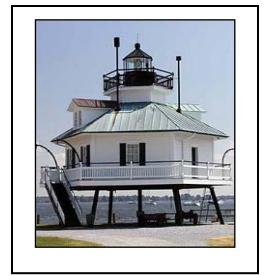


THE NAV-LIGHT



THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER OF RIO VISTA
ESTABLISHED AND INCORPORATED IN 1954

Volume 14 Issue 2

May 12, 2014



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Rio Vista 60th Birthday Party June 14 at 6PM! Article on page 3

Check out our new Website at riovistacom.org Article on page 4

Talbot County Sheriff election June 24 Read about the candidates below



Hello Rio Vista residents. My name is Joe Gamble and I am running as a Republican candidate for Talbot County Sheriff. I am currently a lieutenant with the Maryland State Police and have been a trooper for nearly 27 years. For

See Letter from Joe Gamble
Page 6



To the Rio Vista Community

Crime is down. Violent crime is down. Property crime is down. Juvenile crime is down. Serious and fatal accidents are down. Narcotics and narcotics related

See Letter from Dallas Pope
Page 6

Saint-Tropez, the Saint Michaels of the French Riviera

By Dick Cooper

Driving over the Oak Creek Bridge, I look out over the Miles River and see a sure sign of spring. Like the swallows returning to Capistrano, the first mega yacht of the season is riding at anchor just outside St. Michaels harbor.

Rising four stories over the river, the *Kisses* is a white, layered-wedding cake of a seagoing private yacht. Her 175 feet reflects the afternoon sun.

I don't want to be a reverse snob, but St. Michaels is usually more of a Sea Ray and Carver kind of town. But over the years, the ultra-rich have found the charm of the village and drop in to pay us a visit. After all, we fit into that somewhat exotic rhythm of romantic place names: Saint-Tropez, Saint Barts, Saint Croix, Saint Thomas, Saint Michaels.

When my wife, Pat, and I moved here eight years ago, some of our geographically challenged friends in Pennsylvania quickly spread the rumor that the Coopers had moved "to the islands." One even asked, "How do you get there from here?" Obviously, she thought we had to load our belongings on a tramp steamer. She was very surprised to find that St. Michaels was attached, if by barely, to the rest of the United States.

See Saint-Tropez
Page 4

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...



Dear Rio Vista Residents,

Well, I think we have beat old man winter down. And, boy am I glad. It seems the winter would never end, but flowers are sprouting and I even heard a lawn mower today. Good weather is not far behind. I'm looking forward to complaining about the heat!

Your President appointed Sharri Foy to a vacant position on the board. Sharri graciously volunteered to serve until the June annual meeting at which time she will stand for election. Sharri's enthusiasm for pitching in to help the community is sorely needed and I know we will all benefit from her contributions and fresh ideas. Welcome Sharri!

Rio Vista is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. If you have old pictures or stories about the past 60 years in Rio Vista, we sure would like to hear from you. We are planning to have the annual meeting on Saturday, June 14th at the picnic grounds. It will begin at 6:00 p.m. and there will be ice cream (and cake I hope). The format will follow the ice cream social that we held last October. Everyone that attended seemed to like that event. Bring your lawn chairs.

Your board has been busy over the past few months. There are a number of projects that have been proposed and we want to get them done quickly. One project is to spruce up the flag circle at the intersection of Riverview, Landing Road and Tenant Circle. We have gotten a proposal to remove the debris, bring in fresh top soil and plant flowers and other plants. All low maintenance I'm told. Another major project is to replace the metal pilings at the dock with wood pilings. The metal pilings rust and break off at the water line after a few years, and they are a devil to get out.

Erosion prevention is an ongoing project. The next big item to tackle is the access road to the community dock. The rock on the Miles River side needs to be removed and then replaced after filter cloth has been installed. Additional rock will be added to strengthen the rip-rap on the river side of the road. Erosion prevention efforts will then continue for some time until the river side of the point has been repaired and upgraded.

Also, a committee has been formed to update the community web page. The current software is difficult to work with and is no longer supported by the software company. The new web page will be based on current software and should be a lot easier to use as well as have a modern appearance with useful and current community information.

