

Rio Vista: Jewel of the Delta

Tourist and Event Guide

Points of Interest

Activities

Calendar

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bridge to the future

RioVision History

In September, 2012 a group of interested people got together to look at Rio Vista’s potential and to develop a vision for the future. The grassroots individuals of this project include Eddie Woodruff, Sandy Person and Mitch Connor and many others.

Over time more people joined this effort and research was done on a process developed by the American Institute of Architects called R/UDAT (Regional Urban Design Assistance Team). The city of Healdsburg had used the process; why couldn’t Rio Vista?

After some surveys, the development of some core values and a lot of work, in mid-year 2013 Rio Vista was selected for a grant to have a national team come to our little town and perform their work. The R/UDAT team completed a set of meetings in early 2014, culminating in a set of recommendations involving short-term, medium-term and long-term goals that would improve economic development and our downtown area. The rest is history. Shortly after the recommendations were made, additional volunteers were brought on board who began to make changes to the town. Some of the projects in process or completed include: new bike racks in the downtown area, a redesign of the Main Street corridor to include more places to sit and relax, tree lighting at night, a redesign of the highway which runs through town, a new mural and the development of a community center.



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Empire Saloon

Many weeks of planning preceded the actual painting on the mural Books Rio V owned by Hale Conklin and his wife Sue. They wished to help jump-start RioVision's mural project by supplying the wall and many of the needed supplies.

A contest was held to determine the content of this project and the winner was Chris Quan with his idea of depicting the contents of this building one hundred or more years ago. We hope to convey the idea that the wall has fallen and exposed the past by showing the interior of Empire Saloon in the late eighteen hundreds. On the same wall to the right is a depiction of the door and window of Foord's Barber Shop that was also housed in this building. We took the artistic liberty of changing places since the Barber Shop was actually in the front of the building. The original drawings of Empire Saloon were done by Linda Heune-Solomon with help from Amy Schmidt, Sue Williams, and Lucia Keeler. Amy Schmidt is the artist for the Barber Shop. Both Amy and Linda are the project leaders that are making sure things move along in a timely manner.

Once the content was determined a workshop with John Holland, a well known California muralist, was held at the Veteran's Memorial Building attended by thirty future volunteer's to give us some tips and pointers on mural painting.

The drawings were completed on graph paper with a scale of one inch to one foot and the first week of August, 2014, work on the wall began. A grid of one foot squares was applied to the wall, followed by the background of the bar with its many details. All the work has been done by volunteers and the supplies paid for with donations collected from the public before and during the painting process. The overwhelming positive response from the public kept us going on days when the going was tough. All day we heard cries of "Good job ladies" or "Keep up the good work" and "It's just beautiful! We got plenty of "Have you seen the mural in--?" along with some suggestions of how and what we should be doing instead. Volunteers experienced many highs and lows during the process.

Rio Vista's notorious wind blew our supplies into the street, and we were only able to work until the sun got too high and hot making the paint dry quickly in the heat and wind. To the other extreme, some days were almost cold, keeping us bundled up and stiffening aging hands. Most of the workers are in their late sixties and some in their seventies making a four or five hour day seem long.

RioVision is the driving force behind this project in an effort to help revitalize our lovely small town. The mural project was seen as a short term project that could help jump-start enthusiasm for other longer term ideas and keep the energy high with very visible results. Many other projects will be coming in the future so keep your eye out and volunteer to become a part of the Rio Vision. Be sure to stop by Second and Main and take a look.



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Rio Vista: Past, Present and Future.....

by Jan Vick



Rio Vista is first and foremost, a river town with its roots solidly planted in agriculture and the Delta.

Rio Vista in 1857 was first known as Los Brazos del Río (Arms of the River) about one mile south of Cache Slough and the Sacramento River. In 1858 it was renamed Rio Vista (Vista del Río) and quickly became a stop for steamships picking up timber and farm produce. After it was flooded in 1861-2 land on higher ground was acquired from Joseph Bruning and then it became a major steamboat stop between Sacramento and San Francisco and many businesses and homes were established along the river and hills.

