



**PARKS MARINA**  
 Ranked 7th in Boat Industry's  
 Top 100 for 2018 and received  
 Best In Class Award for  
 Best Training & Benefits!

Our lakes are the clearest and cleanest ever in my lifetime. Thank you to all for caring and helping. We should be so proud to have one of the greatest vacation spots with the best lakes in the world. It's still the best time to invest in property at the lakes. Interest rates are still very low and the lakes are always a sound investment.

It's hard to believe that it's July 4th already! Every day we wake up and have the privilege of living and working in the Land of the Free! Thank you God, and thank you to all of the men and women that are not with their families this holiday but instead making the ultimate sacrifice for this great country. I don't believe there is enough we can ever do or say to express the gratitude to these men, women and their families.



July this year is packed with great entertainment at all of our locations. At the Barefoot, from Nashville, Angelica Grim dabbles in blue grass and country and Fuel on Fire (the Doerfels) return! New this month is "Shuffle". They are from Utah, but Debbie and I had the pleasure of dancing to them at Sturgis Bike Week last year! July 16th is our Full Moon Party with Elton Dan and Gypsies, Doves & Dreams. This high energy band plays tribute to one of the greatest music legends of all time: Elton John with a second act as Stevie Nicks in Fleetwood Mac. Don't forget that we have karaoke every Thursday evening at the Barefoot.

The Hi-Point Sky Lounge in the Central Emporium is open for the summer and we will be featuring an all new moderately priced menu.

Toga, Toga, Toga Party at the Gardens on July 19th! Break out your Belushi and party fraternity style. It starts at 9:30 with drink specials and prizes for best individual and group toga's. We still have Funset Sunsets everyday at 5pm with live music, Dueling Pianos every Thursday night, and Sunday Funday Lower Dock parties at 1pm with a live DJ.

We have our biggest selection of new and used boats and pontoons in the history of Parks Marina. Most everything can be found with photos on our website or you can shop the old fashioned way, in person! Come experience the new colors and designs. Touch the upholstery and take a test drive. We have it all from Cobalt, Crownline, Chaparral, Formula and Pontoons galore by Barletta, Harris, Berkshire, Premier, South Bay, JC, and Crest. We have a few non-currents left that we are ready to make deals on. Don't waste another summer on shore!

Let Freedom Ring!

P.S. - July 1st, 1999, twenty years ago today, Arnolds Park Amusement Park had been sold to developers. Our Park was to be removed and made into condos. A group of people gathered at the Maritime Museum and Chamber office and devised a plan to "save the park". We were all speaking the same and everyone headed out to do their part. I recorded this letter and went on to KUOO Radio 10-12 times per day for 2 weeks. Guess What? We saved the Park! It was a total coming together of the entire community.

*July 1st, 1999: Hello, my name is Butch Parks. Many of you know me as the owner of Parks Marina. I have something very serious to talk to you about, Arnolds Park. We are faced with a major problem for the Lakes area, Iowa, the Midwest and all of America. Where are we going? Where did we come from? I happen to come from a place I call heaven on earth, Okoboji. But it is changing so fast I can't believe it. Most of the time change is good for us, but not always. For instance, change was not good when we saw the Queen taken from us and hauled to a graveyard in Des Moines. I didn't know what to do then.*

*I cried when the Funhouse and Roof Garden were torn down. I cried when the Okoboji Store was gone. I cried last fall when the Wharf was bulldozed. I cried when my grandparents died and again when my father died. All of the memories are gone. People die and we can't change that, but by God we can save this place (Arnolds Park) for all the people. This 4th of July night, when everyone is gathered to watch the fireworks, just picture it dark, instead of all the lights and sounds that have been there for us, for what seems like forever. I will NOT be the generation that let the park die!!*

*We all need to come together to save the last great thing we all have in common. The 4th of July in America means FREEDOM. Freedom has blessed me and my family. I intend to give all I can afford and then some to save this treasure. Everyone out there needs to have a piece of the action and donate all we can. I can tell you Arnolds Park WILL be saved, but you need to be able to tell your children, friends and relatives that you helped. 5.5 million dollars is the minimum needed but 10 million would be my goal, so it can prosper and grow into the greatest little park on earth. Maybe we could name a piece of it Eden. Please call [number] and pledge cash or stocks or send checks to Iowa Great Lakes Maritime Museum. [address].*

*Or bring money and pledges to the Maritime Museum Sunday night. Remember, as much as you can and as often as you can. It is tax deductible and GUARANTEE you will be extra proud from now on when you hear the Star Spangled Banner. Thank you!*