



The Mighty One



The Quarterly Newsletter of CPRS District I

Summer 2007 Issue

Calendar of Events

June

- 9 Summer Leadership Workshop, Mill Valley
- 28 Board Meeting, Mill Valley

July

- TBA Board Meeting, TBA

August

- 9 Mighty One deadline
- 28 Certified Pool Operator Course, Marinwood
- 23 Board Meeting, Novato

September

- 14 Golf Tournament, Rooster Run
- 27 Board Meeting, Tiburon Peninsula Club
- 30 Super-Cal (9/30-10/2)

October

- 12 Fall Workshop, Mill Valley
- 25 Board Meeting, Santa Rosa

November

- 16 General Membership Meeting, Location TBA

See us on the web for more information,
<http://districti.cprs.org>

District I Mission Statement:
 CPRS District I promotes and enhances the benefits of parks and recreation through the empowerment of its members.

A message from our President...

Hello Mighty One Members,

Summer's almost here! No wait, as Parks and Recreation professionals, summer has been here since December or before when we all started planning our upcoming summer programs and park maintenance & expansion plans. As the last day of the school year nears, we are bringing on seasonal staff, setting up field trips, making sure our pools and parks are in tip top shape, buying supplies and probably trying to sneak off for a long weekend before we are tied to our jobs for the high season. In the midst of all of this, take some time to look around and really revel in the amazing results of what we do. I feel the most rewarded with my career when I look out and see our sports fields full with activity, our community center loud and busy with children and our parks bustling with activity and think "I helped to make this happen". In the busyness of summer, don't forget to look around at the joy you bring and appreciate it.

The District I board retreat was held in March and was very productive. We reviewed last year's goals and were able to mark quite a few as achieved. We also set our goals for 07/08 which are: To work to increase agency memberships; Improve Park Operations participation; Develop a comprehensive Financial Plan; Continue to improve our trainings and events; and Explore ideas for more social networking opportunities for members. With these goals came a flood of great ideas on how to achieve them. Last year, CPRS District I held 13 events & trainings for our members. Over 800 professionals attended these events. Our district board is BUSY but we couldn't do it without help. We are currently looking for professionals who are interested in giving back to and furthering our profession by joining a committee. Upcoming events include our Golf Tournament and Fall Workshop. If you are able to give a few hours, please contact me for more information.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the people, organizations and businesses that have helped make our events in March, April, May and June possible. Don Hicks & the City of Santa Rosa; Safari West; Hillary Schulte; Total Guard; City of Vacaville Community Services; Marinwood Community Services District; City of Mill Valley Parks and Recreation; Debbie Younkin & the Summer Leadership Workshop Committee; the Terra Linda Community Center; Larry Pyle & Skyline Wilderness Park in Napa.

Looking forward to seeing you at our next District I event!

Samantha Holland-Wagner

Samantha Holland-Wagner
District One Board President

55th Annual Fall CPRS District One Golf Tournament
 Friday September 14, 2007 8:30 a.m. at Rooster Run Golf Course, Petaluma

For more information or if you would like to be a hole sponsor for the event please contact Donny Biro at (707) 746 - 4306.



In The News...

City of Benicia

By Mario Giuliani

The highlights of the recent May revise from the Governors Office makes it hard to contemplate how far California's fortunes have turned in so short a period of time. It was not to long ago that the lights were being turned off in the Golden State. This State's unchecked spending spree sent California spiraling towards bankruptcy. Left to buttress the failed leadership in Sacramento were local governments and school districts.

Fortunately, the stewardship of the City of Benicia was resilient enough to weather the financial crises, but sadly our local school district was left decimated and on the brink of financial ruin. The school district was feverishly slashing programs and positions to stave off a state take over. The City, on the other hand, cut no positions or programs and was sitting on a 20% financial reserve. The disparity between the local governments raised political passions that became a catalyst for the City Council to assist the School District.

Of course, any monetary assistance would be an illegal gift of public funds, so a creative alternative needed to be formed. That alternative was to greatly expand a joint use agreement, whereby the City would maintain nearly all of the District's playing fields and the District would allow the City access to certain facilities. The result would be financial savings and vastly improved playing conditions for the District and a political feel-good story for the City.

The charge to turn this collaborative and creative approach into a functioning reality rested with Parks and Community Services Director Michael Alvarez and Assistant Director Mike Dotson. Director Alvarez worked with the City's legal council to format the agreement, while Assistant Director Dotson began the budget and operational tasks of implementing the agreement. Turning the dilapidated turf into first class playing fields fell to Parks Supervisor Roger Adamson and his crew. In just over two years time the Parks crew has restored the Benicia High School playing fields into best in Solano County. Moreover, the restoration of the playing fields have created an unintended result, a likely boom in our recreation programs. Due to the ramshackle condition of the District's fields, City programs have avoided them like the plague. Now, with the conditions improved there is surplus field space that our sports division, lead by Donny Biro, is enthusiastically trying to schedule.

As all of our agencies head into the exuberance of the Summer season we all, undoubtedly, will face unforeseen challenges. So, I felt it timely to take a moment to illustrate an example of turning adversity into opportunity. Best of luck to all during the dog days of Summer!

