

VICTOR COMMUNITY CENTER

Frequently Asked Questions

The Victor Community Center Task Force has spent a great deal of time out talking to residents and have compiled a list of questions that we hope will answer some of your questions. If you have further questions or would like to discuss these in more depth please join us at the Public Information Session on August 13th or call the Parks and Recreation office at 742-0140 or email us at communitycentertf@victorny.org.

- FINANCES -

1) Why build a Community Center in our current economy?

We are fortunate to live in the second fastest growing community in the State of NY. This has brought a lot of prosperity to the Town of Victor finances. Even so, it is important that we be fiscally responsible in how we develop our community. This is why the Community Center Task Force hired a professional financial firm, specializing in municipal finance, CMA to do an extensive analysis of the Town finances to make sure that we could afford to build a Community Center while at the same time paying for other projects that are needed for our growing community. Additionally the original cost estimates have come down by approximately \$300,000 due to the change in our economy.

2) Will there be a charge to Victor Residents to use the facility?

There would be no fee to use the walking / jogging track or to use the multi-use athletic facility during drop-in hours. This will be a programmed facility with a combination of fee based programs with some free programs (as we do today). We anticipate that there will be an annual, monthly and daily membership fee to use the fitness center.

3) What impact will this project have on my taxes?

Based on the extensive financial research that has been done by CMA, the Town, and the Community Center Task Force, it is the Task Force's recommendation that no tax increase is needed to pay for the construction and operation of the proposed Community Center. Several parks and trails related capital expenditures will be coming off the Town budget in the next two years, which will make additional monies available for community center related expenditures. In fact Park & Recreation's yearly rental costs plus the money set aside for a new Community Center totals approximately \$500,000 a year. By building and owning its' own facility the cost will be \$430,000 a year for 20 years, saving the town \$70,000 a year.

4) Will this project increase the Park & Recreation budget?

In an effort to control costs and to prevent future tax increases the Community Center Task Force has recommended that other park projects be scaled back and completed over a longer period of time. This will allow the operation of this facility to be absorbed into the existing Parks & Recreation budget.

5) *NY State Senator Michael Nozzolio pledged \$1million to the previous Community Center proposal with the school district. Is this money still available for this proposed project?*

The Task Force is currently discussing options with Senator Nozzolio but has not figured the pledge of \$1million dollars into the numbers of this proposed Community Center.

6) *How will this project effect other Town projects, (i.e. High St, Courts, etc.)?*

As part of the Task Force's financial analysis of this project the costs for other important Town projects were considered. Some of the considerations were the High Street renovation project, purchasing a permanent building for our Town Courts, making sure our neighbors who live in the plume have safe drinking water and air to breath, along with other town infrastructure projects.

- SENIORS -

7) *I am a senior on a fixed income. What impact will this center have on my taxes and how much will I have to pay to use the center?*

The community center task force takes the well being of our senior population very seriously. That is why the Task Force has recommended that seniors have access to the community center without any financial burden. That means there will be NO user fees for drop-in activities for any Victor resident who is 65 or older. In addition there is a dedicated Senior Center.

8) *I am concerned with the perception that this community center will be primarily targeted for our youth and sports groups...what are your plans to ensure our aging population and growing seniors group will receive the appropriate benefit of such a facility?*

This is one of the most important concerns that needs to be properly understood and communicated throughout our community. It is essential we invest in the fastest growing demographics group within the town of Victor's population that being those residents 55 years of age and older. This ever growing group of residents will expect and demand more from our current town offerings to seniors. Currently we have a small but active seniors group of approx. 100 town residents which is out of a demographic soon to be over 3,000. We have to attract more senior citizen participation and drive more senior programs. This is a key strategy within having a community center.

- SITE SELECTION -

9) *Why doesn't the town just renovate and purchase the existing building?*

The task force studied a proposal from the owner of the existing building at Blossom Drive. The task force determined that the building was not sufficient to house the existing programs and did not offer the ability to expand the building in the future if needed.

