

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



KATE BROWNING
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Media Release

COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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AVR REALTY DONATES ATV TO SUFFOLK COUNTY

Browning Praises Law Enforcement Initiative & AVR's Efforts



(Pictured left to right: Sgt. Joe Suarez, Legislator Kate Browning, AVR Realty's Brian Ferrugiari, Michael Cain of Whispering Pine/Colonial Woods, and Officer P.J. Maloney standing in front of the donated ATV)

East Yaphank, NY – For years the residents of Colonial Woods/Whispering Pines in Yaphank have been negatively impacted by illegal All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV's). Working in conjunction with AVR Realty and Legislator Kate Browning (WF-Shirley), residents have been able to address illegal off-road activities on adjacent property owned by AVR Realty. Legislator Browning, Michael Cain from Colonial Woods/Whispering Pines and Sgt. Joe Suarez of Suffolk County's Seventh Precinct COPE Unit gathered to thank AVR Realty for donating a brand new ATV to Suffolk County in order to help continue combating the problem.

The ATV use escalated in 2010 and destroyed underground LIPA lines, which cut off power to the community as well as the nearby Sewage Treatment Plant. The new ATV was received this spring and used during an initiative coordinated by the Suffolk County Police Department's Seventh Precinct. Brian Ferrugiari, who represents AVR, has been aiding the police department with its efforts to keep trespassers off the property. In addition to the ATV donation, AVR has provided no trespassing affidavits to Suffolk County so violators can be arrested, and also recently installed barriers to prevent four-wheel drive vehicles from gaining access to the property.

Legislator Browning passed legislation in 2011 that strengthened Suffolk County's ability to target illegal four-wheel drive vehicles. The law was introduced in reaction to the problems emanating from this site, which is in Legislator Browning's district. Now Suffolk County Police Officers can impound a four-wheel drive vehicle in addition to smaller ATV's. The combination of law enforcement's efforts, tougher laws and AVR Realty's cooperation has greatly decreased the illegal activity at the site.

"The entire Colonial Woods & Whispering Pines Community would like to thank Legislator Browning, AVR Realty, and the Suffolk County's 7th Precinct COPE Unit for their support of our residents by working together to stop the illegal off road vehicle traffic on the properties surrounding our community," stated Michael Cain of Colonial Woods/Whispering Pines. "The increased police patrols coupled with the barriers installed by AVR to prevent vehicle access have significantly reduced incidents of trespassing. We greatly appreciate the efforts of Legislator Kate Browning in helping to facilitate the generous donation of this ATV by AVR Realty to maintain patrols in our area. The success of this effort is a testament to how a coordinated plan can work effectively to battle a problem affecting hundreds of residents."

"I want to thank the Suffolk County Police Department for their consistent efforts to address this important quality of life issue," stated Legislator Browning. "More importantly, without the generosity and sincere commitment from Brian Ferrugiari and AVR Realty this issue would not have improved for the residents of Whispering Pines. During these tough economic times it is good faith efforts like this donation that allow Suffolk County to get the job done. The property has seen little activity during the summer months and it is a testament to AVR Realty."

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