



THE NAV-LIGHT



THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER OF RIO VISTA
ESTABLISHED AND INCORPORATED IN 1954

Volume 15 Issue 1

February 5, 2015

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

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The Rio Vista Loop which is how the 5K is known to locals is their most popular 2014 route. It saw runners, walkers and strollers participate on the run through our community. After winding through Rio Vista's roads you'll make your way down to Riverview Terrace where you run for almost a mile along the Miles River. The run on Riverview is lined with spectacular views of the Miles River and beautiful waterfront homes. The 5k course will remain unchanged though we hope to have even more friends and neighbors on the course this year to provide hydration or even just a cheer as runners go by.

Date: Saturday, May 16, 2015
Race Start: 8:15 AM
Start Line: St. Michaels School Campus (200 Seymour Avenue)

For information for entire Running Festival see Page 5.



RIO VISTA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION Listing of New Homeowners 2014

Here is a list of new Rio Vista homeowners during the past year. We want to welcome everyone to our community and encourage them to participate in community activities. Please take the time to introduce yourselves to our new neighbors.

Andrea Lange	308 Cove View Drive
Ralph & Karen Arnold	1107 Harrison Avenue
Wayne Oler	1111 Harrison Avenue
Colleen Davidson-Ronning	1105 Jefferson Avenue
James Heikes	1108 Jefferson Avenue
Franz & Beverly Stoffler	1114 Jefferson Avenue
Ann & Catherine Demart	1205 Jefferson Avenue
Susan Johnson	226 Madison Avenue
STM Associates, L.L.C.	1001 Riverview Terrace
James & Judith Ramsey	1106 Riverview Terrace
Catherine Racca	518 Tenant Circle
Lawrence Campbell	108 Lincoln Avenue

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...



The holidays have come and gone. I hope everyone enjoyed the festive season and wish all a happy and prosperous new year. The holiday decorations were again a joy to see and I hope you had the opportunity to ride through the neighborhood to see the wonderful Christmas displays. Check out the Nav-Light to see some of the pictures taken by Jan Burke.

The annual fee invoices were mailed in November and most of our members have paid for 2015. If you have not yet gotten to that bill, please do so as soon as you can. The annual fee is the primary source of association income to pay for the maintenance projects completed each year. The major project for this year is the repair of the rip rap on the Miles River side of the community dock access road. We have suffered some significant erosion along the road and need to stabilize the rock with filter cloth and add additional stone. This is an ongoing project and will continue until the rip rap along the entire point of land has been repaired and upgraded.

It seems the real estate market has returned to normal. There were 12 properties sold within the community in 2014. A list is included in this issue of the Nav-Light. Please take the time to welcome our new neighbors to Rio Vista.

If you have not shared your email address with us yet, please do so. We use your email to send the Nav-Light and to advise of any significant events within the community. We also use the email to alert everyone of any security occurrences that you should be aware of. Your email is treated in confidence and is not shared with anyone. Sending the Nav-Light by email saves a lot of money spent on postage, and the Nav-Light looks so much better in color.

We will be supporting the St. Michaels Run Festival again this year. The 5K Run/Walk will again pass through Rio Vista. We are looking for volunteers to help as Race Marshals and to staff the water station on Jefferson. It takes about 3 hours of your time and is really a fun thing to do. Please email me at jdavis134@verizon.net if you can help. You get to spend time with your neighbors and get a cool t-shirt too.

Finally, **please** mark your calendars to attend the Annual Meeting in June. We plan to again have ice cream while discussing community issues. The Annual meeting is **Saturday, June 13** and will begin at **6:00 p.m.**

Don't forget: As a reminder, open fires, such as yard debris burning, are not permitted within Rio Vista at any time!

Jack Davis

TREASURER'S REPORT \$

Jack Davis
(410) 745-2461



Your Rio Vista Community Association remains in good financial condition for 2015 with no debt and no known significant financial issues. There were a number of large projects completed or planned for last year. Invoices for the annual fee for 2015 were mailed in November and most members have made payment.

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.

Significant planned expenditures for 2015 include repairing the rip rap along the Miles River and continuing improvement to the community web page. Grass cutting and maintenance of the flower bed at Tenant Circle and Landing Road are again major budget items for this year.

The annual fee remains at \$50.00 per household. The board has kept the fee at this level for nearly 10 years. The board does not anticipate an increase in the foreseeable future. The fee is a mandatory assessment that is authorized in the Articles of Incorporation. If you have not already remitted payment for the 2015 fee, please do so as soon as you can.

