

# THE NAV-LIGHT

THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER OF RIO VISTA  
ESTABLISHED AND INCORPORATED IN 1954



Volume 15 Issue 2

May 4, 2015



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**ANNUAL MEETING/ICE CREAM SOCIAL**  
**Saturday, June 13, 2015**  
**6:00 P.M. at the Picnic Grounds**

**Bring a hat, Bring a chair, Bring your Family**  
**Bring Bug Spray**

**Rio Vista's Annual Dock Washing Party**  
..... symbolizing the beginning of the boating season.





The days are getting longer, the daffodils are beautiful and hope for warmer weather springs eternal. I can't wait. Today is a little cool, but so much better than the winter cold. Please be aware that school children will be out and about now, so be alert while driving and please, please obey the speed limit.

Hunter Plog, our dockmaster, along with his entire family, Theresa, Lilly and Madeline, along with Bob Kestler and Eric Forden, power washed the community dock and then applied a deck sealant last weekend. It looks great and should be a great asset to the community for years to come. Slip rentals have been brisk with about a dozen or so already reserving their spots. There are several slips still available, but I don't expect them to last much longer. Contact Hunter if you are interested.

Work to repair the rock on the Miles River side of the dock access road should be underway shortly. We plan to remove about a 100 feet of the existing stone, put down filter cloth, install new rock and pull the old stone back up. The goal is to repair all of the rip rap around the dock landing, but the expense will require that we do it in increments over several seasons.

## **ANNUAL MEETING SATURDAY, JUNE 13 AT THE PICNIC GROUNDS**

Mark your calendars for the Annual Meeting/Family Ice Cream Social. It is scheduled for **6:00 p.m., Saturday, June 13** at the picnic ground. Remember to bring a chair, a hat, and maybe some bug repellent, but hopefully that won't be necessary.

We will be supporting the St. Michaels Run Festival again this year. The 5K run/walk will again be routed through Rio Vista. The race will be held on May 16 with 500 or so participants passing through our community. They are usually a lively bunch that is out to have fun. Take the time to say "hi" when they pass.

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.

**\* 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 have been sent out with reminder notices mailed in April. 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 100 feet of 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 about 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. For those few who have not already remitted payment for the 2015 fee, please do so as soon as you can.

## ARCHITECTURAL'S REPORT

**Barry Burke**  
**(301) 482-1929**



Spring is 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.

## Architectural's Report

Cont.

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](mailto:architectural@riovistacom.org). Additional forms may be found at [www.riovistacom.org/](http://www.riovistacom.org/)

## See Architectural's Report

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## DOCK MASTER'S REPORT

**Hunter Plog**  
**(410) 745- 5492**



On April 12 Rio Vista had its annual dock washing party symbolizing the beginning of the boating season.

This year's dock washing party went well thanks to Eric Fordam, Lee Kestler and RVC Board President Jack Davis. It was a bit breezy and cool but no rain which was good. We were able to pressure wash and stain and seal the dock.

Slip rental this year is starting out well. We have 12 slips rented so far. I know that there are at least 3 other people including myself, who have not paid the slip fee yet, and are interested in renting. I look forward to a better fishing/crabbing season than last year.

The weekend of the 25th I went fishing with high hopes of scoring a trophy rockfish. We were out in the bay with many other fishermen however the bass were not interested in what I had to offer. I tell myself it's too early in the season to dull the disappointment.

As the weather gets better more folks will be down by the water. Please keep an eye out for any suspicious activities down at the marina or the picnic area.

Thanks,

Hunter Plog



**Boat Safety**  
by  
Jan Burke

**What's With All The Boat Inspections?**

It's Spring! The flowers are blooming the grass is growing and new Coast Guard and Natural Resource personnel are being trained to conduct Boat Safety Inspections. Every boat on the water is a likely prospect for inspection.

**What are they looking for? Boat Operator**

Every person operating a boat on Maryland waters who was born after July 1, 1972 **must have on his or her possession** a Certificate of Boating Safety Education.

**No one under 16 years of age may operate a personal water craft (PWC)**

**Life jackets (PFD)for everyone on board must:**

The PFD must be Coast Guard Approved  
Proper size for the intended user  
Readily available (not in closed zippered bags, not tied up, not under a bunch of stuff)  
The information on the PFD must still be clear and easily read. (If it is faded or washed off, the PFD will not pass inspection)  
All ties, zippers, and snaps must be serviceable  
Inflatable PFD cylinders indicator must be on green

**At Least one throwable Coast Guard Approved PFD**

All persons being towed on skis, tubes, rafts, or body surfing must wear a high impact PFD marked for towing  
(75% of all boating fatalities could have been prevented if the person had been wearing a PFD.  
Also note that it is almost impossible to put on a PFD once you are in the water.)

