Town condemns overcrowded house for infestation and unsafe conditions

Pictured are the exterior of the condemned home at 4 Sunburst Lane in Bellport with the empty in-ground pool and a bedroom containing two of the 18 beds found at the home.

Farmingville, NY - Supervisor Mark Lesko and Councilwoman Connie Kepert announced that on July 26, a Quality of Life Task Force action occurred at an illegal multi-family home at 4 Sunburst Lane in Bellport. The action was in response to an occupant complaint about over-occupancy and the infestation of bedbugs and roaches. Upon entering the premises, a Town Building Department inspector and Law investigator observed the infestation and found nine occupants in the home, and 18 beds.

Supervisor Lesko said, "This Quality of Life Task Force action once again shows that the Town will not tolerate property owners who disregard the health and safety of our residents. We will prosecute those who violate our Town Codes to the fullest extent of the law."

"My message to landlords, who are only interested in collecting checks at the end of the month and show no respect for the tenants or surrounding community, is that this type of predatory behavior will not be tolerated in the Town of Brookhaven," stated Councilwoman Kepert.

Previous to this action, Law Department investigators had written appearance tickets dating from October of 2011, charging the property owner with unauthorized garage conversion without a permit, failure to submit a rental registration, no certificate of occupancy for the in-ground pool, no smoke detectors, no carbon monoxide detectors, litter and property maintenance. They also found the oil burner room dangerously littered with bags of clothing and other flammable items. The pool was also posted for being open and unsafe. Additional appearance tickets will be issued to the property owner. The Town also submitted a 143b to the Suffolk County Department of Social Services (DSS) to stop paying rent to the property owner due to safety issues in the home. The DSS arranged for the occupants to be transported to emergency housing.

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.