



AN UPDATE FROM THE ROCHESTER AREA RECREATION AUTHORITY

January 25, 2022

RARA Program Participants and Sponsors:

As we enter into a new year of recreational and personal enrichment programming at RARA, I wanted to provide the community and our sponsors an update on recent events and detail what's ahead in 2022!

Specifically, I'd like to share a summary of RARA's 2021 programs, offer an update on RARA's agreement with Applied Fitness Solutions, and highlight all we have planned over the next 12 months.

2021: OUR 75TH ANNIVERSARY!

We were proud to celebrate RARA's **75th anniversary** in 2021, continuing a tradition of providing recreation programming to the communities of Rochester and Rochester Hills – since 1946.

Last year, RARA served **10,000 participants**, engaged in **1,000 activities**, including baseball, basketball, soccer, volleyball, performing arts, programs for persons with special needs and events like the Annual Rochester Easter Egg Hunt, craft and vendor shows, the Boo Bash and M2M sales. Our summer day camps continued to create lifelong memories for kids age 5-14. And our partnerships have grown significantly with local business to increase our enrichment, educational, and arts programs. Even as the pandemic continued, we offered safe activities both in person and virtually.

RARA'S AGREEMENT WITH APPLIED FITNESS SOLUTIONS

RARA's Board of Directors and staff have received some inquiries about RARA's relationship with Applied Fitness Solutions (AFS), an organization that contracted with RARA to provide recreational and enrichment programs and activities to our community, and it's important to set the record straight.

Some of you may have seen the communications that AFS distributed last November. In those messages, AFS indicated that it was left with no option but to close its operation effective December 31, 2021 because RARA made a decision to sell the building out of which AFS was operating. Statements made at that time by AFS are simply untrue and have caused confusion.

It's important for our community to know the facts. Allow me to share some details.

RARA and AFS entered into an agreement for shared services on April 16, 2021. This was a one year agreement that commenced on June 1, 2021 and it included an option to renew the agreement each year, for up to four additional years, through June 1, 2026. AFS's services were to be provided out of RARA's 480 E. Second St. building.

Unfortunately, despite numerous attempts to address payment issues with AFS, RARA has not received payment that is consistent with the signed agreement. In fact, AFS has not made a single payment to RARA, ever. Earlier this month, RARA's legal counsel took the first step in a legal process that may, sadly, end up resolving itself in District Court.

In addition, our community should know that RARA's Board has made no decision to sell any property. The Board of Directors does, however, evaluate its programs on a regular basis, considers the facilities required to house these programs, the costs required to maintain our buildings, and does so through the lens of the organization's operating budget.

Over the past year, the Board discussed the potential sale of the 480 E. Second St. building based on anticipated (extensive) maintenance costs. However, **no sale of any building will take place without a comprehensive analysis** of the implications on programming, timing, and staffing; the needs of a tenant, like AFS; or where future programming could be accommodated in other facilities. This will be an ongoing discussion, as it should be. We will keep the community informed about any future actions, and, as always, citizens are welcome at all RARA Board meetings.

OUR 76TH YEAR IS OFF TO AN INCREDIBLE START

Youth basketball, volleyball, judo, Magic indoor soccer, along with our competition and recital dance programs and baby sitters safety training classes are all underway. We have about **190 individual programs** that began just this month alone.

And what's next? Our Spring Break Camp, Daddy Daughter Dance and Mother Son Date Night, and our Family Bingo Night are coming up. Youth baseball, softball and tee-ball and adult softball and cornhole leagues – a total of 183 programs – are set to begin by the end of April. These will be followed by our popular summer camps, registration for which opens on April 1st.

If you're looking for unstructured play, stop in to our facilities at 480 and 500 E. 2nd St. and enjoy the indoor playscape, turf fieldhouse, basketball/volleyball courts, inline hockey rink and fitness center.

RARA welcomes all to enjoy the recreational opportunities of our community, designed to build relationships, confidence and camaraderie. You can view our Recreation Magazine here: <https://issuu.com/rararecreation>. You can also search programs by age, gender, day, or time on our website at rararegistration.org. Registration is open 24/7.

We look forward to serving you for another 75 years!

Regards,

John Muenk
Chairperson, RARA Board of Directors

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