

IPRA Today

October 2007
Volume VIII, Issue 4



DON TRIPP RECEIVES AWARD FROM GREATER DES MOINES CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

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

www.iowaparkandrecreation.org

The Greater Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau (GDMCVB) released their annual report September 13, 2007, reflecting accomplishments in fiscal year 2006-2007 and goals for fiscal year 2007-2008.

The report was released in conjunction with their Annual Meeting held at the Embassy Suites Hotel. The annual luncheon featured a presentation by Michael Gehrisch, President and CEO of Destination Marketing Association International, and a series of awards given to local businesses and individuals who have been a friend to the hospitality industry over the past year. 2007 Annual Meeting Awards include:

- Hometown Hero – Iowa Pheasants Forever
- Individual Friend of Hospitality – Lee Ann Bakros of the Des Moines Playhouse
- Media Friend of Hospitality – WHO-TV
- Civic Friend of Hospitality – Les Aasheim, Mayor of Clive
- **Sport Friend of Hospitality – Don Tripp of Des Moines Park and Recreation Department**
- Corporate Friend of Hospitality – Hy-Vee
- Partner of the Year – Flemings Restaurant
- Spirit of Community – Barry Griswell of Principal Financial Group

"The visitor industry in greater Des Moines continues to be a HUGE economic engine. Our service area continues to lead all Iowa counties with an economic impact of over \$1.2 billion in tourism expenditures (23 percent of the state's total)", said Greg Edwards, President and CEO of the GDMCVB. The GDMCVB represents the communities of Altoona, Ankeny, Clive, Des Moines, Grimes, Johnston, Perry, Pleasant Hill, Polk County, Urbandale, West Des Moines, and Windsor Heights.

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Director—Parks and Recreation City of Manchester

The City of Manchester, Iowa (population 5,527) is accepting applications until **October 19, 2007** for a full-time parks and recreation director. Qualified candidates must have a Bachelor's Degree in Recreation, Leisure Administration or a related field. Applicants should also have public relations skills, knowledge of budgets and computers, good communication skills, creativity and team building skills. Ability to supervise and motivate parks and recreation staff is a must.

Salary dependent upon qualifications and experience. Excellent benefit package including IPERS. Job description and application forms are available upon request. Send resumes to: City Manager, 208 E. Main Street, Manchester, IA, 52057; e-mail: manchestercm@iowatelecom.net; phone: 563.927.3636.



Director—Parks and Recreation City of Orange City

The City of Orange City, Iowa (population 5,775) is seeking applicants for a full-time parks and recreation director. The selected candidate will be responsible for operation of the aquatic and fitness center, six parks, community auditorium/gym and trails. Main duties include the direction of a comprehensive parks and recreation department and related programs. The Director supervises and leads two full-time staff and several part-time staff and seasonal employees. This position assists with the development and implementation of programs, policies and procedures approved by the Park and Recreation Advisory Board and City Council.

A Bachelor's of Science Degree in Recreation Administration or a related field, CPO and driver's license are required for the position. Three years supervisory experience preferred. Salary DOQ, IPERS and major medical coverage. **Application deadline: 4:00 p.m., October 5, 2007.** Application and job description available at: City Hall, 125 Central Avenue, SE, Orange City, IA, 51041 or at the web site: www.orangecityiowa.com.



Recreation Program Specialist City of Carroll

The City of Carroll, Iowa (population 10,000) is seeking applicants for a recreation program specialist. The position involves the organization and implementation of seasonal recreation and leisure-time programs for all ages; locates coaches, officials and volunteers for specific programs and coordinates use of facilities for programs.

Qualifications should include a four-year degree from an accredited college, experience in the recreation area, proven marketing skills, creative thinking, ability to adapt to continuous change and needs of the city. Applicants should possess the ability to work in a team environment. Carroll is a very progressive community with public/private K-12 schools, colleges and regional hospital. Salary DOQ; current salary is \$34,000. Residency within the city limits is required. Mail cover letter and resume to: Jack Wardell, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, 716 N. Grant Road, Carroll, IA, 51401; e-mail: jwardell@ci.carroll.ia.us. **Position open until filled.**



Director—Parks and Recreation City of Guttenberg

The City of Guttenberg, Iowa is accepting applications until **October 5, 2007** for a full-time Recreation Director. Qualified candidates should have a Bachelor's Degree or four years relevant experience in recreation, leisure activities or a related field. Applicants should also have public relations skills and knowledge of budgets and computers.

