

Cornell Cooperative Extension Suffolk County

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HEALTHY EATING INITIATIVE LAUNCHES LONG ISLAND'S NEWEST 'HEALTHY CORNER STORE' IN VALLEY STREAM

CENTRAL FOOD MARKET JOINS PROGRAM PROMOTING ACCESS TO HEALTHFUL FOODS IN UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

VALLEY STREAM, NY, NOVEMBER 6, 2023 - A supermarket in Valley Stream has become the latest “corner store” to join a Long Island-wide initiative that improves access to healthful eating in underserved communities.

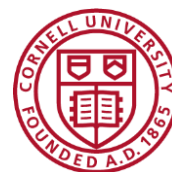
Located at 351 North Central Avenue, Central Food Market has joined a campaign – organized by Riverhead-based Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County (CCE Suffolk) – that promotes greater access to fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and low-fat dairy items in the bi-county region. As part of its involvement in the “Healthy Corner Store” program, the market has also modified its signs and its layout to promote healthful eating habits. Central Food Market’s participation was announced at an “open house” event on November 6 that included the distribution of store coupons and free, reusable shopping bags, as well as food tastings that all reinforce healthy shopping and eating.

Valley Stream is a diverse community, in comparison with many other Long Island localities. According to U.S. Census Bureau data, 36.2% of the village’s population was born outside of the United States.

The “Healthy Corner Store” program is sponsored by CCE Suffolk’s SNAP-Ed program, along with Cohen Children’s Medical Center and Northwell Health, which are both based in New Hyde Park. It is supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s SNAP food assistance program. SNAP, which stands for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, was formerly known as the “food stamp” program.

CCE Suffolk launched its regional program in 2015. At present, twelve “corner stores” on Long Island are taking part.

“The ‘Healthy Corner Stores’ initiative has an important role to play in helping to improve health and nutrition in our community,” said New York State Assemblywoman Michaëlle Solages. “I’ve had the privilege of working directly with Central Food Market to facilitate their participation in this program, and it’s gratifying to see the leadership role that they’ve taken.”



“Convenient access to healthy foods has been found to positively influence healthy eating behaviors,” said Edwin Fare, Mayor of Valley Stream. “I applaud the efforts of Central Food Market to help boost public health in the Valley Stream community.”

“We reduce our risk of obesity and chronic disease by increasing the consumption of fruits, vegetables and other healthful foods,” said Vanessa Lockel, executive director of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County. “Public health initiatives like ‘Healthy Corner Stores’ help consumers make the most of their food dollars and reduce their consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages.”

Each “Healthy Corner Store” undergoes a physical needs assessment encompassing its layout, setup, and items stocked, as well as an assessment of its inventory. Owners and staff identify strategies and work plans tailored to the specific store, pinpointing the health and nutrition benefits of small but critical changes within the store environment. Dedicated signage also helps organize and highlight fresh fruits and vegetables.

About Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County:

Established in 1917, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County (CCE Suffolk) is a non-profit community education agency that works to preserve the county’s agricultural resources and marine life, protect regional eco-systems, support families, provide community service opportunities for youth, and advance research-based education in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

Affiliated with Cornell University as part of the national land grant university system, CCE Suffolk’s staff consists of educators, researchers, specialists, and support personnel who are dedicated to making Suffolk County a desirable place to live and work.

CCE Suffolk is a subordinate governmental agency with an educational mission that operates under an organizational model approved by Cornell University as agent for the State of New York.

More information is available at <http://ccesuffolk.org/>.

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