

discover Rio Vista *first* Summer 2016

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What's Inside:

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Delta Camping & RVing

Relaxed Ambiance & Captivating Beauty

By Paula Coombs Photos by Diane King

The promise of lazy summer days on the California Delta beckons campers, anglers and RV'ers to the small towns and resorts dotting the sloughs. The charm of the Delta is the decidedly laid back-Huck Finn kind of existence that is enjoyed for a weekend, a vacation, or for the lucky ones, a lifetime. With over 1,000 miles of waterways, the Delta offers an abundance of outdoor activities.

This article offers a sampling of camping, RV'ing, and boating opportunities in and near Rio Vista.

Delta Marina Yacht Harbor & RV Park

Delta Marina Yacht Harbor and RV Park is a gem tucked away in the corner of Rio Vista. Park staff often hear visitors say, "We never knew you were here! This is a great place!" The RV Park has 25 sites with 13 right on the Sacramento River, the rest tucked under mature shade trees with a view of the marina. The marina has nearly 800 feet of docking space, making it one of the largest guest docks in the Delta. The Point restaurant shares the property and offers some great food and a river view. For directions and information, call (707) 374-2315 or toll free, (866) 774-2315, or go to <http://deltamarina.com>.

Sandy Beach County Park

Sandy Beach County Park at the south end of Rio Vista is open year-round. The park offers a 24-hour boat launch, campsites, picnic grounds, and a sand beach. Be safe and heed the no swimming allowed sign at the beach. Campers can enjoy an early morning walk to watch the sunrise over the Sacramento River or, maybe, breakfast in downtown Rio Vista. The campground includes picnic tables, barbeque pits, hot showers, flush toilets and an RV dump station. Each of the 42 individual campsites has hook-ups for electricity and water. For directions and information call park staff at (707) 374-2097, or for reservations go to <http://www.co.solano.ca.us/depts/rm/countypark/sandybeach.asp>.

Brannan Island State Recreation Area

Brannan Island State Recreation Area has something to offer every type of camper. RVs have access to 12 sites with water and electric hookups and a nearby sanitation station. Walk-in campers find 13 sites with drinking water and restrooms close by. There is even a small hike-in cabin. Boaters appreciate the 32 boat-in camping slips that can take boats up to 35 feet long and 10 feet wide. The six group sites accommodate RVs up to 36 feet long. Picnic areas stretch along Seven and Three Mile Sloughs. For directions and information go to the California Department of Parks and Recreation website at www.parks.ca.gov, or for reservations call (800) 444-7275 or go to www.reserveamerica.com.

Duck Island RV Park and Fishing Resort

Duck Island RV Park and Fishing Resort is an adult-only park on the Sacramento River across from Rio Vista. The troubles of life melt away as you sit under a shade tree and look west across the Sacramento River watching a Delta sunset. The resort offers six lighted fishing docks so you can fish day or night. Or if you prefer, you can fish off the manicured grassy bank, which is two football fields long. There are 51 sites, each having hookups for water, sewer, and 30/50 AMP electrical service. Facilities include a clubhouse with a kitchen and meeting room, RV supplies, fish bait and free ice available on site! For directions and information call (916) 777-6663 or toll free (800) 825-3898, or go to www.duckislandrv.com.

Snug Harbor

Snug Harbor covers 10+ acres of the Snug Harbor peninsula off Ryer Island on Steamboat Slough about 10 minutes from Rio Vista, via the Real McCoy II Ferry. You may need to take an alternative route if you have a large RV. The family-oriented resort offers RV'ers waterfront and water-view RV sites with 30/50 AMP electrical service. Picnic table and barbeques are provided at each site. Most of the waterfront sites have sewer hookups and accommodate any size RV with any number of slide-outs. Tent campers might enjoy a view at Snug Cove, as six of the ten sites are facing the cove. Snug Harbor offers boaters protection from the sometimes-harsh wind and currents, thanks to the high levees of Ryer and Grand Islands. Overnight guests can dock at the marina and enjoy a clean bathroom and a hot shower. For directions and information call (916) 775-1455 or go to <http://www.snugharbor.net>.

Delta Loop

One last outdoor treasure to mention is The Delta Loop, known locally as "The Loop." An area about 10 minutes east of Rio Vista on state Route 12, many families enjoy their summer holidays there. The Delta Loop area boasts several wonderful RV resorts, marinas, hidden restaurants and great fishing.

For additional information, including a detailed map of the Sacramento - San Joaquin Delta Recreational Area, go to the California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways website at <http://www.dbw.ca.gov/pdf/cleangreen/deltamap-boating.pdf>. Information on fishing in the Delta, including a list of fish species and local bait shops, is available at <http://www.sacdelta.com/fishing/>.

Enjoy the Delta this summer and make some memories!



Delta Marina Yacht Harbor & RV Park



Sandy Beach County Park



Brannan Island State Recreation Area



Snug Harbor
Photo: <http://www.snugharbor.net>

discover Rio Vista

Discover Rio Vista is a quarterly magazine published by the RioVision Promotions and Communications team that provides information about events, activities and places of interest in and around Rio Vista.

Contact Laurie Oleksiewicz at MinmayInc@aol.com to place an ad or reserve space for a subsequent edition.

Deadline for articles and ads is the 1st of the month prior to the start of each quarter.

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See the Discover Rio Vista website at:

<http://discoverriovista.com>

For additional information about RioVision see:

<http://riovistavision.com>

www.facebook.com/riovistavision

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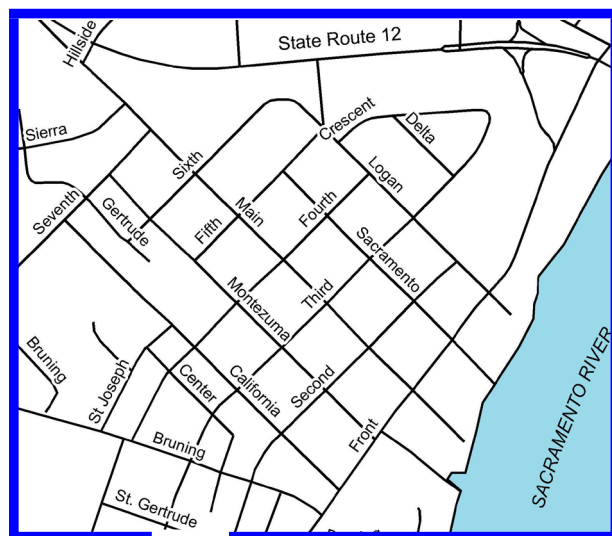
ON THE COVER: The Delta Protection Commission provides this photo of the 2015 Pumpkins in the Pears event at Steamboat Acres. Similar activities occur at Steamboat Acres during the upcoming Wine and Produce Passport Weekend in August.

