

The Sea Breeze



NOVEMBER 2024

PUBLISHED BY HILLSMERE SHORES IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION



NOVEMBER NEWS

Happy Fall, Hillsmere residents! HSIA elections for President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer are set for November 14. Head to page 4 to read all about the candidates, the elections process, and the official ballot.

Also in this issue, we've got a great update on the Quiet Waters Park Expansion. Find out about the project and proposed upgrades to the park on page 3. There are also new community Building Permit guidelines everyone should be aware of. Read all of the updates on page 20.

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HSIA Community News and Events

Jean Somers, HSIA Administrator; Helene Raven, Events Committee Chair



HSIA OFFICER ELECTION

This November, we are voting for our four officer positions: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. These officers will serve for the next two years, starting in January 2025. Please see the ballot and bios listed on pages 4–7, along with voting instructions. If you cannot attend the General meeting, we are offering the option to vote by mail, email, or by dropping off in the dropbox at the Community House at 119 Great Lake Drive before Thursday, November 14. Please remember that ballots that are not dropped off in person require the signature of the HSIA member. Remember, HSIA dues payment is not a household vote. Only the person listed under “Individual Membership” on the HSIA Membership form can vote if \$25 dues was paid. Additional memberships required additional dues payment. If you can’t remember which person in the household is the voting member, please contact the Administrator at admin@hillsmereshores.org or 410-263-4456.

SWAP MEET AT THE BEACH

November 9; 10 a.m.–noon

Grab your too-small clothes, kids’ winter boots or anything overflowing from your closets and head to the beach for a free swap meet! Bring a table and your items and grab other goodies that your neighbors are giving away! Please don’t park on the grass, and remember to take your leftover items home at the end.

COMMUNITY HOUSE

The House Decorating Committee will meet on November 18 at the House at 7 p.m.

SANTA RUN

This year’s Santa Run will be held in early December. It will be announced when we get a date from the Fire Department.



A SPOOKTACULAR CELEBRATION

On Sunday, October 27, Hillsmere Drive was filled with a spooky parade of ghouls, goblins, and ghosts! Kids of all ages, dressed in their Halloween best, marched down the street and gathered at the beach for festive fun. With perfect weather as the backdrop, families enjoyed popcorn, treats, and laughter while exploring the beach playgrounds. It was a fantastic way to celebrate Halloween with our community!

BAND AT THE BEACH SUCCESS

Thank you to Events Committee Chair, Helene Raven, for organizing another Band At the Beach Event. Red Sky Dawn was a hit and we hope to have the band back again next year. Helene was kind enough to recognize all our Hillsmere volunteers at this event. Thank you to everyone who came out for this October event!

Quiet Waters Park Expansion Update

Ray Sullivan, Hillsmere Representative to the QWP Stakeholder Group

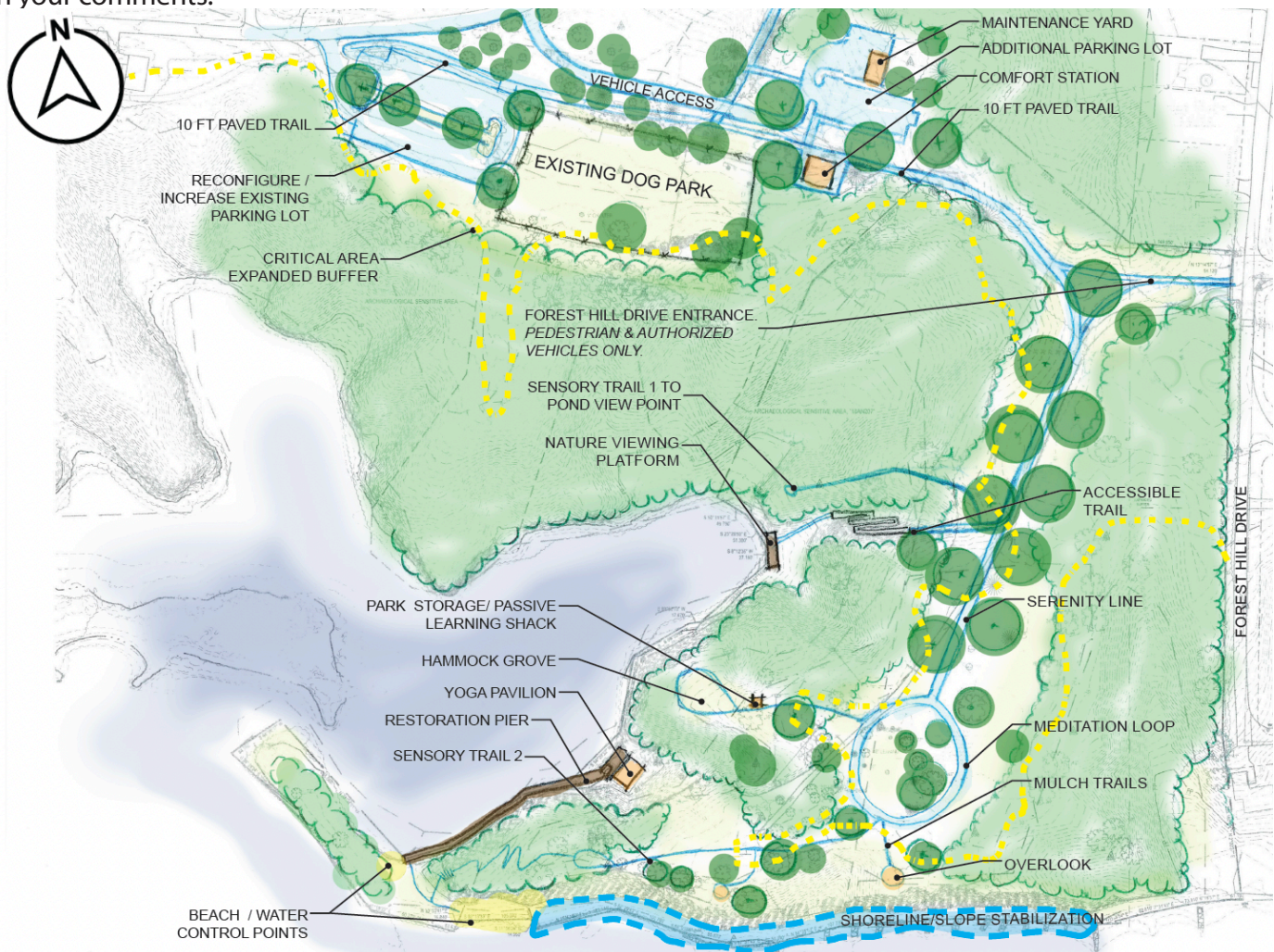
Anne Arundel County purchased this Quiet Waters expansion property 5 years ago for approximately \$8 million (\$6 million in public funds and \$2 million from a generous donation of the Earl family). A few years ago, the plans for a private office building in the Quiet Waters Park 19-acre expansion were canceled. As a result, a citizen's stakeholders' group was formed by the county.

