

FREE TRAVEL GUIDE

SPRING 2017

Photograph: James Katsipis

"MEET ME IN MONTAUK...
XOX-CANDACE"

SPECIAL INSIDE

Photography of James Katsipis...

Alice Houseknecht on the East Deck...

John's Drive-in Turns 50...

Lighthouse Revetment Overhaul...

Skate Park Gets Some Love...

Thar She Blows Off Montauk...



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at War with the End,
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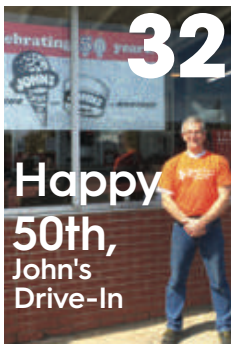
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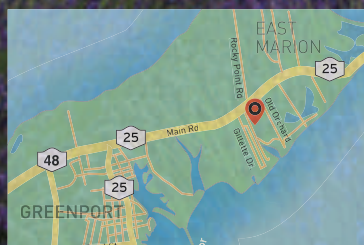
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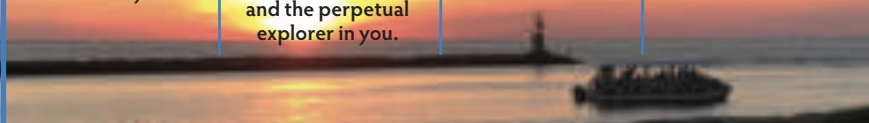
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Contributors

LIAM SULLIVAN is a writer and musician who has worked for SPIN and Entertainment Weekly. His book, *Making the Scene Nashville*, was published by the Hal Leonard Performing Arts division in 2012. When not writing Liam can be found hiking with his hiking stick "Lucille," in Hither Hills and Shagwong Point,



in Montauk. He's presently writing a series of "reflections" called *Reading Waves* about the East End. For more information please visit: liamsullivan.info.



DEBBIE TUMA is a journalist, and a third generation native of Montauk. Her family started the charter fishing industry in the 1940's, and later start-

ed Tuma's Dock in the 1950's. Her father, Captain Bob Tuma, ran his charter boat "Dawn" for 60 years. She works at WLNG 92.1 Radio Station and writes for the Daily News, Newsday, and East End papers.



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© On Montauk 2017 Volume 2, Number 1, Montauk Publishing, Inc.

Although every effort is made to provide up-to-date information at the time of publication, before visiting any attraction or business listed, please call ahead to confirm hours of operation, admission prices, or any other information you may need to plan your activities. Printed in the USA.

Mailing address: P.O. Box 2544, Montauk, NY 11954

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Welcome to Montauk

LETTER FROM THE NEW EDITORS

WELCOME TO MONTAUK, THE END. YOU'RE LUCKY TO BE HERE. THAT'S NOT A MISPRINT. YOU'RE LUCKY TO BE HERE. THIS IS THE THOUGHT WE HOLD CLOSE every hour of every day that we can spend here with our family. On our worst days we never abandon it. In fact it's those forgettable days where it is most prominent. Maybe some of you reading this just got tough news, or are stressing out about money, your boss, or your kids. Look around you right now. Everyone you see is dealing with something, and it's likely much worse than your issues. But we're all here in Montauk because the End is always here for us, if only for a weekend or a few hours if that's all you have, but always for a lifetime. She will palliate, entertain, stimulate, distract, and ultimately, re-inject perspective. The latter is something we all need. So embrace Montauk, locals and visitors, and cherish the time you can spend here.

We are a classic Montauk story. Falling in love at our friend Leah Peskin's house during one of our first outings to Montauk in 2006, eating our fresh caught bluefish on her deck in a cool October breeze. Living in the city, we did the weekend drives out for a few years, mostly for fishing and the beach, and dreamed of being able to live here. The stretch on the way back was always tough, watching those cars heading to Montauk on Sunday afternoons whiz past. It fascinated me, this stream of people heading to the End when everyone else was limping back to the bustle of weekday life westward. Who were they? Probably some of you.

The dream came true a few years later and we nested in Montauk and started a family, after some sacrifices, to be sure. Our young kids, given to us by Montauk, know nothing of our former lives in the city, Virginia, Brooklyn, the UK, or any of our earlier haunts. We'll explain to them, one day, how Montauk brought our family into existence and made our lives whole. We took over On Montauk this year from Carol and Joe Nye, the founders who published it for 25 years. That's no small feat for two people, even with a strong team of support. We are humbled and reassured every time they blithely answer thorny questions that have bedeviled us. They are still in Montauk (of course), and we hope they enjoy watching their baby turn a corner. We are grateful for their support. Thanks guys.



Carter and Kay Tyler enjoying the beach with their family.

On Montauk is free. So it is ad driven, which makes our relationship with the business community symbiotic. We are grateful that so many of you, Montauk businesses, are staying loyal to one of the End's oldest extant publications. You won't regret it.

We are determined to keep On Montauk relevant for you and our readers, starting this issue with some great stories about Montauk that will resonate with everyone, residents and visitors alike.

Reread that first paragraph, everyone, and go enjoy Montauk.

- Carter and Kay Tyler

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| WINTER FLOUNDER | 12 | 2 | APR. 1-MAY 30 |
| BLACKFISH | 16 | 4 | OCT. 5-DEC. 14 |
| BLUEFISH <i>(includes snappers)</i> | NO MIN SIZE for first 10 | 15, no > 10 can be less than 12" TL | ALL YEAR |
| WEAKFISH | 16 | 1 | ALL YEAR |
| ATLANTIC COD | 22 | 10 | ALL YEAR |
| POLLOCK | 19 | NO LIMIT | ALL YEAR |
| HADDOCK | 18 | NO LIMIT | ALL YEAR |
| SUMMER FLOUNDER (FLUKE) | 18 | 5 | MAY 17-SEPT. 21 |
| PORGY, <i>Party/Charter Boats</i> | 10 | 30 45 | MAY 1-DEC. 31 SEPT. 1-OCT. 31 |
| BLACK SEA BASS | 15 | 8 10 | SEPT. 1-OCT. 31 NOV. 1-DEC. 31 |

EFFECTIVE JUNE 23, 2016

(For the most up-to-date and complete list go to dec.ny.gov)

Upcoming Events

Recurring Events

Mondays: Concerts on the Green. July 6:30pm; August 6pm. All welcomed. Picnic, lawn chairs recommended.

Thursdays/Fridays: Farmer's Market on the Green. 9am-2pm June 8 through August 31 then Fridays through September 29. Fresh local produce, cheese, meats, fish, flowers, wines, baked goods and more from the North and South Forks.

Saturdays: Rummage Sale. 9am-12pm MD thru LD. Montauk Community Church, just east of town. Clothing, bric-a-brac, toys, vintage, framed pics, etc. A basement full of treasures!

Sundays: Outdoor concerts at Gosman's Dockside Stage. 6pm. All welcomed. Come early for great shopping at the dock and bring lawn chairs, picnics, friends and family.

May

- 13 Music for Montauk Spring Program:** 4pm. Spring Prelude at the Montauk School Auditorium.
- 18-21 Montauk Music Festival:** Over 100 bands, musicians, and singer song-writers perform at venues throughout Montauk.
- 26-28 Fine Arts Festival on the Green:** Sponsored by the Montauk Artists Association. Juried, fine art ceramics, jewelry, photographs, paintings, prints and more. Admission free.
- 27 Rummage Sale.** 9am-12pm. Montauk Community Church, just east of town. Clothing, bric-a-brac, toys, vintage, framed pics, etc. A basement full of treasures!
- 29 Flag Ceremony on the Green:** 11am
- 31 Guild Hall and Urban Stages present ANGRY YOUNG MAN:** 8pm Wed-Sun. The American Premiere of the Critically Acclaimed British

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June

- 8 Farmer's Market on the Green:** 9am-2pm through August 31 then Fridays through Sept. 29. Fresh local produce, cheese, meats, fish, flowers, wines, baked goods and more from the North and South Forks.
- 10 RJA Mighty Montauk Triathlon:** One-mile swim, 22-mile bike, 6.2-mile run. Founded in 1982.
- 11 Annual Blessing of the Fleet:** 5pm. held at Town Dock at Montauk Harbor
- 15-26 Depot Art Gallery:** All member show at the Montauk Railroad Station.
- 15-17 30th Annual Star Island Yacht Club Shark Tournament:** 12 tournament prizes given out at Star Island Yacht Club.



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June continued...

22-24 Montauk Marine Basin Shark Tag Tournament: Enjoy great fishing in Montauk while participating in conservation efforts.

26 First Monday Night Concert on the Green: Bring a chair and a picnic basket to these free concerts. Great for the whole family.

July

1-2 Friends of the Montauk Library: 10am-3pm. Book Fair at the library.

4 Fireworks! Stars Over Montauk Festival on the town beach: 9pm-10pm. Best viewed from the ocean beaches.

15-16 Montauk Historical Society Craft Fair: 10am-6pm. Second House Museum grounds. Offering crafts from diverse vendors, refreshments, and local Montauk books and information.

15-16 Mercury Marine Grand Slam Fishing Tournament: sponsored by Kiwanis Club of E. Hampton and the Montauk Friends of Erin in partnership with Mercury Marine. Hosted by Uihlein's Marina & Boat Rental.

16 Lighthouse Sprint Triathlon: 6:30am. Finish your run, leading up to the historic Lighthouse with a 1/2 mile swim starting at Gin Beach, a 14 mile bike ride through Montauk and a 5K run through wide, hard packed trails.

18-19 Carl Darenberg Memorial Shark's Eye Charity Fishing Tournament: All-Release tournament. Prize purse includes \$25K in guaranteed cash. Conservation efforts includes satellite tagging 4 sharks.

23 Taste of Montauk at the Montauk Yacht Club: 6pm-9pm. An elegant sampling of many of the restaurants on our east end, served by owners and chefs.

August

5 The Montauk Playhouse Gala: 7pm-11pm. Dinner, dancing, drinks, and benefit auction on the Montauk Playhouse Community

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August continued...

Center grounds.

12-13 Montauk Historical Society

Craft Fair: 10am-6pm. Second House Museum grounds. Offering crafts from diverse vendors, refreshments, and local Montauk books and information.

18-20 Montauk Artist's Association

Juried Fine Art Show: 10am-6pm. On the Village Green with paintings, sculpture, photography, ceramics, jewelry and more.

18 Montauk Village Association

Greenery Scenery: 6pm-9pm. Cocktail Party at the Montauk Lake Club.

19-20 Lighthouse Weekend:

10:30am-7pm. Great kid fun with Colonial games, leather making and traditional pottery.

27

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September

2-3 Montauk Lions Club Annual Craft Fair: On the Village Green.

9-10 Montauk Seafood Festival: 12pm-6pm. In the Harbor area. Local restaurants' best seafood dishes plus local wines and beer, entertainment, and games for the kids. Sponsored by Kiwanis Club of E. Hampton.

17 Montauk Fire Department Big Bucks Drawing: 1pm-4pm. At the Fire Department. Win up to \$50,000. You must have a ticket to attend the raffle and party.

23-24 Montauk Historical Society Craft Fair: 10am-6pm. Held on Second House Museum grounds, the fair has crafts from vendors near and far, refreshments, and local Montauk books and information.

October

1 MightyMan Montauk Sprint Triathlon: 6:30am. Challenge yourself with a 750-meter fresh water swim, 17K bike ride, and 5K run around Fort Pond.

5-9 Hamptons Int'l Film Festival: Discover a weekend of independent cinema from around the world. From films to panels and parties — HIFF has a full slate of festivities for the movie lover in you.

7-8 Fall Festival on the Village Green: 11am-5pm. The Chamber's Annual Fall Festival and Cash Catch Raffle. Saturday **Clam Chowder Contest** (where you get mugs!), music, LI beers and wine, Octoberfest foods, free carousel, farmers market & more! Sunday: **Chinese Auction on the Green** to benefit the Montauk Playhouse, 11am-3pm.

7-8 Star Island Yacht Club: Striped Bass Tournament.

November

25 Friends of the Montauk Library Holiday Book Sale: 10am-3pm. Books and more on sale!

25 Montauk Community Church Christmas Fair: 9am-2pm

25 Annual Lighting of the Lighthouse: 4:30pm-7pm. Go early!

26 Christmas at the Lighthouse: 11am-4pm. Exhibits, refreshments, shopping, and children's activities, including Santa!



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Montauk's 8th Annual Music Festival Happening Right... About...NOW

By Liam Sullivan

Zandi Holup warms up at 2016 Montauk Music Festival

THE 2017 MONTAUK MUSIC FESTIVAL (MMF) RUNS MAY 18TH-21ST HOSTING OVER 100 BANDS ACROSS 40 VENUES AROUND MONTAUK, FEATURING A comprehensive mix of musicians and talent. Some notable Montauk acts include Megan Leonardo, The Realm, Jim Turner, and The Montauk Project. You can vote for your favorite acts at montaukmusicfestival.com.

"Each year the festival extends the summer season by one weekend," MMF organizer Ken Giustino said. "It takes place the weekend before Memorial Day giving restaurants, bars, and hotels an extra weekend to fill their venues," Mr. Giustino explained.

A free shuttle bus, The Hopper, will hop around town. Saturday morning it will make a loop starting in Napeague with stops along the way: Gosman's Dock, the Lighthouse, and the Montauk train station, etc. "It's great for day trippers, it will lighten up traffic and there will be a timetable provided at each stop," Mr. Giustino added.

The Village Green in downtown Montauk will also be employed over the weekend with two stages under a large tent. Friends of Erin will sell hot dogs, hamburgers, and beverages for all ages. "It's a great way to spend the

day. Families set up lawn chairs and blankets enjoying great live music," Mr. Giustino said.

"The lead-singer dropped down on one knee and proposed to his girlfriend in the audience"

Keeping in the spirit of Montauk's natural beauty, live performances will be held at the base of the Montauk lighthouse with an ocean backdrop. Performances start after 4 p.m. (parking \$8 before 4:30). "It's like sound on the sound," Mr. Giustino laughed.

Other local performances of note: The East Hampton Jazz band will lend their talents to an outdoor concert at



Jonathan Fritz at 2016 Montauk Music Festival



Days of Wild at 2016 Montauk Music Festival

Gosman's Dock on Friday afternoon, while the East Hampton Fiddle band will kick things off on Sunday morning on the Village Green.

The MMF opening night party will be held at Gurney's on May 18th (tickets are available on the MMF website) and will feature local brews, finger food, and some of the bands and songwriters playing this year's festival.

