

*For Immediate Release  
December 20, 2009*

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## **Project Independence Opens Port Washington Location, the Third in a Planned Network of Offices**

*Port Washington, NY*—North Hempstead’s “aging in place” program, Project Independence, continued to spread its roots across the Town with the recent opening of a satellite office located in the Port Washington Senior Center, the third such site in a planned network of town-wide locations.

“We are moving this forward because we really believe it can make a difference in people’s lives,” Supervisor Jon Kaiman said in his remarks to some 50 people, mostly community leaders, attending the informational reception.

With locations now in New Hyde Park, Great Neck and Port Washington, Project Independence future plans calls for a network of eight locations. The communities of Roslyn and New Cassel are being targeted for sites in the immediate future.

With North Hempstead’s senior population growing—residents aged 75-84 increased 40% while those older than 85 increased 60% according to the last national census—the Town developed Project Independence to help support and empower seniors by providing an array of services through partnerships with government, service providers, businesses and the local community.

Project Independence is multi-faceted but it has one primary goal: help seniors live healthy, active and engaged lives as members of their community by connecting them to the valuable services, programs and providers that will help them remain as independent as possible.

To accomplish that, the Town has partnered with social workers, health care professionals, spiritual leaders, community organizations and many others to help seniors and their families have easier access to available services and programs.

By simply dialing 311, a resident can connect with call-takers who will help them find answers to a particular question, track down information or tap into valuable services such as health screenings, immunizations and information about managing medications. Project Independence also offers caregiver support, social and recreational activities, support groups for those coping with illness, depression or loss, as well as volunteer opportunities.

“We need you to be an ambassador for this program,” Councilman Fred Pollock told attendees.

First initiated as a pilot program in the New Hyde Park area, Project Independence is the first program of its kind to be established in a suburban setting.

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