In 1892 a fire destroyed every business in most of the city; every business was rebuilt. Also in 1893 Rio Vista was incorporated as a City. Rio Vista grew into an important agricultural center for grain, corn, asparagus, sugar beets, and ultimately sheep and cattle. Many of the beautiful homes built in the area south of Main Street continue to be well-tended homes today. Some of these homes are featured in the Bridge to Beach walking

map and trail which can be found at the kiosk outside City Hall at the foot of Main Street.

Rio Vista sits on one of the biggest natural gas fields in California; the first well was drilled in 1936 and the industry became an important cornerstone to the economy of the city. Although gas is of lesser importance financially to the city government, the industry has fostered numerous important businesses that still support the gas industry.

Today, Rio Vista is still a vital part of the agricultural community. The addition of wind turbines in the Montezuma Hills has changed the western view. Still, the city leans toward the Sacramento River, welcoming boaters and fishers to its banks. Stripers, salmon, sturgeon and other fish abound, and the launch ramp at City Hall gets very crowded at times during the year. Fishers can always be found at the small park near the bridge, the fishing pier, along the bank of the river between City Hall and the bridge, and up toward the Real McCoy Ferry II. Downtown Rio Vista has struggled through the

years, but small businesses continue to line Main Street and provide a pleasant place to walk and shop. Main Street is undergoing a renaissance as a new mural takes center stage at Second Street, the trees in the planters are mature and the planters themselves are receiving a makeover.

In 1995 the Army National Guard conveyed 28 acres of prime riverfront land to the City. The City has been working to redevelop this land since then; the deed restricts development to the broad category of recreation, which can include research and interpretive centers. The City has been working with the State Department of Water Resources to establish an Estuarine Research Station on part of the site

In recent years it has developed major appeal, with a car show, vendors lining Front Street, a carnival, a parade and a soapbox derby enthusiastically supported by local businesses and service clubs. New events such as the Endive Experience, Hog August Bites, and a Farmers Market will continue to bring people here. On the Third Thursday of each month, local merchants along Main Street stay open late, artists display in several stores, and entertainment attracts people to enjoy what Rio Vista has to offer.

Rio Vista has a lot to offer; it is a place everyone can relax, dine, and shop, especially since it is the gateway to explore the wonderful, magical Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.



and a Fish Technology Center run by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. These plans seem to finally be coming to fruition, as the State has begun an environmental impact review of the site, which should be done by 2016. The City envisions a network of trails, benches and picnic areas and ultimately an interpretive center to welcome residents and visitors to this wonderful area.

Special events are becoming a regional attraction bringing people to the city. Rio Vista has hosted the Bass Derby and Festival in October for 67 years.







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Families are welcome. A bistro-type menu features bison, beef, ribs and fish along with seasonal favorites.



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N-dive or On-deev: It's Not Just Pronunciation!

By Susan Whitesell

You may say n-dive but in Rio Vista we say on-deev!

What's the difference? Although both are members of the chicory family, they are quite different. The two main varieties of cultivated endive (pronounced n-dive) – curly endive, with narrow, green, curly outer leaves and escarole, with broad, pale green leaves – are grown outdoors in a few months. The chicory family's more elegant cousin, often referred to as Belgian endive (pronounced on-deev), features tightly packed leaves and a smooth, elongated shape that requires a complex and lengthy growing process.

California Endive Farms in Rio Vista produces over 4 million pounds of endive yearly, making founder Rich Collins the largest endive grower in the country. According to a 7x7SF online article by Eric Wolfinger, "California Endive Farms produces 99.9 percent of the state's endive for customers that include Alice Waters, Thomas Keller, and Whole Foods." That's an impressive list of culinary heavy hitters!

Endive is one of the most difficult vegetables in the world to grow, requiring a two-step growing process. First, the chicory plant is grown from seed into a deep root in about 150 days in an outdoor field. The tops of the leafy plant are then cut off and the roots are dug up and placed in indoor cold storage, where they enter a dormancy period. The roots are removed from cold storage for their second growth, which takes 20 to 28 days in dark, cool, and humid forcing rooms, similar to how mushroom are grown.

According to Collins, "Endive is a super complex crop to produce consistently throughout the year to the quality our market demands." Those familiar with his story know that it took over 3 years and epic failures before the company turned a meager profit in 1986 and that it took ten years before Collins finally nailed the complex growing process.

