2022 AQUATICS ANNUAL REPORT



10/19/2022

Aquatic Facilities

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Rice Pool and Water Park and Northside Family Aquatic Center operated from June 4th (the first day off school for CUSD 200) through Labor Day weekend. Both pools offer swim lessons, concessions, and a safe summer location for local family fun and recreation. Over the 2022 season, 116,435 patrons dove into our locations and enjoyed our facility amenities.

In 2023, Rice Pool will be entering its 34° year of operation, while Northside will enter its 30th year. Annual Pool Pass sales returned to normal in 2022, with preseason sales beginning during the week of Thanksgiving and continuing at a sliding scale until May 1st.

The Wheaton Park District would like to thank Wendy Russell for her continued support and hard work in her part-time role as the Assistant Aquatics and Safety Manager after retiring in 2017. She has been a mentor, coach, and supervisor to thousands of Wheaton teens and young adults.

The Wheaton Park District would also like to thank Thomas Grace for his dedication and support of the community. Tom has been an important staple at Northside Pool and continued his role in 2022 as not only an ambassador of aquatic safety and swim lessons, but also as a coach and mentor to the young employees.

2022 brought the most difficult season for hiring aquatics staff in memory. With nearly 100 less employees than the 2019 season, the post pandemic job market has proven difficult for aquatics worldwide. The Wheaton Park District remains committed to searching for innovative and creative ways to entice potential applicants to spend their summer working in our aquatics department.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Wheaton Park District aquatic facilities employed 226 individuals during the 2022 summer season; Rice Pool employed 141 while Northside Pool employed 85. 98% of the pool staff are high school or college aged.
- Wheaton residents accounted for 77% of aquatic staff, resulting in approximately \$426,700 returned to the local economy through wages.



The Wheaton Park District participated in the Ellis & Associates International Pool and Water Safety Lifeguard Training Programs. Through this program and certification agency, lifeguards are audited on an individual basis as well as through Team Management Rescues. Audits are done by Ellis & Associates representatives with lifeguards being scored on skills such as professionalism, personal safety, aquatic accident prevention, observational skills, managing aquatic emergencies and team rescues.



- Both Northside Family Aquatic Center and Rice Pool and Water Park received three "Exceeds" on the 2022 audits for Ellis & Associates. Scores can be Exceeds, Meets, and Fails based on actions by lifeguards.
- A job at one of our aquatic facilities is a first time employment opportunity for most of our staff. Safety and customer service is the utmost priority. Weekly in-services and daily pre-shift meetings ensure our facilities' excellence. Lifeguards average over 110 hours of training, while water park and concessions staff average 30 hours of training per season. Sustained increases in preseason training were possible due to the later start of the season in 2022.

- Lifeguard overtime increased in 2022 due to staff shortages. 110 total lifeguards were hired for both facilities, with 16 lifeguard hires resigning before trainings began, 7 candidates withdrawing from class, and 6 candidates not passing. An additional 5 lifeguards quit in season for various reasons including health concerns. There were a total of 76 lifeguards between both facilities by July 25th (29 at Northside and 47 at Rice).
- A Thanksgiving Sale was offered November 22 to December 20. During the sale, 2,441 passes were sold at a 20% discount five months prior to opening day. During the winter 15% discount period (December 21 thru January 17) 641 passes were sold. The pre-season 10% discount rate was offered January 18 to April 30, 2,410 passes were sold. Regular season rates began May I. From May I throughout the 2022 season 3,262 passes were sold. 63% of total sales occurred during a discounted period.



- Returning to the 2 week sessions for the 2022 season, the swim lesson program experienced strong enrollment and very high attendance throughout the summer. Waitlists were cleared at both pools and included in classes. Only 2 days of swim lessons were affected by inclement weather.
- The Parent and Tot program was successfully modified this summer to include Thursday evening classes and the Saturday class. The half-hour weekly lesson provided parents the opportunity to learn techniques to get their young children comfortable in water. Participation held steady with smaller class sizes and increased options for parents.

