

IPRA Today

July 2007
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TWO IPRA MEMBERS ANNOUNCE RETIREMENT

*Congratulations to Chris Page
and Bob Workman*



Christine (Larson) Page is retiring from over 30 years of public service on June 29, 2007 and would like to express her appreciation for the opportunities she has had to serve the communities of Ames, Des Moines and West Des Moines in their park and recreation departments. Many thanks to those mentors who have passed on as well as to the leaders of today who have had a positive influence in her personal and professional growth. Chris retires rich with pleasant memories and the satisfaction of enhancing people's well being. However, her passion for parks and recreation continues and now it's time for her own recreation including spending more time with family and friends, bicycling, hobbies and fully experiencing the adventures retirement brings. Chris is planning a fun-filled summer on a Retirement Music Festival Tour, tending to a new perennial garden and continuing her consulting work as Funbrokers, LLC.

A reception will be held in Chris' honor on Friday, June 29, at the Ames Parks and Recreation Office. Please contact that office for further details. Congratulatory messages can be sent to Chris at Funbrokers@mchsi.com

Bob Workman, Director of the Marshalltown Parks and Recreation Department for the past 26 years, has announced his retirement effective July 20. Bob is a graduate of Iowa State University, and decided that his interest in sports should guide him to a profession in recreation. He began his career as an Athletic and Aquatic Supervisor with the Marshalltown Department, left to work with the Department of American Legion for about a year and a half and returned to the Marshalltown Parks and Recreation Department to serve as a Recreation Superintendent.

Bob is most proud of the following achievements made by the Marshalltown Parks and Recreation Department during his years of service with them: Aquatic Center development, bike trail to Grimes Farm and the community building. He believes that parks and recreation departments are very important to the community.

(Continued on Page 2)



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

www.iowaparkandrecreation.org

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Bob Workman Announces Retirement

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"If you are doing the job, you will receive the backing of your communities. It is a great job to see your success," states Bob from the view point of a seasoned professional. He believes that local parks and recreation departments will be called upon to develop programs and to serve their communities by serving on committees leading the community. With regard to the future of the Marshalltown Parks and Recreation Department, Bob shares that the residents have spoken by voting their favorite improvements which they would like to see in the community. The selection committee will reduce the choices to 11, and most of the ideas could touch upon parks and recreation staff and their efforts.

Bob first became involved with the Iowa Park and Recreation Association when he went to a Fall Workshop and was sold on the people in attendance and how they welcomed him into the group. His involvement with IPRA has included service on committees and as a member of the Foundation for Iowa Park and Recreation. Bob was the recipient of the Richard J. Slattery Outstanding Professional Award in 1990, and he shares that he felt very honored to receive the recognition for his efforts. "I think that you don't go out to win the honor", says Bob. "It is just something you do to make your association a better organization."

Bob believes retirement will give him an opportunity to become involved as a community volunteer and enjoy more time with his wife, Connie. They plan to travel to Colorado more frequently to visit their son.

The Marshalltown Parks and Recreation Department is planning a reception in Bob's honor. Congratulatory cards can be mailed in care of the Marshalltown Parks and Recreation Department at 803 North 3rd Avenue, Marshalltown, IA, 50158, or to his home address: 308 Edgeland Drive, Marshalltown, IA, 50158.



Spotlight on Krissy Murphy

Krissy Murphy is the new Assistant Director of the Peosta Community Center. She began duties in mid-March teaching fitness classes at the center, while attending classes at the University of Dubuque. Kevin Cartee, Director of the Peosta Community Center, admitted that he and the board of directors were discussing the Assistant Director's position and he commented that he wished Krissy was graduating this year because she would work well in that position. The board was intrigued by this, so they decided to see if Krissy would be interested in filling the position on a part-time basis. Her duties include managing the banquet room, as well as teaching fitness classes. She accepted with the understanding that as long as she successfully complete her duties, it will lead to a full-time position when she graduates from college next year. She has been a great addition to the facility and it is believed she is going to help the banquet room and fitness classes succeed.



Krissy Murphy, Assistant Director of the Peosta Community Center

IPRA STATE FAIR DAY

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16

CONTACT DOUG BYLUND AT
515.961.9420 OR

DBYLUND@CITYOFINDIANOLA.COM

TO VOLUNTEER TO ASSIST WITH
BUBBLE GUM BLOWING, BIG WHEEL
RACES, PIE EATING CONTESTS,
ETC.