Product production wasn't the only difficult hurdle Collins faced. The bulk of his efforts after product production were in marketing to a fledgling endive market, primarily chefs. Collins says, "We've never been the classic farmer who was producing and sending this stuff away. We've always been in the marketplace." The company also markets to consumers; for example, giving away packages of endives and serving sample appetizers at the California Artisan Cheese Festival in Petaluma and the Rio Vista Slow Food Festival.

No matter how you pronounce it, endives are one of the most versatile, delicious and healthy vegetables in the world. Collins says the health benefits of endive are catching on with both the older and younger generations. Endive is a super versatile super healthy vegetable. As an appetizer, endives are a great alternative to chips and crackers and a great addition to salads adding color, texture and taste. They can also be roasted, sautéed or baked. Complex in fiber, endives easily handle the heat on a grill so they don't wilt or fall apart as other vegetables do.

There are several tasty recipes on the California Endive Farms website at <http://endive.com>. Collins recommends "Original Blue" Endive Boats, which is the most viewed recipe on the website.



"ORIGINAL BLUE" ENDIVE BOATS

Ingredients

California Endive
Original Blue Cheese Crumbles
Chopped Walnuts, toasted
Honey

Instructions

Separate endive heads into single leaves. Fill each leaf with about one tablespoon of cheese crumbles. Place chopped walnuts on each spear, drizzle with honey.



Rio Vista’s Hunter Hall

Rio Vista’s Hunter Hall houses a Wurlitzer pipe organ originally built for the Orpheum Theater in Seattle in 1927.

Opus 1676 was one of more than 2000 theatre organs made by the company from 1914 to 1928; it played in the Orpheum until 1965 when the theater was demolished.

Two ranks of pipes were added and the instrument now has fifteen ranks, plus percussions. A glockenspiel, xylophone, marimba harp and a grand piano are playable form the console. Silent picture sound effects include drum, cymbals, a bird call, and an Ah-oo-gah horn.

The largest pipes are wood diaphones rescued from Chicago’s Northshore Theatre and placed on the wall behind the console.

The organ accompanied silent era movies until late 1929, when sound

movies came to the Orpheum and silenced Wurlitzer organs around the country.

The Rio Vista organ is one of about 12 theater organs installed and playing today in California. Nearby, Oakland’s Paramount and Grand Lake Theater’s also have Wurlitzer organs.

Additionally, the Hall has a 1915 Coinola orchestrion, two roll-playing grand pianos from the Twenties, and two Repoduco Piano-organs also originally used to add music for silent films in small venues.

The most recently added instrument is a 1922 Robert-Morton pit organ from the San Francisco O’Farrell St. Orpheum. This unit is now being restored and will play on rolls as originally built.

Relics from the San Francisco Fox Theater, light fixtures from Chicago’s Uptown Theater, and mica wall sconces from the Fox Oakland have also been added to the Hall.



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4:30 - 5:20 -- JiuJitsu
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7:30 - 8:50 -- JiuJitsu

Wednesday

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3:30 - 4:20 -- Karate
6:00 - 7:00 -- Turbo

Thursday

Afternoon Classes

6:00 - 7:00 -- Spin

Friday

Morning Classes

9:00-9:50 --
Spin

Afternoon Classes

3:30 - 4:20 -- Tutoring
3:30 - 4:20 -- Karate
4:30 - 5:20 -- Functional
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67th Rio Vista Bass Derby Festival



Rio Vista, CA –Rio Vista will be celebrating the 67th Anniversary of the Bass Derby on October 10 through 12. The West Coast's oldest Derby continues to keep things interesting for the anglers by adding new categories and occasionally changing the format. The event, which spans three full days and has attracted over 20,000 attendees, includes a wide array of recreational activities and contests for both the young, and young at heart.

The focus of the celebration will be the fishing contest, where 900 plus fishermen will cast their reels into the Sacramento River for a chance to win prizes at this three day event. The downtown area will have a carnival, parade, variety of local entertainment, car show, and an array of food and arts and crafts vendors for your enjoyment. The pole barn entertainment will start Friday at 5:00pm with music from Afterglow, Delta Divas, Delta Tones, and the Delta Harmony and will end the evening with Solid Gold. The Saturday's lineup will include starting at 11:30pm with Little Motel, Livin Daylites, Mobility, Derek Abel Band and the Primates.

