

The Sea Breeze

PUBLISHED BY HILLSMERE SHORES IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION



July/August 2021



The annual Hillsmere Shores Independence Day Bicycle Parade returned this year! Many thanks to Stacie May for making it happen!



Photo credit to P. & T. Schwallenberg

Unusual “BEE-havior” A ceramic birdhouse containing an old Carolina wren nest, about 5’ off the ground, on the side of a shed was deemed fit to be “Home Sweet Home” for a queen bee this spring. Read more about this unusual occurrence on page 9, and be sure to check out the Native Plant order form on pages 19 & 20!

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President's Message



Michael J. Waters, HSIA President

Welcome to the combined July/August *Sea Breeze*!

We elect board members every year at our annual meeting in November. In even years it is for officers, in odd years it is for seven “at large” directors. If you have an interest in becoming a director, please send an email to nominations@hillsmereshores.org before September 11. We are a volunteer driven neighborhood organization. Please consider lending your support. Details are in the Administrator’s article.

Our Treasurer’s Assistant, Jim Schwallenberg is stepping down. I want to thank Jim for his many years of support and especially for his patience in answering my many questions. Marie Gilbert, CPA is taking his position. Marie is a longtime resident and has helped Jim in the past. With Marie’s start, the Association is moving from cash accounting to accrual accounting. We are also changing our fiscal year to the calendar year. Though it will take a couple of years to fully appreciate the benefits, these changes will improve our ability to compare year to year activities.

As we start to see fewer COVID cases, we are seeing more social activity. Though the Board has not set a date for resuming beach happy hours, Noel Gasparin has volunteered to organize them when we do start. Thank you Noel! I am most hopeful some events will be announced in the next *Sea Breeze*.

Erosion at the sand spit is becoming critical. Shoreline erosion has been a long-term issue for all Hillsmere, but it has become dire for the sand spit. During high water there is little left to stop waves from crashing onto the gravel road. Unfortunately, efforts to add more riprap have not been enough. For example, Kevin Green recently installed four coir logs, four yards of sandy soil, and two dozen bay grass plants trying to save the first two Japanese Black Pine trees where erosion has exposed the tree roots.

The consensus from our May special “zoom” meeting, and Board meetings, is that we need to explore options for a non-structural approach to shoreline stabilization. Maryland law requires a specific order of preference be followed when selecting a solution. The first is no action, which is not an option if we want to keep the sand spit. The second are non-structural practices (“living shorelines”). Living shorelines are generally created by reducing wave energy with offshore breakwaters that allow a marsh to reform behind them. I recommend the Maryland Department of the Environment guidebook on shore erosion control to those interested in learning more <https://dnr.maryland.gov/ccs/Publication/Shoreerostext.pdf>.

As noted in the Board’s May minutes, up to \$30,000 has been committed toward the project with the hopeful expectation we will receive a grant for the balance. We are partnering with the Arundel Rivers Federation to better represent ourselves in the grant process along with spending \$5,000 with Environmental Systems Analysis, Inc. to create a concept plan. The plan will be available for consideration and discussion at a future special meeting and will be part of our grant application.

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HSIA Community News and Events

Jean Somers, HSIA Administrator



Call for Candidates—Are you looking for a way to become more involved in what happens in our neighborhood? Please consider running for a position on the HSIA Board of Directors. We are seeking seven people to be elected to the HSIA Board of Directors to serve a two-year term for 2022 & 2023. These seven leadership positions are critical in moving our community forward. In order to run for a position on the Board of Directors, residents must be current members of HSIA. If you are interested, please email the following information to nominations@hillsmereshores.org **no later than September 11:**

- Statement of intent to run, to include a statement that you are a current member of HSIA
- Statement of qualifications (bio)
- Goals and/or vision for the community

Candidates will be announced on our website and in the October *Sea Breeze*. Ballots will also be available online and in the newsletter. We will let you know when voting will occur, either in person or via email/postal mail. Please consider running for a Board of Director position. Your community thanks you!

Dumpster Days—Our 2021 Dumpster Days are scheduled for Friday and Saturday, October 22 and 23. More information will be in the October *Sea Breeze*.

2021 Beach Reservations—The 2021 Beach calendar is open for reservations. **All Covid restrictions have been lifted.** Please remember that HSIA is not cleaning or sanitizing any of the tables or beach equipment. To reserve the large pavilion, please contact the Administrator at 410-263-4456 or send an email with the date and time requested to admin@hillsmereshores.org. A refundable \$200 security deposit is required. You will need to provide the time and duration of your event. You can reserve the pavilion for the entire day or for as little as two hours. This allows more residents use of the space for parties. Please note that reservations are not final until you receive a confirmation from the HSIA Administrator. If you are serving alcohol at your party, you will need to obtain an Anne Arundel County One-Day Liquor License, provided AA County is issuing licenses. Signed application forms for a liquor license must be obtained from HSIA and submitted to the County at least two weeks prior to the event.

Important numbers and emails

AACO Police emergency 911
AACO Police non-emergency 410-222- 8610
Hillsmere Security: security@hillsmereshores.org
HSIA President: president@hillsmereshores.org
Key School liaison: cewing@keyschool.org
AACO traffic engineer: pwflor11@aacounty.org
Community Cat Program: jkilborn@yahoo.com

An advertisement for the Recycle Coach app. It features a hand holding a smartphone displaying the app's interface, which includes a search bar and various recycling icons. To the left of the phone is a yellow recycling bin with a recycling symbol. The text "Brought to you by DPW & YOU" is at the bottom left. On the right, the "recycle coach" logo is shown above the text "in Anne Arundel County". Below that, it says "Recycle more, recycle right with our free app. Download now." and includes icons for the App Store and Google Play.

