

Environmental Design. Hamous was the lead architect on the project to build the new library.

Hamous presented the plaque to Stanton at a ceremony on the second floor of the library Monday evening. A few dozen people attended the ceremony including members of the library board of trustees, benefactors of the library and library supporters.

Hamous spoke about the ways in which the library was environmentally friendly. He said the library was built with material that was low in volatile organic compounds (VOC) which are gases emitted

The Washington Free Public Library is in an elite group of green buildings. Hamous said it is one of three LEED-certified libraries in the state and one of the greenest libraries in all the Midwest.

Among the most noteworthy of the library's energy-efficient features is its geothermal heating and cooling system. Geothermal heating is the use of heat contained in the ground below the earth's surface. The library gets its energy from two sets of earth tubes laid at 15 feet and 30 feet below the square. Several meters below the surface, the temperature of the ground is 55

was through its Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) program.

"They made it clear that they wanted us to do all we could to get LEED certification," Gotham said about Vision Iowa. "We recycled a lot of materials such as the wood and metal from the buildings that were there before."

Gotham said the library foundation pleaded its case before Vision Iowa twice in Ottumwa and once in Des Moines. He said the committee was pleased

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By Andy Hallman
The JOURNAL

RIVERSIDE — The Riverside City Council voted 3-2 Monday to set the bid letting date and the date of the public hearing on the proposed splashpad. The bid letting will be March 5 at 4 p.m. and the public hearing is the same day at 6:45 p.m. Councilors Nate Kasdorf, Christine Kirkwood and Kevin Kiene voted for the motion while councilors Ralph Schnoebelen and Bob Schneider Jr. voted against it.

The council talked with city engineer Mike Hart about the

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amount of water that would be used in the splashpad. Hart said if the splashpad is running water through its aquatic toys all day — eight hours — it would use 108,000 gallons per day.

Hart said all the water that runs through the splashpad goes into the sanitary sewer. Schnoebelen asked if there was a way for the city to "reclaim" the water, which means cycling it through the system again. Hart said the city would have to sample the water four times

Planning begins for 102nd Whoopee Days

By David Hotte
The JOURNAL

BRIGHTON — Members of the Brighton community who enjoy the annual Whoopee Days festival are asked to help make the event their own this year by giving their input to the organizing body.

A special meeting of the Whoopee Days Committee will be held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday at the Brighton Federation Bank meeting room. Community residents are asked to attend the meeting and give input and assistance in the planning of the 102nd running of the event.

"We want people to come and volunteer to help," said committee member Rosemary Pacha. "We want people to volunteer and tell us what they want to see at Whoopee Days."

Committee member Nancy Adrian said that the Brighton

Chamber of Commerce would be planning the event and this year she, Pacha and Jessica Lowe are helping to get some of the planning for the event done. She said that a lot of work is involved with planning the event.

Adrian said the idea of the meeting is to hear innovative ideas for Whoopee Days and to find people to assist in setting up the events. She said that she believes the more involved people are with an event, the greater the sense of ownership they feel.

"We are still in the planning stages and at this point I can't say anything is final," Adrian said. "We have talked about a few new events this year."

She said one idea that has been discussed is to try to set a world record of the largest number of whoopee cushions being sat on at the same time. In the

past, she said, there have been events involving whoopee cushions. The current record for the number of people to simultaneously sit on whoopee cushions is 5,000, set during a hockey game in Moline, Ill.

"We are looking to add new and exciting activities for a family event," Adrian said.

She also said that many of the annual events would return. Annual events usually include carnival rides, a street dance, breakfast, the annual Whoopee Walk, alumni tea, a mud run, and a talent show.

Pacha said this year the alumni being honored are from the class of 1962. She said this is special because 1962 was the last graduating class from Brighton High School.

Whoopee Days started in 1910. This year the summer festival will run from June 14-17.



The annual parade to celebrate Brighton Whoopee Days will probably return for the 102nd running of the event. Community members are being asked to give their input on the planning of this year's celebration.