



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A Holiday Gift for Salem-Area Residents

A generous Salem resident has gifted an interactive spray fountain to the community.

Mon., Jan. 5, 2009 – Salem, Ore. – The City of Salem has received a generous gift from the Tokarski family – an interactive spray fountain, valued at approximately \$150,000, to accentuate Salem’s Riverfront Park. Construction designs for the new interactive spray fountain will be complete mid-January. The new feature in Riverfront Park, dedicated to the children of Salem, in memory of Asher Anderson, could be open as early as May 2009.

Larry Tokarski has made the donation in memory of Asher Anderson, the beloved son of Salem residents and Tokarski family friends, Troy and Lori Anderson. Asher was just 21 days old when he passed away last March. The fountain will be dedicated to Asher’s memory and the enjoyment of all of Salem’s children.

“I am overwhelmed by Larry’s generosity. This fountain will be a place where children can come and play – there is something so freeing about children and water. I will be able to see the new fountain from my office. I will be able to hear and see the children of Salem playing in it, and that experience daily will be a large part of the healing process,” said Troy Anderson.

The interactive spray fountain will become a central feature in Riverfront Park and will be located in the middle of the Park, between the public dock on the Willamette River and the Court Street pedestrian entrance. As with all spray features in Salem parks, this interactive spray fountain will be open from mid-May through October 1.

Sometimes called a splash pad, an interactive spray fountain uses a system of jets to spray water up from a hard surface. Similar to the spray features at River Road, Wes Bennett, and Northgate Parks, the proposed water feature at Riverfront Park will be interactive. On a timer, or in response to a child’s presence, water is streamed straight upward or at an angle toward the center fountain at a distance of 20 feet. The Riverfront Park interactive spray fountain features a central fountain where the water is circulated, filtered, and sanitized.

The gift of the interactive spray fountain has given the City of Salem another opportunity to realize a goal outlined in the 1999 Comprehensive Parks and Recreation System Master Plan – an interactive spray fountain at Riverfront Park. This new water feature will attract children and families to Riverfront Park. The City is accepting this gift and funding the design and irrigation to integrate this new water feature into Riverfront Park.

The cost of the design and inspection fees is about \$22,000. The Urban Renewal Agency has granted the City \$22,000 to cover those costs.

The City of Salem’s Urban Development Department is committed to enhancing community prosperity through an array of programs in its three major service areas, Revitalization and Urban Renewal, Federal Programs, and Real Estate Services. The Urban Development Department: manages the City’s urban renewal areas (URA) and redevelopment projects within the URAs; administers federally funded block grant and housing programs; provides loans and grants to eligible businesses, homeowners, and renters; and manages leases, acquires, and sells properties for the City.

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