

Hillsmere Shores Community Survey Results

These are the results of the 2005 Hillsmere Shores Community Survey. We achieved a 62% return overall and a 64% of all lot owners. Comments and written responses will be posted on the Hillsmere Shores website at www.hillsmershores.net

Question

- #5: Do you use the community beach? **Yes: 75%**
- #6: Are you a member of the Hillsmere swimming pool? **Yes: 25%**
- #7: Do you use the sand spit? **Yes: 55%**
- #8: Are you a member of HSIA? **Yes: 68%**
- #9: Are you a slip holder in Hillsmere Shores? **Yes: 12%**
- #10: Do you use any of the following Piers and Harbors facilities?
- | | |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| Boat Ramps | 240 said yes (~28%) |
| Canoe Racks | 22 said yes |
| Dingy Racks | 22 said yes |
| Boat Park | 44 said yes |
- #11: Are you on the waiting list for any of the following?
- | | |
|------------|--------------------|
| Boat Slip | 80 said yes |
| Canoe Rack | 12 said yes |
| Dingy Rack | 9 said yes |
| Boat Park | 20 said yes |
- #12: Should HSIA take an active role in welcoming new residents to Hillsmere Shores?
Yes: 68% No: 8% No Opinion: 24%
- #13: Does HSIA provide enough opportunities to meet and mix with other members of the Community? **Yes: 49% No: 22% No Opinion: 29%**
- #14: HSIA is a community improvement association – not a homeowners’ association. Would you support changing HSIA to a homeowners association?
Yes: 16% No: 63% No Opinion: 21%
- #15: Should HSIA be more active in setting the direction for the Community?
Yes: 31% No: 38% No Opinion: 31%
- #16: Does HSIA offer enough services: **Yes: 64% No: 10% No Opinion: 25%**
- #17: If you answered “No” on the previous question, what other services would you like to see HSIA provide? Results will be posted on website and will be summarized in the Sea Breeze when we discuss this question.
- #18: For each of the following please rate your ability to contact and get feedback from HSIA:
- | HSIA: | <u>Very Difficult</u> | <u>Difficult</u> | <u>Average</u> | <u>Easy</u> | <u>Very Easy</u> | <u>N/A</u> |
|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Via Telephone: | 3% | 9% | 25% | 23% | 14% | 25% |
| Via Mail: | 1% | 2% | 20% | 21% | 13% | 43% |
| Via Email: | 2% | 3% | 13% | 19% | 16% | 47% |
| Via Web Site Email: | 2% | 3% | 12% | 15% | 15% | 53% |
- #19: Do you find the HSIA web site satisfactory?
Yes: 51% No: 3% No Opinion: 46%
- #20: Please list any suggestions or comments about the HSIA web site:
 Results will be posted on the web site and will be summarized in the Sea Breeze when we discuss this question.

#21: Do you read the Sea Breeze? **Yes: 98% No: 2%**

#22: For each of the following, please indicate your level of agreement:

	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Strongly Agree</u>
The Sea Breeze contains useful information?	1%	2%	2%	66%	29%
The length of the Sea Breeze is appropriate?	1%	2%	6%	66%	26%
The President's Message provides useful info.?	3%	4%	11%	58%	25%
A summary of each month's Board decisions included?	1%	1%	9%	52%	37%

#23: What changes and/or additional information would you like to see in the Sea Breeze?

Results will be posted on the web site and will be summarized in the Sea Breeze when we discuss this question.

#24: For each of the following, please indicate your level of agreement:

	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Strongly Agree</u>
The HSIA Board meets the needs of the community?	2%	10%	30%	54%	4%
The HSIA Board is too intrusive?	5%	37%	42%	13%	3%
HSIA is a good caretaker of Community Assets?	2%	9%	28%	54%	6%
The HSIA Board does not have enough enforcement ability to help the community?	5%	23%	43%	23%	5%
The HSIA Board is responsive to ideas from the Community?	2%	8%	45%	41%	4%

#25: How do you rate the overall performance of the HSIA Board?

