



WAYLAND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TOWN OF WAYLAND

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Don Ouellette, Director

Date: December 10, 2009

To: Patrons of the Wayland Town Pool

Regarding: Wayland Town Pool

We wanted to give everyone an update as to the status of the air quality issue at the pool. Below is a timeline of all that has transpired since last Monday, November 30th when the air quality issues surfaced.

- The coughing some swimmers experienced last week resulted from the formation of chloramines on the surface of the pool. Chloramines are what are formed when contaminants (i.e., sweat, hair, body oils, etc.) are introduced to the pool and bind with the chlorine. Ideally the production of chloramines is controlled with careful monitoring of the pool chemicals. If the chloramines level gets too high, it can often be “fixed” by shocking the pool. Good ventilation also helps disperse the chloramines that have collected on the surface of the pool.
- After the air quality issues surfaced at last Monday’s practice, the Department of Public Works (DPW) tried to resolve the problem by increasing the ventilation to what it normally is at this time of year. When staff visited the pool the following morning, the air quality wasn’t bad. However, as we found out, the air quality got worse when the water was being used. That is, the chloramines on the surface of the pool were stirred up when the swimmers used the pool.
- Since additional ventilation did not solve the problem, the DPW, the town’s Board of Health and the Building Facilities manager went to the pool Wednesday morning. They tested the levels of total chlorine and dissolved solids (both of which are indicative of the chloramines level) and both were outside normal ranges.
- Because the level of dissolved solids (the measure of dissolved material such as dirt, etc. that is found in all pools) was what it was, shocking the pool would not work.
- The Board of Health closed the pool, and the DPW decided to drain the pool immediately (last Wednesday), clean the pool surface and refill the pool with new water from the new water treatment plant (Tuesday, Dec. 8).
- The pool should be filled, heated, chemically balanced and ready for use by this weekend. The Board of Health will test the pool water before the pool is reopened.

The ventilation in our current pool has trouble handling the heavy bather load during the high school swim season, so we have to be diligent in keeping the pool and water as clean as possible. To prevent this issue from happening again, everyone has a role.

- The DPW will ensure that the pool is closely monitored and maintained so that the chemicals stay in balance.
- The DPW will develop a new set of procedures for the ongoing maintenance of the pool to reduce the risk of this situation developing again. These include daily (by staff) and weekly (by an outside vendor) testing of the water, nightly chemical adjustments, daily vacuuming of the pool and washing down the pool deck.
- Additionally, the Board of Health will continue its monthly check of the pool water and the public facility.
- To help maintain the water quality, going forward, it is imperative that all swimmers shower with soap before getting in the pool.
- And, a basic rule from childhood, no peeing in the pool!

While some coughing is a natural result of exertion, if you have questions or are wondering about your child's situation, please speak to the school nurse or your own physician.

Specific questions can be addressed to the DPW (Don Ouellette, 508-358-3672), the Board of Health (Steve Calichman, 508-358-3617) or to the HS nurse (Amy Schoeff, 508-358-3712).

Thank you for your flexibility these past 10 days with the pool. As we all know, it is an old facility that needs a lot of TLC. Wayland Community Pool is on schedule to begin construction of the new pool in March 2010, and we thank all of you who are supporting this effort.

Respectfully,

Don Ouellette
Director, Wayland Department of Public Works