The 11-member stakeholder group has met twice. At the most recent meeting we were presented with three conceptual plans for the park expansion. We have been tasked with getting feedback on these plans from our respective communities. **Your input is needed!** These three options are not set in stone. The picture below is Option A: Wellness and Mindfulness, one of three master plan concepts. You can view all three plans at hillsmereshores.org, along with a summary of major elements of each plan and the full descriptions. Printed copies will be available at the General Meeting on November 14.

Once you view the plans, please submit your comments using this [Google doc](#) or this QR code. You can comment that you favor Option a, b, or c, but with or without x, y or z.



These comments will be presented to the county at the third and final stakeholder meeting on December 7. The Department of Recreation and Parks will make the final decision based on your comments.



2025–2026 Elections—Meet the Candidates

An election will be held this November for the four HSIA Officer positions—President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. All candidates are residents of the Hillsmere Shores Community and are confirmed to be in good standing and current in their HSIA membership. Ballots are included on page 7 and available on our website.

VOTING AND MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Current HSIA 2024 dues paying members can vote. Paying dues gives one (1) member of the household the right to vote. Additional members over the age of 18 can become additional members for \$25 per person. Not sure you're a 2024 HSIA member? Please email admin@hillsmershores.org or leave a message on the Hillsmere voicemail at 410-263-4456 and we can let you know. If you are not a current member and wish to join to be able to vote in the board member election, you **MUST** send your membership form and dues payment to HSIA by close of business November 3, 2024.

ELECTIONS

- November 14, 7 p.m., Key School Barn Commons

Candidate Statements

CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT, CLAIRE CORCORAN

It has been 8+ years since my move to Hillsmere Shores; my previous homes were located in Bowie, Frederick and Baltimore. Since 2018, I have been serving on the HSIA Board of Directors, Chaired the Security and Zoning Committees and most recently, served in the position of Vice President. Professionally, I hold both Bachelor's and Master's degrees as well as Certification in Legal Studies (paralegal). I am a veteran of the United States Marine Corps, where I served in a presidential support unit in Washington, D.C.; I've also worked in public education as well as real estate redevelopment with the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Currently, I am employed by the Naval Academy Business Services Division. In addition, I am a US Sailing certified instructor as well as a volunteer with a sailing non-profit that serves veterans.

As a Board member and volunteer in Hillsmere, I have taken the lead on issues related to zoning, principally property use and maintenance, which has required my working with Anne Arundel permit and zoning inspectors, the Health Department, DPW, the county executive's office and the county council. My goals are to work towards preserving and enhancing the character of our neighborhood as a single family, residential community in which residents feel safe, neighbors take pride in their homes and property values remain strong. As such, my vision for Hillsmere is for the community to maintain and grow its standing as a safe, desirable and attractive neighborhood for homeowners and their families in the years to come.

CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT, JAYE FALLS

I am a naval architect and have the honor to teach at the US Naval Academy. In recent years I have been able to increase my volunteering and have spent valuable time with the PTSA at Bates Middle School, with various student mentorship organizations, and with Hillsmere itself.

This is a wonderful neighborhood and the more I interact with our neighbors the more I want to be involved with HSIA. I would like to give more of my time to our community and support the board to the best of my ability.

CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT, ROMEO SANTOS

I'm Romeo Santos, and my wife Sara and our 2 young daughters have had the pleasure of calling this beautiful community home for the past two years. As I've become more involved, I've had the opportunity to serve on the Slips Committee, working to maintain and improve the waterfront amenities that are so vital to our lifestyle here. Through this experience, I've gained a deeper appreciation for the dedication it takes to preserve the unique character of our community while ensuring it continues to meet the needs of all residents.

My professional background as a real estate agent specializing in luxury homes, along with my expertise as a contractor, allows me to bring valuable insights to the table. I'm skilled in property management, project oversight, and financial planning—key areas that are essential to the effective operation of our association. These experiences have taught me the importance of listening to the voices of the community and making informed, thoughtful decisions that reflect our shared goals.

As Vice President, I will advocate for greater transparency, improved communication, and enhanced community engagement. My priority is to foster a collaborative environment where all homeowners feel empowered to share their ideas and concerns. Whether it's preserving our outdoor spaces and waterfront or ensuring that our infrastructure meets the demands of our neighborhood, I am committed to working hard for the best Hillsmere Shores possible!

