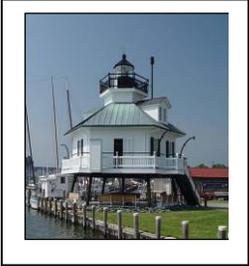


THE NAV-LIGHT

THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER OF RIO VISTA

ESTABLISHED AND INCORPORATED IN 1954



Volume 15 Issue 3

November 6, 2015

Fall
Into
St. Michaels



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Moorings in St. Michaels

Several weeks ago through the RVCA contact list we notified all members about an application for 31 commercial moorings on the Miles River in front of Bentley Hay subdivision. Quite a few RVCA members attended a public meeting at the St. Michaels library to learn more about the proposal from the proponent, Mr. John Marrah III, who explained the project. He also announced that he had withdrawn his permit application in response to unanticipated local landowners' concerns.

Mr. Chris F. Spurry, of Bentley Hay, presented a fairly detailed explanation of the many public concerns. He also had written to the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) regarding these issues. Mr. Spurry's e-mail to MDE and their response can be found on the Rio Vista Web at the following: www.riovistacom.org (click on Resident info and scroll down to News & Announcements).

Across the Bay 10K



by

Sarah Reichard
(Sarah & Mitch are new residents in Rio Vista)

As you may know, the Across the Bay 10k is only a few days away! The race is on November 8th and this will be my second time working the race. A year's worth of planning and logistics are already being put into place and the race itself is the reward for all of the hard work the team, that I am party of, receive. We are almost at a sellout, and when it does sellout, that means 25,000 people will be registered to run the 10k! Mitch will be one of those participants and he is very excited to cross the bridge. There are a lot of local volunteers that help us out in both races, and there are probably some who will be reading this newsletter - and to that THANK YOU! We could not pull this off without the expertise and leadership of local volunteers. The bridge race is truly an awesome experience, and I'm very glad that the race has brought me to St. Michaels!



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK.....

Well, as someone once said, "Time waits for no man." I guess that is true as we are again in the fall season with beautiful, bright and messy leaves to enjoy, and to deal with. It seems summer went by way too fast, at least for me. Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year celebrations will keep us busy and hopefully in touch with family, friends and neighbors. I am already looking forward to hearing the lawn mowers start again next spring. Speaking of Christmas, for the last few years we have made a special effort to upload pictures of decorated homes onto the community website. We have received a number of compliments about the bright and festive holiday spirit shown in our community, and many wonderful comments from those who enjoyed the pictures on our web page. We will again try to get pictures of these beautiful decorations on the web page this year.

You may have noticed Talbot County Roads Department has been repairing the worn spots on our community streets. The repairs seem to be more substantial than the materials used for repaving last year. Talbot County workers have also cleaned the ditches and culverts on Cove Road and I expect they will continue throughout the community where needed. In spite of continuing tight budgets, we are very appreciative of the County's attention to Rio Vista's needs.

The replacement and repairing of 150 feet of rip-rap along the Miles River side of the community dock access road has been completed and not a minute too soon. There was erosion damage to the cove side of the access road from the constant high winds in September. The new rock and filter cloth on the river side prevented erosion on that side of the road. A big thank you goes to Jan Burke, Harold Klinger and Chris Barnhart for helping place four tons of rock, by hand, to stabilize the eroded bank. Completion of the rip-rap and filter cloth on the cove side of the road will be a major project next year.

With all things considered, 2015 has been a very pleasant year for Rio Vista. Our financial condition is stable, about a dozen new neighbors have joined our community and there are no major issues before us. Your Board of Governors meets regularly to deal with administrative tasks and to plan for capital projects.

If you have not shared your e-mail address with us yet, please do so. We use your e-mail to send the Nav-Light and to advise of any significant events within the community area such as the boat mooring issue in front of Bentley Hay. We also use the email to alert every one 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 e-mail saves a lot of money spent on postage, and the Nav-Light looks so much better in color.

