints of pepper and a recipient of a double gold award.

HOURS

Monday - Thursday
11:00am - 9:30pm

Friday
11:00am - 10:00pm

Saturday
11:30am - 10:00pm

Sunday
11:30am - 9:00pm

Las Lomas

MEXICAN RESTAURANT

16 OZ.
BLUE MARGARITAS
\$4.99

1519 Park Ave., Muscatine, IA

Take out orders available
563-264-0904

Follow us on
facebook

From Ardon Creek Winery, the riders will have a 10.8 mile trek to the final destination of RAGBRAI 2016: Muscatine.

Once riders reach Muscatine, they can dip their tires in the Mississippi River before joining in the festivities for Great River Days. Shuttles will be available from the downtown/dip site area throughout the day on July 30.

Muscatine will also have vendors, music, arts and crafts vendors and entertainment in the downtown.

Riders with wrist bands will have free access to the Great River Days Beverage Garden. Water, soft drinks and beer will be available at the beverage garden.

There will also be concerts starting at 7 p.m. There are three artists lined up: Hong Kong Sleepover, 1152 and Puddle of Mudd.

Organizers said they are ready and waiting for RAGBRAI riders to come through and enjoy their towns and festivities.

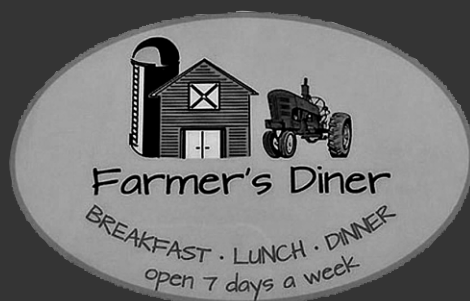


A group of RAGBRAI riders test out the routes on the last day of the pre-ride as they pass through Fredonia.

Welcome Riders!

What do
banking & cycling
have in common?
BALANCE!

CBT
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& TRUST
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Muscatine
563.263.2224**

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Salad Bar Every Day

Lunch & Dinner Every
Weekday & after
1pm Sat & Sun!

**2 Choices of Soup
Every Day**



Weekday Specials

New Breakfast Items

- Burritos
- Spanish, Italian Omelettes
- Biscuit Sandwich



**FREE ICE-CREAM OR PUDDING
EVERY NIGHT W/ DINNER AFTER 5PM**

2016 RAGBRAI MUSCATINE

Food • Shopping • Points of Interest

Voice of Muscatine

VoiceOfMuscatine.com (563) 263-2442 mail@VoiceOfMuscatine.com

KWPC AM 860 & FM 95.1



Get the APP!



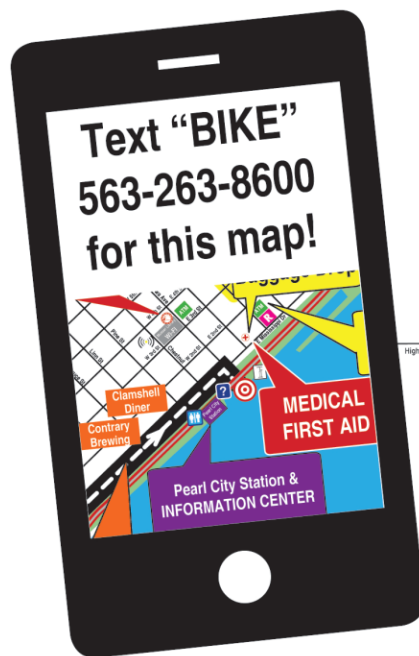
See Our Special
RAGBRAI Edition!

Muscatine
Journal

Celebrating 175 years of news & information



Follow our coverage at muscatinejournal.com/ragbrai



**Detailed
Downtown Map
on other side**



WELCOME!
www.ragbraimuscatine.com

XLIV • 2016 MUSCATINE

MUSCLE DOWN TO MUSSEL TOWN

Legend:

- Bike Path
- ATM
- Emergency Shelter
- MuscaBus Route
- Parking
- Restrooms
- Hospital
- Wi-Fi
- Bike Repair Station

