

Opposed to a Community Center

This is a garbage idea

I am on a fixed budget. So a tax increase would not be good for me. They should find other funding to pay for this.

I can not afford a tax increase. I don't think anyone can because of Covid.

I cannot afford a raise in taxes. I am a retired widow on a limited income. I feel this is a waste of money as there are many other facilities to hold these activities.

I do not see a need for this center with everything else that is available in this township.

I do not see the purpose of building a community center during a pandemic when money is already tight for residents

I do not think we need a community center at this time

I do not want a community center. It's a needless expense and would be a losing entity. We do not need another increase in taxes. I am on a fixed income. The township also should be on a fixed income.

I do want a community center, but only have interested residents pay an annual/monthly fees to actually go and use it.

Don't want a community Center

DON'T NEED A COMMUNITY CENTER IN SHALER

Do not want this tax increase

Do not want another under utilized community project.

NO, NO, NO, NO... DONT WANT IT!!

Not needed

With one of the highest taxation areas in the county, I think we should be looking at ways to lower resident's taxes rather than increase them.

Waste of money

We decided we do not need a community center in Shaler township

I just don't see the need. School buildings, churches and firehalls can host many of the activities listed above.

This should definitely not be considered at this time. With the pandemic and current inflation costs, the timing of this is ridiculous. I do not see people wanting to use a community center during a pandemic, or wanting to increase their taxes for this center.

A community center is costly and duplicative and once again the additional cost will be borne only by property owners which is unacceptable to us as property owners. The twp. recreational resources need to be managed and promoted in a integrated manner to maximize awareness and use. As long term residents we were unaware of some of these resources. And if the community is bent on building what is likely to become a financial albatross, why not look at a public/private funding & management option for the center similar to how the city transitioned Phipps and the Aviary.

The cost of running a community center will far outweigh its usefulness. Annual tax increases will become the norm just to sustain this large expense!

Unless there is an unlimited grant with no current or future costs to the Township there should not be a rec center

As per your studies a Community Center is not needed. There are many useful facilities and parks already available for most of the programs suggest on the previous page. I think we should utilize what we already have in the community without incurring unnecessary expense.

Our community has plenty of wonderful places to meet for a variety of activities therefore a community center is not necessary at this time.

People cannot afford this. We have other issue in this twnshp to solve

There are enough facilities in the Township for recreational needs. We don't need to increase taxes to add another.

why do we need a community center

There are other places in and around Shaler where many of these activities are available. Doesn't the school have recreational availability. We need to have more parking . Not more expense in Shaler budget and taxes.

There isn't enough to park over there now. How can you bring more things in and have people try to park. Knock the building down and put more parking for Kiwanis members.

Why would Shaler need to build a community center when we have the library, the schools and Kiwanis Park? If we need a building for the Parks department I understand that need.

At first I felt we have several things in the township and we did not need community center. If it was done on a membership basis it might work. Can't churches offer these activities to the public?

I believe there are enough other venues to cover activities a community center might provide.

I would not use this but the question asking when I would use it did not have a choice for never.

My husband and I are planning to start a family, so I'd love a kid friendly space and programming geared toward babies / new moms. That being said, although I'd be open to a tax increase to support a community center, I don't think we necessarily NEED one at this time.

The above usage question - 12 - required an answer. I don't think that we need a community center added to increase costs/taxes in Shaler.

SASD feedback/ opposition to tax increase

Taxes are already high, why would you want to duplicate services to raise them

Taxes are high enough as it is and you are already pricing out residents

We pay a lot in taxes right now and I don't think it would be fair to raise our taxes to build it

My taxes are high enough I can't afford to live here the way it is to raise my taxes for more garbage in Shaler would kill me

Lots of seniors in community who don't need a tax increase esp now. Keep property taxes as low as possible. Continuing to fund police and road crew more important.

No tax increase should be needed Stop buying new trucks and taking 6 to a job that requires 2 and having our police check parks for no reason 39 times a day and padding their call numbers to make it look like they are busy.

No tax increase. Yearly membership and per rental only.

Taxes are too high now and we plan to leave Shaler when we retire due to confiscatory real estate taxes.

school taxes too high as it is. let them pitch in funds since that age group will use center most

I wouldn't want to have a tax increase and to pay a membership fee. One or the other

This district needs to worry about performing better academically and athletically. Get us out of 42nd place in the state and bring us up to par with the surrounding districts. We already pay incredibly high taxes and have subpar academic performance, that is not okay.

Fixed income and cannot now afford an increase in taxes and/or fees.

We should be putting money to improve the education of students. If the schools improve then the entire township will improve and we'll have enough money for a community center later.

