

# IPRA Today

February 2012

Volume XII, Issue 8

## Catch a Glimpse of the IPRA Spring Conference Offsite Tours

"Make every day count" is the theme of our Spring Conference in Waterloo. One thing is for sure, we will definitely make every minute of the off-site institute count for all that attend. Offsite tour No. 1 will begin in Cedar Falls with the Big Woods Lake Campground project. This joint project between the city of Cedar Falls and the Black Hawk County Conservation Commission includes 55 full hookup, hard surfaced, RV campsites; tent camping with electricity and water; primitive tent camping; and one modern cabin. From there, we will head toward the heart of Cedar Falls to take a look at the redevelopment happening at Washington Park. The floods of 2008 destroyed the former golf course. This redevelopment plan includes installation of five new shelters, a boat launch, new playground equipment, new youth ball field, a recreation trail with

exercise stations and removal of undergrowth along the river to provide views of the corridor. Next stop in Cedar Falls will be the Cedar Falls Recreation Center. With over 250,000 patrons served every year, this multi-purpose facility is a hub of activity for Cedar Falls residents. Just north of the recreation center,

we will enter the parking lot of the Falls Aquatic Center. Opened in May of 2005, The Falls averages over 90,000 open recreational swimmers per year. This destination includes different pools, multiple slides and interactive features.

(Continued on Page 4)

*"Mark's Park", a new spray park and playground on the South bank of the Cedar River in downtown Cedar Falls. A local business man spearheaded this development as a memorial in honor of his son.*



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| IPRA Agency            | 2 |
| Spotlight              |   |
| A Note of Thanks       | 6 |
| Iowa REAP Alliance     | 7 |
| Launches Website       |   |
| Certified Playground   | 8 |
| Safety Inspector Class |   |
| New Arrival            | 8 |

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### February

- 6 CEU/Aquatic Update  
Sioux City
- 7-8 Certified Pool  
Operator's Course—  
Sioux City
- 20 State Office closed—  
Presidents' Day
- 22 REAP Lobby Day
- 23 IPRA Board meeting—  
Grinnell
- 24 Award nominations due

#### March

- 3 Coed volleyball  
tournament - Grinnell
- 5 CEU/Aquatic Update—  
Des Moines
- 6-7 Certified Pool  
Operator's Course—  
Des Moines
- 17 IPRA State Spot Shot  
Competition—Grinnell



# IPRA Agency Spotlight

Many of our IPRA members remember the "Article Exchange" program started with the idea to better inform our membership of what was happening within the IPRA community. For those new members or those who don't recall the program, the premise was very simple...every couple of weeks an article would be sent out highlighting a program, special event, recent success, "how to" etc. However, in 2008, the program fizzled and stopped happening.

Well, we are bringing it back and need your participation! It is now the *IPRA Agency Spotlight* and the first agency we will spotlight will be Marshalltown. Enjoy your Agency Spotlight and email anything you would like to highlight from your department to Chad Weir, Recreation Superintendent, Marshalltown Park and Recreation, [cweir@ci.marshalltown.ia.us](mailto:cweir@ci.marshalltown.ia.us).

*(Submitted by Chad Weir.)*

## Agency Spotlight

Marshalltown Parks and Recreation has an indoor playground that runs during the winter months at the Veteran's Memorial Coliseum. The program is free and offered three times during the week from November to April. The following picture and article were printed in our local newspaper, and this was a great way to highlight a wonderful program as well as our department. Enjoy!



## Tot Town brings fun indoors *Playground returns to Coliseum*

November 5, 2011

By ANDREW POTTER - Staff Writer  
([apotter@timesrepublican.com](mailto:apotter@timesrepublican.com)), Times-Republican

The return of the cold air means Marshalltown's outdoor playgrounds are becoming ghost towns for the winter.

That's why parks and recreation has brought the fun indoors to the Veterans Memorial Coliseum once again.

Downtown Tot Town started back up this week, which offers a free indoor playground for young children three days a week during the cold weather months.

The playground features riding toys, playhouses, slides and other toys in a gym full of fun for little ones. It usually draws 20 to 30 children each day it is open and has been going on since 1993.

"It's what we consider to be Marshalltown's best kept secret, until now," said Jenni Hart, Recreation Supervisor with Marshalltown Parks and Recreation. "It's an opportunity to have a place to go in the wintertime."

