

the **Sea Breeze**

**PUBLISHED BY HILLSMERE SHORES
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION**

JANUARY 2007

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

I often start my comments with something about the weather or seasons. In January I ought to be talking about snow and ice. This year is definitely the exception (so far!). We have been experiencing beautiful 70 degree days. Don't let your guard down.. it could (and probably will) turn cold and snowy before this winter is over.

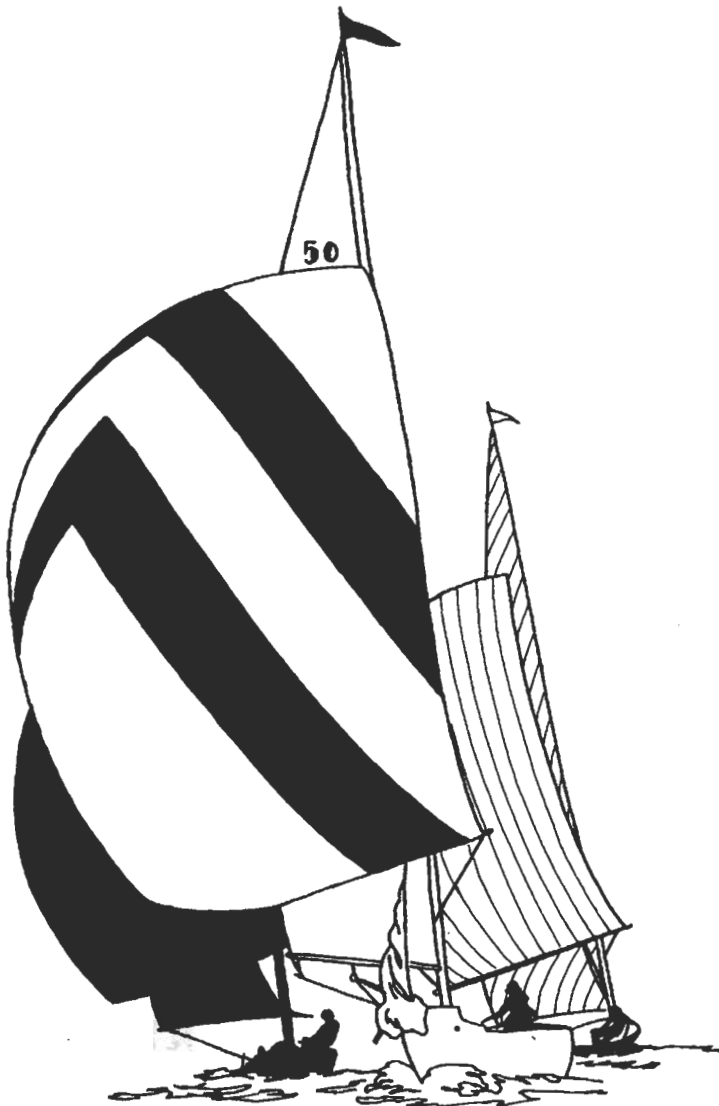
Just in case it does, I want to mention the bubblers that get placed in the marina each winter to protect the docks. These are plugged in by Bill Anderson when the weather turns cold and unplugged when it gets warm. A few private bubblers are installed to protect specific

boats that are susceptible to ice damage. These are approved by HSIA and are on automatic thermostats. Please do not ever unplug a bubbler (or anything else) in the marina. If you see a bubbler on when you don't think it's appropriate, then please let us know and we will check it out. Again, please do not unplug bubblers in the marina.

Come And Get It Day is early again this year. It will be held on Saturday, February 24th from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm at the Library. This is your chance to stop by and join HSIA, get information about community activities, and meet the people who volunteer to make Hillsmere a more wonderful place to live. This is a big event for our community. Be sure and stop by.

If you are on the marina slip waiting list then be sure to fill out the section at the bottom of the HSIA membership form and sign in the specified place. You must do this every year or you will be removed from the waiting list.