I feel strongly that all students in SASD be viewed, and treated equally as a member of our student body

The existing facilities in the township/school district should be improved rather than constructing a brand new facility. Shaler's stadium and the high school auditorium lag FAR behind those in surrounding communities. The restrooms (at both) are an embarrassment. And trying to explain to people from outside of Shaler how to park for a football game is another disaster. Demolish Jeffery School and create an outdoor space for events such as homecoming, light up night, etc. and create a large parking lot. More money should go in this direction.

Any tax increases should be proportional at a fixed percentage, predicated on taxable income, not a flat dollar amount.
 Building a community center that becomes another building rarely used is not worth the increase in taxes that are already too high
 We pay ridiculous property taxes yet my 6th grader and the middle school can't use a locker and has to carry a 22 pound backpack.

Design/Programming Suggestions

- Include Covered Bike parking - Re-design of the Kiwanis entrance to meet ADA standards, improve its appearance, and separate pedestrians from vehicular traffic - Add a Bike Fix-it Station - offer sidewalks to and from the building - include good lighting

Affordable daycare, before school/after school programs would be welcomed within the school district with infrastructure to allow safe walking for children & families between the library, school, park and community center. Splash pad that is available to the public, like in other townships.

Covered Bike parking Re-design of the Kiwanis entrance to meet ADA standards, improve its appearance, and separate pedestrians from vehicular traffic Bike Fix-it Station Environmental Education Center with native plant garden Solar panel covered parking with EV charging stations

Have activities for children

Needs to have a swimming pool and diving well

Workout areas and open gym space would be nice

Would absolutely join if there was a lap pool. Current members of Baierl YMCA

Would love an indoor walking/running track

would love outreach opportunities for families to connect, and for those with disabilities.

A center that utilizes the space outside would also be appreciated. Very thankful for Kiwanis park, and a center would be a benefit

At minimum I think an indoor rental facility is needed for the township for private parties, or host additional events at the community events. I think consideration should be put into public restrooms, water fountains, and pavilion at the local parks.

Indoor playground for young children in the winter months

Senior Citizens need activities especially during the winter months when walking outdoors is unsafe.

It would be nice to see a central location that offers similar functions as North Hills and Hampton already have in place. Rental facility, a place for activities to be held, etc

Option for parties would be great A gym to work out in Indoor walking/running track

Model it after the other areas and it'd be very nice and would pay whatever to keep it up and running. Plus offers school age kids a safe place to hang out as well.

Would it be feasible to combine services with surrounding townships and share the cost of a center or center?

I've enjoyed many events and some meetings at the Hampton Center

If any type of Community Center would be proposed, it should mirror the Ross Township facility. The Township should consider incorporating a new municipal building into a community center.

In the time we have lived here this is really something we have missed that our previous home had. It would be nice to have a room that was rentable for parties as well

With multiple children in the district who pay to use Hampton's rec center in the winter, I think that if we are trying to attract and retain families with children in the community we would be very short sighted to not put in a rec center. That is one of the main draws a community has especially an aging community like Shaler which relies on its tax base vs large businesses' to fund spending. It is clear that the next generation of families will view the lack of such a center as a draw back and negative on the community and will be more inclined to move to a community that does have one and Shaler will continue to be a transient and aging community with no growth or excitement to draw in new families. We have the opportunity to make the Kiwanis area the center of our community for multiple events within the community.

Would also really love an upgrade to the playground equipment at Kiwanis, and a splash pad. There's no need for three playgrounds, none of which are very good. A nature playground would be even better and probably more cost efficient.

Overall the operating costs should be wholly covered by rental/use fees. I do NOT think fitness equipment should be part of the facility, there are too many low cost options so the ROI is not possible. There should be a minimum of 2 full size basketball courts with markings for volleyball, pickleball, futsal. The courts should be separated by netting or curtain. An indoor walking/running track should surround the courts and sectioned off by netting; an elevated track is nice but much more cost.

Please use the property for expansion of parking

Put in a childcare area and an indoor pool! Also the only overlap I really could think of is craft fairs. I think we would really benefit from other amenities of a community center!

Shaler needs a community area that is not affiliated with churches

Would love to see party rooms available. I've been looking for places for years and very expensive. Having a kitchen would be a plus. I always end up at North Park and is farther than I want to travel. Also maybe for teenage boys a weight room or basketball hoops indoor for in the winter. I don't know of any place for the teenage kids to go in the winter.

Please consider ALL ages — would it be possible to have some type of after school tutoring here?

Holding events such as bingos and event rentals would negatively impact the fire companies in the township.

