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DRE# 01002783



Chris Boothe

Realtor Associate / GRI
pigboothe@yahoo.com
916-798-7674
DRE# 01419822



Debbie Werter

Realtor Associate
debbie1222@frontiernet.net
707-673-7667
DRE# 01125366



Charlene Fowler

Realtor Associate / SRES®
charlenefowler715@gmail.com
707-372-0203
DRE# 01988913

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Editor's Corner

This is not a typical issue of *Discover Rio Vista*, but then, this has not been a typical year.

This issue we don't present tourist highlights, nor places to frolic with friendly farm animals, nor a map of jet ski hot-spots on the Delta.

As of this writing late Summer 2020, we're in compliance with the state's pandemic guidelines; nearly every one of our seasonal events for the foreseeable future has been canceled.

But even under these conditions, Rio Vista is a divine place to be. Our citizens, businesses, non-profits and service clubs have stepped up to keep the ship righted and sailing.

Cornerstone businesses that remained open at their peril helped the community maintain a sense of normalcy that many cities could not enjoy.

Anchor businesses that kept their doors open include Delta Pharmacy, Lira's, Ace Hardware, and that trading-post and surrogate community-center where what was once old becomes new again, Robin's Nest.

As news of event cancellations reached us, we considered skipping this issue, but were so struck by the spirit emerging here that we decided to do one for our own citizens - those who have *already* discovered how sea-worthy in a storm this town turns out to be. So, hometown Rio Vistans—we dedicate this issue to you.

Credit for shaping this issue goes to the dedication, persistence and artistry of Jan Vick, Robie Williams and especially Susan Whitesell, who co-managed our great gang of volunteer contributors. It's an honor to join this great team!



Editors:

Scott Brizel
scottbrizel@gmail.com
 Susan Whitesell
tapestrypt@comcast.net

Assistant Editor:

Jan Vick
seawingjan@gmail.com

Advertising:

Carolyn Azbell
azbellc@gmail.com
 Laurie Oleksiewicz
MinmayInc@aol.com

Other Contributors:

Donna Amanino, Scott Brizel,
 Don Coombs, Marilyn Nelson,
 Cyndy Schroeder, Jan Vick, Susan
 Whitesell, Robie Williams

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discover
Rio Vista



RioVision
bridge to the future

Discover Rio Vista is a tri-annual magazine published by the RioVision Promotions and Communications team that provides information about events, activities and places of interest in and around Rio Vista. This magazine is a volunteer effort. Call RioVision at (707) 360-5244 to help!

See the *Discover Rio Vista* website at discoverriovista.com. For additional information about RioVision see riovistavision.com and facebook.com/riovistavision. RioVision is a non-profit 501(c)(3) group.

COVER: Photography by Doris Noriega, Susan Whitesell and Mitch Ybarra.

HOMETOWN

We highlight some of our “Hometown Heroes” — local workers, businesses and school district who helped Rio Vista meet challenges posed by the pandemic. We focus on a few, but salute all who play a role in supporting our community.

DELTA PHARMACY

Writer: Susan Whitesell

Delta Pharmacy at 407 Main Street emphasizes customer and employee safety. There are plastic partitions at the registers, employees wear masks and often gloves, and counters are cleaned continuously.

According to owner and pharmacist Ken Wudel, store traffic has slowed down since COVID-19. “You can’t blame them. Everybody’s trying to stay safe.”



Lilly Galindo helps customer Frank Benda at checkout.
(photo: Susan Whitesell)

While people may not be coming in to shop like they used to, there are notable exceptions. For example, there’s been a constant shortage of puzzles. “It’s hard to keep them in stock because the puzzle companies also ran out.” Ken also notes, “Kids are home so we sell a lot of toys.”

Hiccups in the supply chain continue to cause some product shortages. At the time of print, hand sanitizer is in stock but rubbing alcohol is in short supply.

On the other hand, prescriptions have stayed steady and deliveries are up... way up. Averaging around ten daily prior to COVID-19, the Pharmacy now makes 30 to 40 deliveries a day. About this free customer service Ken notes, “We deliver anything that they want. It’s not only prescriptions. If it’s creams or toys or gifts, we’ll deliver anything to help them out.”

