

# *the Sea Breeze*

**PUBLISHED BY HILLSMERE SHORES  
IMPROVEMENTS ASSOCIATION**

**SEPTEMBER 2011**

## **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

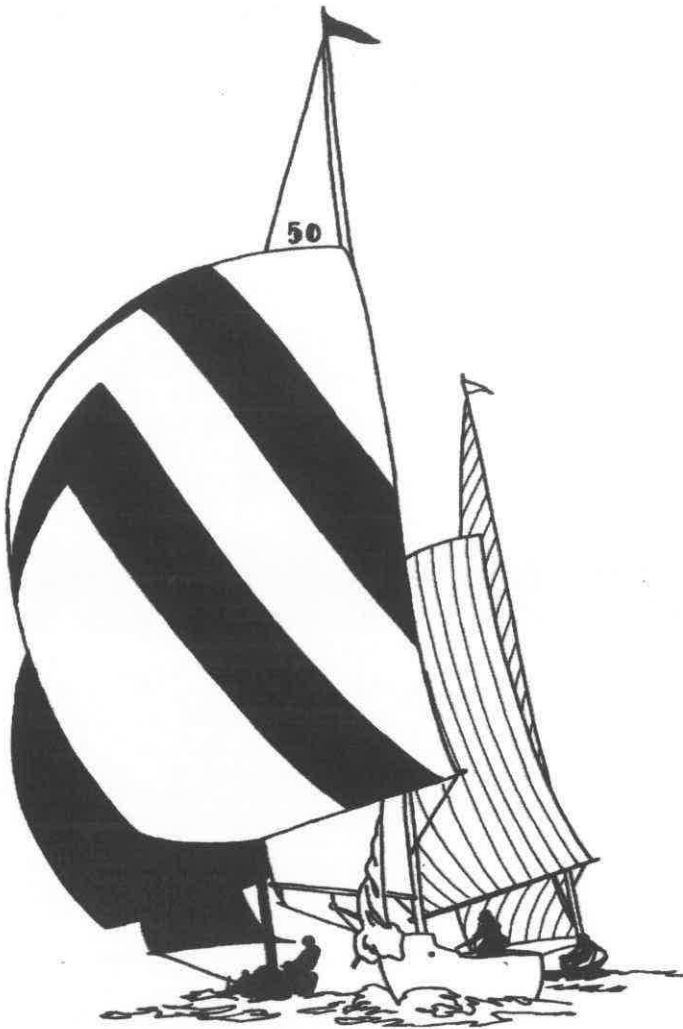
As you know, I usually say something about the weather in the beginning of my comments. This month the weather is the big story with Hurricane Irene having just given us a big scare and some damage. Just in case we were getting complacent, Mother Nature decided that a nice earthquake would get our attention just before the hurricane. Luckily, Hillsmere did not have any serious damage from either event. I have heard different stories of how the earthquake was felt here. I was at work in DC and it was very dramatic with cubical walls wildly swaying back and forth. Some residents have told me about everything shaking and stuff flying off shelves. In our house all we could find when we got home was one small vase that had tipped over. Since no one was hurt I can say, without guilt, that I was excited to have experienced such a strong earthquake.

Hurricane Irene was a different story. After Isabel most Hillsmere residents were wary of what Irene would bring. The biggest problem with Isabel was the storm surge. Many boats, especially the larger ones, were taken out of the marina before the storm hit. The surge in the marina is very destructive to boats. We took our sailboat to Harness Creek, near Quiet Waters Park, and rode out the storm on the boat. We stayed awake most of the night to make sure that if anything happened we'd be able to react quickly. It was noisy but otherwise pretty uneventful. The maximum wind speed we recorded was 45.2 knots. That's 52 miles per hour. Our boat handled it fine. There were three other sailboats in the creek with people aboard. One was a 46 foot catamaran that had sailed non-stop from the Bahamas to escape the storm.

### **SEE INSIDE FOR...**

- **Hurricane Preparation**
- **Dredging News**
- **Piers & Harbor Report**
- **Beach Happy Hours**
- **Tree Sale**

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**(President's Comments, continued)**

Meanwhile, back in Hillsmere, we were being buffeted by strong winds and very heavy rain. I felt bad about not being home to help if anything happened but, as it turned out, I left the community in good hands. A resident named John Morton offered to help out. John is a volunteer member of the Anne Arundel County CERT. CERT stands for "Community Emergency Response Team". He is trained to deal with almost any kind of emergency. I sent out an email before the storm giving John's contact information and asking for volunteers to help if there were any emergencies. About 7 or 8 people responded so John had a team ready, with chainsaws, if needed. John and other volunteers patrolled the neighborhood on Saturday evening and Sunday morning. They reported several trees down and a few power lines damaged. They did not have to provide any major assistance as BGE or the county had already responded. For more details please see an article by John in this issue of the Sea Breeze.

John has many great ideas to help our community prepare for natural (or un-natural) disasters that he has talked to me about in the past. In addition, the Anne Arundel County Office of Emergency Management is very interested in working with all the communities on the Annapolis Neck to coordinate these activities. I am going to formally ask the HSIA board to create an Emergency Preparedness Committee. John has agreed to serve as the chairperson. The committee will work on many fronts to make sure Hillsmere is ready for any eventuality. If you are interested in getting involved in this committee, please email John at [jfmorton@prodigy.net](mailto:jfmorton@prodigy.net) or call him at 410-268-1990.

Speaking of un-natural disasters, the traffic circle proposal for the entrance to Hillsmere came up again this week as the Planning Commission considered the plan to put 158 homes in the proposed Preserve At Quiet Waters development in the area behind Muddy Paws along the Old Annapolis Neck Road. The traffic study, released last month, suggested two alternatives to connecting to Forest Drive directly. The first was a road connecting to Hillsmere Drive at the entrance to Quiet Waters Park that would allow left turns only. The other alternative was an 80 foot in diameter traffic circle at the same location. Both of these options would be a disaster for our community. HSIA board member and ANPF representative Ray Sullivan, has been keeping a close watch on this whole process. Last month many of you responded to an email I sent to the community asking you to let our representatives and the Annapolis city officials know how we feel about this proposal. I setup an email address, [notrafficcircle@hillsmershores.net](mailto:notrafficcircle@hillsmershores.net), that went to everyone involved including County Executive Leopold and Mayor Josh Cohen. The Planning Commission had started it's hearing back in July but had to reschedule it for September 1<sup>st</sup> because they ran out of time. Last week, I again asked our residents to make their feelings known and many of you sent emails. Be sure to read Ray's report on the meeting elsewhere in this Sea Breeze. Ray reports that the Planning Commission has received more emails on this issue than usual. There were 60 residents, from Hillsmere and other communities packing the hearing room. While we seem to be winning the battle to prevent the traffic connection to Hillsmere Drive, there are still those in the city that want that connection. My understanding is that the developer does not want to do it. However, the city can still force them to accept it in order to go through with the approval. Because of the great response from you and our neighbors, the Planning Commission was unable to complete the hearing and will continue it on September 15<sup>th</sup>. I'll be asking you again to make our concerns be heard. If you don't get the community emails then please go to our web site at [www.hillsmershores.net](http://www.hillsmershores.net) and click on the link to join our email list.