At least three **Visual Distress Signals**  
(Make sure the date has not expired)

**Fire Extinguishers**

ALL vessels with "built in" fuel tank; must have at least one Coast Guard Approved **B-1** mounted fire extinguisher

Remember :

**The primary objective of the Coast Guard and the MD Department of Natural Resources Police is to Prevent Accidents on the water.**

**Boat Safety**

Continued

**All Boaters are required to submit to an inspection when requested to pull over for inspection.**

Having your equipment in good repair and being cooperative will speed up the safety inspection process.

Expired registration stickers and improperly placed numbers and stickers really catch the attention of Natural Resources Police and the Coast Guard.

**Cruise Ships Explore Treasures of the Chesapeake**

By Dick Cooper

The big white ships of the American Cruise Lines (ACL), with their distinctive red, white and blue-stripped funnels, have become familiar sights on the backwaters of the Chesapeake Bay, tying up in towns last frequented by steamboats and ferries six decades ago.

While the main shipping channel of the Bay has always remained a busy commercial route with ocean-going vessels plying north and south, the waterborne traffic on the rivers and estuaries of the Bay dried up almost overnight when the first Bay Bridge opened in 1952. The old town wharfs, where farmers shipped their produce to market and travelers embarked to cross the Bay, fell into disuse.

Now, the cruise ships have brought new life to the once-bustling ports of call. Every week, from spring through fall, the cruise ships circuit the Bay with departures from Baltimore Inner Harbor. The ships, designed to sail into shallow, small ports, stop in Annapolis, Yorktown, Crisfield, Tangier Island, Cambridge, Oxford and St. Michaels.

At a time when most of the cruise industry is focused on bigger vessels and over-the-top entertainment ships that can carry up to 6,000 passengers, (a Disney ship features an on-board theme park with a 765-foot "water coaster") the cruise liners on the Chesapeake are intimate luxury boats with 100 or fewer passengers.

Instead of casinos, miniature golf courses and rock-climbing walls, the small ships offer lectures by noted historians and naturalists, jazz trios and wine tastings. Fine dining, king-sized cabins and personalized service are the norm.

Charles Robertson, owner of ACL, based in Guilford, Connecticut, says the mega-liners are mass-market vessels that cater to a different clientele. "We appeal to a more affluent, well-traveled and more educated demographic, which is a nicely growing segment."

He says the big boats' "sweet spot" is the 27- to-36-age group. The ACL passengers tend to be in their mid-50s and older but he says some new trends are emerging. "We are seeing more multi-generational families coming onboard," Robertson says. "They will take seven or eight cabins and grandparents, children and grandchildren will be on the cruise." Robertson says the small-ship cruising business has been expanding. "I think it is doing very well," he says.

**Cruise Ships**

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## **Cruise Ships**

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Nancy Blount, president of Blount Small Ship Adventures in Warren, Rhode Island, says the Chesapeake Bay is part of the itinerary for her 100-passenger ships this year. Blount's father, Luther, who died in 2006 at the age of 90, is credited with being the originator of the small-boat, small-port concept of cruising. The company's motto is "Go where the big ships cannot." She says the cruises started out as family vacations along the New England and Maritime Coast and evolved into an overnight cruising business.

Lawrence Dessler, executive director of the Niche Cruise Marketing Alliance, a trade organization that promotes small-ship cruises around the world, says Baby Boomers are shaping the market. He says their wants and desires are driving almost everything in the business from ship design to the amenities offered.

"They are the whole base of the growth of niche cruising," Dessler says. "They are calling for more explorative and exciting destinations. We have one member who is opening up Patagonia in South America as a cruise destination. The Galapagos, Antarctica and the Arctic are increasingly popular.

ACL has voyaged into a new area that has been underserved by the cruise industry for years-- America's Heartland. A new 142-passenger paddle-wheeler pushes against the Mississippi and Ohio River currents on cruises from New Orleans to St. Paul to Pittsburgh. Robertson says the boat was constructed at his Chesapeake Shipbuilding Corp. yard in Salisbury, where most of his other cruisers have been built. He says the river towns are happy to see a return of passenger boats to their waterfronts. Lately, no major paddlewheelers have operated on the inland rivers.

"The *Delta Queen* is a bed and breakfast in Chattanooga, the *Mississippi Queen* has been scrapped and the *American Queen* has been repossessed by the federal government," he says. ACL bought the *Queen of the West*, a paddlewheeler that cruises the Columbia and Snake Rivers from Portland, Oregon and also cruises Southern Alaska with trips originating in Juneau, Alaska, and Seattle, Washington.

Dessler says the one of the great advantages of small-boat cruising is that passengers check into their "hotel" once and the ship takes them on a tour from place to place. ACL has scheduled cruises from Maine to Florida. Blount boats travel the East Coast, Great Lakes and the Inland Rivers.