The Pharmacy is known for great customer service. Cynthia G. on Yelp writes, “Love this local pharmacy. They are small town friendly yet fill prescriptions efficiently and correctly. Pharmacists are always eager to discuss prescription medications as well as answer my questions and offer suggestions for over the counter items.”

The Pharmacy also provides other convenient services such as pneumonia, shingles and flu vaccines, and last but not least, free beautiful gift wrap for all regularly priced items.

Contact Delta Pharmacy at (707) 374-5135. Hours are 9:00 am – 7:00 pm Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Saturday, and closed Sunday.

LIRA’S SUPERMARKET

Writer: Tom Surh

Rio Vista and surrounding Delta communities are very fortunate to have a full service supermarket to provide all its food and household needs. In ordinary times, Lira’s carries nearly 25,000 items. A total of about 50 employees keep operations running smoothly, including a meat and seafood department, a full service deli counter, and delivery service. Abundant bakery items are provided by numerous vendors, including specialty and local bakeries. Sushi is made fresh daily on site and there is a large variety of “ethnic” foods. Shoppers find everything they need to meet the demands of the most adventurous foodie, and when a specialty item is requested, the staff gladly orders anything obtainable through their vendor network. Cooking, baking and household items needed to keep a household running and in good health are well stocked. Prices are very competitive with the large supermarket chains like Safeway and Raley’s, and Lira’s carries many sale items featured in its weekly on line and Beacon newspaper ads. The key difference is that Lira’s is rooted in the community it serves in a way that chain stores are not.

The Lira family has run the supermarket since 1990 when Jim Lira, his wife Shirley Lira and their partner Bill Dutra bought the store from its previous owner. Jim Lira inspired the store spirit and direction from the beginning, with a strong commitment to family, employees and the community. Many community volunteers attest to the generous support that Lira’s provides, just for the asking, to local schools, non-profit organizations and service organizations in Rio Vista. Shoppers all experience the genuinely friendly and helpful service that this community spirit engenders.

When the lock down hit us all, the importance of Lira’s supermarket became especially clear to our community – especially our elderly. The store responded immediately, carefully following health guidelines. With the help of city Public Works employees, Trilogy staff and volunteers, and additional hired employees, the store ramped up its delivery service to meet the demand that had more than quadrupled. At press time, Lira’s is planning to implement an on line shopping option. The total number of employees has expanded to about 70.



Grandson Giovanni Ferrari loads the Lira’s home delivery van.
(photo: Doris Noriega)

HEROES

RIVER DELTA UNIFIED

Writer: Carol Bower Foote

Responding to the state mandated 2019-2020 school closure after the mid-March shut down, River Delta Unified School District Superintendent Kathy Wright expressed gratitude for the impressive level of commitment and collaboration generated to address the plethora of challenges to offer fair, accessible, and affordable distance learning and meals to students all over the Delta. staff, teachers, parents, students community organizations, administrators, and service businesses have come together to “build the plane in flight.” Teachers especially have been actively engaged in finding solutions and providing support for students of all ages.



Stephen Wright, RDUSD TOSA Tech Support and Instructional Coach, sets up language arts teacher and student accounts. (photo: Trisha Salomon)

A whole new design and support structure for instruction and assignments online was required. This included researching and resourcing compatible age-appropriate platforms, providing suitable internet devices and in-home access, creating WI-FI hot spots, and connecting and supporting students.

Special in-car events and online recognition were organized for graduating middle school and high school students. Social-emotional support was provided through the RDUSD website and personal outreach.

Food prep staff continues to prepare bagged meals for lunch and breakfast to support over 500 students daily. Available for pick up, some meals are also delivered to homes by principals, administrators, and even the superintendent.

The District begins the 2020-21 school year August 12 with a distance learning-only plan and continues to face many ongoing challenges. To help, donate directly to a local school or write your congressman to support school funding.

RIO VISTA FOOD PANTRY

Writer: Doris Noriega

As Rio Vista Food Pantry volunteer Richard McDevitt says, “Versatility, adaptability, and trust, along with my faith in God have been my friends this year. It feels good to be able to give, keep the faith, and help work towards a positive outcome.”