I am a member of the Shaler Garden Club and this would be a wonderful place for our monthly meetings along with other activities. The location of the facility is the perfect space to link Kiwanis Park activities to the center. The same setup has done very well in Hampton where I live, but I did grow up in Shaler.

I feel indoor space for the community to use would be a huge asset to our community. Regularly our family drives to a neighboring community for my kids to play basketball. We need reasonably priced rental space for birthday parties and bridal/baby showers or other such events. Additionally sports teams are always looking for additional indoor practice space. As an adult indoor activity space is desirable especially for m the midst of these miserably cold winters.

I like something available to give locals a place to gather and create a stronger community.

I love the idea of a community center! My only concern would be how this would impact the programming that the library holds?

It should a place available to adults, senior citizens, and children.

It would be nice to have a place, where teens can go and hang out together. Maybe a room with arcade games and pool tables / football tables / air hockey tables.

Modeled after Hampton's Community Center without the need for a library

Please use the property for expansion of parking

I would like to see additional parking for the park and more green space with picnic groves that cold be rented or used during baseball tournaments by visiting teams

I would like to see children's programs or childcare offered during adult workout classes.

Great central location. PLEASE don't use it to build garages! Consider sponsorships or room/facility naming rights to offset costs. Consider relocating SNHL to this site. Engage the community group that tried to buy this site for input on renovations & possibly volunteer administration. Kevin Riley 412-996-8813

Gym, pool, expanded programs library offers like art classes for kids, Lego building etc for kids that aren't into sports but need a place to make friends

A center that utilizes the space outside would also be appreciated. Very thankful for Kiwanis park, and a center would be a benefit

In the past there was severely limited space for the Shaler students to play basketball. The Community Center could help with this issue.

Indoor dog park in winter. Skating rink

Put in a childcare area and an indoor pool! Also the only overlap I really could think of is craft fairs. I think we would really benefit from other amenities of a community center!

What actual decisions that have been made and/or the status/timelines of any building demolition, renovation, alterations, traffic patterns from the end of 2021 building engineering survey and recommendations. If I knew the building property plans, some of my answers would be different. Why can't Parks and Rec Dept sell advertising space in like they do say at a Penguins game, EVERYWHERE? Any fence, and if both sides are visible to traffic, both sides? I'm sure there are township level businesses, and region level businesses who have multiple locations. The township contributions could be marketed as instead of a tax increase on your home and business, let your business take a tax deductible donation for the township? How late would you consider the building staying open at night would also change answers to several questions. As a Wetzell resident, the primary school was acceptable for it was empty at 4pm, but mainly anyone in K-4 are not the primary culprits to anything criminal to houses immediately near, even though we have a wonderful police dept who would be at my house in 45 seconds, max if needed, it would not catch anything if I was not aware until after. I recently had a 10 year old do a ding-dong ditch that I caught this past summer and had both their parents drive to my house to pick them up after I caught them 2 houses away running. That was about 4pm ish when the one afternoon pool session ended, so imagine what 10-20 year olds could possibly do after dark, and dark being 5-6pm in winter, and summer where kids not in school have sometimes until midnight in the park. Not referring to the organized sports and township sponsored, I'm referring to the majority of the nights where nothing is going on and kids are just not going home. And in the last weeks of summer vacation there is clearly an increase to get the most of being out before school. A community center traffic after 8pm may have an impact on vandalisms, and hopefully just lower level crime. My email has personal information, so the one provided is clearly not valid, as an FYI. I follow the Township website, thank. Sorry for the lengthy responses. Thank you and look forward to this meeting.

In Favor of Community Center

A community center would be a great asset to the community, and would not interfere with programming provided by our excellent library.

Build it!

Finally

Do it now

I believe a community center would be put to good use. Definitely worth looking into.

I feel a community center would be an asset to our township.

Get it done.

I think a Community Center would greatly serve our township and bring the Community together!

I would really love for there to be a community center in Shaler. I've been hoping for one for years.

Please do this! It would be great for our community!

Let's make it happen! Can we include a dog park? Everywhere else is getting dog parks.

Looking forward to it!

Shaler badly needs a facility like this, we are one of the only townships or school districts in the north hills that don't offer this amenity.