Members of the Ames Park and Recreation Department staff enjoyed assisting with the IPRA State Fair Day.



Leisure Services Specialist Link Associates

This position plans, organizes and supervises leisure activities on a daily basis. Assists with registration process, documents attendance and assists with participant assessment, and other methods used in evaluating leisure services. Responsible to maintain agency and consumer confidentiality, human dignity, rights, safety and well being. The salary range is \$11.34 to \$12.27 per hour.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelor's degree in Therapeutic Recreation/ Leisure or a related field with two (2) years related successful work experience and CTRS or eligible within 6 mo. preferred.
- Must meet agency policy on transportation and background checks.
- Possess ability to work on a daily basis utilizing standard office, home and recreational equipment.
- Proven proficient ability to use independent judgment, analytical/decision-making skills, verbal and written communication skills, human relation skills, team working skills and organizational skills.
- Position will contain medium physical work consisting of exertion of up to seventy (70) pounds of force occasionally, exerting up to twenty (20) pounds of force frequently and exerting up to ten (10) pounds of force occasionally to move objects. This position consists of a combination of sitting, standing or walking.

Submit Current Resume and Cover letter to:

Mandi Parker, Link Associates, 4301 NE 14th Street, Des Moines, IA 50313. Deadline will remain open until the position is filled.

Director of Parks and Recreation—City of Adel

The City of Adel Iowa is seeking a director for the newly created parks & recreation department. Position is responsible for planning, organizing, budgeting, supervising and administering a variety of community events and activities. Bachelor's degree in recreation or related field OR any equivalent combination of experience and training. This is a unique opportunity to lead a progressive city of 4,000 people. Adel is situated in one of the fastest growing counties in the country and is part of the western metropolitan area of Des Moines.

Salary DOQ, plus benefits package. Submit cover letter and resume to: City of Adel, Attn: Parks Director Search Committee, 301 S. 10th Street, Adel, IA 50003 **All resumes must be received by July 6th, 2007 to be considered.**



Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation City of Bettendorf

This full-time position reports to the Director of Parks and Recreation and is responsible for assisting in organizing and supervising the Parks and Recreation Department including Life Fitness Center, Palmer Hills Golf Course and Grill, Parks Maintenance, Splash Landing and Herbert D. Goettsch Community Center. The selected candidate will interpret and enforce all Parks and Recreation Policies and represent the Parks and Recreation Department with the Park Board, City Council communication review, local and national organizations, civic groups and contractors. Additionally, the selected candidate will assist the Parks Director in supervision of division heads and employment staff. The position will have the responsibilities as those of the Director, in the absence of the Department Director, with regard to all matters of the department.

A professional level of knowledge normally acquired through completion of a Bachelor's degree program from an accredited college or university in Park and Recreation Administration, Public Administration or other related field is required. Five to seven years of progressively more responsible Parks and Recreation operations experience with a management role, or any equivalent combination of experience and training is an additional requirement. Previous experience with a fitness and/or aquatic complex, as well as marketing, is desired.

The job requires the ability to communicate effectively with a variety of publics, including employees (part time, full time, seasonal and volunteer staff), management, citizens, civic organizations, Board members and others. The selected candidate must have the ability to assist in planning and directing the Parks and Recreation Department, including an extensive recreation program, activities and programs at Splash Landing and the Life Fitness Center for the city which incorporates programming procedures/practices, has wide appeal to the community and is financially efficient. The position does require occasional lifting when moving equipment up to 45 pounds. Current CPR, First Aid and CPO certification is desirable. Periodic weekend, holiday and evening hours. Work is performed in office and field environments.

Salary range from \$48,182.96 to \$74,201.97.

Applications are available on the web site: www.bettendorf.org, or contact Kathleen Eisbrener, City, 1609 State Street, Bettendorf, IA, 52722. Deadline for accepting applications: Monday, July 9, at 5:00 p.m.

More details can be found on the IPRA web site: www.iowaparkandrecreation.org.

CELEBRATE RECREATION AND PARKS MONTH

National Recreation and Park Association and Proclaims

July is Recreation and Parks Month

Since 1985, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has designated the month of July as **Recreation and Parks Month**. Recreation facilities and parks across the country annually use July to celebrate the kick off of summer programming as well as a time to pull their communities together to volunteer, get involved in great outdoor physical activities and advocate for parks and recreation.

