



CITY COUNCIL REPORT

December 10, 2008

TO: Phillip L. Nelson, City Manager

FROM: John M. Lamerato, Assistant City Manager/Finance and Administration
Carol K. Anderson, Parks and Recreation Director

SUBJECT: 2008 Best in Aquatics Award

Background:

The City of Troy received the **2008 International Aquatics Award** presented by Aquatics International Magazine. This tenth annual award competition honors the industry's outstanding aquatic facilities. Entries are judged on facility programming, promotional materials, aquatic amenities and community involvement. The Troy Family Aquatic Center and Troy Community Center were in the Class 2 Suburban category, population 50,000 to 499,000.

As winners of the award, the City receives a *Best of Aquatics* plaque and permission to use the *Best of Aquatics* logo on promotional material. In addition, there is a special acknowledgement in the November/December 2008 issue of *Aquatics International* (attached).

This is a prestigious honor and represents the City and Department's dedication in serving the Community.

THE SOURCE FOR FACILITY MANAGEMENT, PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

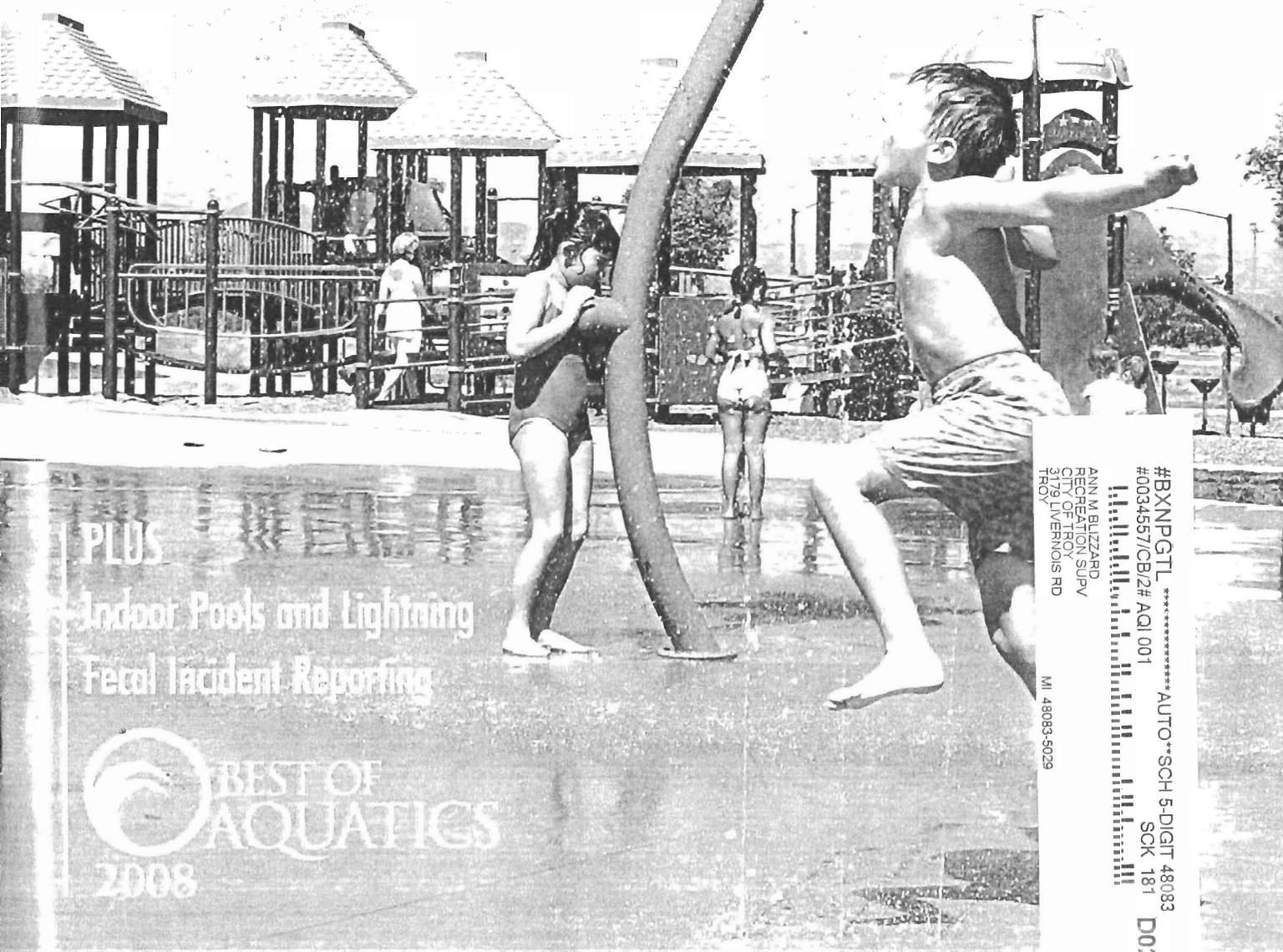
AQUATICS

hanley wood

NOV/DEC 2008 | VOL 20, NO 10

INFECTIOUS

Do sprayparks pose a greater risk for RWIs than many operators think? Our provides the answers.



PLUS

Indoor Pools and Lightning
Fecal Incident Reporting



BEST OF
AQUATICS

2008

WWW.AQUATICSENTL.COM

#BXNPGTL *****AUTO**SCH 5-DIGIT 48083
#0034557/CB12# A01 001
SCK 181 D02
ANN M BLIZZARD
RECREATION SUPV
CITY OF FLOYD
3703 LIVERMORIS RD
TROY MI 48063-5029



BEST OVERALL COMMITMENT TO AQUATICS CLASS 2 (between 50,000 and 499,999 population)

TROY FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER AND TROY COMMUNITY CENTER INDOOR POOL | TROY, MICH.

While troubled big-city neighbor Detroit struggles to keep its head above water, Troy, Mich., is content to dive in deep — literally. Named the Wolverine State’s “Sportstown” by *Sports Illustrated* in 2003, it is home to the Troy Family Aquatic Center, a visible commitment to physical activity and liquid leisure.

Troy’s sprawling aquatic center recently celebrated its 16th summer season, while the indoor pool and spa at the nearby Troy Community Center just blew out six candles. TFAC has invested so much energy and money into bulking up its fun features that the facility would fit just fine into Orlando or Las Vegas: Amenities include a tube slide; body slide; sand play area; sand volleyball space; spraypads; water tree; 20-foot-wide waterfall; concessions; and an 11,000-square-foot, heated main pool with a 130-foot, zero-depth edge.

But the future Michael Phelpses of the world need not worry; TFAC doesn’t disappoint. Six 25-yard swimming lanes are designated for those prepar-

JUDGE’S COMMENT

“(This facility) demonstrates improvement over the years and solid growth.”

ing for London 2012, or those who just want to keep in shape.

The year-round indoor aquatics facility at the TCC also has options for those who want to stay active: four lap lanes, a warm-water therapy pool and a leisure pool with several slides spilling into it. And when it comes to programming, both venues offer an extensive array of swim lessons for preschoolers (seven different classes), older kids and teens, as well as lifeguarding instruction and private lessons.

It doesn’t come as a shock to hear that last year more than 56,000 Troy residents, nonresident employees and guests splashed around TFAC, which opened its doors on Memorial Day and provides work for 80 people. Venues such as TFAC and TCC go a long way toward making a city a great place for raising families, and it looks as if people outside Michigan have taken notice. Troy was honored this year as one of CNN Money’s “Best Places to Live.” — Neal Broerman

HIGHLIGHTS

FACILITIES

- TFAC: Beach-entry outdoor leisure pool with lap lanes; children’s spray pool; 177-foot-long water slide; 175-foot-long tube slide; dry-play area; sand volleyball courts; and outdoor picnic area
- TCC: Indoor leisure pool; therapy pool; and water playground equipment

PROGRAMMING

- Learn-to-swim classes
- Water aerobics
- Birthdays, party and private event rentals
- American Red Cross lifeguarding

Troy Facilities Awarded International Title for Best Overall Commitment to Aquatics

Troy, MI. The Troy Family Aquatic Center (TFAC) and the Troy Community Center (TCC) indoor pool have won international recognition from *Aquatics International Magazine* in their November/December *Best of Aquatics* issue available on-line at http://aquaticshintl.com/2008/nov_dec/BOA_Slideshow/1a.html.

TFAC celebrated its 16th summer season this year and the indoor pool at the TCC its sixth year of operation. The facilities garnered attention in Class 2 of the international competition, competing against other facilities serving significantly larger communities in the 50,000 to 499,999 population category and being recognized as having the “Best Overall Commitment to Aquatics.” Approximately 82,000 people live in Troy.

“TFAC has invested so much energy ... into bulking up its fun features that the facility would fit just fine into Orlando or Las Vegas,” wrote Neal Broverman for the magazine. Broverman went on to commend the city’s “visible commitment to physical activity and liquid leisure.”

The facilities and programs at TFAC and the TCC are designed for fun and fitness and the Troy Parks and Recreation Department is committed to the health and well-being of its citizens — young and old — providing a wide variety of aquatic activities and programs.

“Swimming is a life-long skill and (we) recognize this skill can start at any age,” said Ann Blizzard, recreation supervisor. “Staff at both facilities have worked hard to ensure the entire community’s needs are met.”

The growth in the department’s swim lesson programs is evidence of their dedication and commitment to aquatics. The entire swim lesson program at both facilities was completely revamped prior to the opening of the indoor pool at the TCC and lesson plans are reviewed yearly and provided to all staff to ensure unity and consistency for programs at both pools. Swim instructors receive quarterly in-services for quality assurance. There are also senior and adaptive swim programs.

“The Troy Parks and Recreation Department’s aquatic facilities provide fun, recreation, social and health benefits and demonstrate the department’s commitment to enhancing the quality of life for our citizens,” said Blizzard.

As part of the rigorous and competitive award evaluation process, the facilities exceeded standards for excellence in the following areas: success in achieving their mission; ensuring the highest level of training for staff including lifeguards, water safety instructors and other employees; recruiting, training and utilizing volunteers; marketing and promotion of the facilities; community involvement; inclusion of all community members regardless of their physical ability; growth in attendance, programs and participation; major challenges met over a five year period and environmental efforts toward green technology.

“We are honored to be recognized with the award for best overall commitment to aquatics,” said Carol Anderson, director of Parks and Recreation. Anderson attributes the aquatics staff and the support of the city council and administration, along with the involvement of residents for Troy’s thriving aquatics program.

The city of Troy was also recently acknowledged by CNNMoney.com as one of the top 100 cities to live in the country.

“Venues such as TFAC and TCC go a long way toward making a city a great place for raising families,” said Broverman.