AA MEETING

704 Houser St. -563-263-4407
Saturday Meeting Noon and 8pm
Spanish Meeting 5pm

Acupuncturist

Veronica Reavis 641-990-7335
On Call

ATM MACHINES**1. Community Bank**

615 Cedar St.

2. Kum and Go

501 Cedar St.

3. First National Bank

300 E. 2nd St.

4. Plamor Lanes

1411 Grandview Ave.

5. Missipi Brew

107 Iowa Ave.

6. Hy-Vee

2400 2nd. Ave

7. CBI Bank and Trust

301 Iowa Ave.

ATM MACHINES**8. Circle K**

802 Cypress St.

9. BP Gas Station

2111 Park Ave.

10. Central State Bank

401 Grandview Ave.

11. Muscatine Mall

1903 Park Ave.

12. Kum & Go

709 Grandview Ave.

13. Walmart

3003 US-61

14. First National Bank

608 Grandview Ave.

15. First National Bank of Muscatine

2017 Cedar Plaza Drive

16. Members Community Credit Union

2915 Cedar St.

17. Hy-Vee Mainstreet

510 E. 6th St.

18. Bullpen Sports Bar

1201 Grandview Ave.

19. Stewart Road Fast Break

2418 Stewart Rd.

Bicycle shop**Harper's Cycling & Fitness**

1106 Grandview Ave,
 (563) 263-4043

Car Rental**Enterprise Rent-A-Car**

103 Ford Ave,
 563-262-9000

Saturday 9-12

Chiropactors**Beth Zogg 563-299-4334**

10 am-2 pm

Lyle Krueger 563-264-8565

8 am - Noon

Diane Duggan 563-263-0201

on call

Jason Rowe 563-263-0663

9 am - Noon

Jason Carstens 563-272-1399

8 am - Noon

Muscatine Chiro 563-264-8825

8 am - Noon

Hospital**Trinity Muscatine**

1518 Mulberry Ave

(563) 264-9100

Pharmacies**1. Wester Drug**

315 E 2nd St.

563-263-7044

2. Hy-Vee Mainstreet

510 E 6th St.

563-263-6461

3. Walgreens

1703 Park Ave.

563-263-2724















4. Hy-Vee

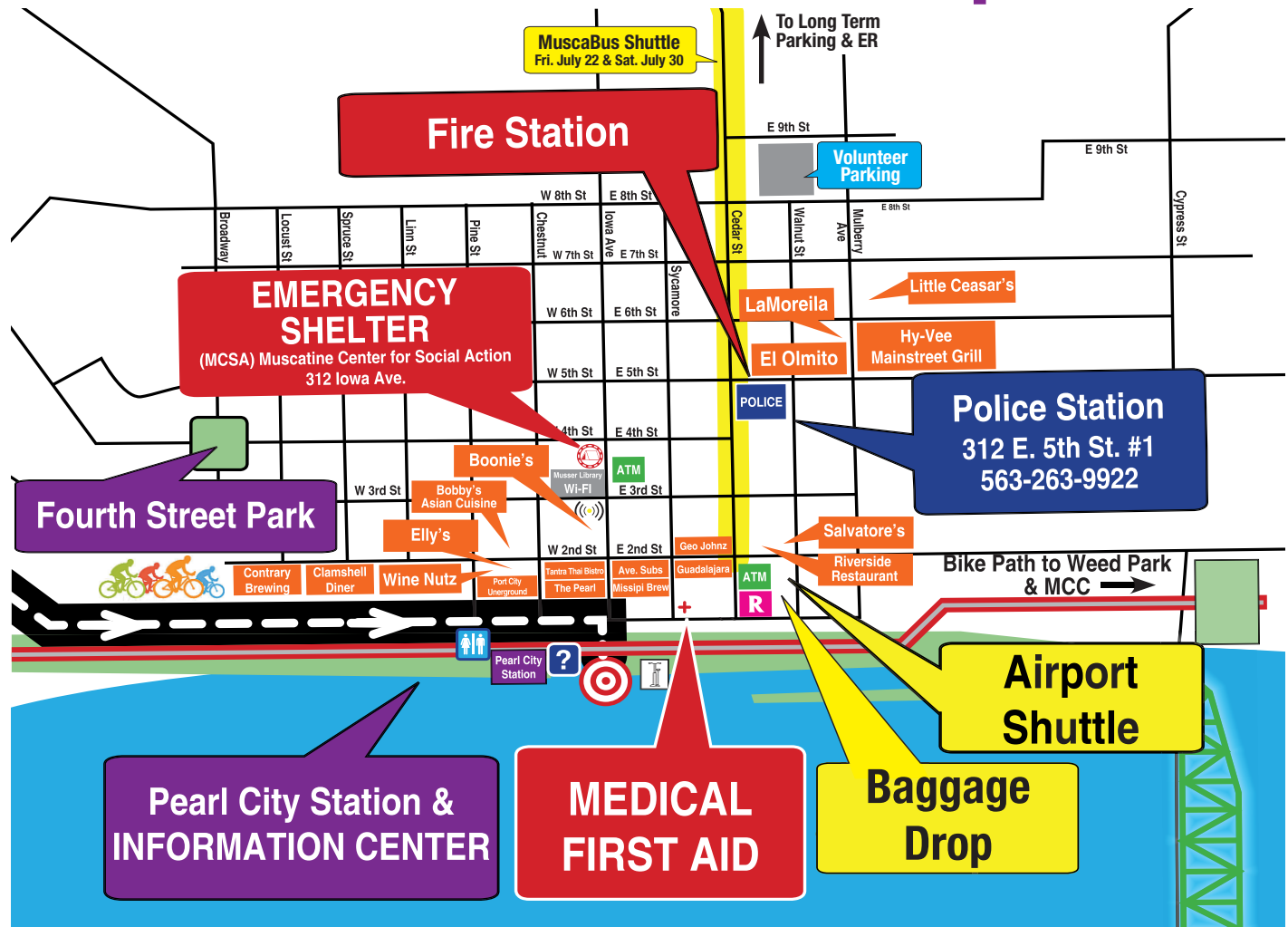
2400 2nd Ave.

