

From Executive Director Mari Steinbach

Welcome to October!

The board and staff of the MRD is excited for the month ahead, and are excited to turn the corner to fall and its cooler weather, with more people using the Community Recreation Center, and re-emerging levels of service. It has truly been a challenging and even grueling summer, as we have persevered through all of the challenges thrown at us by Covid-19. At the heart of everything we have done, in the ways we have responded, **YOU** have been our reason for being. Our concern for doing what is right for our community has driven it all. We haven't gotten it all right; we've made a few missteps, we've listened and watched carefully, and we've tried to correct.

Thank you for the grace and patience you have shown us, and thanks for sticking with us! We appreciate every single one of you.

Now: what do you have to look forward to in October? Happily, we can accommodate more people within the many spaces of the Community Recreation Center and Field House. To help us return to a greater sense of normalcy, and to help us grow more participation, this specifically means these things:

SHOWERS! Oh, how you have longed for them! Showers are now available in the cabanas only – not yet in the main locker rooms. We know demand will be high, so in the interest of your fellow patrons and of water conservation, please limit your shower times! We also will NOT be able to disinfect between every user, so do a quick favor and wipe down the shower after your use to limit lingering water and other things. (We WILL disinfect every two hours.)

LOCKERS! Oh yeah. No more carrying your extra clothes and belongings all around with you! Lockers will be open in the cabana area, locker rooms, and gym hallway. Check in with the front desk to learn what you need to do to use them and to help us keep on task with disinfecting between users.

Front Lobby seating, vending area and game room! Relax and wait for your loved ones to finish their workout, watch the pool, play a game, and enjoy simply being in an active place and generally around other active people.

The Game Room has reopened with ping-pong, and pool tables and table shuffleboard! Check out all the supplies through the front desk. No additional fee, all open Center hours.

Improved customer flow in and out, around the front desk, around the gym, track and fitness areas! No more ugly tape, telling you where to stand and walk, and we've removed a lot of the barriers we had up.

CLIMBING: Friday night drop-in climbing begins October 9th from 4:00 – 6:00 PM for ages 5+ years (adults too)! Climbers must provide their own shoes (sneakers will do), harnesses will be available at no additional fee.

FAMILY FUN NIGHTS: Join us every Friday night to enjoy our winding slides, drop slide, diving boards, basketball courts, and more! Bring your neighbors or your friends for a time that is guaranteed to bring out the best kind of kid in you. We have further discounted our general admission price to \$3.25 per person from 4:00-6:45 pm for Friday Family Fun Night! Climbing will add to the fun as of 10/9!

Racquetball courts are available for free reservation, and may be reserved through RecTrac, just as you reserve swim lap lanes, pickleball courts and fitness classes.

Drop-in sport play: basketball, pickleball, racquetball and volleyball. We've created the space for you, and want you to play, and even provide the ball. As with all activities, we still operate under the Colorado mask order, and adhere to social distancing. We're going to call foul if we see you making contact or you removing your mask!

Bleachers for resting and spectators: no more sitting on the floor to take a break! Put your bags on them, sit on them...just please don't sit too close to anyone else!

14 and 15 year old youth may use the center WITHOUT a parent present! All we need is the parents immediate contact info and our general waiver on file. Youth under the age of 14 must still have someone OVER 16 years present and with them to be at the center.

Just as before, your mask is REQUIRED for you to come to the MRD indoor facilities and needs to stay on at all times during all activities except for those in-water. You are obligated to follow this rule, as well as to social distance. We are weary of enforcing it too, yet we have no choice right now. The health and safety of our community requires that we remain diligent in our enforcement.

We remain hyper serious and vigilant about keeping things clean and disinfected. Your safety and the safety of the MRD staff remain the highest priority. Thanks for pitching in and doing your part, too!

Very soon, you will see a survey from us that we hope will guide us toward more decisions about the services we provide and hours we can open. Please take a few minutes to tell us what you need and what you would like from us. We do look forward to these busier indoor activity months ahead and hope that we can safely expand.

Never hesitate to ask for what you need, about anything you don't understand, or generally need help with. We thrive on that interaction with you. Thanks for playing, and for letting us do this essential work for our community. We love you, Montrose!

Mari