Jack Davis

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



ARCHITECTURAL REPORT



Barry Burke
(301) 482-1929

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/

Architectural Report
on Page 6

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Several years ago, realtors complained to the RVCA Board of Directors that they were experiencing difficulties selling properties in Rio Vista. The underlying issue was that some of the properties were not being kept up to standards. And that the neighborhood was experiencing a turndown in quality. The Board began a systematic program of addressing issues concerning the curb appeal of some properties. More than a dozen properties have been substantially cleaned up and we are still working on several others. This year eleven homes were sold. The neighborhood is looking much better. However, we can do better. The Board is currently focusing on getting rid of cars, trailers and trucks that do not have tags, and abandoned derelict boats.

If you have anything derelict or unsightly vehicles in your yard, please try to get rid of them. If you need help, contact a Board Member.



DOCKMASTER'S REPORT



Hunter Plog
(410) 745-5492

This year's boating season is coming to an end. It has really been a great year for the RVC Marina. All the slips this year have been rented out! Most of the renters have been those who live in the community but we have had a couple of folks outside the Rio Vista community. We had some folks rent a slip knowing that they would not use it weekly but wanted to contribute to the community. The slip rental money helps the community continue with the many projects. A constant project in the community is fixing the rip-rap down at the dock area and beating back erosion.

We really dodged a bullet with hurricane Juquin. Thanks to many of the slip holders who pulled their boats out. Apparently hurricane forecasting is a tricky task. Thursday the forecast put the hurricane directly up the Bay but, instead by Saturday it was miles and miles out to sea.

I would like to remind all slip holders that **November 15th is the deadline to pull your boat out of the water for the year.** This also includes pulling any equipment attached to the dock pilings (i.e. pulleys, ropes). Please keep an eye out for any suspicious activities down at the marina or the picnic area.

Thanks,
Hunter Plog

Message from the Board

Hey! Boat Owners

By

Jan Burke

Do you feel a bit sad? You have removed the plug so water won't fill-up the boat. You have taken the gas can, battery, and everything else that can be removed out of the boat. You have washed the salt off the boat and motor. You have done what you need to do to winterize your particular type of motor. The boat is now out of the water and winterized. You can feel a bit relieved that the winterizing chore is over. You don't have anything to worry about! Wait, maybe you do.

Hey! Boat Owners
on Page 4

Meeting our new neighbors



My name is Sarah Reichard and my husband Mitch and I have been in Rio Vista since last December. We moved here from Bradford County Pennsylvania, about 5 1/2 hours from St. Michaels. I was previously the County Planner in Bradford County, and oversaw subdivision, land development, zoning and other ordinances. Prior to that I was a wellsite geologist for Talisman Energy. Mitch was previously a drilling fluids engineer on natural gas wellsites and is now in sales for Empire Today. The reason we moved down to lovely St. Michaels was because I began operations coordinating for the St. Michaels Running Festival as well as the Across the Bay 10k. The owners of these races, Sparrow Rogers and Peter Paris also live in Rio Vista, and they both enjoy having me within half a mile of them at all times! (haha). Mitch and I love running and have run several different kinds of races, including marathons, a 200 mile relay and Spartan (obstacle) races.

Mitch and I moved here with our three dogs, Merlin(9), Magnus(7) aka "Goose", and Topper(13). Merlin and Goose are border collies and Topper is a Pomeranian Papillon mix. We do not have children, which allows us a lot of time to focus on training the dogs. They are brilliant dogs and after showing them once, they knew the boundaries of the yard. Calm, assertive energy and consistency is key and Mitch and I work very hard to make sure we use the same commands with them as well as being sure they have exercised at least twice daily. We love them to pieces, but we also make sure they know we are boss and what we say goes. It also helps that I can take them to work with me. They get plenty of socialization and learn vehicle manners this way. They enjoy spending time with Sparrow's three cocker spaniels at work and it's quite a site to see all 6 of them in the office!



You probably see me walking the dogs through various parts of Rio Vista, we are hard to miss! Merlin LOVES to watch the water lap up on the rocks...besides chasing the tennis ball, water watching is his favorite pastime! Goose wants to be wherever I am, which can be nice because I have never had to worry about him wandering off because he is ALWAYS by my side. Topper enjoys sunshine, sleeping and people, he is such a friendly dog! Sometimes he will take a ride with me on my bicycle and ride in my special pouch I had made so he can enjoy the breeze without the exercise.

That's just a little background about me and Mitch. We love living in Rio Vista; not only is it beautiful, but the people are so friendly and kind and have certainly made us feel welcome as newcomers to the area. We look forward to our first fall in St. Michaels!



