

The Sea Breeze

PUBLISHED BY HILLSMERE SHORES IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION



OCTOBER 2026



It's fall in Hillsmere, which means the leaves will soon turn, the air will cool, and Halloween decorations will bring lots of spooky joy! In this issue, you'll find lots of fun fall events, including the annual Halloween Parade (upgraded with a pizza party before Trick-or-Treating starts!), a Family Movie Night at the field, Food Truck Fridays at the Beach, and an Open House event to welcome new residents.

We also have HSIA Executive Board elections coming up in November, and we've provided all the information about the upcoming election early so you have plenty of time to get your ballots in. You can find all of the information about the November election beginning on page 8. This includes candidate bios, rules for voting and membership requirements, and details for Meet the Candidates Night on October 15.

Finally, catch up with the playground progress at the Beach (page 16), the official ribbon cutting ceremony for the living shoreline at the marina (page 12), and an update on the new kayak dock on Beach Drive.

We hope to see you around the neighborhood soon!

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President's Message

Claire Corcoran, HSIA President

Dear Hillsmere Residents,

I hope you will take a few moments to read this month's important message. It is an effort to connect directly with you to clarify a few key topics so that everyone has a clear and accurate understanding of how our community functions. This is about transparency, shared facts, and a reminder that we're all neighbors working together to make Hillsmere a great place to live.

IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION VS. HOA

One common misconception is that Hillsmere operates like a typical HOA. In fact, we are incorporated and structured as an Improvement Association, not an HOA. That means:

- Membership is voluntary. Dues are currently \$25 per year.
- We operate with fewer restrictions than an HOA.

However ... Hillsmere Shores Improvement Association (HSIA) does have community covenants—rules recorded in county land records—that the HSIA Board is legally obligated to uphold. These include regulations that may differ from the county's, such as rules about setbacks and outbuildings. For more about how we are incorporated, our legal structure and covenants, please visit the "About Us" section on our website, hillsmershores.org.

HOW COMMUNITY FUNDS WORK

Every lot owner pays a \$285 "special tax" collected by the county, based on a yearly budget proposal from the Board of Directors (BOD). The county budget office reviews and approves the expenditures and then disperses the funds back to us to be used for the very narrowly prescribed uses in the Code. This tax, which applies to all lot owners, supports:

- Maintaining community areas and private roads
- Making improvements to common spaces
- Developing a community security program

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

The special tax is not an HOA fee—it is part of a county program called a Special Community Benefit District (SCBD), and those funds can only be used for very specific purposes under county law. Operating costs for amenities like the pool, marina, boat ramps, and kayak racks are funded separately by those who choose to use them. That's where your HSIA membership dues (\$25/year) and additional user fees come in. SCBD dollars cannot be used for the operating expenses of those amenities or for social events, which are paid for by the members. For full details of what your special tax dollars are permitted to be used for in our SCBD, you can review the county code here: Anne Arundel County Code § 4-7-204(ff).

TRANSPARENCY & YOUR INVOLVEMENT

We have an all-volunteer Board and we take transparency seriously. The Board follows the Maryland Open Meetings Act as it both participates in, and hosts, 18 meetings per year:

- Monthly Board meetings (12 per year)
- General Community meetings (6 per year)
- Committees: We have a dozen or so diverse committees. These include, but are not limited to, the Beach, Marina, Pool, Permits, Events, Recreation, Environmental, Security, Welcoming and more.

What do you need to do to join one? Just show up! Meeting dates and times can be found in our community newsletter, the *Sea Breeze* and on our Official Facebook page, 'Hillsmere Shores Improvement Association.'

We post announcements via email, our website, the community signboard, our Official Facebook page, and the *Sea Breeze* newsletter (print and digital). Residents are free to attend and observe any working BOD meeting and are encouraged to participate in all General Meetings; the latter serves as your community forum. Minutes from all open meetings, including attendees' names, are published online here: Meeting Archives. Closed meetings are infrequent and only occur when needed to address matters such as legal counsel or discussions regarding personnel. HSIA is a non-governmental body, so for legal and privacy reasons, our meetings are not recorded. This is in line with guidance from our legal counsel and the Maryland Wiretap Act.

MEMBERSHIP, AMENITIES & VOTING:

We encourage all residents to join HSIA and get involved. (Members must be 18 years of age or older.)