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Motions from May 2021 Zoom Board meeting:

(complete minutes can be found on the Hillsmere website at www.hillsmereshores.org)

TREASURER'S REPORT: Gene Gross moved the Board approve Marie Gilbert as Treasurer's Assistant at the rate of \$50 per hour with a 3% increase every year. Maureen Sherer seconded the motion. Vote taken – unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS: Dave Miles moved the Board table Bob Cohn's request for a variance. Ray Sullivan seconded the motion. Vote taken – 7 in favor (Ray Sullivan, Claire Corcoran, Steve Vanderbosch, Maureen Sherer, Phil Jones, Dave Miles, Mike Wurst); 1 opposed (Gene Gross); motion approved.

PIERS & HARBOR:

1. Steve Vanderbosch moved the Board approve amending the contract with Paydirt, LLC for gravel work at the Sand Spit, to include removal of approximately 2" of compacted crushed stone and install 2" of white 57 new stone gravel, in the 3rd and 4th sections of the lot, approximately 326 linear feet and 14,500 sq.ft., at a proposed cost of \$15,527.16 to be paid out of Special Tax funds. Gene Gross seconded the motion. Vote taken – unanimously approved.
2. Steve Vanderbosch moved the Board approve:
 - a. That the HSIA Board designate Arundel Rivers Federation ("Federation") as its partner and agent for the Sand Spit Living Shoreline Project ("Project"), as described in the Federation's 2020 Project Narrative.
 - b. That the HSIA Board request the Federation apply for design funds for the Project under any available grant programs.
 - c. That the HSIA Board encumber up to \$30,000 as a matching fund for the design and/or construction of the Project.
 - d. That HSIA contract with Environmental Systems Analysis, Inc. ("ESA"), a Natural Resources Management and Ecological Restoration firm that was competitively selected by the Federation for the Project in 2020, to prepare a Living Shoreline Concept Plan for the Project, at the approximate 20% design level, at a cost not to exceed \$5,000.
 - e. That the ESA Living Shoreline Concept Plan design contract may proceed concurrently with the grant application process, using HSIA authorized funds, provided that any awarded grant funds will offset or replace HSIA funds to the maximum extent allowed.
 - f. That upon completion, the Living Shoreline Concept Plan will be shared with the Hillsmere community for review and comment, and that a full design contract, including permitting (from Anne Arundel County, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Maryland Department of Environment) shall not proceed without HSIA Board approval.
 - g. That neither the solicitation of construction proposals nor the construction of the Project is authorized without HSIA Board consent and approval.

Phil Jones seconded the motion. Vote taken – 7 in favor and 1 proxy (Ray Sullivan, Gene Gross,

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Seve Vanderbosch & proxy from Chris Grim, Claire Corcoran, Dave Miles, Mike Wurst, Phil Jones – Phil voted yes to approve the sandspit shoreline project because he was told that the proposed project was so designed that there were two separate phases to the project, a design phase and a construction phase, and the community would have an opportunity at the end of the design phase to consider whether to move forward to the construction phase); 1 abstained (Maureen Sherer); motion approved.

BEACH:

1. Maureen Sherer moved the Board approve a new HSIA General Rule (Community Beach section) stating: No fishing and no shell fishing at the Beach. Claire Corcoran seconded the motion. Vote taken – unanimously approved.
2. Maureen Sherer moved the Board approve the creation of a “Protecting our Environment” webpage addition to the existing Hillsmere Shores webpage. Phil Jones seconded the motion. Maureen Sherer withdrew her motion.

**Note: 2021 Board meetings are scheduled to be held via ZOOM.
To request an invitation to meetings, email admin@hillsmershores.org**



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Beach Report

Maureen Sherer, Beach Committee Chair



Swimming at our Beach

Splashing about with swim noodles and floaties is a summer highlight. However, it is important to follow the established health guidelines for swimming. Significant rainfall – one half inch or more during a 24 hour period – washes pollutants, such as fecal matter from pets and other animals into rivers and creeks. With increased development in recent years, impervious surfaces such as rooftops and driveways have increased, adding volume and speed to this runoff. The Anne Arundel County Health Department advises against swimming in rivers and creeks during the 48 hours after a significant rainfall. It also advises boaters and fishers against direct water contact during this period. Fortunately, the natural flushing by tides and currents tend to remediate the runoff and restore acceptable water quality within 48 hours.

Generally the Health Department samples the beach water every two weeks during the summer season, and then posts the test results on its website. However, the Health Department does not sample immediately after a significant rainfall because of the known runoff problem. Then, the Health Department uses its “do not swim with 48 hours of a significant rainfall” guidance. For more information about the Health Department’s guidance, testing, and water quality reports, see its website. <https://aahealth.org/recreational-water-quality-report/>

The likelihood of encountering jellyfish increases as the summer progresses. The jellyfish nets were lowered in mid-June. While these definitely help keep the jellyfish out, a few will inevitably sneak in from time to time. If you do get stung, some people find a paste of baking soda offers some relief. Here’s hoping the jellyfish will be a minimal problem this summer.

Picnicking and Playing at our Beach

Another replacement grill has been installed at the Walker Pavilion, so now there are two new grills there. A replacement slide and slide parts were installed at the west play lot, and a Beach Committee member repainted the ladybug climbing structure. There will be two new picnic tables at the small pavilion soon. The Beach Committee members have very generously contributed many hours to grounds-keeping and maintenance tasks.

