

Campaign for aquatic center plans fund-raising buffet, sale of logo gear

Members of the Splash! campaign committee working to secure funds to assure that Grinnell's new municipal pool will in fact be a full family aquatic center are well into a summer fundraising push – and invite the community to dive right in.

Tickets are now on sale for a hearty family-style fund-raiser featuring an Italian buffet at The Depot Crossing Restaurant Sunday, July 13, from 5 to 7 p.m. This is a ticketed event and seating is limited, so find your favorite Splash! committee member (names are listed at the end of this article) to buy your tickets today.

The buffet will feature alfredo, marinara and bolognese sauce and chicken or meat balls with a variety of toppings, such as mushrooms, onions and peppers, plus Caesar salad, a variety of bread and hard rolls, and ice tea, lemonade, coffee or soda. Tickets are \$17 for adults and \$12 for children under 12. Adult wine and beverage specials will also be available.

In addition to the buffet, the event will feature kids' games, drawings and a silent auction – please note that the committee is currently soliciting items for this part of the fund-raiser and welcomes your contributions – and all the wide-screen TVs will feature aquatic or aquatic-center themed images.

The Splash! crowd will also be busy this weekend bringing their cause to the community. There will be a Splash! float in the Independence Day parade, and supporters will be selling "Splash!" logo products as a fund-raiser after the parade in Ahrens Park.

Also on the Fourth of July, committee members will be on hand to educate visiting alumni here for the GHS all-

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class reunion about this major community project. You can visit with Splash! representatives at the reunion registration table at the high school July 4 from 8 a.m. to noon to learn more about the project. The committee has also issued a special invitation to all alumni with a special interest in swimming and diving – and the recreational, fitness and social benefits of a family aquatic center – to learn more about the project over coffee at Cafe Phoenix at 10:30 a.m. on July 4.

Those interested in supporting the project are also invited to a family fun night at the pool on Sunday, July 27, from 6 to 8 p.m. The pool will be open by free-will donation for all those wanting to support the new facility. Food and drink will also be available for a donation, and all proceeds will benefit construction of the new facility. In addition to attending this event, community members may also provide support for the drive by donating food.

At summer events through July and August, community members will be able purchase Splash! products to support the fund drive. Those products will be for sale Saturday July 5 in Central Park; Tuesdays July 8 and 15 at Tiger Shark home swim meets at the existing pool; at Thursday Music in the Park on July 17, when City of Grinnell Recreation Director Kelly Rose will read to children during intermission from the music; and at Ridiculous Day, Saturday, July 19, downtown on Main St. and Happy Days, Saturday August 23, in Central Park.

During the month of June, supporters have continued to raised funds for the project at two pool parties. They have also received donations from Wes Finch Auto Supply and Arnold Motor Supply, which held fund-raisers at their local businesses – raising a combined total of \$1,000 toward the new facility.

The new aquatic center, scheduled to replace the existing 50-year-old facility in time for the 2010 swim season, will feature slides, geysers and a lazy river, in addition to zero-depth entry and lap lanes. The aquatic center environs will also receive a major upgrade at this time: there will be more shade and green space, a new bathhouse with modern restrooms, and a concession building which will serve the pool as well as those using the adjacent Grinnell Area Recreation Trail and Lion's Park to the west. Lion's Park will also be getting an upgrade to its play equipment, with the support of a donation

from the Claude W. and Dolly Ahrens Foundation.

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.

In addition to co-chairs Delphina Baumann and Wendy Ramsey, the Splash! committee includes Alice Breemer, Barb Baker, Chris Roudabush, Claire Moison, Craig Cooper, Gina Finch, Helen Redmond, John Pfitsch, Leslie Jaworski, Marilyn Kennett, Martina Latimer, Melissa Hayes, Shannon McNaull, Steve Witt and Tom Cirks.