

Around LI

ISLIP

Town to waive permit fees for septic work

The Town of Islip is waiving for one year all building, plumbing and other related permit fees sought by residential property owners who participate in Suffolk County's financial incentive program to replace septic and cesspool systems that cause pollution.

In an effort to battle nitrogen levels in local waters, the Suffolk Legislature in May approved a \$10 million grant program under the county watershed protection program to help homeowners pay for high-tech septic systems that could cost as much as \$17,500. About 200 homeowners annually over the next five years will be able to convert aging cesspools using the funds, while priority will be given to those living in low-lying areas.

Those who make less than \$300,000 in income can apply for grants up to \$11,000; for those whose income falls between \$300,000 and \$500,000, up to \$5,000 in grant funding is available. Financing is also available to cover the remaining costs.

"Nitrogen pollution from cesspools and septic systems has been identified as the largest single cause of degraded water quality contributing to beach closures, restrictions on shell fishing, toxic algae blooms, and massive fish kills, within Suffolk County and Town of Islip," reads the resolution, passed unanimously by the town board last week.

The county's program "would help homeowners replace outdated septic systems or cesspools at an affordable rate with new wastewater technologies that are designed to significantly reduce nitrogen pollution," the resolution states.

Islip normally charges \$375 for permit fees near wetlands and shoreline areas, an Islip Town spokeswoman said. The waiver applies only to new cesspool or septic systems.

— SARAH ARMAGHAN

Hispanic heritage nominations open

The Town of Islip is accepting nominations of outstanding

individuals for its annual Celebration of Hispanic Heritage.

The nominations are due by Aug. 25. Nomination forms are available online at islipny.gov.

All nomination forms should include a short biography of the candidate, a resume and letters of recommendation.

Honorees will be selected based on their accomplishments and professional and/or volunteer contributions to the town and community.

Applications should be mailed to the Town of Islip, Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, Attn: M. Figalora, 50 Irish Ln., East Islip, NY 11730. They also can be emailed to MFigalora@islipny.gov, or faxed to 631-224-5316.

For more information, contact the town's Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs at 631-595-3500, ext. 1033.

— SOPHIA CHANG

Flight is a remote possibility



PORT WASHINGTON. Ron Amster of Englewood, N.J., prepares to fly his Big Stik 60 radio-controlled plane at the Hempstead Harbor Aero Modelers Society aerodrome yesterday.

STEVEN SUNSHINE

MINEOLA

Old trees to be cut for roadwork project

Mineola Mayor Scott Strauss has issued a letter to residents detailing an upcoming roadwork project that has required the village to remove old trees.

Residents around Foch Boulevard began noticing earlier this month that public works employees were chopping trees in their neighborhood. In protest, some residents even used their cars to block public works employees from cutting down trees, according to a News 12 Long Island report.

In a July 20 letter, Strauss said the village has a road work plan that will result in road reconstruction, including revamped curbs, gutters and driveway aprons on Foch Boulevard, Concord Avenue, Gilmore Street and Houston Avenue. There's also a chance Macatee Place, Lewis Place or

Wilson Boulevard could receive renovations, he said. Strauss wrote that the trees were being cut down so road work can be completed.

"Because of the size of some trees in this neighborhood, especially large oak trees that have raised root structures which have undermined the roadway, some of these trees will need to be removed," Strauss wrote.

The mayor also wrote that the village is not removing every tree on every street and that "after roadwork is completed, any trees removed will be replaced with new, road-friendly trees."

— CHRISTOPHER J. BROOKS

GLEN COVE

City adding charging area for electric cars

Drivers of electric cars in Glen Cove soon will have two outlets in the city-owned Pulaski parking garage to charge their vehicles.

New York State is giving Glen Cove a \$14,000 grant for a charging station in the garage, said Ann Fangmann, executive director of the Glen Cove Community Development Agency.

The charging station will be installed in the late summer or early fall, Fangmann said. The city Department of Public Works is contributing \$3,500 in in-kind expenses, including the salaries of workers who will install the station, and the cost for striping and signage, she said.

The two outlets will be on a wall in the first floor of the garage, near the ramps, said Stephanie Soter, who helps coordinate green programs for the city.

The charging station is one of several city environmental initiatives aimed at getting the city a state designation as a "clean energy community," which city officials hope will help secure other state grants, Fangmann said.

The other initiatives include