"The great thing about the festival is that it brings the entire community together for the love of music,"

Mr. Giustino said. "And something unexpected always happens. Last year a band called 'Remember September' was playing an afternoon show on the Village Green. Mid-song the band stopped, then the lead-singer dropped down on one knee and proposed to his girlfriend standing in the audience. There was a hushed silence, and when she said "Yes" the whole place went nuts. The band finished their gig, by the way," Mr. Giustino affirmed. 🐟



Molly Adele Brown at 2016 Montauk Music Festival

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Meet a Montauker

Alice Houseknecht

**DOING GOOD THINGS WITH
EAST DECK PROCEEDS,
IN MONTAUK.**

**by Liam Sullivan and
Carter Randolph Tyler**



Alice Houseknecht photo in the 2013 Publication, *Surf & Turf: Montauk* by Car Pelleferi.

As a child, Alice Houseknecht, née Watson, and her family would visit Montauk in the summertime. “My father loved it out here, especially Hither Hills. I was one of nine children, so each year my father would pack-up a giant green army tent and we’d set up camp,” Ms. Houseknecht recalled. “My father, a New York City Fireman, convinced my grandparents to buy a piece of property near Darenberg Marina in 1957. Eventually, my father and grandfather built a cottage that my extended family could use. So ever since then I’ve spent every summer of my life in Montauk.”

After graduating from Hunter College, Ms. Houseknecht wanted to start a career as a teacher. “After I graduated there was a surplus of teachers and I was told there would be a significant

waiting period. So I took the next logical step and became a flight attendant for TWA,” she laughed.

During her time as a flight attendant Ms. Houseknecht continued to visit Montauk. In 1976 she met her future husband and Montauk native, Steve Houseknecht.

“The East Deck was like an airplane, but without the wings.”

After marrying they moved into the East Deck motel, started by her husband’s grandparents in 1954. “So, after my-tour-of-duty as a flight attendant for TWA, I would come back to Montauk and help run East Deck with my husband,” she said.

“The East Deck had 30 rooms so I’d go from hosting a plane full of people to a motel full of people. The room my husband and I lived in was adjacent to the main office. Guests were always popping in with myriad requests. You could say the East Deck was like an



The East Deck in 1980.



Alice Houseknecht, the tall one in the front, in her TWA Flight Attendant Training Academy photo, Missouri 1975.



Alice Houseknecht in 1968, High School Graduation Photo, Staten Island, NY.

airplane, but without the wings," she mused.

After ten years of running the motel Ms. Houseknecht decided to go back to her first love, teaching. She attended Long Island University in Southampton, received her Master's, and started teaching at the Montauk Public School.

In 1996 Ms. Houseknecht's husband passed away. "So I was teaching and running the motel, which was demanding on my time and energy. In 2002, I gave up teaching and devoted myself solely to the motel," she said. "It was a difficult choice because I truly enjoyed working with children and was inspired by them. I was also deeply involved with a PTA Youth Center that provided weekend activities for adolescent students.

"The new crowd in the late 90's? They thought East Deck was the cat's meow."

In the late 1990's, East Deck, now an iconic throwback to the 50's and a true

Americana stalwart in Ditch Plains, got the attention of the Manhattan jet-set. "My mother-in-law used to refer to East Deck as "a bunch of cottages stuck together with driftwood, where all the guests were blue collar and could barely afford a night's stay!" Ms. Houseknecht said with an animated re-enactment of her mother-in-law's delivery. "The new crowd in the late 90's? They thought East Deck was the cat's meow," Ms. Houseknecht chuckled.

Then there was a self-styled Manhattan diva, Charlotte, a Tiffany's employee in her 70s, who arrived at the East Deck sans reservation one summer in the mid-70s, cradling a Shih Tzu, demanding a room in her best Dunaway accent, Ms. Houseknecht explains, continuing: She clicked her high heels down the deck, immediately disapproved of the shabby room décor and then clicked back to the office where my grandfather-in-law, Sam Cox, was behind the desk, enjoying the spectacle. "I could never stay in a



The original East Deck cottages, 1955. Sam Cox followed by a little summer guest with her dog.

room like that, heaven's me", Charlotte swooned. Sam told her to take a walk on the beach, "then come back and see how you feel". Well Charlotte did just that, spent the night in the room, and by the next morning was sold on the East Deck. For the next 15 years Charlotte showed up every summer with an entourage of the city's most dramatic gay jet set, who partied and primped all day and night with their own table candelabras, flowing robes, drugs, and attitudes, to the bemusement of the milquetoast families around the resort."

In 2003, Ms. Houseknecht earned her certification as a yoga instructor and began teaching classes in the motel backyard. "We'd set up yoga mats and there would be the sound of the ocean breathing in the background; adding a certain 'spirituality' to the experience," she explained. "I always felt that the yoga spot was situated upon a healing vortex. There was a collective vibration attained by the people who joined in practice." I remember one guest saying, "I've found nirvana! I never want to go home again!" Ms. Houseknecht recounted.

In 2013, after years of wear-and-tear on the East Deck, Ms. Houseknecht decided it was time to sell. "Hurricane

Sandy totally blew me away; we got flooded and the erosion was massive."

It was then she realized it was time to let go, even though her collective family had poured blood-sweat-and-tears into the property for sixty years. The 1950's 'Throwback Motel' that never had air conditioning or telephones, the vacation playground to multiple generations, was no more.

In 2016 the East Deck Motel was razed. Since then Ms. Houseknecht, who

"I always felt that the yoga spot was situated upon a healing vortex."

lives full time in Montauk ('The Dock', by the way, is owned by her brother, George Watson), has devoted her time to philanthropic endeavors. She started the Alice & Jaclyn Houseknecht Foundation; Jaclyn being her daughter-in-law. After receiving 501 (c) (3) status she began working with organizations for which she had passion.

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Donald Torr, son of founder John Torr, in front of John's Drive-In in 1967, the year it opened.

(Photo courtesy of Donald Torr)

**By Debbie Tuma,
who was there in the beginning...**

IT WAS 1967, BETTER KNOWN AS "THE SUMMER OF LOVE." AND I WAS A TEENAGE WAITRESS STARTING MY FIRST JOB AT JOHN'S DRIVE-IN. ALTHOUGH I WAS DYING to earn my own money to be independent from my parents, and to save money for college, my main reason for wanting to work there was simply to meet surfers.

From the moment it first opened that hot summer, John's Drive-In was THE hangout for these tanned, muscular, smiling, hungry young guys with their gorgeous sun-streaked long ponytails. As I carried their burgers, fries and shakes to the counter window, I took one look at their zinc-oxide covered noses and just melted...they were sooo sexy. They all smelled like Hawaiian Tropic Coconut Oil, and they wore these cool airplane-style dark sunglasses, so you couldn't quite tell where they were looking!

These surfers would drift in and out all day while they were surfing over at Ditch Plains, which was as popular back in the 1960's as it is today. On some of these gorgeous beach days it was hard working at John's. I would rather have just been at the beach. But when I finally got to work the counter during the evening shift it got even better, because surfers would line up for burgers and ice cream on the way home from the beach.

My father had gotten me the job because he knew John and Elsie Torr, the owners who started John's Drive-In. It was on vacant land and John hired Dave Webb builders to create it. Back then, in the 1960's, there were only about a thousand people living in Montauk year-round and everybody knew everybody. But in the summers, the population would swell to about 20,000 when the tourists took over the motels, restaurants and beaches.

John and Elsie Torr were good business people. During their many years in Montauk they started several other businesses, including the IGA Supermarket, which was then located near Martell's Stationary Store, where the Montauk Market is today. Back then the IGA was called "Sunbeam Supermarket." John and Elsie also started the Crow's Nest Restaurant on Lake Montauk, with fish tanks all around, and great lakefront views. They also operated the former Pier One diner at the fishing docks and the Flying Fish Restaurant on East Lake Drive.



Don and Elsie Torr in the Sunbeam Supermarket, which preceded IGA, date unknown (Photo courtesy of Don Torr)

Being astute business people they were concerned with making profits at John's, which meant portion control. So, when I started working there, one of the first things they told me was how to make the ice cream cones. They had the old-fashioned custard cones, or by today's standards, the "soft ice cream," from the machines. For the small-sized



John Torr, founder of John's Drive-In, date unknown (Photo courtesy of Don Torr)

cones, we had to lift the handle on the machine and go around two swirls high. For the large cones, it was four swirls... and not an ounce more on either. Back then, the cones cost under a dollar, and the sundaes were not much more.

Even though I was conscious of the "portion control" idea, when my friends came in or when there was a cute surfer at the counter, I found it hard to give them EXACTLY two swirls, and my feeling was, "What's one or two more swirls?" I must admit, sometimes a small cone became a large cone, and each time, John Torr was right there behind me screaming, "Don't give away the store!!"

John's was also famous for their burgers—which cost only 25 cents, and included one pickle chip (two if you were lucky), onions and ketchup, on a bun. There were also fries, fish sandwiches, egg rolls, and shakes. On one side of the building was a clam bar, with clams and oysters on the half-shell, fried clams and shrimp.

The modern John's Drive-In structure looked pretty much the same as it does today, only it was painted white



David and Maureen Rutkowski in 1998. They met at John's. (Photo courtesy of Maureen Rutkowski)

with a sort of creamsicle-orange color trim, and an orange diamond design decorating the outside walls. Inside, all the restaurant equipment was shiny and new. The ice cream machines glistened in silvery metallic. Every time I made a cone I would look at myself in the ice cream machine to check my pinned-up hair and my lipstick, much to my boss John Torr's annoyance. Back then, it was hip for all the teenage girls to wear pale pink lipstick—almost white—and John Torr used to constantly tell me, "Get that Crisco off your lips!!!" When he saw me gazing into the front of the ice cream machine he knew there was some cute surfer at the window. Flirting with the customers was openly discouraged.

But I had fun working with John and Elsie's son, Donald Torr, who was much

more tolerant than his parents. But to us waitresses, Don was a much older guy of 24, already out of college and starting an accounting career. He was friendly and helpful, and kind of shielded us from his meticulous parents. Sometimes, he even joined us in stealing a little ice cream when nobody was looking. After

"Surfers would line up for burgers and ice cream on the way home from the beach."

all, how could you stand there all day looking at these swirls of soft-serve, bathed in hot chocolate, smothered in whipped cream, and topped off with that perfect red cherry? Truth be told, every now and then we all took a spoonful.

But because I wanted to keep this very important job so I could get more summer dates before going back to school, I eventually did try to manage my portion control. But one hot August day, fate stepped in and even my buddy Donald Torr couldn't save me. A cute surfer was at the window, and

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Montauk Skate Park is Something to be Proud Of

A LOCAL SKATER RELATES AFTER PARK GETS SOME LOVE

by Colin Ryan



Colin Ryan and his son Zeb skating on a cold winter afternoon.

MONTAUK SKATE PARK IS A GREAT PUBLIC RESOURCE FOR FAMILIES IN OUR TOWN. SKATEBOARDERS IN MONTAUK HAVE WITNESSED THE effects of time on our beloved skate spot for many years. Our spot has endured a long battle with winter's cold rain and snow. Although concrete is the surface of choice for us, it is sometimes fragile. Montauk's weather has taken its toll on our park, leaving glaring examples of how nothing lasts forever all throughout our park. These bumps and bruises make a dangerous sport straight up hairball at times. However, this winter, a miracle occurred. The Town of East Hampton breathed some new life into this aging beauty and contracted a dedicated crew of skateboard park builders, Rampage from Bridgeport Connecticut, to show us some love.

“ skateboarding is not the most organized activity, but that’s why we love it.”

Rampage Skate Park Builders wasted no time in their quest to revitalize our broken shred spot. They took full advantage of the mild winter temperatures to do some much-needed repairs. Rampage fixed the busted pool coping, sealed some heavy cracks, and rebuilt the concrete around the flow section. Local skaters never thought this

would happen, but we are truly grateful for these positive movements. Are we fully satisfied? I'll say, “Yes,” when the Town throws in a four-foot mini ramp for the groms on the barren “No Man’s Land” area adjacent to the

skate park. Regardless, we are stoked and psyched for springtime ripping.

Now that the park has been enhanced, all skaters in the area should come down and represent. It's exciting to see new batches of youngsters showing up and getting amped. The youth are the future of this tradition and the time is now for the kids to carry the torch. The park is usually quiet until the older dudes show up around 4 o'clock and start flying around. I recommend morning/mid-day times for families to pack the truck with some boards and safety gear, and head to the park for some good times. Two good rules are to use common sense and trust your gut. Don't drop in because someone told you to. These are not strict guidelines as skateboarding is not the most organized activity, but that's why we love it. You simply never know what will go down at the park.

If you've never been there, Montauk Skate Park has a lot of personality. It is a "free" place open for interpretation by all who roll over its surface. The

terrain is bumpy, weathered, and rough so riders should dial in their boards to find their own personal groove. I like to ride a pool style board with wide trucks and 58mm wheels. Some transitions are steeper than others, with tons of grinding potential. There's even a major-league backyard styled pool for the "Gnards." One thing's for sure, it's a rad place to shred. So who wants to improve their skills? Hang with friends? Set some goals? Get gnarly? If you answered, "Yes," to all the above, go get a setup and come skateboarding at the Montauk Skate Park. 🌊



Broken concrete around the flow section was repaired last winter.



Colin's son Zeb on the flow (Note pool in background).



Thar She Blows, Off Montauk

By Liam Sullivan

DEEPWATER WIND, THE COMPANY THAT RECENTLY INSTALLED FIVE WIND TURBINES OFF THE COAST OF BLOCK ISLAND, IS NOW planning a project, dubbed the South Fork Wind Farm, consisting of 12-15 towers set thirty miles off the southeast coast of Montauk. No, they won't be visible from land. The idea is to start selling power to PSEG via a massive underground cable running from the turbines to land sometime after 2020. Construction has not started, but the plans have set Montauk abuzz.

What's going on? Generating power from wind turbines is straightforward. The wind turns three propeller blades at the top of the turbine. Inside the main turbine shaft, some 600 feet tall, there is a generator that creates electricity from the spinning propellers. The electricity is then transferred by cable from the turbines to land where it is distributed into the power grid.

Indeed, wind turbines are widely used around the world today, but constructing them at sea does raise environmental concerns. First, to secure the turbine into the bedrock 1,000 feet below the sea bed, blasting and drilling needs to occur. According to Ecologist and local environmentalist Larry Penny, the blasting will kick up particles of clay and other materials, disturbing the natural habitat and migration of various species of

marine life. Laying 30 miles of cable to Wainscott or Napeague, two likely entry points on land, will also disrupt the sea bed, disturbing bottom feeders such as sea scallops.

