



**CITY OF SALEM
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
COMMUNITY RESOURCES & RECREATION DIVISION**

September 26, 2006

SOFTBALL ANNOUNCEMENT

Jeff Miller, owner of Tournaments NW, Inc., the City of Salem's softball program contractor has given the city notice to end their contract effective November 1, 2006. City Manager Bob Wells appreciates the fine performance of the contractor since March of 2003 and their contributions to the community.

Although nearly 20 years old, the Wallace Marine Park Softball Complex continues to be a highly valued and very popular softball venue on the West Coast. With this impending transition, it is very important to the local economy to sustain the programs and key relationships, internal and external, that have been built and to take the time and the steps needed to work with community partners. It will be recommended to City Council that key partners be brought together to form a special Softball Development Task Force to evaluate softball in Salem and develop a softball strategic plan. In the interim, the City is committed to sustaining programs and maintenance of the fields in such a manner as to minimize disruption to the next year's league and tournament programs offered at Wallace Marine Park Softball Complex.

After successfully hosting two national adult tournaments this summer, the city looks forward to hosting two ASA National's (Girls 16B and Women's C) in 2007. To "keep the ball rolling" the City has already submitted tournament bids for United States Slowpitch Softball Association (USSSA) in 2007 and the American Softball Association (ASA) in 2008, and in partnership with the Salem Convention and Visitor Bureau, will be attending the national softball conferences in November to potentially secure additional tournaments.

As more information is developed further announcements will be distributed with special emphasis on softball community supporters and the local softball teams. Please direct any input, questions or concerns, to Bruce Bolton, Recreation/Public Events Supervisor at 503.588.6261 or email at bbolton@cityofsalem.net.