

**CITY OF PEORIA, ARIZONA
CITY MANAGER REPORT**

RCM #: 3d

Date Prepared: August 21, 2009

Council Meeting Date: September 15, 2009

TO: Carl Swenson, City Manager

THROUGH: Susan J. Daluddung, Deputy City Manager 

FROM: J.P. de la Montaigne, Community Services Director 

PREPARED BY: Brenda Rehnke, Recreation Manager 

SUBJECT: Community Services Awards

SUMMARY:

The Community Services Department has received state and national recognition in the past month for various programs and facilities. In addition to the awards recognized at the previous Council Meeting from Special Olympics Arizona as the 2009 Outstanding Parks and Recreation Department and Zane Burtrum receiveing the 2009 Outstanding Youth Volunteer Award, the following are additional recent recognitions.

Polar Plunge was awarded the Outstanding Aquatics Program Award by the Arizona Parks and Recreation Association at their annual conference awards banquet on August 28, 2009. The January event promoted water safety and was a collaboration effort between Community Services, Fire and Police Departments.

Additionally at that awards banquet, Jim Flonacher was awarded the Volunteer of the Year Award by the Arizona Parks and Recreation Association. Mr. Flonacher, a former Peoria Police Lieutenant, has spent the last 5 years dedicating his time and money to creating a SCUBA program for the Recreation Division. Through his efforts the SCUBA program is offered to participants at a minimal cost and the benefits are seen throughout the community. In addition to learning how to scuba, participants are involved with trail building projects and clean up at Lake Pleasant, creation and maintenance of an underwater reef as a fish habitat at the lake, and have volunteered for several other causes throughout the year. Jim logs over 700 hours of volunteer time each year and is committed to improving our community.

On August 17, Rio Vista Community Park has been named the Best Phoenix Playground or Park by local parents for Nickelodeon's 2009 Parent's Picks Award. Between May 15 and July 15, parents went online to vote for their favorite metro-Phoenix park. The nomination was the result of the great comments and high reviews from parents that enjoy Rio Vista Park.

The Rio Vista Recreation Center was awarded the Best Ribbed Metal Wall Panels by Metal Architecture Magazine. Architekton, architects for the facility, submitted the project. The Design Award judges were impressed with the use of metals and how these metals fit in with the natural environment creating a striking rich accent to the two-story facility.

The Community Services Department was chosen as a 2009 Gold Medal Award Finalist by the National Parks and Recreation Association for populations between 100,001-250,000. The Gold Medal Award recognizes communities throughout the US in five separate population classes that demonstrate excellence in long-range planning, resource management, citizen support systems, environmental stewardship, program development, professional development and agency recognition. The winners will be announced at NRPA's Annual Congress & Exposition in Salt Lake City, Utah on October 14.

Sunrise Mountain Library received notification that the facility was chosen as one of two finalists in the category of Buildings and Structures for the prestigious Valley Forward Environmental Excellence Awards. These annual awards showcase prime examples of what buildings should aspire to be environmentally in terms of architecture, art, technology, stewardship and education. The design team, headed up by J.P. de la Montaigne, Ed Striffler and David Hunenberg strived to build a facility that exceeded citizen expectations and was sensitive to the environment at the same time. Finalists will receive either an award of merit or a first-place Crescordia at an awards banquet on September 12. The awards are sponsored by the Valley Forward Association and Salt River Project.

ATTACHMENT: