



# THE NAV-LIGHT



THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER OF RIO VISTA  
ESTABLISHED AND INCORPORATED IN 1954

Volume 13 Issue 7

August 15, 2012



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### Remember:

**School is starting .....**

Rio Vista's speed limit is **25 mph!!!** The youngsters **do not** always remember to look both ways before crossing the road, nor do they always cross at a corner.

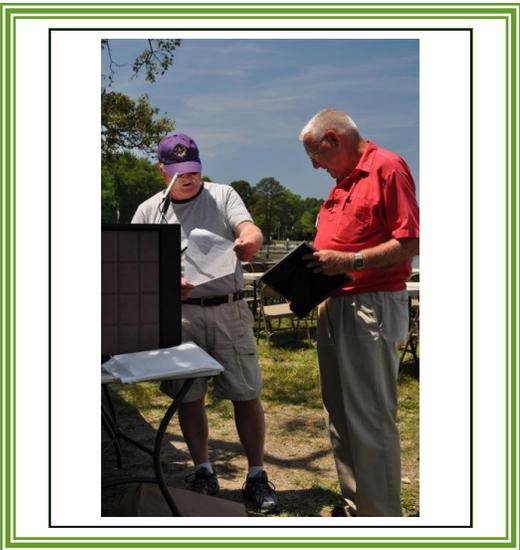
### Ken Bridges Retires

With great hesitation and much appreciation, Jack accepted **Ken Bridges retirement from the RVCA Board of Directors**. Jack presented Ken with a Certificate of Appreciation and he read a proclamation describing Ken's attributes and accomplishments.

### THANKS RIO VISTA!!!

I would like to thank the residents of **RIO VISTA** for allowing me to serve as a member of your Board for approximately 20 years. On many occasions you have heard me say that this is the premier waterfront community in Talbot County and beyond. I enjoy living here. I enjoy the fact that **RIO VISTA** is regulated, but gently regulated. It has been a pleasure to have been a part of that process. I loved working with the various **Board Members** and like to think I have made some very good friends through the Association. I have watched the **Association** grow from the "good ole boy" status of the late '80s to what it is today. If I were 25 years younger I would like to start over. Thank you very much for your support, your cooperation and your friendship. **It has been a pleasure!!!**

Ken Bridges





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

Well, summer is here with a vengeance. I hope all are remaining cool and are enjoying a wonderful season. I don't think you could find a better place to be during the summer months than right here in Rio Vista and in St. Michaels. Remember, a lot of people visit us for the friendly and relaxing waterside environment, and many of us live here all the time.

The annual community picnic and member meeting was held in early June. Attendance was good, but hopefully all of you will find time to attend next year's picnic. The picnic is the time to express concerns about the community, to learn what is going on in the community and to meet neighbors and new homeowners. I think everyone had a fine time enjoying the food everyone brought along with the wonderful hamburgers and hotdogs that were donated by Graul's. Graul's has graciously provided food, free of charge, for years. Remember to thank them by patronizing their grocery store.

The business portion of the picnic was very informative for the attendees. Each of the committees provided a report of the past years accomplishments and plans for the future. Of special significance was the announcement that the **Deed Restrictions** had been approved by a majority of homeowners and that that approval had been recorded with the Talbot County Land Records office. **Jan Burke** was cited for the extraordinary, two year effort she made to get the project completed. Jan was awarded a gift certificate in appreciation for her hard work.

The Architectural Chairman, **Barry Burke**, presented the updated architectural guidelines along with a flow chart that details requirements for informing the committee of changes/additions to our homes. There were not a lot of changes, but the flow chart and a new construction request form better explain the procedure. Go to the website to see the new forms.

Future plans of the board include continuing erosion control projects, repairing and cleaning the community dock and liaison with Talbot County to address our road conditions and flooding of the ditches during heavy rainfall. **Peter Paris** has agreed to head up the re-invigoration of our Community Watch program. **Sergeant Steve Gordon**, Talbot County Deputy Sheriff, attended the picnic and agreed to act as our contact at the Sheriff's office. If you notice suspicious activity, call the Sherriff at **(410) 822-1020** to report your concern. You may do this anonymously if you prefer.