As I mentioned in the previous Navlight, there has been a surge in the number of burglaries in Talbot County. You may have seen the newspaper article about the attempted theft of copper water pipes from a home on Madison a few weeks ago. An alert resident spotted the suspicious activity and immediately contacted the Sheriff. The bad guys were apprehended. The timeliness of that call made all the difference. Stay alert! And if you see something, call the Sheriff.

Finally, the summer is fast approaching. Children will be outside again and we need to be vigilant and careful so they will remain safe. The speed limit in our community is **25 miles per hour**. You may have noticed the portable radar units on Riverview Terrace recently. The Sheriff has promised to step up enforcement in Rio Vista, especially during the morning and after school hours. Please drive within the speed limit.

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 you have a happy, healthy and memorable Spring and Summer.

Jack Davis

TREASURER'S REPORT \$

Your Rio Vista Community Association remains in good financial condition for 2014 with no debt and no known significant financial issues. There are a number of large projects planned for this year. Among these projects are the cleaning up and planting of new shrubs and flowers in the flag circle, replacing the metal screw pilings with wooden pilings at the community dock, updating the community web page with current software and a whole new look, and, possibly, to begin the rip rap project along the river side of the access road to the dock.

Collection of the annual fee has been very good and we appreciate those who have made that payment. There are a few late payers and I hope they will take the time to bring their accounts up to date. The completion of the community projects is dependent upon all of us making this effort.

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. If you have not already remitted payment for the 2014 fee, please do so as soon as you can.

Jack Davis
(410) 745-2461

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 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/

Recently, we have had questions from homeowners regarding painting of their home and putting on a new roof. If a resident wishes to change the color of the house, trim, roof etc, a CARF is required. If the homeowner wishes to paint the home the same color, or re-shingle with a similar color, approval is not required. Same holds true for a **new** color siding – this also must be approved.

See **ARCHITECTURAL**
Page 6

DOCKMASTER'S REPORT



I do not know about most folks but every weekend I have been looking forward to getting my boat in the marina. Unfortunately the weather and time just have not allowed me to get it done. I am really not upset the river fishing and crabbing are really not happening yet.

The dock project is moving forward. I just heard from the State, they have approved our project. I am not sure when this project will begin but I will need everyone's patience. Your boat may have to be moved during the process but I will let you know either by email or phone.

I am not sure when we will have the annual dock wash. It may be done later in the spring when the weather is consistently better. I will email all marina renters when we decide to go forward on the dock wash.

I would like to remind everyone that if they see any questionable activities going on at the marina or the picnic area please report it. Look forward to seeing everyone down at the marina.

Hunter Plog
(410) 745-5492



RVCA Ice Cream Social

Time Flies When You Are Having Fun!

Just yesterday, Ken Bridges sat at a Board meeting and announced that the 50th Anniversary of the Rio Vista Association is coming up soon. He suggested we do something special. Truthfully, that was ten years ago! The 60th Anniversary of the establishment of the RVCA neighborhood and Corporation formed to protect it is coming up this fall.

To celebrate the occasion, the Board is hosting an **Ice Cream Social/With Cake** on the evening of June 14, 2014. The Annual Meeting will be held during the celebration.

Come One, Come All

When: Saturday, June 14 at 6:00 to 8:00

Where: RVCA Picnic Area

What to Bring: Bring a Chair and a Story about the neighborhood to share.

What Can You Do? Invite a neighbor to join you.

Provide an older neighbor with transportation and a chair.

Hope To See YOU There

Saint-Tropez

From Page 1

It was after I began seeing the regular visits of these floating palaces that made me think my friends perceptions were not far from the truth. Over the years, these super toys have intrigued me. As a yachtsman, I am familiar with the old saying, "no matter how big a boat you have, some one has one bigger." These vessels always make me wonder, "How big is too big?"

One of the equally fascinating factors is that most of the yachts that come to town are plastered all over the Internet. Plug their names into Google and you are off on a guided tour intended to make you want to call the broker and book a date for a cruise.

One of the regulars is the *Argyll*, a 153-foot black-hulled beauty that ties up at the St. Michaels Marina when it is in town.

The *Argyll* has five guest cabins for up to 10 passengers. The nine-member international crew includes a U.S. Coast Guard veteran as captain and a culinary institute trained chef, even the maid has a bachelor's degree.

The vessel is based in Newport, R.I. in the summer and the Virgin Islands in the winter. Its local stops are usually when it is being moved between those ports.