Much of the equipment was purchased via a donation from the Kiwanis Club several years ago. The department tries to add new things each year.

"We'll also get donations from families whose kids have grown out of the equipment," Hart said.

Katie Bennett brought her two young boys, Sam, 3, and Elliott, 1, to the Coliseum Thursday for Tot Town.

"It's getting colder out and they can't go to the park, so this way they get their energy out," she said. "It's also good for socialization as they play with other kids."

Parents, or their guardian, must stay with the children and supervise them. Tot Town is open from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday each week. It will run tentatively through March.

It is closed on holidays and when Marshalltown schools are delayed for two hours or more or if school is cancelled due to the weather. For more information call the park and recreation department at 641-754-5715.

*© Copyright 2011 Times-Republican. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.*

Access association information on your SmartPhone,  
iPhone, iPad, iPod or PC at [www.iapra.org](http://www.iapra.org)

# Cooking Outdoors

Barbeques and Campfires ... outdoor traditions for decades



**Charcoal Grills** come in sizes for single picnic sites to large party group areas. Open grate and covered grills. Three grate adjustment designs. There is a Pilot Rock grill for any campsite, shelter house, picnic area, patio, and backyard.



**Campfire Rings** offer both the pleasure of the campfire and the ability to cook. Rings sizes for individual sites to large group areas. Multiple grate designs, heights, and features. Wheelchair accessible firerings, too.



We design and manufacture them ourselves ... rugged grills and campfire rings able to withstand years of use and exposure. Built in the USA since 1959.

**Cooking outdoors ... a tradition with Pilot Rock.**



Serving the Business  
of Recreation  
Since 1959

RJThomas Mfg. Co., Inc.  
P. O. Box 946, Cherokee, Ia 51012-0946  
Ph: 800-762-5002 • Fax: 712-225-5796  
E-Mail: pilotrock@rjthomas.com  
Web: www.pilotrock.com

**Pilot Rock®**  
PARK · STREET · CAMP  
SITE PRODUCTS

## Spring Conference Tours

(Continued from Page 1)

From this point, we will head east to the city of Waterloo. Our first stop in the host city will be a new water trail access for Black Hawk Creek—an exciting partnership with the DNR that will serve the numerous paddle aficionados in the Cedar Valley. Traveling along Highway 63, we will pay a visit to the popular Pat Bowsby Off Leash Dog Park. As we begin our trek to the numerous improvements tied to the Riverfront Renaissance initiative in Waterloo, we will pass San Souci Island. Once privately owned, the flooding of 2008 devastated this scenic riverfront area that once included a quaint waterfront neighborhood. Waterloo has since acquired the island, and the master planning for this beautiful area is underway.

As we continue along the Cedar River, we will have the opportunity to view the progress on a \$1 million renovation to the Riverfront Sports Park made possible through a partnership with the Black Hawk County Gaming Association and Build our Ballpark. This unique riverside park includes ball diamonds, disc golf, a skate park, baseball stadium, numerous picnic shelters and playground shelters. Located on the southeast corner of the park, we will visit Waterloo's new Boat House. The original modest Boat House was destroyed in the floods of 2008, and in partnership with FEMA and the Black Hawk County Gaming Association, it was rebuilt in spectacular fashion. The Boat House is now home to the Waterloo Rowing Club as well as numerous gatherings throughout the year.

As we steer the bus to downtown, we will have the opportunity to visit the 3,000 seat Young Arena—home of the Waterloo Black Hawks. Built in 1994, Young Arena is a magnet for sports tourists throughout the year. Just across Highway 63, we will find the Phelps Youth Pavilion. This interactive addition to the Waterloo Center for the Arts is always a popular spot for children and their parents to visit. On the riverside, behind the Phelps Youth Pavilion, tourists will be able to view the central pieces of the Riverfront Renaissance project—the Upper and Lower Plaza, Performance Structure and



*Wartburg Waverly Sports and Wellness Center in Waverly*

Marks Park. This breathtaking area will be the home to numerous social and cultural events for years to come. Just a short walk away from the river, we will come across the Public Market. This unique public-private partnership houses our very first year-round food Co-Op. West of the Public Market, we hope to see the beginning of the state-of-the-art, 130,000 square-foot Cedar Valley SportsPlex. East of the Market is the Expo Plaza, another home to numerous social and entertainment events in the downtown area. As you can tell, we plan to have a bus driver that is not afraid to speed through the Cedar Valley a bit. We plan to make every moment of the tour count. We hope you plan to come along for the ride!



