

Last night when my family and I were eating dinner, I looked at the clock and thought, “That can’t be right. It can’t be 6:30. The sun is still out.” YIPPEE! Remember, not too long ago when it was dark by 4:30? Spring is here and that means summer is right around the corner!

One of our favorite places to go in the summer is Spring Lake Pool. It’s where my children learned to swim, found their courage on the high dive, and comradery on the swim team. Mornings are spent at swim lessons and swim team practice. Their afternoons include a visit to the pool with the best summer day camp on the face of the earth. And it’s not uncommon for our family to head to the pool together after work or on a weekend.

This year I know both my family and your family are going to love the enhancements at Spring Lake. The Spring Lake Marina is currently under renovation. Improvements are being made to the bathrooms and kitchen. When you arrive at Spring Lake Pool on Opening Day (May 30<sup>th</sup>) a new deck will greet you, thanks to our Park Board, The Capital Committee, and Bruns Construction of Rochelle! The filter project I mentioned last month is in its final phase and will wrap up soon.

Now that you’re in summer mindset, it’s time to start making plans. Pool passes go on sale Monday April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Park District Office. The Early Bird Special runs April 23<sup>rd</sup> through May 11<sup>th</sup>.

The most popular place to spend May Day this year is at the Park District Office. Maureen, Yensy, Jackee, and I have started calling May 1<sup>st</sup> “Swim Day” instead of “May Day.” We will begin taking registrations for Swim Team, Swim Lessons and Pool Rentals on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Please note, these often fill up! Priority will be given to those who register in person (rather than over the phone). No May Baskets required.

While Spring Lake Pool is certainly a great place to spend time in the summer, kids benefit from some diversity in their day. If you’re a parent, you’ve likely found yourself in the “this summer will be the perfect summer” trap. You have envisioned “the perfect summer,” including planned activities, and day trips with your children, who will be thankful and well behaved. They will never have sticky faces or sour attitudes. Moreover, there are projects around the house that you know you can tackle in the summer! But the reality is, your kids have been sitting on the couch, playing video games for the past 2 hours. Now they’re complaining that they’re bored. You’ve been trying to set up a play date with other kids, but schedules aren’t lining up. You’re thinking of other options. Or maybe part of you secretly kind of dread summer break. You wonder what will I do with my kids every day while I’m at work? Daycare is \$150 a week! I could get a babysitter to come to the house, but that’s

expensive and I'll need back up people. Grandma and Grandpa aren't always available.

Now picture this: Dropping your kiddos off at a place they look forward to attending! A place with themes, games, crafts, and activities. A place they will see their friends and make new ones. A place with field trips, both local and out of town. A place with trips to Spring Lake Pool (at no additional cost). A place where many of the counselors work in education. And they get lunch and a snack! YES this exists! I'm so excited to be a Co-Director, along with Yensy Garcia, of the Rochelle Park District's Summer Day Camp. I believe in this program so strongly, my children have been attending for 7 and 3 years, respectively. My first grade daughter recently wrote an essay in school about what she was going to do this summer. She wrote about looking forward to seeing her Day Camp friends, playing Clue with her cool counselor, and Game Show Week (the kids come home with hilarious stories about playing Minute to Win It.) To me, knowing my children are excited to spend time in a safe, fun, hands on environment gives me peace when looking at our family calendar.

I encourage you to try our Summer Day Camp Program. Your child can attend daily or weekly. We have weekly rates of \$115R/\$130NR or they can attend for \$27/\$32 per day. (We do require registrations in advance.) Summer Day Camp begins June 4<sup>th</sup> and runs through August 10<sup>th</sup>. Join in the fun!