



# NEWS

## Innovative / Alternative Septic Systems

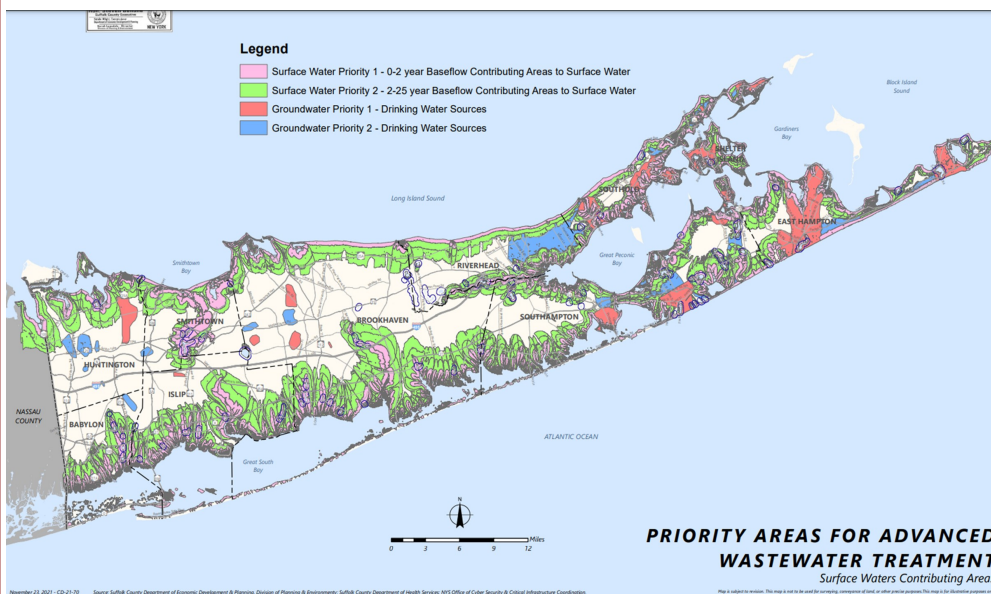
*Have you embraced the I/A OWTS installation craze?*

I/A Septic Systems, dubbed “Clean Water Septics” are here to stay. If you are not installing them yet then now is the time to start. All new construction homes require a Clean Water Septic System if a municipal sewer is not available. The same goes for any home looking to expand the footprint of the home, add to the number of bedrooms to the home, or if the homeowner is simply replacing their system and the home is located in a priority area.

Grant funding is available to homeowners from various sources (including New York State Septic Replacement Fund, Nassau County Septic Environmental Program to Improve Cleanliness, Suffolk County Reclaim our Water, East Hampton Rebate Program, Shelter Island Septic Rebate Program and the Southampton Rebate Program), for customers who want to upgrade their conventional septic system or cesspools to an I/A septic system. In order to complete the installation of an I/A system for a homeowner that has received grant funding from Suffolk County, your company will need to participate in the Reclaim Our Water Septic Improvement Program Solicitation of Quotes (SOQ), and be on the “List of Approved Contractors”. Once on the List of Approved Contractors, a homeowner may select your firm to complete the work. After the work has been completed, all inspections passed, and all final paperwork signed off, payment will be processed to the contractor through the Suffolk County Grant Program.

If you have any questions or concerns on the SOQ process then please contact Julia Priolo of Suffolk County, her email address is : [Julia.priolo@suffolkcountyny.gov](mailto:Julia.priolo@suffolkcountyny.gov) . It is best if you email her and she can contact you when she is available. Her telephone number is 631-852-5938.

The documentation is also available on the LILWA website located at <https://www.lilwa.org/services-7>.



If you have questions please contact our office at [info@lilwa.org](mailto:info@lilwa.org) and we may be able to refer you to someone who can assist you.

With the pending Groundwater Reclamation Act slated to be approved and on the ballot later this year, this is the time to get in on the emerging Clean Water Septic Installation and Service Industry.

[https://reclaimourwater.info/portals/23/docs/SIP\\_PriorityAreasMap\\_11X17\\_11-23-2021.pdf](https://reclaimourwater.info/portals/23/docs/SIP_PriorityAreasMap_11X17_11-23-2021.pdf)

**LONG ISLAND LIQUID WASTE ASSOCIATION, INC.**

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*LILWA News is published quarterly. Contributions, including ideas, pictures and stories are welcome and should be forwarded to us via email or to the address above.*

*Contributing and shared articles are not necessarily the opinion of the Long Island Liquid Waste Association.*

# The L.I.L.W.A. News

The LILWA News is a quarterly publication produced by the Long Island Liquid Waste Association Inc. and is distributed to its members and is available on the association's website ([www.lilwa.org](http://www.lilwa.org)). This vibrant publication provides members of LILWA with letters from the president, informative articles written by industry professionals and service providers, updates on current legislation, opportunities for licensing certification and contact hours as well as affiliated business advertising. The organization strives to provide our members with timely information and tools needed to keep them informed on issues that impact our industry and those relevant to our customers. The Newsletter Committee is always open to suggestions and in search of new material to share and publish. Contributed articles should be educational, non-promotional in nature, and have a suggested word count between 500 and 1,500 words. LILWA reserves the right to edit articles to conform to content and space requirements. If you are interested in submitting an article for possible inclusion, please contact our Executive Director, Thomas Gallagher at [info@lilwa.org](mailto:info@lilwa.org).

**Quarterly Deadlines**

Winter Issue - December 15	Summer Issue - June 15
Spring Issue - March 15	Autumn Issue - Sept. 15

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Any questions, please let us know.