*Centennial Oaks Golf Course  
Cedar Falls*

Offsite Tour No. 2 offers a chartered bus tour to Waverly. Not since hosting the Fall Workshop in 1999 has an IPRA event been held in Waverly. A Park and Open Space Plan was completed in 2011, and many suggestions are in process. Our first stop will be Waverly Memorial Park where the outdoor pool, adult ball complex and major picnicking facilities are located including a 21-year-old wooden "Leathers" play area. We are currently in the planning process to move the diamonds and the county fair from

this location to a combined facility on the west side of town that will include an adult and youth ball complex and facilities to host the fair and many other community events. At the same time, we are in the process of doing an outdoor pool study to determine the best plan of action to renovate or replace the 43-year-old facility. Finally, the Leisure Services Commission is doing an in-house park planning process to determine what the Memorial Park area will look like after the fair and the ball diamonds move out.

Our second stop is the Wartburg Waverly Sports and Wellness Center. The "W" is a community recreation center/fitness facility/college sports venue that is a public-private partnership to build the \$33 million facility. It offers all of the community recreation indoor and outdoor programs and all of the Learn to Swim programs. The facility is open to the public for a daily rate and for memberships. It currently has over 2,000 members not including the college students and staff.

From the "W", we will proceed around Cedar Lane and note Pelikan Park where we have ice skating and the Cedar River Trail Bridge and trail gazebo. 2011 marked the opening of the Old Grump Trail that connects the end of our trail to Readlyn for a total of 14 miles of hard surface trail. Next, we will drive by the Civic Center and south of downtown to Riverbend Park. This was a flood buyout house that we are converting to parkland. We then go back to the downtown area and across the river viewing the new inflatable dam that keeps much of the downtown and northwest part of Waverly from flooding during a river flood. We will go by four contiguous flood buyout lots being used as community gardens. These gardens were used by groups to raise vegetables for the food banks and community meal programs.

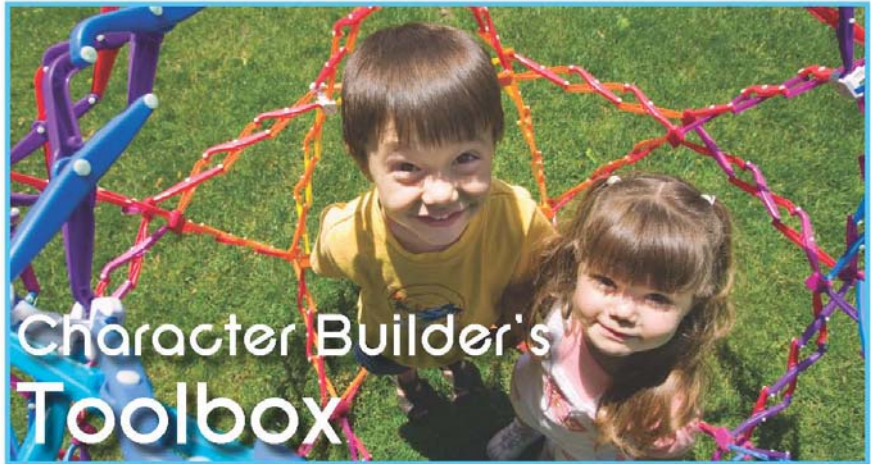
From the garden site, we will proceed to Red Cedar Park where Waverly won a Governor's Award for Best Reclamation Project by converting this yard waste site/old dump area into a native goat prairie area. On the other side of the road is the Waverly-Shell Rock Soccer complex, host of the largest high school soccer tournament in the state. It is operated and maintained by a parent-run organization that utilizes volunteers to mow, sell concessions, coach and mark the eight full-size fields with one lighted premier field.

On the home stretch, we will drive through Centennial Oaks, a private golf course development with an 18 hole links style course and finish at the south side of the city golf course to view the two new holes, ponds, babbling brook and waterfalls.

On the way back, we will be stopping at Kay Park Industries in Janesville. Chad De Boer will show us around the plant and talk about current bleacher safety requirements. We'll have you back in Waterloo in time for all of the evening festivities.