The plans are stirring emotions locally. While many, well, probably all, want cheaper/renewable sources of energy, which both Deepwater Wind and PSEG claim will stem from the farm, commercial fisherman are concerned that the turbines may disturb fish migratory patterns, be a navigational nuisance, and potentially reduce catches.

This project will be the country's first large-scale offshore wind farm and it appears to be in train. But with construction a way's off, wind energy advocates, environmentalists, conservationists, and fishermen still have time to be heard. Stay tuned. 🌊

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Montauk Lighthouse Revetment Overhaul Planned

**DON'T WORRY
SURFCASTERS,
ACCESS TO REMAIN**

By Debbie Tuma

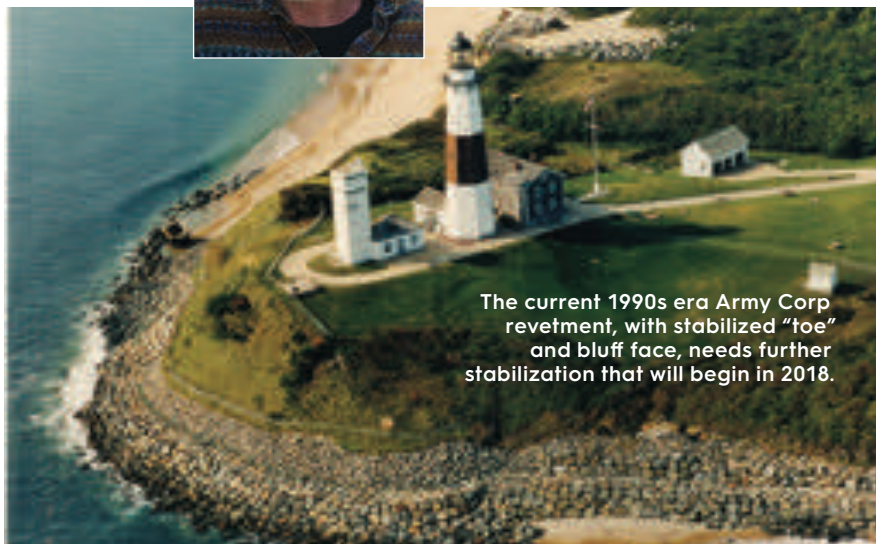
Greg Donohue, Lighthouse Director of Erosion Control, insisted that the existing revetment have a walkway, as will the new version.



JUST IN TIME FOR EARTH DAY 2017, PLANS ARE NOW IN THE WORKS TO further stabilize the revetment along the cliffs of the Montauk Lighthouse. This National Historic Landmark received a state and federal appropriation of \$18 million around 2012-2013, after Hurricane Sandy, as part of a total \$60 billion given to the Northeast Corridor.

Greg Donohue, Director of Erosion Control at the Montauk Lighthouse, said that over the decades, Montauk Point has gone through numerous environmental projects to save the lighthouse and its bluffs, which take beatings constantly from the rough surf. On Earth Day 1970, Giorgina Reid started her famous terracing project, which she later patented, to save the lighthouse. Reid, of Rocky Point, also published her book, "How to Hold Up a Bank," explaining her method of terracing the land in sort of steps, going up the bluffs.

Since then a rock revetment was also added to protect against wave attack, and the lighthouse bluffs were, luckily, able to withstand Hurricane



The current 1990s era Army Corp revetment, with stabilized "toe" and bluff face, needs further stabilization that will begin in 2018.



1960s Montauk Point with Army Corp reveitment and untouched bluff face before Giorgina Reid's pilot project on the eastern slope.

Sandy. But now, they need further and continued protection and stabilization.

"The lighthouse bluffs were never engineered from bottom to top, and they need bolstering for the future," said Donohue. "It was after Sandy that we qualified for funds to further shore up the lighthouse, for the protection of Montauk Point," he said.

The erosion control project at Montauk Point needs to be engineered from bottom to top. It requires a different design concept that will provide a suitable foundation to enhance the coastal protection. Some of the improvements include the proper slope angles, needed to defend against the North Atlantic. Recreational access for fishermen and pedestrians will be a feature of the new engineered plan.

Donohue said the lighthouse is up for such an improvement because it is one of only 2,500 National Historic Landmarks in the country, 250 in the state, and only three in East Hampton Town. The others in the town are the Jackson Pollack House and the Thomas Moran House.

He said the best thing that ever

happened to the lighthouse was that the Montauk Historical Society (montaukhistoricalsociety.org) took over ownership of it in 1997, because the federal government (U.S. Coast Guard) could not fund it. Their mission is search and rescue, rather than historical preservation. Back in 1967, they had wanted to close the lighthouse down, for lack of funding. That's when Giorgina Reid petitioned

Recreational access for fishermen and pedestrians will be a feature of the new engineered plan

the U.S. Coast Guard, with the support of Dan's Papers, which published stories about it, to keep it open. They also held a "Light-In" at the Montauk Point Lighthouse parking lot, where a thousand pin pricks of light shone in protest of the potential closing of the lighthouse.

Continued on page 55

Montauk Attractions



MONTAUK POINT LIGHTHOUSE

VIEWS VIEWS VIEWS: Our magnificent lighthouse provides unforgettable 360° views of Block Island Sound, the Atlantic Ocean and beyond. The Montauk Point Lighthouse is the oldest lighthouse in New York, being authorized under George Washington in 1792. Completed in 1796, it still serves as an aid to navigation. It was designated a National Historic Landmark, in recognition of the property's national significance in the history of the United States, in 2012.

LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM & GIFT SHOP

Located in the Lighthouse, the museum and the Gilmartin Galleries showcase the seafaring history of the Lighthouse, display historic documents, and offer guided tours. Open daily May 1 through Columbus Day, call for off-season times. Fees for Museum (includes access to Ocean and Surf museum): \$11 Adults, \$8 Seniors, and \$4 Children up to 12 and at least 41" tall; Children under 41" free, but they can't go up the tower. New York State Parking fee: \$8 631-668-2544 • MontaukLighthouse.com

MONTAUK OCEANS INSTITUTE AND SURF MUSEUM

An exploration of Montauk surfing history and culture alongside an educational primer on marine science, oceanography and physical science. Located adjacent to the lighthouse in the fog signal building. Fees for Museum (includes access to Lighthouse Museum): \$11 Adults, \$8 Seniors, and \$4 Children up to 12.

MONTAUK INDIAN MUSEUM

On the grounds of Second House, the Indian museum showcases artifacts found in Montauk from 15,000 years of Indian habitation. Open Thursday-Sunday from 12-3pm in season. Adults \$5, children \$3. montaukindianmuseum.org

SUNSET CRUISES

Several companies offer cruises to the lighthouse or Fort Pond Bay to see the glorious Montauk sunset, including **Miss Montauk II** 631-668-1545, **Ebb Tide** 631-668-2818, **Elizabeth II Charters** 516-817-1939, **Susie E.** 631-523-8862, **November Rain** 646-335-7315, **MTK Cruises** 631-668-8079, and **Mon Tiki Sailing Catamarans** 631-668-2826.

WHALE WATCHING TOURS

Held on Sundays in July and August aboard the 140 ft. Viking Starship. Tours are led by Coastal Research and Education Society of Long Island (CRESLI) staff. Our offshore waters have fin, minke, humpback, sei and right whales, common white-sided dolphins, pilot whales, and thousands of pelagic birds. Reservations suggested. Depart 9:30am, returns 3:30pm. Contact **Viking Fleet** 631-668-5700, vikingfleet.com.

HITHER HILLS STATE PARK

Has weekly activities in season for adults and children including naturalist-led walks, campfires, baseball games, and open-air dancing. All open to the public. Non-campers pay a \$10 parking fee. 631-668-2554

BLOCK ISLAND

vikingfleet.com: 631-668-5700. A high-speed ferry takes one hour to get to Block Island. Daily service through Sept. 12, leaving at 10am and returning at 5pm, plus extra Sunday departures in July and August. The ferry docks at the Viking Fleet dock in Montauk Harbor and at Champlin's Marina on Block, where you will find bicycle and car rentals plus guided tours through the taxi services. Rent a bicycle or moped, or bring a bike with you on the ferry to see beautiful farms, stone fences, and high bluffs over the Atlantic Ocean.

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A Tale Of Two Sisters Bookshop is run by Montauk natives Laura and Keri Marino. The talented sisters give art, individual guitar, and piano lessons. The cozy shop holds book readings, serves as a gallery featuring monthly artists, and yoga studio with classes serving all abilities. Visit Facebook & Instagram for schedules and events, or call.
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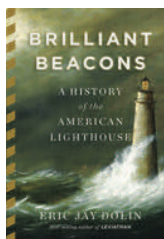
Brilliant Beacons: A History of The American Lighthouse

by Eric Jay Dolan

Adult, Nonfiction, History, Nautical

Perfect on the coffee table or as a gift for your weekend host

Dolan takes us on a historical journey across America's shores in this startlingly beautiful book, starting with America's first lighthouse in Boston. He educates and thrills us along the way. Standing tall through storms and human wars, evolving with scientific advancements, American Beacons have stood the test of time, but will technology render them ashes and dust?



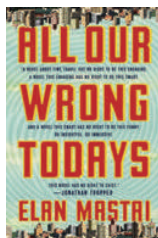
All Our Wrong Today's

by Elan Mastri

Adult, Fiction, Sci-fi, Dystopian

Beach bag book

What if? What if 2016 turned out to be just as the people of 1950 expected? A world straight out of an episode of the Jetsons? Flying cars, moving sidewalks, robots and all. In an unfortunate time travel mishap, Tom sends himself into an alternate reality, a dystopian wasteland. After interactions with loved ones and living in this "new" reality Tom needs to make a choice; go back to a life he knew or change history into life as we currently know it.

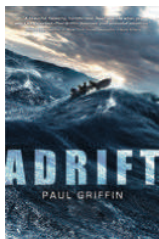


Adrift by Paul Griffen

Young Adult, Fiction, Adventure, Thriller

Great thriller set in Montauk

Summers in Montauk mean sun kissed skin, long hours at the beach, and carefree days spent on the water. For many teenagers it also means scoring a summer job in paradise, and so it was for Matt and John, two teenagers from Queens. The idyllic summer changes when Matt and John decide to impress some new friends with a nighttime boat ride, from which not all return.

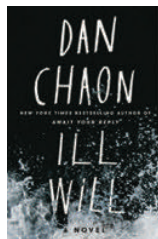


Ill Will by Dan Chaon

Adult, Fiction, Mystery, Thriller

Rainy day read

"We are always telling a story about ourselves, to ourselves." It's a mantra that psychologist Dustin Tillman uses for himself and with his patients, but how much of the story we tell to ourselves is true? In these memories, how much misremembered history effects those around us? Dustin Tillman is about to find out.



Beaches

DOGS are not allowed on the beaches 10am – 6pm from May 15 through September 15. No restrictions apply for the remainder of the year.

BEACH FIRES are allowed on main town beaches from 5pm – 12am but must be fully contained in a metal container. Other regulations apply. Go to **onmontauk.com/beach-fire-regulations** for a complete list of all requirements.

FOUR WHEEL DRIVE permits for the main town beaches can be purchased at the Town Hall Annex in the Montauk Playhouse. Free to town residents, they cost \$275 per year for non-residents. No vehicles allowed on the beaches 10am – 6pm, May 21– September 15. Other beaches around Montauk require various state or county driving permits. Read posted signs.

PUBLIC PARKING is free at the Kirk Park Beach, across from 7-11 and IGA Supermarket, and \$10 at Hither Hills State Park. Many hotels and motels provide temporary permits for their guests. Other beaches require a permit, free for residents, but \$375 per year for non-residents, for sale at the Town Hall Annex. The Hither Hills Neighborhood beach along Old Montauk Highway has four private parking areas for neighborhood residents only.

OCEAN SWIMMING CAN BE FUN, BUT THE POWER OF THE water can overwhelm even experienced swimmers caught in a strong current, or rip. To be safe, always swim at a beach with a lifeguard and never swim alone. Lifeguards are generally on duty at all public beaches from 10am–5pm through Labor Day.

AMSTERDAM BEACH

(remote, unspoiled, quiet, hike to access, no facilities, dogs OK)

Walk the trail at Amsterdam Beach State Park and be rewarded by one of the most breathtaking vistas of unspoiled shoreline on the east coast. Meander along the intermittently sandy and rocky shoreline eastward or westward and be humbled. The 50-minute round-trip wooded hike includes a tunnel of American Holly and several exotic large oaks. Bring insect repellent and water as the beach has no facilities, no lifeguards...and probably no other people. Park (free) on the south side of Rt. 27 across from Deep Hollow Ranch en route to Montauk Point. [ehhttps.org/amsterdam-beach-preserve/](https://amsterdam-beach-preserve/)

DITCH PLAINS BEACH

(surfer spot, families, can get crowded,

permit parking)

Popular with surfers, this beach is two miles east of the village on the ocean with parking by permit only at two parking areas. The super long break makes surfing ideal for newbies or veteran long-boarders. This iconic beach has beautiful cliffs rising at its western end at Shadmoor Park, restrooms, outdoor showers, lifeguards during the summer season, and concession trailers that serve more than just snacks.

EDISON BEACH

(sandy, walkable from village hotels, close to everything, limited parking)

At the heart of the Village at the end of South Edison Street, this popular beach has a lifeguard on duty during the summer months, restaurants, restrooms, and stores nearby. Limited public parking. Be mindful of the dunes, which were recently stabilized.

GIN BEACH

(sound side, calm, families, boat watching, walk to Shagwong point, permit parking)

At the end of East Lake Drive on Block Island Sound; and named for the cattle gins, or pens, that resided here for hundreds of years, Gin Beach is great for

families with children, with gentle water and sandy beaches. You can watch the boats come in and out of Montauk Harbor, or take a walk on the jetty. Parking by permit only. Restrooms, outdoor showers, a concession trailer, lifeguards during the summer season, and a nearby restaurant provide all the family needs for a day at the beach.

HITHER HILLS STATE PARK

(public parking, many facilities, sandy, families)

Four miles west of town on Old Montauk Highway. Lifeguards daily from mid June–Labor Day. Non-campers pay a \$10 parking fee. Nice playground, picnic tables, outdoor showers, restrooms, a changing area, and a general store.

