

TIPTON

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Where Dreams Happen

-Chamber Connection-

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Newsletter for the Tipton Chamber of Commerce

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RAGBRAI XXXVI A Huge Success For Tipton



By Travis Alden
Tipton RAGBRAI Executive Co-Chair

On behalf of the entire Tipton RAGBRAI organizing committee, I would like to extend a massive THANK YOU to all of the local residents, businesses and organizations that pitched in to make RAGBRAI such a large success on July 25th and 26th. Without such a unified community-wide effort the event would and could not have gone as smoothly as it did.

From greeting the thousands of riders as they passed under the Tipton "welcome archway" on 9th street to serving drinks in the community beverage garden, the citizens of Tipton really stepped up and became ambassadors for the town. Part of what makes RAGBRAI such an international draw is the hospitality of the overnight towns. We are showing these folks what small-town midwestern people are all about!

On September 4th the entire Tipton RAGBRAI Advisory Board, Executive Committee and individual committee chairs met with RAGBRAI Director T.J. Juskiewicz and Assistant Director Wes Hall to discuss the event. The committee reflected on the event itself and the planning process and offered some suggestions for future overnight towns. T.J. and Wes commented at length how Tipton "did it right" and how pleased they were with how the event transpired here.

In fact, Tipton was named the "RIDE RIGHT Community Of The Year" by RAGBRAI and the Des Moines Register. T.J. explained that although RAGBRAI doesn't name a "best overnight town", the RIDE RIGHT award is given to the overnight town that best exemplifies the spirit of RAGBRAI. He explained that Tipton did an excellent job promoting the sport of bicycling and bike safety, and really got the community excited about RAGBRAI coming to town. He said what "put us over the top" was our local RIDE RIGHT committee presenting Mayor Shirley Kepford with a pink "Townie" bicycle, which she used to lead a number of "mayor rides" around town leading up to and after the RAGBRAI event. Mayor Kepford ended up purchasing the bike from the RIDE RIGHT committee as she plans to continue to ride it around town.

Our local RAGBRAI committee also sent out e-surveys to all of the bike groups who stayed in Tipton, asking for feedback. The response was overwhelmingly positive, with hundreds of glowing reviews. Tipton scored especially high in the area of hospitality and housing. The majority of those surveyed considered Tipton to be "one of their favorite overnight towns ever" with many specific residents and businesses praised, including Family Foods and the Tipton Bakery.

Thank you again to everyone for helping make Tipton RAGBRAI 2008 a successful event that we will remember fondly for a very long time!



Ribbon-Cutting Round-Up

Since the spring newsletter, the Chamber has held three ribbon-cutting ceremonies for new local businesses.



The Village Coffee Shop & Alterations at 507 Cedar Street



The new State Farm office at 301 Cedar Street



Cedar Ridge Dental at 100 Commerce Blvd in the Tipton Business Park.

Gazebo Get-Together Rescheduled

Because of two straight Thursdays of wet weather, US Bank and the Chamber again rescheduled the annual Gazebo Get Together & Classic Car Cruise for Thursday, Sept 25th from 5:30—8:30pm. Be sure to head downtown for great tunes, great food and great friends.

The Chamber would like to encourage all downtown businesses to remain open during this time for evening shopping. Please contact Diane or Kathy at 886-6181 with any questions about the event. We appreciate your patience in waiting for a (hopefully) dry evening to hold the event!

TEDCO Joins ICAD

This summer the Tipton Economic Development Corporation (TEDCO) joined the Iowa City Area Development (ICAD) Group as a partner community. This strategic partnership will greatly increase TEDCO's exposure and marketing presence, as any business prospects who visits with ICAD about a potential location or expansion will also be presented with Tipton as a possibility (assuming Tipton possesses appropriate facilities to suit the prospect's needs).

Moreover, ICAD is currently working on a number of workforce development and recruitment initiatives, which Tipton will have access to. This effort is key in attracting a skilled workforce to the area, as labor is a massive challenge that faces the entire state of Iowa in the years to come.

For more information about ICAD, please visit their website at www.iowacityareadevelopment.com

Market / Trade Area Study Planned

By Travis Alden

Tipton Community Development Director

In August I attended the annual Iowa Downtown Summit which was held in Charles City this year. This event is always a great opportunity to talk with other community development folks, main street directors, downtown developers and business owners and hear about the challenges and successes their communities are experiencing. One conclusion I came away with this year: Tipton has a thriving downtown, especially when compared to many other towns our size, and we're taking progressive steps to help with even more success.

Another conclusion is that in order to attract new businesses to downtown, especially small retail, a community needs to be armed with a comprehensive market study of the local trade area. Tipton's location makes for a very interesting challenge to say the least, but utilizing resources such as the annual ISU Retail Analysis, Iowa's Downtown Resource Center and by speaking with local businesses, I hope to compile a detailed study in the next few months. I'm sure that the results will help out immensely with the numerous efforts contributing to a healthy downtown in Tipton!

Chamber Luncheon



We invite all Chamber Members, employees and interested parties to come together every other month to enjoy informative speakers and network with other local business leaders.

