

Tourism group contributes \$100,000 to aquatic center

The Grinnell Tourism Group has earmarked \$100,000 for the new family aquatic center, which is slated to replace the city's existing municipal pool.

David Jones, a member of the tourism group – created by the city to promote tourism and recommend allocation of funds generated largely through local motel/hotel tax revenue – sees the new aquatic center as a major attraction for visitors.

“While the aquatic center will serve local residents well, it's also an opportunity to further the efforts of businesses and groups in welcoming others to our community,” Jones said. “There is marvelous synergy in the new aquatic center's proximity to Lion's Park, the Grinnell Area Recreation Trail, Bailey Park, the high school and Iowa Valley Community College-Grinnell. It will certainly be a popular place for people from throughout Poweshiek County and beyond.”

Jones cited a recent gift of \$100,000 from the Claude W. and Dolly Ahrens Foundation for playground equipment at Lion's Park as further evidence of this recreation destination's developing potential.

The city of Grinnell is devoting \$3 million from local option sales tax revenue to construct a new pool. The “SPLASH” campaign is underway to match the city's investment with an additional \$3 million to convert this facility into a family aquatic center. Funds for equipment and amenities are being sought from private donors, area businesses, foundations and others.

The family aquatic center and its surrounding recreational facilities are intended for the enjoyment of all area residents and visitors. Water features such as slides, geysers, and a “lazy river” will be complemented by traditional lap lanes and diving boards plus a new bath house, concession building, modern restrooms and more. Further information about this project is available at the campaign website www.grinnelliowa.gov/splash.

Donors wishing to lend their support are asked to make their gifts payable to the Greater Poweshiek Community Foundation, indicating “Aquatic Center Fund” on the memo line. Pledges may be fulfilled over time and all contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Checks or pledges can be mailed to the Greater Poweshiek Community Foundation, PO Box 344, Grinnell, Iowa, 50112.

The “SPLASH” campaign co-chairs welcome inquiries about the initiative: contact 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.