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frisco is in the swim!

by susan mardele

FRISCO IS IN THE SWIM! The Frisco ISD Natatorium is ready and offering programs for the school district and the public. Completed in December, 2003, the \$8.7 million facility has been in use since January.

John Janak, office and special events manager for the Natatorium, is excited about the possibilities. "For a school district to have a pool of this magnitude, to have the high school swimming program with the timing systems that we're going to have... it's going to be a facility with multiple uses for swim meets and for bringing in really good special events."

The 50-meter Olympic-size indoor pool is 25 yards across containing eight nine-foot lanes. It has a three-meter springboard, two one-meter springboards and holds about 696,416 gallons of water.

For meets and special events, the stadium seats 800 spectators and is conveniently located near downtown at 7411 First Street adjacent to the football stadium. The state-of-the-art Colorado timing system and electronic scoreboard will be used to display times and names of swimmers during swim meets. The building includes women's and men's locker rooms and a weight room for in-district swim team use. In addition, the facility has a coach's office area and a meet management room where the computers for the timing system and electronic scoreboard are housed.

As for special events, Janak has big plans in process, "We're looking into bringing in a USA diving club team that's going to have competitions here and we're going to be doing triathalons. So far, we're looking at a triathlon on October 2."

The Natatorium was mainly built for school district use – pri-

Frisco's New Natatorium: Open for Business!

photo by John Scott Glass

marily for the high school swim program – but was designed to include multiple uses, including public swimming. As of mid-March, the pool is being used for Frisco Aquatics, a year-round USA swim team for kids age 6 to 18. The summer league swim team will start on May 31.

Public swim hours begin the first week of April. Adult lap swimming will be Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and 4:45–6:15 p.m. Community swim hours will be Monday, Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6:45 – 8:45 p.m. Starting in May, community swim hours will be extended to Monday through Thursday from 6:45 – 8:45 p.m. The cost will be \$2 for adults, \$1 for children.

Learn-to-Swim Programs will be available for kids age 5 and up beginning April 6. There will be eight 45-minute classes held Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5-5:45 and 6-6:45 pm including Beginner 1, Beginner 2 and Advanced Beginner classes. For the summer, the staff will open more swim times and classes in the morning hours. During a single summer, the facility could teach up to 400 children to swim.

Registration for Learn-to-Swim is on a first-come-first-served basis and was concluded in early April. Registration included a swim skill evaluation in which the instructors tested the kids to make sure they are placed at the right skill level. Learn-to-swim is open to all residents of the general area.

Two aquatic management staff members are currently on board at the Natatorium. A third will soon be added. Bruce Eubanks is the aquatics director. He has overall responsibility for the facility, makes sure everything runs smoothly, supervises the other managers and brings his 30 years of success with learn-to-swim programs.

John Janak is office and events manager for the Natatorium. On board since the end of January, his job is to bring special events to the Natatorium and manage the office area. The additional staff member will be a pool operator, responsible for all aspects of pool maintenance. In addition, a staff of lifeguards and learn-to-swim instructors will be added as needed.

So pull out those swimsuits from the back of the drawer, dust off your goggles and get ready for cool, wet exercise and year-round family fun. The Natatorium is ready for you!

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