

the **Sea Breeze**

**PUBLISHED BY HILLSMERE SHORES
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION**

MARCH / APRIL 2006

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

March is here and the weather is finally feeling like Spring. People are spending more time outside working in the yard, fixing up the boat, riding their bikes, or taking the kids to the beach.

One of the primary purposes of HSIA is to look out for the interests and needs of all of our residents. This takes many forms. Most commonly, it is dealing with issues that affect the entire community like traffic and zoning violations. Sometimes it takes us to the larger community of the Annapolis Neck when we talk about annexation. Sometimes it pits us against one another like the Beach Strip lawsuit (See the separate article in

this *Sea Breeze* for the latest developments). But sometimes it comes down to helping just one family in a time of great need. Even though our efforts only benefit a couple of people, the act of caring and giving of ourselves does wonders for all of us.

On the day before Valentine's Day, there was a disastrous house fire in our community. Jim and Deb Sagerholm of 329 Edgemere Drive lost everything when their home was gutted by an accidental fire. Deb was home alone with her four dogs (Shar-Peis) when the fire broke out. She was working in the basement when she heard a crash. One of her dogs had knocked over a coffee table that, unfortunately, had a few candles burning on it. By the time she got upstairs to investigate the sound, the flames were up to the ceiling. She escaped, but two of her beloved dogs perished. A neighbor probably saved her life by preventing her from going back into the house, that by now was fully involved in flames, to try and save the two dogs. They were left with nothing... all of their possessions were destroyed. I heard about the fire and visited the house a couple of days later. I found Deb with hands and face covered with soot from looking for anything in the house that might be saved. She had a couple of knickknacks and

(Continued on page 3)

THE SEA BREEZEPublished by: **HILLSMERE SHORES IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION****BOX 3485, ANNAPOLIS, MD 21403****www.hillsmershores.net**

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Submit articles, ads and features to above address or FAX

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Vice President	Noel Gasparin	410-263-4456
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2006 BOARD MEETINGS - 7:00 p.m.

Jan 26	May 25	Sep 28
Feb 23	Jun 29	Oct 26
Mar 30	Jul 27	Nov 30
Apr 27	Aug 31	Dec 14

2006 GENERAL MEETINGS - 7:00 p.m.

Jan 12	May 11	Sep 14
Mar 9	Jul 13	Nov 9

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 25, 10:00 a.m to 2:00 p.m.**

(President's Comments continued)

a handful of pictures. That was it. When I told her that HSIA might try to help, she burst into tears. After a quick consultation by email with the rest of the board, I authorized some immediate help.

HSIA donated \$500 in gift cards for the Annapolis Mall and Bed, Bath, & Beyond so they could get the basic necessities such as clothing and toiletries. The same day, Tom and Kathy Anton showed up with a basket of dog toys and gift certificates for a local pet shop. They were particularly moved since they had lost one of their beloved dogs to a heart attack the same day as the fire.

I sent an email about the fire to the community email list. Kate Penn, a member of the HSIA board, volunteered to coordinate all non-cash donations. She was flooded with offers for everything from furniture to help relocating plants that would be destroyed during reconstruction. We also set up a donations jar at Come And Get It Day. I expected we'd get a hundred dollars or so. We collected \$648. The money was delivered the next day. The response of our community has been absolutely wonderful. Their insurance company helped them find a rental house just around the corner on Cedar Lane so they will remain in their community while their house is rebuilt.

While much of their losses will be covered by insurance, the emotional and financial impact will be severe. If you would like to make a donation, you can mail a check made out to HSIA (put "Fire" on the check memo line). The address is HSIA, PO Box 3485, Annapolis, MD 21403. If you are interested in non-cash donations, please contact Kate Penn at 443-482-9870 or email her at penn@hillsmereshores.net.

This experience has taught us how wonderful and caring our community can be. Now let's see what else we can learn from this tragedy. Fire can strike at anyone. However, there is a lot you can do to prevent fires and to make sure everyone gets out alive if you do have one. First let's talk about prevention. Everyone knows you should never smoke in bed but most people don't think about how quickly a candle can start a fire. Never leave candles burning unless you are in the room. Other dangers are overloaded electrical outlets, electric or kerosene heaters, and papers next to the stove. Never let young children cook or even use a toaster oven without an adult or older child present.

Once a fire gets going things get very bad very fast. The best way to be protected is to have adequate smoke alarms in your house. Most houses have one in the hallway outside the bedrooms. When my daughter was four years old, I walked into her bedroom one morning and was horrified with what I saw. Her Smurf comforter had caught on fire during the night (from a nightlight) and burned halfway up the bed. It was fire resistant and had gone out before it reached her. She was fine. The smoke detector in the hallway outside her door had never gone off. The next day we put smoke detectors in each bedroom. I have a four bedroom house with seven smoke detectors. With smoke detectors available for less than \$10 each, there is no excuse not to have one in every bedroom.

The next thing you can do is to make sure there is a way to escape from any room in the house. If my living room or kitchen were on fire, there would be no way to get down the stairs to get out. I have a fire escape ladder that hooks on the windowsill at each end of my house. You need to stand in every room in your house and think about what you would do in a fire. However, that's not enough. Every one in your family needs to know what the escape plan is and what to do in a fire. This is especially true for young children. When firemen enter a burning house where young children may be present, they immediately search under beds and in closets. Young children will hide out of fear during a fire. If your son or daughter knows the escape plan and you have all practiced it, then they will know to do the right thing and get out safely. Parents spend a lot of time telling their kids not to talk to strangers but often forget to tell them what to do if their house catches on fire.

(President's Comments continued)

Finally, I know how much many people love their pets. However, it's just not worth losing a human life to try and save a pet. A co-worker of mine several years ago had a disastrous fast moving house fire. She actually had to hang from her window and drop to the ground to escape with her life. Her husband decided he had to go back in to save their dog. The dog escaped on its own but the husband died. Call your pet and try to get it to come to you, but don't go back into a burning house. It's not like it seems on TV. You cannot survive in the heat and smoke of a serious fire no matter how much you love your pet. Even if you can get inside, the house can explode in flames in seconds. Please wait for the fire department. They have the knowledge and equipment to make a rescue.

Fire safety is very serious business. I urge everyone to think about what you can do now to make your home safer and to make sure everyone in your family knows what to do in case of a fire. I'm sorry to dwell on this so much, but I'm sure that Jim and Deb would agree that it's something worth talking about. Now let's get back to our regularly scheduled program!

At the February board meeting the grass cutting contract was awarded to Steward Landscaping, the same company that did it last year. There were some serious glitches last year as we were getting used to a new company that didn't know our neighborhood. We did a careful analysis of the problems that occurred and decided that we could prevent them from happening again. Steward was, by far, the best qualified bid so we awarded them the contract again.

