

I P R A T O D A Y

TOP TEN REASONS TO ATTEND THE I.P.R.A. FALL WORKSHOP

- 10.) Golfing at the Legacy in Norwalk....they have GPS so even non-golfers won't get lost.
- 9.) Keynoter Skye Arthur-Banning...any dude with that long of a name must know what he's talking about.
- 8.) Tuesday Social at Wellman's....great rooftop views and good company.
- 7.) Park Maintenance educational track...a new focus for the workshop!
- 6.) Holiday Inn Jordan Creek...located in the heart of the best shopping, eating and entertainment district in Iowa.
- 5.) Product showcase in Centennial Park....a way to get your hands on equipment you want to check out.
- 4.) Hey, there are five cities working together on this.....that has to be some kind of record!
- 3.) Great educational sessions with a broad base of topics and knowledgeable presenters.
- 2.) Aquatics professionals have their own mini-workshop.....aren't you special??
- 1.) Seeing STEVE-O pulled up on stage and sung to at the Blue Moon Piano Bar!



September 2010
Volume XI, Issue 2

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**Parks and Recreation
Director
City of Huxley**

Director is responsible for the development and operation of city's parks and recreational programs and facilities.

Huxley is a fast growing community of 3,050 plus, located in the exciting metro area between Des Moines and Ames on U.S. Highway 69 and Interstate 35. Huxley is also home of the Ballard School District.

The Parks and Recreation Department include the development of indoor and outdoor

programs for all ages, overseeing an active Community Center with a racquetball court, activity room, weight rooms and regulation gym. In addition, there are several activity fields.

Salary will depend on qualifications and experience. Salary range is approximately \$31,000 to \$42,00. Excellent benefits are offered with this position.

For a copy of the job description and application, please contact:

John Haldeman, City Administrator
Huxley City Hall
515 North Main Avenue
Huxley, IA 50124.
City website: www.huxleyiowa.org

Application deadline: September 20, 2010



Josh Larsen (left) and Ben Page at the 2009 NRPA Congress

Editor's Note: Josh Larsen has submitted his resignation as Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Huxley effective September 17, 2010. We wish him the best of luck in his career pursuits. The following article, prepared by Josh, was recently published in the *Ames Tribune*, as well as the *Des Moines Register*, as a Letter to the Editor. With Josh's permission, we are sharing it with the IPRA membership.

LIVESTRONG is a Way of Life

There has been a lot of recent media coverage regarding Lance Armstrong and performance enhancing drugs, but his LIVESTRONG Foundation is far more significant than any doping allegations or Tour de France championships could ever be.

LIVESTRONG is my way of life and how I embrace each day. LIVESTRONG has helped my entire family cope with the death of six family members from cancer since 2005 by providing support and information to educate and encourage other family members to get routine physicals, skin exams and other check-ups as a measure of early detection.

LIVESTRONG has instilled in all of us a sense of empowerment over our health and well-being. The media should start focusing on the incredible things LIVESTRONG is doing on behalf of the 28 million people living with cancer across the globe.

—Josh Larsen, Huxley

Foundation Golf Outing a Big Success!



The Iowa Foundation for Parks & Recreation held their annual Golf Outing on the beautiful Waveland Golf Course in Des Moines on August 6. The foundation was very pleased with 68 golfers taking part in the two person Ryder Cup format. Participants were park and recreation professional, vendors, friends and family members that enjoyed themselves on a great Iowa summer day. Teams began teeing off at noon with the first six holes being best shot, followed by six holes of alternate shot and the finishing up with six holes of best ball. Tee times ended two and a half hours later and when everyone was done it found Ron Ward, (Johnston Parks and Recreation Department) and Craig Erickson (Shive-Hattery) with the low score of 71. That was just enough to beat the Des Moines First Tee team of Jerry Page and Jim Ballard who shot a 72.