## President's Corner

### A Sales tax hike – we may not like it -- but we need it!

A revised piece of legislation was recently approved and sent up to Albany to be included for consideration as a Referendum on the Public Ballot this November.



The revised legislation calls for an increase in the State sales tax of 1/8 of a cent, raising the sales tax rate from its current 8.625% to 8.75%. It is anticipated that this increase if passed, will generate approximately \$50 million dollars in annual revenue which will be split equally between Suffolk County's water quality protection fund and a sewer expansion fund with some of that money used for upgrades to existing County run wastewater treatment plants and funding for continued installation of Advanced I/A Systems that have been shown to effectively reduce the amount of Nitrogen being discharged into our ecologically sensitive waterways.

We are fortunate enough to have some of the cleanest drinking water in the country here on Long Island. Our beaches and waterways are a huge part of our local economy, and we need to take steps to ensure that both of these are improved and preserved not only for all of us today, but for future generations of Long Islanders as well. This proposed Legislation will help us accomplish both of these objectives.

Suffolk County's South Shore is dotted with small communities and towns that need to have municipal sewers extended to serve them (think Oakdale, Sayville, Bluepoint, Shirley, Mastic etc.)

Improving the infrastructure in these underserved areas will attract more local investment from businesses, which will not only increase sales tax revenue, but will create jobs, and increase the real estate tax base for towns that are trying to shore up their budgets and allow them to continue providing quality services to their residents.

Well thought out bi partisan legislation like this bill need our public support in order to get traction in the state legislature and get put on the ballot.

So when you are servicing your customers in non-sewered areas and you hear them lamenting that they wish they had sewers in their area, you can help the cause by letting them know that there is a vote on some pending legislation coming up this November that will help make that a reality for more Suffolk communities.

Knowledge is power. Once people can grasp the benefits of how improved infrastructure directly impacts the quality of their lives, they can get on board and help get this legislation passed. It helps protect our natural resources and protects the quality of life that we all enjoy here on Long Island.

Thanks for your time. Stay Humble.

All the best,

Bob McInerney

## Suffolk County Septic Haulers Information Portal (SHIP)

Are you registering all you installations on the NEW Suffolk County Septic Hauler Information Portal?

All septic system installation work must be registered on the SHIP portal. The new, updated (February 2023) portal may be accessed at the Acela Suffolk County Citizen's Portal that can be found at

<https://aca.prod.accela.com/SUFFOLKCO>.

Suffolk County Department of Health reports that although a good number of companies are complying with the requirement for registering the installation work there are still some companies that have yet to do any reporting or some companies are incorrectly completing the registrations. There has been some enforcement actions and the department representatives may randomly stop at any excavation site to check on compliance. As an industry let's all lead the way in compliance with this directive and register all the installation work being completed.

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**ED SULLIVAN - Vice President - [esullivan@milesoil.com](mailto:esullivan@milesoil.com)**



## Linda Perlow Retires from Executive Director Position Following 32 Years of Success and Service to Long Island's Liquid Waste Industry

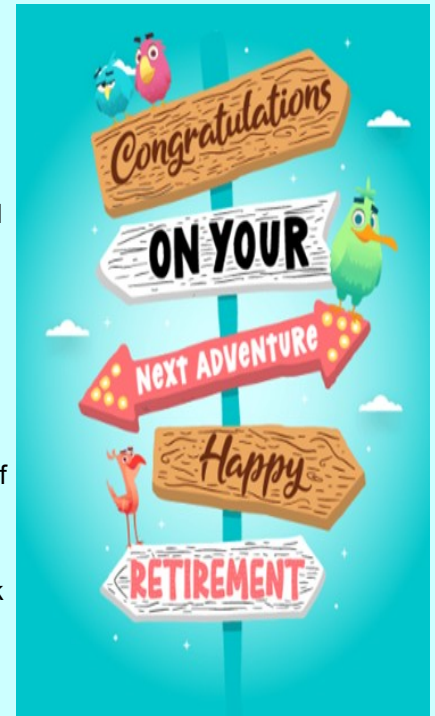
For the past 32 years the Long Island Liquid Waste Association has been blessed by the participation, oversight and administrative skill of Linda Perlow, and her late husband Mike. During her years of service the industry and the association have evolved and progressed considerably while in her care. When first arriving on the scene, she got us on track financially, and created order from the chaos. Linda was instrumental in the establishment of the local Liquid Waste Licensing Laws, the Advisory Board and the inception and maintenance of the Previous and Current Training Programs, and was integral to the process of getting the program formatted and approved for Training Credit Hours, which not only benefitted individual members and their employees, but also created a much needed revenue stream for the association. Her kindness and cheery outlook welcomed hundreds of attendees over the years to so many events she took careful consideration to organize on our behalf – monthly meetings, summer and holiday events, and in person certification trainings.

She has been a friendly face and a dedicated colleague. Her devotion, enthusiasm, and knowledge have been a source of assistance and information for many, many of us in the industry over the past years – members and non-members alike, and for that we are very grateful.

Earlier in the Spring Linda informed the Board of her decision to retire and step back from her contractual responsibilities with the association. Her assistance and cooperation in transitioning her many responsibilities has been invaluable and we continue to be thankful for her support. As Linda moves on to new adventures and endeavors we wish her all the best in health and happiness.

If anyone would like to drop her a personal note of thanks, appreciation or well wishes, please send to our new PO Box (see below), and we will gladly forward them on your behalf.

