



Palisades Bulletin

Palisades Swimming Pool Association
P.O. Box 636, Glen Echo, Maryland 20812

January 2008

We hope that your fall and winter seasons have been happy, healthy, and safe ones. While for the bulk of you the pool and sunscreen are a distant memory, the Board continues to review the summer's events, critique the facilities and operations in an effort to continually enhance the Palisades experience. The original founding families that organized our Association in 1967 planned and provided for many years of swimming and fun for members. The current Board is planning for the next generation of pool users. We welcome member input and suggestions as we undertake the pool renovation project.

Pool Renovation Notice

As some members may know, there have been general discussions for the past two years regarding the need to renovate the systems at the pool. The following provides some background on this issue, describes the current status of renovation issues, and sets out an anticipated schedule for the renovation. A general discussion of the pool renovation and possible financing options is on the Agenda for the Annual meeting, but there is still much to consider in our future deliberations in this regard.

Background

The Palisades Pool was built in 1969, and is almost 40 years old. Over the past year, the Board of Directors has been consulting with a pool project manager, pool renovation experts and construction contractors to determine the expected future life-expectancy of the current infrastructure, including underground piping, electrical pumps, the pool shell, decking, tiles etc. A Pool Renovation Committee was formed in late summer and the Committee looked into

the option of taking core samples of the pool to determine when this work would be needed. These samples (at a cost of \$8,000) might give us a slightly better picture but would not be definitive—for example, the pipe joints which are the most vulnerable to age could not be tested, we might not sample in an areas where there is potential weakness, and we could actually damage the existing integrity of the shell by taking the samples. Thus, the experts that were consulted by the Committee advised against this approach.

Without any hard data on when and what should be done, the Board looked at the anecdotal information available. Most of the neighborhood/commercial pools in our area have completed this type of renovation when the pool is about 40 years old. Some pools have waited 50 years and some pool have replaced everything but the shell of the pool. As any homeowner knows, when a system will wear out is hard to predict, but the Board believes that it is better to take preemptive action to prevent a major problem that could shut the pool down in the future. It is also much less expensive to do all the work at once than to proceed on an incremental basis.

It is expected that the renovation would be designed and built to last another 40 years. The currently proposed schedule for the renovation is on page two of this newsletter.

*The Board of Directors
Palisades Swimming Pool Association*

2008 Annual Membership Meeting

Thursday, January 31, 2008

Time:

7:30 pm Registration & Refreshments

8 pm Meeting

Place: Concord-St. Andrews Methodist Church
River and Goldsboro Road
Bethesda, Maryland

Note: Snow Date (conforming with Montgomery School System):

February 7, 2008

Notice:

In the event there is no quorum on January 31, 2008, notice is hereby given of a Special Meeting on that date, at the same location, at 8:15 p.m. pursuant to Article VI, Section 4 (a) of the Bylaws, called for the purpose of conducting the business specified in the agenda, on page two. Should the meeting of January 31 2008 be postponed because of snow, notice is hereby given that the meeting of February 7, 2008 also will be considered a Special Meeting in the absence of a quorum. Commencing at 8:15 pm. at the same location.

Agenda

2008 Annual Membership Meeting
January 31, 2008

1. Minutes of the 2007 Meeting
2. Financial Reports:
 - 2007 Financial Statements
 - 2008 Proposed Budget
3. Proposed Dues Structure
4. Proposed Bylaw changes
4. Report of the Nominating Committee
5. Election of New Officers & Directors
6. Pool Renovation
7. General Discussion

The Annual Meeting is open to all permanent bondholding members of the association.