Shaler lacks a decent senior center. Senior centers can be funded by the state lottery system. Please consider something for seniors.
Shaler needs a community center for seniors. North Hills, North Side, and Etna all have a community center to give seniors activities, lunch, short trips and even overnight trips. There should be one in Shaler because we do have many seniors that live here that need to be able to gather together. There is nothing in the township that caters to seniors. The schools all have activities for parents and students, but nothing where seniors can get together.
Shaler needs a community center to stay competitive with surrounding communities
The more offered, the more community involvement. Think renting space to others to curb costs.
Yes yes yes to community center!!!
We need this.
A community center would be great.
We would be so excited to have a community center in Shaler.
I'm thrilled that this is being considered! Thank you for the opportunity to offer feedback.
This should have been built years ago
A community center would be a wonderful addition to our community. The kids now have to travel to Hampton or North Hills to use the indoor basketball center and to have rentals. It would be nice to have a center areas for the adults and kids to come together and have a more united community environment.
A premier activity center would benefit the community. Make it happen
The fact that Shaler does not have a community center is a disgrace. There's interest and need in the community for one.
This property should be used to become a centerpiece for making the township stand out as a model for community engagement. An indoor track and gym would help draw people in for exercise especially when the weather turns cold!
My family and I are very excited about the new community center. We can quickly walk to the park and would benefit from having such a center so close to home. Thank you for your work to make this happen.
I think this is a great idea that can help build a sense of community. Shaler seems to be somewhat fractured along means and political lines, and this may help address that.
There is so much that can be offered at a community center for so many different ages. The young adult group would benefit from having activities, too. They are a group that is often overlooked. Even though some things might get duplicated, not everyone in the area can fit into one place at a time. Having the community center be a central location for activities as well as advertising for all the other activities in the area could boost all the activities in the area. Shaler area library does a lot, but the building and parking is limited. Plus it is actually a library and cannot meet all the possibilities a community center could offer. Please also check out the Pine Richland Youth Center. They have found many ways to keep costs and budgeting down. They have many ways they raise money to keep events going. The township could partner with various local organizations and businesses to make the best scenarios happen.
I grew up with a community center in my town. All of my youth sports were through the CC(football, baseball, soccer, wrestling). As a teenager, it was a cheap venue for us to have concerts for our local bands. It has been a huge disappointment not having that here.
We are excited to have a community center in Shaler. We believe Shaler Township has a great community and this will only enhance the experience of living in Shaler.
We really need a community center in this community

Yes, please build a community center so that we can participate now and leave tracks for our next generation of Shaler residents to develop into a community based legacy.
Would love to have access to an indoor track
Open to a community center, would like more details but interested
A variety of options would be best
Activity is a great way to bring the community together
I THINK IT WOULD BE GREAT FOR THE TOWNSHIP
I think there would be positive benefits associated with the community center. I think a small tax increase would be worth the cost to set up and maintain the community center - however, I would like to see current uses of the tax revenue to be reallocated if possible and reviewed first given the steep taxes paid already to the township.
I think this is a big need for the community
It is well worth the investment and tax increase. This has to happen. It would be a great way to bring the community together.
I think this would be a great addition to Shaler as a whole and is worth a little extra money per year in taxes. However it better be easy to access and schedule what we as residents want to use it for which means put the scheduler online! I volunteered for youth sports leagues where I served on the Board for both and it was very difficult finding meeting rooms in Shaler because they are limited and you had to call to schedule too far in advance.
The key to success here would be in hiring a director who is innovative, willing to think outside of the box, and has a passion for community building. This could go in a lot of different directions (fitness, education, resources, etc), but I believe thinking of it as an amenity, rather than a strategic investment in the community, is not the right way to think about it – that's a very consumer model, rather than a community model. The halo effect, in terms of neighbors connecting to neighbors and making Shaler a nicer place to live, is worth significant investment. Looking it at from a strictly financial viewpoint is a missed opportunity.
This is an opportunity to draw others into our community for their events. They may also choose to use our local businesses for food, supplies, etc.
We lived in Northeast Ohio for 5 years. All communities there have a community center with an indoor pool. These centers provided a base for the community and a valuable service for older residents and new families. I do understand there is a cost associated with a center like this, but I feel the benefits to all in the community outweigh the cost.
While the township seems to feel that many services proposed to be offered at a community center are already offered throughout the Township - a community center is a central point that brings a community together- it would allow for multigenerational recreational activities, health/wellness, artistic etc...to be offered in a centrally located site that can be used indoors and outdoors. It could also promote a positive place for the youth in the community to congregate instead of wandering along Mt.Royal Blvd or hanging at the Dollar Store - this could offer a place for intramural sports or open "gym" time where kids could pay an entrance fee but then be able to come and use the facility. Meeting rooms can be rented for small events. It is time to upgrade our community with modern amenities that can enhance the living experience of current residents but to also appeal to prospective residents. We do not have the draw of new housing developments or businesses to bring in a lot of new residents especially young adults and families - we need something to make people want to buy an existing home here - creating a new and inviting but also purposeful community center can help with this.