KIRK PARK BEACH

(main town beach with free parking area; wide, sandy, open, families)

West of the Village by the IGA supermarket, this sandy beach stretches over 500 feet. Park for free at Kirk Park parking lot. Public restrooms located next to the parking lot. Lifeguards, restaurants and stores are within walking distance, along with a park and picnic area across the street. The dunes on this beach were recently stabilized and stairways were put in place.

NAVY ROAD BEACH

(sound side, calm, pebbly, kayak launch, families, no facilities, permit parking)

On beautiful Fort Pond Bay at the end of 2nd House Rd. Great for launching kayaks, paddleboards, and small boats. A favorite spot for locals and families. The beach is pebbly, so take swim shoes. Parking by permit only. Dine waterside at Navy Beach, just down the beach. Boats and small yachts frequently moor in the Bay.

THE OTHER BEACHES

(walkable even if not parkable)

Montauk, surrounded by water on three sides, has many more beaches, but most of them are not protected by lifeguards and parking is not straightforward. For those who enjoy walking the beach, there are many options, as all beaches are public up to the high tide mark. A popular walk is from the village to Ditch Plains beach, where you see the cliffs of Shadmoor on the way. At high tide parts of the beach may be impassable.

For Complete Listings →

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Outdoor Activities— Watersports

BOATING & SAILING

UIHLEIN'S MARINA: 631-668-3799, rent skiffs, bowriders, and center consoles. Their rental fleet ranges from 16ft to 31ft with all equipment for water skiing, tubing, wake boarding, and fishing. Uihleinsmarina.com

PUFF "N" PUTT: 631-668-4473, in the Village rents sailboats, hobie cats, and pedal boats to take on Fort Pond.

MON TIKI SAILING CATAMARAN: 631-668-2826, day & evening outings amidst beautiful fluttering sails of large, 40-foot Polynesian-inspired catamarans; private charters, walk-on day sails and sunset cruises. MontaukYachtClub.com

SAIL MONTAUK: 631-522-5183, offers sailing lessons, charters, and bareboat rentals for individuals or groups, plus a junior sailing program. MontaukYachtClub.com



[Club, sailmontauk.com](http://Club.sailmontauk.com)

CANOEING & KAYAKING

Canoe or kayak on Fort Pond, Fort Pond Bay, Lake Montauk, or one of Montauk's hidden ponds.

PUFF "N" PUTT: rent canoes & kayaks for Fort Pond.

UIHLEIN'S: rents ocean kayaks and plans excursions or lessons for the more adventurous.

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Outdoor Activities—Watersports

JET SKI, TUBING, WAKEBOARDING, & WATERSKIING

UIHLEIN'S AGAIN! 631-668-3799, rent jet skis for Block Island sound under the watchful eye of their instructors. Any boat you rent can handle tubing, wakeboarding and waterskiing.

KITESURFING & WINDSURFING

Napeague Harbor is one of the most popular places for kite/windsurfing in the northeast, with 360 degrees of sandy, uncrowded shoreline and miles of shallow, waist-deep water.

SNORKELING & SCUBA

The H.M.S. Culloden, a popular dive spot, is about a mile west of the Montauk jetties at Culloden Point. The English frigate "Culloden" sank in 1871 just 150 feet offshore and rests in about 20 feet of water.

STAND UP PADDLEBOARDING

SU paddleboarding is increasingly popular and great exercise, fun, and works everywhere: ocean, sound, & lakes.

PUFF N PUTT: rents SUPs for Fort Pond.

COREY'S WAVE: 631-639-4879, rents SUPs,

gives lessons, and tours; call them for details; info@coreyswave.com.

SURFING

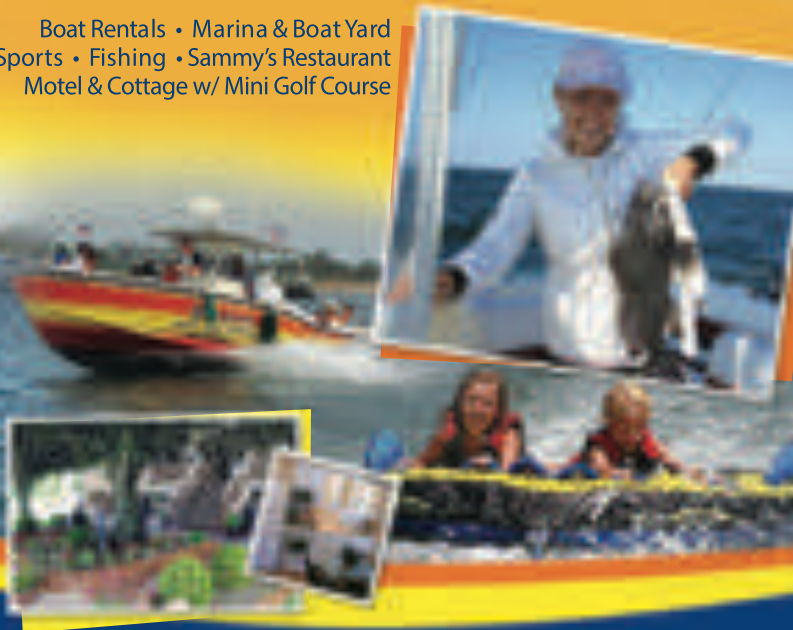
Montauk is one of the East Coast's top surfing towns. The culture is magnified by surfer-themed restaurants and shops. Ditch Plains is the heart and soul of the surfer community. If you surf Ditch and you are a newbie, remember Ditch etiquette—the surfing areas are 250 feet in either direction to the east and west of the bathing beach. Surfers looking for bigger waves head to Camp Hero, a rock-studded patch of right breakers beneath the cliffs, and Turtle Cove, the farthest east and perhaps best Montauk break, just below the Montauk Lighthouse.

COREY'S WAVE: 516-639-4879, coreys-wave.com, professional surfing instruction for all ages and abilities, private or group, plus guided surf trips, a kids' surf academy, and stand up paddleboard rental and instruction, plus group surfing events and parties.

For Complete Listings →

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"Happy 50th John's Drive-In"
continued from page 34



David Rutkowski in front of
John's in 2017
(Photo by Carter Tyler)

I pulled down the lever to swirl the ice cream on his cone. But when I lifted the lever back up, the ice cream just kept pouring out. I yelled for help as I stood there, swirling my cone which was out of control! All I could think of was, please God, don't let him see me," when I heard the icy words behind my back, "YOU'RE FIRED!!!" I tried to explain to John Torr that the machine was stuck, but he didn't believe me. My job was over, but not the memories.

THE RUTKOWSKI ERA

John and Elsie Torr went on to run John's Drive-In until the early 1970's. After an owner or two in between, John's ended up with the family of Michael Mirras. During the late 1970's, the Mirras family changed the facade from white and orange to red brick. They operated this business until 1985, when it was then sold to David Rutkowski, of Montauk. He had met his wife, Maureen, there, in 1984, when she was working for the Mirras family, and then she continued to work with David. They sold John's Drive-In in 2003 to their long-time employee, Tom Pontecorvo. Then just last year, in 2016, David and Maureen Rutkowski bought their place back.

"We're happy to be back," said David Rutkowski. "We sold the business when

our kids were young, and we wanted more time together with our family. But now that our kids are older, we feel it's good to be back in the family business, and our kids work there too."

"Ours wasn't the first marriage among the staff, and quite possibly won't be the last," said Maureen Rutkowski. "Our staff, a mix of locals and summer visitors, has built strong friendships and memories that last a lifetime."

David Rutkowski grew up in the restaurant business, when his father, John Rutkowski, owned John's Pancake House, nearby. "He encouraged me to buy this business," said David. "And the Mirras family ran a good business, so I didn't have to change that much."

When he first took over, in 1985, hamburgers were \$1.10 and small soft-serve cones with sprinkles were \$1.25. Today, a small soft-serve cone is \$3.13. The small, 3-ounce burger, with ketchup, pickle and onion, is \$2.99, and the 6-ounce Big John Burger, with grilled onions, lettuce and sauce, is \$5.75.

"There was a timeless menu 50 years ago, and that basic hamburger, fries and a shake is still the same lunch that most people want," said David. But he

**"...burger, fries, and ice cream
just never go out of style."**

has since added some popular new items to the menu, like chicken and caesar salad wraps, turkey burgers and black bean burgers for some "healthier options.". He also upgraded the soft-serve machine. In addition, he still serves home-made ice cream, and he now also has ice cream cakes, for parties.

David said the best part of his business

is meeting all the customers who line up at his window. "I like talking to the people, and it's different every day," he said. He said the hardest part of the job is working the long hours in the summertime, when John's Drive-In is open from 11:30 a.m. until 2:00 a.m. on weekends. "Unless you've seen it, you can't believe it," he said. "The young bar crowd goes back and forth from the Memory Motel bar to The Point Bar all night and they want something to eat in between."


Dave has extended John's hours and days, and this past year they stayed open year-round for the first time. Now there are about 4,000 year-round people in Montauk, which swells to over 60,000 in the summer. "We are busy year-round now," David says. "Even 50 years ago, John's Drive-In had the right menu... and it still does. It's still THE place to go for that burger, fries and ice cream," Rutkowski smiled. "It just never goes out of style."

Thinking back to being fired by John Torr, I was devastated. I hung up my apron and called my father for a ride home. I still had three weeks before starting school, and I still wanted this




Debbie Tuma
at Ditch Plains,
circa 1967

great summer job. But even he couldn't save me. The ice cream machine had won. My summer of surfers was over. I had failed at my first job. There was only one thing to do. I went home, changed into my bikini, grabbed my towel and Hawaiian Tropic, and biked down to Ditch Plains as fast as I could go. "I'll spend the rest of my summer on the beach," I thought. "And I'll have an even better view of the surfers." ☺




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GOLF

MONTAUK DOWNS: 631-668-5000, nysparks.com/parks/29

Montauk Downs State Park is one of our town's real sleepers; an 18-hole year-round public golf course named a Top 10 municipal course by *Links* Magazine in 2013! If that's not enough, add a driving range, putting green, pro shop, private lessons and clinics for adults and kids, a grill room, swimming pool, kids wading pool, and tennis.

PUFF "N" PUTT: 631-668-4473, mini-golf for the whole family, in town.

TENNIS & PICKLEBALL

MONTAUK DOWNS: 631-668-5000, maintains six Har-Tru courts rentable by the hour. A pro shop offers private lessons and clinics for adults. East Hampton Town owns tennis courts at two locations, one on South Erie near the corner of Embassy in the village, and clay courts at the Montauk Racquet Club off West Lake Drive. Play **Pickleball** at the Montauk Playhouse 631-668-1612. Beginners welcomed. All equipment provided.

BICYCLING

MONTAUK BIKE SHOP: 631-668-8975, is THE place for Montauk biking info. Call them now to rent/buy trail or road bikes, get advice on trails, and buy maps. Montauk's wide side lanes make riding particularly enjoyable. The most popular ride is to the lighthouse, about five miles from the village. En route detour to Camp Hero State Park where roads curve through secluded wooded areas near the ocean. Take a three-mile detour to Montauk Harbor on West Lake Drive, a flat route with wide shoulders.

Mountain bikers can enjoy scenic rides over thousands of acres of parkland for the best mountain biking on Long Island. Bike trails in Hither Woods such as Talkhouse Trail and Serpent's Back offer several levels of difficulty.

TRIATHLON

MONTAUK BIKE SHOP sells equipment and offers advice; tri-guy.com or tri-gal.com. In 1983, a local Montauk motel owner, fisherman, and surfer named Robert Aaron staged one of the first triathlons, "The Mighty Montauk", now held every June. Several others followed:

Outdoor Activities—Landsports

the Sprint Triathlon held in July and the internationally renowned triathlon weekend held in September: the Sprint Mighty Man on Saturday followed by the Mighty Man 1/2 distance and Mighty Man Olympic on Sunday.

SKATEBOARDING

THE MONTAUK SKATE PARK near the village on Essex Street, a supervised park for skateboarders, recently renovated, is open from 9am to dusk in season.

PLAYGROUNDS

Five great playgrounds in Montauk: **The Montauk School** (enter at 2nd House Rd and S. Eaton); next to **the baseball field** (at S. Edgemere and S. Erie Ave); **Hither Hills State Park**; **Montauk Community Church** (at S. Etna Ave. and S. Etna Pl.); **Montauk Lighthouse** (lower parking area, also many grill stations).

EDDIE ECKER COUNTY PARK at the end of Navy Road is not a formal playground but a great open park space on Fort Pond Bay for frisbee, lawn games, running wild, walking the dog, etc.

MONTAUK DOWNS FAQ

1. Tee times at the Montauk Downs are from sunrise to sunset, and so it varies throughout the year.
2. Fees Memorial Day through Labor Day \$43 weekdays /\$48 weekends.
3. Out-of-state residents - \$86 weekdays/ \$96 weekends.
4. Special twilight rate.
5. Senior discount available weekdays only.
6. Register a week in advance by calling the Tee Time Reservation system (668-1234).

For Complete Listings →

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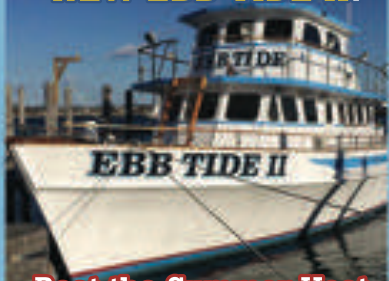
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Fishing

MONTAUK HARBOR

"Fishing Capital of the World" is proudly proclaimed as you enter Montauk Harbor. Montauk is the largest commercial harbor in New York State and home port for some of the greatest sport fishing on the East Coast. Fish offshore for shark, tuna, marlin, and mahi mahi, or stay inshore for flounder, fluke, porgies, bluefish, striped bass, and blackfish, all found off Montauk's shores. During the summer months the harbor is filled with boats of all sizes, pushing out to find the fish. Montauk also has the largest commercial harbor on Long Island with draggers, long liners, and other commercial boats plying the sea throughout the year.

PARTY-BOAT FISHING FOR FAMILIES AND GROUPS

Party or "head" boats are fun for the whole family. Experienced captains and crew provide fishing gear and advice. The flat-rate price includes everything except for food, drinks, and tips to the crew. Half-day trips, great fun for the kids, will take you inshore, they generally leave at 8am and then at 1pm. Full day trips leave according to the season, so check with each boat for their times. Modern equipment and experienced captains know how to put you in the action, whether for blues, flounder, fluke, or other popular fish. Reservations, particularly in the summer months, are recommended.

