

ISLANDWIDE

LI TO GET \$11M FOR SEPTIC UPGRADES FROM STATE

■ **Suffolk to receive** more than \$10 million

■ **Nassau to get \$1 million** to protect water quality

BY EMILY C. DOOLEY
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The state on Thursday announced a \$75 million plan to help fund the replacement of aging septic systems and cesspools in an effort to im-

prove water quality.

\$15 million will be available in the first year of the program, with the lion's share of that going to Suffolk County, which is getting \$10.025 million, and Nassau County, where \$1 million is earmarked. Twenty-nine upstate counties are divvying the remainder of the first-year funding.

"Protecting water quality is vital to the health and future growth of our communities," Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo said in a news release announcing the

program, aimed at curbing beach closures and harmful algal blooms.

The \$75 million allocation was included in the state Clean Water Infrastructure Act of 2017.

The program — involving the state departments of Health and Environmental Conservation as well as the Environmental Facilities Corporation — will issue funds to counties to reimburse property owners for up to \$10,000 related to the cost of replacing systems with ones that treat wastewater but also

remove polluting nutrients.

On Long Island, the septic systems must reduce nitrogen by 30 percent but state officials said counties could set more stringent requirements.

Suffolk County launched a pilot program in 2014 to test residential treatment systems and has provisionally approved five technologies that reduce nitrogen, in some cases between 50 and 70 percent.

It also has a grant and low-cost loan program to encourage homeowners to replace cess-

pools with these advanced systems, which can cost between \$13,000 and nearly \$24,000 depending on the technology and design.

More than 110 systems have been installed or permitted for use in the county.

Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone said in a statement the \$10 million in funding "will allow the county to significantly expand our existing Septic Improvement Program, and accelerate our efforts to protect water quality."



Trustee Antonio D'Angelo, left, was sworn-in by Mayor Frank DeMento. ■ Video: newsday.com/nassau

MUNSEY PARK

Trustee quits at midterm

BY CHRISTINE CHUNG
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Munsey Park Village Trustee Patrick Hance has resigned after serving half of his two-year term, writing in a resignation letter that he no longer had "adequate time to devote" to the position since starting a new job.

Mayor Frank DeMento read the resignation letter at the meeting on Wednesday, where the board appointed Antonio D'Angelo to replace Hance, who was elected to the board in March 2013.

When asked when Hance resigned, DeMento did not address the question, instead stating that he "really did not want to be misquoted." Village

Clerk-Treasurer Tara Gibbons also declined to comment.

The board then appointed D'Angelo, who DeMento said was previously a member of the Building Advisory Committee and works in professional services on global tax and finances for multinational companies.

Village officials did not respond to questions about the selection process or whether D'Angelo would assume Hance's responsibilities of overseeing insurances, finances and emergency management.

Trustee Lawrence Ceriello said after the meeting that the board was looking to D'Angelo for financial expertise.

At the meeting, the board also voted to approve three in-

spectors for the March 20 election: Edgar and Linda Fitzsimons and Catherine McDonnell. The deadline to appoint inspectors was last Thursday, according to state election law, though there are no penalties for the tardiness, according to a Nassau County Board of Elections pamphlet.

Village officials have not responded to questions about whether the election is contested. Trustee Jennifer Noone and John Lippmann are up for re-election. Two residents, Brian Dunning and Nathy Yakaitis, said they have filed petitions to run. Ceriello said after the meeting that Noone was running to defend her seat and that Lippmann would not be seeking re-election.

ISLANDWIDE

Call for funding to fix roadways

BY ALFONSO A. CASTILLO
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Builders, public officials and other Long Island community leaders Thursday urged the state and federal government to come through with more money for local roads projects, including one major effort in Suffolk that had the plug pulled on it when it was less than a third finished.

Standing near the point in

Nesconset where the state's reconstruction of Route 347 stopped in December, Marc Herbst, executive director of Long Island Contractors' Association, pointed to the project as just one example of Long Island's infrastructure needs.

"The reality is we need the money and we need it desperately," Herbst said. "Our public officials support this. The residents support this. The businesses support this. Everybody wants this. We have to make sure the funding is available."

The project to reconstruct 15 miles of the busy corridor through Smithtown and Brookhaven began in 2010. However, with less than 5 miles completed, funding for

the work has run out, Herbst said. And, he said, the state Department of Transportation may not fund the next phase of the project until it begins its next five-year capital plan in 2025.

DOT spokesman Joseph Morrissey said the state has "has fulfilled the Route 347 project commitments" laid out in its current five-year capital plan, which expires in 2020.



Marc Herbst

"Additional funding for this project would need to be negotiated as part of the legislative budget process. Additional phases are also being considered as part of the development of the next capital plan," Morrissey said.

Further dimming their hopes to have that and other important Long Island road and bridge projects addressed anytime soon, speakers said, is President Donald Trump's new infrastructure plan, which they said prioritizes work in more rural areas.

"When you talk about shovel-ready projects, this project is about as shovel-ready as you can get," Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone said. "The only thing that is lacking here is the will . . . to get it done."