



# THE NAV-LIGHT



THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER OF RIO VISTA  
ESTABLISHED AND INCORPORATED IN 1954

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### It IS THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

RVCA Annual Fee invoices will be mailed in mid November. The Annual Fee is due January 1, 2014. The Board works very hard to keep the mandatory fee as low as possible.

The \$50 covers all the Associations expenses such as erosion control, insurance, electricity, and grounds maintenance, for the 2014 fiscal year. We greatly appreciate prompt payment. We have several erosion control projects scheduled.

## Miles River Saved by Historic Decision

By Dick Cooper

A plan in the late 1800s to build a new Chesapeake and Delaware Canal that was favored at the time by politicians and engineers would have had a great impact on the Land of Pleasant Living.

The route from Baltimore crossed the Bay to a widened and deepened Kent Narrows then down Eastern Bay to the Miles River. It called for a new canal cut between Oak and Plaindealing Creeks, down the Tred Avon to the Choptank five miles up from Cambridge. The route then cut through farms and forests to the Nanticoke River and up to Broadkill Creek near Lewes, Delaware.

Army Corps of Engineers Colonel William Price Craighill liked that route because his 1879 study showed it only froze 10.5 days a year over the previous three decades, compared with 24 days on the northern Chesapeake. He calculated that a steamship could make the trip from Baltimore to Lewes in 16.5 hours, compared with the 33.5 hours it took by steaming down the Bay and around Cape Charles. His Choptank proposal was estimated at \$18.5 million, including the Oak-Plaindealing Creek canal. For the next fifteen years, the plans were debated without a shovelful of dirt being turned.

Miles River  
Page 5

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



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

It amazes me how time seems to speed by. Summer is past and cold weather is becoming more the norm every day. Halloween came and went and Thanksgiving is just a few weeks away soon to be followed by Christmas and New Year's. It seems we just celebrated these holidays a short time ago. Other than the family and friend get-togethers, it's all too soon for me. I love the fall colors, but I hate the leaves.

**As a reminder, open fires, such as yard debris burning, are not permitted within Rio Vista at any time.**

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, we held the Community Ice Cream Social and Annual General Meeting at the picnic grounds. About 50 adults and 15 children attended. I think everyone enjoyed this novel undertaking and were pleased that we did not have to deal with the heat for a change. The typical response was to have another Ice Cream Social next year and to consider having this event replace the annual picnic held each June. The Board will discuss options at future board meetings.

For those who were unable to attend, Judy Sandground, Jan Burke and Barry Burke were re-elected to the Board of Governors and they graciously agreed to accept the responsibility to serve for another three year term. Thank you all for your commitment to the community.

Sergeant Dobson represented the Talbot County Sheriff's department. He was very clear about the department's concern for the quality of life in our community. His main message was that the Sheriff needs to know about our concerns in a timely manner and encouraged all of us to contact the Sheriff when we observe suspicious activity. He told us that deputies do patrol our community on an irregular schedule because at times there are not enough personnel to cover all of the requirements in Talbot County. Several residents talked about the speeding of cars and trucks within Rio Vista. Sergeant Dobson promised to set up the mobile radar unit to warn drivers of their speed and to remind them that the speed limit is 25 miles per hour. That unit has been in place at least once since the meeting. He also said he would report our concerns to the Sheriff and would request that county deputies conduct radar sweeps on our community streets.

The Nav-Light is the primary method we use to let everyone know the news about Rio Vista. If you are receiving the Nav-Light by mail, please consider giving us your email address. It looks a lot better in color on the website. We keep email addresses confidential and only use them to advise you that a new **Nav-Light** has been posted or to inform you of important happenings quickly.

Have a wonderful rest of the year! And wishing you a joyous, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Jack Davis

## TREASURER'S REPORT



Your Rio Vista Community Association remains in good financial condition for 2013 with no debt and no known significant financial issues. Most homeowners have paid the 2013 annual \$50.00 association fee, but the poor economy has been very hard on a few of our members. The Board is working to collect all outstanding fees.

A major financial expenditure to be completed this year is the repair to the rip rap stone at the end of Cove Road.

Annual fee invoices are scheduled to be mailed in mid November. The annual fee remains at \$50.00 per household. The board has kept the fee at this level for nearly 10 years and does not anticipate an increase in the foreseeable future. The fee is a mandatory assessment that is authorized in the deed restrictions that are a part of each property owners deed of ownership.

## ARCHITECTURAL REPORT



The Board of Governors for the Rio Vista Community Association (RVCA) encourages property owners in Rio Vista to improve their homes and their properties to maintain and improve the property values in the community. Therefore a simple one-page form, called the Rio Vista Construction Approval Request Form (CARF) is provided to obtain approval **BEFORE** county permitting is requested.

