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FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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## **PARTNERSHIP MAKES SPLASH FOR SUMMER SWIMMING PROGRAM**

*YMCA of Greater Erie to run summer recreational swimming program at Rodger Young Swimming Pool*

Erie, PA - A rising number of children can look forward to excruciatingly boring school breaks this year as budget crises in places such as New York, Washington, D.C., Houston and Detroit rob them of the activities and programs that have long defined summer in the city for urban youngsters. Swimming pools are being closed. Recreation centers are locking their doors. Library summer reading programs are suffering. Openings for short-term jobs have evaporated. (*Associated Press May 29, 2011*)

In the City of Erie, collaborative public-private partnerships fund a very full summer of recreational programming throughout City of Erie parks ([http://www.erie.pa.us/pdf/2011\\_city\\_recreation\\_guide.pdf](http://www.erie.pa.us/pdf/2011_city_recreation_guide.pdf)).

Today, in a joint announcement among the City of Erie, the Housing Authority of the City of Erie, and the YMCA of Greater Erie, officials told neighborhood kids and families that the Rodger Young Swimming Pool would open again this summer for recreational swimming – and, be open five weeks longer than before.

"We welcome the YMCA of Greater Erie as a community partner in this endeavor and look forward to an extended summer swim program at the Rodger Young Pool. Erie's youth will benefit from the generosity the Housing Authority of the City of Erie and our affiliation with the YMCA," says City of Erie Mayor Joseph E. Sinnott.

The Rodger Young Swimming Pool is set to open on Tuesday, June 14 from 12-5 p.m. and will be open regularly Monday-Saturday, 12-5 p.m. YMCA staff is hosting a Meet & Greet BBQ and swimmer registration tonight, Monday, June 13 from 4-7 p.m. The pool will remain open through Aug. 20.

"We have over 500 children under the age of 18 that live within walking distance of the Rodger Young Swimming Pool," says Housing Authority of the City of Erie Executive Director John Horan. "Swimming is a summer pastime they enjoy."

The Rodger Young Pool Open Swim program offers youth through 18 years old open, free, recreational swimming in a safe and guarded environment.

**YMCA OF GREATER ERIE WWW.YMCAERIE.ORG**

Our Mission: To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all.



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All swimmers must be registered and will take a swimming skills test to gauge the swimmer's abilities. Swimmers under the age of 6 years old must be accompanied by an adult in the water; parents of swimmers ages 6 & 7 must present birth certificate.

"As the largest provider of youth development, healthy living and social responsibility programs in Erie County, we feel that this additional element of partnership with the City of Erie and the Housing Authority of the City of Erie is an appropriate compliment to our cause of strengthening community," says Gerry Vandemerwe, CEO of the YMCA of Greater Erie. "The Rodger Young Pool Open Swim Program will provide opportunities for staff share the fun of swimming and demonstrate YMCA core character values of honesty, respect, caring and responsibility."

Funding for the Rodger Young Pool has been received from the City of Erie, Housing Authority of the City of Erie, and Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield.