

Why huge rubber ducks are roosting atop buildings



Carol Motsinger, cmotsinger@enquirer.com 11:33 a.m. EDT August 11, 2015



(Photo: Provided)

A flock of rubber ducks have migrated to Greater Cincinnati.

It's the time of year for rubber ducks donning sunglasses to perch atop the skyline. They may be a playful addition to the landscape, but they have a purposeful mission.

The installation aims to raise awareness for the 21st annual Rubber Duck Regatta, which returns Sept. 6 prior to the Western & Southern/WEBN Fireworks presented by Cincinnati Bell. The event benefits Freestore Foodbank.

The big ducks are at:

- The Wegman building along Interstate 75 leading into Downtown
- The Hemmer building in Fort Mitchell
- KEMBA Credit Union in West Chester Township
- DTZ in Hebron
- Cornerstone at Norwood along Interstate 71 at Rookwood

And more are on their way. Ducks will be going up soon at Paycor and the Newport Kroger, according to organizers.

As many as 200,000 ducks will "race" in the Ohio River near the Serpentine Wall for a variety of prizes. Ducks are now available for purchase.

The Freestore Foodbank will host an East Side vs. West Side vs. Northern Kentucky Duck Sales Challenge from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday. Volunteers will compete to sell the most ducks for this year's race.

The Delhi Kroger store, the Hyde Park store and the Newport Kroger store will host the challenge. Ducks are \$5 each or six for \$25.

Last year's regatta netted more than \$1 million, which translated into 3 million meals for those in need in Greater Cincinnati. Since 1995, the event has funded the distribution of over 25 million meals, according to a release.

Ducks are also available online at www.rubberduckregatta.org (<http://www.rubberduckregatta.org>), by phone at 513-929-3825 and at the check-out of local Kroger stores.

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