Stewardship Notes

On a recent morning, I noticed the tide had deposited a mat of seaweed, bits of reeds, driftwood, and lots of litter, all blended like a mosaic on the shore. The litter was mostly small plastic items. It was a discouraging scene. However, on the encouraging side, one of our neighbors was already at work

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with his rake and trash bag, to clean up the mess. He told me that while he knew his efforts were “a drop in the bucket”, he wanted to help protect fish from plastic contamination. This is becoming a significant problem, as described in the *June Bay Journal* article [“Picture of Chesapeake microplastics grows clearer”](https://www.bayjournal.com/news/pollution/picture-of-chesapeake-microplastics-grows-clearer/) by Whitney Pipkin.

https://www.bayjournal.com/news/pollution/picture-of-chesapeake-microplastics-grows-clearer/article_87bd3606-c3e1-11eb-bdc4-4f1a3864c6f9.html

Unfortunately, a substantial limb of a newly planted maple tree was broken off recently. Please remind children to be gentle with the trees. Also, it is not uncommon to find single use plastic bottles abandoned on benches, drink box straws in the grass, and plastic wrappers blowing around. Please put trash in the trash, and, when possible, take your trash home with you.

I hope you have many opportunities to enjoy our Beach this summer.



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Garden Club

Leigh Gruber, Administrative Assistant & Louise Bower, Recording Secretary

Club members had a special June gathering at Quiet Waters Park rather than taking the summer off. Gary Scaggs, a park volunteer, told the group about a new “Pollinators Hotel” (more accurately described as a “house,” since the bees take up permanent residence) and Butterfly Garden. He described how the House was constructed. Apparently, it isn’t that difficult, so consult YouTube for instructions and maintenance tips.



QWP Horticulturist, Matt Pruitt, led the group through the formal gardens. Both tours were interactive and provoked many different discussions: mulch, boxwood blight and how to prevent the spread. He helped identify yellow flowers in the meadow at the big loop (Buttercup Daisies), and another showy yellow flower near the gazebo in the restored area of the path (Lanceleaf Coreopsis). Our brave President tested the Buzz Buttons or “tooth ache plant”. With tiny round yellow flowers, it can numb the pain when placed on a tooth. Other topics with Matt along the walk included: switching to non-chemical herbicides in the gardens, starting some seedlings under grow lights, and long range hopes to ultimately establish a greenhouse for the Park.

This month’s “Garden Reflections” is printed in its entirety on the following page. The club’s next meeting will be a Summer Tea for members and guests by invitation only.

Those with an interest in gardening related subjects are invited to the club, which meets September through May on the third Wednesday of each month. Visitors are always welcome. For those

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Invasive Species Alert—Poison Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)

This plant has been spotted at least twice recently in Hillsmere. All parts of the plant are highly poisonous to people and animals. Contact causes skin irritation. Ingestion of even small amounts may be fatal. This is the hemlock of Socrates renown.



The first year it looks like many other leafy, fernlike ground plants (carrots, parsnips, parsley, fennel, and their wild counterparts). The 2nd year it can grow 6-8 feet tall with nice looking flowers. A mature plant typically measures three to eight feet tall, has stems that are hairless and hollow with ridges and purple spots. Birds are not affected by it and will spread the seeds.

It needs to be pulled using protective clothing with mouth and eye protection. The pollen may cause respiratory distress and eye irritation.

Poison Hemlock can be identified using apps PlantNet or PlantSnap. For more information: <http://blog.umd.edu/agronomynews/2018/05/03/weed-to-watch-poison-hemlock/> and <https://mcrd.org/poison-hemlock-as-a-food-source-for-birds>

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wishing to join (*Hillsmere residency is NOT required*), annual dues for September through May are \$20. To receive the monthly “Buzz” newsletter or for more information about joining, send an email to the administrative assistant (asg.bulk@comcast.net)

Bumble Bee Haven

—*Catherine Stirling, Garden Club member and Maryland Master Naturalist*

What’s the recipe for a healthy, happy bumble bee? A pesticide-free garden with flowering (mostly native) plants, habitat for nest building, a shallow water source and an interest from the homeowner in nature. Our Hillsmere neighbors, Paulette and Tom Schwallenberg, offer all the ingredients. This Spring they discovered that a queen bumble bee (*Bombus bimaculata* species) built her nest in an unusual location: a ceramic birdhouse containing an old Carolina wren nest, about 5’ off the ground on the side of their shed. No doubt she was attracted to their backyard which abounds in a gorgeous variety of flowering plants and they don’t spray for mosquitoes. Doug Tallamy and Sam Droege, renown experts on native plants and bees, both concur that this nest is a special find!

There are 400 native bee species in Maryland and 14 are bumble bees (honey bees are not native). Our native bees pollinate about 80% of flowering plants and are the only ones capable of pollinating tomatoes and eggplant. Bumble bees are peaceful, social bees that live together in a nest. While the female has a stinger, she rarely uses it unless threatened.

Only fertilized queen bumble bees overwinter, hibernating individually underground in small holes in the soil. Emerging in early Spring, she must find flowers on trees or plants to replenish her energy from the nectar. She then selects a nest spot, often an old mouse nest underground but sometimes in a rock crevasse or, more unusually, a birdhouse like the Schwallenberg’s. Before laying eggs, she collects pollen and nectar, mixing them with her saliva to create a “loaf” to feed larvae when they hatch. As it can be cold, she shivers her muscles to keep her eggs warm. Sterile female “workers” are born first and help her maintain the nest. Later in summer new queens and the males are born to mate with the future queens.

