



Congressman Tim Bishop

FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK

NEWS RELEASE

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BISHOP ANNOUNCES \$40K GRANT FOR LAKE RONKONKOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Funding Provided by 'Save America's Treasures' Grant for Fitz-Greene Hallock Homestead

Lake Ronkonkoma, NY: Congressman Tim Bishop today announced a \$40,000 federal grant for the Lake Ronkonkoma Historical Society. The funding will be given to restore the Fitz-Greene Hallock Homestead as part of the "Save America's Treasures" program. The funds were included in the Interior Appropriations Conference Report, which passed the House of Representatives.

"The Fitz-Greene Hallock House is a vital part of the character of our community," Bishop said. "I am pleased we were able to secure funds to restore the house in this program, because this is truly one of America's Treasures."

"We're ecstatic about Congressman Bishop's work to secure this grant, because preserving the Homestead is so important to our community," Marjorie Raynor, President of the Lake Ronkonkoma Historical Society said. "The Fitz-Greene Hallock Homestead offers a window into the past for today's generation. It is a microcosm of what was going on in those times."

The funds will be used for a project to replace the existing roofing to stop potential water damage, and to restore the original clapboard siding that is now covered with asbestos shingles. The Fitz-Greene Hallock House, located at 2869 Pond Road, was built in 1888. In 1995, the remaining daughter of the original owner donated the house to the Lake Ronkonkoma Historical Society. The property consists of the main house, a water tank shed, and a hen house. Altogether, the property takes up 3.5 acres.

The house has been designated a Historic Landmark by the Town of Brookhaven, and represents a unique representation of Lake Ronkonkoma history due to the continuous ownership in one family. The home was lived in by the family from 1888 through 1975, and it has been unchanged since then. It offers a living history of that time period because the Historical Society made a decision to keep it as it was in order to reflect the passage of years.

"As our area becomes more and more developed, preserving this house becomes even more important," Bishop said. "Now that we have this funding to preserve the Homestead, I hope more people in our community will take advantage of the opportunity to see this living history firsthand."

For more information about the Fitz-Greene Hallock Homestead, contact the Lake Ronkonkoma Historical Society at (631) 467-3152.

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