

OUR TOWNS

ISLIP TOWN

Forum to focus on illegal dumping sites

A panel of experts will gather tonight at the Brentwood Public Library to discuss the health and environmental concerns surrounding toxic debris dumped illegally at Roberto Clemente Park.

The event is hosted by the Farmingdale-based Citizens Campaign for the Environment. The panel is to include the group's executive director, Adrienne Esposito, who is running as a Democrat for State Senate in Suffolk's 3rd District. She is to be joined by Suffolk Legis. William Spencer (D-Centerport) and a representative from the Suffolk County Water Authority.

An estimated 50,000 tons of debris laced with toxins such as asbestos, banned pesticides and insecticides, and heavy metals were found in April in the soil at Brentwood's Roberto Clemente Park.

Three other sites have been confirmed as having similar

toxic materials, including a six-home subdivision at Veterans Way in Islandia, a private one-acre site on Rte. 111 at Sage Street in Central Islip and a sensitive wetlands area on the Islip-Babylon town line.

The Suffolk County District Attorney has been conducting a criminal probe into the dumping sites since April.

The public-health risk for contamination is low, Suffolk County health officials have said, while acknowledging it is impossible to know the health threat while the dumping was going on.

Public drinking water around the sites is safe, for now, Suffolk County Water Authority officials have said, but the hazardous materials may seep into groundwater and be present at public wells, including near the Islandia site, as soon as 25 years from now.

Residents will be able to ask questions at the forum to be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the library's auditorium at 34 2nd Ave. in Brentwood.

— SARAH ARMAGHAN