

SPRING 2015



CITYTEAM

THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

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MIABELLI COMMUNITY CENTER IS HOME TO NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT national champions in Las Vegas visions of the 1989-90 Runnin' Rebels basketball team jump to mind, but there is another group of local athletes who are again bringing championships to the city. These national champs are the city of Las Vegas Parks and Recreation Maniakz cheerleading squads.

These youngsters, ranging in age from 5 to 15-years-old, call Mirabelli Community Center home, and are considered one of the top cheer programs in the country. That is high praise for a city recreation league group, according to Jennifer Blanchard, a program specialist with Parks and Recreation, and head coach of the Maniakz.

"There are very few recreational programs that can compete at the national level with club programs, but we have great coaches and kids," Blanchard said. "We get out there and compete and we win.

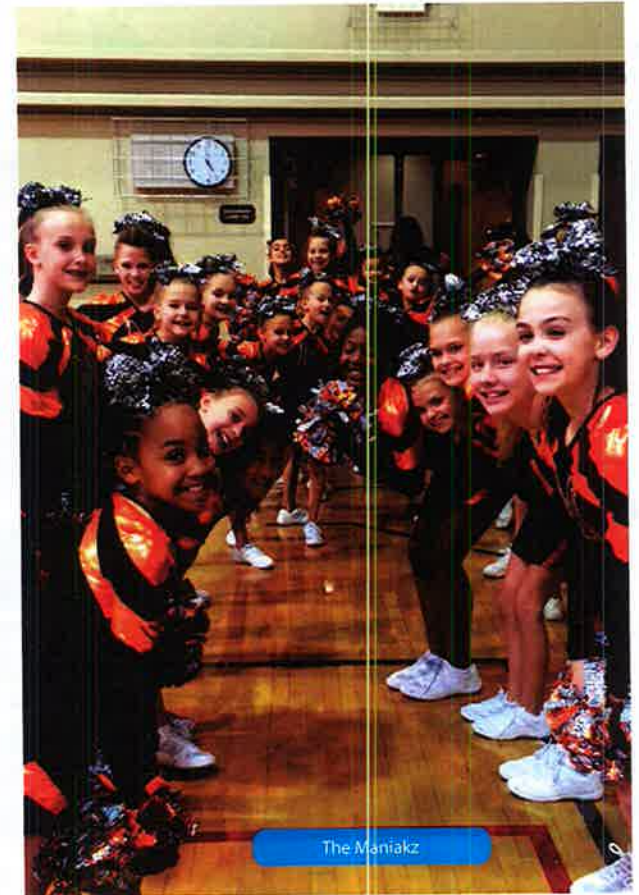
"There is always a buzz when we go to a competition and when people see us perform they don't believe that we are a rec team from the city of Las Vegas."

The Maniakz include three teams: the orange team for children 5 to 8 years old; the black team for 9 to 11-year-olds and the white team for 12 to 15-year-olds.

Recently the Maniakz competed at the JAMZ Nationals Cheerleading Championships at the Orleans hotel-casino. All three teams hit their routines and walked away with numerous awards. The orange team competed in the 10 and under Level 2 category and won Third Place. The black team competed in the 13 and under Level 3 category and won First Place, and the white team competed in the 15 and under Level 4 category and won First Place. Both the black and white teams retained their National Championship status by winning back-to-back national titles.

"We strive to bring premiere recreational opportunities and this is a group that is accomplishing that goal," Parks and Recreation Director Tim Hacker said. "We have a group over at Mirabelli that is working to be the best they can every day and the time they put in with

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these kids is phenomenal.”

Along with Blanchard, the Maniakz are coached by Jessica Ficklin, Kori Koerwitz and Chelsea Smith.

Sue Leavitt, a producer for KCLV Channel 2, has enjoyed watching her daughter Ella, 10-years-old, be a part of the Maniakz family for the last five years.

