

## A MIDSUMMER'S DREAM

5 July 2017

*by Carol Bower Foote*

According to the Farmer's Almanac, Midsummer Day (usually celebrated June 24) is the midpoint of the growing season between planting and harvest, a critical time for growing things to be tended and cared for. Many European countries celebrate Midsummer's Eve and Day with bonfires, feasting, singing, and dancing. Following Summer Solstice on June 20<sup>th</sup>, the days grow shorter. Perhaps as you walk in the long summer twilight, you can take a minute to think about what you have planted in your life, and what we have planted in this town, that needs tending at a midpoint between planting and the harvest of its fruits .

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With our recent restructuring, RioVision finds itself at such a midpoint where it is heavily into planning, prioritizing, staffing, and sourcing funds for projects and programs already in our viewfinder, and looking at new opportunities to refresh the downtown area, supporting our mission to build, revitalize, energize, and beautify our town. Two key factors to the success of maintaining or getting new programs and projects off the ground are funds and volunteers. Funding comes from partnering with other organizations, donations from businesses and people like you, and our major fundraising events such as Hog August Bites on August 19<sup>th</sup>, a winter event in December, and our End of the Year donation drive. Volunteers come from the community....that's us, all of us. YOU are vital to our midsummer dreams for Rio Vista.

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Our Volunteer Coordinator, Marilyn Nelson, can be reached at [marnell111@hotmail.com](mailto:marnell111@hotmail.com). The community is invited to our Volunteer Reception "Come See About Us" on July 18<sup>th</sup> 4-6pm at the Hwy 12 Diner. Come talk to our project managers, board members, and other volunteers about how your skills, talents, and time as a RioVision volunteer can make a contribution to the vitality of our town. We are still looking for volunteers to help with painting the City Hall interior in early August, operating the Hog August Bites event on August 19<sup>th</sup>, and strong backs to help with the Riverview Community Garden expansion in early July. We need you.

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You can also learn more about RioVision's recent restructuring, our projects (e.g. the City Hall interior painting, Hog August Bites, downtown murals, pots and planters, community gardens, holiday decorations, etc.), and programs (e.g., Discover Rio Vista magazine and website, the Visitor Center and Art Gallery, Trim & Tidy and Tree Lights along Main Street) at our July 10<sup>th</sup> General Meeting at the Veterans Memorial Building starting at 5:30pm.

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Dreams do come true - tomatoes, cucumbers, and zucchini are flourishing in the Riverview Middle School garden. We are expecting to build 8 new planter boxes, coordinated by Walt Manos, for installation at the school in mid-July.

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RioVision extends our deep gratitude to Rio Vista Coast Guard Station's outgoing Officer in Charge, Jason Miller, for the assistance he and his staff have given to us with major projects such as downtown tree lights and Main Street planters, and serving as honor guards. We wish Jason and Alecia happiness in their new home, and warmly welcome incoming OIC Samuel Meints and his family to Rio Vista.

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