Proposed Schedule for Renovation

Summer 2007	Winter 2007/ 2008	Summer 2008	Fall 2008	Winter 2008 -2009	Summer 2009	September 2009 Or September 2010
Hired project manager. Formed Renovation Technical Committee and Renovation Financial Committee. Investigation of options for engineering analysis of current infrastructure.	Interview Pool Renovation contractors to evaluate renovation options, additional features, identify permitting issues and regulatory compliance (ADA, building codes, etc.) Committee, in consultation with Board will develop options and preliminary recommendations. Explore eco-friendly options such as low/no chemical pool, solar and other energy efficiencies, recycled or sustainable building materials	A meeting will be held in June for all members to describe the renovation options. (For example, we may need to expand the footprint of the big pool to include a larger diving well and more depth at one end for swim meets. Another possible consideration would be to combine the baby pool and middle pool into a zero entry pool with a baby lagoon and deeper training area, like at the Montgomery Aquatic Center. Other options including water features etc will also be considered.) The Committee will welcome any written comments after that meeting and all efforts will be made to accommodate members input. A second meeting will be held in July to review financial options for funding the renovations. Current estimates are that the renovation could range in cost from \$1 million to \$1.5 million. Options for financing include loans, assessments, increase in dues or bonds, the sale of property, or a combination of these. Again, member input will be most welcome in the form of written comments. By the end of the summer, a final plan, cost estimates, and financial recommendations will be posted at the pool and on the web site.	Solicit bids from potential contractors	A vote will be held at the Annual Meeting in January 2009 on any assessments to members. The first assessments would be due by March, 2009 and would be added to the price of the bond, so that members will get the full cost of any assessment back when they decide to sell their bond. Engineering plans will be drawn up, permit applications will be submitted, financing will be put in place.	Finalize engineering plans and permits. Get all necessary regulatory approvals.	If the membership decides on a two year assessment, implementation of the renovation will not begin until September 2010. Implementation may also be delayed by a year if the design or permit process isn't fully approved. We want to be sure to give ourselves the full off-season to complete the renovation so that there is no possibility of delays in opening the pool on time—which has happened at other pools.
<p>Member Input</p> <p>The Board welcomes all member input in this process. Any preliminary questions that you may have can be raised at the Annual Meeting on January 31, 2008. An opportunity for more detailed input will be available at the meetings next summer. If you are interested in serving on the Renovation or Finance Committee, particularly if you have expertise in these areas, please Contact Heidi Bumpers at (301)229-8395</p>						

Report from the Board of Directors

Membership

The annual dues notices will be mailed on February 1st. The dues for 2008 are as follows:

Family bondholder	\$400
Single bondholder	\$275
Family (Temporary)	\$500
Single (Temporary)	\$375

February 1: Dues notices mailed to all current permanent and temporary members

March 1: Dues payments must be post-marked by this date for membership this summer. Payment after March 1st must be accompanied by a late fee of \$25.

April 1: As of this date, late fees increase to \$50 and membership for the season is granted only if space is available.

Facts to know:

1. It is the responsibility of Palisades members to notify Membership if you have a change of address, or other contact information
2. If you have not received your dues statement by February 15th, please contact the membership chair for a duplicate
3. All late fees must be paid before membership is activated
4. Members have the option to pay a \$20 inactivity fee if they do not plan to use the club this season. This retains their membership and they will be offered membership again next year.
5. Any bondholders who are no longer using the pool are encouraged to surrender their bond so that others may purchase a bond.

Dues to the Palisades Swimming Pool Asso-

The pool website, www.palisadespool.org has an email link to Membership and answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) about membership and bonds.

Proposed Bylaw Revisions

The bylaws governing the Board of Directors for the Palisades Pool Association have not been updated for quite some time. Many of the responsibilities of the Board of Director positions have evolved since the Bylaws were written in 1969, to include activities such as electronic communications, summer camp and snack bar. Several changes and updates are proposed to the Bylaw provisions regarding the Board of Directors positions and responsibilities to reflect these changes. The Bylaw revisions will be voted on at the Annual meeting on January 31, 2008. The complete bylaws with revisions may be accessed at our website at www.palisadespool.org. Copies of the bylaws will also be available at the annual meeting.

Programs

The **Water Aerobics** program once again had a great summer in 2007. Lonnie Landfield, a very popular instructor, has been running this program for Palisades for six years now. Classes met three days a week from June through August.

Palisades continued to offer **Early Bird Swim** lane swimming from 6:30 to 8:30 am three days a week during the swim team season. This program continues to draw a small but dedicated group of early risers.

Social

Three social events for members were held at the pool in 2007. At the **pool opening party**, members enjoyed Barbeque chicken, salads, and listened to jazz music while the children were de-

lighted with the moon bounce and face painting.

Many families turned out for **Family Fun Night** to sample light snacks, ice cream, brownies, and other refreshments. A spectacular water slide was the hit of evening for the kids.

Our pool season ended with the inaugural Grill, Chills, and Thrills Party on Labor Day. The fun-filled afternoon featured a ping pong tournament, water balloon contest, relay races and more.

Tennis

The Palisades tennis program, under the direction of Tennis pro, Bob Walsh, had kids of all ages and ability out on the courts mornings and afternoons hitting tons of balls, going through tennis drills, learning technique tips from the pros, and having lots of fun. Adults participated in clinics geared for all abilities and levels.