Feedback regarding survey design/content

This is the sort of unethical approach to community management that I've come to expect from the commissioners. This is push poll designed to elicit a negative response, and the preamble to the poll isn't even written to conceal the obvious bias. It indicates to me that Shaler leadership sees all township properties "operating at a loss" as expendable and worthy of replacement by a parking lot.

Horrible survey.

Your survey is a heavy on costs and short on benefits, like the increase in property value I would see if my community had a facility like this, not to mention an increase in the quality of life. Quit being so narrow-minded

This survey is biased. The questions are positioned with a POV stated, the introduction did this as well. You clearly think the community center would duplicate benefits from already existing facilities. That may or may not be true from the perspective of various stakeholders. It is not appropriate to state survey questions in this way as you run the risk of influencing the results.

Question 8 and 12 should have an option for Never or N/A as you cannot complete the survey without answering those questions. We already have other facilities available thru-out the township for community events, etc. Most seniors are paying property taxes if they own a home or business. Some seniors are also paying school taxes although we might never had children and for some seniors paying increased taxes for another community center could be financially hard for them especially if the center is running at a loss and is not being used enough to warrant it's existence.

First and foremost, I feel that this survey was weighted against the idea of having a community center. You couldn't have been more partisan about NOT creating a community center. If you want to increase value in the community, you must provide value. A community center in the old Jeffery Elementary school will create value. Yes, it costs money, but money well spent. Also, when we having neighboring communities coming to Kiwanis Park for children's ball games, picnics, holiday events, etc., we want to have our best foot forward. My greatest concern is that the old school will become a parking lot for dump trucks, lawnmowers, gravel piles and anything else that the township wants to store. We cannot allow the school to become an eye sore for our community and neighboring communities to see.

The background information provided in the township news flash item advertising the survey conveys the message that the township Commissioners do not want a community center. It details many negative aspects associated with constructing and operating the center and creates a bias against a new community center that is carried over into the survey questions. Why not also ask in the survey our opinion of existing community resources and our use or support for them? I'm fully in favor of my tax dollars supporting the library, but I never use the Crawford pool. If my tax dollars are used for a community resource that operates at a loss, I would prefer a community center that can be used year round for a variety of programs over a pool that only operates for a few months during the year.

this quiz is flawed. Question#5: what is the context? what services/resources are offered at each tier? then we can tell you what we're willing to pay. also I am forced to choose one of the predetermined options so your data will be further skewed

The survey seemed so shortsighted and slanted. The community would absolutely benefit from a community center that offers fitness classes, educational classes, and space the community can rent for anything from a party reception to a fundraiser, theatrical production or concert. It should have a pavilion that opens to Kiwanis Park as well. That real estate is worth far too much to just have it be a parking lot and storage. Focusing primarily on sports is incredibly shortsighted and limiting.

The introduction to this survey is obviously intended to bias opinion against a community center. There is more to a healthy, happy, and cohesive community than dollars and cents—namely, providing a wide variety of opportunities for cooperative interaction among all generations.

Obtain info. From Hampton as to membership fee, tax increase, and events they use their community center. This community center can be useful to the community. The survey as it appears to use tax increases in many questions to skew the results against the center. ???

Question 5 does not let you enter in anything in the other option without moving forward. I do want a community center but do not want taxes to go up. Our taxes are too high already and I feel our kids do not benefit from it at school.

First, the survey does not permit you to make comments in sections. My comment on membership- An Annual membership fee should cover the cost of the facility. Determine how many memberships required divided by the cost of the facility, that's the membership fee. I don't feel a community center is necessary and those who want a community center will not be willing to pay for usage. Would the township consider renting out the space for weddings, bridal & baby showers, birthday events at a profit? What are the costs ? What about sports tournaments, example volleyball. Charge an hourly rate for usage which included set-up time. (\$100 an hourly rate I think is current rate but check). A community center has to recoup the operating cost.

I appreciate the background info provided on the website about this matter. However, the framing of the context is unfortunate. Living in a thriving and active community with excellent services (such as the road maintenance in Shaler which is quite good) should not be articulated using deficit language. OF COURSE there is a cost to all local services, and I was disappointed to see all the language about financial costs instead of benefit to the community, which are many. Let's frame this as an OPPORTUNITY, and that there are opportunity costs that will be accrued if the project doesn't move forward.

Some of these questions have zero context. You currently are not stating any specific for sure programming. How are you confirming membership, and would there be pay as you go? I would buy no membership, but events that interest me I may participate, but you have not defined the events. It was a great purchase the Township made, and it completes that whole lot of land. And since it was a great price our Board of Commissioners fought for. That process took many years, so immediate action plan I'm not sure the benefit, once again the township owns it. No debt that I know, and you could let me know at the meeting, Thanks for your time.

