



PRMonthly August, 2008

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What's New With Our Members?

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Claire was promoted to
Superintendent. Please see
the article below.

Ron Arendt has retired from
Wood County Park &
Recreation effective July
12th.

Chad Schooley, Wood
County Park & Forestry, has
been promoted to the Park
Administrator position.

Congratulations to **Tanya
Bielke**, New Berlin, and her
husband Jeff, on the birth of
their new baby boy, Peyton.
Peyton was born March 3,
weighed 9 pounds and was
21 1/2 inches long.

**Annual Conference
Reminder**

Dear Juliene,

According to experts, improving employee performance starts with you-the Aquatic, Park, Recreation and/or Therapeutic Recreation department director and/or manager! Take some time to brush up your coaching skills to boost morale and help your team grow.

An effective coach:

1. Shows (rather than tells) how to get the job done
2. Provides encouragement and support
3. Listens - really listens
4. Keeps employees in the loop on news affecting them and the organization
5. Offers honest praise and gives credit where it is due
6. Directs negative comments to performance (never the person)
7. Knows when to step in and when to hold back

To ensure your supportiveness doesn't result in employees shifting their burdens onto your shoulders, insist that when they bring problems to you they also bring solution options -- and recommendations. Additionally, consider having a professional coach meet with your team to renew their energy. Employees often view outside coaching services as a perk and a way that management shows appreciation.

Need to expand your team? Here's our recommended solution: Visit www.wpraweb.org now to post your openings!
Sincerely,

Juliene Hefter, MSQL, CPRP, AFOI
Deputy Director - Coordinator Career Services
414.423.1210
jhefter@wpraweb.org

NRPA Appoints New CEO

Mark your calendars and get set to attend this year's annual conference in La Crosse, Nov. 4-7! Registration can be done online on the WPRPA Website.

Dept. Of Justice Proposes New Rule

Dept. of Justice Notice of Proposed Rule Making:
The Department of Justice published a Notice of Proposed Rule Making on June 17, 2008 for Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in State and Local Government Services. The purpose of this rule is to adopt enforceable accessibility standards under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 that are "consistent with the minimum guidelines and requirements issued by the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board)." Title II of the ADA applies to state and local government entities, including park and recreation departments, and sets regulations to prevent and enforce discrimination in services, programs, and activities provided by these entities.

Under the NPRM, the Dept. of Justice is proposing regulations which, among other things, encompass existing play areas and recreation facilities as well as golf courses. NRPA has convened a working group to analyze and respond to the NPRM. The Department of Justice is currently accepting public comments on the NPRM

NRPA Appoints Barbara Tulipane as CEO

Ashburn, Va.--The National Recreation and Park Association is pleased to announce that Barbara Tulipane, CAE, has been appointed to serve as its chief executive officer. Tulipane is currently the president and CEO of the Electronic Retailing Association (ERA) in Arlington, Va. She will assume her new role on July 21.

Lois Finkelman, chair of the NRPA Board of Trustees, applauded the selection: "Barbara is an excellent choice to guide NRPA into the future. She has devoted her career to excellence in leading associations. She's a believer in the value of parks and recreation. Her passion for our mission, her love of the outdoors, and her warmth and infectious enthusiasm make her the right leader for NRPA."

As CEO, Tulipane will be responsible for growing NRPA through strategic partnerships, building organizational capacity, and working on national policy and advocacy efforts. She will immediately devote her time to understanding the needs and challenges facing parks and recreation, getting to know the diverse constituencies within the NRPA membership, and providing guidance to the NRPA Board of Trustees and staff in the implementation of the organization's strategic plan.

Tulipane expressed her excitement with the appointment: "I look forward to joining the board, the members and the staff to ensure that NRPA's mission succeeds. Together we will protect and conserve our nation's treasures for future generations."

Tulipane has served in associations for 20 years and in executive-level positions for 12 years. As the president and CEO of ERA, Tulipane has been responsible for leadership, development, advocacy, corporate relations, and financial stewardship. She has had complete oversight for ERA's operation and its 25-person staff. She has provided leadership for the association's government affairs program, the annual convention, professional development, Electronic Retailer (ERA's monthly publication), industry self-regulation programs, major awards, and international outreach.

Tulipane has been engaged in increasing ERA's visibility in the trade community, as well as on Capitol Hill. She has represented the industry before members of Congress and the Federal Trade Commission, and has been interviewed by NBC, CNBC, CNN, BBC and the New York Times, promoting and protecting the electronic retailing industry and its consumers.

