

>>> "Burt KANNER" <burtkanner@msn.com> 04/20/08 11:56 AM >>>

Dear Sirs,

As I looked at you site, the Salem City logo stated, "At Your Service", yet the proposed budget eliminates a quite necessary service.

Besides a lawnmower, the only elimination I could see was the aquatics program. I have spent the better part of my 68 years of living in swimming programs. Salem is currently at the bottom of any like city in term of aquatic facilities. And now it is proposed that the only public pools be removed from the city budget.

This does not serve the people in this community. It is simply dangerous to have no lessons program for swimming.

Swimming is a sport that engenders health. Why take away that value? Not every citizen can afford the use of the facilities at the Courthouse. The new Kroc Center will help, but it is my prediction that the available time for swimming will be filled by various groups as soon as the center is opened.

I plan to attend the meeting on April 30 and will go on public record opposing cutting the aquatics program. Please try to find a way for it to continue.

Burt Kanner
Former Swim Coach (38 years)
Public Address Announcer for Swimming in the 84 and 96 Olympic Games