*Linda, it has truly been a pleasure working with you and we all wish you well in your retirement.*



## LILWA Board of Directors Appoints Tom Gallagher New Executive Director

At the May 2024 LILWA Board of Directors meeting the LILWA Board of Directors voted to contract Thomas Gallagher of Sewer Stewards, Inc. to provide the administrative support and back office staffing for the LILWA office and named Thomas Gallagher as the next Executive Director. The LILWA phone number, website and email address remain the same but our mailing address has changed.

Our new mailing address is:

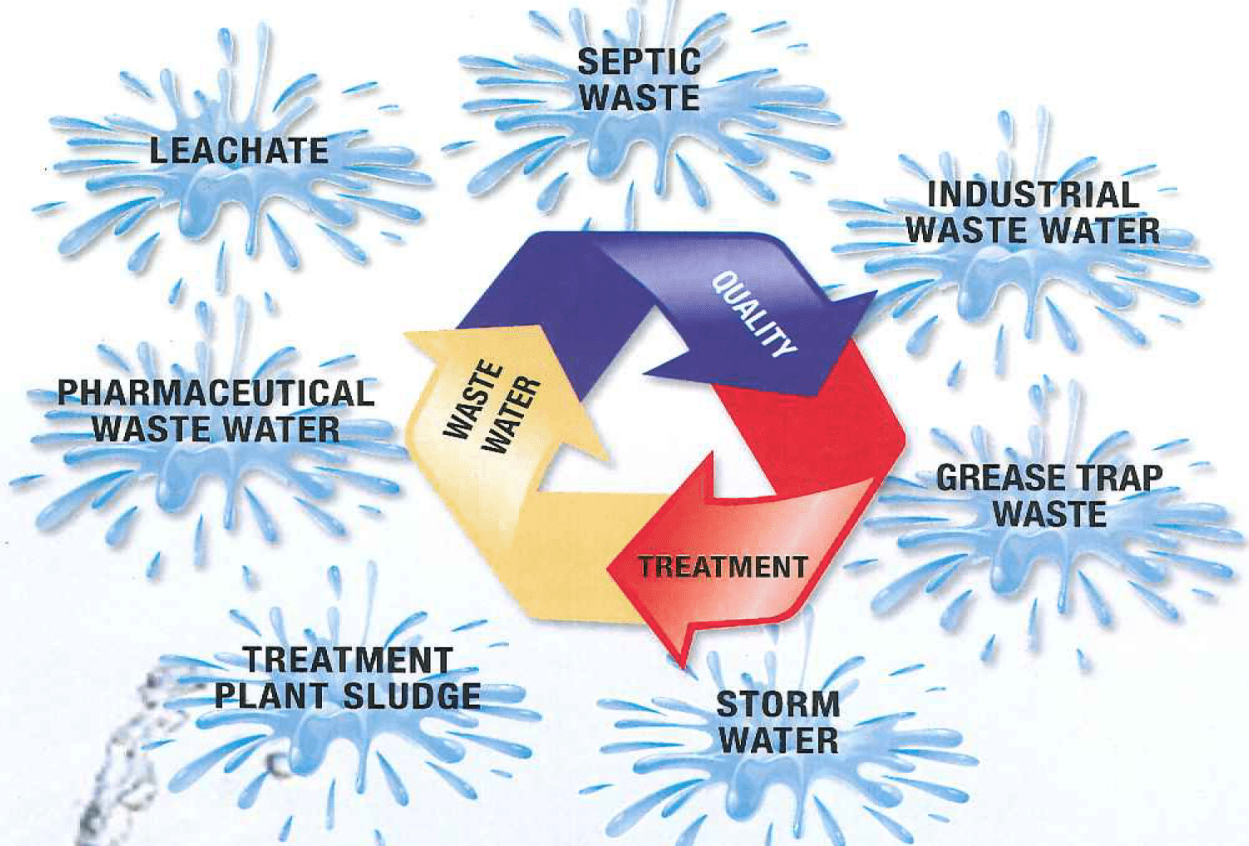
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Conservation**

*The following content was originally published in New York State DEC's Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan (LINAP) - website page. The full text can be found at the following link : <https://dec.ny.gov/nature/waterbodies/oceans-estuaries/linap/newsletter-archive>*

## Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan (LINAP) SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

**Register Now for the 2024 Clean Water Symposium  
Wednesday, June 12, 2024, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm**

Join the Center for Clean Water Technology at Stony Brook University along with leading scientists from across the nation and our public officials to exchange ideas and explore the state of science regarding the treatment of drinking water and wastewater. The event is in person at the Stony Brook University Wang Center.

Register at: <https://forms.gle/NJ2ZkFuk3sAPgAp29>

Featuring talks on:

- Mitigating Nitrogen and Phosphorous Pollution from Onsite Wastewater
- Remediating Nitrogen and Phosphorous Beyond the Source
- Ending the Forever of PFAS "Forever Chemicals"
- And more!

Visit the CCWT Symposium webpage for more information.

<https://www.stonybrook.edu/cleanwater/research/symposium2024>

JOIN with leading scientists from across the nation and our public officials to exchange ideas and explore the state of science regarding the treatment of drinking water and wastewater.

