

****City of Laramie Press Release****

****For Immediate Release****

Media Contacts:

Jay Sanford, Aquatic Supervisor Date: March 10, 2009

Laramie Community Recreation Center complies with new federal pool safety mandate

As of February 27, 2009 the Laramie Community Recreation Center has installed new grates in their three indoor swimming pools. These grates have been designed to further eliminate any chance for suction entrapment and are mandated by a federal law known as the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act. This act requires all public pools to be outfitted with specially designed drain covers and other anti-entrapment devices, on the pool pump inlets, to eliminate any chance for swimmers to be held under water by the suction of the pool circulation system. Following its enactment in December of 2007, the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act gave pool operators one year to bring their pools into compliance. Unfortunately, equipment manufactures were slow in their production of the necessary redesigned grates and are just now meeting the demands of the industry. Swimming pools across the country have been closed, or modified, until they meet the new mandate, but through a proactive approach by the Recreation and Facilities divisions, the Laramie Community Recreation Center will be able to keep its swimming pools open. The new grates can be found in the spa, 8 lane competition pool and in the leisure pool. The most notable location is in the lazy river where there are currently seven sets of these new grates installed. These new grates are raised, much like speed bumps and lazy river walkers are encouraged to watch their step as they exercise. Currently the lazy river will be operated at half capacity as we are awaiting the last shipment of grates to cover the two remaining drains in the lazy river area. New grates have also been

purchased for the outdoor pool, so it will be in compliance with the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act for the summer season.

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