If you are interested in spring clinic or lessons, contact Bob Walsh at bob-walshstennis@yahoo.com

Diving

The team was led by Head coach, Tom Wells, who was assisted by Todd Singer. We had many new divers join the team and had great success at dual meets and sent a great roster of divers to the Divisional and All-Star meets.

For the 2008 summer season Palisades will dive in Division V with the following teams: Little Falls, Potomac, Potomac Woods, and Twin Farms. Children from 6 to 18 years old are welcome to develop this challenging and rewarding sport and be a part of a fun team. Whatever your skill level, we can help you improve!

Reports from the Board of Directors

Palisades Day Camp

The Palisades Summer Day Camp is entering its fourth year, and with that, we are going to make a big change. Our wonderful Tennis Pro, Bob Walsh, is taking over the daily management our camp. And yes, camp will be enhanced by having a tennis component that will compliment our tennis clinics. We are very excited to have Bob on board as our Director of the Porpoise Camp!

The focus of the camp is on making life long pool friends while participating in sports, swimming, crafts and games. The camp is open to children who have **completed** kindergarten to age 12.

Campers *must* be able to swim one length of the main pool. Children 13 and over may apply to be volunteers to the camp and receive community service credit. Volunteer spaces fill up fast and are available on a first come, first serve basis.



Palisades Day Camp will dovetail off of the morning swimming and tennis programs but you are **not** required to participate in either swimming or tennis to attend the sports camp. The camp hours are from 11 am—3 pm. The camp will vary each day but may include games such as basketball, soccer, volley ball, dodge ball, kickball, water polo, swimming, ping pong, street hockey, water balloons, shuffleboard, board games, and arts & crafts. The camp will provide a snack each day in the afternoon plus, every Friday, there will be a special lunch such as pizza or barbeque included in the camp fee.

Camp will run from June 16th through

The price of the camp is \$150 per week. There is no camp on July 4th and the price that week will be \$120. We offer a discount to families that enroll more than one child. In addition, we encourage signing up for more than two week, and if you do, your family will receive a discount. If you sign up for more than two weeks, your rate will be reduced to \$125 for each **additional week**. For families that enroll more than one child, the first child pays \$150 for the first two weeks and the second (and any additional) child pays \$125 per child per week. If you have two or more children enrolled for more than two weeks each child pays \$125 for any additional week.

One more **MAJOR** change, a member may sponsor a non-pool member as a guest to camp. The non-member must pay an additional \$20 per week guest fee and may only attend with their sponsor.

Camp spaced is limited. In order to be guaranteed a space, you may preregister by downloading the registration form on our website (www.palisadespool.org) and sending the form along with your check made out to Palisades Swimming Pool Association. Rain policy: we play in light sprinkles but cancel for thunder and lightening

August 15th. Camp now is on a week to week basis! You no longer have to sign up for two consecutive weeks.

Swimming

The Palisades Porpoises, lead by Coaches Natalie Pitcher and Ian Wandner, had a terrific 2007 season. Our summer swimmers were awesome competitors. Almost all swimmers achieved "personal bests" at the meets, and every swimmer strived to contribute to the Palisades Swim Team and to fulfill a personal goal. Palisades is proud of all of the Palisades swimmers.

Palisades swimmers, Michael Leddecky, Lauren Levy, and Phoebe Schmidt organized and ran the pool's 3rd annual Swim-a-thon for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Over 70 swimmers collected pledges and swam in memory of their fellow teammate, Clare Schmidt, who lost her battle against leukemia in 2005. The team raised \$8,066.80 for this worthy cause.

This coming summer, is the 38th season for the Palisades Swim Team. Palisades will compete in Division G in Section I, along with the following five teams: Robin Hood, Rockshire, Old Georgetown, Waters Landing and Tallyho. We will, of course, have a full schedule of "B" meets with neighboring pools. We urge Palisades families with swimmer at all levels of experience to come out for the team next summer. There is a place for anyone who wants to participate in swimming and social activities with the Porpoises next summer.

This season, the team's league representative will include Mary Gen Leddecky, Bill Pritchard and Kelly Levy.

Running a swim team is an enormous labor-intensive undertaking. We cannot do it without a strong base of parental support. Put the 2008 Palisades Swim Team on your family calendar and look



www.georgetownaquatics.com

For lifeguard and desk attendants positions,
apply online to Georgetown Aquatics:

Summer Employment at Palisades

Palisades Swimming Pool Association
Box 636
Glen Echo, MD 20812