

IPRA Today

August 2008
Volume IX, Issue 2



First Annual West Union Triathlon a Huge Success

The weather Sunday, June 29, was more like early April or late October than the end of June, but for the hardy athletes participating in the First Annual West Union Triathlon, little mattered but the three obstacles in front of them: a 5K run around the high school cross country course, a 16-mile bike ride down the Ossian blacktop and a 200-yard swim at the Aquatic Center.

There were 50 individuals who faced all three events and eight teams with a different person for each leg of the triathlon also competed.

Despite the three grueling events, all 73 participants had a lot of fun. Participants ranged from 13 to 59 years of age. The cool temperatures put coats on observers, but the participants thought it was perfect. However, the strong wind did cause some problems for the bicycle riders.

Overall champion Devin VansCoy of Elkader said, "I could hit 30 mph with the wind, but only 15 against it." VansCoy finished in 1:12.35, a full six minutes ahead of runner-up Bruce Helgerson of Dysart.

West Union Parks and Recreation Director Kathy Guyer, who was the inspiration behind the event and served as the coordinator, stated, "I am very excited about the whole event. We had a terrific response from the business community, a lot more entries than many people thought possible, and everything seems to have gone extremely well for a first attempt."

Guyer added, "The triathlon couldn't have come off without all the volunteer help, and especially the nine committee members who put so much time and effort into the project."

The triathlon was started to raise money for playground equipment for the city park. This year's event raised over \$2,100. However, with the enthusiasm shown during and after this year's triathlon, a Second Annual West Union Triathlon seems assured.

Article submitted by Kathy Guyer, Director, West Union Parks and Recreation.



Jaci and Jessie Grafenberg, members of the TriHawks triathlon team at the University of Iowa, competed in their hometown event.

*Our Mission ...
"To support the advancement of park, recreation and environmental conservation opportunities through education, resource tools and advocacy."*

www.iapra.org

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Spring Fun Fest - Indianola

Indianola Parks and Recreation hosted its second annual Spring Fun Fest on Saturday, April 26, 2008. The event was held from 10:00 a.m. to noon on the Warren County Courthouse Lawn, and it attracted 300-400 children and parents on a brisk, sunny spring morning.

The purpose of the event is to provide a free "welcome spring" event for families with children who are elementary school age and younger. With the help of high school and middle school volunteers, a church youth group and other community groups and individual volunteers, we were able to offer even more activities than we did in the previous year. Money for the event was provided by a title sponsor and support sponsors, plus donations from area businesses.

2008 activities included a petting zoo provided by the high school FFA group, face painting and tattoos offered by the youth group, a 4-H dog obedience demonstration, and a Tae Kwan Do demonstration by our TKD instructors. Hooping, one of our new summer wellness classes, drummed up interest with a demonstration at the Fun Fest where all ages could test out the specially weighted hula hoops.

Fun Festers could also try their hand at disc golf, miniature golf, paint ball target shooting, baggo, bubble blowing, Sandy Candy and super-sized soccer using a special extra-large inflatable ball. Using the police department's radar trailer, we set up an area where contestants could measure the speed of their baseball throw. Two inflatables were available, with the slide being most popular. Another popular activity was the Fish Pond, where anglers young and old could fish for prizes, many donated by local businesses. Kids could climb into kayaks provided by our local outfitter, with whom we partner to provide kayak instruction and a trip.

Free chair massages were offered by a massage therapist whose office is located nearby. She felt that by participating in the Fun Fest she might gain some new customers, as well as supporting a free community event. An RN and several helpers manned the Healthy Kids tent, where there were a variety of health-related activities available as well as healthy snacks. The Indianola Garden Club held its annual plant sale the same day in the lobby of a nearby bank building, and Fun Fest participants were invited to plant and take home a marigold.

A clown walked around the venue doing magic tricks, and our mascot, Scooter, was accompanied by Larry the Cucumber as he handed out pencils with our department's address, phone and website information. The police department had an officer and patrol car available for children to explore, and we had hoped to have a fire truck on hand as well, but they were called away.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Recreation Coordinator Perry, Iowa

The Perry Parks and Recreation Department is seeking a full-time programmer. The position involves planning, organizing, supervising and assisting in the implementation of community recreation programs and activities as well as recreation center supervision. Knowledge of recreation programming and ability to plan and supervise programs and special events are essential. Bachelor's degree in leisure studies, recreation administration or closely related field required. Salary is negotiable. Good benefits package. Send cover letter and resume by email to mcbdirector@iowatelecom.net, fax to (515)465-5850 or mail to Director, 1800 Pattee, Perry, IA 50220.