LANDSCAPE REPORT

Jan Burke
(410) 745-9768



Spring Clean Up

The neighborhood looks really good. However, we still have room for improvement. There are still several boats that are not in useable condition sitting around in view from the street or from neighbors' back yards yards. The only way to clean up a neighborhood and keep it in good condition is to not let debris pile up in the first place. If you have a newspaper box or old mailbox that are not being used, let us know and we will have it removed.

ARCHITECTURAL'S REPORT

Barry Burke
(301) 482-1929



Spring is almost here! Not sure about you, but many of us are ready to get outside and work around the house. Maybe add a deck or a fence, paint the house or add an addition. Now is the time to complete the **Construction Approval Request Form (CARF)** so you'll be ready when the weather breaks! Read on to see if your sprucing up the house requires an approval or not.

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

[See Architectural's Report](#)
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DOCK MASTER'S REPORT

Hunter Plog
(410) 745- 5492



Every fishing season begins the same hoping for a successful year better than the one before. Well in my case anything is better than last year. Will the crab pendulum swing back to a bountiful season or will it be more of the same? Hope springs eternal, as they say, until reality sets in.

Last year was a very productive year down at the dock. We accomplished the piling project without complications. This year will be just as ambitious. The topside of the dock is showing some wear and tear. I plan on replacing a couple of the boards that are warped. I also plan on placing some kind of light/lights at the end of the dock.

This year we will be having a dock washing party to ring in the new season. Last year it did not happen due to the piling project so it really needs a good wash down. I am thinking of washing the dock in March or early April. If anyone is interested in helping please email me at thplog@verizon.net. As always if anyone has any suggestions on how we can improve the marina area do not hesitate to send me an e-mail.

Thanks!
Hunter Plog



Lightship *Overfalls*: a Beacon into Maritime History

By Dick Cooper

With flags flying from its mast and its bright red paint gleaming in the sun, the Lightship *Overfalls* looks like it is ready to steam out of its slip on the Lewes, Delaware waterfront and report for active duty warning merchant vessels of shifting shoals.

But it is not, and it never will again.

The 114-foot, steel-hulled ship now sits in her fancy slip surrounded by a manicured park taking retirement much like a derby winner put out to pasture.

But she didn't always look this good and it took a decade of dirty work, sweat equity and hard cash to bring her back from her derelict state of disrepair.

"She sat on the waterfront for years, rusting away," says a volunteer tour guide. "She was vandalized and all of her brass was stolen. Her original wheel is probably a coffee table in someone's den."

It is hard to believe that this Bristol-fashion ship had gone into such a sad state. Today from the stem to the stern, the *Overfalls* is as crisp as the day she was launched in 1938. After a long campaign by the non-profit *Overfalls* Foundation and with the support of state and federal politicians, the vessel has been designated as a National Historic Landmark. The \$1.2 million project that included building a new permanent slip and landscaping came in on budget, says former foundation officials.

The ship is a reminder of the days when scores of lightships helped guide mariners along the coastal United States. Starting at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay in 1820, they were stationed on shoals, at the entrance to ports and in locations where it was not practical to build a lighthouse.

They were equipped with lights, fog horns or bells and in later years, radio beacons that allowed ships within 25 miles of their location to track in on their signal. The ships were painted bright red and their names spelled out in big block letters on their sides. They were named for the shoals or channels they marked. The ships were manned around the clock by sailors, first from the U.S. Lighthouse Service and later the Coast Guard.

By the 1970s, the ships were gradually replaced by more sophisticated buoys or Texas towers built on the ocean floor. Seventeen decommissioned lightships remain in varying states of repair in ports around the country. The Lightship *Chesapeake* has been a fixture in Baltimore Inner Harbor since 1982.

Lightship *Continued*

Part of the history of the *Overfalls* is that it never stood watch on the Delaware Bay's *Overfalls* Shoal where a sharp drop in the bottom causes dangerous currents. That ship, LV 605, was replaced by a buoy and transferred in 1960 to duty in the Pacific Ocean and renamed the *Relief*. It is now open for tours in Jack London Square in Oakland, California.

The current *Overfalls* was the old *Boston*. It served on locations in Long Island Sound, near Martha's Vineyard and finally at the entrance to Boston harbor before it was decommissioned in 1972.

In 1973, the Coast Guard donated the ship to the Lewes Historical Society. The Society renamed it the *Overfalls* to honor the vessels that served off Lewes from 1898 to 1960, and moved her to a berth on the Lewes and Rehoboth Canal. And there she sat. "She was a rust bucket in a muddy hole," says one official. In 1999, the *Overfalls* Foundation was formed and the Historical Society gave the ship to the foundation. The volunteer corps of the foundation calls itself the "Dirty Hands Gang" and has logged more than 17,000 hours restoring the ship to its current condition. "Every Tuesday, we have 12 to 15 volunteers, mostly retirees, show up for work," says one volunteer.

