



Kathleen Walsh ^{3rd} District Town Council



Town employees from the Parks and Highway Departments on Pamela Lane in Selden with (left to right) Deputy Supervisor / Councilwoman Kathleen Walsh, Superintendent of Highways John Rouse and Supervisor Mark Lesko as they launch the first Operation Clean Sweep.

Deputy Supervisor/Councilwoman Kathleen Walsh, Supervisor Mark Lesko and Superintendent of Highways John Rouse Announce Success of “Operation Clean Sweep” in Selden

Farmingville, NY – On Monday, April 11 the Town of Brookhaven launched “Operation Clean Sweep”. Operation Clean Sweep is a coordinated program spearheaded by the Town’s Quality of Life Task Force with the goal of improving the quality of life throughout Brookhaven.

The first “Operation Clean Sweep” took place in the neighborhood surrounding Pamela Lane Park in Selden, located in Town Council District 3. This area is bordered on the north by Middle Country Road, south by Mooney Pond Road, east by South Bicycle Path, and west by College Road.

Over the course of one week, Town employees:

- Replaced 44 street signs
- Swept over 40 streets
- Fixed over 40 street lamps
- Cleaned all catch basins in the area
- Removed over 1,200 pounds of trash
- Issued 78 code violations

“Our first Operation Clean Sweep was a success and I thank the Quality of Life Task Force working with the Highway Department and Department Waste Management for doing their part to give this neighborhood a make-over,” said Supervisor Mark Lesko.



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Deputy Supervisor / Councilwoman Kathleen Walsh said, "Our Town and Highway employees did a great job during Operation Clean Sweep. Our area was swept, the road signs replaced, street lights were fixed and the neighbors are pleased with the results. Working together we can make a difference in our communities."

"The coordinated effort by Town departments really helped to show a tangible difference for this neighborhood," said Highway Superintendent John Rouse. "While we do this work every day, focusing in on a small area with such an array of town resources lets us show these residents that their quality of life continues to be at the forefront of our daily effort."

The Quality of Life Task Force issued code violations to homeowners ranging from unregistered vehicles to litter and debris on their properties. It was the goal of the Town to work with the property owners to clean up properties, not to just hand out tickets. As a result, of those who received such violations, 58 home owners agreed to correct the violation and come into compliance. Those home owners who did not comply received appearance tickets.

During Operation Clean Sweep, the Quality of Life Task Force, working with the Suffolk County Police Department 6th Precinct, executed a search warrant at 16 Pinehurst Court in Selden, which was located in the Clean Sweep area. This two story single family residence had been turned into a multifamily rooming house. On the first floor, makeshift kitchens were created with bedroom furnishings and kitchen appliances and it seemed the occupants were transient. Rooms were created by blocking entry halls with PVC fencing and wooden pallets. There were no smoke or carbon monoxide detectors on the first floor. Cigarette butts filled ash trays and the fireplace on the first floor had evidence of burned trash in it. Dishes were cleaned in bathroom sinks when hot water was available and space heaters were used because of problems with the heating system. Quality of Life Task Force investigators issued six appearance tickets to the owners of the property, three of which are misdemeanors, and the court date is June 16, 2011.

The recent Operation Clean Sweep in Selden was the first of six that will be held in each Town Council District.

May 2011: Council District 1
June 2011: Council District 2
August 2011: Council District 6
September 2011: Council District 5
October 2011: Council District 4

Supervisor Lesko established the Quality of Life Task Force in June of 2009 to aggressively enforce the Town code to prosecute serial offenders, eliminate blight in neighborhoods, and shutdown suburban slumlords. From June 2009 through December 2009, fines levied on code violations increased by 170% compared to the same time period in 2008. In 2010, the Quality of Life Task Force continued its success. Compared to 2009, fines levied in 2010 nearly doubled to almost \$1 million. Fines are levied through tickets issued to property owners with properties that have seriously unsafe or hazardous conditions.

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 Operation Clean Sweep, visit www.brookhaven.org.