Very Poor: 2% Poor: 6% Average: 37% Good: 49% Excellent: 6%

#26: Please list any comments about the performance of the HSIA Board:

Results will be posted on the web site and will be summarized in the Sea Breeze when we discuss this question.

#27: Did you know that you can join HSIA at any time throughout the year?

Yes: 82% No: 18%

#28: If you are not a member of HSIA, why not?

No one asked me to join: **43 responses**

I am not interested in joining: **53 responses**

I am a resident and don't feel I should have to pay to join: **34 responses**

Other, please specify: **137 responses** Results will be posted on the web site and will be summarized in the Sea Breeze when we discuss this question.

#29: I attend the bi-monthly General Meetings: (800 responses)

Always: 2% Occasionally: 23% Just the Annual Meeting: 3%

Not in recent memory: 72%

- #30: I do not attend the bi-monthly General meetings because: (820 responses)
- | | |
|--|------------|
| I am too busy: | 31% |
| I am not interested: | 15% |
| The meetings are tedious or too long: | 10% |
| The 7:00 pm time for the meeting is not good for me: | 16% |
| Other, please specify: | 27% |
- #31: If you did **not** vote in the HSIA elections in the past two years, why not: (543 responses)
- | | |
|---|-------------|
| I am not a member of HSIA: | 29% |
| I did not know about the elections | 9% |
| I did not know how to cast my vote | 14% |
| I am not interested in voting in HSIA elections | 18% |
| Other, please specify | 30%* |
- * Written responses can be viewed on the HISA website and will be summarized in the Sea Breeze when this question is discussed.
- #32: HSIA is a volunteer organization serving the community. In the past 5 years, have you or a member of your household performed volunteer work for HSIA?
Yes: 24% (195 households) No: 76% (619 households)
- #33: I do not volunteer to help HSIA because:
- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| No one has directly asked me to help: | 148 responses |
| I volunteer for a lot of other organizations: | 171 responses |
| Too much politics: | 99 responses |
| I did my part for HSIA in years past: | 89 responses |
| Other, please specify | 230 responses |
- #34: Do you know what your special tax was in fiscal year 2005 (the amount)?
Yes: 44% (365 households) No: 56% (460 households)
- #35: Do you know how your special tax is determined?
Yes: 37% (301 households) No: 63% (516 households)
- #36: Do you know how you pay your special tax?
Yes: 61% (502 households) No: 39% (316 households)
- #37: Do you know how the special tax funds are used?
Yes: 46% (376 households) No: 54% (444 households)
- #38: Are the following projects worth increasing your special tax?
- | | | |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------|
| To build a community center ? | Yes: 40% (310) | No: 60%(473) |
| To make improvements/repairs at the Beach? | Yes: 75% (596) | No: 25%(194) |
| To build community tennis courts? | Yes: 34% (261) | No: 66%(518) |
| To build community basketball courts? | Yes: 29%(221) | No: 71%(554) |
- #39: What other community facilities would you be interested in having?
 Results will be posted on website and will be summarized in the Sea Breeze when we discuss this question.
- #40: What facilities should we do without? Results will be posted on the website and will be summarized in the Sea Breeze when we discuss this question.
- #41: Is the \$10 HSIA membership fee reasonable?
Yes: 90% (751 households) No: 10%(80 households)

#42: If you feel the HSIA membership fee is too low or too high, how much do you think it should be? **Vast majority thought the fee should be higher.**

#43: Do you know what the Piers & Harbors fees pay for?

Yes: 57% (420) No: 43% (313)

#44: For each of the following, please indicate your view of the current fee amounts?

	<u>Too High</u>	<u>OK</u>	<u>Too Low</u>
Boat slips (range \$125 to \$1660/yr)	6% (38)	82%(494)	11%(68)
Boat Park (\$65 per year)	1% (8)	84%(505)	14%(85)
Dingy or Canoe Rack (\$30/yr)	2% (9)	87%(516)	12%(70)
Ramp Keys (\$45 per year)	21%(134)	75%(474)	4%(25)

We reduced the Ramp Key fee from \$45 to \$40 per year for 2006 fiscal year.

