

# IPRA Today

March 2007  
Volume VII, Issue 9



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

[www.iowaparkandrecreation.org](http://www.iowaparkandrecreation.org)

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# Li4

# BY

# THE

# NUMBERS

FOUR – the number of years the IPRA Leadership Institute has been offered. NINE – young professional participants in Li4. EIGHT – seasoned professionals who mentor the participants. SEVENTY TWO – the number of bottled waters and soft drinks consumed by the group. NINE – the number of Leadership graduates who currently serve on the IPRA Board of Directors or a committee. FOUR – the number of Carole Hansen New Professional recipients who have attended the Leadership Institute.

The IPRA Leadership Institute has met or exceeded every expectation for which it was intended. The purpose of the Leadership Institute was to develop young professionals for future leadership roles in IPRA, to create a networking environment and to provide an orientation on IPRA and its membership. Marie Ware and Terry Hoffman have been the creators and Co-Chairs of the Leadership Institute since its inception. Ware and Hoffman are very pleased with the quality of the participants, the outcomes achieved and the long-term viability of the Leadership Institute.

The program is held over two half-days in January at the IPRA offices in Grinnell. Participants sleep in-doors camp style to facilitate team building. The program is offered free of charge with the help of a sponsor. This year's sponsor was the American Park and Recreation Society (APRS), the community branch of NRPA. Thanks to a training grant from APRS, all expenses from Li4 were covered.

The mentoring provided by some of the more experienced professionals in IPRA is what really makes the Leadership Institute so successful. This year's group of presenters included: Gary Scott, West Des Moines; Terry Gray, Marshalltown; Sherri Proud, Coralville; Jef Farland, UNI; and Ron Hopp, Council Bluffs.

If anyone wants information about Li5, please contact Terry Hoffman at 712-279-6115.

A photo of the 2007 Leadership Institute participants can be found on Page 5.



*Li 4 participants gleaned knowledge from several presenters. Gary Scott of the West Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department shared personal and professional experiences with the group.*

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## New Jersey Recreation and Park Association

The Executive Director acts as the chief executive and administrative officer, supervising and managing the affairs of the non-profit corporation as directed by the Board of Trustees, subject to approval and direction of the Board. The position administers operations in accordance with the Constitution, By-Laws and strategic planning documents of the association, and in accordance with the stated goals and objectives approved by the Board. Advises on the formulation of policy and directs its implementation. Performs related duties as required.

A complete job description is available on the IPRA website: [www.iowaparkandrecreation.org](http://www.iowaparkandrecreation.org).

B.S. or B. A. Degree in Recreation, Business, and/or Management related field. Minimum of five years full-time Administrative/Management experience. Non-profit management experience and/or related professional certification are a plus. Shall have success, broad and varied experience in an administrative capacity in recreation, park and resource management or the association management field and shall display the skills for decision-making and implementation of policy as well as knowledge of management principles and techniques. Shall demonstrate the ability to communicate with organizations, groups and the public through speech and writing skills. Shall have a valid driver's license.

Salary commensurate with education, qualifications and experience. Benefits may include Health Insurance (POS Plan), Life Insurance, and Profit Sharing Retirement Plan. NJRPA is an equal opportunity employer.

Submit cover letter, resume, salary history and references to: Joanne Hunt, President, New Jersey Recreation and Park Association, 13 April Lane, Somerset, NJ, 08873-5301, [www.njrpa.org](http://www.njrpa.org). Application deadline: March 30, 2007.



# PROGRAMMER

## Perry Recreation Department

The Perry Recreation Department is seeking a full-time programmer. The position involves planning, organizing, supervising and assisting in the implementation of community aquatic programs and activities as well as recreation center supervision and aquatic instruction. Knowledge of aquatic programming and ability to plan and supervise programs and special events are essential. Bachelor's degree in leisure studies, recreation administration or closely related field required. LGI, WSI is required for the position. CPO preferred or must obtain within six months. Salary is negotiable. Good benefits package. Closing date: March 20, 2007. Send cover letter and resume by email to [mcbdirector@iowatelecom.net](mailto:mcbdirector@iowatelecom.net), fax to 515.465.5850 or

