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June 4, 2020

Fellow Residents, Friends, and Community Members:

I reached out to you last month to advise you of the intentions of the Village Parks & Recreation Dept regarding potential activities and programs, in light of the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has created.

We have continued to remain in constant communication with both Suffolk County and NYS officials, hoping to adapt to the ever-changing guidance that they have been providing.

While waiting for, and anticipating, approval to open our municipal pool, we worked diligently to formulate a Pool Re-Opening Plan. We composed what we felt was an adequate plan to provide at least some relief for our residents for the summer months. Many municipalities had made the decision to not re-open their pools for the season. If you recall, in my May 4 post, I promised that the health, welfare, and safety of our residents would be our primary priority. When we reviewed the recently issued CDC and NYS guidelines, it became more and more apparent that compliance would be prohibitive for our Village staff to achieve, and that we did indeed run the risk of jeopardizing the health of our pool users, and extensively all Village residents. The requirements of adhering to the guidelines would have made it next to impossible to satisfy.

Therefore, it is with many mixed emotions that I now inform you that the decision has been made to not open our Patchogue Pool for 2020. I can tell you that this decision did not come easily, but again, your health & welfare is our main concern. The pool has provided much relief and pleasure to Village residents and surrounding community members since its grand opening in 1953, and was updated and rebuilt in 2007. This decision to close for this season is one which burdens our emotions greatly.

Unfortunately, we also have huge doubts that we can adequately provide any of the Summer Camp programs which many of you have appreciated and enjoyed throughout the years. Many of the Camp programs include activities which would make proper social distancing impossible, and pose an unnecessary threat to our children.

I hope that you understand our reasoning and support our decision.

Please feel free to reach out 631.475.1432 for further information.

Patchogue Perseveres!

Joseph Keyes, Trustee, Commissioner of Parks & Recreation

Maria Giustizia, Superintendent of Parks & Recreation