#45: If you think that Piers and Harbors fees are too high, what services or costs would you reduce so that fees could be lowered? **No responses**

#46: As a Piers and Harbors user, would you be willing to pay increased fees to fund the following improvements in Piers & Harbors facilities?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
Slip electricity at Beach and Sunset:	24%(119)	35%(178)	41% (209)
Improvements to sandspit?	33%(166)	25%(124)	42% (208)
Additional dingy racks?	24%(119)	32%(158)	45%(223)
Additional canoe racks?	26%(132)	30%(152)	44%(221)
Additional boat storage facilities?	26%(132)	31%(155)	43%(216)
Improvements to the ramps if/when Needed?	61%(311)	9% (47)	30%(154)

#47: What other Piers & Harbors improvements (not listed above) would you be willing to pay increased fees for? Results will be posted on the website and will be summarized in the Sea Breeze when we discuss this question.

#48: **Maintenance:** For each of the following areas, please indicate your level of satisfaction with the maintenance (including repairs, grass cutting, etc.):

	<u>Very Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Neutral or No Opinion</u>	<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Very Satisfied</u>
Beach	1% (12)	7% (56)	13% (104)	62% (507)	16% (133)
Pool	1% (5)	4% (32)	54% (407)	30% (227)	11% (80)
Marina	0% (2)	3% (20)	42% (313)	45% (338)	10% (71)
(Maint. Continued)	<u>Very Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Neutral or No Opinion</u>	<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Very Satisfied</u>
Boat Park	1% (8)	2%(16)	64%(471)	28% (208)	5%(34)
Boat Ramps	1% (7)	3%(22)	49%(365)	41% (303)	6%(42)
Dingy Racks	1% (5)	2%(11)	63%(464)	30% (220)	4%(32)
Hillsmere Entrance	2% (17)	6%(52)	6%(53)	58% (473)	27%(224)
Islands on Hillsmere	3% (23)	8%(66)	9%(74)	62% (503)	18%(147)
Beach Dr Canoe Lot	0% (2)	2%(17)	67%(484)	26% (192)	4%(31)
HSIA Rental Property	2% (13)	5%(35)	65%(476)	24% (177)	4%(30)

#49: Please list any specific concerns regarding maintenance: Results will be posted on the website and will be summarized in the Sea Breeze when we discuss this question.

#50: **Beautification:** For each of the following areas, please indicate your level of satisfaction with beautification (landscaping, clean-up, and plantings projects):

	Very <u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Dissatisfied</u>	Neutral or <u>No Opinion</u>	<u>Satisfied</u>	Very <u>Satisfied</u>
Beach	2%(14)	7%(54)	14%(111)	64%(517)	13%(106)
Marina	1%(1)	4%(28)	38%(289)	48%(369)	9% (71)
Islands on Hillsmere	2%(16)	10%(77)	8%(67)	64%(516)	16%(133)
Hillsmere Entrance	2%(14)	7%(57)	6%(48)	58%(469)	28%(224)

#51: Please list any specific concerns regarding beautification: Results will be posted on the website and will be summarized in the Sea Breeze when we discuss this question.

#52: **Traffic:** Do you think that traffic related issues are a major problem in Hillsmere?
Yes: 58% (477) No: 38%(311) No Opinion: 4% (40)

#53: If you answered “yes” to the previous question, what traffic issues are you concerned about? Results will be posted on the website and will be summarized in the Sea Breeze when we discuss this question.

#54: How significant a problem is the Key School traffic for you personally?
Very Insignificant Insignificant Neutral Significant Very Significant
 12% (103) 20%(168) 21%(177) 28%(223) 19%(158)

#55: Please list any streets in Hillsmere that you feel are in need of additional safety measures (e.g. calming strips, additional speed limit signs, more patrols, etc.): Results will be posted on the website and will be summarized in the Sea Breeze when we discuss this question.

#56: **Social Events:** Have you participated in any HSIA-sponsored social events?