Our new web site is ready to go but we need someone who would be willing to act as the webmaster. Because of the way it is designed you don't have to be a web designer or programmer. The webmaster would be more concerned with keeping the content up to date, posting pictures and links to documents, etc. If you would like to take on this important volunteer position, please contact me at [president@hillsmershores.net](mailto:president@hillsmershores.net).

**(Continued on page 4)**

## **(President's Comments, continued)**

The first season for the Hillsmere Community Pool under HSIA management is winding down. By the time you read this we will have just had our end-of-season Labor Day Party. I think HSIA and the many volunteers did a great job. There was a lot to learn and many bumps to get over but it all went well. I'm sure a few things will change for next season as we learn from our experiences this year. There will also be a few improvements before next season. We just signed a contract to expand the fence in two areas. We will move the fence next to the storage shed to make room for a second shed. We will also move the fence next to the parking lot back about eight feet to make room for more tables and chairs. Once that is done, we will be meeting with the Fire Marshall to find out what we need to do to increase the legal occupancy limit. The number is high enough for normal community usage but can become an issue at big parties and, especially, at swim meets. We are committed to supporting the Hillsmere Hammerheads Swim Team and these improvements will help there too. In addition, we will be replacing or re-strapping broken chairs and lounges and fixing or replacing a number of the umbrellas that are in poor shape. We will be also replacing the failing hot water heater so you can consistently enjoy hot showers.

Everyone wants to know if we caught the people who broke into the pool on August 21<sup>st</sup>, smashing bottles and breaking a bench. We circulated pictures of the perpetrators from our video security system to the community and they were even published on Patch.com ([www.greaterannapolis.patch.com](http://www.greaterannapolis.patch.com)). Much to my surprise, one of the people whose picture was published called to turn himself in. He was very worried about being arrested. Matt Franz, our Security Committee chairperson, called him back and a tentative deal was reached. If all six of the perpetrators spend a full day working on a community project, then we won't press charges. We had planned a big effort this month to clear brush and debris from around the pool fence so that is what they would likely do. We'll see if they are able to deliver. If not, we will be working with the police to press charges.

Matt has been doing a great job as the new person in charge of security. He has a great article in this Sea Breeze explaining how our community security program works. One of the great services that we are able to offer now with Blueguard is the ability to have our security keep an eye on your home while you are on vacation or a business trip. If you would like to take advantage of this service (free, of course), just send an email to [security@hillsmershores.net](mailto:security@hillsmershores.net) or leave a message on our 24 Hour Voice Mail at 410-263-4456 (option 6). Please leave your address, contact information, and dates you will be away. Also be sure to let us know if you are leaving any lights on, have a light on a timer, or expect anyone (a friend or relative) to be in the house. We don't want Mac, our Blueguard officer, calling 911 if your relative is inside checking the house.

Finally, The summer is coming to an end and it's almost time for our HSIA elections in November. This year we will be electing directors (officers are elected next year). If you are interested in becoming a member of the HSIA board, please send an email to [elections@hillsmershores.net](mailto:elections@hillsmershores.net). You can join a hard working group of volunteers who make our community such a wonderful place to live. If you have any concerns about what you might be getting into, contact me (or any board member). We'll be glad to answer your questions.

Well, enjoy the last few weeks of summer weather. Come to our next Beach Happy Hour on Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup> from 4-7pm. They are a lot of fun with good food and socializing. This is a great time of the year so get outside and enjoy it!

-Bill Shuman  
President, Hillsmere Shores Improvement Association

## HSIA News:



**Fall Yard Sale:** Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, from 8 am to noon at the beach. Rain Date: Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>. Clean out your closets, basements, and attics, and cash them in. Don't have anything to sell? Come down and browse through the bargains! Since this is a community event, please take the extra time to bring your items to the beach, rather than setting up in your own yard. There's plenty of parking, and you'll get more foot traffic at the community location.

A few things to remember — 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. See you at the sale!



**Community Happy Hours:** Remember, the community Happy Hours are on Saturdays for Fall! Mark your calendar for Saturdays, 4-7 p.m., on September 10<sup>th</sup> and October 8<sup>th</sup> at our community beach. Come join your neighbors and enjoy this beautiful facility! We will supply the hot dogs, hot dog buns, condiments, hot grills, paper plates, napkins, soft drinks and coolers full of ice. You bring a plate of Happy Hour style food to share, some folding lawn chairs, and your favorite adult beverage. If you would like to help with Happy Hours, please contact Kate Penn or Noel Gasparin.

**Become a Member of the HSIA Board of Directors:** Looking for a way to get involved, to make your community a great place to live? Join the HSIA Board of Directors. Nominations are open now for elections in November. For more information, or to submit your name, please email [nominations@hillsmereshores.net](mailto:nominations@hillsmereshores.net).

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## HILLSMERE GARDEN CLUB



### FIRST MEETING FOR THE 2011-2012 MEMBERSHIP YEAR

The Hillsmere Garden Club will meet at the Eastport-Annapolis Library, Hillsmere Drive, on September 21, 2011. Tea or coffee is served at 12:30. Meeting time is 1 p.m. The meeting is open to men and women. We welcome new members. Dues remain at \$15 per year.

Bring a house plant which has survived the summer with you. We will have a discussion about house plants. We will also have a repotting demonstration. The inside plants were not exposed to our dry summer, so they will be a welcome sight in September.

Copies of the schedule events for the new membership year will be available at the meeting.

For more information call Katie Berry, 410-263-1937.

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- Motivated buyer looking for house in Hillsmere. If you are interested in selling, please contact [lahavard4@verizon.net](mailto:lahavard4@verizon.net).
- WANTED: Your unwanted or broken bicycles. Will pick up. Call 410-295-0115 and ask for Dave. Or email Dave at [warpedorigami@gmail.com](mailto:warpedorigami@gmail.com)

## HSIA BOARD NOMINATIONS

~Ted Shepherd, Nominating Committee Chair

### BE ON THE HSIA BOARD...GIVE BACK...GET BACK

If you're reading this, you probably live in Hillsmere. So, you may have an interest in subjects that concern our community, how they become issues, and how citizens like yourself deal with them. A position on the board will provide that privilege. HSIA Board Member is that rare political job with no begging for campaign funds balanced by no need to trash your opponents.