We have also hired a new security company for our neighborhood patrols. We signed a contract with B&B Security. I met with their representatives and was very impressed with their professionalism. They will begin patrols two nights a week during March. This will gradually increase as we get into the summer months. In addition, we still have our two off-duty county police officers working two nights per week. During the summer we will have patrols most every night. Please let us know if you have any questions or comments on the new company.

The Beach Strip lawsuit had a few developments this month. In January, the HSIA board made an offer to settle the lawsuit. This was rejected and a counter-offer that included a cash settlement was made by the plaintiffs. This topic was hotly discussed at the March General Meeting. The HSIA board met in a closed Special Meeting on March 15th to decide on a response. This is a complicated subject. There is an article elsewhere in this *Sea Breeze* that explains all the recent developments and the board's response. We decided to hold the March *Sea Breeze* and do a combined March/April issue so we could get out the whole story. Please be sure to read the article.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who helped out at Come And Get It Day. Things went very smoothly and although the lines were long at times most everyone remained pleasant. I also want to thank everyone who showed up to join HSIA and get their stickers, ramp keys, and pay for their slips. If you didn't get a chance to stop by, then please join HSIA by mailing in your application. You can download the application and instructions on other documents you need to include on our web site. You can also find an application in this issue.

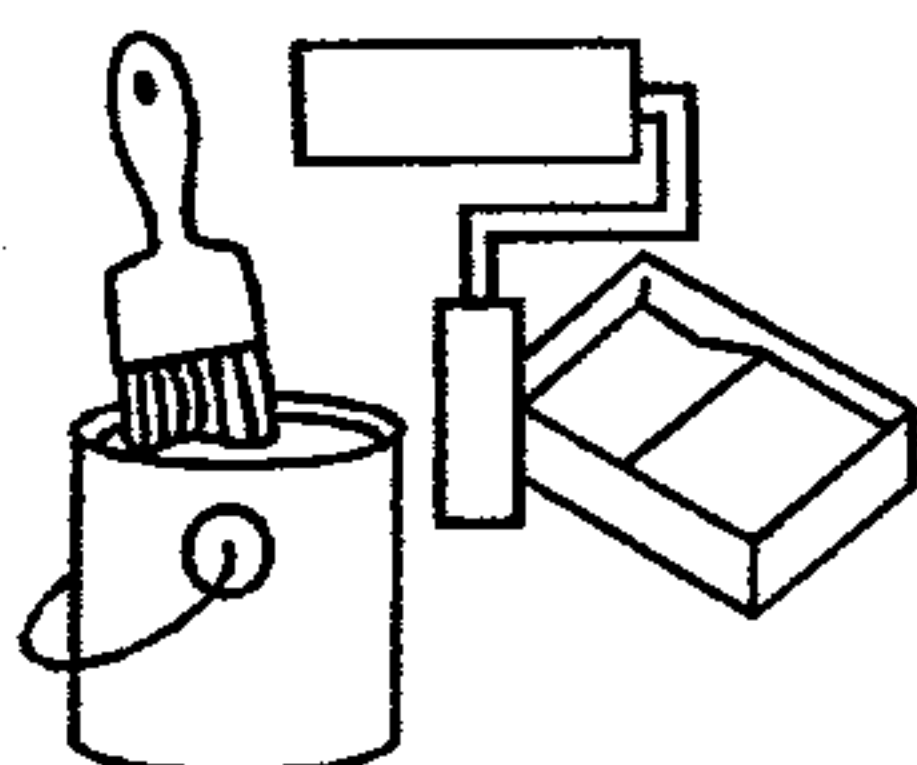
Enjoy the spring weather. This is a great time to say hello to your neighbors and enjoy the sense of community that makes our neighborhood so special.

Bill Shuman
President, HSIA

The President's Comments are just that, the comments of the president of HSIA. The opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of the HSIA Board of Directors or any individual board members.

HSIA NEWS

Come And Get It Day - Thank you to the many residents that participated in this year's Come And Get It Day. If you weren't able to see us at the library, it's never too late to join or renew your membership! Just complete the application on page 8 of this issue and mail it with your payment and appropriate documents to the address on the form. You can also download the application from our web site. Remember to photo copy your vehicle and boat trailer registrations. Don't forget to get your boat ramp key! The lock at the boat ramps will change on April 1. Keys and stickers will be mailed to you. Please allow a few weeks processing time.



HSIA Community Work Day - Saturday, April 22, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the beach. Spring is here and we are ready to hit the beach for playing and relaxing. But first we need to do a little fixing up to make it look its best. Come for an hour or the whole morning to work with your neighbors. We will wrap up the day with a picnic lunch for all volunteers. Bring the kids - we had a few little ones last time and we found work suitable for all hands. There's lots to do this year - our planned projects include the following tasks, but if there is something else you would like to do, let me know and I'll add it on -- pruning, clearing, planting, installing a rain barrel at the large pavilion, painting the pavilion, cleaning the playground equipment, refurbishing the volley ball court (weeding & raking, etc), replacing the wood on a few of the benches, spreading gravel on the parking area & low areas of the park, installing a rain garden at the drainage ditch (if I can get a volunteer to plan and lead installation). If you can't make it on the 22nd and want to help, there are some prep-work tasks that need to be done before the work day. Please contact Kate Penn at katepenn@comcast.net or 443-482-9870. Thank you!

Spring Yard Sale - The date of our Spring yard sale has changed. The yard sale is now scheduled for **Saturday, May 6, from 8:00 am to noon**. Participants are responsible for bringing their own table and for set-up and clean-up of their area. **Please take home your leftovers. Don't fill the trash cans at the beach with unsold items.** Please set your tables on the grassy areas, not on the parking lot. Space is on a first come, first served basis. No reservations are required. The rain date for the yard sale is Saturday, May 13. If you have any questions, please call the HSIA voice mail at 410-263-4456 or email admin@hillsmereshores.net.



Bicycle Helmets - Spring is here! And with the warmer weather, many children will be riding their bikes around the community. As a reminder to them and to their parents, state law requires all children age 16 and under wear a bicycle helmet when operating, or riding as a passenger, on a bicycle. For the safety of the children, please make sure they wear their helmets!

**DON'T FORGET TO PHOTOCOPY YOUR REGISTRATIONS
AND ATTACH THEM TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP FORM**

DUMPSTER DAYS

Please read this information carefully. You may want to hold on to this issue of the Sea Breeze for Dumpster Days instructions. Please note that the dumpsters will be delivered by noon on Thursday, April 27.