RioVision
bridge to the future

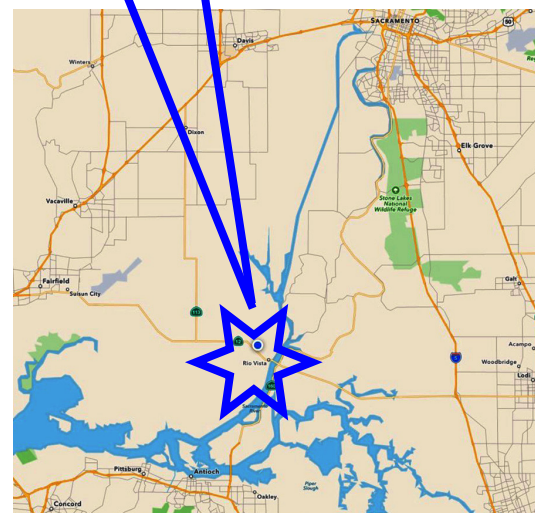


Downtown Rio Vista

Welcome to the City of Rio Vista, "The Gateway to the Delta." Rio Vista is located in the heart of the California Delta on the Sacramento River. Visiting us is as easy as a short drive, a flight into our airport or a cruise to our city dock or Delta Marina. Rio Vista is located on State Route 12, about 15 miles from Interstate 5 and 25 miles from Interstate 80.



Map: Dillon & Murphy Consulting Civil Engineers



Map: Google Maps

Delta Pear Fair FUN

By Paula Coombs Photos from <http://pearfair.com>

Take the day and enjoy the California Delta and some old-fashioned hospitality in the small river town of Courtland.

Mark July 31st, the last Sunday in July, on your calendar and join the fun at the 44th annual Courtland Pear Fair. This is the best deal on the Delta! Enjoy a full day of family activities for just \$10 per car.

Local runners can start their day at 7:30 a.m. with a 5 mile, 10 mile or a 1/2 mile kids run through the scenic California Delta. Your registration fee covers parking for the day! Join the early crowd at 9:00 a.m. and dive into the day's activities.

Start with a walk through the grounds and peruse the arts and crafts section to find an array of original works by local artisans. Notice the preference for all things pear- or Delta-related. Walk over to the school cafeteria to enjoy an amazing quilt show featuring local quilting clubs. Catch the Delta Historical Exhibit in the auditorium to appreciate the history of the California Delta. Find local non-profits selling



their freshly baked pear pies (they sell out early) and sharing information on everything from mosquitoes to canning pears.

It's probably time for a break in the shade tent. Sit on locally provided hay bales and enjoy a variety of live music as you sample the fabulous vendor fare. Stop at the Beer Garden and enjoy the local wines, a brew or a special pear cocktail.

Don't miss the pie-eating contest, the children's duck calling contest, and the parade featuring the Pear Queen, her Royal Court and the ever-popular Pear Blossoms. The Kids Area delights all ages with some free activities and, of course, the popular fair rides. Keep a watchful eye out for the Pear Lady who appears each year and passes out the Pear Fair pins that have become a collector item over the years.

As you make your way towards the parking lot be sure to pick up some local fruits and vegetables at the Farmers Market. You just might take home a newfound love for the Delta or maybe a recollection of your own childhood memories in a small town.

The Courtland Pear

Fair is a non-profit organization that provides a platform for the community to shine and an opportunity for local non-profit fundraising efforts. Be sure to like the Courtland Pear Fair on Facebook, or follow

@CourtlandPear on Twitter and Instagram using #pearfair! Find more

information at the Courtland Pear Fair website at <http://pearfair.com/>.

To get there: Drive north on Hwy 160 (turn left after the Rio Vista Bridge) until you reach the small town of Courtland and follow the signs to the parking area.

There's no better way to spend a warm Delta Sunday!



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Delta Wine Tasting

Bogel, Scribner Bend & Six Hands

Story & Photos by Jan Vick

Since the Gold Rush, the Delta soil has nurtured a rich agricultural heritage. Over the years the crops grown have varied. Where tomatoes once thrived, it is now common to see field after field of wine grapes, producing some of the best wines in California.

Three wineries epitomize the growth of the wine industry in the Delta.



Bogel Winery

Bogel Winery

The largest is Bogel Winery just south of Clarksburg nestled by Elk Slough west of the Sacramento River. Bogel is a family operation spanning six generations of farming. The first vineyard of 8 acres was planted in 1968 and now grows Petite Sirah, Chardonnay and Merlot grapes on 110 acres surrounding the winery, tasting room and picnic area. A majority of the grapes come from several vineyards in the Delta. Bogel also sources grapes from Lodi, El Dorado and Amador counties, all known for their Zinfandel, Merlot, Syrah and lesser known grapes used for blending. Other sources include the Russian River, Mendocino, Monterey and Oakley, assuring a rich fusion of flavors. Bogel prides itself on growing sustainably and 62% of their grapes are in the Certified Green Program. Vineyards and wineries in the program take a stewardship approach, integrating holistic and environmental management practices into every step of the growing and winemaking process.

Bogel's tasting room is located on Yolo County Road 144, off South River Road. The shaded picnic area begs the visitor to buy a bottle and spend some quiet time soaking up the ambiance of the vineyards. The tasting room is open 7 days a week. Find them at www.bogelwinery.com.

Scribner Bend Vineyards

In 1893, George Scribner began farming at a bend in the Sacramento River south of Freeport, which became known as "Scribner Bend."

The winemaking evolved from their farming experience. Now Scribner Bend Vineyards grows 60 acres of estate wine grapes. A barrel and crushing facility was added in 2007.



Scribner Bend Vineyards

The historic 1918 barn has been transformed into the tasting room, a meeting space, bridal loft and offices. The site now includes a 50' x 60' tent with chandeliers and a fireplace for weddings and events.

Scribner Bend creates some unique and delicious wines, including Black Hat Tempranillo, a rich red that pairs perfectly with barbeque meats. Their Pinot Grigio is a rich fruit dominant white wine; the bottle is graced with a Delta painting by renowned Sacramento artist Gregory Kondos. Scribner Bend also produces a sparkling, pleasingly sweet, almond wine. Their tasting room is open Fridays through Sundays 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Find them at www.scribnerbend.com.