WE GIVE A THANK YOU.....

to Justine's Ice Cream Parlor in St. Michaels for supporting our community.

Hey! Boat Owners

cont. from Page 3

What about the trailer? It has been dunked up to its axles in brackish water. The poor thing has spent weeks, months, forever, sitting in the blazing sun and rain. How much can it take? Will it wait until spring when you are anxious to launch the boat for the season? Or, will it react to the lack of love and attention it has endured? Let us hope not! Winterize the trailer too. Check the bearings now. Don't let the trailer sit all winter with any water in the bearings. If you do, you'll be sorry! Wash the trailer, especially inside the frame. Donate a can or two of your favorite water repelling sprays lubricant to coat the leaf springs, winch, and hitch. Protect the lights and their electrical connection from moisture. You might be able to stuff the end of electric connector inside the frame where it will stay out of the moisture. Better yet, plug the appropriate end of a spare connector into it. That will keep it clean and dry.

Did you know that moisture rots tires? It does! So, jack-up the axles so the tires are out of the moisture and not bearing any weight.

Now look up to the sky. Not to give thanks that the job is almost done. No! Check for dead limbs that will break loose and spear your boat during a wind, snow, or ice storm event. Everything looks good for now. Just get out the snow shovel and wait for spring.

Thank you



For your generosity



The Rio Vista Board of Governors
&
Members of the Committees
are wishing you
A Happy Thanksgiving & A Merry Christmas!



Captain Owen Burns: A Sailor's Life Remembered By Dick Cooper

The obelisk of gray stone that dominates a rise in the historic "Old Bohemia" Cemetery marks the Eastern Shore resting place of Owen Burns, a sea captain whose family story is the stuff of a sweeping American saga:

Scotland in the 1730s is torn by political and religious strife. An 18-year-old lad follows a young nobleman who promises a new life in the Colonies and boards a ship docked on the River Clyde in Glasgow. The nobleman, Gabriel Johnston, is the freshly appointed governor of North Carolina Colony and the lad, Francis Burns, receives a land grant from the King of England. He works hard, builds a plantation and becomes a member of the landed gentry in his own right. He shepherds his family through the Revolutionary War and leaves a fortune to his heirs. A grandson becomes a privateer in the War of 1812 and his great-grandson (our interred sea captain) is at the heart of a family legend that includes a strong-willed woman and President Abraham Lincoln. As the family multiplies and spreads across the ever-expanding nation, more fortunes are made and lost, landmarks are built and offspring leave their marks on the country from Florida to Hawaii.

Owen Burns was born in 1810 near the tidewater town of Swansboro, North Carolina, not far from the current-day Marine Corps base, Camp Lejeune. His father, Otway Burns Jr., was a well-known local sea captain who plied the Atlantic from Canada to the Caribbean. When the War of 1812 broke out, Captain Otway was granted a "Letter of Marque" by the United States government and sailed his Baltimore Clipper, *Snap Dragon*, as a privateer against the British. Captain Otway (Otway was his grandmother's maiden name) became a hero of the war, capturing British prizes wherever he sailed. His exploits earned him chapters in local history accounts and his biographer, historian Jack Robinson, in his book "Captain Otway Burns and his ship Snap Dragon" compared him to John Paul Jones. He was, however, often gone from home and lost custody of his son when his wife died in 1814. Robinson reported that court records show that he regained custody five years later, only after paying \$1,000, about \$18,000 in today's dollars. After that, Otway built and lost fortunes. He was at times a shipbuilder and active in state politics. When he fell on hard times President Andrew Jackson gave him a job as the tender on the Brant Shoals lightship. He died in 1850.

According to Swansboro's history blog, Owen Burns was about 14 when he followed his father to sea and became a Midshipman in the U.S. Navy. He worked his way up to the rank of Master by the time he was 21, served in the Mediterranean and Pacific, and was promoted to Lieutenant in 1834. Owen resigned his naval commission in 1840. Near the end of his book, Robinson reports that after the Navy, Owen lived in Portsmouth, North Carolina, and became a businessman and ship owner.