Before joining ERA in 2000, Tulipane was the vice president of operations for NATSO Inc., a national trade association representing travel center owners and operators.

through August 18, 2008.

NRPA member agencies are encouraged to submit comments, and we welcome member input on the proposed provisions of this rule. Please contact Stacey Pine with NRPA's Public Policy staff.

Tulipane began her career immediately following graduation from the University of Arizona, where she received her undergraduate degree in sociology and marketing. She is a Certified Association Executive (CAE) and holds a master's degree in public administration from George Mason University.

New Commercial Member-DAAR Engineering, Inc.

Please add the following information to your directory.

DAAR Engineering, Inc.

Lynda Fink

1126 S. 70th Street, Suite N208A

West Allis, WI 53214

414-225-9817

E-mail: lynda.fink@daarengineering.com

Website: www.daarengineering.com

See DAAR Engineering for landscape architecture, surveying and engineering needs.

Dawn Comte, CPRP, promoted to Superintendent of Recreation at the Eau Claire Parks and Recreation Department

The City of Eau Claire completed a national search for candidates to fill the position of Superintendent of Recreation at the Eau Claire Parks and Recreation Department and interviewed 4 candidates from the Midwest.

The selected candidate was Dawn Comte, a Certified Park and Recreation Professional, who has worked in the recreational field for the past 21 years and has worked for the Eau Claire Parks and Recreation Department for 13 years. Comte began at Eau Claire Parks and Recreation Department as a Recreation Aide in 1996 and was promoted to Recreation Supervisor in 1998. Comte has played an integral part in the development of programs for the community and her marketing skills and the continuing development of the recreation brochure called the "Prime Times" has been instrumental in promoting the City's recreational opportunities.

Prior to coming to the City of Eau Claire, Dawn Comte was a Recreation Program Manager at the Lindenhurst Park District in Illinois. Comte has her Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Recreation Management from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

Dawn is a respected member of the community and a valuable asset to the City. "Our Department is very excited to have Ms. Comte in the position. Her enthusiasm, hard work and professionalism are admired by all the staff in our department." According to Phil Feiber, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry.

Tennis in the Parks 2008

[What is the Tennis In the Parks Initiative?](#)

Tennis In the Parks (TIP) is a partnership between NRPA and the United States Tennis Association that provides resources and support to communities who are committed to growing and improving tennis programs, infrastructure and advocacy efforts in their local communities.

[Learn More and Sign Up or Renew your Tennis In the Parks Status Now!](#)

If your agency or organization is listed as being a 2008 TIP Community you should be receiving regular electronic communication from NRPA via email. If you are not receiving our emails, please add programs@nrpa.org to your approved senders list.

[Recreational Coach Workshops](#)

A USTA Recreational Coach Workshop is an interactive, on-court training program designed for tennis teachers and coaches working with players at the recreational level. 96% of past attendees surveyed said they would recommend a RCW to a friend or colleague.

Taught by a specially trained, certified teaching professional, this active 6-hour session covers:

- Teaching large groups
- The games-based approach to coaching
- The QuickStart Tennis format (new for 2008)
- Running effective team practices
- The Top 10 Games Every Coach Should Know

[Providing high quality instructors and coaches will make your program more attractive to local consumers. Plus, as a Host site you will receive even more benefits from the USTA:](#)

- Financial reimbursement based upon completed evaluations
- Certified trainer at no cost to the workshop host
- Customizable marketing materials to promote the workshop
- Youth and adult curriculum materials
- USTA Teaching Group Tennis and Games Approach to Coaching videos

[It's easy to get started today.](#)

If your Park & Recreation Agency, Club, NJTL, Community Tennis Association, or other organization is interested in hosting one of these workshops, please visit the RCW Host Site Resource page.

[National Public Parks Tennis Championships](#)

The 82nd Annual National Public Parks Tennis Championships will take place from July 21-29 at the University Tennis Center in New Orleans, LA and features events for Juniors and Adults. The tournament is open to all USTA members. For more information visit www.firstservetournaments.com or see the NPPTC event flyer.

[Tennis In the Parks Newsletter Features Include:](#)

- National Public Parks Tennis Championships
- National Tennis Month Recap
- TIP Marketing Kit
- Tennis Teachers Conference in NY
- TIP Banners! Get Yours Now.