The Food Pantry’s working board has conquered many unique challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. Volunteer activity was reduced due to the closure of the office, individual health

concerns and the “shelter at home” mandate. Quickly adjusting to the new rules and restrictions, the Pantry restructured to a few small teams. Weekly farmer’s market distribution changed to pre-packaged food by masked and gloved volunteers. Clients now line up and drive through in their cars to accommodate social distancing.

RVFP’s sources are the Solano and Contra Costa County’s Food Bank (State, County and USDA), and Lira’s, Walmart, Raley’s, Trader Joe’s and Bimbo’s Grocery Recovery Programs. Wednesday’s dry goods are received and packaged. Bread, produce, meat and dairy are bagged on Sundays.

The Pantry provides for residents in the 94571 zip code, however, no one that needs food is turned away. The maximum income levels have increased. Call (707) 374-5706. General food distribution is Sunday from 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm. Senior Disabled Delivery is the first and Third Sunday from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm. Pantry’s Closet’s client distribution is the first and third Sunday from 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm.

Volunteer Yvonne Camper says, “I’m amazed at the 100% volunteer staff’s dedication. Clients are gracious and pleased to see us, thanking us, and for some we are their only outside contact.”

This year with COVID-19 restrictions, donations are the Pantry’s key source of income. Through September 30, the Travis Credit Union Foundation matches donations up to \$20,000 total. Go to tcufund.org/ways-to-give/, choose a donation amount, select Rio Vista CARE, and click Next to process your payment. Visit the Pantry at 1105A Airport Rd, or visit their website at riovistafoodpantry.org.



Volunteer Susan McCarthy packs a food basket. (photo: Doris Noriega)

RIO VISTA HOLISTIC HEALTH CENTER

Writer: Susan Whitesell

Arriving in town seven years ago Darrell and Jeanne Brown’s reaction was, “What, no medical care? We’ve got to change that!” Darrell is a FNP-BC (Family Nurse Practitioner – Board Certified) and his wife Jeanne is a RNC-BS (Registered Nurse, Certified –Bachelor of Science). According to Darrell, “We retired from Kaiser so we could open up the practice because we wanted to do family medicine, country doctor type stuff, in a town that we lived in and give back to the community.”

Among its traditional family medical services the clinic provides prescriptions for acute and chronic conditions, onsite blood draws, laceration suturing, joint injury splints, school, work and sports physicals, and chronic non-opioid pain management.

In addition to family medicine, the clinic provides holistic procedures such as laser and low-level light therapy for pain control and body sculpting, Pulsed Electromagnetic Field Therapy to reduce pain and chronic inflammation, photobiomodulation and neuroplasticity entrainment for treatment of neurological and psychological conditions, traditional Chinese medicine cupping for pain control, and auricular therapy to treat chronic pain and a variety of health issues.

Continued on page 18

HARDSHIP SERVICES

Under crisis conditions, maneuvering through local, county, state and federal information can be confusing and frustrating. This summary provides information on services and assistance programs that are available to Rio Vista and Delta residents as of press time in late Summer.

Writer: Robie Williams

Questions Or Advice Related To COVID-19 Rio Vista Fire Department's Emergency Operation Center at (707) 374-5889 Monday thru Friday or the non-emergency Rio Vista Police Department line (707) 374-2300.

Assistance with Assistance Programs: Obtaining Referrals to Other Agencies and Help Completing Their Forms Rio Vista CARE is a good first stop for individuals or families who require help navigating local, county, state or national assistance programs and/or completing the forms necessary to apply for them. They also offer many other services, including counseling programs for families, including those for the whole family, only parents or only youths. For more information about their services, visit their website at riovistacare.org. As a non-profit they welcome donations no matter how small. If you're interested in donating they suggest using tcufund.org/ways-to-give and choosing Rio Vista Care.

Free or Low Cost Medical Assistance Solano County Medi-Cal and County Medical Services Program (CMSP) in Fairfield: (707) 784-8050 or contact Covered California at (800) 300-1506.