During the meeting, it was announced that **Ken Bridges**, a long time board member, was retiring from the board. He will be greatly missed, but we know where he lives, so he can't hide. Ken has devoted untold hours to the wellbeing of Rio Vista. Ken was presented with a proclamation and an award for his untiring efforts over the past twenty or so years of service. **Thank you Ken!**

**Charles Rogers** agreed to serve and was unanimously elected to the board. He was promptly put to work cleaning up after the picnic and was assigned to the Neighborhood Watch project for the coming year.

**As a reminder, open fires, such as yard debris burning, is 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.

Have a great summer,

Jack Davis



### **TREASURERS REPORT:**

Jack presented the July 1, 2012 Financial Report. The Association is in good shape but facing some significant expenses in the future.

### **ARCHITECTURAL'S REPORT**



### **Architectural Guidelines**

The goal of the revisions is to clarify the regulations and eliminate inconsistencies. Copies of the Architectural Guidelines can be viewed and printed from our web site: [www.Riovistacom.org](http://www.Riovistacom.org).



The Extension of Restrictions has been completed. The paper work has been filed with the Land Records. Judy thanked Jack for serving as president and treasurer and presented Jan Burke with an award for her work on the Restrictions. Jack thanked all the people who helped by making phone calls and appointments, and signing their papers.



Short-term rentals present a hardship on immediate neighbors and the community as a whole. The Board's position is that the county issued a short-term permit in error. The Board intends to meet with the county officials to rectify the situation. If that fails, court action might be required. The Board will continue to work on the short-term rental problem.

### **St. Michaels Running Festival**

The organizers want to send out a huge **THANKS** to all the residents of Rio Vista for their help and support. It should be noted that present in almost all the complimentary feedback we got were heavy praises for our communities and all the volunteers that made the event happen.

Looking Forward To Next Year  
St. Michaels Running Festival

Continued, page 4

### **DOCKMASTERS REPORT**



A few days ago a theft occurred at the Rio Vista boat dock. Someone stole an outboard engine from one of the boats. This is the latest in a series of maliciousness that has occurred at the dock area. We suggest that valuables be removed from boats when they are not in use. Whenever possible, utilize locks to secure motors, etc. Your Board is aware of the situation and will be discussing measures to implement at their next meeting. In the meantime, if anyone has information please contact the Talbot County Sherriff's Department.



### **At the Dock Area:**

Rio Vista owns all the land above high tide and the state owns all the wet areas. The Maryland Department of the Environment Division of Tidal Wetlands is responsible for preserving all the wetland areas. The Tidal Wetlands Department of Compliance has the responsibility for assuring that persons damaging the grasses and other habitat are held accountable. It is the landowners, such as RVCA, who are held responsible for damage to wetlands bordering their property.

Please respect the fragile environment at the boat dock area.

Please do not pull boats up onto the bank or through the grasses.

Please do not back motorized vehicles so far over the water that the tires are in the water or soft mud.

Please take all your trash, bait, and debris from cleaning fish home with you. Your help is greatly appreciated.



## St. Michaels Running Festival

From  
Page 3

May 19<sup>th</sup> 2012 started off with a beautiful sunny day and a light breeze which were the perfect conditions for St. Michaels first annual running festival. Beautiful weather coupled with our quaint and picturesque town set the stage for an exciting community event. Add in 150 volunteers and over 50 local supporting businesses and you have the ingredients that made the 1<sup>st</sup> annual event a huge success.

The St. Michaels Running Festival was sponsored by the YMCA of the Chesapeake in partnership with Eastern Shore Endurance Events and gave runners the option of choosing a 5K (3.1 miles), a 10K (6.2 miles) or a half marathon measuring a daunting 13.1 miles. The festival attracted over 1300 health conscious runners/walkers to our community. There were over 20 different states represented and about 80% of all runners came from outside of Talbot County. The event raised close to \$10,000 for the YMCA and our local St. Michaels Community Center.

