PATCHOGUE, NY - Brookhaven Town Councilman Timothy Mazzei was joined by members of the Town Board and Patchogue officials today in announcing plans to renovate the former Brookhaven Town Hall and Town Clerk’s office, converting the building into a major regional senior citizen center for the South Shore communities of Brookhaven.

"Our senior citizens believe in Brookhaven. They raised their families here, built their homes, businesses and careers in our Town, and made the communities and neighborhoods that we call home today. This new senior citizen center lets them know that Brookhaven believes in them, too, and that we are as committed to their needs as they were to making our Town what it is today," said Councilman Timothy Mazzei, who represents the Patchogue area on the Town Board.

"This new senior citizen wellness center will bring increased services to our growing senior population, while also providing additional amenities to all of our residents in the Town of Brookhaven," said Councilwoman Constance Kepert, the Town Board’s liaison to the Senior Citizen Division. "As our population ages and at a time when we must expand opportunities to provide our residents with increased services, Old Town Hall will meet those challenges, and then some. It will be accessible, by car, rail, bus and pedestrian foot traffic"

The building at 205 South Ocean Avenue was originally constructed in 1925, and was the seat of Brookhaven Town government for more than 60 years. From 1937-39, the renovation and expansion of the building was a Works Projects Administration (WPA) construction project, under the largest "New Deal" agency created by President Franklin D. Roosevelt during the Great Depression. After the Davis Meeting House in Coram, it is the second oldest and most used Town building in the history of Brookhaven.

"The refurbishment of this historic building is a critical part of the continued revitalization of Patchogue," said Patchogue Village Mayor Paul Pontieri. "Projects like this aren't successful without the support and leadership of elected officials like Tim Mazzei."

The project, which will cost approximately $5 million, will result in a 19,000 square foot facility that will be fully utilized by senior citizens, including a nutrition center with kitchen, recreation rooms, meeting rooms and library. The fully handicapped-accessible building - with ramps at both entrances and a three-story elevator - is fully funded in the Town's Capital budget.

"This is a great day for the senior citizens of the South Shore, as we proudly announce plans for a wonderful new facility for their health, enjoyment, and well-being. This state-of-the-art facility will help meet the needs of Brookhaven's expanding senior population, while renovating and preserving an historic building that has played such a significant part in our past," said Councilman Keith Romaine.

"Our residents have been asking for a central Wellness Center on the South Shore, and with this $5.1 million restoration, we will be providing those services and amenities while newly invigorating Old Town Hall, which is so integral to the history, community, culture and architecture in Patchogue," said Councilman Mazzei.

Construction is expected to begin in the Spring. Restoration, renovation, adaptive reuse and green building techniques will be used with the project, which is expected to be completed in the next 18-24 months. Work has already begun, and with today's unveiling, the Town will be aggressively moving this project forward. Architects for the project are Karlisa Grundner and Roger Smith of Burton Behrendt & Smith, PC

The Town will seek LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification for the construction project. LEED is a third-party certification program and the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. LEED promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.

The first and second floor provide for a total of 19,000 square feet of useable space that will be dedicated to providing Seniors and residents on the South Shore with the equivalent of the Rose Caracappa Wellness Center on
The first floor will include rooms for cards, general games, and artistic uses such as painting, sculpting, woodcarving and sewing. There will also be a large area dedicated to Adult Day Care with an adjacent kitchen for the Towns Senior Nutritional programs.

The second floor will include a community multipurpose room, library and Town Administrative offices and conference room that will be used primarily by elected Town officials and/or by the Parks Department. The original Court/Board Room is going to be restored to its original size and will once again be utilized as a large meeting area.

Included in the restoration project are a new three-story elevator and corridor addition; renovation and expansion of the existing northeast staircase; interior reconstruction of the first and second floors; a new roof; basement renovations; new fire sprinklers and plumbing fixtures; masonry repairs and brick restoration; exterior lintel replacement; cast stone cleaning; replacement of over 100 exterior windows; new entrance and exterior doors; replacement of the existing sanitary system and drainage system; renovations to the parking lot and driveway; and replacement of sidewalks.