

Amherst Senior Center Status A Council on Aging Report

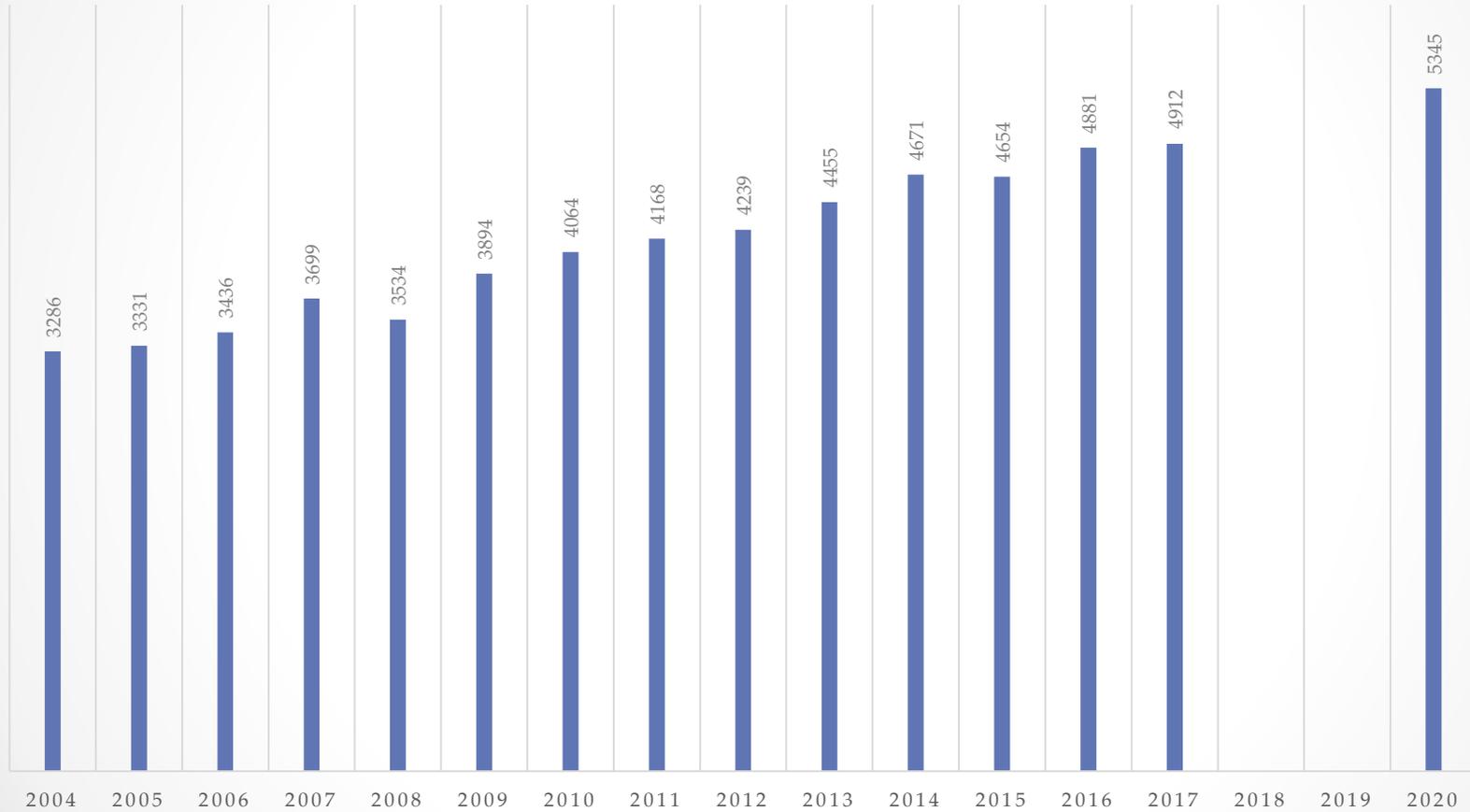
April 2018 Town Meeting

Services Provided

- **Services to Individuals**
 - SHINE health insurance counseling
 - Two different home delivered meal programs
 - Computer tutoring and free computer lab
 - Transportation to medical appointments
 - Convalescent equipment loans
 - Medical services of various types
 - Licensed social worker counseling
 - Income tax preparation

- **Services to Groups**
 - Community education
 - Support groups
 - Congregate lunch program M-F
 - Other food programs
 - Fitness and dance classes
 - Discussion groups
 - Arts & crafts classes
 - Free concerts, parties, games of various kinds
 - Recreational trips

