



TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

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TOWN PURSUES ALTERNATE SITE FOR NEW, LARGER SENIOR CENTER

East Hampton, N.Y. – The Town’s Human Services Department serves the vast and varied needs of three generations of seniors. Our seniors – from 60 to 99 years of age – encompass diverse interests, attitudes, lifestyles, and physical abilities. The increasing numbers of Town residents 60+, coupled with the Town’s strong commitment to wellness, provide significant opportunities for our Human Services Department to serve our community in ways that were not possible in the past.

In light of these population trends and the fact that the physical space of the current center is woefully inadequate to serve the community’s immediate and future needs, the Town Board committed capital funds to design and engineer a new, larger senior facility. After garnering significant input from community members, Town staff and attendees of the various programs offered at the current center, it was agreed in 2017 to construct the new center on the current site located at 128 Springs Fireplace Road. But given the potential for increasing congestion on Springs Fireplace Road coupled with the limitations of a two-acre site, the Town will be pursuing an alternate location for the new, larger senior facility. It should be noted that the former CDCH building on Stephen Hands Path is not under consideration.

Councilwoman Kathee Burke-Gonzalez, liaison to the Town’s Human Services Department, stated, “While the original plan was to build the new center in the current location, the Springs Fireplace Corridor is seeing tremendous development and re-development. In April 2019, the East Hampton Planning Board advised the Town Board that they were in the process of reviewing over twenty site plan applications in the general Springs Fireplace Road area between North Main Street and Abrahams Path. It was agreed that the cumulative traffic patterns of this development and re-development have the potential to lead to more congestion along the corridor. In addition, larger truck traffic is expected once the MTA/LIRR raise the two train trestles. These circumstances have not only led the Town Board to pursue a new site for the proposed center, but it has led the Town Board to move forward with a planning study of the Springs Fireplace Corridor that will look at land use, build-out and existing zoning, as well as traffic circulation.”

Burke-Gonzalez went on to state, “Having just experienced the removal of the old town hall, it has become apparent that construction would be very disruptive to the current services being provided, as the plan was always to keep the current center operating until the transition into the new center. Concerns were also raised that constructing the new senior center on a two-acre parcel could severely limit expansion if warranted in later years. So for all the reasons identified, the Town will be pursuing an alternate site. The ideal property would be centrally located in the Town, easily accessible by back roads, offer a safe intersection for those accessing Montauk Highway, and afford room on the property for potential expansion.”

It is expected that the location for the new, larger senior facility will be announced before the end of the year. This new, larger center will give the Town the ability to:

- Accommodate the current and future needs of the Senior Nutrition Program
- Properly serve the needs of the seniors attending the Adult Day Care Program
- Offer multiple senior activities at any given time
- Increase wellness offerings including yoga, aerobics, dancing, balance, meditation, etc.
- Increase enrichment programs including healthy living lectures
- Provide comfortable spaces to hold book clubs, card games, art classes, movie screenings, etc.
- Increase health screening opportunities
- Provide a safe, comfortable environment in a building that is fully ADA compliant
- Serve more seniors who are looking to age in-place, keeping our elders in our community
- Provide a permanent home for the East Hampton Food Pantry

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The chart below puts the proposed size of the new, larger senior facility in context with other community buildings:

<u>Town-Owned Buildings</u>	<u>Total Square Footage</u>
Montauk Playhouse	28,500
300 Pantigo Place	26,783
CDCH	22,204
East Hampton YMCA RECenter	21,000
Proposed Senior Center	18,730

<u>Town-Leased Property</u>	<u>Total Square Footage</u>
Proposed Free Standing Emergency Department	23,700

**East Hampton Nutrition Program Data
2011-2020**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Avg # of Meals per Day</u>
2020 Projected	78.00
2019 thru September 30 th	76.60
2018	74.50
2017	78.26
2016	72.23
2015	70.39
2014	70.43
2013	70.95
2012	62.42
2011	60.08

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total # of Meals Served</u>
2020 Projected	18,500
2019 thru September 30 th	14,132
2018	18,197
2017	18,695
2016	17,553
2015	17,055
2014	16,763
2013	17,172
2012	13,485
2011	13,220