Dumpster Days are scheduled for Thursday and Friday, April 27 and 28. The dumpsters will be located adjacent to the community pool. **The dumpsters will be delivered by noon on Thursday, April 27. Please make sure the dumpsters are in place before hauling any items to the dumpster area. If we have a large amount of rain, dumpsters could be relocated to the beach parking lot.**

Please be courteous and follow all directions to maintain a smooth flow of traffic. We will be using a clockwise traffic pattern, the same as in previous years (please see the map on the next page). To avoid excessive damage to the grounds, **do not enter or exit the dumpster area from Harbor Drive.** If anyone can volunteer to help supervise loading of the dumpsters or the flow of traffic, please call the HSIA information line at 410-263-4456.

Please follow these guidelines:

- Do not bring children.
- Watch for, and do not interfere with, county trucks and bulldozers in the area.
- Do not leave waste materials outside the dumpsters or allow them to protrude above the top of the container.
- Do not put too much heavy material in one container. Fill the containers completely from the rear to the front.
- Do not put garbage or similar trash, hazardous materials, tires, liquids, pressurized containers, refrigerators, air conditioners, boats, trailers, logs, or tree trunks into the dumpsters. Tie or bundle light material so it won't blow around. Disassemble large items such as swing sets and other similar items. Cut tree trimmings into 3-4 foot lengths.
- Do not put material into the containers after dark.
- Do not block the flow of local traffic on Great Lake Drive.



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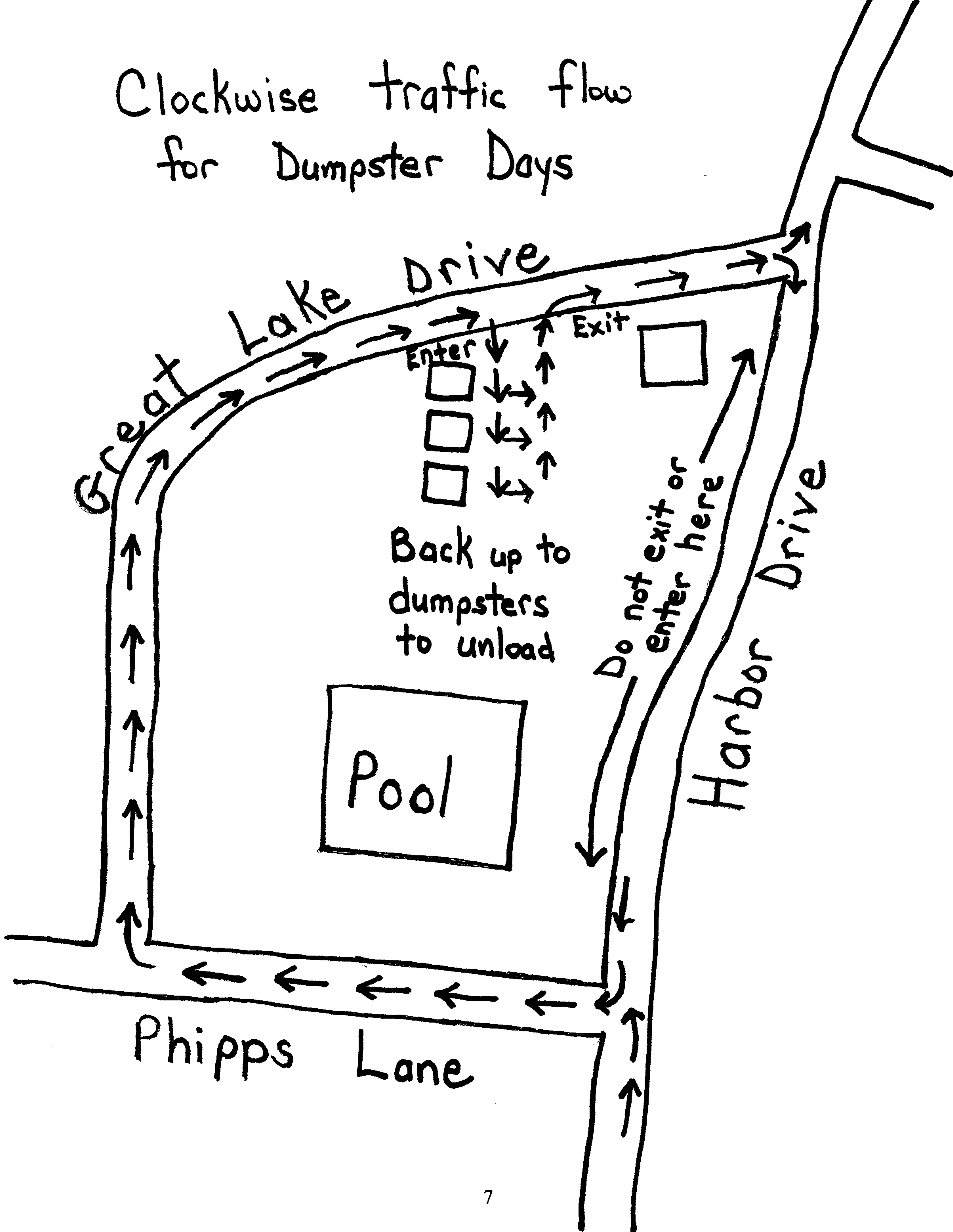


Hillsmere

Resident

PEST MANAGEMENT INC.

Clockwise traffic flow
for Dumpster Days



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

Beach Strip Lawsuit Status

Results of HSIA Special Board Meeting

By Bill Shuman, President, HSIA

There have been some recent developments in the Beach Strip Lawsuit. This controversy has been going on for nearly four years. If you are not familiar with the issues see the President's Comments in last month's Sea Breeze or visit our web site at www.HillsmereShores.net. Many people have asked what we have spent on defending against this lawsuit. We have spent approximately \$15,000 in legal fees plus about \$6,500 in surveying costs. That comes to about \$18 per lot owner. As you probably know, the lawsuit was heard by the District Court where we lost and was immediately appealed.

On December 5th, the Court of Special Appeals ruled in our favor on one of the major issues we raised (and did not rule on the others). They ruled that the beach strip property was owned by each and every lot owner in Hillsmere and that if the plaintiffs wanted to take the property by adverse possession that they would have to sue all of the approximately 3000 property owners. While there are only about 1,250 homes, many are owned by multiple individuals (such as husband and wife).

On January 24th, the board met in a closed Special Meeting. Closed board meetings are permitted in the bylaws when legal issues are being discussed. The board authorized the following offer to settle the lawsuit:

Plaintiffs would agree:

1. To remove fences, hedges and other encumbrances that block access back to property line.
2. Remove any "No Trespassing" signs and agree not to put any signs up that would make someone think they could not walk on the HSIA property.
3. To drop lawsuit and all claims of adverse possession.

