

# THE ISLANDER

Rumsey Island Residents Association

October 2020

## A MESSAGE FROM RIRA PRESIDENT WALT SMITH

I certainly hope that everyone is doing well given the ongoing Covid pandemic. In some ways we are almost used to the personal distancing, masks and restrictions we must follow. I doubt that things will change much over the next few months but our county's transmission rates are low because we are doing a good job of adhering to guidelines. Let's keep up the good work.

All things considered, we did enjoy a pretty good summer around the island. Some of our residents provided music on their piers and invited people to come by boat and kayak. Some had food trucks on the street. It was nice to see residents providing neighborhood entertainment and getting together.

Harford County has continued to test three locations in our area for water quality. This year they have been testing every other week. The test results can be found on the county's website at:  
<https://harfordcountyhealth.com/recreational-water-sampling/>

RIRA hosted two boating raft-ups. The first was held in the cove bounded by Anchor, Old Sound and Neptune. We floated and laughed for hours. The second was held out at Maxwell Point. Another nice day and good turnout there. Always fun dragging anchors together out at Maxwell Point.

We managed to conduct our June, July and August general meetings outside at Portside North. That location worked perfectly for allowing us to spread out our seating and socialize.

Finally, we were able to have our annual RIRA Crab Feast this year outside at Portside North. We had a beautiful day for the event. Crabs, steamed shrimp and corn were very good and catered by Cruising Crab. This year we tried to show support for our local restaurants, Sapore di Mar and Towne Pub and Grill by purchasing gift cards for our door prizes (we also tried Joppa Pizza but they don't have gift cards).

Other local businesses supported us with donations of various gifts for door prizes. Those businesses included Redners Markets, Days Auto Service, Island Liquors, Midway Liquors, Good Times Liquors, Smyth Jewelers, and Cruising Crabs. Thanks to all the local businesses who are in our areas.

And a special thanks to our treasurer, Anita, who donated a beautiful homemade gift basket and sign for one of our door prizes and to all the ladies who prepared and individually wrapped deserts for everyone.

We welcome all residents of Rumsey Island to attend our regular general meetings on the third Thursday of each month. Please come to a meeting to learn more about our association. Membership in the association is only \$30 per household per year and includes some member only benefits such as the yard waste pickups and the Christmas Party.

Please check our website at [rumseyisland.com](http://rumseyisland.com) for more information about Rumsey Island and our association's activities. We now include a calendar that is updated with our scheduled meetings and events.

## **YARD WASTE PICKUP FRIDAY DECEMBER 4, 2020**

### **RIRA MEMBERS ONLY**

Previously, the bi-annual yard waste pick up was a benefit the RIRA Organization provided to everyone on the Island. But with only the continued support of paying members, we are left with no choice but to provide it ONLY to paying RIRA members. First time new members can join RIRA now and receive the benefit of a yard waste pickup TWICE a year. By paying the \$30 annual dues now, you will be a member in good standing through December 2021.

**Not sure if you are a member or are up to date with your dues????  
Send an email to RIRA@rumseyisland.com and ask.**

Yard waste must be tied, bundled or bagged. Branches cannot be bigger than 3" in diameter or longer than 4'. Due to the early morning start, it is recommended that you place your yard waste on the curb the night before! **Harford County no longer accepts yard waste in plastic bags. Waste must be in paper bags.**

In the fall it is especially important that we manage yard waste debris properly. Protect the Chesapeake Bay, waterways and canals by preventing them from going into our gutters and sewer drains. By managing the sediment flow to our canals we can help keep our waterways clear, which supports the health of the bay and keeps our water clean all through the year. When you are a member of RIRA, you make a difference in the community for only \$30 annually. Dues must be received by November 15, 2020 to be eligible for the December 5th yard waste pick up.

### **YARD WASTE MUST BE IN PAPER BAGS**

Waste Industries will no longer accept yard waste in plastic bags to be in compliance with Harford County's new regulation 16.02.14. You will be required to place your yard waste in heavy duty yard debris paper bags which are available at your local home improvement centers.

If your yard waste is in plastic bags **GFL/Waste Industries will not pick it up.** For more information, go to:

<https://rumseyisland.com/documents/harford-county-yard-waste.pdf>

**FINALLY, PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOUR YARD WASTE IS VISIBLE FROM THE STREET!!!! AVOID PLACING IT BEHIND PARKED VEHICLES.**

## RIRA UPCOMING EVENTS

Here are some of the events that we are working on for upcoming fall and winter.

**All event dates are tentative and are subject to change.  
Notifications will posted on our website and on Nextdoor.**

- 12/4/2020 – Rumsey Island Fall yard waste pick-up **(MEMBERS ONLY)**
- 12/10/2020 – Rumsey Island Christmas Party – Baldwins Restaurant **(MEMBERS ONLY)**
- 12/18/2020 – Christmas Caroling **(OPEN TO ALL)** – further updates to where and when the time of caroling will start will be made available closer to the date
- Home Outdoor Christmas Decorations Contest **(OPEN TO ALL)** – each year RIRA has a Christmas Decoration Contest. Typically, four judges will drive the streets or Rumsey Island together and vote on the best outdoor decorated homes. We award First Place and Second Place winners in two categories- Single Homes and Town Homes. Signs are placed in the yards of the winners and the winners receive a gift card to one of our local restaurants.

Updates to these events will appear on rumseyisland.com and will also be posted on Nextdoor.

## UPDATING OUR MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION

We are in the process of updating our member contact information. We have email contacts for many of our members but not for all. Currently, we post notice of our meetings and events on the Nextdoor website and on our two community signs. But we really don't know how many of our members use that website or only use it occasionally.

We would like to create an email list of members so that we can contact you with notice of events, cancellations, and RIRA related matters. No junk mails.

So we are asking our members to please contact us to make sure we have your current email and phone numbers.

You may contact any of the officers or simply send an email to us at [RIRA@rumseyisland.com](mailto:RIRA@rumseyisland.com) and we will get in touch with you.

## **Join the Rumsey Island Residents Association**

The Rumsey Island Residents Association is **not a HOA**. We are a completely voluntary "Neighborhood Community Association" and as such does not need to meet specific requirements as with a stringent HOA. RIRA is a group of residents and property owners who advocate for and organize activities within Rumsey Island.

We have elected leaders and \$30 annual dues. By working together, we create and foster a desirable place to live – promoting neighborhood safety, beautification, and social activities. We advocate education, community activism, and volunteerism to maintain Rumsey Island's highly desirable appeal to both our residents and visitors. Our association does not seek to enforce rules and regulations that focus on restrictions, buildings or building codes or safety issues. To be-come a member, go to:

[www.rumseyisland.com/join](http://www.rumseyisland.com/join) or a \$30 check can be made payable to RIRA and mailed to:

RIRA PO Box 196 Joppa, MD 21085 (Be sure to include your name, address, phone and email address)

**Not sure if you are a member or are up to date with your dues????  
Send an email to [RIRA@RumseyIsland.com](mailto:RIRA@RumseyIsland.com) and ask.**

### **ARE YOU ON NEXTDOOR?**

**NextDoor.com is the easiest way for all of us to talk online and make our lives better in the real world. You will find information about RIRA events as well as recommendations, items for sale, crime reports, ideas about how to improve our Island and much more. Get to know your neighbors and stay informed about what's happening right now on the Island. And it is FREE for ALL residents of Rumsey Island.**