In December, I said that I would outline some goals for the next two years. We, as a board and as a community, have been spending a lot of time dealing with protecting our community property
(Continued on page 3)



THE SEA BREEZE

Published by: **HILLSMERE SHORES IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION**

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www.hillsmershores.net

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Administrator: Jean Somers

Treasurer's Assistant: Jim Schwallenberg

HSIA Service and Information: 410-263-4456 (24-hours)

HSIA FAX Number: 410-267-6510

Submit articles, ads and features to above address or FAX

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President	Bill Shuman	410-263-4102
Vice President	Noel Gasparin	410-263-4456
Secretary	Molly McDermott	410-263-8352
Treasurer	Bruce Walker	410-268-7466

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Duval Creek Environmental Trust Representative - open

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Boat Slip Assignment/Waiting List	410-626-0946
County Community Services Specialist	410-222-1242
Guest Parking Passes	410-263-4456
Hillsmere Car & Boat Trailer Stickers	410-263-4456
Hillsmere Garden Club	410-263-2098
Hillsmere Pool Association	410-263-4456
Membership Chairperson	410-263-4456
Swim Team	410-263-7533
Quiet Waters Park	410-222-1777
Recycling Information	410-222-6103

2007 BOARD MEETINGS - 7:00 p.m.

Jan 25	May 31	Sep 27
Feb 22	Jun 28	Oct 25
Mar 29	Jul 26	Nov 29
Apr 26	Aug 30	Dec 13

2007 GENERAL MEETINGS - 7:00 p.m.

Jan 11	May 10	Sep 13
Mar 8	Jul 12	Nov 8

All Board Meetings at The Key School Science and Library Center

All General Meetings at The Key School Multi-Purpose Building

Come And Get It Day, Saturday, February 24, 10:00 a.m to 2:00 p.m.

(President's Comments continued)

and the resulting lawsuit (for the latest update, see the article on the next page of this *Sea Breeze*). This battle will continue for some time and require a lot of our time and effort. However, we can't let this stop us from addressing other important issues. Here are the other issues that I think are important to our community and that I want to see addressed in the next two years:

Community Survey: It's been a little over a year since the community survey was completed. We have published the results in *the Sea Breeze*. Now it's time to act on the information we collected. We have a committee headed by board member Natalie Lobe that is looking at the results and working on recommendations to the board. I apologize that it has taken so long but I do promise that we will consider action on every survey issue that was supported by our community.

Community Long Range Plan: What will our community be like in 10 or 20 years? I think it is important to have a common vision to guide our everyday work. A long range plan would include community facilities and amenities. It could address such things as beach restoration, additional playgrounds, and possibly even a community center.

HSIA Bylaws: In 2005, our Bylaws Committee spent many hours working on a proposed revision to our outdated bylaws. The bylaws determine how HSIA is run addressing issues such as elections and expenditures. The committee's work was nearly completed but ended up on the back burner. We need to finish that job and get the proposed new bylaws to our membership for approval.

Covenants: Currently, our community covenants are very non-restrictive. They deal primarily with setbacks and signs. Many communities have other restrictions dealing with issues like parking and secondary structures. Although the process of changing covenants is complicated, it can be done. I think we, as a community, need to consider changes to our covenants that will benefit all of us.

Community Pool: As you probably already know, the Hillsmere Pool Association is a separate entity from HSIA. You may not have known that our community owns the property that the pool sits on. Their 30 year lease will expire in 2011, just four years from now. We need to decide what will happen next. Will the lease just be extended, will there be changes to how the pool is operated, will it become part of a community center? I think that most residents and board members support the continuation of the pool for our community. However, we need to decide just how that pool will be operated to best benefit all of our residents.

There is no way all of these issues can be addressed without more residents volunteering their time. We need you to come forward and help our community with these important projects. You don't have to become a board member or spend 20 hours a week. Any amount of time you can offer will be a great help. In the past few years, I think the board got a reputation of being very confrontational during its meetings. This turned a lot of people off who might have otherwise volunteered for committees and other projects. Things have definitely changed. We have a great board that works well together. We have our disagreements but our meetings are civil and productive. I urge you to come to one of our meetings and see for yourself. This is your community. Give a little of yourself and you will get much more in return.

Bill Shuman
President, Hillsmere Shores Improvement Association

Judge Rules Against HSIA On Motion For Reconsideration

The judge has ruled in the plaintiff's Motion For Reconsideration in the beach strip lawsuit. The judge agreed with the plaintiffs on most of the issues raised. The most important ruling was to reinstate Singleton and Hertz as plaintiffs. The judge had dismissed their cases based on our claim that the 1996 tax sale ended any adverse possession period. In addition to arguing that the tax sale should not end their case, the plaintiffs asserted that they already had the required 20 years before the tax sale took place. The judge decided, rightfully so, that they should have the opportunity, at a trial, to prove that the 20 year period was up before the tax sale. Significantly, the judge did not agree that the tax sale didn't matter. We believe that we can prove in a trial that their 20 year adverse possession period had NOT been completed as of the tax sale date.