Mark your calendars.....



CPRS District I Fall Workshop

October 12th - Mill Valley

More information in the fall ***Mighty One***
and on-line at <http://districti.cprs.org>

Town of Corte Madera

By Jackie Branch

Corte Madera continues to move along with its Town Park and Community Center Master Plan. Progress has been made in compiling the needs of Corte Madera residents and implementing them into the design concepts. More work is needed and more work will be done.

Corte Madera Parks and Rec. held another well attended Mother/ Son and Daddy/Daughter Dinner Dance. Both events were sold out and attended by well over three hundred people between them. Dinner by Marin Joe's and dancing provided by DJ Fizz-Nik Rick helped to make these events a success. Dancing through the Decades was the theme this year. Plans are already in the works for next years Dinner Dance.

Our second annual Corte Madera Parks & Recreation Amazingest Race Limousine Scavenger Hunt is sold out and has been sold out for months. This year we're "Back with a Vengeance", the race route takes place through out Corte Madera, Larkspur and Greenbrae. Twelve eight person limos will be released into the community to have fun, perform whacky tasks and collect clues. Each team will return a few hours later to a nice dinner provided by Mauro's Pasta.

Summer is just around the corner. Corte Madera Summer Playground Program is taking registration at \$250 per child if you live in Marin County and \$350 for those outside Marin County. Space is limited for this well attended Corte Madera summer event.

Kids Club after school program is wrapping up the 06-07 school year. Kids Club is an after school enrichment non-structured structured program that serves our community. Kids Club staff Brian Hernandez, Linda McGovern, Amanda Johnson, Danny Hart, Christina Ennis, Francis Antigua, Joni Irwin, Tim Collins and Thomas Gilbert help to facilitate a program that implements genuine care, respect and courtesy for children and each other, while meeting the needs of the children, parents, schools and communities we serve.

Certified Pool Operator Course

offered by CPRS District I & Leslie's Pool Supply

August 28 & 29

8:30am-5:00pm

Marinwood Community Center

775 Miller Creek Rd.

San Rafael, CA 94903

\$280.00 per person

(includes materials, lunch both days and final exam)

Contact: Debbie Younkin for more information at
(415) 479-0775 or email dyounkin@marinwood.org

Fairfield Community Services Department
By Tumikia Watu-Khuthaza

Fairfield Gets Fit! - The Walk the Parks Program

Fairfield's Health and Wellness campaign began in the summer of 2006. One of John De Lorenzo's, Community Services Director, goals was to help "Fairfield Get Fit". In July 2006, for National Parks and Recreation Month, Community Services developed a number of activities geared towards health and wellness. The "Walk the Park" program was one component of this campaign. "The idea," says Todd Grames, Special Events Coordinator, "was to highlight our local parks with a walking program. Our goal was to get people into our parks, begin or enhance their fitness program with an exercise routine they could continue on their own and provide them with opportunities to make new friends."

The 2007 Obesity Report, a national survey of physicians conducted by Epocrates, Inc. reveals "obesity to be the single largest public health crisis in the United States" above smoking and alcoholism. We are aware of the dangers and still we pack on the pounds. According to this report, "education around the negative health effects of smoking has dramatically decreased adult use of tobacco;" sadly, education around obesity has not stemmed the tide.

One park a week; walking a different Fairfield park each week adds variety, challenge and prevents boredom. The course is marked in quarter mile sections allowing walkers to keep track of their miles on their Mileage Card. Walkers are encouraged to walk at their own pace, meet a friend, and catch up on the news. Therefore, they enjoy the walk more and before they know it, they are finished with their physical activity for the day and have had fun doing it. The walks averaged 65 participants over the five month period.

For many, this walking program is their first step to fitness. Grames tells us "one person saw the ad in the local paper on a Sunday and came out the next morning to begin a walking program as a way to restore her health after finishing cancer treatment."

Due to popular demand, "Walk the Parks" program returned two months earlier this year, May, and extends through October. According to a Ramblers Association 1997 article, "a 20-minute brisk walk burns 100 calories and is the equivalent of 10 minutes of swimming." So we added a timing clock this year for those wanting to walk for time rather than just distance.

We are continuing our efforts to help "Fairfield Get Fit" and fight obesity in 2007. This summer, two new programs will be introduced "Walk-Jog-Run" on several Saturdays and a "Meet in the Heat" 5K Run.

"We want Community Services to be known as the agency people can turn to for help with their health, wellness and fitness needs. Our parks, open spaces, and programming will reflect this effort," says De Lorenzo.

Marin County Parks & Open Space Department
By Chris Chamberlain

The Marin County Parks and Open Space Department is bustling with activity as we roll into the peak recreation season. Our department's comprehensive strategic plan is progressing nicely. We have completed several outreach activities including a telephone survey, community and staff workshops and a variety of other information gathering activities. The information and enthusiasm that we have received is very exciting. We hope to have a final plan in place in early 2008. We have just recently broke ground on a major renovation and improvement of the Miller Park Boat Launch and Day Use Area on Tomales Bay. Our department has worked tremendously hard to get this project going and we, as well as the community, are excited about what will be the end product.

