



**COTTONTAIL SWIM & RACQUET CLUB  
7000 COTTONTAIL COURT  
SPRINGFIELD, VIRGINIA 22153**

12 May 2020

**Dear Cottontail Members:**

We hope that this letter finds you healthy and well during this challenging time.

We want you to know that your Cottontail Board continues to monitor the developments surrounding COVID-19 and its implications for the upcoming pool season from the Commonwealth of Virginia and Fairfax County Health Department. **We are very excited for summer and are currently planning to open on May 29<sup>th</sup>!**

We recognize that summer 2020 will not be as we all hoped. However, based on the current Executive Orders of the Commonwealth, Cottontail will be authorized to open in a modified manner. These details are ever-changing, but once we get the all-clear, we will be ready to swim!

Based on the Governor's phasing plan, Cottontail will be allowed to open for 10 patrons at a time and it allows for increases as phasing progresses. We are planning to allow members to sign up for time slots to use the pool for swimming laps to get exercise with plans that more members will be allowed as the season unfolds. Based on the guidance, for now, we will not have furniture set out. We will be following safety protocols. We may extend our daily hours so that we are open longer to provide as many slots as we are able.

As discussed at our fall general membership meeting, we voted to self-manage our pool this year. This affords us more flexibility & represents a cost savings compared to being under a contract with a pool company. We have been busy along with our contractors draining, cleaning, and refilling our pools & hot tub. The reason for this is that we need to maintain our pools in their best operating condition. To not open and prepare them would cause breeding spots for mosquitoes and other infrastructure issues. This past year, we needed to upgrade the entire operating system including a new pump, impeller, filtration tanks, automated chlorinator, and boiler. Preparation and cleaning take several weeks. Our pool manager, lifeguards, and volunteers have been prepping the pool to open. We will be ready to open!

Registration is open. We are grateful for everyone who has already registered and paid dues. While some members have already signed up, other members may have been holding off paying their dues because of the uncertainty of the pool season. That is totally understandable and the reason we extended our specials and did away with Bonded member late fees. Please know that the Club's expenses must be paid – utilities, insurance, permits, chemicals, internet, pool preparations, deck renovations, repairs, and trash service - just to mention a few.

**Regarding summer dues:**

**As Bonded members,** each of us is a partial owner of the Club, and our annual dues cover the costs of incurred expenses to properly maintain the facilities. It is important for us to pull together now more than ever.

**For Bonded members, dues remain \$420 for the season and are due by June 15th.** Please register & mail in your payment or place in the locked mailbox at the front of the pool property. For anyone struggling financially, we are happy to work with you until your position becomes more stable. If this is your situation, please notify Sherry O'Rourke, our Membership Coordinator, at [membership@cottontailpool.com](mailto:membership@cottontailpool.com).

Unfortunately, we cannot honor Covid-19 as a reason for not paying Bonded members dues or switching to inactive this year. As per the By-laws, the Board has the authority to approve Inactive status but has the obligation to require dues when it is in the best interest of the pool. The Board will wait until the end of the summer to assess the actual costs incurred and prepare budget options for 2021, which may include a partial refund or an assessment which we are trying to avoid. These options will be presented to Bonded members for your vote in the fall.

**For our Associate members:** Since we are all part of this wonderful Cottontail community, we have established that **Associate members dues are also going to be only \$420 this season.** That is a discount of \$100. Our Associate members have always helped make Cottontail a special place.

**Anyone purchasing a Bond** this year will have the one-time bond purchase (at \$500) and will receive 20% off the 2020 Bonded membership rate thus lowering it to \$336.

You can register online and send in your payment or put it in the locking mailbox at the entrance of the pool property.

**We have decided to eliminate the Volunteer Fee for all members this season.** This is a \$75 savings over our normal dues for all members both Bonded and Associate. For members who have registered and sent that payment in, our membership coordinator will be reaching out via email and offering a refund or a credit to your membership account for next season.

**Guest Passes:** Please know that under these circumstances we currently plan to hold off on providing guest passes this year as we want to make sure our members have plenty of opportunities to use the pool.

We truly appreciate your understanding and patience during this time. We remain fully committed to working through the complexities of operating through our current situation as a Cottontail pool family. We look forward to being together again!

In the meantime, please stay safe and stay healthy.

*The Cottontail Board of Directors*