



THE NAV-LIGHT



THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER OF RIO VISTA
ESTABLISHED AND INCORPORATED IN 1954

Volume 15 Issue 7

November 9, 2016

*Happy
Thanksgiving*



In this issue you will find...

President's Letter.....	2
Message from your Board.....	3
Miles River Power and Sail Program.....	4
Festival of Choirs.....	5
How My Christmas Book Became a Play.....	6



Can Your House Be Found?

(A very important question in case of emergency)

by

Judy Sandground

While working on adding house numbers to our map of Rio Vista for Neighborhood Watch, I was amazed at how difficult it is to find addresses in our community! Even in daylight, because of missing house numbers and cluster mailboxes, it took some time to determine the correct address. If an ambulance, fire truck or police officer were trying to find your house, could they?

To determine this for yourself, take this simple test:

1. At night when it is dark, walk down your driveway to the street.
2. Is your house number clearly visible? (Remember your porch light might not be on.) If you can answer yes to this question, you can be found in case of an emergency and you need not read on.
3. Do you have a mailbox standing alone in front of your house? Is the house number reflective and on both sides of your mailbox? If you have answered yes to both questions, then you can be found and need not read on.
4. If you answered no to question 3, you can purchase a set of reflective numbers for both sides of your mailbox or you can contact the St. Michaels Volunteer Fire Department and purchase their reflective mailbox numbers (410-745-9393).
5. Is your mailbox in a cluster of mailboxes or across the street from your house? If so, then you need to obtain a set of house numbers and place them on your property where they can be easily seen from the street. The Fire Department recommends numbers in a contrasting color so that they are clearly visible.

When we dial 911 in an emergency, we want to be found. We do not want emergency services to waste valuable time searching for our house. Please make this test part of your fall clean up activities and make sure that your house can be found.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK.....



Have you ever noticed the wind always seems to blow leaves from your neighbors' lawn in your direction. And, NEVER seems to blow those leaves from your lawn further down the street. One of life's mysteries, I guess. Harold, Scotty, Wally and Candler look out. Things are definitely going to change this year.

I think we had a great summer. A little hot, but the crabbing was good. Slips at the community dock were fully rented. The high usage rate of the dock seems to have become the norm each summer. Boaters, fishermen, walkers and runners kept the activity level pretty high. **Hunter Plog**, our Dock Master, did an amazing job keeping everything safe and happy. Thank you, Hunter.

The community picnic ground was pretty busy too. Lots of residents were there every day. There was at least one wedding. Members in good standing can use the picnic grounds for family functions, but must contact the Board Secretary prior to the event to reserve the date and to make arrangements for cleanup and to resolve liability issues. And, if we know early, we'll have the grass cut for you.

As we enter this holiday season I tend to think "weren't we just here?" Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas and the New Year celebrations will keep us all busy with family and friends, but don't forget to stay safe. Keep a watch for children who will be out of school enjoying the holidays. And remember, the **speed limit in Rio Vista is 25 MPH**. Pretty slow I know, but sometimes even that is too fast.

We are still following County Council deliberations on how to deal with short term rentals. Airbnb and VRBO websites are still very active in Talbot County with little oversight or revenue being collected by officials. It is important to us all that a fair and enforceable resolution be achieved as soon as possible. The short term rental issue is one being dealt with by every state and local jurisdiction in the country. It is solvable, but we cannot expect our elected officials to resolve this without our input.

Some time ago, I asked for everyone to share their telephone/internet connection horror stories with me. I would like to hear from those who have had problems as well as those who have had problems resolved. Sooner the better.

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 or emergency events within the community. 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 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

DOCK MASTER REPORT

Boating season is coming to another end. We now face the task of winterizing our boats and thinking about the good times had this season. It has been a GREAT year for the Rio Vista marina. We have rented every slip this year and we have residents in waiting! I would ask current slip renters to think about if they plan on using their slip next year. There have been a couple of slips unused this year.

I do not know about you but I love the fall fishing season. Last year a RVC resident gave me a fishing tip that yielded my first keeper size striped bass from land. This year I had a resident give me advice on using "skwiggly" worms with jig heads when trolling and you know what by golly it worked. I caught 14 striped bass in the Miles all were undersized except for the last two. The moral of the story is never give up and savor success! Thank you, Jim Gunshenan, for the tip.

I would like to remind all slip holders that they need to have their boats out of the slips by November 15th. If you are not able to have your boat out on the 15th let me know.

Please remove from your slip any hardware in your slip (pulleys, ropes, weights). You can leave any hooks or eyebolts in the poles. If you have any questions send me an email thplog@verizon.net.

Thanks,

Hunter Plog

TREASURER REPORT

Financially, the community is in excellent condition. Payment of the annual fee for 2016 has been exceptionally good and has allowed for us to meet all fiscal obligations in a timely manner. The major commitment to completing the rip rap work along the dock access road has still to be started. We need to get the permit from the State Department of Natural Resources to begin the work. Hopefully that will happen soon.

Annual fee invoices for 2017 will be in the mail early in November. Payment is due by December 31, 2016. The current \$50.00 Annual Fee has been in place for over 10 years. There are no plans to change the fee at this time.

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.

ARCHITECTURAL REPORT

Handy Reference Guides for Talbot County Code Requirements.

Please note: RVCA Architectural Guidelines are in some cases more stringent than County Codes. RVCA Guidelines take priority over County Codes (setbacks and fence requirements.) This can be found on the Rio Vista Web Site: www.riovistacom.org Then click on Resident Info, then click on Architectural Documents.

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>

(Pressing the Control Key and clicking on the above link with left mouse button will take you to this link)

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

By

Sandi Droege

Yes, Neighborhood Watch is a program that teaches us in Rio Vista to watch for unusual or suspicious activity. But just as importantly, it is a program which helps us to become aware of our neighbors and their needs.

An example of this situation arose this week when our Block Captain, Sue Pollio alerted me that the St. Michaels water was going to be shut off in Bentley Hay and Rio Vista from 8:30 AM to possibly 2:30 PM.

So, an e-mail was sent out to our residents allowing everyone time to prepare for water cutoff. The Block Captain of the month goes to **Sue Pollio**.....thank you, Sue!!!





**CALENDAR EVENTS NOTICE
FOR CHRISTMAS IN ST. MICHAELS 2016**

Capture the magic of the holidays at Christmas in St. Michaels, a picturesque town on the Eastern Shore.

Enjoy a wonderful holiday weekend for the whole family **Friday, Saturday and Sunday, December 9, 10 and 11**, including a Christmas parade, Santa's Wonderland, a display of Gingerbread Houses and music from the Celebration of Choirs, all free of charge.

Shopping at the Marketplace for unique Christmas gifts, purchase tickets for the Yuletide Party, Breakfast with Santa and the annual Holiday House Tour are just a few of the events. Enjoy an Old-Fashioned Eastern Shore Dinner on Saturday or dine at one of the many local restaurants. For more information, visit christmasinstmichaels.org or call 410-745-0745.

Proceeds from CHRISTMAS IN ST. MICHAELS support local charities.



This years' facts:

The event welcomed approximately 25,000 participants

The Governor and First Lady walked in this year's event

The event has participants from more than 20 countries and 40 states

The event has raised more than \$750,000 for Maryland charities over the past 2 years

The event was started by Rio Vista residents, Peter Paris and Sparrow Rogers (owners of the St. Michaels Running Festival).

Interested in participating next year? This is their web site.

www.bridgerace.com

Meet the Miles River Sail and Power Squadron

By
Jan Burke

Chartered in 1953, the **Miles River Sail and Power Squadron (MRSPS)** is affiliated with the **United States Power Squadron**. The **USPS** is a nation-wide, non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of boating safety through education.

