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## GOALS Summer of '17 Update

The Summer of '17 has such a great ring to it – and some great rinks too! As we are in the final sprint to the finish line of the much-anticipated completion of our treasured “Dreamscape Too” athletic complex, it is exhilarating to see not one but two rinks rise. The first, just completed as Summer officially rolled in, is “Berg Electric Arena” – named in honor of the electrical contracting giant which has been a major GOALS ally for many years on projects. This 6,000 foot facility features complete (tough) hockey boards – strong enough to withstand any sport, and will be topped by several hundred feet of netting so as to contain soccer balls, badminton birdies, volleyballs, Olympic handballs, lacrosse balls and of course roller hockey pucks.

Up next will be the raising of another rink – this the GOALS Pond – which will feature a unique (synthetic) ice surface which will enable ice hockey training and I am sure plenty a pond hockey game which will take me at least, back to my east coast hockey roots. While a bit smaller in size at 3,200 square feet, there will be plenty of space to practice all ice hockey essentials as we expand our ice hockey base with several new community based programs coming up this fall (see below).

The other final touches coming are the completion of a circumferential warm-up track named “Bens Asphalt Track” to honor this southern California paving giant led by Billy Skeffington. Ben’s Asphalt has been the leader in supporting this million-dollar endeavor and has been actively involved in helping us see it through over the past couple of years. The other major venue will be the center court – namely Lakers Legends basketball court – as we proudly snap down a brilliant purple and gold floor and hang all of the numbers courtside of those many Lakers legends who have graced this great sport. We expect the entire complex to be ready for fun come mid-July – please stay tuned!

GOALS Cadets – Summer of Service is one of the true hallmarks of our overall community service efforts and in fact all that we do with GOALS. This year – turnout has involved well over 100 teens in just the first week (about 400 total) with almost 2,000 volunteer hours committed (and 7 weeks to go!). We are fielding multiple service initiatives including our beloved “Special Sports” program to support My Day Counts (disabled adults) at GOALS Gardens/Martin Recreation Center, GOALS CityPride as we deploy service teams to assist clean up and improve major central Anaheim parks, and multiple GOALS Homebase projects which will improve the growing number of GOALS facilities clustered in the GOALSland area of north central Anaheim.

A new branch of Cadets is being launched as well – “Service In The Sequoias”. This has been on the planning docket for a year now and is conceived as a way to assist one of our staunch partners, the Pythian Youth Camp, which hosts a large number of our most underserved youth annually. This historic camp dates back to the late 1940’s and with 17 cabins and other structures, can use a big boost from our oldest Cadets as led by veteran Coach (and highly skilled craftsman) Daniel Lopez. Coach Daniel will lead an expedition of 10 hardy souls to help ready the camp for summer fun and set the standard for more service to follow from GOALS sources and collaborators.

We anticipate some major new community based programs that will kick-off later this summer and into the fall – including an expansion of our support of the Maxwell Elementary school, the revival of the intersession GOALS A+ Opportunity Academy, potential for year ‘round GOALS Special Sports, joint programs with the Anaheim PD, and our dynamic entry into the high school “arena” with GOALS clubs fielded to the east and west regionally at both Savanna (Anaheim) and Valencia (Placentia) high schools. It will all prove to be a remarkable summer ride along with a thrilling look ahead to the fall here at GOALS. Hold on!!! Hope to see you during the summer...

*Dave Wilk*

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