Supervisor Lesko and Councilman Mazzei Join Local Civics at Demolition of Nesenger Building in East Patchogue
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*Long-blighted property will be returned to its natural state*

**Farmingville, NY** - Supervisor Mark Lesko and Councilman Tim Mazzei held a press conference during demolition of the long-blighted Nesenger building in East Patchogue to update residents, local civic organizations and community leaders about the Town's proposed plans to return the property to its natural state for use as a community park. The 3.8 acre property, which was acquired by the Town in November of 2011, is located in an environmentally sensitive area adjacent to the Swan River and across Montauk Highway from Swan Lake. CIA Construction Group is demolishing the building at no charge to the Town and will remove and retain all recyclable materials for repurposing.

Supervisor Lesko said, "We continue to turn blight into light in the Town of Brookhaven with the demolition of the Nesenger building and thanks to Congressman Bishop, we plan to make substantial improvements to the area. This is government at its best - a Federal, State, County, and Town partnership to revitalize the East Main Street corridor."

"The Nesenger property has been a severe blight on the East Patchogue community for a long time," said Councilman Mazzei. "I have been working on removing this eyesore for many years and it's great to know that it will soon be gone and the property restored back to its natural state for all our residents to enjoy."

Congressman Tim Bishop secured nearly $1 million in Federal infrastructure funding to help restore the property to its natural state and stabilize, re-grade and re-vegetate wetlands. The funding will also cover County Road 80 (Montauk Highway) improvements such as an enhanced crosswalk, parking improvements and increased accessibility, decorative street lighting, sidewalks, benches, bike racks and a new bus shelter.

The Town is also submitting a consolidated funding application to New York State for park acquisition development and planning and green innovation. This grant application has items in it such as a walking trail, signage, wetlands rehabilitation and shoreline stabilization.

"I am very pleased that federal funding I secured will help transform an eyesore into a tremendous asset for the East Patchogue Community," said Congressman Tim Bishop. "Residents will now be able to enjoy the natural beauty of the Swan River in the heart of a bustling business district."
"I commend Councilman Mazzei and Supervisor Lesko for their continued commitment to East Main Street. They have taken on another eyesore, and in doing so will have helped to create a beautiful park to complement the county's Swan Lake Park across the street. Together they will make a welcoming green space to the entrance to our downtown area and East Patchogue," said Suffolk County Legislator Rob Calarco.

"Today marks another step in the continued improvement and beautification of East Patchogue. By working together on all levels of government, we're improving the quality of life of the East Patchogue community, and revitalizing the Main Street business corridor," said New York State Assemblyman Dean Murray (R,C - East Patchogue).

Other non-recyclable materials in connection with the demolition will be collected by the Town's Department of Waste Management for disposal. Asbestos abatement was completed on June 29 by New American Restoration Inc.

A key element of the Town's proposed property master plan is to develop a wetland restoration plan for the eastern portion of the property. Critical objectives of this plan are to re-establish suitable hydrological, ecological, and topographical conditions by:

- Removing fill and establishing natural contours.
- Re-establishing adequate water flow and direction through the wetlands, which includes the creation of a pond of approximately 1000 square feet in size.
- Re-establishing native wetland dependent woody and herbaceous plant species and vegetation.
- Including proposed parking site(s) to maintain public parking for approximately 20 cars to alleviate the on-street parking in the vicinity of the intersection of County Roads 80 and 36.
- Constructing a pedestrian actuated signal, a marked crosswalk and new sidewalks to enhance pedestrian mobility and safety.
- Installing a proposed kayak launch area.

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Once a car dealership, the Nesenger property has stood vacant for many years. In November of 2011, the Town purchased the property for open space preservation at a cost of $1,013,000. Since 2009, the Town has preserved over 400 acres of open space, including the acquisitions of the Lake Grove School property located within the Carmans River Watershed, 16 parcels in the Terryville Greenbelt conservation area, and five parcels of upland and wetland open space in the northwestern corner of Lake Panamoka. Supervisor Lesko has focused on turning "Blight into Light" throughout the Town of Brookhaven. The demolition and restoration of the Nesenger Property continues the Town's revitalization of Main Street Corridor in East Patchogue, which includes the new sewer lines and the demolition of the Plaza Theater in September of 2012. To learn more about the Blight to Light program, visit www.brookhaven.org.
Pictured left to right in front of the Nesenger building are (front row) Swan Lake Park Civic Association president Eric Carver, Focus East Patchogue president Marita Morello, Councilman Tim Mazzei, Congressman Tim Bishop, Assemblyman Dean Murray, CIA Construction CEO Steve Long and Supervisor Mark Lesko. Back row pictured left to right are CIA Construction president Chris Isazza, vice president Anthony Long, Treasurer Chris Long and Sean Nicholson.

Aerial photo of Nesenger property outlined in red

Nesenger property before start of demolition.