



# Downtown News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Monday, June 9, 2008

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## Bubbling with anticipation

*East Park's interactive water fountain to receive final tests, nearing completion*

As construction crews work seven days a week to complete the East Park project later this month, one significant component of the massive renovation effort will soon stand ready to entertain children aged one to 100. East Park's interactive water fountain, affectionately known as the "Charlevoix Fountain of Youth," is expected to be completed within the next week.

"We anticipate conducting final testing on Tuesday, June 10," said Charlevoix City Manager Rob Straebel. "Once we're satisfied the fountain meets the required specifications, we can check off this component of the overall East Park project."

While not included in the original park renovation plans, the Charlevoix Fountain of Youth has generated arguably the strongest community support of any capital project in recent memory. After the required public hearing process, the Charlevoix Downtown Development Authority committed \$200,000 towards the effort, while the City of Charlevoix earmarked \$80,000 from its Marina Fund. This left the remaining required funding to be raised through foundation grants and private fundraising efforts.

Local resident John Winn and a volunteer board were able to harness the generosity of roughly 300 individual donors who contributed nearly \$240,000, allowing the Charlevoix Fountain of Youth to add several features not originally proposed. The safety-textured fountain pad measures roughly 30 feet in diameter and will offer 23 programmable water nozzles, each with two multi-hued LED light fixtures. Features made possible by additional private donations include heated water, programmable lighting and music and a signature center nozzle capable of sending a stream of water as high as 30 feet.

"It's so refreshing to observe a youth-focused recreation project embraced by a community," said Winn. "I can't wait to see the looks on the faces of kids and adults alike as they enjoy the fountain on a hot summer day. This has been an effort the entire town can take a great deal of pride in."

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