Planning is under way for next year and the date chosen is Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup> 2013 – so mark your calendars! The St. Michaels Running Festival is very pleased to say that our partnership with the YMCA is continuing and we look forward to an even more successful event in 2013.

Enjoy!!



Abe and Esther are flying to Australia for a two-week vacation to celebrate their 40th anniversary.

Suddenly, over the public address system, the Captain announces, "Ladies and Gentlemen, I am afraid I have some very bad news. Our engines have ceased functioning and we will attempt an emergency landing. Luckily, I see an uncharted island below us and we should be able to land on the beach. However, the odds are that we may never be rescued and will have to live on the island for the rest of our lives!" Thanks to the skill of the flight crew, the plane lands safely on the island. An hour later, Abe turns to his wife and asks, "Esther, did we pay our American Express card yet?" No, sweetheart," she responds. Abe, still shaken from the crash landing, then asks, "Esther, did we pay our MasterCard yet?"

"Oh, no! I'm sorry. I forgot to send the check," she says.

- "One last thing Esther. Did you remember to send a check for the Visa this month?" he asks.
- "Oh, forgive me, Abe," begged Esther. "I didn't send that one, either."
- Abe grabs her and gives her the biggest kiss in 40 years. Esther pulls away and asks him, "What was that for?" Abe answers, "They'll find us!"

*The Redhead Riter*



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## Neighborhood Watch



Rio Vista is again directing its attention to the Neighborhood Watch program. As we are all aware, there have been a number of incidents over the past several months. The board wants to reassemble the block captains and put our neighborhood watch program back into action.

Charles Rogers and Peter Paris will be contacting previous block captains over the next couple of weeks. The plan is to build from the network that is already in place and utilize national programs that are available to help us establish an even better program.

We will be holding a pizza dinner this fall to kick off our program. We will welcome the returning block captains as well as give other Rio Vista residents the opportunity to get involved as block captains or just learn more about what little things we can all do to help make our wonderful community a safe and happy place to live.

If you are interested in becoming a block captain, please contact Charles or Peter at:

Peter Paris  
(443) 812.1346  
[peter@parissquad.com](mailto:peter@parissquad.com)



## Dates to Remember

### Union United Methodist Church

Rev. Emanuel L. Johnson

- August 18 UMC a contemporary experience  
Services held in the Parish Hall  
(6:00 pm)
- August 26 Annual Homecoming (10:30)  
Bishop Violet L. Fisher, Guest  
Preacher (410) 745-2784
- Sept. 8 UMC a contemporary experience  
Services held in the Parish Hall  
(6:00 pm)
- Sept. 22 UMC a contemporary experience  
Services held in the Parish Hall  
(6:00 pm)
- Oct. 6 UMC a contemporary experience  
Services held in the Parish Hall  
(6:00 pm)
- Oct.14 Annual Family and Friends Day  
(3:30 pm) Reverend Terris King,  
Guest Preacher
- Oct. 6 UMC a contemporary experience  
Services held in the Parish Hall  
(6:00 pm)
- Nov. 3 Everybody's Birthday (5:00 pm)

### St. Luke's United Methodist Church

- Aug. 25 Craft Show in parking lot (10 am  
to 4 pm)
- Sept. 1 & 2 Art League - Art Show on the lawn  
in front of Fellowship Hall, St.  
Luke's UMC
- Sept. 15 Craft Show in St. Luke's UMC  
parking lot - (10 am to 4 pm)
- Sept. 22 12th Annual Book Sale and a Pit  
Beef Sale in the parking lot (no  
text books)
- Sept. 28 St. Michaels Community Center  
having a Pit Beef Sale in St. Luke's  
UMC parking lot (10 am to 2 pm)
- Sept. 28 St. Michaels Community Center is  
having a movie night at St. Luke's  
UMC in the Fellowship Hall at  
(7 pm)
- Oct. 6 St. Luke's UMC is having a Faith  
Fest on the grounds & parking lot  
of St. Luke's UMC (10 am to 4 pm)

