

News Release

The City of Oregon municipal swimming pool has provided service to the Oregon community since its construction in 1923. Over the past two decades repairs necessary to keep the pool operational have been addressed. The structural integrity of the east wall has now reached a level of concern for the safety of the children swimming in the pool. Equipment and chemical costs are now getting beyond our control and continue to climb. Over the last five years, year end transfers for maintenance and operational costs to the City have averaged \$5,640.00. Last year fund transfers totaled \$10,600.00. During these uncertain economic conditions, it is in the best interest of the community not to continue with costly upgrades or repairs to comply with state mandates to remain operational. Recent operational matters have forced the City to pay unemployment insurance to summer part time employees compounding the operational losses even further. New and more stringent standards and regulations pertaining to pool operations have been recently mandated by the state. These newer safety regulations are not items "grandfathered" through our licensing which in the past have allowed the pool to remain open. All things considered, we cannot in clear conscience and out of concern for everyone's safety operate a swimming facility risking the safety of Oregon families and children. The estimated cost of improvements to comply with state mandated standards and to restore the Oregon swimming pool to appropriate operating quality will exceed \$150,000.00 and could easily reach 300,000.00. Therefore, it is with a heavy heart that the City of Oregon must announce the closure of the municipal swimming pool. This has not been an easy decision or one taken lightly as we have exhausted every avenue available in order to delay this action as long as possible. Unfortunately and regrettably, and in the interest of everyone's safety and considering the estimated costs and the timing involved to comply with all regulations, this decision is necessary. City Council and staff are working closely with the Board of Commissioners and staff of the Oregon Park District to develop exciting new options with regard to developing a family fun and friendly, affordable outdoor spray park. We strongly support the Oregon Park District and urge everyone to use the Nash Recreation Center indoor swimming pool for your swimming needs, parties and swim lessons. The Oregon Park District is happy to accommodate everyone during this transition. On behalf of the City Council and staff, we wish to thank everyone for their understanding and faithful patronage over the years and for sharing in the fun at the Oregon community swimming pool.