563-264-2420

Downtown Muscatine Map

Map Legend

-  RAGBRAI Route
-  Final Destination
-  Information Center
-  Medical First Aid
-  Register Lost & Found
-  Bike Path
-  ATM
-  Emergency Shelter
-  MuscaBus Route
-  Parking
-  Restrooms
-  Hospital
-  Wi-Fi
-  Bike Repair Station



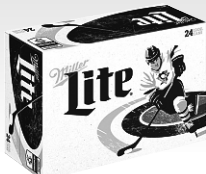
KEYSTONE LIGHT 30 pack

\$13⁹⁹



COORS LIGHT 24 pack

\$14⁹⁹



MILLER LITE 24 pack

\$14⁹⁹

**WEST SIDE
STORE**

2201 Houser St., Muscatine, IA • 563-262-8014



ENTERTAINMENT AWAITS YOU IN MUSCATINE

By Jaime Limoges

jaime.limoges@muscatinejournal.com

In the summer of 1993 Dave Armstrong, co-owner of Muscatine's Missipi Brewing Co., was driving a support vehicle for friends participating on RAGBRAI. As the week progressed, he realized his bar back home which they had just purchased the previous October had some prep work to do as Muscatine was the ending town that year.

"I kept calling and telling them what to get ready," he said with a smile.

Dave won't be making those calls this year as he and the "Brew Crew" have put a lot of thought into their welcome of RAGBRAI XLIV. Their location, just across Mississippi

Dr. from the official dip site will be open at 7:00 a.m. with a bloody mary bar, breakfast pizza and full bar. They are expanding their beer garden and will have several food and drink stations, a cold-water shower and a bike parking area.

Since 1993, the once single-room bar has now expanded into three store-fronts. The outdoor bar, added in time for RAGBRAI's appearance in Muscatine in 2006 is just one example of this Muscatine businesses' commitment to serving visitors to Muscatine. "We've missed them," says Armstrong. "We're excited about it."

The "Brew" will feature live music throughout the day as well, featuring acts including Buddy Olson, Smooth Groove and Flash in a Pan.

Live entertainment can be found throughout the downtown area. Elly's Tea & Coffee will host Iowa Blues Hall of Fame member Ernie Peniston from noon - 3:00 p.m. on their outdoor patio that overlooks the dip site.

Organizers of Muscatine's annual festival, Great River Days are also eager to welcome cyclists and their support crew to Muscatine. This outdoor festival on Muscatine's riverfront

will open their beer garden to riders beginning at 10:00 a.m. The community stage will feature a variety of entertainment throughout the day.

Admission to the Saturday night concerts are free with RAGBRAI wristbands. Acts include Hong Kong Sleepover, Eleven Fifty Two and headliner Puddle of Mudd. The event will be held on the riverfront's north end. For more information, log onto greatriverdays.com.



The dip site for RAGBRAI 2016 is seen here in Muscatine, Iowa.