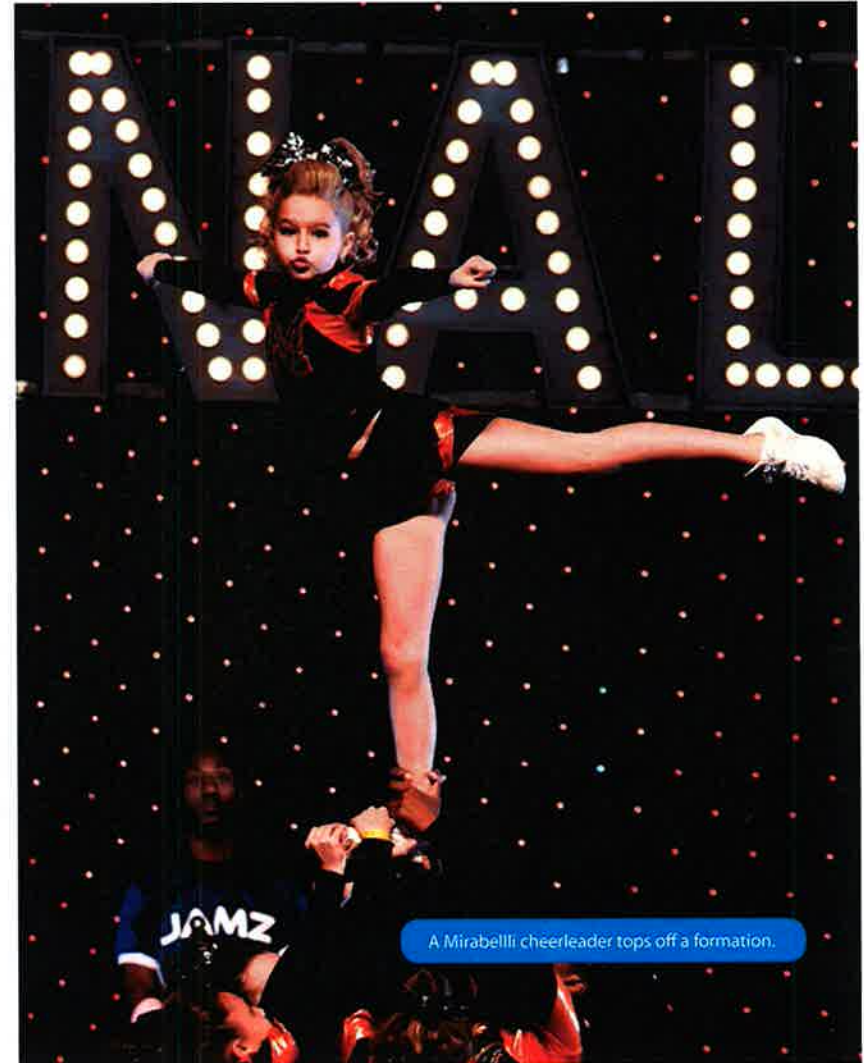
“We love Mirabelli,” Leavitt said. “The Maniakz are not what I expected from a rec center, and it is very cool that the city has this program. I especially love the affordability, because other places that you go to for cheer are so expensive.”

Chrystal Harry, a Human Resources analyst, has two daughters cheering at Mirabelli, Erinn, 10-years-old, and Caitlyn, 6-years-old.

“All I can say is that it is awesome and my girls love it,” Harry said.

The program has become so popular that Blanchard has started a training team for cheerleaders who want to practice their skills in preparation for trying out for the Maniakz. Mirabelli also offers beginning tumbling and gymnastics classes at reasonable prices so that parents can introduce their children to the sport without having to make a heavy financial commitment that other facilities require.

Contact Mirabelli at 702-229-6359 for information on cheerleading classes and tryouts for the Maniakz, as well as many other sports and recreation opportunities. Congratulations to the Maniakz for representing the city of Las Vegas as champions. **CT**



A Mirabelli cheerleader tops off a formation.



ACTION TEAM PROVIDE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

THE FEBRUARY AND MARCH, 2015 ACTION TEAMS know how to have a good time, but also work very hard to provide recreational opportunities for the public.