Come early Saturday morning to catch a bargain at the Bass Festival Rummage Sale or join us for the annual Lion's Club Pancake Breakfast. Most of all, don't forget to bring your jacket and stay for the Saturday night Fireworks display! Wake up Sunday morning to enjoy a spectacular parade! Stay for the events for the rest of the day that includes Karaoke by Sunset Entertainment.

Tickets for the Adult Fishing Derby is \$40.00, Kid's Fishing Derby \$5.00, and this year's raffle tickets are \$5 for a chance to win cash prizes of a \$1000, \$500 or \$250. Tickets are on sale at the Chamber

of Commerce. Festival T-shirts and hats will also be available for sale. For tickets or more information, contact the Rio Vista Chamber of Commerce at (707)374-2700, or visit www.bassfestival.com.

"The Derby" has been a tradition of Rio Vista for 67 years and it would not be possible without the support of the many wonderful local businesses and community partners. The Chamber wishes to thank key sponsors: Rio Vista Sanitation, SMUD, PG&E, RE Church, Chevron, McDonalds and our key supporters the California Striped Bass Association, the City of Rio Vista and the community at large." Sponsorships & Vendor Spaces are still available.



Visit [www. Bassfestival.com](http://www.Bassfestival.com) or Call (707) 374-2700

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- PARADE
- CAR SHOW
- CARNIVAL & RIDES
- FOOD/CRAFTS VENDORS
- FIREWORKS DISPLAY



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- Bay Fresh Producer - Strawberries
 - California Endive Farms - Endive
 - DeltaEcoFarm - Organic vegetables & melons
 - Great Valley Poultry - Organic Eggs
 - Lujan Farms - Stone fruit
 - JV Farms - Asian Vegetables
 - Nunez Farms - Organic vegetables
 - Olio Bello d'Olive - Virgin Olive Oil (attends every other week)
 - Resendiz Farms - Stone Fruit & Melons
 - Robledo Farms - Melons, tomatoes, raspberries
 - West Coast Producer - Strawberries
 - Winters Fruit Tree - Pistachios, Almonds & Walnuts
 - Cobblestone Bakery - high end bakery items
 - Hummus Heaven - Mediterranean specialty food
 - Way to Life Natural Foods - Organic Granola & Vegan Products
- The Rio Vista Certified Farmers' Market will be open every Saturday, on Main Street between 2nd and 3rd Streets, June 28 through December 14th from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. rain or shine.*

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If you would like more information about placing an ad or reserve space for a subsequent edition, please contact Laurie Oleksiewicz at minmayinc@aol.com, or if you have questions or comments regarding the articles, please contact the Tourist & Event Guide editor, Lynne Hansen at LYNNEH10@aol.com. Deadline for articles is the 15th of each month each quarter.

RioVision a non-profit 501(C)3 group. Donations are tax-deductible.



Fall 2014 Calendar

October 10-12

2014 Bass Derby & Festival

Parade 10/12 at 12:30 pm on Main Street

<http://bassfestival.com/>

October 10-12

Rio Vista Museum

16 N. Front Street, Rio Vista, CA 94571

Extended hours Rio Vista Museum will be open during the 66th Annual Bass Derby Friday, October 10, 6 pm - 9 pm.

Saturday, October 11, 10 am - 9 pm.

Sunday, October 12, 11 am - 4:30 pm.

October 11-26

Western Railway Museum Pumpkin Patch Festival

5848 State Highway 12 Suisun

Each Saturday and Sunday, 9:30 – 4:00pm

October 15

October Chamber of Commerce Mixer

5:30pm at Dr. Awender Chiropractic

327 Main Street

October 25-26

Soroptimist Bake Sale at the Western Railway Museum Pumpkin Patch

5848 State Highway 12 Suisun, , 9:30am – 4:00pm

November 21-23

“Locked in the Book Store” Play

Friday November 21 and Saturday, November 22 at 7pm, and Sunday, November 23 at 2:30pm at the First Congregational Church, 230 Sacramento St. Tickets available at the Delta Pharmacy. Written and produced by Janey Callahan Chin.

