

Press Release
COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



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West Sayville's Whitehouse Playground Approved



(SAYVILLE – NY) Suffolk County Legislator Bill Lindsay's legislation, IR-1324, was passed unanimously at the May 10th General Meeting of the Suffolk County

Legislature. The legislation will name the only handicapped accessible playground in West Sayville as the Betty Whitehouse Playground.

Betty Whitehouse, who passed away at 92, on December 6, 2015, is well deserving of this park bearing her name. Whitehouse was an integral part of the Sayville community where she was a teacher in the Sayville School District for 25 years and a member of the Sayville School Board for five years. Whitehouse also spent much of her time giving back to the community as a civic leader with boy and girl scout troops, little league sports and youth sailing clubs. Additionally, Whitehouse volunteered for the Sayville Food Pantry, Sayville Library, and St. Ann's Church of Sayville.

Whitehouse was also ahead of her time as it relates to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education. After obtaining her bachelor's degree from New York University in physical education it sparked her interest in astronomy and science. She would go on to fight for a planetarium to be built at the Old Sayville Junior High School while developing K-12 astronomy curriculum. Whitehouse later wrote a series of astronomy books for children.

"I cannot think of a better person to name this park after" said Legislator Lindsay. "Betty Whitehouse dedicated her life to bettering our community and I am proud that we can all honor her lifetime of service with the dedication of this park to her."

The playground, which is adjacent to the Baymen Soccer Fields and the Suffolk County Dog Park, will cater to children ages 2-13 and has top of the line playground equipment that can be accessed by a child in a wheelchair. The equipment is surrounded by an interior safety surface and has concrete walkways to increase the ease of use for all children. The 77' x 65' play structure includes several slides, ramps, and recreational equipment.

"This playground really hits home for me, said Lindsay. "My younger sister is handicapped and I know how difficult it was for my parents to find a safe and welcoming environment for her to play as a child. I am confident that this park will be extremely beneficial to all children as it can provide them with a greater level of confidence and acceptance as well as a place to play and stay active for years to come."

The ribbon cutting for the Betty Whitehouse Playground will take place in the coming months. The Sayville Chamber of Commerce will be donating a memorial stone to the playground in Betty Whitehouse's honor.

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*Suffolk County Legislator Bill Lindsay is the Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Committee, and Vice Chairman of the Government Operations, Personnel, Information Technology, and Housing Committee. Bill represents the 8th legislative district which consists of Bayport, Blue Point, Bohemia, Holbrook, Holtsville, Oakdale, Sayville, West Sayville parts of North Patchogue and Ronkonkoma.