THE VIKING FLEET: Schedules half day inshore trips twice daily and also offers a full offshore schedule, nighttime striped bass, two day trips, and winter cod trips. 631-668-5700, vikingfleet.com

THE MISS MONTAUK II: The 85' Miss Montauk II is a boat that is ideal for open boat Montauk fishing year-round. Family run, Miss Montauk II has a comfortable cabin and lots of room on deck. 631-668-1545, missmontauk.com

EBB TIDE: Offers two half day trips daily on their 65' custom built boat and promises super fishing for the whole family. 631-668-2818, marlinfleet.com

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offshore for spectacular fishing for those big game fish —tuna, shark, marlin, and mahi mahi, when the warm waters of the Gulf Stream come close to Montauk's shores from late June through mid-October. Great fishing can be found for most of the year, depending on the species. When you hire a charter, you are also hiring the fish-finding expertise of a captain. Montauk's captains are legendary, and will give you a day on the water you won't forget. Call the boat to reserve.

MARINAS

UIHLEIN'S MARINA: 631-668-3799, Family owned and operated, Uihlein's is a full-service marina, boat yard and recreation center, offering Jet Ski, boat, and slip rentals, and boat sales and service.

WESTLAKE FISHING MARINA: 631-668-5600 Family owned, located just north of Star Island Road, is home to 160 slips and 17 charter boats and a restaurant.

THE MONTAUK LAKE CLUB: 631-668-5705, on East Lake Drive, offers seasonal and transient dockage, a restaurant, and a spa.

MONTAUK INLET SEAFOOD: 631-668-3419, also on East Lake Drive, is a working dock and New York State's largest commercial fishing fleet. Inlet Seafood is home to the Inlet Seafood Restaurant.

SURFCASTING

Surfcasting in Montauk is epic and legendary, deservedly so. To do it successfully you'll need braided line at 30+ pound test and a nice selection of bucktails and plugs. Always crush your barbs, bring fish in quickly, and release safely what you won't keep. Cast out by Camp Hero, the Lighthouse, and Gin Beach, plus all the south side beaches from Montauk Point to Hither Hills campground. The top seasons for surfcasting are spring and fall, when stripers linger off Montauk before migrating, but our big blues can be found from July through October. Permits to park after hours at Camp Hero and the Montauk Point Lighthouse Parking Lot or on the beach by the Lighthouse are sold at Montauk Downs, 631-668-5000. Purchase Gin Beach

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| CUJO | Mike Elling (631-678-2127) |
| EBB TIDE | Tom Jordan (631-668-2818) |
| ELIZABETH II | Paul Bruno (516-817-1939) |
| LADY GRACE | Mario Melioto (516-768-6849) |
| LAZYBONES | Mike Vegessi (631-668-5671) |
| MISHELL II | Mike Saio (631-466-0694) |
| MISS MONTAUK | Jamie Quaresimo (631-668-1545) |
| MY JOYCE | Ken Hejducek (516-641-2138) |
| NOVEMBER RAIN | Jill Maganza (646-335-7315) |
| SUSIE E. | Burt Prince (631-523-8862) |
| WEE JACK | Scott Wymbs (631-668-1007) |

TOURS

| | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| MTK CRUISES | (631-668-8079) |
|-------------------|----------------|

CRUISES & RENTALS

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| EBB TIDE | (631-668-2818) |
| ELIZABETH II | (516-817-1939) |
| MISS MONTAUK | (631-668-1545) |
| MON TIKI SAILING | (631-668-2826) |
| MTK CRUISES | (631-668-8079) |
| NOVEMBER RAIN | (646-335-7315) |
| SAIL MONTAUK | (631-522-5183) |
| SUSIE E. | (631-523-8862) |
| UIHLEIN'S MARINA | (631-668-3799) |

driving permits at the park office at the end of East Lake Drive. Note: A license (it's free) is required to fish beaches in NY State. Acquire your Marine Fishing License at dec.ny.gov.

FRESHWATER FISHING

Bass, sunfish, perch, and walleyes inhabit Montauk's ponds and lakes. Fort Pond is the largest, but others are deep in the woods, like Oyster Pond in Montauk Point State Park or Fresh Pond in Hither Hills State Park. Fresh water fishing requires a license—ask at the NY State Park office at Montauk Downs. Fishing at Big Reed Pond in Theodore Roosevelt County Park requires a "Green Key" card, available at Montauk Downs.

FISHING SUPPLIES

WESTLAKE: 631-668-5600, and **UIHLEIN'S MARINA:** 631-668-3799, carries a large selection of boating-oriented fishing supplies and tackle.

PAULIE'S TACKLE: 631-668-5520, in town is considered the surfcasters tackle shop. 131 S. Edgemere St.

BOAT RENTAL

UIHLEIN'S MARINA: 631-668-3799, is the place if you prefer the relaxation of fishing on your own. Rent skiffs and center consoles to take out into the harbor or sound.

For Complete Listings →

 **ONMONTAUK.COM**

"Montauk Lighthouse Revetment Overhaul Planned"...
continued from page 41

Now, decades later, the federal and state government will soon be buying rocks and boulders for this new revetment project. Donohue will oversee the work for the Montauk Historical Society. He expects work to start within the year.

"The opportunity for recreation will improve the Montauk State Park to such a degree it's incredible," he said. "Each year, thousands of people come here from all over the world."

The Montauk Lighthouse was commissioned by President George Washington in 1792 and constructed in

"the federal and state government will soon be buying rocks and boulders for this new revetment project"

1796. Last year, 105,000 visitors toured the lighthouse museum and gift shop.

"There is tremendous equity in this lighthouse project since Giorgina Reid started the terracing, and since the Montauk Historical Society took over the operation of the lighthouse, and we need to pursue it to keep it going," said Donohue. "This way, we can keep our lighthouse here for generations to come."

Johnson Nordlinger, Director and Site Manager of the Montauk Lighthouse, agreed. "It's exciting to be part of a project that will ensure this lighthouse will be here for our grandchildren and great grandchildren," she said. ☺

Read more here: www.nan.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Projects-in-New-York/Montauk-Point

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"Meet a Montauker"...
continued from page 28

One in particular, The Carter Center, gave Ms. Houseknecht the opportunity to work with President Jimmy Carter on fighting Neglected Tropical Diseases, or NTDs.



Alice Houseknecht and her lifelong TWA friend, Laurel Denison, with President Carter in the Carter Center in Atlanta.

Another organization that Ms. Houseknecht supports is the Family Service League (FSL), a non-profit formed in 1926 that delivers tangible help and crisis intervention around Long Island. She will be honored in July for her contribution to FSL's slated Health and Wellness Center in Bay Shore, where adults and children will receive services for mental illness, drug & alcohol abuse, homelessness, and other issues.

Locally, Ms. Houseknecht's foundation supports the Montauk Historical Society, Montauk Playhouse Community Center, Music for Montauk, Montauk Village Association, Eleanor Whitmore Early Childhood Center, The Retreat (Domestic Abuse Shelter), Ladies Village Improvement Society, East Hampton Rotary, Southampton Hospital Foundation, Freedom Fighter Outdoors (Injured Veterans), East End Hospice, Children's Museum of The East End, and Suicide Prevention.

"The East Deck was always about community, and even though it's gone, it will always remain in our hearts. Coming full circle, it has given me the opportunity to give back to the local and global community in a way that I never thought imaginable." ☺

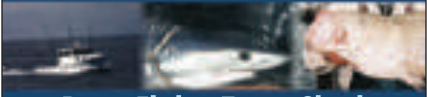
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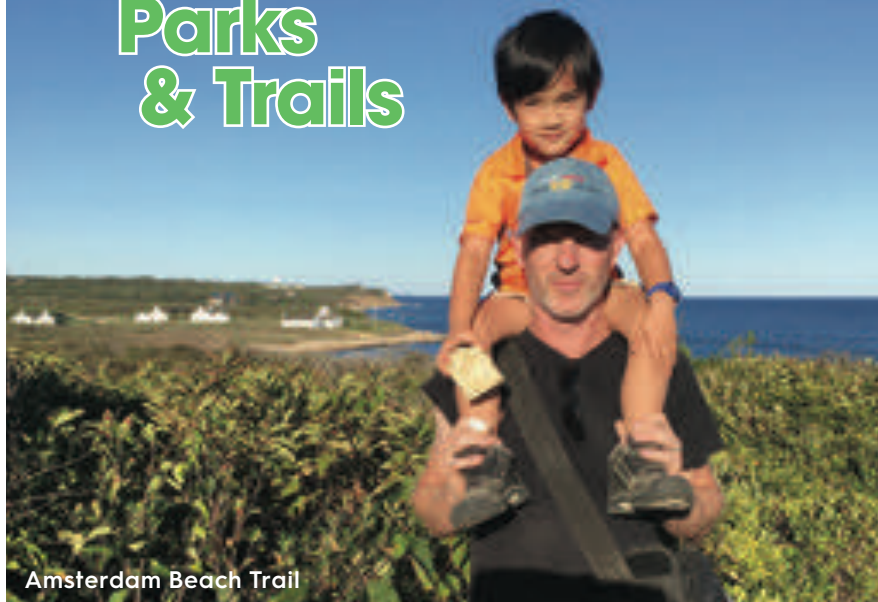
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Parks & Trails



Amsterdam Beach Trail

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AMSTERDAM BEACH PRESERVE (Great hike to the beach)

A 200-acre passive use park stretching from Ranch Road at Indian Field on the east to the Montauk Association houses (seven cottages designed by the firm of McKim, Mead and White in the 1880's) to the west. It is bordered on the north by Montauk Highway and extends southward to the Atlantic Ocean and the ocean beach. The natural topography, called "Montauk Moorlands," has tidal and freshwater wetlands interspersed throughout maritime shrub lands. This main trail head on Montauk Highway begins a one-mile hike to the ocean bluffs taking you through a holly arbor and across streams. The hilly trail affords peeks of ocean through the brambles and ends at the ocean beach and bluffs. This easy-to-

navigate trail offers a unique reward of unspoiled coastal beauty.

CAMP HERO STATE PARK

This 415-acre State Park is a decommissioned military installation converted to a state park in 2002 and a National Historic Site (also the home of conspiracy theories linked to the Philadelphia project). Several buildings, bunkers, batteries, and an old radar building remain, although they are off limits to the public. Roads cross the park, along with an extensive system of trails for hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, a beach used by surfers and surfcasters, a picnic area with grills and an old maritime forest. Park at Camp Hero Park (just west of the lighthouse) for trails and roads through Camp Hero. Parking fee is \$8 in

Parks & Trails

season. Open daily year-round from sunrise to sunset. You can also park your car on Camp Hero Road (a right turn four miles east of the village, not to be confused with the entrance to Camp Hero Park) to hike Point Woods Trail, one of Montauk's most beautiful trails, taking you south of the Montauk Highway all the way to the bluffs. Attractions: views of pristine beaches, cliffs, the lighthouse, military buildings, and an old maritime forest.

CULLODEN

This park is named after the HMS Culloden, a British 74-gun warship sailing with the Channel Fleet during the American Revolutionary War. The natural wooded area leading up to the shoreline of Culloden is also public. The trailhead is on the left side of Flamingo Road next to a small plaque commemorating the shipwreck. The marked trail from the parking area to Culloden Point is less than a mile. The natural wooded area and shoreline has seen little change from the days when the Montaukett's lived here in a world of hidden ponds,

specimen trees, wetlands, and a beautiful shoreline. Attractions: Views of the bluffs at Culloden Point.

EDDIE ECKER COUNTY PARK (Great dog spot)

Located at the end of Navy Road near Rocky Point, the park has a parking lot, a dock suitable for fishing, and a rocky beach. Offers easy access to trails in Hither Woods Preserve. Good place for launching kayaks and canoes. Take your dogs to play. Open year round.

FORT POND HOUSE AT CAROL MORRISON PARK

The Fort Pond House and Carol Morrison Park are located on a four-acre site in the Shepherd's Neck area of Montauk overlooking Fort Pond. Carol Morrison was a well-loved conservationist and it is appropriate that this park, which narrowly escaped being sold to private developers in 2010, should be named after her. The park is open from dawn to dusk and the house is available for meetings and other events by appointment through the East Hampton Town Recreation Department.

HIKING TIPS

1. Buy a trail map. Although major trails are marked, many divergent ones are not. At times during the year, leaf cover can mask main trails, making it easy to get lost on side trails or even deer paths.
2. After heavy rains some trails are completely or partially underwater. The **Montauk Bike Shop** in the village will answer any questions and sells trail maps.
3. **AVOID TICKS:** With a few simple precautions, hikers and walkers can enjoy walks through our beautiful woodlands and avoid the menace of ticks. Experts recommend that you stay on the trails, wear light colors, make sure you are well covered, and use an insect repellent. Ticks tend to congregate on tall grasses, so avoid walking through these areas. After you walk or bike, check the family for ticks, particularly tiny deer ticks, which may carry Lyme disease.

HITHER HILLS STATE PARK

Located four miles west of the village of Montauk on Old Montauk Highway, with a two-and-a-half-mile beach along the Atlantic Ocean and 1,755 acres of parkland. Hither Hills has 168 campsites which can be reserved through

ReserveAmerica.com, along with hiking and nature trails. Activities include ocean swimming, saltwater fishing, square dancing, guided nature hikes, and children's programs. Non-campers are welcome, but must pay a \$10 daily parking fee. Open year round from sunrise to sunset. (631-668-2554). Hither Hills State Park along with Hither Woods Preserve and Lee Koppelman Nature Preserve form adjacent multi-use parks containing 3,000 acres with 18 different trails covering over 40 miles of terrain. Bike or hike to Fresh Pond, or take a beautiful coastal walk at Rocky Point; these loops are suitable for both walking and mountain biking. Here, trails, roads, and places retain their old colorful names. Even though the trails are blazed with color-coded markers, hikers should

take maps. Park at either the overlook at Hither Woods, the recycling center (1.5 miles west of the village on Montauk Highway), or at the Navy Road (Eddie Ecker Park) parking lot. The **Montauk Bike Shop** in the village arranges group and corporate tours, rents mountain bikes, and gives advice. Attractions: Fresh Pond; trails skirting Block Island Sound, Napeague beach, and dunes.

KIRK PARK

This quaint three-acre park, just west of the village, is maintained by the Montauk Village Association. It includes Fort Pond, which is the second largest freshwater lake on Long Island, a picnic area, a pavilion on Fort Pond, and it's next to Second House Museum and Montauk Indian Museum. The park hosts events year-round.