I look forward to continuing my service to this wonderful community and am eager to contribute even more as your Vice President. Thank you for your consideration and support!

CANDIDATE FOR SECRETARY, HELENE RAVEN

Bio: I am a long-time resident of Hillsmere and a current member of HSIA. I'm currently serving on the Board and previously served twice. I was on the Pool Committee for several years, as well as the Welcoming, House, and Field committees. I currently serve as Events Committee Chair and have taken on responsibility for the Community House.

Vision: Combine the new with the old.

Hillsmere is a diverse community and a welcoming one. In the last five years, Hillsmere welcomed an unprecedented number of new neighbors. Newer residents can bring more energy and enthusiasm to committees and projects. Residents with longer histories of Hillsmere can bring their experiences and histories when addressing community-wide issues.

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If your property is currently listed with a real estate broker, this communication is not intended to solicit the listing. All information deemed reliable, but not guaranteed.

continued on page 6

Goals: Through community projects at the beach, marina, and pool, we've worked together and met neighbors then became friends. Friendships build and grow when people find common ground and common interests.

Goal: Foster community involvement through volunteer and community-wide events. Communication is critical to resolving issues. Facebook and social media are a poor substitute for direct conversations.

Goal: Be available to meet with residents through regularly scheduled "open house" events. Committees do not operate effectively when working as separate entities.

Goal: Attend as many committee meetings as possible.

Hillsmere is a special tax district so the taxes we pay are identified on our property tax bills. These funds are used for community maintenance and improvement. Hillsmere Shores Improvement Association (HSIA) is membership driven and the \$25 membership fee is used for events open to the community (Happy Hours, holiday parades, and other community events). The Hillsmere Pool and Marina are funded through additional fees. Hillsmere is currently involved in reserve studies to identify future funding needs.

Goal: Support these studies through reports to the community.

CANDIDATE FOR TREASURER, GENE GROSS

I am seeking reelection to serve as Treasurer for the next term. I have been an HSIA member in good standing since moving to Hillsmere in 2001 and have served as Treasurer for the past seven years. If elected, I will ensure fiscal responsibility and support any initiatives that are supported by the residents of Hillsmere to improve our community from an environmental, safety, civic, and social standpoint.



New Listing ~ 129 BOYD DRIVE



Welcome to your own private oasis! ☀️ With a gorgeous pool and a spacious screened porch, this home is the ultimate retreat for entertaining or relaxing. 💧 Imagine hosting friends and family here, or just unwinding by the pool after a long day. 😎👉 Don't miss out on this gem—it won't last long! Home offers 5 bedrooms, 4 full baths, office, 2 fireplaces and updates throughout!

Contact me for more information!



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Hillsmere Shores Improvement Association Officer Election Ballot

**Vote by Postal Mail, Community Dropbox, Email, or In Person
November 14, 2024, 7:00 pm
Key School, Barn Commons**

Only HSIA members in good standing may vote. One vote per membership.

Please vote for one for each position:

President	<p style="text-align: center;">_____ Claire Corcoran</p> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 5px 0;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">(write-in or floor nomination)</p>
Vice President	<p style="text-align: center;">_____ Jaye Falls</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____ Romeo Santos</p> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 5px 0;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">(write-in or floor nomination)</p>
Treasurer	<p style="text-align: center;">_____ Gene Gross</p> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 5px 0;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">(write-in or floor nomination)</p>
Secretary	<p style="text-align: center;">_____ Helene Raven</p> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 5px 0;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">(write-in or floor nomination)</p>

In order for a ballot to be accepted by mail-in vote, email vote, or other than in-person, the following **must** be completed:

Voter's Printed Name

Voter's Address

Voter's Signature

Date

HSIA Community Beach Report

Geoff Werner, Beach Committee Chair



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

As we settle into November, we can't help but feel grateful for everyone who came together to make this season at Hillsmere Beach so memorable. From sunny summer days to crisp fall afternoons, our beach has been a vibrant gathering place thanks to the care and commitment of our amazing community.

So, as you stroll along the shoreline or simply pause to take in the view, we hope you feel proud of the work we've put in together. Thank you to everyone who helped make this beach season one to remember!

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Join our Beach Committee Meeting on the first Tuesday of every month to discuss ongoing and future projects.

NEXT EVENT DETAILS

- Date: Dec. 3
- Time: 6:30–8:30 p.m.
- Location: Community House

PREVIOUS MONTH ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SAFETY/ACCESSIBILITY/MAINTENANCE INITIATIVES

Playgrounds: Continued efforts to address deficiencies identified in the June safety inspection by Playscapes by Post, Certified Playground Safety Inspector.

- Miracle Playground (small playground) repairs- Sole source justification approved for repair of Miracle Playground Equipment by Metro Recreation.
 - o Parts ordered- estimated date of delivery to Metro Recreation Oct. 29–Nov. 4.
 - o Upon receipt, Metro Recreation will coordinate to schedule installation and removal of old equipment.
- Burke Playground (large playground) repairs- Subcommittee established to lead long term project to replace the out of lifecycle equipment.
 - o Recurring meetings established with subcommittee members
 - o Coordination with BOD, Environmental Committee Chair underway to determine environmental restrictions/requirements and conduct an analysis of replacement options.
- Playground surfacing- Continued coordination with HSIA Property Manager to solicit vendors to replenish the surfacing in safe use areas of the playgrounds and swingset.
 - o Quote solicitation in progress for replenishment of pea gravel and sand.

