

NEWS FROM Legislator

Lou D'Amaro



SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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More Lucky Homeowners to Receive Free Wastewater Systems *Septic Demonstration Program Second Part of Suffolk County's 'Reclaim Our Water' Initiative*

(HUNTINGTON STATION, NY.... March 28, 2016) –Suffolk County Legislator Lou D'Amaro (D-Huntington Station) would like to inform residents that the County will be conducting its second lottery to select homeowners to receive a free advanced wastewater treatment system that greatly reduces nitrogen contamination to ground and surface waters.

Homeowners selected in the “Septic Demonstration Program” lottery will receive free installation, monitoring and maintenance of the high-tech systems for five years as part of Suffolk County's *Reclaim Our Water* initiative, a comprehensive plan to improve the County's water quality through sewer installation and the use of advanced on-site wastewater treatment systems in targeted areas.

In December 2014, County Executive Steve Bellone and officials conducted an initial lottery for the first phase of the state-of-the-art pilot program. Nineteen homeowners out of more than 150 applicants were randomly selected to receive a free advanced wastewater treatment system on their property with each valued at up to \$16,000 per system. Eighteen of the 19 systems were installed over a nine-month period, and are currently being monitored by the Suffolk County Department of Health Services and wastewater industry experts. The 19th system will be installed this April and includes a pressurized shallow drain field to provide further treatment

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and disposal. Based on early results, some of the installed systems could be provisionally approved by the Department of Health Services for residential use by the end of the summer.

The systems that were used for the first phase of the program were donated by four national manufacturers, all of whom have extensive experience across the country in removing excess nitrogen from residential and commercial properties, and consisted of six different technologies. .

“Nearly three quarters of Suffolk County homes have cesspools, many of which are outdated and contributing to Long Island’s nitrogen pollution problem,” said Legislator D’Amaro. “The ‘Reclaim our Water’ initiative goes a long way towards reversing that trend and improving our drinking water for decades to come.”

The deadline is fast approaching: interested residents must submit their applications before Friday, April 8, 2016. For more information on Suffolk County’s septic demonstration program and information on the second lottery for single family homeowners, log onto www.suffolkcountyny.gov or email SepticDemo@SuffolkCountyNY.gov.

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Suffolk County Legislator Lou D’Amaro represents the 17th Legislative District, which includes parts of Huntington, Huntington Station, South Huntington, Melville, West Hills, Cold Spring Hills, Dix Hills, Deer Park, North Babylon and West Babylon. He is chairman of the Budget & Finance committee and a member of the Veterans committee of the Suffolk County Legislature.