Read more at
muscatinejournal.com/ragbrai

58th Annual

GREAT RIVER DAYS

Riverfront Park
Muscatine Iowa

July 27th - 30th

2016



SATURDAY - July 30

- Farmer's Market / Craft & Vendor Fair, Kids' Activities - 7:30am
- Various entertainment acts throughout the day on community stage - 9am-4pm
- Beverage tents and food vendors open for business - 10am
- CDAC Carnival opens at noon
- Bill Riley Talent Contest on Community Stage - 1pm

- Kids activities - Riverside Park - 12:30-4:30pm
- Weiner Doggie Dash - 2pm sponsored by KWPC / Vintage Sound 93.1
- Ping Pong Drop - 3:30pm sponsored by the Muscatine Journal
- Musical guests: Hong Kong Sleepover, 1152, Puddle of Mudd
- Entertainment & Beverage Area Admission - \$15.00 for single night

FREE WITH OFFICIAL RIDER WRISTBAND

GreatRiverDays.com

FREE



The hottest spot on RAGBRAI's
final day is a FREE WiFi Hot Spot

Use your devices in Riverside Park • Select "MPW WiFi"

COMPLIMENTS OF



**Muscatine
Power
and Water**



JOIN US FOR

Customer Appreciation Day • August 27

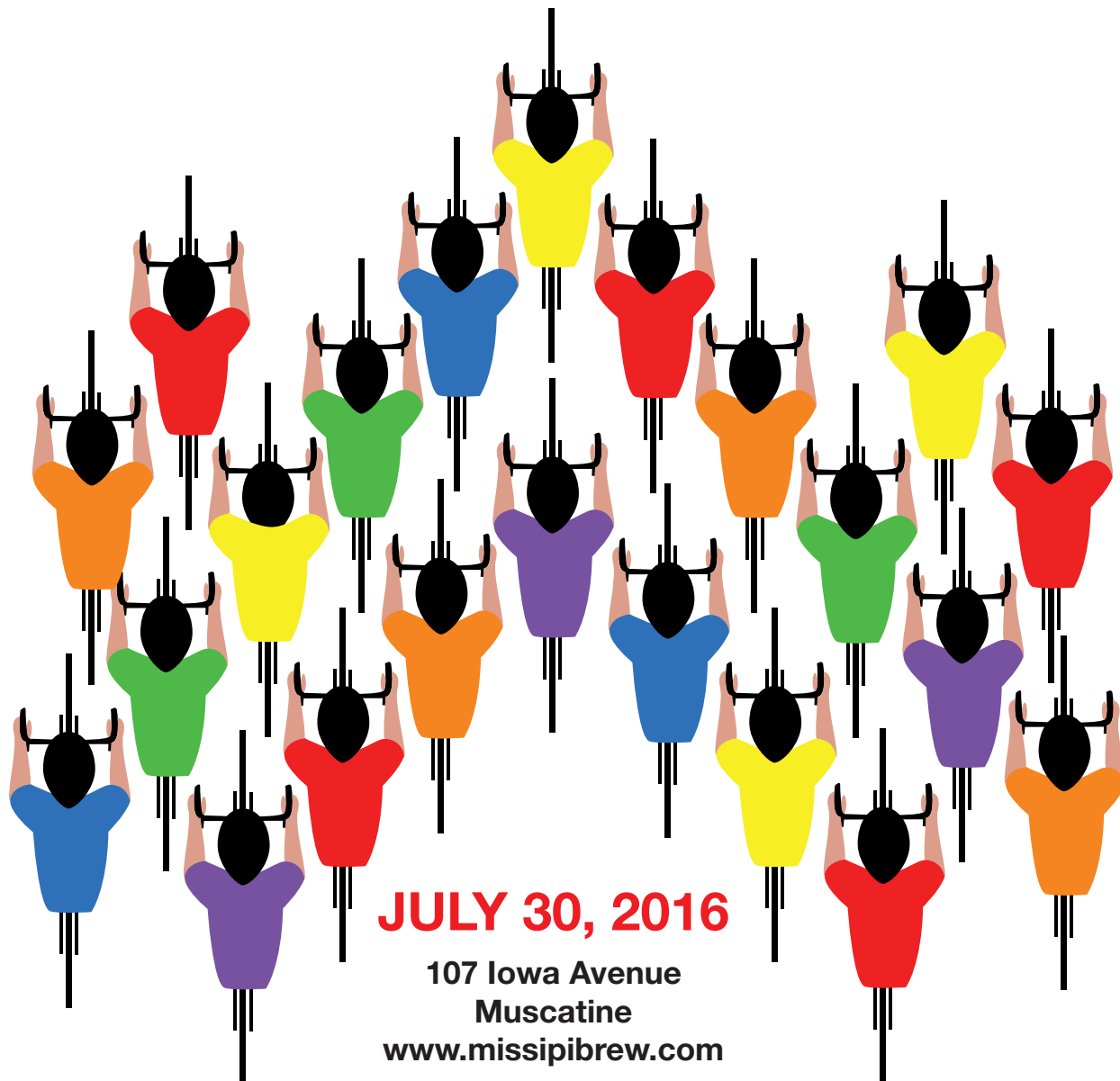
mpw.org

*Welcome
Riders!*



BASH AFTER THE SPLASH

**LIVE MUSIC IN THE GARDEN • BLOODY MARY'S • COLD DRINKS
FRESH SMOKED PULLED PORK • FOOD HOT OFF THE GRILL**



Spotlight on Charlie Harper

Emily Wenger

Emily.wenger@muscatinejournal.com

Charlie Harper, of Harper's Cycling and Fitness, has been involved in RAGBRAI from year one.

He rode the last 12 miles of the first RAGBRAI, along with his two children, and his store is an official RAGBRAI bike shop.

Harper bought out Zeug Garage and Cycle Shop 50 years ago, and said his involvement in bicycling and RAGBRAI has evolved ever since.

"The first few years it was something to do, and then it got kind of carried away," Harper laughed.

He was part of a committee for the fourth RAGBRAI, when the bicycle ride first ended in Muscatine. For RAGBRAI XIV, he was the co-chair for Muscatine. The first time his shop became an official RAGBRAI bike shop, during RAGBRAI XXIII, he stepped back and became an advisor to the co-chairs.

The makeup of RAGBRAI committees was eventually changed, creating an advisory and executive board, and another 20 committees.

"I've been on the advisory board for (RAGBRAI) 29, (RAGBRAI) 34 and this time," Harper said.

He remembered when the notes for RAGBRAI covered less than 10 pages, during RAGBRAI IV. This year, the notes stretched over more than 300 pages.

"The handbook tells the history, and each year they upgrade it and make it more current. It contains all the committees and beginning and end town have a different chapter than the other six towns," Harper said.