Why is the township so adamantly against a community center?

What issues township commissioners have with creating a community center?

The survey does t allow you to type in an amount willing to pay. The survey doesn't allow you to choose more than one window if hours and does t differentiate between weekdays and weekends. Weekend hours would be daytime. Weekday hours would be evenings.

Thank You

Thank you for allowing us to express ourselves. This is a good opportunity and want to get it right

Thank you for considering a new asset to our community

Thank you for giving the community the opportunity to share its opinions about this important matter. I hope this matter receives the serious consideration it deserves. Having to rely on VFDs & private businesses for community events, while generous on their parts, is not a guarantee, and is generally intended to drive revenue for those entities.

Thank you for this

Thanks for asking for people's input and for all you do.

Funding

A base fee with additional fees for additional activities based on their expense.

I also think there should be a sliding scale for cost and/or waivers for those near or at the poverty line.

A community center would be a wonderful resource, without a tax increase.

A family fee should include two adults and all dependent children living in the household. Limiting it to 4 kids per membership is discriminatory to those of us that have more than 4 kids.

Amounts I'd pay would be based on what's available and where it's located.

Annual fee should lower costs-also vendors should pay a fee-events that don't coincide with library events or fire hall bingos-craft fairs always have to pay for their tables

I would support a Center with higher taxes but would except a very reduced membership fee (or free membership for Shaler residents).

I would support fundraising for the center.

If building find sponsors to reduce cost.

If taxes increase for a community center then there should be no membership or low cost membership for residents. If there's no tax increase then membership should be a more significant amount. It's either one of the other for me. I don't want to pay \$150 for a tax increase plus \$150 membership. Many townships already have all these amenities for much lower taxes. This could be a turn off for people wanting to move in our community.

If there is a tax increase for all residents there should not be a membership fee to use the center. If there is not a tax increase then it's reasonable to charge a membership fee.

If we need the center, seek private sponsors to defray the cost. Taxes are high enough.

There should be no annual fee for residents and only a fee if you take a class

A community center would be a great thing for Shaler if it can be done in a cost efficient manner.

Find ideas to lower cost . Corporate sponsors. Eligibility for surrounding towns to enroll especially since their school taxes supported that building . Add a daycare center with labor coming from students learning real life strategies. Once more the only sure thing in life is death and taxes .

Increase the transfer tax paid when a property sells and use these funds to offset running the center!

Depending on services provided would depend on a membership fee. It would be great to have an indoor track that can be used for walking as part of the asset.

I feel the people who use the facility should pay a fee, whether it is a membership fee, or facility fee for individual classes or leagues, but would hope if we have a tax increase for construction and/or operating costs, it would not be substantial.

My response to the membership fee question was based on there not being annual tax increase to cover operating costs.

I would be open to sponsorships from corporations to offset the costs

I would not support a tax increase for this. The library, schools, and local churches already offer most of these services. People who use services, such as gyms, are already paying for their memberships elsewhere so I truly believe this should not be funded through taxes.

maybe car shows and craft fairs possible fund raisers. if sports leagues happen, tournaments as fundraisers. i dont know how realistic these would be.

I like the idea of a community center, but not at taxpayer expense. Taxes are expensive in Shaler as it is. We do not an to stay in Shaler past our children graduating in 4 years, and cost of living is a primary reason. Funding through membership fees is acceptable.

Any groups using the facilities to pay for what they are using and not get a free ride just because they are tax payers.

This needs to be self-sustaining so I would like to see as much involvement from private businesses as possible.

I think a community center is a nice idea but given the current rate of inflation it must be done in a manner that does not hurt the tax payers.

I think this is a great idea for the community! I just think the membership should be free to Shaler residents or very minimal cost if the taxes are going to go up. There should be a fee for non Shaler people to use and maybe limit Shaler free membership to be just their personal household so people don't sneak other people in. If anything maybe a few for exercise classes or other classes like \$5 a class or something is fair

Possibly reallocate some funding from other programs (swimming pool, etc.) Also, Shaler has no senior center, like most communities do. Currently, Township events are generally geared toward young children. It would be great to consider teens, adults and seniors as well!