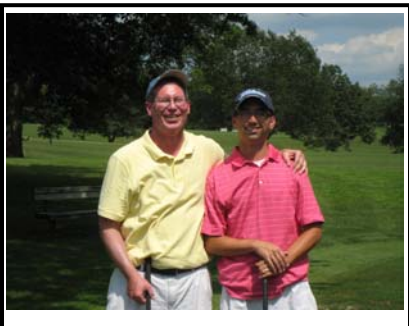
Other flight winners included the team of Doug Bylund and Todd Ahrens shooting an 80 to capture the second flight and winners of the third flight were Chad Chambers and Mark Harpena with an 89. There were also nine different winners of flag events, including what many thought were a Stevo citing but just ended up being a Keebler cookie man target in the middle of the fairway.

At the conclusion, a hamburger and bratwurst buffet was served to all participants and then the raffle and silent auction winners were announced. Prizes ranged from sleeves of golf balls to golf packages to courses such as Wakonda in Des Moines. Bruce Mankle of West Des Moines Parks and Recreation was the winner of the Wakonda Golf Four-some. As always there were many golf and hotel packages and some very unique opportunities to events in Des Moines, the University of Iowa and both Iowa and Nebraska communities.

The Foundation is very grateful to all who contributed to the golf outing by donating prizes, participating in the event and by being generous during the silent auction and raffle. It is looking as if over \$6,000 was raised to help in the foundations efforts to promote and improve leisure services throughout the state, sponsoring forums for professionals and providing scholarships for professionals to attend state and national conferences. This was helped by the generosity of Pete Downs and Shade Creations of Waterloo and their contribution of \$5 per golfer that participated.

For more information about the Iowa Foundation for Parks & Recreation, go to www.iapra.org.

(Contributed by Duane Randall, Director, Vinton Parks and Recreation Department, and member of the Iowa Foundation for Parks and Recreation Board of Directors.).



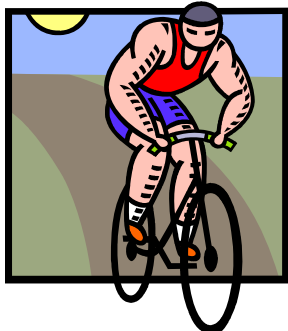
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RAGBRAI - 2010

Peg Bell, Director, Algona Recreation Department shares that department's involvement...

Our department's involvement with RAGBRAI was to prepare the parks and aquatic center for an extra 20,000 people. We opened the aquatic center an hour early at noon and closed at the normal at 8:00 P.M. We then kept the bathhouse open for showers/bathrooms until 11:00 P.M. and reopened the next morning at 6:00 A.M. for showers/bathrooms. We had 1019 people through the doors on Monday and an extra 10 that jumped the fences at 1:00 A.M. who were escorted out and counseled by the Algona Police Department.



Since the aquatic center park area was not an official campground and hadn't been used at all when they came through in 2005, we didn't expect the crowd we had. They starting coming in at 7:30 A.M. and by mid day our parking lots and every green space in the 13-acre park surrounding the pool was filled with tents and RV's. In fact all parks throughout the city were packed which had never happened with previous RAGBRAI's. There were a lot of people in town! Most service clubs announced that they had sold out of their allotted number of meals they prepared. We were fortunate enough to have a beautiful day and evening to host our guests. By mid afternoon the next day the only visual remnants of RAGBRAI being in town were a few stray team directional signs on the streets and poles.

Steve Lindaman, Director, Charles City Park and Recreation, states that Charles City had a very positive experience with RAGBRAI.

The entire park system was utilized along with school and some private areas. The outdoor pool was busy with approximately 900 using the showers as well as the pool. We kept the pool open until 8:30 P.M. and the bathhouse open all night for showers/restrooms. The large number and size of RV's was a little overwhelming. However, we were able to find acceptable locations for them. Entertainment/beverage/food was primarily downtown. Unfortunately, unless you were in the downtown area, you may not have done very well. I was involved in many areas since I have been here for previous overnight RAGBRAI stays. As one person has said, "You treat them like family. You are glad to have them come to visit, but you are also glad to see them go."


