

# Supervisor's November Message – Pardon Our Dust, Senior Center Improvements in Progress

By: Brian Kulpa, Town of Amherst Supervisor

Our town buildings are extremely busy, from the Northtown Center to Amherst Town Court, and Town Clerk's Office to Harlem Road Community Center, the Town serves a lot of people throughout the year for many reasons. The Amherst Center for Senior Services is no exception. Stop in any weekday and you'll find a large variety of activities and classes, and a busy lunch program, all of which are critically important for the wellbeing of the population served by the center. However, with a lot of foot traffic comes the need for repairs, improvements and maintenance, which is why you'll notice a few projects happening around the center.



First, the kitchen is undergoing critical infrastructure repairs with the sewer line being replaced. This work is expected to last until mid-November. Everyone's patience and understanding are appreciated while this important project is completed.

The closing of the kitchen required that staff suspend the popular Stay Fit Dining program, however the center was more than prepared with a Plan B to provide lunch to members, recognizing the importance of nutrition and gathering. Registration is still required and seating will be limited. For information, please call 716-636-3051 or visit the Center's Reception Desk. The kitchen closure also required Amherst Meals on Wheels to adjust and I applaud the Director, staff and volunteers for their efforts to ensure all clients will continue to be served without interruption. On average, the Center serves over 900 seniors weekly in the Stay Fit Dining program and Meals on Wheels serves more than 1,500 clients per week. So, while the kitchen upgrade is critical, it was equally as critical that services continued.

A more visible and exciting project also starting this month is the transformation of the former craft room near the main entrance into a café. Work is expected to last about three months with minimal disruption. The café, which will be a wonderful meeting place for friends to enjoy a coffee or tea and light refreshments, is expected to open in early 2025. I am excited for this project as we look to develop our spaces into multi-use facilities, offering a wide variety of opportunities for personal development and interaction.

Built in 2000, the 53,000-square-foot Senior Center has been open for nearly 25 years, meaning many original components are due for replacement. Updates were made to the kitchen grease traps; carpeting was replaced in the main hallways; and four public bathrooms were upgraded with touchless features. All these projects ensure the center is ready to safely and properly serve all the members, of which there are 14,000.

The Town Board was at the Senior Center at the end of last month for a budget presentation, and it was wonderful to see the activities being offered. There is always great energy at the center. I applaud the Senior Center staff for continuing to improve the center and providing what is most important to their members.

So, for a short while, we appreciate while the members and staff "pardon our dust" for a few improvement projects that will keep the center the thriving community hub that it has become and I look forward to the grand opening of the café.

To learn more about what the Senior Center has to offer, please visit [www.amherstcenterforseniorservices.com](http://www.amherstcenterforseniorservices.com).