Bumble bees are great fun to watch in your garden—look for bright yellow pollen “baskets” on their legs. Females collect pollen and drink nectar but the males only drink. While females typically overnight back at the nest, males hang out on flowers or twigs and you often can find them still asleep in the morning.

It is important to offer a variety of plants and trees that bloom from Spring into Autumn so there is always a food source. If you plant in groupings, they can go merrily from flower to flower. In early Spring my redbud trees and Virginia bluebells are full of bees. For great information on the best plants to use in your Annapolis area garden go to: https://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/counties/Tip7.pdf.



Photo credit to C. Stirling

Security Report

Claire Corcoran, HSIA Board member and Security & Zoning Chairperson



Please help us keep our common areas safe, clean and used as intended, which is to say, by Hillsmere residents and their authorized guests only. Our common areas are not public access. Our rules define a resident as a homeowner or a person with a leasehold of at least 6 months or more. AirBnB, VRBO and other short-term rentals do not qualify to use our facilities.

2021 STICKERS REQUIRED FOR BEACH and MARINA PARKING

All cars parked at the beach and marina **MUST** display a current HSIA sticker that is red and white with the year 2021 on it. Having vehicles properly identified helps us maintain our community property as it is clearly intended and posted: Private and for Hillsmere Residents and authorized guests only.



Residents may have up to 8 guests, but must accompany them, at all times, at the beach or marina. Beginning July 1, any cars not displaying current stickers will be asked to park outside the beach lot unless identified to the guard on duty as guests of a homeowner who is properly stickered *and in attendance with them*. Our new stickers went into effect April 1st; due to Covid19, a 90-day grace period was granted on old stickers, but that grace period has ended. The security guard on duty will be checking for the red and white 2021 on all vehicles. Stickers are FREE; the guard does have application forms in the squad car, but is not distributing 2021 stickers. The stickers must be obtained from our administrator, after the proper, completed form is submitted with proof of residency showing your auto registration at a Hillsmere address. (Military personnel with out-of-state tags may provide alternative proof of residence.)

NO SOLICITATION SIGNAGE

HSIA recently purchased more “No Soliciting” signs. These are the same design that can be seen on many properties around our community. Signs are available for \$15.00 each. To purchase a sign, email security@hillsmershores.org or admin@hillsmershores.org. Include your contact information and street address. Cash or checks will be accepted upon delivery or pick-up.



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Another capital project is the refurbishing of the Hillsmere House at 117 Great Lake Drive. The house is used for storage and occasional meetings. Though the house is in good structural shape, it has been neglected and needs a new roof, siding, windows, and other things. The House Committee, led by Tom Schwallenberg, has begun drafting an RFP for an architectural firm to oversee the project. The project is administratively complex since it is a public building and will be made handicap accessible. The pending proposal will include an option for converting the carport into a garage for storing heavy items.

Throughout the summer water quality tests are conducted by Arundel Rivers Federation volunteers and Anne Arundel County Department of Health. They both test for enterococci bacteria, but their numbers can vary widely for both known and unknown reasons. The Federation tests weekly no matter what, while the County tests every two weeks, provided there has not been a recent rain event. Both organizations make clear you should not swim 48 hours after it rains. A link on the Hillsmershores.org site will lead you to the latest report.

Geese are a top contributor to high bacteria results. Fortunately, we do not have a flock of geese at the beach this year. As you may recall, last July we were invaded by a flock during their molt. When at the beach or sand spit please do not feed and encourage geese.

Increasingly, the Board is receiving variance requests to the covenant 15-foot setback rule. It is difficult to deny a neighbor's request, but the Board does not have latitude to grant variances. The following statement from our attorney is passed along to help explain this situation.

The covenant language is quite clear, “no building or any part thereof shall be closer than fifteen (15) feet from the division line of any lot...”. The authority of the HSIA Board to grant a deviation is circumscribed to factual circumstances where “the contour or shape of a lot will not permit compliance with these restrictions.” Clearly, the intent is to only allow deviations to be granted where, due to the physical constraints of the particular property's contour or shape, reasonable use of the property for a single-family dwelling cannot be accomplished absent the grant of a deviation. A corollary point is that once a property owner has reasonable improvements and use of their property, there is a very high burden for the property owner to prove that those physical constraints on the property “do not permit” compliance with the covenants absent a deviation approval. Unless and until the Hillsmere community decides to revise its covenants, the HSIA Board must apply the existing covenants.

In closing I want to express my continual appreciation of our many volunteers. From installing new signage to developing long range plans, dozens of you contribute every week to making Hillsmere a better place to live. Thank you.



Personal Ad

Volunteers needed to provide foster home, and/or a forever home for the rescue of a Mammy, a 5 year old Whippet/Retriever mix and her 3 male, one year old pups. Please visit our website for pictures and further information: Downwardfacing.dog

HSIA Building Permits

Dave Miles, HSIA VP & Permit Committee Chair



Are you aware that an HSIA Building Permit is required every time an Anne Arundel County Building Permit is issued for any work done at your property? The responsibility of obtaining an HSIA Building Permit falls on the owner, not the contractor.

Why does HSIA require and issue building permits? Per [HSIA Covenants & Deed Restrictions](#), HSIA's sideline setbacks (15') are different from the County (7'). We encourage anyone having work done at their property to reach out to the HSIA Building Permit Chair, Dave Miles, before designing your structure or applying to the County. Failure to obtain a HSIA Building Permit prior to the start of construction will result in a stop work order and, at a minimum, an increase in the cost of the permit.

The fee for an HSIA Building Permit is \$25. The fee increases to \$50 if work has already begun and you failed to apply for an HSIA Building Permit. **The following items are required to obtain a HSIA Building Permit:**

1. A copy of the Anne Arundel County Building Permit.*
2. A TO SCALE copy of the site plan.*
3. A copy of the plans and elevations, TO SCALE, of the structure. *
4. Cash or check in the amount of \$25., made payable to HSIA
5. Mail all required items & payment to HSIA, PO BOX 3485, Annapolis MD 21403
6. Provide current mailing address, as your HSIA Building Permit will be mailed via USPS

**AN EMAILED PDF OF THE COUNTY PERMIT AND THE TO-SCALE SITE and/or STRUCTURE PLAN IS PREFERRED AND MAY EXPEDITE THE PROCESS OF OBTAINING A HSIA BUILDING PERMIT.*

[HSIA Covenants & Deed Restrictions](#), recorded among the Land Record of Anne Arundel County, Maryland in Liber 900, Folio 334, are binding as a matter of law and are for the benefit of all other lot owners in Hillsmere.

[Anne Arundel County Code, 2005, Article 18, Zoning, Title 2, General Provisions, Subtitle 3, Set-backs](#)

For permit approval, please allow 10 working days to receive your permit in order to allow time

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to make sure all of your documents are legible (do not take photos of documents and email them), review it, verify your request meets HSIA Covenants and setbacks, and contact you for any questions on the submission. Please provide your current mailing address if it is different than the address on the AA County Building Permit. Your permit will also be mailed, via USPS, which takes several days.

If you have any questions on the setbacks, please see paragraph 2 on the previous page, or, feel free to ask before you go to the trouble of getting a County permit and find you cannot get an HSIA permit. When in doubt, or, if you have any questions, please contact Dave Miles, HSIA Building Permit Chairman via email, davemiles@aol.com, or voice mail, 410-263-4456.

At the time of publication, the following [HSIA Building Permits](#) have been approved and issued in 2021:

Property Owner	Property Location	Type of Work	Permit #
T. Hurlburt	403 Walnut Drive	Shed	20001



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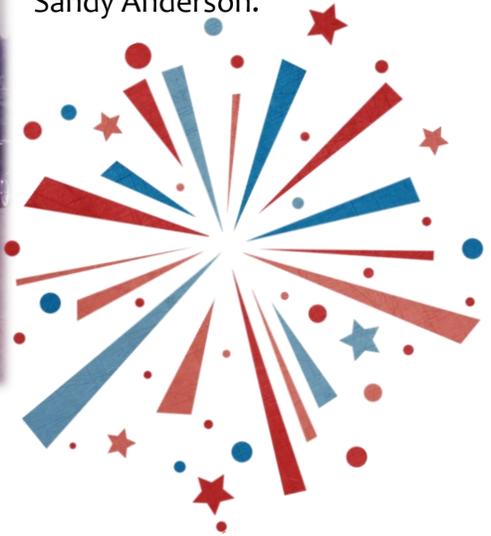


3 Church Circle
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Sandy Anderson recently found these pictures from a July 4th celebration in 1977. The community came together and had a parade from the library down to the beach. They had fire engines, old cars, homemade floats and of course, kids on decorated bicycles. At the beach there were lots of games for kids and music for the adults. All photo credits to Sandy Anderson.



hello
SUMMER

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Piers & Harbors News



Steve Vanderbosch, HSIA Board Member and P&H Chair

Living Shoreline at the Sand Spit – Concept Plan Design

For over a year we have reported that the P&H Committee was discussing and exploring the feasibility, costs and potential of grant funding for the creation of a living shoreline along the Sand Spit at the Marina. We were not successful in 2020 in obtaining grant funds for a living shoreline design, but there is now some progress to report.

In late May the HSIA Board of Directors approved contracting with Environmental Systems Analysis, Inc. (“ESA”) for a Concept Plan design of a living shoreline at the Sand Spit, at a cost not to exceed \$5,000. This Concept Plan will be a 20% design of a plan to place about 630 feet of segmented offshore breakwaters and create approximately 14,500 square feet of marsh, providing new marine habitat and wave attenuation at the Sand Spit. The Concept Plan will include a description of site characteristics, a plan view (sills, sand fill, plantings) overlaid on an aerial photo, nutrient reduction calculations, example photo and a descriptive paragraph. This information will be shared with the Hillsmere Community, and will be used to augment the application for grant funding for a full design. It is hoped that a Concept Plan will enhance the chances of obtaining full design funding in the lively competition for grant monies.

The HSIA Board also approved partnering with Arundel Rivers Federation (“Federation”) for this project, and requesting the Federation to apply for design funds under any available grant programs.

The 20% Concept Plan design work kicked off with a very productive, on-site working meeting on Wednesday June 23rd attended by representatives from ESA, the Federation, Chesapeake Bay Foundation (“CBF”), and HSIA. CBF has expressed interest in incorporating oyster reef balls into the Sand Spit Living Shoreline project.

Attendees spent over two hours on site, making observations and sketches, taking preliminary measurements of water depths, and discussing living shoreline concepts and possibilities, including size and location of segmented breakwaters, marsh creation, and feasibility of upland BMPs (small rain gardens and conservation plantings) along the Sand Spit.

...STAY TUNED FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS!

Sand Spit Gravel Makeover

In April the HSIA Board approved a contract with Pay Dirt LLC to re-do a section of the Sand Spit gravel by removing 2”-4” of the old, crushed and compacted Blue #57 gravel and replacing it with 2” of new, washed and rolled White #57 gravel. In late May the Board approved a contract amendment to extend the gravel makeover to the rest of the Sand Spit. The Gravel Makeover gives the Sand Spit a bright new look, and feedback has been positive. The contractor also installed a new, P&H-provided speed bump and relocated two others, as we attempt to remind drivers that the Speed Limit is still 5MPH! We want the new gravel to last a long time!

