

IN TOUCH WITH THE



SPokane PARKS FOUNDATION

HELPING OUR PARKS GROW

We are thrilled to announce...Paddle for Parks



“PADDLES UP!” The Spokane Parks Foundation is in the ready position to bring Spokane a second year of Dragon Boat Racing on the Spokane River.

On July 26 of this year, the Spokane Sister Cities Association brought the event to Spokane in conjunction with the Sister Cities International Annual conference. The festival will continue under the auspices of the Spokane Parks Foundation and will be held on Sunday, July 30, 2006.

The Spokane Festival, titled *Paddle for Parks*, is a community festival. It will be held on the Spokane River, near the Division Street Bridge. Up to 40 teams will participate in 2006, and spectators will be able to watch the races from the trails on both the north and south sides of the river.

Spokane provides the perfect venue. With the Spokane River flowing through Riverfront Park and downtown Spokane, the boats are colorful and eye-catching. The fun of paddling on the Spokane River in a friendly competition is topped only by the spirit of team work and community that the paddlers experience.

Paddlers from this year's event said “after the race I was already looking forward to next year.” All shapes and sizes of people can participate and have fun and get a little exercise at the same time. “This event was a chance for staff from different departments to work together on a common goal...All of us in this boat gained a renewed sense of affiliation.”

The Festival opens with an eye-opening ceremony which is meant to summon good spirits for a safe and honorable competition. In addition, bands and an International Marketplace will offer entertainment and additional international cultural flair.

Proceeds from the Festival will benefit the Spokane Parks Foundation which will continue to help Spokane parks grow.

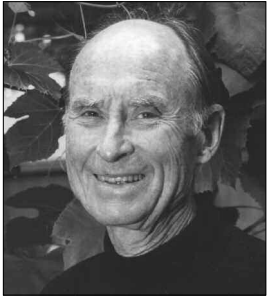
Teams will also have the opportunity to collect pledges on behalf of a specific project which is still being determined.

The 2005 festival featured teams from a wide range of organizations. Fairchild Air Force Base, Mukogawa, I Love the Spokane River, Avista and the Spokane Association of Realtors all fielded teams. Matrical, Holy Family Hospital, PAML, Wheelabrator, the City of Spokane and the Sister City program rounded out the field of 11 teams in the inaugural event. Fairchild took home the bragging rights as the winner of Spokane's first race, with Matrical, and the Spokane Association of Realtors placing second and third respectively.

Anyone can form a team. Each team should have between 20 and 25 members, with a minimum age of 16. The ability to swim or paddle is not necessary. Everyone wears a life jacket and training is provided. The entry fee per team is \$600. For more information, contact the Parks Foundation at info@spokane-parks-foundation.org, or call 625-6774. ■

Dragon Boat Facts:

- Originated in China over 2000 years ago
- Statesman and Poet Qu Yuan was falsely accused of treason. To protest the corrupt government, he threw himself into the Mi Lo River. Upon hearing the news, fisherman rushed to his aid, beating drums to distract fish from eating his body.
- 20 million paddlers worldwide.
- Boats are 46 feet long and feature the hand-carved head and tail of a dragon.
- 20 Paddlers sit two by two in the boat.
- A drummer helps the team's strokes stay synchronized.
- A steerer stands at the back of the boat to guide it.
- The course is 250 meters and is completed in around 40 seconds.



Dr. George Girvin
President,
Board of Trustees

President's Message...

THE SPOKANE PARKS FOUNDATION promotes the dream of helping our city parks thrive now and for the future generations by providing some of the resources that will enhance their quality. There have been several activities this summer intending to promote and publicize this Foundation including being one of the sponsors of the Spokane Symphony's Labor Day concert, one of the contributors to the new and exciting Riverfront Park fountain, and participation in the opening ceremonies of the Monroe Street Bridge and the Riverfront Park Skyride. We are also excited by the possibilities of our new venture—The Dragon Boat Race in July of 2006. We hope this event will be a big hit in Spokane that will give us a new revenue source as well as dramatically increase our exposure and subsequent support in our community. ■

Your donations at ~~work!!~~ play!!



THIS YEAR THE FOUNDATION once again made scholarships available to the various Parks Programs for low income children and families. \$14,299.00 was donated to the various programs and we are happy to report there are still monies available for Fall and Winter programs. **Thanks to all of you who donated for our "Help Us Keep the Kids Wet This Summer" appeal!!**

Thus far most of the money has gone towards summer programs, especially swim lessons. In addition, the Foundation purchased swim suits for all of the community centers. East Central, Northeast and West Central all had swimsuits to distribute to needy kids so they could swim in the Park Department pools. Here are some of the comments from the kids and the staff:

"It is not always easy to ask for help. You can see it in the mother's face when she comes in, but she asks for help because without it her children will not be able to swim in Spokane's swimming pools. I only wish the contributors could see the happy faces when the kids leave here with their suits. One 7 year old was so thrilled, he immediately ran to the boy's bathroom, came out with his suit on and pranced down the hall, telling everyone who would listen the he now could go swimming and he would dive in! The summer swim suit program at the Northeast Community Center was a great success!"

—Alice E, NECC.

"I wanted to thank you for...the scholarships for the swim lessons.... The kids are refugees from Africa, ages 5-15 and have never had swim lessons. They loved the lessons and made progress thanks to you & the teacher. Their highlight was jumping off the diving board at the end of the week. Thanks again, your efforts really made a difference and gave the kids a great memory.

—Tammy, a friend of the family.

Thanks to Our Donors...

THE SPOKANE PARKS FOUNDATION would like to thank the following generous supporters. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the following individuals, businesses and foundations who demonstrate their friendship and support in so many ways. This list is intended to acknowledge all contributions received during January 1 through August 30 of this year. If we omitted anyone, please accept our sincere apology. You can help us correct our records by calling 625-6774. Thanks again for your generous support!!!

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Grants Provided in 2005

AS ALWAYS, THE FOUNDATION received a number of grant requests this year. The following grants were chosen for funding, based on the criteria: that grants help the Park Department fulfill its mission, benefit a broad spectrum of the community, reflect foresight and will enrich our community.

Scholarships & Swimsuits - \$16,199.00

Grant money given to Activity Centers and Park Dept Office for scholarships for low income children and families. The swimsuits were distributed through the community centers when the pools opened this summer. (See article & photos)

Corbin Senior Activity Center \$6,000.00

We granted this busy senior center funds to purchase new computer equipment, including a new server and printer. With their new equipment they will be able to upgrade their newsletter and update their website to increase ad sales, which in turn will financially benefit the Center.

Spokane Symphony Labor Day Concert \$5,000.00

The Foundation once again provided a grant to the Symphony for underwriting of this popular event at Comstock Park. The Symphony's objectives for this concert

are "...to open their eyes and ears to the joy of music and to cultivate new audiences..." The Foundation also feels that this event is great PR for us since it includes an advertisement in the Symphony Program and gives excellent exposure at the concert.

C.O.P.S. Downtown/WA State Dept. of Correction \$2,770.00

Funding for the Downtown Bike Patrol, whose main function includes, but is not limited to, monitoring high risk, violent felons, sex offenders and transients who reside in the downtown area. Principle locations include Riverfront Park, High Bridge Park, Latah Creek, the SIRTl Campus, The Skateboard Park and Coeur d'Alene Park. The grant purchased 2 additional bikes and equipment for the Bike Patrol. The program states "It is our goal to reduce recidivism by being highly visible and proactive in the community." ■



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