

**PEORIA PARK DISTRICT
RIVERFRONT DIVISION
REPORT TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
CITY OF PEORIA
FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY THROUGH MARCH 2012**

Another successful March Madness has come to a close and we were able to debut a new Center Court layout that allowed us to host many more teams in The Experience from all over the State. Everyone seemed to love the addition of the 4th court and it added to the “busy-ness” of the entire exhibit hall.



Another addition this year was the Tremont Roboteers and their robot that could make 100 free throws in a row!



These students of Tremont High School built this robot for a competition against other schools where they were given boxes filled with motors, batteries, a control system, a PC, a mix of automation components and three basketballs. The charge: to build a robot capable of shooting basketballs – and making baskets – while balanced on a teetering bridge. What the teams didn’t receive in their kits were instructions.

We hope to include them in game development in the coming years.

The upcoming summer is gearing up to be a busy one with some great concerts and new additions to longstanding festivals. Blue Oyster Cult and Foghat will be coming to the Peoria RiverFront to help kick off the 4th of July weekend this year. The Steamboat Festival will be including a lumberjack performance at this year's festival and Jay Goldberg Events is planning on including Funk Legend Bootsy Collins at their annual Universal Rhythm Assembly.



The Gateway Building is working hard to book wedding receptions, banquets and meetings for 2012 and 2013. Some new events are being programmed internally including a “baby show” similar to a bridal show but with things new mothers may need. We plan to build off of programming that was done last year and have a larger holiday gift show in 2012.

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The 2012 summer event began with another successful Louie Louie festival which witnessed great weather and a fun crowd.



Attendees from all over Central Illinois participated in the parade and enjoyed bands as they raised money for St. Jude.



The Landing concert series kicked off the first weekend of their season in June with popular acts LoCash Cowboys and Dave Matthews Tribute Band. The concerts continued with little threat from weather into the heat of late June.

Other events on the RiverFront included the Steamboat Sports Festival and the Steamboat Classic Race, The Universal Rhythm Assembly, the CEFCU Jazz Series, and many outdoor weddings and walks. We look forward to the upcoming festivals such as Soul Fest, Erin Feis, and Oktoberfest.



The RiverFront Division continues to focus on providing the Peoria area with family friendly events and entertainment while reaching out to surrounding communities. Our goal is to bring people into Peoria and let them experience the “destination” that is the RiverFront. We believe that the RiverFront is one of Peoria’s greatest assets and we continue provide programming that includes unique and diverse events to appeal to a vast demographic.