Being an official bike shop for the ride means being stationed in different places along the route. Each shop is marked on the maps given to riders.

"There's usually a bike shop at each town. So all the shops are on the road every day, sometimes you're the first shop, sometimes you're the last shop," he said.

Although they may be competitors, Harper said the official shops will often set up in sight of each other, so if one has too many bicyclists to help, they send them to the other store.

"We play well together, we've been commended for that," he said.

Taking enough equipment on the route to help bicyclists each day can be a challenge, and Harper said their travel needs have evolved

from a passenger van to trailers and large U-Hauls.

"We have to anticipate anything that might break or wear out or might need repairs," he said.

He remembered one experience, during RAGBRAI XXIII, when he was given a Volunteer of the Year award at the Greater Muscatine Chamber of Commerce and Industry annual dinner. The experience was particularly enjoyable, he said, because he was not competing for the award.

"When you're just going along minding your own business and get an award for something, it's kind of pleasant," Harper said.

His perspective on bicycle riding has changed as well, from RAGBRAI X when he rode from Tipton to Davenport and he thought that was a long ride. He has since ridden 27,060 miles across the country from San Diego to St. Augustine.

"If you ride eight hours for 40 days you will come out stronger," Harper said.

Harper said he always looks forward to seeing how well Muscatine residents work together to "show off the town."

"If we show somebody that we're a friendly place, and a good place to live, maybe somebody will like it here," he said.

Harper said it is about time RAGBRAI came back to Muscatine.

"One of the thoughts is 'finally,'" he said.

Watching the riders come into Muscatine, Harper said, is always enjoyable.

"It's great to see them."



Charlie Harper entertains Muscatine residents during a recent parade.

Thank You



Official RAGBRAI® Bike Shop

We're proud to
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hometown to you!

Welcome to Muscatine!

1106 Grandview Ave. Muscatine, IA. 52761 • (563)-263-4043 • www.harperscycling.com

See us for official RAGBRAI® T-shirts & momentos!

HOW TO NAVIGATE

To long-term parking:

Cedar St. to Muscatine High School

Shuttle Service available from corner of 2nd St. & Cedar St.

Bikes permitted if space is available. Fee: \$1.00

To Muscatine Community College Bus Parking:

Continue along bike trail "up-river" and follow signs.

To hotels & restaurants outside downtown area:

Travel to City Hall on 3rd St. between Cedar & Sycamore Streets to catch shuttle. Fee: \$1.00

