



Hello friends,

A Necessary Step Forward

We are proceeding on a long overdue project - replacing the air handling unit (AHU) for the pools (natatorium). This is an important step in the continued forward momentum of our YMCA and a critical investment for both safety and long-term care of our facility.

Why This Matters

Indoor pool environments are some of the most demanding on any building system. Over time, aging equipment doesn't just wear down—it begins to create compounding challenges. Replacing the AHU allows us to protect the integrity of our roof structure, extend the life of our mechanical systems, and take a proactive step toward responsible stewardship. This is a risk mitigation investment, not just a comfort upgrade.

Just as important, this upgrade directly impacts the health of everyone who uses the space. Indoor pools naturally produce chloramines—gases that can irritate the eyes and lungs and tend to settle right at the surface where swimmers spend their time. A properly functioning system continuously brings in fresh air, removes contaminated air, and keeps that breathing zone clean and safe. This is about creating an environment where you can feel confident bringing your family, every single day.

Where We Are Today

We have been steadily working toward this moment for nearly two years. The total project cost is \$900,000, and thanks to strong community support, we have secured approximately 85% of the funding. We are actively working with grantors, individuals, and local businesses to close the remaining \$135,000 gap. That progress is a direct reflection of what this community believes the YMCA should be.

The Pool will be Closed

Replacing this unit, which is tucked away in the rafters, of one of our equipment rooms, will take time. For your safety, we will have to close the pool for this project. With our current timeline, which is dependent on AHU shipping, the pool will be closed starting May 11, 2026. The reopen date is scheduled for June 12th. If progress allows, we will absolutely work to shorten that timeline.

During the Closure

I understand this is a real inconvenience—especially for those who rely on the pool as part of your routine, your health, or your family time. All May aquatic fees will be waived. We hope to see you about the building. We have worked to provide a few alternatives during this window:

- One Vision is offering \$5 day passes or a monthly option
- Your YMCA membership will be welcomed at the Forest City YMCA and the Charles City YMCA
- Lap swimming is available at the Mason City High School. It is available Tuesday and Thursday from 5-7 a.m. and Saturday from 9-11 a.m. Contact the YMCA for details
- After Memorial Day, the city pool opens for lap swimming at noon.

Our Commitment to the Community

This is not simply an equipment replacement. It is an investment in the health of our members, the protection of our facility, and the long-term sustainability of one of our community's most valued spaces. It is our responsibility—and our commitment—to keep aquatics strong, safe, and available as a year-round asset for North Iowa.

Thank you for being part of what makes this place matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Hertz", written in a cursive style.

Tammy Hertz and the YMCA Board