- Corporate membership is for homeowners of record (deed holders).
- Associate membership is for others living in Hillsmere who are not deed holders.
- All members have access to amenities with an additional user fee (pool, marina, ramps, etc.)
- Corporate members have voting rights.

Membership is voluntary, and your \$25 dues keep our association running. Want to join and/or access the add-on amenities? Everything you need is on the [HSIA Membership Form at hillsmereshores.org](https://hillsmereshores.org/HSIA-Membership-Form).

WHEN IT COMES TO VOTING:

In-person ballots are anonymous as your membership is validated by staff on site.

Absentee ballots require a signature and address for verification of membership. They can be mailed, or dropped off at the community house mailbox located @ 119 Great Lake Dr.

Only Corporate members in good standing (dues paid) may vote with 1 vote allowed per address.

More about voting procedures can be found on your printed ballots on page 11.

GET INVOLVED AND VOLUNTEER— 'MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK'

Like many other great neighborhoods, a small group often takes on much of the work. We would really appreciate and welcome more hands on deck! From events to committees to the Board itself, there are countless ways to make a difference—big or small. Volunteers are what make this place a great community so please join us in keeping it that way!

If you have questions or concerns, please come to community meetings, reach out to us directly, or visit our website. Let's keep focused on building a stronger, friendlier Hillsmere. You can find our contact information on the next to last page of each *Sea Breeze* as well.

Thank you.



Big Opportunities, Right in Your Backyard

Key School has been part of the Hillsmere community for decades. If you haven't visited campus, we invite you to come take a closer look!

Join us for a special tour exclusively for Hillsmere families and discover small classes, meaningful relationships, academic challenge, and big opportunities—right in your backyard.

REGISTER TODAY! →



22 OCT



Middle School Tour
Grades 5-8
9:00-10:00 a.m.

22 OCT



Upper School Tour
Grades 9-12
10:00-11:00 a.m.



MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHT

HSIA is sponsoring a “Meet the Candidate Night” on Thursday, October 15, at 7 p.m. in the Barn Commons, Key School. This year, we will be electing our Executive Board—President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. This is an opportunity to meet the candidates and ask questions about their history of volunteerism in Hillsmere and vision for the community. The candidates will be introduced and each one will have a little time to tell everyone about themselves. Be sure to look at who is running and read their bios included in this issue. Please mark your calendar for our November General meeting on Thursday, November 12, at 7 p.m. in the Barn Commons at Key School.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP OFF

On Saturday, October 10, the County is offering a Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off Day at the Heritage Office Complex, 2662 Riva Road, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. This is a great way to discard hazardous waste. For more information, please visit www.aacounty.org/public-works/waste-management/household-hazardous-waste-drop or call 410-222-6100.

2026 BEACH PAVILION RESERVATIONS

To reserve the large pavilion, please contact the Property Manager at propertymanager@hillsmereshores.org with the date and time requested, or call 410-263-4456 and leave a message. 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 Property Manager. If you are serving alcohol at your party, you will need to obtain an Anne Arundel County One-Day Liquor License. Further instructions on how to obtain a One Day Liquor License will be given at time of booking.

RECEIVING THE SEA BREEZE

Would you like to start receiving the *Sea Breeze* by email? We are looking for residents that receive a paper copy in the mail to change to emailed link. This will save us on printing and postage fees. Signing up is easy. Just visit our link at hillsmereshores.org/the-sea-breeze and click “Email,” then complete the form provided. You will automatically be signed up for emailed link and the HSIA Administrator will change your record so that you no longer receive a paper copy. Thank you for your consideration.

2026 EVENTS CALENDAR

Watch for more information on the Hillsmere website, official Facebook page, newsletter, and bulletin board.

- **Family Movie Night** – October 10, 6 p.m. (rain date, October 17)
- **Halloween Parade** – October 31
- **Oyster Roast** – November
- **Santa Run** – December

GARDEN CLUB OUTING

Hillsmere Garden Club is sponsoring a Longwood Gardens holiday lights tour in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania on December 16, 2026. Seats are limited and will be open to Hillsmere residents November 1st. \$70 per person includes entrance fee and coach fare. Adults only. For more information contact hillsmeregardenclub@gmail.com.

... continued on page 6

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers to plan events in Hillsmere throughout the year. Please contact secretary@hillsmreshores.org if you would like to help organize some of Hillsmere's favorite annual events!

