

## RIRA OPEN MEETING 8/19/21

In President Joyce Brown's absence, Walt Smith conducted the meeting at Bruno's Restaurant. The meeting was lightly attended.

The Aug. 21 raft-up is still scheduled for 1pm, weather permitting. We will meet on the south side (Bay side) of Maxwell Point to avoid the extensive sea grass at our usual spot.

The Sept. 18 Crab Feast at Portside North will be from 1-4pm. There are only 6 tickets left.

Family Fun Day will be Oct. 9 at the Parker's yard, 12 noon to 4pm. There will be a bounce house and other games for young and older.

Our marina finally has boat gas available.

A County street sweeper was working on the Island this week, which shows the value of voicing our concerns to the County.

Treasurer Anita Sands reported a current account balance of \$8167 which includes most Crab Feast ticket sales (\$2560), but only \$21 of Feast expenditures. We are still projecting a small profit.

Riverkeeper Theaux Gardeur, 410-967-3526, talked about the water sampling effort that his organization does. He reported that our water is generally quite clean for swimming. There is an effort to get the County to use their alert system to warn bathers of a water quality issue when it occurs, but the County is reticent to implement such a program. Furthermore, by the time any test results are known, the water quality may have changed, particularly after a heavy rain. Alternatively, we could use signs at our marquees and at the Park to warn of high bacteria water. Riverkeeper has a "swim guide" feature on their website. If we want the County to conduct more tests than they do now, we should write a letter and lobby the Counsel members. Riverkeeper tests water at the Park at Foster Branch and at the kayak launch, but not yet in Sandpiper Cove. They rely on donations, so we are encouraged to join the organization and donate. Their website is [Gunpowderriverkeeper.org](http://Gunpowderriverkeeper.org). John Berry will contact Theo to get costs for Riverkeeper to do additional testing. For areas that usually test poor quality, testing to identify the source of the bacteria can be done at additional expense. Walt will ask Sharon Pry to link Riverkeeper's website to RIRA website, and Suzanne to do the same for our Facebook page.

Submitted by,

John Berry