

SHELBY TWP.

Advisory board announces new idea to move community center to vacant Ewell Elementary

By Debra Kaszubski
Contributing Writer

The Shelby Township Community Center Advisory Board announced an idea to move the library, senior center, and Shelby TV to the vacant Ewell Elementary School, located on the corner of 23 Mile and Shelby roads, during the Feb. 16 Board of Trustees meeting.

Currently, 41-A District Court shares an aging building with the senior center, library, and Shelby TV on Van Dyke, north of 23 Mile Road.

The Advisory Board was created in September, one month after the signing of a historic agreement between the township and the 41-A District Court, which prohibits the chief judge from requesting that the court sit anywhere but Shelby Township for the next 20 years.

Along with the agreement, safety issues concerning the transport of prisoners to a building shared with a library and senior center, and lack of space make a move or renovations necessary, according to township representatives.

"I'm glad to see that we have at least a partial plan as we go forward," Supervisor Richard Stathakis said during the meeting. "Using a standing facility is smarter and fiscally responsible."

Ewell Elementary

School, which measures 57,840 square feet, was closed in 2010 due to low enrollment.

The Advisory Board consists of Trustees Paula Filar and Doug Wozniak, engineers Fazal Khan and Carol Thurber, Parks and Recreation Director Joe Youngblood, and Department of Public Works Director Dave Miller. The board met with representatives from the library, 41-A District Court, and the cable TV station before announcing their recommendation.

Longtime resident Bill Mason came up with the idea to repurpose Ewell Elementary School and later presented it to Stathakis, who praised him for the suggestion. Tim McAvoy, Utica Community Schools director of community relations, said the district is aware of the township's interest in the school.

"However, the Board of Education has not received a formal proposal from Shelby Township, as they are exploring multiple options," he said.

Township residents will have the opportunity to share their thoughts on the project during one of two town meetings, which are set for 7 p.m. Feb. 24 in the township building board room, and 10 a.m. March 2 in the senior center.

Currently, 41-A District Court shares an aging building with the senior center, library, and Shelby TV on Van Dyke, north of 23 Mile Road.



DEBRA KASZUBSKI — FOR MACOMB DAILY

The Shelby Township Community Center Advisory Board announced the idea of repurposing Ewell Elementary School, located on 23 Mile and Shelby roads, to serve as the library, senior center and cable TV station.