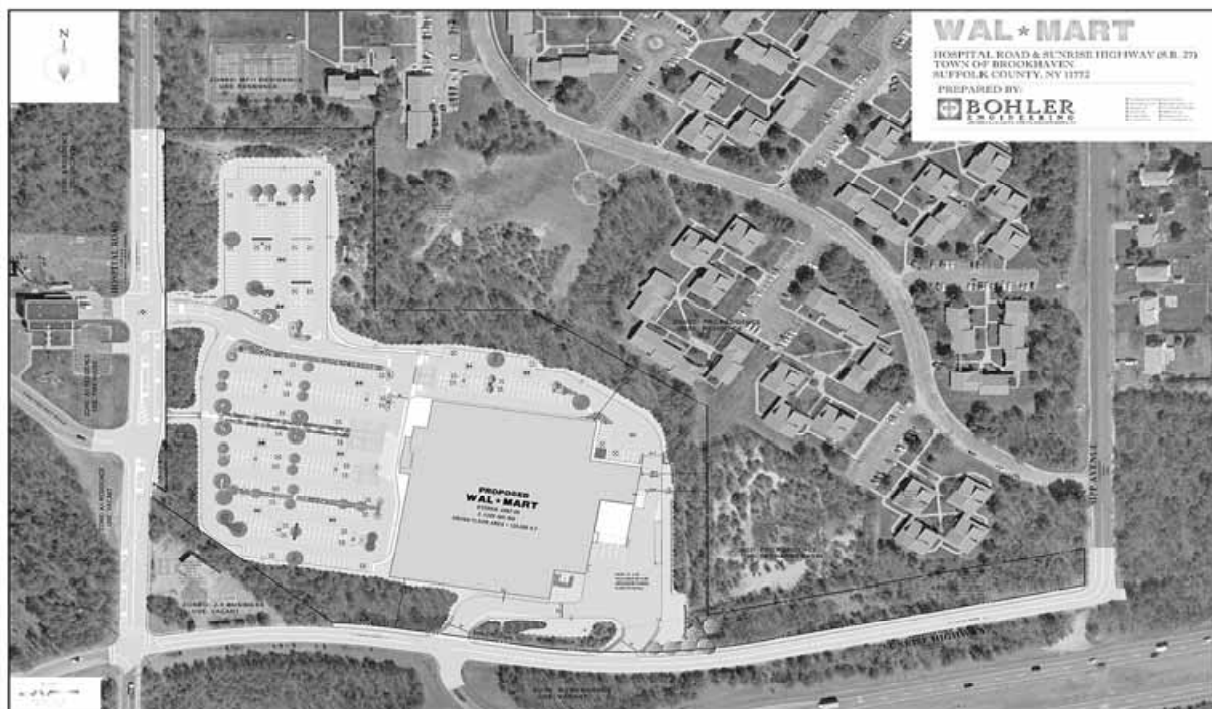


## Walmart could build in East Patchogue

*Site at Hospital Road and Sunrise Highway may cause traffic issues*

By LINDA LEUZZI



**A diagram of the proposed Walmart which could be located along the north service road of Sunrise Highway at Hospital Road.**

A site plan to build a 120,000-squarefoot Walmart at the intersection of Hospital Road and Sunrise Highway in East Patchogue was submitted to Brookhaven Town's planning department on Aug. 15.

"It's across the street from the North Patchogue Fire Department sub station," said Brookhaven Town spokesperson Kevin Molloy of the location. "It's still in the very early planning stages of review. The property is zoned J2. It's for commercial use, so a Walmart shopping center would be allowable."

According to Marita Morello, president of Focus East Patchogue, a civic meeting was held last week regarding Walmart and other issues. "We had a good turnout, about 40, and the response was very positive from the community," Morello said.

Morello said that one of the lures was moderately priced clothing. "We have to go to Shirley or other locations at a distance," she said. "We have a lot of food places and pharmacies, but the one thing the area doesn't have is a place for clothing that's reasonably priced. The women who came showed some excitement."

"What Walmart is proposing is a supermarket, a pharmacy and merchandise products," said Tom Berger, secretary of Focus East Patchogue. Berger said that while the community wasn't opposed to the proposed construction, added density would increase traffic. "The Hospital Road bridge, which is state controlled, really needs to be expanded," Berger said. "Everyone says a bridge will cost millions, but what (could be better) than a public works job? It will help alleviate everything everyone is complaining of and that's traffic."

Scott Santamaria of Forum Strategies and Communications, who represented Walmart, spoke to the group that night.

"We expect there will be a public hearing, probably next year, January or February, on the project," said Philip Serghini, senior manager of public affairs for Walmart. "If it does go through, and the project is built, it would add 200-250 jobs and the average hourly wage for a full-time employee is \$11.53. It will have a grocery component. I don't know if it will have a Subway or a McDonald's. It's a smaller Walmart but it will have the mix, including the pharmacy with our \$4 generic drug program and the electronics department."

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