Salary dependent on qualifications and experience. Excellent benefit package. Job description and applications forms are available upon request. Send resumes to: City Manager, 502 S. 1st Street, P. O. Box 580, Guttenberg, IA, 52052. E-mail: gbergcty@alpinecom.net; phone: 563.252.1161; fax: 563.252.3157

Park and Recreation Superintendent City of Marshalltown

The City of Marshalltown (population 26,000) is taking applications for a full-time Park and Recreation Superintendent. Position performs a variety of professional duties and works in planning, developing, scheduling, directing and implementing a year-round comprehensive recreation program and maintenance of associated facilities; performs related work as required. Associated facilities include aquatic center, Coliseum, softball fields and tennis courts. The superintendent works under the general supervision of the Director of Parks and Recreation. This position exercises administrative direction over Recreation Supervisor, part-time clerical staff, seasonal or contracted personnel and community volunteers either directly or through subordinate supervisors.

Graduation from a college or university of recognized standing with a Bachelor's Degree in Recreation Management, Public Administration or a closely related field is required for the position. The successful candidate will have extensive experience in parks or recreation management, including considerable supervisory experience

or any equivalent combination of experience and training which provides the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to perform the work.

Salary: \$42,993.95—\$49,901.63 DOQ, IPERS and major medical coverage offered. **Application deadline: October 10, 2007.** Application and job description available at: Marshalltown City Hall, 24 North Center Street, Marshalltown, IA, 50158 or www.ci.marshalltown.ia.us.

Golf Pro—Westwood Municipal Golf Course City of Newton

The City of Newton is seeking an individual to direct and supervise the golf programs and related activities at Westwood Municipal Golf Course. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, coordinating and directing the development, utilization and promotion of golf and golf-related items; managing the fiscal operations of the Pro Shop/Clubhouse, accounting for all fees received and expenses incurred and supervising employees; overseeing the leasing, rotation, usage and cleaning and light maintenance of the golf cart fleet; preparing promotional materials, posters, flyers, etc. to announce activities and maximize play; scheduling the activities of the golf course to ensure that all events run efficiently and effectively, revising schedules and events as required; creating an increased public interest in golf throughout all age groups; preparing and executing golf education programs; serving as spokesperson for the golf course regarding the marketing, advertising and promotion of the golf course through the various avenues of mass communication; improving membership development; ensuring that patrons adhere to golf course policies and regulations; ; coordinating with the Greens Superintendent on timing of grounds maintenance procedures and course closings and performing other duties as assigned.

The selected candidate must possess solid time management, organization and prioritizing skills and must have the ability to work with little or no direct supervision and possess excellent customer service skills. The Golf Pro must be a member in good standing of the Professional Golf Association (PGA) or the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) with two to four years experience as either a Head Golf Professional or the First Assistant to a Head Golf Professional. Other combinations of experience and education that meet the requirements may be acceptable.

Compensation package consists of base salary and incentives based on performance. Housing and paid utilities are available. Opportunity to provide private golf lessons and retain lesson fees.

Application deadline: October 5, 2007. Please submit resume to the Parks and Recreation Director, Newton Park Commission, 3000 N. 4th Avenue E, Newton, IA, 50208.

Members on the Move



Todd Larson Accepts Position with City of Yankton, South Dakota

Todd Larson, former Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Orange City, began duties in early September as the Park and Recreation Director for the City of Yankton, South Dakota. He shares some information about his new position and the City of Yankton.

Yankton is a community of 14,000 people. It is located on the Missouri River, about an hour north and west of Sioux City. If you cross the bridge over the river, when you reach the other side you are in the state of Nebraska. There is a dam just outside of Yankton, and it provides a huge reservoir (lake) for recreation. The Lewis and Clark Recreation Area and Lake are a part of the state's park system. They estimate the lake brings 1.2 million tourists to Yankton and the surrounding area each year.

