

June- August 2007

R.A.P. Report



Serving California Park & Recreation Society

For lists of officers, meeting dates & bylaws, visit districts on the web

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Take time to enjoy the sprinklers
this summer!

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Do you have news to share about your organization?

New hires? Great ideas? A successful event? We want to hear about it!

If you would like your article to be published in the next RAP REPORT, please contact your District Newsletter Rep, or email articles and photos to:

kimf@cupertino.org **BY August 17**

Message from your Region 2 Rep

Mike Wide, Region II Representative, City of Millbrae

Legislative Advocacy – Do Your Part



First and foremost I want to say what an honor it is to be your Region II representative. I have been a member of CPRS for 23 years and have served at the District Level for many years. I truly realize that CPRS is about providing learning experiences for its members and that the heart and soul of the organization is the membership. It is my job to serve you at the state level. If you have any ideas on how CPRS can best serve you, please don't hesitate to pick up the phone and give me a call, (650) 259-2364, or send an email, mwide@ci.millbrae.ca.us.

One of our Ends Policies is Legislative Advocacy. CPRS wants to “ensure that members’ concerns are heard by legislators in the creation of relevant public policies that affect parks to that end. Members are informed of proposed public policies of substantial importance to the profession.”

To that end, while at the 2007 CA and Pacific Southwest Recreation and Park Training Conference in Sacramento in March, the Park and Recreation Directors in Senator Leland Yee’s and Assemblyman Gene Mullin’s districts met with their legislators. At Senator Yee’s suggestion, a second meeting was scheduled for May.

At their May meeting he stated, “The major benefit of these meetings for a legislator is being able to get the local flavor. The budgets that we deal with address the general needs of Parks and Recreation services in California, but as a representative you don’t always get that translated into the needs of a local community. These meetings provide a close understanding of the specific needs and challenges within the local community.”

The group felt it is important to hear Senator Yee’s perspective on current local and state issues. In particular, the directors took note of his thoughts of gaining support for local bond measures at a grassroots level.

The San Mateo County Park and Recreation Directors expressed their support, and that of the California Park and Recreation Society, for SB 372 to Senator Yee. They emphasized that the best way to administer the available park funds in Propositions 84 and 1 C is through the Department of Parks and Recreation. They also stressed that legislation funding should ensure that:

- Local agencies are eligible for financial support
- Support is available for small, medium, and large projects
- Nature education projects, including environmental education centers, are eligible

The group also gave an overview of CPRS and talked about the society’s mission and values. Senator Yee was given the 2007 CPRS legislative priorities and was congratulated for receiving 100% on the 2006 CPRS Legislative Scorecard. The directors offered their assistance in legislative issues that foster human development, increase cultural unity, support economic development, strengthen safety, security, and environmental protection, as well as reinforce community image and sense of place.

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As a follow up, Senator Yee has now assigned one of his legislative aides to attend the group's monthly meeting. The meeting was a great way to introduce the senator to the Parks and Recreation profession and become aware of the issues and challenges we face.

Elected officials or their aides visit your cities and events all the time. I encourage everyone to take the time to develop those relationships and become versed on the issues facing your communities and the Parks and Recreation. Become a player in the legislative field! For current legislation affecting Parks and Recreation and to help find out how to get more involved, go to the CPRS Legislative Action Center on the CPRS web site

<http://capwiz.com/caparks/state/main/?state=CA>

Fitness Class Swings to Live Music



The Adapted Total Fitness class held at Cupertino Senior Center tried something different at their class on April 13, 2007. The seniors worked out to the sounds of a live band playing big band tunes. Students commented that they were working out harder than they normally do because they were so motivated by the live music. The Adapted Total Fitness class is a total body workout that is geared to seniors with a variety of physical challenges. This class is offered in conjunction with De Anza College. The class instructor, Tom Beggs, worked with the band, The Dick McConville Quartet, and selected a play list that included upbeat music. All had a great time.

Hellyer County Park in San Jose

June 24, 2007 - 11 am to 4 pm

The Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department in partnership with **Kaiser Permanente - San Jose and the Santa Clara County Public Health Department - Nutrition and Wellness and Steps** is sponsoring "Festival in the Park - Where Wellness Meets Fun!" on Sunday, June 24, 2007, from 11 am to 4 pm at Hellyer County Park in San Jose. The wellness and recreation festival is designed to inspire, educate, and excite local residents to take charge of their health, eat nutritiously, and get fit.

