



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Town of Tonawanda & Ken-Ton School District to Host Informational Forum  
on Shared Services Athletic Complex Proposal on Sept. 25**

On Tuesday, Sept. 25, the Town of Tonawanda and the Ken-Ton School District will host an informational forum to provide residents the opportunity to learn more about a shared services proposal currently being explored to construct a new athletic complex. The town and school district are working together to explore the feasibility of partnering on a multi-use facility that would include an ice rink and facilities for additional sports and educational functions. The Sept. 25 forum, which will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Kenmore West High School auditorium, will include a presentation and update on the ongoing discussions and the opportunity for residents to ask questions about, and comment on, the proposal.

The sharing of services between local governments, municipalities, and school districts has been a priority in New York State in order to identify ways they might partner in order to keep costs down, improve efficiencies, and improve services. Through the Erie County Shared Services Panel, which was established by the Shared Services Initiative of the 2018 NYS Budget, the town and school district began meeting in July to identify potential measures which might be explored locally.

The Town of Tonawanda has been pursuing the opportunity of constructing a new ice rink, and the Ken-Ton School District boys and girls ice hockey programs rely on the availability of ice rink facilities, so this was recognized as a potential area for collaboration. There may also be the possibility of supporting other sports programs, as well as physical education, special education, and recreational offerings. Since then, town and district representatives have met several times to further explore this concept. Topics have included the financial impact, legal questions, logistical considerations, and the potential to leverage New York State aid to support such a project.

The Sept. 25 forum will provide town and school district officials the chance to update residents on the status of these discussions and give residents the opportunity to have their voices heard in the early stages of this proposal. The forum will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 25 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Kenmore West High School auditorium, located at 33 Highland Parkway in the Town of Tonawanda. Ample parking is available in the Kenmore West parking lot along Delaware Road. Please enter through Door #1. A short presentation will be followed by a question-and-answer session, and residents will be able to ask questions and comment on the proposal.

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