As always, we appreciate your support of this process, and should you have suggestions and feedback for improvement, please contact the Architectural Committee at [architectural@riovistacom.org](mailto:architectural@riovistacom.org)

Additional forms may be found at [www.riovistacom.org/](http://www.riovistacom.org/)



Barry Burke

## DOCKMASTER'S REPORT



Hunter Plog

Well the 2013 boating season is coming to an end. At the beginning of October I went out on the Miles. Thinking the bigger fish were out in the channel I went out there. I got completely skunked. I did end up catching a 10 inch blue fish close to the shoreline so as fall approaches the blues and stripers are out there.

The season for me has been bittersweet. I lost my fishing partner/father-in-law this year after a brave battle with leukemia. The sweet part of this story is that before his passing we spent many days fishing and crabbing earlier this year. I will always hold those memories close.

I hope everyone who has spent time down by the water this year shared that experience with someone.

A reminder to those who still have boats down by the marina, boats must be pulled out by the **15<sup>th</sup> of November.**

### HAVE SOME TIME AND SOME TALENT?

For the last twelve years, the same plywood has been used for the RVCA picnic signs. Those plywood boards have stood the test of time but it is time to replace them.

We have a donation of new weather resistant boards that should last many years. We are looking for someone to paint the RVCA logo on them. RVCA will provide the paint and any other supplies required.

If you are interested in a winter painting project please contact:

Jan Burke at [janburke5454@verizon.net](mailto:janburke5454@verizon.net)

or

Call Jack Davis 410-745-2461.

We can find a nice warm indoor place for you to work in.



## DATES TO REMEMBER

### UNION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Emanuel L. Johnson

(410) 745-2784

[uumc@atlanticbb.net](mailto:uumc@atlanticbb.net)

### St. Luke's United Methodist Church

Rev. Marty Wiley

(410) 745-2534

[stlukeschurch@verizon.net](mailto:stlukeschurch@verizon.net)

### St. Michaels Community Center

Trish Payne

Executive Director

(410) 745- 5102

[trish@stmichaelscc.org](mailto:trish@stmichaelscc.org)

Check the Senior Activities held on Wednesdays!

### St. Michael's Mission Church

Rev. Robert E. Coine, Pastor

Rev. Glenn M. Evers, Associate Pastor

(410) 822-2344

[www.ssppeaston.org](http://www.ssppeaston.org)

#### Saturdays

5:30 PM

Evening Mass

#### Sundays

10:15 AM

Mass

#### Mondays

7:15 PM

Spanish Prayer Group

### CHRIST CHURCH

Rev. Mark Nestlehutt

(410) 745- 9076

[info@christstmichaels.org](mailto:info@christstmichaels.org)

**Thursday Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>** Thanksgiving Day Service  
10 AM

**Sunday Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>** Advent Wreath Making  
9 AM

5 PM

Advent Lessons & Carols

**Saturday Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Bazaar  
9 AM

7:30 PM

Tidewater Singers Concert

**Tuesday Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>** Family Christmas Eucharist  
4 PM  
with Children's Sermon

6 PM

Christmas Eucharist

9:30 PM

Chorale Prelude

### Christ Church

Continued

**Tuesday Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>** Festal Christmas  
10 PM Eucharist with Choir

**Wednesday Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Eucharist  
11 AM

**Sunday Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>** Epiphany Lessons and  
5 PM Carols followed by  
Epiphany Dinner

**Wednesday Jan. 8** Lifeline Screening  
10 AM

### Town of St. Michaels

**Saturday Dec. 7** Midnight Madness

Midnight Madness is St. Michaels' biggest shopping day of the year! Great Shops open until MIDNIGHT! Wine & snacks provided by most shops! Sing with Carolers! Drawings for 6 or more gift baskets valued at least \$1,500 each!

**Friday Dec. 13 – 15** Christmas in St. Michaels  
See schedule on page 6

### JUST FOR LAUGHS

A man had the windows in his house replaced with new double insulated energy efficient windows. Twelve months later he gets a call from the contractor, complaining that the work has been done for a year and he has yet to make the first payment. The man replies, "Don't try to pull a fast one on me. The salesman who sold me those told me that in one year they would pay for themselves."

The student reported for his university final examination, which consisted of "yes" or "no" questions. He takes his seat in the examination hall, stares at the question paper for five minutes, and then in a fit of inspiration, reaches into his pocket, removes a coin and starts tossing the coin and marking the answer sheet - "Yes" for Heads and "No" for Tails. Within half an hour he is all done while the rest of the class is still sweating it out. During the last few minutes, he is seen desperately throwing the coin, muttering and sweating. The moderator approaches him and asks what is going on. "I finished the exam in half an hour. But I'm rechecking my answers."



