



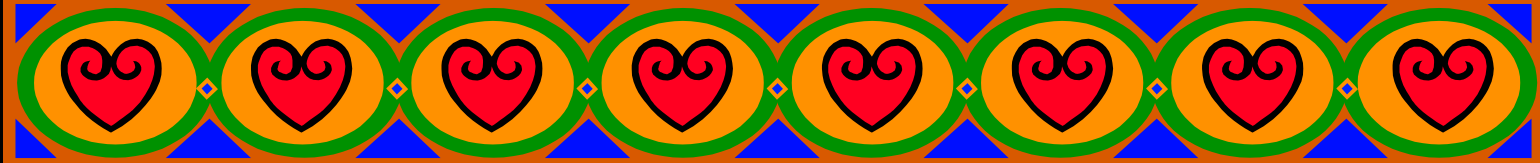
THE NAV-LIGHT



THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER OF RIO VISTA
ESTABLISHED AND INCORPORATED IN 1954

Volume 14 Issue 1

February 7, 2014



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TO BETTER PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR PROPERTY It's a Wild and Crazy World Out There! By Judy Sandground

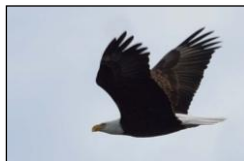
It's a Wild and Crazy World Out There!

Recently, a number of vehicles on Pea Neck Road were vandalized during the night. This incident and others remind us all of that old adage, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Following are some good ideas to keep in mind as you think of protecting your home, property and financial information:

To better secure your property, the National Crime Prevention Council suggests you take these steps:



See **PROTECT YOURSELF**
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The Wye River...An Eastern Shore Treasure By Dick Cooper

The bald eagle sits stone still near top of a dead tree at the mouth of Dividing Creek off the Wye East River. Watching through the binoculars, I see him slowly turn his head. Suddenly, he jumps up, and with a few flaps of His long wings, he is soaring over the creek. His shadow skims over the water as he wheels higher and higher on the updrafts. His sharp screech cuts the air. It's just another afternoon at anchor on the prettiest river on the Eastern Shore.

I have sailed the Chesapeake from top to bottom for almost four decades, but I keep coming back to the Wye River for a glimpse of what it must have been like before much of the Bay's waterfront was subdivided to build big homes for the nation's old and new rich. The tree line comes down to meet the water along the edges of Wye Island. Deep-water coves offer safe harbor during a summer squall. Open stretches of the river funnel steady breezes down the hatches of boats on the hook.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...



Dear Rio Vista Residents,

The beautiful holiday decorations have all been taken down and stored away for next season. The neighborhood has taken on its dull, winter colors. Unless, you count the snow....which I am tired of already. I much prefer the last two snowless winters to the weather we have been experiencing. I did learn a new term – “Arctic Vortex”. Pretty tired of that too.

Rio Vista was all decked out for Christmas again this year. Go to the website to view some pictures. Jan Burke spent several hours during a cold night to drive around and take the pictures. Thank you Jan! I personally enjoy the holiday season and am grateful for all of those who work so hard making the season brighter.

Things tend to slow down in the community during the winter months as most of us hunker down and try to stay warm. One project that was completed during December was the repair of the rip rap at the end of Cove Road. The bank had begun to erode and the stone work was collapsing into the river. Thanks to Tyler Contracting, the bank now has new filter cloth and additional stone to protect the shoreline.

There have been a number of burglary and vandalism incidents reported by the Talbot County Sheriff throughout the County. You may have seen articles in the Star Democrat recently reporting incidents in the St. Michaels area. We all need to remain vigilant and to notify the Sheriff if we see suspicious activity. Timeliness in calling the police is the most important factor in apprehending those responsible for the criminal activity. You can dial 911 or (410) 822-1020 to report criminal activity.

The community Board of Governors is busy planning for the upcoming year. Suggestions from you would be helpful in having a meaningful agenda. Your thoughts for projects will be welcome.

You may have noticed daylight is lasting a little longer each day. I take this as a good sign that spring is not too far away. I know we still have a lot of cold days ahead of us, but noticeably longer days make me feel better. I hope we have seen the bulk of snow for this year, but time will tell.

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

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.

Hope all have a happy, healthy and prosperous 2014!

Jack Davis

TREASURER'S REPORT \$

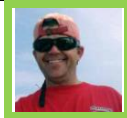
Your Rio Vista Community Association remains in good financial condition for 2013 with no debt and no known significant financial issues. The New Year is beginning with most homeowners having paid the 2014 annual \$50.00 association fee. The poor economy has been very hard on a few of our members. The Board is working to collect all outstanding fees.