November 22

First Annual Blessing of Motorcycles and Riders

10:00am-1:00pm, St. Joseph Church in the Delta

130 S. 4th St., Rio Vista

November 22

Lunafest Film Festival

Hunter Hall, 218 Montezuma Drive at 6:30pm.

December 6

“Annual Hospice Tree Lighting” & Community Xmas Parade

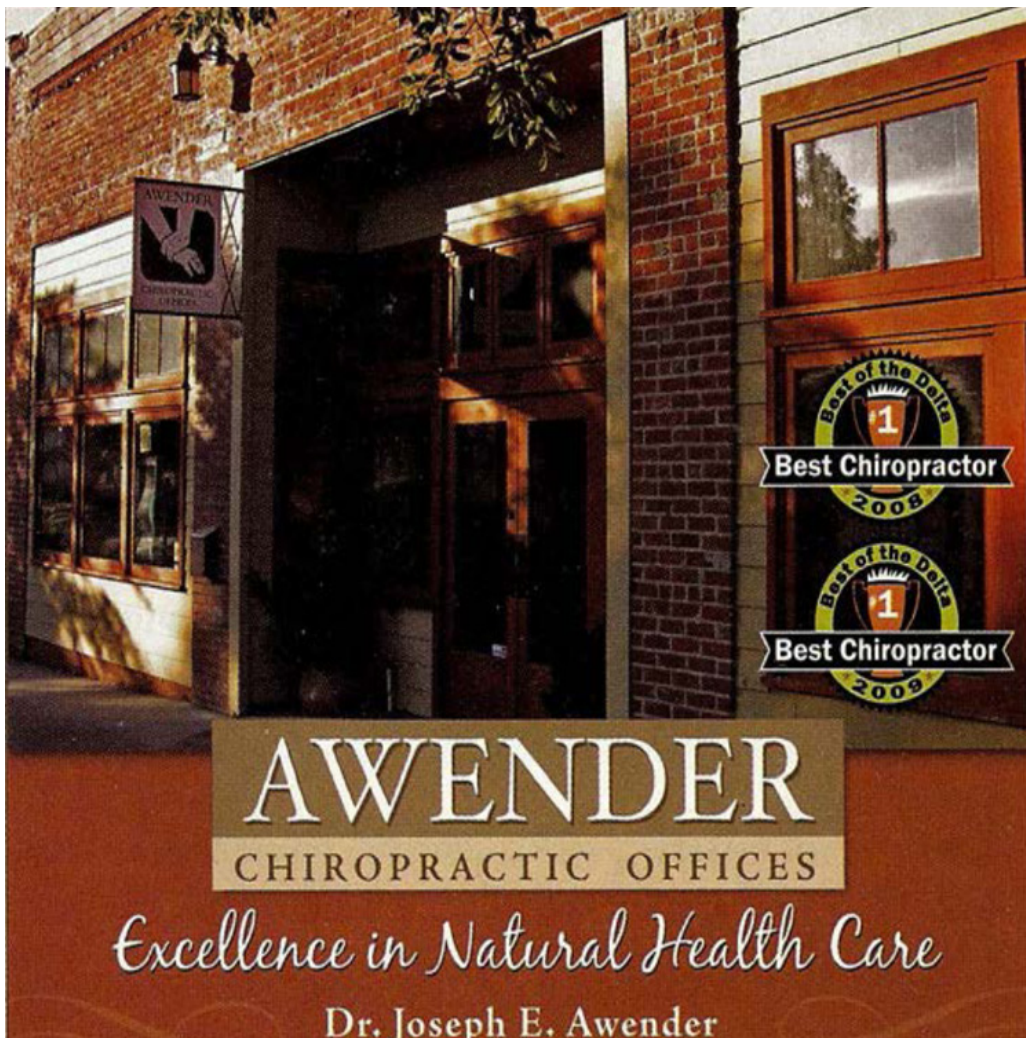
3:00pm on Main St. by City Hall.

December 6-7

Rio Vista Museum

Saturday, December 6, 6th annual Olde Tyme Christmas Faire, 10 am - 4:30 pm;

Sunday, December 7, Olde Tyme Christmas Faire 12 pm - 4:30 pm



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