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Based on pre-COVID income, \$167 to \$600 per week that one is unemployed due to COVID-19. Program concludes December 26, 2020. Call California Employment Development Department (EDD) 8:00 am to 8:00 pm PST every day, except state holidays.

Job Placement Help Workforce Development Board of Solano County "job center navigator" Brigid Reilly at (707) 419-2809.

Domestic Violence Assistance 24-hour crisis line state-certified emergency shelter for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, safety planning, individual counseling, support groups for survivors, victim advocacy, restraining order assistance, legal and medical accompaniments. SafeQuest Solano in Fairfield (707) 422-7345, 24 hour crisis hotline at (866) 487-7233.

Child Welfare Services of Solano County (800) 544-8696 (24 hours).

Older and Disabled Adult Services of Solano County (707) 784-8259 (24 hours).

Coping with Family Matters, Stress and Mental Health Issues Rio Vista CARE facilitates diverse programs for individual or family mental health needs. This local, non-profit family resource center, focuses on those experiencing mental health challenges. Call (707) 374-5243.

NAMI Solano County is the county's chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, focusing on family members impacted by proximity to others with such challenges. NAMI is hosting Zoom meetings on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm at no cost through the end of the year. For information or to be invited to a Zoom meeting call (707) 442-7092 or email rvsfg@yahoo.com.

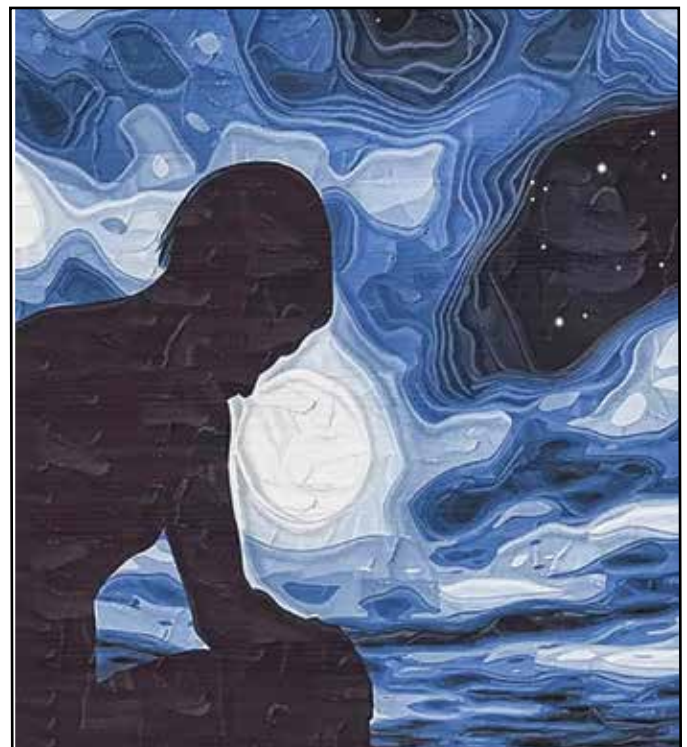
Legal Representation, Social Services and Advocacy for the most marginalized segments of the community, including low-income women, seniors, recent immigrants, and youth. Help from the Disaster Legal Assistance Coalition (DLAC) of California is available for small business and nonprofit economic issues, rent and tenants' rights, mortgage & foreclosure, applying for state and federal COVID-19 disaster aid and relief, domestic violence, elder abuse, human trafficking. Call API Legal Outreach on Tuesdays at (510) 251-2846 or Fridays at (510) 251-2292.

Homeless Placement in a Hotel Room through Project Roomkey of Solano County for most homeless who have tested positive for COVID-19 or are under investigation for COVID-19 symptoms or in a high-risk group. Hotel rooms are located in Vallejo, Benicia, Fairfield and Vacaville. Call (707) 784-8988.

Home Repair Assistance Grant for low income owner occupants of single-family homes or mobile homes. Sacramento Housing & Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) provides emergency grants (not loans to be repaid) of up to \$5,000 to resolve immediate safety or health hazards, fire or health code violations, or to install accessibility measures. Applications for service remaining in 2020 may only be filed in August and December. Call (916) 440-1317 during those months.