2013 ended with the association being in the black. The largest expense categories were again Grass Cutting, Shoreline Preservation and Liability Insurance. This year the Board is anticipating those expense categories will again be significant with additional expenditures to maintain and upgrade the dock and to acquire new website software being considered.

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 owner's deed of ownership. If you have not already remitted payment for the 2014 fee, please do so as soon as you can.

Jack Davis
(410) 745-2461

DOCKMASTER'S REPORT



Every winter is the same, dreaming about what the next boating season has in store. Making it even worse is that I was unable to put away any crab meat for winter. There is nothing like having crab cakes during a winter snow fall. I have always said if I had to make a living crabbing I would be broke.

2013 was a great year for the marina, we had 15 slips rented. Slip holders from 2013 will be contacted when the season rolls around. This year we are looking to possibly upgrade the metal poles in the slips to wood.

I am currently working on a plan with the DNR to clean up the rip-rap along the Miles River side of the marina. I am concerned about erosion and deterioration of the rip-rap. I am also looking for a way to dispose of the numerous tires along the shoreline. If anybody has any suggestions on how to improve the marina area please feel free to contact me.

We are a community with home owner association fees and your money is used to keep the picnic area and marina a great selling point! I would like to ask everyone in the community to be aware of activities down at the marina or picnic area. There have been several incidents of people dumping yard debris and other objects in the marina area. This is a community so look after your neighbor and if you see something suspicious report it to the sheriff department.

Hunter Plog
(410) 745-5492

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. Additional forms may be found at www.riovistacom.org.

One copy of the CARF with one set of plans showing front, rear and side elevations and a plot plan showing placement of the structure with respect to property lines is required. A digital copy of the CARF will be returned after action by the Association's Architectural Committee. Digital copies of this form and construction drawings preferred/accepted. Please type all information or print clearly.

The CARF and plans should be submitted to the Architectural Committee via email to architectural@riovistacom.org. If email is not an option, a fax may be sent to 1-888-247-2113 (toll free) or contact Barry Burke 301-482-1929 (barry_burke@comcast.net) for more information. There is an underscore between barry and burke.

Recently we have had questions from homeowners regarding painting of their home. If a resident wishes to change the color of the house, trim, etc, a CARF is required. If the homeowner wishes to paint the home the same color, approval is not required. Same holds true for a new color siding or roofing- this also must be approved. Please provide paint and/or siding color samples (link to website where the color is shown). Please note, that there is not a standard color chart that the Association uses to determine approved colors. Colors must be consistent with those in the neighborhood to be approved.

Actions taken since the last Nav-Light:

2013-005	Talbot Street - Lot 4 Commercial Storage Facility	APPROVED
2013-006	1101 Riverview Terrace Deck with integrated pool	APPROVED

Barry Burke
(301) 482-1929

PROTECT YOURSELF.

Cont. from Page 1

- **Lock all doors and windows.** Lock up, including garage doors, even when you are home. Secure sliding doors with a secondary blocking device such as a wood block or dowel, for added protection.
- **Crime-proof outside areas.** Install motion sensor lights around the exterior of your home that can be seen from the street. Good outside lighting makes it more difficult for would-be criminals to hide at night. Also, landscape with security in mind--trim hedges away from the windows so you have a good view of your property.
- **Enlist security experts.** A professional security system with 24/7 monitoring can provide an added level of security. In addition to protecting you from a burglary, the system also monitors your home for fire or carbon monoxide leaks.
- **Get to know your neighbors.** Having neighbors who know your routine and can spot something out of the ordinary enhances your home security. Also, it's helpful if neighbors will pick up your mail or park in your driveway while you're on vacation to give the appearance that someone is home.
- **Establish an emergency plan.** List important phone numbers near the phone. Agree on a meeting place for family members, one outside your home and one outside your neighborhood, in the event you must leave your home quickly.

Even in today's high tech world, it's important to remember these common sense tips. Of course, today home safety also means **shopping safely online**. Here's a new scam to be wary of: You get a call telling you that your credit card account has been flagged for unusual purchases. The caller asks if you purchased a laptop at a store in Texas. Your answer is, "No." The caller then says the bank will close your account to protect you from future would-be thefts and will issue you a new credit card. For verification, the caller then asks you to read off the three numbers on the back of your credit card. You think there's no harm in that, because you're talking to a bank representative, so you comply. Now, the thief, who already has your credit card number from someplace else, has your card's verification number as well.