Owen shows up again in records when he married Martha Armstrong, the 15-year-old daughter of a Baltimore family in 1849, according to a family genealogy. Their first son, Paul, was born in Baltimore the next year, followed by Ignatius in 1854 and Louis in 1855. Louis lived for just over a week. After that, the family began to move back south. Son Xavier was born in 1857 in Wilmington, North Carolina.

Captain Owen Burns

Cont.

The family then moved to Fernandina, Florida, a boomtown and the Atlantic terminus of the first cross-Florida railroad that connected with Cedar Key on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico. Owen worked as a bookkeeper and it was there that Martha gave birth to son Richard in 1859 and their only daughter, Camille Lillian, who was born in May of 1861, a month after the start of the Civil War.

Owen's allegiance was never in question. He returned to the sea as a blockade runner for the Confederates bringing supplies to his native North Carolina. Martha moved her young family back to the relative safety of Maryland, settling in Fredericktown, Cecil County. Federals captured Owen and threw him in prison with other Confederate sailors where he fell into ill health. Citing family oral histories, Robinson wrote that Martha sailed across the Chesapeake Bay to Annapolis and walked to Washington, D.C., where she convinced President Lincoln to release her husband to her custody for the duration of the war.

"Unfortunately, no official records have been found to substantiate the story of Owen's presidential pardon," Robinson wrote. "President Lincoln, in fact, did pardon prisoners during the war and several primary sources identify a person named Burns living in Fernandina during the Civil War. However, it cannot be absolutely established that this Burns is Captain Owen Burns. Even if the corroborative documents are never located, this story is a warm and intriguing part of Burns' history and will no doubt continue to be handed down from one generation to the next."

One thing is for sure, before the end of the war Owen arrived in Fredericktown and the prolific Burns kept up their procreative ways. Son Walter was born there in 1866 and Edward in 1867. Captain Owen Burns died on his birthday, April 8, 1869, at the age of 59. His last son, Owen Junior, was born six months later.

Members of the Burns clan continued to travel and distinguish themselves over the better part of the next century. Paul married in Philadelphia and moved to San Jose, California. He died in Council Bluffs, Iowa in 1903. Ignatius wound up in Honolulu where he married Julia Regina Afong, the descendent of a Hawaiian chief. Xavier showed up in California married to an "orchardist" and became a real estate broker and rancher. Richard first moved to Manhattan and then to Sacramento, California. Camille Lillian (who commissioned her father's obelisk) was married in Chicago and died in New York City.

Walter founded a banking company based in Chicago and New York, lobbied heavily and successfully in North Carolina for the recognition he felt was needed for his War of 1812 hero grand-father, Otway Burns. A statue of Otway was erected at Walter's expense. He died in Larchmont, New York in 1930. Edward moved to San Francisco and eventually wound up in Sarasota, Florida, a town that was developed by his younger brother, Owen Junior. He died in February, 1939 when a kerosene heater exploded.

See Captain Owen Burns

on Page 6



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RIO VISTA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
Listing of New Homeowners
2015

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.

Lawrence & Rosemary Lambelet	106 Bush Terrace
Howard & Kim Friner	312 Cove View Drive
Walter & Catherine Urbanek	1105 Harrison Avenue
Andrew & Tracy Brazell	1212 Jefferson Avenue
Lawrence Campbell	108 Lincoln Avenue
Mary Bradford	301 Lincoln Avenue
Michael & Whitney Fiore	401 Lincoln Avenue
Sharon Puckett & Mary Goldstein	206 Madison Avenue
Charles & Tara Gross	210 Madison Avenue
Margaret & Kathleen Patten	1114 Riverview Terrace
Kevin McGovern & Leslie Sauter	223 Tyler Avenue

Architectural Report

cont. from Page 3

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

209 Tyler Ave	Shed	Approved as submitted
301 Lincoln Ave	Fence	Approved as submitted
1109 Harrison Ave	Enclose Porch	Approved as submitted
210 Madison Ave	Paint Shed	Approved with minor modification
230 Madison Ave	Solar Panels	Pending

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)



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Poorehouse has opened an office in Easton!

