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CLIENT CONNECTION



WELCOME TO OUR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

HIGHLIGHTS

02 Swimming Pool Safety

Be safe around swimming pools to avoid the risk of tragedy.

04 Client Corner

Linda Mulik is our spotlight client for our third quarter newsletter.

05 Distance Learning Tips

Ways to make your distance learner successful.

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Automobile Accidents
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Personal Injury
Premises Liability
Product Liability
Social Security Disability
Truck Accidents
Wrongful Death

FACT: SWIMMING POOLS ARE AS DANGEROUS AS THEY ARE FUN

If you have kids, grandkids or remember when you were a kid, you know that a swimming pool can provide hours of non-stop fun and recreation that makes a hot summer day an all-out blast.

In Florida, swimming pools are featured in nearly every home. But with the fun and visual allure of cool blue waters softly rippling in your backyard patio space comes the responsibility to make sure that every precaution is in place to make your swimming pool safe and not a risk of tragedy.

FENCE OR SCREEN

The most important part of pool ownership and responsibility is a proper barrier between the pool and those who should not be in the water. Obviously, kids can present a serious drowning risk. Pool fences must therefore comply with code requirements to protect children from having access to a pool unless there is proper adult supervision. Code requires a minimum fence height of 4 feet and self-closing, self-locking gates that are more than 4 feet, 6 inches high. These minimum height requirements must be increased if a bottom rail raised above the ground is part of the fence construction.

A code approved child safety fence that extends around the entire perimeter of the pool meets these requirements. However, any fence or screen that does not create a barrier between the home and the pool will require doors and windows with an automated chime to alert that the pool area is being accessed.

DRAINS

In 2007 the *Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act* was passed into law nationwide requiring technology to prevent the hidden danger of pool and spa drains that could injure anyone by trapping them to the drain by suction. Many children and even some adults have died by swimming pool drains that posed this danger. Unless you know that the swimming pool has a safe drain, always warn children to stay away and do not touch the drain at the bottom of the pool.

DIVING

Never dive into a swimming pool. Too often children, and some adults, make the mistake of believing that it is safe to dive head-first into a swimming pool. Unfortunately, tragic injuries including paralysis, head injuries or death can result from diving into a pool and hitting the hard surface of the pool bottom. If you have children, warn them every time they go swimming in a swimming pool to never dive into the pool, even in the deep end!

PREPARE

The best way to avoid a drowning injury is to make sure that children are taught how to swim. Even infants can be taught how to survive the water of a swimming pool with an ISR certified instructor. But even when children know how to swim and infants are ISR certified, accidents can happen. Be prepared and become certified in CPR so that you can confidently perform life-saving measures on adults and children. And if you're uncertain, you can always rely on a certified lifeguard on duty.

NEVER LET YOUR GUARD DOWN

Even after a fun day of swimming without incident, kids can suffer from the rare but sometimes fatal injury of "dry drowning," or "secondary drowning." These medical conditions can occur to children who have been

Distance Learning Tips For Your Child's Educational Success

Parents had to make a tough choice this school year when it came to their children's education. In Florida, parents had three options, 1) permanently homeschool their children, 2) virtual "e-learning" school from home or 3) send their children back to in-person learning. Given the current pandemic, and the drastic increase in COVID cases in Florida, parents were left with a very difficult decision. Parents had to do what was best for their individual families. If you are a family who chose "virtual e-learning," or homeschooling for your family, here are some basic tips that may help your child be more successful this school year:

A. LIMIT "LEISURE" SCREEN TIME DURING THE SCHOOL DAY – Consider allowing your child leisure screen time after his or her schoolwork is completed. Phones, tablets, and video games can be distracting, especially during the school day. It may be difficult to get your child to transition back to schoolwork after they have been given access to screen time.

B. CREATE A LEARNING SPACE – Since your child will be working from a laptop, computer, or tablet, it is important that he or she has a designated workspace to do their work. This can be as simple as a desk and a chair in his or her own bedroom, or a place at the dining room table. Having a designated workspace will create the right environment for classwork to be completed.

C. ALLOW FOR MULTIPLE BREAKS – Children need recess breaks and exercise throughout the day. Physical activity, being outside, and running around helps kids focus better in school. If they lack these things, kids can lose interest or get anxious. Encourage them to go for a bike ride, kick a soccer ball, or take a jog around the neighborhood. Physical exercise helps them channel all that pent-up energy!

D. MAINTAIN A SCHEDULE – Keeping a schedule that is close, or like the in person learning schedule may help keep children on task. If they know what to expect, and what is expected of them, they perform much better. Consider asking his or her teacher for a loose schedule, or more rigid, depending on your child.

E. REWARD YOUR CHILD FOR STAYING ON TASK – Children may have a harder time staying on task if their parents are assisting them or supervising their virtual learning. Consider rewarding your child for staying on task more than once during the day. Some reward ideas can include extra screen time after schoolwork is complete, fun stickers, or an accumulation of rewards to cash in for a bigger one of their choice.

F. COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER ON A REGULAR BASIS – Whether your child's teacher prefers communication through email, or an app, ask him or her the best way to get the quickest response. Your child's teacher will want the best for your child and will want to be kept apprised of any issues or barriers concerning their education. If you are having any trouble with any aspect of distance learning, your child's teacher will be the best person to ask questions.

swimming and accidentally breathe in water. At first, a child appears fine, even hours after being out of the water. Parents and adults supervising children should be aware to look for signs that a child may not be breathing easily or if they become lethargic or feverish. At the first sign of a problem, a child must be given professional medical attention. Only by paying attention and knowing what to look for can you avoid a severe injury and tragic outcome.

HAVE FUN!

Knowing how to be safe and keep your children safe gives you the peace of mind to have a fun day in the pool. We're blessed with sunshine and warm weather throughout the year and we should enjoy the opportunities for our children and for ourselves to go swimming!

Everyone is safe when we take personal responsibility for ourselves and our loved ones. PERENICH The Law Firm has successfully recovered against those who are negligent when it comes to swimming pool safety. Together with my brothers, Tim and Greg, we are always ready to hold the negligent accountable for swimming pool and drowning injuries. Please call if you would like more information or guidance regarding this important issue.

Terence A. Perenich, Esquire

CHIA SEED ENERGY BITES

AFTER SCHOOL SNACK



INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup of oats
- ¼ cup of honey
- ¼ cup of peanut butter (you can use SunButter or substitute any nut butter)
- 2 tbsp. of chia seeds
- ¼ tsp. of vanilla
- Optional additional add-ins: M&Ms, raisins, chocolate chips, or sunflower seeds

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Combine ingredients together until well mixed
2. Add any additional add-ins
3. Refrigerate for 30 minutes
4. Shape into bites

COVID-19 UPDATE

At Perenich The Law firm, we will always make ourselves available to “meet” with any client after hours or on weekends. Even during this time of uncertainty, we are still open, fully functioning, and able to take on new clients. While we are following all guidelines and orders for social distancing, we as a firm have the capability to handle all inquiries, client meetings, and conversations without having in person face to face meetings. When necessary, we are also able to accommodate in person meetings by hosting them in a large conference room where we can be socially distant.



CLIENT CORNER



Linda Mulik is our spotlight client for our third quarter newsletter. On the evening of December 20, 2018, Ms. Mulik was injured on a raised walkway outside of her apartment building. Minutes before her unfortunate accident, Linda was in her bedroom preparing for bed when she heard people talking loudly in the community jacuzzi just outside of her bedroom window. Linda went outside to ask them to lower their voices. On her return from the community area, Linda's foot caught the edge of a raised walkway leading back to her unit. Ms. Mulik fell on the cement, badly scraping her face and both of her knees. The paramedics were called, and they took her to a local hospital.

Upon arrival at the hospital, Ms. Mulik was evaluated and treated for her injuries. An x-ray revealed that Linda had suffered a nondisplaced left patella fracture as well as a nose laceration. She was given a knee immobilizer and ordered to follow up in two weeks for further evaluation. Linda was discharged from the hospital and sent to a rehabilitation hospital for ten days where she received physical therapy.

Once Ms. Mulik was discharged from the rehabilitation hospital, she retained Perenich the law firm and Attorney Tim Perenich to represent her. Our firm's investigation revealed that the location where Ms. Mulik fell was poorly lit because the bulb in the exterior overhead lighting fixture was not

operating and was burned out. As a result, Ms. Mulik could not see the raised walkway leading up to her unit, causing her fall.

Ms. Mulik continued to suffer with pain in both of her knees. Her left knee was more painful than the right, causing sharp pains that would wake her up from sleep. She then saw an orthopedic surgeon who evaluated both knees. Her left knee was diagnosed with a non-displaced transverse fracture of the left patella, and her right knee was diagnosed with a tibial tubercle fracture.

Our office worked very closely with Ms. Mulik's physicians to ensure her injuries were properly documented, since these injuries negatively affected Ms. Mulik's everyday life and activities. Ms. Mulik's constant pain caused a multitude of daily physical limitations. She had to use a walker to get around. She also found it hard to stand for long periods of time, making it difficult to cook, clean, do laundry, or any household chores. She also needed the assistance of home health. To this day, Ms. Mulik still suffers from knee pain and has come to the unfortunate realization that constant pain will remain a part of her everyday life.

"My experience with the Perenich Law Firm was great. Attorney Tim Perenich was kind, attentive, respectful, and listened to my explanation of the accident with great concern. Tim kept me informed on a regular basis until my case was settled. The entire firm is cordial, friendly, fair, kind, and willing to help everyone who seeks out their expertise. Tim is gracious, pleasant, and lives his life with a spiritual attitude and mindset. I cannot say enough about their competency and capability. Tim Perenich and his staff are gracious, pleasant, and went above and beyond!"

We have many clients like Ms. Mulik who are unfortunately involved in serious accidents or have other legal needs. We are always available to assist them in those circumstances and are happy to help or refer them to local colleagues that we trust. When clients retain us at Perenich the law firm, they become part of our family.