



MARTHA V. SCANLON/ENTERPRISE

Woodneck Beach

Woodneck Creek Closed, Reopened Due To High Bacteria Counts

By MARTHA V. SCANLON

After closing last Wednesday due to high bacteria count, the creek at Woodneck Beach reopened Thursday for swimming.

Water samples from town beaches are tested by the Barnstable County Department of Health every week during the summer for bacteria levels. If a beach has a high bacteria count, it is closed for swimming, then retested daily until it passes.

Around 2:30 Wednesday, not long after the beach closing was posted for high bacteria counts, many people were still lying on the beach and some were wading in the creek's waters. The ocean side of Woodneck Beach remained open.

The closing was posted on a yellow sign at the entrance to the creek beach.

Jessica A. Poppe of Green Pond Road, East Falmouth, a parking attendant at Woodneck, said that she saw many people drive into the beach parking lot, but leave once they read the sign.

"It's definitely not as busy as

usual, especially considering it's so hot out," she said.

After it rains, bacteria from nearby roads and houses can wash into the water, causing the bacteria count to be high. Bacteria is usually flushed away during the day by the tide.

There have been two other brief beach closings so far this summer.

According to the Barnstable County beach water quality report, Old Silver Beach failed on June 20 and was reopened the next day and Woodneck Beach failed on June 13 and was also reopened the next day.

Test results for Falmouth Beaches are available at barnstablecountyhealth.org/bsfalmouth.htm.