The small-ship industry, by its very nature, will always serve only a small portion of the cruising public. The cruise lines are privately held and do not disclose the number of passengers they serve, but Dessler says it is estimated at 250,000 to 300,000 a year. A new mega-ship can handle almost that many passengers by itself in a year.

The small-ship cruises can't advertise deep-discount prices because they don't have the volume, but Dessler adds that their prices are reflective of their value. The low introductory price for a mega cruiser can quickly become a lot more when all fees and purchases are added in.

And then there are the differences in expectations.

For \$899 a week, passengers can get a bed, a buffet, a floating resort with shopping malls and crowds.

For \$4,500, they get a king bed, a large bathroom, a private balcony, fine dining and out-of-the-way adventures.

"The people who take small-ship cruises tell us they want to come back from a holiday with more knowledge and experiences than when they left," Dessler says. "When someone asks where you went on vacation, you can answer, 'The North Pole, where did you go? Orlando?'" Robertson and Blount say that a large percentage of their business comes from happy customers who keep coming back for more.

"We are seeing it even more now that we are adding itineraries," Robertson says. Blount says her company is constantly looking for ways to freshen the cruise experience. "We are trying to get more activities for the Baby Boomers," she says. "We have some shore excursions that include kayaking and biking."

The Chesapeake continues to be one of the more popular destinations. ACL has 27 scheduled cruises on the Bay and Blount has plans to tour the Bay on trips passing through from north and south.

Cambridge's Mayor, Victoria Jackson-Stanley, says she is pleased that ACL has used her city in its advertising brochure. "We hope the visitors enjoy our historic city," she says. The city merchants welcome the passengers to their shops, she says. "The ship is beautiful. It is a floating hotel."

Both lines will also be tying up at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum docks in St. Michaels this season. Former Museum president Langley Shook says the visiting passengers are fascinated by the Bay and its towns. "Maybe people are just being kind, but I have heard nothing but compliments."

"People who have taken the cruises have wonderful things to say about them," he says. "Even though the meals are included, often passengers will visit our local restaurants in town or get a meal at the Crab Claw." He says the Museum routinely notifies merchants when ships are coming in to town so they can accommodate the passengers. "I have seen them come back to the ships with their arms full of packages."

Robertson says passengers enjoy the diversity of the ports on the Chesapeake, from the busy Annapolis harbor, to the historic streets of Cambridge and Oxford, to the rustic harbor of Tangier, but, he adds, "St. Michaels and the Museum are the jewels of the trip."





**WE GIVE A THANK YOU.....**

to Justine's Ice Cream Parlor in St. Michaels for donating the ice cream for our annual meeting/ice cream social.

**The Birth of Rio Vista**

Once upon a time in the early 1950s a husband and wife owned a large tract of farmland outside of a picturesque little town. They were dreamers and had a vision for this land. They saw it as a spacious community with large front yards and houses that were not on top of one another. They wanted it to be a community with recreational areas for residents to enjoy. They wanted to make sure that there was a commercial area and that the residential area remained non-commercial. They wanted the owners to take pride in their lots and homes – to keep them neat and to maintain them.

To carry out their vision they sought advice from others. They retained counsel to develop legal documents that would define the process of transferring the land from the husband and wife to a company who would manage sales of the lots to new owners.

Another part of their vision was for the new community to own an area of land on the water that would be set aside for recreation. The community would then be responsible for caring for and maintaining that area. They were advised to set up a corporation for this purpose.

They needed a name for this new place and because the land was beside the Miles River and the views were beautiful they decided to call the community Rio Vista. We don't know why but while they were considering names, they decided to name the streets after Presidents: Lincoln, Monroe, Tyler, Madison, Polk, Harrison, Cleveland and Jefferson. At some point they decided to dispense with the presidential names and included Tenant Circle, Cove and Landing. Cove View and Bush Terrace came much later.

For the rest of the story, go to [www.riovistacomm.org](http://www.riovistacomm.org). You will find it in the Community History under the heading **Resident Information**.

**A Step into the Past.....**



St. Michaels Chapel was built in Rio Vista in 1968



410-745-3200

Poore House has opened an Easton Office

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

**JUST FOR LAUGHS**

**Spring Fever**

Four high school boys afflicted with spring fever skipped morning classes. After lunch they reported to the teacher that they had a flat tire.

Much to their relief she smiled and said, "Well, you missed a test today so take seats apart from one another and take out a piece of paper."

Still smiling, she waited for them to sit down. Then she said: "First Question: Which tire was flat?"

**Architectural Report**

Cont. from page 3

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.