Protecting yourself from identity & financial fraud:

- **Password protect** your computer, phone or tablet so that only you can access the information stored there. This will help protect you if your device is ever lost or stolen.
- **Safeguard your personal financial information.** Don't save passwords, account numbers, Social Security numbers or answers to secret questions on your mobile devices or computer. Shred all documents containing account numbers or other personal information.
Never provide personal information unless you initiate contact with your bank or other financial institution. Financial institutions should not request account numbers, Social Security numbers or other sensitive information through email or text messages. Never share personal information or card numbers when someone calls you; end the call and contact the 800 number on the back of your card. Similarly, if you receive a voice message, call the number on the back of your credit card not the number the caller leaves.

- **Check your credit card statements** carefully. Thieves often start with small purchases that they hope will go unnoticed and work their way up to the widescreen television so it is important to review all charges carefully.
- **Check your bank statements** each month.
- **Don't stay "auto logged in"** to your accounts. Even though it's convenient, it increases the risk that an unauthorized user will access your accounts.
- **Delete old texts** from your bank so that your text message history (containing alerts, balances and recent transactions) cannot be accessed.
- **Always log out completely** when you are finished with your online banking session.
- **Keep your computer, phone, tablet and mobile apps updated** to make sure the latest security protections are installed.
- **Report lost or stolen devices immediately** to your wireless provider and financial institutions.

Rio Vista Loses a Special Resident



Francis V. Burke, 95, a long time resident of Rio Vista died on Sunday, December 8, 2013. Francis was born in San Francisco, CA on July 20, 1918, son of the late Edmund Thomas Burke and Mary Phelps Burke.

He was known as Fran by his family and friends. With an Electrical Engineering degree from University of MD, he spent his career working at John Hopkins' University's Applied Physics Lab. He helped develop the Navy's Bumble Bee program created at the end of WWII to defend against possible Japanese Kamikazes attacks among many other important scientific endeavors with missiles, satellites and space systems.

For the past several years he's been living with his daughter, Jan Burke, and their beloved dog, Becky-Sue.

Fran loved family, St. Michaels, sailing, boating and antique model trains. He will be dearly missed by all of us.

IT IS THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN



RVCA Annual Fee invoices were 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.

Wye

Cont. from page 1

It is hard to imagine that we are less than 30 miles east of some of the most densely populated areas in the country. It is even harder to realize that this oasis of solitude is just a few miles from the bumper-to-bumper traffic on Route 50. We are alone in the cockpit as city-dwellers fight their way to Ocean City where they have recreated the urban experience on a sandbar. The headwaters of the Wye are near the factory outlets at the Route 50-301 split. The only view of the river's reach from Route 50 is the marshland where the forks of Skipton Creek pass under the highway near the SHA overhead traffic alert marquee.

The Wye and Wye East never fail to calm the soul. Even as daylight falls, they have a magical way of turning the pollution over the I-95 corridor on the western shore into spectacular sunsets. The sky goes from deep blues and oranges on the horizon, to stunning red back flashes overhead. On a good summer day, the sunset off Drum Point can last an hour.

The Wye and its tributaries are Chesapeake Bay treasures best experienced by water. There is limited public access by land because most of its banks are privately owned. Wye Island is the exception. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources manages it as a wildlife sanctuary. About six miles of hiking trails lead to secluded coves, beaches and kayak launches.

This has been a special place for a very long time. Native Americans inhabited the area, hunting its forests and fishing its waters for more than 13,000 years. During the early colonial period, the big trees were cleared and fields tilled. African-American slaves built the plantation homes of the landed gentry and labored in the tobacco fields.

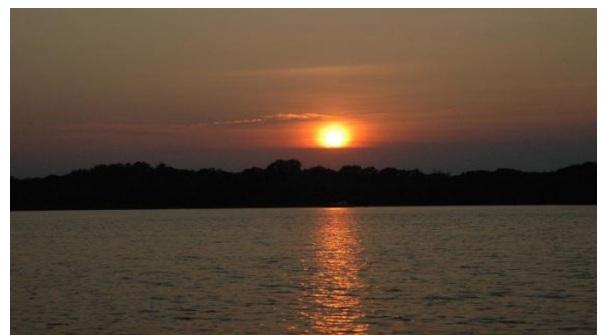
The Lloyds, the first among the firsts of Eastern Shore planters, named the Wye for the river that separates England and Wales. Wye House, the mansion on Lloyd Creek remains in the family to this day. The plantation was also briefly the home of a young Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey, the slave who became Frederick Douglass, the abolitionist orator, editor and diplomat. In his memoirs, Douglass had no good things to say about his time in Talbot County.