The second major ruling seems to say that the plaintiffs do not have to actually serve the mortgage holders. It is still unclear whether the plaintiffs have to actually name each mortgage holder. We have filed a motion seeking to clarify the judge's ruling. The original order said they must do so. The plaintiffs argued that it was impossible to know who the mortgage holders are; we disagreed. The judge ruled that each defendant (all lot owners in Hillsmere) would be ordered to send a copy of the judge's order to their mortgage company. Once the lot owner mails the notice they have no further responsibility to their lender concerning this case. It will be the lender's duty to file a response in the case and take an active role, if they so desire. The notice that you must send to your lender (or lenders, if multiple mortgages) will be sent to each defendant by the plaintiffs. When you send the notice to your lenders, you should read your monthly bill carefully. Many lenders, on the back of their billing statements, say that payments go to a specific address. Any correspondence must go to some other address. If this is so, make sure you send the notice to the address for correspondence. Even if they are the same address, do not send the notice along with your payment. You don't want your check getting lost in the shuffle. Again, the actual notice that you will be required, by the court, to send to your lender has not yet been approved. Please wait until you get a specific order from the court before sending anything.

The final important decision had to do with who has been served. The judge ruled that anyone who was presented with a certified slip by the mailman and refused to sign for it is considered served. This affects about 100 people. Anyone who did not go to the post office to pick up the certified mail is still not considered served. The entire service issue is very complicated. While no one can force you to go to the post office to pick up a certified letter, in the end it may not make any difference. We do NOT suggest that anyone try to evade being served in any way.

While this was certainly a setback, we are still in a better position that we had expected to be at this point. The trial will take place this spring. We will continue the fight to protect our community property. If you have any information about this case or if you walked the property in dispute at any time between 1976 and 2003, now is the time to come forward. We still need your help to win our fight.

Bill Shuman
President, Hillsmere Shores Improvement Association

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Come And Get It Day

Join us at the Eastport-Annapolis Neck Library on Saturday, February 24, for the annual HSIA membership day. Stop by between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm to renew memberships, pick up car stickers, purchase boat ramp keys, pay for slip rentals, pay for dinghy racks and boat park storage, and learn more about the HSIA. Many board members and Chairs will be available to answer questions. **Please note that anyone arriving after 2:00 pm will need to mail their membership form to the HSIA post office box. The doors will close promptly at 2:00 pm Thank you for your understanding.**

Continuing in 2007:

Photocopy of ALL registrations required: HSIA requires a photocopy of all vehicle, trailer, and boat registrations in order to obtain stickers. We will give you **one sticker** for each vehicle, trailer, and boat registration you provide along with your membership form. Please attach your photocopy to the membership form on the next page of this issue and bring it with you to the Library. Thank you for your patience as we strive to make our community secure.

Slip Renters - **MUST** submit photocopies of your boat title, current Maryland boat registration, and boat insurance policy. These documents **MUST** be submitted along with slip rent payment. **PAYMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS.**

Come-And-Get-It Day is a Hillsmere tradition that saves our community association time and money by reducing mailing costs for member solicitation. Please complete the membership form on the next page and bring it with you to the Library on February 24. Or, you can download it off our web site at www.hillsmershores.net.

Can't make it to Come-And-Get-It Day? Simply tear the membership form out of this issue and mail it along with your payment and photocopy of registrations to the address on the top of the form.. Questions? Call the HSIA voice mail at 410-263-4456 (24 hour voice mail) or email the Administrator at admin@hillsmershores.net.

See you on February 24

Hillsmere Shores Improvement Association Membership Application

Payment of \$10.00 dues allows one voting member per household. Additional voting memberships require payment of an additional \$10.00 per person. Members must be 18 years of age or older. **Renters and other persons not on the tax records must provide proof of residency.** Attach a photocopy of Driver's License or other documentation to this application. Personal information other than Name and Address may be blacked out.

Household Membership	Additional Membership (add \$10.00)
Name(s): _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Phone: Day: _____ Eve: _____
Phone: Day: _____ Eve: _____	

Attach additional forms for more memberships

Owner Renter (please check one)

If Renter please provide Owner Name: _____ Owner Phone: _____

Number of Stickers Requested: _____

NOTICE: A photocopy of EACH vehicle or trailer registration is required to obtain stickers. You may black out all information except Tag Number, Make/Model, Name, and Address.
YOU WILL ONLY RECEIVE STICKERS IF REGISTRATIONS ARE PROVIDED TO HSIA.