"A private yacht charter would be similar to having your own fully-staffed private luxury 'home' that moves to a new location when and where you want," says Tim Nelson of Seven Seas Charters in Florida, a yacht broker who represents the *Argyll* and numerous other vessels.

"There are usually as many, if not more, crew members aboard than there are guests, so service is excellent. The chefs on these yachts are top notch. You will get five-star dining and the food is customized to your personal preferences, you won't be ordering off a menu on one of these yachts."

One of the biggest vessels we have seen anchored off Riverview Terrace is the *Laurel*. The stunning 240-foot vessel with a rich blue hull is reported to have been built at a cost of \$139 million and is owned by a Philadelphia billionaire. Before arriving in St. Michaels on its southbound trip, it was docked in Bar Harbor, Maine for two months.

Power and Motoryacht Magazine ranks the *Laurel* as the 10th largest private yacht in America. Web sites that report the movements of the great private yachts report *Laurel* sightings in Argentina, the Galapagos, Mexico, Alaska, Australia, Greece and France.

While the steel-hulled *White Cloud*, at 213 feet, is not the biggest yacht we have spotted off Parrott Point, it is one of the more impressive. The Bell Jet Ranger helicopter perched on its aft landing pad helps add to the intrigue, that and the onboard swimming pool.

The *White Cloud* has a cruising speed of 15 knots and carries a whopping 37,067 gallons of diesel fuel. Like many of the mega yachts that visit the river, the *White Cloud* is registered in the Cayman Islands, a country known for its favorable tax rates.

Some of the features of the mega yachts seen on the Miles River stretch the imagination of the average boater. The *Blue Moon*, for instance, is a 198-footer owned by Chicago billionaire Richard "Dick" Duchossios and his wife Judi, is featured in a photo display on a yacht charter web site. The elevator, which connects the four levels, is a glass cylinder, lighted by a large skylight, for that special "Beam me up Scotty" moment. It can accommodate 12 guests and has a crew of 15. It has a full library and the 1,200-square-foot master suite with its own gym. The list of toys that are on the *Blue Moon* include a restored 1972, 28-foot Riva Aquarama Italian speedboat with twin, 420-horse motors, a 25-foot Chris Craft, a 16-foot inflatable tender,



two kayaks, two waverunners, two windsurfers, bicycles, deep sea and light fishing tackle, beach umbrellas and chairs and six scuba tanks and gear.

The *Blue Moon* is reported to be heading for a summer of cruising in Alaska. In a drastic price cut to attract more charters, the weekly rental has been dropped from \$525,000 to \$475,000, plus expenses.

To paraphrase another old saying, "If you are wondering what it costs to charter a mega yacht, you can't afford it"

The base price to charter the *Argyll* for a week is a sweet \$150,000. That does not cover food and fuel. Based on industry standards, you can expect to add 35 percent for provisioning, dockage and other ancillary charges. If you board the yacht, say in Florida, the state wants another 7.5 percent of the base as a tax. And don't forget to tip the crew 15 percent.

Total bill for you, your spouse and eight good friends rounds off to \$236,250.

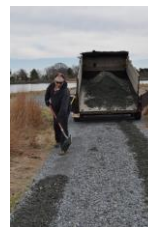
The wonderful time you had together in St. Michaels, priceless.

Dick Cooper, a Pulitzer-Prize winning journalist, and his wife, Pat, live and sail in St. Michaels, Md. He can be reached at

dickcooper@coopermediaassociates.com

Association Dollars at Work

Chris Barnhart delivered and applied six tons of crush and run to the road leading to the dock. The river side of the road is scheduled for repair this summer.



Wait till you see our new RVCA website!!

On second thought, don't wait – **go to your computer** right now, log on to **riovistacom.org** and check it out. (Of course if you receive your Nav-Light on the site, you already have been surprised by the change.) Designed by our own Rio Vista resident and web designer, Laurie Swain, it is a modern approach with new info. We are still adding content and will update it as we go along. Please let us know what you think by mailing to:

riovistamd@riovistacom.org

ARCHITECTURAL

From page 3

Handy Reference Guides for Talbot County Code Requirements.