(Continued on Page 6)

NOTE THESE CHANGES:

John Pletchette's new e-mail address:
jpletchette@cwmu.net

Matt Beatty has accepted a position as Program Supervisor, Muscatine Parks & Recreation. Contact information:
mbeatty@ci.muscatine.ia.us
Phone: 563-263-0241

**Placekick
Punt
Pass**



It's not too late to schedule a local PPP competition! Please e-mail Cathy at cshutts@pcpartner.net to let her know the date, and ribbons will be forwarded to you. Note that this year there will be NO district competitions so the first place winner in each age/gender will advance directly to the state finals October 16 in Ames. Consult the IPRA website at www.iapra.org to download the appropriate forms and rules.

Hershey North American Finals

Five youth from the state of Iowa and two chaperones, Matt Eidahl of Iowa City and Libby Gemberling of Ames, spent the first weekend of August in Hershey, Pennsylvania. They were just a few of the 560 participants and chaperones from every state and province of North America that gathered for the Hershey Track and Field North American Finals. This all expense paid weekend trip was full of exciting events for the participants.

Youth and chaperones flew out of the Des Moines International Airport early Thursday morning. When they arrived in Pennsylvania, they were greeted by Hershey Factory staff and free candy! Participants then loaded buses and were in route to Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania. They would board at Elizabethtown College. Hershey was a short drive from Elizabethtown. Thursday was a relaxed day that allowed for all of the participants to arrive.

On Friday youth loaded up in their caravan of yellow school busses and went to the Hershey Chocolate Factory and Hershey Park. The park was fairly crowded, but youth had the chance to ride some amazing roller coasters and play at the water park.

Saturday was the big day. It was a perfect day for a track meet considering it was the middle of the summer. No wind and not a cloud in sight. Three of the Iowa youth, Kaitlyn VanderZwaag of Hull (9-10 girl), Daessley Rennenger of Indianola (11-12 girl), and Drake Buscherfeld of Algona (9-10 boy), participated in the softball throw. Kaitlyn and Brice earned 4th place while Daessley finished runner up. Graeson Dall of Solon ran in the 11-12 boys 800 m run. He surpassed his race time goal and earned 9th place. Finally Bryson Runge of West Liberty competed in the standing long jump. Bryson scratched 2 of his 3 attempts and earned 14th place.

Once the track meet was over youth were able to relax and enjoy their last day in Pennsylvania. They even got to sleep in Sunday morning until 6:30 am! Overall it was an exciting weekend full of memories. The Hershey Track & Field meet is an excellent opportunity for every community to get their youth active. The possibility of competing at the North American Finals is the icing on the cake for the lucky few that advance!

(Article contributed by Libby Gemberling, Recreation Coordinator, Ames Park and Recreation)



I.P.R.A. DAY AT THE IOWA STATE FAIR 2010

Thank you to everyone that came out for IPRA day at the fair on Thursday, August 19. Many fun activities including Big Wheel Races, Spot-Shot Basketball, Pie Eating contests, a State Fair Scavenger Hunt, Sidewalk Bowling, Bozo Ball, Arts and Crafts projects, and a Bubble Gum

Blowing Contest were offered to all ages, and your volunteer help in keeping these activities running smoothly was greatly appreciated! Volunteer staff from the following communities were represented: Huxley, Story City, Urbandale, Waukee, Norwalk, Ames, Indianola, West Des Moines, Des Moines, Jefferson, Spencer, Adel, Clarion, Marshalltown, and Mason City. Special thanks is extended to Jennifer Pospichal and Outdoor Recreation Products for sponsoring this annual event.



Iowa Public Television was once again on hand to film the events and they have been showing the events periodically on their network. Once the day's events concluded, refreshments, pizza, and networking were enjoyed by all at the State Fair's Depot.

(Article contributed by Nick Schenck, Director, Adel Parks and Recreation Department, and IPRA State Fair Day Committee Chair.)



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RAGBRAI 2010

(Continued from Page 4)

James Bolger, Golf Manager, City of Waterloo will attempt to summarize Waterloo Leisure Services involvement with RAGBRAI in Waterloo...

