



# THE NAV-LIGHT

THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER OF RIO VISTA  
ESTABLISHED AND INCORPORATED IN 1954  
"A DEED RESTRICTED COMMUNITY"



Volume 11 Issue 1

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## RIO VISTA: ALL LIT UP



The **Second Annual Holiday Light Extravaganza** was very visible again during the recent **Christmas Season** in **Rio Vista**. The **First Annual** proved to be an overwhelming success, which created keen competition by some neighbors for the **SECOND ANNUAL**. A very large number of homes were impressively decorated with lights, Christmas ornaments and increasing numbers of inflatables. As we rode through **Rio Vista** there was no doubt that the **Christmas Spirit** was "**alive and well**".

**Board Members and one non-board volunteer** toured the community making independent evaluations of participating properties. Afterward there was a group meeting during which members shared information and debated who should be the final winners. The decisions were very difficult. After careful and thoughtful consideration, the following winners were selected. Congratulations to:

Best Overall Illumination: **Mike Estella**, 409 Lincoln Avenue.

As in years past, the brightness of the Estrella house could not be missed – it illuminated an entire section of Rio Vista! And the team of brightly lit reindeer was a new addition this year.

Most Creative Theme: **M/M Carl Finneyfrock**, 404 Lincoln Avenue

The Finneyfrocks brought out the stars in a beautiful and elegant display.

Governor's Choice: **M/M Hunter Plog**, 1019 Monroe Street

"A Merry Eastern Shore Christmas" built by the Plogs was a wooden sleigh drawn by a flock of wooden geese. Very well done!

Your **Board** has decided that this year the judging date will be publicized well in advance in order that everyone is decorated and "**all lit up**". If you have suggestions for making this an even better event please contact any **Board** Member. Thanks for your participation.

## **RIO VISTA COMMUNITY PICNIC**

At this writing there is light snow falling in **RIO VISTA**. Forget it! Think back roughly eight months. Can we all remember a bright, warm and beautiful Saturday afternoon when approximately 75 community residents gathered in the Bridges' back yard and celebrated **RIO VISTA LIFE?** The food was delicious, the conversation was better. Many came as strangers and left as friends.

Why torture people with those remembrances on an inclement winter afternoon? We are going to do it again and we want to give you ample, ample time to get it on your calendars. Please do it **now; June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009**. Specific plans are sparse. We know it will be **picnic**, there will be a short **business meeting** and again we are looking at the **Bridges' back yard**, 1020 Riverview Terrace, as the location.

For many years attendance was the same 35 residents. This trend has changed a bit in the last year or two. Your **Board** will be delighted if this trend continues as it is or even at a greater rate. This year, consider this a special invitation to those residents who have never attended any of our meetings or picnics.

**JUNE 13, 2009**

## **Open Fires in Our Neighborhood**



Burning yard debris has generated many, many complaints to our board. Neighbors with respiratory problems are adversely affected. And those without respiratory issues have also complained about the smoke and the odor. Depending on the wind, this burning can affect not only those in close proximity but also the entire community of Rio Vista.

After much consideration and consultation with Talbot County Department of the Environment (who informed us that according to County regulations burning should not create a nuisance), your board has voted to ban this practice. We know that there are several large piles of yard debris on the paper road behind Jefferson and so in order to start with a clean slate, we have arranged for those piles to be removed. This will happen by late February/early March. From now on property owners are responsible for removing their own grass clippings and yard debris. Burning and dumping will no longer be permitted in Rio Vista.

## From the President's Desk.....

### It's Great to Live in Rio Vista!

In November, we held our annual General Members meeting. If you were there on November 15, we thank you for your participation. If you weren't there we missed hearing your point of view and getting your feedback on our goals and planned activities for the coming year. And guess what? **You have another opportunity to participate in your community at our Annual Picnic on June 13th.** It's lots of fun – activities for the kids and good company for adults. Please come.