Manager of Arena and Building Maintenance Operations Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota

The VMCC is a 150,000 square foot center with two sheets of ice, a senior center, meeting rooms and concession area. This space includes a 9,120 sq. ft. drill floor where basketball and volleyball can be played, or where large meetings dances or receptions can be held. A large kitchen area is adjacent to the gymnasium. Three meeting rooms are available, as well.

An Aquatics/Fitness Center opened in 2001 with an eight lane lap pool, a zero depth leisure pool with interactive play features and two slides, a 14-foot deep diving well with two-one meter boards and one-three meter diving board. The fitness center has an exercise area, a free weights area, an aerobics dance room/area, and a walking/running track. In addition, there is a tot drop room, a concession area and two party rooms. This space makes the VMCC the second largest health and fitness club in the area.

The successful candidate will interact well with a variety of groups. Qualifications include BS in Park and Recreation or closely related field, 4 years experience in facility management/maintenance related to pools/arenas, 2 years supervisory experience and valid MN driver's license.

The salary range is \$59,900 - \$74,900 per year D.O.Q. Visit our website at www.ci.inver-grove-heights.mn.us to complete a required City application. Deadline: 4:30 p.m. Friday, August 22, 2008.




Park Shelters



Shade



Playgrounds

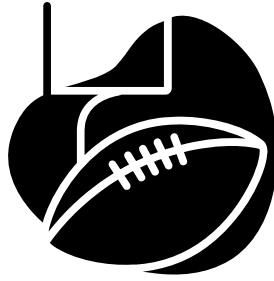


Site Amenities



Skateparks

2212 E. 12th Street Davenport, IA 52803
800.346.2371 fax: 563.336.4017
promoting wellness through recreation since 1973



Placekick, Punt and Throw Competition

It's once again time for the IPRA's annual Placekick, Punt and Throw (PPT) Competition! The state finals will be held Saturday, November 1, at the Bergstrom Football Indoor Practice Facility on the campus of Iowa State University.

Last year over 800 boys and girls ages 8 to 13 competed at the local level. Park and recreation departments are encouraged to set a date to host a local competition. Once that has been established, please contact the IPRA state office by calling 641.236.3917 or e-mailing cshutts@pcpartner.net so you can receive ribbons for the first, second and third place finishers. Boys and girls compete separately for this event. Once completed, the top three competitors in each gender and age group are given the opportunity to advance to the district level. District competitions will be held as follows:

- Southwest—Ankeny, Saturday, October 11
- Northeast—New Hampton, Saturday, October 11
- Northwest—Sioux City, Saturday, October 18
- Southeast—Coralville, Saturday, October 25

The top three finishers in each age and gender will advance to the state competition. Additional details are available on the IPRA web site: www.iapra.org.

Many thanks to all the communities that offer a local competition, host a district competition and support this annual IPRA event!

Photo of RAGBRAI visitors to the town of Ogden contributed by Ogden Mayor Mark Trueblood from his "Welcome to Ogden" perch in a cherry picker. Accompanying article found on Page 5.



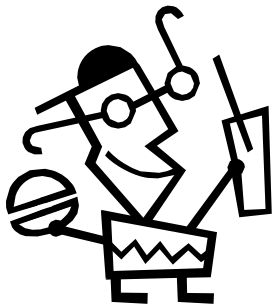
Take a sneak peek into a 2008 IPRA Fall Workshop Event...



Wednesday evening, September 17, Daniel Arthur's Restaurant, located at 821 3rd Avenue, SE in Cedar Rapids will be the site of food, drink and festivities for IPRA Fall Workshop participants!

Locally owned and operated, Daniel Arthur's is conveniently located just blocks off I-380 at the US Cellular exit. The restaurant may be new, but the building sure isn't. It's one of the last six remaining original mansions built in the late 1800's, providing unique space and intimate settings throughout! The restaurant may be fine dining, but the feeling is warm, comfortable and inviting. Friendly settings, two lounges, three fireplaces, an outdoor patio and wood deck await IPRA patrons! Sip delicious cocktails, wine and beer.

Daniel Arthur's has lined up the best entertainment for us. For the past 15 years, "B.F." Burt has been electrifying audiences throughout the Midwest. His soul-inspired brand of blues is self-taught musician (harmonica and guitar) whose smooth, warm vocal presentation sets a mood of relaxed exhilaration, with a welcome mixture of serious music and infectious humor audiences of all ages seem to enjoy. His voice and presence are powerful. Though he performs between 350 and 400 shows per year, he holds nothing back night after night and audiences leave knowing that.