**The Architectural Committee took the following actions since the last Nav-Light: NONE**

**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>



## DATES TO REMEMBER

### St. Luke's United Methodist Church

Rev. Marty Wiley  
(410) 745-2534

[stlukeschurch@verizon.net](mailto:stlukeschurch@verizon.net)

**May 17, 1:00 PM**

St. Michaels High School Baccalaureate Service

**May 23, 1:30 PM**

Cemetery Tour (find out where Civil War heroes once lived in town)

**May 31, 8 AM – 9:30 AM**

Fifth Sunday Community Breakfast (No Charge, donations accepted)

**June 6, 10 AM – 5 PM**

26th Annual Strawberry Festival and Craft Show

**June 20, 10 AM – 4 PM,**

St. Luke's UMC Monthly Craft Show

**July 4, 10 AM – 4 PM,**

St. Luke's UMC Monthly Craft Show

**August 8, 10 AM – 4 PM,**

St. Luke's UMC Monthly Craft Show

### St. Michael's Mission Church

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

[www.ssppeaston.org](http://www.ssppeaston.org)

**Saturdays**

5:30 PM

Evening Mass

**Sundays**

10:15 AM

Mass

**Mondays**

7:15 PM

Spanish Prayer Group

**Wednesdays**

12:00 PM

Mass

**1<sup>st</sup>. Fridays/Monthly**

11:30 AM

Rosary, Sts. Anne & Joachim monthly meeting. For info call Marguerite 410-745-5358

### Union United Methodist Church

Rev. Emanuel Johnson  
(410) 745-2784

[uumc@atlanticbb.net](mailto:uumc@atlanticbb.net)

### Christ Church

Rev. Mark Nestlehutt

(410) 745- 9076

[info@christstmichaels.org](mailto:info@christstmichaels.org)

**May 9, 8 AM**

Men's Club Breakfast

**May 24, 9 AM** Combined Eucharist (one service only that day)

**May 31, 8 AM & 9:30 AM**

Begin of summer schedule and the Annual Visitation of our Provisional Bishop

**June 1**

Lifeline Screening

**June 28, 10 AM**

Covenant Churches Tent Service @ the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum

**July 27 – July 31, 9 AM**

Iconography Class (*contact Julie Hart at [allhart5656@atlanticbb.net](mailto:allhart5656@atlanticbb.net) to register*)

**Tuesdays, 8 AM - 9 AM @ Blue Heron Coffee (W. Chestnut St.)** Sundays Readings Bible Discussion Group Anglican

**Wednesdays, 11 AM – 12:30 PM**

Wednesday Discussion Group

**Wednesdays, 3 PM – 4 PM**

Lectio Divina Prayer Group

**Thursdays, 9 AM -10 AM**

Bible Challenge Study Group

### St. Michaels Community Center

Trish Payne  
Executive Director  
(410) 745- 5102

[trish@stmichaelscc.org](mailto:trish@stmichaelscc.org)



### June 14 will host the St. Michaels Community Center's 7th Annual Tea, Fashion Show and Silent Auction.

Seating is limited to 100 guests who will partake of an elegant afternoon tea with sparkling wine and a buffet of scones, sandwiches and sweets which will be generously provided by the Inn at Perry Cabin.

**Ticket price will be \$55**



**Every Thursday, Friday & Saturday 9AM – 12:00 PM**

Duck Carving Class with Master Carver, Larry Parker. Everyone welcome from novice to pro. Fee based by project.

## Board of Governors

<b>President</b>	<b>Jack Davis</b>	<b>(410) 745-2461</b>
<b>Vice-President</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>(301) 482-1929</b>
<b>Nav-Light</b>	<b>Charles Rogers</b>	<b>(818) 207-0007</b>
<b>Finance</b>	<b>Sharri Foy</b>	<b>(410) 745-8622</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>(301) 482-1929</b>
	<b>Doug Gibson</b>	<b>(410) 745-9487</b>
	<b>Patrick Kennedy</b>	<b>(410) 745-2800</b>
<b>Communications</b>	<b>Charles Rogers</b>	<b>(818) 207-2007</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>Jan Burke</b>	<b>(410) 745-9768</b>
<b>Dock</b>	<b>Hunter Plog</b>	<b>(410) 745-5492</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>
<b>Finance</b>	<b>Sharri Foy</b>	<b>(410) 745-8622</b>
<b>Landscape</b>	<b>Hunter Plog</b>	<b>(410) 745-5492</b>
	<b>Jan Burke</b>	<b>(410) 745-9768</b>
<b>Neighborhood Watch</b>		
	<b>Charles Rogers</b>	<b>(818) 207-0007</b>
<b>Web Masters</b>	<b>Sandi Droege</b>	<b>(410) 745-6572</b>
	<b>Dick Cooper</b>	<b>(410) 745-5233</b>