Getting back to the November meeting - the main purpose of this members' meeting is to present the budget – we did that and a copy can be found at [riovistacom.org](http://riovistacom.org). Our retiring Treasurer, Paul Florkewicz has done such a terrific job of managing our finances that one 42-year member said our association is in the best fiscal condition ever! He's right – and that's not all - for our very low annual fee we receive **many tangible benefits** that we can see and touch: mowing and trimming at our entrances and our community lands, shoreline preservation, boat dock maintenance and lighting, signs at the picnic and boat dock areas, an annual picnic and this newsletter published four times a year.

Plus, there are **many other benefits** to being a member of Rio Vista Community Association. I outlined them in the last newsletter and I believe they are **often overlooked yet so important** that I'd like to highlight them again:

- Attention and effort is devoted to **maintaining our real estate values** through routine monitoring of properties and enforcement of our Deed & Agreement and By-Laws
- Proactive **maintenance and preservation of our community owned lands** (picnic area and boat dock area) is a high priority and maintains property values
- Your board has established a **Rio Vista presence** with Talbot County Planning & Zoning, the Planning Commission and the Sheriff's Department
- Through our association, **resources** are available to address community concerns
- Many **communications vehicles** are available to keep members informed and to encourage member input: Nav-Light newsletter, website, e-mail communication, telephone contacts
- Your association board provides **management** of budget, procedures, insurance requirements, property preservation and maintenance for our corporation
- We are part of a **community of active people** who care enough to volunteer their time and talent to make where we live a better place. In Rio Vista, 13% of households have volunteered to participate as a committee or board member and many others have volunteered to assist in various projects.

Our goals for the coming year are to **continue providing these member benefits** by focusing on projects that will protect our real estate values, foster involvement in our community and maintain our sense of safety and security.

*Judy Sandground*

## Updated By-Laws

As we have been reporting, a committee has been working for several years to review all our corporate documents and meeting notes outlining decisions from past board meetings. Adhering to the provisions of our original documents, the board reviewed decisions made by past boards, made some modifications and consolidated all of the procedures and rules into a single reference source – the updated By-Laws. No changes have been made to the original documents – the Deed and Agreement and The Articles of Incorporation. Copies were provided to those attending the November meeting. To receive your copy, please contact Jan Burke 410-745-9076 or [riovistamd@verizon.net](mailto:riovistamd@verizon.net).

## Thanks Paul Florkewicz

In this his second term of service on the Board of Governors of Rio Vista, Paul Florkewicz has stepped aside to attend to family matters. We will miss his many valuable contributions as Treasurer, as a source of good ideas, as the person who always stepped up to the plate to do whatever needed to be done and as someone with enthusiasm and a great sense of humor. We wish him well and hope that he will be able to serve on the board again.

## CURB APPEAL

At this time of year Communities often reflect wear and tear of winter. It's the windy season. It's the season of rainfall and /or snowfall. It's the season of extended cold temperatures when people are hesitant to spend long periods of time maintaining the "back forty" as they do during the summer season.



Members of the **Curb Appeal Committee** have continued their rides through **Rio Vista** during the winter and one of the members mentioned that residents should be congratulated. With rare exceptions, properties were kept in very good condition. Your **Board** and **Curb Appeal Committee** Congratulates **Rio Vista residents** for their **Community Pride**. Many people find it hard to wait for spring to get out and give everything the thorough spring cleaning.

## ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE

One of our busier committees, chaired by **Diane Criniti**, the **Architectural Committee** has a lot to do with the overall appearance of **Rio Vista**. Anyone who is contemplating up-grades to their home or property should contact **Diane** in the very early stages of planning. This particularly applies to outside improvements.

**Fences** and **sheds** usually cause most discussion. **Fences** can be no higher than **six feet** and can extend only to the **frontline of the home**. Permanent **sheds** must be in rear yards, be in compliance with the **10-foot** set-back rule and reasonably blend in aesthetically.

Compared to other communities in the area, our rules are much less stringent and are applied only to maintain the appearance of the community and the value of the properties. Please don't let this be a problem. Very early in your planning, contact **Diane** and she will fully explain the few simple requirements.

