Quality of Life Task Force Cracks Down On Unsafe Backyard Pools  
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Farmingville, NY - The warm weather is here and many Brookhaven residents have opened their backyard swimming pools for a fun-filled summer with family and friends. Supervisor Mark Lesko is encouraging residents to take proper pool safety measures.

The Town’s Quality of Life Task Force has begun to crack down on property owners who are not in compliance with pool safety requirements and recently issued violations in North Patchogue, Mastic, Port Jefferson Station, Miller Place, and Coram.

"Summer is here and we want to make sure that everyone is safe while they are having fun," said Supervisor Mark Lesko, "Too often we hear of water-related tragedies that could have been prevented. The Quality of Life Task Force will be targeting unsafe pools around the Town of Brookhaven this summer and will issue violations to any property owner who is not in compliance with the code."

Deputy Supervisor/Councilwoman Kathleen Walsh said, "All too often, a potentially tragic situation can be avoided by taking simple precautions. I hope the recent crack down on violators is a simple solution to saving a life."

"Unfortunately, every summer season we hear about unimaginable tragedies that take place in backyard swimming pools hear on Long Island. I would like to commend our Quality of Life Task Force for their enforcement issuing violations for unsafe conditions around swimming pools such as inadequate fencing and unsecured gates. Lets hope that because of this crack down this summer will be a happy, fun, and most importantly safe summer for the youth of Brookhaven," said Councilwoman Connie Kepert.

Locations where violations have recently been issued are:

**Steven Court, North Patchogue** - On June 24, law investigators responded to a complaint regarding an unsecured in-ground swimming pool. The fence around the property was in disrepair and had a number of large openings. Four appearance tickets were issued to the homeowner including violations for an unfenced pool, unregistered vehicle, no Certificate of Occupancy for a garage conversion, and no Certificate of Occupancy for an accessory apartment. The court date is July 14, 2011.

**Dover Avenue, Mastic** - On June 13, law investigators responded to an open pool complaint. A portion of the rear fence was broken and the gate was broken off. The property owner was given 24 hours to cover or fix the fence, but did not comply. Two appearance tickets were issued, including violations for an unfenced pool and for a broken fence. The court date is August 18th, 2011.

**Old Town Road, Port Jefferson Station** - On June 17, law investigators responded to an open pool complaint concerning an unsecured above ground swimming pool. The property did not contain any proper fencing to the entire rear and side yard. Five appearance tickets were issued, including violations for an unfenced pool and for property maintenance. The pool was later secured and drained. The court date is August 18th, 2011.

**Sweetgum Lane, Miller Place** - On June 17, law investigators observed an open, above ground swimming pool that was unattended and not completely fenced in with the ladder in the down position. One appearance ticket was written. The court date is August 18th, 2011.

**Etna Drive, Coram** - On June 24, law investigators responded to an open pool complaint where they observed that the gates were wide open and there was a large opening in the fence. Two appearance tickets were issued, including violations for an unfenced pool and improper pool gates. The court date is August 25th, 2011.

The Town of Brookhaven and New York State building codes include very specific rules and regulations regarding swimming pool safety such as pool alarms, secure fencing, anti-entrapment devices, self-closing and self-latching gates. These are not merely suggestions; they are required by everyone who has an above ground or in-ground pool, or even a hot tub.
A detailed summary of pool safety requirements can be found at the New York State Department of State website at http://www.dos.state.ny.us/DCEA/pools.htm.

If any resident knows of any backyard pool that is not in compliance with regulations, call 631-451-TOWN. The Town will take immediate action against violators and keep identities of callers confidential.

Supervisor Lesko established the Quality of Life Task Force in June of 2009 to aggressively enforce the Town code to eliminate blight in neighborhoods and shutdown suburban slumlords. From June 2009 through December 2009, fines levied on code violations increased by 170% compared to the same time period in 2008. In 2010, the Quality of Life Task Force continued its success. Compared to 2009, fines levied in 2010 nearly doubled to almost $1 million. Fines are levied through tickets issued to property owners with properties that have seriously unsafe or hazardous conditions.

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