

# Rio Vista's Historic Signs ...and other exciting renovations

By Jim Wheeler    Photos by Jim Wheeler and Jan Vick

Unlike many towns that have grown and grown, losing their charm in the process, Rio Vista still has a beautiful small downtown area. Along Main Street you can still see neon signs that advertise businesses. These signs were created in the middle of the 20th century at a time when the use of neon was popular. Some signs were even animated with arrows and long rows of lights bulbs.

Through the generosity of local donors, two of the signs on Main Street were just restored to their original splendor.

The sign outside Fosters Bighorn, a well-known local

restaurant and bar, is coated with porcelain and was time-consuming to restore. The sign that hangs outside the Striper Café is painted metal and has also been restored.

The eateries they advertise are both great places to eat. If you want a touch of the wild, check out Foster's with its trophies of big game on

the walls. Some of the animals displayed there no longer even exist in the wild. For the charm of a local eatery, check out the Striper Café. These are just two of the restaurants in town.



Beyond restaurants and neon, a major change has come to Main Street. With massive effort from RioVision volunteers all the planters along Main Street from 5th Street to the River have been completely renovated with new pavers provided by residents and a business, new plants and new places to sit and park your bikes. Come see the new table and crane artwork outside the Pizza Factory and the creative bicycle racks in front of the bakery.

