

FEATURED

Bristol raising money to replace DMAC scoreboard

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The Scoreboard at the Dennis Malone Aquatics Center.
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BRISTOL — The Board of Park Commissioners aims to raise funds to replace a \$55,000 scoreboard at the Dennis Malone Aquatics Center.

The Board of Park Commissioners endorsed the idea of a fundraising campaign to replace the sign at its Aug. 20 meeting.

The current scoreboard at the center is no longer consistently functioning, according to Erica Ussery, community engagement coordinator with the Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Department, said.

This is impacting the athletic experience for the competitive swimming programs that are hosted at the city pool, she said.

Ussery said competitive swimming coaches, participants, and parents, recently met with Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth & Community Services Superintendent Dr. Joshua Medeiros and Aquatics Supervisor Raelynne Andrews to discuss the scoreboard.

They also spoke to them about developing a plan for the fundraising. Medeiros then presented the fundraising plan to the Board of Park Commissioners at their Aug. 20 meeting, where it was approved unanimously.

“The Dennis Malone Aquatics Center is an essential community resource,” Medeiros said. “It supports ongoing competitive swimming programs and water safety efforts offered in Bristol and to the surrounding towns.”

Medeiros said the pool and scoreboard are used by numerous competitive swim organizations. These include Bristol SPLASH (Connecticut Yankee Swim League),

Bristol Eastern High School, Bristol Central High School, Lewis Mills High School, and Saint Paul Catholic High School (Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference).

“A fundraising initiative to contribute to the costs of replacing the Dennis Malone Aquatics Center scoreboard has been started,” Medeiros said. “Community members are invited to make a tax-deductible donation to the Friends of Bristol Parks and Recreation Fund through the Main Street Community Foundation.”

Medeiros said the Bristol Board of Park Commissioners recognize that the sign replacement is a “sizeable” expense. To help kick off fundraising, they requested \$10,000 from the Friends of Bristol Parks and Recreation Fund to support the campaign.

This leaves \$45,000 needed to meet the fundraising goal and cover the costs to replace the scoreboard, he said.

“Together we can make a difference and ensure that our athletes have the resources they need to succeed,” said Board of Parks Commissioners Vice Chair Robert Fiorito.

People can donate on the Main Street Community Foundation’s website at mainstreetfoundation.org/friends-bristol-parks-and-recreation-fund.

There is an opportunity to direct donations to a specific initiative and/or in memory/celebration of someone. People who do so are asked to specify that the donation is for the “DMAC Scoreboard.” The fundraising campaign will close in March 2027.

For questions, call the Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Department's office at 860-584-6160 or email parksandrecreation@bristolct.gov.

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