Attleboro

Spatcher Pool cool

BY MATT ROCHELEAU FOR THE SUN CHRONICLE Saturday, July 12, 2008 1:11 AM EDT

Zack Koehler, 6, of Attleboro, jumps into the city's Twin Village Pool on Wednesday before the storm that hit the area later that day. Like the Spatcher Pool, which opened Tuesday for the first time in several years, the three city pools, including Twin Villlage, also opened for the season on Tuesday. (Martin Gavin staff photo)

ATTLEBORO

The newly renovated Spatcher Pool has made an early summer splash with local swimmers since reopening Tuesday for the first time in four years.

"I love it. It's great for young kids especially, and it allows me to relax a little," Joy Geysen of Attleboro said Wednesday, the second day the pool was open, and the first visit for Joy and her 3-year-old son, Henry.

Geysen said she has already purchased a membership and plans to bring her son at least once a week this summer.

Attleboro resident Jennifer Hill said she too is considering a membership so she and her 14-month-old son, Emmett, can keep cool. "I think it looks great. We will be here a lot this summer," she said.

The state-owned, city-operated pool at Hayward Field cost about $1.8 million to repair and upgrade.

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A rededication of the pool is scheduled for 10 a.m. Tuesday.

Hill remembers spending time at Spatcher Pool when she was a kid, and she said the recently completed changes are a big improvement.

"It's completely different - 100 percent better," she said.

Lifeguard Hailey Morrill of Attleboro echoed that.

"It's really nice, and they renovated it really well," she said.

Morrill said Spatcher Pool is more kid friendly and a lot bigger than other local pools where she has worked.

She and fellow lifeguard Janice Churchill of Attleboro remarked about how nice the new locker rooms and bathrooms look. Churchill was a lifeguard at Spatcher before the renovation, and said the entire facility is much cleaner.

Other enhancements to the pool include a mushroom-shaped fountain, a wading pool for smaller children, a waterfall and misting machines among other toys and amenities for people of all ages. Despite those additions, lifeguard Paul Crowley of Attleboro said he wishes the pool still had a diving board like he remembers using when he was younger.

Jamie Farnham of Attleboro spent the afternoon with her daughters, 4-year-old Ruby and 2-year-old Claire. They escaped Wednesday's 90-degree heat in the cool, clear pool water and ate a picnic lunch beneath the shade of a tree beside the pool.

"I think it's beautiful," said Farnham, who purchased a summer membership upon arriving Wednesday.

"I like the hats," said Claire, referring to buckets resembling party hats that fill with water until they flip, emptying into the pool, and on anyone, below.

"I like the deep water," said Ruby.

Farnham said she and her daughters used to make a near 40-minute, 30-mile drive to Houghton's Pond in Milton, but are now embracing the opportunity to save time and gas money with Spatcher as a closer alternative.

A one day pass is $5 for Massachusetts residents, $6 for out-of-state children 17 years and younger and $10 for out-of-state adults.

Season passes are offered to Massachusetts residents only and cost $10 for seniors, $25 for individuals or $100 per family. Children under 3 are free.

The season ends Aug. 22, when the pool will close until next summer.

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