

## MAY IS THE GATEWAY TO SUMMER ARE YOU READY?



Sumter Family YMCA Newsletter



## PHONES DOWN, EYES UP

May is National Water Safety Month. When the weather starts to heat up, the pools, lakes, oceans, rivers and other bodies of water start calling! While swimming can be a very enjoyable activity this summer, it is important to remind all parents and caregivers of the importance of water safety.

Responding to a text. Answering a work email. Watching a reel. Making a grocery list. Quick actions that will take just a few seconds, but a second can quickly become a distraction. And distractions around the water can have major consequences. In fact, **88% of all drownings happen with at least one adult present.** That's why families should always assign a Water Watcher—an adult who is not distracted by their phone, conversations, or alcohol—who can maintain constant visual contact with all children playing in or near the water. This summer, the Y wants all parents and caregivers to remember, that your eyes can save lives. Phone Down, Eyes Up™ while at the pool, lakefront, or ocean.

Visit [PhonesDownEyesUp.org](http://PhonesDownEyesUp.org) to take the pledge and learn more about the layers of protection you can put in place to help keep kids safe around water, this summer and all year long.

Follow us on Instagram for tips and resources to help your family stay safe around water @YMCAofSumter1912.

On Saturday, May 31, join us for a **FREE** water safety event, **SPLASH DAY**, where we give you and your kids the tools to rescue themselves and others safely around water. We can't wait to make a splash with you this summer.



## Celebrate with us

### Happy birthday to:

Alicia H.	Brittany M.
Daiquan A.	Derek B.
Jordan N.	Kyra C.
Latonya B.	Michelle S.
Yani E.	Xavier H.

### Happy Work Anniversary to:

7 years	Derek B.
3 years	Dione B.
3 years	Tim "Boo" G.
2 years	Will L.
2 years	Tina R.
2 years	Gavin L.
1 year	Niki W.
1 year	Deonte F.
1 year	Aliasha B.
1 year	Addy L.
1 year	James S.

### Welcome to the team!

Olivia A.  
Sheldon B.  
Kisha B.  
Shalayia G.  
Jessie I.  
Ellie P.  
Roslyn T.  
Dalyn W.  
Emberly W.

### Stay connected with us

Instagram  
YMCA360 app  
YMCAof Sumter app  
[www.ymcasumter.org](http://www.ymcasumter.org)

## Facility Updates

2025 has been a busy, productive year for facility updates and improvements. Several projects have been completed:

- Installed window treatments in the youth department and office areas for safety
- Installed new gate system at the member service desk
- Updated and new equipment in the fitness center and weight room
- New flooring in pool hallway and Men's Health Services area
- New LED lights at gymnastics

In the works:

- Track and lower gym improvements: on schedule to reopen mid-May
- Senior Center: on track to open winter 2026

### Exciting Pool Renovation Update!

Thank you for your continued patience as we've worked to find the best long-term solution for our pool. We're thrilled to announce that we will be replumbing the entire pool and adding an ADA-accessible ramp, ensuring that everyone—regardless of physical ability—can enjoy the facility.

As we looked to the future, we made a proactive decision to prioritize longevity and sustainability, so that future generations won't face the same challenges we've encountered. Renovations are already underway, including repairing and reinforcing rusted steel columns and doorways, applying fresh paint, installing a gas line specifically for the warm water pool heater, and preparing for the upgraded plumbing and accessibility features.

We're aiming to unveil a brand-new pool experience by Fall 2025. We can't wait to welcome you back to a more inclusive, durable, and refreshed space!

Stay tuned for updates—and thank you for being part of this exciting transformation.

## Congratulations To Our Graduates

To our amazing young coworkers in the Class of 2025— CONGRATULATIONS on your graduation! It's been inspiring to watch you balance work, studies, and everything in between with such drive and determination. As you move forward, know that we're cheering you on every step of the way. We can't wait to see where your journey takes you next, and we're so proud to have been part of it. Wishing you a bright future full of growth, opportunity, and everything you've been working toward. You've earned every bit of it!

Aiden B.  
Devan W.  
Gavin L.  
Samuel B.

Anthony B.  
Emily V.  
Katherine D.  
Onyx T.

Eleana B  
Emma K.  
Lisa H.



A special note to Evan S. who is leaving for military bootcamp this summer.

"May, more than any other month of the year, wants us to feel most alive."

FENNELL HUDSON