10) Why don't we partner with public and/or private organizations to fund this project?

In the last few years the Town has looked into partnering with a number of organizations including the YMCA, Town of Farmington, and the Victor Central School District. Unfortunately, the needs of those organizations and the needs of the Town of Victor did not match and have prevented any agreements that would share the building and operational costs with those organizations. This, however, does not mean that the Town of Victor will not be partnering with those organizations to provide programming and sharing of facilities.

11) Why did you choose the Paparone site on Brace Road for construction of the Community Center?

The Task Force and the Parks and Recreation Citizens' Advisory Committee did an analysis of all town owned properties based on several criteria and determined based on size, location, and site preparation costs that the Paparone site located on Brace Road near Route 96 was the best option of all possible sites. The committees did not want the town to incur any additional costs for land.

12) How will this impact traffic on Route 96 and Brace Road?

A traffic impact assessment was completed in the fall of 2008 as part of the New York State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) for this project. Vehicle counts were taken during peak times and site distances were examined. It was determined that existing traffic operations would not be impacted and that there was more than enough site distance at the Route 96 and Brace Road intersection.

- OPERATIONS -

13) Will residents outside the Town of Victor be able to use this facility?

As with all current programs, Town of Victor residents and community organizations will be the primary users that will benefit from having such a facility. They will always take priority and be offered program usage opportunities first. Currently our Town of Victor Parks & Recreation programs see approximately 15% participation by non-Victor. Depending on the program, all non-Victor residents will pay an additional amount above what Victor residents pay.

14) What days and hours of operation is the community center planning to be open?

The current plan is to have the community center operate for approximately (100) hours per week. Anticipated operating hours would be Monday – Thursday, 6 am – 10 pm; Friday, 6 am – 8 pm; Saturday, 8 am – 8 pm, and Sunday Noon – 8 pm.

15) We understand there is fitness center component planned for the community center, why is this needed and won't this compete with current Victor businesses like the Iron Butterfly and the YMCA?

The Town of Victor Parks & Recreation Department has no interest or plans to try to compete with these organizations. In fact, like we have done in many of our existing programs we have been a seeding ground for these organizations with programs such as the Iron Butterfly Boot Camp and Spinning programs, the YMCA before care and after care experiences and the United Martial Arts youth karate program. We will continue to work with these fine local businesses on making sure we in fact complement one another's services offerings.

- PROGRAMS & EXPANDABILITY OPTIONS -

16) Will a pool and/or a Field House be part of this project?

Not initially. The Task Force has received a lot of feedback regarding the need for a pool, but was not able to fit the cost of a pool and its operation into the first phase. However, the Paparone site was chosen because we know that it has the capability to expand and accommodate both a pool and a field house.

17) What will be in the first phase of this project?

The community center will be 35,000 square feet and is proposed to house the following in Phase 1: a multi-use athletic facility, an elevated indoor walking / jogging track, locker rooms, a dedicated Senior Center, multipurpose rooms, a fitness center, a kitchen and Parks and Recreations staff offices. Future phases may include outdoor play fields, children's playground, a pool and or a field house. The site is located across the street from the 47 acre Victor Municipal Park, which offers both passive recreation opportunities and special experiences.

18) What type of additional programs will be offered in a new, larger facility?

The Department's program scope would expand to include infant and toddler enrichment programs, youth and teen wellness courses, cardio and weight training activities, youth and adult instructional and competitive sports leagues, computer and foreign language courses, and senior citizen day program to name only a few. A new facility would also enable the Department to offer more sections of already popular programs and offer activities at more convenient times for our residents.

19) Will community groups be able to use the multipurpose rooms and multi-use athletic facility?

Yes, community groups will be able to use these spaces for a combination of free hours and times with a nominal fee.

20) How will community sports programs access the facility?

Per our current practice with our existing facility and our parks and athletic fields community sports organizations will be able to reserve the facility spaces either free or for a nominal fee.