The Parks and Recreation Director in Yankton is responsible for the parks staff, budget and capital improvement planning; responsible for the recreation staff, programming, budget and capital improvement planning; cemetery staff, budget and capital improvement planning; community fitness center (attached to the public high school) staff, programming, budget and capital improvement planning; Fox Run Golf Course (18 hole public course) staff, budget and capital improvement planning. There is a Golf Advisory Board and a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. I have 16 full-time employees that I oversee in parks, recreation, cemetery and golf.

Todd shares that he learned about the job through the National Recreation and Parks jobs listing on the website. He wanted the challenge of a bigger community and more full-time staff. "Yankton is growing," Todd stated, "and I believe there are some great opportunities for future growth and expansion, especially with the river and reservoir. I believe it will also provide me with a more active social life than Orange City. I would have loved to stay in Iowa, but had not had any luck with the job openings I had applied for and interviewed for in Iowa."

Contact information for Todd Larson:

Park and Recreation Director
City of Yankton
P. O. Box 176
Yankton, SD 57078
Cell phone: 605.661.0673
E-mail address: tlarson@cityofyankton.org

Ben Page Named to Des Moines Park and Recreation Position

Ben Page will assume the newly created position of Assistant Des Moines Park and Recreation Director on October 22, 2007. Ben has served as Director of the Manchester Park and Recreation Department since 2001 and has a degree in Leisure Services from the University of Northern Iowa.

Des Moines Parks and Recreation has recently re-engineered its internal organization to better accommodate the expanded demand for park and recreation facilities and programs in the community. That reorganization has created this Assistant Director position, which will have the office administration responsibilities of budget and accounting, revenue policy, safety, training, personnel and administrative office management; community relations; and management of three municipal golf courses. Two of Des Moines' major park attractions are managed through contracts; Ben will oversee the administration of those contracts. Furthermore Ben will be assigned the responsibilities of overseeing the opening of two major new park facilities in downtown Des Moines: Western Gateway Park and the Principal Riverwalk.

Des Moines Park and Recreation Director Don Tripp indicated the position aligns with the department's existing Park Manager and Recreation Manager positions and said, "We have found a person that is an outstanding candidate and park and recreation professional whom I am confident will fit well into this organization. Through all of the interviews and testing that was done, Ben came through as a very skilled professional with great vision and an uncanny ability to develop great relationships."

In accepting this new position, Ben stated, "I look forward to this amazing opportunity and to becoming a part of the City of Des Moines team. I am very excited to be working for this progressive and award-winning parks and recreation department."



Nick Schenck Accepts Newly-Created Position



The City of Adel is proud to announce that Nick Schenck of Fort Dodge has been hired as the City's first ever Parks and Recreation Director.

Nick grew up in Stanton, Iowa, in the southwest part of the state and received his Bachelor's Degree in Recreation and Park Management from Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, MO. Nick comes to Adel from Fort Dodge where he held the position of Program Supervisor for Fort Dodge Parks and Recreation. As Program Supervisor, Nick was responsible for all Youth and Adult Sports Programs, special events, as well as athletic field care and maintenance at Harlan and Hazel Rogers Sports Complex in Ft. Dodge. Nick's fiancée Amber Turner is a second grade teacher at Van Meter Elementary School in Van Meter. They are both very excited about the position, and Adel! Nick will start his position on Tuesday, October 2nd and has already attended one Park Board meeting.

The hiring of a full time director is something the Adel Park Board has been working on for more than four years and set as a top priority when the board experienced almost complete turn over in members at that time. Eric Schepers, one of those new members four years ago, said "This is an important step for Adel as a community; we are excited to be able to increase the quality of life, services, and amenities available to the residents of this community".

Adel City Administrator, Chad Bird, states, "We see the creation of this position as the next step in helping Adel grow. As leisure activities become more important for smaller communities our park board has embraced the notion that it is quality of life amenities that help attract families to a community. With that in mind, the park board presented a solid plan of action to the city council. That plan includes physical improvements to the parks, looking at a new aquatic facility and the creation of a director's position. It is the hope of the board that new programs can be implemented that involve all age groups and abilities and cover a wide range of interests and skill levels. We hope to see Nick develop a relationship with the school and our new library facility in creating new and exciting programs for the residents of the community. The creation of the position and the hiring of Nick is the culmination of four years of vision and hard work by the park board as they strive to make Adel a great place to live and raise a family."



