Supervisor Lesko and Councilwoman Kepert Announce Quality of Life Task Force Action in Farmingville
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Police arrest occupant who allegedly threatened Law Investigators and Waste Management crew with AR-15 assault rifle

Town cleans up 7.7 tons of litter on property

Farmingville, NY - Supervisor Mark Lesko and Councilwoman Connie Kepert announced that on July 17th a Quality of Life Task Force clean-up occurred at 91 Woodycrest Drive in Farmingville. The action was taken after resident complaints about the excessive amount of litter and debris that was strewn about the property. As the Department of Waste Management crew was beginning their clean up, an occupant of the home allegedly threatened them with an AR-15 assault rifle. The crew and law investigators retreated from the property and called the Suffolk County Police for assistance. Police responded and arrested the man for Obstructing Governmental Administration (OGA) and menacing, and seized three long guns, including a shotgun, rifle and the AR-15. Following the arrest, the property was cleared of debris and refuse including raw garbage, tires, wires, furniture, old appliances and scrap metal. The Town removed over 15,000 lbs. of litter and debris from the property and the cost of this clean-up will be charged back to the property owner on their tax bill.

Supervisor Lesko said, "This Quality of Life Task Force action is a striking example of the dangerous work that members of our Quality of Life Task Force perform every day to keep our communities safe and I thank the Suffolk County Police for their quick response to this situation. We do not take lightly any threat made to Town employees and we will press for the maximum charges within the law. This property was not only an eyesore, but a real threat to the health and safety of the residents who live in the area. The Quality of Life Task Force proves over and over again their value in the effort to enforce our codes and hold accountable those who blatantly disregard them."

Councilwoman Kepert said, "The house located at 91 Woodycrest Road in Farmingville has been a blight on the community for too long. This property was packed with trash, litter, debris and every type of metal garbage you could scrap. My office has repeatedly sent our law investigators to this location. In June, our investigation resulted in a $10,000 fine. Despite these actions, this house has continued to be a nuisance to the community. On Tuesday, our Quality of Life Task force was again sent to the home and the owner has been charged with numerous violations. The message to all irresponsible homeowners is that they will not get away with destroying the quality life of whole
The property owner, who was not the arrested occupant, was previously written Appearance Tickets by Law Investigators for violation charges of litter and debris, unregistered vehicles, front yard and right of way restrictions and failure to submit a Rental Registration. He is currently scheduled in District Court for a court date of July 26, 2012.

Supervisor Lesko established the Quality of Life Task Force to aggressively enforce the Town code, eliminate blight in neighborhoods and shutdown suburban slumlords. In the past three years, fines levied on code enforcement violations have increased by 332%. In 2011, the Town levied more than $1 million dollars in fines against serial offenders for the first time in its history. In addition, at the request of Supervisor Lesko and the Town Board, the New York State Office of Court Administration established the Brookhaven Community Court in 2010. It is a special court that is part of the Sixth District Court in Patchogue dedicated to handling proceedings alleging violations of Brookhaven Town ordinances and affecting the quality of life of local residents.

If residents believe that a property is in violation of any Town of Brookhaven codes, they can call 451-TOWN to file a complaint. To learn more about the Quality of Life Task Force, visit www.brookhaven.org.