

# The Islander

Your Rumsey Island Residents Association Publication



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## August, 2006

### Independence Day Parade

The Rumsey Island Independence Day Parade, held on July 1st, was a huge success! Fun was had by all!

Participants included:

- County Councilman Dion Guthrie
- Paula Mullis, candidate for County Council Seat District A
- Ladies from Curves
- Fire Department
- Joppatowne Women's Club
- Holy Spirit Crafty Ladies
- Knights of Columbus
- Knights of Columbus Women's Auxiliary



Many thanks go out to all Moms and Dads for allowing their children to participate in the parade by decorating their bikes, carriages and faces. Special thanks go out as well to all the well-behaved dogs who participated.

And we especially wish to express our appreciation to the Church of the Resurrection for allowing us the use of their property on this and many other R.I.R.A. events..

We look forward to seeing everyone at the annual Halloween Parade on October 28th.

### Crab Feast Tickets on Sale Now!

The annual R.I.R.A. Crab Feast will be held on September 16th at the Church of the Resurrection on the corner of Anchor & Bridge Drive.

The cost is \$12.00 for R.I.R.A. members and \$17.00 for non-members. Hours are 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

To order tickets for, call Rose Marie Vaccaro at 410-679-8801.

Beer and Corn are included. Please bring your own soft drink and remember a dessert for the Bake Table. No ice chests are allowed inside the eating area. (Ice chests can be left in the adjacent room.)

Volunteers are needed for setup and cleanup. Set up starts at 12 noon.

Keep in mind that the Church Hall only holds 75 people, so order early.

First come - first served!

## **Building & Zoning Update**

The Association wishes to thank Pete Gutwald from Planning & Zoning and Sheryl Banager from the Department of Public Works for speaking at the July 13<sup>th</sup> R.I.R.A. meeting in reference to Rumsey Island resident issues.

A Committee has been formed to address neighborhood complaints in reference to Harford County Building & Zoning Regulations and the Rumsey Island covenants.

**It is the homeowner's responsibility to comply with the zoning rules and regulations, as well as the Rumsey Island covenants.**

If you do not have a copy of your covenants, you may obtain one at the Office of Planning and Zoning, located at the Harford County Circuit Court, at 20 W. Courtland Street in Bel Air Main Floor, Indexing Department. There are at least seven different covenants that apply to various homes on the Island.

Remember to review the covenants applicable to your property to determine what needs to be done to your home 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.

## **New & Upcoming R.I.R.A. Merchandise**

New Rumsey Island decals are available now.



**\$3.00 for 1; \$5.00 for 2**

To order, send a self addressed, stamped envelope along with check or money order to: R.I.R.A.. PO Box 196. Joppa, Md. 21085

## **Harford History**

### **RISE AND FALL OF JOPPA**

A land certificate dated July 28, 1661, shows 300 acres on the north side of the eastern branch of the Gunpowder River laid out for John Taylor, a planter. This tract, known as "Taylor's Choice", became the thriving town of Joppa. Joppa was destined to become the county seat of old Baltimore County from about 1710 or 1712 to 1768.

According to *The Story of Harford County*, the original Joppa was a booming seaport, where ships from Europe and the West Indies brought manufactured goods and took away great quantities of tobacco and corn. There were two prisons, a courthouse, St. John's Parish Church, large stone warehouses, wharves, inns, shops, and about 50 houses.

Joppa was a lively town, scene of horse races, hangings, and street fights, which were common. A few years ago it was still possible to see bullet holes in some of the doors of the Rumsey Mansion, the surviving example of the buildings that were there over 200 years ago.

Several factors contributed to the decay and disappearance of Old Joppa. The county seat was moved; the harbor became too shallow for newer, larger ships, and also silted up because of inland deforestation.

A smallpox epidemic influenced some inhabitants to move away. No one knows how the substantial houses of the well-to-do, distinguished families of Maryland, merchants, and judges disappeared, but the site became swamp and farmland. In the 1960s, the new housing development of Joppatown was built on the site.

*(The Story of Harford County, No.7. The First National Bank of Aberdeen, 1962. Research by Harford County Public Library.)*

## **Articles Wanted**

What else would you like to see in your R.I.R.A. newsletter?

If you have an interesting article or topic you believe our residents would enjoy, e-mail us at: [info@rumseyisland.com](mailto:info@rumseyisland.com).