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT IN THE FIELD

A few volunteers offered to host an outdoor family movie night Saturday October 10 (Rain date October 17) in the field, next to the pool and the community house. The movie starts at 6 p.m., so bring blankets and chairs. We'll provide the snacks. The community house will be open for anyone needing a restroom. Watch the message board and the HSIA website for more information.

ART @ THE PARK

Art @ the Park is coming to Quiet Water's Park Oct. 17–18 from 10 a.m. –4 p.m. each day. The annual arts festival includes ceramics, woodworking, jewelry, painting, and photography along with food trucks and art activities for the kids. See fqwp.org for more details.

To challenge your young artists pick up a tree cookie from the large playground at the beginning of October and use recycled items to create a crazy, spooky or funny face. Bring the finished piece to the Park on the 17th and 18th to display along the Concert Trail.



Quiet Waters Park
October 17 & 18, 10 am–4 pm
www.fqwp.org

Join us to enjoy art vendors, music,
food, kids activities, and more!



HILLSMERE KEY SCHOOL TOURS

Join the Key School for a special tour exclusively for Hillsmere families! Key School has been part of the Hillsmere community for decades. If you haven't visited campus, Key is inviting you to come take a closer look. Thursday October 22. Middle School, 9–10 a.m.; Upper School, 10–11 a.m. Register at keyschool.org/admission/visit-key/tour-key-school

OPEN HOUSE FOR NEW NEIGHBORS

HSIA is holding a Welcome Open House for New Neighbors on **Sunday, October 25 from 3–5 p.m.** at the Community House. This is an opportunity to learn about our amenities, traditions, and events. Volunteers will be at the open house to greet you, to help you sign up for the newsletter, and to get your RFID sticker. Watch for notices and information on the message board. We hope to see you there.



HILLSMERE HALLOWEEN PARADE & PARTY

Calling all ghouls, goblins, ghosts, and creatures of all kinds! Hillsmere's Halloween Parade & Party is happening **Saturday, October 31 at 4 p.m.** Meet us at The Key School gazebo at the corner of Hillsmere and Carroll Drives, and we'll parade together to the Hillsmere Community Beach.

Once we arrive at the beach, stick around for the party! We'll have pizza, snacks, and drinks before everyone heads out for an evening of trick-or-treating. Costumes are encouraged, of course! Join your neighbors for a fun start to Halloween night. We hope to see you there!

—Kate Myers, Crystal Monkman, Emily Lamasa, & Caryn Gallagher



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- ✓ Spacious backyard backing to woods
- ✓ Major updates in 2021+ — new roof, new furnace, new gutters, remodeled bathrooms, well pump and water softener

📞 Know someone who would love to call Hillsmere home?
Please send them my way!

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home worth?
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Rachel
GONTKOVIC

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Contact me!

Cell: 410-271-6246

Office: 888-860-7369

Email: Rachel@RachelsHomes.com

Website: www.RachelsHome.scom

2027–2028 Elections

The Hillsmere Shores Improvement Association (HSIA) will hold elections this November for its 2027–2028 Executive Board, including the offices of **President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary**.

Serving on the HSIA Executive Board is an opportunity to help shape the future of our community, support neighborhood initiatives, and contribute to the continued success of Hillsmere Shores. Candidates must be Hillsmere Shores residents, current HSIA members, and in good standing with no outstanding fees.

Residents interested in running for office were asked to submit a brief biography to the Nominations Chair by September 12, 2026. The following candidate biographies include information about their volunteer service in Hillsmere and their goals for the position and are being made available to the community today.

MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHT

HSIA is also sponsoring a Meet the Candidates Night, scheduled for Thursday, October 15, 2026, at 7 p.m. at the Barn Commons at Key School, off Carroll Drive. This gathering will give residents an opportunity to meet the candidates, ask questions, and learn more about their experience, vision for Hillsmere, and willingness to serve the community.

Your participation matters. Participating in the November election is an important opportunity to take part in the leadership of our community.

ELECTIONS

- November 12, 7 p.m., Key School Barn Commons, in conjunction with the HSIA General Membership Meeting

VOTING

Current 2026 HSIA Corporate members can vote. A Corporate member is anyone on the tax record that has paid 2026 HSIA dues of \$25. Only one vote per property. Not sure you're a 2026 HSIA Corporate 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 Corporate member and wish to join to be able to vote in the election, your membership form and dues payment is due by November 5, 2026.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY MEETINGS—MARK YOUR CALENDARS		
10/15	Meet the Candidates Night	Key School Barn Commons, 7 p.m.
10/29	HSIA Board Meeting	119 Great Lake Dr. 7–9 p.m.
11/12	HSIA General Meeting/Elections	Key School Barn Commons 7 p.m.
11/19	HSIA Board Meeting	119 Great Lake Dr. 7–9 p.m.