HSIA would agree:

1. Not to put up any fences or other structures.
2. That the only improvements allowed would be a ground level walkway.
3. To allow Singleton to keep the part of his pool that is on HSIA property and to allow a fence on HSIA property no more than 10 feet from the property line if required by county code for a pool.

The agreement, if approved, would be legally binding on future HSIA boards. Item #3 above was included because Singleton, the first one to sue HSIA, had built his pool partly on community property. If the fences to the water were removed then his pool would be illegal since pools must be enclosed for safety reasons.

On February 21st we received a response from the lawyer for the plaintiffs. It said that "under no circumstances would (the plaintiffs) go forward with a solution that does not involve their owning the property". The letter also offered to pay \$135,000 if HSIA "executes a deed for all of it's right, title, and interest in and to the property". The offer was on behalf of all of the seventeen lots except for 105, 107, and 127 East Bay View.

Since the court already ruled that HSIA does not own the property alone, we would be selling only HSIA's interest. We would, in effect, be removing ourselves from the suit and telling the members of our

community, who are also owners, to fend for themselves if attempting to assert their rights.

HSIA has a legal obligation to protect the rights of all Hillsmere lot owners with regard to this property. The deed that gave HSIA this property (executed on July 9th, 1952) said that HSIA shall hold the property "for the use and benefit of all Hillsmere lot owners". It further says that HSIA shall "protect and defend" the use of the property as a "beach recreational area" and "for no other use, intent, or purpose whatsoever". It goes on to say that nothing in the deed shall deprive the lot owners of Hillsmere of any of the rights to the use of the property.

If it were legally possible and morally defensible for the board to sell its rights to the property to the plaintiffs then the sale price should be equal to the market value. The combined value of the 17 properties (according to www.zillow.com) is 15.8 million dollars. Everyone knows that having riparian rights greatly increases the value of any waterfront property. Assuming a 10% increase in value (without even considering the additional land) that places a more reasonable offer at over 1.5 million dollars (nearly 12 times the amount offered). The average value of the 17 properties is just under \$69 per square foot. Singleton is seeking to take nearly 7,500 square feet of community property. Based on the value per square foot, his additional land alone would be worth over \$515,000.

If a way could be found for HSIA to legally sell the property and if the price were equal to its actual value then the board might be convinced to approve the sale. The offer of \$135,000 is much less than one year's budget. The benefit to any lot owner would be totally negligible. A price closer to the \$1.5 million figure could allow the building of a community center or other projects that would benefit all the residents in a direct, perceivable way. Asking us to sell \$1.5 million worth of community assets for \$135,000 is nothing more than a greedy attempt to take advantage of this situation.

The HSIA board met in a closed Special Meeting on March 15th to consider the plaintiff's offer and decide on a response. The meeting was not open to the public, as permitted in our bylaws, because we were discussing legal issues. Eight board members plus our lawyer attended the meeting. There was a great deal of discussion about the responsibilities of HSIA to protect this community property that belongs to all of us. There was a strong interest in working with DNR to restore the natural sand beach using the environmentally sound methods discussed at the General Meeting. In the end, the board decided to reject the offer to settle for \$135,000. The following resolution was approved:

RESOLVED, that the HSIA Board of Directors will not convey title for the community property (known as the Beach Strip) to the adjoining lot owners.

Furthermore, The HSIA Board of Directors

- (1) believes that it must preserve and protect the land now titled to HSIA,
- (2) has no plans to build any structures on the disputed land,
- (3) wishes to investigate environmentally sound ways to protect, preserve, and restore the beach that used to exist along the waterfront,
- (4) should represent, foster, and protect the interests of all lot owners in Hillsmere.

If the three waterfront lot owners suing HSIA (Singleton at 117 E. Bay View, Sahandy at 131 E. Bay View, and Hertz at 129 E. Bay View) still demand the title be transferred to them, then their next step may be to file suit against every lot owner in Hillsmere as the court said they must in order to proceed. If this happens,

Error Correction:

The address for Sahandy is 133 East Bay View, not 131 East Bay View.

we will immediately have a community meeting to explain what options we would all have to deal with the situation. These options would probably include retaining a lawyer, defending ourselves, or opting out of the suit. Even though each of us would be sued individually, HSIA would do its best to make sure everyone's rights were protected and to provide as much guidance as possible.

I sincerely hope that Singleton, Sahandy and Hertz do not decide to sue all their neighbors. Their attempt to take community property has caused enough strife already. Filing these lawsuits would only make a bad situation much worse. In another Annapolis Neck community with a similar beach strip, the board put up a chain link fence blocking the waterfront lots from access to the water. Our offer to legally bind HSIA from ever putting up fences, building playgrounds, or other improvements is an excellent solution that would protect the rights of all Hillsmere residents and minimize the impact on the Beach Strip property owners. Even though they might win in the end, they should think long and hard about the effect such an action would have on our community.

We would like to hear how you feel about this issue. Please send an email to lawsuit@hillsmresheres.net or write to HSIA, PO Box 3485, Annapolis, MD 21403. In the interest of fairness, each email or letter MUST include your Hillsmere address or it will not be considered. While these will be shared with the board, if any comments are published then the address will be removed.

As the resolution indicates, the HSIA Board of Directors feels strongly that regardless of the likely outcome of this lawsuit, we must protect and defend the rights and interests of all Hillsmere lot owners and residents.

