Supervisor Mark Lesko and Councilman Tim Mazzei Announce that the Plaza Theatre in Patchogue Will Be Demolished on August 30th
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Farmingville, NY - Supervisor Mark Lesko and Councilman Tim Mazzei announced that in two weeks, on August 30th, the vacant, deteriorating Plaza Theatre in Patchogue will be demolished after many years of anticipation. The ceremony to kick-off the demolition of the Plaza Theatre will take place at 10:00 a.m. on August 30th on the corner of Main Street and Grove Avenue.

"The community has been waiting for this day for many years and in a few weeks we will finally be tearing down Plaza Theatre, a monument to blight," said Supervisor Mark Lesko, "the Town looks forward to continuing to work with residents after the demolition on the Plaza Theatre site so we can finally turn blight into light."

"Knocking down this eyesore has been a priority of mine since taking office and I am glad the day has finally come," said Councilman Tim Mazzei, "This is a victory for the community and I look forward to working with them on the revitalization of East Patchogue."

Suffolk Executive Steve Levy said, "The County is pleased to have worked with the Town from the early stages in seeking condemnation of this blighted structure. Its removal will enhance the community and signal hope for additional investment in East Patchogue."

"Five and one-half years ago, when I first took office as a county legislator, I walked down East Main Street with our local civic, Focus East Patchogue. Their first priority was to rid their neighborhood of the blight that had become the Plaza Theatre. It became my first priority and I made a promise to the community that before my term was out, that theatre would come down. I would like to commend the Town for stepping up to tackle this issue," said Legislator Jack Eddington.

"The taking down of the Plaza Theatre will further the revitalization of the East Patchogue corridor, which is the gateway to Patchogue Village," said Patchogue Mayor Paul Pontieri.

"As the Plaza Theatre is demolished, the gates to a revitalized East Patchogue will at long last swing wide open," Congressman Tim Bishop said, "This is proof positive that when the community is engaged and working with officials
at all levels of government, we can improve quality of life."

"It's been such a long time - 25 years - that I have been patiently waiting for this monster to come down. It's finally happening and I am ecstatic over it. I am looking forward to moving on to improving and getting rid of the blight on the East Patchogue Corridor. I am thankful to everyone who has been a part bringing this building down," Marita Morello, President of Focus East Patchogue.

"We are overjoyed and relieved that this day has finally arrived. It's a shame that the owner deliberately allowed his investment to deteriorate over the years from a light to blight. I would like to thank everyone who has helped to make this day happen, from all of our elected officials to all the members of Focus and the community, but especially to Marita Morello for her dedication and persistence. This community achievement is a giant step toward improving the image and reputation of Patchogue and East Patchogue and I hope we can work on returning East Main Street to a media entertainment center," said Tom Berger, Secretary of Focus East Patchogue.

The Town started condemnation proceedings against the property owner of the Plaza Theatre, East Main Realty Corp., in October 2009 and gained title to the property on March 4, 2011.

The Plaza Theater site was one of the first properties targeted for redevelopment in Supervisor Lesko's "Blight to Light" initiative, which focuses on redeveloping blighted properties throughout the Town.

Built in 1962, the Plaza Theater served the greater Patchogue community until the 1980's, when it closed due to the advent of multiplex theaters. Since then, the building has been vacant.

The Town of Brookhaven competitively bid the asbestos abatement and demolition contracts and awarded them to the lowest bidders, JBH Environmental Restoration for asbestos abatement and Bove Industries for demolition. The asbestos removal began earlier this summer. Suffolk County loaned the Town $350,000 for asbestos removal and demolition, and if the Town realizes a profit from the redevelopment of the property for economic development purposes, the County will be paid back. The Town hopes to redevelop the property as part of the economic revitalization and blight remediation of the East Main Street Corridor.

The demolition should be complete within two weeks and then the Town's Department of Waste Management will remove the debris from the site, which will also take approximately two weeks.

Supervisor Lesko and Councilman Mazzei will be joined by other elected officials and community members. If you would like to attend, please RSVP at www.brookhaven.org/plazarsvp. Refreshments will be served.