- The Barracuda Swim Team enrollment totaled 112 participants this season. We had returning head coach Mike Gasso and three assistant coaches, Sam Clark, Chloe Verhagen, and Trista Felker.
- The Barracudas Swim Team returned to the Western Suburban Swim Conference after a 2021 hiatus where we successfully ran internal meets. The Conference ran with 7 teams this season, and concluded with the "A" Conference Meet hosted at Rice Pool on July 23rd. The Wheaton Barracudas rallied at home to take third in the conference.



- Wheaton is not scheduled to host a conference meet until the 2028 season.
- This was the third year Swim Instructors received uniforms for their time in the water. Parents liked the uniforms as it made it easier to distinguish who instructors were. The uniforms also acted as another form of marketing for our swim lessons.
- Daily safety checks continued to be implemented at both facilities in 2022. These daily checks ensure our ability to account for any children and guests accompanying them for the day and occur roughly around 2pm each day. It also grants staff the opportunity to market swim lessons and concessions as well as issue heat advisories. This procedure is well received by patrons.
- Ice Cream sales at both pools totalled \$41,628 gross revenue, with Dippin' Dots bringing in \$25.640 of that total. Rice Pool's concessions sold a total of 5,904 units of French Fries over the summer, while both facilities sold 2,004 units of pretzels, and a total of 2,445 units of hot dogs.



ATTENDANCE

Rice Pool and Water Park

RICE POOL	2022 Season	2021 Season	2019 Season	Increase (Decrease) from last season	Percent Increase (Decrease) from last season
Pool Pass Visits	44,898	47,680	4 0,191	(2,782)	(5.8%)
Daily Admissions Paid	21,028	22,813	18,605	(1,785)	(7.8%)
Camps	4,146	3,140	5,848	1,006	32%
In-House Swim Lesson and Swim Team	12,230	11,203	11,308	1,027	9.2%
Total	82,302	84,836	75,952	(2,534)	(3%)
Days Open	79	77	96	2	2.6%
Avg. Daily Attendance	1,042	1,102	791	(60)	(5.4%)
Did Not Open	4	1	2	3	300.00%

- Rice Pool saw a decrease of (2,534) patrons compared to the 2021 season.
- Rice Pool's 2022 scheduled season operated 2 more days compared to the 2021 season due to the June 4-regular season start and the CUSD 200 school schedule.
- Starting the season after Memorial Day allowed staff to more effectively train new staff and lifeguards with smaller class sizes mandated by local, state, and Ellis & Associates Lifeguard Licensing standards. Returning staff from college received more trainings and enhanced preparation than previously possible.
- Camps at Rice saw an increase in camp attendance compared to the 2021 season as external camps began to return to normalcy and traveled to outside facilities in 2022.



ATTENDANCE

Northside Pool

NORTHSIDE POOL	2022 Season	2021 Season	2019 Season	Increase (Decrease) from last season	Percent Increase (Decrease) from last season
Pool Pass Visits	17,189	18,252	19,158	(1,063)	(5.8%)
Daily Admissions	4,044	4,038	4,664	6	0.1%
Camp Visits	2,004	2,094	2,458	(90)	(4.3%)
In-House Swim Lesson and Swim Team	10,896	10,069	12,030	827	8.2%
Total	34,133	34,453	38,310	(320)	(0.9%)
Days Open	72	72	74	0	0.0%
Avg. Daily Attendance	474	479	518	(4)	(0.9%)
Did Not Open	3	1	2	2	200.0%

Northside Pool saw a decrease of (320) patrons from the 2021 season.



- Northside Pool's 2022 scheduled season operated with the same scheduled days in the 2021 season due to the June 4-regular season start and the CUSD 200 school schedule.
- Starting the season after Memorial Day allowed staff to more effectively train new staff and lifeguards with smaller class sizes mandated by local, state, and Ellis & Associates Lifeguard Licensing standards. Returning staff from college received more trainings and enhanced preparation than previously possible.

