

PRESS RELEASE

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City of De Pere
335 South Broadway
De Pere, WI 54115-1199
www.de-pere.org

Contact: Andrew Pantzlaff
Communications Specialist
Phone: 920-339-2371
apantzlaff@mail.de-pere.org



De Pere hosting open house March 18 to look at pool design options

DE PERE, WIS. – After more than a half century of use, the City of De Pere’s outdoor pools at VFW and Legion Park will be replaced following the passage of a city-wide referendum held in November 2018. What new features and facilities will replace these aging pools? The next step toward finding out will be Monday, March 18.

On Monday from 6 to 8 p.m., the City of De Pere Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department will host an open house for the community to view design proposals and weigh in. The City’s consultant will be present to answer questions. All City of De Pere residents are encouraged to attend.

The open house will be held at City Hall (335 S. Broadway) in the Riverview Conference Room.

The City’s consultant for the project has been asked to develop two options for consideration in replacing the pools at Legion and VFW. The purpose of the Open House is to give citizens an opportunity to review, comment and ask questions about the design options that have been developed by the consultant.

From there, the Board of Park Commissioners will be reviewing the options at their March 21 meeting. The Park Board will use community input to assist them in developing one plan from the concepts.

This is the latest in a series of efforts to keep the community involved in the direction of De Pere’s aquatic facilities. In November, the community was able to vote on whether they wished to add up to \$900,000 per year to the tax levy for the purpose of constructing and operating two new aquatic facilities at VFW and Legion Park. That referendum passed with 7,268 residents, or 63%, voting in favor of the pool referendum. 4,294 (37%) voted against. From there, a public input forum hosted by the Board of Park Commissioners was held in January to obtain initial feedback on the design of these future aquatic facilities. An online survey for residents was also available.

Of important note regarding the current state of De Pere’s existing pools: VFW’s pool suffered severe structural damage last August during its routine, season-ending draining. It is believed that the drain tile, relief system failed as the pool was draining, resulting in swelling ground water pressure lifting and cracking various portions of the pools structure.

Estimated repair costs are \$800,000. VFW pool will not be open this summer as a result, and plans to accommodate an increase in swim lessons at Legion Pool are still being finalized.

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