

## **Boyertown Community Swimming Pool**

It is with deep regret that the Boyertown Borough Council and the Greater Philadelphia YMCA Boyertown location announce that the Boyertown Community Swimming Pool will not be opening for the 2023 season.

The pool was constructed in the early 1960's and is a reinforced concrete structure with three expansion joints within the pool. Over the years and under the terms of a lease agreement between the YMCA and the Borough, the YMCA has been making the necessary repairs to keep the pool open, including resealing the expansion joints, replacing the concrete coping and tile, and rebuilding several of the skimmer boxes. However, over the 2022 season it was recognized by YMCA staff that the pool was losing about 3 to 4" of water depth daily, which equates to approximately 25,000 gallons per day. This loss of water raised concerns among both the YMCA and Borough Officials about how the water was leaking and where it was going. There was also a serious concern that there might be voids under the pool or in the grass area surrounding the pool.

The Borough of Boyertown retained the services of Rettew Engineers to perform a Geophysical Survey of the pool area, pumphouse and grassy area. This test determined that there were no voids under the actual pool. However, an area between the deep well and the pool filtration building showed signs of settling and excessive wetness. Shortly after this test was completed the deep well of the pool, which had been holding water, suddenly lost water for no apparent reason. More recent investigations have determined that the pipe between the pool main drain and the pump filtration building is most likely leaking.

There was a meeting at the pool on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 with personnel from the Greater Philadelphia YMCA, a pool consultant, used by both the YMCA and the Borough, several Borough Council members, the Mayor of Boyertown, and the Borough Manager. This group of individuals walked the entire pool both inside and outside and confirmed the suspicion of the piping issue, along with numerous large cracks in the main pool, most skimmer boxes with cracks and broken tile, and most of the return lines, which need to be rebuilt as the concrete is loose and falling off around each of those return lines. The three expansion joints will need to be resealed, plus many other repairs. As the cost of those repairs add up it makes the viability of the pool unsustainable.

This is a hard decision, but all the Officials feel it is the correct one for the safety of any patron that would have used the facility. The Borough and the YMCA will take this year to evaluate the entire facility and try to determine what decisions could be made moving forward. We all hope that everyone understands this decision was based on safety concerns and is not simply a cost decision due to the current state of the pool and the facility. We appreciate the understanding and cooperation of all citizens and patrons of the facility.

Boyertown Borough Council & Mayor Carnes