Thursday, September 25th—12:00pm
Cedar County Attic—421 Cedar Street (above Ms. Molly's)
RSVP is required by 5pm on Tuesday Sept. 22 to 563-886-6350 or info@tiptoniowa.us.

PLEASE NOTE: due to space constraints, RSVP's are limited to 30

Please get your lunch as you arrive. Cost is \$6 per person—includes drink. Those who RSVP are responsible for payment. Tuscani Pasta catered by Pizza Hut.

AGENDA

Welcome—Travis Alden, Tipton Community Development Director

- Thank you to Pam LaRue for hosting
- Thank you to Pizza Hut for catering lunch
- Brief introductions and recognition of guests

Chamber Update—Paul Stueland, Chamber President

School District Update—Dick Grimoskas, Superintendent

City Update—Doug Boldt, City Manager

Local Business Spotlight: Pam LaRue—Ms. Molly's / Cedar County Attic

Presentation: Gaylene Gilbert—Cedar County 4-H Expansion Coordinator

Adjourn at approx. 1:00pm. Thanks to everyone for attending!



Tipton Chamber Of Commerce
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Board Members: Paul Stueland-President; Diana Waltz-Vice President; Kathy Laing-Secretary; Don Young-Treasurer; Jim Allen; John Dornfeld; Tim Frerichs; Denise Feltes; Todd Miller; Mike Pelzer; Daisy Wingert; Doug Boldt-ex officio; Travis Alden-ex officio

Exploring A Signature Community Event

By Travis Alden
Tipton Community Development Director

Due largely to the success of RAGBRAI in Tipton this summer, the Chamber Board has discussed the idea of starting a new, signature event for the community. Tipton was able to pull off a fantastic event for over 20,000 people in 2008, so why not start a new, exciting event that we, as a community, can hang our hat on? (and hopefully attract lots of people to visit our town...)

Of course, it would not be as large as RAGBRAI, and it is not realistic to propose a yearly event that will take up as much planning time and effort as RAGBRAI did. But, why not ride this wave of local momentum? We now have a database of willing volunteers who supported RAGBRAI in Tipton, and we have the experience of the event under our belts to learn from and expand.

Ideas have ranged from a large street dance with a beverage garden to expanding the "gazebo get together" with classic cars and vintage tractors on display. Some things we do know: there needs to be good music, good food, some vendors and most importantly: something to set this event apart.

In order to get the ball rolling, we're looking for ideas and input. Have you seen something another town does that we should try? Have a great concept you can share? Have a chat with myself or any Chamber Board member with your thoughts.

**TIPTON CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE**

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We're on the web!
www.tiptoniowa.us

Tipton Chamber of Commerce Member

Tipton, IA 52772

Have you gotten your SCARECROW yet? Many Tipton businesses are featuring these guys in front of their stores/offices as a great way to kick off the autumn season. They stand approx. 5ft high and are free-standing on a base. The Chamber is selling them for \$25 and they can be decorated as you choose! Just take a glance around town for some really creative looks! Contact Daisy Wingert at 886-2758 for more information.



Skate Park / Tennis Court Improvement Project in the Works

By Travis Alden

Tipton Community Development Director

If everything goes according to plan, the existing tennis courts at Tipton's city park will receive a substantial face lift next spring. This summer the City received a substantial grant from the Iowa DNR's Land & Water Conservation Fund in order to improve the our tennis court facilities as well as put in a skate park and multi-sport court. The total estimated cost for the project is approx. \$124,000 and the DNR grant was for about 50% of that.

Here's the plan: the two newer, northern tennis courts would be completely resurfaced with top of the line material to restore the prime playing surface. The two southernmost, aging (concrete) courts would receive a freshly poured concrete surface. The west half would become a small skate park, with modular ramps and "tricks" which could be used by skateboards, bikes and in-line skates. The east half would become a multi-sport playing court, and would feature four basketball hoops and backboards. Receivers for tennis net poles would also be installed, and the court would be striped/painted for many different sports: basketball, tennis, roller hockey, etc.

The entire complex would receive new fencing, and an 8-foot chain link fence would separate the skate park from the multi-sport area. A new lighting system has also been proposed for future installation.

Tipton Recreation Director Adam Spangler and myself will be assembling a "design committee" for the skate park, making sure that the needs of the wide range of potential users will be met. We want the skate park to be accessible enough for novices but challenging enough for more experienced skaters.

We would like the ramps to be of a modular nature, so the whole layout of the skate park can be changed every so often for a fresh skating experience. A large number of styles, materials and brands are out there, and we are currently researching what would work best for Tipton. From precast concrete to steel to composite materials, there are many options, each with its own strengths.

Ultimately the goal is to provide enhanced recreational opportunities for a large number of our local residents, improving existing facilities and providing new ones for those segments of the population who are currently underserved. Much more to come!



Steel ramps and obstacles, as pictured here at Riverside Park in Cedar Rapids, are one of the options Tipton will be exploring for a proposed skate park.