

Hello!

Imagine that it is a hot, 90 degree day and a grandmother watching her grandchildren can't stand to see the kids play inside again. Where does she take them? Where can they burn off energy while staying cool? What place can she find that offers an enjoyable day socializing and exercising in the open air with a reasonable price? Our Community Pool.

We are so excited to make this fantasy a reality! We have planned a pool that will offer activities for all ages and will be affordable for any household. We are also pleased to send you this newsletter updating you on our progress. We hope you will enjoy reading it and continue to support us.

Sincerely,

Berwick Area Swimming Pool Association, Cooperative, Organization

List Board Members:

Bea Long	Jim Long
Cathy D'Ambrosio	Joshua Kishbaugh
Charles Stalega	Kay German
George Remensnyder	Matthew Getty
Ginny Crake	Pete Talanca
James Meighan	Wayne Strausser

Major Fundraisers.

We have raised close to \$100,000 with creative fundraisers like the Save the Swimming Pool Carnival, Duck Derby and the Berwick Area Regatta. The clothing drive has brought in \$5,627 alone. We have raised another \$150,000 with our large donations and pledges from the First Keystone Community Bank, Martz Technologies and private donors who like to remain anonymous. Thank you to everyone who has helped us come this far!

Central Susquehanna Community Foundation has awarded us a grant that will cover 29% of the final cost that we must match. We will know the final cost after the final bidding process in February, 2015.

Community Development Block Grant. We have applied and will receive \$53,000 from the County Commissioners through this granting process. It will pay for an ADA compliant access ramp to the entire facility and will partially pay for the zero entry ramp within the pool itself. We appreciate the consideration and generosity of the County Commissioners and the folks at the Housing Authority who've lent their time and expertise to this generation donation.

Special thanks to For the Cause who hosted their annual run to benefit the Ber-Vaughn Pool. It was a special day as four Pool members walked the course and enjoyed the chance to share our story with the large crowd of runners.

Construction

When starting a project like this, there are so many "unknowns". We were pleasantly surprised when so many area contractors stepped up offering to only charge material costs. We were also completely surprised when they said that our facility "wasn't so bad." Because of their in-kind support we have been able to pay off the entire bathhouse without taking a loan.

Thank you to all the Contractors that care about the Ber-Vaughn Pool.

CER Construction Corp/ Carl E. Rinehimer Excavating
Overhead Head Door Company

Jerry A. Conner Construction
MPS – Masonry Preservation Services
Berwick Area Joint Sewer Authority
Mike Knorr Hauling
Campbell Printing
Knorr Excavating
Kishbaugh Towing
Wash On Wheels (W.O.W)
Q&A Pest Control
Peters Consultants, Inc.
Howard Organization, Inc.
Tri-County Ace Hardware
Martz Technologies
J.B. Contracting
Forrester Environmental Incorporated

What's been happening?

The Bathhouse was originally thought to have needed to be torn down. Luckily, things were built well in the 1970's and this cement building only need minor masonry repairs completed in-kind by MPS. The locker rooms, concession stand, first aid room and office were gutted and power washed. All the doors were removed in anticipation of ADA compliant doors. The existing non-compliant ramps were removed also to aid in better ground maintenance. With the help of the Columbia County Work Release program, all the shrubs and trees were cut down and removed. To aid in the direction of rain water flow, concrete slabs were poured at the base of the bathhouse.

The small "kiddy" and "intermediate" pools were demolished and removed. They were the pools with the most damage and cracks over the years. The large main pool can hold over 500 people and will replace the need for two additional pools.

The main pool has been emptied and power washed to have a better understanding of its condition. We are all pleased to find it in great shape with some minor patch work needed. A wall was removed to accommodate a zero entry ramp adding 50 feet to the main pool's length.

[Caption under the Photo of INTERNS]Twenty PPL Susquehanna Interns spent the day power washing and painting the fence surrounding the pool complex.

The pump house was gutted and all the original 1970's equipment was removed. The pool will need a whole new plumbing and filtration system.

Hired Help

As we sat around a table in the Ber-Vaughn pool "office". We realized -- *oh my gosh* this is a big project – and that we might not be able to do this alone. So in interest of time and money, we agreed to hire Grimes Consulting a professional fundraiser. His job for the next year is to search out and write grants for our project. We look forward to the work he can do.

Rumor Mill

You may or may not know, the original contract with the Berwick Area United Way was for the United Way to withhold 10% of the money raised so that the Pool Authority would have to over fundraise and not come out with too much debt. That 10% was to be given back to the Pool Authority in a way the United Way would see fit. At this point, the Berwick Area United Way has not withheld any money and doesn't have a plan to do so, since over fundraising is probably not an option. We hope this clears up any doubt and creates confidence in the leadership making these big decisions.

The hot tub and wave pool are out. When we started this project, we set a large lofty goal that included all of our wildest dreams. We needed to dream big to fundraise big. As a group we decided to shoot for the dream because we knew limiting ourselves would also limit the attraction and donor giving. Just “opening the pool” was never the goal. We wanted and still do, want this to be an attractive water park that draws people to Berwick and it will be! There will be spraying water features, a large slide, lounging steps and a safe place for toddlers. It won't look like Dorney Park but it will be pretty awesome!

Final Design—your future pool! (picture of the design we agreed on)

Splash Pad is Phase II.

We will apply for a DCNR grant that would cover a considerable amount of a super fun, splash pad. The timing for this grant takes the splash pad out of the equation for a 2015 opening. We are deeming this “Phase II” and are highly optimistic of this outcome.

Re-gifting donation!

Did you receive a gift that you are never going to use? Not your taste? Or you have 6 of? Consider donating your unwanted Christmas gift to the Ber-Vaughn pool where we will create raffle baskets for our next fundraiser. We will put them to good use by making money for the pool. Items can be dropped off at the Berwick Area United Way or Campbell Printing anytime. We promise not to tell anyone!

Want to join us as a volunteer? Interested to learn more?

Contact us!

Berwick Area Swimming Pool WHATEVER

6084 Park Road

Berwick, PA 18603

Call Ginny at the United Way office for more information at 570-759-8203

Or email the WHATEVER at --

Picture of the Mailbox. Picture of Riverfest. Picture of us inside the pool hosing it out. Picture of Jim and Carl with the equipment. Newspaper clipping about the clothing drop off. Picture of PPL Interns.