

Water on the Brain

Aquatic Center News

January 2012



We wanted to take this opportunity to give you an Aquatic Center update so that everyone may have the correct information. We have had concerned citizens give feedback to the Council and the Parks Board and so our goal is to address these issues and advise you about some of the other activities we are undergoing. We hope the following information is helpful for your understanding of all that is going on at the Aquatic Center. Please feel free to contact me or Kayleen Russell anytime you have questions or concerns.

Thank you for your continued use of the Astoria Aquatic Center!

Thank you for all your support and patience in regards to some of our maintenance challenges. Below you will find an update regarding these matters. You will also find information about some concerns that have been brought to the attention of the City Council and Parks Board. We look forward to making continued improvements to the Aquatic Center.

Lazy River

The Lazy River pump has been covered to reduce the noise of the motor. We also moved the electronics over to the pump so it will be easier to adjust the strength of the current. These two changes will go a long way to improving our ability to provide timely service to swimmers in this area of the pool.

Lane Lines

Our new lane lines and flags have both come in and been put up. This was a huge need for the facility for safety and quality of wave reduction for lap swimmers.

Cleanliness

We continue to clean our facility 7 days a week in the evenings after the pool closes. We have added spot cleaning between 11-3pm when activity at the pool is the slowest. Please let us know if you see an issue and we will clean it at as soon as is possible.

Pool Vacuum

Please note the bottoms of the pools are cleaned every night with our new pool vacuum. You may notice areas of the pool bottom that have discolored to a light brown. This is not an issue of cleanliness, instead, it is due to the normal aging of the plaster. Re-plastering the pool is one of a few major capital improvements we hope to undertake in the next few years. It is quite expensive and will require a lengthy pool closure.

Pool Temperatures

We have made some improvements in our processes which affect pool temperatures. To maintain temperature, we will no longer fill the pool in the mornings for any reason. Our pool temperatures will be kept at 80/82 for the lap pool, 84/85 for the rec pool, 101/102 for hot tub and 84/85 for the wading pool. We have moved the rec pool up to 86 degrees so that we can constantly have 84/85 degree water. The rec pool loses the most amount of water so it needs filling the most. We have also added a new way to fill the pool. This new addition, while costly, will provide us with the ability to fill the pool with warm water verses cold. We also tested all eight sensors to our system which were all accurate.

All of these improvements and additions will help maintain the water temperature on a more consistent basis.

Hot Tub

We have continued to work on this project. We currently have a complete list of information at the pool about the hot tub status. We will make every effort to fix the hot tub before we are forced to dig the hot tub up in order to find our leak. We have engaged all city resources and multiple outside vendors. It is our goal to fix the hot tub as quickly as possible without having to close the aquatic center for a major demolition.

Communication

We will continue to utilize our suggestion board for feedback to and from our staff. We have also implemented our newsletter to the public. Our goal is to put this out about every 6-8 weeks. The newsletter will evolve and include all Parks and Recreation programs. We continue to train our staff and provide support for them. If you believe you have been treated poorly, please contact us with specifics so that we can help to solve the problem. Conversely, if you have experienced great customer service, please let us know that also. Positive feedback to staff can be a great morale booster! We will also be having an all parks meeting with citizens on a regular basis to answer questions and to educate people about our programs. Our first meeting will be from 5:30-7:00pm on Monday, January 16th at our new recreation center, The ARC.

Scholarship Form

We will be improving our scholarship form to make it more easily understood. We have given over 125 scholarships so far this fiscal year. We look forward to a new scholarship form which will be available at the beginning of the new year.

Fitness Room Improvements/New Equipment

Check out our fitness room. We now have enough equipment for patrons to get a full body workout. We also have new water exercise equipment to replace the older equipment.

Schedule

If you ever see a mistake in our schedule or literature, please let us know and we will be glad to fix it as soon as possible or by the next printing. It is never our intention to have misinformation.

A number of additional items

A suggestion was made to provide a water exercise bulletin board for the classes to manage. We have done this and look forward to the great information it will provide to the public.

We will be eliminating the "Help-a-Kid" campaign as it was suggested that all people need help and not just kids. We will launch a new campaign to include everyone.

The Naselle School District just finished a group swim lesson for 50 children, they were a complete success. Sign up for two swim lessons this winter and get the third for free! We have shifted the lane line responsibility to our evening staff. These staff will put the lines in for the next morning. On occasion, there may be times when all the lane lines are not in the water by morning. Please use the lanes with lane line first while we put in other lane lines.

Know that our goal is to meet all the needs of the Astoria Aquatic Center without having to increase fees or compromise other programs. If you have additional items you would like to see included in the next newsletter, please let us know and we will address those issues.