

# Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

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## “Packing Away Summer at AquaVenture”

P.J. Evans is thinking about ice, snow and blizzards. As manager of Norfolk’s AquaVenture Water Park, her job is to beat the heat all summer and now her focus is readying for the ice and snow this winter.



“Everything here that can be taken down and pulled up is moved out of the weather and if it can’t be taken down then we try to cover it up. It was a great summer and now we need to get ready for fall,” Evans said.

Evans said she was pleased with the attendance at the park this summer. Over 41,000 people attended the park this year bringing in nearly \$340,000 that was enough to pay the wages for 50 lifeguards and 20 concessions workers, electricity, gas, water and chemicals all summer for the park.

“For as cool as it was this summer we had good numbers. When the temperature got up in

the 80’s people took the opportunity to come out and swim. It’s a great place to spend the summer and now we’ll see people come in droves to football games. It’s getting good use,” Evans said.

The park closed for the summer on August 25 and work has already started winterizing the pools and aquatic features.

This week, Evans and Memorial Park manager Ryan Beed will start draining the pools. They’ll then spray the pool surfaces down and replace the inlet valves with plugs so the pool can be filled halfway for the winter with the weight of the water preventing the concrete from heaving and cracking.

All the signage, play features, canopies, trash cans, and picnic tables will be washed and stored. The water slides will be buffed, pipes drained, tubes deflated and ladders removed. Even the fish slide gets its own shed to protect it from a January blizzard.

Though everything outside has to be winterized, the locker rooms and concessions stand have to be readied for the next season – football.

“We’ll have football teams using the locker rooms and fans using the concession stand and restrooms right through November so it’s going to be busy around here for a long time,” Evans said.