A host of health care providers from the public, private, and non-profit sectors, including the communities of faith, will offer exhibits, demonstrations, activities, and performances all aimed at educating and inspiring individuals and families to take action and live well. A large stage will serve as the focal point of the event with performances and physical activity demonstrations. Healthy cooking demonstrations and a visit by the Second Harvest Food Bank Produce Mobile will stop by and give out free fruits and vegetables. Come and check out the Bike Rodeo for children and youth and enter the raffle for free helmets and bicycles! Hands-on activities will take place throughout the park and include bike rides, kayaking, canoeing, fishing, and much more.

The California Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports has endorsed the Festival in the Park as an event that promises to contribute to the physical activity, fitness levels, and well-being of Californians.



A Camp Resource

2008 American Camp Association Conference. This info may benefit your upcoming summer camp training session(s). Have a great 2007 camp season!
<http://www.acacamps.org/handouts/>

District IV Golf Tournament was successful!

The CPRS, District IV Golf Committee (Harley Crock, Hilary Holeman, Lauren Merriman, and Jack Smith) hosted another successful golf tournament to raise funds for college scholarships. The event was held on Friday, May 11th, at the Santa Clara Golf and Tennis Club. Ninety-six golfers participated in a scramble format 18-hole tournament. Prizes were awarded to the 1st place “Low Gross,” 7th place “Defenders,” 14th place “Contenders,” and 21st place “Pretenders” teams. Between sponsorships, entry fees, and the raffle, \$4,700.00 were raised to supplement student scholarships. The Golf Committee would like to thank the following volunteers: Natasha Bissell, Jennifer Der, Dale Flunoy, Adilah Haqq-Smith, Denise Patch, Leslie Peay Heckman, Stacey Poncia, Jennifer Sammut, and Bill Stridbeck for their efforts the day of, and the following sponsors for their generous donations: Nor-Cal ASA Softball, South Bay SANCRA, Beals Alliance, David O’Keefe, Off Ramp Bicycle Shop, Ross Recreation, Rustic Woods Trophy Co., Time Out Services, and Tom’s T’s. Special thanks to the staff at Santa Clara Golf & Tennis and David’s Restaurant for coordinating another successful event.



Mountain View hosts 29th Annual Spring Family Parade



On Saturday April 28th, the City of Mountain View hosted its 29th Annual Spring Family Parade. This year’s theme was Surf’s Up! Groups dressed in Hawaiian shirts and leis strutted through the streets of downtown Mountain View, showing off their smiles and talents. This year’s participants consisted of a variety of schools, clubs, teams, and community organizations.

Leading the way was the city’s Recreation Preschool whose energetic faces let watchers know to prepare for a treat. Other participants included City Council members, the VW Club of America – Golden Gate chapter, Girl and Cub Scouts, local little league, and the Vanguard Cadets. All participants were presented with orange and turquoise ribbons and wore them with pride, as they made their way down Castro Street.

The fun didn’t end there! The parade route guided everyone into Pioneer Park where entertainment, food, and games waited. Participants from the Sambão Para O Povo Club led the crowd in numerous dances. The Asiya Shrine Clowns and “Miss Dee” entertained children with balloon animals while Critters by the Bay roamed the park allowing the crowd to take pictures with these oversized animals. Others enjoyed face painting, arts and crafts, and a climbing wall.

The City of Mountain View Recreation Division creates community with this event each year and anxiously awaits next April’s colossal 30th anniversary.

A New Resource Book

The Need for Special Events within Youth Programs

About the Author:

Danielle Fabela has a Master's degree in Recreation Administration from San Francisco State University (2006), with a specialization in Education Administration. She also received a Bachelor's degree in Recreation Administration (1998) from California Polytechnic State University (San Luis Obispo), with an emphasis in Commercial Tourism. She is certified in Camp Directing from the American Camp Association.

Currently, she works for the City of San Bruno Parks and Recreation Department as a Recreation Services Supervisor. In this role she supervises seasonal day camps, special events, teen programs, and outdoor trips for the community.

Since 1990, she has worked in the recreation profession in a wide variety of settings: non-profit and private camps, a private school and in municipal recreation in California, New York and Maine.

Her multi-dimensional skills have allowed her to conceive, direct and implement many innovative and fun-filled special events for adults and youth of all ages (elementary through high school).

'Special Events for Youth Programs' is a collection of creative activities and games for youth programs, targeting groups as small as eight or as large as 300. The events are also designed as a guide for implementing special events for adults and children age four and above. Each activity can add an hour or more to your program. The events are organized around three key elements: Program, People & Place. Lucky for us all, all of them can be implemented with minimal budgets. (While the emphasis is on children and teens, these games and activities also offer juicy ideas for adults, to stimulate the child in all of us – at parties, retreats, and gatherings of all kinds.)