TOTAL POOL PASSES SOLD

Total Pool Passes Sold	2022 Season	2021 Season	2019 Season	Increase (Decrease) from Last season	Percentage Increase (Decrease) from Last season
Resident	7,882	7,036	7,037	846	12.0%
Non-Resident	872	637	597	235	36.9%
Total	8,754	7,673	7,634	1,081	14.1%

- Nonresident passes represent nearly 10% of the total passes sold. This was a 2% increase over the 2021 season.
- Pool pass gross revenue increased \$115,384 from 2021.
- A Thanksgiving Sale was offered November 22 to December 20. During the sale, 2,441 passes were sold at a 20% discount five months prior to opening day. During the winter 15% discount period (December 21 thru January 17) 641 passes were sold. The pre-season 10% discount rate was offered January 18 to April 30, 2,410 passes were sold. Regular season rates began May I. From May I throughout the 2022 season 3,262 passes were sold.
- A regular season resident family of 4 paid \$240, while a non-resident family of 4 paid \$340.

TOTAL PAID DAILY ADMISSION VISITS

Resident Daily Admission	2022 Season	2021 Season	2019 Season	Increase (Decrease) from last season	Percentage Increase (Decrease) from Last season
Northside	3,140	3,571	4,072	(431)	(12.1%)
Rice	12,276	13,300	12,071	(1,024)	(7.7%)
Total	15,416	16,871	16,143	(1,455)	(8.6%)
Resident % of Total Daily Admission	65%	63%	69%		(6.0%)

Non-Resident Daily Admission	2022 Season	2021 Season	2019 Season	Increase (Decrease) from last season	Percentage Increase (Decrease) from last season
Northside	618	467	587	151	32.3%
Rice	7,850	9,513	6,534	(1,663)	(17.5%)
Total	8,468	9,980	7,121	-1,512	(15.2%)
Non-Res % of Total Daily Admission	35%	37%	31%		6.0%

COMBINED ATTENDANCE AND WEATHER

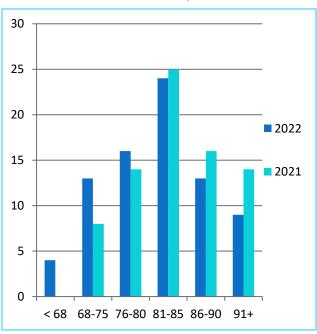
Average daily attendance between the facilities remained high in 2022 despite a lower total patron number compared to 2021. This was partially due to continued increases in demand from patrons as external pools operated with shortened hours and closed earlier in the season.

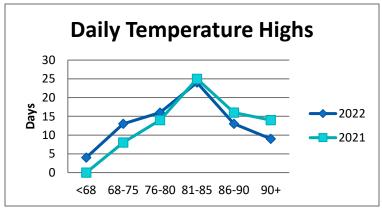
Rice Northside Combined Attendance	2022 Season	2021 Season	2019 Season	Increase (Decrease) from last season	Percentage Increase (Decrease) from last season
Total Patrons	116,435	119,289	114,262	(2,85 4)	(2. 4 %)
Daily Average Patrons	1,474	1,549	1,190	(75)	(4.9%)

2022 recorded 46 days (58% of the season) over 80 degrees compared to 55 days (71%) in the 2021 season. Days under 75 degrees doubled in 2022 to 17 days,

an increase to 21% of all days in 2022 compared to 8 days (10%) in 2021.

Daily High Temp.	2022 Total Days in Temp. Range	2021 Total Days in Temp. Range	2022 Percent of Total Days	2021 Percent of Total Days
₹68	4	0	5%	0%
69-75	13	8	16%	10%
76-80	16	14	20%	18%
81-85	24	25	30%	32%
86-90	13	16	16%	21%
91+	9	14	11%	18%





AQUATIC BUDGET ANALYSIS

Budget analysis is based on September 2022 financial status report and year end projections.