NUMBER OF AMHERST SENIORS (60









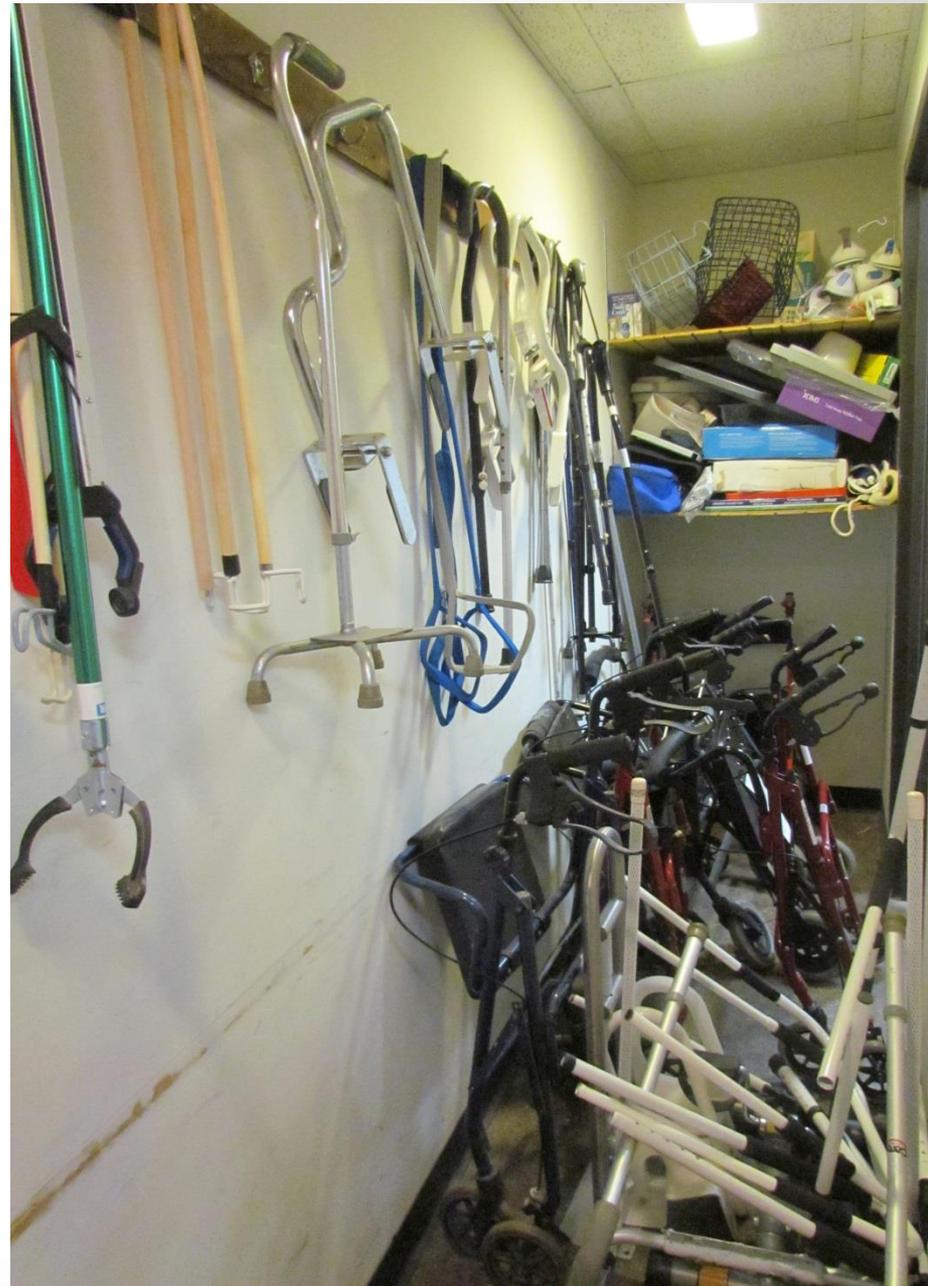
LIFE

LIFE



Bread and Produce, 2012







Altenex

MOON

drive

drive



Major Shortcomings of the Bangs Facility:

1) Lack of Rooms to fulfill the Needs

ASC Only Space: 2173 sq ft

Shared Space: 5226 sq ft

Total space (incl. shared): 7399 sq ft

2) Lack of Rooms Appropriate for the Activity

3) Lack of sufficient and free parking

New Senior Centers in Massachusetts and Connecticut

Northampton Senior Center

18,500 sq.ft.



Groton Senior Center (36,000 sq.ft.)



