

SHELBY TOWNSHIP PRESS RELEASE

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Shelby Township hosts open house for Community Center needs assessment

As part of continuing efforts to gather feedback for the future of the Shelby Township Library and Shelby Township Senior Center, the Shelby Township Board of Trustees and the Community Center Advisory Board are hosting open houses at 10 a.m. March 2 at the Senior Center and at 7 p.m. March 2 at the Library.

Trustees Paula Filar and Doug Wozniak, engineers Fazal Khan and Carol Thurber, Parks and Recreation Director Joe Youngblood and DPW Director Dave Miller are the members of Community Center Advisory Board (CCAB).

Currently, the CCAB has met with members of the Board of Trustees and staff from the Library, Senior Center and Cable TV departments to evaluate their needs. The March 2 meetings are an instrumental final piece in this needs assessment program as it gives residents a chance to give their feedback to the CCAB in a one-on-one, open house setting.

"I have the utmost faith in our terrific employees at the Library and Senior Center to understand the needs of their facilities, but, as elected officials and stewards of tax dollars, it is imperative we sit down with our bosses, the taxpayers of Shelby Township, and give them a chance to take part in this historic project," Township Supervisor Rick Stathakis said.

Citizens are welcomed to stop by any time during the town hall to interact with the CCAB and ask questions regarding the future of the Community Center. Sharing ideas about just how residents envision the future of the Library and Senior Center is encouraged.

"The open house follows the blue print established by our annual community visioning process to set the year's priorities for local government," Stathakis said. "While the vision sessions give us a to-do list for the next calendar year, the open house meetings will shape how we seek to address the needs of our Library and Senior Center."

The needs assessment is the latest and most significant step the township has taken to address the top priority for 2016 as set by the annual community visioning process with input from the public, township department heads and the Board of Trustees.

"As Parks, Recreation and Maintenance Director, the issue of what to do with the Community Center hangs over almost everything our department does," Youngblood said. "I am proud to be on this team as we work for a final resolution that will give our residents a facility of which they can be proud."

The CCAB held its first meetings in late 2015 with Shelby Township Library Director Katie Ester, 41-A District Court Administrator Laura Porter, Senior Center Coordinator Amy Drake and Cable TV Director John Martin to discuss a roadmap to addressing the facility's needs.

"We've been very pleased with the feedback we've received from the early parts of this process, and we're very excited about the possibilities represented by the open house," Stathakis said. "Our goal is to make this an interactive process that engages all parts of our community, and the open house town hall is the most personal opportunity our community has to take part in the process."

For additional information, please contact the Parks, Recreation and Maintenance Department or PRM Director Joe Youngblood, at youngblj@shelbytwp.org or 586-731-0300.

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