Finally, we are working feverishly to prepare and host the Marin County Fair at our Civic Center Fairgrounds. There is a tremendous amount of energy and resources dedicated to the preparation and hosting of an event of this caliber. Our staff does a great job and the community most certainly enjoys the event as they come by the thousands.

From our department to you and yours, have a great recreation season and we will see you in the fall.

City of Napa
By Linda Button-Jones

Change is in the air in Napa! Beginning in January, NCRD has had the welcome addition of Larry Mazzuca as Community Resources Director. Larry has vast experience in the field of Parks & Recreation and most recently worked for the City of San Bruno. We are so happy to have Larry onboard! In June we will welcome Dave Perazzo as our new Parks Superintendent. Dave also joins us from the City of San Bruno. We are looking forward to meeting and working with Dave. In the near future, NCRD will be recruiting for a Recreation Coordinator as well as a Recreation Supervisor. Look out San Bruno!

Additionally, the entire City of Napa has undergone some major shifts in departmental assignments. Part of that change is that NCRD has integrated citywide facility maintenance into our department. Kevin LaChapelle and his staff have joined NCRD. Kevin and staff have been busy as can be keeping up with all the changes going on in our fair city.

In Recreation we are gearing up for a busy summer season and are looking forward to some great new summer camps. In addition to the extensive line up of exciting summer camps we currently offer, this summer we will be adding Surfer Math which is a math camp, a Mad Science camp and a junior Jazzercise camp called Jazzerkamp. BMX, volleyball, Skyhawks, art & drama, farm camp, aerospace academy and computers are just more to choose from. Kids these days sure have a lot to choose from!

Keep cool this summer and good luck to all as we enter this busy season!

Santa Rosa Recreation & Parks Department
by Kelley Magnuson

Santa Rosa Recreation & Parks recently hosted Family Fun Night in Howarth Park on Friday evening, May 4! The department offers three Family Fun Nights each summer. Family Fun Night is unique because the park is open during special evening hours and the popular carousel, train and pony rides are offered at a discount. This past month, the park was decorated with a Cinco de Mayo theme and participants were welcomed by a popular Marriachi band as they arrived. There have been a few new features added to the event for this season. A local church group is performing a musical puppet show in the old west town of the playground and a local business is sponsoring a free family movie in the park at dusk. Hundreds of people flocked to the lawn area to watch Shrek on a gigantic screen as the sun went down! This event has grown into a jewel over the past few years as it offers a fun alternative for Family Fun on a Friday!

If you are in the area, come relax with your family in Howarth Park , located at 630 Summerfield Road , on June 15 and August 24 from 5:00 p.m.-7:30 pm for activities and rides and a free movie at dusk. For more information, please call 543-3282.

CPRS Award of Excellence - City of Novato
By Lisa Rudloff, CPRS Region 1 Representative

Each year the California Park & Recreation Society's Awards Program recognizes excellence in agencies that have embodied the core values of the profession. This year the City of Novato Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department was recognized with an Award of Excellence in the category of Park Planning – Specialty Park for the Scottsdale Pond Restoration and Enhancement project. The Scottsdale Pond and Enhancement project included the restoration and enhancement of the 10 acre freshwater pond and 7 acre wetland/upland habit area. The purpose of the project was to prevent the pond from becoming extinct, preserve and enhance the surrounding wildlife habitat, and increase recreational and educational opportunities for the community. The pond is an important resting point for migratory waterfowl on the Pacific Wildlife Corridor. Improvements included excavating designated areas of the pond and creating a habit island; and installing an aeration system, fishing pier, gazebo, interpretive signs, path, and native plants. This is the highest statewide award you can receive for their population size.

I was delighted, on behalf of CPRS, to present to the City of Novato Staff the CPRS Award of Excellence on April 10, 2007.



2007-08 District I Board of Directors

President	Samantha Holland-Wagner City of Arcata Parks & Recreation Division
Vice President	Ashley Howe Tiburon Peninsula Club
Past President	Debbie Younkin Marinwood Comm. Services Dist. Community Services
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Secretary	Sherry Burchert Belvedere-Tiburon Recreation

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Town of Corte Madera
Donnie Frank
City of Petaluma
Kristina Lake-McClellin
Vacaville Community Services
Patty McCulley
City of Mill Valley Parks & Recreation

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Aging	Jillian Mazeau City of Novato, Margaret Todd Senior Center
Aquatics	Hillary Schulte Marinwood Comm. Services Dist.
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Parks	Chris Chamberlain Marin County Parks & Open Space
Supervisor	Ann Dunleavy City of Benicia
Commercial	Juliana Infrerra Tiburon Peninsula Club
Therapeutic	Vacant
Web Designer	Ronele Schaefer Novato Parks, Recreation & Community Services

“The Mighty One”

Fall Edition Deadline: Thursday, August 9

Share your Department happenings with us

Please e-mail articles to Ronele Schaefer,
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