Walking around the decks of the ship, you get a sense for what life must have been like for the sailors stationed on her. The bow is high, designed to ride into the waves that would break against her hull in a heavy blow. The only ventilation below decks come from a few air funnels on deck and opening port holds in the hull.

On display next to the *Overfalls* slip is its 7,000 pound mushroom anchor that held it in place. A guide points out the 3,000-pound auxiliary anchor mounted on the starboard bow.

"If the captain felt that conditions were severe enough, he would set the second anchor," he says. How bad could it get to require 10,000 pounds of ground tackle?

As we walk around the side deck, the guide points to the fog horn on the cabin top. "It could be heard for five miles," he says. "It was so loud that it could kill seagulls in flight. We had a visit from a Lightship veteran who said that once they were in a three-day fog. He got so used to the horn that he woke up when it stopped blowing."

The Dirty Hands Gang didn't stop on deck. Their restoration work, which is ongoing, has brought the crews quarters and mechanical sections of the ship back to life as well.

The first stop is the radio room where two large banks of signal radios remain intact.

"Your cell phone can do more than these could," the guide says.

As we climb down a steep set of steel stairs he cautions that everything is made of metal and can easily cause bumps and bruises if we don't watch out, and this is on a ship that is not rolling in the sea. In the crew's Day Room, a checkers board is spread out on the table, a reminder that when not on duty, the crew had few things to keep them busy.

See [Lightship](#)

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What is the Board Up To?

Much of the Board meetings have concerned the erosion of the road going out to the dock area. The shore side is badly undercut in several places and in need of immediate repair. The problem is this type of repair is very expensive and difficult to schedule. Be assured that we are working on getting the job done as soon as possible. (That usually translates out to several months on Eastern Shore Time!)

Running Festival

Cont. from Page 1

The 4th Annual St. Michaels Running Festival is off and running – with registrations up even more this year. The actual event kicks off this year on May 15th with an expo at the St. Michaels Community Center. Race day is Saturday, May 16th and the big news this year is that the 10k and half marathon courses have been redesigned in collaboration with Boston Marathon Race Director, Dave McGillivray, to provide runners with more waterfront views and optimal course grade to make it easier on the eyes AND ankles!

The St. Michaels Running Festival half marathon (13.1 miles) is a USATF certified course.

Half Marathon Run

Date: Saturday, May 16, 2015

Race Start: 7:40 AM

Start Line: St. Michaels School Campus (200 Seymour Ave.)

10K Run

Date: Saturday, May 16, 2015

Race Start: 7:45 AM

Start Line: St. Michaels School Campus (200 Seymour Ave.)

5 K Run

See front page.

Kids Race

Date: Saturday, May 16, 2015

Race Start: 11:30 AM

Start Line: St. Michaels School Campus (200 Seymour Ave.)

Happy Valentine's Day



From the Rio Vista Board & Committees

Architectural Report

Cont. from Page 2

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. 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.

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 County's' 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> (Needs to be copied and pasted into your web browser)

Members of the 2015 Architectural Committee include:

- Ralph Bowers
- Doug Gibson
- Patrick Kennedy
- Donna Reichert
- Steve Shimko
- Jim Swigert
- Barry Burke, Chair
(barry_burke@comcast.net)

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

NONE



THANK YOU, Justine..... for donating the ice cream for our annual meeting/ice cream bash.

Overfalls Cont.
From Page 4

The *Overfalls* was manned by a crew of 14 but they were never all on the ship at the same time. The men worked two-weeks on and one week off, with only eight or nine of them aboard to man the ship around the clock.

The quarters of the crew are tight with two bunks in each of the five cabins. Forward in the bow is the massive windlass used to raise the anchor. It is a complex system of interconnecting gears, levers and drums. A sign over the windlass reads, "WARNING TAKE TIME TO BE CAREFUL."

In the wardroom near the back of the ship, the officers' cabins have been restored and refurbished as they would have been when the ship was in service.

"A veteran of the ship came through and said this was the first time he had ever set foot in the Ward Room," the guide says.

Back on deck it is a sunny, breezy afternoon, with the salt air blowing off the bay and the seagulls swirling overhead. The *Overfalls* seems to strain at her dock lines, itching to get out on the water and go to work.

For more information about the Lightship *Overfalls*, go to www.overfalls.org.

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.



Checked out the new RVCA website?

No, then you need to go to your computer right now and check it out: riovistacom.org (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.



410-745-3200

**Poore House has opened an Easton Office!
314 North Aurora Street**

"Thank you" to Larry Poore of the Poore House for his support of the Rio Vista Community!