Six Hands Winery

The third winery has deep roots in the Delta and Rio Vista. The Marks family has been farming and making wine for more than 100 years. As an interesting local note, the Trilogy subdivision outside of Rio Vista is built on the old Marks Ranch and the old farmhouse is on Highway 12 near Church Road. In the beginning of the 20th century Joseph Machado first farmed along the Sacramento River near Walnut Grove where the winery is now located. Joseph's



Six Hands Winery

great-great-grandson Peter Marks was inspired to learn the family secrets of winemaking. In 1994, Syrah and Viognier grapes were planted at the home ranch. Six Hands Winery was launched in 1997 by Peter, his wife Richele and his father Norman. Now, the entire family is involved in creating their fine boutique wines. The Delta microclimate is ideal for growing grapes, with its warm temperatures drawing the cool breezes from the Pacific. As Delta farmers, Six Hands is committed to sustainable farming and preserving the land, along with their growing partners in the Delta and Lodi. The winery produces 16 small batch blends from 11 varietals.

Taste Six Hands wines at Wine Social located at 7 North School Street in Lodi. See www.winesocial.com for hours. The winery hosts several events per year at the winery near Walnut Grove at 13783 Isleton Road. These include a Picnic in the Vineyard in June and chocolate/wine pairings in the spring. Find them at www.sixhandswinery.com.

This is just a small sample of wine tasting options in the Delta. Drive the road on both sides of the Sacramento River between Rio Vista, Clarksburg and Freeport to experience the rich agricultural heritage that is the Delta.

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Historic Anthony W. Dozier House – Main Street

By Phil Pezzaglia Photos from the Rio Vista Museum

The Dozier Era

One vacant piece of property, located in the 400 block of Main Street, seems to always spark questions regarding its history. Has it always been a vacant lot or was it once the location of a fine stately home? The answer — from 1869 to around 1955 one of the finest two-story homes in Rio Vista occupied the grounds. Built and occupied originally by the Dozier family, the home changed hands several times during its eighty-six year existence.

Arriving in 1868 the Dozier family was one of the largest families to settle in the Rio Vista area. The family consisted of the parents', Anthony and Mary, and six of their ten children. Several of these children became involved in businesses in and around Rio Vista, Toland Landing and the Montezuma Hills.

The Dozier family had their roots in Georgetown, Williamsburg County, South Carolina, where all nine brothers fought on the side of the Confederacy. During the Reconstruction Period after the Civil War, the family left its plantation in 1869 and decided to relocate out west, choosing Rio Vista and Toland Landing as their home. The family was familiar with the area through correspondence with Dr. H. H. Toland, who had relocated from the Carolinas a few years prior.

Soon after arriving, the Dozier clan built a large family home erected on the southeast corner of Main and Fifth Street and completed in 1869. Several of the Dozier children became prominent in the day-to-day life of Rio Vista. Leonard operated a medical practice; Melville taught at the Public School; Edward was the ranch manager for Dr. Toland, as well as a partner in the Dozier-Pressley Company; and Barton opened and operated a drug store, as well as a small town and country practice.

Johnson & Tryon Eras

The Dozier Family resided in the home through the 1870's, eventually selling to the James Johnson family, when Dr. Leonard Dozier became a doctor at the Napa Asylum. Captain James Johnson was a partner with Powell Emigh in the warehouse business at Newtown Landing. During the 1870's Johnson sailed the high seas

prior to arriving in Rio Vista. The Johnson's remained in the home for several years, eventually selling to the Tryon family during the 1890's. The Tryon's remained in the home through the turn of the century.

Lent & Bennett Eras

The George Lent family purchased the beautiful home in the early part of the century, raising two sons and one daughter there. One of the Lent sons, Garland, enlisted in the United States Army during the First World War. Unfortunately, he was killed in action. His name is included with the names inscribed on the St. Joseph's Memorial Cross monument erected on the corner of South Fourth and California Streets, next to St. Joseph's Parish.

The Lent family remained in the home for several decades. The Lent's daughter married Joe Bennett and the house eventually fell into their hands. Later they passed the house on to their son, Stanley (a.k.a.

Pete). During the 1940's a new church, The Church of Christ, was established in Rio Vista. The congregation originally met at the Women's Improvement Club. During the early 1950's the Bennett family allowed the

new congregation to hold services in several of the spacious rooms on the main floor of their home.

By the 1950's the house was starting to show its age and the second floor had become structurally unsound after eighty-six years. Stanley made the decision in 1955 to tear the home down, before it fell down. For a number of years after the house was demolished, the cement stairs remained as a reminder of the grand home that once sat on the corner. These steps became the meeting place and hang out for high school age students for more than

two decades. Eventually during the late 1970's, the steps disappeared and the home was but a memory.

A few years later, a small barn was torn down, which was located on the southeast rear corner of the property. And as recently as this year, a small home that was constructed in 1938 on the rear southwest corner was torn down. All that remains of the house today are just a few photographs. One of which is a beautiful panoramic image of the home from the era when the Lent family owned the home. The photograph is on display at the Rio Vista Museum.



Dozier Home



Lent Home

It's summertime and the smell of fresh fruit and vegetables is in the air. Farmers have been planting in the fertile Sacramento Delta soil since spring and the summer harvests have begun. The timing is perfect for a road trip along the Delta Farm and Winery Trail. This article covers a few of the 25 fun-to-visit wine and produce locations identified on the map. Pick it up at any of the participating farms and wineries or find it at www.sacriverdeltagrown.org.

Before leaving and throw in

home, grab the cooler some ice to cool the mouthwatering fruits and vegetables that you pick up. As you are driving out of town make sure to fill up with gas since the only gas

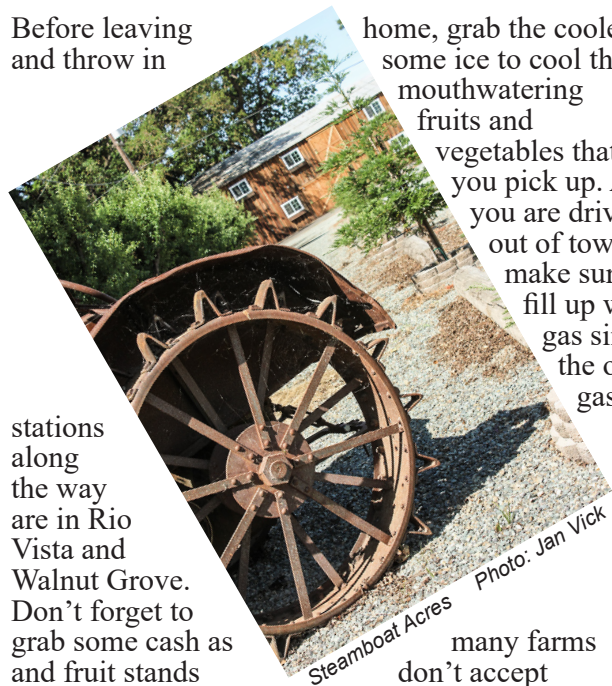
stations along the way are in Rio Vista and Walnut Grove. Don't forget to grab some cash as and fruit stands credit cards.