NOTE: RVCA Architectural Guidelines are in some cases more stringent than County Codes. RVCA Guidelines take priority over County Codes (setbacks and fence requirements.) *Please be sure to check with the Permits Office to ensure that you have the latest version, as Building and Environmental Codes are subject to change without notice.*

PERMITTING and INSPECTIONS GUIDES:
<http://www.talbotcountymd.gov/index.php?page=Guides>

The Architectural Committee has taken the following actions since the last Nav-Light:

- 2014-001 - 509 Tenant Circle - Demolition of existing house and new construction to replace **APPROVED**
- 2014-002 1114 Riverview Terrace Fence **APPROVED**

WE GIVE A THANK YOU.....
to Justine's Ice Cream Parlor in St. Michaels for donating the ice cream for our upcoming annual meeting/ice cream social.



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



**THANK YOU,
BILL BEST**
By
Ken Bridges

Whether you knew him or not we all, in one way or another we have and will continue to feel the influence of our friend and neighbor, William F. (Bill) Best. His professional decisions as the Assistant Superintendent of Talbot County School have no doubt touched about every household in Talbot County and beyond. After retirement in 1999 Bill turned to volunteerism, on both a local and regional level. This included his Community where he spent several years as President of the Rio Vista Community Association, his Church where he was very active, and probably his upmost interest, education of children.

As Bill's obituary indicates he was very active. He did hours of research on various projects in which he was involved. He was never late and always well prepared. We all benefited from our relationship with Bill. He made us think.

On a personal closing thought: Occasionally Bill would come into wherever we were, sit down and say "I've been thinking about this for some time. What would you think? ? We would discuss it and sometimes it was a little painful, but even when we disagreed, I always felt that Bill was asking everything for "the right reasons". We became friends when we both retired to Rio Vista in 1987 and I am proud to say we were still friends on April 30, 2014.



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Letter from Joe Gamble, candidate for Sheriff

from page 1

the past 21 years I have worked investigating violent crime and drug crime across Maryland. As the commander of the Maryland State Police Homicide Unit and commander of drug investigation units, I have seen the devastating effects of drugs on communities, including Talbot County.

I believe that the most pressing issue facing Talbot County is the tremendous increase in the use of heroin and cocaine... especially by younger users. Heroin usage and overdose rates are climbing in Talbot County. It has emerged as a cheaper, more available and more dangerous substitute for prescription opiates. In the mid-shore, heroin has spread to a relatively new demographic of rural and suburban young people who may have begun to experiment with prescription painkillers.

I believe that a comprehensive plan and inter-agency cooperation within Talbot County and beyond will be our most effective weapon against the rising tide of this horrific drug problem. If elected, my first priority will be to assign deputies to the Talbot County Drug Task Force (currently, no Talbot County Sheriff Deputies are assigned). A recent case involving a drug task force that I supervise netted nearly 1 million dollars in drugs, cash and criminal arrests. This type of cooperation will happen in Talbot County if I am elected as your sheriff. I have spoken with residents of Rio Vista as well as your board members on the Neighborhood Watch program and would be proud to help your neighborhood implement strategies that will keep Rio Vista safe for your families.

I have volunteered for the past ten years at Easton High coaching and working with various organizations to help our youth. My four children attended and graduated from Talbot County Public Schools. I am fully invested in this community and believe that all of us want this community to be a safe and wonderful place to raise families.

I ask you to partner with me to make that possible, vote for Joe Gamble on June 24.

Please take time to check out my website www.gamblefortalbotsheriff.com and feel free to contact me if I can answer any questions. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Joe Gamble

Rio Vista Beach Club, Inc.
St. Michaels, Maryland

To All Members: May 16, 1963

Another year has passed and it is again time for our annual meeting. This year, as in the past few years, we plan to have our annual membership for this event on Saturday June 15th at 3 p.m. As in the past we will have a business meeting and election of the three board members, followed by the picnic and social get-together. To help defray the food expenses, the admission charges will be \$1.00 for adults and \$.25 for children. For those of you, who are new in the community, this is an opportunity to meet your neighbors. (New memberships will be accepted at this meeting).

This is from our 1963 Newsletter!

