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## **YMCA's pool water easier on the eyes**

By JIM NEWMAN Morning News

A new salt sanitation system is cleansing the indoor swimming pool at the Florence Family YMCA, replacing the traditional chlorine method with an alternate approach that is proving to be less harsh on swimmers.

Cynthia Averitt, the YMCA's aquatics director, said the switchover was made during the past month. Since then, the difference has been noticeable.

The tried and trusted method of chlorine application tends to give off a strong odor as it goes to work eliminating impurities in the pool. Recharging the pool with an additional chlorine treatment eliminates the resulting chloramines that are typically generated in this process.

Salt sanitation eliminates this even though chlorine is still generated through some creative chemistry. Through the process of electrolysis, salt is converted to chlorine after applying an electrical current within the unit. The beauty of this method is the chlorine reverts back to salt once it has done its job, and all without a strong, chlorine smell.

Averitt said there's not as much salt involved as it sounds and that levels are quite low. In fact, she added, the concentration is not dissimilar to that of a human tear.

"We don't have to raise the levels above normal and make it uncomfortable for swimmers, and have less incidents of algae," she said. "It's cleaner, healthier for your skin and hair, and it's more comfortable."

The conversion from chlorine to salt is not unique to the Florence YMCA, Averitt said, as it is also being done at other YMCAs across the country.

This also isn't the YMCA's first foray into salt sanitation; the Florence facility tried the system on a smaller scale in the whirlpool unit.

"Many people don't realize that we have our programs year round and in an indoor heated pool, so I think this is going to be beneficial."

For information on programs at the Florence Family YMCA, please call (843) 665-1234.