



# Bill Lindsay's Community Report

from the Suffolk  
County Legislature

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## Lindsay's Plan to Sell Unused Land Passes Legislature

Like virtually every level of government, from the smallest village to the biggest state, Suffolk County is in desperate economic straits. As elected officials trying to make their way through the tough times, the County Legislature is looking to maintain essential county services residents need and depend on while holding the line on property taxes, as the Suffolk County Legislature has done for the last seven years.

"If we are going to continue to hold the line on general fund property taxes there are two directions we can go—cut essential services or find other sources of revenue," said Lindsay. "It is much smarter and much better for our citizens to find new revenue sources rather than sell off critical services like the John J. Foley Skilled Nursing Facility. We should sell vacant land we don't need before we sell vital facilities like the nursing home.

"That is why I proposed in IR 2236-10 that Suffolk sell 247 acres of county-owned but unused land in Yaphank. At public auction, I believe the county could reap up to \$50 million for the sale of this land. The sale would leave the future development of any parcel sold up to the purchaser and to Brookhaven Town, which controls zoning and site plan review on the property."

The County Executive has targeted this property and the adjoining 30 or more acres as the site of his "Legacy Village," an enormous development plan including over 1,000 units of "affordable" housing, a "destina-

tion" sports and entertainment facility and a solar-powered research park. The County Executive announced plans for this project more than five years ago and, at that time, Lindsay supported the concept.

"It is now an entirely different day, an entirely different real estate market and an entirely different economy and Legacy Village no longer makes sense for Suffolk residents," said Lindsay

Under the Legacy Village plan, the total amount of revenue Suffolk would have received was \$12 to \$15 million. The sale of 255 acres for that paltry sum is a gift Suffolk County cannot afford to give the project's developer. That is why Lindsay has proposed selling the acres once eyed for Legacy Village to the highest bidder, eliminating the 30 or so acres that are environmentally sensitive.

With the economy and the real estate market booming five years ago, Suffolk County was in desperate need of affordable housing. Now, with the real estate market and the economy in general having gone belly up, Suffolk County has thousands and thousands of affordable homes up for immediate sale. According to the web site RealtyTrac.com, as of December 9 of last year there were 4,232 homes for sale for under \$200,000 in Suffolk County. There were 6,387 for sale under \$250,000. The Legacy Village "affordable" homes were expected to cost \$300,000. Clearly, the Legacy Village project no longer makes any sense, for affordable housing or for Suffolk County taxpayers.

It is also important to note that the Legacy Village plan has engendered



nearly unanimous, and particularly vehement, opposition in the Yaphank community. Residents fear the destruction of their traditional community, the tax impact on their schools, the traffic impact and the end of a way of life they have long treasured. Lindsay believes the county should leave the development decisions to the town government and private developers.

"I encourage the County Executive to accept the fact that the time for his Legacy Village is gone," said Lindsay. "It is time to make sure the sale of any county assets, including the 247 acres in Yaphank, brings the maximum in revenue to county taxpayers, and that is exactly what my legislation will do."



Lindsay implemented and funded an AED program with Holbrook Fire Department's Chief Joe Fannon (left) and Commissioner Charles Vermilyea (right).



Lindsay attending Cub Scouts Pack 363 night at Sayville Middle School



Lindsay recognizes Eagle Scout Scott Davidson



Lindsay attends Every Child's Dream event benefiting needy children and honors volunteer Isabella Mangan.



Lindsay supports the Holbrook Thanksgiving Food Drive with Holbrook Chamber of Commerce President Rick Ammirati (center) and Holbrook Community Civic Leader Louis Azzara (left).



Lindsay conducts swearing-in ceremony of Bayport Civic Association Officers Bob Draffin, Rich Wyeroski, Joe Saetta, Marion Cohn and Joseph Libertelli at the organization's Third Annual Installation Dinner.

# Legislator Lindsay Around Town

**S**uffolk County Legislator Lindsay is a familiar sight all around the Eighth Legislative District. He attends events in every hamlet in the district, including Cub Scout nights, Eagle Scout Installation Nights, local food drives, events benefitting needy children and recognizing the accomplishments of sports teams at local schools, swearing in of officers at local civic associations and helping to celebrate the opening of local businesses.