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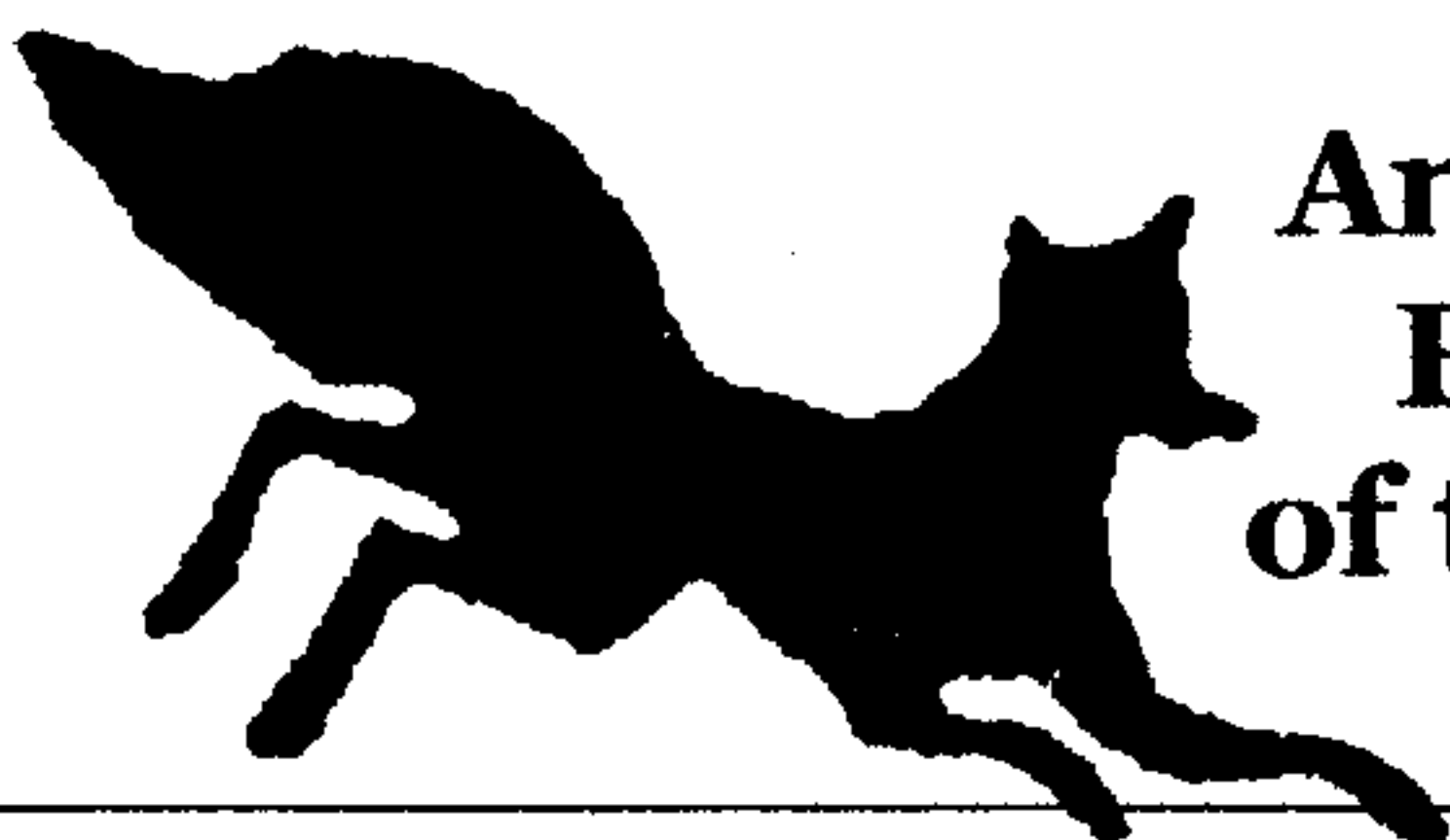
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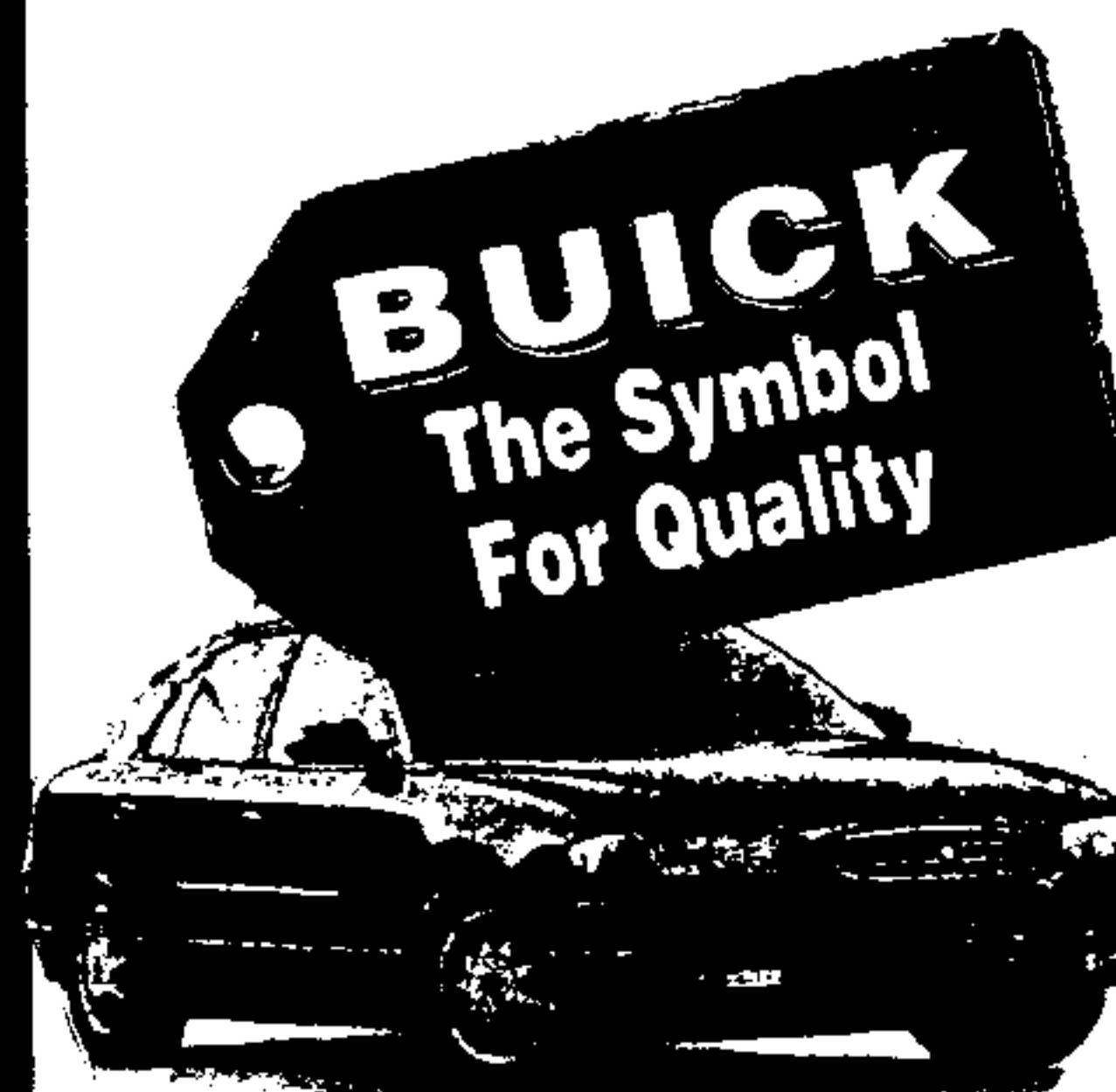


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Hillsmere Hammerheads

Swim Team

Registration

Mail the application form on the next page. We will accept and encourage any swimmer that lives outside of the community. Children 6 and under must be able to swim one length of the pool.