Candidate Statements

CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT, CLAIRE CORCORAN

I am a current member in good standing. It has been 10+ years since my move to Hillsmere Shores. I have been serving HSIA in various capacities since 2018, having first started out as the Chair of the Security and Zoning Committees, then elected as a Board Director. From there I was elected to more challenging roles as the Vice President and for the past 2 years, as President.

Professionally, I hold Bachelor's and Master's degrees as well as Certification in Legal Studies. I am a veteran of the United States Marine Corps, with assigned duty 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 work for the Naval Academy Business Services Division, and I serve as a US Sailing coach.

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 are 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 for many years to come.

CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT, ROMEO SANTOS

My name is Romeo Santos III, and my wife, Sara, our two daughters, and I are proud to call Hillsmere Shores home. Over the past several years, I've had the privilege of becoming increasingly involved in our community and working alongside many dedicated neighbors.

I began my service on the Slips Committee and, for the past two years, have served as Communications Chair. During that time, I've worked with the Welcoming Committee to develop a more systemized process for welcoming new residents and connecting them with community resources. More recently, I stepped in as Interim Piers & Harbor Chair and have begun building a new Hillsmere Shores website and homeowner/resident portal to create a centralized resource for community information, communication, and engagement.

Professionally, my background in real estate, construction, property management, project oversight, and business operations has taught me the importance of listening, solving problems, managing resources responsibly, and bringing people together around shared goals.

I remain committed to greater transparency, stronger communication, responsible stewardship of our waterfront and community assets, and increased homeowner engagement. I believe Hillsmere is strongest when residents are informed, involved, and have a meaningful voice in our community.

I'm proud of the work we've accomplished and look forward to continuing to serve Hillsmere Shores. Thank you for your consideration and support.

... continued on page 10

Candidate Statements, continued

CANDIDATE FOR SECRETARY, HELENE RAVEN

I am a longtime resident of Hillsmere, member of HSIA and currently serving on the Board as Secretary.

In the original bylaws the Secretary held a traditional role with responsibilities for preparing minutes, maintaining files, and membership records. Currently the HSIA Administrator handles those tasks, freeing the Secretary to focus on membership and activities that bring the community together.

My track record as a volunteer in Hillsmere is extensive and reflects my commitment to bringing our neighbors together. As Events Chair for five years, I've worked with multiple volunteers to bring bands to the beach, parades, Easter Egg Hunts, happy hours, oyster roasts, and ice cream socials. I've dedicated two years to organizing the basement of the house and initiating an archive of Hillsmere history. I've worked with our Property Manager and contractors for the driveway and basement improvements. The community house is now available for meetings and events. I'm also working on the Bylaws and Welcoming Committees.

One of my goals for the next two years include continuing to work with our archives and creating a timeline from the inception of Hillsmere until today. My second goal is to expand our volunteer base and provide a wider range of community activities. Both goals will bring more neighbors together and provide a better understanding of Hillsmere. Thank you for your support.

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 nine 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.



The advertisement features a hand holding a smartphone displaying the 'Ask Milo' app interface. To the left of the phone is a yellow recycling bin with a recycling symbol. The background is a solid purple. Text at the bottom left reads 'Brought to you by DPW & YOU' with a logo. To the right of the phone, the 'recycle coach' logo is shown above the text 'in Anne Arundel County'. Below this, it says 'Recycle more, recycle right with our free app. Download now.' At the bottom right are the 'Download on the App Store' and 'GET IT ON Google Play' logos.

recycle coach
in Anne Arundel County

Recycle more,
recycle right
with our free app.
Download now.

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

Brought to you by DPW & YOU

Important numbers and emails

AACO Police emergency 911
AACO Police non-emergency 410-222-8610
Hillsmere Security: security@hillsmreshereshores.org
HSIA President: president@hillsmreshereshores.org
HSIA Property Manager:
propertymanager@hillsmreshereshores.org
Key School liaison: kaustin@keyschool.org
AACO traffic engineer: pwflor11@aacounty.org
Community Cat Program: jckilborn@yahoo.com

Officer Election Ballot

**Vote by Postal Mail, Community Dropbox, Ballot Dropbox,
or In Person**

**November 12, 2026, 7:00 pm
Key School, Barn Commons**

Only HSIA Corporate members in good standing may vote. One vote per property.