Featuring :

- ◆ **Keynote Speaker – Dr. Lisa Alvarez-Cohen**, UC Berkeley, Vice Provost for Academic Planning & Fred and Claire Sauer Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering
- ◆ **Dr. Lee Blaney**, University of Maryland Baltimore County, Department of Chemical, Biochemical, and Environmental Engineering
- ◆ **Mr. Paul Dombrowski**, Director, Senior Remediation Engineer at ISOTEC Remediation Technologies
- ◆ **Dr. Xiao Su**, University of Illinois, Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering

### Agenda

8:30 – 9:00	Registration, breakfast, scientific posters, vendor exhibits
9:00 – 9:15	Welcome and Opening Remarks
9:15 – 11:10	Mitigating Nitrogen and Phosphorus Pollution from Onsite Wastewater
11:30 – 12:50	Remediating Nitrogen and Phosphorus Beyond the Source
12:50 – 1:30	Lunch, Scientific Posters, Vendor Exhibits
1:30	Keynote Speaker: Dr. Lisa Alvarez-Cohen, UC Berkeley, Fred and Claire Sauer Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering
2:15 – 3:50	Ending the Forever of PFAS 'Forever Chemicals'
3:50	The Path Forward & Final Questions

### Background

Funded in 2015 by the New York State Environmental Protection Fund as administered by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, the Center for Clean Water Technology is tasked with harnessing science to engineer clean water solutions for the protection of public health and the environment while promoting economic development in New York and beyond.

## LILWA Board of Directors Election Results

This past January elections were held again to fill seats of the LILWA Board of Directors. A slate of nominations for board member positions was presented to the Board. The current terms of office for Andrew Andriola, member at large, Skip Norsic, member at large, Bob McInerney of United Cesspool Service, and Ronald Sass of Evergreen Cesspool up for re-election and all four were nominated to be re-elected to the LILWA board of directors for two year terms. Joseph Densieski of Wastewater Works, Inc., John Peters of Norweco of New York, And Bryan McGowan of Advanced Wastewater Solutions, Inc. were all elected to one year terms. A single ballot was cast by the Secretary, Dick Crescenzo for the following:

President - Bob McInerney, United Cesspool Service  
Vice President – Dave Warren, Clear River Environmental Services  
Secretary – Dick Crescenzo, W.A.S.T.E, Inc.  
Treasurer – Dave Galbraith, Clearbrook

### FULL BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023, 2024, 2025 2026

Peter Barrese	-	United Site Services	Term 2023-2025
Dick Crescenzo	-	W.A.S.T.E. Inc.	Term 2023-2025
David Galbraith	-	Clear Brook	Term 2023-2025
Tom Gallagher	-	Sewer Stewards	Term 2023 2025
Dave Warren	-	Clear River	Term 2023-2025
Andrew Andriola	-	Member at Large	Term 2024-2026
Skip Norsic	-	Member at Large	Term 2024-2026
Ron Sass	-	Evergreen Cesspool	Term 2024-2026
Bob McInerney	-	United Cesspool	Term 2024-2026
Joseph Densieski	-	Wastewater Works	Term 2024-2025
John Peters	-	Norweco of New York	Term 2024-2025
Bryan McGowan	-	Advanced Wastewater Solutions	Term 2024-2025

We extend our congratulations to the newly elected officers and board members and are greatly appreciative of their hard work, time and effort they volunteer and contribute to the improvement and growth of this industry we work in. The LILWA board invites participation from all our members at our board meetings. Our members are what makes this organization work. We thank everyone for their continued membership and look forward to seeing member participation in the near future.

## Hochul Signs Suffolk Water Quality Act

By Matt Meduri  
May 31, 2024

Suffolk County's reliance on natural waterways cannot be overstated. A significant amount of Long Island's revenue stems from aquaculture, agriculture, tourism, and local recreation that all depend on sharpened water quality priorities.

Additionally, the path forward for Suffolk in terms of long-term economic sustainability, infrastructure developments, and quality of life also depend on heightened water quality initiatives.

Both parties in the Suffolk County Legislature and County Executive Ed Romaine (R-Center Moriches) have made water quality initiatives major parts of their platforms, individually and collaboratively.

The summer season going into the 2023 campaigns generated some controversy as the Legislature tabled a ballot measure that would have allowed residents to

Continued on Page 9



## Hochul Signs Suffolk Water Quality Act

Continued from Page 8

approve or reject a referendum in November to add an eighth-cent sales tax increase on the existing quarter-percent sales tax that funds sewer projects around the county. The Legislature voted to table it as some Legislators on the horseshoe were not comfortable with the projected ratios for sewers and Innovative Alternative Wastewater (I/A) Systems. The Legislature worked with State and local stakeholders to rework the legislation to allow funding to stem equally to both wastewater systems.

While protecting Suffolk's sole-source aquifer and mitigating chemicals that pollute the groundwater and nitrogen that threatens coastal waterways are components of this legislation, enhanced water quality infrastructure, namely in the form of sewers, allows for significant downtown revitalizations. Businesses are able to operate at much higher capacities and standards, while also meeting local and environmental building codes depending on their proximities to groundwater. Sewers have long been heralded as the key to economic sustainability, as downtown revitalizations allow for classical trickle-down economics that convince small business owners and life-long residents to stay in Suffolk County.

After much crafting and deliberation, Governor Kathy Hochul (D) signed the legislation at Captree State Park on Thursday.

The bill was sponsored in the Senate by Senator Monica Martinez (D-Brentwood). Suffolk co-sponsors included Senators Anthony Palumbo (R-New Suffolk), Mario Mattera (R-St. James), and Dean Murray (R-East Patchogue). The Assembly version of the bill was sponsored by Assemblyman Fred Thiele (D-Sag Harbor). Suffolk co-sponsors included Assemblymembers Jodi Giglio (R-Baiting Hollow), Joe DeStefano (R-Medford), Jarett Gandolfo (R-Sayville), Michael Durso (R-Massapequa Park), and Keith Brown (R-Northport).