The 2,800-acre Wye Island has a fascinating history. William Paca, Maryland's third governor and a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and John Beale Bordley, a wealthy lawyer and student of agriculture, were married to sisters, Mary and Margaret Chew. In 1770, their wives inherited the island that was divided roughly in half by Dividing Creek. The Pacas received the land west and north of the creek and the Bordleys took possession of the eastern half.

Paca was a public figure, holding several colonial and state government positions. His Annapolis home, the imposing Georgian mansion on Prince George Street, is now operated by the Historic Annapolis Foundation and is open for tours. Bordley, on the other hand, liked the more remote countryside. For a decade, he farmed in the hinterlands of Baltimore County near Joppa, before moving to Wye Island. He was an agricultural adventurer, planting and nurturing crops other than tobacco, the local staple. Goods shipped from his Wye Island plantation found their way to England and Europe. During the Revolutionary War, Bordley supplied George Washington's troops with provisions and the island was raided by Tories who, in turn, were chased off by the local militia.

For the better part of the next 200 years, Wye Island was a backwater island farm in the deepest recesses of the inaccessible Eastern Shore. According to the DNR, the island was gradually parceled off into smaller farms. "The most influential owners were Glenn and Jacqueline Stewart," according to the DNR's Web site. "Ultimately they owned a majority of the land and turned Wye Island into a cattle ranch. The Stewarts built the hunting lodge (Duck House) which remains today on Granary Creek. In the mid 1970's the encroaching threat of residential development forced the State of Maryland to purchase the island to ensure its preservation." That last sentence is a bit of an understatement. Easton-born developer James Rouse had proposed building a small village of about 750 houses, preserving most of the island for open space and estate homes. After heated debate, the State bought the 2,450 acres of the island.

Now, almost 40 years later, the impact of the State's purchase stands out as a very fine idea. Each day before dawn, local watermen run their trotlines along the river bottom, pulling up blue crabs one dip at a time. The throaty rumble of their diesels is the alarm clock for the cruising fleet lying at anchor. And the eagles seem to appreciate it too as they circle overhead, looking for unsuspecting fish swimming a little too close to the surface, about to become part of the chain of life.





DATES TO REMEMBER

Union United Methodist Church

Rev. Emanuel Johnson

(410) 745-2784

uumc@atlanticbb.net

Sunday, February 9

3:30 pm Men's Day with Rev. Clarence Wayman
Pastor of St. Matthews UMC,
Longwoods, MD

Saturday, February 15

5:00 pm Black History Month Celebration
Special Presentation by Rev. Johnson
Update on 2013 "The Hill Dig"
Traditional Soul Food Meal to Follow

Friday, February 28

11:00 am Fish Friday (\$10:00)

Tuesday, March 4

5:00 pm Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
(Free of Charge)

Wednesday, March 5

7:00 pm Service of Imposition of Ashes with Holy
Communion

Friday, February 28

11:00 am Fish Friday (\$10:00)

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

Rev. Marty Wiley

(410) 745-2534

stlukeschurch@verizon.net

Friday, April 11

9:00 am - 3:00 pm 26th Annual Flower & Plant Sale

Saturday, April 12

8:00 am - 2:00 pm 26th Annual Flower & Plant Sale

St. Michael's Mission Church

Rev. Robert E. Coine, Pastor

Rev. Glenn M. Evers, Associate Pastor

(410) 822-2344

www.sspeaston.org

St. Michaels Community Center

Trish Payne

Executive Director

(410) 745- 5102

trish@stmichaelscc.org

Check the Senior Activities held on Wednesdays!

