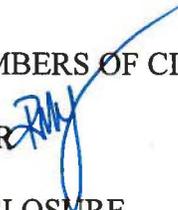


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 13, 2012
TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL
FROM: RASHAD M. YOUNG, CITY MANAGER 
SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO #11: EWALD POOL CLOSURE

This memorandum is in response to City Council's request for information on the recommended closure of the Ewald Pool originally built in 1969. Recreation Department staff proposed the closure of the Ewald Pool as part of the Proposed FY 2013 Operating Budget after conducting a cost/benefit analysis.

The seasonal cost to staff the Ewald Pool is \$18,500 plus an additional \$3,500 for the physical start-up and shutdown process for the facility. The pool operates for approximately 8 weeks/39 days per season, beginning the first full week in June, following the end of the Alexandria City Public Schools school year. The pool is open Monday through Friday from 12 noon to 6:00 p.m. There is no admission fee charged for using the pool.

The average daily attendance at the Ewald Pool over the past two years has not exceeded fifteen patrons per day. Recreation Department staff believes the lack of modern features and amenities contributes to the low attendance at this aquatic facility. Additionally, data captured as part of the Aquatic Facilities Master Plan indicated that forty-three West End apartment and condominium complexes provide their own pool amenities. Recreation Department staff expects the Aquatic Facilities Master Plan to be available for review in late March 2012.

Alternative City swimming pools within a four-mile radius of Ewald include the Rixse Pool at the Chinquapin Park Recreation Center, Old Town Pool, Warwick Pool and the Memorial Pool at the Charles Houston Recreation Center.

Thus, due to the high operating cost coupled with low attendance, lack of admission fees to sufficiently offset operating costs, and the availability of alternative facilities, we recommend closure of the Ewald Pool.

STAFF: Debra Collins, Assistant City Manager
Laura Triggs, Acting Chief Financial Officer
James Spengler, Director, RPCA
Morgan Routt, Acting Budget Director
Kendel Taylor, Assistant Budget Director