Supervisor Lesko and Town Officials Host Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Tour at New "Green" Parks Administration Building

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Supervisor Mark Lesko (third from left) joins Deputy Supervisor / Councilwoman Kathleen Walsh, Councilman Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld, Tax Receiver Louis Marcoccia, Town Parks staff and others for the ribbon cutting ceremony at the new Parks Administration building in Centereach.

Farmingville, NY - On May 26, Supervisor Mark Lesko and other Town Officials celebrated the ribbon cutting for the new Town of Brookhaven Parks Administration Building located at 286 Hawkins Road in Centereach. This newly constructed "green" building boasts a number of environmentally friendly and energy efficient features that will allow it to receive a Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design (LEED) Silver Certification. The Town of Brookhaven joins an elite group with its LEED Silver registration. Only about a dozen municipal buildings on Long Island are either LEED registered or certified. This will be the Town of Brookhaven's first LEED building.

The building is 12,000 sq. ft. and 3,000 sq. ft. will be dedicated as a youth recreation center. The building cost $4.9 million to construct and was completed well below its original budgeted amount of $6 million, with $400,000 in stimulus funding secured by Congressman Tim Bishop through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Over 60 full-time, part-time and seasonal employees will work in the new building, which is located adjacent to the Town of Brookhaven's Centereach Pool complex. Construction started on the building in the summer of 2010.

"The new LEED Silver Town Parks Administration building is a model for energy efficient construction," said Supervisor Lesko, "I want to thank Congressman Bishop for his efforts to secure funding for this beautiful building and recognize the Parks Department and engineers who have worked tirelessly over the past eleven months to complete its construction. This new building will create a better work environment for employees and a more inviting and accessible atmosphere for residents who need to come to the Parks Department for any reason."

"I'm pleased to help secure these federal funds to allow the Town of Brookhaven to invest in infrastructure that uses less energy and saves taxpayer dollars," Congressman Bishop said, "This federal support will help Brookhaven's Parks Department better serve the public from this outstanding new headquarters."

Deputy Supervisor / Councilwoman Kathleen Walsh said, "I started working on this project when I was first elected in 2005. Being here today is an epiphany of the hard work and dedication of our employees, our elected representatives and community leaders. For the land locked community of District 3 and our dedicated employees of the Brookhaven Parks Department, this highly visible location was the prefect venue where the residents of Centereach and Selden could be proud to congregate as a community. Coming under budget and the benefits of an energy efficient building is an added benefit to the taxpayers."

Councilman Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld, who serves as Town Council liaison to the Parks Department, Clean Energy Task Force Chair and a LEED US Green Building advocate said, "This is an important day in the Town of Brookhaven. Our
new Parks Administration building is a model for energy efficient construction and a bellwether of how all of our buildings should be designed and constructed in the future. I am very proud to have been part of this process and I commend Kathy Walsh, our Parks Department and the engineers at LK Mclean for their vision and progressive thinking in creating this magnificent building.” Councilman Fiore-Rosenfeld sponsored a town law that requires all new municipal buildings in the town to have a goal to be LEED Gold status, or at the minimum, LEED Basic.

The new, state-of-the-art "green" Parks Administration Building includes the following energy efficient features:

- The walls and roof are constructed of structural insulated panels (SIPs). These are like an insulation sandwich and have a higher uninterrupted insulation value and lower air leakage than typical construction.
- The building uses a geothermal system for both heating and cooling.
- It has an under floor air distribution system for all heating and cooling. This puts the conditioned air within a person’s comfort zone, not up at the ceiling.
- The south roof has a 20kw photovoltaic system (solar panels) allowing the town to realize a LIPA rebate of approximately $57,000.
- All light fixtures are energy efficient, which will cut down on electrical consumption.
- The offices and conference rooms have motion sensing light switches which turn the lights to half power when someone enters the room. If increased lighting is needed, the occupant can turn the lights to full power. The lights will automatically shut off if the room is unoccupied for any length of time.
- The exterior siding consists of concrete shingle which will not rot and requires very little maintenance.

Also in attendance at the ribbon cutting were engineers from L.K. McLean Associates, the firm that handled the design and construction management of the new building as well as the general contractor NRI Construction.