

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****New Community Center in Stow**

Stow, OH - [March 9, 2024] The City of Stow has acquired the former Cornerstone Church, 5344 Fishcreek Road in Stow and plans for it to serve as the NEW senior center. The property aligns well with the City's needs to provide a facility for fun, active, social programs and events for what is the largest segment of the City's population. The new property/facility offers a considerable upgrade to the current Senior Center with over 8,000 square feet of space, enabling it to serve a larger population and facilitate a wider array of programs, accommodating up to 533 individuals.

Mayor John Pribonic expressed his support for acquiring this facility and property, acknowledging the urgent need to address the shortcomings of the current senior center. A decision was made last year not to propose a levy for a comprehensive community recreation center, as property taxes for residents were already due to be increased for other reasons, including recent property reappraisals. However, the improvement of the current senior center remained a priority. Mayor Pribonic affirmed that this facility and property would significantly contribute to meeting the City's immediate needs.

The facility is a very clean and well-maintained one-level building with the convenience of no steps. The main entrance offers a protective canopy and a drive-thru under that canopy. Once inside the front doors, a large welcome area/foyer awaits. A large main room that served as the church sanctuary can accommodate 260 guests. There is also a medium sized room, smaller classrooms, a large Kitchen, and 2 offices. Outside includes ample parking and an outbuilding for storage. The City administration is currently meeting to plan and start the upgrades needed before the grand opening later this summer.

The acquisition of this facility will furnish the City of Stow with a specialized indoor venue for recreational programs and events. Presently, the City possesses only the current senior center as a dedicated space. The City's main objectives consist of relocating existing senior programs to the new senior center, growing the current array of senior programs, utilizing the space for other parks and recreation programs, and ensuring availability for other municipal needs and meetings.

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