## CAN THERE EVER BE ANOTHER PAUL?

The **RIO VISTA BOARD OF GOVERNORS** has lost not only a valued member, but also a sage character. His report started out telling where we were six months ago, then three months ago and then last month. He then goes on to where we will be next month, then in three months etc., etc. When asked about now, he usually referred us to the chart. And then there were always the "what ifs" and then the "what if, what ifs" and then before we knew it, it was bordering on tomorrow morning and we were scheduling another meeting tomorrow night to take care of everything except the Treasurer's Report.

"Paul, we will miss you". You did take a very rudimentary system, up-graded it, computerized it and made it clear enough that even your Nav-Light Editor could pick up and know exactly what we have, where it is and where it's going. We will indeed miss the banter in which you participated before, during and after our meetings. We will miss your willingness to do whatever is needed to be done to "make it work". And finally, you are "a nice guy to have around". Can there ever be another Paul?



## COMMUNITY DUES

We are happy to report that most **Rio Vista** residents have paid their 2008-2009 **community dues**. As we do individually, the **Association** constructs a budget based on income from 100% of our home owners and expenditures based on that income. When income figures are not met, your **Board** cannot fully implement beautification, shoreline preservation, dock area preservation etc., etc. If you have overlooked your dues payment, please send it in as soon as possible. Thanks!!!

## WATERFRONT NEWS

The relatively mild winter, therefore very little ice has been kind to the **Rio Vista Community Pier**. First glance reveals no damage and except for perhaps a few cosmetics, it appears ready for spring occupancy.



Slips are still available for the 2009 boating season. If you are a resident of **Rio Vista** and a small boat owner desiring space at a safe, well protected pier please contact Dockmaster, Donald Parks.

## COMMUNICATE WITH US!

Your **Board** needs input from **Rio Vista** residents. What's going on in your neighborhood? Maybe you have a Community problem you would like to get off your chest. We need to hear it. Call a Board member. E-mail the Board; [riovistamd@verizon.net](mailto:riovistamd@verizon.net). Check the **Rio Vista** website; [www.riovistacom.org](http://www.riovistacom.org). Your may have already been addressed, perhaps solved.

# **RIO VISTA COMMUNITY DIRECTORY**

## **BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

Judy Sandground (410) 745-5118  
President

Jack Davis (410) 745-2461  
Vice President/Treasure

Jan Burke (410) 745-0768  
Secretary

Diane Criniti (410) 745-5898

Ken Bridges (410) 745-5980  
Todd Sickles (410) 745-2448

Jan Swigert (410) 745-9822

## **STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **Architectural**

#### **Diane Criniti, Chair**

Doug Gibson Jim Swigert  
Barry Burke

### **Communications**

#### **Ken Bridges, Chair**

Sandi Droege Todd Sickles  
Patrick Timmons

### **Community Events**

#### **Todd Sickles, Chair**

Volunteers, OPEN

### **Curb Appeal**

#### **Ken Bridges, Jan Burke, Co-chairs**

Volunteers, OPEN

### **Dock**

#### **Don Parks, Chair**

Jan Burke Ken Bridges  
Harold Klinger

### **Erosion**

#### **Jack Davis, Chair**

Roy Droege Volunteers OPEN  
Guy Reeser

### **Document Review**

#### **Judy Sandground, Chair**

Jan Burke Ken Bridges

### **Finance**

#### **(Vacant) Chair**

Todd Sickles Volunteers OPEN  
Jan Swigert

### **Landscape**

#### **Jan Swigert, Chair**

Jan Burke

### **Neighborhood watch**

#### **Judy Sandground, Chair**

Trish Finneyfrock Volunteers OPEN

## **RIO VISTA E-MAIL & WEBSITE**

E-mail the Board; [riovistamd@verizon.net](mailto:riovistamd@verizon.net).

Rio Vista website; [www.riovistacom.org](http://www.riovistacom.org).