Here in Talbot County the **Miles River Sail and Power Squadron** teach many courses including Basic Boating (**ABC AMERICA'S BOATING COURSE**), Navigation, Engine Maintenance, Marine Electronics, Seamanship, and Coastal Navigation.

The crowning jewel of the **MRSPS** classes is the **Safe Boating for Kids Program**. For the past thirteen years, the **Safe Boating for Kids Program** has provided all seventh graders in both St. Michaels Middle School and Easton Middle School with basic boating skills. Students experience hands-on activities on Small Craft Handling, Boating Regulations, Emergency Response, Crew Overboard Rescue, Hypothermia, AED/CPR/First Aid, and Impact of Everyday Objects on the Marine Environment. The instructors are all volunteers trained by **MRSPS** team leaders.

Everyone interested in kids, boating, or just looking for a community service project is welcome to join the **Safe Boating for Kids** team. The next class will be held next fall.

Miles River Sail and Power Squadron

Look on Page 5



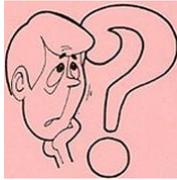
The SMFD Food Trailer will be at the **Waterfowl Festival** in Easton from **Friday through Sunday, November 11th – 13th**. For particularly delicious crab soup, clam strips, bratwurst, burgers and fries, stop for lunch and see us. We will be at Easton Middle School, opposite the "Y".

**New York Bus Trip - \$55/person
Saturday December 10th.**

**Pick up at Fire Dept. 5 AM and at Kohls 5:30 AM.
You will be let off at 34th St. New York City. The bus will pick up everyone on 34th Street at 7 PM.**

Bus rules have changed so there will be no stops on the way there or back. There is a bathroom on the bus and drinks and snacks are allowed on the bus. For more information, you may contact Domonique Sturgis @410-330-9993 or dsturgis1985@gmail.com

JUST FOR LAUGHS



Believe!

A professor stood before his class of senior organic biology students, about to hand out the final exam. "I want to say that it's been a pleasure teaching you this semester. I know you've all worked extremely hard and many of you are off to medical school after summer. So that no one gets their GPA messed up because they might have been celebrating a bit too much this week, anyone who would like to opt out of the final exam today will receive a 'B' for the course." There was much rejoicing in the class as many students took the professor up on his offer. As the last taker left the room, the professor looked out over the handful of remaining students and asked, "Anyone else? This is your last chance." One final student rose up and opted out of the final. The professor closed the door and took attendance of those still remaining.

"I'm glad to see you believe in yourselves," he said. "You all get 'A's.'"



A husband suspected his wife might have a hearing problem. One night he positioned himself across the room from her as she sat in her favorite chair, her back to him. Softly he asked, "Can you hear me?"

Silence.

He moved closer and repeated, "Can you hear me?"

Still nothing.

He moved still closer and again asked, "Can you hear me?"

Finally, he repeated the question from right behind his wife's chair....whereupon he heard her respond,

"For the *fourth* time, yes!"

POORE HOUSE, INC.
Digital & Offset Printing
High Volume Copying
Mailing Services • UPS Shipping
111 Fremont Street
P.O. Box 111
St. Michaels, MD 21663
410-745-3200 (voice)
410-745-5483 (fax)
poorehouse1@verizon.net

"Thank you" to Larry Poore of the Poorehouse for his support of Rio Vista Community! They have expanded with an office in Easton.

Are you driving within the 25 MPH speed limit when in Rio Vista?



If not,
Slow Down!

Residents are seen driving over the speed limit! Please stay within 25 MPH! School is in session and there are more children to watch out for. Will you be the first to cause an injury to one of our residents?



