

## OUR TOWNS

### SUFFOLK COUNTY

#### Lottery for home wastewater systems

Homeowners who want to upgrade their wastewater treatment system can enter a lottery at Suffolk County's website.

Suffolk will provide 19 advanced systems, maintain the systems for five years and monitor their effectiveness. The six different systems, donated by the manufacturers, will serve as a pilot program as the county tries to reduce nitrogen in areas that are unsewered.

Lottery applications must be submitted by Nov. 14 through the county's website, [suffolkcountyny.gov](http://suffolkcountyny.gov), County Executive Steve Bellone announced at a news conference yesterday.

Bellone has made reducing nitrogen, which can cause harmful algal blooms in surface water and degrade marshes, his top priority this year.

"We're attacking the problem at its source," Bellone said in front of a house under construction in Yaphank, which has a traditional septic tank system.

The systems will be monitored by the county to determine which are effective in what areas of Long Island.

By next July, that information will be used to determine which systems can be sold for general use in Suffolk County, said Walter Dawydiak, director of the Department of Environmental Quality.

He said the average advanced treatment system costs around \$15,000.

Legis. Al Krupski (D-Cutchogue) said eastern Long Island has been waiting for the technology for decades. "This is for the next generation," he said.

About 70 percent of homes in Suffolk County — 360,000 houses — are not connected to sewers. The county has applied for state and federal grants to build sewers in more densely populated areas of Suffolk.

— DAVID SCHWARTZ