



PO Box 159, Sea Cliff, NY 11579 | 516.801.6792 | cshh.org@gmail.com

May 2, 2022

Dear Glenwood Landing Neighbor,

The Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor has been working closely with the Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee, Nassau County, and the Town of Oyster Bay to discover the source of high bacteria levels in water that drains from your neighborhood through the large outfall at the bottom of Glenwood Road and into Hempstead Harbor. This area is referred to as the Powerhouse Drain Subwatershed and includes the creek that runs between Kissam Lane and Glenwood Road.

This area is now the largest contributor of bacteria to Hempstead Harbor. Bacteria pollution affects our beaches and can have an adverse impact on shellfish and humans who consume that shellfish. Bacteria can travel to the harbor through stormwater runoff or failing septic systems.

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CSHH staff collecting water samples from the creek along Kissam Lane (l) and working with Nassau County DPW to collect samples from manholes along Glenwood Road (r) (3/22/22)

You can help reduce the bacteria that ends up in Hempstead Harbor. Please:

- Do not divert water from household appliances to discharge to the street or nearby waterbodies;
- Clean up after your pets so that pet waste is not washed into Hempstead Harbor;
- Do not overfertilize lawns and gardens; what cannot be absorbed in your yard will run off during rain storms and end up in the harbor;

Visit www.coalitiontosavehempsteadharbor.org for information about our programs.

- Be sure to maintain your septic system by having it pumped at least every three to five years, depending on the number of people in your household;
- If your septic system is failing, call reputable, licensed contractors to advise you on replacement; and
- If your septic system needs to be replaced, **you may qualify for up to \$20,000 in grant funds to install a new wastewater treatment system—CALL 516-364-5861 or VISIT NassauCountyNY.gov/SepticReplace for information on available funding for replacement of a conventional or failing cesspool or septic system with an innovative and alternative onsite wastewater treatment system (I/A OWTS). Up to \$20,000 of the cost can be funded by Nassau County.**

CSHH has been collecting water samples at the powerhouse drain outfall since 2009 during the regular monitoring season. This testing station has been the focus of the winter monitoring since 2013. In 2018, we created a habitat restoration program to help people in the Glenwood Landing subwatershed learn how planting of native plants can help improve soil quality and reduce runoff. We have worked with the local municipalities that have jurisdiction in this area to find ways to identify the source of bacteria pollution and reduce the amount that flows into Hempstead Harbor. Failing septic systems can create the largest problems in increasing bacteria pollution to Hempstead Harbor.

Please see the enclosed flyer for Nassau County's program to help homeowners fund replacement of failing septic systems. Many of your neighbors have already signed up for this program. If you would like more information about CSHH's programs and our efforts to protect Hempstead Harbor, you can visit our website or call our office at 516-801-6792.

Thank you for doing your part to protect the water quality of Hempstead Harbor.

Sincerely,



Carol DiPaolo
Programs Director and
Water-Monitoring Coordinator