

2024 RATE INCREASES

Dear Fellow Leonians:

As the 2024 Leonia Swim Club signup period is about to begin, we are writing to let you know about some important repairs and updates that will be occurring this year, as well as to advise you about the new membership rates that will be effective this year.

First, though, it is important to remind you that the Leonia Swim Club is a self-funding utility; this means that, by law, local tax dollars **cannot** be used to fund the operation of the Leonia Swim Club, nor can they be used to pay for capital projects. The Leonia Swim Club must be funded solely through the revenue generated from membership and guest fees – so every year, the Leonia Recreation Commission and our staff create a budget which allows us to deliver an outstanding Swim Club experience for our members and guests, and ensure that we also generate surplus funds to purchase the items that are necessary to ensure that the high level of service you've come to expect continues, year after year.

This year, we have to complete several costly infrastructure repairs and improvements to the Leonia Swim Club facility, prior to our opening at the end of May. These include:

- Upgrading our well system, which allows us to keep our water usage operating cost far lower than if we were utilizing water provided by a water utility.
- Installing a new stainless steel grate system, which will enhance the safety of our members and guests while ensuring the highest quality pool filtration.
- Adding more chairs and umbrellas to our lounging areas, for the enjoyment of everyone.
- Installing additional picnic tables to provide more seating for our members and guests while they're enjoying food and beverages.

In addition, the state minimum wage continues to increase each year, which has an impact on the rates paid both to new and returning Leonia Swim Club staff members.

As a result of our infrastructure improvements and increased costs, we have made the difficult decision to raise membership rates and guest pass fees, as follows:

- Membership fees for Leonia residents will increase by 10%.
- Membership fees for non-residents will increase by 25%
- Guest passes purchased by resident members will increase to \$20 per pass.
- Guest passes purchased by non-resident members will increase to \$25 per pass.

Even with the new higher rates, the cost of membership remains one of the lowest of any public swim club facility in Bergen County, especially when one considers that no tax dollars are expended to operate the facility. Nevertheless, we recognize that cost increases are always challenging, and we want you to know that we have done everything possible to minimize the amount of the increases while ensuring that we are delivering the same outstanding quality of service our members both expect and deserve.

If you have any questions regarding the new fees, the improvements we're making, or any other concerns, please don't hesitate to email us at recreation@leonianj.gov. We thank you in advance for your anticipated understanding and for your continued membership and support. We look forward to seeing you at the Leonia Swim Club.

Very truly yours,
Leonian Recreation Commission & Staff