Christ Church

Rev. Mark Nestlehutt

(410) 745- 9076

info@christstmichaels.org

Sunday, February 9

Boy Scout Sunday

Sunday, February 23

Empty Bowls Community Dinner
Immanuel Lutheran Church

Tuesday, March 4

5:00 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Wednesday, March 5

8:00 am, 12:00 pm & 7:00 pm

Ash Wednesday Liturgy & Imposition
Of Ashes

Every Monday during Lent

7:00 pm Popcorn Theology

Every Tuesday during Lent

6:00 pm Convent Churches Lenten Program

Friday, April 11

7:30 pm

Tidewater Chamber Singers Concert

Sunday, April 13

8:00 am & 10:15 am

Palm Sunday Services

Thursday, April 17

6:00 pm

Agape Meal and Maunday Thursday
Service

Friday, April 18

12:00 pm

Good Friday Liturgy

5:00 pm

Stations of the Cross

Saturday, April 19

8:00 pm

The Great Easter Vigil
First Eucharis of Easter

Sunday, April 20

6:00 am, 8:00 am, 9:30 am & 11:00 am Easter Services

Friday, May 2

Rummage Sale

Saturday, May 3

Rummage Sale

JUST FOR LAUGHS

A blonde was really tired of being made fun of, so she decided to dye her hair to look like a brunette. When she had brown hair, she decided to take a drive in the country.

After she had been driving for a while, she saw a farmer and a flock of sheep and thought, "Oh! Those sheep are so adorable!" She got out and walked over to the farmer and said, "If I can guess how many sheep you have, can I take one home?"

The farmer, being a bit of a gambler himself, said she could give it a try. The blonde looked at the flock and guessed, "157." The farmer was amazed - she was right! So the blonde, (who looked like a brunette), picked one out and got back into her car.

Before she left, the farmer walked up to her and said. "If I can guess the real color of your hair, can I have my dog back?"



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poorehouse1@verizon.net

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



The Board of Governors & Committees
Wish you a Happy Valentine's Day!

MEET THE BOARD:

Judy and Mark Sandground came to St. Michaels in June, 2001 when they purchased a weekend home on East Chestnut Street in town. The lure of the beautiful Miles River drew them to Rio Vista where they were also attracted to the neighborhood and found their perfect spot - the former Brown property on Landing Road.

In 2004, they began construction of a new house there which was completed in September, 2005. While the house was under construction, Judy attended Rio Vista Association meetings where the big issue at the time was protecting our shoreline. Eventually, she became involved in community issues and was asked to join the Board in 2005.

During the past nine years (can it be that long?) she has acted as Legal Liaison, assisted in reviewing our community documents and drafting the By-Laws, initiated the Neighborhood Watch program, held the post of President for 4 years and served as Vice President for the past 3 years.

Judy and Mark have two Golden Retrievers and have a wonderful dog sitter who stays with the dogs while they pursue their hobbies of seeking out great cuisine and traveling.

Judy is a member of Christ Church and has spent the past 6 years focusing on the needs of students in our community. She is co-chair of the church's Back to School program which provides school supplies for students living at or below the poverty level. She also assists with the Christmas Angel Tree gift program and party and the new SMASH (St. Michaels After School Help) initiative at St. Michaels Elementary School.



The Talbot County Sheriff's Office Alert!

The Talbot County Sheriff's Office would like to make the public aware of an old telephone scam which has begun again in the area.

A caller will advise a resident that they owe back taxes and that if a payment is not made immediately, the local Sheriff's Office will be sent to make an arrest.

Please be aware the Internal Revenue Service is **not** making telephone contact for back taxes.

If anyone receives a call of this nature, hang up and contact the Talbot County Sheriff's Office by calling **(410)822-1020**. Please do not give the caller any personal information or bank account numbers.



Board of Governors

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

Committees

Architectural E-mail	Barry Burke (architectural@riovistacom.org)	(301) 482-1929
	Doug Gibson	(410) 745-9487
	Patrick Kennedy	(410) 745-2800
Communications	Charles Rogers	(818) 207-2007
	Sandi Droege	(410) 745-6572
Community Events	Ann Davis	(410) 745-2461
	Sandi Droege	(410) 745-6572
	Jan Burke	(410) 745-9768
Dock	Hunter Plog	(410) 745-5492
	Jan Burke	(410) 745-9768
Document Review	Judy Sandground	(410) 745-5118
	Jan Burke	(410) 745-9768
Erosion Control	Jack Davis	(410) 745-2461
	Bernie Grove	(410) 745-6154
	Roy Droege	(410) 745-6572
Finance	Peter Paris	(443) 819-1346
Landscape	Hunter Plog	(410) 745-5492
	Jan Burke	(410) 745-9768
Neighborhood Watch	Peter Paris	(443) 819-1346
	Charles Rogers	(818) 207-0007
Web Masters	Sandi Droege	(410) 745-6572
	Dick Cooper	(410) 745-5233