

The Madison Press

SERVING GREATER MADISON COUNTY, OHIO, SINCE 1842



Pool salaries 2007

London

	1st year	2nd year	3rd year	4th year	5th year
Clerk	\$6.85	\$7.13	\$7.42	\$7.72	\$8.03
Pool Maintenance	\$7.60	\$7.91	\$8.23	\$8.56	\$8.91
Lifeguard	\$8.00	\$8.69	\$9.04	\$9.41	\$9.79
P&R Assistant	\$9.00	\$9.36	\$9.74	\$10.13	\$10.54

West Jefferson

	1 st year	2 nd year	3 rd year	4 th year	5 th year
Clerk	\$6.85	\$7.10	\$7.35	\$7.60	\$7.85
Lifeguard	\$7.35	\$7.60	\$7.85	\$8.10	\$8.35
Manager	\$8.35	\$8.60	\$8.85	\$9.10	\$9.35

Minimum wage increase

Law makes waves

Pools increase salaries

By Sarah Ehrman
Press Staff Writer

The swimsuits have invaded.

They're everywhere, in every clothing department. Swimsuits are a constant reminder that summer is coming and there will be swimming.

The beloved summer activity might cost some Madison County residents more this year.

Throughout the state, municipality swimming pools were obligated to raise their employee salaries to comply with the minimum wage increase. This includes Mt. Sterling, London and West Jefferson.

Last season, first year lifeguards in Mt. Sterling made \$6.50. This year, because of the minimum wage increase, first year lifeguards will make at least \$6.85.

"We are shaving two hours a day off our schedule to try to alleviate the problem," said Parker.

This year the Mt. Sterling pool will be open from 1-7 p.m. In the past pool hours have been from noon to 8 p.m.

Despite the diminished hours of operation, pool passes will be more expensive this season. Last year, village residents could pay \$3 per day for entry to the pool, or buy a membership for \$75 for the first household member and \$15 for each additional member. This season, daily admission will cost \$5 with seasonal memberships costing \$85 for the first household member and \$25 for additional members.

"The move was just to try to stop the bleeding as much as possible," Parker said.

"To the best of my knowledge, we haven't had a pool rate increase in at least five years. The cost of everything has gone up — minimum wage, a gallon of gas, paint. Fortunately, we have good vendors who try to help us as much as possible, but everything is still expensive. We are trying to break even or as close to it as possible."

Parker said pool rates were kept intentionally low in hopes that more people would take advantage of the pool.

“But it hasn’t worked out that way,” Parker said.

The pool is set to open the week of Madison-Plains graduation. However, Parker is still looking for a group to run the concession stand.

“Otherwise, we probably won’t have a concession stand at all,” he said.

Those interested in the concession stand or volunteering at the park are encouraged to call (740) 869-2040 and talk to Parker.

While the Mt. Sterling Parks and Recreation Committee have talked about the wage increase, it has not yet been brought before council.

A pair of other Madison County communities have already passed ordinances rising the wage of its employees. West Jefferson passed their ordinance in March; London voted on its increases last year. Jack McDowell, West Jefferson Parks and Recreation Director, said he raised each pool employee salary by the same percentage.

“I figured the percentage increase we’d need for the lowest paid employee to meet the minimum wage requirement,” said McDowell. “Then, I increased the other employees by the same percentage.”

London salaries were not calculated in similar fashion.

“Some received a higher percentage increase than others, due to the fact that a few of them were well below the minimum wage requirement,” said Ryan Ladd, London Parks and Recreation Director. “Initially as a first year clerk, last year the salary was \$6.06 an hour. You wouldn’t have reached the minimum wage until the fourth year.”

Ladd said everything else was increased “slightly, depending on the position.”

London pool-goers will not see a rate increase. The city altered its rates in 2005; he said the rates hadn’t been changed in 10 years. Additionally, Ladd said the city graciously took care of his department.

McDowell said West Jefferson patrons will see increases across the board. He said season pass rates will increase “about \$30.”

The London swimming pool tentatively opens Saturday, June 2. Hours of operation are daily from 12:30-8:15 p.m. with adults only swimming from 10 a.m. to noon on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The facility is available to reserve for morning or evening hours at \$65 per hour. It is located at 203 Park Ave. in London.

The West Jefferson swimming pool tentatively opens in June. Hours of operation are daily from noon to 8 p.m. The facility is available to reserve from 8-10 a.m. or 10 p.m. to midnight at \$75 per hour. It is located at 45 Inwood Drive in West Jefferson.

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