Payments:

Type	# Requested	Unit Cost	Total Cost
HSIA Dues		\$ 10.00	
Additional Membership		\$ 10.00	
Dingy Rack Storage		\$ 30.00	
Boat Ramp Key (Member)		\$ 40.00	
Boat Ramp Key (Non-Member)		\$ 60.00	
Boat Park Key		\$ 65.00	
Boat Slip Fee (Slip # _____)			
TOTAL			

MARINA SLIP WAITING LIST:

NOTE: If you are already on the waiting list **you must fill out the following to maintain your current position.**

Check One: add me to the waiting list keep me on the waiting list

Boat Information: Sail Power Length _____ Beam _____ Draft _____

I understand that I must register for the waiting list each year to maintain my position.

Please sign your name here to register:

Did You:

• Attach vehicle registration forms?	• Attach proof of residency (non-owners)?
• Register for the Marina Waiting List?	• Write your phone number on your check?

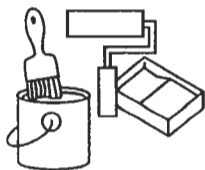
To join the HSIA email list visit <http://www.hillsmereshores.net>
(Questions? Email admin@hillsmereshores.net or call 410-263-4456 – 24 hr voice mail)

Mail to: HSIA, PO Box 3485, Annapolis, MD 21403

HSIA Use Only

Sticker #:	Boat Ramp Key #:	Boat Park Key #:
Date Payment Received:	Check #:	Received By:

HSIA NEWS



Beautification - Volunteers are needed to help with projects throughout the community. Typical chores include planting at the beach and entrance signs, weeding, light landscape maintenance, planning future projects and clean up projects. Anyone interested in helping should contact Noel Gasparin at beautification@hillsmereshores.net or call 410-263-4456. Thank you!

Spring Yard Sale - Mark you calendars for our Spring yard sale scheduled for Saturday, April 28, at the beach. More details will be in future issues of *the Sea Breeze*.

Piers & Harbor Invoices - Piers & Harbor invoices for the upcoming boating season will be mailed by the end of January. If you are sending your payment by mail, payment is due on February 18. Otherwise, you must pay in person at Come-And-Get-It-Day on Saturday, February 24. This process will help us expedite the reassigning of slips, dinghy and canoe racks and space in the boat park. Thank you for your cooperation.

'Tis The Season - Hats off to Hillsmere residents for the beautiful display of Christmas lights this holiday season. It was mentioned at the January General Meeting that Hillsmere looked especially beautiful this year. And we're sure that everyone makes it a tradition to ride by the Donaldson's house on Hillsmere Drive. Leslie Donaldson adds a new item every year to make her house especially festive.

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Personal Ads

For Sale - Piano, Cable, Console model. Used little, very good condition, \$800. Please call Rich at 410-626-1844.

Quality Babysitting Available - Miss Sheila, 38 year old licensed daycare provider on Harbor Drive in Hillsmere, is now offering sitting services on select weekends & week day evenings! \$11 an hour & up. Call in advance at 410-268-1885.

Care for Salt Water Aquariums - Going out of town or on vacation? Need someone to care for your salt water aquarium? Please call Peter or Michael at 410-263-2058.

BUILDING PERMITS

An HSIA Building Permit is required: Every time an Anne Arundel County Building Permit is required.

The following items are needed to obtain an HSIA Building Permit:

1. A copy of the Anne Arundel County Building Permit.
2. A copy of the construction location on the property when required by the County.
3. Cash or check in the amount of \$5.00 made payable to HSIA.
4. Mail to HSIA, P.O. Box 3485, Annapolis, MD 21403



Permits are required for construction of new houses, new sheds, additions to houses or sheds, retaining walls, piers and bulkheads. When in doubt, or if you have any questions, please call the HSIA Building Permit Chairperson, Bill Anderson, at 410-279-1666.

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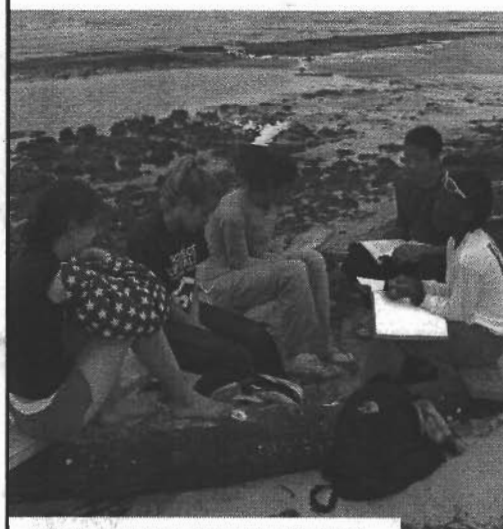
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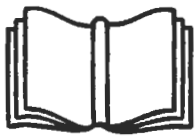
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ITEMS OF INTEREST