Everyone on the HSIA Board is a giver: time and energy, lots of both. But board members are takers, too. From their work they get a better understanding of our local issues, covering everything from slides at the playground to dredging at the marina to police reports on safety to picnics for you and your neighbors. Board members also take back new friendships with other board members and the chairpersons who seek to stay on top of topics ranging from beautification to zoning. Finally, Board members receive a honing of skills that include speaking in public, learning how to research, and negotiating subjects less simple than they might appear at first glance. In short, should you be elected, you will embark on a diversified course in self empowerment helpful in work and living.

If this prospect tempts you, please consider joining the Board. Just email [nominations@hillsmershores.net](mailto:nominations@hillsmershores.net); please include your name, a statement that you have paid your 2011 dues, and a few words about what you hope to do as a board member and why you're qualified to do it. This information will run along with other candidate biographies in the November issue of *the Sea Breeze*. The General Election will be November 12. If you've occasionally been tempted to enlarge your life by serving the lives of others, now is your chance!



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## **HILLSMERE SECURITY**

*~ by Matt Franz, Security Chair*

I took over the task as Security chairperson last month and have noticed that many residents aren't aware of this great community resource. Many of our security initiatives have been available for several years and have provided us added protection – despite residents unaware of the details. Therefore, I wanted to communicate to everyone the many benefits of what the community offers to protect the neighborhood as well as your own home and property.

Blueguard Security patrols our neighborhood in a marked car with yellow flashing headlights for approximately 30 hours per week. Blueguard checks on both community properties, such as the beach, marina and pool, as well as patrols around the neighborhood on his shift to check for problems. Most recently, he dispatched several calls to BG&E and county services during Hurricane Irene. Many of you have gotten acquainted with Mac, the Blueguard security officer, over the summer. Mac is a former military vet, retired Baltimore firefighter who has been trained in CPR and other emergency training.

While our neighborhood rarely has serious issues, occasionally residents may need to contact police for assistance. Please note, Blueguard Security does not offer the same services as the police. If you believe your concern requires police presence, please call 911 immediately. During an incident requiring police, fire or ambulance attention, time is of the essence – don't delay.

### ***What services does Blueguard Security provide?***

- Special patrols to homes while people are on vacation
- Special patrols to areas with concern
- Informs residents on how to solve issues
- Contacts local government when needed - down power lines and trees, and public safety concerns
- Proactive not reactive to crime
- Secures all gates to community property
- Secures beach and marina for resident use only
- Can provide community membership applications, county contact numbers, documents to request investigation

In addition to Blueguard Security patrols, Hillsmere contracts with a resident and AACO police officer to patrol our neighborhood approximately 30 hours per month. During his shift, the officer patrols the neighborhood and responds to any calls dispatched immediately. Unlike Blueguard, he is able to handle situations that require police assistance and enforce laws. Similarly, the officer is CPR and First Aid trained.

### ***What services does our community officer provide?***

- Same as Blueguard and more...
- Faster response time when on duty
- Hillsmere can use him for special details (speeding, etc.)
- Enforce laws

In addition to these other two resources, we have an individual who monitors the beach on the weekends during the summer months. We have a serious problem throughout the year with non-residents using our beach and marina facilities. We have many fabulous community resources and we are trying to preserve the amenities for residents – as it's our tax money that maintains these properties.

**(Security Report continued on bottom of page 9)**

## DUVALL CREEK DREDGING PROJECT

~ by *Bruce Walker*

**Duvall Creek dredging project will be done by Anne Arundel County in its entirety this fall/winter -- including the permitted spurs from private properties to the channel.**

The package went out for bids from the County in late July and all bids were in by August 9th. The company that is awarded the contract will then be in contact with the residents who have permitted spurs applications. HSIA is currently the biggest spur client with a maximum of 3936 cubic yards of dredge. HSIA Piers & Harbors members at their August meeting unanimously supported dredging all 3936 cubic yards permitted at a price of \$160,000. If the County awards the contract to the apparent low bidder, HSIA will be receiving a very favorable price in exchange for letting the dredger use the HSIA boat ramp.

For those who plan spurs from their private property to the channel, please plan your finances accordingly and make plans for preparing your docks for dredging this coming October-March time period. Boats will have to be moved and (and moorings if they are in the way). Boat lifts may have to be moved.

If you have questions, please email Bruce Walker at the HSIA email address or to the HSIA phone line (410)263-4456.




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### (Security Report, continued from page 8)

Overall, our community is safe, but the extra patrols that we receive with Blueguard and AACO police make it even safer. However, there are a few things you as a resident can do to help:

- Call 911 when you see suspicious activity
- Call Hillsmere security with issues and suggestions
- Let us know when you are on vacation and we will notify security patrols
- Get a Hillsmere sticker on your car so we can quickly recognize you as a resident (beach and marina patrols)

#### ***Hillsmere Security Contacts***

24 Hour Voice Mail: 410-263-4456 (option 6) or email: [security@hillsmershores.net](mailto:security@hillsmershores.net)



## PIERS & HARBORS

~ by T.J. Hurlburt, P&H Committee Chair

Last month, Bill Shuman announced a new Piers & Harbors (P&H) committee chair person. I thought I'd write a brief introduction and then talk about plans for the future of the Piers & Harbors committee. My name is TJ and I have lived in Hillsmere with my wife, Ximena, since December of 2006. We have two young children whom, I'm hopeful, will find enjoyment on small boats one day. I have been sailing all my life and have had the good fortune of working at sea under sail aboard several tall ships in the capacities of chief mate, chief engineer and captain.

Additionally, I was able to sign aboard 2 ice breakers conducting research in biology, oceanography and benthic geology in the coastal and shelf waters of Antarctica. After 12 years of plowing the Atlantic and extreme southern oceans, I moved ashore. Currently I work in the subsea industry as a mechanical engineer and consider myself lucky to have found a way to stay involved in the ocean business and not go to sea!