Sign up for a tour, and we promise you will learn something.

**Submitted by IPRA Spring Conference committee members Mark Gallagher, Sports Manager, Waterloo Leisure Services, and Tab Ray, Director, Waverly Parks and Recreation.**



Get the tools you need to deliver the best out-of-school time experience for:

- childcare
- after school programs
- summer recreation programs
- camps
- youth development groups
- youth treatment centers and more!

The Toolbox will help you support Pre K-6th grade children build character using the CHARACTER COUNTS! framework and strategies. You can create an environment where kids feel safe, included, and practice good character.

You'll learn to be a character builder through hands-on training by Christine Page, CPRP and Wendy Havemann, MS - both certified trainers from Character Counts In Iowa.

Your registration includes the 2012 Toolbox Program Guide with more than 100 activities designed for fun and learning using games, challenges, children's literature, role play and artistic expression.

After you're admitted into this class, you can also register for 6 CEUs of DHS credit

**February 29, 2012 9am - 3pm**

Iowa Children's Museum -- 1451 Coral Ridge Avenue, Coralville

**Fee:** \$35 registration fee  
\$10 if your population has more than 50% free/reduced lunch.

**Register at [CharacterCountsInIowa.org/toolbox](http://CharacterCountsInIowa.org/toolbox)**

Presented by



CHARACTER COUNTS! is a trademark of the Josephson Institute.

**Exhibitors and delegates can register on line for the 2012 IPRA Spring Conference, [www.iapra.org](http://www.iapra.org). Hotel information is also available at the "Education" link on this site.**

## A NOTE OF THANKS

Mandi Parker, Recreation Supervisor, Sioux City Parks and Recreation, was selected as the 2011 recipient of the Iowa Foundation for Parks and Recreation fellowship which allowed her to attend the NRPA Congress 2011 in Atlanta, GA.

"I am very grateful for this opportunity to travel to Georgia and partake in the array of activities and educational sessions offered at Congress, and, of course, listen to Tony Hawk. I would like to thank Steve Jordison and Sherri Proud for getting me involved at the national level. Thank you to the Foundation for the fellowship and a BIG thanks to all of the IPRA members who attended and made it such a rewarding and motivating experience," Mandi said.

Mandi further stated, "If you haven't had the opportunity to attend an NRPA Congress, you should apply for the \$1,500 scholarship to the 2012 NRPA Congress and Expo that will be held in Anaheim, California."

The Iowa Foundation for Parks and Recreation also offers a Spring Conference Fellowship Grant. Check it out at: [www.iowaparkandrecreation.org/iowa\\_foundation\\_for\\_parks\\_and\\_recreation.htm](http://www.iowaparkandrecreation.org/iowa_foundation_for_parks_and_recreation.htm).

*Billie Hiatt, representing Shade Creations by Waterloo, Mandi Parker and Sherri Proud, Director, Coralville Parks and Recreation, and IPRA Vice President, at the 2011 NRPA Congress.*



## Providing Softball to Park and Recreation Departments:

**Founded in 1936 – Iowa ASA Serves over 1,800 Recreational Adult Teams, 7,500 Youth Players and 450 Umpires**

**Provide Standardized Softball Playing Rules and Regulations for your softball league teams.**

**Provide teams with the Official Rule Book, Scorebook, online and membership publications to add to the educational and benefits for league teams. ASA is the National Governing Body of Softball in the United States**

**Provide the best league and tournament umpires. ASA offers local and state-wide umpire training clinics/schools.**

**Iowa ASA supports your local league with sportsmanship in establishing principles for ethical behavior, rule interpretations and protest rulings, player hearings and suspensions.**

**Risk Management with ASA \$5 million dollar Field Owners Policy.**

**ASA is the Leader in Bat Certification and Equipment Testing to set and adhere to standards of safety for bats, balls and playing equipment.**

**85% of all teams registered are local recreational teams. Over 35 Championship Play tournaments are offered for all age groups, levels and divisions of play for more competitive teams.**

**Opportunity for member teams and individually registered players to purchase the best accident, medical and liability insurance in the industry. Youth registration (softball or baseball) includes accident, medical, dental and liability insurance for entire year.**

**Comprehensive general liability coverage in the amount of \$5 million for municipalities, league officers and organizations if 100% of the teams are registered with ASA.**

