

# From the Beach Committee

*~Kate Penn, Beach Chair*

Thank you to all the volunteers whose ongoing work keeps the beach looking great. The gate is open and closed every day by volunteers, and many other volunteers take the time to pick up trash and maintain the landscaping every day.

## ***Security and Beach Rules:***

Please note that all cars parked at the beach lot should have an HSIA sticker. You can obtain one by contacting the HSIA Administrator, Jean Somers, at 410-263-4456. Our Beach Rules have been updated. Please remember that dogs are not allowed on the beach; this includes the entire park area. Alcohol is allowed by permit only, when reserving the pavilion for special events. To reserve the large pavilion for special events, please contact the HSIA Administrator, Jean Somers, at 410-263-4456; select #2 for reservations.

## ***Maintenance and Improvements:***

Grass Roots Landscaping has obtained the required permits for the parking lot improvements, and will begin work in late July. Please bear with us during construction. The asphalt area of the parking lot will remain open for use throughout the duration of the work. We will coordinate with the contractor as best as we can to provide sufficient parking for special events and private functions at the pavilion.

## ***Shoreline Study:***

Environmental Systems Analysis, Inc. (ESA) has collected historical data on the changes to our shoreline as a result of past storm activities. The next step will be to record current activity relative to benchmarks placed on our shoreline and off shore. ESA is interested in any historical information residents have regarding the changes to our shoreline over the years. If you have photos or can describe your observations specific to seasonal or storm activity, please call the HSIA Information number at 410-263-4456, or email us at [Beach@Hillsmereshores.net](mailto:Beach@Hillsmereshores.net).

## ***Water Quality Results at Hillsmere Shores for Summer 2009:***

"Operation Clearwater" monitors water quality by counting enterococci bacteria. These bacteria are associated with fecal waste of warm-blooded animals, birds and mammals, and indicate recent fecal contamination of water. When the number of enterococci exceeds 104/100 ml, there may be other microorganisms in the water that could cause illness, such as gastroenteritis and ear infections. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommends against swimming in water containing enterococci counts that have an average value exceeding 35/100 ml or a single sample result of more than 104/100.

The counts of bacteria in the water vary greatly depending on rainfall. About one-half inch of rain will cause overland flow into our creeks and rivers, causing bacteria counts to rise sharply and remain high for 24-48 hours. This is especially true in areas where runoff flows down streets directly into creeks and rivers. Storm water runoff from the extreme rains we had in June caused severe spikes in the bacteria levels in the water. The elevated bacteria counts were directly related to storm water washing waste material, primarily from dogs and waterfowl. We can all help keep our waterways cleaner by cleaning up after pets, discouraging geese from collecting on the beach, and reducing the storm water runoff from our homes and yards.

Test Results Recorded to Date by South River Federation: (Results are also available at the South River Federation Website, <http://www.southernriverfederation.net/index.php/river-health/bacteria-data>.)

5/20: 4 cfu/ml	6/10: 480 cfu/ml	7/01: 20 cfu/ml
5/27: 10 cfu/ml	6/17: 56 cfu/ml	7/08: 8 cfu/ml
6/03: 24 cfu/ml	6/24: 8 cfu/ml	

**(Beach Committee Report continued)**

Test Results Recorded to Date by Anne Arundel County Depart of Health: (Results are also available at <http://aahealth.org/wqleadin.asp#sample>.)

5/14: 14 cfu/ml	6/25: 1 cfu/ml
6/15: 4 cfu/ml	7/8: 10 cfu/ml

***Note: The Anne Arundel County Health Department advises that after a rainfall, all Anne Arundel County beaches are under a no swimming/no direct water contact advisory for 48 hours due to predicted elevated bacteria levels from rainwater runoff and increased health risks.***

The recent increase of dead fish on the beach is from low levels of oxygen in the South River. Storm water runoff carries nutrients from fertilizers into the water, which causes algae blooms, which deplete the oxygen. The fish get bacterial infections or die from the low dissolved oxygen. NO studies have been done on the relationship between human health and the bacteria in estuaries and coasts. The South River Federation and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation are asking individuals and communities to help force the State of Maryland and EPA to perform studies on human health and the River/Bay systems.