The P&H committee will be meeting for the second time on my watch on September 13, at 7 p.m. The first meeting (last month) had almost 30 people in attendance, which was really inspiring for me. I look forward to continued good turnout. We have a lot to do in the next few months and at the meeting in September I will lay out a new sub-committee structure that will become governing body for our boating facilities. So, there are lots of places to get involved. Back on the sailing ships we had a great saying: Many hands make light work. I hope this will be the case for the new P&H committee. Three of the sub-committees will be Dock Master Committee (headed by a yet-to-be appointed dock master), a Steering Committee for rules and guidelines architecture, and a Slip Committee to manage the assignments & movements. So spread the word, come to the next meeting to get all the details and sign-up to help out.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the dredging project planned for this October. This will largely only impact the residents of Duvall Creek and those who have a boat at the main dock. The dredging project is expected to last at least 3 months and will affect most of the slips on the north side of the main dock and any boats currently on a mooring in the main channel including the mooring balls and their ground tackle. It is likely that these will have to be moved or removed until the project is complete. The last time there was a dredging project, a system was worked out to move boats to unaffected slips temporarily, which apparently worked well, or so I hear. It would be helpful to know who intends to remain in a slip for the winter so we can plan these movements.

I can be reached at [marina@hillsmershores.net](mailto:marina@hillsmershores.net) for any questions, ideas or feedback. Looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

**Waiting Lists for Slips, Boat Park, and Dinghy/Canoe Racks:** All Piers & Harbor waitlists have been updated on our website. Please visit [www.hillsmershores.net](http://www.hillsmershores.net) to view the lists. In order to remain on the waitlists, your HSIA dues must be current. If you have not paid your 2011 dues, you have been removed from the lists. If you do not have access to the internet, please call the voice mail at 410-263-4456 and leave a message for the Administrator. We will call you back with your spot on the list. If you have a question about the lists, please email [admin@hillsmershores.net](mailto:admin@hillsmershores.net) or call the voice mail. Thank you for your patience.

## HURRICANE PREPARATION AND RESPONSE

~ by John F. Morton, Emergency Preparedness Chair, AA County CERT

Here in Hillsmere, Hurricane Irene served as a good test of how our community can employ Anne Arundel County's use of a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) in an emergency. Hillsmere has the makings of a CERT, and during Irene it was up and running and making a difference. Irene got everybody's attention, with government and the media indicating that Irene would hit with catastrophic impact. It was fortunate, however, that the intensity of the storm dropped to a Category 1 hurricane and the path passed well to our east. As a result, the community was spared catastrophic damage, e.g., flooding. Without being overwhelmed, we were able to test how an HSIA CERT would function in future such emergencies. Next time, we may not be so fortunate - hence, the need to build on what we have learned about CERTs and Hillsmere should we decide to establish a more formal CERT structure and process.

CERT is a FEMA-supported program whose origins were in California earthquake response in the 1980s. Citizen volunteers receive training in basic search and rescue and first aid as well as emergency procedures for disaster response. Anne Arundel County receives Federal grant funds to train and manage CERT volunteers. CERT training usually takes place on a regular basis at the County's fire and EMS training campus in Millersville. The program is managed by the Anne Arundel County Office of Emergency Management in Glen Burnie. Karen Sank is the contact person responsible for Community Outreach and Volunteer Coordination: 410-222-0611, [fdsank00@aacounty.org](mailto:fdsank00@aacounty.org).

In advance of Irene, as a CERT volunteer and Hillsmere resident, I contacted the HSIA Board to request volunteer assistance as the County had activated its CERTs. From my following the storm reports, I had determined that the most likely threat to our community was from falling trees and that we would need to have a CERT team ready to assist residents in clearing fallen trees from roads and possibly structures. The Board circulated an e-mail to its HSIA membership requesting those with chain saws and willing to serve to make themselves known to me. A number of individuals responded and went on stand-by to assist. We remained in contact by e-mail, landline and cell. As a back-up, street addresses were exchanged.

In one instance, a resident on vacation in North Carolina had received the Board e-mail and requested that a volunteer check with his elderly neighbor (with waterfront property and whose spouse was disabled) in order to assist in storm preparations and further to assure that our team would be available to assist in evacuation should the need arise. This kind of community response is precisely what a CERT team can organize, more effectively and efficiently than public services who would be overwhelmed in a major disaster - and whose priorities would not necessarily be the same as those of our community residents. The key requirements are: advance planning; community communication; and situational awareness with respect to resident needs, resident response skills (e.g., medical) and capabilities (e.g., gas/battery-powered power tools, four-wheel drive, ham radio) and the situation on the ground (what has happened, where and when).

On Saturday, the CERT did a street by street survey of the damage from fallen trees, recording where they had fallen on power lines, where they were threatening structures and where they were obstructing streets with the potential to prevent access for emergency vehicles or egress for evacuations. With respect to power lines, the CERT determined whether residents had been able to report the damage to BGE. With respect to fallen tree removal, the CERT asked whether the residents needed and would like assistance. In the instance of a fallen tree across Groh at Beach Drive, for example, resident volunteer Andrew Bradley responded to a CERT and resident request to assist in removal.

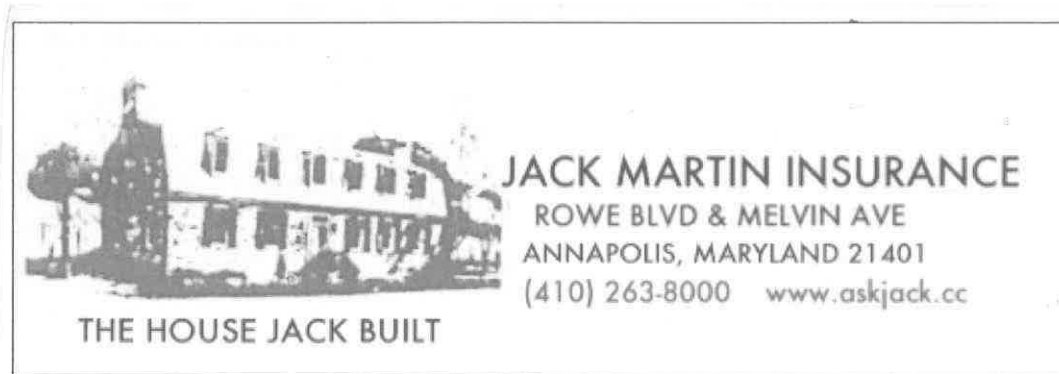
Along with Andrew, Hillsmere resident volunteers included Deanna Daly, Mike Esposito, T.J. Hurlburt, Christian Elkington, Mark Jones, Kate Penn, Patti Bannet and the HSIA security chair, Matt Franz.

