

As the elected volunteer Board of Directors for the Spring Ridge Conservancy, we have a fiduciary responsibility to make decisions on behalf of the community to ensure we are not overexposing ourselves and opening up potential liability concerns. With that being said, in a unanimous vote of 5/0, the Board has elected to close the pool for the 2020 season. Beyond just the unknown health risks, there are four factors which led us to this decision.

1. Strong advice from our attorney to keep the season closed as the potential for litigation is high and extends far beyond the 2020 season.
2. If we were to have a claim against us, our insurance company could offer no guarantee that any claim would be paid which means the Conservancy reserves would be at risk.
3. High Sierra, our pool management company, has kept us up to speed on pool openings throughout Maryland and Virginia sharing with us many issues that they have faced since opening pools. They will only open our pool provided we sign a strict indemnification agreement which opens the Conservancy up to greater liability.
4. We weighed the additional cost of opening (nearly \$50,000) with the reduced capacity numbers and did not see it as a good use of Conservancy resources.

Please understand that this was a very difficult decision and one that we did not take lightly. This is not a matter of simply opening the pool. Without proper insurance coverages, of which there are currently none available for COVID-19 protection, the Conservancy is at serious risk as are other non-essential business and homeowner's associations. Many may not be aware of these risks or have decided to forego the issue. To us, that is irresponsible to have the knowledge and not consider it.

We will be looking at using funds refunded from High Sierra for the 2020 season to renovate areas within the facility and have instructed our management company to solicit bids. We anticipate having plans for renovation by our August meeting.

We know how disappointing this is in the face of all the other closures this season, but we must do what is best for the health, safety, and financial stability of the Conservancy. We appreciate the time our community members spent sending in their ideas for opening the pool as many of them were used as part of our plan for the county. We also appreciate the lifeguard staff who has served the community diligently and recognize that our closure affects you in financial ways. We apologize that the restrictions leave you in this predicament.

Thank you.