

NEWS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT LIVING BUSINESS COMMUNITIES OPINION OBITUARIES

Communities > Hamilton >

Anderson Township



Home
About
Advertise
Contact

News
Letters
Crime Watch
Real Estate
New Businesses
Photos
All

☒ Our Sites ☐ The Web

search



Mercury vapors keep gym closed

By Lisa Wakeland



Spencer Linton, tries to steal the ball from his dad, Rich, of Anderson Township, during the Basketball Turkey Shoot at the Beech Acres Park RecPlex in 2008. The gym is now closed because of mercury vapors leaking from beneath the gym's floor.

The Beech Acres RecPlex gym will remain closed until further notice.

That area was shut down early December after testing revealed detectable levels of mercury vapor emanating from the 41-year-old gym floor.

Though the vapor levels were within acceptable ranges, the Anderson Township Park District Board of Park Commissioners closed the gym to err on the side of caution.

"The main issue is we can't put a (new) floor over that floor because it's just going to (grow) to be a problem," Park District Executive Director Ken Kushner said at a recent meeting.

"The time to solve it is now, but unfortunately money is always a hang up."

Mercury was used as a catalyst to attach the polymer gym floor in 1971, and was standard practice prior to knowledge of the element's harm, health department officials said.

The Park District planned to replace the gym floor this year and put a new floor on top of the current one.

However health department officials said that trapping the vapors between two floors would create a more concentrated volume and the mercury would seek any crack in the new floor to escape.

They said the mercury, which vaporizes at room temperature, would continue to seep out of the rubber polymer floor. Kushner said Park District officials recently met with the Beech Acres Parenting Center and they are looking for a company to remove the flooring.

"It's (the Parenting Center's) decision on what they're going to do and how much they feel they can afford to pay," Park Commissioner Nadine Gelter said.

The Park District has leased the gym from the Parenting Center since 1990 and signed a long-term lease for all of the Beech Acres RecPlex building in 2004.

Several programs at the RecPlex, 6915 Beechmont Ave., have been canceled while some sports leagues and other activities are shifting to other area gyms in the Forest Hills Local School District, the Mt. Washington Recreation Center, Miami Valley Christian Academy and other nearby locations.

The Park District spends about \$13,000 per year to rent gym space at area schools and the issue with the RecPlex floor will add to that cost this year, Kushner said.

"As the population has increased the gym space is getting harder to get into," he said.

"We're trying to fit programs in so people aren't disrupted and they have some consistency in place."

Officials are also open to trading gym space for use of baseball diamonds, fields or making other similar arrangements while the RecPlex gym is closed, Kushner said.

Visit www.andersonparks.com for updates on new locations for programs formerly conducted at the RecPlex.

[View Comments](#) | [Share your thoughts](#)

Community Experts



Eric Spangler (Editor) - (513) 576-8251 espanqler@communitypress.com



Lisa Wakeland (Reporter) - (513) 248-7139 lwakeland@communitypress.com



Melanie Laughman (Sports Editor) - (513) 248-7573 melaughman@communitypress.com



Nick Dudukovich (Sports Reporter) - (513) 248-7570 ndudukovich@communitypress.com

Subscribe

Get community news delivered straight to your inbox.

Email Address:

[Join Email List](#)

NOT HALF BAD.

Take two years of your four-year degree for a lot less.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Contribute to Anderson Township

[Send us a tip or story](#)

[Send us photos](#)

[Send us an event](#)

E-Edition

FOREST HILLS JOURNAL

Blogs

- [Eye on the Eastside](#)
-

Community Links


- [Anderson Twp. links and information](#)
-

Help Center


- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| ➤ Community Press
Contacts | ➤ E-Editions |
| ➤ Enquirer Contacts | ➤ Advertising |
| ➤ Community Press Letter | ➤ Celebrations |
| ➤ Enquirer Letters | ➤ Delivery |
| ➤ Reprints | ➤ Nominate |
| | ➤ Junior Carriers |
-

Explore Other Communities


Ohio communities:

Choose one.. 

Kentucky communities:

Choose one.. 

Indiana communities:

Choose one.. 

[News](#) | [Sports](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Living](#) | [Business](#) | [Communities](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Obituaries](#) | [Blogs](#) | [Help](#)

Copyright © 2011 news.cincinnati.com. All rights reserved. Users of this site agree to the [Terms of Service](#), [Privacy Notice](#), and [Ad Choices](#)