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

Captain Owen Burns

cont. from Page 5

Owen Burns Junior’s life is worth another story all by itself. In 1910, he moved to Sarasota to go fishing and wound up buying 75 percent of the city of Sarasota for \$35,000. He became a business partner of circus magnate John Ringling. He built “Ca d’Zan,” Ringling’s palace on Sarasota Bay. He ran the company that dredged the city’s harbor, built St. Armands Circle and developed Lido and Longboat Keys. The glitzy high-rise condos of Golden Gate Point are built on fill that Burns dredged from Sarasota Bay. His name is still on many of the city’s enduring landmarks. According to the Sarasota newspaper, his mother, Martha, moved to the city and was unhappy that there was no Catholic church. Owen stepped up to the challenge and helped build St. Martha’s Church.

By the time he died suddenly in 1937, however, like his grandfather Otway, Owen Burns Junior had seen much of his fortune evaporate. His obituary in the Sarasota Herald was only five inches long and included the list of pall bearers. But like his grandfather, his memory has been resuscitated. In 2010, the city council issued a proclamation declaring Owen Burns Week, honoring the pioneer with a special week to commemorate his birthday and celebrate his legacy.

The Eastern Shore cemetery where Captain Owen Burns has rested for the last 145 years has changed little since he was buried there. Twice in that time highways have been built to bypass the quiet farmland and the obelisk still stands tall and straight and proud. Its inscription is clear and deep.



Capt. Owen Burns
 Son of Capt. Otway Burns
 Born 1810 - Died 1869
 U.S. Navy 1824 -1840





DATES TO REMEMBER

Union United Methodist Church

Rev. Emanuel Johnson

(410) 745-2784

uumc@atlanticbb.net

Annual Fruit Sale Place your Order Now

Thru November 16th, 2015

Fruit will be delivered
December 7th, 8th & 9th



Union United Methodist Church
Fremont Street & Railroad Ave.
St. Michaels, Maryland 21663

Rev. Dr. William T. Wallace, Sr. - Pastor

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

Rev. Marty Wiley

(410) 745-2534

stlukeschurch@verizon.net

November 29th, 8-9:30AM

Community Breakfast in Fellowship Hall
(NO CHARGE, Donations accepted)

December 5th, 12-3PM & 6- 'til ?PM

Midday Madness Christmas & Jewelry Show

Dec 12th, 8AM - 12 Noon

Christmas Breakfast in Fellowship Hall (fee required)

St. Michaels Community Center

Trish Payne

Executive Director

(410) 745- 5102

trish@stmichaelscc.org

St. Michael's Mission Church

Rev. James Nash, Pastor

Rev. Glenn M. Evers, Associate Pastor

(410) 822-2344

www.sspeaston.org

Saturdays

5:30 PM

Evening Mass

Sundays

10:15 AM

Mass

Friday

(1st of each month)

11:30 AM

St. Anne And Joachim Society Meeting

Please bring a bag lunch. Coffee, tea
and dessert will be served.

Christ Church

Rev. Mark Nestlehutt

(410) 745- 9076

info@christstmichaels.org

November 9th, 7 PM

Popcorn Theology

November 18th, 6 PM

Shared Table Community Dinner @ Christ Church

November 25th, 10 AM

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Day Service followed by a
Thanksgiving Day Dinner at Union United Methodist Church

November 29th, 7 PM

Bells of the Bay Concert

December 2nd, 6 PM

Shared Table Community Dinner @ St. Luke's

December 5th, 8 AM

Men's Club Breakfast

December 6th, 5 PM Combined Service (Only one service)

Advent Lessons & Carols

December 12th, 9 AM Christmas Bazaar

December 13th, 6 PM

Celebration of Choirs @ St. Michaels Chapel

December 14th, 7 PM Popcorn Theology

December 16th, 6 PM Shared Table Community Dinner

@ Christ Church

December 24th, 4 PM

Family Christmas Eucharist with Children's Sermon

6 PM Christmas Eucharist

9:30 PM Choral Prelude

10 PM Festal Christmas Eucharist with Choir

Friday, December 25th

11 AM Christmas Eucharist

Wednesday, January 6th

5 PM Epiphany Lessons & Carols followed by Dinner

Monday, January 11th

7 PM Popcorn Theology

Monday, February 1st

12 PM Soup & Scripture

Tuesdays from 8-9 a.m. at Blue Heron Coffee (W. Chestnut St.)

Lectio Divina Prayer Group

Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday Book Discussion Group

Wednesdays, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years

Thursdays, 9-10 a.m.

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
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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