Supervisor Mark Lesko and Councilman Tim Mazzei at the construction site for the new 12,000 sq. ft. addition to the Town's Materials Recycling Facility.

**Farmingville, NY** - On August 11, Supervisor Mark Lesko and Councilman Tim Mazzei were at the Town's Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) to tour the construction site of a 12,000 sq. ft. addition to the building. The project will add more tipping floor space, which is needed due to increased recycling tonnage from Inter Municipal Agreements (IMA) with other municipalities and for anticipated additional tonnage due to the town's recycling initiatives, including Recyclebank®.

"Recycling is a win for the environment, a win for residents who can now receive discounts through Recyclebank, and win for the Town because we save money with increased recycling," said Supervisor Mark Lesko, "Just last month we took in over 4600 tons of recyclables and we expect those numbers to increase with Recyclebank. The new addition is needed and will enable the Town to increase our drastically revenue from the sale of recyclables."

"Our recycling rates are getting higher and now we will be able to accommodate the additional material we need to take in," said Councilman Tim Mazzei, who serves as the Town Board Liaison to the Department of Waste Management. "The MRF is 20 years old and this expansion will allow us to move forward in our efforts to increase revenue, save taxpayers money and protect the environment."

The cost of the construction project is $2,583,352 and the Town will get 50% back with a grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The new construction work at the MRF, which is currently 47,000 sq. ft., has created 30 jobs for local residents. In addition, if the Town increases recycling just 5%, it would save $1 million in disposal costs and realize $500,000 from the sale of recyclables.

The improvements to the facility include a dedicated indoor bale storage area so recyclables do not have to be stored outside, which degrades their quality when the Town wants to sell them, and a new three-bay loading dock that will be able to accommodate oversized shipping containers, which the Town cannot currently accept. The Town will also use 700 tons of recycled glass that has been stored on site for the road around the new addition and the loading dock area.
Earlier this year, the Town started a public information effort to urge residents to increase recycling efforts. The Town launched a new webpage that enables residents to track their collection district's recycling rates, which will be updated quarterly. Residents can go to www.brookhaven.org/recycle and find out if their collection district is an above-average or below-average recycler compared to the rest of the Town by clicking on their school district and then their collection district. This online tracker also sets recycling goals for each collection district based upon their recycling history.

The Town Board unanimously approved a contract with Recyclebank® at the March 29, 2011, Town Board Meeting. New York City-based Recyclebank rewards people for taking everyday green actions, such as recycling, with discounts and deals from local and national businesses. Residents who are part of the Brookhaven Recycling Collection Services can earn points each time they recycle and spend those points on rewards from hundreds of local and national businesses, including Bobbique, Blue Point Brewing Company, Mama's Restaurant, Brickhouse Brewery, Monster Mini Golf, Lemon Tree salons, Subway, Outback Steak House and many more. To sign up for Recyclebank®, visit www.Recyclebank.com.

All recyclables go to Brookhaven's Materials Recycling Facility (MRF), a complex and automated system that separates glass, paper, corrugated cardboard, plastics and metals from a mixed waste stream and bales each item for market. The MRF can process up to 300 tons of recyclable material per day. The Town provides curbside collection of recyclables to one, two, and three family households in 35 collection areas. Residents can also drop off recyclables at no charge to the Waste Management Facilities Center, the Department's Manorville Composting Facility, or the Holtsville Ecology Center. To learn more, call 451-TOWN or visit www.brookhaven.org.