East Sea Wall Sinkhole Repair:

- Environmental Committee Chair led effort to solicit repairs- project complete. A big thank you to Kevin Green, Steve Vanderbosh, Claire Corcoran and Cassie Heckman for the help to coordinate a quick repair!
- Next step: coordination with P&H Committee to replenish the sand in the east swim area.
- Wetlands license to "Nourish a community beach by adding 330 sq. ft. of sand fill in front of an existing bulkhead, not to exceed 6 feet channel ward of the mean high-water line." valid through Feb 21, 2026.

COMMUNITY SURVEY

Thank you to all that have already taken the survey. We currently have 225 responses! Your feedback is already helping to identify priorities and focus our efforts.

If you have not yet, please take a few minutes to share with us your feedback on improvements you would like to see at the beach and playground! Your input will help guide the team as we draft our long-term plan and budget for future spending: [HSIA Beach Survey](#).



Note: A hard copy of the survey is available upon request and will be made available at BOD and General meetings.

Improvements

- Picnic Tables: Six tables ordered by Property Manager per guidance from BOD and Treasurer at SEP meeting.
 - Note: Old tables will be dismantled and parts salvaged for alternate uses
 - Delivery and installation of new tables planned for early November

CURRENT/FUTURE FOCUS AREAS

SAFETY/ACCESSIBILITY

- Automated Gate/Security Monitoring System: Continued coordination with Security Committee to research solutions and analyze options

MAINTENANCE

- Planning efforts this winter will shift the focus from reactive, ad-hoc maintenance to establishing preventative maintenance protocols

IMPROVEMENTS

- Development of a long-term plan will be the focus of the Beach Committee throughout the Fall and Winter. We will incorporate feedback from Community Survey for desired features and improvements, plan for improvements for accessibility of walkways, parking and play areas, and collaborate with the Environmental Committee to formulate strategies aimed at safeguarding the shoreline against erosion.

Closing the season with gratitude and excitement for what's next. See you soon at the beach!
beach@hillsmereshores.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Hillsmere Shores is a community that cares about the neighborhood and all its neighbors. To maintain the standards that brought us all here, we are asking for anyone with interest and energy to volunteer for any of our various committees. If you would like to help, please reach out to committee chairs or the Administrator at admin@hillsmereshores.org.



UPCOMING COMMUNITY MEETINGS—MARK YOUR CALENDARS		
11/12	Piers & Harbors Committee	119 Great Lake Dr.
11/13	Pool Committee	119 Great Lake Dr.
11/14	Election Night, General Meeting	Barn Commons, Key School
11/18	Committee House Decorating Meeting	119 Great Lake Dr.
11/21	HSIA Board Meeting	119 Great Lake Dr.

Watershed Steward News

Phyllis Saroff, Watershed Steward Class 13



Thirteen years ago the native plant sale in Hillsmere began. Since 2011 our neighborhood has planted 877 trees and shrubs! Some trees planted in 2011 are over twenty feet tall and thriving. Starting as the Hillsmere tree sale, the name and vision have evolved. Calling it the tree sale was too limiting. Residents were sensitive about planting large trees near their homes so we included large and small shrubs and understory trees. Hillsmere's native plant sale might have a different name and new species, but the incentive is the same.

Our annual native plant sale has multiple goals. More native species in our neighborhood means a healthier environment. More awareness and education leads to more sensitive and intelligent choices on our properties. Native plants evolved in our soils. They evolved together with native insect and bird species. They are perfectly suited to our climate. Therefore, they need no special care to resist pests and no special care to thrive in our soil.

The plants on our list have deep root systems that hold soil in place, sequester carbon and allow storm water to permeate. Lawns have tiny, shallow root systems that do little to absorb storm water. By planting native groupings of shrubs and trees, the size of our community lawns will shrink.

It is easy to feel helpless about our changing climate. As property owners we have a choice about what to plant. We can plant for the health of the animals, insects and birds who share our peninsula. We can plant for the health of our waterways and to battle the effects of climate change.

To learn more about the Watershed Stewards Academy, and how to become a steward, visit www.aawsa.org.

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PLAN YOUR VISIT

POOL COMMITTEE

Danielle Franz and Crystal Monkman, Pool Chairs

HELP SHAPE OUR PLANS: COMPLETE THE POOL SURVEY!

The Pool Committee is already gearing up for an amazing 2025 season, with several improvements and upgrades in the works. Here's how you can help shape our plans:

Your Opinion Matters: [Community Survey](#)

We want to hear from you! Your feedback on our pool facilities is essential to ensure we meet community needs and expectations.

Whether it's about maintenance, amenities, or new ideas, every opinion counts.

Please take a few minutes to complete our survey. Your input will guide us in areas like furniture updates, facility repairs, and future enhancements. Prefer a paper copy? Pick one up at the next board meeting or contact us at pool@hillsmereshores.org.



JOIN THE POOL COMMITTEE

Want to get involved? We're always looking for passionate community members to join our efforts. Simply email us at pool@hillsmereshores.org to learn more.

SAVE THE DATE

Our next committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 13, at 7 p.m. at the Community House. This is a great opportunity to see what's planned for 2025!

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Ready to get started?

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Security Update

Many of you have met our security guards, Melanie and Nick, by now. They have been doing a great job and we appreciate the community being respectful to them as they work to safeguard our community. There have been some instances of residents being rude and using foul language with the guards. This is incredibly inappropriate and should not happen under any circumstance. If a resident has an issue with one of the security guards, please contact security@hillsmereshores.org and I will respond to you within 12 hours.