REVENUE	2022 Season Actual	2021 Season Actual	2019 Season Actual	Increase (Decrease) from last season	Percent Increase (Decrease) from last season
Rice Pool	701,477	65 4 ,202	573,876	4 7,275	7.2%
Northside	292,679	227,628	250,137	65,051	28.6%
Total	994,156	881,830	824,013	112,326	12.7%
EXPENSE	2022 Season Actual	2021 Season Actual	2019 Season Actual	Increase (Decrease) from last season	Percent Increase (Decrease) from last season
Rice Pool	815,806	722,327	689,199	93,479	12.9%
Northside	335,250	320,705	306,196	14,545	4.5%
Total	1,151,056	1,043,032	995,395	108,024	10.4%



Aquatic Revenue & Expense Comparison 2022 vs 2021 Revenue Increased by \$112,326

- Pool Pass Sales Increased by \$115,384
- Daily Admission Decreased (\$36,013)
- Swim Lessons Increased \$16,325
- Guest Passes Increased \$11,533
- Concession Sales Increased \$6,426
- Pool Rentals and Sponsorships Decreased (\$1,329)

2022 vs 2021 Expense Increased by \$108,024

- Parks expenses Increased by \$42,120
- Aquatics Wages Increased by \$49,746
- Aquatics Supplies Increased by \$15,615
- Aquatic Marketing Increased by \$543

NET Balance	2022 Season Actual	2021 Season Actual	2019 Season Actual	Increase (Decrease) from last season
Rice Pool Balance (Revenue over Expenses)	(114,329)	(68,125)	(115,323)	(46,204)
Northside Balance (Revenue over Expenses)	(42,571)	(93,077)	(56,059)	50,506
Total Balance (Revenue over Expenses)	(156,900)	(161,202)	(171,382)	4,302

FINANCIAL COMPARISON

Pool Pass Financials

REVENUE	2022 Budgeted Pool Pass Revenue	2022 Actual Pool Pass Revenue	Increase (Decrease) Budgeted Pool Pass Revenue	2021 Actual Pool Pass Revenue	Increase (Decrease) 2021 v. 2022 Actual	Percentage Increase (Decrease) 2021 v. 2022 Actual
Rice	300,000	346,948	46,948	269,726	77,222	28.6%
Northside	150,000	170,884	20,884	132,722	38,162	28.8%
Total	450,000	517,832	67,832	402,448	115,384	28.7%

²⁰²² pool pass sales increased by \$115,384 compared to 2021 season.

Guest Pass Financials

REVENUE	2022 Budgeted Guest Passes Revenue	2022 Actual Pool Pass Revenue	Increase (Decrease) Budgeted Pool Pass Revenue	2021 Actual Pool Pass Revenue	Increase (Decrease) 2021 v. 2022 Actual	Percentage Increase (Decrease) 2021 v. 2022 Actual
Rice	15,000	7, 4 22	(7,578)	0	7, 4 22	0.0%
Northside	7,000	4,111	(2,889)	0	4,111	0.0%
Total	22,000	11,533	(10,467)	0	11,533	0.0%

Guest booklets were not offered for the 2021 season due to evolving COVID-19 guidelines. Patrons may not have been aware of the option due to a 2 year hiatus.

Admission Financials

REVENUE	2022 Budgeted Daily Admission Revenue	2022 Actual Daily Admission Revenue	Increase (Decrease) Budgeted Daily Admission Revenue	2021 Actual Daily Admission Revenue	Increase (Decrease) 2021 v. 2022 Actual	Percentage Increase (Decrease) 2021 vs. 2022 Actual
Rice	150,000	179,812	29,812	213,663	(33,851)	(15.8%)
Northside	35,000	28,705	(6,295)	30,867	(2,162)	(7.0%)
Total	185,000	208,517	23,517	2 44 ,530	(36,013)	(14.7%)

²⁰²² daily admissions decreased (\$36,013) compared to 2021.

