

Around LI

E. Hampton ER to open in 2024

A free-standing emergency room under construction in East Hampton is now expected to open in late 2024, according to a hospital official.

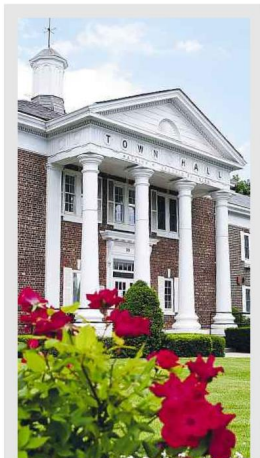
The Stony Brook Medicine East Hampton Satellite Emergency Department will provide expanded access to health care for residents and visitors of the easternmost portion of the South Fork.

Dr. Fredric Weinbaum, interim chief administrator officer of Stony Brook Southampton Hospital, said Tuesday the project ran into an unexpected delay when crews discovered a soil remediation project needed to be completed to properly install pillars for the foundation.

Weinbaum told the East Hampton Town Board that crews discovered the soil problem in March. He said the soil was “completely remediated” in August, allowing the rest of the work to move forward.

Weinbaum said he expects “substantial completion” of construction of the satellite at 400 Pantigo Place by next fall.

— JOE WERKMEISTER



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GREENPORT

REMAKING A MARQUEE

Storyed theater to reopen as a nonprofit arts center by year’s end

BY TARA SMITH
tara.smith@newsday.com

Tony Spiridakis was perhaps 5 or 6 years old when he caught a gladiator epic at the Greenport Theatre with his dad.

“It blew my mind,” the Greenport resident said recently, recalling the moment that inspired him to become a filmmaker.

Spiridakis, who is also founder of the Manhattan Film Institute, will now get to direct the future of the village theater where he spent countless hours catching movies. He is tasked with transforming the 635-seat theater into the nonprofit North Fork Arts Center, a cultural hub of performing arts, exhibitions, multigenerational education and film.

The theater, which closed for nearly three years due to the pandemic, was listed for sale in January for \$5.5 million. But in an effort to save the historic building, Spiridakis struck a deal with theater owner Josh Sapan, who placed several conditions. Spiridakis would need to assemble a nonprofit board to run the arts center and raise \$1 million to demonstrate community buy-in. If Spiridakis met those benchmarks, Sapan would donate the building to the nonprofit in perpetuity.

With the benchmarks met, the building is off the market and Spiridakis estimates the donation deal will close within six weeks.

He plans a soft opening in late December with a showing of a holiday film series.

“It’s just insanely generous,” Spiridakis said of the agreement. “The community didn’t speak — they roared.”

Tentative programs at the arts center include film, photography and performing arts classes, comedy, theater and a three-week Brooklyn Ballet residency featuring workshops and



Filmmaker and Greenport resident Tony Spiridakis now gets to direct the future of the village’s theater.

performances.

Keeping with tradition, summer blockbusters will be shown from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

The off-season will feature curated programming that includes short films, Friday “fright nights,” classic and family films, and Latino and world cinema to foster inclusivity, Spiridakis said.

“He’s got the right vision from A to Z,” said Sapan, a former AMC Networks executive. “It’s, for me, a dream come true.”

The building on Front Street dates to 1916, and was rebuilt by renowned cinema architect John Ebersohn following the 1938 hurricane. It evolved from a single-screen cinema to a four-theater multiplex.

Sapan purchased the theater for \$500,000 in 2004 and began modernizing the technology while honoring its Art

Theater’s history

- Prudential Theaters opened the theater in 1939. It was reconstructed after the Great New England hurricane of 1938.
- Has 635 seats across four theaters.
- Plans for soft opening in late December as North Fork Arts Center.
- About 568 donors have contributed to the new arts center — and fundraising remains ongoing. For more information, visit northfork-artscenter.org.

Deco roots.

In 2018, Spiridakis and his partner, Lisa Gilooly, launched a popular winter film series, which ceased when COVID-19 struck. He plans to continue making upgrades at the theater using a portion of the donations raised so far. The non-

profit running the center may also seek grants for renovations such as adding a backstage area to accommodate larger acts, according to their website.

Greenport Mayor Kevin Stuessi said he was concerned the theater could be lost when it was initially listed for sale. “I knew some hotel developers had taken a look at it,” he said, noting that a vibrant year-round arts center could provide a boost to shops, bars and restaurants during typically quiet months. “I’ve really enjoyed seeing the vision come to life.”

Ultimately, Spiridakis hopes the space will foster creativity and community.

“People need to come together to share, to talk, to argue, debate,” he said.

“To see a big theater sitting on Front Street dark and shuttered doesn’t speak well to the creative health of the community.”