



## Public Safety Police & Fire

401 East Milwaukee Avenue  
Storm Lake, IA 50588

**Chris J. Cole**  
POLICE CHIEF

**Glenn Schlessler**  
FIRE CHIEF

Dear Storm Lake residents,

We're proud to be selected as the first overnight stop on RAGBRAI's 50th anniversary ride. While it's a lot of work, and residents may experience some minor inconveniences, we are confident that our community will see benefits from this undertaking for years to come! There are a few things that we'd like to share with community members to ensure that everyone has a safe, positive experience.

The Storm Lake Police Department has been planning and coordinating with the Iowa State Patrol and the Buena Vista County Sheriff's Department to develop a safe route for bikers and motorists for the 2023 RAGBRAI event. Traffic control for RAGBRAI is a large endeavor. We ask that residents and visitors follow the recommended traffic routes. Please don't move or drive around barricades and be patient. We want to ensure the safest routes for our visitors while maintaining adequate avenues of travel within the city for our residents.

All road closures and recommended travel routes for both bikes and support vehicles will be published on our social media pages in multiple formats. It's anticipated that traffic on the west side of Storm Lake from C63 to West 5th Street will be diverted for about 13 hours on Sunday, July 23, beginning at around 6 a.m. and ending around 7 p.m.

The RAGBRAI venue areas will be located around most of Storm Lake's lakefront parks. There will also be a large campground located at the Field of Dreams which will cause road closures on West 10th Street from Vestal to Ontario. These areas will be closed to through traffic from 6 a.m. on Sunday, July 23 to approximately 10 a.m. on Monday, July 24.

To showcase our downtown, the committee has created the Lake Avenue Promenade, and we will route cyclists to the food and entertainment venues through Lake Avenue. There will be heavy bicycle traffic on Lake Avenue from 10th Street south to Lakeshore Drive. Lake Avenue will be open to vehicle and bicycle traffic, but it will be likely be congested. We ask that drivers and bikers use extreme caution while crossing and driving on Lake Avenue and to obey all the traffic signals.

There will be heavy pedestrian and bike traffic throughout the weekend. If you're driving, please slow down and drive defensively. If you plan on consuming alcohol, please be responsible. But most of all, we encourage everyone to get involved and have a great time!

With a bit of effort and patience, we're sure that Storm Lake will be the best visit of the ride.

Chris J. Cole  
Police Chief