Library Happenings

Babies in Bloom - Thursdays, February 8 and 22 at 9:30 and 10:30 am at the Annapolis Branch and Wednesdays through February 7 at 10:00 am at the Eastport-Annapolis Neck Branch (Please call ahead at the Eastport Branch to confirm, 410-222-1770). Parents and caregivers are invited to bring their babies (up to 24 months) for a fun-filled half-hour of stories, songs, rhymes and fingerplays, all specifically designed to stimulate early infant development. Seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Tot's Line after all programs.

Black History Month Events - Tuesday, February 6 at 7:00 pm at the Annapolis Branch and Monday, February 12 at 7:00 pm at the Eastport-Annapolis Neck Branch. Longtime percussionist and performance poet Jali-D is the creator of "Rappercussions." Through his craft, Jali-D demonstrates how powerful, positive words can build self-esteem and inspire wise, young minds. For families and children in grades K-5.

Valentine's Day Events - Saturday, February 10 from 3:00 to 4:30 pm at the Annapolis Branch. Bring your friends to explore the amazing mystery of the heart with activities and Valentine crafts galore! Wednesday, February 7 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm at the Eastport-Annapolis Neck Branch. Create a valentine and give it to the one you love. For all ages.

Special Events - Friday, January 26 and Monday, January 29 and February 19 during Branch hours at the Annapolis Branch. Crafts and games available all day. Enjoy stories out loud at 11:00 am. For ages 5 to 14.

Fun 'N Games - Wednesdays in January and February from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Annapolis Branch and Thursday, February 15 from 6:45 to 7:30 pm at the Eastport-Annapolis Neck Branch.. Join us and have some fun playing your favorite board, strategy or card game. Games and snacks provided. For families with children ages 7 and older.

Events for Teens - Mondays through February 26 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm at the Annapolis Branch. Check out our new manga and graphic novels at the library. Bring your favorites to share with others. Talk, draw and watch some anime. Snacks will be provided. For ages 11 to 14.



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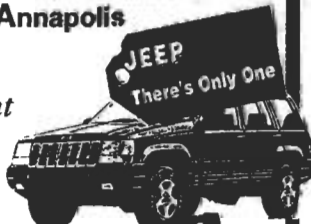
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HSIA Board Meeting

Thursday, January 25, 2007

7:00 pm

Key School Science & Library Center

HSIA Board Meeting

Thursday, February 22, 2007

7:00 pm

Key School Science & Library Center

Deadline for the March

Sea Breeze is **February 28, 2007**



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Testimonial from Yellow Transportation: Our accounting department was badly in need of organization, development of systems, internal control...she did an excellent job.

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Anne Arundel County Snow Info...to keep you on the go!

In the event of a snow storm, the County will start with main and collector roads which will be plowed to bare pavement. The next priority will be making each community road passable*. During a typical storm (under 4"), the snow removal operations should be completed within 24-36 hours after the end of the storm.

In storms up to 14" of snow, main and collector roads will be completed in 24-36 hours after the end of the storm. Community streets will be made passable* in 2-3 days after the end of the storm.

In storms over 14", main and collector roads will be completed in 24-48 hours after the end of the storm. Community streets will be made passable* in 3-4 days after the end of the storm.

During freezing rain or ice storms, continuous sanding and/or salting of main roads and collector roads will occur until road conditions improve. Where public safety is a concern, sanding and/or salting of community streets will be provided after the storm subsides.

*Passable means that although the road may be snow-packed, at least one travel lane will be accessible with a front-wheel drive car. All-weather tires are a must. If the snowplow driver determines that your street meets the definition of passable, no further service will be provided. Additional plowing would create snow banks at driveway entrances which have previously been opened by residents.

For more information on County snow removal, call the Department of Public Works, Bureau of Highways and Parks, Central District, Crownsville Yard, 410-222-7940. You can also call the Road Operations Storm Center, for storms 4" or more and severe ice storms, at 410-222-4040.

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February

2007

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
				1	2 Groundhog Day	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 Piers & Harbor Mtg	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17
18	19 President's Day	20	21 Garden Club	22 HSIA Board Meeting	23	24
25	26	27	28 Sea Breeze deadline			



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