

The Islander

Your Rumsey Island Residents Association Publication



President & Board Member:
Karen Hawley

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Rose Marie Vaccaro

Recording Secretary:
Dianna Guthrie

Vice President & Board Member:
Carol Watson

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May, 2006

From the desk of the President....

The Rumsey Island Residents Association is at a crossroads and is on the move. Your help is needed to continue the RIRA moving in the right direction for the future of our organization. There is great concern among residents about the state of upkeep of homes and what should be done to maintain property values and improve appearances of some of the dwellings that could use "help".

Harford County has laws that require governing homes in disrepair, regulating overgrown grass, trash and debris, animals, and other basic issues.



In addition, property owners are bound by the covenants attached to their property. These should have been given to you at the time you closed on your home.

You may go to the Office of Planning and Zoning, located at 220 S Main Street in Bel Air, and pull a copy if you do not have one. There are at least seven different covenants that apply to various homes on the Island. These covenants address fencing (height and style), sheds, additions, easements, and other such issues.

Review the covenants applicable to your property to determine what needs to be done to your home to bring your property into compliance. Please do this before you get into a project and have invested a lot of money only to have to remove the project. It will save everyone a lot of time and money.

The questions facing the Rumsey Island Residents Association are these:

What steps do we take to enforce these covenants? Do we become a policing organization, utilizing the court system to bring property into compliance? Should covenants be rewritten to uniformly apply to all Island properties?

Currently a resident is facing a dilemma that we could all encounter. A permit was obtained from the county to place a shed in the yard. Neighbors object to the location of the shed. The permit does not supersede the covenants that disallow sheds in certain areas. Neighbors could seek court intervention to prohibit the installation of the shed. Do you have a shed? Do you have a permit? Is this shed permitted by your covenants?

(Continued on next page. . .)

(President's Message continued)

The Rumsey Island Resident's Association's annual meeting will be held on June 15th, 2006 at the Joppa Library. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. and ends promptly at 8:00. At this meeting new officers will be elected for the coming year. RIRA BY-LAWS stipulate the following:

Only resident member homeowners in good standing are eligible to vote or hold office. Joint owners of property shall be entitled to one (1) vote. Associate members, any non-resident landowner, homeowner or apartment resident, shall be eligible for Associate Membership upon payment of established assessments. Associate members shall be entitled to all privileges except voting and holding office. Nominations for office may be accepted from the floor.



Revision of By-Laws

The R.I.R.A. By-Laws are to be reviewed and revisions will be made where necessary. Copies can be downloaded from our website at www.rumseyisland.com. Or, if a written copy is needed, please send a request to:
R.I.R.A., PO Box 196, Joppa, MD 21085

Residents are urged to review the by-laws and bring comments and suggestions to the annual meeting in June.

2006 Meeting Dates

June 15 – Thursday (Officer Elections)

July 13 - Thursday

August 17 - Thursday

September 14 - Thursday

October 19 - Thursday

November 15 - Wednesday

December 13 - Wednesday

The new officers must be willing to address these tough issues regarding covenants, while at the same time *preserving* the long standing traditions of RIRA. The Fourth of July Parade, The Halloween Parade, The Crab Feast, The Christmas Tree Lighting and Caroling, and The Holiday Decorating Contest are just a few of the events that should not be put in jeopardy. The Yard Waste Pick-up and Semi-Annual Yard Sales are two more events that some consider essential.

What do **you** want in your Rumsey Island Resident Association? Please come out and hear the candidates for office speak as to their vision of the future of the organization. Come out and vote and support your community, your home values are at stake.

County Councilman Dion Guthrie reports:

- Harford County Council holds special session to finalize largest budget in County's history.
- Sheriff's Department: Class of 2005-06 will soon graduate twenty new deputies who will be on the streets of Harford County. The County Council approved another class of 20 for 2006-2007.
- Joppatowne Plaza is undergoing dramatic changes. The new Redner's Store is planning on opening in Fall of 2006.
- Construction will soon begin at Joppatowne High School to create ramps to facilitate access for those who are unable to negotiate steps.
- Watch for changes at Joppatowne Elementary School as major rebuilding is scheduled for the near future.
- Street lighting in our area is undergoing major upgrades.