Marina Gate

The HSIA Board approved contracting for the replacement/repair of the Marina Gate operating system and access control system. As previously reported, the Marina Gate began to operate

(Continued on page 16)

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more erratically and was shut down this Spring. The manufacturer of the old gate system went out of business over 15 years ago, and the existing gate motor and card reader were increasingly difficult to service. We will be keeping the big, yellow swing gate, but having a new operating motor installed, with a new key fob reader. Work should be done in July, and new key fobs will be swapped for old gate cards when the new system becomes operational.

Marina Security Camera System

As a preliminary to resuming work on upgrading the security camera system at the Marina, internet service was installed by Verizon FIOS from Bay View Drive East to the vicinity of Slip #1, with router and modem in a small metal box attached to the sign posts. A larger cabinet will soon be installed. AMP Security Services has acquired the cameras needed and ordered the antennae required to link the system cameras and video recorder. Camera and antenna units are being assembled offsite and will be installed over the summer months.

Beach Drive Boat Ramp

The right (South) side of the Beach Drive Boat Ramp gate has been relocated and deteriorating fence pilings were replaced. The gate post and pilings were moved slightly farther onto the property, away from Beach Drive, to allow easier turning into the Ramp.

An application for a Vegetation Management Plan has been filed with the County for the removal of 3 dead or dying trees at the Beach Drive Boat Ramp.

Marina Slips and Occupancy

The Marina is essentially full. As of July 2nd there were 3 unassigned slips (#A7, #A8, #A10) out of 123 total slips. By now, all boats should be in their assigned slips, and be visibly displaying their 2021 HSIA Marina sticker. There may be some additional turnover of slips as boats are sold or residents move, resulting in slips being available for guests and transients, as well as to offer to new residents moving into Hillsmere.

(Continued on page 17)



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(Continued from page 16)

Transient Slips

The Marina does have several transient slips, at the ends of A Dock and C Dock, along with a couple of unassigned slips. If you have friends or family wishing to dock temporarily, please contact:

The Slips Committee Chair at marinaslips@hillsmereshores.org or
The P&H Chair at marina@hillsmereshores.org

a day or two in advance for slip assignment. Fees are \$1/foot/day, payable by the sponsoring Hillsmere resident to HSIA.

Kayak Racks

The Kayak Racks are full, and there is a Waiting List. If you are not using/have not used your kayak in a long time, now might be the time to give it up, sell or donate it, and free up a rack space for someone else. All rack space holders should be routinely checking on their canoes/kayaks/SUPs to make sure they are secure, *especially before and after storms!* Locking is recommended! And please ensure your vessels are turned upside down so mosquito-breeding water is not collecting inside.

A couple of residents have suggested constructing additional kayak racks. There are already 114 rack spots at three Piers & Harbor locations. We will be exploring the feasibility of adding more racks at different locations in Hillsmere. Our Kayak Racks have historically been constructed as community projects by Eagle-Scout candidates.

...AND NOW FOR THE ANNUAL HURRICANE SEASON WARNING!

NOAA's Hurricane Outlook: 6th Straight Above-Average Season!

NOAA calls for an above-average Atlantic Hurricane Season, with a probability of 13-20 named storms (we're already up to #5 Elsa). Six to ten of them should be hurricanes, including three to five major (111+ mph winds) hurricanes.

Tropical storms and hurricanes threaten the Atlantic coast and the Chesapeake Bay every year.
Do you have a Hurricane Plan?

As we all know, the HSIA Marina is not well-protected and is extremely vulnerable to wind, storm surge and wave action. The slips are narrow, and the pilings are short. If a Tropical Storm or Hurricane Warning is issued for this area (generally 36 hours in advance), the best thing to do is to remove your boat from the Marina, by having it trailered, hauled, or moved to safer moorings or hurricane holes.

If you are out of town or otherwise unavailable during hurricane season, it is *critical* that you have someone local designated to take care of your boat. Please *make sure their contact information has been provided to the Chair of Piers & Harbors!* (marina@hillsmereshores.org). Pay close attention to tropical storm forecasts, be proactive, and be ready to move your boat to safety.

Kayaks, paddleboards and canoes are vulnerable, too, and should be tied down and secured, or removed to your yard or garage, or another safer place.

(Continued on page 18)

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If you decide to let your boat ride out a storm at the Marina (*NOT RECOMMENDED!*), take appropriate steps to secure your boat and protect the Marina by rigging extra lines, doubling up mooring lines and placing protective fenders. Boat owners are solely and completely responsible for securing their boats if left in the Marina during a tropical storm or hurricane. Note that all power and water will be shut off at the Marina and boat ramps during tropical storms and hurricanes.

SLIP HOLDERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR AND ASSUME FULL AND SOLE RISK OF DAMAGE TO THEIR BOATS AND THEIR EQUIPMENT, THE BOATS AND EQUIPMENT OF OTHERS, AND THE HSIA PIERS AND DOCKS AS A RESULT OF LEAVING THEIR BOATS IN THE MARINA DURING A TROPICAL STORM OR HURRICANE.

P&H MEETING TIME AND PLACE

We will have a live, in-person P&H meetings this month, on Tuesday, July 13th, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at the Walker Pavilion at the Hillsmere Beach. All Slip Holders, Ramp Key Holders, Wait Listers, Kayakers, Boat Parkers, etc. are invited to attend. Volunteers are always needed and welcomed!

