



Suffolk Region  
**PTA**<sup>®</sup>  
everychild.onevoice.<sup>®</sup>



Stephanie Gurin  
Environment Chair – Advocacy Team  
stephie@optonline.net  
[environment@suffolkpta.org](mailto:environment@suffolkpta.org)  
516-236-2781

**Report as of January 7, 2019**

## **Suffolk DA: 30 people, 9 corporations charged in illegal dumping case**

Suffolk District Attorney Tim Sini announced charges against 30 people and nine corporations in what he calls one of the largest environmental crime cases in New York history on November 26, 2018. The indictment alleges an ongoing pattern of illegal dumping of construction materials and dirt that Sini says is hazardous. "These include volatile organic compounds, semi-volatile compounds, pesticides and metals such as arsenic, lead and mercury," he says.

Prosecutors say illegal dumping saves the trucking companies thousands of dollars in fees associated with legally disposing of the waste in landfills in Pennsylvania and upstate New York.

## **Brookhaven landfill stench churns stomachs and making children sick**

There's a stench coming from the Town of Brookhaven Landfill that's churning stomachs. Neighbors say the Yaphank landfill has been causing issues for years, but it's become unbearable over the past few weeks. Some parents are demanding action from the state and Suffolk County, claiming the Town of Brookhaven Landfill is making their children sick. The residents say their kids are sick from attending Frank P. Long Intermediate School in Bellport, which is near the landfill. Parents say about 25 to 30 residents tested their water and found elevated levels of the chemical radon. They say they never received a response from the Suffolk County Water Authority.

The Town of Brookhaven says it's in the final stages of capping part of the landfill and is aware that construction is causing what it calls "temporary" odor issues. The Town of Brookhaven has said the landfill will be 75 percent capped by mid-February.

Environmentalists say it's not just about the odor. "These types of odors are caused by hydrogen sulfide, which is in itself an irritant of the nose, the eyes, the lungs," says Adrienne Esposito, of Citizens Campaign for the Environment. "But it also carries with it volatile organic chemicals, which can be harmful. It needs to be stopped -- the landfill needs to get under control."

The state Department of Environmental Conservation was in the area in mid-December, using meters to measure levels of hydrogen sulfide gas in the air. There was no word on when those results will be available.

Town of Brookhaven spokesman Jack Krieger says about 75 percent of the landfill will be capped when the project is completed. He says it will provide a long-term solution to the community.

Some parents are demanding action from the state and Suffolk County, claiming the Town of Brookhaven Landfill is making their children sick.

The residents say their kids are sick from attending Frank P. Long Intermediate School in Bellport, which is near the landfill.

Parents say about 25 to 30 residents tested their water and found elevated levels of the chemical radon. They say they never received a response from the Suffolk County Water Authority.

The Town of Brookhaven has said the landfill will be 75 percent capped by mid-February.

## ***Invasive spotted lanternflies could be hiding in LI Christmas trees***

U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer was in Nassau County in December to warn about an invasive bug that may have hitched rides to Long Island on cut Christmas trees brought in from out of state. Schumer says eggs of the spotted lanternfly could devastate local crops at parks, farms and vineyards. The spotted lanternfly was found at a Deer Park nursery this fall.

Schumer, who was joined by Nassau and Suffolk officials in Garden City, is calling for an additional \$17.5 million in federal funding to stop the spread of the invasive bug in New York. Officials say the bug has also been found in upstate New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia and Pennsylvania.

## ***State panel recommends new clean water standards for toxic chemicals***

Members of New York's Drinking Water Quality Council joined together from three different locations across the state to recommend new clean water standards when it comes to the chemicals known as PFOA and PFOS. The chemicals came from firefighting foam that environmentalists say was abundantly used in the 1950s, '60s and '70s and seeped into the ground. The group voted that the maximum contamination levels for the toxic chemicals should be 10 parts per trillion. The recommended number will now be passed along to the state Department of Health.

## ***Dual-stream recycling will save Town of Huntington taxpayers money***

Huntington Supervisor Chad Lupinacci says taxpayers will save money as a result of the town going back to dual-stream recycling in the new year. Turning recycled trash into treasure has become increasingly difficult and expensive for Long Island municipalities. China used to buy most of the world's recycled trash, including that from Long Island. But because of tariffs, trade wars and contaminated recycled waste, China has stopped accepting most of Long Island's throwaways. As a

result, towns like Huntington are going back to dual-stream recycling, meaning paper and cardboard are collected separately from glass and plastics.

Town officials say using the dual-stream method of collecting recyclables will cost less than throwing all recyclables in the same bucket. The single-stream method cost Huntington close to \$1.5 million each year. Currently, towns have to pay to have plastics and glass taken away, but money can be made on cardboard and paper as long as it is not contaminated -- liquids, soaps, food products and oils render the paper and cardboard useless. The Town of Huntington wants residents to know what they can and cannot recycle. Pizza boxes, for example, are a definite no.











The dual-stream goes into effect in Huntington on Jan. 1. (See photos of items that can and cannot be recycled).

### ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

PAPER COLLECTION DAYS	BOTTLES, CANS, AND PLASTIC COLLECTION DAYS
 <p>✓ <b>MIXED PAPER:</b> Newspaper, magazines, mail, school papers, clean scrap paper, advertising circulars, cereal and other grocery boxes (remove plastic liners), shoe boxes, toilet paper and paper towel cores.</p> <p>✓ <b>CARDBOARD:</b> Shipping and other corrugated boxes. All cardboard must be flattened, tied and bundled.</p>	 <p>✓ <b>GLASS JARS • GLASS BOTTLES • PLASTIC BOTTLES • METAL FOOD CANS • METAL BEVERAGE CANS:</b> Glass jars, glass bottles, plastic bottles, and metal food and beverage cans that were once used in your kitchen, bathroom, or laundry room are recyclable. Please rinse before putting in your recycling container. Lids and caps are recyclable but should be removed before placing in container.</p>

**RECYCLING MUST BE LOOSE IN YOUR RECYCLING CONTAINER WITH A LID.  
RECYCLING IN PLASTIC BAGS WILL NOT BE PICKED UP.**

### UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS

 <p><b>STYROFOAM CONTAINERS AND PACKING MATERIALS</b></p>	 <p><b>SOILED CARDBOARD FOOD BOXES AND SOILED PAPER</b></p>	 <p><b>PLASTIC BAGS</b></p>	 <p><b>LIGHT BULBS</b></p>	 <p><b>BATTERIES</b></p>
 <p><b>CERAMICS, FLOWER POTS AND PLANT CONTAINERS</b></p>	 <p><b>HARD COVER BOOKS</b></p>	 <p><b>HANGERS</b></p>	 <p><b>PLASTIC TOYS</b></p>	 <p><b>WHEN IN DOUBT THROW IT OUT</b></p>