YMCA Unveils State-of-the-Art Gymnastics Facility to Enhance Training Opportunities in Haverford Township

The YMCA's Haverford branch is preparing to unveil an expanded gymnastics facility, aiming to meet the rapidly growing demand for youth programming in the community. The move comes in response to long waitlists and limited space that have hindered the center's ability to serve its members-particularly its thriving gymnastics program.



The original YMCA location opened in October 2012 and has seen steady growth over the past 13 years. "Space has always been the main issue," said Katie Koch, Executive Director. "We simply couldn't meet the demand. We have a large gymnastics program and a competitive team, but we haven't had the space or equipment to fully support them."

The new facility, located at 4 Raymond Drive in the nearby industrial park, will include a full-size spring floor, extended vault runways, a foam pit, and a tumble track-features previously unavailable at the current site. This expansion will allow the YMCA to offer over 400 additional gymnastics spots, serving more than 1,100 participants per session.



Natalie Wojcik, who recently joined the YMCA as the Senior Gymnastics Director, brings an impressive background to the program. A former NCAA national champion on the balance beam and member of the University of Michigan's historic national championship team, Wojcik, has long been inspired by the YMCA's mission. "I grew up doing swimming and soccer at the Y," she said. "I'm excited to bring gymnastics to more kids in our community."

The YMCA's competitive gymnastics team participates in monthly meets from November to April, culminating in league and state championships. With better facilities, the team will now be able to train on the same type of equipment used in competitions, giving young athletes a stronger foundation to excel.



Looking ahead, the YMCA plans to offer birthday parties, summer camps, and potentially school field trips and rentals for local organizations. While details are still being finalized, community outreach and inclusive programming remain priorities.

“There’s a real need here,” said Koch. “We’re not just growing for the sake of growth-we’re responding to what our members and the community are asking for.” She also noted a long-term goal of partnering with the Special Olympics to offer inclusive gymnastics training for athletes of all abilities.



The expansion has been a long time in the making, with the team searching for an appropriate space for several years. After identifying the Raymond Drive location last summer, they worked closely with the property owner to envision a transformation from a set of small office spaces into a vibrant gymnastics’ hub.

As the YMCA looks toward the future, its focus remains clear: serve the entire community, expand access to youth development opportunities, and create a space where every child-regardless of ability can thrive!

Photos courtesy of Joel Perlish Photography.

Haverford Area YMCA

Gymnastics Center
4 Raymond Drive, Havertown
Suite C-D
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