In an effort to discourage trespassing at the Marina, Beach, Boat Ramp and Boat Park, our guards are issuing Trespassing Notices to vehicles that do not have Hillsmere Stickers and/or Marina placards on their vehicles. Trespassing is a crime and Maryland trespassing laws under Section 6-402 call for up to 90 days in jail and a fine of up to \$500 for a first offense. Trespassers face up to six months in jail and a fine of up to \$1,000 if the offense is repeated within 24 months of the initial crime.

A copy of all issued Trespassing Notices will be filed with law enforcement agencies in the state the vehicle is registered 7 days after being issued. This will provide any residents that receive a trespassing notice due to lack of a sticker and/or Marina pass time to contact the HSIA Administrator to confirm they are residents and request a free HSIA vehicle sticker and/or Marina pass. In these cases, the Trespassing Notice will NOT be filed with law enforcement and will be destroyed.

Speeding & Traffic Issues: HSIA has hired off-duty Anne Arundel County Police to conduct traffic enforcement patrols in our community. Speeding is a significant issue, particularly on Hillsmere, Edgemere, Beach and Harbor Drives. There are also issues with drivers not stopping at stop signs and drivers going into the opposing traffic lane to pass other drivers. The AACoPD will be in our community starting October 1, 2024 for the sole purpose of enforcing posted traffic laws. They will conduct stops and issue warnings and citations in accordance with the rules and regulations they would follow while on-duty.

As a reminder, Chesapeake is not on site 24/7 but they do have a 24-hour dispatch number: 410-788-6563, option #4. Please call the police for emergency issues.



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Property Manager Report

Cassie Heckman, HSIA Property Manager, propertymanager@hillsmershores.org



FALL IS HERE!

It's that time of year for cooler weather, and changing leaves! It is also almost election day! Don't forget to vote early, or on November 5. Speaking of Election Day, please remember all political signs must be removed from yards by November 12 according to County and HSIA guidelines.

UPDATES

The sinkhole at the beach was successfully repaired. Please note there is still some sod in this area. Please help us by staying off this area of grass while the sod and grass grow! New picnic tables were successfully delivered for the pavilions at the beach, including one ADA table per pavilion. These should be installed in the next month to be ready for spring events.

MAINTENANCE

Fall maintenance took place around the community, including weeding and mulching the medians, trees in the field area, and debris removal from various parts of the community. We also are in the process of working with an arborist to maintain trees in the community. Tree work will be ongoing during the next few months.

REMINDERS

County code requires all trash receptacles have tight fitting lids. If you are putting trash or recycling at the curb, there is supposed to be a lid on the can (this does not apply to cans used only for yard waste). Why does this matter? Many neighbors are reporting raccoons and other animals getting in trash cans that do not have lids. This is causing trash to spill all over the road and in other neighbors' yards. You can request county approved trash and recycling cans through seeclickfix.com/hillsmershores.

Make sure you cleaning up after your dogs when walking them in the community. Please use the free pet waste stations throughout the community to dispose of waste and grab a new bag while you're there. Also, please regularly check your fences and gates. Many dogs are getting loose in the community.

If you notice any issues or have questions about HSIA guidelines or AACO codes, please do not hesitate to contact me at propertymanager@hillsmershores.org.

Motions From September 2024 Board Meeting

TREASURER

Claire Corcoran moved the Board approve the Special Tax Budget in the amount of \$894,704 based on 1,220 taxable lots at a tax rate of \$285 per taxable lot, to be adjusted up or down based on the final number of lots provided by the County. Steve Vanderbosch seconded the motion. Vote taken – unanimously approved.

FIELD

Joanna Parkinson moved the Board hire Crew Cuts Services to install the gravel in the recycling and dumpster area for the amount of \$1,150. This includes removal and replacement of dumpster, removal of one medium and one small tree, weed remediation, gravel, and labor. Ray Sullivan seconded the motion. Vote taken – unanimously approved.

HILLSMERE HOUSE REPORT

Helene Raven, Hillsmere House Chair

House Use: There is not a lot of interest in using the House by community groups.

House Projects: The garage improvements will begin as soon as the ice eaters are deployed. Most work will be completed by volunteers. HSIA to fund supplies and a few shelves.

River Rock and Temporary Sidewalk: Contract signed. Waiting for work to begin. This will be funded through the House and Field line items in the budget.

Basement Roof: Property Manager identifying contractors.



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Piers & Harbors News

Steve Vanderbosch, HSIA Board Member and P&H Chair



SAND SPIT LIVING SHORELINE/COASTAL RESILIENCY PROJECT

Construction of the Sand Spit Living Shoreline/Coastal Resiliency Project began on Monday September 30. As of October 29, approximately 4,100 tons of sand and 630 tons of rock have been delivered, and the first two structures have been roughly placed. Shaping, smoothing and chinking of the rock structures will continue. Our contractor, RRG, has revised its schedule to complete rough rock work (headlands) by the migratory waterfowl stop-work deadline of November 15, and plans to finish shaping the rock and grading the sand into December, followed by cleanup and demobilization.

Activity will now be shifting further eastward on the Sand Spit for the next two headland rock structures. RRG has started to deliver sand at a second access point next to the Marina flagpole. The remaining speed bumps and parking dividers may be removed, and parking will be prohibited in the vicinity of Slips 29–34 for a second dump truck turn around zone. “No Parking” signs have been posted. RRG will use cones to mark dump truck turn around zones if needed. “No Parking” restrictions remain in effect from Slips 1 to 17.