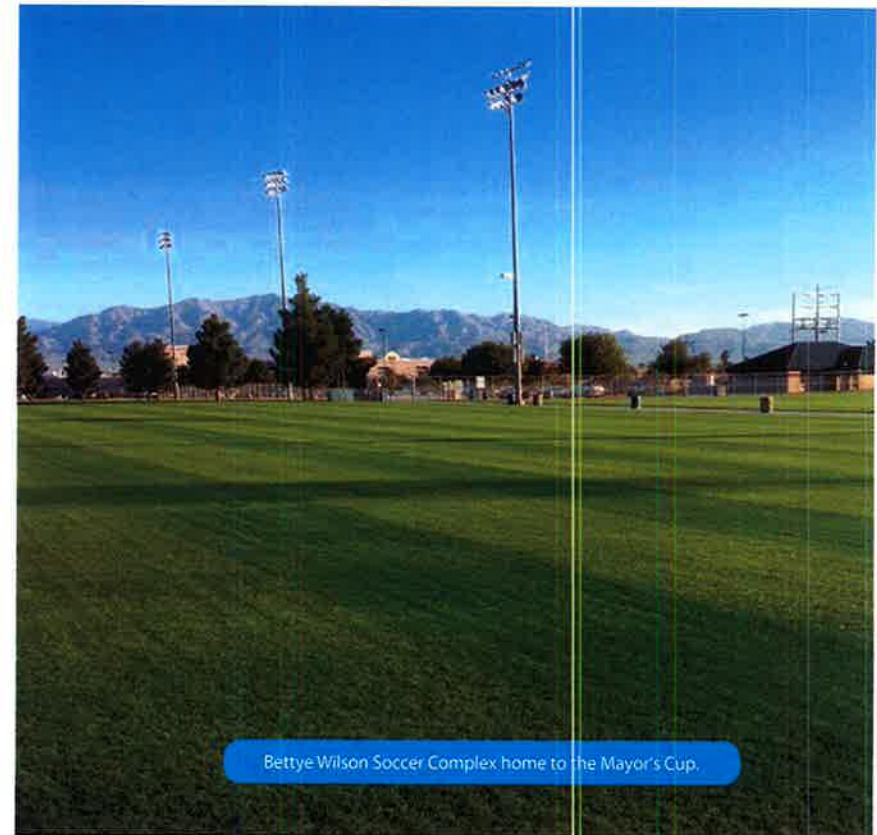
The February ACTION Team Award recognizes a team of employees who make the city of Las Vegas Mayor's Cup Soccer Tournament possible. From coordinating this massive tournament that happens twice a year to ensuring that our fields remain world class this team of more than 50 employees does an awesome job.

This tournament has grown every year from its inception 15 years ago. It is now one of the largest youth soccer tournaments in the country. In October we had 376 youth soccer teams from 15 U.S. States, Canada, Haiti, Mexico and Panama competing right here in Las Vegas. In the past we've had teams from as far away as Nepal and Russia. It is a wonderful event that brings in an estimated \$11 million into our local economy.

None of this would be possible without the work of the city team members in Operations and Maintenance and Parks and Recreation. Las Vegas is known for its beautiful soccer fields and this team of employees keeps them green and playable year round.

The March ACTION Team is the talented aquatics group from Parks and Recreation. This team of six employees runs the largest aquatics program in the valley putting together classes and activities at the city's two year-round

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and four seasonal pools. Each year more than 55,000 people use the pools, and this group of employees oversees more than 50 lifeguards.

They annually train 150 new lifeguards, who not only work at city pools but also work in our resort corridors ensuring the safety of visitors to Las Vegas. This extraordinary team has built a program that is constantly evolving and creates activities for all ages to enjoy. The team is led by Tammy Hawkins and also includes Rachel Harmon, Erin Clark, Dave Lund, Daniel Malloy and Willie Henderson.

They have achieved national recognition through their water exercise and therapy program as well as the junior lifeguard camps they manage. With more than 200 unique classes and programs offered annually this unit is tops in the state.

The ACTION Team Award recognizes a team of employees who are superheroes in the workplace meeting our values of ACTION – which stands for Achievement, Creativity, Teamwork, Integrity and Ownership Now! If you have a team you want to nominate contact Esther Carter at 702-229-6672 or Kim Barrera at 702-229-2167. **CT**

**Parks and Recreation
Advisory Commission
Meeting of
April 7, 2015**

**Beyond The Neon Aquatics &
Summer Camp Program for
June-August 2015**

**SUBMITTED AS BACKUP
FOR ITEM 8 – FILED
WITHIN MINUTE BINDER**