**(Hurricane Preparation and Response report continued on bottom of page 12)**

## BEACH STRIP LAND SALE TO RESIDENTS

~by *Bruce Walker*

The process to sell the Beach Strip to the adjacent residents is moving forward albeit slowly. The sale which was to have closed last December 22, was held up because the County said we had to go through the County's subdivision process. After much debate and many applications, the County has approved that HSIA only has to go through the "Amended Plat procedure" and skip most of the expensive process parts required by the "major subdivision process" and even the "minor subdivision process". We are now into the work of the Amended Plat process and hopefully we will complete the sale before Thanksgiving.



### **(Hurricane Preparation and Response report continued from page 11)**

Lest anyone think a CERT organization is redundant - either with respect to county, state or Federal services or with respect to individual households "doing it themselves" - consider the following. In a major disaster, something perhaps a little beyond what we experienced with Hurricane Isabelle, aside from the direct effects of the disaster which could be themselves very severe, power could be out for days. Gas stations would not be able to pump gas. ATMs would not be able to dispense money. Convenience stores and supermarkets would not be able to ring up transactions by cash or credit. Toilets would not flush. Faucets would not run water. Cooking would have to be done on propane grills. Light would need to come from battery-powered lights or candles. Cell phones might not work. Those with landline phones requiring electric power would have no phone service. No Internet. No air conditioning. No heat, except by woodstove. Nearby family and friends not living in Hillsmere would be in similar straits. Any support systems (public/private medical health care providers, social services, churches, etc.) beyond the community would not be easily accessible, a condition that would worsen with each passing day. So, are you prepared? Are your neighbors prepared? Is the Annapolis Neck prepared? If you answered no to any of these questions, then it should be clear that beyond your household, your support system for the duration of a major disaster will be your immediate neighbors, and then your street and finally the Hillsmere community. The CERT can leverage the existing volunteer response assets to be immediately available at a time when county, state and utility services will not be able to be so responsive.

A caveat is in order, however. CERT volunteers need to consider a number of issues before taking some actions: legal liabilities, HIPAA and insurance constraints, etc. Standard protocols do apply, but the community and volunteers must still find agreement before developing their own procedures. Thereby, we can manage expectations, both for the volunteers and those requesting assistance. How should a CERT team proceed if by chance, it encounters serious injuries? Do they know who are the special needs folks? Do they know who are the health professionals in our community? The HSIA Board hopefully will convene a meeting to discuss whether and how a more established CERT structure and process should come to be in Hillsmere. Perhaps too, it could be a model for the Annapolis Neck region thereby increasing overall regional preparedness for the benefit of all.

**Hillsmere Shores Community Pool**  
 ~ Helene Raven, Pool Communications



The pool closed Labor Day, with the annual end-of-season party. Now, the work begins. Our volunteers will be clearing out the brush and vines near the pool enclosure, cleaning out the shed, making repairs, and buttoning up the pool for the winter. It's a lot of work and the good news is that we have more volunteers coming forward to help out. Christian Elkington, Noel Gasprin and Kevin Bacon are providing advice and help with the areas outside the pool. Swim team swimmers and parents are pitching in. E-blasts will be posted with work days and updates.

There will be a landscaping work day at the pool on Saturday, September 17. We will be clearing overgrowth and cutting back shrubbery, and will need many hands to collect and stack the refuse for removal.

Thanks to everyone working on the pool committee and pitching in, when needed.

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## RECREATION AND ENTERTAINMENT

Thanks for the great turnout at the Community Picnic! All the food was eaten with just a few drinks left. The new clown, Sweet Pea, was very entertaining - a great singer and fun for the kids. We unfortunately broke the tug-of-war rope in our second contest. Please note that the girls won the 1st match!

See everyone at the Halloween Parade on October 30th.

~Recreation Committee: Susan Staples and Stephanie Geib

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## SAVE YOUR ANNAPOLIS NECK

~ *Ray Sullivan, Stormwater Chair*

Save Your Annapolis Neck is a joint committee of the Annapolis neck Peninsula Federation and the South River Federation.

**UPDATE: SEPT 2, 12:05 AM ANNAPOLIS PLANNING COMMISSION to MEET AGAIN ON SEPTEMBER 15.** Due to the late hour the meeting of the Planning Commission has just adjourned to reconvene on September 15.

The commission received more emails on this development than before. They were faced with a packed room of 60 residents opposed to the project. The commission placed lots of tough questions to the developers on traffic, environment, stormwater and loss of tree canopy. Even though the Hillsmere Drive cut through is unlikely there are those in the city that cannot give it up. The alternative to have an egress directly onto Forest drive is more likely but will still have a significant impact on us.

**On September 15 the developer will come back to respond to these concerns. Our voice is being heard. Look for more updates and keep sending those emails to the city.**

On the legal front: ANPF has established a legal fund. We also may be able get pro-bono work from the Chesapeake Legal Alliance. This fund can be used not only for direct legal expenses but for expert studies and witnesses when needed. The Giant gas station decision by the city is being appealed to the courts.

If you wish to make a donation to the ANPF legal fund please make checks payable to ANPF send it to PO Box 3244 Annapolis, MD 21403.

GIANT Gas Station: The adjacent communities with the support of ANPF and SYAN are appealing the decision of the City of Annapolis to approve this project. The case is important because the city has ignored its own Comprehensive Plan and traffic study rules. **This station could possibly generate more than a thousand additional trips to the GIANT parking lot every day!** If they get away with here then they will open the door for all the other developments to go forward without proper oversight.

Reserve at Quiet Waters Park: It is ironic that this is called a reserve. If implemented as proposed the forest and wetlands would be destroyed and replaced with 158 single family homes and townhouses. One of the proposals to deal with the traffic is to make a connection to Hillsmere Drive. Even though this is an unlikely outcome; if implemented to would be disastrous for us in Hillsmere. Be vigilante! But traffic is not the only issue. The environmental concerns are serious. The runoff cause by this project will have an adverse effect on Quiet Waters Park, Harness Creek and the South River. If we can get this project downsized then it means less environmental concerns, less destruction of forest and less traffic.

Crystal Spring Farm: Another 500+ units with the accompanying traffic and environmental problems. Another forest destroyed, wetlands filled, runoff..... The latest spin from the developers is that it will create jobs. You know how the developers spell jobs? P R O F I T S! We expect more work sessions and hearing this fall and winter.

Other developments could bring the total number of additional units along Forest Drive to 1000!

The Annapolis Environmental Commission is very concerned about these projects and wants to see the traffic and environmental issues properly addressed by the city. The city should have a plan to with the traffic and environmental issues for all these projects before any are allowed to proceed.

