Supervisor Lesko and Councilman Mazzei Announce New Date of September 13 for Demolition of the Plaza Theatre

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Farmingville, NY - Supervisor Mark Lesko and Councilman Tim Mazzei will join other elected officials and residents, civic leaders and local business owners to celebrate the demolition of the Plaza Theatre. The new date for demolition is September 13 at 1:00 p.m. The original date for demolition of August 30th was postponed by Supervisor Lesko and Councilman Mazzei due to the damage caused by Hurricane Irene and the Town's mobilization of all personnel from the Town's Highway, Waste Management and Public Safety Departments for emergency clean-up and recovery efforts.

"It's been a long time in coming and we had to wait a few weeks more because of Hurricane Irene, but the monument to blight that is the Plaza Theatre finally will come down on September 13," said Supervisor Lesko, "I look forward to celebrating this momentous occasion with the community."

"The Plaza Theatre has been a detriment to the revitalization of East Main Street. I am proud to have been part of the effort to have it demolished," said Councilman Tim Mazzei. "Now it's finally going to happen and I will join in the celebration with all those people who have been anticipating this day for so many years."

"I am glad that the Plaza Theatre will not go down as the first building to ever be saved by a hurricane," Congressman Tim Bishop said. "Demolishing the Plaza is a major step forward in the community’s efforts to revitalize East Patchogue. I am proud to have helped secure funding for this project and will continue to work with local officials to revitalize East Main Street and create jobs."

"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 Theater. It became my first priority and I made a promise to the community that before my term was out, that theater would come down. I would like to commend the Town for stepping up to tackle this issue," said Legislator Jack Eddington.

Patchogue Village Mayor Paul Pontieri said, "The Plaza Theatre stands at the gateway to Patchogue Village and once this eyesore is demolished, it will accelerate the revitalization of the East Main Street corridor. Add to that the new sewer extension, and we are certain to see a significant impact on the local economy of the greater Patchogue business district."

Marita Morello, President of Focus East Patchogue said, "I can't wait, I am so excited. I have waited nearly 25 years for this day and now I can't believe it's really happening."

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.
If you would like to attend, please RSVP at www.brookhaven.org/plazarsvp. Refreshments will be served.

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