Impressed with the Rio Vista Signs located at each of the three entrances into our community? We have Kottwitz Graphics to thank for the great workmanship!

[Kottwitz.graphics@comcast.net](mailto:Kottwitz.graphics@comcast.net)

All three signs are displayed on the Rio Vista Web Site In News & Report. [www.riovistacom.org](http://www.riovistacom.org)

Miles River- Dick Cooper  
cont. from Page 1

In 1894, President Grover Cleveland appointed Craighill to a board to decide which of the routes would be constructed. The board announced in December 1894, that after all of the study, surveying and speculation, the primary route of the existing C & D Canal, starting at Back Creek on the Elk River and cutting through Chesapeake City, would be the path for a new, sea-level canal.

Baltimore officials were upset at the decision. They liked the Choptank route because it was a faster path to Lewes and the Atlantic. The members of the board said their decision was based on sound military judgment. The existing site up the Delaware was easier to defend in case of an enemy attack from the sea. They said an entrance near Lewes would require major fortifications. It didn't hurt that the already-cut canal was the shortest of the routes or that it would cost \$7 million.

The Oak-Plaindealing Creek canal of Craighill's Choptank route stayed on the books for decades. And, for a good reason. Ever since the earliest sailors plied the waters of Talbot County there has been talk about slicing a channel from the Miles to the Choptank. It takes the better part of a day to get from St. Michaels Harbor to San Domingo Creek, three blocks by land, 32 miles by water.

The idea of an Oak-Plaindealing Creek canal popped up in federal government reports in 1912 and again in 1935. Politicians and developers from the Eastern Shore worked through the 1930s, 40 and 50s to get support for it from federal and state governments.

At one point in the late 1950s, the Star Democrat reported that the owner of the 700-yard stretch of farmland that separates the creeks offered to give up the rights to his property in exchange for building a 100-slip marina and developing the real estate along the canal for waterfront homes.

Miles River  
Continued



Letters to the paper's editor show a lively debate between those for the canal and those against it. One writer noted that there was plenty of marshland that could be filled with the dredged soil. "Real estate values would certainly not suffer. Waterfront acreage along the proposed canal would be created and revitalized from the creation of an all-weather route," one writer opined.

Whispers of the canal blew through again in the early 1970s, but once again, after more studies, committees and reports, the Oak-Plaindealing Creek canal faded away.

One can't help but wonder what Craighill's plans would have meant to this part of the Eastern Shore. More than 25,000 vessels travel the C & D Canal every year. Would log canoes have to fight for room at the mark with containerized cargo ships? Would weekend cruisers have to contend with tankers rounding the Choptank River Light? Would there be a Red-Eye Dock Bar in Royal Oak?

*Dick Cooper, a Pulitzer-Prize winning journalist, and his wife, Pat, live and sail in St. Michaels, Maryland. He can be reached at [dickcooper@coopermediassociates.com](mailto:dickcooper@coopermediassociates.com).*



From your Board of Governors

&

Committees



PARKING!!!

**PLEASE USE DRIVEWAYS**

By  
Ken Bridges

A number of years ago the RIO VISTA Board debated the use of "No Parking" signs on the major streets.

On the pro side it would ensure that no one would illegally park along the travelled portion of the streets. It would reduce the highway clutter that signs create and reduce the possibility of collisions with parked cars.

On the con side, many residents would be in violation and subject to fines when they had large gatherings at their homes with some forced to park along the street. It would maintain the uncluttered appearance of the community.

The conclusion was that signs not be put up, but that there is an agreement among the residents that they park on their properties except during times of "overflow". During nighttime hours it is urged that any vehicle parked along a busy street be illuminated as much as possible.

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**Are you a business owner?  
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100% coverage of RIO VISTA residences.**

**Call for rates (443) 434-3181**

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What is an advantage of receiving the Nav-Light on the Rio Vista Web Site? You can magnify pictures and text to any size you like!

[www.riovistacom.org](http://www.riovistacom.org)

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### **Christmas in St. Michaels**

In 1987 a group of energetic volunteers recognized the need for day care services in the community. Since that first year, this annual fund-raising weekend event has grown and raised more than \$1,000,000 for local, non-profit organizations. Throughout the years, financial contributions have been made to benefit many of our local citizens, of all ages.

## **Welcoming New Neighbors!**

Stephen and Shirley (Bucci)-Humenick have recently moved from Long Island, NY to 308 Cove View Dr. St. Michaels.

Stephen and Shirley were career professionals Stephen, an Electrical Engineer for DDC, a defense electronics company on Long Land and Shirley a Radiology PA with Beth Israel Med. Center, Manhattan.