The ***Iowa Chairriots*** is a team of athletes that play wheelchair basketball from the Cedar Valley area. In existence and sponsored by Covenant Hospital for the past 20 years while known as the Covenant Chairriots, the reorganized team now strives to continue on as the ***Iowa Chairriots Basketball Team***, with support from new sponsors.

Team members range in age from teenage to middle age and have included men and women. The Iowa Chairriots Team has evolved into a team now registered with the National Wheelchair Basketball Association, Division 2. They usually compete in several games a year with wheelchair teams from around the country. The Chairriots also participate in several games played as fundraiser events for various charities. In these games, the opposing team usually consists of local celebrities and other volunteers who are not regular wheelchair users, but will be competing using a borrowed chair.

The ***Iowa Chairriots Team*** is the only team from Iowa to play on the National Association level. As a result, during the past few years, they have traveled out of state.

The organization is currently looking for players who would like to play at this level and come to practice with the team. Interested persons would be encouraged to contact the Iowa Chairriots for any questions they may have. The organization tries to cover some costs on going to tournament games. Thank you very much for your time. Contact information is listed below:

Jack Eherenman,
The Iowa Chairriots Basketball Team
(319) 232-1911 or 493-0978
<http://iowachairriots.homestead.com/Home.html>



Thursday, October 18, 2007
8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
North Ridge Pavilion
2250 Holiday Road
Coralville, IA

Playground Planning Workshops



The Special Training and Seminars Committee is sponsoring a new educational opportunity! We have joined up with the National Program for Playground Safety to bring Playground Planning Workshops to the membership this fall. The lead instructor is Dr. Susan Hudson, PhD, from the University of Northern Iowa. She is world renowned for her expertise in the leisure services industry, and has presented at several IPRA conferences.

This playground maintenance workshop is a full-day program specifically designed to meet the needs of those working in public and semi-public playground maintenance and repair. NPPS workshops are nationally recognized for their hands-on training directed towards operational personnel. There will be a combination of classroom discussion in addition to an on-site playground inspection. Leave the workshop with valuable skills, new tools to protect not only your investment but children and families as well! This workshop is IPRA approved for 0.5 CEU credit.

The NPPS Playground Planning Workshop is a six hour class designed to help you in planning for new playgrounds and modifying existing play areas to adhere to today's standards for safety and accessibility. The workshop will be offered in two locations: The Ankeny Parks and Recreation office on Thursday, November 29 and the Human Performances Building on the UNI Campus in Cedar Falls on Thursday, December 6. Both workshops will run from 9 am to 3 pm. Thanks to a generous gift from the Claude & Dolly Ahrens Foundation, these workshops are FREE for anyone who wishes to attend!

Dr. Susan Hudson, Ph.D., University of Northern Iowa is world renowned for her expertise in the leisure services industry. Her team of instructors will provide the highest level of presentation skills, interactive instruction, content knowledge, dedication and accessibility. Dr. Hudson has also presented at several IPRA conferences.

Look for registration information at the 2007 Fall Workshop in Marshalltown. If you have any questions, please contact Matt Beatty, STSC Chair at (515) 275-4800, email LGCCogden@netins.net, or the Iowa Park and Recreation Association office at (641) 236-3917.

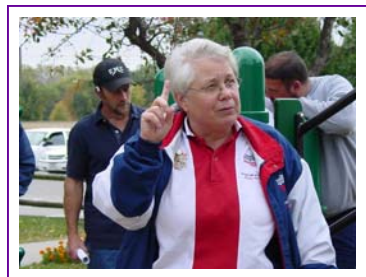
REGISTRATION FEES:
\$115 IPRA Member
\$130 Non-IPRA Member

Special Rate:

\$200—2 IPRA Members (same agency)
 \$250—2 Non-IPRA Members (same agency)
 \$90 for each additional attendee*
 *regardless whether IPRA member or not

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: October 11

Call 641-236-3917 to obtain registration materials or register on-line: www.iowaparkandrecreation.org



Dr. Susan Hudson, Ph.D. (top), University of Northern Iowa, world renowned for her expertise in the leisure services industry, will provide instruction at the NPPS October 18 in Coralville and again at the NPPS Planning Workshops scheduled for later this year. Heather Olson (bottom) is one of the team of instructors assisting Dr. Hudson.