The bill passed 57-1 with four absences in the Senate and 147-0 with three absences in the Assembly.

At the bill signing in Captree, Hochul called Martinez and Thiele "life-long environmentalists from the very beginning," and thanked them and all involved parties and County Executive Romaine for "championing" the bill to passage.

"This took almost a decade to accomplish," said Hochul. "But the work begins today. This is just the beginning," she said, referencing the task of the Suffolk County Legislature to put the referendum on the November ballot by August 5, and the responsibility of the public to vote on it. "I believe this will have strong support [from the public], but people need to know the urgency of this [water quality]," said Hochul.

Hochul also referenced State funding disparities between Suffolk County and other parts of New York, something local leaders have described as Long Island being "shortchanged" in terms of what the region pays to Albany in taxes.



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"Parts of this county that are denied what other parts of our state have readily available. Long Island has needed clean water and infrastructure upgrades for decades," said Hochul. "We are seeing the deterioration of our environment. If we don't manage our water here on Long Island and keep it clean and accessible, future generations will ask 'why were they so negligent?' 75% of Suffolk homeowners who go without sewers are going to be delighted by this."

Hochul says that Suffolk has "leadership that cares and that it's a "basic responsibility of government to safeguard water."

"This is a bipartisan issue and we're always happy when we can find those," Hochul said. "I spent fourteen years in local government. I believe in local government, I believe in listening to what communities want."

Hochul was joined by County Executive Romaine, Senator Martinez, Assemblyman Thiele, Suffolk County Legislator and Majority Leader Nick Caracappa (C-Selden), Legislator and Minority Leader Jason Richberg (D-West Babylon), Babylon Town Supervisor Rich Schaffer (D-North Babylon), and County Legislators Catherine Stark (R-Riverhead), Ann Welker (D-Southampton), Steve Englebright (D-Setauket), Dominick Thorne (R-Patchogue), Sam Gonzalez (D-Brentwood), Rebecca Sanin (D-Huntington Station), and Tom Donnelly (D-Deer Park).

Attendees also included Julie Tighe, President of the New York League of Conservation Voters; Adrienne Esposito, Executive Director of the Citizens Campaign for the Environment; and Matt Aracich, President of the Nassau Suffolk Building and Construction Trades Council.

"With Governor Hochul's signing of the water quality bill, it will now permit Suffolk County the opportunity to generate the funding necessary to proceed with many planned and future sewer and I/A septic projects county-wide," said Legislator Nick Caracappa, the Chair of the Public Works Committee. "Those funds will make us eligible for both 'matching State and federal funding' that is out there for water quality projects." Caracappa says that matching dollars are typically 80% to 20% ratios with the County being obligated to raise the 20%.

"Sewers in our coastal communities will be an immediate fix to nitrogen issues currently affecting our waterways such as algae blooms, brown tides, fish and eel grass die-offs which is devastating our beaches and causing closures, which also affects our tourism industry."

*Continued on page 17*

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## The Suffolk Times.

# Benefits of new septic systems impeded by costs

By [Steve Wick](#)

The following article was published by the Suffolk Times on May 16, 2024 and can be found at the following link:  
<https://suffolktimes.timesreview.com/2024/05/benefits-of-new-septic-systems-confronted-by-costs/>

The discussion at last week's "Septic Savvy Citizens" meeting in Cutchogue was meant to cover the basics of the new Innovative/Alternative (I/A) septic systems: how they work and, more critically, why they are needed to protect groundwater and prevent further nitrogen seepage into the Peconic Bay estuary.

While nearly everyone who attended the meeting spoke in support of such systems, much of the discussion centered on how expensive they are to install, even when factoring in Suffolk County and New York State funding grants. Present at Cutchogue New Suffolk Free Library were representatives of the Suffolk County Department of Health Services, Peconic Baykeeper, Group for the East End, Southold Town Supervisor Al Krupski and an industry representative.

Peter Topping, executive director of the Hampton Bays-based Peconic Baykeeper, described the septic systems currently in use at thousands of North Fork homes as "outdated" and "an active threat to water quality" because the wastewater inevitably makes its way into the estuary in the form of nitrogen pollution. "As more and more of us live out here," Mr. Topping said, "this has become a serious issue." By contrast, the I/A systems "mechanically aerate wastewater and treat the effluent," he said.

Bob Deluca of Group for the East End said the tens of thousands of homes in Suffolk County that for decades have relied on traditional septic systems have resulted in nitrogen leaching into marine estuaries. Mr. Deluca and other speakers said marine systems across the region have been impacted, resulting in algae blooms and loss of shellfish. Rising water temperatures have exacerbated these problems. "Nitrogen is getting into our water," he said. "We are telling people [the old systems] are not good enough."

Mr. Topping, who grew up in Southampton, said the bays were "crystal clear when I was a kid. There was plenty of eel grass and fish. The first brown tide came in the eighties ... Now, I've seen an increasing number of fish kills in our creeks. We are seeing oxygen levels in our creeks too low to support aquatic life. We are still struggling to get our shellfish back. "We are continuing to put our waste into the ground," he added. "We have to get away from this. The waste doesn't stay there; it gets into our groundwater."

Julia Priolo of the county department of health services spoke about grants available to offset the costs of the new systems. In December, Gov. Kathy Hochul announced \$30 million in additional funding for the state's Septic System Replacement programs, which are managed at the county level. Grant amounts vary based on a variety of factors ranging from the scope of the project to the overall assessed risk of leaving a current system in place. However, several speakers who had received grants and installed new systems said the costs of removing old septic tanks and installing new ones far exceeded the grants funding available.