First, it is worth mentioning that South Hills Golf Course (owned and operated by the city) was utilized as one of the camping sites, both for large charter groups and individual groups that did not have pre-arranged lodging.

Additional points worth mentioning:

- Transported at least 50 picnic tables to various locations throughout town for RAGBRAI riders.
- Provided two Gators for use by paramedic crews in and around the main campground at Lost Island Water Park.
- Transported and set up four large scoreboards normally used for the Waterloo Open Pro Golf tournament for use as information centers at the main campground.
- Set up water stations throughout South Hills GC for fresh drinking water.
- Fenced off hundreds of feet of the golf course so that we were able to stay open on Thursday for regular play.
- Swept all trails throughout Waterloo for a clean and presentable appearance.
- Hosted afternoon bands and food vendors downtown in Lincoln Park.
- Forestry Crew transported a large volume of wood chips to the main campground for use as temporary road surfacing.
- Provided use of distance wheels for RAGBRAI committee to mark out vendor and camping sites.



RAGBRAI Campgrounds in Waterloo

Trueblood Fellowship Grant

Congratulations to Doug Hummel, Asbury Deputy Clerk, and Tyler Kivell, North Liberty Head Counselor, who have been chosen to receive Trueblood Fellowship Grants. This grant will allow them to attend the Fall Workshop in West Des Moines on September 14-16. The intent of this fellowship is to provide advocacy to IPRA and quality of life in Iowa. In addition, the fellowship should help promote and strengthen park and recreation organizations.

The fellowship includes:

- Full registration: 1.5 days of educational sessions, luncheons, offsite tours, Wednesday evening dinner, golf networking social and break snacks
- Hotel: 2 nights at the Holiday Inn and Suites
- 1 year Professional Membership to the Iowa Park and Recreation Association
- Recipients will be assigned a mentor to maximize their conference experience.

This fellowship is valued at more than \$500.

DIAPER DRIVE for Mandi Parker

*So many good things come in threes, Like
Musketees and ABC's.*

*But triplets are the best of all From little
ones to those quite tall.*

*From days of youth till life is done, It's
one for all and all for one.*



Good things always come in three's. When you're talking about 3 babies it really changes everything. Mandi and Ryan Parker are having triplets in December. Just imagine 3 times everything. If you would like to help the Parkers, we are having a Diaper Drive to keep the kids in Pampers, Luvs and Huggies (3). You can bring your donation of diapers to the IPRA Fall Workshop. We will have a donation box at the registration area to drop them in. If you have any questions, contact Terry Hoffman at 712-279-6115 or thoffman@sioux-city.org

We will also have an IPRA Scholarship Fundraiser where you can buy a square with her delivery date on it. There will be a payout to the winner.





1534 Penrose Street
Grinnell, IA 50112

Phone: 641.236.3917

FAX: 641.236.6779

www.iapra.org

IPRA Today is produced by the IPRA
Publications Committee Chair, Mindi
O'Hern, rechbt@ci.humboldt.ia.us

Layout design by Cathy Shutts,
cshutts@pcpartner.net



Storm Damage at the IPRA/IASA State Office Building

Labor Day evening Grinnell experienced a thunderstorm. One result of the weather was a lightning strike of a pine tree just 25 feet from the IPRA/IASA office building. Our internet, fax machine, copier, and computers were affected. Fortunately all items were plugged into proper surge protectors. But even so, electrical surges can play havoc. Thank you to everyone for your patience as Steve and Cathy bring services back as quickly as possible.



IPRA Calendar of Events

September

PPP Local Competitions

14-16 IPRA Fall Workshop—West Des Moines

22-24 League of Cities Conference—Coralville

October

11-13 National Playground Safety Institute—Davenport

16 PPP State Finals—Ames

18 CEU/Aquatic Update—Cedar Rapids

19-20 Certified Pool Operator's Course—Cedar Rapids

25-29 NRPA Congress & Exposition—Minneapolis