Veterans Counseling, Assistance and Advocacy for federal, state and local benefit programs. Call Solano County Veteran Services Office at (707) 784-6590 between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm (except noon hour) Monday-Friday.

Assistance with Best Practices, Education, Compliance and Enforcement The Rio Vista Police Department enforces current mandates from all levels of government. As such, they are there to both educate the community about what those mandates are, and respond to complaints about non-compliance. Call (707) 374-2300 for non-emergency information.



Rio Vista Service Clubs have enriched the community in many ways, such as providing scholarships to graduating seniors, contributing to city projects, honoring our first responders and other projects too numerous to list. All of this requires fundraising. Unfortunately, during this pandemic and quarantine, these clubs have all had to cancel events and reevaluate priorities. Here, we cover how our service clubs have fared, what the future might bring, what services they are offering now to those in need, and how those more fortunate may be able to help out if so inclined.

RIO VISTA SERVICE CLUBS

Writer: Jan Vick

American Legion Serving Veterans for over 97 years, the American Legion, Post #178 has 240 active members. The pandemic has prevented the post from renting out the renovated Veterans Hall for more than 25% of their capacity, or fewer than 50 people. This has severely cut into their income. The Post is developing plans for some activities in the future. Look forward to the 6th annual Kinser Golf Cup October 9 with online reservations and sponsorships.

Habitat For Humanity (American legion Post #178/ Berkeley Food and Housing Project) All of a sudden the new Vets home has walls and a roof! With local building trades offering labor, the house got off to a good start last September. Then came COVID and work stopped with the pad and framing done. Habitat worked with a contractor pool to bring the building to where it is now. They are hoping to finish the house by September. However, additional funding is needed from the community.

Meals On Wheels Solano County This program is critical for many shut-ins in Rio Vista. The noon communal meal at the Senior Center has been shut down during the COVID crisis.

Rio Vista Lions Club has supported many projects through fundraising efforts. During the COVID quarantine, the club had to cancel its weekly meetings and most events for the entire year. Manning the Fireworks booth with the RVHS Boosters was a major exception. The club has resumed weekly meetings Tuesdays at noon outdoors at The Point Restaurant and was able to distribute its annual scholarships.

Rio Vista Rotary Club has supported many projects in Rio Vista, including awarding scholarships to graduating RVHS seniors. However, major fundraising events had to be cancelled. The new local Rotary President has called for resilience and to reconnect as a club. They have started meeting Friday mornings outdoors at The Point Restaurant and are planning events they can do during the pandemic.



Soroptimist President Kay Kelley in 2019 presenting survival bags for women and girls to Solano County Family Justice Center Director Angel Aguilar.

Soroptimist International of Rio Vista Although COVID has prevented the club from meeting, they were able to award their numerous scholarships at a special awards ceremony at the High School football field, and they managed to create a terrific "Sip In Place" fundraiser that was very successful. After their summer hiatus they meet at the Highway 12 Diner one evening a month.

Women's Improvement Club One of the oldest service clubs in Rio Vista, they have contributed annual scholarships to graduating RVHS seniors. They hope to be able to meet in the Fall.

Rio Vista High School Booster Club The Boosters provide critical support for all RVHS extra-curricular activities including sports, clubs and the arts. They were able to hold their very successful Dinner Dance in January and shared the Fireworks booth with the Lions Club.

Youth Services Unfortunately, all activities have been cancelled for the foreseeable future. Current social distancing requirements make it difficult to have a sufficient number of youths in the facility.



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American Legion Post #178
Veterans Memorial Building
610 St. Francis Way, Rio Vista



Contact: 707-374-6554
americanlegion178ca@gmail.com
www.americanlegionpost178.org

American Legion was created by Congress to support US veterans.
Rio Vista Post #178 is serving veterans and the Rio Vista Community

Safe-Distance Dining with **Rio Vista RESTAURANTS**

Writer: Jan Vick

Rio Vista has fast food chain options like every other town, but also a variety of independent eateries, ranging from those with river views, on Main Street and commuter-friendly on Highway 12. All of our restaurants have been struggling under Coronavirus mandates; those that remain open have adapted their operations to meet state requirements.