Please vote for one for each position:

President	_____ Claire Corcoran
Vice President	_____ Romeo Santos
Treasurer	_____ Gene Gross
Secretary	_____ Helene Raven

VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

Voting in Person: If you are voting in person, nothing else needs to be done. Present your blank ballot at the check in table for Corporate Membership validation.

Voting by Mail, Ballot Dropbox, or delivery by another Corporate member: If you are voting by mail, ballot dropbox or delivery by another Corporate member, you must include your Corporate member's printed name, address, date and signature on the outside of a sealed envelope containing the completed ballot. Mail the ballot to **HSIA, PO Box 3485, Annapolis, MD 21403 or drop it in the community dropbox or the ballot dropbox at 119 Great Lake Drive.** Be sure to mark "Ballot" on the envelope.



LIVING SHORELINE PROJECT COMPLETION CELEBRATION AND RIBBON CUTTING!

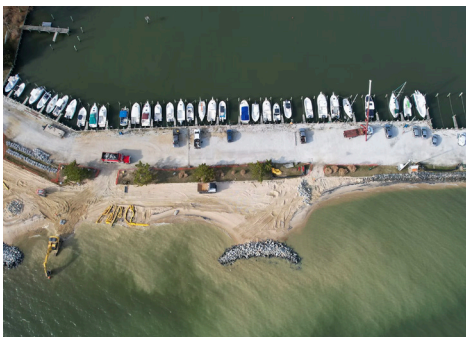
On Thursday, September 10, Hillsmere Residents met at the marina to officially cut the ribbon on the completed Living Shoreline at the Hillsmere Marina!

Residents and board members were joined by Arundel Rivers Federation, community leaders and funding partners, including representatives Delegate Dana Jones, County Executive Steuart Pittman, and leaders from the EPA, DNR, the Chesapeake Bay Trust, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Together, the community celebrated our beautiful, now more resilient connection to the South River.

According to Arundel Rivers Federation, “the project transformed approximately 650 feet of eroding shoreline into a resilient, natural buffer and created approximately 18,000 square feet of new tidal marsh while adding critical oyster habitat in the South River.” The new shoreline is now a habitable environment both above and below the shoreline, where 250 oyster reef balls were planted.

Congratulations to everyone who has helped facilitate this project—most notably HSIA Board member and former Piers and Harbors chairman Steve Vanderbosch, and Hillsmere Environmental Committee leader, Kevin Green, without whom it would never have come to fruition.

You can learn more about the Project on Arundel Rivers’ website under: “Restoration - Shorelines”.
www.arundelrivers.org/shoreline-projects/hillsmere-marina



Piers & Harbors News

The Beach Drive Floating Kayak Dock Project at 541 Beach Drive is moving to its community hearing stage. Anne Arundel County determined that a Special Exception was required to permit the Project to proceed, primarily because the County characterizes the Kayak Dock as a “community pier” in a Residential Zone. HSIA contracted with RKN Marine Permits & Services to assist in navigating the Special Exception permit process.

The Permit Hearing is scheduled for **October 15 at Noon**, held virtually. You can find all the details on how to attend here: aacounty.org/admin-hearings/hearing-calendar/hillsmere-shores-improvement-association-inc-2026-0147-s-2026-0148



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homes in our community.



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Property Manager Report

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



Fall in our community is a beautiful time to get out and enjoy the many amenities around our neighborhood. We have been hard at work making sure these amenities are in great shape for your enjoyment. On that note, a few reminders to help us keep things in top shape:

We are having many issues with dirt bikes in the community. Please double check county code regarding the legality of these dirt bikes on county roads. In addition, **dirt bikes are NOT allowed on the bike path at the beach.** We have sustained some damage from kids riding these on the trex pathway and "burning out" on them leaving unsightly marks on the pathway. If your child has a dirt bike, please talk to them about this issue, and make sure they understand if they are seen, there may be consequences to their actions.