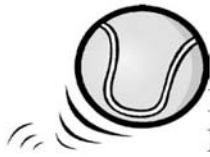


Guest bartenders provided by IPRA volunteers will donate all tips to a charitable fund. Further details to appear in the Fall Workshop brochure.



IPRA Public Parks YOUTH Tennis Tournament Monday, August 11th

(Rain date, August 12th)



Des Moines, IA - McPherson (Birdland) Courts.
Hosted by Des Moines Parks & Recreation Dept.



For youth players with novice and recreational skills, this is a non-sanctioned tournament.

Singles, age divisions for both boys and girls:
10 & Under, 12 & Under, 14 & Under, 16 & Under
One day tournament, short set play, no-ad scoring.
Cost: \$19 per player - FREE t-shirt for every player

To receive an entry blank, contact John at 515-237-1405
or visit www.iowaparkandrecreation.org
Entry Deadline: August 7, 2008

*Come Share
the Fun!*



Ogden Goes All Out for RAGBRAI!

On July 22, Ogden hosted RAGBRAI as the meeting town between Jefferson and Ames. This was the first time in over 30 years that RAGBRAI has come through Ogden. Thirty-some years ago, when RAGBRAI was in its infancy, the ride passed through Ogden. Riders were essentially run out of town, as the police chief at the time did not agree with a certain casual attitude of the participants.

Fast forward to 2008, and times (and personnel) have changed. The city staff was excited when the overnight towns were announced. With the

lack of good county roads to ride between Jefferson and Ames, we knew that there were only two possibilities for the route. One coming right through Ogden and exiting town on old highway 30, or a route to the north previously used by RAGBRAI to take riders directly to Boone. An email was sent to T.J. Juskiewicz, RAGBRAI's Executive Director, asking the ride to come into town that day and we'd show them a great time. We soon found out that RAGBRAI was planning to come to town and they were as excited as we were..

As the designated "meeting town" for Tuesday, Ogden would be host to not only the riders, but the support vehicles as well. Staff met with local RAGBRAI veterans to create a plan to keep the riders on the north half of town and the support vehicles on the south half. Event areas were laid out. The City Park and middle school were to be the center of activity due to several large shade trees over grassy areas, with downtown acting as an overflow area along the route with additional vendors and local establishments, including a beer garden at the local bar. We were aware from the beginning that it would be a struggle to maintain normal operations that day, so public meetings and business meetings were held to outline the plans for the day and prepare residents for what to expect when over 20,000 people and 800 vehicles come into a town of 2000 for one day.

As other towns that have hosted RAGBRAI know, it's a mad dash to prepare! With roughly three months to get organized, weekly meetings were held with five different committees to plan the event. City staff headed up the committees to keep the groups connected and the budget in check, with many citizens involved on multiple committees. Volunteers were assigned times and locations to help. A variety of entertainment at three different locations was scheduled. Multiple food vendors with a mix of local and non-local and for-profit and non-profit were assigned throughout the event area. Local historical sites were highlighted around town. Games and activities were set up. Large maps of the area were produced. In all, there were over 55 locations on the map with food, entertainment or games and dozens of volunteers ready to give their time.

As Tuesday approached, no one was completely sure if the town was ready. At some point, you just have to hope you've prepared enough and just let the event happen. Information was distributed the evening before in Jefferson, and setup took place around Ogden. With the possibility of thunderstorms in the area Monday night, signs and other delicate decorations waited until Tuesday morning to appear.

On Tuesday morning, staff and volunteers began the final setup at 4:30 am. The first riders were spotted in town as early as 5:30. By 10 a.m., it was organized chaos. Thousands of people meandered around the park and downtown, occasionally stopped by a Union Pacific train (60-100 per day through downtown Ogden!). Since Tuesday was the shortest and easiest day of the ride (except for that one pesky hill coming into Boone), many riders stayed in Ogden for 2-3 hours, some eating breakfast and lunch. Vendors were well prepared, as by the 3:30 p.m. shutdown time, most food vendors had very little left to sell, and most of the riders were heading east towards Ames. Clean up was much easier than planned. It's amazing how 20,000 people can leave so little of a mess. The only mark left on the town was the matted grass at the park.

As we reflect on an event, we tend to remember what went wrong. But on that Tuesday, it was difficult to do. The positive comments from riders and residents were overwhelming. Some riders described Ogden as "the perfect setup" for RAGBRAI. Others said it was the best town on the ride in the years that they had been involved. Residents began talking about the next time they would come through, hoping it would be soon. But one thing that was said sticks out the most, and that was "you people have really gone all out for us".

