

Around LI

SAG HARBOR Village considers wastewater regulation

Sag Harbor is considering a new law mandating the installation of an on-site nitrogen-reducing sanitary system for wastewater in all new construction or expansions of more than 25 percent in the village.

An advanced wastewater treatment system would be required under the proposed law for any system in the village requiring an upgrade by the Suffolk County Department of Health Services.

If approved, the regulation would apply to all building permit applications filed after Jan. 1.

Most outdated sanitary systems do nothing to prevent nitrogen from human waste from leaching into the groundwater.

The new systems are intended to prevent “hazards to the public health . . . and to protect the drinking water supply of the Village of Sag Harbor,” according to a draft copy of the law. The systems cost about \$20,000.

East Hampton Town in 2017 became the first Suffolk County municipality to require the systems be installed in all new buildings.

A public hearing on the matter is set for Jan. 8 at Village Hall, 55 Main St.

— VERA CHINESE

SOUTHOLD TOWN Board again defers vote on rental code

The Southold Town Board for the third consecutive meeting tabled a proposed rental code law.

The board voted 5-0 on Tuesday to postpone a vote on legislation that would require town inspections of rental units before a rental permit is issued or renewed.

The proposed law would also define conditions under which code enforcement officers can apply for a warrant to search a rental property for code violations and set fines and penalties for code violations, among others provisions.

Town Councilwoman Jill Doherty, who helped draft

the legislation, did not attend the meeting. Southold Supervisor Scott Russell said the board felt it was important for them to all vote together on the rental code law.

“Jill drove the train [on the issue]. To take a vote without her probably wouldn’t be fair to her,” Russell said at the meeting.

The board had previously tabled the vote on the rental regulations at its Nov. 7 and Nov. 20 regular meetings.

Some residents have criticized the proposal over questions on enforcement and potential costs to taxpayers.

Russell said the board made “a commitment” to vote on the law at its next regular meeting on Dec. 18.

“We’re going to come [to vote] come hell or high water, so if we have to drag each other with duct tape and a rope, we will,” Russell said.

— JEAN-PAUL SALAMANCA



A taste for career prep

PLAINVIEW. Joey Saiag and Haleigh Weaver, students at John F. Kennedy High School, compete in a pizza contest at Plainview Hospital Thursday as part of the Northwell SPARK Challenge career prep program. Andrew Soel and Andrew Isaac won with a pesto ricotta pie.

HOWARD SCHNAPP

vides up to \$20,000 for eligible applicants planning to buy a new or existing single-family home, officials said in a news release. The program is administered by the town and the Long Island Housing Partnership; funding for the program comes from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

“This program will make it a lot easier for young people who grew up living in the Brookhaven area to purchase a home and remain a part of the Brookhaven community,” town Councilman Michael Loguercio said in a statement. “It is very gratifying to know how much of a difference this program can make for first-time homebuyers.”

Visit the Long Island Housing Partnership website, lihp.org/downpayment.html or call 631-435-4710 for information on eligibility requirements and other details.

— CARL MACGOWAN

BABYLON TOWN 2019 road repaving to be ramped up

The Town of Babylon is planning to almost double its annual spending on street paving next year.

The town council will approve a capital budget in January, but Tom Stay, the town’s commissioner for the department of public works, estimates the road spending in 2019 will be about \$11 million, almost double the \$6 million that it typically spends.

Roads that fall into major disrepair require reconstruction, while others get an overlay, which includes milling the street and repaving it. The roads in need of the least repair get micropaved, a layer of asphalt added on top of the existing road with no milling, Stay said.

“The main push is to get those roads that are teetering,” Stay said. “Before those roads become reconstruction roads.”

The town typically uses bonds to pay for repaving, Stay said, but it’s unclear whether the entire estimated \$11 million next year will be bonded.

Each of the three types of road repair is done by a separate company contracted with the town, as well as one company for drainage and another to do concrete work.

The town has not determined which roads will get repaired next year, Stay said.

— RACHEL O'BRIEN

BROOKHAVEN TOWN Home finance help for first-time buyers

First-time homebuyers in Brookhaven Town are invited to seek federal funds for help with down payments and closing costs, officials said.

Brookhaven’s Down Payment Assistance Program for First-Time Homebuyers pro-