On Wednesday October 16, a site tour of the Project was arranged by Arundel Rivers Federation for Delegate Dana Jones who secured the initial State Capital Grant of \$109,000 for the Project. Participants included the Federation, HSIA representatives, RRG, design engineer Environmental Systems Analysis (ESA), Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT), Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF), AACo Bureau of Watershed Protection and Restoration (BWPR), and a reporter and photographer from the *Capital Gazette*. Readers of the *Capital Gazette* may have seen that the visit and the Living Shoreline Project made front-page news the following day. Thanks to HSIA participants Claire Corcoran, Ray Sullivan, Helene Raven, Bill Schrott, Kevin Green, Tom Schwallenberg, and Cassie Heckman.

Next Spring we will be planting thousands of native plants, including high and low marsh grasses, shrubs and trees to complete the project and create habitat for fish, crabs, waterfowl, diamondback terrapins, horseshoe crabs and more. Stay tuned for opportunities to be involved in the Spring plantings!

In addition to the State Capital Grant, this Project was made possible thanks to community investment by HSIA, a grant from DNR utilizing Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funding under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and funding support from the CBT, and the AACo BWPR.

THANK YOU! to everyone for your continued cooperation during construction!
Please continue to be alert, drive and walk carefully, and yield to construction vehicles.
And PLEASE, PLEASE stay out of the Construction Zones for your own safety!

With the removal of the speed bumps, a few drivers have been noticeably speeding along the Sand Spit through the Construction Zone. Please SLOW DOWN! Speeding is dangerous and has raised a tremendous amount of dust and grit, covering the boats along the bulkhead. When major work is completed, we intend to reinstall the speed bumps.

Arundel Rivers Federation is an environmental nonprofit based in Annapolis, Maryland working to protect, preserve, and restore the South, West, and Rhode Rivers while fighting for clean water everywhere. Arundel Rivers is a member of the broader Waterkeeper Alliance, a group of hundreds of waterkeeper organizations who serve as the guardians of our waters across the world. The Federation is proud to be a longtime partner for the Hillsmere community and looks forward to Project plantings in the Spring of 2025! For Project questions, you can email mairin@arundelrivers.org. Visit www.arundelrivers.org to learn more, sign up to become a volunteer, and to support Arundel Rivers.

This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement 4I-95300101 to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Environmental Protection Agency, nor does the EPA endorse trade names or recommend the use of commercial products mentioned in this document.

WHITHER OLD MAN WINTER?

A slowly developing La Niña is favored to influence conditions for the upcoming winter across most of the country, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) U.S. Winter Outlook.

Warmer-than-average temperatures are favored from the southern tier of the U.S. to the eastern Great Lakes, eastern seaboard, and New England. NOAA predicts drier-than-average conditions are expected in the Southeast, Gulf Coast and lower mid-Atlantic states. The I-95 corridor from Boston to Washington, D.C., have equal chances of below-average, near-average or above-average seasonal total precipitation.

As is our practice, the Marina water and pump out systems will be shut down and winterized before the first hard freeze, likely to take place in mid-November. The Porta-Potty will be removed in mid-November. And we will again plan to place ice-eaters throughout the Marina and at the Boat Ramp slips, depending on how the winter temperatures actually develop. We may be calling for a small work party in early December to install them. Hopefully, they will not be needed this season.

WINTER SLIPS

Slip holders are requested to notify the Slips Committee about plans for your boats this fall/winter. This will help determine ice-eater locations, and which bulkhead slips may be available to A and C Dock slip holders remaining in the Marina for the winter. For Bulkhead slip holders, if you will be hauling your boat for the winter, please email the Slips Committee at marinaslips@hillsmershores.org with your name, slip number, approximate date hauling out, and approximate date returning.

For A Dock and C Dock slip holders remaining in the Marina for the winter, you may request a bulkhead Winter Slip by emailing the Slips Committee at marinaslips@hillsmershores.org. If you are a current bulkhead slip holder and will remain in the Marina, you need not do anything. You will keep your slip as assigned.

CAUTION! CAUTION! CAUTION!

This is a work zone with heavy equipment, large stone, and tons of sand.

STAY OUT OF THE CONSTRUCTION ZONES!

DRIVE CAREFULLY!

There will be new traffic patterns.
There will be dump trucks coming and going!
The SPEED LIMIT is still 5 MPH!

Winter Slip assignments are temporary, and Winter Slips must be vacated by March 15, 2025, or sooner if requested by the permanent slip holder. Failure to remove your boat from a temporary Winter Slip assignment may result in transient charges of \$1/foot/day.

WINTER PREPARATIONS

As we transition into winter, we typically see extremely low tides when the North winds blow. In the past we have seen boats hanging by their mooring lines. If you have a boat in the water, it is extremely important that you pay attention to tidal forecasts, check your boat, and adjust your lines as necessary for both high and low tides. If you are leaving your boat in the water at the marina this winter, please:

1. Make sure your boat is properly moored, using extra lines and chafing guards as necessary.
2. Check your boat often, especially after ice and snow events.
3. Do not use unattended space heaters in your boat.
4. Make sure your boat is properly winterized!

When you haul your boat out for the season, please remove all mooring lines, shore power cords, and water hoses. These items may be subject to removal from empty slips and disposal in the off-season. In addition, if your slip has any “dead” lines hanging off the pilings from previous tenants, please remove them, too. Let’s keep the Marina looking good! If you see anything that needs repair, please contact: marina@hillsmershores.org.

P&H OPERATIONS

Routine maintenance has continued as needed. Several dock boards that were damaged by boats during strong westerly winds were replaced. If you see any damage, deficiencies, inoperable equipment or something that needs repair, like loose dock boards, torn piling caps, broken fixtures, leaking faucets, etc. Please let us know. Contact: Steve Vanderbosch at marina@hillsmershores.org or 410-212-6978

NON-NATIVE INVASIVE (“NNI”) SPECIES REMOVAL

We continue to work with Arundel Rivers Federation to seek grant assistance for NNI species removal, primarily the bamboo stand at the Boat Park and phragmites removal at multiple waterfront locations.