MONTAUK DOWNS STATE PARK

A 160-acre park that has an 18-hole public golf course (see LandSports). It also has a driving range, a putting green, and six Har-True tennis courts. A large outdoor pool and a wading pool for children is open in summer. 631-668-5000.

MONTAUK MOUNTAIN

A six-acre preserve area maintained by the Nature Conservancy. To get there, follow Second House Road north 0.7 miles to an asphalt road on the left. Park at the end of the asphalt road by the Nature Conservancy sign. The preserve is at the end of the road past the last house on the right.

MONTAUK POINT STATE PARK

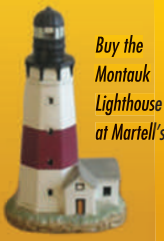
This 724-acre park at the site of the Montauk Point Lighthouse offers breathtaking views of the sea, Block Island Sound, and Block Island to the northeast,

and is great for bird watching year round and seal watching in the winter months. Park your car and set off on foot to explore the area. Ask for a Montauk Point State Park trail map at the toll booth. The park has surfcasting, five miles of marked and unmarked hiking trails, a picnic area with tables, a playground, a restaurant, a gift shop, and restrooms. Daily parking costs \$8. The Montauk Point Lighthouse, a museum run by the Montauk Historical Society, is open to the public daily in season.

This park is contiguous with Camp Hero Park and the Sanctuary and there are several hiking trails that cross them. To the north of Montauk Highway, look for signs for Money Pond Trail, Oyster Pond trail and the Seal Haul Out Trail, where seals can be seen on the rocks just offshore from December through April. Attractions: beautiful rugged shorelines, migrating birds, hidden ponds, seals in the winter.

SHADMOOR STATE PARK

Located two miles east of the village on Montauk Highway, this 99-acre tract of land has a half mile of ocean frontage where tall clay cliffs plunge down to a pebble strewn beach. If you are coming by car, park in the parking lot at the entrance to the park. About 30 percent of Shadmoor is freshwater wetlands with several small ponds hidden in the thickets. Trails and dirt roads lead to the bluffs from the entrance on Montauk Highway, offering an easy, though sometimes muddy, walk. A passive-use park, Shadmoor was home to two WWII gun emplacement sites trained on offshore waters to deter German submarines. A good family hike. Attractions: dramatic vistas of Montauk shoreline, sea and rolling waves, easy hike.



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MONTAUK COUNTY PARK

Two entrances: one at the end of East Lake Drive just north of the airport, where the park office is located, and the other at Third House, three miles east of the village on Montauk Highway. A total of 1,126 acres features three and a half miles of color coded nature trails restricted for hiking (a self-guided nature trail brochure is available), five miles of bridle paths, a picnic area, freshwater fishing and canoeing at Big Reed Pond, surfcasting on the outer beach (**Gin Beach** and **Shagwong Point**), and hunting in the winter, in season. Camping is permitted for up to seven days from April through November on the outer beach for four-wheel drive vehicles with permits that are self-contained trailers. Tents are not allowed. You must have a Suffolk County Green Card, suffolkcountyny.gov. The view of Big Reed Pond from the observation deck on the blue trail, will make you understand why Big Reed Pond is a Registered Natural Landmark. Attractions: hiking, views, fishing, camping.

WALKING DUNES

Part of Hither Hills State Park on the east side of Napeague Harbor, the Walking Dunes reach a height of 80 feet as they slowly move southeast. To get to the dunes, head west on Montauk Highway and turn right at Napeague Harbor Road to the end of the paved road. Park your car here and take off on foot following the path to your right. Continue on this path and you will reach the dunes. A self-guided nature trail takes you on a three mile-long loop-trail with great views of Napeague Harbor and winds atop the ridge of the North Dune, which is the most active of the three parabolic, or U-shaped dunes. This area is a natural wonder and deceptively fragile so stay on the trails. Attractions: 80-foot high sand dunes, water birds, views of Napeague Harbor.

GUIDED HIKES

The East Hampton Trails Preservation

Society conducts guided hikes year-round of Montauk's trails. Go to their web site: www.ehtps.org, for hike schedules, usually held on Saturdays. **The Concerned Citizens of Montauk**, 631-238-5720, offer outdoor activities throughout the year. Drop by their office at 6 South Elmwood Avenue in the village for advice or maps; it's your walk-in resource to everything outdoors. ccom-montauk.org.

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ARBOR

240 Fort Pond Road

631-238-5430 • arbormontauk.com

Lunch, Dinner

This Mediterranean restaurant has a casual, chic vibe. Great outside seating, an impressive wine cellar, a 30 foot bar, communal table, and a sunken dining room with traditional seating. The farm-to-table menu of executive chef Pierre Sudre has small and large plates with fresh seafood, duck, and steak. Cheeseburgers and tuna sliders are lunch choices. Raw oysters, clams and chilled lobster are on the menu and a selection of home made pizzas. Arbor has 16 wines by the glass at the appropriate temperature, along with 12 beers on tap and over 50 wines by the bottle.

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Breakfast favorite. The seagull painted on the roof of this downtown classic A-frame points the way to one of Montauk's favorite breakfast spots. Enjoy eggs Benedict with smoked salmon or prosciutto, omelets, frittatas, or pancakes, and then browse through Bird's beach boutique for clothes and accessories. Dine indoors or on the patio or back garden from 8am-1:30pm, 7 days.

THE CLAM BAR

2025 Montauk Highway, Amagansett

631-267-6348 • clambarhamptons.com

Serving Noon 'til dark.

An outdoor restaurant stalwart on the Napeague Stretch (north side) west of the village with the freshest seafood and a Montauk vibe. Sit under an umbrella and soak in the atmosphere, listen to golden oldies, enjoy a bowl of clam chowder or dig into fresh local lobster. There is no better place to eat fresh local steamers or clams. A great selection of fresh fish and raw clams. Open April to November.

DURYEA'S LOBSTER DECK

65 Tuthill Road

631-668-2410 • duryealobsters.com

Lunch, Dinner

The view from the tables over Fort Pond Bay and Gardiner's Island is superb. Great outdoor Duryea vibe with a classic menu including grilled or steamed lobster, fresh local fish and Duryea's famous lobster roll, also a Clam Bake, small plates, salads, raw platters, and a kids menu.

GRINGO'S BURRITO GRILL

805 Montauk Highway

631-668-7500 • gringosburritogrillmtk.com

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Head to the east end of the village to get fresh, bespoke burritos, tacos, bowls and more, using house made salsa and guacamole. Featuring cilantro-lime

chicken, marinated steak, fish, and build-your-own nachos. Breakfast burritos are a must. Beer, wine and sangria can be enjoyed on the patio.

HARVEST ON FORT POND

11 South Emery Street

631-668-5574 • harvest2000.com

Dinner

Great outside setting. One of Montauk's top restaurants, the Harvest On Fort Pond has a well-deserved reputation as friendly and sophisticated. Situated on Fort Pond, the Harvest also has a lovely herb and vegetable garden in which to dine alfresco. Jake Williams, the chef, prepares Tuscan fare served in family-style portions, emphasizing local seafood and home-grown produce. The Harvest has a sophisticated bar and lounge serving creative cocktails and a view of the sunset over the pond. A great spot to host a wedding or other special event for up to 90 people. Dinner from 5pm daily.

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631-238-5791 • naturallygoodcafe.com

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M&R DELI

728 Montauk Highway

631-668-8600

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Montauk's best deli! Located in the heart of town serving all the classics that will keep you coming back for more! Build your own salad bar, Specialty sandwiches, panini, egg sandwiches. Open year round.

NATURALLY GOOD CAFÉ

779 Montauk Highway

631-668-9030 • NaturallyGoodCafe.com

Breakfast, Lunch, Natural Food Groceries

Healthy mainstay. A very popular year-round restaurant in the village serving

healthy organic food. Breakfast features organic breakfast tortillas, oatmeal, pancakes and more. Homemade bread accompanies the soups at lunch, and the tuna sandwiches are made with the real thing. Specials made daily include homemade soups and veggie burgers, veggie stir-frys, burritos, salads, and wraps. Organic groceries also featured.

NAVY BEACH

16 Navy Road

631-668-6868 • navybeach.com

Lunch, Dinner

This laid-back, family-friendly beachfront restaurant and bar is on a beautiful stretch of beach on Fort Pond Bay. Enjoy casual coastal cuisine with an emphasis on sustainable seafood and local seasonal produce. Signature dishes include Local Catch Ceviche, Buttermilk Fried Chicken, and the Lobster & Clam Bake. Dine inside or at picnic tables outside on the beach and watch breathtaking sunsets over the water and the boats that moor offshore. A perfect place for weddings or other events. Open seven days in season.

PIZZA VILLAGE

700 Montauk Highway

631-668-2232 • pizzavillagemontauk.com

Lunch, Dinner

Pizza Village has been serving pizzas and other Italian dishes in the village since 1957. Using the freshest ingredients everything is homemade daily. Offering three sizes of pies and a menu full of Italian family fare such as baked ziti, veal parmigiana, spaghetti and meatballs, and linguine with clam sauce. A friendly place where families are welcomed. Delivery and catering available. Open daily from 11:30am.

THE POINT BAR AND GRILL

697 Montauk Highway
631-668-1500 • pointbarandgrill.com
Lunch, Dinner, After Dark

This iconic watering hole and eatery with big-screen TV, sports features casual fare including wraps, burgers, mussels, and buffalo wings along with signature dishes, such as a 16-ounce steak and fresh Montauk seafood. Half price appetizers and drinks during happy hour Mon. through Fri. See all MLB games and in the fall enjoy NFL Sunday Ticket. Open daily and late.

PRIMAVERA PIZZA

54 South Erie Avenue
631-668-1601
Lunch, Dinner

Across from the baseball field, Primavera is the best choice in Montauk for homemade Italian specialties and pizzas made in brick-lined ovens. The grandma pie is heaven for pizza lovers. Specialties like focaccia sandwiches, salads, soups, pasta dinners, pizza and even tiramisu are made from scratch. Open seven days, in season. Take-out only but tables are provided on the grass outside, great for a casual family lunch or dinner. Event catering.

SAMMYS

448 West Lake Drive
631-238-5707 • sammysmtk.com
Lunch, Dinner

Chef Sam Joyce's dockside restaurant is casual, family-friendly, and very Montauk. Local flavor lives in the famous Lobster Burger, Mary's Lobster Roll and Shrimp Po Boy, plus clams and oysters on the half shell, grilled steak, or soft tacos. Entrées available in smaller portions. Soups, salads, and sandwiches also available. Sit inside or on the patio and watch boats in the Harbor. Look for Sammy's food truck at the harbor entrance. Available for private parties. Open 7 days, in season.

WESTLAKE FISH HOUSE

352 Westlake Drive
631-668-FISH (3474) • westlakefishhouse.com
Breakfast, Lunch, & Dinner

Located at the Westlake Marina, right next to the docks, this restaurant has that old Montauk vibe combined with new and innovative ways to serve seafood from renowned chef Larry Kolar. Sit inside or



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Focaccia Sandwiches, Pizza, Pasta, Salads, & Entrees
 all made from the freshest, home-made ingredients.
 Tiramisu made from scratch.

Open 7 days, in-season • 668-1601

54 S. Erie Avenue, Montauk NY (across from Soul Cycle)

M&R DELI

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Build your own Salad Bar,
 Specialty Sandwiches,
 Panini, Egg Sandwiches.**

Open
 Year
 Round

631-668-8600

728 Montauk Highway

Dining Out



SAMMYS

OPEN FOR LUNCH, DINNER, & DRINKS

Indoor & Outdoor Dockside Dining

Catering • Private Parties

Sandwiches • Seafood • Dinner

Relax in a friendly atmosphere and enjoy great food.

448 West Lake Drive • 631.238.5707 • SammysMTK.com

outside at the Dockside Bar and watch boats come in with their catch. Opens at 5am with brunch every day. Lobster benedict or an energy burrito, anyone? Dinner items include shrimp enchilada, grilled salmon, and St. Louis ribs plus fresh sushi and a raw bar, even a kid's menu. Families welcomed. Live music weekly. 5am-10pm daily, in season.

Bake Shops & Markets

MONTAUK MARKET

805 Montauk Highway

631-668-2071

BAKERY! BAKERY! Montauk Market, east end of town next to Martell's, is a superb bakery and market serving fresh made muffins, croissants, breads, bagels, flagels, cookies, bialys, pies and more. MM starts at 5am serving full breakfast, including egg white wraps, burritos, omelets, French toast, pancakes, fresh fruit salads, yogurt & granola, and natural veggie juices and smoothies. Lunch menu includes thirty different sandwich combos and home-made salads. Serving hot and cold platters for dinner with Italian specialties and Latin-American dishes. They'll make you a basket for the beach. Catering and bespoke specialty cakes and pies.

Convenience Stores

MARSHALL AND SONS

701 Montauk Highway

631-668-2990 • marshallandsons.com

This Main Street service station has a handy convenience store, open for coffee and snacks, summer drinks, plus cool, imported beers, and fine humidior cigars. 5:30am -11pm, 7 days, in season.

Ice Cream/Candy/Sweets

JOHN'S DRIVE-IN

(50th Anniversary Year 2017!)

677 Montauk Hwy

631-668-5515

Lunch, Dinner

GO HERE NOW! Continue reading this guide over ice cream and a fishwich! A Montauk institution serving genuinely awesome burgers, fries, and all the best diner items you can think of (like the fishwich), plus the **BEST HOMEMADE ICE CREAM ON LONG ISLAND**, with 20+ flavors. The lines don't lie... and yes, it's worth the wait. Hit Harvest for dinner in their bucolic garden on the pond then walk over to John's for a nightcap of succulent Cherry Vanilla ice cream...you'll call the real estate broker on the way home. 11:30am-10pm.

FUDGE N'STUFF

41 S Edgemere Street

631-668-4724

On the Circle, just off Main Street, Fudge N'Stuff is jam-packed with goodies, including 30 different kinds of fudge, and, yes, they'll slice you a taste so you can sample until you find your favorite. An eye-popping assortment of old-fashioned penny candy, lollipops, gourmet jellybeans, cotton candy, hot popcorn, nuts, and chocolate-covered pretzels by the pound fill the shelves. Wonderful soft serve ice cream as well. Order an ice-cream cone, sundae, malt, or banana split, or a hot chocolate or cappuccino. They also sell piñatas for your parties. Cravings satisfied from 10am-11pm, 7 days in season.

