

Brandon pool gets back in ‘swim’ of things (5-26-21)



After a year off and a new facelift, the Brandon Municipal Pool—located in Aspen Park—will be back and better than ever starting on Friday night.

The pool, which will open to the public at 6:30 p.m. Friday following a 4 p.m. ribbon-cutting ceremony, features a new splash pad, two new slides, new picnic tables, lounging chairs and shade canopies. Additionally, crews replaced the existing baby pool with a new zero-depth entry splash pad with water features and a tiered-play structure.

The existing pool and its diving boards remain intact.

Pool manager Tyson Newton says he's excited for the pool's new features.

"The slides are a very, very, very big upgrade, and the baby pool they actually ran [Thursday] morning, and it looks super nice," Newton said. "I think kids are really going to like it. I expect it to be one of our most popular things for sure."

With a staff of 23 lifeguards, including Newton, the pool will have nine lifeguards on duty at all times—with one stationed at the top of the slides.

Newton says training for the pool staff is going well.

"We have a really good group," Newton said. "So far everybody has meshed super well; it's been fun and productive. I'm confident that this will be a very good year."

Newton, whose first year with the pool was in 2016, says he's excited to simply have the pool open again after a year-long hiatus.

“It’s such a good place for the community, and it brings a lot of people together, and there are a lot of good memories to be made,” Newton said. “And, the kids have fun. Just having a place where people can come and enjoy themselves outside as compared to last year with feeling super trapped indoors—I’m just very glad that Brandon has been able to reclaim that spot.”

Despite the pool being closed last year, the pool manager says jumping back into the role hasn’t been difficult.

“When you become a lifeguard, you’re kind of always a lifeguard,” Tyson said. “Whenever I go to a pool nowadays, I notice myself lifeguarding, and I’m like, ‘This isn’t my job; I came for fun!’ So, it’s not super hard to jump back in. It’s more like, ‘Do we allow goggles or not? Oh, yeah, we do. I remember that.’ It’s little things.”

Open swim will be available daily from 1 to 4:50 p.m. and 6:30 to 8:50 p.m. The pool staff will utilize the 50/10 plan with the pool being cleared out for 10 minutes each hour.

Family swim will be open on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 5 to 6:20 p.m. Parents or adults must be in the water with any child under the age of 18.

Lap swim will be available on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 5 to 5:45 p.m. for ages 15 and older.

Water aerobics is offered Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 5:45 to 6:30 p.m. for ages 15 and older.

Information on season passes and daily fees can be found at <https://cityofbrandon.org/pool> or at City Hall. To reach pool staff, call 605-582-7555.

As a reminder, inflatable devices (including inflatable swimming suits) are not allowed; food, alcohol, glass, breakable items and bags or purses (except those carried by an adult) are not allowed in the pool area; and no running, wrestling or water fighting will be tolerated.

“I’m just really excited to have a good season,” Newton said. “I think the new upgrades have really brought the pool to a new level.”