Continued on page 16

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THE LONG ISLAND LIQUID WASTE ASSOCIATION  
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**For a Sunset Cruise to**



**Ocean Beach, Fire Island**  
**Thursday, August 15, 2024**

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**Ticket Price \$95 Per Person**  
**(Moon Chaser & Buffet)**

Advance Reservations Are Required.  
R.S.V.P. By August 5<sup>th</sup> \*  
Questions? Email us at [info@lilwa.org](mailto:info@lilwa.org)

Arrive At Captree Boat Basin No Later Than 6:45pm  
Depart From Captree State Park (To Flynn's): 7pm.  
A Cash Bar (On The Boat & at Restaurant)  
Arrival At Flynn's Fire Island: 8pm  
Live Music At Flynn's  
Depart Flynn's Fire Island (Back To Captree): 10:30pm



**\*RESERVATIONS MUST BE  
RECEIVED BY August 5<sup>th</sup>**  
*(tickets are limited, book early)*

⚓ **Steamed Lobster**

⚓ **Live Music**

⚓ **Cash Bar**

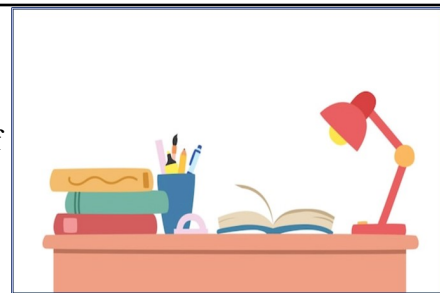
**For more information or to reserve your tickets, scan the QR  
code or visit our website:**

<https://www.lilwa.org/flynn>



## From the Executive Director's Desk

As explained in our article on page 5, Linda Perlow, our longtime friend, colleague and previous Executive Director, has chosen to retire following many long years of dedicated service to our organization. Let me be the first to wish Linda good health and happiness as she turns the page and begins a new chapter. I know I am not alone in extending my gratitude and appreciation for her efforts, and those of her late husband Mike. Their contributions over the years have undoubtedly set us on a path for greater success. My staff and I are so appreciative of her cooperation and collaboration over the past several months in preparing for this transition. Linda – enjoy every minute of your retirement, you deserve it.



I would also like to express my apologies for the delay in launching this newsletter, which is long overdue. While this delay has not been ideal, it has been unavoidable, as behind the scenes there has been a lot of progress and housekeeping taking place which took priority. Long time members will have noticed changes in our billing and communications. We have been hard at work taking all of Linda's records and getting everyone's data set up in a new accounting program, as well as establishing more web based digital services such as online payments, and event registrations. We now have a new mailing address, but have successfully kept the same phone number. There have been many changes to the website, including online member applications and payment processing, and a scholarship donation portal. Our Training Certification program has been rebuilt with new slides and presentations. This program was completed in modules so that each segment may be updated individually as new information, regulations, and technologies become relevant, allowing for better and updated content to be introduced on a continual basis. We are also continuing progress on the eventual launch of a completely On-Demand Program which will allow the participant to complete steps at their own pace at a time best suited to each individual's schedule. (This is a very time consuming endeavor, more than I ever anticipated — so, more on that in the months to come.)

In closing, I would like to thank my office staff for stepping up and building the databases, getting the information entered, updating the web pages, sending the emails, and recording the transactions, computing the financials, and most importantly, keeping me on task, (oftentimes while I am out in the field for days at a time.) I could not do this without you.

I look forward to working with our Board and our members to continue the progress of this association for the betterment of the industry and the communities we serve. Hopefully as we resume more "in person" events, I will have the opportunity to see you in the near future. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Regards,

Thomas Gallagher

SAVE THE DATE Tuesday June 11 7:30PM

**LILWA will hold an IN PERSON**

Meeting of the Board of Directors  
 Tuesday, June 11  
 at Savino's Hideaway  
 258 North Country Road Mount Sinai, NY 11766

**SPACE IS LIMITED**

**Advance RSVP is required by June 7**

To register visit <https://www.lilwa.org/meetings>



Meeting will be called to order at 7:30 PM

Attendees may arrive at 6:30 to buy dinner and

join us to dine prior to the meeting. PLEASE be sure to RSVP in advance as space is limited.

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# Suffolk Legislature Closes Public Portion on Water Quality Act

By Matt Meduri  
June 6, 2024



SMITHTOWN  
MESSENGER

BROOKHAVEN  
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ISLIP  
MESSENGER

The summer months played host to a contentious local law issue: a ballot measure that would allow Suffolk residents to approve or reject an eighth-cent sales tax increase to fund sewer and Innovative Alternative Wastewater (I/A) Systems across the county and phase out outdated cesspools and septic systems.

The Suffolk County Legislature tabled the initiative, as many Legislators said they were uncomfortable with the lion's share of projected tax revenue going to I/A systems, for which there is much less demand than sewers. This year, the Legislature and County Executive Ed Romaine (R-Center Moriches) passed a revised initiative to be signed by Governor Kathy Hochul (D) to allow Suffolk County voters to amend the tax code. Governor Hochul signed the legislation at Captree State Park last month. The public portion of the bill, I.R. 1461-2024, was closed after Tuesday's general meeting in Hauppauge. Many community stakeholders came to support the initiative.

Peter Topping, Executive Director of Peconic Baykeeper, said that he supports the plan.