Combined Pool Pass, Admission, and Guest Pass

2022 Gross Actual	2021 Gross Actual	Increase	Percentage Increase
Combined Admissions	Combined Admissions	(Decrease)	(Decrease) 2022 vs.
Revenue	Revenue	2022 vs. 2021	2021
737,882	646,978	90,904	14.1%

CONCESSIONS

REVENUE	2022 Actual Concession Revenue	Actual Concession Revenue		Percentage Increase (Decrease) from last season
Rice	92,225	88,578	3,647	4.1%
Northside	17,544	14,765	2,779	18.8%
Total	109,769	103,343	6, 4 26	6.2%

EXPENSES	2022 Actual Concession Expense	2021 Actual Concession Expense	Increase (Decrease) from last season	Percentage Increase (Decrease) from last season
Rice	56,323	46,568	9,755	20.9%
Northside	13,248	11,901	1,347	11.3%
Total	69,571	58,469	11,102	19.0%

2022 Concession Net	2021 Concession Net	Increase (Decrease) from last season	Percentage Increase (Decrease) from last season
40,198	44,874	(4,676)	(10. 4 %)



3 Concession Attendants cost the same in wages (\$30.50) in 2022 as 4 Concessions Attendants in 2019 (\$31.75). Wage expenses increased to provide the expected customer service and to maintain the high volume associated with our revenue goals.



SWIM LESSONS

In 2022, the swim lesson program operated at a 52% profit percentage.

SWIM LESSONS REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS	2022 Season	2021 Season	2019 Season	Increase (Decrease) from last season	Percentage Increase (Decrease) from Last season
Northside Pool	1,117	1,090	1,089	27	2.5%
Rice Pool	1,090	2,166	1,635	(1,076)	(49.7%)
Total	2,207	3,256	2,724	(1,049)	(32.2%)

- Rice and Northside are proud to offer and provide swim lessons to the local community. This vital life skill is an important part of youth development and introduces families to safety around water.
- Returning to the 2 week sessions for the 2022 season, the swim lesson program experienced strong enrollment and very high attendance throughout the summer. This return to normalcy affects direct comparisons to the 2021 season, as Rice reduced the amount of classes offered by half (eight I-week sessions down to four 2-week sessions) and Northside Pool was able to increase participant capacity to pre-

pandemic numbers. Waitlists were cleared at both pools and included in classes. Only 2 days of swim lessons were affected by inclement weather.

Staffing challenges extended beyond lifeguard staff into swim instructors in 2022. In 2019, 87 Swim Instructors were employed by the Park District (56 at Rice, 31 at Northside). 2021 and 2022 have both seen drastically less Swim Instructor applicants, with a total of 56 Swim Instructors in 2022 (31 at Rice, 24 at Northside).

New and current competition in swim lesson programs is offered year-round at indoor swimming facilities. Local swim lesson competition includes Goldfish Swim School (3 miles away), Aqua-Tots Swim School (I mile), British Swim School of DuPage (3 miles), Wheaton Sports Complex (1 mile), and B.R. Ryall YMCA (3 miles). Some competitors require payment plans mirroring subscriptions, making it difficult to pull students from their program during the summer months.



SWIM LESSONS

REVENUE	2022 Budgeted Swim Lesson Revenue	2022 Actual Swim Lesson Revenue	Increase (Decrease) Budgeted Swim Lesson Revenue	2021 Actual Swim Lesson Revenue	Increase (Decrease) 2021 v. 2022 Actual	Percentage Increase (Decrease) 2021 v. 2022 Actual
Rice	55,000	54,588	(4 12)	61,491	(6,903)	(11.2%)
Northside	58,000	65,953	7,953	42,725	23,228	54.4%
Total	113,000	120,541	7,541	104,216	16,325	15.7%

Post pandemic, Swim Lessons reverted back to the 2 week lesson schedule historically used. Northside was able to increase participant capacity to pre pandemic numbers.