Fees

The team fee is \$75, with a maximum team fee of \$175 per family. Each swimmer must also pay a \$27.00 USA Swimming insurance fee, unless they swim all year and have already paid USS insurance for the year 2005 - 2006.

Practice Schedule

Tentative practice times before school closes: June 12th to 15th: Girls 5:45-6:30 PM, Boys 6:30-7:15 PM

Morning practice times after school closes:

Girls, all age groups 7:15 to 8:10 AM

Boys, all age groups 8:15 to 9:10 AM

Six and under, girls and boys 8:30 to 9:00 AM

Tentative Meet Schedule

June 17th, 24th, July 1st, 8th & 15th. Championships; Bronze - July 19th, Silver - July 22nd and Gold - July 23rd.

Swim Suits

The team suit is a royal blue racing suit.

Parent Meeting

Parents will have an opportunity to register and meet the coaches on Friday, June 9th, 6:30 PM at the pool.

Questions – Call Liz Slear (410) 263 – 7533 or e-mail: eslear@comcast.net



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Parents' names _____

Home Address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ e-Mail _____

Child's Name First, Last, Middle Initial	Sex	Birthday	Age as of 6/1/06	Team Fee \$75.00 *	USA Insurance \$27.00	TOTAL
* Maximum Team Fee \$175.00 per family.				TOTAL		

**Make checks payable to Hillsmere Swim Team. Mail application and payment to:
Hillsmere Swim Team, c/o Liz Slear 328 Beach Drive, Annapolis MD 21403**

Volunteers are needed at the swim meets. Please check a job that you would prefer:

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Timing | <input type="checkbox"/> Food Table | <input type="checkbox"/> Scoring | <input type="checkbox"/> Runner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lane organizer | <input type="checkbox"/> Anything | <input type="checkbox"/> Stroke & Turn Judge | |

I hereby give permission for the above listed swimmer(s) to swim with the Hillsmere Swim Team at whatever pools are used for scheduled practices or team competition. I will permit my child (children) to travel as necessary for team meets. I agree to hold harmless the Hillsmere Swim Team, Greater Annapolis Swim League and the management of any pools which may be used for practice or swim meets, against suits, actions and claims including those arising from personal injuries which may result from this participation.



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A Letter From The Victims of The House Fire at 329 Edgemere Drive

Dear Neighbors,

As you can imagine, these past days have been extremely traumatic and, sometimes, almost unbearable as our world has been turned upside down. Each day becomes terribly sad as Jim and I go over to our house to sort through the ashes to find bits left that can be salvaged. So, when I returned from our home and found the wonderful gift from the Hillsmere Association fundraiser, it was the brightest moment of the week. I'm sure that collecting over \$600. was not easy work, but it was such a relief to receive and will be a life saver along with the other thoughtful items like the bedding, silverware, table, microwave and other things...and especially, the dog toys and treats.

Also, both gift certificates from the Hillsmere Association have been so very helpful to us. The mundane items that we'd usually take for granted - like Q-tips! - we're finding that we need along with all of the other necessities to get on with everyday life.

Ironically, right after the fire, Jim and I briefly talked about starting over in another area of Annapolis, but have quickly changed our mind and decided to stay at 329 Edgemere Drive. The generosity, caring and concern from our street neighbors and other Hillsmere folks that we've never met in person helped us make it through the most distressful days. It also confirmed that we belong in such a caring neighborhood.

As we continue to work on the sensible things like turning off the electric and changing the mail, the stress and loss from the fire is with us every moment, but we know that we have the support of our special neighborhood. We don't have the words to properly thank you all.

Sincerely,

Deb & Jim Sagerholm

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RECREATION AND ENTERTAINMENT

Our first community event is coming up soon. The Easter Egg Hunt will be on Saturday, April 15, at 10:00 a.m. sharp at the beach. Bring your children and a basket for collecting eggs! We start on time. See you there.

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Stephanie Crouse-Geib/Susan Staples: 410-263-4456



Vincent's Run 5K Run/Walk

The 4th annual Vincent's Run is on May 13, 2006. The run begins at 8:30 a.m., with race day registration beginning at 7:30 a.m. Runners and walkers will convene behind Hillsmere Elementary school and the run/walk will take a 5k loop through Hillsmere. The run raises money to support the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society/MD Chapter, the Johns Hopkins Pediatric Oncology Unit and the Johns Hopkins Hemapheresis Dept. and is done in memory of Vincent DiBerardinis, a 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ yr. old Hillsmere Elementary School student who lost his battle with leukemia in June 2002. There will be a bone marrow drive from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the school.

Please come out and help support a great cause and help us keep Vincent's memory alive. For more information, please call Laura DiBerardinis at 410-280-6226. The cost is \$20 for anyone over 18 and \$5 for 17 and younger.

If you would like to run or walk, submit the registration form below.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Age on race day: _____

Male _____ Female _____

Shirt size: _____ Youth L _____ Adult L

_____ Adult XL _____ Adult XXL

Make checks payable to:

The Vincent DiBerardinis Foundation, Inc.

303 Cedar Lane

Annapolis, MD 21403

I understand that a road race is a potentially dangerous activity and I, the undersigned, assume all risks associated with running or walking in this event and do hereby release and discharge The Vincent DiBerardinis Foundation, Inc., Hillsmere School, The Annapolis Striders and all sponsors and volunteers from any claims of liabilities of any kind arising out of my involvement in this activity.

Signature: _____

Signature of parent/guardian if under 18: _____

The Vincent DiBerardinis Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit, tax exempt org. under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code described in 501(c)(3) Tax # 87-0691838

GARDEN CLUB

"The Flowers That Bloom In The Spring & Other Things"

Mother Nature provided a perfect back drop for the March Flower Show that was held on Saturday, March 18, in the library. The theme of the Flower Show was entitled "March Winds". It was indeed a cold, blustery, windy day.

Members of the Club using creative and unique floral arrangements illustrated the four categories of the "March Winds" theme, namely "Wind in the Willows", "Gone With the Wind", "Wind in Your Sails" and "Horticulture Plants Grown in the Home in March". Each of the four categories were judged by members of different garden clubs in the Annapolis area. All who availed themselves of services in the library that afternoon were treated to colorful and imaginative interpretations of the March Winds Flower Show. It was free and open to the public.

The next meeting of the Garden Club will be on Wednesday, April 19 at 12:30 p.m. in the Annapolis/Eastport Neck Library. Bob Berry, a Hillsmere resident, will speak on "How to Grow Plants From Seeds". Please join us to discover how to grow those lovely plants and flowers creatively and economically. For more information, please contact Bette Hutton at 410-263-2098.