- Ice Cream Social: **158 Yes responses**
- Easter Egg Hunt: **177 Yes responses**
- Yard Sales (at beach) **373 Yes responses**
- Community Picnics **169 Yes responses**
- July 4th Parades **223 Yes responses**
- Halloween Parades **107 Yes responses**
- Christmas Caroling **52 Yes responses**
- Total Yes responses: **1259**

#57: HSIA spends roughly \$3000/year on these social events. Should they be continued?
Yes: 73% (606) No: 4% (32) No Opinion: 23% (188)

#59: **Dumpster Days:** We participate in the county community dumpster program. The dumpsters are placed next to the pool property for residents to dispose of bulk trash items. Approximately 15 to 20 dumpsters are filled each year during the two day program. This costs HSIA approximately \$500 per year. Do you support the continuation of this activity?

Yes: 94% (793 responses) No: 2% No Opinion: 4%

#60: **Security:** How safe do you feel in our community?

Very Unsafe Unsafe Neutral Fairly Safe Very Safe
 2% (20) 5% (43) 6% (53) 52%(443) 34%(285)

#61: Currently, we provide security patrols throughout Hillsmere, including the beach and marina. We also have a guard at the beach during the summer. For each of the following areas, please state whether you think the security is adequate:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
Beach	74% (603)	5% (40)	21% (168)
Marina	44% (341)	8% (63)	48% (379)
Sunset Dr. Ramp	37% (289)	5% (39)	58% (449)
Beach Dr. Ramp	38% (294)	4% (33)	58% (452)
Boat Park	34% (265)	3% (22)	63% (493)
Hillsmere streets	65% (529)	14% (115)	20% (164)

- #62: Are there any other community areas where you think security needs to be increased or decreased? Please describe: Results will be posted on the website and will be summarized in the Sea Breeze when we discuss this question.
- #63: Would you support increasing the Special Tax to cover increased security patrols such as more daytime patrols, having a guard at the beach on weekdays, etc.?
Yes: 27% (222) **No: 53%** (433) **No Opinion: 20%** (169)
- #64: If you answered “yes” or “no” to the previous question, please list any comments or suggestions you have about this issue: Results will be posted on the website.
- #65: Currently approximately 25% of our security patrols are provided by off duty County police officers. The off duty police officers patrol in marked police cars, can make arrests, and write tickets. The private security guards can call the police when they see illegal activity. The private security guards cost approximately \$17 per hour compared to \$31/hr for off duty police. HSIA spends approximately \$37,000 per year on security. Should the ratio of private security to off duty Police hours be:
Increased (more private security -- lower cost): 23% (178 chose this)
Stay the same: 63% (484 chose this)
Decreased (more off duty police – increase Special Tax to cover increased cost): 14% (104 chose this)
- #66: Should HSIA help the community to start a neighborhood watch?
Yes: 58% (458) **No: 9%** (71) **No Opinion: 33%** (258)
- #67: **Community Beach:** Indicate if and how you use the community beach:
Do you use the beach for swimming? **Yes: 40%** (321) **No: 60%**(486)
Do you use the playground equipment? **Yes: 50%** (407) **No: 50%**(400)
Do you use the beach to picnic or just to sit? **Yes: 76%**(627) **No: 24%**(197)
- #68: Are the Beach equipment and facilities adequate?
Playground Equipment? **Yes: 72%**(593) **No: 2%**(14) **No Opinion:26%**(216)
Enough picnic tables? **Yes: 52%**(429) **No: 18%**(150) **No Opinion:30%**(245)
Enough grills? **Yes: 46%**(376) **No: 14%**(118) **No Opinion:40%**(326)
- #69: The net to keep out jelly fish at the beach costs roughly \$3000 per year. Does it provide enough value to the beach and the Community to justify the expense?
Yes: 54% (447) **No: 12%** (101) **No Opinion: 33%** (275)
- #70: Currently the beach is closed after sunset. Should residents be permitted to use the beach after sunset?
Yes: 38% (323) **No: 45%** (375) **No Opinion: 17%** (141)
- #71: If you answered “yes” to the previous question, what time should the beach be closed? Results will be posted on the website and will be summarized in the Sea Breeze when we discuss this question.