For Complete Listings →

 **ONMONTAUK.COM**

Spas & Wellness

COREY'S WAVE

516-639-4879

coreyswave.com

If you want to learn how to surf call Kristin at Corey's Wave or reserve online. Fitness instruction for all abilities will get you started and you can learn the basics at your favorite beach or perfect your skills in more challenging waters. Stand up Paddle Board instruction is also offered...a great way to get fit.

MEETING HOUSE LANE MEDICAL PRACTICE

679 Main Street

631-668-3705

southamptonhospital.org

Located in the village next to The Point restaurant, this medical practice provides comprehensive primary medical care for all ages. Affiliated with Southampton Hospital. Open from 9am-5pm Mon. through Fri.

MONTAUK SALT CAVE

552 West Lake Drive

631-668-7258

montauksaltcave.com

Salt therapy, or Halotherapy, clears toxins from our lungs and nasal passageways. The saturated air in the salt cave provides relief from many respiratory ailments, and also gives a sense of peace and serenity. The walls are built with all pink Himalayan salt rocks and the floor is covered with salt. Sessions are 45 minutes. Sit in a zero gravity chair, relax and breathe. They also

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631.668.6922 • 917.783.4929

offer Reiki, Sound Healing with crystal singing bowls, massages, and weekend events. A great gift shop as well. Open Thurs. through Tues. Closed Wed. Call for hours and appointments. Open all year.

SPA at the Montauk lake club

631-668-5705 ext 109

montauklakeclub.com/spa

Robert and Maureen Jacob Bonavolta, owners of the Montauk Wellness Center, offer their services at the picturesque, serene Montauk Lake Club. From deeply relaxing treatments to clinical sessions, pre and post sports, to pain management and injuries. Ultrasonic and microcurrent skincare to expert brow styling, waxing and spray tanning. All facials and massages are personalized and performed by caring licensed professionals. Monthly specials and packages are available. By appointment in our office and home visits.

For Complete Listings →

 **ONMONTAUK.COM**

SURROUND YOURSELF WITH HIMALAYAN SALT AND ALLOW THE HEALING TO BEGIN



631-668-SALT (7258)

552 West Lake Drive

montauksaltcave.com

WE ALSO OFFER PRIVATE REIKI, YOGA AND SINGING BOWLS.



OPEN
ALL
YEAR!

Montauk Vacation Libation



Spring picks from Whites

Trending at Whites this spring are four movers that should provide versatility in case we get some cold spells. So enjoy, be safe and drink responsibly!



MONTAUK HARD LABEL BLUEBERRY FLAVORED WHISKEY

This is a small batch whiskey crafted by two Montauk natives. It's a lighter styled whiskey with blueberry flavor, great when mixed with lemonade



MONTAUK RUMRUNNERS COCONUT FLAVORED RUM

This Rum is handcrafted in small batches right here on Long Island. Its coconut flavored with a smooth finish and perfect for a wide array of seasonal drinks. One of our favorites!



CASTLEFEDER PINOT GRIGIO

This Pinot Grigio from Alto Adige, Italy is a well-structured, full bodied wine with a balanced floral aroma. We like it with seafood.

AVERAEN PINOT NOIR

This delicious wine is a full-bodied Pinot Noir from Willamette valley, Oregon. Great for your summer BBQ's or to enjoy by itself. This is a great value wine.



Whites has these and oh so much more at
771 Montauk Highway, 631-668-2426

Shopping

BEACH MYC

**32 Star Island Road
631-668-3100**

This bright and airy store located at the Montauk Yacht Club has a wide range of items from Tocca perfume, candles and soaps to Havaianas flip flops, accessories, and home decor. The home of the very popular Montauk Yacht Club jersey & signature sweats and totes. Bags, trendy fashion, hats, candy, toys and gifts stock the shelves.

BIRD ON THE ROOF

**47 S Elmwood Avenue
631-668-5833**

Bird On The Roof, a terrific combination of shop and restaurant, is a Montauk institution. Before or after breakfast or anytime at all, shop at the Bird Boutique for the latest in dresses, outfits, casual wear, jewelry, beachwear, hats, shoes, and bags. Get lost in their large selection of Montauk sweats and tees for the entire family.

FORT POND NATIVE PLANTS

**2 South Embassy Street
631-668-6452 • nativeplants.net**

This Garden Center, located in a beautiful building in the village, specializes in native and organic plants. Come here for a large selection of annuals and perennials, vegetables, herbs, trees, bushes, and more. Potted plants, birdbaths, lawn sculptures, gift items, hammocks, outdoor kitchens, and local art are also for sale. James C. Grimes Land Design offers a number of different landscaping services, including new construction, design and consultation.

HOMEPORT FAMILY OF STORES AT GOSMAN'S DOCK

**484 West Lake Drive
MyMontauk.com**

The Homeport family of stores at Gosman's Dock are four iconic stops you'll have to hit while in Montauk. **CAPTAIN KID** offers a great selection of toys and games. Hit eponymous **HOMEPORT** for gifts, home decor, jewelry, and clothing. **FISH CITY** offers nautical and Montauk themed gifts and treasures while **PIER GROUP** features quality, beachy clothing for men and women.



beachmyc

32 star island road
at the Montauk Yacht Club
631-668-3100

fashion/jewelry/beachwear/gifts

**Mermaid Flower
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soul healing through flowers
consultations and classes
in Montauk and Manhattan
Elizabeth Willoughby



planetaryenergetics.com
631-668-6922 • 917-785-4929
88 Glenmore Avenue, Montauk

HOMEPORT FAMILY OF STORES IN TOWN

Like the Gosman's location, Homeport shops in town are a must for quality shopping in Montauk. **HOMEPORT TOWN** features jewelry and gift items while **SHINE** is a great stop for women's clothing.

KAI-KAI SANDALS

**771 Montauk Highway
631-668-4499 • kaikaisandal.com**

Born and worn in Montauk since 2003, the custom Montauk soles leave impressions in the sand and on your feet. Available in

Fort Pond Native Plants



Landscape Design &
Garden Center
with a large selection of
native plants, and unique
garden & gift items

631-668-6452

2 S. Embassy Street
nativeplants.net

Jane's House Cleaning

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Free Estimates

631.668.2941/Cell: 516.658.0682

jdesous1@optonline.net

kailani

[khy-LAH-nee]
sea water + sky, *Hawaiian*



Aloha Spirit ★ Montauk Style

“Go in for the adorable I ♥ MTK canvas bags, and come out looking like you just made a trip to the islands.”

—Editors’ Pick, *Hamptons Magazine*

729C Montauk Highway, Montauk, New York 11954
(631) 668-1518 ★ www.shoptiques.com/Kailani

fashionable colors from kid sizes up to men’s 15, Kai’s sandals are designed by two-time All-American triathlete, Kai Costanzo. Made with natural, durable Brazilian rubber soles, supportive arches, and super-soft suede footbeds that mold to your feet, making them “the flip that doesn’t flop.” Ask about their “Swap Your Flop” renewable sandal offer. Kai-Kai also carries Sperry, Maui Jim, Ray-Ban, and quality Montauk sweatshirts and tees. On Facebook.

KAILANI

729C Montauk Highway

631-668-1518 • shoptiques.com/Kailani

Kailani on Main St. is Montauk’s only boutique where you can find fun and fashionable clothing for the entire family plus an eclectic selection of gifts, and all affordable! For women, beach bags and trendy bathing suits, sterling silver jewelry and fabulous dresses. For men, sporty button downs, khaki shorts, and 41 North, a local line of shirts and hats. For kids, educational and fun coloring books and toys plus adorable screen printed shirts and sweatshirts. Gifts range from local artwork to fragrant soaps and candles, their distinct line of Montauk T-shirts and sweatshirts, tote bags and iPhone cases. Stop in to say “Aloha.”

KATHRYN NADEAU CUSTOM FRAMING

34 South Etna Street

631-668-6383

Kathryn Nadeau, a Certified Picture Framer, has served Montauk for over 20 years. Using the latest techniques, the shop focuses on high-quality custom framing, decorative mats and conservation framing to museum standards. Hand-crafted beveled mirrors are offered. Choose from a wide selection of fine moldings and mat boards. Ms. Nadeau will work with you to design customized, distinctive-finished pieces.

MARTELLS

809 Main Street

631-668-1248

In the village next to Montauk Fuels, Martell’s offers a vast selection of souvenirs and gifts, plus newspapers, magazines, books, T-shirts, greeting cards, party supplies, stationery, and sundries. Shelves of toys, games, and craft supplies lure the kids. Buy the Montauk Lighthouse in miniature from the shop’s historic American Lighthouse collection. Also trail books, guides, and Montauk Project books. **A**



vintage pink
 beautiful unique gifts
 vintage jewelry-yoga fashion
 inspiration-candles-books
 embrace your inner hippie
631-668-8200
 Vintage Pink on facebook
787 B Montauk Highway
 (behind Montauk Clothing Co.)

great source for quality cigars like Macanudo, H. Upmann, Don Diego, plus a wide variety of Dominican cigars. Watch YouTube: Martells at Montauk to learn more about their cigars.

MONTAUK BIKE SHOP

725 Montauk Highway
631-668- 8975 • montaukbikeshop.com

The mecca for bikes, trail maps and advice for biking in Montauk has a large selection of high-quality bikes, including road, mountain, hybrid touring models, tandems, youth, and trailers. Bike rentals available hourly, daily, or weekly. Offering customized private or group guided tours or instruction plus corporate team building events. Need maps, parts, accessories, clothing, or repairs? You're covered.

MONTAUK SALT CAVE

552 West Lake Drive
631-668-7258 • montauksaltcave.com

This cute, interesting shop at the entrance to the Salt Cave has salt-related products like Himalayan salt lamps in various shapes and sizes, as well as jewelry and clothing.

SUMMER STOCK

1 Gosmans Dock
631-668- 3243

A great collection of clothing and accessories for women and children awaits in this warm, friendly store in the Old Pilothouse at Gosman's Dock. Free People, Splendid, Ella Moss, Susana Monaco, Velvet, Bailey 44, Minnie Rose and more are attractively displayed. They carry casual and contemporary styles plus great jewelry and accessories. The Children's clothing section upstairs has sizes newborn to preteen. On Facebook.

VINTAGE PINK

787 Montauk Highway
631-668-8200

Mind, body, spirit, and vintage jewelry abound! Their 6th season in the pink cottage. Listen to Far Eastern music and browse through antiques, china, vintage sterling silver jewelry, and crystal. VP carries candles, Buddhas, incense, inspirational items, Jade yoga mats, books, greeting cards, Hardtail yoga clothes, natural life T-shirts, pom pom pants and shorts, and much more. Open 365 in the pink building behind Montauk Clothing Co.

WHITE'S DRUG & DEPARTMENT STORE

95 Carl Fisher Plaza
631-668-2994

Montauk's only full-service pharmacy also stocks everything from cosmetics to high-quality giftware, vitamins, newspapers, special occasion cards, books and magazines, appliances, jewelry and an extensive swimwear and clothing collection for adults and kids. Everything for a stay at the shore including toys, games, towels, bedding, postcards, and sunscreens.

WOODBINE COLLECTION

649 Montauk Highway
631-238-5338 • woodbinecollection.com

An art gallery that shows paintings, sculptures, photography and ceramics. Shows change once a month with receptions every Fri. from 6pm-8pm in season. Open 12pm-6pm daily, closed Tues. Also selling "Wear The Shark" T-shirts and hats.

For Complete Listings →
ONMONTAUK.COM

Lodging

In the Harbor

Montauk Harbor, on the north, or bay side, of Montauk, has restaurants near the water or docks, upscale shopping, and is home to many of Montauk's charter, party, and commercial boats. Whale-watching tours, ferries to Block Island and New London, and sunset cruises originate here.

HARBORSIDE

371 West Lake Drive

631-668-2511 • montaukharborside.com

Twenty-seven tastefully decorated air conditioned rooms, studios and suites, with kitchenettes, and wi-fi. Amenities include a pool and tennis courts. A short distance to Montauk Harbor. Open March–December.

SNUG HARBOR

3 Star Island Road

631-668-2860 • montauksnugharbor.com

Located on the water in the Harbor, 34 units from poolside bedrooms to Harborside apartments, offering air conditioning,

wi-fi, a pool, and BBQ. Snug Harbor is also a full-service marina. Pets allowed in some units. Open March–November.

UIHLEINS MOTEL

10 Wells Avenue

631-668-3799 • uihleinsmarina.com

Friendly small motel with 7 units equipped with full kitchens, flat screen TV, wi-fi, A/C. Grounds have BBQs, a putting green with mini golf course, play area and room to relax. Discount on boat rentals. Open all year.

In Montauk Village

Main Street is just three blocks away from the ocean beach. All the hotels, motels and inns are an easy walk to many of Montauk's restaurants, shops, bars and nightlife. Many activities take place on the Village Green, within the circle, especially during the summer.

ATLANTIC TERRACE

21 Oceanview Terrace

631-668-2050 • atlanticterrace.com

Located right on the ocean and a short

HARBORSIDE

All Montauk Harbor - A short walk to Restaurants, Shops, Fishing, Watersports & Ferries. Golf & Horseback Riding Nearby.

Newly Renovated Rooms, Suites & Efficiencies
CableTV • A/C • Free Wi-Fi • Daily Maid Service

FISHERMAN ALWAYS WELCOME!

THE HARBORSIDE MOTEL

www.MontaukHarborside.com
371 West Lake Drive, Montauk NY 11954
Tel: 631.668.2511 Fax: 631.668.0329

POOL • TENNIS

BBQ • VOLLEYBALL

TENNIS

walk to the village, the stylish, family friendly Atlantic Terrace features 97 units with terraces or balconies, efficiencies and suites. Amenities include A/C, wi-fi, a pool, a coffee shop, and a lounging deck. Open May–October.

SANDS MOTEL

71 S Emery Street

631-668-5100 • montauksands.com

The family-friendly Sands is just 75 feet to the ocean beach and boasts a 50' pool. The 42 units include studios, efficiencies, and deluxe 2 1/2 room suites with full kitchens and private ocean view balconies, and a two bedroom newly renovated cottage, all with wi-fi and A/C. Open April–November.

STONE LION INN

51 Edgemere Street

631-668-7050 • harvest2000.com

Eleven newly decorated suites and duplexes, all with private balconies overlooking Fort Pond with A/C and kitchenettes. It's a quick walk to the village and ocean beaches. Restaurant and bar on premises. No children or pets. Open all year.

On Old Montauk Highway and in Napeague

West of town the undulating Old Montauk Highway is flanked by bucolic Hither Hills and Hither Woods neighborhoods on one side (north), and wide, beautiful Atlantic Ocean beaches on the other (south). Great views and wide, sandy, uncrowded beaches abound here.