We recently found that someone has put a large heavy chair at the top of one of the rock jetties at the marina. This is dangerous due to high tides our area receives regularly. The chair could float away and damage a boat or pier. This chair has been removed. If you use the marina to fish, please bring your own removable folding type chair and remove it when you leave.

Speaking of the marina, do not forget this is a carry in, carry out facility. If you are there to fish or crab, you must take everything, including used line with you when you leave. We recently had someone stuff chicken necks and line into one of the dog waste receptacles. This is not appropriate, and causes issues for other neighbors. Please remove all of these items and dispose of them at home.

Most of these items simply come down to being a good neighbor, and understanding that our shared spaces are just that, intended to be shared and enjoyed by all of our neighbors. If you have children using these areas unattended, please speak with them about taking care of our community amenities and resources.

If you are still in need of an RFID sticker for your vehicle, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly at propertymanager@hillsmershores.org. There is usually a 24 hour turn around on these Monday–Thursday. Also please contact me for all beach pavilion reservation requests. The more notice for these requests the better, because dates fill quickly. I will not be taking reservations for 2027 until early January.

Pool Committee

Danielle Franz and Crystal Monkman, Pool Chairs

POOL SEASON UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2026 Pool Survey. The survey is now closed, and the Pool Committee will be reviewing the responses as we begin planning for the 2027 season.

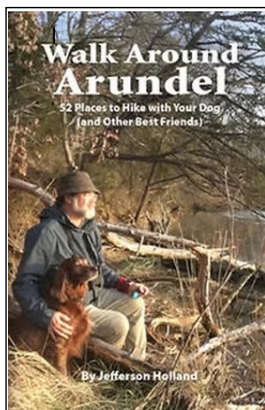
We appreciate everyone who took the time to share feedback, whether you were a pool member this summer or not. We'll share more about what we heard once the results have been reviewed.

Although the pool is closed for the season, work on the facility continues. The HSIA Board recently approved up to \$3,000 for grass and grounds work around the pool. This work will help address worn areas and give the grass time to become established before next summer.

Over the coming months, the Pool Committee will continue reviewing maintenance needs, facility improvements and plans for 2027. If you are interested in joining the committee, please email us at pool@hillsmereshores.org.

Thank you again for a great 2026 pool season!

— *Hillsmere Pool Committee*



The perfect gift for your dog-loving friends and family!

“Walk Around Arundel: 52 places to hike with your dog (*and other best friends*) by Hillsmere resident Jefferson Holland — only \$27.50

The author will inscribe, sign & deliver to your door. Text “Book, please!” to 443-758-7797



HSIA Community Beach Report

Geoff Werner, Beach Committee Chair



September has been an exciting month at the beach, with two big updates: we are in the final stretch of the playground replacement project, and the Friday evening food trucks from the pool are continuing at the beach through October.

PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT: THE FINAL STRETCH

Recent weather pushed the playground installation schedule back by about a week, but we are now very close to getting underway. On October 1, we will meet with Metro Recreation's construction supervisor at the beach for a final pre-construction walkthrough. Metro has also coordinated the required Miss Utility visit to the site, and the remaining County inspection will be scheduled as the work progresses.

At this point, the schedule is largely event-driven. Demolition, site preparation, concrete footings, County inspection, and installation will move forward in sequence as each step is completed. Weather and inspection timing can still affect the exact dates, but we expect the project to be completed soon.

During construction, the main playground work area will be closed and off-limits. The east playground, swings, and other areas outside the construction zone will remain open and available for use. For everyone's safety, please keep children away from the active work area and respect all temporary fencing, barriers, and construction equipment while work is underway.

We appreciate everyone's patience as we work through these final steps and look forward to opening the new playground to the community.

FRIDAY FOOD TRUCKS

With the pool closed for the season, we brought the Friday evening food trucks down to the beach in September. The first night was a great success, with a strong turnout, a sold-out truck, and a relaxed, family-friendly atmosphere. We also checked the property the following morning and found it clean, with no litter or trash left behind.

Based on the success of the trial and the overwhelmingly positive feedback, the Friday food trucks will continue at the beach through October.

OCTOBER FOOD TRUCK SCHEDULE

- October 9 – TBD
- October 16 – Love Melts
- October 23 – Sweet Mama Dogz
- October 30 – Chevy's

Come grab some dinner and enjoy a Friday evening at the beach. Please remember that the beach closes at sunset. A big thank-you to Caryn Gallagher for organizing the food trucks and helping make these Friday evenings happen!

