

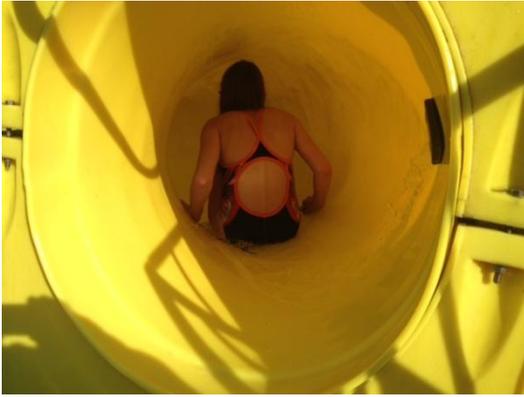


Crowds Fill Pool April 4

Hundreds Brave Chill for Sunny Pool Thrills

Hundreds of men, women and children ranging from toddlers to elders crowded the Vashon Pool on Saturday, April 4, for a one-day only free swim day to thank the Vashon community. With warm sun offsetting the chilly air, attendance reached summer levels, according to Pool Manager Scott Bonney. Amid the celebratory shouts was the quote of the day, shouted out from the stairway leading up to the waterslide: “This is the best day before Easter ever!”





Above right, impatient swimmers wait their turn for the waterslide. Above left, pool noodles, aqua mats and water basketball keep the shallow-enders busy. At left, volunteer Ruta Milewska launches herself into the hard work cleaning the inside of the slide before Free Swim Day began.

Lap swimmers filled the pool from 11-1, followed by hordes of recreational swimmers who took delight in the water slide, the diving board and the noodle floats from 1 pm until the 3 pm closing that made everyone feel sad. The pool water temperature reached 86 degrees, a few degrees warmer than typical summer temperatures, a bonus considering the 48-degree air temperature. The sun-splashed deck buzzed with conversations among parents. As one youngster compelled to exit the pool by its imminent closure lamented, “My shorts are so cold I can hardly move!”

Another big success was the sale of season passes. Bonney said he was very pleased that early bird discounts on season passes were well received. **These discounts will be available through opening weekend, which begins May 23.**

Volunteers from Friends of Vashon Pool and the Vashon Seals Swim Team assisted pool staff with setup, cleanup and serving hot soup, ice cream, hot chocolate and brownies. Music was provided by Chip Lamason. The day began with the requisite clean up and warming up the locker rooms. The job in highest demand among the participating young people was cleaning the inside of the water slide, which required – of course! – going down the slide while cleaning.

The VHS Marketing Class joined the crowds, represented by teacher Richard Montague and students Max England, Lilianna Herrington, Camron McSween and

Gabrielle Pearson. At the event, the class conducted a marketing survey and collected video footage for future projects. They had also produced the Friends of Vashon Pool flyer highlighting the group's long-term vision for a year-round pool.

The Marketing Class will produce a summer-long marketing campaign to support the pool, the first ever.

Among the visitors were Elaine Ott, Executive Director of the Vashon Park District, along with two of her board members, Scott Harvey and Doug Ostrom (though none of the three got in the water – maybe next time!)