[Public Facility Assistance](#)

NRPA and the USTA are pleased to announce the expanded Public Facility Assistance program for Tennis In the Parks (TIP) communities for 2008.

The USTA has expanded facility services from offering grants to renovate and upgrade existing facilities to also include assessing, developing, designing, and planning facilities. Of note, there are no longer two application deadlines per year as in past years. This will give agencies/organizations that apply for assistance much greater flexibility and will allow the USTA to better assist you with your request.

The first step to apply for Public Facility Assistance is to complete the TENNIS FACILITY INQUIRY FORM.

The Tennis Facility Inquiry Forms may be submitted to the USTA at any time during the year. Communities that complete the on-line inquiry form will be interviewed for clarification and scope of project, as well as possible assignment of specific services. Due to the large volume of inquiry forms being submitted to the USTA, communities should expect to be contacted within four (4) weeks of the initial inquiry submission. Please note that special preference will be given to communities expressing an interest in constructing permanent QuickStart courts and/or tennis lines.

[Services offered by the USTA could include:](#)

- Referral for advocacy assistance

- Concept drawings
- Color rendering or site specific plans
- Construction and Maintenance Manual
- Technical training
- Invitation to complete a competitive grant application

Please note that TIP communities must be invited to apply for Public Facility Funding and the grant application will only be made available to communities that complete the Tennis Facility Inquiry Form, complete an interview with the USTA and are invited to apply.

Other Related Information:

- The USTA accepts and encourages general technical questions (i.e. how high should an indoor building be? Our city wants courts, now what? How high should a net be?). Please direct your questions to technical@usta.com.

- A new version of the Construction and Maintenance Manual will shipped to all TIP communities in the near future courtesy of the USTA. NOTABLE CHANGES: recommended measurement behind the baseline is 18' and from the sideline to a fixed obstruction is 10'; also, QuickStart courts will be described and therefore eligible for funding.

- Technical Training Workshops - Throughout the year, the USTA will offer training programs that will focus on facility planning and development, programming, and advocacy. Simply send your name, city, state and statement of interest to technical@usta.com for information on a workshop relevant to your area of interest.

- The Big Serve, the USTA's new online advocacy resource, is loaded with useful information. A new advocacy toolkit is available online and is a must-have for communities that are working towards renovating existing facilities or building new facilities. With the support of tennis lovers like you, the USTA is working to expand the role of tennis in communities across the country.

NRPA and the USTA are committed to provide communities with access to safe, appealing and functional tennis environments. We believe the USTA has the resources and experience to help your agency/organization serve its residents and clientele.

[Thank you for all that you do to support tennis in your community!](#)

NRPA Announces Exciting New Project

NRPA is undertaking a project, with the support of the American Park and Recreation Society branch, to identify a minimum set of variables, called attributes and value in this project, which should be captured to describe parks, trails and recreation facilities. The ultimate goal is to create consistency in data that is maintained by communities in their GIS systems. *Simply put, NRPA is putting some structure around what to count and how it is measured.*

Historically, NRPA produced a per capita standard that in the mid 1990's evolved into an 8-step planning process to determine a community's level of service. This project will provide some structure around the baseline function of system inventory, which generally occurs before the planning process even begins. The deliverables of this project will consist of a standard with required and optional variables for inclusion in any GIS database for the park, trail and recreation facility layers and a downloadable data model that can be imported into any GIS system. In addition, there will be full documentation regarding the attributes, values and their definitions.

NRPA is looking for individuals to serve on one of two groups. A project advisory committee will be created to endorse the overall project and facilitate a broad national review of attributes and values among their constituent groups. The attributes and values task force will be a working body to develop the draft attributes, values and definitions.

The deadline for applying to these groups is June 20. NRPA is also looking for examples of what your agency is including your GIS database and how your agency is using that data. Examples will be accepted through the end of July. A draft set of attributes and

values will be available for review beginning at NRPA's National Congress and Exhibition in Baltimore, October 14 - 18, 2008. The full project is expected to be complete and launched in October 2009.

For more on this project in general visit www.nrpa.org/gis and for more on the ways to contribute visit <http://www.nrpa.org/content/default.aspx?documentId=7356>.

Meredith Bridgers is the NRPA staff lead for this project and she may be reached at 703-858-2191 or mbridgers@nrpa.org.

Thank you for your continued support of the Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association.

Sincerely,

Juliene Hefter, MSOLQ, CPRP Deputy Director
Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association



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