

## HIGH HOPES

19 July 2017  
by Carol Bower Foote

How many of you remember the academy-award winning song, “High Hopes”, introduced by Frank Sinatra in 1959 and sung by Bing Crosby, Sammy Davis Jr and others? In the highly popular lyrics by Sammy Cahn, an ant (with a rubber tree plant) and a ram (with a billion kilowatt dam) attempt to achieve seemingly impossible feats and succeed, due in part to dedicated effort and perseverance driven by their “high hopes”. After listening to RioVision Board members, project and program managers at the July 10<sup>th</sup> RioVision General Meeting, I see how RioVision brings people together with those kind of “action-driving” hopes for our little town. RioVision will show potential volunteers at our July 18<sup>th</sup> Meet and Greet what we are doing and where volunteer know-how, skills, talents, and time can be utilized to bring projects and programs to life in service of these high hopes. I hope you were there.

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On July 10<sup>th</sup>, Board Secretary Edwin Okamura reported on the RioVision Economic Development (ED) Group which he chairs. Created to follow through on the recommendations of The American Institute of Architects’ Regional/Urban Design Assistance Team in 2014, the Group focuses on revitalization of our downtown area and its economic viability. A primary mission of our ED Group is to support bringing business and jobs into Rio Vista—people working here tend to support the local economy. The Group also makes recommendations to our City when ordinances or initiatives might undermine the life of our downtown core area with business, services, and entertainment whose importance are emphasized by both the R/UDAT (roo-dat) Report and the City’s General Plan. Check out the listing of Rio Vista, California on the AIA’s R/UDAT Program website under RUDAT Projects: Downtown Revitalization. We are part of a community of towns and cities who share high hopes.

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We are celebrating the completion of all 8 planter boxes being added to what is now being called “Riverview Farms” at Riverview Middle School. Just in time for school opening on August 9<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers removed weeds, prepared the site, brought in lumber and soil, built the box frames and then filled them for planting. Future plans for a shed, compost pile, and row of fruit trees are in the works. Produce harvested from the Farms will be sold at Lira’s. Sonia Rambo, Riverview’s principal, sent her appreciation to the team for their time and labor, stating that “students, staff, and families will be excited to see the expanded garden.” We, too, are very excited to see the Farms become part of the curriculum and to learn what our



students, with community support, can model for sustainable living right here in Rio Vista. Above, you see the new construction alongside the flourishing boxes put in earlier this year. Volunteers built the boxes under the direction of Joe Perpetuo, who designed them.

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Our high hopes are materializing for the Hog August Bites street event this year! Popular vendors are returning; the rib and chili cook-off are shaping up with strong competitors; good bands are lining up. It’s going to be a great event and we can still use chili and rib cook-off contestants and volunteers! The downhill racing event will not be occurring as previously announced, but we will have additional vendors including Iron Steed Harley Davidson, which features their “Jumpstart” Harley Davidson ride simulator.” August 19<sup>th</sup>. Go to <http://hogaugustbites.net>.

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