



THE NAV-LIGHT



THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER OF RIO VISTA
ESTABLISHED AND INCORPORATED IN 1954

Volume 13 Issue 10

May 4, 2013



In this issue you will find...

President's Letter.....	2
Rio Vista Board Reports.....	3
From the Dock.....	3
Dates to Remember.....	4
St. Michaels Running Festival...5	
Correction & Apology.....	7
Rio Vista Board & Committee Contact list.....	8

Squatters Claim Vacant Oak Creek Home

By Dick Cooper

Over the last several years, I have developed a passion for shooting birds. I have tracked their habits and habitats, their feeding and mating cycles and the seasons of their arrivals and departures, all to get a better shot at them. My "weapon" of choice is a powerful Nikon D7000 SLR camera equipped with a 70- to 300-millimeter zoom lens that allows me to see into their eyes before I shoot.

In the spring, I stalk osprey, marking their return from their tropical winter vacations, watching them rebuild their nests and start another generation of graceful Seahawks. That is how I came to discover a strange sight at Oak Creek Landing, one of my favorite osprey-watching locations where a park bench is only 25 feet from a nest on a pole in the creek.

See Squatters
Page 5

"When You See Something, Say Something"

By Judy Sandground

This is a directive that has become quite familiar lately - especially when we travel. The phrase appears on electronic signs on the highway, in airports and on billboards all across our country. The phrase is designed to make us more aware of our surroundings and to report unusual situations or activities that we might observe.

It is also a message that we have been promoting here in Rio Vista over the past several years. By reporting suspicious activity, members of our community have actually solved crimes, stopped them from happening and alerted law enforcement of drug activities resulting in arrests. All this has happened just because someone saw something unusual or suspicious and picked up the phone to report it. In Talbot County, we can call the Sheriff's Office at **410-822-1020** to make an **anonymous report** and they will respond. As the caller, you will not be identified or singled out in any way.

See When You See
Page 6



From the President's Desk

Well, spring has sprung! And, I, for one, am grateful to have made it through another winter. It was one without snow, and that suits me just fine. If we can make it through the rest of the year without any major storms or hurricanes I'll be even happier. This is a good time to take a moment to appreciate the really spectacular place that we all call home. After being cooped up inside for the past months I am enjoying the smell of fresh cut grass and the heightened outside activity. Walkers, runners and sight see-ers are coming out every day. And, hopefully, the crabs will be plentiful this year.

Hunter Plog, Community Dock Master, and volunteers power washed the dock on Sunday and then they sealed it with weather proofing. Great job! Thanks to all who came out to help. Slip rental for this season is moving briskly with over a dozen already spoken for. If you are interested in renting a slip, contact Hunter as soon as you can. The rental contract is on the community web page. Rio Vista residents have first choice, but Hunter will open the slips for outside renters very soon.

I am always amazed at how many of our neighbors step up when there is a need to work on a community project. We should all be thankful for their community spirit. One project that needs help is improving the flag circle at Tenant Circle and Landing Road. The circle is presently covered with wood chips to discourage weeds, but I think there is an opportunity to make it look so much better. I would appreciate your sharing ideas to improve the site and also your help to maintain the area on an ongoing basis.

Mark Saturday, **May 18**, on your calendars. The St. Michaels Running Festival will be held on that day. Last year about 500 runner/walkers came through our community as participants in the 5K Run/Walk. We expect even more will participate this year. Expect to see the crowds from about 8:00 until 10:00 in the morning. There were a lot of nice comments received about our community last year which we all appreciated. The Rio Vista team of race marshals and water station attendants is made up of about 15 of your neighbors. Look for the flyers that outline the numerous activities planned in St. Michaels for the day.

You should also mark Saturday, **June 8th** on your calendar. That is the date for the Annual Community Association Meeting and Picnic. This is when the board reports to you the past year's activities and plans for the coming year. It is also your opportunity to express concerns and make suggestions for the board to consider. New board members will be elected and departing members will be thanked. Your participation is very important and the fellowship is pretty good too. Hamburgers, hotdogs and light drinks are provided. Everyone brings their favorite picnic side dish or dessert. It is really worth the effort.

With the weather getting better and better, children will be spending much more time outside walking, skateboarding and riding bikes. Please be aware that they are out. Please obey the **25 mile per hour** speed limit.

