

Dear Oxford Residents:

The Oxford YMCA project committee is pleased to give you an end of year update of the Oxford YMCA project. The project's mission is "to meet the wellness and recreation needs of Oxford residents and their guests." Last spring an Oxford Wellness & Recreation Survey was conducted of all residents in the 21654 zip code. The committee gathered valuable detailed information from residents to determine their wellness & recreation needs and interests.

Based on these survey results, a Conceptual Plan has been created to develop a small, satellite Oxford YMCA facility to support and serve the wellness and recreation needs of Oxford. The plan includes a year-round fitness center (with cardiovascular and weight resistance machines), fitness class area, and a seasonal (outdoor) swimming pool. Like Oxford, it is designed to be small and simple yet also architecturally elegant.

The proposed site is located at the end of the East Pier Street cul-de-sac and is buffered from residential areas by the commercial-industrial uses to the west. This location is a plus for reducing any traffic or noise impacts. (Several sites had been previously considered and eliminated through due diligence that included community input.) The site is also adjacent to The Conservation Fund's 80+ acre parcel which is between the Oxford YMCA site and Oxford Road and will be retained for passive recreation use.

As a community courtesy, earlier in the year the Oxford YMCA/Pool committee gave a promise to the board of the Oxford Community Center (OCC) it would not begin capital campaign activity until the close of the OCC's capital campaign. When it does begin the project's capital campaign, the committee will work closely with the development expertise of the YMCA of Talbot County.

The next steps include obtaining land approvals, completing the design of the building and site, and fundraising. The entire cost of the construction project will be via private donations and will not involve funding by the Town of Oxford or affect its tax base. After construction the facility will be managed and financed by the YMCA of Talbot County with an Oxford advisory board.

This small satellite YMCA facility will enhance and benefit the residents of Oxford and its business community in innumerable ways. According to YMCA President, Robbie Gill, the YMCA seeks to support and assist communities in meeting their wellness and recreational needs. The YMCA's mission: "is to foster opportunities for individuals, families and community that strengthen healthy spirit, mind and body for all."

Please let us know if you have questions, suggestions or would like to support the project by volunteering. We appreciate hearing from you.

Happy New Year!

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