



June 30, 2020

Dear Cornerstone Member,

Thank you for your patience as our community and our country have dealt with the global pandemic. The health and safety of our community has always been paramount. For this reason, Cornerstone Aquatics Center closed in March and currently remains closed. We now announce some unfortunate news regarding an extended closure as well as some good news.

Earlier this year, the Town engaged an architectural/design firm to evaluate the Cornerstone men's and women's locker rooms and the supporting floor underneath them. During the course of their assessment, they discovered significant structural concerns. They submitted renovation designs and the Town solicited Requests for Proposal. After we received professional proposals, the full scope of the work – and the potential length of time to accomplish it – became apparent. The contractor we chose proposes to do the work in two phases and estimates it will take up to six-and-a-half-months to finish.

- **Phase One** (July + August) is loud and dusty: it involves demolition of the existing floors, installation of new steel beams and pouring of new concrete flooring..
- **Phase Two** (September – mid January) includes plumbing, installation of new fixtures and tiles, and new lockers. Substantial completion would be by the end of December, and a full completion date is mid-January.

During Phase 2, we plan to reopen Cornerstone Aquatics Center with limited services to the public. Phase 2 is scheduled to begin around September 1. We will consult with federal, state and local health officials to develop a plan that embraces safety protocols. We will announce a reopening plan in late August.

The **good news** is that the Town will contract with HealthFitness to operate two outdoor pools – Fernridge Pool and Beachland Pool. Starting the week of July 20 through early September, we will offer lap swim, public swim and water fitness classes. The outdoor pools will open to Cornerstone members and West Hartford residents only with restricted capacity limits. Our operations will adhere to safety guidelines and enforce best practice in physical distancing, cleaning and disinfecting. Instructions on the swim reservation policy and the outdoor pool schedule will be e-mailed shortly by HealthFitness, and will be posted on Cornerstone Aquatics Center's website.

The Town of West Hartford and Health Fitness value you as members and patrons of Cornerstone Aquatics Center. We realize this extended closure will be difficult to endure. COVID-19 has challenged us all to be flexible and adaptable, and now an extensive restoration project tests our collective patience even further. The HealthFitness team will offer refunds or extend memberships, and support you, our swimming community, as best we can throughout the construction closure and partial reopening until full usage resumes.

To better serve you, please direct facility closure/renovation related questions to the Town's Director of Leisure Services, Helen.Rubino-Turco@WestHartfordCT.gov. For membership, program and operational questions, please contact the General Manager, Michael.Kerrigan@hfit.com.

We look forward to seeing everyone back at the pool.

Helen Rubino-Turco
Director, West Hartford Leisure Services

Mike Kerrigan
General Manager, Cornerstone Aquatics Center