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# MEMO

**To:** Mayor and Ames City Council  
**From:** Keith Abraham, Parks and Recreation Director  
**Date:** August 5, 2022  
**Subject:** Update: 2022 End of Season Hours at Furman Aquatic Center

As aquatic centers around central Iowa, the state, and across the nation have faced staffing shortages this summer, Furman Aquatic Center (FAC) is no exception. Throughout the 2022 summer season, staff has been forced to modify operating hours, reduce the number of basins open, and close amenities to ensure safe and State-required staffing levels to operate. With ongoing efforts to recruit, hire, and train staff; full operating hours, basins, and amenities have continually improved throughout the course of the summer.

**FAC currently employs 145 employees as lifeguards, water slide attendants, swim instructors, and/or admissions/concession staff. Lifeguards and waterslide attendants make up approximately 78% of the total staff and 70% of the total employees are between the ages of 15-17.**

With employees preparing to return to school, participate in extracurricular activities, or relocate to attend college FAC will experience a drastic decline in staff availability now through the end of the season (September 5). **A recent survey of staff shows that 24 lifeguards, six (6) water slide attendants, and 11 admission/concession staff will remain on staff through the end of the season with varying times of availability.**

Traditionally, FAC changes to school in-session hours once Iowa State University starts classes which is August 22 this year. Hours are reduced on weekdays to 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM (Adult Lap Swim, Tot Time, Adult Water Walking) and 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM (Open Swim). Weekend hours remain the same as summer hours, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM (Adult Lap Swim, Tot Time, Adult Water Walking) and 1:00 PM – 8:00 PM (Open Swim). It should be noted these hours of operation do not include private facility rentals.

**Furman Aquatic Center is one of the few aquatic centers in Iowa that operates until Labor Day, while some communities close their pools and aquatic centers once school begins.** With the staffing shortages experienced this year, communities like Nevada, Ankeny (Prairie Ridge Aquatic Center), Des Moines, Fort Dodge, and Cedar Rapids (Beaver, Ellis, Jones) will close on or prior to August 15. Other communities like West Des Moines, Ankeny (Cascade Falls), Coralville, and Cedar Rapids (Cherry Hill) will close August 21. Aquatic

Centers open through Labor Day (Iowa City and Noelridge in Cedar Rapids) offer reduced hours and programs during the week and on weekends.

**While the intended goal is to operate school in-session hours from August 22 – September 5 to their fullest, the reality is staffing will be increasingly difficult making this goal hard to achieve. Hours of operation may be subject to change based on staff availability to meet State requirements and ensure the safety of patrons and staff. These changes may result in altering times programs are offered, reducing hours of operation, and closing basins and amenities. Staff will continue to post weekly schedules so patrons are notified of what is anticipated to be open for each week. Daily changes, if necessary, will be posted on Facebook.**