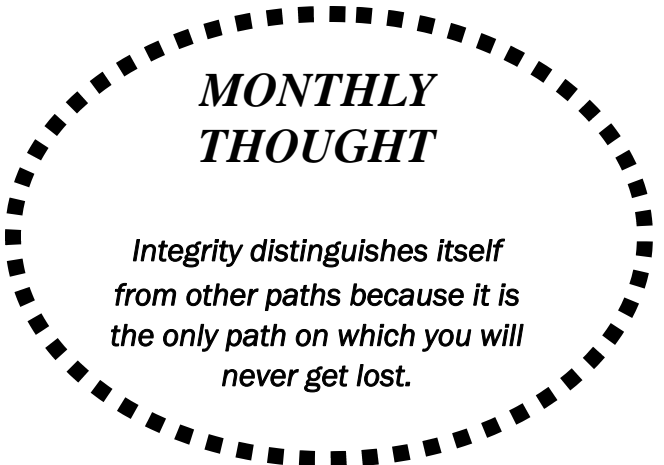
# DIRECTOR

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# BETTENDORF PARKS & RECREATION SHARES IDEAS

I wanted to let you know of a couple of ideas that are working well for us that you might be able to incorporate in your community.

The first idea will not be new to some agencies, as I know some cities already have one. Look at starting up a youth advisory group. Our group is called the Mayors' Youth Advisory Council (MYAC). The council was developed to act as a sounding board for the local youth. We currently have 12 high school kids. They must be a resident of Bettendorf, but they do not have to attend Bettendorf High School. The students are focused, hard working and willing to help better their community.

In the 16 months that we have existed, the MYAC has pretty much become an advisory/working group for me. They have helped with special events like St. Patrick's Day Dance; January Jubilee; Punt, Pass and Kick; Birthday Parties and Parents Day Out. They also helped out with two needy families during the holidays. They went out and bought presents, wrapped them and then delivered them to the families. If you do not have a group like this set up, I would highly recommend one.

If you do not want to involve the City Council, call it the Director's Dozen or something like that and get started. The MYAC is a great resource to get a feel for what the local youth want and they are providing free labor which normally you would be paying staff to work.

One other Special Event we came up with was to host Middle School Nights at the city owned Life Fitness Center. We felt there was a need for the middle school kids to have something to do that would not cost a lot of money. We charged \$5 per student, which included pizza, pop, games, door prizes, swimming and dancing. To our amazement, 143 middle school kids attended and had a blast.

Dodgeball was a big hit as well as our pool. The pizza and pop went fast. The only negative aspect was the dance area. It has been a few years—ok, a lot of years, since I attended middle school. Apparently, the kids will not dance if there is a lot of light so that did not go over too well. They did ask if we would turn the lights off, but that would have made it extremely dark; and I did not want to go down that road. With the success of the first Middle School Night, we are now planning for our next one and will host one per month during the winter months.

Some suggestions that I would recommend:

- Make sure the schools do not have any events planned that will hinder participation.
- Do not hire a DJ. With my MYAC members, they had plenty of music between them to fill the two hours up. Just bring a boombox and hit "play".
- Go to area businesses and see if you can get door prizes. The kids were quite excited we were giving away prizes.
- Order the pizza after the event starts so you have an idea of how many to get.
- Have plenty of volunteers.

*(This article was written by Kevin Cartee, former Program Coordinator with the Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Department. Recently, Kevin accepted a position as Executive Director of the Peosta, Iowa Wellness Center.)*



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# ORANGE CITY'S COMMUNITY BETTERMENT PROJECTS

*(This is the final part of an article contributed by Todd Larson, Director of the Orange City Park and Recreation. The first part was published in the February issue of IPRA Today.)*

With the grand scheme accepted and supported by the community, it was time for the Park and Recreation Department and the City Council to finalize the appropriate funding. Since the OC Area Fitness Center was formed through the 28E agreement with the MOC-FV school district in 2003, the shared construction costs (\$250,000 of the \$500,000 total) and equipment costs (\$100,000 of the \$250,000 total) were taken from the City's utilities funds, which had been designated in advance of all the other projects. Orange City owns and operates its own electrical, water, sewer, natural gas, and communications (phone, internet, cable) divisions, which is a great source for providing the community with revenues to use for city projects.

The OC Area Fitness Center was opened to the public on August 15, 2006. The facility offers ten treadmills, four elliptical machines, two recumbent bikes, two recumbent steppers, free weights and dumbbells, and selectorized weight machines. Along with the equipment, the facility provides personal training through independent contractors, fitness assessments and body composition testing by the staff, and group exercise classes offered by independent contractors. The facility is located at the local high school, but is solely operated by the city. A full-time city position was created, Community Wellness Director, and Amanda Wiggins was hired to fill the position and started work on April 3, 2006. Amanda's position has her not only managing the fitness center, but the outdoor aquatic center also.