"I'm happy to have a clear path forward to generate the funding that we need to both improve sewerage and upgrade the over 300,000 septic systems that are polluting the ground and surface waters of Suffolk County," said Topping. "I've borne witness to this issue since I was a kid in the 1980s with brown tide. I see rust tide, blue-green algae blooms, mahogany tides, macroalgae blooms. All these things are proliferating in our creeks and embayments as a result of putrefaction from nitrogen and other nutrients in our waterways."

Bob DeLuca, President of Group of for the East End, said that the initiative is "one of the most important clean water actions set forth in the county's adopted sub-watershed wastewater plan."

"After more than a decade of research, analysis, broad-based stakeholder engagement, technological advancement, and related rule-makings within the Suffolk County Sanitary Code, and a fair amount of hard work by all of you [Legislators] and others, the passage of these two resolutions is the essential last legislative step in Suffolk County's generational commitment to a clean water future," said DeLuca. The other resolution DeLuca referred to is I.R.1460, which will consolidate the sewer districts into two zones of assessment.

Eric Alexander, Executive Director of Vision Long Island, spoke in favor of the bill as well.

"Long Island is a community of communities and that's when the individual communities themselves and their leaders speak; they're the most important voices in my view," said Alexander. He listed twenty communities for which Vision Long Island has advocated sewers, or communities who have reached out to Vision Long Island directly on the matter. Within Islip Town, Alexander listed Central Islip, Brentwood, Sayville, and Holbrook. within Smithtown, Kings Park and Smithtown hamlet.

Within Brookhaven, North Bellport, Gordon Heights, Mastic Beach, Coram, Mastic, Middle Island, Shirley, Farmingville, and Port Jefferson Station.

Alexander said that small businesses "thrive" when sewage treatment is accessible, reinforcing the importance of downtown revitalization initiatives.

Casey Petrachek, a representative for the New York League of Conservation Voters, said that the act would "improve drinking water, protect public health and boost the economy."

"The funds, much of which will be paid from visitors, will create thousands of good local and union jobs, revitalizing business districts and increasing property values," said Petrachek. "We know a bipartisan majority of voters are in favor of state and local initiatives to safeguard clean drinking water."

Legislator Rob Trotta (R-Fort Salonga), posed a question to Petrachek inquiring about his age. Petrachek replied that he is thirty-four years old.

"In 1987, this body passed a quarter-cent sales tax for clean water and open space. Since then, in the past couple of years, we raided it for \$200 million," said Trotta.

"We have not paid it back. Out of that about \$100 million a year in the quarter cent sales tax, \$39 million goes into the general fund. It isn't even used for \$300 million. So, if you were to take the \$39 million on the quarter-cent sales tax, add it to the \$11 million a year that we could do for the next twenty-six years to pay back the \$200 million, we would have the same amount of money this eighth-cent [tax] would do without raising the taxes."

Matt Aracich, President of the Nassau Suffolk Building and Construction Trades Council, thanked the Legislators for their efforts in putting this referendum on the November ballot.

"[I.R.] 1461 is something that the Building Trades [Council] sees as an opportunity for everyone, for the county, for the workers, for the residents, and for the environmentalists," said Aracich. "There is not one thing that we're looking to change other than the idea that we want to expand everything we can and move this as quickly as possible."

Adrienne Esposito, Executive Director for the Citizens Campaign for the Environment, also thanked the Legislature and County Executive Romaine for guiding this bill through to the Governor's desk.

"Today is the day when we turn the page in history for Suffolk County's future. Today is the day where we make history in creating a cleaner, safer, healthier Long Island for generations to come," said Esposito. "We long for the day when Suffolk County will no longer be known as the septic capital of the world. We need a different title and we'll get a different title with this project."

Continued on Page 17

# The Suffolk Times.

Continued from page 11

Ms. Priolo said an estimated 250,000 homes in Suffolk County are still using traditional septic systems. While several in the audience agreed this is a serious environmental issue, many said that — even with grants — the high cost will prevent widespread conversion to the I/A systems.

“It’s obvious where the wastewater is going,” Supervisor Krupski said, adding that creating centralized neighborhood or hamlet-based sewage treatment systems would be “far too expensive.” He also noted that it is far cheaper to preserve open space than to increase housing density.

“Our economy out here is based on our water quality,” he said.

Several speakers pointed out that Suffolk County code specifies when the I/A systems have to be installed. Southold Town attorney Paul DeChance, in an interview, said county regulations require the new systems for all new home construction but added that “certain triggers at a parcel, such as an addition or modification of the structure,” could also require that an I/A system be installed.

Still, several speakers who had installed I/A systems said the costs not covered by grants ran too high. One person said he spent \$40,000 on an I/A system for his two-bedroom home. Another said she received three bids to install the system at her home, one of which was as high as \$50,000.

The meeting boiled down to two competing realities: the new I/A systems will prevent groundwater pollution, but the high cost will prevent many homeowners from installing them.

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<https://www.lilwa.org/alerts>

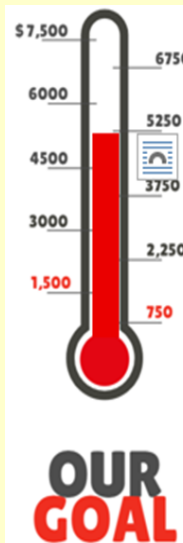
## Long Island Liquid Waste Association Judge Coleman Memorial Scholarship 2024

Since its inception in 2018 LILWA has proudly granted over **\$ 33,000 in aid to 22 applicants** in honor of our past president, colleague and friend Judge Coleman. Help us continue this tradition of generosity and excellence by donating to this worthy fund today.