*Legislator Lindsay believes the best way to learn about the real concerns of local residents is to be out in the community as much as possible, hearing constituents' concerns and trying to come up with solutions to these uniquely local problems.*



Lindsay honors Lakeland Fire Department's Outgoing Chief Michael V. Barbara (left) and congratulates Incoming Chief Paul J. Marotta (right).



Lindsay congratulates George Mitchell as the Bayport Civic Association's first annual Civic Pride Award recipient. Also pictured are Bayport Civic Association President Bob Draffin and Town of Islip Supervisor Phil Nolan.



Lindsay (right) congratulates the Sayville High School Football team on winning the Suffolk Championship. Pictured (right to left) is Sayville High School Football Coach Rob Hoss and athletes Richard Millwater and Joseph DeLuca.



Lindsay recognizes the Sayville High School Boys Soccer Team for winning the New York State Championship.



Lindsay swears in President Rich Tropicovsky of the Sayville Chamber of Commerce.



Lindsay recognizes Eagle Scout Nicholas Mancuso.

# Lindsay, County Legislators Tackle Heroin Epidemic

*First in a series of articles to help the public understand the issue and how the county is working to find solutions and meet needs of constituents*

In August 2010, the Suffolk County Legislature passed a resolution to establish a panel of experts to look at the heroin epidemic riddling Suffolk's communities. The Suffolk County Heroin/Opiate Advisory Panel consists of a group of health professionals, policy analysts, agency regulators, and community advocates representing schools, law enforcement, and health providers. The group gathered statistics related to drug abuse and treatment among adolescents and young adults and held two public meetings at which task force members heard wrenching stories from parents about teens' addictions and the parents'

difficulty knowing what to do and where to find help.

Types of services available for prevention, treatment and recovery include:

**In-Patient Detox** treatment is generally done in a hospital based setting when acute medical intervention is necessary to stabilize an addicted patient.

**Out-Patient Detox** treatment is done with medical supervision and possibly medication, however it does not require the patient to be admitted into a hospital setting. Private medical professionals as well as some out-patient facilities provide this service.

**Rehabilitation treatment** provides short or long term inpatient care stabilizing the patient and preparing them for ongoing out-patient treatment and self-help support.

**Out-patient treatment** can include multiple days and hours of daily-to-weekly sessions including education and group work.

The determination of the level of care an individual requires should be done by a trained professional.

If you are seeking assistance with a drug or alcohol problem, call the NYS Hope Line at 1-877-8-HOPENY or the Suffolk Division of Community Mental Hygiene Services at 853-8500.

## New Future for Foley Skilled Nursing Facility Explored by Legislature

The John J. Foley Skilled Nursing Facility has been one of Suffolk County's most valuable assets for more than a century, since its inception in 1888 as the Suffolk County Almshouse. Now that Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy's effort to sell the facility has failed, the County Legislature is exploring the possibility of forging a public/private partnership to operate the nursing home, improve services and cut costs.

"A public/private partnership could cut costs dramatically and keep the nursing home in the county's inventory of critical assets," said Eighth District County Legislator William J. Lindsay. "Such a partnership would cut staff and reduce costs.

"Poor management of the facility has been the main reason for the nursing home's operating losses. An affiliation with a major hospital would strengthen management of the facility, cut costs and provide space for a hospital to provide other desperately needed services. Such a partnership would give the county the ability to reduce the number of nursing home beds and perhaps sell existing beds.

"We could lease excess floor space to a hospital for any facility the hospital might need—a dialysis unit, or a physical therapy and rehabilitation facility, for instance. Additionally, we could lease the adjacent vacant land for an assisted living facility, which would be ideal in conjunction with the nursing home, providing a full range of care possibilities for our older citizens."

The County Legislature has approved legislation



calling for a Request for Proposals to be done to find institutions that might be interested in such a partnership. The RFP idea was approved in a 16-1 vote on May 10 and was pocket approved by the County Executive.

"Selling out our most vulnerable citizens is not the answer," said Lindsay. "It is a shameless evasion of our government's responsibility to protect those citizens who need protection the most."