

January 17, 2020

Dear Colts Neck Resident,

After five years of thorough evaluation and planning, the Colts Neck Township Committee is pleased and proud to announce its formal plans to construct a new, two-story, 16,000-square-foot municipal building at the Colts Neck Municipal Complex. The new building will house the township's police department, municipal court and various administrative departments. I wanted to share this important news with you directly and invite you to a special public presentation on this exciting project, scheduled for later this month.

As you may know, the Colts Neck Municipal Complex, located at 124 Cedar Drive, includes four municipal buildings:

- Colts Neck Town Hall, which houses the majority of the township's administrative departments;
- the Colts Neck Police/Municipal Court Building, located just west of town hall;
- the Colts Neck First Aid Squad, located within the municipal complex, at nearby 1 Heritage Lane;
- and the Colts Neck Library, also located within the municipal complex, on Winthrop Drive.

The time has come to replace our aging, sub-standard police/municipal court building, parts of which date back to the early 1960s.

As assessed and confirmed by experts, design flaws along with persistent water infiltration have contributed to structural issues and problems. We've taken short-term remediation measures to address these issues, but these are not long-term solutions. For example, steel cable reinforcements have been installed above the courtroom to stabilize the roofing structure. Additionally, as a result of persistent flooding, the basement of the police station is now unusable, requiring the installation of an external trailer to support police operations. Finally, given its age and the limitations of its original structural design, the building remains consistently out of compliance with codes and standards established by the New Jersey Department of Corrections and New Jersey Administrative Office of the Courts.

Ultimately, the decision to invest in this new municipal building is grounded in the township's responsibility to decisively address the problems associated with this aging, sub-standard structure, while also needing to efficiently and effectively provide Colts Neck residents with exceptional public safety and support services, both now and in the future.

Special Public Presentation. Scheduled for January 29, 2020

Naturally, there are many details to share with you, including the estimated costs of this project; what that means for individual taxpayers; the anticipated timeline for construction; and, very importantly, the many benefits of the new building.

With that said, I invite you to join us for a public presentation to review our plans. This event will take place Wednesday, January 29, from 6 to 7 p.m. at Colts Neck Town Hall. Township staff and professionals involved in the project will be on hand to provide an overview of the project and answer questions. I will also be in attendance, as will my fellow members of the Colts Neck Township Committee.

If you are unable to attend the public presentation and want more information about the project, we will be posting a comprehensive Q&A on the township website at <https://www.coltsneck.org>. Additional questions can be directed to Township Administrator Kathleen Capristo at kcapristo@coltsneck.org, or 732-462-5470 x107.

As your elected officials, and as fellow taxpayers and residents of Colts Neck, one of our most important obligations is managing and investing taxpayer dollars wisely. Please rest assured that we take this responsibility very seriously, especially as we undertake this important project on behalf of the future of Colts Neck Township. Thank you for your time and attention. We look forward to seeing you on January 29th.

Sincerely,



Frank Rizzuto
Mayor, Colts Neck Township

