LAKE RONKONKOMA, NY - Brookhaven Town Supervisor Mark Lesko and Councilwoman Kathleen Walsh today announced the purchase of the Mary’s Estate property in Lake Ronkonkoma. The 4.5-acre property, located on Hawkins Avenue, north of Portion Road, was purchased for open space preservation at a cost of $1,275,000.

"The purchase of this parcel creates an important, contiguous piece of open space that will be enjoyed by Brookhaven Town residents today and for generations to come," said Supervisor Lesko. "This is a perfect example of the smart use of open space dollars to garner the greatest reward for the dollar spent and the continued commitment by the Town to aggressively acquire open space."

Located across the street from the Nature Conservancy’s Finlay-Wolf Pond Preserve and other Town-owned property, the purchase creates an assemblage of about 16-acres of conserved open space land in the center of downtown Lake Ronkonkoma. The property is extensively wooded and provides nesting habitat for birds-of-prey and a variety of other bird species, including the red tailed hawk.

"This open space acquisition was strongly supported by the community surrounding the property, and provides a nice greenbelt along Hawkins Avenue," said Councilwoman Walsh. "Preserving this property will help to forever maintain the nature and characteristic of the Lake Ronkonkoma community."

The property belonged to the Newton family since the 1870’s, with several generations living in a number of buildings on the homestead. In 1917, Frank Newton built a large home for the family at the end of a winding driveway at the top of the hill, overlooking Portion Road and Hawkins Avenue. The house burned down several years ago, and the family moved to property on Ronkonkoma Avenue.

Across the street is the Finlay-Wolf Pond Preserve, a 10-acre tract owned by the Nature Conservancy. The property features a kettlehole pond, freshwater wetlands, a field and upland woods habitats. Among the trees and other foliage that can be found on the property are red maple and beech trees, buttonbush, sweet pepperbush, swamp azalea, bullhead lily, fragrant white water lily and bladderwort.