Christmas In St. Michaels Festival of Chiors

Date: Sunday 11th

Time: 6 PM – 7 PM

Location: St. Michaels High School Auditorium
Seymour Avenue, St. Michaels

Miles River Sail and Power Squadron

Cont. from Page 4

The **Safe Boating for Kids** program is in need of a Life preserver that is "Impact" approved for Personal Watercraft and an ice chest that is at least 40" long. The ice chest must hold water but the Impact Life Vest does not have to be in usable condition.

If you have one of these items to donate or if you are interested in taking a class, or helping with the **Safe Boating for Kids**, check out www.mrsps.org or contact Jan Burke janburke5454@icloud.com



How "My Christmas Book Became a Play" by Mala Burt

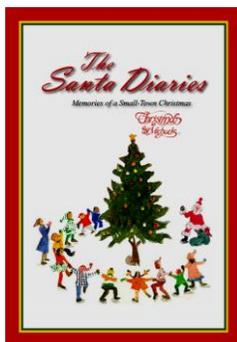
In 2010 the woman who was the chairperson of Christmas in St. Michaels - a three day event - told me that Tom Campi, who has played Santa at Christmas in St. Michaels for many years, had a box of letters to Santa that kids had written to him over the years. Did I think I could make a book out of the letters - a book that would be available in 2011 which was the twenty-fifth anniversary of Christmas in St. Michaels? I responded that I'd have to take a look.

I write with Laura Ambler, a produced screen writer. At that point we'd done a young adult novel together and were wondering what to do next. We looked at the box of letters, the drawings done by the children and it unleashed a flood of memories of our own childhood Christmases. Could we make a book out of these letters? The answer was yes, but it needed to be more than just these letters.

We wanted the book to be a Christmas memory book of people from the Bay Hundred area — a book which would also include the children's letters and drawings. We met with individuals and groups who generously shared memories, recipes and photos — materials that lived on my dining room table for nine months.

Laura, who is a terrific writer, is also a talented graphic designer and she did the layout and designed the cover using art that Tom Campi provided. Our months of work was our gift to Christmas in St. Michaels and the charities it benefits.

With funding from Robert Pascal of *St. Michaels Harbour Inn, Marina and Spa*, we went to print and *The Santa Diaries* was available in St. Michaels' stores that year.



We were intrigued with Tom Campi who really does believe he's Santa Claus and thought that someday we should write a novel with a main character based on him. So in the summer of 2012 when Laura was approached by the Avalon Theatre asking if she was interested in writing a script for their annual Christmas play, she told them she and I already had an idea. That was the beginning of *The Santa Diaries* play that premiered at the Avalon in December 2012.

Here's the story: Sandy Hawes has been a small-town Santa for years and his fondest wish is for his son, Will, to follow in his footsteps. But Will followed a different path and became a hugely successful (albeit self-absorbed) Hollywood actor. When Sandy breaks his leg hanging Christmas lights, Will makes an unplanned stop on a flight to New York. A snow storm strands him, his fiancé and business manager and Will reluctantly agrees to start the community Christmas play his father usually directs. He only plans to stay until he can fly out. As fate would have it, the assistant director of the play is his high school sweetheart, Jessica, the girl he left behind to follow his dream of becoming an actor. Old sparks are ignited and in the process Will rediscovers his small-town roots, the joy of Christmas and learns to embrace his inner Santa.



The Santa Diaries

Art Celebrating — and Benefiting — Community

The play raised over \$31,000 for the Avalon foundation and was our gift to the community. We believe small town theatres are treasures that need to be supported. The next year the play was produced in Baltimore County and the year after that in Faribault, Minnesota. We had hoped it would be produced by the St. Michaels Community Center this year, but they couldn't find someone to play the male lead. They'll try again next year. At Christmas, we always believe!

DATES TO REMEMBER

Christ Church
REV. John Keydel
(410) 745 - 9076

info@christsmichaels.org

WEEKLY

Tuesdays, 8 AM – 9 AM

Sunday Readings Bible Discussion Group at
 Blue Heron Coffee (W. Chestnut St.)

