

RIO VISION - BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE In and About Our Town

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by Carol Bower Foote



In addition to updates on our on-going projects, RioVision's general meetings provide an opportunity to learn something current about the people and organizations which contribute to our life here. At our July 9th meeting, Fire Chief Jeff Armstrong provided some insight into our Rio Vista Fire Department. Chief Armstrong took his position in Rio Vista in February 2017 after applying three times to come here! Since his arrival, he has worked to create operations agreements with surrounding fire departments to provide additional depth and mutual support, and also serves as Chief of the River Delta Fire District based in Isleton. He has pulled in stakeholders from the community to develop a strategic plan for the department. Private dorm rooms were constructed to support staff that pull 48-72 hour shifts at the station. The department is staffed with 10 full time firefighters some of whom are paramedics, 7 reserves, 5 volunteers, and a part-time fire marshal who supports prevention and compliance. 10-15 civilian volunteers known as "Hot Shots" staff the desks and answer phones. An impressive list of equipment includes two Type 2 engines (for structure fires), one Type 3 engine (for wild land fires), 1 water tender, 1 ladder truck, 1 light rescue vehicle, 2 staff vehicles, and a Yamaha jet ski which provides some capability for water rescue which Chief Armstrong wanted to add. He shared an unexpected department statistic that less than 50% of their calls (about 46%) come from the Trilogy community. His goals include going after grants to have more paramedics on staff and to fund the fire marshal's position full time. We thank Chief Armstrong for his presentation to us and dedication to the safety of his staff and our community.

HOG AUGUST BITES is coming August 18th with family fun from 10am to 10pm!!!! (<http://discoverriovista.com/events/>) New this year will be an expanded line up of live musical entertainment including a blue grass band, the beer garden will add 4 new craft brews on tap and some fine wine, and the soap box derby races are back!!! The venue for music and refreshments will shift to the Pole Barn on Front Street between the Promenade and Main St. Of course, there will be a variety of delicious food, arts/crafts vendors and youth and service organizations along Front Street, the classic car show, and the rib and chili cook off! RioVision needs volunteers for Guest Services and RBS-certified volunteers to help in the Beer Garden. A variety of shifts are available. Contact Volunteer Coordinator Kathy Hill at 717-515-6928. RBS courses are offered on line and there will be a class offered at City Hall by Beth Roberts (broberts@ci.rio-vista.ca.us).

RioVision has a similar need for guest service and RBS-certified volunteers for the Party at the Park September 8th, 10am-6pm, celebrating the opening of the new dog and skate park at Val de Flores Park in town. A great way to meet new folks is to volunteer at the Visitor Center and Art Gallery in town. RioVision covers afternoons and weekends. Contact Kathy for these opportunities, too.

Finally, our volunteers are participating in an ongoing effort to make our downtown welcoming and inviting by encouraging business and building owners to do what they can to contribute, such as exterior repairs, fresh paint, clean facades and signs. We're working with the Youth Center to put up a new mural, planter boxes, and give it a good cleaning. And we have a new initiative with the Library we'll report on later this summer. If you would like to work with us or find out more, visit us at <http://www.riovistavision.com>.