

May 4, 2009

Boyertown Community Swimming Pool  
Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act

In December of 2007 Congress enacted the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act, with an effective date of December 19, 2008. The law requires all public swimming pools and spas to replace suction drain covers with new anti-entrapment drains or covers. The Act is named after the 7 year old daughter of Nancy Baker and the granddaughter of former Secretary of State James Baker, who died in June of 2002 after the suction from a spa drain entrapped her under the water. Statistics indicate that from 1997-2007, there were 74 reported incidents associated with suction entrapment, which resulted in 9 deaths and 63 injuries.

The Borough became aware of the federal legislation in the fall of 2008 as commercial pool companies began to notify their clients of the need to perform an analysis of their pools to determine what action, if any, would need to be taken in order to be in compliance with the new act. The Borough retained the services of Aquatic Facility Design, Inc. who conducted an analysis and provided a cost estimate of \$32,000 to bring the pool into compliance.

The Community Pool is a valuable recreational facility for the Boyertown Area, and over the years many of us have enjoyed this resource. Over the past several years, the borough has been assessing the need for a major renovation of the forty plus year old facility. Those discussions included the Boyertown YMCA who uses the community pool for their summer camp programs and the summer swim team.

The culmination of those discussions was the approval by Borough Council on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009 of a lease agreement with the Boyertown YMCA, which leases the facility to the YMCA for a three year period. Under the terms of the lease agreement, the YMCA will bring the pool into compliance with the new act and open the facility as a community swimming pool on Memorial Day Weekend.

Boyertown Borough Council  
Borough of Boyertown, Berks County, Pennsylvania