Wednesdays, 11 AM - 12:30 PM

Wednesday Book Discussion Group

Thursdays, 10 AM

Mommy, Music & Me

Thursdays, 8 PM

AA Meetings

These are monthly on-going ...

3rd Sunday at 5 PM

Dinner Church

1st Monday, 9:30 AM

Caregivers Meeting

3rd Monday, 9 AM

St. Michaels Art League Meeting

3rd Monday, 5 PM

Christmas in St. Michaels Meeting

1st Wednesday, 12:10 PM

Healing Service

DATES

November 12th 8 AM

Men's Club Breakfast

November 23rd 5:30 PM

Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service at St. Michaels High School

November 27th 9:15

Intergenerational Advent Wreath Making

November 30th 5 PM

The ONES Holiday Party

December 4th 5 PM

Advent Lessons & Carols

December 10th 9 AM – 1 PM

Christmas Bazaar

December 11th 6 PM

Celebration of Choir hosted by Union United Methodist at

St. Michaels High School

December 18th 10:15 AM

Children's Christmas Pageant

December 24th 4 PM

Family Christmas Eucharist with Children's Sermon

Christmas Eucharist 6:00 PM

Choral Prelude 9:30 PM

Festal Christmas Eucharist 10:00 PM

December 25th 10:00 AM

Christmas Eucharist

January 8th 5 PM

Epiphany Lessons & Carols followed by Epiphany

Dinner with the New Diocesan Bishop

January 14th 8 AM

Men's Club Breakfast

January 25th 6 PM

The ONES

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

Rev. Marty Wiley

(410) 745-2534

stlukeschurch@verizon.net

December 3rd 12 Noon – 3 PM, Break, 6 PM -?
 Midday Madness

December 10th 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM

St. Luke's Church Holiday Breakfast

December 24th

Christmas Eve Family Service 7 PM

Fellowship Hour 8 PM

Candlelight Service 11 PM

December 25th

Single Service 10 AM

Fellowship Hour 11 AM

St. Michael's Mission Church

Rev. James Nash, Pastor

Rev. Glenn M. Evers, Associate Paster

(410) 822-2344

www.sspeaston.org

WEEKLY

Wednesdays 12:00 Noon

Mass & Confessions (before Mass)

Saturdays 5:30 PM

Mass

Sundays 10:15 PM

Mass

Union United Methodist Church

Rev. Dr. William T. Wallace, Sr.

(410) 745-2784

uumc@atlanticbb.net

Sundays 10:00 AM

Worship Service

Thursdays 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Senior Adult Ministry

Thursdays 5:30 PM

Kids for Christs-Community Youth Group

1st Sunday of each month

Holy Communion celebrated

3rd Sunday of the month After morning service,

United Methodist Women



410-745-6073

www.stmichaelscc.org

Activities for Young and old alike!

Board of Governors

President	Jack Davis	(410) 745-2461
Vice-President/Legal Liaison	Judy Sandground	(410) 745-5118
Secretary	Jan Burke	(410) 745-9768
Treasurer	Jack Davis	(410) 745-2461
Erosion Control	Jack Davis	(410) 745-2461
Architectural Review	Barry Burke	(410) 745-3885
Nav-Light	Charles Rogers	(818) 207-0007
Finance	Sharri Foy	(401) 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)	(410) 745-3885
	Doug Gibson	(410) 745-9487
	Patrick Kennedy	(410) 745-2800
Communications	Charles Rogers	(818) 207-2007
	Sandi Droege	(410) 745-6572
Community Events	Ann Davis	(410) 745-2461
	Sandi Droege	(410) 745-6572
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	(401) 745-8622
Landscape	Hunter Plog	(410) 745-5492
Neighborhood Watch	Charles Rogers	(818) 207-2007
	Hunter Plog	(410) 745-5492
	Jan Burke	(410) 745-9768
Web Masters	Sandi Droege	(410) 745-6572
	Dick Cooper	(410) 745-5233