Flood Brothers Marine Consultants, Inc. has sprayed phragmites at multiple P&H waterfront properties, including the Boat Park, Kayak Ramp, Sunset Boat Ramp and Marina.

On Saturday October 19, a dozen volunteers from the community and the not for profit Save Our Trees organization gathered to remove invasive English Ivy from about 54 trees along the Hillsmere Drive/Quiet Waters Park fence line. Plans are underway to remove ivy from additional trees and remove invasive shrubs and replant the area with native trees and shrubs.

P&H MEETINGS

P&H Committee Meetings are held at the Hillsmere Community House at 119 Great Lake Drive.

The next P&H Committee Meeting will be held:

- Tuesday November 12, 2024, 7 p.m.

All Slip Holders, Ramp Key Holders, Wait Listers, Kayakers, Boat Parkers, etc. are invited to attend. Volunteers are always needed and welcomed!

In the interim, please direct your questions, issues, concerns, and comments to marina@hillsmershores.org and be on the lookout for Special P&H Notices

BOAT PARK

The Boat Park is full. As Boat Park space holders haul their boats for winter storage, it is very important to follow the parking scheme:

- empty trailers and small boats in the rear of the lot
- large, two-axle trailers on the left side and right side fenced area
- single-axle trailers on the right side and the front of the lot

- angled parking for all; and everyone parked close together.

If you lock your trailer, the P&H Chair needs a copy of the key or the lock combination in case we have to reposition your trailer!

FY 2026 BUDGET AND CY 2025 FEES

The P&H Committee is recommending to the HSIA Board that slip fees be increased for CY 2025, for the first time since 2015, by approximately 10%. This will increase P&H Income by approximately \$15,000 per year. No other P&H fee increases are proposed at this time.

A Draft P&H Budget for FY2026, including the above fee increase, has been forwarded to the HSIA Budget Committee for presentation to the HSIA Board. The Draft FY2026 Budget projects P&H Income of \$185,700, Expenses of \$65,000, a Community Support transfer of \$20,000 and a Reserve & Contingency contribution of \$100,700.



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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
HSIA Property Manager: propertymanager@hillsmereshores.org
Key School liaison: kaustin@keyschool.org
AACO traffic engineer: pwflor11@aacounty.org
Community Cat Program: jckilborn@yahoo.com

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HSIA Building Permits



HSIA PERMIT UPDATE

On September 26, 2024, the Board of Directors approved a modification to the general guidelines for the Permits Committee and the enforcement of our covenants. The Permits Committee is now allowed to approve permits for small sheds that are placed no closer than 7 feet from the property lines. This change is contingent on the shed being no larger than 150 sq. ft. with no plumbing or electricity and no higher than 1 story. This change is consistent with the current AA County setback restrictions; however, unlike AA County, the HSIA will still require a permit to proceed with the construction.

WHY DOES THE HSIA REQUIRE AND ISSUE BUILDING PERMITS?

In an effort to maintain the look and feel of our community as envisioned in the mid-1950s establishment of the Hillsmere Shores Improvement Association, the original covenants and deed restrictions outlined a series of requirements that control the use of the residential lots in our community. Recorded among the Land Records of Anne Arundel County, Maryland in Liber 900, Folio 334, they are binding as a matter of law and are for the benefit of all lot owners in Hillsmere Shores. The purpose of the Building Permits Committee is to help property owners conform to the requirements of the covenants for the benefit of the community at large.

WHEN DO YOU NEED A PERMIT?

We encourage anyone having work done at their property to reach out to the HSIA Building Permit Chair before designing your structure or applying to the County. Failure to obtain a HSIA Building Permit will result in a stop work order. An HSIA Building Permit is required every time an Anne Arundel County Building Permit is issued for any work done at your property. However, there are several situations where a County Permit is not required but a HSIA Permit is. Please check the [AA County requirements](#) as well as the [HSIA Covenants](#) before undertaking any building projects at your property. The responsibility of obtaining a [HSIA Building Permit](#) falls on the owner, not the contractor.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR OBTAINING A HSIA PERMIT?

The following items are required to obtain a HSIA permit:

- The contact information of the applicant and the address of the location of the building project. Please include a short narrative that describes the nature of the project.
- A copy of the Anne Arundel County Building Permit. *
- A "TO SCALE" copy of the site plan. *
- A "TO SCALE" copy of the plans and elevations of the structure(s). *
- Cash or check in the amount of \$25, made payable to HSIA.

* If required

You can forward these documents and the application fee in one of the following manners:

- A. Mail payment and all required documents to HSIA, PO BOX 3485, Annapolis MD 21403
- B. Drop off these documents in the mailbox at the Community House—119 Great Lake
- C. Email these documents to permits@hillsmershores.org

A word about processing time—for permit approval, please allow 10 working days to receive your permit in order to allow time 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. Your permit will also be mailed, via USPS, which may take several days. Please be sure to provide your current mailing address, if it is different than the address on the AA County Building Permit.

If you have any questions on the setbacks, please revisit the HSIA Covenants, or, feel free to ask before you go to the trouble of getting a county permit and find you cannot get a HSIA permit. When in doubt, or, if you have any questions, please contact HSIA Building Permit Chairman via email, permits@hillsmershores.org or voicemail, 410-263-4456.

