MANORVILLE, NY - Brookhaven Councilman Keith Romaine today announced the Town's support of the Long Island Farm Bureau's "Pride of New York - Buy Local" campaign, in an effort to stimulate and support sales of locally grown products at garden centers, grocery stores, farm stands, seafood markets and purveyors.

"We have tremendous agricultural resources here on Long Island, with fertile soils and a perfect climate for farming that provides fresher produce and plants. Purchasing locally grown and harvested items helps our economy here on Long Island, and not only saves money, but also helps save the planet by reducing our carbon footprint," said Councilman Romaine. "When the Long Island Farm Bureau requested my help in having the Town of Brookhaven support its efforts to stimulate and support sales of locally grown products, I was more than happy to do so."

The Pride of New York's "Buy Local" advertising program provides funding to create and develop promotional messages, print space, signage and such other promotional activities to identify local products and build awareness and preferences and sales in New York.

"Councilman Romaine has been a valuable partner and supporter of the Long Island Farm Bureau's 'Grown on Long Island' and 'Pride of New York' programs. I want to thank him for his efforts to make this a successful program in Brookhaven that will benefit our residents, business owners, farmers and local economy," said Joseph Gergela, Executive Director of the Long Island Farm Bureau.

Romaine urged residents to choose locally grown fruits, vegetables and other horticultural items when making purchases, pointing out that these products can easily be found at businesses displaying banners/signs by the Long Island Farm Bureau indicating "Grown on Long Island" and/or "Pride of New York." The Brookhaven Town Board has approved legislation, at Romaine's request, authorizing the placement of these temporary signs.

"Many people don't realize that Suffolk County is New York's leading county in the wholesale dollar value of local agricultural products - and Brookhaven farmers, nursery owners and other horticultural businesses play a large role in that," said Romaine, "This program supports this vital industry that has been part of our Town's heritage since our earliest days, and continues to play a significant role in our economy today."