Are you ready to go?

Begin your journey heading North on State Route 160 along winding levee roads that curve along the Sacramento River and the sloughs. The sun beams down and reflects off the river dotted with fishing and pleasure boats of all sizes. Along the banks you may spot herons, ducks, geese and cranes. Be watchful of the road though as you may encounter slow moving farm equipment.

Steamboat Acres

The featured farm of the tour and the first of the founding members of the Sacramento Delta Grown Farms is Steamboat Acres located at 15989 Sutter Island Road in Courtland. Steamboat Acres was established in 1848. The farm is run by Tim Neuharth and his family who are fifth and sixth generation farmers. Tim and his family are happy to share information about the farm and their philosophy. Steamboat Acres is a Certified Organic farm that produces Bartlett, Stark Crimson and Bosc Pears and cherries and has a Chardonnay wine grape vineyard. Some of the trees in the orchards are over 100 years old! They also grow pumpkins and sweet corn. Tim is passionate about farming and loves



Steamboat Acres Photo: Jan Vick



Double M Farms Photo: Robie Williams

This Way to Wine, Fresh Produce & Fun!

By Robie Williams Photos by Robie Williams and Jan Vick

talking about the importance of eating locally grown foods and supporting farmers. There is also a beautiful, natural sand bar beach right on Steamboat Slough where you can swim, picnic and fish. Check out their website at www.steamboatacres.com.

Double M Farms

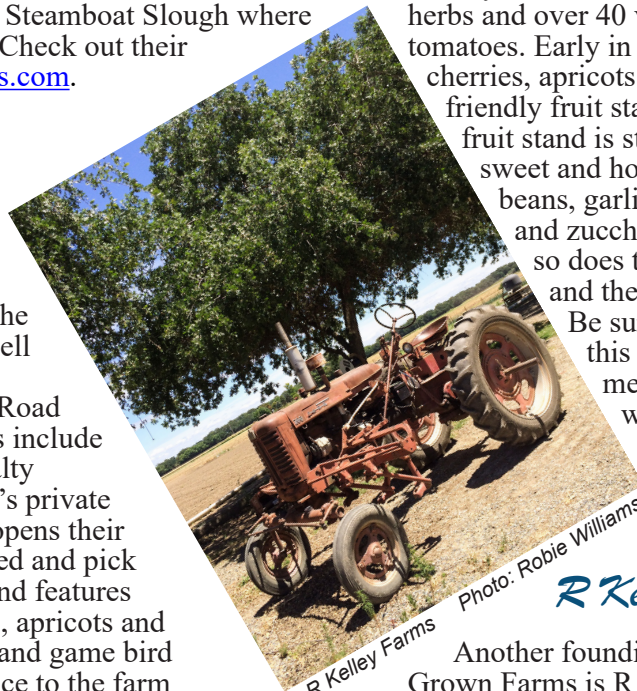
The next founding member is Double M Farms and McDowell Hunting Preserve. Charlie McDowell, Sr. established the farm in 1947. The third generation of the McDowell Family now operates the farm located at 13161 Grand Island Road in Walnut Grove. Current crops include pears, alfalfa, wheat and specialty fruits from Michael McDowell's private collection orchard. Double M opens their farm to the public, selling picked and pick your own pears. Their farm stand features peaches, plums, nectarplums, apricots and free range eggs. An upland game bird aviary at the entrance to the farm gives visitors a chance to see game birds up close. You can find more information about the farm and the hunting preserve at www.mcdowellestate.com.

Wallace Chan Farms

Wallace Chan Farms, Inc. is located at 11691 Highway 160/ River Road in Courtland. They are another founding member of the Sacramento Delta Grown Farms and have been farming for several generations. A point of interest on their farm is the large collection of vintage farm equipment that is on display. Their main crop is Certified Organic pears.

Delta Islands Organic Farm

Find Delta Islands Organic Farm at 14591 Walnut Grove -Thornton Road in Walnut Grove. J. B. and Jeanne Morais own and operate this Certified Organic farm



R Kelley Farms Photo: Robie Williams

that specializes in heirloom produce. They offer healthy, sustainable grown fruits, vegetables, herbs and over 40 varieties of heirloom tomatoes. Early in the season find strawberries, cherries, apricots and onions at their friendly fruit stand. Mid-summer the fruit stand is stocked with tomatoes, sweet and hot peppers, cucumbers, beans, garlic, summer squash and zucchini. As fall arrives so does the winter squash and the pumpkin patch.

