

Supervisor Romaine and Councilwoman Keperth Oversee Second House Demolition this Week in Bellport

posted on 9/21/2015 10:44:25 AM

September 21, 2015



Farmingville, NY – On September 17, Supervisor Ed Romaine (left) and Councilwoman Connie Keperth (right) were on hand to oversee the demolition of a vacant house located at 955 Walker Avenue in Bellport. It was the second house this week to be demolished by the Town in the Bellport. The house had been vacant for more than 12 years with a long history of violations including property maintenance and unsecured structure. It was demolished in accordance with Chapter 73 of the Town Code which provides a “fast track” to rid neighborhoods of unsafe structures. The cost of demolition and debris removal is the responsibility of the property owner. The Town places a lien on the property that is then placed on the tax bill. The County reimburses the Town and they collect the money from the property owner.

Supervisor Romaine said, “North Bellport is plagued with a high number of vacant, unsafe houses and we will continue to demolish them to help improve the quality of life in the community. I want to say to the residents that we will do everything in our power to remove these dangerous eyesores from your neighborhoods. I commend our Law, Building and Waste Management Departments for working together to help clean up Brookhaven Town.”

Councilwoman Keperth said, “In 2011, my office oversaw the cleanup of 71,120 pounds of litter and debris from this site, and pumped dangerous swamp water from the uncovered in-ground pool. The property was covered in debris and garbage, tires, stockade fencing, plywood and rugs. Since that time, it has remained vacant. Today we can celebrate as yet another blighted property is removed from the community.”

Since taking office, Supervisor Romaine has spearheaded initiatives to battle vacant house issues all across the Town. In December 2013, the Town Board voted unanimously to adopt the Supervisor’s legislation which created a vacant building registry. The law requires the owners of vacant property to register with the Town of Brookhaven, and provide a local point of contact for the party responsible for maintaining the property. The failure or refusal of any property owner to register a vacant building within 30 days after they become due will result in a fine of \$1,000 to \$15,000 for each failure or refusal to register. It is modeled after similar vacant home registries that have been adopted by municipalities across the nation in response to the foreclosure crisis.

In May 2014, the Supervisor launched the new Town web page and mobile app for residents to report vacant homes and commercial properties. Residents can go to www.brookhaven.org/vacanthouse and follow the easy steps to submit their report. The information is immediately entered into a centralized database which the Law Department will use to investigate. Residents can also report a vacant house by calling call 451-TOWN (8696), Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM.