

Clifton Meadows Celebrates 50 years!!

2005 marks the 50th anniversary of Clifton Meadows Swim and Tennis Club. The club has been a neighborhood institution since its inception in 1955. This private club sits within the city, while still offering its members a much-welcomed retreat. Nestled amid acres of green space, the club allows for a quick escape from busy life. Clifton Meadows is located at 4045 Egbert Avenue (off Amazon Avenue) and has been undergoing a series of upgrades over the last few years culminating in a new stainless steel diving pool. Events are planned throughout the summer to celebrate the anniversary, including new-member cookouts, The Ultimate Pig Roast, and children's parties.

In 1955, residents of Clifton were approached to create a community swim club for the families of Clifton on a farm that sat off Egbert Avenue. Residents agreed to the location with one of the stipulations being that it served all of Clifton without discrimination. They wanted a true community club. They got it. Residents worked together on weekends to do things such as tearing down the barn that sat on the property and digging the ditches for the water lines down to the street. Judge Arthur Spiegel, longtime Clifton resident and one of the founding members of the pool, remembers the working parties. He worked during weekends along side his neighbors: doctors, lawyers, plumbers, and professors, digging the ditch for the water line. It was a real community effort. The pool built served generations of Clifton residents until it was upgraded this year.

The club has grown to include 3 pools that meet the varying needs of club members: a 6 lane competition pool allows for regular lap swimming, a 1.5 foot wading pool welcomes small children and gives parents a secure feeling, and the new diving pool which begins at a 3 foot depth and gently slopes toward the expanded 12.6 ft. deep end and 2 diving boards. Detachable steps are being added in the lap pool for members' convenience. The club also provides full court basketball, sand volleyball, shuffle board, 2 play sets, charcoal grills and picnic tables and 6 tennis courts, 4 of which are lighted and used year-round.

Summer evenings find families meeting at the pool to grill out and share a meal in the shaded picnic area. Family and friends' potlucks, birthday parties, and gatherings are held here with picnic tables filled with summer food and drinks. Miriam Bible and her family, Clifton residents for 15 years, have been meeting as long with friends for a weekly potluck at the pool's picnic area. She says, "We met these other families at the park when our children were infants. We are still meeting for meals and look forward to the summer potlucks as a way to reconnect during the summer when the pace slows down and we can enjoy each other's company." Although children in Clifton attend a number of different schools, summers at the pool get them interacting with their neighbors. It has a true community spirit.

Clifton Meadows provides the children of members with the wonderful opportunity to participate in the team sports of swimming and diving. The teams practice daily throughout the summer with qualified, experienced coaches. The Coho's of Clifton

Meadows earned the “Spirit Award” for their enthusiastic support of their swim and diving team during the 2004 summer season. The parents, swimmers, and fans are proud of their team. Through daily workouts the members of the team are on the road to healthy living and physical fitness in a fun setting. James DelGado, 9, a member of the swim team for 3 years says, “The swim team is fun because you get a work-out, you make friends, and you get to go to meets.” His sister, Marissa, 7, says “ I have been swimming on the team for 2 years, I am getting very fast from practicing and because you can be with your friends, practice is a lot of fun!”

Clifton Meadows also provides members and their children with free tennis clinics for novice and advanced players. There are also tennis teams for youth and adults as well as special events such as parent-child round robin and mixed doubles. Private lessons are also available from the club’s experienced tennis staff. Year-round on nice days you can usually find members playing tennis.

The Meadows is one of the highlights of our neighborhood and is a great way to spend the summer, meet other families, swim and play tennis, have picnics and parties in a beautiful secluded setting. It is open daily Memorial Day through Labor Day.

For more information you can visit their web site and www.cliftonmeadows.com