Letter from Sheriff Dallas Pope

from page 1

criminal arrests are up. We are achieving these successes through the hard work and the partnerships that we enjoy with our communities. Effective communication, leadership, and connection to our communities make this success possible. Rio Vista continues to enjoy the full service and engagement of the Talbot County Sheriff's Office Deputies. Our patrols in Rio Vista directly improve our communication and contact with all residents; creating a sense of safety and security for all. We continue to be responsive to the needs of Rio Vista residents. Every shift includes structured patrols of Rio Vista, and we are not lost on the issues of speeding, school traffic, and the reporting of suspicious activities. Your citizen involvement, community concerns, and tips continue to directly contribute to helping us solve and prevent crime. There are many cases and arrests triggered by these tips. Controlling and reducing crime continues to be our priority for Rio Vista.

We have been a key part of Rio Vista for a number of years. We have attended your community meetings, picnics, and have responded to your needs. Over the years we have made arrests for burglaries, thefts, juvenile crime, and narcotics violations in and around your community. In addition to routine patrols, there were 133 documented investigations conducted by Deputies in 2013. Those cases involved death investigations, narcotics, traffic, thefts, domestics, destruction of property and other minor crimes. We have been at the picnic area and boat ramp, and have worked hard to keep you safe. Crime in Rio Vista is down. This is the proven result of our efforts. We have listened and performed – and will continue to do so. Past performance is an indicator of future success. We are providing the services you need and expect. You have asked for safety and security, and we have acted. We listen and respond with action. That is what you expect and deserve. Your community is safer through our partnerships, communication, and hard work. Action does speak louder than words, and is proven by crime being down in Rio Vista. I value the opportunity to serve as your Sheriff.

Sheriff Dallas G. Pope



The Rio Vista Board of Governors
&
Committees
Hope you have a wonderful summer!





DATES TO REMEMBER

Union United Methodist Church Rev. Emanuel 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

10:30 AM to 5:00 PM 25th Annual Strawberry Festival
And Craft Show

Saturday July 5

10:00 AM to 4:00 PM Craft Show

St. Michael's Mission Church

Rev. Robert E. Coine, Pastor
Rev. Glenn M. Evers, Associate Pastor
(410) 822-2344

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

Sundays

8:00 am Holy Eucharist
9:00 am Coffee Hour
9:15 am Adult Forum
10:15 am Holy Eucharist
11:30 am Cider in the Hall
5:00 pm Evensong, 1st Sunday
5:00 pm Altars in the World, Last Sunday

June 2nd through August 25th On Sunday, June 2nd we begin our **Summer Service Schedule** at Christ Church with just two services at 8 AM and at 9:30 AM. "Lemonade on the Lawn" follows that 9:30 service.

St. Michaels Community Center

Trish Payne
Executive Director
(410) 745- 5102

trish@stmichaelscc.org

Summer Camps for Kids - Available **NOW!**
Call Pam or Amy @ 410-745-5102

Parliamo Italiano! Italian Lessons from a Native
Speaker, Nelli Rocco

Feel free to check her website at:
<http://www.nellirocco.webs.com>

Check the Senior Activities held on Wednesdays!

JUST FOR LAUGHS

A woman and a lawyer are seated next to each other on a flight from LA to NY. The lawyer asks if she would like to play a fun game. The woman, tired, just wants to take a nap. Politely she declines and rolls over to the window to catch a few winks. The lawyer persists and explains that the game is easy and a lot of fun.

He explains, "I ask you a question, and if you don't know the answer, you pay me \$5.00, and visa versa."

Again, she declines and tries to get some sleep. The lawyer, now agitated, says, "Okay, if you don't know the answer you pay me \$5.00, and if I don't know the answer, I will pay you \$500.00." This catches the woman's attention and, figuring there will be no end to this torment unless she plays, agrees to the game.

The lawyer asks the first question. "What's the distance from the earth to the moon?" The woman doesn't say a word, reaches into her purse, pulls out a \$5.00 bill and hands it to the lawyer.

"Okay," says the lawyer, " your turn." She asks the lawyer, "What goes up a hill with three legs and comes down with four legs?" The lawyer, puzzled, takes out his laptop computer and searches all his references. No answer. He taps into the air phone with his modem and searches the Internet and the Library of Congress. No answer. Frustrated, he sends e-mails to all his friends and coworkers, to no avail. After an hour, he wakes the woman and hands her \$500.00.

The woman says, "Thank you," puts her head on the pillow and goes back to sleep.

The lawyer, who is more than a little miffed, wakes the woman and asks, "Well, what's the answer?" Without a word, the woman reaches into her purse, hands the lawyer \$5.00, and goes back to sleep.

Board of Governors

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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
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