As of press time in late Summer, all restaurants that continue to do business are open for takeout, a few also offer delivery, and some are serving open-air meals curbside or in their parking lots. Some provide their full menu while others have simplified menus. Menus for most of them can be found at z.menu.com/rio-vista-ca.

MAIN STREET

Lucy's Cafe is a warm & friendly Italian restaurant at 95 Main St. offering pick-up and full service curbside dining. On-line menu at lucysinriovista.com. Open 11:00 am to 7:00 pm daily. (707) 374-3939.



Foster's Bighorn is a favorite local bar and varied-menu restaurant at 143 Main Street with exotic, world famous taxidermy-lined walls that remains, unfortunately, temporarily closed as of late Summer press time.



Taqueria Mexico is a traditional Mexican restaurant with family-style hospitality at 133 Main Street that offers pick-up and full-service curbside dining. Order by phone or walk-in. Menu is at zmenu.com/taqueria-mexico-restaurant-rio-vista. Open 10:00 am to 8:00 pm daily. (707) 374-2680.



Rio Vista Bakery & Cafe at 150 Main St. is family-owned and run, offering a delicious start to the day and all day with pastries, coffee, sandwiches and soups. They offer pick-up and partial service to a few outside tables. Order by phone or walk-in. Menu at zmenu.com/rio-vista-bakery-and-cafe. Open 6:30 am to 8:00 pm. (707) 374-3844.



Pizza Factory at 201 Main St. for over twenty years, has loads of local spirit and serves not only the best pizza around, but also salads and pasta, including an impressive plate of spaghetti & meatballs. They offer pick-up and delivery options. Order by phone or riovistapizzafactory.com. Open 11:00 am to 9:00 pm daily. (707) 374-6868.



Raul's Striper Cafe is a Rio Vista tradition for breakfast and lunch at 210 Main Street that now is offering only pick-up service. Their menu is at zmenu.com/rauls-striper-cafe-rio-vista. Open 7:00 am to 1:00 pm. (707) 374-4861.



Sam's Cakes and Catering at 213 Main Street provides gourmet dinners, as well as pastries to remember, including cookies, scones, cakes, cupcakes and coffee cakes, prepared by owners Samantha Feliz and Dennis Wallace. Special gourmet meals are served daily (except Sundays). Pick-up and delivery only. Weekly menus are posted on facebook.com/samscustomcakes707. Pick-up window is 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Meal orders placed a day prior are guaranteed to be filled, same day orders accepted until supply runs out. Pastry orders require 24-hour notice. Either text orders to (707) 430-6500 or call (661) 742-9050.

Hong Kong Seafood serves memorable Asian cuisine at 217 Main St. Their menu for pick-up only service is at zmenu.com/hong-kong-seafood-restaurant-rio-vista. Cash and check payments only. Open daily (except Sunday and Monday) 11:00 am to 7:30 pm. (707) 374-5834.



Agnello's Corner Deli is a charming owner-operated authentic Italian delicatessen that provides pick-up and curbside dining options. Menu at: zmenu.com/agnellos-corner-deli-rio-vista. Open daily 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. (707) 374-1300.



HIGHWAY 12

Tortilla Flats is a Tex-Mex eatery at 646 Highway 12 with bright, colorful murals and delicious food for pick-up. Call or order from their online menu through ordering.app/tortillafats3. Open 7:00 am to 9:30 pm daily. (707) 374-2564.



Highway 12 Diner at the corner of Highway 12 and Hillside Terrace is a cozy diner with comfort food offering take-out, delivery and open-air full-service in a partitioned area of their parking lot. Call for pick-up orders, but for delivery, order through hwy12diner.com. Menu is online and delivery is by RioFastDelivery. Open 9:00 am to 5:00 pm daily. (707) 374-2695.



DELTA MARINA

The Point at 120 Marina Drive is a bar and restaurant serving steak, lobster, pastas, seafood and much more with the best river views in town. They offer pick-up and full service dining at outdoor tables. Open daily 11:00 am to 9:00 pm (9:00 am opening on weekends). (707) 374-5400.