- Oct. 19 St. Michaels Community Center  
Movie Night (7pm) at St.  
Luke's UMC in Fellowship Hall
- Oct. 27 St. Lukes School is having an  
Auction in Fellowship Hall or  
parking lot (Fall into  
St. Michaels)
- Oct. 27 St. Michaels High School Sports  
Booster is having a Pit Beef Sale  
In parking lot at St. Luke's UMC  
(10 am to 2 pm)
- Nov. 30 St. Michaels Community Center  
Movie Night (7pm) at St. Luke's  
UMC in Fellowship Hall

### Christ Church

- Sept. 16 Kirkin' o' Tartan (10:15 am) at  
the Church
- Oct. 5 Rummage Sale (7 am - 2 pm)  
at the Parish Center
- Oct. 6 Rummage Sale (8 am - 12 pm)  
at the Parish Center
- Oct. 7 Blessing of the Animals (4 pm)  
In the Parish Yard
- Oct. 10 Life Line Screening (all day) in  
the Parish Center
- Oct. 28 All Hallows Eve Service (5 pm)  
At the Church
- Nov. 22 Thanksgiving Day Service  
(10 am) at the Church

## THANK YOU



## FOR YOUR GENEROSITY



A big applause to all of our Rio Vista residents that have Internet Service and have provided their e-mail address to the Rio Vista Database. The Nav-Light mailings have been cut back considerably! Two years ago we mailed 115 Nav-Lights...we are now down to 75. Please e-mail, Sandi at: [sdroege@bluecrab.org](mailto:sdroege@bluecrab.org) when you have changes.



## Picnic Business Meeting

The **Events Committee** In 2012 there was little interest in a yard sale. The Events Committee did participate in the St. Michaels Running Festival and estimated that over 500 people ran or walk through the community. Many runners commented on the wonderful condition of the community.

**Guest Speaker,** Officer Steve Gadow emphasized that the Sheriff's office was aware that gas cans and pumps had been taken from the dock area. He asked members to send emails or call the sheriff immediately whenever mischief or vandalism occurs. (410-822-1020 or [sheriff@talbotmd.gov](mailto:sheriff@talbotmd.gov)) He asked callers to have tag numbers and or descriptions of persons or vehicles that are suspicious. He stressed that the more information the officers have, the more likely they can see a pattern and take action. He reminded everyone that copper thefts have increased. Jack thanked Officer Gadow for his service to our community.

**Questions and Discussion** The Board was asked to talk to the County about resurfacing the roads in Rio Vista. Bill Best called attention to the sagging road edges, cracks and potholes. Jack responded that the County had repaired the riprap along Landing Road and had been made aware of flooding and clogged culverts. Some of the community's requests were approved by the County but not funded. Jack asked for emails and phone calls to increase the Board's awareness of issues. A member asked if something could be done improve the looks of the circle at Tenant and Riverview. Jack charged Hunter and the Grounds Committee with working on the circle issue. .

**Charles Rogers** is to fill Ken's vacant position. The voting members voted unanimously to accept Charles as a Board member. Jack congratulated Charles and put him to work.

**Thank You!** To everyone who brought food and helped clean up. Hope to see you at the 2013 Annual RVCA picnic next June.



Forgot the Rio Vista Web Site Address?  
[www.riovistacom.org](http://www.riovistacom.org)



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)



### WELCOME TO ANNUAL RENTERS

There are a number of homes in Rio Vista that are rented on a yearly, full time basis. The residents of those homes are welcome members of our community and are encouraged to participate in community activities such as the annual picnic, Christmas decorating contest and other programs such as the Neighborhood Watch, Yard Sales, Standing Committees, etc.

Renters can also receive the member discount rate to rent a slip at the community dock as long as the homeowner/ landlord is current with annual fee payments. We send the Navlight directly to those who have provided their email address and mail copies to those who have not. Hopefully, renters, who have not done so, will send us their telephone numbers and email address ([riovistamd@riovistacom.org](mailto:riovistamd@riovistacom.org)).

