

Project Description: Outdoor Walk-in Cooler/Freezer

The Medway Village Food Pantry currently operates on Saturday mornings from 8:00-10:00 am in our current location on the ground floor of the Medway Village Church, 170 Village Street. We share the interior space both with the church and with Good Shepherd Nursery School, which means that during the school year, we cannot access the pantry space at all during school hours. Our pantry has experienced exponential growth since 2020, increasing from 7,000 client visits that year to just under 24,000 client visits in 2023 and 2024.

For the last two years – and we are on track for 2025 to be the third year in a row – we have reached maximum capacity for the number of clients we can serve in the limited hours we are open each week. Since early 2024, we have been actively seeking a dedicated location to which we can move the pantry. After exploring a variety of options, we have recently signed a lease with Medway Route 109 LLC for 2,774 square feet of commercial space in Gould's Plaza/Medway Shoppes, 74 Main Street, Unit 3.

The Medway Village Food Pantry currently owns a Polar King outdoor walk-in cooler/freezer that is installed at the back of the Medway Village Church and has been operational there since July 2023. We have agreed with the owners of Gould's Plaza/Medway Shoppes to relocate our outdoor walk-in from its current spot at the Medway Village Church to the rear of our leased unit at 74 Main Street.

The attached documents outline the specifications for this free-standing outdoor walk-in cooler/freezer unit with 391 cubic feet of capacity for each temperature range (exterior dimensions 8 ft x 16 ft), as well as the proposed location behind Unit 3.

In determining the location for this walk-in, we considered the following:

- There is an existing concrete pad in the rear of the building adjacent to Unit 3, with rough dimensions of 9.5' x 19'
 - The dimensions of the outdoor walk-in cooler/freezer at 8' x 16' align with the existing concrete pad so as not to impact the existing fire lane or parking.
- There is more than enough space behind Unit 3 to install the outdoor walk-in without affecting entry/exit pathways for any unit.
- The paved area behind Unit 3 is relatively flat, so no major modifications will be needed to install the outdoor walk-in
 - The outdoor walk-in itself is fully self-contained and is designed to be relocated to another flat, paved surface.
- We will install safety bollards to minimize risk of vehicular damage, as well as outdoor lighting for visibility and security.
- Commercial gutters/downspouts will be modified/added as needed to ensure proper drainage, in alignment with existing drainage plan for that area of the parking lot.
- This location does not have any residential neighbors, and the operation of the condensers on top of the walk-in add approximately 3 decibels of sound at 6 feet away. Condensers are no louder than a basic residential air conditioner. Sound testing from June 2023 included.
- The outdoor walk-in cooler/freezer will be wired into the existing electrical panel in Unit 3
- The Medway Village Food Pantry will be responsible for all ongoing maintenance of walk-in.