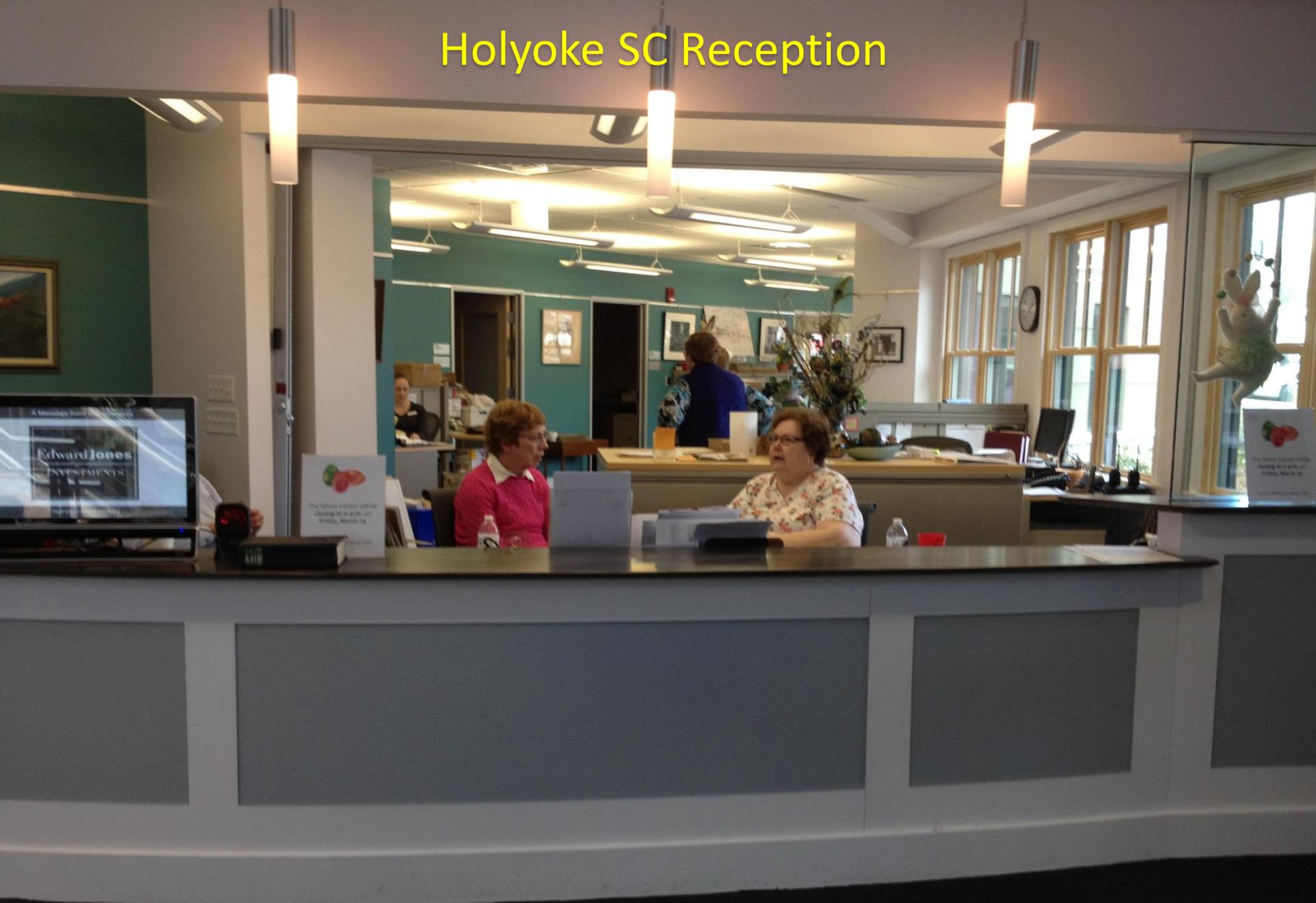
Chicopee River Mills (21,000 sq.ft.)



Holyoke Senior Center (20,000 sq.ft.)



Holyoke SC Reception



Enfield SC Library



Northampton SC Gift Shop



Enfield SC Computer Room



Glastonbury SC Game Room



West Hartford Senior Center Exercise Equipment Room



Northampton SC Auditorium



Enfield SC Commercial Kitchen



Westfield Senior Center Dance Studio



A Typical Unsolicited Statement by visitors to the ASC:

“It is extremely sad that a Town as progressive as Amherst has a Senior Center with such a limited footprint. Amherst Seniors deserve better”

...David Stevens, Pres., MA COA

What Has Been Done

- 1) We have visited 16 new senior centers in MA and CT and have interviewed their directors.**
- 2) We attended seminars & had personal conversations with senior center architects.**
- 3) A COA report on SC shortcomings and needs was sent to Town Hall in 2012.**
- 4) We have spoken with Town Manager Paul Bockelman on numerous occasions.**
- 5) LWV of Amherst Endorsement**

GOALS

- 1) Obtain funding for a new facility feasibility study.**
- 2) Continue working with Town Officials to identify a suitable site.**
- 3) Add a new Senior Center facility to the Town's capital projects list.**
- 4) Contact a senior center architect and have him/her prepare preliminary plans.**
- 5) Obtain permission to initiate fund raising.**