



**Concerned Citizens of Montauk and Group for the East End Partner with
Suffolk County and South Fork Towns to Address Regional Septic Issue:**

Informational Meetings Scheduled for April

Montauk, New York – Concerned Citizens of Montauk (CCOM) today announced a partnership with Group for the East End, Suffolk County, and the Towns of Southampton and East Hampton to host two public information sessions 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.

Session 1:

WHAT: Southampton Septic Replacement Info Session
WHEN: Monday, April 15th at 6pm
WHERE: Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton, NY 11968

Session 2:

WHAT: East Hampton Septic Replacement Info Session
WHEN: Tuesday, April 30th at 6pm
WHERE: East Hampton Town Hall, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton, NY 11937

Nitrogen pollution from aging and inefficient cesspools and septic systems are a major cause of ground and surface water degradation. The existing traditional 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 innovation alternative (IA) systems would improve water quality throughout Long Island's East End.



Suffolk County, through their Reclaim Our Water Septic Improvement Program, and the Towns of Southampton and East Hampton, each have designed financial assistance programs to aid in replacement of old cesspools and septic systems.

At the April meetings, representatives from Suffolk County and the Town of Southampton (April 15th) or East Hampton (April 30th) 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 and the County-approved I/A septic vendors.

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 no cost. We encourage anyone interested in these programs, whether in Montauk or elsewhere on the East End, to attend these sessions to learn about these important programs.”

Jay Schneiderman, Southampton Town Supervisor noted, “There is no doubt that nitrogen from residential septic systems is degrading the water quality of our bays and wetlands. These Town and County rebate programs provide the necessary funding to install nitrogen removing systems to help restore our water quality”

“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.



Bob Deluca, President of Group for the East End said, “Clean water is a critical part of our East End way of life, and economy, but our local waters are threatened by too much nitrogen coming in large part from inadequate sewage treatment. Thankfully, with support from the Community Preservation Fund and Suffolk County’s Reclaim Our Water Program, South Fork homeowners can now play a direct role in cleaning up our precious waters by receiving the funding they need to upgrade their septic systems with new nitrogen-reducing technology.”