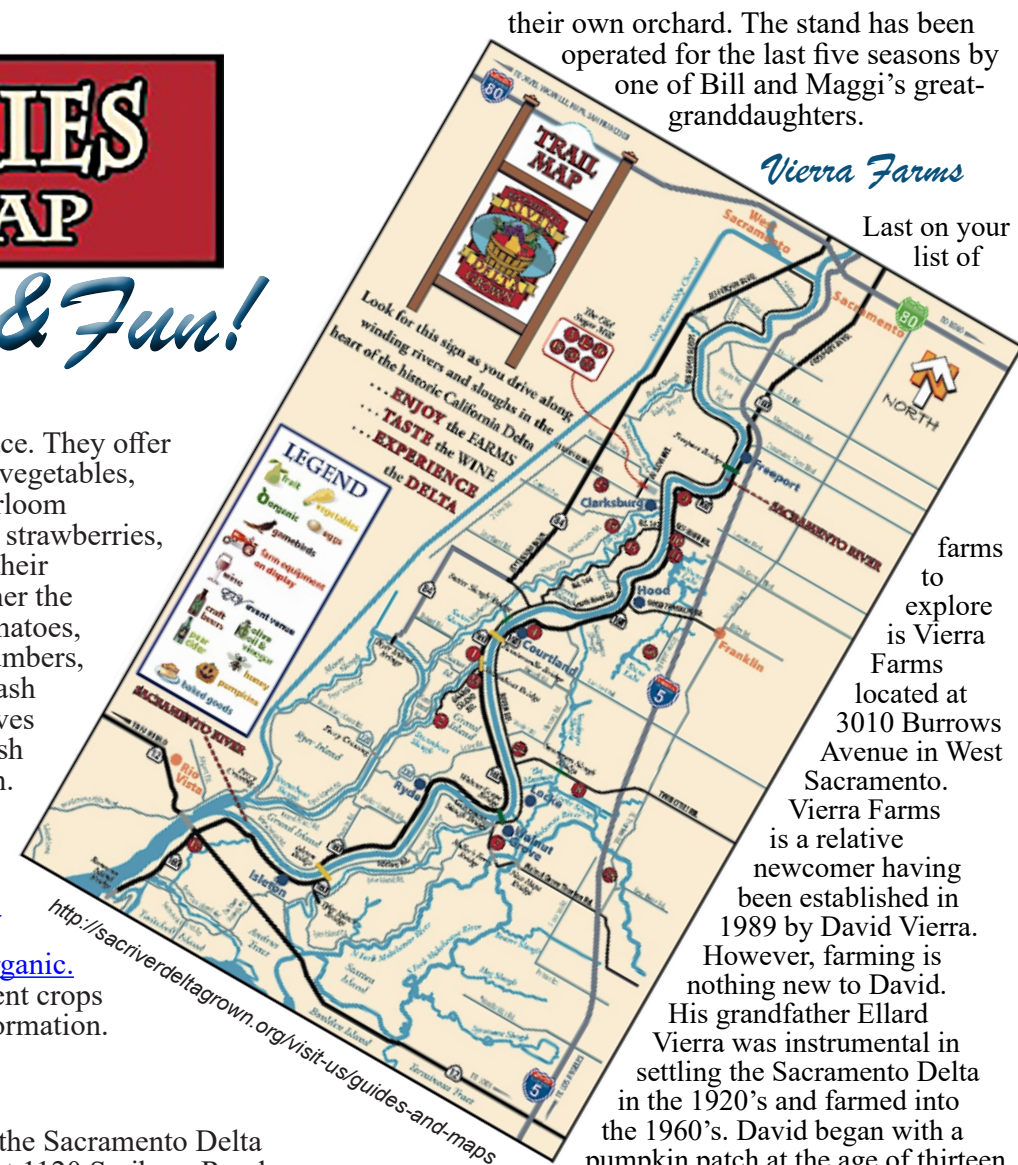
Be sure to look at this founding member's website at www.deltaislandsorganic.com for current crops and event information.

R Kelley Farms

Another founding member of the Sacramento Delta Grown Farms is R Kelley Farms at 1120 Scribner Road, Sacramento. A true farm to fork business owned by Ron and Ella Kelley, they have been providing seasonal fresh vegetables for 15 years. Their specialties include black-eye, purple hull and crowder peas as well as green beans, garbanzo, speckled butter and cranberry beans. The farm has a variety of other crops including tomatoes, okra, sweet corn, peppers, squash and sweet melons. Their services include pick your own, "we-pick" and pea shelling. "We-picked" items are available inside their store shed. More information is available at www.rkelleyfarms.com.

Maggi's Farm

Maggi's Farm features Certified Organic Bartlett Pears in the pear stand of their front yard at 9821 River Road, Sacramento. William "Bill" and Margaret "Maggi" Cave purchased the farm in 1943 and it has been owned and operated by the Cave family ever since. The pear stand sells pears ripened without commercial processing and pear sauce from



their own orchard. The stand has been operated for the last five seasons by one of Bill and Maggi's great-granddaughters.

Vierra Farms

Last on your list of

farms to explore is Vierra Farms located at 3010 Burrows Avenue in West Sacramento. Vierra Farms is a relative newcomer having been established in 1989 by David Vierra.

However, farming is nothing new to David. His grandfather Ellard Vierra was instrumental in settling the Sacramento Delta in the 1920's and farmed into the 1960's. David began with a pumpkin patch at the age of thirteen and later founded the farm and then his own produce company. Depending on the time of year the farm produces black and yellow seedless watermelons, vine ripened heirloom tomatoes, corn, zucchini, broccoli, eggplant, bell peppers, potatoes, squash, peaches, nectarines, and of course, pumpkins. In October the farm turns into Dave's Pumpkin Patch with events and attractions for the whole family, including picking your own pumpkin straight from the pumpkin patch! After Thanksgiving the pumpkin patch gives way to Dave's Christmas Trees. Find a complete schedule of events, activities and information at www.vierrafarms.com.



Delta Islands Photo: www.deltaislandsorganic.com

You've visited some of the farms along the Delta Farm and Winery Trail and it's time to take your fresh produce home. Enjoy the ride back along the rich fertile fields of the Sacramento River and plan your next journey to the farms for the freshest, sweetest fruits and vegetables to be found! Next time, check out the wineries on the trail too!

Look Great This Summer

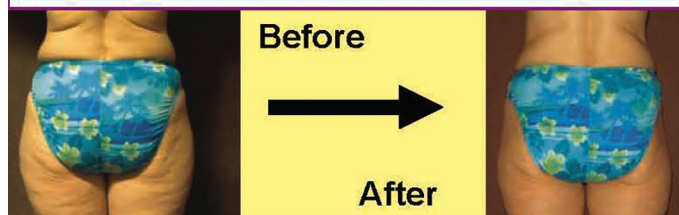
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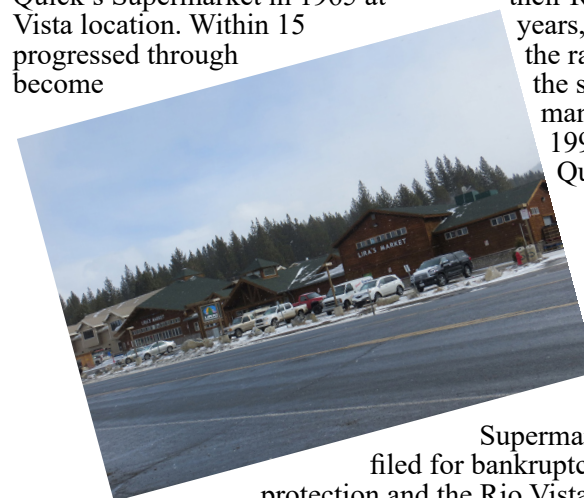
Spotlight On Lira's Supermarket

By Laurie Oleksiewicz Photos From Lira's

Welcome to "Spotlight On," your chance to learn about some of Rio Vista's unique businesses, and the people who own and staff them.

