

Pool to open Saturday for its last full season

The Grinnell Municipal Pool is scheduled to open Saturday, May 31 – weather willing – for its last full season. Fundraising is currently underway to replace the 50-year-old pool with a new family aquatic center on the same site.

Plans call for construction on the new facility to begin in early August 2009 – which will shorten next year's pool season by one month – with supporters of all ages looking forward to the opening of the new recreational facility in time for the 2010 season.

City of Grinnell Recreation Director Kelly Rose, 2008 Pool Manager Kelley Briggs and crew have been busy in recent weeks cleaning and filling the existing facility to get it ready for summer fun.

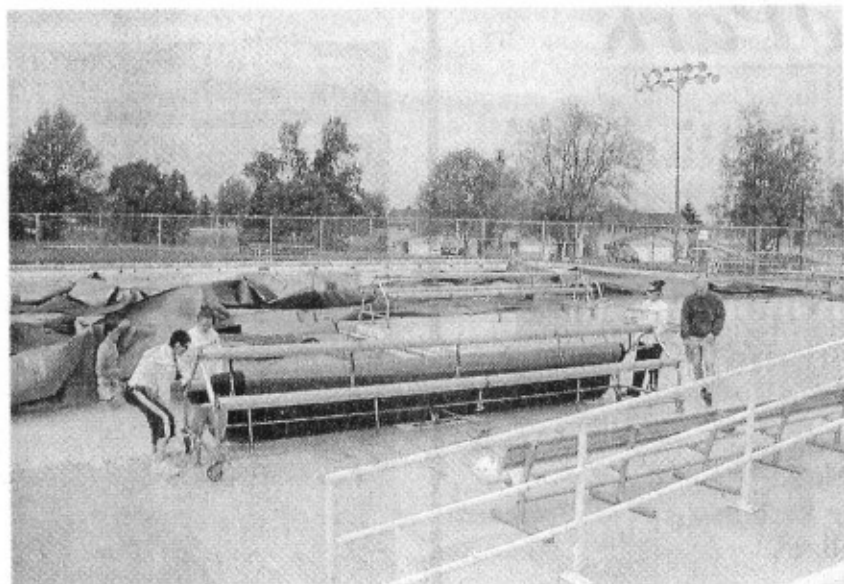
Hours this season will be from 1 to

7:30 p.m. daily. The pool will also be open to lap-swimmers over the noon hour, from 12 to 1 p.m., daily, and early birds will enjoy more morning lap swim opportunities than in recent years: the pool will be open to lap swimmers from 6 to 8 a.m., Monday through Friday, and from 7 to 9 a.m. on Saturdays.

Attendance at the pool costs \$3 per day. A season pass for an individual costs \$60, and a season pass for the whole family costs just \$125 – pool passes are available at the Recreation Department office in the Grinnell Community Center at Fourth and Park. Admission to the baby pool is free for those under 2.

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Serving as Briggs' assistant manager for the first half of the summer will be Erica Reavis, who will then pass the baton to assistant pool manager Eric Heimsoth for the duration of the season. Briggs and Reavis are also water safety instructors.

Rose says there will be six guards on duty every day, along with a manager. This year's full-time lifeguards include Allyssa Bosse, Sam Coster, Toshia Creps, Amelia Eckles, Nathan Hall, Samantha Moyes, Tricia Picirillo and Kayla Postels, most of whom are also water safety instructors or water safety aids.

Scheduled to work as both cashiers and substitute lifeguards are Renee Beach, Holly Hunter, Kylie Jones, Jessica Olivier and Alea Pollock. This summer Jarrod Diehm and Taylor Reed will also be working as cashiers, and Ryan Creps and Christina Ragias will work as substitute lifeguards. Tracy Rosburg is the season's lesson coordi-

nator, and Jodi Tish will assist at the pool as a volunteer.

Look for the regular schedule to change on Sunday, June 29, and Sunday, July 27, when the pool will host family fun fundraisers to support the aquatic center initiative. Rose says special events those days will close the pool for some of its usual hours, and instead feature an evening of food and fun in exchange for a free will donation toward the new facility.

Plans call for the future aquatic facility to feature slides and geysers, zero-depth entry, lap lanes, and a "lazy river," along with welcome green space and shade, a new bath house with modern restrooms, and a concession building which will serve the pool as well as those using the adjacent Grinnell Area Recreation Trail and Lions Park.

The project's total cost is currently estimated at \$6 million. The city of Grinnell has allocated \$3 million in local option sales tax proceeds to fund construction of the pool while the "Splash" campaign committee has pledged to raise the balance through contributions from other government entities, private donors, businesses, corporations, and foundations. Private fundraising will help fund the special equipment and amenities needed to convert this facility into a family aquatic center.

To learn more about the project, visit the campaign web site at www.grinnelliowa.gov/splash, or contact campaign co-chairs Wendy Ramsey, at (641) 821-9681 or by email at wramsey@gmrc.com, or Delphina Baumann, at (641) 821-0303 or by email at dvbaumann@iowatelecom.net.

For more information about this season at the municipal swimming pool, contact the city Recreation Department