KEEPING THE GEESE AWAY

While swimming activity slows considerably during the fall and winter, our efforts to discourage geese from congregating along the shoreline continue year-round.

Goose waste is a significant source of E. coli bacteria and contributed to elevated bacteria levels and failed water-quality tests during the summer. Discouraging geese from settling at the beach also simply helps keep the property cleaner throughout the year.

Our early-morning dog walking program is one part of that effort. Dogs help discourage geese from settling along the shoreline and spending extended periods on the property, reducing the amount of waste left behind. Leashed dogs are permitted on the pathways before the beach opens at 8 a.m. Waste stations are available at the entrance, and owners should always clean up after their dogs.

And one simple way everyone can help year-round: please don't feed the geese or other waterfowl. Discouraging them from congregating at the beach helps keep the entire property cleaner.

BEACH REMINDERS & CLEANUP

A few quick reminders: trash receptacles are located throughout the property, and rakes are available behind the shower station for anyone who wants to help tidy up the beach or volleyball court. Larger storm debris can be staged behind the shower for bulk pickup, lost-and-found items can be placed in the bins next to the shower.

Our next community beach cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, October 24 at 11 a.m. Come out and lend a hand as we get the beach ready for late fall.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Beach Committee Meeting: Join us in person, **November 3, 2026 (7–9 p.m.)** at the Hillsmere Community House.

Student Volunteers: If you're a student looking to earn volunteer service hours, reach out to us—we'd be happy to connect you with opportunities at the beach.

Contact: beach@hillsmershores.org

Hillsmere Garden Club

L. Zimmerman, President/Master Gardener

Hillsmere Garden Club had an enthusiastic first meeting of the year with almost 30 members attending. The 250th Celebrate America theme hosted 12 floral arrangements.

The members approved the revised 2026 Bylaws.

Join us for our next public meeting on Wednesday, October 21, 2026. The location is the St. Martin's Lutheran Church, 1120 Spa Road, Annapolis, Md. Please use the back entrance only as the school area is off limits. The program will feature Hillsmere resident Rebecca Carter speaking on 'The Edible Backyard Garden'.

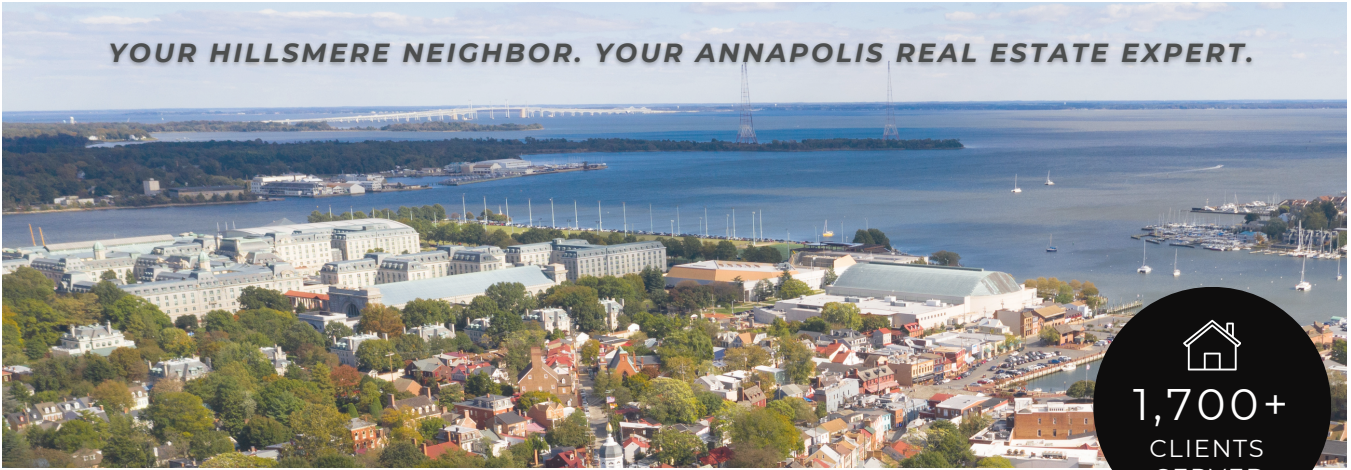
We have an exciting lineup of upcoming events for the club including a Friendsgiving luncheon on November 18th and a field trip to Longwood Gardens on December 16th. From January through April, our schedule will feature various professional speakers and a hands-on collage project. We hope you can join us for some or all of these upcoming events, as either a visitor or a participating member.