The remaining Community Betterment Projects have been funded through a variety of sources. The bulk of the funds, \$450,000, have come through a reverse-referendum bond, which did not need to be approved by the community through a public vote. A Vision Iowa Grant was secured for \$95,000. A Sioux County Community Foundation grant was secured for \$5,000. Orange City's electric fund supplied \$90,000. The local board which controls the hotel tax funds committed \$25,000. Sioux County committed \$15,000 toward the projects. Orange City Communications donated \$20,000. The Dutch Heritage Boosters, a group of local citizens that strongly promote the community's "Dutch village" concept, stepped forward with a gift of \$50,000. Northwestern College, located in Orange City, provided \$20,000. Finally, a public fund-raising campaign was staged and generated \$75,183.

The projects are a work in progress. The first of the projects to be completed successfully in 2005 was the new playground in Windmill Square Park. The playground has been well used since installation and it has met the goal of drawing families to and keeping them in the downtown area.

The tennis court asphalt re-surfacing was the second project to be completed in the summer of 2006. Once the new surface was installed, net posts modified, and new nets placed, the

courts were ready for play. Community members could be seen playing tennis at the facility unlike at any time in the eight years I have been in town. Just this past weekend on a mild November Sunday afternoon with the temperature around 45 degrees Fahrenheit, there were two courts being used by tennis enthusiasts. An important part of making this project a successful reality was the use of a tennis task force which was given the assignments of researching and recommending a renovation option for our courts, helping with the fund-raising, and helping with youth and adult programming in future summers.

The 150-foot long water canal was constructed in Windmill Square Park last fall and is successfully holding water. In the summer of 2007, the donated molens will be placed on cement pads in the canal area, sidewalks meandering past the canal and molens will be poured and the entire molen section of the park will be landscaped. The molens are ready to be displayed, but not before some extensive refurbishing took place in the winter of 2005-2006. The Dutch Heritage Boosters accepted the responsibility of working with the molens; and volunteers dismantled, constructed, painted, and restored the molens to their original splendor.

The old shelter house in Windmill Square Park has been demolished. Work has begun on the new shelter last fall. The foundation has been poured along with the sidewalks that connect the shelter to the off-street parking. The contract specifies that the new shelter is to be finished by April 1, 2007. This completion date means the shelter will be ready for the Tulip Festival on May 17, 18, and 19.

The band shell renovation designs are being examined by the different user groups in the community. Once a final design was identified, the recommendation was brought to the City Council in December so work can begin on bidding the construction project out for the summer of 2007.

Finally, Puddle Jumper View Park will be developed in the summer of 2007. Last spring, the park was seeded with grass. A culvert was also installed to connect the park with the adjoining Puddle Jumper Trail, which is an old railway bed turned into a nature trail that connects the communities of Orange City and Alton. Next spring gravel paths will be installed throughout the park to connect future amenities and to provide access to the native prairie grasses and flowers area that has been established by a school group. In the summer, a play structure for 2-5 year olds will be installed along with a boulder climbing unit for the older kids. This park is landlocked by state Highway 10 and county road K-64. The residents who live in this part of town are excited to have a park in the neighborhood that their kids can travel to safely without the concern of trying to cross the two highways.

(Continued on Page 7)

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## *2007 Leadership Institute Participants*

*Front row: Jen Spane (Coralville), Derrick Tripp (Sheldon), Ryan Penning (Ankeny), Josh Vande Kamp (Knoxville).*

*Back row: Jessica Bartles (Cedar Rapids), Matt Hibbard (Coralville), Travis Renze (Grinnell), Chris Clime (Cedar Rapids), Joy Middleton (Carroll).*

# I.P.R.A. IS BURSTING WITH ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS THAT YOU WON'T WANT TO OVERLOOK!

## Awards Nominations Deadline—March 1.

Deserving individuals and departments or organizations should be recognized for their successes.

## Scholarship Applications Due March 1.

Two scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each and three \$750 scholarships are available. Application forms and a detailed summary of the scholarships are available on the IPRA web site:

[www.iowaparkandrecreation.org](http://www.iowaparkandrecreation.org). Scholarships can be granted for use at any community college or private or public four-year school. Recipients must be enrolled in a course of study which as an emphasis on parks and recreation or leisure services.



## Spring Parks Forum 2007—March 8, 9:00 a.m., Marion's Lowe Park Arts and Environmental Center, \$15 per person.

Ballfield Maintenance, Plants for Problem Areas and Weed Control Programs are the featured topics of discussion. Registration forms are available on the IPRA web site.

## Adult Men's & Women's Volley- ball Tournaments—March 10 (deadline is March 1) and Adult Co-ed Volleyball Tournament— March 24 (deadline is March 14), both at Grinnell Area Recreation Center.