EXPENSES	2022 Budgeted Swim Lesson PT Wages	2022 Actual Swim Lesson PT Wages	Increase (Decrease) Budgeted Swim Lesson Revenue	2021 Actual Swim Lesson Revenue	Increase (Decrease) 2021 v. 2022 Actual	Percentage Increase (Decrease) 2021 v. 2022 Actual
Rice	32,000	29,018	(2,982)	29,547	(529)	(1.8%)
Northside	31,000	28,5 4 0	(2,460)	21,924	6,616	30.2%
Total	63,000	57,558	(5,442)	51,471	6,087	11.8%



2022 Net Balance Swim Lessons	2021 Net Balance Swim Lessons	Increase (Decrease) 2022 vs. 2021	Percentage Increase (Decrease) 2022 vs. 2021
62,983	52,745	10,238	19. 4 %

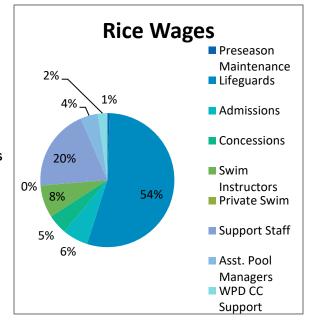
PART TIME WAGES

Rice Pool and Water Park

Rice Pool's 2022 scheduled season operated 2 additional days compared to the 2021 season due to the June 4-regular season start and the CUSD 200 school schedule.

Rice Pool	2022 Budgeted PT Wages	2022 Actual PT Wages	Increase (Decrease) Budgeted PT Wages	2021 Actual PT Wages	Increase (Decrease) Actual 2021 vs. 2022	Percentage Increase (Decrease) 2021 vs. 2022
Preseason Maintenance	1,600	2,005	405	1,909	96	5.0%
Lifeguards	187,000	201,314	14,314	170,387	30,927	18.2%
Admissions	22,760	22,986	226	22,268	718	3.2%
Concessions	15,000	17,618	2,618	16,516	1,102	6.7%
Swim Instructors	32,000	29,018	(2,982)	29,547	(529)	(1.8%)
Private Swim	302	92	(210)	0	92	100%
Support Staff	71,200	73,280	2,080	70,278	3,002	4.3%
Asst. Pool Managers	11,000	15,423	4,423	19,549	(4,126)	(21.1%)
WPD CC Support	10,000	8,581	(1,419)	4,810	3,771	78. 4 %
Lifeguard Overtime	0	18,006	18,006	15,960	2,046	12.8%
Rice Totals	350,862	388,323	37, 4 61	351,224	37,099	10.6%

- Lifeguard wages increased in 2022 due to the increase in minimum wage and increasing all lifeguards to the adult minimum wage rate (all lifeguards under 18 made \$12 per hour instead of \$9.25).
- Lifeguard overtime increased in 2022 due to staff shortages. 110 total lifeguards were hired for both facilities, with 16 lifeguard hires resigning before trainings began, 7 candidates withdrawing from class, and 6 candidates not passing. An additional 5 lifeguards quit in season for various reasons including health concerns. There were a total of 76 lifeguards between both facilities by July 25th (29 at Northside and 47 at
- Wages were increased for all staff for those who worked the last 3 weekends in the postseason at Rice. Lifeguards received \$15 per hour and all other staff received \$14 per hour.

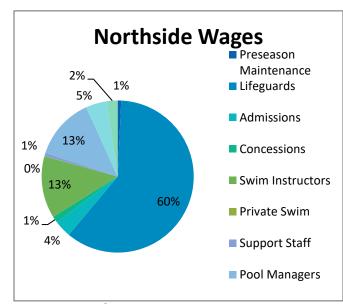


Northside Pool

Northside's 2022 scheduled season operated the same amount of days as the 2021 season due to the June 4-regular season start and the CUSD 200 school schedule.