Research shows that 75 percent of Americans live within two miles of a public park or recreation facility. And, more than 75 percent of the population takes advantage of their local parks and recreation facilities—this amounts to a staggering 192 million people visiting annually.

As part of a summer full of nationwide activities and community celebrations, help NRPA celebrate this month that highlights the hard work and dedication of park and recreation supporters across the country and the joy that comes from our places and spaces.

Community support for parks and recreation services is vital to their existence, and NRPA encourages citizens to lend a hand to their local agencies through volunteer efforts. There are many ways to participate.

For more information on Recreation and Parks Month, log on to www.nrpa.org, or visit www.iowaparkandrecreation.org to find out more about activities near you.

The National Recreation and Park Association is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing park, recreation and conservation efforts that enhance quality of life for all people. Through its network of some 20,000 recreation and park professionals and citizens, NRPA encourages the promotion of healthy lifestyles, recreation initiatives, and conservation of natural and cultural resources.



Headquartered in Ashburn, Va., NRPA works closely with local, state, and national recreation and park agencies, citizen groups and corporations to carry out its objectives. Priorities include advocating favorable legislation and public policy; continuing education for park and recreation professionals and citizens; providing professional certification, university accreditation, research and technical assistance; and increasing public awareness of the importance of parks and recreation. For more information, visit www.nrpa.org.



IPRA Room Block

IPRA has been assigned our room block for the 2007 NRPA National Congress. We are staying at the **Embassy Suites Hotel Downtown**—located two blocks from the Indiana Convention Center and RCA Dome. Room rate will be \$159 (single or double) plus applicable taxes. Rooms have been set aside for Sunday, September 23 through Sunday, September 29.

Here is a listing of our allocated rooms:

Sunday, September 23—4
 Monday, September 24—15
 Tuesday, September 25—30
 Wednesday, September 26—30
 Thursday, September 27—30
 Friday, September 28—20
 Saturday, September 29—6

Please contact Steve Jordison, 641.236.8282 or jordison@pcpartner.net for assistance in reserving a room.

IPRA 2007 Fall Workshop October 9-10-11 Marshalltown

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IPRA 2008 Spring Conference March 31-April 2 Council Bluffs

POOL MANAGER'S WORKSHOP HELD

The day was filled with sunny blue skies along with hot and humid weather. Fortunately, the Clive Special Events facility was not only roomy but air conditioned as well. The IPRA Aquatics committee organized our annual pool manager/head lifeguard workshop on Friday, May 18. This popular event has grown each year since its inception five years ago, to where this year we had a record number 68 people! Because of the demand, the Aquatics committee will be investigating the possibility of offering an additional one or two workshops in other parts of the state.

The day kicked off with a lifeguarding management session presented by Carissa Williams (Ames) and McKenzie Kiger (Clive). These two discussed the new American Red Cross lifeguard teaching module in addition to tips for practical staff training. Following Carissa and McKenzie, Todd Schenck (Ankeny) covered pa-

tron surveillance. Participants viewed the "Five Minute Scanning" and "Disappearing Dummies" DVD's. These videos were produced by Tom Griffiths of Penn State University. Mr. Griffiths is a world-renowned aquatics expert. Both DVD copies are owned by IPRA and are available to member agencies for staff training at no charge.



McKenzie Kiger, Recreation Supervisor for the Clive Parks and Recreation Department, makes a presentation at the Pool Manager's Workshop

Next focus session was lead by Janet Ellerbrock of North Liberty Parks and Recreation department. Janet presented a topic which many agencies fail to prepare for; that being media relations. A locally produced video was shown which highlighted how to prepare for a catastrophic emergency and how to cope with the media aftermath. Both correct and in-correct methods of handling an emergency were demonstrated on the video. Again, IPRA has a copy of the DVD which is available for member use at no charge. After lunch, Steve Jordison and Janet Ellerbrock lead a large round table discussion. Questions were submitted by participants during the lunch break. Steve and Janet then wall posted the most commonly asked or unique FAQ.

Touring the behind scenes world of the Clive Family Aquatic Center ended the day on a perfect note.

Registration fee was \$10 per person. This fee covered the cost of snacks, drinks, lunch and hand-outs. The following departments participated in this year's Adel, Ames, Ankeny, Cedar Falls, Cherokee, Clive, Corydon, Creston, DeWitt, Fort Dodge, Fort Madison, Garner, Glidden, Indianola, Johnston, Marion, Marshalltown, Nevada, North Liberty, Orange City, Waverly, West Des Moines and West Liberty.