LENHART'S COTTAGES

421 Old Montauk Highway

631-668-2356

Spectacularly situated, charming cottage complex amidst undulating, manicured grounds directly across the street from the beautiful Hither Hills beach. Twelve cottages with kitchens, ocean views, A/C, and log-burning fireplaces. There is a pool, gardens and lots of lawn space. Open all year. Lenhart's has a loyal following of returning guests and pets.

WAVECREST ON THE OCEAN

170 Old Montauk Highway

631-668-2141 • wavecrestonocean.com

A spectacular location right on a stretch of



secluded ocean beach. Seventy units with pool, tennis, kitchen, and A/C. Studios and suites, all with private terraces overlooking the ocean. April thru October.

On Fort Pond

Fort Pond, a large freshwater lake, spans a distance from the village north to Fort Pond Bay on the Long Island Sound side of Montauk.

MONTAUK MANOR RESORT

236 Edgemere Street

631-668-4400 • montaukmanor.com

Historic, grand building with a beautiful vaulted rotunda and old-world character on a 12-acre hill with views of Gardiner's Bay and Block Island Sound. One of Montauk's most storied structures. Ample parking on site with shuttle bus services. 140 studio, one, two, and three bedroom apartments with indoor and outdoor pools, tennis, kitchens, A/C, and wi-fi. A restaurant on premises serves guests and the public. Open all year.

SOLÉ EAST

90 Second House Road

631-668-2105 • soleeast.com

Sole East is a hip spot with a stunningly beautiful courtyard containing a full-service restaurant and lounge, swimming pool and expansive lawn with mature trees and landscaping. Entertainment and weekend pool parties feature in season. 60 renovated rooms, one bedroom suites, and 7 garden suites. Heated pool, gardens with wood-burning fire pits, wi-fi, IPOD docking stations. Popular for receptions and wedding parties. Pets welcome. May thru October.


For Complete Listings →

 **ONMONTAUK.COM**

Montauk Photographer at War with the End, to the World's Delight



James Katsipis' Montauk Mermaids



JAMES KATSIPI
IS CHALLENGED
MERCILESSLY
BY MONTAUK.
HIS ENDLESS
STRUGGLE FOR
HER RESPECT IS
YIELDING ONE OF
THE WORLD'S BEST
PHOTOGRAPHERS.

By Carter Randolph Tyler

JAMES KATSIPI, MONTAUK BORN AND RAISED, IS OBSESSED WITH THE END. SHE'S IN HIS BLOOD AND HE WILL NEVER LEAVE her. But even as he has learned to see her beauty and appreciate her subtlety as nobody else could ever understand, she only opens up to him when she is ready, on her terms, when it suits. A heartless bitch. He relentlessly chases, obsesses, lurks, cajoles, and sometimes, if she's in the mood, he gets some love. On those rare occasions, James is a happy man. He goes home, relives what she's given, unwinds, melts into his music, perhaps cries at the beauty of success, and falls asleep happy. But he knows as he drifts that she's got him, always. He'll grovel again tomorrow in his endless struggle for respect in paradise.



Golden Gods

Thankfully for all of us, James chases and memorializes his obsession with Montauk with film, digitally speaking. It's love, pure and raw, for the word to see. If you've seen his work, you'll understand immediately what I'm hinting at. If you haven't seen it, cast about on these pages and ponder what a person would have to do, in photographic skill and physical exertion, to get these other-worldly shots. I went crazy trying to decide which ones to print here.

James and I had a long chat in the Spring of 2017 about his love of Montauk, surfing, sharks, the End's natural beauty, and his journey into photography. I spent some time perusing his work online before our meeting but I didn't know what motivated the man who produced such mesmerizing images of the End. Surfer Magazine, Outdoor World, Page 6,

and countless Manhattanites scooping up his work while it is still relatively cheap, I figured, were onto something.

I knew within twenty minutes that James is a beast who can't help but

James is a beast who can't help but go down in history as one of the world's greatest photographers

go down in history as one of the world's greatest photographers. He doesn't know this himself because he's on a different cloud than the rest of us. He's not comparing himself to other great photographers as might be expected; he's comparing himself and competing against a vaporous, incorporeal perception of how good

he can be. He sees Montauk's beauty everywhere, in the surfers he loves shooting, our light, our history, mystery and lore. These things combine every day all over Montauk in a shifting maelstrom of photographic opportunity that he'll never, ever be able to completely capture.

He incomprehensibly throws his camera in the trash with some regularity, he tells me, after a day of bone chilling shooting in the frigid sea, or after bloodying himself traipsing through swamps and brambles in pursuit of that perfect sliver of light that he knows is coming at just the right time of day, during the right season, under just the right weather conditions. He'll never win. But his tireless, brutish, passionate efforts are throwing off some of the most striking images ever captured and have taught him more than any amount

of formal photographic tutelage could have done. "I don't even know Photoshop and I am not classically trained, but I was put on this earth to be a photographer...it saved my life," he told me without an ounce of arrogance or chutzpah. In fact he said it with humility, like it was a calling. I believe him, and can't recall ever meeting someone who knows why he's here. I envy him for knowing.

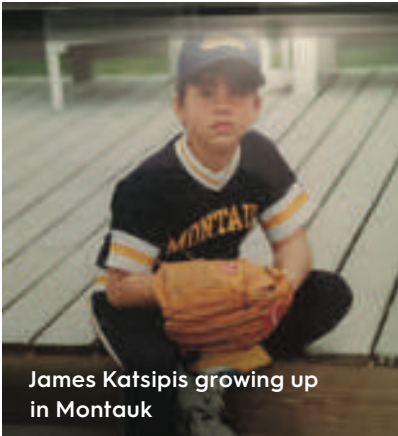
FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS, WELL PLACED

In Trading Places, Randolph and Mortimer Duke debate heredity vs. environment as they toy with Billy Ray Valentine, Capricorn. I wonder where the needle falls with James? How much of his photographic genius is Montauk, and how much is born from within? I don't know, but I think he would say it's all Montauk.

Who is this man delivering to the



James Katsipis shooting
Montauk Mermaids



James Katsipis growing up in Montauk

world the Montauk that we all want it to see? He's a young guy, only 34. He is rounded out by a love of sharks, surfing, and his wife Bella, with whom he lives simply here in Montauk. He's got a fun story and I hope one day he'll write a book about it. It's a Montauk story that many will appreciate as it harkens back to an earlier time now tinged with nostalgia, a time of "free range kids", he says, a time before Montauk became part of the Hamptons and was beset with its latest identity crisis. But no, I'm not going there. That's another story.

James' Greek father jumped ship in New York while sailing with the merchant marines out of Santorini in the 60s, worked myriad jobs through

a network of friends, gradually moved east and took up work at a Sayville diner where he met the woman who would become James' mom. She was a waitress there. A friend lured him to check out Montauk and perhaps take a grill job at Salivars. He took one look at Montauk and moved his family there posthaste.

He throws his camera in the trash with some regularity

Montauk was beautiful but those days were raw. James called it the "wild east" as he recounts his father's early days...bikers fighting fisherman and scallopers at Salivars where a deer once jumped through a window and got shot, afterwards. A time replete with larger than life characters like Frank Mundus, who is said to be the inspiration for Quint, from Jaws. James tells these stories with a love of Montauk's history and nostalgia about his parents' early life in Montauk. He's proud of it and I know it's part of him.

James was born in 1983. Growing up in Montauk left him with a stew of

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Fire in the sky

conflicting emotions. He is not ebullient about his school memories but speaks fondly of simpler days when nobody carried house keys and parents knew the numbers to all the public phone booths and would call whenever they needed to find their kids. He recalls days of smoking on the corner where Bliss now sits and sneaking into Camp Hero to explore surreal bunkers and abandoned structures, where he once found thousands of WWII era checks made out to Boeing.

But one thing gave him real structure and routine, helping to shape him into the man he became: surfing at Atlantic Terrace. Summers there with friends and ocean mentors taught him to respect surfing and the codes of safety and etiquette that

now, he says, are seriously eroded. “Nobody got hurt, people followed the rules then,” he reminisces.

**simpler days when nobody
carried house keys and
parents knew the numbers to
all the public phone booths**

THE FORGING OF A MASTER

And so it was at Atlantic Terrace that his photographic genius was forged. High school, however, had put the first cameras in his hands. He wanted to walk the halls during class and not get in trouble for it, like the photography kids got to do. A short-sighted escape



James Katsipis interview on CNN during winter storm Juno

from the doldrums of class turned out to be life-altering for James because holding a camera gave him a bigger thrill than cutting class and escaping into the school's darkroom for... whatever, but he learned in there, too.

After school he was always at Atlantic Terrace anyway, so he started shooting surfers while not riding waves himself. After a while his hobby matured and became good enough to get him a paid gig with Eastern Surf Magazine. He thought they had forgotten about his submissions but when the issue came out, his shots were in it. He was a f*** up at the time, as he explains, but the rush of seeing his shots in print made him start to see a calling. It was a real drug. His mom was freaked out that he wanted to be a photographer, he says, and shakes his head, as he hadn't finished college. I ask him what she thinks of him now, today. He pauses and I'm anticipating negativity, but he says, "my parents are so proud of me." I was happy to hear him say that. I was cheering for him.

SURFING, SHARKS, THE GIANTS

Surfing is a huge part of James' love of Montauk and his photographic work, much of which takes place in the waves, particularly in the



cold, bleak winter months, which he loves. Shooting and surfing demand everything from him so he chooses one or the other on a given day. "I feel like I always choose wrong," he laments. Some of his most recognizable shots are from his cold-water surf photography. "Juno," his shot of three surfers lumbering toward the surf in knee-deep snow during winter storm Juno, helped put him on the map. The pic went viral and both CNN and the Weather Channel interviewed him as a result. Indeed, James is wrapping up a book titled "Montauk, The Cold



Juno went viral, putting JK on the map

Bitter End,” that will showcase his work capturing the beauty of the End during the bleak, isolated months of winter, when few outsiders visit.

Montauk also means sharks, for James. He met his shark-wrangling wife Bella in front of John’s Drive-In after noticing the gold-dipped megalodon shark tooth around her neck (check out finmontauk.com) and the two shark-lovers were hooked. On their second date aboard a Sea Turtle shark dive tour where she was working, out of Montauk, she cajoled

James, already a supporter of shark conservation, into the water with his camera. With several small blue sharks nipping at him curiously from below as he pushed away bigger ones with his camera, prudence landed him back on the deck. But he got back in and learned to swim with them. “They don’t care about me, I realized. I play chicken with them and they always turn away first,” he told me. Some of his shark photos are insane.

Some notable Montauk people loom large in shaping James' photography. One is the famed Walter looss, who he calls his mentor, and the master of light. "I learned more in one day assisting him than I did in three semesters in college. Just shooting stuff and listening to him talk about light," he recalls. James is obsessed

"I play chicken with sharks and they always turn away first"

with light. Indeed, many of his wave shots are stunningly vibrant, almost unreal. He's quick to remind that he does not use photoshop or doctor

his shots in any way, which seems beyond comprehension for many people, he explains. "It's all about lighting, lighting, lighting, and a little bit of luck," he says. James goes on to talk to me about lighting for a long while. It's an obsession. He watches the light all day, every day, and knows where and how the sun is hitting any object around Montauk at any time. He's got his favorite spots where he's discovered a near perfect storm of scenery, light and mood. He won't divulge the spots, he admonishes.

Peter Beard is another Montauk legend and giant of photography who influenced and inspired James. "My family used to own the MTK Café and Peter would pop in from time to time," James recalls. I realize James is in awe of these men and their skill



The Dock is classic JK



Montauk Mermaids

as he tells me about growing up in their frequent proximity. I wonder now, as I start thinking about his Mermaids, if James is aware of how much influencing he's doing.

MONTAUK MERMAIDS

The Mermaids was a masterstroke that blended James' talents with Montauk's water, light, scenery, and beautiful women to yield a mesmerizing and powerful B&W series that is brilliantly provocative. Yes, the Montauk women are enrapturing and magical, but only metaphorical to Montauk itself, which is the true allure of the series. Every shot is Montauk. Beautiful, ethereal, mysterious, and seductive. James picked the women for the series because he recognized something in them that many, he explains, did not see in themselves. On long, sometimes treacherous, frigid or bloody shoots ("Everybody bleeds on my shoots," he warned them) in unpredictable weather over the course of a full year...meaning

winter as well, he made the women see what he saw in them. He pulled the siren to the surface. "Whatever reservations the Mermaids had melted by the end of the shoots," he explained. James says the Mermaids series gets more accolades from women than men. They love the artistry and beauty of the forms and they see the Montauk in the series more readily than men.



"Everybody bleeds on my sets"

I asked him where the stunning shot of Candace Ceslow, who adorns the cover of this edition of On Montauk, was taken. He didn't bite. But true to form the locations were isolated and treacherous, for all involved. They

had to be for his recipe to work and produce such stunning images. Sharp rocks, lots of cut hands and toes, police queries, and black fly assaults were recorded in producing the series. In one incident, a loud crash alerted him to an assistant tangled in lights on the ground. He has fainted from cold and crashed to the floor in the middle of a winter shoot near a frozen pond. "We bagged it in that day," he said dryly.

THIS IS MONTAUK

The Montauk Chamber commissioned James to make a video promoting the End back in 2015, called "This is Montauk". It has aired in too many places to mention and I suspect you've seen it. If not, google it and enjoy. James is proud of it and loves promoting Montauk. For another taste of his videography, check out his winter surf video "Juno", one of his best. His video work is wicked

and deserves another piece, as I can't do it justice here. Consider the man that cries in front of his computer when the music and the visuals come together just right. To me that means that, as with James' photography, we ain't seen nothing yet.

It's time to part, the interview over with so much not covered. It's been a journey for me, leaning about James. I asked him why, of all the places he has traveled and shot...a man who could live anywhere and has seen so many beautiful places, why does he choose to stay in Montauk. He said a few things, all of which make perfect sense. "There's no place like Montauk in the world. My house in Santorini doesn't hold a candle to her," he says. Great sunsets, crazy history, and unrivaled light are all things he mentions. I just think that no other place makes him cry. ☹️

jameskatsipis.com

James Katsipis and his wife Bella





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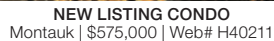
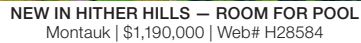
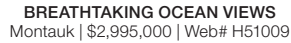
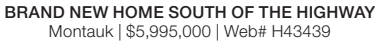
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