



**For Immediate Release:**

June 11, 2018

## **Concerned Citizens of Montauk Partners with Local Officials to Host Forum on Septic Replacement Incentive Program**

Montauk, New York – Concerned Citizens of Montauk (CCOM) today announced that they are partnering with Suffolk County Legislator Bridget Fleming and the Town of East Hampton to host a public information session on the County and Town septic replacement financial assistance programs. The programs were designed to encourage installation of new septic systems that reduce nitrogen levels in ground and surface waters.

**WHAT: Septic Replacement Q & A**  
**WHEN: Thursday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm**  
**WHERE: Montauk Library, 871 Montauk Highway, Montauk, NY 11954**

Nitrogen pollution from aging and inefficient cesspools and septic systems are a major cause of ground and surface water degradation. Most of the existing systems were not designed to remove nitrogen. Several new technology options are now available for use and have been demonstrated to remove excess nitrogen. Widespread installation and utilization of these systems would improve water quality in Montauk and throughout the East End.

Representatives from the Suffolk County Department of Health Services and the Town of East Hampton will be present to discuss program eligibility requirements, implementation procedures, technical considerations, estimated costs, etc. Attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions of the County and Town representatives.

Laura Tooman, CCOM President, noted, “Many property owners are eligible to receive financial assistance from both the County and the Town, allowing for the installation of an environmentally sound state-of-the-art septic system at a relatively low cost. We encourage anyone interested in these programs, whether in Montauk or elsewhere on the East End, to come and learn about this important program.”

“As members of a coastal community we depend on the health and beauty of our bays, creeks, lakes and harbors. So, we must act together to resolve the nitrogen pollution crisis. These systems will allow you to do your part,” said Suffolk County Legislator Bridget Fleming. “I would encourage all residents interested in the program to attend the event and have their questions answered.”

“Replacing traditional septic systems with those that reduce emissions of nitrogen into the environment will play a key role in eliminating threats to our ground and surface waters – the source of our drinking water and an important ecosystem that supports fishing and other recreation. The Town and County programs are designed to make it easier for our residents to replace their antiquated systems,” said East Hampton Town Supervisor Peter Van Scoyoc.

PO Box 915 • Montauk, New York 11954 • Phone: 631.238.5720 • [PreserveMontauk.org](http://PreserveMontauk.org)

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