Lira's Supermarket is a key landmark in Rio Vista. Located at the junction of Hwy 12 and Main Street, Lira's Supermarket provides all of the supermarket needs of the community and for visitors who need some picnic items to enjoy on the Delta.

Jim Lira began work as a courtesy clerk with Don Quick's Supermarket in 1965 at Vista location. Within 15 years, Jim progressed through the ranks to become the store manager. In 1990, Don Quick's



Supermarket filed for bankruptcy protection and the Rio Vista store was to be sold at auction. Jim Lira, his wife Shirley Lira, and their partner Bill Dutra purchased the Rio Vista location of Don Quick's Supermarket and the first Lira's Supermarket was born.

After 10 successful years in Rio Vista, the former Yank's Station Pony Express stop was purchased and the second store in the Lira's Supermarket chain was built in Meyers, CA.



The commitment of the Lira's Supermarket organization follows the direction of Jim Lira. His commitment is now, and has always been, to his family, employees, and to the communities his stores serve. Today, Jim and Shirley's son, daughter, son-in-law, and daughter-in-law are all integral parts of the operation. Jim prides himself

on giving back to the community. The store gives generously to local schools, non-profit organizations, and other community organizations in order to enhance the Lira's relationship with the communities the stores serve.

Last year the front of the Rio Vista store received a new facade, which completely updated the look of the store.

In the last few months, the bathrooms at the Rio Vista store have been completely remodeled and all of the refrigeration coolers have been replaced with new standing coolers. Next on their list of improvements is new flooring and a remodel of the deli area.

Lira's Supermarket continues to be a well recognized and respected establishment in Rio Vista. Stop by to pick up some yummy goodies at the deli, or other grocery items. You will find friendly staff there ready to serve you.

Trilogy Art Guild Show

By Linda Solomon

The Trilogy Art Guild (TAG) presents their annual Award Art show in the Diablo Ballroom at Trilogy in Rio Vista. The show showcases original art from the talented artists in Trilogy. Mediums represented include: watercolor, oil, acrylic, pastels, mixed media, photography, graphics and pottery or sculpture.

The work is judged by an outside group of experienced artists, with awards for First through Third, Honorable Mention, and Best of Show. Attendees get a chance to vote on their favorite work of art for the People's Choice Award. Many of the pieces are for sale.

There is also a section for non-judged work, both framed and unframed. Prices are usually reasonable for all the art.

Trilogy Residents and invited guests may attend the Artists Reception Saturday evening, August 13th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Vista Club, 1201 Clubhouse Drive. The general public is invited to attend the show at no charge on Sunday, August 14th from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Come support the artists and enjoy the show. Light refreshments are served.



Artist Mary Johnson

Kayaking Delta Style

Scenic Waterways and Inspiring Beauty

By Naomi Walker Photos by Naomi Walker and Susan Newberg

Kayaking is a great way to get out on the water and experience the Delta firsthand.

The California Delta is an expansive inland river delta and estuary in Northern California. It is formed at the western edge of the Central Valley by the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin River and lies just east of where the rivers enter Suisun Bay. The total area is about 1,100 square miles, including both land and water.

The Delta was formed by the raising of sea level following glaciation. Since the Ice Age, geologically, the area has existed for about 10,000 years. Much of the region sits below sea level and behind levees. With the many channels and sloughs, the Delta it is a great area for kayaking and exploring the waterways. The areas within the Delta range from vast, expansive, open water to narrow and enchanting sloughs with various species of plant and animal life.

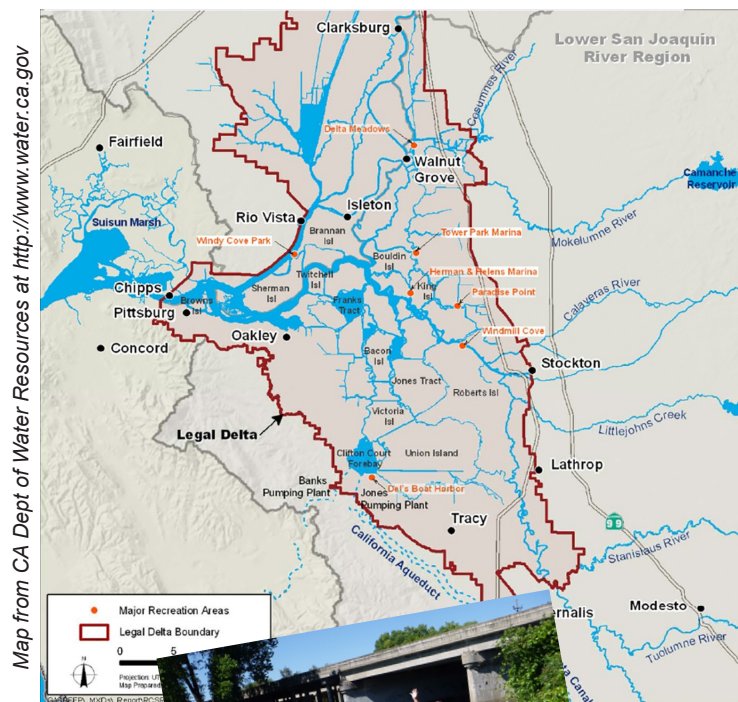
There are a number of great put-in areas.

Steamboat Landing

Steamboat Landing is located at 12414 State Highway 160 in Courtland on Sutter Island, across from the northern tip of Grand Isle. Grab a snack at the nearby Steamboat Landing eatery, then launch from the beach. There is a fee for beach access.

New Hope Landing and Marina

New Hope Landing and Marina is located at 13945 West Walnut Grove Road in Thornton. Once in the water, continue straight ahead, which heads up the Cosumnes River. This is a beautiful area of the river to paddle. A sharp left takes you towards Wimpy's Restaurant and Marina on the Mokelumne River,



Map from CA Dept of Water Resources at <http://www.water.ca.gov>



Ready to go! Photo: Naomi Walker



Slough serenity Photo: Naomi Walker



Kokopelli Kayaks Photo: Susan Newberg

where you can stop for a bite to eat. There is a \$10.00 per car fee for parking.

