COOL POOLS!

The sunny and breezy days of spring will soon be met by the sweltering heat of summer, leaving area residents looking for ways to cool off.

One popular option to escape the heat is swimming and many local swimming pools have already opened for the season or will be opening soon.

- While many other community pools have shut down in Yuba County, the Olivehurst Public Pool remains open due to a collaborative effort by the Olivehurst Public Utility District, First 5 Yuba County and the Yuba County Department of Health and Human Services.

"Public pools just don’t make any money but we want to continue to open the pool as a service to the community," said John C. Tillotson, general manager of OPUD.

Open from noon until 4:45 p.m., the Olivehurst Public Pool offers public swimming sessions to the community daily. Children ages six through 18 are $4 and adults are $5. Children under the age of five can participate in the public swims free of charge due to funding provided by First 5 Yuba County.

For almost a decade, the Olivehurst Public Pool has also received special funding from First 5 Yuba County and the Yuba County Department of Health and Human Services to offer swim lessons free of charge to children ages five and younger.

Swim lessons are offered at the facility to those ages six and up starting at $40 per swimmer.

Additionally, Yuba County Department of Health and Human Services provides funding for adult exercise programs at the pool.

For more information about public swimming sessions or swim lessons, contact the Olivehurst Public Utility District at 743-4657.

To celebrate opening day this year, the Olivehurst pool will be hosting a “SP lash into Summer” safety event on June 8 from 11-2 p.m. Information and resources related to child safety – including health and developmental screenings, lifejacket fittings and carseat checks – will be available at no charge during the event. Yuba county residents will also have the opportunity to sign up for swim lessons as well.

According to the Drowning Prevention Foundation, drowning is a leading cause of injury-related deaths among California children ages four and under, with an average of 51 new deaths per year.

- In Sutter County, Gauche Aquatic Park – located at 421 C St in Yuba City – offers a variety of swim classes and public swim sessions as well. Public swim sessions began on Memorial Day weekend and will be offered only on Saturdays and Sundays through June 9.

Beginning June 10 through August 9, public swim sessions will be offered twice daily at the GAP. The first session begins at noon and lasts until 2:30 p.m. The second session will be held from 3:30 p.m. through 6 p.m.

Public swim sessions will only be offered on weekends Aug. 10 through Sept. 2.

Admission to the public swim sessions is $5 per person. Seniors aged
60 and over are $4 and children under the age of two are free of charge.

GAP accepts payment in the form of cash or check only. Private and semi-private lessons are also available at an additional cost.

The GAP offers a variety of swim lessons for all skill levels and ages throughout the summer. Classes designed for eight levels of skill are offered in four sessions.

The first swim lesson session runs from June 10 until June 20. The second session is scheduled for June 24 through July 4. Session three will be held July 8 through July 18 and session four will be July 22 until August 1.

Group swim lessons are $50 for Sutter County residents, $60 for non-residents.

Parent and Me swim is offered weekly throughout the summer.

Those interested in swim lessons can sign up online at www.yubacity.net, in-person at the GAP or at the Yuba City Parks and Recreation Department located at 1201 Civic Center Boulevard in Yuba City during the hours of 8 a.m. through 5 p.m.

For more information, contact the GAP at 822-4656.

• The Morehead Family Community Pool – located at 7740 Butte House Road in Sutter – also offers an escape from the heat for Sutter County community members.

"It is a great place to meet new people," said Madeline Anderson, Morehead Family Community Pool manager. "I have personal experience that I have met some great families that I still talk to frequently. It is also fun seeing the same faces along with many new ones every summer."

The pool is open daily from 1-6 p.m. And admission is $4 per person. A variety of swimming lessons are also available ranging from $63 to $125.

"Our pool promotes a safe, reliable, and stress free environment for families," said Anderson. "It gives the parents who send their teens alone a lot of reassurance knowing that we take good care of our swimmers."

For more information about the Morehead Family Community Pool, contact 673-2495.

• Colusa County has four public swimming pools for residents to enjoy throughout the county. Community pools located in Arbuckle, Williams, Colusa and Maxwell will all be opening their doors this month.

The Williams Community Pool will be offering members of the community free admission to the city pool this summer as well as a variety of swim lessons for all ages. This facility is open seven days a week from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Sundays.

"Swimming offers individuals of all fitness and ability levels an opportunity to be outdoors and safely engage in low-impact exercise," said Kate Dunlap, Parks and Recreation director for the city of Williams. "The Williams Community Pool provides community members a safe place to exercise and socialize all while taking a break from the summer heat."

The cost to register for swimming lessons is $30 per swimmer and the deadline to apply is June 3. Registration forms are available at the Williams City Hall.

According to Dunlap, all swim lessons are based upon the skills and abilities of the swimmer.

"We recommend that children be placed in a class which best suits their individual needs and comfort level," said Dunlap.