Supervisor Lesko and Councilwoman Kepert Attend Groundbreaking Ceremony for New Boys and Girls Club of the Bellport Area
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Farmingville, NY - On August 2, Supervisor Mark Lesko and Councilwoman Connie Kepert attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the new building that will house the Boys and Girls Club of the Bellport Area located at 471 Atlantic Avenue. The 28,000 square foot facility, which will replace a much smaller one that had been used by the club for many years, will include a full-sized gymnasium, community room, learning centers, a teaching kitchen, computer lab and teen center. The club offers youngsters a number of before and after school programs as well as teen programs in the evening.

"The new Boys and Girls Club will be such a great addition to the Bellport area," said Supervisor Mark Lesko, who spoke at the event. "The services that the club provides to children and families will be expanded and enhanced as a result of it being built here. This has been a real community effort, made possible by generous private donations and through the hard work of elected officials from all levels of government. I am happy to have been part of this very special occasion and look forward to the ribbon cutting next year."

Councilwoman Connie Kepert said, "Getting to this place of finally breaking ground and making way for this wonderful community center has been no small task. Years of hard work, diligence and at times frustration on the part of so many people has resulted in this truly joyous occasion. This is the kind of stuff that excites me as an elected official and I’m inspired to be a part of a community that overcame so many challenges to transform this vision into a reality that will serve the youth in a facility that will make everyone proud.

Construction on the new building will be completed by September 2012. The cost is $4 million and will be paid for primarily with private funding. The club also received a $50,000 grant from New York State and a $1 million donation from the Caithness Host Community Benefit Agreement funds. The Caithness Host Community Benefit Agreement funds are part of $200 million in financial benefits; $185 million going to local school districts in payments in lieu of taxes and a $15 million community benefit package to help fund a variety of important projects in the Brookhaven Town community. These benefits accrued as part of the negotiations leading to the construction of the Caithness,
state-of-the-art power generating facility in Yaphank.