Kokopelli Kayak Rentals

Kokopelli Kayak Rentals is located on the Delta Loop at 151 Brannan Island Road in Isleton, in front of the Lighthouse Restaurant. Rent single kayaks for \$15.00 per hour and tandem kayaks for \$20.00 per hour at this location. The resort is closed Mondays.

Suisun City Boat Landing

The Suisun City Boat Landing is located on Cordelia Slough at the end of Kellogg Street in Suisun near several interesting nearby eateries. The slough winds through the Suisun Marsh, which is one of the largest contiguous wetland preserves in the nation. Check the tides before you go as some areas may become too shallow for paddling. Be sure to watch the wind as well because it can be very windy and rough on some of the sloughs. Parking is free.

Cosumnes River Preserve

Cosumnes River Preserve is located at 13501 Franklin Blvd. in Galt. Access to the Cosumnes River is about 1/2 mile from the Preserve office. Borrow a trailer from the office to walk your kayak to the water. The office holds your driver's license for security. The Preserve offers organized paddle trips with guides. For more information see <http://www.cosumnes.org>. There are no fees at this location.

Note, when going to sites with parking fees, be sure to bring the exact fee in cash, as most sites do not have an attendant. It is also wise to have a pencil and pen with you to denote where you are parking.

The California Delta is a beautiful, scenic area that moves and inspires — especially when you're out on the water. Kayak this intricate and complex area to paint a picture for your personal memories.

Take a Bite Outta This!

Al the Wop's Wins "Best Burger" Contest

By Susan Whitesell Photos by Jan Vick

The Discover Rio Vista Spring edition ran a "Best Burger" contest, which played out in unexpected ways. For his contest participation and nomination of Al the Wop's, reader Tom Wardell receives a \$50.00 RV Chamber gift certificate.

It all started with a friendly wager.

A few months ago while leading a tour of the Delta, Barbara Daly, contributor

should make a couple of confessions to be fair in this burger fight to the finish.

First, I'm somewhat prejudiced about Al's as I've been enjoying their repast for almost 50 years now. That goes back to long before they even began serving their tasty burgers with grilled bread... how's that for dating myself.

Second, obviously the Delta is a favorite spot for we bikers, however, given that, to be fair, I've not sampled ALL the Delta establishments which offer burgers, but among those I've tried, the best place so far is clearly Al The Wop's."

Jim goes on to say:

"... if you are so inclined, you can pass these accolades on to Al's crew. That just might help so that when any of us visit there again, they will continue serving their great meals, including their Best Burgers, in the fun and terrific atmosphere of Al's place, and naturally, also enjoying the pleasure of the charming and historic town of Locke ---- in my opinion, that's definitely an unbeatable combination..."

It turns out that many Discover Rio Vista readers agreed with Jim. Al the Wop's, and specifically their cheeseburger, is the clear contest winner.



to "The Hidden Delta" series, casually remarked that the Dinky Diner in Clarksburg made the best burger on the Delta. Discover Rio Vista Editor Susan Whitesell and Assistant Editor Jan Vick took umbrage to this declaration, citing several venerable burger institutions in the Rio Vista area they thought should have this distinction.

To settle the dispute in a highly unscientific manner, Discover Rio Vista announced the "Best Burger" contest in the Spring 2016 edition, encouraging readers to weigh in on this friendly upriver versus downriver rivalry.

Little did Discover Rio Vista know that the "Best Burger" brouhaha was just about to begin.

An unknown but very creative individual posted information about the contest in Al the Wop's men's bathroom in Locke. (To be absolutely fair, was the contest also posted in the women's bathroom?)

Obviously, burgers are serious business in the Delta!

Here is one of the more creative responses about the contest to Assistant Editor Jan Vick from reader Jim Chakedis.

"Hi Seawing Jan,

Shhh, don't tell anyone, but I got your email address off the scraggy chalkboard in the restroom --- such as it is --- at Al The Wop's on Main Street in Locke.

Not only was your email address on the wall, but whomever wrote that also scribbled there that they wanted folks like me to tell you who we think serves the Best Burger in the Delta. Well, before I tell you my favorite I probably

"Best Burger" Contest Results

Al the Wop's	22
Burgerlicious	8
Spindrift	5
Lucy's	3
The Point	3
Hwy 12 Diner	3
Tony's Place	3
Outrigger	3
Peters Steakhouse	2
Dinky Diner	1
Wimpy's	1
Sir Flair's	1
Moore's Riverboat	1
Total (12 restaurants)	56

Whether or not these results are due to Al the Wop's bizarre bathroom post, er creative advertising, is anyone's guess.

Discover Rio Vista encourages you to take a bite outta a few of these nominated Delta burgers and decide for yourself!

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Food, Festivals & Fun!

By Linda Jensen

This article covers a few of the fun summertime activities and festivals celebrating a rich agricultural heritage and unique Delta lifestyle. Check the Event Calendar for a list of activities and events in the area.

Walnut Grove, Birds Landing and Collinsville and in the miles of rural agricultural land in between.

Wine and Produce Passport Weekend

August 13-14, 2016



Fire Department Barbeque

Fire Department Barbeque

Saturday, July 16, 2016

Support this barbeque fund raiser, sponsored by the Rio Vista Fire Department Hot Shot Volunteers, to show appreciation for local heroes – the firefighters that serve Rio Vista! The event is at the Veterans Memorial Building, 610 St. Francis Way, from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Take-out meals are available. They take care of us, let's take care of them! Ticket price is \$25.00. Purchase tickets at Pets 4 All, Books RioV and the Rio Vista Fire Station.

Tea and Tunes

Saturday, July 23, 2016

This enjoyable afternoon "high tea," hosted by the ladies of St. Brigid of Kildare Episcopal Church, features a musical program by Dave Moreno at the Wurlitzer theatre organ. The event is Saturday, July 23 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Hunter Hall, 218 California Street. The \$25.00 ticket price includes a delicious tea with traditional sandwiches and desserts, all beautifully presented. For more information and tickets, contact Linda Jensen at (707) 374-5542. Proceeds from this event benefit the Rio Vista Food Pantry for programs that assist low income individuals, families and the homeless in crisis mode with food and referrals to services.