Pool Committee Report

Danielle Franz, Pool Committee Chair



Hillsmere Residents:

Admission to, or use of, the pool facilities will be granted to any *Hillsmere property owner* consistent with the expenditure of Special Community Benefit District funds for the maintenance, repair, and/or renovation of the pool facility.

The pool will be open to all *Hillsmere property owners*, regardless of pool membership status, free of charge, on the last Tuesday of each month for the 2021 season:

Tuesday 7/27

Tuesday 8/31

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WEBER@KWEBERCPA.COM

100 SEVERN AVENUE, SUITE 102
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21403

410-280-8988

*Hillsmere
resident
😊*



Native Plant Sale

Native plants are perfectly adapted to our climate and soil types. They have co-evolved with wildlife and support native species of birds and insects. Native trees and shrubs have deeper root systems than grass, and help absorb stormwater.

Choose large trees carefully

Plant trees the appropriate distance from your house. Consider their final size. Plant small trees or shrubs where space is limited.

Order Information

Send orders to **Native Plant Sale**

503 Tayman Dr. Annapolis, MD. 21403

Checks payable to **HSIA**. Orders must be received by September 26th for fall delivery. Hillsmere residents only.

Questions?

Phyllis Saroff

410-268-1691

Name _____ Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____ Total Due _____

SPECIES	WILDLIFE VALUE										LOCATION				ORDERING					
	Light: (F)ull Sun (P)artial Shade (S)hade	Moisture: (D)ry (M)oist (W)et	Mature Size: Height/Spread	Songbird	Waterfowl	Hummingbird	Butterfly	Beneficial Insect	Small Mammal	Under Utility Line	Near Building	Sun	Shade	Dry	Wet	Container Size	Height	Unit Cost	Quantity	Total Cost
Plant descriptions referenced from Wikipedia and MOBOT																				
Canopy Trees																				
Willow Oak (<i>Quercus phellos</i>)	F/P	M/W	80-100'	x	x			x			x	x			x	2 gal.	3'	\$17	___	___
A medium-sized tree that can grow moderately fast (up to 2 feet a year) that is distinguished by its willow shaped leaves. It is a popular tree for horticultural planting due to its rapid growth, hardiness and ability to withstand both sun and shade. It a prolific producer of acorns, an important food tree for squirrels, birds, and other animals in the forest. Fall color is brown.																				
Small to Medium Trees																				
Eastern Redbud (<i>Cercis canadensis</i>)	P/S	D/M	20-35'	x		x		x	x			x				5 gal.	6'	\$38	___	___
A popular landscape ornamental tree with clusters of magenta flowers appearing on bare stems in early spring. Eastern redbud is a frequent native understory tree in mixed forests, hedgerows and roadsides. Heart shaped leaves turn bright yellow in autumn.																				
River Birch (<i>Betula nigra</i>)	F/P	M/W	20-35'	x							x			x		7 gal.	8'	\$48	___	___
Often with multiple trunks, the distinctive bark is variable, usually gray to pinkish-brown and scaly, 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.																				
Sweetbay Magnolia (<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>)		M/W	20'	x			x	x	x		x			x		5 gal.	4'	\$33	___	___
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.																				
Medium Shrubs																				
Summersweet (<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>)	F/S	M/W	6-8'	x	x		x	x	x	x	x			x		3 gal.	24"	\$25	___	___
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.																				
Winterberry (<i>Ilex verticillata</i>)	F/P	M	8'	x	x			x	x	x	x					5 gal.	4'	\$33	___	___
A deciduous holly which is prized for the midwinter splash of bright red color from densely packed berries, which are highly visible on bare stems. 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.																				
Southern Arrowwood (<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>)		D/W	10'	x				x	x			x				3 gal.	3'	\$19	___	___
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. Winter hardy, vigorous and reliable. Shrub borders. Tall hedge or screen.																				
Small Shrubs																				
Virginia Sweetspire (<i>Itea virginica</i>)	F/S	M/W	3-6'	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x				3 gal.	24"	\$21	___	___
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. Leaves turn an attractive red in autumn.																				

* Indicates Evergreen

Plant order form created by: **Welspryng LLC**
LANDSCAPE & STORMWATER
www.welspryng.llc



Photo credit to K. Pavkov, 2020

Quiet Waters Park Events



2021 Quiet Waters Park Concerts sponsored by the Friends of Quiet Waters Park

Download a copy of the [Quiet Waters Park 2021 Summer Concert Series](#)

- July 24 6:00 - 8:00 Sharon & The Edge (Variety)
- July 31 6:00 - 8:00 Guava Jelly Band (Caribbean Kindie)
- August 7 6:00 - 8:00 Swamp Donkey (Newgrass)
- August 14 6:00 - 8:00 Sweet Leda (Rock)
- August 21 5:30 - 7:30 Assisted Living (Classic Rock)
- August 28 5:30 - 7:30 Kelly Bell Band (Phat Blues)

Important Information:

- Admission to the park is **FREE** during the evenings of the scheduled Concerts.
- Plan to arrive early, the close in parking tends to fill up fast.
- The Park has an awesome outdoor concert venue, make sure to bring a blanket or lawn chair.
- Remember not to park on the grass unless instructed by park staff.
- If you are bringing a pet, note that all pets must be on a leash.
- No smoking or alcoholic beverages are allowed in the Park.
- Food and Drink will be available for purchase at the event by Caliente Grill and Kona Ice. Vendors will be on the right as you face the stage.
- Make sure to Visit the Friends Table on your left as you face the stage, bubbles, temporary tattoos and other items for kids are available for a small fee.
- Make sure to purchase some **raffle tickets** for all the wonderful raffle items available at each concert. All proceeds benefit the *Friends of Quiet Waters Park* and the work we do to support the park. <https://fqwp.org/membership/>

Fireside Sing-Along with Jefferson Holland

Bring the whole family to a fireside sing-along concert led by Chesapeake Troubadour (and Hillsmere resident!) Jefferson Holland. We'll sing traditional folk songs as part of a program highlighting the Bay's natural history and cultural heritage through original songs, stories and poems.