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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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The Asian Tiger Mosquito

The Asian tiger mosquito is an exotic species introduced to North America from Asia and has become a major pest in Maryland. From an initial discovery in Baltimore City in 1987, the tiger mosquito has extended its known range to all Maryland counties except Allegany and Garrett. The Asian tiger mosquito is a very aggressive day-biting mosquito that does best in residential areas where shade and water-holding containers are common. Older residential areas with a good deal of shade are preferred sites.

The Asian tiger mosquito is a black mosquito with white stripes on the legs and a white stripe down the middle of its head and back. It is very aggressive and will bite whenever people or animals are available, but it is also skittish and hard to swat. Often you will not feel it biting and it tends to stay near the ground (you may get bitten on the legs only).

The State's mosquito control program cannot adequately control this species due to its habits. It breeds in containers in people's yards that the program cannot treat, and nighttime spray operations are not very effective for the tiger mosquito because it rests in sheltered areas which the spray will not reach. The most effective method of controlling tiger mosquitoes is reducing or eliminating the containers that are the source of the problem.

Please check your yard for standing water in containers such as tires, kiddie pools not in use, buckets, barrels or cans, wheelbarrows, canoes or boats, tarps where water can puddle, flower pots and saucers under the pots. Either empty and store, or rinse these containers out weekly. Don't forget rain gutters – these can breed large numbers of mosquitoes if not cleaned so that they flow.

Draining or removal of water holding containers, even on a localized basis, will produce remarkable long-term reductions in mosquito annoyance. Contact the Mosquito Control Section of the Maryland Department of Agriculture for additional information (Annapolis Headquarters 410-841-5870).

Tips to Rid Your Community of Mosquito Breeding Sites

1. Clean rain gutters to allow water to flow freely.
2. Remove old tires or drill drainage holes in tires used for playground equipment.
3. Store plastic wading pools inside or turn them upside down when not in use.
4. Turn over or remove clay pots and plastic containers.
5. Dispose of all empty beverage containers, plastic wrappers, discarded toys, etc.
6. Check for trapped water in plastic or canvas tarps used to cover boats, pools, etc. Arrange tarp to drain water.
7. Pump out bilges in boats. Turn canoes and small boats upside down for storage.
8. Replace water in bird baths at least twice a week.
9. Remove pet food and water dishes that are not being used.
10. Don't leave garbage can lids lying upside down. Be sure water does not collect in the bottom of garbage cans.
11. Flush water in the bottom of plant holders twice a week.
12. Fix dripping outside water faucets.
13. Turn wheelbarrows upside down when stored outside.
14. Check around construction sites or do-it-yourself improvements to ensure that proper backfilling and grading prevent drainage problems.

Contact the Mosquito Control Section of the Maryland Department of Agriculture nearest you for additional assistance and advice.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Input to General Plan - As you know, Hillsmere residents are greatly impacted by the City's planning policies. Help get *our* ideas into the planning process by joining a small discussion group for two or three meetings. This is a part of *Let's Talk*, a new initiative for getting citizens involved in forming the Annapolis General Plan. For information, call Natalie Lobe (Board member) at 410-263-1947 or email natalielobe@earthlink.net.

Fabulous Recycled Treasurers Sale - Presented by The Friends of the Maryland Federation of Art helping to celebrate Earth Day at Quiet Waters Park, Saturday and Sunday, April 22 and 23. Contributions are needed and can be delivered on the following Mondays from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. at the Quiet Waters Park warming room: April 3, 10 and 17. Household goods, appliances, tools, cameras, purses, silver, china, furniture, jewelry, books, etc., clean and in good condition are welcomed! Sorry, no clothing, electronics, computers or mattresses. Thank you.

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HSIA Board Meeting

Thursday, April 27, 2006

7:00 p.m.

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HSIA General Meeting

Thursday, May 11, 2006

7:00 p.m.