Hit a Home Run for CARE

August 13, 2016

Rio Vista CARE's annual fund raiser held 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Egbert Field Park, St. Francis Street between Rolling Green Drive and Poppy House Road, includes a barbeque dinner, musical entertainment, silent and live auctions plus plenty of summertime fun. The early bird price is \$80.00 for two tickets if you buy before July 15, (regular price is \$50.00 each). Call Rio Vista CARE at (707) 374-5243 or come by the office at 628 Montezuma Street. Now in its 31st year of helping families and at-risk teens, CARE is a non-profit counseling and family resource center serving clients in the small Delta towns of Rio Vista, Isleton,



Hog August Bites

Photo: Jan Vick

Enjoy the whole day, Saturday and Sunday, driving from farm to farm or winery along CA Scenic Hwy 160, experiencing what the rural delta life is like. Join farm tours, taste local wines, see farm equipment displays, and enjoy a wide variety of fresh local produce. Farms are open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Wineries are open from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 pm. For tickets and information see www.SacRiverDeltaGrown.org. Early bird tickets are \$25.00. Tickets are \$35.00 after August 7th and at-the-door. Tickets are good for both days (under 21 is free).

Hog August Bites

August 20, 2016

Admission is free for this all day family event that showcases downtown Rio Vista and raises money for local youth groups.

Festivities, including a Rib and Chili Cook-off, Soap Box Derby, Craft Fair, food vendors, and all-day musical entertainment, start at 10:00 a.m. and continue until 10:00 p.m. Headliner musical groups include both the Terry Sheets and Derek Abel Bands. Event Chairman Lee Williams extends a special invitation to young people (7-15 years old) to enter the Soap Box Derby competition. Go to www.hogaugustbites.net for pictures of last year's event, entry forms for the Soap Box Derby, Chili and Rib cook-offs, Craft Fair and food vendor applications.



Wine & Produce Passport Weekend
Photo: www.SacRiverDeltaGrown.org

Party on the Promenade

September 10, 2016

Hosted by RioVision, this fund raiser presents the artists and the art of Rio Vista and showcases the beautiful Waterfront Promenade Park along the Sacramento River adjacent to the Rio Vista Bridge. Events include displays of local arts and crafts and chalk painting for all ages. Food and drink are for sale. Catch the "party" from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. There are also opportunities to purchase Main Street pavers and Fire Department commemorative coins.



Waterfront Promenade Park
Photo by Susan Whitesell

Event Calendar

Fridays, July 1, 15, 29 & Tuesday, August 2
8:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Movies in the Park
Bruning Park, Rio Vista

Join the RVFD for Movies in the Park, sponsored by the Hot Shot Volunteers. Bring your family, lawn chairs, blankets and water to drink. The Rio Vista Firefighters Association provides the popcorn.



Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Farmers Market
End of Main Street at the waterfront

Enjoy locally grown fruits, vegetables, artisan baked goods and foods while overlooking the picturesque Sacramento River.

Saturday, July 16, 11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Fire Department Barbeque

Veterans Memorial Building, 610 St. Francis Way, Rio Vista

Support this barbeque fund raiser, sponsored by the RVFD Hot Shot Volunteers, to show appreciation for local heroes – the firefighters that serve Rio Vista! Ticket price is \$25.00. Purchase tickets at Pets 4 All, Books RioV and at the Rio Vista Fire Station.

Third Thursday, 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Third Thursday
July 21, August 18 & September 15
Downtown Rio Vista

Experience art, entertainment, fun activities and the Rio Vista Museum while leisurely shopping Rio Vista's quaint downtown.



Saturday, July 23
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Tea and Tunes
Hunter Hall, 218 California Street

Enjoy afternoon "high tea," hosted by the ladies of St. Brigid of Kildare Episcopal Church, featuring a musical program by Dave Moreno at the Wurlitzer theatre organ. The \$25.00

ticket price includes a beautifully presented tea with traditional sandwiches and desserts. For more info and tickets, contact Linda Jensen at (707) 374-5542.



Wednesday, July 27- Sunday, July 31
Solano County Fair
900 Fairgrounds Drive, Vallejo

Enjoy livestock, agricultural and horticultural exhibits, loads of entertainment, carnival rides, and more. Hours are 3:00 - 11:00 p.m. daily July 27 - 29 and noon - 11:00 p.m. July 30 - 31. Don't miss the City of Rio Vista booth. See <http://scfair.com> for more info.

Sunday, July 31
Courtland Pear Fair
Downtown Courtland

Join the fun at the 44th annual Courtland Pear Fair. Enjoy the pancake breakfast, country run, kids area, arts and crafts, parade, live music, quilt show, car show, wine, beer and more! See <http://pearfair.com> for more info.



Saturday, August 13
4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Hit a Home Run for CARE
Egbert Field, Rio Vista

Rio Vista CARE's annual fund raiser held at Egbert Field Park, St. Francis Street between Rolling Green Drive and Poppy House Road, includes a barbeque dinner, musical entertainment, silent and live auctions plus plenty of summertime fun. Early bird price is \$80.00 for two tickets before July 15, (regular price is \$50.00 each). Call Rio Vista CARE at (707) 374-5243 or come by the office at 628 Montezuma Street.



Saturday & Sunday, August 13-14
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Wine and Produce Passport Weekend
Delta Wine and Produce Trail Map Locations

Drive from farm to farm or winery along CA Scenic Hwy 160, experiencing rural delta life. Join farm tours, taste local wines, see farm equipment displays, and enjoy a wide variety of fresh local

produce. Farms are open from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Wineries are open from 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 pm. For tickets and info see www.SacRiverDeltaGrown.org. Early bird tickets, good for both days, are \$25.00. Tickets are \$35.00 after August 7th and at-the-door. Those under 21 are free.



Saturday, August 20
10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Hog August Bites
Downtown Rio Vista

Admission is free for this all day family event that showcases downtown Rio Vista and benefits local youth groups. Festivities include a Rib and Chili Cook-off, Soap Box Derby, Craft Fair, food vendors, and all-day musical entertainment. Headliner musical groups include both the Terry Sheets and Derek Abel Bands. Go to www.hogaugustbites.net for more info.



Saturday, September 10
11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Party on the Promenade
Waterfront Promenade Park

Hosted by RioVision, this fund raiser presents the artists and the art of Rio Vista and showcases the beautiful Waterfront Promenade Park. Events include displays of local arts and crafts and chalk painting for all ages. Food and drink are for sale. There are

also opportunities to purchase Main Street pavers and Fire Department commemorative coins.

Sunday, September 11
9/11 Memorial Dedication Ceremony
Rio Vista Fire House, Rio Vista

Join us for the dedication of the mural and 9/11 steel girder display at the Rio Vista Fire House as we "Remember the past, look forward to the future." Look for additional details in the Beacon and at www.discoverriovista.com.

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[https://
www.silverandfit.com/](https://www.silverandfit.com/)

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