

For Immediate Release

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Anderson Township Park District

At the December 7th Regular Meeting of the Anderson Township Park District ('ATPD') Board of Park Commissioners, the Board made a unanimous decision to suspend the use of the gymnasium portion of the Beech Acres RecPlex. The decision was made based on recent findings in the process to put in a new gym floor over the existing floor. This process included professional testing of the rubber gym floor and research of similar projects in the state of Ohio.

The two-stage testing by Professional Service Industries, Inc. (PSI), determined the presence of low levels of mercury vapor. PSI reported the levels are below the established limits of the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH), the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Research has identified that mercury is found in rubber gym floors installed between 1960 and 1983; the RecPlex floor was installed in 1971.

Independent research of similar projects in Ohio showed long term failure of new floors placed over old floors of this type. The process to remove the old floor is being explored.

Although testing reports show the levels are below the established limits, the Board agreed to err on the side of caution and close the gym until further notice. The ATPD understands this causes an inconvenience to patrons. The Recreation Department is in the process of notifying participants and securing alternative gym space to accommodate programming. Participants will receive an update regarding the status of their programs.

If you have questions about mercury contact:

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Contact Ken Kushner, Anderson Township Park District Executive Director with any questions at 513.388.2492.