

Beach How-to's

Dear CSHOA Members and Residents,

Summer is in full swing, and many of you, and your guests, will be taking full advantage of our waterfront amenities -- everyone in the community has equal rights to the use of the beach and other common grounds. However, we are a diverse community consisting of different age groups, genders, and cultures; some of us have children, some have pets; we enjoy a variety of pastimes -- fishing, finding shells, getting a tan, boating and sports. Therefore we should follow some rules and tips for our safety and to maintain peace and harmony in the community.

CSHOA Beach Rules & Tips:

1) **Swim at your own risk.** No lifeguard is on duty at our beach.

2) **Water quality – enter the water at your own risk.** The Chesapeake Station beach water quality is monitored as part of the Maryland Healthy Beaches program and results are posted at:

www.calverthealth.org/community/environmentalhealthservices/Beaches/beachmap.htm

We advise that you visit the site prior to entering the water to help ensure the safety of you and your loved ones. Nevertheless monitoring is not done on a daily basis, so even when the site indicates water status “OK”, it may not reflect the most current conditions.

Experts suggest avoiding the water if you have open cuts or sores. For more information on flesh eating bacteria, visit these links:

- www.wjla.com/articles/2014/08/health-officials-in-calvert-county-warn-of-flesh-eating-bacteria-risk-in-chesapeake-bay-105773.html
- www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2015/06/29/the-frightening-rise-of-flesh-eating-bacteria-mystery-pain-and-amputations/?tid=trending_strip_2

3) **Bon fires, camp fires and open flames are not allowed** in the Town of Chesapeake Beach including our beach.

4) **Leave nothing behind except your foot prints.** Please take everything you bring to the beach back home with you, especially trash and pet waste.

5) **Pets must remain on leash at all times.** It is a County and Town law, as well as, the safe and considerate thing to do.

6) **Fishing is not permitted from the sand beach area** where lost tackle would present a hazard to barefoot beach goers. Fishing is allowed along the rocky berm bordering the bay with appropriate fishing licenses. However please stay at least 20

yards from the sand beach while fishing.

7) Illegal, suspicious or dangerous activity should be reported to the Sheriff's Office. Depending on the circumstances, call 911 or the Sheriff's non-emergency number (410-535-2800). Don't put yourself in a potentially dangerous situation by confronting people engaged in these activities. That's the job of law enforcement.

While the CSHOA Board has no policing authority, we do ask that you notify us if you do call law enforcement so that we can track trends in the neighborhood, follow-up with officials as appropriate, and keep community members informed of ongoing issues, as needed.

8) The beach is for the use and enjoyment of all CSHOA members and residents, and their guests. There are 108 homes in Chesapeake Station. Factoring in members, residents, their families and guests there could easily be 400-500 people who may use our common grounds, including the beach, each summer season! So it is likely that you will see new faces at the beach on occasion.

9) Potential trespassers. It is not the responsibility of HOA members and residents to confront potential trespassers directly. If you are concerned about a potential trespasser engaged in an illegal, suspicious or dangerous activity, call law enforcement. If you see a new face at the beach, or using other common grounds, and are concerned about trespassing and wish to inquire, then please treat them as a neighbor first and a potential trespasser second because they may have just as much right to be there as you do. Don't rush over and blurt out – "This is a private property. Do you live here?" It does not create a pleasant conversational dynamic, regardless of intentions. In fact, it will probably lead to a verbal confrontation.

Instead, greet them in friendly manner. For example, use a more open approach and say something like: "Hi, my name is Bob and I live over in Arcade Court. I haven't seen you at the beach before; are you new to the neighborhood? I like to take every opportunity to get to know my neighbors in the community better. . ." Chances are, with a more open approach like this, they will be more likely to reciprocate and provide you with their name and affiliation to the neighborhood.

If, after attempting to engage in friendly conversation, you find that they are evasive or confrontational leading you to believe that they are trespassing, then go home and call the sheriff's office and report it.

If they admit to not belonging in the neighborhood, then politely let them know it is a private beach. You can also give them directions to the nearest public beaches. Again if they become belligerent or argumentative, don't try to force them to leave; go home and call law enforcement.

Third of July Reminder

To ensure emergency vehicles can access the neighborhood on the third, C Street will once again be closed to all traffic without a CSHOA parking sticker or July 3rd parking

pass. Off duty police officers have been hired to control neighborhood access starting at 4 pm. At 9 pm they will begin patrolling the neighborhood to provide crowd control and to stem the use of illegal fireworks.

While we expect a fun and orderly celebration on the third, please report any illegal, disorderly, suspicious or dangerous activities conducted on HOA property directly to the Calvert County Sheriff's office via 911 or the non-emergency number (410-535-2800). As always, also notify the CSHOA Board at your earliest convenience if you do call law enforcement, so that we can track trends in the neighborhood, follow-up with officials as appropriate, and keep community members informed of ongoing issues, as needed.

From the Town - Traffic Plan for Twin Beaches on July 3*

The traffic plan is set up to eliminate all left hand turns on a portion of Route 261 going through the Twin Beaches, eliminating the need to stop traffic randomly and enabling traffic to flow with minimal stopping. The centerline of Route 261 will be blocked with delineation devices that will prohibit vehicles from making U-turns. Traffic north of Route 260 along Route 261 on the east side of Route 261 must make right turns and exit left on 5th Street to Boyd's Turn Road to Route 260. Traffic on the west side of Route 261 must make a right turn and exit on 27th Street to G Street to Route 260. Traffic south of Route 260 along Route 261 on the east side of Route 261 must make a right turn and must turn left onto Route 260. Traffic on the west side of Route 261 must turn right and continue along Route 261 to Summer City Blvd or continue south to Ponds Wood Road and proceed to Maryland Route 4.

The above Traffic Plan will be instituted around the time of the start of Fireworks.

Have a great weekend!

CSHOA Board

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