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Nicole Banks  
COMMISSIONER

### **Gath Memorial Pool & Crystal Lake Beach Not Opening for the Summer 2020**

June 1, 2020

We are writing with the disappointing news that we are not able to operate either the Gath Memorial Pool or the Crystal Lake Beach this summer.

Knowing what we do about virus transmission, the necessary health guidelines and restrictions in group settings for physical distancing and group sizes, the state guidelines, the size and layouts of our facilities and employee safety and thinking carefully about how we could operate and how people use our two aquatic sites, we have concluded that we aren't able to safely operate either this summer. Ultimately, this decision is about protecting the health of residents and our staff.

We know this is bad news for so many people and families who rely on Gath Pool and Crystal Lake to cool off, have fun, and get some exercise, all of which is especially needed at this time.

What does this mean for Crystal Lake this summer? Near the bathhouse, the Beach will be closed, the sections of the dock that are stored on the land behind the bathhouse will be off limits and trespassing will not be permitted. In the Coves, we will be posting signs reminding people to maintain 6 feet of distancing and to wear face coverings when that distancing is not possible.

This is a disappointing decision but the right one for Newton. We look forward to the better days ahead including the eventual reopening of these facilities next summer.

Mayor Ruthanne Fuller  
Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Culture Nicole Banks  
Commissioner of Health and Human Services Deborah Youngblood