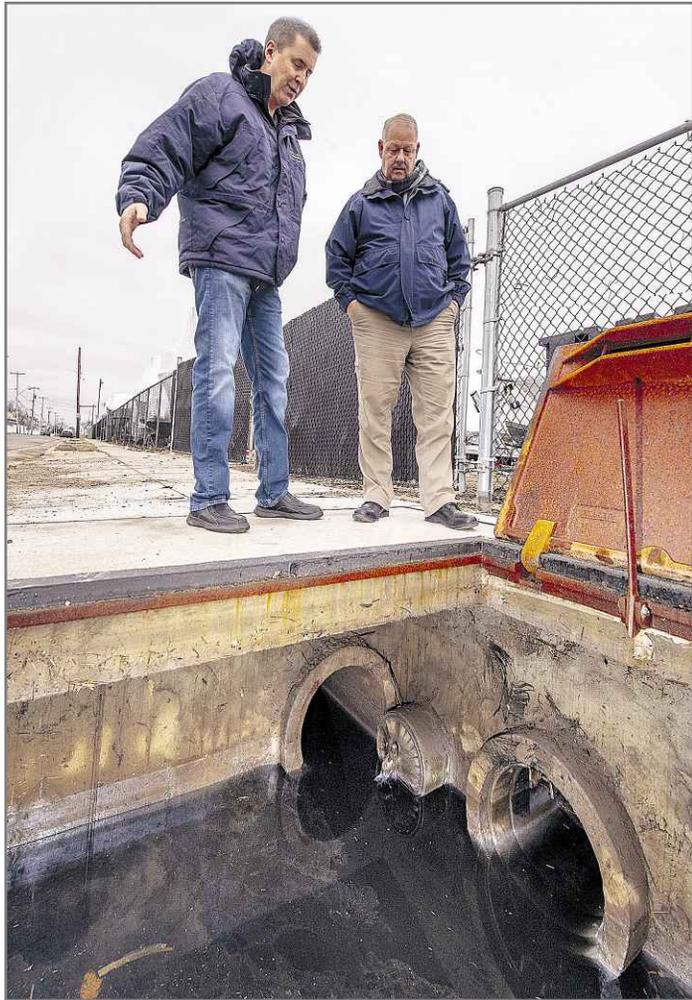


FIXES EYE SUIT



Engineer Robert Fisenne, left, and Freeport Mayor Robert Kennedy examine the catch basin where a new check valve has been installed.



Rick Sorrentino, superintendent of Lindenhurst's Department of Public Works, demos a check valve's mechanism to prevent flooding.

we're trying hard to correct things."

The village decided to try a pump after talking with Freeport Village Mayor Robert Kennedy, who said he has in-

stalled pumps at eight locations so far, with plans for more in the coming weeks at a total cost of about \$1 million. He said the pumps have been successful, taking over during

conditions when check valves don't work by pumping out water when it reaches a certain level.

Kennedy said municipalities looking to address street flooding also have to tackle the issue of deficient bulkheading on private property. He said Freeport has begun enforcing a law it has had on the books for several years that requires property owners to repair their bulkheading or else the village will fix it and place the cost on their tax bill.

Residents look for relief

Residents said they are tired of having to wait for a fix. They say flooding has gone from inches to feet in recent years.

"It doesn't even have to be high tide . . . it goes from nothing to two feet of water in the middle of the street in under 20 minutes," Sean Esna, who lives on South Eighth Street, told the Lindenhurst board of trustees.

Esna was one of about a dozen residents who showed up to a recent Lindenhurst board meeting to ask officials for help with flooding. Many raised their homes after Sandy, investing thousands of dollars into their properties, only to have corrosive salt water lapping at their vehicles and disrupting their daily lives.

The havoc the chronic flooding has caused may even prompt residents to take legal action. Bob Anastasio, of Lindenhurst, said residents have consulted with an attorney who said the situation "is an excellent class-action suit waiting to be filed."

Anastasio isn't the first town resident to mention a lawsuit. Bill Walters, who lives in Babylon, told the town earlier this year that a class-action lawsuit may be in the works because the situation has become a "huge safety issue" that the town "is refusing to fix."

Hojnacki, who keeps a tide table app on her phone and a pair of rain boots with her at all times, said residents are tired of having to plead for help.

"I don't think they understand what we deal with," she said. "We're all going to end up leaving, that's how bad it is."

State: Closing town landfill to cost \$34M

BY CARL MACGOWAN
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Closing and maintaining the Brookhaven landfill will cost about \$34 million over 30 years after the facility is shuttered, state officials said in a report issued last week.

The dump, on Horseblock Road in Brookhaven hamlet, topped the state's list of post-closure costs for 80 landfills operated by towns, cities, villages and counties. Those landfills collectively require \$298 million to pay for ongoing maintenance after they close, according to the report prepared by the office of state Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli.

The Brookhaven landfill, which is expected to close in 2024 when it runs out of capacity, will require annual monitoring and cleanup to prevent contaminants and leachate from seeping into groundwater, the report said.

Brookhaven officials' estimate of post-closure costs is slightly higher than the state's — \$35 million. The town several years ago established a reserve fund to pay those costs.

The town expects to have about \$12 million in the fund by the end of this year, and \$22 million by the time the landfill closes, Brookhaven Chief of Operations Matt Miner said.

"By establishing the reserve fund, the town is very well positioned to deal with those obligations once the landfill closes in 2024," Miner said.

The fund includes fees paid by contractors and haulers when they dump construction debris and other trash at the landfill. The fee, currently \$1.50 per ton, will increase to \$2 per ton on Jan. 1, Miner said.

The town also adds a portion of town surplus funds to the re-

serve. Miner said he expects \$1 million from surplus funds to be added to the fund by the end of the year.

Besides Brookhaven, Long Island has three other municipal landfills operated by the towns of Babylon and Islip, and Port Jefferson Village. All are expected to close over the next 13 years. A second landfill in Babylon closed in 2016.

The comptroller's report did not list post-closure costs for those facilities.

In addition to construction and demolition debris, the Brookhaven landfill stores ash from incinerators.

Post-closure landfill maintenance includes capping sections, or cells, as they become full to prevent waste from being blown away and to keep contaminants out of drinking water supplies. Leachate, or liquids that drain from the landfill, must be collected and disposed, and landfill cover must be maintained, state officials said.

Miner said 75 percent of the Brookhaven landfill has been capped with synthetic lining and soil. The town also has installed devices to prevent leaks of gases from the landfill, he said.

"As we cap, the leachate will diminish," Miner said. "A lot of the capital construction costs are taken care of already."

Two dozen people, including Bellport residents and teachers and parents from Frank P. Long Intermediate School in Bellport, filed a notice of claim earlier this year alleging Brookhaven officials had not done enough to protect them from odors and emissions that they said came from the landfill.

Town officials have said that federal and state tests determined that air quality around the landfill was safe.



The report by state Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli's office has estimated the cost of monitoring and cleanup after Brookhaven Town's landfill, expected to close in 2024, shuts down.

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MICHAEL OWENS

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