

# The Dedham Senior Center



**A place for Dedham seniors...  
today and tomorrow.**

**Vote Saturday, June 28th**

## *The need.....*

**B**ased on 2000 census data, Massachusetts is the twelfth oldest state in the country with 13.5% of its population older than 65 years. By 2010, as 1.87 million Bay State baby boomers retire, that number will increase. In addition, increasing life expectancy means that seniors are living longer. Here in Dedham, that currently translates to 5,000 residents 60 years and older and that figure is projected to increase by over 10% by 2020. This is a growing segment of our neighbors, friends and family who have given so much to our community.

**C**urrently, in a small space on Washington Street, the Council on Aging provides an impressive array of offerings ranging from yoga and painting classes to blood pressure screenings and tax preparation assistance.



The Council also plans social outings including parties, concerts and, of course, bingo which all work to keep seniors active and engaged. But the real work goes on behind the scenes in ways we may never see. Daily, the council staff meets with seniors and their families to provide information on the availability of services they may require, to advocate for seniors in difficult living situations and to seek out seniors and involve them in activities to enhance their quality of life.

**B**ut there are limits to what the Council can do in a space smaller than the average convenience store. Class sizes are limited, social activities are scheduled at shifting locations and individual attention to senior problems and concerns is difficult to accommodate. There is no single destination where seniors can turn for services, activities or the social interaction that is so crucial to mental, physical and emotional health. For over thirty years, proposal after proposal to fill this need have come and gone. Now we have a place and we have a plan that will provide for the increasing needs of a growing segment of our population.

*By 2010, 1.87 million Bay State baby boomers will begin to retire.*

## *The plan.....*

The proposed plan is to construct a 19,600 square foot facility that includes space for activities now and into the future. State guidelines call for 3 to 5 square feet per senior resident and this plan meets those guidelines. The plan includes an exercise room, activity space, a library and media room, private consultation space and a function space for dining and other programs. Outfitted with a full kitchen, we anticipate that the crucial Meals on Wheels program would relocate to the new center further consolidating services.



The center is designed to make extensive use of low maintenance materials to increase the life of the building. The design also uses “green building” strategies to reduce energy use and decrease maintenance costs. Parking, always a concern in a project of this magnitude, will meet the town’s parking by-law requirements.

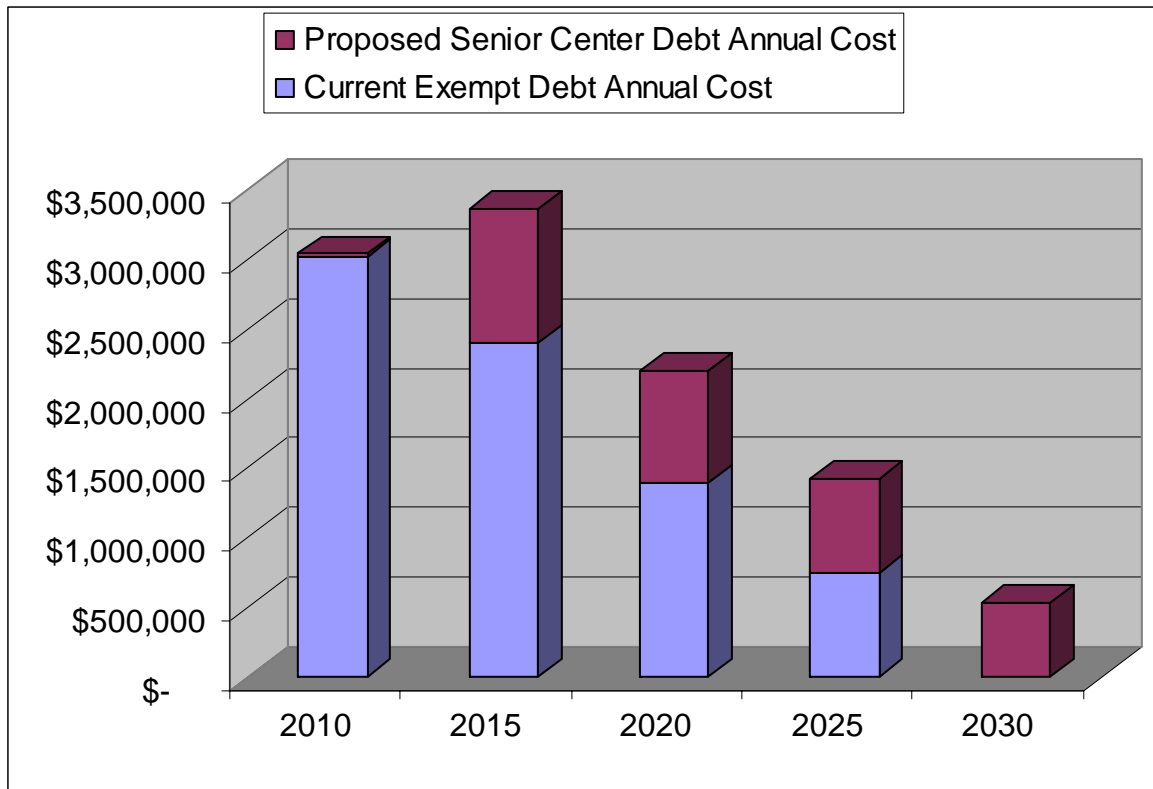
Located on the grounds of the Dexter School, the senior center would serve as the cornerstone of an intergenerational campus in the event that the Early Childhood Education Center moves to the Dexter. This would facilitate programs involving seniors and children providing a crucial link between elders and the young.