If you have concerns about these proposals you can contact the city departments through SYAN. If you email [SaveYourAnnapolisNeck@gmail.com](mailto:SaveYourAnnapolisNeck@gmail.com) it will get forwarded to the Mayor Josh Cohen and the appropriate city agencies. If you are interested in being involved please contact me through the above email or call me at 781-367-6420. Check out the website for updates. [www.SaveYourAnnapolisNeck.wordpress.com](http://www.SaveYourAnnapolisNeck.wordpress.com)



# Tree Sale

## The Goal

Plant native trees and shrubs in Hillsmere! Native plantings are the easiest way to reduce storm water runoff. Root systems of lawns are shallow, root systems of trees and shrubs are deep and soak up more water.

## Choose Trees Carefully

Find appropriate plants for your yard on the order form. Plant trees at the proper distance from your house. Consider small trees where space is limited. Fill lawns with trees!

## Order Information

Send orders to **Tree Sale, 503 Tayman Dr. Annapolis, MD. 21403**. Make checks payable to HSIA. Orders must be received by **September 23rd** for delivery in the fall. Include name, email and phone number with order. Limited to Hillsmere residents.

*HSIA Storm Water Committee  
Questions? 410-268-1691*

SPECIES	Mature Size: Height/Spread Moisture: (D)ry (M)oist (W)et Light: (F)ull Sun (P)artial Shade (S)hade	WILDLIFE VALUE										LOCATION		ORDERING				
		Songbird	Waterfowl	Hummingbird	Butterfly	Beneficial Insect	Small Mammal	Deer Resistant	Under Utility Line	Near Building	Sun	Shade	Dry	Wet	Container Size	Height	Unit Cost	Quantity
<p>Plant descriptions courtesy Wikipedia and MOBOT *Evergreen</p>																		
Canopy Trees																		
<b>Eastern Red Cedar*</b> A dense slow-growing evergreen tree. The seed cones are 1.2–2.8 in long, berry-like with fleshy scales, dark purple-blue with a white wax cover giving an overall sky-blue color. They are an important winter food for many birds, which disperse the wingless seeds.	F D/M 50-75' x 35-50'	x					x		x	x				1 gal.	18-24"	\$11.25		
<b>Tulip Poplar</b> The tallest eastern hardwood. It prefers deep, rich, and rather moist soil. It is fast-growing, without the common problems of weak wood strength and short lifespan often seen in fast-growing species. April marks the start of the flowering period in the southern USA. The flowers are pale green or yellow with an orange band on the tepals; they yield large quantities of nectar. Yellow fall color.	F/P M 70-100' x 35-50'	x	x			x	x		x	x				3 gal.	18"	\$15.00		
<b>Black Gum</b> Grows best in well-drained loams and clay loams. It is grown as an ornamental tree in parks and large gardens, with its often spectacular red to purple fall color being highly valued. It is an important food source for many migrating birds in the fall. Its early color change is thought to attract birds to the available fruit, which ripen before many other fall fruits and berries.	F/P D/W 30-75' x 20-50'	x	x			x	x		x	x				3 gal.	2-3'	\$17.00		
<b>Swamp White Oak</b> A medium-sized tree that can survive in a variety of habitats. It grows rapidly and can reach 300 to 350 years. It typically grows in wet soils and is usually found in broad stream valleys, low-lying fields, and the margins of lakes and ponds. In autumn, leaves turn brown, yellow-brown, or sometimes reddish.	F/P W 60-100' x 50-75'	x	x			x			x	x	x			3 gal.	2-3'	\$17.00		
<b>Willow Oak</b> A medium-sized tree that can grow moderately fast (up to 2 feet a year) that is distinguished from most other oaks by its willow shaped leaves. It is one of the most popular trees for horticultural planting due to its rapid growth, hardiness and ability to withstand both sun and shade. It is one of the most prolific producers of acorns, an important food tree for squirrels, birds, and other animals in the forest. Fall color is brown.	F/P M/W 80-100'	x	x			x			x	x	x			3 gal.	3-4'	\$17.00		
<b>Bald Cypress</b> Most Baldcypress grow on flat ground on alluvial soils, mainly along riparian (riverside) wetlands normally subject to periodic flooding. It tolerates minor salinity, but does not grow in brackish waters. In cultivation it thrives on a wide range of soils including well-drained sites. It is a very popular ornamental tree, grown for its feathery foliage and orange-brown fall color.	F/P W 50-100' x 20-35'	x				x			x		x			3 gal.	3-4'	\$14.00		
Small to Medium Trees																		
<b>Serviceberry</b> Typically a multi-stemmed tree that is easily grown in average, medium, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Tolerant of a somewhat wide range of soils. White flowers appear before the leaves emerge in early spring. Medium to dark green leaves change to orange-red in autumn.	F/S M/W 15-25'	x				x		x		x				3 gal.	3-5'	\$16.50		
<b>River Birch</b> Often with multiple trunks, the distinctive bark is variable, usually dark gray-brown to pinkish-brown and scaly, but in some individuals, smooth and creamy pinkish-white, exfoliating in curly papery sheets, making it a favored ornamental tree for landscape use. While its native habitat is wet ground, it will grow on higher land. Yellowish fall color.	F/P M/W 20-35'	x				x			x		x			3 gal.	4-6'	\$15.00		
<b>American Holly*</b> A slow growing ornamental plant, it will grow in both dry and swampy soil. The species typically grows as an understory tree in forests. The flowers are pollinated by insects, including bees, wasps, ants, and night-flying moths. Songbirds including thrushes, mockingbirds, catbirds, bluebirds and thrashers frequently feed on the red berries. The tree also forms a thick canopy which offers protection for birds from predators and storms.	F/S M 15-50' x 18-40'	x				x			x	x	x	x		3 gal.	3-4'	\$26.00		
<b>Sweetbay Magnolia</b> An attractive multi-stemmed tree often used in horticultural applications to give structure to landscape designs. It is known for its large, white, vanilla scented flowers, for its clean, attractive foliage, and for its fast growth.	F/S M/W 20'	x			x	x	x	x	x		x			3 gal.	2.5'	\$15.00		
Medium Shrubs																		
<b>Summersweet</b> Typically used as a shrub for natural gardens, or placed alongside a stream or pond in order to delay erosion. It grows in wet forests, pine flatwoods, wetlands, bogs and can be seen alongside woodland streams. The flowers are white or very pale pink with a sweet fragrance from July until September. Foliage turns yellow-golden during the autumn.	F/S M/W 6-8'	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			3 gal.	3-5'	\$15.00		
<b>Witch Hazel</b> Leaves are dark green above, and paler beneath, turning yellow with rusty spots in fall. The flowers are pale to bright yellow and grow in clusters from mid to late fall.	P/S D/M 8-20'	x				x	x	x						3 gal.	4-6'	\$15.00		
<b>Inkberry*</b> A slow-growing, upright-rounded evergreen shrub easily grown in average, medium to wet soils in full sun to part shade. Prefers rich, consistently moist, acidic soils in full sun. Good shade tolerance. Needs minimal pruning unless used as a hedge. Also effective naturalized in moist woodland gardens or in moist locations near streams or ponds.	F/S D/M 4-8'	x	x			x	x	x	x					3 gal.	18-30"	\$14.00		
<b>Winterberry</b> One of a number of hollies which are deciduous, it is prized for the midwinter splash of bright red color from densely packed berries, whose visibility is heightened by the loss of foliage. Although wet acidic soils are optimal, the winterberry will grow well in the average garden. At least one male plant must be planted in proximity to one or more females for them to bear fruit. The berries are an important food resource for numerous species of birds. One male plant will be included with order.	F/P M 8'	x	x			x	x	x	x	x				3 gal.	3-4'	\$31.00		
<b>Virginia Sweetspire</b> Easily grown in average, medium to wet, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Adaptable to shade. Prefers moist, humusy soils, but tolerates a wide range of soil conditions. Versatile shrub for sunny or shady areas of the shrub border or woodland garden. Good for wet locations such as low spots or on the edges of streams or ponds. Leaves turn an attractive red in autumn.	F/S M/W 3-6'	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x			3 gal.	3-4'	\$14.00		
<b>Southern Bayberry*</b> A small tree or large shrub and is adaptable to many habitats. It grows naturally in wetlands, near flowing bodies of water, sand dunes, fields, hillsides, pine barrens, and in both needleleaf and mixed-broadleaf forests. The fruit is a source of food for a lot of bird species. In winter, the seeds are important foods for the Carolina Wren and species of Tree Sparrow.	F/P D/W 6-12'	x				x	x		x		x	x		3 gal.	18-24"	\$14.50		
<b>Southern Arrowwood</b> Easily grown in average, medium, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. White flowers appear in late spring give way to blue-black, berry-like drupes which are quite attractive to birds and wildlife. Variable fall color ranges from yellow to attractive shades of orange and red.																		