Cost for Men's and Women's tournament is \$50 per team for a one-day tournament. \$75 is the fee for the Adult Co-ed tournament. Contact the state office to receive registration forms.

## 2007 Spring Conference at Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center in Waterloo—April 2-4.

Register on line at [www.iowaparkandrecreation.org](http://www.iowaparkandrecreation.org) or complete the registration form recently mailed to you and send to the state office. In addition to the opportunity to check out the features of the exhibit hall, great educational sessions and networking opportunities will be offered.

## CEU Aquatic Workshop—April 3.

This session is offered in conjunction with the Spring Conference. Take advantage of the low rate—just \$20. Registration is included with Spring Conference packet and registration form.

## CEU Aquatic Workshop—April 9 and Certified Pool Operator's Course April—10-11, both held in Iowa City.

Training will be offered by the staff of Pool Tech Midwest. 2.5 CEU's are obtained by taking the Aquatic Workshop. Instruction will be offered in all areas of pool maintenance and chemistry in an effort to protect both the swimmer and investment in your facility.

## State Spot Shot Competition— April 14.

Local competitions should be completed by April 1 so it's not too late to host an event. Contact the state office to receive 1st, 2nd and 3rd place ribbons.



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## Orange City's Community Betterment Projects

(Continued From Page 4)

All of these projects have been well accepted by the community. It was easy to gain support when there were so many aspects of the citizens' interests being enhanced. Orange City will continue to be aggressive in trying to attract businesses and potential employees, and the Orange City Parks and Recreation Department will continue to be a valuable tool in the economic development of the community and region. Please visit the new Orange City website, which for the first time has valuable Park and Recreation Department information, and see what our community has to offer:

[www.orangecity.govoffice2.com](http://www.orangecity.govoffice2.com).

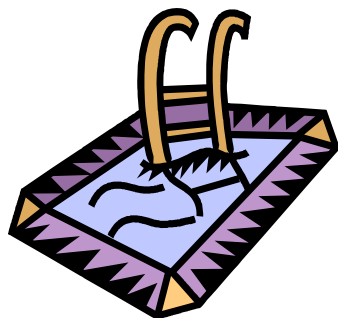


## Buying... Selling... Trading...



The Mahaska County Soccer Club is looking for some nice used goals: two sets of 24 foot and two sets of 12 foot goals. Please forward asking price, pictures (if available), or description of condition. Contact Deb Rurup at 641.672.2499.

The City of Sheldon Indoor Pool is closing. We are looking to get rid of some things that may be of use to another community. Some of the main things include: pool blanket and rollers, lane dividers, patio furniture, soap/paper towel/shampoo units and products, pool water weights/boards, diving blocks for competitive swimming, etc. If interested in anything or want to take a look around, contact: Derrick Tripp at 712.348.4776.



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



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*IPRA Today* is produced by the I.P.R.A.  
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Layout design by  
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## IPRA Calendar of Events

### March:

- 1 Awards Nominations & Scholarship Applications Due
- 6 UNI Career Awareness Day
- 8 Parks Community Forum—Marian
- 10 Adult Men's & Women's Volleyball Tournaments—Grinnell
- 12 CEU/Aquatic Update—Ames
- 13-14 Certified Pool Operator's Course—Ames
- 24 Co-ed Volleyball Tournament—Grinnell

### April:

- 2-4 IPRA Spring Conference—Waterloo
- 3 CEU/Aquatic Update—Waterloo
- 9 CEU/Aquatic Update—Iowa City
- 10-11 Certified Pool Operator's Course—Iowa City
- 14 State Spot Shot Competition—Grinnell
- 23 CEU/Aquatic Update—Clear Lake
- 24-25 Certified Pool Operator's Course—Clear Lake

## EXHIBIT HALL EXTRAVAGANZA AT WATERLOO!

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, April 3 at 10:00 a.m.. That is when the exhibit hall at the 2007 IPRA Spring Conference opens up. It looks like we are going to have a great showing of vendors with a big variety of products.

This year's exhibit hall is also going to be a place for everyone to have some fun and relax in a great setting. Many vendors have already agreed to bring in their products to help us make this exhibit hall time a great experience.

Also, there will be no more scrambling to get signatures for the vendors. This year the vendors will be distributing a total of 14,000 raffle tickets to the delegates that visit their booths. Drawings will then be held for some great prizes. Take the time to visit the vendors that are supporting our Iowa Park & Recreation Association. These are vendors that will be bringing the newest innovations and products right to all of us. Take advantage of this great opportunity.

Remember to register by March 23 for the conference and plan to visit the exhibit hall on Tuesday, April 3!