CPRP RENEWALS

Congratulations to the following individuals who have successfully fulfilled the requirements to renew their Certified Park and Recreation Professional status through April, 2009.

Bruce Beasley—Clinton
Terry Gray—Marshalltown
Vicki Hensley—Clear Lake
Larry Lutz—North Liberty
Eugene Rathje—Davenport
Joseph Wilson—Cedar Falls

David Demory—Eagle Grove
Donna Hall—Waterloo
Marcia Hinnners—Carroll
Pat Prevenas—Dubuque
Terry Robinson—Iowa City

Patricia Gonder—Cedar Rapids
Timothy Hansen—Nevada
Terry Hoffman—Sioux City
Sheri Proud—Coralville
Jeff Sears—Grinnell

Anyone wishing information regarding the Certified Park and Recreation Professional certification process should contact Cindy Coffin, Program Supervisor, Iowa City Parks and Recreation, phone: 319.356.5100; e-mail:

cindy-coffin@iowa-city.org



KaBOOM! Is looking for communities across the nation who want to lead the way for play. To guide in this effort, KaBOOM! has launched Playful City USA. This national recognition program is designed to offer towns and cities clear benchmarks for creating an agenda on play that is supported by local government and citizens alike. Playful City USA is a mechanism for imbedding an agenda on play into local government infrastructures across the nation while providing municipal leaders and citizens alike a context for advocating for this same infrastructure. With this unified agenda, we will bring play back into the lives of all America's children.



Beyond national recognition as a Playful City USA, your community will receive:

- Recognition highway signs
- A Municipality's Guide to Being Playful
- The "Play Day" Toolkit
- A wall-mounted recognition plaque
- Growth Award opportunities and other special incentives throughout the year
- Happier, smarter and healthier children who are reaping the benefits of play
- Stronger communities united around the importance of play

At the heart of a Playful City USA lies a core set of commitments that a municipality must meet to become nationally recognized. These commitments are the basic core components for establishing a foundation for play that ripples through city hall, schools, and neighborhoods. These five commitments can be interpreted in a variety of ways based on the status of play, the political climate and the already existing infrastructure within a local community. However, to achieve the status of being a KaBOOM! Playful City USA, all five commitments must be met so as to ensure that an agenda on play exists as a long-term matter of political importance in your community.

Learn more below about the basic parameters for meeting the commitment and read some of the best practices that are already occurring in communities across the nation.

The five commitments

1. Creating a local play task force and/or commission
2. Conducting a playspace audit
3. Designing an annual action plan for play
4. Setting benchmarks for growth in city spending on capital projects and maintenance of playspaces
5. Proclaiming and celebrating an annual "Play Day"

Contact www.kaboom.org for further details.

Team 12.4

By Deborah Martinez, Health Initiatives Coordinator, Iowa Sports Foundation

Team 12.4 is a program the Ames Parks and Recreation Department offers during the spring months to prepare for Dam to Dam, a 12.4 mile race held in Des Moines. The team meets on Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings for group runs.

My story comes in that I used to be a cross country runner during my high school days, but gradually changed to become a walker as running was not as enjoyable to me anymore. When I was looking through the parks and recreation catalog and saw this training program with the following note: "If you've never run a half-marathon, but always wanted to, Team 12.4 is for you!" I thought to myself, "Well this team would hold me accountable to my training program, and I could say I ran a half marathon. How awesome is that?!" I went to the informational meeting and met Julie Vardaman, our "coach" for the ten-week training program.

The program provided a chance to meet others who were novices, to those who have run before and those who currently were running. We had a great time learning about the various aspects of distance running, including technique, pacing, shoes, injury prevention, nutrition and much more. We received our 10-week training calendar, our awesome T-shirts (see attached picture) and water stops on our long runs.

On June 2, 2007, I ran Dam to Dam with a time of 2:18:35. My goal was 2:30 so needless to say I was thrilled with my time! I want to congratulate Scott Hock of Ames Parks and Recreation Department with a time of 1:55:55. He rocked the course!! The 16 team members I trained with were an inspiration to me and really kept me motivated. The fun part was seeing them all at the finish line!

Team 12.4 is an awesome program that I would recommend to other departments for offering similar programs for races in their local area.



Members of Team 12.4

REAP Application Deadline is August 15th!

