

Recreation Center

If you haven't yet been to the Town's Recreation Center, please make it a point to stop by and look around. I think you'll be very impressed by all it has to offer. If you'd like a guided tour, just ask at the reception desk. If you prefer to see for yourself, feel free to do so. The floor plan is simple. The pool is across from reception, with locker rooms, exercise room and basketball courts making up the rest of the ground level. Upstairs, a large fitness room is divided into 2 areas with free weights and circuit training on one side and cardio machines on the other. Behind the fitness room and occupying the entire rear of the building is the walking track. The back wall is almost all windows looking out on the meadows and the Manhattan skyline. It's a beautiful view that brings the outdoors in.

The Recreation Center staff takes great pride in the facility and works hard to make it a safe, clean and welcoming place. A staff member is always available to answer questions, provide the monthly schedule, or demonstrate how to operate the machines. There are lifeguards on duty at the pool at all times, in conformance with state safety laws. Fitness staff members are in the weight and fitness room to assist anyone who may need help. Additionally, should you need the services of a certified trainer to kick-start your workout, they are available at an additional cost.

Throughout the Center, you'll see members using and enjoying the facility. Whether they are swimming, running on the treadmill, playing basketball, or walking on the track, their energy and motivation is contagious. I hope you'll agree and will sign up to become a member yourself.

As beautiful and wonderful as the Recreation Center is, it is also expensive. I'm writing about it this month to tell you about the costs and some of the things we're working on to pay for them. Construction costs were about \$12 million. Operational costs for the 1st year were \$1 million. Construction was financed primarily by bonds, which in April of this year were financed to a lower interest rate than expected, but no matter how good the rate may be, the principal and interest must be paid back. When my predecessors were building the Rec Center, their plan was for membership dollars to pay for everything. At that time, I spoke against that plan because I knew it was an unrealistic expectation. Nonetheless, my administration will do everything possible to make the Rec Center solvent. Certainly, we'd like to see an increase in membership, and I do encourage you to join, but membership revenue alone may not be sufficient. Here are some of the new things we've been doing and ideas we've been discussing to raise revenues at the Rec Center.

Presently, residents can rent out half of the basketball court or swimming pool for children's birthday parties. The rental fee is \$200.00 for 2 hours. A birthday attendant will be assigned to supervise games and activities, but parents must bring the food and birthday cake. For more details, call the Recreation Department at (201) 330-3299.

We're also proposing programs designed for specific age groups, such as Mommy and Me, Kidz Thrive, and Silver Sneakers, as well as martial arts, jujitsu and kickboxing. We think group fitness classes like these will bring in more members who want a safe, effective work out that is also fun. We are considering hiring an instructor who will institute the Les Mills fitness program which is a series of

choreographed fitness-to-music classes developed by Les Mills, a former Australian Olympic athlete. Another very popular program which would fit very well with members' goals is Weight Watchers.

They recently began offering meetings at another location in Town, and we are talking with them about coming to the recreation center.

We intend to utilize the pool more by offering swimming lessons and aqua aerobic classes.

We want to reach out to the business community as well. Many corporations have employee-wellness programs. We'd like to market the Rec Center to companies like Hartz, UPS and Panasonic – either through a company sponsored wellness program or discounted membership rate for their employees. Another marketing idea which was suggested by a citizen at a council meeting is to rent out advertising signboards on the walls around the basketball courts and walking track.

We already passed a resolution opening limited membership to people who work in Town. We'd like to expand on that option by offering admission to non-residents who are referred by resident-members.

I am confident we can turn the Recreation Center around and make it the community asset it deserves to be. I welcome your comments on my proposals and I'd like to hear your suggestions and ideas. Meanwhile, please, go visit the Center for yourself. You just may decide to join!