

In July 2007, Riviera Community Improvement Association, Inc became a 501 C 3 private non-profit organization. We are registered with the Federal Government and also with the Maryland Secretary of State Charitable Contributions Division. Some of you may not really know what that means:

First and foremost all of your dues payments, and cash and in-kind donations are fully tax deductible.

Second: RCIA does not pay any Maryland sales tax on items purchased.

Third: RCIA pays non-profit bulk mail rates. Instead of each newsletter costing 41 cents to mail it costs 15.5 cents, which is a huge savings.

Fourth: The non-profit status allows RCIA to apply for grants. This will be very beneficial when the group starts looking for playground equipment or wants to redeck a pier.

All of the paperwork to retain this non-profit status is up to date. However, someone will need to step forward and make sure all filings are kept current. In addition, RCIA needs to continue having speakers at their meetings, activities for the kids, and educational and social events for the community. It would be a great financial loss to this organization, if RCIA were to lose their non-profit status.

I stated volunteering with RCIA 2 ½ years ago for 3 reasons: to meet people in the Beach (I knew almost no one), to have some fun while doing worthwhile projects for the community, and because I have worked for years in non-profit human service industries thought I might have some skills to offer. I've met some great people, had a good time, and with the help of the Kileys wrote the non-profit proposal. I feel everything is in place to make RCIA a great community organization. Under the present circumstances, I truly do not believe that this can or will happen as long as the present board sits before you. At the last meeting I asked where do you want to go from here and a young lady said that we need to move forward. I couldn't agree more. In the last months our meetings have become sparring matches benefiting no one. There are no winners here, but plenty of losers: this board has lost, the beach has lost, and you the community residents have lost. I feel for the benefit of RCIA and for this community, I have no other option than to tender my resignation immediately. I wish this organization the very best and hope that RCIA can get back to the business of making Riviera Beach a great place to live.