Admission: \$10 per connected group of friends and family. A portion of the proceeds supports the activities of the Friends of Quiet Waters Park. Bring a lawn chair and a flashlight. Park at the Sycamore pavilion. At the close of the program, please exit the park. More information: QWsingalong@gmail.com



Community Cat Project Update



~ Carolyn Kilborn, Hillsmere Representative for the Anne Arundel Community Cat Coalition

If you saw my last newsletter entry, you'll know that, sadly, we've lost our kind and compassionate neighbor, Gordon Brooks, who fed and cared for many of the homeless cats in Hillsmere. So far, we've not located Gordon's cats but I've been in touch with the volunteers at Cats R Us who are feeding cats behind some of the retail establishments on Forest Drive. They're increasing the amount of food they put out and are looking for any newcomers. Therefore, please continue to keep an eye out for any homeless cats in Hillsmere who may have been in need of food, shelter and a new place to call home.

If you're considering adopting a cat and are wondering if it's something you should do, here's some inspiration from our fellow Hillsmere residents, the Zupan's. They adopted their cat after she showed up on their deck a year and a half ago. It's a wonderful story... and not at all unusual!

“More than a year and a half ago, our family worked with Carolyn Kilborn of the Hillsmere Community Cat Project, and our lives have not been the same since.

A gangly little kitten showed up on our deck during the wet and frigid cold snap of November 2019. The overnight temperatures were dropping significantly, and a curious, hungry fox was frequenting our yard. Naturally, we became very concerned about the kitten's health and safety.

Carolyn was quick to respond to our plea for assistance. We followed her instructions, and within a few days, she safely coaxed the kitten into a pet carrier and brought it to the vet for a complete checkup. Fortunately, the kitten was healthy and had a hearty appetite while Carolyn cared for her before identifying a forever home for the kitten.

It turns out that the kitten's forever home was with us. We never intended to have a pet, but our rescue cat is perfect for our family. She is now our kitten who is loving and always ready to listen. She is prepared to play, is silly, brings laughter to each of us, and is happy to snuggle. Adding her as a new member to the family was an amazing decision, and her impact on our happiness cannot be measured.

Carolyn told us this was a special cat and I'm glad that we listened to her.”

—The Zupan Family



jckilborn@yahoo.com - P.S. If you need help with a mangey fox, I can help with that, too.



Babysitter/Mother's Helper

Bella	Age 15	443-534-7918
Caitlyn	Age 18	443-875-9043
Ella	Age 14	443-223-0572
Ella	Age 13	410-533-8442
Grace	Age 17	410-353-4983
Katie	Age 16	410-268-2686
Keira	Age 19	410-507-9143
Lauren	Age 16	443-750-1228
Maggie	Age 14	443-900-5511
Maia	Age 16	443-221-9610
Mia	Age 16	410-507-3628
Sara	Age 16	443-569-1722
Sarah	Age 18	443-699-2165
Shanley	Age 13	443-569-9764
Taylor	Age 15	410-991-7498
Tessa	Age 13	443-905-6017
Linda	Adult	443-822-7956

Pet Sitter/Dog Walker

Linda	Adult	443-822-7956
Shondra	Adult	240-578-9221
Earl	Adult	410-570-1894
Mary Ellen	Adult	410-212-5744
Hannah	Adult	410-980-6189
Cheryl	Adult	410-353-2066
Elaine	Adult	443-822-6035
Maggie	Age 14	443-900-5511
Elias	Age 13	443-462-7270
Shanley	Age 13	443-569-9764
Emily	Age 14	410-570-9127
Sean	Age 14	443-569-9811
Mia	Age 16	410-507-3628
Lauren	Age 16	443-750-1228
Kate	Age 17	443-995-7133
Katie	Age 16	410-268-2686
Eliza	Age 16	443-822-4995
Keira	Age 19	410-507-9143

the SEA BREEZE

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COMMUNITY FACILITIES and LOCAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Beach Picnic Area Reservations	410-263-4456
Boat Ramp Keys & Boat Slip Assignments	410-263-4456
Guest Parking Passes	410-263-4456
Hillsmere Car & Boat Trailer Stickers	410-263-4456
Hillsmere Garden Club	410-268-7175
Hillsmere Swim Team	443-336-8432
County Community Services Specialist	410-222-1242
Animal Control	410-222-8900
Recycling Information & Bulk Trash Pick Up	410-222-6100
Community Cat Program - Carolyn Kilborn, jckilborn@yahoo.com	

2021 BOARD MEETINGS

Jan 28	April 29	July 29	Oct 28
Feb 25	May 27	Aug 26	Nov 18
Mar 25	June 24	Sep 30	Dec 16

Note: 2021 Board meetings are scheduled to be held via ZOOM.
 To request an invitation to meetings, email admin@hillsmereshores.org

JULY / AUGUST 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 P&H Committee Meeting @ 6PM	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 SCBD Pool Benefit Day	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7



Hillsmere Shores Improvement Association
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