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 snail mail, please consider giving us your email address. This quarterly newsletter 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 Spring and early, wonderful, happy Summer!

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

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.

As a reminder, the annual fee was due as of December 31, 2012. We will be mailing reminder notices this month. Please contact Jack Davis, Treasurer if you would like to discuss any financial issues.

ARCHITECTURAL REPORT



Do you have plans of adding to your existing home...maybe a fence, an additional room, hot tub or possibly a coat of paint? Please take the time to check with the Architectural Chairman before starting your project. The Chairman is Barry Burke and can be reached at the following:

(410) 745-3885

architectural@riovistacom.org

From the Curb Appeal Committee

A drive through the RVCA neighborhood confirms the notion that RVCA is a clean, pleasant, and friendly place to live. There are a few distressed homes that the Board is trying to get cleanup. We also found some mailboxes and newspaper boxes that are begging for attention. If you have a broken, bent, or unused mail box near your house and you would like the Board to help straighten it or remove it, please call any member of the Board or send us an e-mail.



Some other issues identified by the committee are vehicles and boats that have not been moved in years. If you have a boat, trailer, or vehicle that is not usable and sitting within view of the road and you would like help getting rid of it, please contact any member of the Board and we will try to assist you.

If you see any debris beginning to pile up anywhere in the neighborhood, please contact the Board. It is much easier to prevent unsightly messes than to cleanup large ones.

DOCKMASTER'S REPORT

From the Dock



On April 14th we had the RVCA dock washing party. It was a great success, scrubbing, power washing, and sealing the dock all in one day. Special thanks to Tom Johnson and Lee Kestler who stayed all day to help. It would not have been a success without you! Slip holders may now use their rented slip. All slip holders please review the slip rental rules for the 2013 season.



Hunter Plog
The Dock Master

From the Secretary

The Annual Picnic is just around the corner. The Nominations Committee has recommended Jan Burke and Judy Sandground for reelection to the Board for another three-year term. If you are interested in joining the Board, please contact any member of the Board so you too can be considered by the membership. Elections will be held at the Annual Picnic.

Speaking of the picnic, we need volunteers to help set up tables, fixing drinks and serve ice cream. Please contact any member of the Board if we can count on your help.

Jan Burke





DATES – EVENTS TO REMEMBER

UNION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Emanuel L. Johnson

(410) 745-2784

uumc@atlanticbb.net

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

Rev. Marty Wiley

(410) 745-2534

stlukeschurch@verizon.net

Saturday, June 1

10 AM – 5 PM 24th Annual Strawberry
Festival and Pit Beef Sales

Saturday, June 22

10 AM – 4 PM Monthly Craft Show

Saturday, July 20

10 AM – 4 PM Monthly Craft Show

St. Michael's Mission Church

Rev. Robert E. Coine, Pastor
Rev. Olson, Associate Pastor

(410) 822-2344

Saturdays

5:30 PM Evening Mass

Sundays

10:15 AM Mass

Mondays

7:15 PM Spanish Prayer Group

www.sspeaston.org

St. Michaels Community Center

Trish Payne
Executive Director
trish@stmichaelscc.org
(410) 745- 5102

Senior Activities

Every Wednesday –Yoga - 9:30 - 10:30

Every Wednesday – Luncheon and Program
10:30 - 12:30

Upcoming Bus Trips for Spring 2013
For reservations call (410) 745-6073
www.stmichaelscc.org

CHRIST CHURCH

Rev. Mark Nestlehutt

(410) 745- 9076

Sunday, May 19 St. Michaels High School
Baccalaureate Service

Sunday, June 30 Covenant Churches Tent
Service & Crop Walk

info@christstmichaels.org

JUST FOR LAUGHS

A man, wanting to earn some money, decided to hire himself out as a handyman-type and started canvassing a wealthy neighborhood. He went to the front door of the first house and asked the owner if she had any jobs for him to do.

"Well, you can paint my porch. How much will you charge?"

The man said, "How about 50 dollars?"

The owner agreed and told him that the paint and ladders he would need were in the garage.

The owner's husband, inside the house, heard the conversation and said to his wife, "Does he realize that the porch goes all the way around the house?"

The wife replied, "He should. He was standing on the porch."