JUST FOR LAUGHS

Sam called his wife and said to her in a weak voice, "Hey baby, I was driving to a coffee shop to meet Mary when all of a sudden, a stray dog came in the way. I tried to steer left to avoid running it down, but the car skidded due to high speed, rolled over and almost ran off the cliff. The car was hanging nose down over the cliff, as I looked down fearing impending death. I just managed to climb out of the car and save my life, just before the car fell over the cliff crashing thousands of feet below and was blown into smithereens."

Sam continued, "I was taken to a hospital. I have a broken leg, broken jaw, dislocated shoulder and several injuries on my head."

There was silence on the phone, then the wife asked, "Who is Mary?"

Holiday Light Extravaganza



Note: To tour of some of the decorated homes, go to www.riovistacom.org and click on "About Us" and then go to "Photos".



DATES TO REMEMBER

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

Rev. Marty Wiley
(410) 745-2534

stlukeschurch@verizon.net

St. Michael's Mission Church

Rev. James Nash, Pastor
Rev. Glenn M. Evers, Associate Pastor
(410) 822-2344

www.ssppeaston.org

Saturdays	Evening Mass
5:30 PM	
Sundays	Mass
10:15 AM	
Mondays	Spanish Prayer Group
7:15 PM	
Wednesdays	Mass
12:00 PM	
1st Fridays/Monthly	Rosary, Sts. Anne & Joachim
11:30 AM	monthly meeting. For info call
	Marguerite 410-745-5358

St. Michaels Community Center

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

Senior Activities

Tuesday's	10:15 – 11 am Chair Yoga, Free
	at the housing Authority on Dodson
	Ave.
Wednesday's	10:30 – 12:30 Luncheon and Program-
No	charge but donations are
	encouraged.
1st Wednesdays	- Bingo
2nd Wednesdays	- Brain Games
3rd Wednesdays	- Art Class
4th & 5th Wednesday's	- Speaker or Games

Please call for the following activities:

Basic Tap with Sharon Gilroy
Line Dancing and Basic Steps with Maxine Wixom

Union United Methodist Church

Rev. Emanuel Johnson
(410) 745-2784

uumc@atlanticbb.net

Christ Church

Rev. Mark Nestlehutt
(410) 745- 9076

info@christstmichaels.org

February 8, 5:00pm	Evensong
February 10, Noon	ECW (Episcopal Church Women) a luncheon will be provided for all women of the St. Michaels' churches. The event will include a Choral Concert by St. Michaels High School Drama Dept.
February 17, 5:00pm	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner
February 18, 8:00am, Noon, 7:00pm	Ash Wednesday Liturgy & Imposition of Ashes
February 23, 7:00pm	Popcorn Theology – Movie & a short discussion afterwards. Open to all. Call for a list of movies
February 24, 6:00pm	Covenant Churches Lenten Program
March 1, 5:00pm	Evensong
March 2, 7:00pm	Popcorn Theology - Movie & a short discussion afterwards. Open to all. Call for a list of movies
March 3, 6:00pm	Covenant Churches Lenten Program
March 9, 7:00pm	Popcorn Theology - Movie & a short discussion afterwards. Open to all. Call for a list of movies
March 10, Noon	ECW (Women's monthly Meeting – Brown Bag it. Drinks/dessert will be provided including a film about Haiti.
March 10, 6:00pm	Covenant Churches Lenten Program
March 16, 7:00pm	Popcorn Theology – See Feb ruary 23 rd .
March 17, 6:00pm	Covenant Churches Lenten Program
March 23, 7:00pm	Popcorn Theology - See February 23 rd .
March 24, 6:00pm	Covenant Churches Lenten Program
March 29, 8:00am and 10:15am	Passion/Palm Sunday Services
April 2, 6:00pm	Agape Meal
April 2, 7:00pm	Maundy Thursday Liturgy
April 3, Noon	Good Friday Liturgy
April 3, 5:00pm	Stations of the Cross
April 4, 8:00pm	The Great Easter Vigil and First Eucharist of Easter
April 5, 6:00am	Easter Sunrise Service
April 5, 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am	Holy Eucharist
April 5, 10:30am	Easter Egg Hunt
April 11, 7:30pm	Tidewater Singers Concert
April 17, 7:00am-2:00pm	Rummage Sale
April 18, 8:00am-Noon	Rummage Sale

Board of Governors

President	Jack Davis	(410) 745-2461
Vice-President	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	Sharri Foy	(410) 745-8622
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	Sharri Foy	(410) 745-8622
Landscape	Hunter Plog	(410) 745-5492
	Jan Burke	(410) 745-9768
Neighborhood Watch		
	Charles Rogers	(818) 207-0007
Web Masters	Sandi Droege	(410) 745-6572
	Dick Cooper	(410) 745-5233