

Improvements Ahead for Pittsford’s Senior Center

Among the benefits of the proposed upgrading, redesign and expansion of the Spiegel Community Center will be to provide a new, better and permanent home for the Town’s senior citizen programs.

The proposed new Senior Center, to be sited within the remodeled Spiegel building, offers significant improvements for the benefit and enjoyment of Senior Center patrons. It also will save Pittsford taxpayers \$110,000 per year in rent for the current site.

Dedicated Senior Space – The new Senior Center at Spiegel will provide a beautiful, welcoming and modern home for our senior programs. It includes a dining room with fully equipped kitchen. It adds a senior lounge, which the current senior facility doesn’t have. All classrooms to be used for senior programs will be on the same floor as the dining room and lounge, and adjacent to them. Program participants will not have to move between the Senior Center and any other floor of the building to get to a class. In addition, Senior Center patrons will have access to the newly renovated gymnasium – another feature not found at the current site.

Improved Access – The Senior Center at Spiegel will be located in the part of the building closest to the new ground-level lobby, on the first floor. That’s one-half level above the lobby. To get there, Senior Center patrons will have three choices: (1) a gently sloping indoor ramp; (2) a new double-capacity indoor elevator; or (3) an indoor stairway. This marks a major improvement over the current Senior Center, which offers only two means of access: an outdoor stairway and an outdoor ramp, both exposed to the elements year-round.

Senior Center Staff will be located within the Senior Center at Spiegel – The Senior Center staff and their office will be right there, next to the senior dining room, as they are in the current facility. As they always have been, they’ll be within the Senior Center. You’ll see them when you walk in, as you do now.

A Permanent Home – The Town’s lease of the current Senior Center location at 3750 Monroe Avenue is subject to two uncertainties. First, as of next March, the building’s owner has the right to relocate the senior center to another place within the building, on short notice. The Town is aware that a major commercial tenant in the building has expressed strong interest in the space currently occupied by the Senior Center. Secondly, if the demand for commercial space at the site continues, it’s entirely possible that the landlord would not wish to renew the lease for the senior center when it expires in April, 2019.

Moving our Senior Center to the upgraded and remodeled Spiegel building wipes away these uncertainties. It provides a permanent, dedicated home for our senior programs.

Reserved Parking for Seniors – Our new Community Center will feature a parking area immediately adjacent to the building entrance nearest to the Senior Center reserved exclusively for use

by seniors during Senior Center hours. Altogether, the planned improvements at Spiegel include a major expansion of parking.

Quite apart from improvements that benefit patrons of our senior programs, the proposed upgrade, redesign and expansion of Spiegel will create a modern facility offering benefits to everyone. The **complete interior redesign** will allow for significantly better use of the building's existing square footage, with more space to use in a greatly improved manner. The modernization and aesthetic upgrade of the building will provide a more pleasant environment for all visitors to the building. The **building expansion** includes a new ground-level main entrance, a large lobby, and a community lounge, each accessible to those of all abilities. **Reconfiguration of the site** brings greatly expanded parking and provides for improvements to the playground that affect both safety and enjoyment. **Facility upgrades** will provide long-term cost-savings and efficiencies for our heating, cooling and other infrastructure systems.

The referendum on these improvements takes place on Tuesday, October 18. Your vote is needed to make these upgrades a reality, and to secure for years to come a community center worthy of Pittsford. As always, you can contact me at bsmith@townofpittsford.org or (585) 248-6220 about this or any other matter of interest to you.