## **County Councilman Dion Guthrie reports:**

### **Joppatowne Transmission Towers**

I had the opportunity to recently speak to Mark Huston in regards to the towers mentioned above, considering their condition. As a result, beginning this year, work will commence on the Baltimore County end of the line approaching Joppatowne. This section is already de-energized and is the least challenging portion of the line. The wires immediately leaving the Joppatowne Station continue to carry distribution voltages which will have to be transferred to other poles. This work will be completed in 2007.

With regard to my specific questions pertaining to the structural condition of the towers, I am comfortable that the transmission towers are structurally sound for the period of time between now and their removal. More recent inspection/maintenance of the towers has occurred in 1973, 1978, 1986, 1996, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2005.

Regarding the tot lot in close proximity to the transmission tower near Joppa Farm Road, this tower will be removed in the third quarter of 2007.

### **Copenhaver Park**

In the last budget we approved the updating of the lighting facilities and rebuilding the concession building at Copenhaver Park. This summer a brand new cast concrete concession building, including new restrooms will be added. In addition, all the lighting in the park will be replaced with a new sports lighting system. They are hoping that both of these two additions will be completed before the beginning of the new school year.

### **Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)**

I am sure you have had an opportunity to read about the above mentioned subject. It is the government's proposal to build such a plant at the Sparrows Point facility and then develop a pipeline from Baltimore City, through Harford County, coming up Interstate 95, cutting through Fallston, and into Philadelphia. According to Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger, from an October 12, 2005 report from the Congressional Research Service, such

a facility and such a pipeline would cause "potentially catastrophic events that could arise from a serious accident or attack on such a facility, or infrastructure, such as a pool or vapor cloud fire could occur". This is an unacceptable threat to the citizens in Maryland and Harford County. I am introducing a resolution at the next Council meeting that the County and/or the Department of Education not allow surveyors into our County. If this can be done, we could cut off the pipeline coming through Harford County.

For more information on these or other issues, you can contact Dion at the County Council Office 410-638-3521 or send e-mail to [dfguthrie@harfordcountymd.gov](mailto:dfguthrie@harfordcountymd.gov).

### **Special Offers!**

The R.I.R.A. website Directory exists thanks to the following local advertisers who have chosen to support us. Please return the favor and support these businesses and individuals.

*Deckelman's Marine Towing* offers 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.

*Premier Mortgage Funding Inc.*, a full service Mortgage Banker/Broker and has over 300 lenders. They can help you obtain a home loan with competitive interest rates and innovative programs. Call Dan Steen at 410-335-1522.

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

*Robert Wilson, Master Electrician.* Residential, Commercial, Industrial, Service and HVAC. Licensed and Insured. Phone 443-872-8765.

*Steen Properties* is a Family Owned and Operated, full time, full service real estate company located on Rumsey Island. Visit them on the web at [www.steenproperties.com](http://www.steenproperties.com)

*Tollgate Liquors* located in the Tollgate Marketplace on the corner of Rt 24 and Rt 1 is offering huge discounts. Just present your Association Membership card at checkout.

For more advertising information, visit our web site at [www.rumseyisland.com](http://www.rumseyisland.com).

**Upcoming Events**

Sept 16th – Crab Feast  
Oct 21st – Yard Waste Pick Up  
Oct 28th – Halloween Parade  
Nov 11th – Fall Yard Sale  
Dec – Holiday House Contest & Tree Lighting

**2006 Meeting Dates**

August 17 – Thursday  
September 14 - Thursday  
October 19 - Thursday  
November 15 - Wednesday  
December 13 – Wednesday

**What’s Happening Around the Island**

Redner’s Market representative, Eric White, will be at the September 14<sup>th</sup> membership meeting to answer questions and provide more information on the new store which is scheduled to open this fall!

You can find information about Redner’s online at [www.rednersmarkets.com](http://www.rednersmarkets.com).

**Yard Waste Pick Up**

We will have another Yard Waste Pick Up on October 21, 2006.

**FOR R.I.R.A. MEMBERS ONLY**

The Association is billed for the amount of debris removed on collection day. Your Membership Dues must be paid by Oct 17<sup>th</sup> in order to participate.



Respect your neighbors, your neighbor’s property and our cherished Island.



**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 Yard Waste Pickup.

RIRA annual membership dues of \$25.00 are payable each calendar year and are in effect from January to December of that year.

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

***Enclose \$25.00 payment for annual membership dues.***

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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