The Key School Multi-Purpose Building

Deadline for the May

Sea Breeze is April 30, 2006

Virginia Diaz-Harris

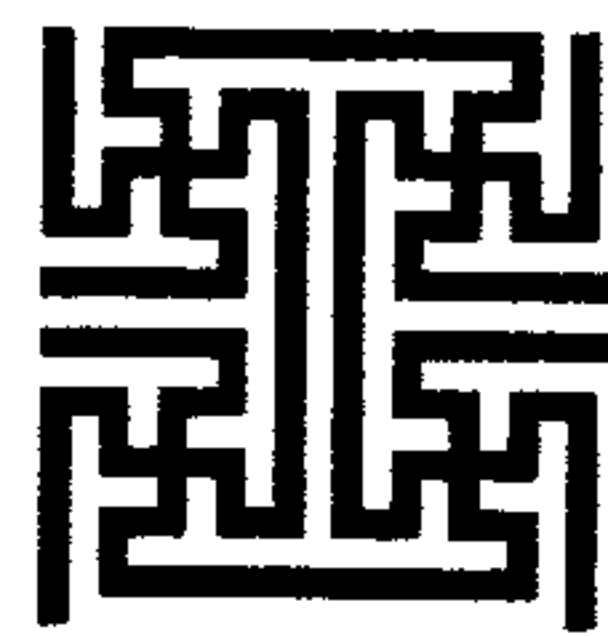
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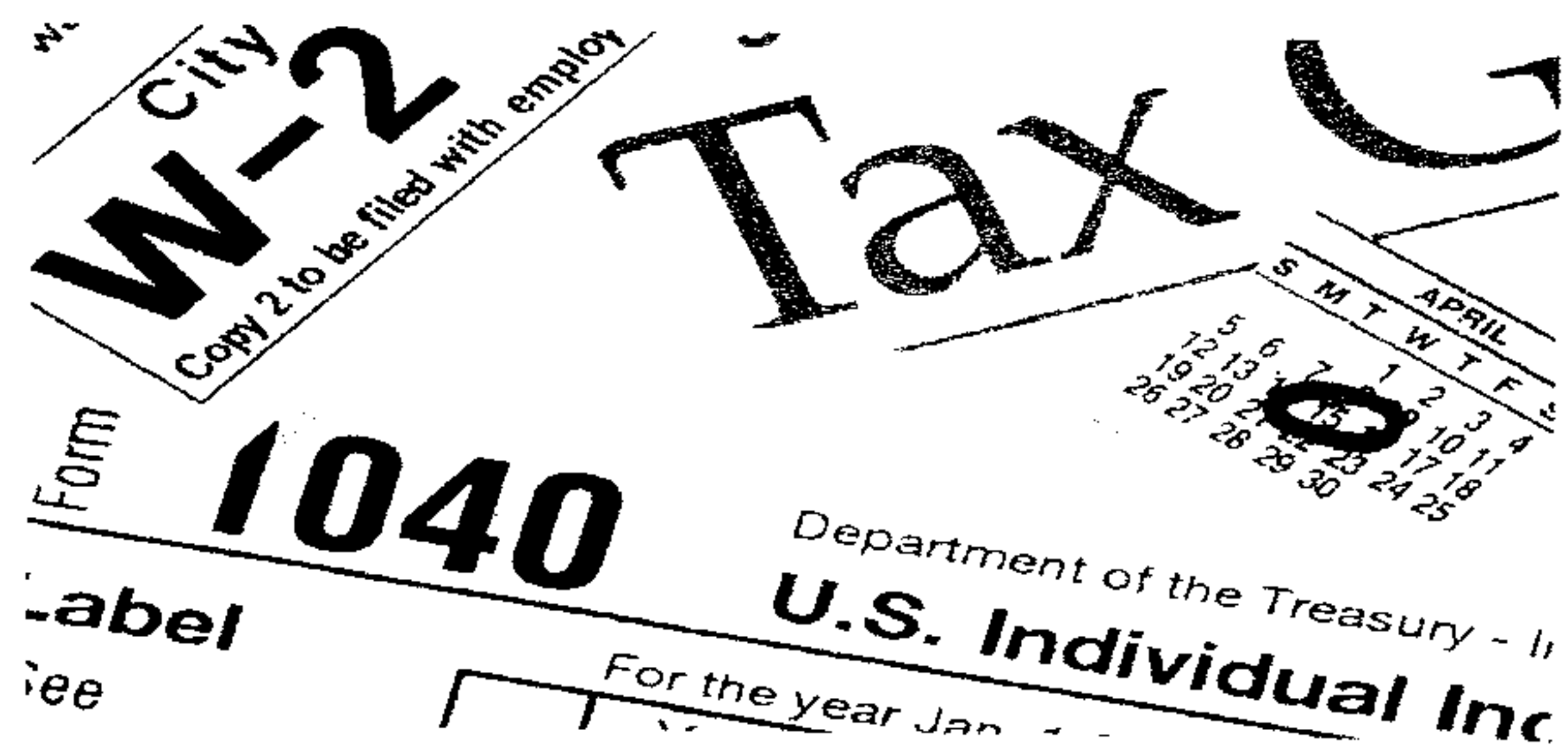
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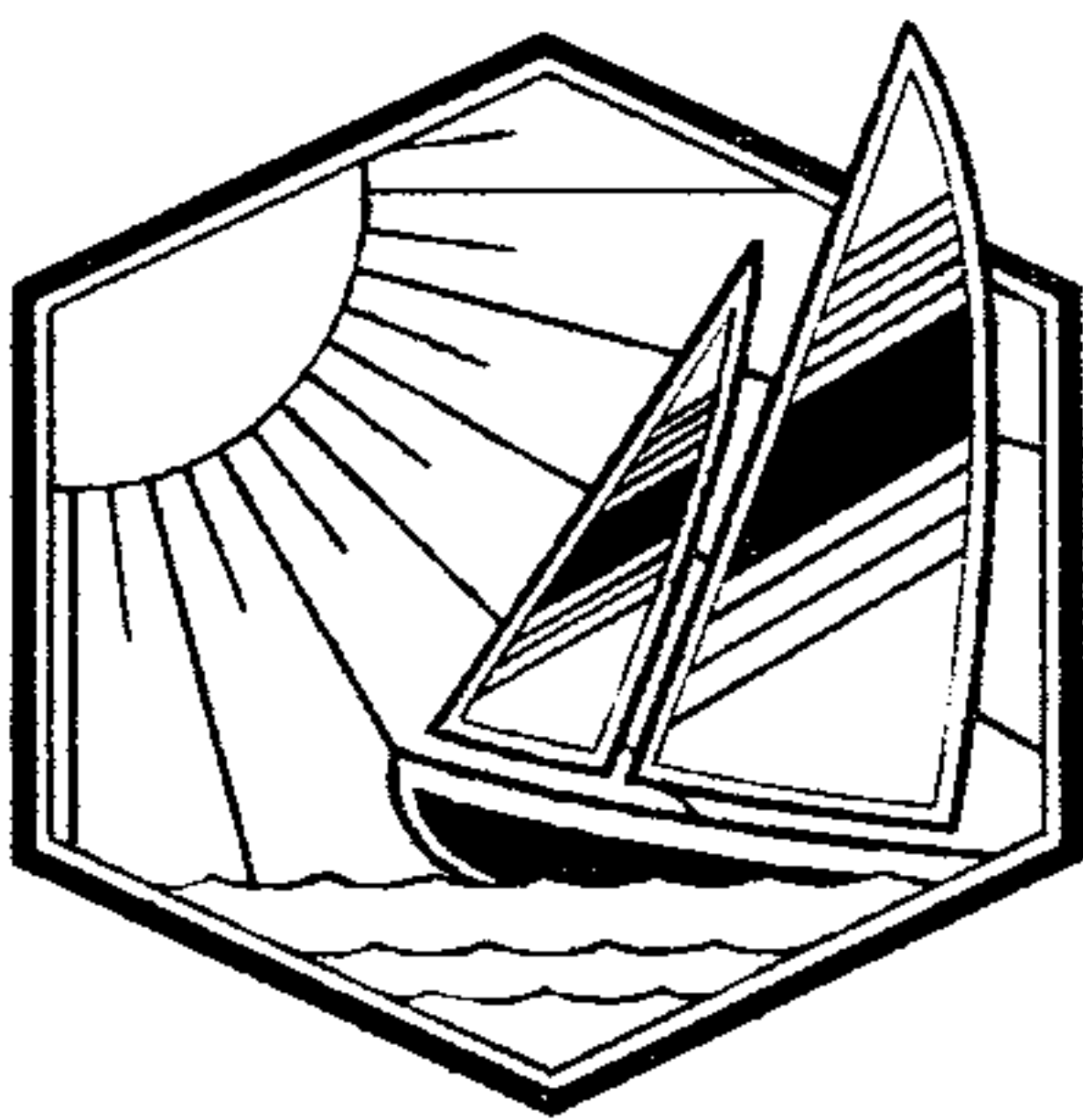
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2006

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
						1 April Fools Day
2 Daylight Saving Time Begins	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Palm Sunday	10	11 Piers & Harbor Meeting	12	13 Passover	14 Good Friday	15 Easter Egg Hunt
16 Easter	17	18	19 Garden Club	20	21	22 Community Work Day
23 30	24	25	26	27 Dumpster Days / Board Meeting	28 Dumpster Days	29



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