



# City of Bellingham Press Release

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## **Arne Hanna Aquatic Center receives accolades at state conference**

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*Bellingham, Washington*

The Arne Hanna Aquatic Center is lapping others in their services this year. The City of Bellingham's unique aquatic center was awarded the 2009 Washington Recreation and Parks Association (WRPA) Outstanding Organization Award, recognizing exceptional achievement in aquatics April 29.

Aquatic manager Lori Jacobson says she is very proud of her professional staff and is thankful for the recognition. "My staff does a fantastic job in providing great services to the community," Jacobson said. "It's a great honor to receive this award."

Since opening its doors in 1995, the Arne Hanna Aquatic Center has supported aquatics locally, regionally and nationally. Home to six swim teams, the Arne Hanna Aquatic Center hosts high school, masters and age group teams that are competitive state-wide.

A water fitness program provides the community with alternative exercises such as a selection of shallow and deep water aerobics, arthritis exercise and deep water running interval classes each day. The center also offers a variety of lifeguard trainings and water safety courses, from first-time lessons to instructor training classes.

Special events are the icing on the cake for the Arne Hanna Aquatic Center. Jacobson said these highly sought after events include the Pumpkin Patch in the Pool, Egg Hunt, Polar Dip and Youth Triathlon.

"Each of these events has a long time following," Jacobson said. "Hundreds of people look forward to them with great anticipation each year."

The facility houses four pools: an eight lane 25-yard competitive and instructional pool, a leisure pool with spray fountain and 135-foot waterslide, a dive tank with a diving board and a 20-person hydrotherapy pool.

Several aquatic managers from around Washington also saw a piece of recognition from the award. Jacobson said around a dozen previous staff members are now in management positions at aquatic centers throughout the state. "It was great to be able to acknowledge them as well and show appreciation for their past contributions."

In the wave of their Outstanding Organization Award, Jacobson said the Arne Hanne Aquatic Center will continue to provide top-notch services to the community.

The award, presented April 30 at the WPRA annual conference in Spokane, wasn't the first time the center was recognized regionally. In 2001, *Northwest Family Magazine* presented the Arne Hanne Aquatic Center with the Reader's Choice Award for favorite northwest recreational aquatic facility.

For pool schedules, class times or more information, visit the Arne Hanne Aquatic Center Web site at [www.cob.org/ahac](http://www.cob.org/ahac).