REAP stands for Resource Enhancement and Protection. It is a program in the State of Iowa that invests in, as its name implies, the enhancement and protection of the state's natural and cultural resources. Iowa is blessed with a diverse array of natural and cultural resources, and REAP is likewise diverse and far reaching. Depending on the individual programs, REAP provides money for projects through state agency budgets or in the form of grants. Several aspects of REAP also encourage private contributions that help accomplish program objectives.

REAP is funded from the state's Environment First Fund (Iowa gaming receipts) and from the sale of the natural resource license plate. The program is authorized to receive \$20 million per year until 2021, but it has only realized that level of funding in just one year (1991) since its inception in 1989. The state legislature sets the amount of REAP funding every year, and in recent years that level has been \$10 million from the general fund. Interest from the REAP account and receipts from the sale of natural resource license plates add about \$1.0 million to this appropriation for a total of \$11 million a year.

REAP was originally authorized for \$30 million per year for 10 years. In 1996, the state legislature changed the authorized maximum appropriation from \$30 million to \$20 million per year and extended the program's life to 2021.

REAP funds go into eight different programs based upon a percentages that are specified in the law. These percentages, or what many people call the REAP formula, are shown in the following pie chart.

REAP Fund Allocation

First \$350,000 each year goes to Conservation Education.
1% of balance goes for DNR Administration.
This second balance is then divided per the pie chart.



1. DNR Open Space 28%
2. City Parks and Open Space 15%
3. Soil and Water Enhancement 20%
4. County Conservation 20%
5. DNR Land Management 9%
6. Historical Resources 5%
7. Roadside Vegetation 3%

For this year, the state legislature approved and the governor signed the FY 2007/208 budget which increases funding. REAP appropriation is up by more than 40% to \$15.5 million, 3rd highest in 18-year history of REAP. That means the amount available for grants to city park and recreation projects are also up by more than 40% to a total of \$2,272,500. County conservation grants are up to \$1,212,000 available. The annual deadline for applying for these grants continues to be August 15. Check out more complete information, applications, etc. at www.iowareap.com.



Each fall the REAP Scoring committee meets to review and ask questions from applicants. Tentatively, the city scoring meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 19th starting at 9:30 AM in the fourth floor conference room of the Wallace State Office Building. The committee will review the applications based upon the population criteria of small, medium and large.

For additional information, please contact Ross Harrison at ross.harrison@dnr.state.ia.us

When Marcus wanted to share a family tradition, fun was really good bait.

Want to teach a kid to appreciate a healthy lifestyle, new sports, and the great outdoors? It starts in parks. For generations, America has turned to public parks for fun, fitness, and family get-togethers. Good health and thriving park and recreation facilities go hand in hand.

So get active, volunteer, and support funding for parks and recreation. Make an investment that improves your health and your happiness – for a lifetime. It starts in parks!

Go to www.nrpa.org now to find out how you can make a difference!

It Starts in Parks

National Recreation and Park Association
Healthy Lifestyles. Livable Communities



Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #269

1534 Penrose Street
Grinnell, IA 50112

Phone: 641.236.3917
Fax: 641.236.6779
www.iowaparkand recreation.org

IPRA Today is produced by the I.P.R.A.
Publications Committee Chair, Deborah
Martinez, deborah@lightenupiowa.org

Layout design by
Cathy Shutts
cshutts@pcpartner.net

IPRA Calendar of Events



July:

- 12-14 Great Lakes Regional Council Meeting
- 12-14 Iowa Games Summer Finals—Ames
- 13 National Congress IPRA room block due

August:

- 6 CEU Aquatic Update—Des Moines
- 7-8 Certified Pool Operator's Course—Des Moines
- 7 IPRA Public Parks Tennis Tournament—Des Moines
- 15 REAP Grant Application Deadline
- 16 IPRA Day at the Iowa State Fair

PPT DISTRICT AND STATE COMPETITION DATES ANNOUNCED

Dates for the 2007 Placekick, Punt and Throw district competitions have been scheduled for the following locations:

NE District—New Hampton—Saturday, October 13

NW District—Sioux City—Saturday, October 13

SE District—Coralville—Saturday, October 20

SW District—Ankeny—Saturday, October 6

State Competition: Saturday,
October 27, Bergstrom Practice Facility,
Iowa State University, Ames

Information regarding local competitions will
be mailed to all departments and will appear
on the IPRA web site:

www.iowaparkandrecreation.org

