

# End-of-Year Newsletter

## THE BERNIE: NEW STAIRS ARE ON THE WAY!

If you've been to the Bernie in the past month, you might have seen flyers and posters advertising our Oct. 22 Aqua Party and raffle. These events were held as fundraisers to pay for new stairs for our pool and patrons.

Good news: we reached and exceeded our fundraising goal of \$5,000 by raising \$5,805 to replace the stairs! We could not have done it without our dedicated patrons, our amazing lifeguard and aquacize staff, and the following local business:

- Helen Back Pizza - Stewby's Seafood Shanty - Publix - Target - Massage Works - Sugar Mill Sweets - Golden Corral - Sea Dragon Swim Shop - Gold's Gym - Twisted Grape Wine Bar and Cafe - PlayTriSwim - Corner Cafe - Maas Coffee Roasters - Colors Hair and Nail - Beach Liquors - Davis Watkins Funeral Home & Emerald Coast Home Heroes

The new stairs are expected to arrive by Christmas, and in the meantime, stop by and enjoy our heated pool, and check out these great pictures from the Aqua Party!



Even when we don't have active fundraising events, we always appreciate tax-deductible donations and business sponsors! Contact Wendy Rudman at 850-598-0176 to talk about making a tax-deductible donation, becoming a business sponsor, and any other ways you can support our wonderful pool!

# The Bernie: Food drives, Swim Angels, and new stairs, oh my!

## SHARING AND CARING FOOD DRIVE

If you've been to the Bernie recently, you might have noticed a white table filled with food and toiletries. With the help of our generous patrons, **these donations will find their way to Sharing and Caring**, a local food pantry in FWB whose doors and hearts are open to all! We are partnering with Liza Jackson Preparatory School to **help stock the shelves this holiday season!**

Here are some of our most-needed items: **Toothbrushes, toothpaste, shaving cream, diapers, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, deodorant, and unexpired canned goods, pasta, and other non-perishable food items.**

The drive lasts until Dec. 10, so please take a moment to drop some donations by the Bernie!



## OUR SWIM ANGEL TREE



**Our pool is filled with year-round swim angels**, kind patrons who take care of the others in the swim community. Many of them helped us raise the \$5,000 for new stairs in just over a month!

In their honor, we are putting up a small Swim Angel Tree tree that **we are decorating with tags listing smaller, but just as needed, items for the pool and some of its patrons.**

If you can help, please take a tag and either pay for the item at our admin desk or bring it back to the pool before Christmas

Here are some of the items we need:



- **One month of swim lessons for a child whose parents can't afford them (\$50)**
- **One hour of swim lessons for a child who needs help being safe in the water (\$15)**
- **Childrens goggles (\$10 and \$20)**
- **Youth pull buoys for our lesson program (\$15)**
- **Youth hand paddles for our lesson program (\$15)**
- **Aquabells & Aquabelts for our patrons on a fixed income**
- **Keurig Coffee pods for our staff**

## The ROC Pool gets a new fence



BEFORE

Kenneth Mayfield, of Boy Scout Troop 30, has built a new fence around the deep end of the ROC pool for his Eagle Scout project! This fence will help make the pool a safer place for all those who use it.



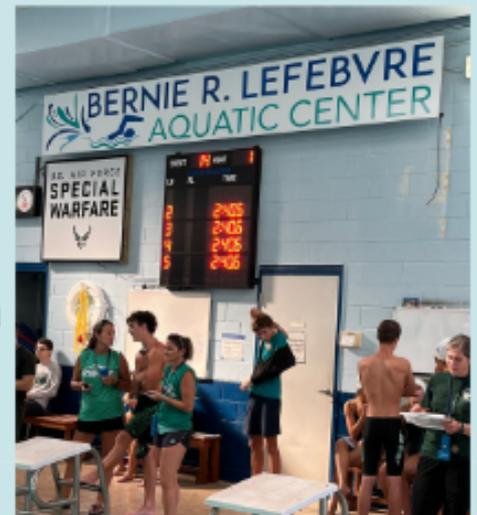
AFTER

## And the Bernie gets a new scoreboard!



BEFORE

Notice something new at the Bernie? Thanks to our friends at USAF Special Warfare, **we have a new scoreboard and a new sign** celebrating their generous support of our facility.



AFTER

On Sept. 17, the first high school meet took place. All eyes were on the board and the sign, which Board Member and Business Owner Chris Sehman and Southern Sign Company helped to get mounted before the swimmers arrived. Our deepest thanks to Tech. Sgt. Ryan Lucier of Special Warfare who helped our scoreboard request through the military channels for funding.



Expect to see a new face around the ROC Pool, where Murray Burns has started working as a lifeguard and instructor.

He will also be helping out at the Bernie during the winter months when the ROC is closed. Murray recently moved to the area from Arkansas where he managed a pool.

A big thank you to La Dolce Vita for the beautiful new umbrellas! These will help shade our guards at the Taj Renee Community Aquatic Center in Destin.



## Bernie instructors take swim skills to beach

The Emerald Coast Fitness Foundation is excited to announce its partnership with the Okaloosa Tourist Development Department to provide water safety instruction to young visitors. The partnership began in August and continued through September, before taking a break during the quieter winter beach months.



During this pilot program, Instructors Dawn Dziokonski and Wendy Rudman went to the TDC "Outpost" set up on the sand just east of the Boardwalk. Once or twice a week, they met students there who had signed up for a Surf Safety class through the TDC's promotional efforts. The hour-long "Little Adventure," which is what these free opportunities for children are called, consisted of instruction about everything from beach flags and rip currents to sun safety and actual pool instruction time at The Island resort.

The TDC employees provided full support, life jackets, and other safety gear for the children. It also funded the classes in their entirety, paying ECFF for the instructors' time and other expenses.



## Shalimar Dentist becomes one of the Bernie's new sponsor



The Bernie LeFebvre Aquatic Center welcomes a new business partner, Dr. George Stone. Dr. Stone runs a dental practice in Shalimar. He became a business partner after learning about the Bernie's programs, including its scholarship outreach to children who have not had the opportunity to learn to swim.

Dr. Stone performs general and cosmetic dentistry with an emphasis on conservative family care. His office is at 1115 Eglin Parkway in Shalimar and his staff can be reached at 850-651-1125.



Christmas shopping on Amazon? Sign up for Amazon Smile, choose Emerald Coast Fitness Foundation and a portion of your purchase price will be donated to our foundation.

## Taj and Bernie Rate Changes

Attention all Bernie and Taj Renee Members! We are increasing membership rates starting January 1st, 2023. New rates are as follows, and **ALL MEMBERS** will have to fill out a 2023 membership form!

The Taj	Monthly	Plus the Bernie (Super Swimmer)	Daily
Lap Swim	\$50	\$59	\$15
Aquacize	\$40	\$44	\$15
Total Flex	\$60	\$64	N/A
Weekly Pass Rate: \$25 per week			This is our first rate change since 2017!
Punch Card: \$100 (10 visits per punch card)			We are so grateful for you all

The Bernie	Monthly	Daily
Lap Swim	\$50	\$15
Aquacize	\$35	\$15
Family	\$40	\$20
Total Flex	\$55	N/A
Private Lessons will be \$40 for a 30 minute session	Thank you and have an amazing holiday season!	