A short time later, the man came to the door to collect his money.

"You're finished already?" she asked.

"Yes," the man answered, "and I had paint left over, so I gave it two coats."

Impressed, the owner reached in her pocket for the \$50. "And by the way," the man added, "that's not a Porch, it's a Ferrari."



The Nav-Light receives many compliments! But the praise **must** go to the Rio Vista Residents and the Board who consistently provide the articles making this newsletter one that all can enjoy reading. Without them, there would not be a Nav-Light!



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

All three signs are displayed on the Rio Vista Web Site in News & Report. www.riovistacom.org



By
Sparrow Rogers

On May 18th, the 2nd annual St. Michaels Running Festival – known affectionately as SMRF to volunteers and organizers – is coming back to Rio Vista!

The event consists of a USATF certified half marathon, 10k and 5k run/walk as well as after race activities in town. Once again, the 5k route goes from the St. Michaels school facility through our beautiful community and then back to the school.

This year, over 600 people are expected to do that 5k alone! For Rio Vista residents, this is a truly unique opportunity to share the beauty of our neighborhood with families from around the region. We hope that all of our residents – who are not running themselves – will come out and cheer for participants on May 18th from 7:45am-9am.

Among the usual runners, walkers and family groups, there is a very special team coming to participate in the 5k. More than 40 employees of Nationwide Insurance are coming out to support one of their co-workers who recently lost a child to brain cancer by raising funds for the Lila Bean Foundation for Pediatric Brain Cancer Research. Please cheer on Team Nationwide and let them know that their efforts to make a difference are important to those of us who live in Rio Vista.

Residents should expect the neighborhood roads to be very busy from 6:30am-9:00am on May 18th so please plan all travel accordingly. Rt. 33 from Madison to St. Michaels will close intermittently from 7:20-8:00 am only. So, come out and have a great time with our runner friends on May 18th!

To volunteer at one of our Rio Vista water stations or to lead a cheer section, please contact Bev Kegan (bev@runstm.com) or Peter Paris (peter@runstm.com).

Squatters

Continued from Page 1

As I pull into the parking lot next to the Newcomb Post Office, I see a large bird in the nest. I grab my camera and slowly walk toward it, checking to make sure the camera is on and the lens is fully extended and ready to shoot. In early spring, ospreys are still people shy and jump out of the nest at the first sign of quick motion. The bird remains still as I bring the viewfinder to my right eye, my finger on the button. I focus and am shocked by what I see. A Canada goose is sitting in the nest. My first thought is that the osprey has killed a goose and somehow got its body into the nest for dinner. But no, the goose calmly turns its head and stares at me with black beady eyes. I shoot away.

I know geese can be formidable, having once been chased by some of the angry birds, but I would never have guessed they would be a match for osprey talons. I posted a photo of the goose on Facebook, asking friends if they had ever seen this before. While most of the repliers expressed disbelief, one of them wrote she had seen it twice; once on the Choctank and another on the western shore.

A Google search turned up several goose-in-osprey-nest photos from across the country. One, that included a YouTube video, was from the baseball park where the Missoula, Montana, Ospreys, an Arizona Diamondback farm team, play their home games. At first it had the locals in a snit because the goose refused to leave the nest, making the mascot family homeless. Now there is talk of changing the team name to the Geese.



Naturalists say the phenomenon is the result of climate change that has encouraged more Canada geese to become life-long residents rather than long-range commuters. The osprey nests are vacant when the geese feel the need to start their families and once they have laid their eggs, they are in for the long haul. But the experts say not to worry about the osprey. They will either build new homes or be ready to jump back into their old ones as soon as the family of geese, including mother, father and five or six new goslings, leave in 28 days.

Meanwhile, the Oak Creek nest is giving me new birds to shoot and a new life cycle to document.

MEET THE BOARD:



Jack Davis is the President of the Board of Governors of Rio Vista. Jack and Ann live on Cove Road and have been Rio Vista residents since 1998; the last 5 years being full-time. Jack has been a board member since 2008 serving as treasurer, vice-president and Chair of the Shoreline Preservation Committee.

Jack is an eastern shore native having grown up in Berlin and attended Stephen Decatur High School. Jack spent the majority of his working career in the Wilmington, Delaware area as a corporate accountant in the Advertising/Public Relations field. He has been active in community organizations including twenty-five plus years as a Rotarian. He is a volunteer at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum serving as a crew member on the Mr. Jim replica "buy boat" owned by the museum.

