

RiverFest 2003 kicks off summer on Flag Day

After a four-month evaluation, RiverFest is back — bigger and more family-oriented than ever. The Benton Franklin Volunteer Center started RiverFest in 1998 as a “fun run” to raise money for the Volunteer Center and other area non-profit agencies.

After last year’s event, however, the center’s 16-member board of directors decided it was time to re-evaluate RiverFest to determine whether it still had a place in the community and, if so, what could be done to improve it.

As a result of that evaluation, a more ambitious plan was formulated for 2003, including adding events such as a River Rally for “non-motorized boats,” a free fishing derby for kids, a petting zoo and a craft fair.

Bechtel is the “signature sponsor” for RiverFest 2003, and other Hanford organizations that are sponsoring the event include Johnson Controls, CH2M HILL, Fluor and Team Battelle.

RiverFest 2003 is a community celebration highlighting civic pride and the spirit of volunteerism in the Tri-Cities. It is also a unique opportunity for local nonprofits to earn money for their organizations.

The centerpieces of RiverFest are the 10-kilometer run, a 5-kilometer run and a 1-mile “family fun run.” Runners are invited to collect pledges, which they may direct to nonprofit organizations of their choice. Last year, RiverFest generated more than \$32,000 for Tri-City area organizations.

For additional information, event registration, vendor registration or sponsorship opportunities, contact the Volunteer Center at 582-0631. ■

RiverFest 2003 Events

Friday, June 13

- **Pasta Feed and Silent Auction.** 5-7:30 p.m. at Bingo Boulevard; \$7 for adults, \$3 for children, free for children under 6

Saturday, June 14

All events will be held in Columbia Park unless otherwise noted.

- **10K and 5K runs.** 8:30 a.m. start time
- **1-Mile Family Fun Run.** 10 a.m. start time
- **River Rally** (human-powered watercraft race). 10 a.m. start time; \$30 entry fee with proceeds going to Columbia Basin Dive Rescue and the Volunteer Center
- **4th Annual Kennewick General Hospital Golf Tournament.** 8 a.m. start time; \$200 team/\$50 individual entry fee benefits Kennewick General Hospital’s Intensive Care Unit
- **Paws in the Park.** Pet adoption, pet microchipping at greatly reduced cost; proceeds benefit the Benton-Franklin Humane Society
- **Fishing Derby.** At the Family Fishing Pond; \$1 donation for adopt-a-fish will benefit Safe Harbor Crisis Nursery
- **Petting Zoo.** See a llama, miniature horse, pygmy goats, ducks, geese, chickens and more
- **Summer Market Craft Fair.** Showcases home-crafted products of local artists
- **Other activities.** Include face painting, helmet checks, child fingerprinting, kids’ projects and more!