

New Visitor Center

Chamber & RioVision Partnership

Story and Photos by Linda Heune-Solomon

A long standing dream of the Rio Vista Chamber of Commerce became reality when RioVision combined their efforts for an office in Rio Vista with the Chamber's dream. Together, they recently opened the new Visitor Center at 33 N. Main St.

The Grand Opening was held as the Bass Derby 2016 was kicked off and was a huge success with "standing room only" attendance. The Center is dedicated to David Falk, one of the founding members of RioVision and a strong supporter of economic development in Rio Vista.

While RioVision and the Chamber are two separate organizations with some different interests, we have many more similarities. Promoting Rio Vista is the top priority of both organizations, while making Rio Vista an attractive place to live, visit and do business. The Rio Vista Chamber of Commerce has been in existence for over 102 years and has always had an office in town. RioVision is a much younger organization and is establishing itself as a group with complementary talents to those of the Chamber.

Walt Stanish and Jim Wheeler (the leaders of the Chamber and RioVision) held many conversations, meetings and unsuccessful attempts to secure a location on Main Street, finally agreeing that 33 N. Second Street was a comfortable fit for our combined offices and Visitor Center. Selling local art to help promote the talent that is in our city became a RioVision project to showcase our town and share it with visitors to Rio Vista, and seemed a natural addition to the Chamber's existing office.

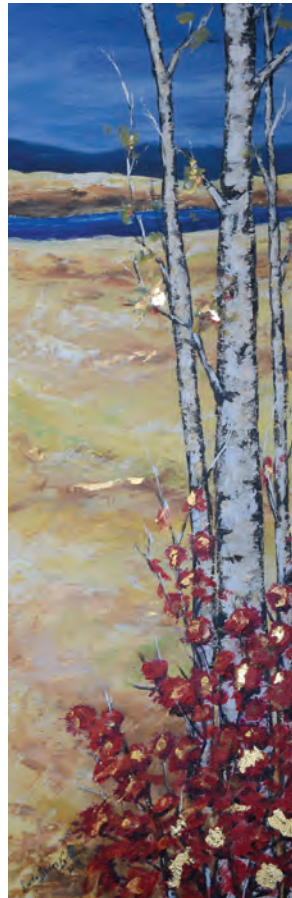


A visitor peruses the gallery. Photo by Linda Heune-Solomon.

The purpose of the Center is to give tourists and locals (new and old) a place to gather information about our lovely town. Rio Vista has a long and varied history so stop in to learn of places to discover, explore the businesses that serve you today and uncover those that were here in Rio Vista's past.

One of the features of the new Center is an Art Gallery designed to promote the amazing artistic talent that is in our city. It quickly became a platform to showcase our

town and share it with the tourists that visit Rio Vista. The Chamber operates the Center daily from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Gallery and RioVision volunteers take over from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. Saturday and Sunday, the Center is open from 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM during the winter. Times for spring and summer are extended as the days get longer and the weather improves.



"Aspens," acrylic by Linda Heune-Solomon.

cases for selected crafts available on a first come, first served basis.

The Visitor Center and the Gallery is an all-volunteer program combining the efforts of the Chamber of Commerce and RioVision volunteers to provide accurate and interesting information on the area and local activities. This is the place to get all of your questions answered.

The Chamber and RioVision each have a variety of programs and activities that are solely supported by volunteers that offer flexible scheduling if you would like to join us.



"Falcon," pastel print by Sue Williams.