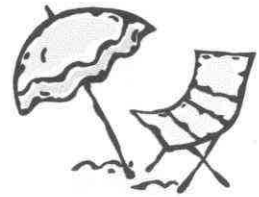
TOTAL ORDER



## ***From the Beach...***

***~Kate Penn, Beach Chair***

We have lots of ways to enjoy our beach, and lots of ways to make it better. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Kate Penn at [beach@hillsmereshores.net](mailto:beach@hillsmereshores.net). It takes a lot of hands to keep the beach beautiful, please do your share. If you see trash, pick it up; if you see something broken or unsafe, please contact Kate or call the HSIA 24-hour voice mail at 410-263-4456.



### ***- Fall Happy Hours and Community Work Day at the Beach:***

The Fall Happy Hours switch to Saturdays from 4-7 p.m.! Join us on September 10 and October 8. We will be grilling hot dogs and providing sodas and water; you are welcome to bring an adult beverage and a dish to share.

Help make the beach even better! Join us for the **Fall Work Day, Sunday, September 25, from 2-4 p.m.** We will be weeding and pruning, applying topsoil & grass seed, and inspecting and repairing equipment. Bring work gloves, Refreshments will be served. Everyone and all ages welcome!

### ***- Maintenance and Improvement Projects at the Beach:***

We have completed drilling the well, and are working on the electrical connections to make it operational. In addition, we will provide electrical service and new lights in the large pavilion.

The big project underway for this year is replacing the swing set by the large pavilion. The current structure is in need of replacement, but Critical Area restrictions and new playground codes have made the planning very complicated. At the August board meeting we discussed plans to replace the current swing set, which is 11 feet tall, with an 8 foot structure. This was proposed because we must provide safety surfacing 4 times the height of the structure. The increased area presents problems because of Critical Area restrictions on impervious surfacing; we are limited in what materials are allowed, and those options are expensive. The board decided to have the community choose between an 8 foot and a 10 foot structure; those options and the prices will be presented at our September General Meeting. If you can't make the meeting, please be sure to send a proxy!

The Beach Committee is making plans for FY2013. We will present these plans for discussion at the September General Meeting, before the final plans are included in the Special Tax Budget that is presented for approval in November. The big item on the upcoming budget will be repairs and improvements to the shoreline structures.

### ***- Shoreline Remediation:***

Several of the structures that form our shoreline are in need of replacement or substantial repair. We have moderate to severe deterioration of the wood bulkheads, concrete wall, and corrugated metal bulkhead, as well as the asphalt walkway, particularly by the large pavilion. This work requires a large financial investment. As with any significant renovation, now is the time to choose what we want for the beach.

The Board has agreed to explore two designs for the community to review. We are working on price estimates for those designs, and getting feedback from the regulatory agencies that would approve the permits. Either option will be a significant expense for the coming year. We have completed some very successful improvements on the east point, with the new stone revetment and the wetland restoration. For both our safety and the preservation of the shoreline, we must address the remaining sections before they deteriorate further.

### ***- Operation Clear Water completed for this Summer:***

The South River Federation Operation Clearwater has completed their monitoring of water quality for this summer. Thanks to Diana Muller, the South Riverkeeper, for her work providing weekly reports on the safety of our water. Remember, what is on the land goes in the water – clean up after your pets, make sure your vehicles aren't leaking oil and other fluids, and pick up your trash. Clean water affects us all!

## Items of Interest

- ❖ **The Annapolis Maritime Museum announces the 7th annual Boatyard Beach Bash on Saturday, September 17th.** Title sponsor, Boatyard Bar and Grill, is partnering with the Museum again this year and will be bringing in Coral Reefer steel guitar great, Doyle Grisham, along with the John Frinzi Band from Florida, Jim Morris and James "Sunny Jim" White for an evening of great music on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay. The event is held on the Museum grounds, 723 Second Street, Annapolis, 21403. General ticket \$60: Your first two drinks are included in the ticket price, as is a grilled buffet dinner provided by the Boatyard Bar and Grill, 5 - 9 p.m.  
VIP ticket \$125: **Very Important Parrothead**, includes an invitation to the pre-party, 4 - 6 p.m., where you can meet & greet the band members, enjoy delicious appetizers and open bar. It also includes a ticket to the Boatyard Beach Bash, 5 - 9 p.m.

