

# Livonia officials hold ceremonial groundbreaking on new senior wellness center

[Aya Fayad](#)

The Detroit News

Published 4:48 p.m. ET June 17, 2024

*Livonia* — The city of Livonia on Monday marked the beginning of construction on a new \$26.9 million senior wellness center that officials say will allow the Wayne County suburb to expand programming and activities for seniors in the community.

Construction of the new 30,000-square-foot facility on Five Mile and Hubbard is expected to begin in early July to replace the city's current Civic Park Senior Center on Five Mile.



The project — which will cost a total of \$26.9 million, up from an earlier estimate of \$21.9 million, though the size of the facility has grown by 5,000-square-foot — was made possible by \$20.75 million in county, state and federal grants, along with American Rescue Plan Act and building improvement funds from Livonia. The city says the project will not require a tax increase or a dedicated millage.

Deputy Wayne County Executive Assad I. Turfe, one of several officials who attended a ceremonial groundbreaking Monday, said investment in the senior center is beneficial for everyone involved.

"The investment will benefit not only our seniors but also contribute to the growth of our entire community," Turfe said. "As our communities age, so does the infrastructure supporting them. The Livonia Senior Wellness Center will be a hub for recreation, health, and a symbol of our commitment to our residents."

U.S. Rep. Rashida Tlaib, who helped secure \$1.25 million in federal grant money for the project, said the new senior center is a way to allow senior citizens to "thrive during their retirement as they age with human dignity."

"(Our senior citizens) worked so incredibly hard throughout their years, and they deserve to be taken care of. This is a way we can do it, one step at a time," Tlaib said.



The new center will be adjacent to Livonia's Jack E. Kirksey Recreation Center, giving seniors easy access to both facilities. Livonia officials say their hope with building the new senior center near the recreation center is to create a safer, more accessible state-of-the-art facility to accommodate older adults.

Get the Michigan Politics newsletter in your inbox.

Washington and Lansing, red and blue, we've got your government covered.

Delivery: Daily

Your Email

The new facility will include a more efficient floor plan to allow programs and activities to grow, as well as a larger dining room, cafe, seating area, and lounge. The extra space will also be utilized for a fitness center and classes, educational seminars, assistance services and more.



The relocation of the senior center is the "decisive first step" in executing Livonia Vision 21, a resident-fostered master plan with the goal of making Livonia "a city our children want to come home to," according to the city of Livonia. The plan directs city-wide policy and future decisions for land and infrastructure use, and seeks to create a functional downtown area and city center with mixed-use, walkable spaces for residential, business, and community use to be completed over the next three years.

Mayor Maureen Miller Brosnan said the building of the new senior center is the "first of many shovels in the ground," as it marks the "Project Catalyst" for Livonia's Vision 21 master plan.

"At the heart of the plan was the need to address something that thousands of residents have said over the course of 30 years is a missing piece in Livonia. We want to put in the center of Livonia a social gathering area... this will become in essence Livonia's downtown and city center," she said. "This building of the new senior center is monumental, and for me, forever and always, it will be the launching of Project Catalyst."

The remainder of the plan includes several phases comprised of a new City Hall and police station; renovations to all of the city's fire departments; and the building of a city center, all of which will not require tax increases or a new millage, Brosnan said.



Scotti Nichols, a long-time Livonia resident, said she is excited to use the new senior center and appreciates the opportunities it will bring to the senior community.

"I love the fact that we can offer something to generations to come. ... I already use the existing senior center a lot, but I also have a membership at the recreation center, and I love the idea that we can combine wellness and recreation under one roof," Nichols said. "The building that we're in now doesn't have the space we need for the programs seniors are evolving toward. The senior community is dynamic, and from what I see, (the new center) is more interested in maintaining our health, and I think this new building is really going to contribute to that dynamic going forward."

Karen Ceserio, a Livonia native, expects a lot more residents will use the new facility.

"There's going to be a lot more equipment and space, and a lot more people are going to be coming into the new senior center," she said. "There's a lot of seniors that don't come to the other one, so this one is going to be more public and people are a lot more excited for it, especially since it's so close to the Recreation Center."

Construction of the Livonia Senior Wellness Center and upcoming renovations at the Recreation Center and expected to be completed by December 2025. The current Civic Park Senior Center will remain open and operating until the new facility is complete and ready for use.

***afayad@detroitnews.com***

Posted at <https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/wayne-county/2024/06/17/livonia-officials-hold-ceremonial-groundbreaking-on-new-senior-wellness-center/74103715007/>