

RAGBRAI

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Christopher Braunschweig/Daily News

The Newton City Council on May 15 approved the RAGBRAI route for July 27, which will take cyclists all the way through First Avenue. The Newton RAGBRAI Committee is holding a town hall 5:30 p.m. on May 24 at the auditorium of DMACC Newton Campus to discuss more details about the day itself and the community's role as a meeting town.

but they all will be off on their bikes to the next destination around 2 p.m. or so.

Council member Vicki Wade liked to think the businesses that would be impacted by RAGBRAI would take advantage of the tens of thousands of people coming through the community. Wade argued they could even partner with nonprofits as another way to showcase all the good things about Newton.

Other council members agreed First Avenue would introduce riders to a lot of businesses and amenities in Newton. Council member Evelyn George said the updated comprehensive plan mentions the upsides of the city's small town charm, which she said cyclists will see when they venture through First Avenue.

"We also talked about big city amenities (in the comprehensive plan)," George said to

her fellow council members. "First Avenue really allows people to see that we have big stores and some other things that they maybe would not anticipate or expect to see in Newton."

Council member Mark Hallam pointed to the potential economic impact the ride will have on businesses, and he also noted the closures would not last 24 hours.

The closures would last from about 6 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Newton Daily News contacted the public works department about the potential detours. Staff still need to meet with the police department to nail down the specifics, but a signed detour will be on East 31st Street North/North 19th Avenue East and Highway 14.

In addition to council's unanimous approval of the RAGBRAI route, officials also established regulations and a

permit structure for the event.

City documents say it is substantially identical to the last RAGBRAI ordinance passed in 2018. Amanda Price, executive director of the Greater Newton Area Chamber of Commerce and a member of the RAGBRAI Committee, requested the council waive the second and third readings in order to get a head start.

"We obviously have very little time left to plan and raise enough money to make this event very successful," Price said. "We rely heavily on our beer garden sales and also on our food vendor fees. That pretty much helps offset our entire costs for the event. We also want our local businesses to benefit from this."

By passing the ordinance, Price added, the council is providing a safer and better event for the riders and the

community. The city council did end up waiving the second and third readings, adopting the ordinance on the spot. The ordinance will sunset on July 31.

According to the ordinance, commercial vendor booths will have to pay \$450 for a permit, while nonprofits will have to pay \$200. The ordinance also establishes that there will be one — and only one — beer garden in the city operating from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. the day of the event.

To learn more about the Newton RAGBRAI Committee and its goals to make the community a stop to remember, the group will be holding a town hall meeting on May 24 in the DMACC Newton Auditorium, 600 N. Second Ave. W. for the public to attend. The town hall begins at 5:30 p.m. and will have limited seating.

Murder

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years in prison before he would be up for parole.

At the plea hearing, Lewis admitted to attacking the victim, Jessie Harvey, while she was at Dollar General in Newton. Lewis told the judge he stabbed Harvey, who is the mother of his children, two times. Lewis said he was upset and confused, but he also knew his actions could cause her death.

Harvey survived the attack, which occurred March 6. Officers were called to the Dollar General, 1803

First Ave. E., at 12:54 p.m. regarding an assault in progress. The caller said there was a physical altercation between a man and a woman, and the woman was bleeding from her back.

There was also a no-contact order against Lewis at the time of the attack.

After the attack, Lewis fled the scene. Newton Police Department encouraged anyone at the time to contact the police station or Jasper County Crime Stoppers if they had any information on Lewis' where-

abouts. Authorities believed he left the Newton area. The Lee County Sheriff's Office in Florida apprehended Lewis.

Lewis was questioned by prosecutors at the plea hearing, and they asked when he decided to stab the victim if he had any intent to kill her. Lewis paused.

"Yes," he answered.

Harvey was present during the plea hearing and was supported by friends and loved ones. Lewis was supported by his mother and sister.

The Importance of Eye Health For Seniors



By Denise Freese

As we age, maintaining good vision is a very important aspect of our overall health, as vision loss can have a negative impact on our quality of life. Older adults have an increased risk for age-related eye conditions, which makes them more likely to experience falls, social isolation, and decreased independence. The good news is that many cases of vision loss are avoidable.

Seniors should know the warning signs of age-related eye health issues that can lead to vision loss. Many eye diseases don't have early symptoms; they can develop without causing pain, and it may not be noticeable until the condition is advanced. People with certain types of health issues, such as diabetes and high blood pressure, face the greatest risk of developing vision problems. Early detection and treatment offer the best chance for a positive outcome.

Several conditions to be aware of include age-related macular degeneration, cataracts, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, dry eye, and retinal detachment.

Your optometrist can explain and test for these conditions, all of which can lead to vision loss if left untreated.

Seniors who are experiencing vision loss may have difficulty driving. It can become more difficult to see road signs clearly, or to focus on the car's instrument panel. Drivers may find it harder to judge distance and speed, or have difficulty seeing at night. They may also experience poor depth perception, limited side vision, extreme sensitivity to lights and glare, and reduced color perception.

While vision changes are likely to occur as you age, the changes don't have to affect your way of life. Knowing what to expect and when to seek professional care can help safeguard your vision.

Regular eye exams are extremely important as you reach your senior years. The American Optometric Association recommends annual eye examinations for everyone over age 60. Visit an optometrist immediately if you notice any changes in your vision.

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