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# City of Marlborough

## Office of the Mayor

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*Arthur G. Vigeant*  
MAYOR

*Michael C. Berry*  
EXECUTIVE AIDE

*Patricia Bernard*  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

November 21, 2012

City Council President Patricia Pope  
Marlborough City Council  
140 Main Street  
Marlborough, MA 01752

### **Re: New Senior Center Proposal**

Honorable President Pope and Councilors:

After many years of belabored and protracted discussions, I am pleased to seek your partnership on a new proposal for a new senior center.

As you know, the best location for a new senior center has always been the most debated aspect of this initiative. Over the past couple of years, our community considered many ideas for suitable locations that included the conversion of city-owned facilities, the purchasing of private property for new construction, and the purchasing of a privately owned building for renovation. These ideas and many more were each given careful consideration and took into account a site's accessibility, build ability, and, most importantly, financial feasibility.

I am pleased to propose that we build a new senior center facility in the northeast section of Ward Park, off of Granger Boulevard. For your edification, I have included a map which highlights this general location. This locale will enable us to:

- Provide a downtown location with an ease of access off Granger Boulevard
- Build on city owned property, allowing us to avoid costly land purchases
- Allow for at least 70 – 100 parking spaces
- Conveniently located near field and track space, allowing our seniors the opportunity to have more recreational activities and events outdoors.

The next step in this process is to move forward with an appropriation for design and engineering costs. Tonight's agenda will feature a corresponding transfer request for this purpose.

I anticipate the construction of this facility not to exceed a total cost of \$7 million, including design and engineering costs. I will have a precise figure for you once the design and engineering have been completed.

In addition, we are required to have a Designer Selection Board who will be responsible for issuing and reviewing RFP's for a Project Manger to oversee the project and an architect to

design the new facility. This board will review proposals and make recommendations to my office as to which firms are best qualified to move this project forward in a timely manner.

I wish to inform you that Public Facilities Director John Ghiloni will chair the Designer Selection Board that will also consist of DPW Commissioner Ron LaFreniere, Assistant City Solicitor Cynthia Panagore-Griffin, Chief Procurement Officer Beverly Sleeper, and Executive Aide Michael Berry.

Once that process is concluded, we will need to establish a Building Committee whose charge will be to oversee the construction of this new facility and work with the city's Project Manager to ensure our resources are being put to their highest and best use.

I intend on the composition of this committee being made up of the following individuals:

Public Facilities Director John Ghiloni, Executive Aide Michael Berry, Council on Aging Chairman Jim Confrey, Mr. Joe Trella, and a representative of the City Council to be appointed by President Trish Pope.

Additionally, I believe it necessary to establish a Senior Center Advisory Committee to help guide us on the specific amenities, furnishings, and facility needs of our new senior center. In addition to having COA Director Jennifer Claro on this committee, I am seeking another representative of the City Council to be appointed by President Trish Pope to serve alongside with residents of the senior community.

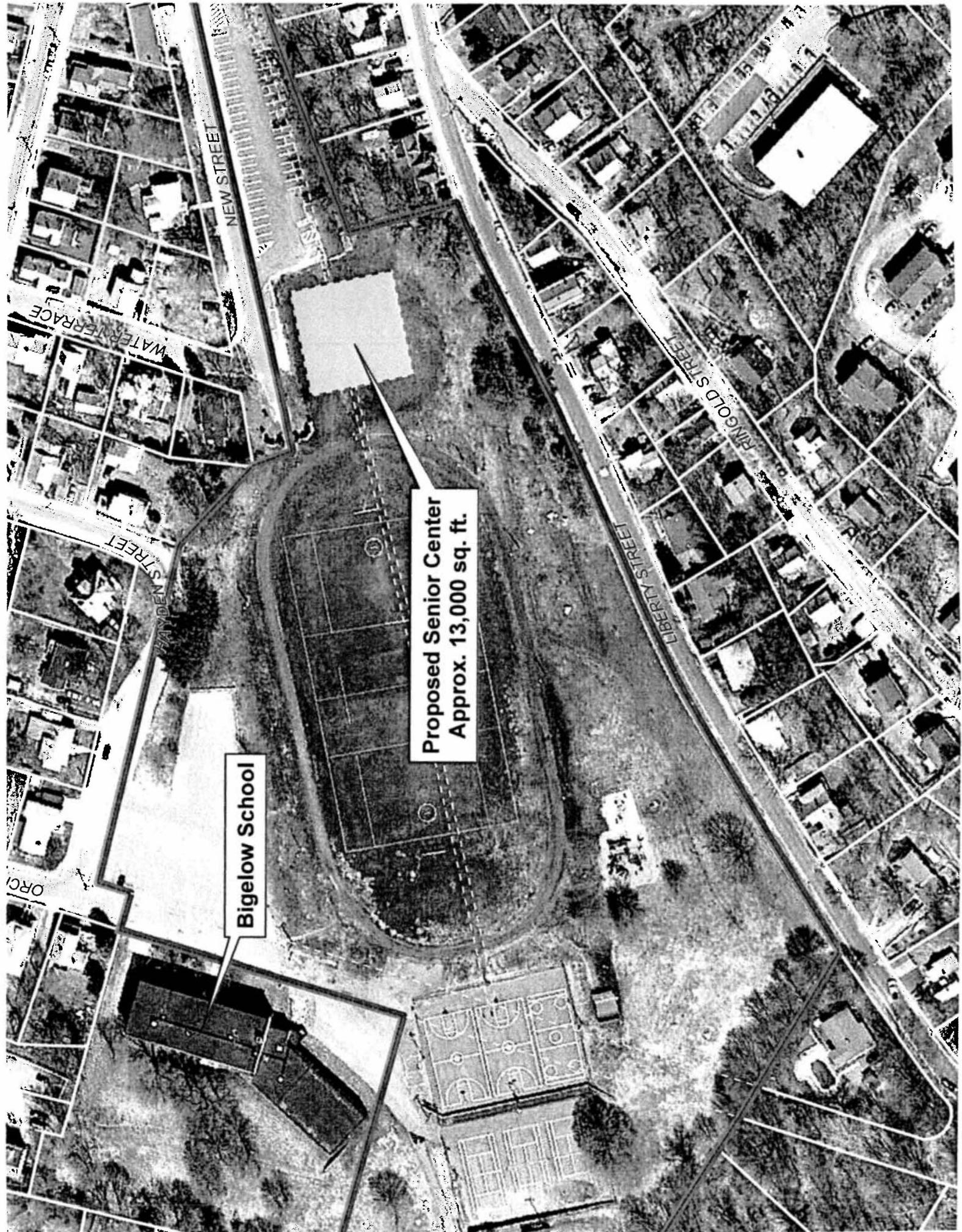
When construction gets underway next year, I expect that some youth sports and recreational programs will be temporarily displaced. I intend on working with these programs to develop short and long term solutions to this problem with the eventual goal of making significant improvements to the infrastructure and recreational field space at Ward Park.

I want to give a special thanks to City Council President Trish Pope for her counsel and partnership throughout this process. Our senior population has patiently waited for this moment for a long time. I look forward to working with you to see this project through to completion and giving our seniors a new place they can call their own.

Sincerely,



**Arthur G. Vigeant**  
**Mayor**



**Proposed Senior Center**  
Approx. 13,000 sq. ft.

**Bigelow School**

NEW STREET

WATER TERRACE

HAYDEN STREET

LIBERTY STREET

RINGOLD STREET

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