Article contributed by Matt Beatty, Director, Ogden Parks and Recreation. Many thanks to the "Ogden Reporter" for sharing the photo.



The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) is pleased to announce that Barbara Tulipanr, CAE has been appointed to serve as its Chief Executive Officer. Tulipane assumed her new duties July 21, 2008.

Lois Finkelman, Chair of the NRPA Board of Trustees, applauded the selection. "Barbara is an excellent choice to guide NRPA into the future. She has devoted her career to excellence in leading associations. She is a believer in the value of parks and recreation. Her passion for our mission, her love of the outdoors and her warmth and infectious enthusiasm make her the right leader for NRPA."

As CEO, Tulipane will be responsible for growing NRPA through strategic partnerships, building organizational capacity and working on national policy and advocacy efforts. She will immediately devote her time to understanding the needs and challenges facing parks and recreation, getting to know the diverse constituencies within the NRPA membership and providing guidance to the NRPA Board of Trustees and staff in the implementation of the organization's strategic plan.

Tulipane expressed her excitement with the appointment: "I look forward to joining the board, the members and the staff to ensure that NRPA's mission succeeds. Together we will protect and conserve our nation's treasures for future generations."

Tulipane has served in associations for 20 years and in executive-level positions for 12 years. As the President and CEO of ERA, Tulipane has been responsible for leadership, development, advocacy, corporate relations and financial stewardship. She has had complete oversight for ERA's operation and its 25-person staff. She has provided leadership for the association's government affairs program, the annual convention, professional development, *Electronic Retailer* (ERA's monthly publication), industry self-regulation programs, major awards and international outreach.

Tulipane has been engaged in increasing ERA's visibility in the trade community, as well as on Capitol Hill. She has represented the industry before Members of Congress and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and has been interviewed by NBC, CNBC, CNN, BBC and *The New York Times*, promoting the electronic retailing industry and its consumers.

Prior to joining ERA in 2000, Tulipane was the Vice President of Operations for NATSO, Inc., a national trade association representing travel center owners and operators.

Tulipane began her career immediately following graduation from the University of Arizona, where she received her undergraduate degree in Sociology and Marketing. She is a Certified Association Executive (CAE) and holds a Masters degree in Public Administration from George Mason University.

ERA
2008
NATSO
CAE

NRPA Staff Member, Sharon Mannion, Resigns

The staff of the NRPA announced the departure of a long term NRPA employee and Knowledge & Learning Department staff member, Sharon Mannion. Sharon, who started her career with NRPA in 1999, recently announced her resignation., effective August 1.

As you may know, Sharon's passion is aquatics and teaching swimming, hence her Virginia license plate - SWM TCHR. She is hoping that she will have more time to devote to teaching and working in her gardens.

While at NRPA Sharon made many contributions. She has worked in the National Partnerships department as well as serving as the liaison to the Citizens Branch as well as the Aquatics Branch. She managed the centralization of the Aquatic Facility Operator (AFO) certification into a true national program. She worked closely with the National Certification Board (NCB) to develop the plan for multi-year transitioning all of the professional certification (CPRP) records from the states to our national program and database. Sharon has an unparalleled knowledge of NRPA and its programs and will truly be missed.

The organization is moving forward as quickly as possible to advertise and fill the position being vacated by Sharon. In order to maintain consistency and to maintain our commitment to responsive customer service, starting August 4th Jay Hanger (703) 858-2173 will be the primary point-of-contact for all matters related to the CPRP program with Stephanie Hanna (703) 858-2185 being the back-up point of contact.

While Sharon's decision represents a great loss to NRPA, it is a wonderful opportunity for her to pursue her passion and interests. The NRPA organization will miss her greatly. Please wish her continued success and happiness.

Fall Workshop Highlights

The community of "Five Seasons" will play host to this year's Fall Workshop. Cedar Rapids Park and Recreation staff has assured us that even with major flood destruction they are looking forward to hosting more than 100 IPRA members. The host hotel, Clarion Hotel and Convention Center, was not affected by the flooding.

What a great way to kick-off the Workshop, with a relaxing golf outing, sponsored by *Boland Recreation*. The popular networking social at the beautiful Gardner Golf Course and clubhouse will follow. Then on Wednesday, a full slate of educational sessions and off-site tours will be held. Educational sessions conclude by noon on Thursday. In total, more than 13 CEU approved sessions will be presented. Sandwiched in between two days of educational sessions is the Wednesday evening barbecue and social sponsored by *Outdoor Recreation Products*. Mark Jennings, Assistant Athletic Director, University of Iowa, is scheduled to be our Wednesday luncheon keynote speaker.