We would appreciate it if homeowners/ landlords could send contact information for their tenants to our community web page or to our mailing address; RVCA, P.O. Box 254, St. Michaels, MD 21663.

If one of your neighbors is a full time renter, pay them a visit. Make sure they are aware of our web page ([www.riovistacom.org](http://www.riovistacom.org)), that they are receiving the Nav-Light and that they are thought to be valuable members of our community.



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

**Today’s World  
 by  
 Ken Bridges**

A few of us still remember St. Michaels in the 30’s and 40’s, a quiet little fishing/farming community tucked along the shores of the Miles River. We knew each other. We visited each other, occasionally even knocking on the unlocked door before we entered. For those fortunate enough to have one, the family car was parked in front of the house often with the keys in the ignition.

Get the drift? We were safe and secure. In case of an impropriety, often it was resolved and settled before the law was brought in. The law in those days consisted of no St Michaels Police Dept., no Talbot County Sheriff’s Dept., just State Trooper Walter Dobson who was responsible for all of Talbot County, plus.

Times have changed. After several generations, vastly improved communications and transportation have arrived. We are easy to get to and easy to get away from. The word is that we are accessible and trusting and that we love to tell strangers about the “the land of pleasant landing”.

And now the consequences: several instances of theft or vandalizing front lawn items, suspected drug activity, theft of a moped, theft of an outboard and outboard fuel and a recent automobile accident on the road to the pier. Sounds bad doesn’t it?

Protection starts with the residents. A neat, well maintained, property is a proven deterrent. Hunt up your house keys and the keys that lock your cars and your outdoor storage sheds and use them. It takes so little time, but protects so much property. Be a good neighbor. Glance up and down the street. Is it all there? Finally, don’t forget the boat. Be safe and secure!!!

After all, **YOU'RE** part of the Neighborhood Watch!

**Picnic**

On June 9, 2012, a beautiful Saturday that was neither too hot nor too cool, thirty-eight adults, eleven children, and six dogs, gathered at the picnic area for just the right mix of fun, food, and business. Mark Sandground and Jack Davis served up hot dogs and hamburgers. Everyone helped themselves to cold drinks and an assortment of delicious side dishes. Of course, ice cream topped off the event. Thank You! To everyone who brought food and helped clean up. Hope to see you at the 2013 Annual RVCA picnic next June.



## 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>(410) 745-3885</b>
<b>Nav-Light</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>(410) 745-3885</b>
	<b>Doug Gibson</b>	<b>(410) 745-9487</b>
	<b>Patrick Kennedy</b>	<b>(410) 745-2800</b>
<b>Communications</b>		
	<b>Sandi Droege</b>	<b>(410) 745-6572</b>
<b>Community Events</b>	<b>Ann Davis</b>	<b>(410) 745-2461</b>
	<b>Sandi Droege</b>	<b>(410) 745-6572</b>
<b>Curb Appeal</b>		
	<b>Jan Burke</b>	<b>(410) 745-9768</b>
<b>Dock</b>	<b>Don Parks</b>	<b>(410) 745-0468</b>
	<b>Jan Burke</b>	<b>(410) 745-9768</b>
<b>Document Review</b>	<b>Judy Sandground</b>	<b>(410) 745-5118</b>
	<b>Jan Burke</b>	<b>(410) 745-9768</b>
<b>Erosion Control</b>	<b>Jack Davis</b>	<b>(410) 745-2461</b>
	<b>Bernie Grove</b>	<b>(410) 745-6154</b>
	<b>Roy Droege</b>	<b>(410) 745-6572</b>
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	<b>Jan Burke</b>	<b>(410) 745-9768</b>
<b>Neighborhood Watch</b>	<b>Peter Paris</b>	<b>(443) 819-1346</b>
	<b>Charles Rogers</b>	<b>(818) 207-2007</b>
<b>Web Masters</b>	<b>Sandi Droege</b>	<b>(410) 745-6572</b>
	<b>Sharon Miller</b>	<b>(410) 745-2140</b>