They retired and spent the winter sailing their 44' ketch around the Bahamas. Now they returned to enjoying sailing on the beautiful Chesapeake Bay. They plan to help sail a friend's boat to St. Thomas this fall, but will return for the holidays and cozy fires this winter here and look forward to living on the eastern shore and meeting everyone.



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Christmas  
continued

**Friday Dec. 13** The festivities begins.  
See web site for details.

**Saturday Dec. 14** Begin early with a Children's  
9AM-10:15 Breakfast with Santa at the  
Town Dock Restaurant.  
11AM - 5 AM Tour of Homes will  
begin at noon on Saturday  
and will be offered on  
Sunday as well.

**Sunday Dec. 15**  
11 AM - 4 PM Tour of Homes  
6 PM - 7 PM **Celebration of Choirs @**  
St. Luke's United Methodist Church

For further information, please check the following web site:

<http://www.christmasinstmichaels.org/>

or call: 410-745-0745



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PROUDLY PRESENTS THE

**ST. MICHAELS**  
RUNNING FESTIVAL 

Rio Vista is listed as the 5K runners route of choice! Everybody truly enjoys the trek through our community and the helpful volunteers along the way. Much anticipation for the 2014 event!

Over the last 2 years, we have found many ways to improve the event and increase the impact on our community. In year 1, we raised just under \$10,000 for our charity partners. In 2013, though it was only our second event, we raised over \$35,000 for our charity partners. We saw over 2500 runners participate in 2013 hailing from 31 different states. It is anticipated that there will be 3000 runners participating in the 2014 event- May 17, 2014 mark your calendars.



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[poorehouse1@verizon.net](mailto:poorehouse1@verizon.net)

**“Thank you” to Larry Poore of the Poorehouse for his support of Rio Vista Community!**

### Running Festival

Continued

The St. Michaels Running Festival is one of the premier destination races in the Mid-Atlantic. Based in one of the oldest waterfront towns on the Chesapeake, runners will be treated to gorgeous water views, a quick mile past charming main street shops for the 10k and half marathon and a rockin' after-party in downtown St. Michaels.

In addition to offering the flattest, fastest USATF half marathon in the region, runners get a generous package including race shirt, finisher medal or pin, complimentary refreshment, handmade finish line treats and so much more.

**PETER PARIS**  
RACE ORGANIZER

Cell: 443.812.1346 Email: [peter@runstm.com](mailto:peter@runstm.com) - [www.runstm.com](http://www.runstm.com)

Your Rio Vista Board of Governors and Committees



Wish you a Merry Christmas/Happy Holiday  
&  
A Very Happy 2014!

## Board of Governors

<b>President</b>	<b>Jack Davis</b>	<b>(410) 745-2461</b>
<b>Vice-President/Legal Liaison</b>	<b>Judy Sandground</b>	<b>(410) 745-5118</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Jan Burke</b>	<b>(410) 745-9768</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Jack Davis</b>	<b>(410) 745-2461</b>
<b>Erosion Control</b>	<b>Jack Davis</b>	<b>(410) 745-2461</b>
<b>Architectural Review</b>	<b>Barry Burke</b>	<b>(301) 482-1929</b>
<b>Nav-Light</b>	<b>Charles Rogers</b>	<b>(818) 207-0007</b>
<b>Finance</b>	<b>Peter Paris</b>	<b>(443) 819-1346</b>
<b>Landscape</b>	<b>Hunter Plog</b>	<b>(410) 745-5492</b>
<b>E-mail</b>	<b>Rio Vista Association</b>	<b>riovistamd@riovistacom.org</b>

## Committees

<b>Architectural E-mail</b>	<b>Barry Burke (architectural@riovistacom.org)</b>	<b>(301) 482-1929</b>
	<b>Doug Gibson</b>	<b>(410) 745-9487</b>
	<b>Patrick Kennedy</b>	<b>(410) 745-2800</b>
<b>Communications</b>	<b>Charles Rogers</b>	<b>(818) 207-2007</b>
	<b>Sandi Droege</b>	<b>(410) 745-6572</b>
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	<b>Sandi Droege</b>	<b>(410) 745-6572</b>
	<b>Jan Burke</b>	<b>(410) 745-9768</b>
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	<b>Jan Burke</b>	<b>(410) 745-9768</b>
<b>Document Review</b>	<b>Judy Sandground</b>	<b>(410) 745-5118</b>
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	<b>Bernie Grove</b>	<b>(410) 745-6154</b>
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	<b>Charles Rogers</b>	<b>(818) 207-0007</b>
<b>Web Masters</b>	<b>Sandi Droege</b>	<b>(410) 745-6572</b>
	<b>Sharon Miller</b>	<b>(410) 745-2140</b>