JOIN THE CLUB

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 at the Eastport Library at 12:30 p.m. October, November, December and May are at other locations. Visitors are welcome. For those wishing to join (Hillsmere residency is not required), annual dues for September through May are \$30. For more information about joining, email the administrative assistant at HillsmereGardenClub@gmail.com.



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HSIA Stargazers Club

Dennis Conti, Club Leader

The following is a report on the Stargazers Club September activities.

On September 12, Dennis and Joan Conti represented the club at the annual Hobby Fair held at the Busch Annapolis Library. The fair consisted of clubs from around the County, with each displaying the activities in which they were involved. At our club's table, we showed examples of images of the night sky that one could take from their backyard with one of the new, relatively inexpensive "smart telescopes."

In lieu of our regular September meeting, 30 club members visited the planetarium at the Howard B. Owens Science Center in Lanham, Md. The observatory directory prepared a special program for the club, which also included presentations by Mark Subbarao, a club member and head of NASA's Scientific Visualization Studio.

At our October 21 meeting Dennis Conti will give a presentation on "The Wacky World of Exoplanets," namely, planets going around distant stars.

To get on the Club's distribution list for future activities and meetings, please email dennis@astrodennis.com.





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THE SEA BREEZE

Published by: Hillsmere Shores Improvement Association (HSIA)

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Property Manager: Cassie Heckman [propertymanager@hillsmershores.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 18	405-926-6159
Kiara	Age 12	410-972-5421
Lauren	Age 18	443-750-1228
Léana	Age 17	301-793-0032
Maggie	Age 16	443-900-5511
Nora	Age 14	443-458-8633
Nora H.	Age 15	443-926-4725
Sara	Adult	443-569-1722
Sky	Age 14	410-562-3409
Linda	Adult	443-822-7956
Willow (Mother's Helper)	Age 10	973-476-7620

PET SITTERS/DOG WALKERS

Alexis	Age 15	443-388-6611
Alice	Age 14	443-336-2196
Castin (cats only)	Age 13	703-853-2890
Elaine	Adult	443-822-6035
Emery	Age 13	443-435-0213
Hannah	Age 17	405-926-6159
Hannah	Adult	410-980-6189
Isaac	Age 15	443-876-7383
Keira (cats only)	Age 14	443-440-5558
Koller M.	Age 13	301-832-0322
Lauren	Age 17	443-750-1228
LC (cats only)	Age 14	410-990-0156
Léana	Age 19	301-793-0032
Linda	Adult	443-822-7956
Maggie	Age 16	443-900-5511
Mary Ellen	Adult	410-212-5744
Quentin	Age 16	301-793-0032
Shondra	Adult	240-578-9221
Sky	Age 17	410-562-3409
Sophia	Age 13	301-538-8421
Taegan	Age 14	410-562-2679
Veanna	Age 12	301-832-0322
Willow	Age 10	973-476-7620

2026 BOARD MEETINGS—119 GREAT LAKE DR.

Oct. 29 Nov. 19 Dec. 17

2026 GENERAL MEETINGS—KEY SCHOOL BARN

Nov. 12

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Steve Vanderbosch	410-263-4456
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Shoreline Protection	Kevin Green	410-263-4456
Traffic	Maria Triandos	410-263-4456
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Welcoming	Patrice Teetermorán	410-263-4456
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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

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Food Truck at the Beach, 4 p.m.–sunset	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 Food Truck at the Beach, 4 p.m.–sunset	10 Family Movie Night, 6 p.m. Pool Field
11	12	13	14	15 Meet the Candidates Night, 7 p.m. Key School Barn Commons	16 Food Truck at the Beach, 4 p.m.–sunset	17
18	19	20	21 Garden Club, East- port Library, 12:30 p.m. Stargazers Meeting, Eastport Library	22	23 Food Truck at the Beach, 4 p.m.–sunset	24 Beach Cleanup, 11 a.m. Beach Park
25 New Neighbor Welcome 3–5 p.m., Community House	26	27	28	29	30 Food Truck at the Beach, 4 p.m.–sunset	31 Halloween Parade and party, 4 p.m. Key School Gazebo
Nov. 1	2	3 Beach Committee Meeting, Community House 7 p.m.	4	5	6	7



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