**This LILWA benefit is available to all LILWA members, their families and their employees and their families.**

While LILWA guarantees the award of at least one \$1500 award annually, the generosity of our members has, in the past, allowed us to grant as many as five (5) scholarships in a year! **Your contribution** will help us continue to maintain our goal. Please consider supporting this year’s fundraising efforts.



Each year the Judge Coleman Memorial Scholarship(s) will be awarded at a Board of Directors meeting in June. For those who want to donate by mail please fill in the information below and send with your donation check. We’ve added the convenience of online donations as well. Simply scan the QR code, or visit us at

[www.lilwa.org/scholarship-program](http://www.lilwa.org/scholarship-program). We look forward to acknowledging all contributors in our Summer 2024 newsletter in August.





## Suffolk Legislature Closes Public Portion on Water Quality Act

*Continued from Page 15*

Legislator Trish Bergin (R-East Islip) asked George Hoffman, of the Setauket Harbor Task Force, what consequences could be faced from pumping "millions of gallons of water" into the ocean instead of letting the wastewater percolate into the aquifer.

Hoffman said that under the current sewer districts, some waterpump into the harbors, while other waters go into individual septic systems, which recharge the groundwater over time.

"Right now, it's recharging the ground with nitrogen-laden septic waters, which is not good," said Hoffman. "Most of the homeowners around the shore of Port Jefferson Harbor have antiquated septic systems."

The bill's public portion was closed with all seventeen Legislators present voting in the affirmative. Legislator Stephanie Bontempi (R-Centerport) was absent.

<https://messengerpapers.com/2024/06/suffolk-legislature-closes-public-portion-on-water-quality-act/>

### UPCOMING Training and Certification Webinars

**June 12th & 13th  
or  
July 15th & 16th**

The upcoming certification presentations are Online Zoom Webinars consisting of two Sessions in the evening from 5 PM – 9 PM each night

The June classes will take place  
Wednes. June 12 (Part I) and Thurs. June 13 (Part II).

The July classes will take place  
Monday July 15 (Part I) and Tuesday July 16 (Part II) .

\*Attendees MUST participate in BOTH nights (PART I and PART II) in their entirety in order to earn the certificate of completion required for license applications and renewals.

Register Online at:  
<https://www.lilwa.org/online-certification-program>

The LILWA Certification program has been approved by Suffolk County to fulfill the qualifications for endorsements 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 and 9. The course schedule is below and the fee is \$200 per person. If you have any questions please call 631-585-0448.

## Hochul Signs Suffolk Water Quality Restoration Act

*Continued from Page 9*

Caracappa also says that sewers will contribute to significant economic growth in Suffolk's downtowns.

"Sewer projects in our downtowns will not only spur economic development, it will attract more businesses, generate jobs, create housing opportunities, and much more," says Caracappa. "The best part is, we would be protecting our aquifer, which is also our sole-source of drinking water on Long Island."

Caracappa also addressed concerns of over-development that some believe will come hand-in-hand with the legislation.

"I understand some of the concerns when it comes to sewers and development. No one wants over-development, but what we need is drastic improvements in our environmental awareness and the ability to make improvements necessary to protect and preserve what we have," says Caracappa. "Being proactive is where we need to be to ensure the future of our Island and our County remain the beautiful places that they are to work, live, and play, surrounded by pristine waterways and clean drinking water."

Legislator Catherine Stark, who serves as Vice Chair of the Public Works, Transportation, and Energy Committee, told The Messenger that she is optimistic on this referendum's future.

"This is the start of a multi-pronged process, which we in the Legislature will take up, and I have full faith in the residents of Suffolk County to make their own well-informed decisions when voting on this referendum," said Stark.

The Legislature now has until August 5 to put the referendum on the November 5 ballot. If approved by voters, the added 0.125% sales tax – or 12.5 cents per \$100 – would fund sewer expansion projects and installations of I/A systems from Babylon to Montauk.

*This article was published in the Islip Messenger Newspaper May 31, 2024*

*The full text and original article can be found at the following link:*

<https://messengerpapers.com/2024/05/hochul-signs-suffolk-water-quality-restoration-act/>

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# Welcome to our New Members

**Our 2024 Membership drive was met with huge success. We are so pleased to welcome the following new members:**

Gerard Allaire	Byrne & Son Irrigation Inc
Luis Antunes	C & L Concrete
Michael Canetti	Darr Construction
Randy Cardo	Cardo Site Development Corp.
Joseph Densieski	Wastewater Works, Inc.
William DePaolo	B&R Cesspool
Santo Feraco	Feraco Industries
Fredis Garcia	Fredis & Sons
JoAnn Johansen	Truckin Construction Corp.
Nicholas Hartcorn	Hartcorn Plumbing & Heating, Inc.
Ken Howard	Call-A-Head
Gregory Melomo	G. Melomo, Inc.
Jonathan Motta	Affordable Sewer & Drain (Replacing Kelly as Rep.)
Joseph Parisi	Environmental Services, Inc.
John Peters	Norweco of New York
Jimmy Phipps	Triple J Cesspool
James Pratt III	Pratt Brothers, Inc.
Russell Riley	Riley Excavating
Stanley Skrezec	Stanley F. Skrezec

## Membership Pays

LILWA membership is not required for certification, however Suffolk County recognizes 1 TCH for each full year of membership maximum 2 TCH in a wastewater professional association, such as LILWA, that has been approved by the Licensing Department. A maximum of four TCH's for such memberships may be applied towards the minimum required hours for any two-year endorsement renewal period.

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LILWA, INC.

The Long Island Liquid Waste Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 311  
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