Introducing Christin Powers, Assistant Director of the Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Department

A Cedar Rapids native, Christin(e) received her BA in Community Recreation from the University of Northern Iowa, and her MS in Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration from Western Illinois University. Christin, a Senior Director, spent her early career managing a variety of programs for the YMCA in Iowa, Indiana, and Tennessee. She served as Community Center Manager for Nashville Metro Parks. During this tenure the Nashville City Council recognized her by resolution status for innovative programming, and the local Rotary presented her with a "Devoted Community Service" award.



Living in Tennessee allowed her to enjoy the mountains and backpacking. Christin is also an alumni of the National Outdoor Leadership school. Her professional experience includes work in the private sector managing hotels, human resource/staffing, and senior living services. Christin moved back to her home state to be closer to family and is very excited about her opportunity serving as Assistant Director of Bettendorf Parks and Recreation.

Getting to know...

Jennifer Halder is the new Parks and Recreation Supervisor for the Marshalltown Parks and Recreation Department. She was born and raised in Mason City, Iowa and attended Newman Catholic High School. Jennifer worked part-time for the Mason City Recreation Department during high school and into her first two years of college. After earning an AA degree from North Iowa Area Community College, Jennifer was offered the Assistant Program Coordinator position with the Mason City Recreation Department. While working there, she attended Buena Vista University – Mason City Center, earning her Bachelors Degree in Human Services. Jennifer continued to work for the Mason City Recreation Department as the Assistant Program Coordinator until May 2006 when she moved to Marshalltown.

Jennifer worked part-time for Marshalltown Parks and Recreation until she was offered a full-time position at Mid-Iowa Community Action (MICA). Jennifer admits her passion was still recreation because she had grown up knowing about and teaching recreation programs and was interested in the Recreation Supervisor's position offered by the Marshalltown Parks and Recreation Department.



In her free time, Jennifer enjoys conversing with friends and relaxing at home. She is single with two cats and a dog and is living with her boyfriend of two years. Jennifer's personal goals include getting married and maybe having children someday. Professionally, she would like to create new and enjoyable programs for the City of Marshalltown and become more diverse in community-based events.

Is your community hosting a special Halloween event this year? We'd like to share the story in the November issue of *IPRA Today*. Please e-mail your news to deborah@lightenupiowa.org by October 15. All digital photos welcome!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Kathleen Guyer, Parks and Recreation Director for the City of West Union
- Kevin James, Parks/Facilities Supervisor for the City of Ames
- Joshua Larsen, Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Huxley.
- Dick Boise of the George Long Company, commercial member of IPRA



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IPRA Calendar of Events



October:

- 9-11 Fall Workshop—Marshalltown
- 15 CEU/Aquatic Workshop—Cedar Rapids
- 16-17 Certified Pool Operator's Course—Cedar Rapids
- 18 National Program for Playground Safety—Coralville
- 27 State PPT Finals—Bergstrom Indoor Football Practice Field, Ames

November:

- 12 CEU/Aquatic Workshop—Burlington
- 13-14 Certified Pool Operator's Course—Burlington
- 17 Co-Ed Volleyball Tournament—Grinnell
- 22-23 Office Closed—Thanksgiving Holiday

Wedding Congratulations

Jodie Bergan and Terry Weeks were married at 4:00 p.m., September 1, 2007, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Urbandale—timed almost perfectly for halftime of the Iowa Hawkeye game. The reception was held at the Jester Park Lodge in Grimes where the band "Comfort Zone" helped the wedding party and guests dance the night away!!

Terry is employed by the City of West Des Moines Public Works Department and is part of the building maintenance crew working at the West Des Moines Community Center in Valley Junction. Jodie Weeks is a Recreation Supervisor for the West Des Moines Parks and Recreation.

Congratulations and best wishes!!

