



MEDIA ALERT

WHAT: CCOM Launches “Save the Lake – Save the Pond” Program
WHEN: June 24, 2016 / 3:00PM
WHERE: Carol Morrison Park, Montauk (formerly Fort Pond House)
128 Second House Rd., Montauk

Concerned Citizens of Montauk to Launch Campaign to Clean Montauk’s Water “Save the Lake- Save the Pond” will Engage Community in Major Clean-up Effort

Montauk, New York - Concerned Citizens of Montauk (CCOM) will kick-off a new community-wide campaign to improve water quality in Lake Montauk and Fort Pond. The public launch is scheduled for Friday, June 24th, at 3:00PM at Fort Pond House.

Both Lake Montauk and Fort Pond have been listed as impaired by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, with portions of both closed to swimming, recreation, and shell fishing because of harmful algal blooms and pathogen contamination.

Speaking of the new campaign, CCOM President, Jeremy Samuelson explained, “Water is the lifeblood of Montauk – our environment, our economy, and our health and wellbeing. The heart of our community is threatened by deteriorating water quality.” “CCOM is leading a comprehensive effort to reverse the damage,” said Samuelson. “We can make a difference if we work together. Save the Lake-Save Pond will engage homeowners, local businesses, commercial property owners, and East Hampton Town officials in a coordinated effort to reduce the human causes of Montauk’s water pollution,” he said.

For three years, CCOM’s team of highly trained volunteers and partners have worked year-round collecting and analyzing water samples which have pointed to seriously polluted water quality. With the STL/STP effort, CCOM will train volunteer “Ambassadors” to work with local stakeholders who have signed on as “Stewards.” Stewards commit to take actions to reduce human impacts on Lake Montauk and Fort Pond. Actions include, but are not limited to:

- Inspecting, pumping, and upgrading septic systems
- Stopping the use of fertilizers and using organic pest control
- Planting vegetative buffers and taking other measures to contain storm water

Ed Braun, Chairman of CCOM’s Board of Directors, remarked, “Montaukers know how to pull together. We are a truly unique and special community. I am grateful for all of the volunteers and supporters who are committed to working with CCOM to preserve the place we all love.”

CCOM preserves and protects the unique environment and ecology of Montauk through education, advocacy and grassroots citizen action. Founded in 1970, CCOM has grown to become one of the most effective environmental groups in Eastern Long Island.

Members of the press are invited to attend the launch of “Save the Lake – Save the Pond” on Friday 6/24 at 3pm at Carol Morrison Park (Formerly Fort Pond House) located at 128 Second House Rd. in Montauk.