

Antietam Pool Families,

Welcome to the 2023 pool season! As we begin to open our registration for the season, we want to inform you of some updates to the pool and some factors that have dramatically affected our operating costs. As we go into each season, we budget for increases and regular maintenance and we keep membership costs as low as possible with minimal increases each year. This year, our membership costs will have a higher increase than normal, and we wanted to provide you with some information as to why that has occurred.

Over the winter, we installed a new pump system to the main pool. This upgrade was about \$100,000 and it should keep us going for years into the future. We are also looking at upgrading the loudspeaker system this spring. These upgrades are things that we have budgeted for over the previous couple of years knowing that they needed to be upgraded. We continually put money back into capital improvements for the pool so that we can open each season with minimal disruptions.

However, over this last year, we have had several costs go up significantly and unexpectedly which have increased our operating costs by 39%. Chlorine costs have tripled since last year due to supply shortages and transportation costs. Insurance premiums are also another factor that increases each year and outpaces projected costs. There are not many insurance companies that are willing to insure a pool so this is a cost that can't really be adjusted. Payroll costs are also higher and that is also a necessity to keep adequate staffing for both maintenance and safety.

What does all this mean for rates for this season? Generally, our budget increases can be met with a membership increase of about \$10.00 for a single membership and \$20.00 for a family membership. This year, the cost increase is \$25.00 for a single membership and \$50.00 for a family membership. We have not had to raise our rates by that much in a very long time, so we wanted everyone to know why that has occurred this year. We value our members and families and we wanted to explain the situation as early as we could to allow you to plan accordingly for your situation and needs.

Our membership plans and structure have not changed.

Thank you,

Antietam Valley Recreation and Community Center