

town talk



The Taylor Bend YMCA Outdoor Aquatic Center has a bathhouse and seating area by the pools.

PHYLLIS JOHNSON PHOTOS

Taylor Bend goes 'resort'

By Phyllis Johnson
Correspondent

Members can set sail for a wave of fun and a summer-long deck party at the Taylor Bend YMCA's new resort-style outdoor aquatic center.

The Western Branch area YMCA, located at 4626 Taylor Road, cruised into summer's unofficial kickoff weekend with a Saturday grand opening, just in time for Memorial Day.

Executive director Keaton Finch said the purpose of the aquatic center is to teach swimming to youngsters and bring families closer together. It's a real need these days with frenetic schedules pulling families in many different directions.

"We wanted to reinvest the money from the sale of our donated land in North Suffolk back into the community," she said.

And the YMCA will do it with a splash.

The complex includes an activity pool, a kiddie pool and wading park, complete with spray toys and a toddler slide the little ones are sure to enjoy. Parents will appreciate the adult amenities, too. There is also a bathhouse and a picnic pavilion for snacking outside.

Families will be given the opportunity to enjoy swim-stroke clinics, water exercises, water polo, relay races and classes on boat and water safety.

Delores Kirby, director of membership and development, says the new aquatic center will benefit Western



The wading pool for kiddies features a waterfall.

Branch members and other area Y members at no extra cost. There are 12,800 members at Taylor Bend and an extra 2,000 program participants. Combined YMCA membership in Hampton Roads is at about 160,000.

With escalating fuel prices, families can get a taste of resort living without leaving the neighborhood.

"The theme for the 'resort' is that of a cruise ship," Kirby said. "Your membership card is your passport to fun."

Billy George, chief operating officer of the YMCAs of South Hampton Roads, said he is "excited about all the opportunities this new outdoor aquatic center will provide with a safe, fun and recreational environment."

Phyllis Johnson, pjwriter7@aol.com

going?

The Outdoor Aquatic Center will be open until Sept. 1 from 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Sunday and on holidays.

Mayhem Mondays Participate in relay races and games

Terrific Tuesdays Enjoy swim-stroke clinics, water exercise for kids, water polo and more

Can-U-Class Thursdays Have fun in the pool and learn boat and water safety

Funky Float Fridays Bring your floats to the pool. Additional lifeguards will be on duty to ensure safety.

Info Taylor Bend YMCA, 638-9622



Just in time for heat of the season

Taylor Bend YMCA opens its new "resort-style" aquatic center.

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