What's Happening Around the Island

Work has begun on the new Redner's Store! You can find information about Redner's online at www.rednersmarkets.com.

Mary-Dulany James, State Delegate for Harford and Cecil Counties, will be holding a Community Meeting at the Joppa Public Library on Wednesday May 24th, 2006 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Please come and share your thoughts and ideas with her over light refreshments.

New Look for the Islander!

Like our new format? As always, your opinions are important. Please let us know what you think. Send us an email to info@rumseyisland.com with constructive comments or suggestions.

Community Telephone Numbers

Community Police
410-612-1670

Dept Public Works
410-638-3285

Parks & Rec
410-612-1608

Planning & Zoning
410-638-3103

Health Dept
410-879-8322

B G & E
410-685-0123
1-800-685-0123

Officer Elections

R.I.R.A. Officer Elections will be held at the annual meeting on June 15th, 2006 at the Joppa Library. See President Hawley's message in this newsletter for further details.

Community Residents Make a Difference

The Rumsey Island Residents' Association wishes to thank Tom Barnhart and Margaret Steen for the wonderful job they did making renovations to the Guard House on the corner of Bridge & Towne Center. Thanks also go out to Betty and Bob Shuhmann who cleaned and planted around the sign on Shore and Joppa Farm, and to Joann Miller who cleaned and planted flowers around the sign at Shore and Towne Center. We also want to send a personal thank you to Brian Reese of Shore Drive for his continued efforts of cleaning, weeding and mulching the entry way on the Bridge side of the Island.

The kindness of thoughtful volunteers such as these makes our community a better place to live. Why not pitch in and lend a hand? Your help is greatly appreciated!

Community Volunteers Needed

We are in need of a block captain to deliver the Islander to Old Church. Please contact Rose Marie Vaccaro at 410-679-8801.



Volunteers are also needed for the upcoming Independence Day Parade on July 1st. We need participants to march in the Parade, help with the costume judging, serving food, etc.

Special Offers!

Deckelman's Marine Towing is offering all R.I.R.A. Members a **Free** Chesapeake Bay Assist Associate Membership, Courtesy of Captain Ted Ostrowski. Call 410-391-6482 and use Code 085 to activate your free membership.

Tollgate Liquors located in the Tollgate Marketplace on the corner of Rt 24 and Rt 1 between the Giant and Staples in Bel Air is offering all R.I.R.A. members huge discounts. Just present your Association Membership card at checkout.

Prizeworks PC Learning Center is offering a 15% discount to R.I.R.A. members on all computer classes. Call 410-272-3300.

For more advertising information, visit our web site at www.rumsevisland.com.

Upcoming Events

- July 1st* – Second Annual Independence Day Parade
- Sept 16th* – Crab Feast
- Oct 28th* – Halloween Parade

Reminders

Resident’s complaints are to be submitted in writing for discussion at R.I.R.A. meetings. If time allows, the discussion will take place at the next meeting. Otherwise, the topic will be tabled until the following meeting. Urgent matters will be handled on an as-needed basis. Only signed complaints will be addressed.

RIRA annual membership dues are payable each calendar year and are in effect from January to December.

WHY JOIN RIRA ?

RIRA Membership is open to all residents, both homeowners and renters. Membership dues support community activities (including two Island parades each year), landscape maintenance, funds our growing web site, funds the new Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, and pays advertising cost for seasonal yard sales. In addition a membership allows you to purchase a discounted ticket to the Annual Crab Feast and to participate in the 2006 Yard Waste Pickup.

If paid after March 15, 2006, RIRA annual membership dues are \$25.00

!.....Cut along the dotted line and mail in with your membership dues.....!

Enclose \$25.00 payment for annual membership dues.

**R.I.R.A.
Box 196
Joppa, Md. 21085**

Name _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

YES! Send me notification of meetings and upcoming events via E-mail