Northside Pool	2022 Budgeted PT Wages	2022 Actual PT Wages	Increase (Decrease) Budgeted PT Wages	2021 Actual PT Wages	Increase (Decrease) Actual 2021 vs. 2022	Percentage Increase (Decrease) 2021 vs. 2022
Preseason Maintenance	1,200	1,204	4	473	731	15 4 .5%
Lifeguards	87, 4 00	97,140	9,740	92,038	5,102	5.5%
Admissions	6,000	5,787	(213)	6,207	(420)	(6.8%)
Concessions	2,570	2,223	(347)	2,091	132	6.3%
Swim Instructors	23,000	21,242	(1,758)	14,619	6,623	45.3%
Private Swim	300	64	(236)	0	64	100%
Support Staff	1,200	1,124	(76)	1,163	(39)	(3.4%)
Pool Managers	22,200	21,193	(1,007)	24,670	(3,477)	(14.1%)
Swim Team Coaches	8,000	7,298	(702)	7,305	(7)	(0.1%)
WPD CC Support	4,500	3,640	(860)	2,028	1,612	79.5%
Lifeguard Overtime	0	4,911	4,911	2,585	2,326	90.0%
Northside Totals	156,370	165,826	9,456	153,179	12,647	8.3%

- Lifeguard wages increased in 2022 due to the increase in minimum wage and increasing all lifeguards to the adult minimum wage rate (all lifeguards under 18 made \$12 per hour instead of \$9.25).
- Lifeguard overtime increased in 2022 due to staff shortages. 110 total lifeguards were hired for both facilities, with 16 lifeguard hires resigning before trainings began, 7 candidates withdrawing from class, and 6 candidates not passing. An additional 5 lifeguards quit in season for various reasons including health concerns. There were a total of 76 lifeguards between both facilities by July 25th (29 at Northside and 47 at Rice).



Lollapalooza, an annual 4 day music festival, also caused significant overtime as Aquatics Staff fell directly into the event's target audience.

SUMMARY



Rice Pool and Northside Pool concluded a safe and successful 2022 season. While Exceeding all Ellis & Associates audits and seeing record numbers in Pool Pass sales, both Rice and Northside experienced increased program attendance numbers in swim lessons and a return to normalcy with camps both internal and external.

The financial strength of the 2022 season came at the beginning of summer, with a stretch of 85 degree or hotter days that

drove regular season pool passes beyond what we have seen before. Heat coupled with crippling gas prices may have caused families to rethink their summer plans and may have influenced their budgeting to spend their time and money near home. Pool Admissions staff were also critical in discussing the benefits of pool passes with families that were undecided or to new community members.

The challenges of the season occurred in August and September, when poor weather and staffing concerns begin annually. This year, August produced 6 days under 70 degrees with none exceeding 90 degrees on an operational day. Historically, only 7% of Labor Days reach 90 degrees or above. By the time the weather begins to turn, staff begin to leave for college or start their athletic seasons. The downside of

Labor Day Weather History Chicago, IL Average High: 78° Average Low: 62° Warmest: 97° (1954) 7% of Labor Days are 90°+ Coldest Low: 44° (1946, 1988) Coldest High: 61° (1974) Wettest: 1.79 in. (2018) Measurable rain 31% of Labor Days National Weather Service Chicago weather gov/chicago Updated: 2022

hiring the best of our local community is that the best are actively engaged in extra-curricular activities at a high rate or are in advanced placement programs academically, which affects their availability to continue working once the school year begins.

A challenging trend throughout the aquatics industry has been the lifeguard shortage. While the Wheaton Park District was not immune to this shortage, we have cultivated and maintained a higher return rate than many of our local competitors. In the offseason, the Aquatics department continues to engage potential returners and begins creating buzz through the school district in the winter months to help combat employee shortages.

The Aquatics Department continues to learn and grow as we navigate the postpandemic employment market and global and local aquatic industry trends. We look forward to the 2023 season as recruitment begins in January 2023.