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Lifetime cyclist shares passion by opening bike shop

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Driving down 15th Street Place in Moline where it merges into 16th Street, I see familiar businesses. A car wash, muffler shop and pizza place advertise with signs that have seen many seasons.

Nearing the Avenue of the Cities, a new sign, sporting red and black sharp-edged letters, catches my eye. Inside, I find Charles Moreland, 43, owner of Bike One.



Photo: Seth Kabala
Charles Moreland, 43, is owner of Moline's newest bike store, Bike One.

Q: Why did you open this bike shop?

A: I feel like Moline had a void in the bicycle market. There's a lot of people on this side of the river that have to go to the other side for business.

Photo:

Q: Do you cater to a specific kind of bike rider?

A: No. We're a pretty new store, so we're just trying to fill like a family market right now and get the average bicycle rider in here.

Q: Can you give me some bullet points on what all you offer here as far as sales and service?

A: We offer virtually any parts and accessories. ... I focus a lot on repairs. ... A lot of bikes need to be professionally repaired rather than just be repaired. ... I'm probably going to offer some more stuff for the youth than a lot of shops have. Bring in additional skateboards and youth bikes.

Q: Are you a rider?

A: Yes, I am.

Q: How long have you been riding?

A: Pretty much most of my life.

Q: Is there any weather in which you wouldn't ride?

A: No. .. I like getting out especially in the evening when (there's) a fresh snow and there's no tracks on the ground, and your bike tires are the first thing to hit the snow. I like to hear that crunch.

Q: Do you live in Moline?

A: I've been a Moline resident my whole life.

Q: How long has the shop been open?

A: 30 days.

Q: Do you have an iPod?

A: I do.

Q: What's on your iPod right now?

A: I have some Jean Michel Jarre on it. It has some Joe Satriani on it. And it probably has some Mike Oldfield on it.

Q: Do you listen to music at all when you ride?

A: I do not.

Q: Is it too distracting?

A: Yeah, I like to be able to hear what's going on around me.

Q: You look pretty lean. What do you like to eat?

A: I eat a lot of junk food (laughter). I like tacos, eat a lot of Mexican food. Obviously I'm a big supporter of Harris Pizza and Happy Joes.

Q: Is biking your main form of exercise?

A: Probably, yes.

Q: How many hours a week would you say you put in?

A: (laughing) Not enough.

Q: When you get off work, where are you going?

A: When I get off work tonight, I go back to work.

Q: You go back to work?

A: I've been in the bike business almost 20 years ... but I do flooring installations also, and I'm doing that to make sure my bike shop can get up and running.