Farmingville, NY - On June 23, Supervisor Mark Lesko and Deputy Supervisor Kathleen Walsh welcomed the team from the Extreme Makeover: Home Edition television show to Brookhaven Town. The popular ABC network program was in Setauket to help the Lutz family whose home was in need of extensive renovations. Unable to have any children of their own, Grace and John Lutz adopted 18 children, including seven with Down Syndrome. When the couple passed away, their daughter Kathleen gave up her career to return home and take care of her six siblings who now range in age from 20 to 25 years old. Kathleen was later diagnosed with inoperable cancer. Her brother John Jr. decided to move back home and care for his sister and other siblings. Kathleen's health is now stabilized and both now care for their family. Neighbors recommended the home in need of the makeover and the show is due to air in September.

Doug Cornwell, a representative from Allure Home Improvements, the construction firm that volunteered to lead the build, escorted the Supervisor and Deputy Supervisor through the reconstruction site just after the new backyard pool arrived by helicopter. Other Town of Brookhaven officials were joined by sports celebrities from The New York Islanders and New York Yankees who signed autographs at the site.

Many local businesses donated tools, products, manpower, time and energy. "The enthusiasm of all the volunteers and their dedication to the Lutz family was inspiring to me. Their efforts prove once again that we care a great deal about our neighbors and we can join together to accomplish great things in Brookhaven" said Supervisor Lesko. The well planned, well organized assembly of volunteers, personalities and corporate sponsors worked in 24 hour shifts to complete the rebuilding project. "Neighbors carried food and refreshments in coolers and aluminum trays. Area children sat under tents and painted posters to hang in the family's new home. Scouting Troops built birdhouse to dot the family yard. It was wonderful!" said Deputy Supervisor Kathleen Walsh.