

Wading In

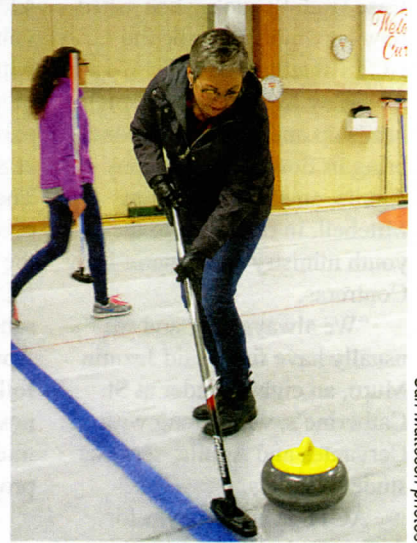
BY KATIE MATTESON

Exploring my hometown and sharing Racine's great stories with you each month is truly a joy. Here are a few behind-the-scenes shots from this issue to give you some insight on how much fun Carl and I have putting together these stories for you.

- I met this buxom lady on the grounds of Wustum Museum of Fine Arts during a recent visit to check out *Cultivating Creativity: Celebrating 75 Years of Wustum and Watercolor Wisconsin 2016*. "The Venus of Detroit," which is part of Nina and Milton Zale's private collection, was created by John Kearney in 1975 from welded steel automobile bumpers. The Chicago artist passed away in 2014, just shy of his 90th birthday.



- We had a delightful experience visiting with the middle school and high school kids in ACTS youth ministry on a recent Friday evening. It was a treat to spend time with these great kids and learn about Hispanic religious traditions.



Carl Matteson photos

And it was such a thrill to find a Baby Jesus in my piece of La Rosca (although I suspect the kids helped my "luck").

- When we attended the open house at the Racine Curling Club, I actually got a chance to try out a sport I'd only

seen in pictures and on television. During all the years I traveled past the industrial park on Mt. Pleasant Street on my way to attend classes at Horlick High School, I had no idea that the club was there.

Belle City

RACINE'S HOMETOWN MAGAZINE

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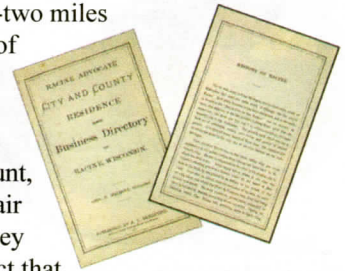
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Why "Belle City" Magazine?

An early nickname for Racine came from French settlers: "Belle City of the Lakes."

"On the west shore of Lake Michigan, twenty-three miles south of Milwaukee, and sixty-two miles north of Chicago, lies the city of Racine. As it justly deserves, it has been christened, and is universally known as the *Belle City of the Lakes*, not on account, as many may suppose, of the fair maidens residing there, (and they are numerous), but from the fact that it is, without exception, the most beautiful city in the northwest." *Milmine, Geo. R., Editor, Racine advocate city and county residence and business directory of Racine, Wisconsin, A. C. Sandford, 1876*



On the Cover: Foggy morning with colorful tables at John's Dock awaiting spring with the Main Street bridge in the background. Carl Matteson photo.