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The description of each project incorporates the vision, structure, and logistics underlying it. All the youth counselor, recreation leader, teacher, or volunteer needs to do is implement it – and, of course, partake in the fun.

You can preview the book at: <http://www.lulu.com/content/781725>

You can receive a discount by purchasing it through this site <http://www.daniellefabela.com>
Free special event sample at this site!

Best of luck with your 2007 Camp Season



City of Monterey Welcomes New Staff

by Shannon Beltran, Monterey

The Monterey Recreation & Community Services Department is pleased to introduce a new full-time staff member to our organization. Maryrose Aiello has recently joined our professional recreation team. Maryrose has been selected to fill the Community Center Director position at the Monterey Senior Center. Maryrose began her career with the City of Monterey as a part-time recreation leader in our after school program. She was selected for the position because of her strong educational background, outstanding facility management skills, and her recreation programming, planning, and public relations experience. Maryrose will be responsible for programming for our adult and senior population.

Patricia "Pat" Donohue, Watsonville Parks & Community Services Director Retires

After 35 years of service, Pat Donohue, Director of Parks and Community Services for the City of Watsonville, retired on May 31. Pat has seen many changes in the City as well as in the field of parks and recreation. Watsonville had some 17,000 residents when she first came to Watsonville as Youth Center Director in January of 1972. At present, with a population of nearly 60,000, the Department has come a long way in the provision of parks and recreation services under Pat's direction.

The Ramsay Park Youth Center was the City's first venture into recreation services for youth as most recreation functions, including adult sports and playground programs, operated under contract with the Pajaro Valley Unified School District. City parks numbered nine including Callaghan, Marinovich, Flodberg, Pinto Lake, and the City Plaza to name a few.

In March 1973 the City Council chose to operate its own recreation programs and did not renew its contract with the School District. Having some years of experience organizing recreation activities, Pat was selected to serve as the City's first Recreation Director.

Recreation expanded to include year-round playground programs, sports for youth and adults including soccer and volleyball, as well as softball and basketball, tennis and judo classes, and activities such as day camps, pre-school, aquatics, and special interest classes. Youth job training programs included Youth Build, Summer Web Page Design Program, Enterprise Community Youth Employment Network Job Training and Placement, as well as the myriad number of recreation leaders hired over the years. A large number of parks were also added to the Department's repertoire.

Proof that Watsonville's Parks & Recreation Department changes with the time, the Neighborhood Services Division was added, whose mission is to reach out and bring programs and services to traditionally underserved areas. Additionally, the Division in collaboration with the Police Department, offers Neighborhood Watch and Business Watch programs throughout the city.

A Special Events and Promotions Division was also added, which provides activities including the Spirit of Watsonville 4th of July Parade, Holiday in Lights, and the annual Holiday Factory Sale. Partnering with the Public Works & Utilities Department, Earth Day/Day of the Child is celebrated annually in April.

In addition, Pat has served CPRS District VI in a number of capacities, including most offices and as President in 1976. She also served on the State Board of Directors from 1978-80 and chaired the State Bylaws Committee. She was also a frequent speaker at Conferences. Pat also served her community as a member of Soroptimist International and was the Watsonville Club's President and later became the region's governor. She also held a position on the 13-member international Federation Board.

Pat expressed that "My years in the City have been blessed with exceptional colleagues and talented, dedicated department staff that continually amaze me with their creativity. I am confident the Parks & Community Services Department will continue to be responsive to and serve our residents ably and well. These past 35 years have been especially rewarding as I've witnessed the growth of young professionals who now hold director, superintendent, or supervisor positions in Watsonville and other California cities." I will visit Watsonville often, for it is here that my heart is. Thank you for allowing me to serve you!"

D I S T R I C T I V C A L E N D A R

Day	Date	Event	Time	Location
Friday	June 1	District IV Meeting	10 am	Millbrae, CA
Sunday	July 29	Lifeguard Games - Bappoa		Pleasanton, CA
Friday	August 3	District IV Meeting	10 am	San Mateo, CA
Friday	August 17	Fall RAP Articles Due		Kimf@cupertino.org
Saturday	September 8	1st Annual Wood Bat Tournament		Burlingame, CA
Thursday	November 8	Bay Area Institute		Redwood City, CA

Region 2

California Parks & Recreation Society

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