

“A Cent for the Center”

If you envision a positive future for Rutland City, it is time to stand up and make a difference in our community by supporting something that will help us move forward! Specifically, on Tuesday, March 2nd Rutland City voters will be asked on a ballot question “Bond Article # 1” to support an upgrade to the Giorgetti Arena to house the Rutland Recreation and Parks Department and Boys & Girls Club of Rutland County by investing “a Cent for the Center”. This facility will become the Community Center at Giorgetti Park.

What is the Community Center at Giorgetti Park?

In addition to existing amenities such as the ice rink and skate park, the renovation will include an indoor field house (providing year round indoor sport opportunities including baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, lacrosse, rugby, soccer, softball, volleyball, walking and jogging, etc.) and community multi-purpose rooms for group exercise, art classes, computer access, meetings, events and more. Along with increased hours of operation the improved facility will connect indoor recreation space with existing outdoor recreation space on the ball fields and hiking/biking trails. Space for the Boys & Girls Club will be included, offering high quality programs for 6-18 year-olds where even a hot meal is served. This facility will provide greatly needed year-round multi-generational programming and activities that will promote healthy lifestyles and positive choices in a safe and secure environment.

Why Here? Why Now?

Giorgetti Arena is the most practical choice to upgrade. It is City owned and operated and is supported with an endowment to assure its self-sustainability. Giorgetti Park already has existing amenities (outdoor ball fields, Pine Hill with its extensive hiking and mountain biking trails, a refrigerated rink, a skate park) and room for expansion. The consolidation of many recreation services to the Center will foster efficiencies and synergy between a host of both indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities. Furthermore, the Dana Recreation Center was not designed to be a recreation facility and has lacked adequate and appropriate space since the “temporary” occupancy 15 years ago. City taxpayers’ resources are being drained and unwisely spent on the Dana facility. Given the low interest rates and lower construction costs now is the time to invest in our future.

Why partner?

The proposed partnership of the Rutland Recreation and Parks Department with the Boys & Girls Club will bring these two organizations with complimenting goals under one roof, enabling each to gain from the other ultimately benefitting the community. Efficiencies will be realized through shared facility management, operations, use, and

human resources. The partnership will provide a desired inclusive atmosphere that will attract more Rutlanders to participate in positive, healthy community recreation and social activities.

What will it cost you?

A yes vote to support a bond for 4.7 million dollars translates to an increase in the tax rate of one cent (“a Cent for the Center”). A cent increase on the tax rate in the city translates to a \$16 per year average increase in taxes to the average city homeowner (based on a city assessed value of \$160,000). That is approximately \$1.34 per month—or 4 cents a day! This truly is an economical investment for Rutland’s future!

Final comments

Some people will focus on the bond amount and say it is too much money and we can’t afford more taxes especially now. First of all, I would urge you to focus on the amount you would be investing in this city’s future per year or month as mentioned before under “What will it cost you?” and decide whether or not you can afford that amount. Secondly, for every dollar you invest that dollar will be matched by facility generated revenue. In other words, tax dollars are paying for half of the total bond amount. Finally, with a bond interest rate projected to be at 2% or less this is a perfect time to invest in our future. It might be a long time before we see these interest rates again. Most of the time we pay higher taxes for the same services due to uncontrollable rising costs like heating oil, electricity, insurances, etc.. This 1 cent increase in the tax rate actually provides you the taxpayer with something in return, an upgraded facility for all ages with more services and a portion of the foundation that will be the basis for economic growth for the City of Rutland. Please vote on Tuesday, March 2nd and seriously consider whether you want to help make a positive impact on the future of Rutland City. If you have any questions please visit our website at <http://centforthecenter.org> or call me at 773-1822 x14.

Sincerely,

EJay Bishop

EJay Bishop, Superintendent
Rutland Recreation and Parks Department

Larry Bayle

Larry Bayle, Executive Director
Boys and Girls Club of Rutland County