- ❖ **Registration is open for the Annapolis Run For Shelter!** 1st Annual Annapolis Run For Shelter at Quiet Waters Park – Half Marathon & 4.2 Mile FUN RACE. A scenic run along the trails of Quiet Waters Park and through the beautiful Chesapeake Bay front neighborhood of Hillsmere Shores. This race is unlike any other in the greater Annapolis area! All proceeds from The Run For Shelter will benefit the Light House Shelter in Annapolis. Race organized by Friends of the Light House Shelter, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization. Timing & Race Management by Blue Point Race Management.

Date: Sunday, October 2, 2011 ; Location: Sassafras Pavilion at Quiet Waters Park, Annapolis, MD

Race Start: 7:30am 4.2 Mile Fun Race ; 7:45am Half Marathon

All participants should be at the Sassafras Pavilion by no later than 7:00am.

We have a special category and prizes for residents of Hillsmere Shores. We appreciate your help in allowing us this opportunity. Sign-up at: <http://www.active.com/cycling/annapolis-md/annapolis-run-for-shelter-at-quiet-waters-park-2011> SPACE IS LIMITED!

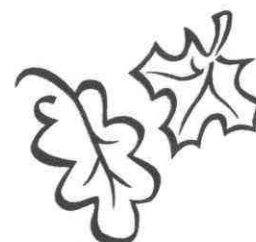
- ❖ **The Annapolis Forum presents João Vale de Almeida**, the Ambassador of the European Union Delegation to the United States at Key School on Wednesday, October 5, 2011, in the Activity Building at 6:30 p.m.

**Ambassador Vale de Almeida will discuss the EU's evolving external policy and the future of EU-US relations.**

With the problem of rising debts and entitlement costs, how can the European Union and the United States face new competition from the economic emergence of other countries around the world and still prosper? Could the rise of other economies open new markets, create new consumers and even lead to increased democratization? Join us we welcome João Vale de Almeida, the Ambassador of the European Union Delegation to the United States, to Annapolis to speak on these important topics and many others.

**Admission is free but there is limited seating, so please reserve a space now at 410-267-9390 or [www.WhatsUpMag.com](http://www.WhatsUpMag.com).**

The Annapolis Forum is sponsored by *What's Up Annapolis* magazine



## BUILDING PERMITS

An HSIA Building Permit is required: Every time an Anne Arundel County Building Permit is required. The responsibility of obtaining an HSIA Building Permit does not fall on your builder, it falls on you.

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, unless we sent you a certified letter. If a Certified Letter is required, the cost is \$20 for the permit.
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 410-263-4456.

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# HSIA GENERAL MEETING PROXIES

In order for a proxy to be used at an HSIA General meeting floor vote, it must have the following information:

1. Name, address, and signature of person giving the proxy.
2. Name of person who will cast the vote.
3. The date of a single meeting for which it is valid.
4. The particular subject or subjects for which it is valid.

Proxies that do not have all of these items will not be accepted. **Proxies must be in writing and delivered to the HSIA Secretary or his or her designate at the General Meeting.** Faxed or scanned copies will be accepted. You may use the following format (it is also available for download on the HSIA web site):

I hereby give my proxy to \_\_\_\_\_ and authorize him or her to vote on my behalf on the following subjects:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

at the HSIA General Meeting to be held on \_\_\_\_\_ and any continuation thereof.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

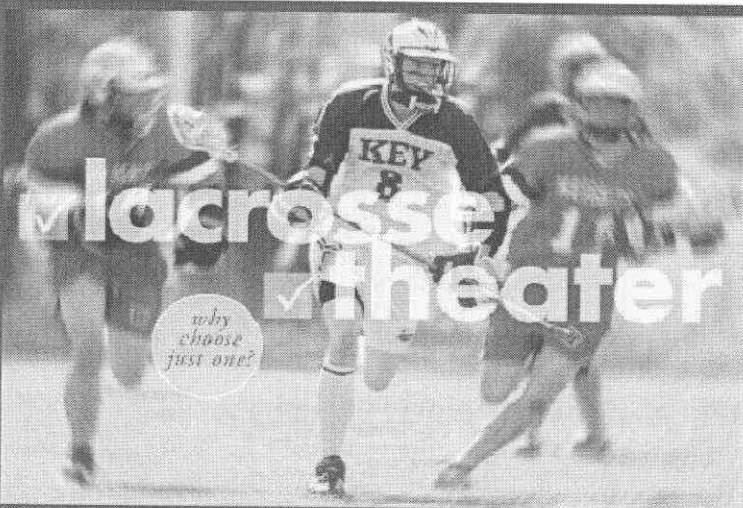
HSIA General Meeting  
Thursday, September 8, 2011  
7:00 pm  
Key School Multi-Purpose Building

HSIA Board Meeting  
Thursday, September 29, 2011  
7:00 pm  
Key School Science & Library Center

Deadline for the September  
*Sea Breeze* is September 30, 2011

***Dates to remember in October:***

- October 1: Community Yard Sale
- October 8: Happy Hour



why choose just one?

Key School is an ideal environment for students who want a broad experience. We don't believe students should narrow their options—our athletes take to the stage as readily as our actors take to the field. We place great value on creativity and competition. Come see for yourself. > [www.keyschool.org](http://www.keyschool.org) <

410.263.9231

**OPEN HOUSE**  
Sunday, November 6 {1 - 3:30 p.m.}

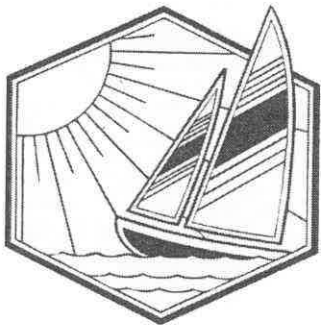
**THE KEY SCHOOL**  
LEARNING TO LEARN FOR LIFE  
Pre-Kindergarten — Grade 12  
534 Hillsmere Dr., Annapolis, MD 21403  
[www.keyschool.org](http://www.keyschool.org)





# September 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5 LABOR DAY	6	7	8 HSIA General Meeting	9	10 Happy Hour
11	12	13 Piers & Harbors Mtg	14	15	16	17 Pool Work Day
18	19	20	21 Garden Club Meeting	22	23	24
25 Beach Fall Cleanup	26	27	28	29 HSIA Board Meeting	30 <i>Sea Breeze</i> Deadline	



**PRESORTED STANDARD  
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Hillsmere Shores Improvement Association  
P. O. Box 3485, Annapolis, MD 21403  
[www.hillsmreshores.net](http://www.hillsmreshores.net)