



# NEWS & NOTES

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## **Springbrook closes purchase of historic Ford Block on Main Street in Oneonta, New York.**

Oneonta, NY: Springbrook has finalized the purchase of the Ford Block buildings from 186 to 212 Main Street, Oneonta, NY. The nonprofit provider of supports and services to people with developmental disabilities will begin renovations on the space in July. The \$8.9 million project will keep existing retail space on the lower floors while the upper two stories will be converted into 24 affordable, market-rate residential units, with four units reserved as integrated housing for people receiving services from the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD). Renovations will also revive the pass-through area from the municipal parking lot to Main Street.

Springbrook has funded the purchase and planned renovations through various funding sources, including a City of Oneonta grant, a City of Oneonta Downtown Revitalization grant, an Empire State Development grant, Community Preservation Corporation funding, NYS Homes and Community Renewal financing, and the Berkshire Bank Historical Tax Credit.

“The planned renovations will add vibrancy to Oneonta’s downtown. We are committed to preserving the beautiful historic character of the buildings while attracting professionals to live downtown and showcasing some of Oneonta’s outstanding small businesses, like the Latte Lounge and the Green Toad Bookstore. We envision ‘The Ford on Main’ as more than a building—we hope it will be a destination, a testament to a community that can change to meet the needs of the people who live here,” said Seth Haight, Springbrook’s Chief Operating Officer and project manager for the renovations.

“Springbrook’s success is built on sound strategy and our commitment to the mission. This project is no different. Oneonta has supported our growth and the needs of the people we support for nearly 100 years, and we are proud to invest back into the community,” continued Haight.

With the terms and conditions of the purchase and renovation now finalized, Springbrook intends to start construction in July 2022. The building, which will be renamed “The Ford on Main,” will offer 24 all-new, all-modern studio and one bedroom apartments in a historic setting, with four units reserved for people who receive supports through OPWDD. Situated on Main Street in Oneonta, it offers easy access to downtown, including shops, restaurants, cafes, and more, with several parks like Huntington Park and Neahwa Park within walking distance. Renovations will include the addition of an elevator to give all residents of The Ford on Main access to Main Street and Water Street, as well as renovations to the pass-through area from Main Street to the municipal parking lot located on Water Street.

Springbrook has offices in Oneonta, Norwich, Binghamton, and Ithaca, operates homes in five counties, and offers supports in 14 counties. The Ford on Main development project is not the organization’s first, with the most notable being the Century Sunrise Residences in Johnson City, NY, done in partnership with Regan Development. Opened in 2018, Century Sunrise is a historic renovation of two former warehouse buildings, with 120 tenants living in mixed-use apartments. Springbrook is the service provider for the 32 tenants who receive supports through OPWDD. The organization is planning further developments in Cortland and Ithaca.

Springbrook will be posting regular construction updates on The Ford on Main website ([www.thefordonmain.com](http://www.thefordonmain.com)). As the project begins, the website will house architectural plans, along with a “contact us” option for community members who wish to share their perspective on the plans and renovation progress. Leasing information will be available on the site later in the renovation process.

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Springbrook provides at-home care, residential and educational services, day services, and clinical, therapeutic, and behavioral supports to over 1,100 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities from across New York State. With headquarters in Oneonta, NY, the organization has offices throughout the Southern Tier and employs more than 1,200 people.