Jack is very interested in including all Rio Vista residents in the administration and management of the community. He strongly encourages everyone to make suggestions for improving life here and to consider donating some time to serve as a board member or to volunteer for a committee position. We **need** all the help we can get!

"SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED TODAY"

Snow Days: if you're a kid you love them, if you're a parent, even if you understand the purpose you probably hate, or at least dislike them. They upset routines and in the more extreme cases even cause income losses in some families.

Schools close for many reasons: bad weather, unhealthy or unsafe conditions in the school building or in rare cases when the buildings are used for other purposes; i. e. polling places or places of refuge during periods of disaster. However weather, snow, sleet, freezing rain or fog is the biggest culprit. All of these conditions are considered only from the standpoint of *safety*. Can the school bus safely cover its route? Can the students safely get to their bus stops? And, the question often forgotten is "Can non-transported students get to school safely?"



[See Schools](#)
Page 7



CORRECTION & APOLOGY

In the last Nav-light, we awarded commendations for the outstanding Christmas displays in our community. An error was made that needs correction. The article did not list the Honorable Mention earned by the Guschke's who live on S. Talbot Street. There were many outstanding displays and theirs was among the best and truly worth seeing. We all appreciate the effort made by the Sean & Holley to bring the Christmas spirit to Rio Vista. Again, we apologize for the oversight and want to thank you for your great community spirit.

[When You See Something](#)
Continued from Page 1

Please post this number **410-822-1020** somewhere so that you can easily find it and use it. If you do see something suspicious, it is important that you make the call right away. Sheriff Pope and his staff have told us that no report is a nuisance from their point of view. They depend on us to be their eyes and ears in our community. And by reporting suspicious activity, you are helping to make Rio Vista a safer place. Of course, if the situation you are observing is an emergency, please dial 911.

To report emergencies requiring immediate response
Dial 911

To report any suspicious or unusual activity
Dial 410-822-1020



Are you a business owner?
Why not advertise in the Nav-Light?
100% coverage of RIO VISTA residences.

Call for rates (443) 434-3181



Now Leasing

- VISIBILITY
- PARKING
- GREAT RATES
- HIGH TRAFFIC
- INCENTIVES

Are you Moving?
Starting a Business?

ASHLEY PREMIER PROPERTIES
410-829-5031
410-763-7000
JOYCEWALLACE@MRIS.COM

Thank you



For your generosity

Neighborhood Watch Update

If you're new to the neighborhood or just have an interest in becoming a block captain, please contact Peter Paris directly at peter@runstm.com or Charles Rogers at Charles@crglobal.net. Remember, the Neighborhood Watch program only works if the neighborhood residents participate!



June 8th

Bring your favorite picnic side dish or dessert!



POORE HOUSE, INC.

Digital & Offset Printing
High Volume Copying
Mailing Services • UPS Shipping

111 Fremont Street
P.O. Box 111
St. Michaels, MD 21663
410-745-3200 (voice)
410-745-5483 (fax)
poorehouse1@verizon.net

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

Schools

Continued from Page 6

The decisions to close schools, delay opening or in many cases to allow schools to open on time are not snap decisions. It usually gets underway during the 3 A.M. to 4 A.M. period with numerous phone calls to various agencies, to designated employees and “spotters” located throughout the county. Many counties have contracts with private weather bureaus who they consult with concerning present and future conditions. The Transportation Director or his designee may personally drive through some of the questionable areas. After gathering ample information the Transportation Director consults with the School Superintendent and the decision is reached, **to open on time, to delay opening for a short period** when there are indications that conditions will improve, and in the most extreme cases, **to close for the day**. The decision is then transmitted to local media outlets no later than 5:30 A.M.

So the next time there is a change in the schedule, remember it isn't just a “roll over, look out window and call the local radio station.” It is the result of lots of information gathering, knowledge and judgment.

This ritual is performed many times during the year, even when conditions are marginal and no change is made. The only purpose for these efforts; **Student Safety!!!**



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	(410) 745-3885
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)	(410) 745-3885
	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
Curb Appeal		
	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
	Sharon Miller	(410) 745-2140