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**HAVEN POOLS:  
GOING BEYOND  
POOL BUILDING  
TO BACKYARD  
HAVENS**  
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A pool has become more than a place for families to cool down during the dog days of summer. In the last decade residential swimming areas have become backyard retreats with built-in spas, stone gardens, exquisite landscaping, waterfalls and extended decks which would rival most luxury resorts. It may seem like an overwhelming task, but one company in Huntington has it down to perfection.

Since its inception in 1968, Haven Pools has been building custom gunite in-ground pools and stands today as the oldest premier builder on Long Island. (Gunite is pneumatically applied concrete that is shot through high-pressure hoses. It is also

commonly used in bridge and tunnel construction). Company president Craig Bonawandt is a second-generation pool builder. Haven Pools was founded by his parents Karl and Muriel, more than 40 years ago, and despite his father's retirement from sales in 1985, the elder Bonawandt remains active with administrative and management duties. Craig's son, Patrick, is also on board, continuing the uninterrupted flow of family leadership within the business.

Steadfast in displaying top quality workmanship, constant in showcasing its knowledge and design capabilities, and unfaltering in its customer support, Haven stands behind its product. Haven was the first company to use rigid P.V.C. piping on every residential pool and are constantly upgrading its standards, learning new innovations and attending seminars provided by major manufacturers and trade organizations. The company limit its projects to 30 per year, ensuring every phase is completed well beyond industry standards. In fact, Bonawandt, who also serves on the Board of Directors for the Huntington Station Business Improvement District, supervises every job.

The time to start planning your aqua retreat is now as the average pool takes six to eight weeks to complete, and a pool environment with patios and landscaping will take closer to 12 weeks. "We will first sit down with a customer for a consultation," explains Bonawandt about the process. "We'll look at their property and discuss what their needs are in terms of how they plan to use their pool. It is important to consider safety,



especially regarding children and pets. How a family entertains and where to position terraces for sun and shade are huge considerations as well."

One of the perks of the modern in-ground pool is that it can be almost maintenance-free. Haven Pools has been installing "in floor" cleaning systems since 1992, which clean the pool floor and walls as well as the pool steps, benches and spa. "The most popular feature currently is the chlorine generator which is a device to sanitize the pool," adds Bonawandt. "Chlorine generators convert regular salt into chlorine, eliminating the need to handle any sanitizer. The water still needs to be balanced regularly, but a chlorine generator makes the process significantly easier."

A watershape built by Haven Pools goes beyond the ordinary "swimming hole" as it will design and craft the environment surrounding it. With wondrous landscaping, intricately crafted stone terraces and other pool-related construction, its pools resemble Caribbean resorts and national parks rather than someone's backyard. "We have a masonry division that does hardscaping and we work with many different landscaping companies," says Bonawandt, "so we can precisely fulfill our customers' desires."

There's conclusive substantiation that Haven Pools delivers; photos of its indoor sanctuaries, fountains, vanishing edge and free-form shaped pools are featured on its website. It comes as no surprise that Haven Pools has won numerous awards from the Association of Pool and Spa Professionals. "The APSP has

an annual international design award contest," beams Bonawandt, "with nearly a thousand entries from all over the world. Entries are judged by a panel of experts including landscape architects, designers and builders. Last year alone we won three national awards, seven regional awards, and one of our pools won a Long Island Nursery and Landscape Association award. We have built many award winning projects but are most proud of our 24 national awards. These awards are the most prestigious and sought after in the industry. Haven has won more than any other gunite pool builder on Long Island."

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Haven Pools is also proud to have a full-time staff. As many construction and pool service companies are seasonal, Haven Pools staff employs workers year-round so they can keep up-to-date about the pool industry and service their customers. Its sister company, Haven Swimming Pool Service, is responsible for pool openings, closing and maintenance as well as immediate assistance for repairs. "We know how important it is when a customer has an emergency and they need someone there right away," says Bonawandt. "Very often we can reach a mechanic in the area quickly to provide the emergency service needed. Staying on top of communication technology helps us to serve our customers better."

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