**Education and Instruction of the proper skills and rules of the game by promoting and developing coaching clinics, seminars and training materials.**

**For more information on the Iowa Amateur Softball**

**Association and its programs,**

**contact us at 641.236.5766 or visit our website at**

**[www.softball.org/iowa](http://www.softball.org/iowa)**

## Iowa REAP Alliance Launches New Website & Legislative Initiative for Full Funding for Iowa's REAP Program

In late January, the Iowa REAP Alliance announced the launch of their new website at [www.ReapAlliance.org](http://www.ReapAlliance.org). The website is the new online hub for a broad coalition of recreation, conservation, historical preservation and sporting organizations supporting full funding for Iowa's Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP) at \$20 million for FY 2013.

REAP is an Iowa program that is focused on enhancement and protection of the state's natural and cultural resources. This includes water quality projects, agricultural soil conservation, outdoor recreation, trails and historical preservation. Projects are voluntary and most are developed and implemented by local county conservation boards and non-profit organizations.

After the close of the 2011 legislative session the program was slated for funding of \$20 million for FY 2013. The current recommendation for funding in Governor Branstad's budget request cuts the program by \$8 million. This represents a cut of \$1.6 million dollars to important voluntary agricultural soil conservation programs that improve water quality and improve our farmlands.



"REAP is an Iowa success story," says Iowa REAP Alliance co-chair Mark Ackelson. "We've had over 20 years of success protecting water quality, creating jobs and protecting our agricultural soils. We hope the legislature and Governor Branstad will fulfill the commitment they made during the 2011 session and fund the program at \$20 million," Ackelson said.

For more information, interested parties can visit [www.ReapAlliance.org](http://www.ReapAlliance.org) to learn more. People will find an interactive county-by-county map of projects, blog and other information about the program. The official Iowa DNR REAP Program site is available at <http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/REAP.aspx>.



### IPRA's State Spot Shot Competition will be held Saturday, March 17, 2012, at the Grinnell Athletic and Recreation Center.

If your department is planning to host a local competition, please contact the state office at 641-236-3917 or e-mail [cshutts@pcpartner.net](mailto:cshutts@pcpartner.net) to let us know the date of your event. Details are available on the IPRA web site: [www.iapra.org](http://www.iapra.org).

February 24, 2012 is the date Award Nominations  
are due to Keith Abraham, Ames Parks and  
Recreation.

1534 Penrose Street  
Grinnell, IA 50112

Phone: 641.236.3917  
FAX: 641.236.6779

Layout design by  
Cathy Shutts  
cshutts@pcpartner.net



**New  
Arrival**

Dominic Andrew Kiger, son of Andy and McKenzie Kiger, was born January 17, 2012. He weighed 7 pounds, 13 ounces and was 20 inches long at birth. Big sister, Brianna, looks very proud of him. McKenzie is a Recreation Supervisor with the Clive Parks and Recreation Department. Congratulations to the Kiger family!



## Certified Playground Safety Inspector Class



The Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) is a certification offered by the National Playground Safety Institute (a program of the National Recreation and Park Association). CPSI's are certified to inspect playgrounds for safety issues making sure that each playground that they inspect is up to the current national standards. The national standards are developed by the ASTM and CPSC. For more information on the class and certification, go to <http://www.nrpa.org> and click on Accreditation/Certification.

The Nebraska Recreation and Park Association is offering this class at the National Park Service Curtis Building in Omaha (601 Riverfront Drive, Omaha, NE, 68102). On site practice inspection will be across the pedestrian bridge at the former Dodge Park Playland in Council Bluffs.

Class times: Wednesday, April 25, and Thursday, April 26, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. The exam will be administered at 8:00 a.m. Friday, April 27.

The \$450 registration fees include course manual and exam, as well as Wednesday and Thursday lunch.

There are several hotels in the downtown Omaha area near the class location.

Contact Mike Francis, 402-682-6618, [mike.francis@bellevue.net](mailto:mike.francis@bellevue.net) or Jennifer Pospichal, 402-289-0400, [jenniferp@outdoorrec.net](mailto:jenniferp@outdoorrec.net) for further registration information.

This Certified Playground Safety Inspector class is sponsored by Outdoor Recreation Products.



outdoor **recreation** products