Aimed at providing a wider array of activities and services to a broader audience of seniors, the center will become a hub of activity in the community. It will allow the Council on Aging to increase the size of individual classes, expand the variety of social and instructional opportunities and enhance individual services related to health and finance in an appropriate setting. It will be a place seniors can call “home.”

*The senior center will become a hub of activity in the community.*

## *The price.....*

**C**onstruction costs are estimated at \$9.7 million, but on June 28th voters will be asked to approve the town to borrow up to **\$8.635 million**. The balance will be funded through a combination of grants, private donations and prior expenditures. Private fundraising is ongoing so any additional funds raised will decrease the amount borrowed by the town.



As other exempt debt projects are paid off (high school science labs, road and sewer projects, etc.), the annual cost for exempt debt decreases allowing investments in other capital projects without causing a net increase in tax bills. **The construction of a senior center will cause little change in property tax bills as the town will soon pay off several exempt debt projects.**

**F**or the average homeowner, the cost of the senior center will be less than **\$61 per year or around \$5 per month**. Annual operating costs are estimated at \$110,000 which includes custodial services and utility costs. Additional program costs are paid for with grant monies or participant fees.

*The construction of a senior center will cause little change in property tax bills as the town will soon pay off several exempt debt projects.*

## Key facts.....

- Massachusetts is the 12th oldest state in the nation.
- Currently, Dedham is home to 5,000 seniors, a figure that is projected to grow as baby boomers retire.
- At 19,600 square feet, the proposed senior center meets the recommended size for our senior population.
- The center will provide badly needed space for expanded and varied programs.
- Total construction costs are estimated at \$9.7 million with a cost to the property taxpayer of **\$8.635 million**. The balance will be made up with private donations and grants.
- The **annual cost** to the average homeowner will be **\$61.10** or just over **\$5 per month**.
- **The construction of a senior center will cause little change in property tax bills as the town will soon pay off several exempt debt projects.**



For more information or for a ride to the polls, call (781) 329-3388

## ***What others are saying...***

“Building a senior center is an idea whose time has finally come. It’s a perfect addition to the town’s other outstanding assets and is a big plus for the community.”

***-Mary Ellen McDonough***

“Seniors will be able receive the services they need in a warm and inviting setting.”

***-Nancy Gaines***

“As our senior population grows, providing necessary services is crucial to helping maintain their quality of life.”

***-Jim MacDonald***

“Our seniors have given much to their community and building a senior center is our way of giving something back.”

***-Tracy Driscoll***

“This town is home to both my children and my parents. A senior center is one more way to help keep my family close together.”

***-Patricia Rocha***

“The senior center is a prudent investment that will continue the town’s tradition of investment in important projects.”

***-David Martin***

“There is no greater family value than elder care. I ask you to join me in supporting the construction of a senior center in the Town of Dedham.”

***-Representative Paul McMurtry***

PRSRT STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
Dedham, MA  
Permit No 5

# **Vote Saturday, June 28th**