



April 7, 2017

To all the Parents, Participants and Visitors of PYAA,

The restrooms at the PYAA Complex are now open. I wanted to write this email to everyone so that I could give a little explanation as to why it has been a two year process to reopen the restrooms at the PYAA Complex. I also wanted to make sure that everyone knew that none of the negative emails and comments on social media did anything to move this process along. If anything, it hindered the motivation of the volunteers on our board working to solve the problems. This was a big undertaking for a group of volunteer individuals who also work full time jobs. To constantly have to read negative, nonfactual comments about the work they were trying to accomplish is disheartening. It's hard to stay encouraged when people are calling you out on Pickerington's social media pages and yet not one time did any of those people come to a PYAA meeting and ask what actually was happening.

I wanted to explain a few of the facts as to why the restrooms were closed. Three years ago we suspected that there was something wrong with our septic tank system and had started to weigh out the options as to what direction we needed to go. We weren't sure how severe the problem was and we needed to weigh out all our options as to what we could do and how expensive each of those options were. The vandalism that was occurring during the PYAA baseball and softball games was getting worse (i.e., doors being swung on and broken, toilet lids and seats being torn off and smashed on the floor, mud being flung on the walls, toilets being clogged with entire rolls of toilet paper.) The restrooms are always locked and are only opened for games and practices. So all of this was occurring during the times when our patrons were at the complex -with the women's restroom receiving most of the damage. This was becoming very costly as we were having to repair the restrooms constantly.

As we were starting this process of discussing what we were going to do, pipes all over the concession building burst during that winter which was two years ago. So we decided it was now time to make a decision as to what to do concerning the septic tank. After months of getting estimates, having plans looked at, talking with the city on what we could and couldn't do, deciding how we were actually going to pay for this project, looking into tapping into the city's sewer system etc.. etc... we decided our best option was to put in a sewer system. I could list every single thing that then had to be done but I am going to sum it up by saying projects like this have a lot of moving parts and a lot of red tape to get through and all of it trying to be done by volunteers in their spare time. In addition to deciding how this \$50,000 project was going to be funded. So you can see why all the negative and sometimes nasty emails and comments on social media did nothing but hinder the process that had long already been started. Just because people don't physically see a solution to a project being worked on does not mean it is not being worked on. Some things just take time.

With the final work on the sewer system complete and with the restrooms now open, I wanted everyone to know how we are going to handle the vandalism to the restrooms. If the restrooms get vandalized they will be closed immediately and won't be reopened until repairs can be made. If repeated vandalism happens then they will be shutdown for remainder of the season. We just can't keep tolerating the destruction of our property. Also if the toilets get clogged for any reason, the restroom will have to be shut down for the remainder of the night. The concession workers are handling food and will not be cleaning the restrooms during their shifts nor can they unclog toilets. Our workers have been mistreated and yelled at in the past for not tending to the restrooms during their work shifts. You can, at any point, go to them and tell them politely about any issues or, more importantly, vandalism that may be occurring. They have been instructed on the necessary action to take, but I will not tolerate them be treated rudely.

I hope we will be able to get the vandalism stopped and that our restrooms can remain open throughout the season. We will need everyone's help in keeping the privilege of restrooms open and hopefully we will be able to stop all the vandalism. I hope that you are now able to see that we as volunteers were already long doing all we could on our end to get the restrooms up and running.

We have a great PYAA Executive Board and they are all dedicated to making PYAA better for our kids and our parents. I hope this email has now given each of you the facts behind why our restrooms have been closed and that each of us can work together to keep them open.

Respectfully,  
Beth Andrews  
PYAA Commissioner