Hillsmere Garden Club

Leigh Gruber, Administrative Assistant



One sculpture captured from two different angles. Photos by Leigh Gruber and Lisa Zimmerman

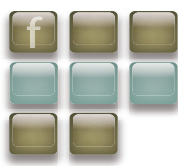
The Hillsmere Garden Club took its most recent outing to Annmarie Sculpture Garden and Arts Center in Solomons, Md. After checking out the nature exhibits inside the center, the group took two tours: one that focused on the plantings; the other through the visitor's center and park describing the artwork and sculptures on site.

The horticulturist explained that his approach to the plantings was to minimize the need for hand weeding using predominantly native plants. In such a large area with minimal staff, plants were located very close to each other. Due to the time of year, there were relatively few plants in their full glory. The guide identified many of the plants and thoughtfully answered our questions.

After lunch the art guide started inside the visitor center where an exhibit, "Timber: Contemporary Woodcraft" was on display. It consisted of carved figures, irresistibly smooth wooden tables and boxes (though we didn't touch), carved birds, and wall art. The art tour continued outside where our guide explained that the unassuming sculpture with clean lines was the most valuable one on the property with a value of over one million dollars. Another memorable piece presented very differently as you viewed from different points. In addition to the bronze, iron, steel and marble sculptures, we saw a large macramé bird sculpture about 10 feet high. On the trail towards St John Creek, local knitters decorated many trees with knitted and crocheted pieces.

Our November meeting will be November 20 and will feature a workshop on "Creating Negative Space" after our social time and business meeting starting at 12:30. Registration is requested for this meeting to ensure we have the "Harry Lauder Walking Stick Branches" for you and so you have the list of other materials needed for the project.

Our December meeting will be a holiday luncheon for members and invited guests. Check in with a member or request an invitation via the Buzz address below. Those with an interest in gardening-related subjects are invited to join the club, which meets September through May on the third Wednesday of each month. Visitors are always welcome. For those wishing to join (Hillsmere residency is not required), annual dues for September through May are \$30. To receive the monthly "Buzz" newsletter or for more information about joining, send an email to the administrative assistant at HillsmereGardenClub@gmail.com.



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THE SEA BREEZE

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www.hillsmereshores.org

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Editor: Ann Levelle [seabreeze@hillsmereshores.org]

Property Manager: Cassie Heckman [propertymanager@hillsmereshores.org]

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

BABYSITTERS

Bella	Age 15	443-534-7918
Charlotte	Age 15	443-924-1598
Ella	Age 16	443-223-0572
Hannah	Age 17	405-926-6159
Kiara	Age 12	410-972-5421
Lauren	Age 18	443-750-1228
Léana	Age 16	301-793-0032
Maggie	Age 16	443-900-5511
Nora	Age 14	443-458-8633
Sara	Adult	443-569-1722
Shanley	Age 15	443-569-9764
Sky	Age 13	410-562-3409
Linda	Adult	443-822-7956

PET SITTERS/DOG WALKERS

Alexis	Age 14	443-388-6611
Castin (cats only)	Age 12	703-853-2890
Earl	Adult	410-570-1894
Elaine	Adult	443-822-6035
Hannah	Age 17	405-926-6159
Hannah	Adult	410-980-6189
Keira (cats only)	Age 12	443-440-5558
Lauren	Age 18	443-750-1228
LC (cats only)	Age 12	410-990-0156
Linda	Adult	443-822-7956
Maggie	Age 16	443-900-5511
Mary Ellen	Adult	410-212-5744
Quentin	Age 13	301-793-0032
Sean	Age 16	443-569-9764
Shanley	Age 15	443-569-9764
Shondra	Adult	240-578-9221
Sky	Age 13	410-562-3409
Taegan	Age 14	410-562-2679

Individuals are responsible for updating their listings. If you would like to be added to either listing, please email postmaster@hillsmereshores.org.

HSIA OFFICERS

President	Tom Anderson	410-263-4456
Vice President	Claire Corcoran	410-263-4456
Secretary	Mike Wurst	410-263-4456
Treasurer	Gene Gross	410-263-4456

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Helene Raven	410-263-4456
Bill Schrott	410-263-4456
Ray Sullivan	410-263-4456
Maria Triandos	410-263-4456
Geoff Werner	410-263-4456
Steve Vanderbosch	410-263-4456

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Bylaws	Mike Wurst	410-263-4456
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Property Manager	Cassie Heckman	410-263-4456
Security	Cari Bower	410-263-4456
Shoreline Protection	Kevin Green	410-263-4456
Traffic	Maria Triandos	410-263-4456
Webmaster	John Levelle	410-263-4456
Welcoming	C. Hollywood & E. Doyle	410-263-4456
Zoning & Covenants	Claire Corcoran	410-263-4456
ANPF Representative	Ray Sullivan	410-263-4456

COMMUNITY FACILITIES & 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 Hammerheads Swim Team	443-336-8432
Key School Liaison, Kate Austin	410-321-7811
County Community Services Specialist	410-222-1242
Animal Control	410-222-8900
Recycling Information & Bulk Trash Pickup	410-222-6100
Community Cat Program: Carolyn Kilborn	jckilborn@yahoo.com

November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2 Oyster Roast
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Swap Meet, Beach Park 10 a.m. –noon
10	11 Veterans Day	12 Piers & Harbors 7 p.m. Community House	13 Pool Committee 7 p.m. Community House	14 HSIA Elections, 7 p.m. Key School Barn Commons	15	16
17	18 Events Committee 7 p.m. Community House	19	20	21 HSIA Board Meeting 7 p.m. Community House	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving	29	30
Dec. 1	2	3 Beach Committee 6:30 p.m. Community House	4	5	6	7



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