- #85: HSIA is a member of the Annapolis Neck Peninsula Federation. HSIA has an Active representative that attends ANPF meetings. ANPF fights for responsible Development on the peninsula and is opposed to the current City of Annapolis Policies on annexations along Forest Drive:
Should HSIA contribute to and support ANPF: **Yes: 83% (671) No: 4% (36)**
Do you support ANPF? **Yes: 74% (581) No: 8% (63)**
- #86: Should Key School children be allowed, on a limited basis, to use Hillsmere Shores community facilities that are overseen by HSIA (i.e. beach, boat ramps, Marina) if the use is educationally oriented and under teacher supervision?
Yes: 71% (589) No: 22% (184) No Opinion: 7% (56)
- #87: Are you in favor of allowing the six homes on Hillsmere Court (just inside Hillsmere Shores entrance) to join Hillsmere Shores Subdivision?
Yes: 78% (653) No: 9% (76) No Opinion: 12% (103)
- #88: If you answered “yes” to the previous question, should the individual homes be charged a one time fee to pay for the additional value they receive by becoming a member of a water privileged community?
Yes: 53% (375) No: 26% (187) No Opinion: 21% (148)
- #89: As electricity becomes deregulated this year in Anne Arundel County, would you be interested in having Hillsmere Shores band together to obtain lower rates than individuals might obtain?
Yes: 80% (649) No: 6% (50) No Opinion: 14% (117)
- #90: Do we need more sidewalks in Hillsmere?
Yes: 49% (411) No: 38% (316) No Opinion: 13% (106)
- #92: Are you satisfied with the storm water management in Hillsmere?
Yes: 44% (365) No: 29% (238) No Opinion: 27% (218)
- #93: If you answered “no” to the previous question then please list any areas in need of additional storm water management. Results will be posted on the website and will be summarized in the Sea Breeze when we discuss this question.
- #94: Are there enough storm water drains in Hillsmere?
Yes: 33% (272) No: 24% (195) No Opinion: 43% (352)
- #95: If you answered “No” to the previous question, please list areas in need of additional drains. Results will be posted on the website and will be summarized in the Sea Breeze when we discuss this question.
- #96: Do you want to bring County **public water** into your home? Cost is approximately \$8,155 per lot with four different payment options.
Yes: 51% (414) No: 49% (392) No Answer: (422)
- #97: Are you in favor of spraying our community for mosquitoes?
Yes: 71% (595) No: 24% (200) No Opinion: 5% (41)

HSIA Building Permits:

- #98: For each of the following statements, please indicate your level of agreement:
The current fee of \$5.00 is appropriate:
Strongly Disagree: 5% (42) Strongly Agree: 15% (126)
Disagree: 7% (56) Agree: 58% (482)
No Opinion: 15% (122)

Requiring residents to obtain an HSIA building permit is reasonable:

Strongly Disagree: 6% (49) **Strongly Agree: 24% (199)**
Disagree: 9% (72) **Agree: 53% (441)**
No Opinion: 8% (70)

HSIA should take action against residents that move forward with construction without obtaining the required HSIA permit.

Strongly Disagree: 7% (55) **Strongly Agree: 27% (221)**
Disagree: 8% (63) **Agree: 41% (333)**
No Opinion: 18% (143)

Hillsmere Shores Covenants: (Covenants convey with the land & are court enforceable)

#99: Please list any current covenants you disagree with along with your suggestion for change. Results will be posted on the website and will be summarized in the Sea Breeze when we discuss this question.

#100. Residents have offered proposals regarding additional **Covenants**. Do you support making the following additions to our covenants?

1. Residents may not use their property to park or store: (a) any inoperable, wrecked, or partially dismantled, or destroyed watercraft; (b) any watercraft that is subject to the registration requirements of Maryland that does not display current registration.

Yes: 68% (545) **No: 32% (255)**

2. Residents may not use their property to store more than two operable watercraft.

Yes: 61% (493) **No: 39% (311)**

3. All watercraft must be stored in one of the following areas: primary driveway, side yard or rear yard (as viewed from the street).