In an effort to become more "green" and to save costs, the delegate brochure will be available online from the IPRA official website (www.iapra.org). Online registration will also be available.

Note these quick facts:

- 2008 Fall Workshop
- September 16 – 18
- Cedar Rapids
- Clarion Hotel and Convention Center
- Room block: Iowa Park and Recreation Association
- Call: 319-366-8671
- Cut-off date: August 26 or until our block is sold out!
- Room rate: \$79.00 single plus applicable taxes // \$84.00 double plus applicable taxes

2007 FALL WORKSHOP



PHOTOGRAPHS

Board of Directors Update

On June 26, the IPRA board of directors conducted a teleconference meeting. Due to the (then) recent flooding in many of our agency member communities as well as hectic summer programs, it was deemed the most effective method of holding a meeting.

All members were in attendance with the exception of Faron Van Nostrand who was on vacation. Committee chairs Ronald Hopp, Matt Beatty and Sherri Proud also attended.

Main thrusts of the meeting were: staff evaluations, FY 08/09 proposed budget, proposed three year action plan and the newly enacted Iowa smoking ban. Staff evaluations for both the executive director and administrative assistant were reviewed by Personnel committee chair Ronald Hopp. Goals and objectives for the executive director were put into place effective July 1, 2008. To assist in preparation of the executive director performance for FY 07/08, evaluation forms were distributed to both current (then) directors at large and committee chairs.

A second major discussion item was financial statements. Treasurer Angie Cole presented both the year-end 07/08 budget estimate and proposed FY 08/09 budget. For comparison purposes, adopted FY 07/08 was \$488,059 whereas proposed FY 08/09 is \$550,381. The single largest revenue/expenditure line item is consignment ticket sales with over half of the budget devoted to it.

Three Year Action Plan was the third item for discussion. Ben Page, chair of the Long Range Planning Committee, presented the board with our new three year action plan. The plan will be effective from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2011. It will, of course, help drive IPRA in terms of accomplishments in addition to driving the association's budget priorities. Enhancing membership services encompasses the majority of goals and objectives. A copy of the approved three year action plan is located on the IPRA official website at www.iapra.org.

Contained within the three year action plan is the creation of an Information Technology (IT) committee. The committee's responsibility will be to review association current technology needs, recommend software/hardware improvements, assist in conducting membership surveys, transform IPRA paper documents to electronic, and suggest changes to the IPRA website. The board approved adoption of an IT committee. Matt Beatty, Director, from Ogden Community Services has been appointed committee chair.

Finally, the board discussed how Iowa's new smoking ban will affect local park and recreation agencies. Ben Page, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, shared what the city of Des Moines's interpretation and action will be. He also indicated city of Des Moines staff will present an educational session at the Fall Workshop in Cedar Rapids.

Detailed minutes of this meeting, as well as past minutes, are posted on the IPRA official website www.iapra.org.



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1534 Penrose Street
Grinnell, IA 50112

Phone: 641.236.3917
Fax: 641.236.6779
www.iapra.org

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Committee Chair, Deborah Martinez,

deborahmartinez@gmail.com

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Cathy Shutts

cshutts@pcpartner.net

IPRA Calendar of Events



August

- 4 CEU/Aquatic Update—Des Moines
- 5-6 Certified Pool Operator's Course—Des Moines
- 11 IPRA Youth Tennis Tournament—Des Moines
- 14 IPRA State Fair Day
- 15 REAP Applications Due
- 15-17 IPRA/Iowa ASA State 14 Inch Slow Pitch
Tournaments—Cedar Rapids & West Des Moines

September

PPT Local Competitions

- 1 State Office closed—Labor Day
- 15 Consignment tickets due to IPRA state office
- 16-18 Fall Workshop—Cedar Rapids

Special day for those who give to all Iowans

Next year on the first Monday in April, regular business in the Iowa Senate will come to a halt, as we pause to honor some very special people.

It will be the first annual celebration of "Gift to Iowa's Future" recognition day. On this day, the Legislature and the Governor will honor individuals and families who've donated land for Iowa's parks, nature preserves, hunting and other public uses.

These land gifts are an important legacy that our generation can leave for the future. Donations of land improve the quality of life for all Iowans and quickly become important assets to local communities.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is creating a registry of all who've donated land for public uses, and each year, we'll be inviting them to the Statehouse. I hope this recognition will encourage more Iowans to donate land that can be enjoyed by all.

For more information, contact Diane Ford-Shivvers at the Iowa DNR at 515-281-6341 or diane.ford-shivvers@dnr.iowa.gov.