The programs offered would determine the Amount I would be willing to pay in tax increase. Need kid care/ kid programming

My "other" option comments about how much I think is reasonable to ask for would not take. I'd also like to see a scaled tax and membership fees based on folks age and income. I'd also be interested in adding an option to donate more to the fund for construction and for operating costs as an option, similar to how you can always donate to public goods like public radio, public TV, or a library. I don't want seniors and lower income folks to miss out on the resources that their labor would help build. I think if you ask for the higher tier possibilities, for tax and membership, a per month budget payment plan option would also make contribution more possible for lower income folks. Paying for a yearly pass, all at once, might be really daunting for many folks in this community. To balance, maybe folks in the higher tax bracket get a free month of membership when they buy a pass. I also would be willing to pay a higher tax if membership were free.

1. I only support a community center using the recently purchased school building, not a new site requiring full construction! 2. Combined tax increase and membership should not exceed \$100. 3. Senior citizens should get free memberships.

I do like the idea of a community center but as a single parent I struggle to pay my current taxes so I would hate to see a tax increase. But I would not mind paying a membership fee to help it with some costs

I don't want to see taxes go up. Single income household.

I think this would be a huge burden for all the residents that are already stretched thin financially!

If a tax is levied to build the center, I would expect to fall off after the loan was paid, and I would expect it not to be a super long loan (e.g., NOT 30 years).

If we have a tax increase I don't think a large fee should be charged.

In this day and age, over spending is running rampant everywhere. Stop spending and lower the tax burden.

It seems that the township commissioners could work a little harder on the financing rather than simply framing this as a tax increase necessity

I've supported community parks & recreation in Shaler for over 50 years. I'm retired, & on a fixed income. If I like the plans, I support building it all at once. I may not ever use the facility & I'll pay taxes to support this project. ALSO I'd like to see senior housing as a part of this project, similar to the model of Christian Housing in Pittsburgh.

Offer retired members of this township a reduction in taxes especially school taxes

Our taxes are ridiculous! Build the center out of donations if you want it! I cannot afford one more cent for this township!

Our taxes are too high already. The schools are lacking.

Why? We why do we have to pay for it?
Stop raising taxes
Shaler residents pay to high taxes now, sorry we do!!
so nothing for the disabled except a tax bill. thanks
Too many questions regarding taxes or fees: pay for the services used. Small annual tax for the building upkeep and ppay for the services, i.e. If there is a workout gym, treadmills, eetc. you should pay for those services of you use them.
We are in the middle of a pandemic! Inflation is crazy, people are struggling and you want to raise taxes for a facility that will run at an annual loss? What sense does this truly make?
there are enough other facilities available with the cost of other projects taking an unrealistic increases and being on a fixed income increasing taxes is not in my budget
What other options are available which WOULD NOT cause more tax increases?

Use/reuse of Jefferey School
Why not remodel Jeffery School (or some other building) instead of building a new building
Why not use Jeffery Elementary
Not understanding the need for new construction...what about remodeling the existing structure
Can't we use the old Jeffery school as a community center. This is the most logical and affordable option, rather than building a new building. I don't think you can raise taxes for this. Shaler taxes are already higher than the surrounding communities and we have inferiorly performing schools.
A building is already in place. Why are we discussing building a new one?

Non Resident Membership
I love in reserve and would like to see access for Reserve Twp residents even if they do not live in Shaler Twp
Please offer people in School District either the same rate or a discount (live in Reserve & we would use same with pool but Hampton is cheaper for us to go to)

Funding fire companies and library
Doing a community center tax and not a fire tax is where this township's priorities are?! Come on! Support public safety and a community center together!
Funding should be revamped for library...They can self fund some of their yearly cost(50-100k) thru incentive programs like book buy backs and donations to keep funding steady for them .. with community day funding drives like monthly fea market in rear of jeffery for % of sales along with entrance fee for vendors. Donated items for public table that all proceeds goto community ctr also at these sales. Have volunteers run the sales or events thru residents committee form.
I have gone to the Shaler North hills library for 65 years . It is a wonderful facility but I realize it has issues with parking and access certain times. I would love to see it moved to Jeffery in the newest wing closest to pool area . That would provide more parking, access to families who frequent the pool in the summer. That would also transfer costs to a new facility. It would also open up mor parking for the Middle school. . A community center will also provide an auditorium area (all purpose room) for many community activities and speakers, many hosted by the Shaler North Hills Library. It would also provide areas for indoor activities at all times during the year including cold weather. . Granted, more needs to be done to not duplicate others township groups. (i.e. I did not check off bingo as that is a fund raiser for Undercliff VFD).

I know this is a giant reach, but here it goes. As a 30 year resident and tax payer of the Twp, I would consider this idea if a Central Fire Station was included, which would also involve creating a combination paid/volunteer Township wide fire department, (on the order of Mt Lebanon's) merging the six current fire companies together. That would solve future public safety issues due to lack of volunteers/personnel. EMS could be included in this venture, then Recreation Dept could take over current EMS building for their use. That would be worth the millions in building a new building and the ongoing costs that were described earlier.

Duplication of Facilities

Could it be more cost effective to enhance programming at existing facilities such as SNHL and Crawford Pool instead?

There are other places in and around Shaler where many of these activities are available. Doesn't the school have recreational availability. We need to have more parking . Not more expense in Shaler budget and taxes.

I feel that using the former Jeffrey School for the Parks and Recreation Dept. is fine. There are plenty of activities for children to attend even outside of Shaler Township. A lot of families have their own pools now, more than years back when the Crawford Pool was very popular and utilized by many residents. I feel that the Community Center would not be utilized by many families. Seniors may use it.

This building seems to be a redundant use of already existing space.

I would like a community center for township community activities. But do not feel that we need it at this time we have the library and fire halls and gyms at the schools.

The township fire departments offer plenty of space for some of these non athletic events.

We have many community locations to provide activities churches and fire halls, schools that we pay school tax for, So we could utilize already existing resources

There are other places in and around Shaler where many of these activities are available. Doesn't the school have recreational availability. We need to have more parking . Not more expense in Shaler budget and taxes.

there are enough other facilities available with the cost of other projects taking an unrealistic increases and being on a fixed income increasing taxes is not in my budget

We have enough community centers in Hampton and Millvale close to us. This community center will not be easily accesible unless by car which and many of the citizens can no longer drive. The library is a great place for citizens to congregate and on a bus route.

What already exists in township should be used, but public needs to know what exactly is available and where.

Misc

I don't envy the township trying to put this together. I'm happy without a community center, but I'm thinking of families & others who have more need of it. If it's there, I'll use it, if programs interest me. Love the library but for some events it's cramped. Maybe a community center wouldn't be any better, though. It's hard to visualize the use of the space, aside from the gym.

I think building a community center is a great idea. However, the money should come from somewhere other than residents pockets. There is misappropriation of funds occurring in many departments such as police, why do they need new cars every year? They just sit at getgo and check parks. When I view the blotter statistics it's clear the calls that the police are reporting responding to are hyper inflated and the chief is allowing it. Tighten department budgets before reaching into my wallet. Also it's time for shaler to make improvements to draw people in because the location is good and people should want to live here.

I wonder if Shaler has spoken to nearby townships, such as Hampton, with comm ctrs to see if they are at capacity. Is it possible that Hampton and Shaler could "joint venture" their facility for the benefit of both townships; i.e. spread current costs over more people? I'm not sure there is enough demand for a new comm ctr, but of course this survey may prove that there is!

I'm unsure of this proposal... I believe our community team does a fair job at utilizing the tools at hand. I'm not opposed to a new facility and it's costs and would be willing to pay more in tax for it. But I also believe I'd rather explore less expensive options and invest more money in to better out reach and expand our already useful programs.

Shaler is a great community and offers a lot for its residents, but the senior group has less options that other groups. I would think that Shaler is an older community overall, and steps should be taken to address their needs. Especially when there are many single senior households, where these folks need activities and social contact. Plus, these seniors are paying huge sums on school taxes well after they've had school age children. Hopefully with grants and senior county support, seniors can receive the focus they deserve in Shaler township.

Some of my answers would change, depending on construction/renovation choices, choices of activities, and size of the building.

The funds that would be used for this can still be used for programs, but the rest for things already in the community that need addressed. Roadwork, building maintenance at various sites, updates at our pool and libraries. Shaler is more than a community center. We have so much invested already at the parks and library, with many activities throughout. Our entire Shaler area is one big community center.

What about occasional speakers on various community affairs

will there be locker/changing rooms? how many floors how many bathrooms? ada accessiblity? age allocated meeting rooms?--nursery/toddler room? group meeting rooms?

Why can't existing funds be used for a community center?

Will there be a clear, complete plan outlining costs, tax increases, and uses of the proposed community center before putting it to a vote?

Where will the facility be located? What time frame for construction?

Has it been considered to demolish the building and expand the adjacent park? Greenspace is ever decreasing and would allow all Shaler residents to enjoy as they wish. Id imagine a walking/running path and some huts may provide more value than a recreation center.

Aside from a rec center, what other uses for the property were/are being considered? Have we looked at usage data of rec centers that similar municipalities that built one? People may be more apt to say they want one but may not actually use it.

What other sources of income (e.g., local-business donations, federal and state grants) will help pay for construction? Will the facility and its activities be designed and built to reflect the demographics of Shaler Township? Who will "manage" the facility? And what kind of staff will be hired, and how many?