Yes: 78% (620) **No: 22% (176)**

4. Residents are not permitted to erect canopies or tents to be used as carports or storage facilities.

Yes: 60% (476) **No: 40% (322)**

5. Vehicles should not be parked in front or side yards (as viewed from the street) unless parked in driveways or garages.

Yes: 52% (410) **No: 48% (385)**

6. Residents may not use their property to park or store more than three trailers of any type on their property.

Yes: 79% (633) **No: 21% (169)**

7. Residents may not use their property to park or store more than one RV.

Yes: 77% (616) **No: 23% (188)**

8. Residents must ensure grass (or weeds) on their property does not exceed twelve inches at any point in time.

Yes: 76% (617) **No: 24% (194)**

9. Residents may not park or store commercial vehicles or vehicles used for commercial purposes on their property unless (a) providing temporary service; or (b) the vehicle is an automobile, pickup truck, or van having a manufacturer's rating capacity of not more than three-fourths ton and the vehicle is used as transportation to and from a place of employment, provide that in such cases only one vehicle may be so parked in connection with any one lot. (This is (or has been) County Code.)

Yes: 72% (576) **No: 28% (224)**

10. Temporary storage units (e.g. “Pods”) are not permitted for more than a six month period in any calendar year.

Yes: 78% (620) No: 22% (179)

11. Unless a permit for a rooming house has been granted by the Department of Inspections and Permits, residences are only permitted one family plus two unrelated occupants to the family in a dwelling unit. (This is (or has been) County Code.)

Yes: 75% (596) No: 25% (194)

#101. Are there any other new covenants that you think should be added? Results will be posted on the website and will be summarized in the Sea Breeze when we discuss this question.

Hillsmere Shores Rules:

#102. Please list any current rules you disagree with along with your suggestion for change. Results will be posted on the website and will be summarized in the Sea Breeze when we discuss this question.

#103. Residents have suggested the following **new rules**. Do you support adding them to our current community rules?

1. All dogs must be leashed or contained at all times.

Yes: 77% (619) No: 23% (183)

2. Residents are required to remove dog waste.

Yes: 91% (740) No: 9% (73)

#104. Are there any other new rules that you think should be added? Results will be posted on the website and will be summarized in the Sea Breeze when we discuss this question.

#105. Do you know how to file a complaint with the

HSIA Zoning and Covenants Committee? **Yes: 44% (336) No: 56% (434)**

Anne Arundel County Zoning Enforcement Office? **Yes: 45% (347) No: 55% (417)**

#106. The current level of enforcement of the Hillsmere Shores Covenants and Rules is:

Insufficient: 28%(191) Appropriate: 67%(449) Too Aggressive: 5%(31)

#107. The HSIA Board is considering restricting the usage of Hillsmere facilities for those residents in clear violation of Hillsmere Shores Covenants and/or Rules or Anne Arundel County Zoning codes. Such restrictions could include the following: the loss of a slip (if held), loss of dingy rack use, loss of canoe rack use, loss of voting rights, etc. Do you agree with such restrictions?

Strongly Disagree: 7% (56) Strongly Agree: 14% (108)

Disagree: 11% (86) Agree: 45% (348)

No Opinion: 23% (182)

HSIA Bylaws:

#108. Have you reviewed the current HSIA Bylaws?

Yes: 56% (437) No: 44% (339)

#109. Please list any specific bylaws you disagree with along with your suggestions for change. Results will be posted on the website and will be summarized in the Sea Breeze when we discuss this question.

#110. Are there any other Community issues of great interest to you that we have not covered? Do you have any additional comments you'd like to make?

There were many responses to this question – some very lengthy. Results will be posted on the website and will be summarized in the Sea Breeze.

This is the final report on the raw results of the Hillsmere Shores Community Survey. I again would like to thank you all for taking the time and thought in filling out the survey. We sincerely value your opinions on these important community issues. I would also like to thank the more than 100 community volunteers who worked diligently to bring this survey to you. The HSIA Board is very appreciative of all the work that went into the survey and will be using the results as a guide for the next several years. The next phase of this project is to analyze and make action plans based on the results of the survey.

Bruce Walker
Chairman
Hillsmere Shores Community Survey
Treasurer, HSIA