TRILOGY

Monarch Grill at 1000 Summerset Drive, serves sandwiches, wraps, burgers, salads and fish & chips with a wonderful view of the 18th hole at the Golf Course in Trilogy. Their menu is at Playriovista.com/dining. They offer pick-up service and open-air full service dining (by reservation only). Open 11:30 am to 7:00 pm (but pick-up service is available only from noon to 5:00 pm). (707) 374-2900.



1892 DOWNTOWN FIRE

Writer: Phil Pezzaglia Photos: Rio Vista Museum

In the summer of 1892, the community of Rio Vista was still an unincorporated town. One of its privately owned companies was the Rio Vista Water Work, owned and operated by Robert C. Carter Jr. Carter was also the driving force behind the establishment of the Rio Vista Hook and Ladder Company during the early 1870s. During that time frame fires were still being fought primarily by axes and bucket brigades.

Up until 1892, the worst catastrophe to strike Rio Vista was the devastating flood of January 1862, which necessitated the relocation of the town to its present site. Unfortunately, thirty years after the flood, a fire would take place destroying a large portion of the town.

The downtown fire of 1892 destroyed virtually every business from Front Street up to Third Street and from Montezuma Avenue to Sacramento Avenue. A total of 75 residences, sheds and business buildings were destroyed. Eighteen families were rendered homeless. In just three hours the fire caused two hundred thousand dollars' worth of damages.

At 11:20 am on Wednesday, July 20, 1892 Miss Emily Dobbis discovered flames in the rear of the second floor of the River View Hotel (currently the Rio Vista Hotel). Miss Dobbis ran screaming down the hotel stairs and into the street, gaining the attention of several men who ran into the building and turned on the hotel fire hose. Unfortunately, the fire hose was dry.

The Rio Vista Water Works system laid out in town had been made from used, rejected pipe, originally intended for steam boilers. It was said that Mr. Carter had been known to pay the young boys of town twenty-five cents every time they located a leak in the pipes around town. Some of the young boys, eager to receive payment, were known to make a quarter just by poking a stick through the thin pipes. The water system had long been outmoded and its ability to deliver water for even the most routine fire was not good.

With a north wind and most of the building's downtown being wooden, the outcome of a fire in mid-July did not look promising to the townsfolk. When the water supply ran out fireman, citizens, and ranch hands from the surrounding area were pretty much helpless. Everyone worked together to try and remove goods and furniture from the doomed buildings. Several of the buildings were saved: the Russ House, located between Front and Second Streets, and E.M. Chase's Store, standing on the southeast corner of Main and Front Streets (the present site of Lucy's Restaurant).

On the northeast corner of Front and Main Street stood one of the few brick buildings that managed to escape the fire. This structure was a saloon owned by Fred Bachasson, called the Montezuma Hills Vineyard and Wine Cellar. Inside the building were numerous barrels of wine stored in the basement.

When the flames started to get close to the building, the men headed down to the basement and broke open the wine barrels. Then they proceeded to pour the wine on the walls of the building.

Because of this quick thinking, the building was saved from any damage. If it had not been for the fact that the wind shifted away from the north, in the mid-afternoon, everything in the town might have been lost.



The Bachasson & Company building at the corner of Front and Main Streets survived.

been lost.



The brick Bruning Building and the back of the Riverview Hotel located on the corner of Main and Second Streets. The majority of the Bruning Building and all of the Hotel were destroyed.

The River News devoted its entire front page to an account of the fire. "Had a fire of this magnitude occurred in the night, it would be difficult to estimate the number of fatalities that must necessarily have followed," the News said, "and the people of Rio Vista must be very thankful that it occurred at a far more opportune time in the day." The news continued, "It is not within our power to mention the names of those who assisted in saving property and helped to extinguish the fire. But people from Isleton, all the islands and from Birds Landing, besides nearly all the threshing crews in the county and the many ranchers in the immediate neighborhood flocked to the assistance of the town, and we can assure them all that the good people here return them many thanks for their kind assistance."

Among the many acts of kindness performed at the time, The News mentioned one on its front page, "George Brann of the Canright District brought in a box of 36 dozen eggs to be distributed among the needy. This was a thoughtful act on the part of Mr. Brann and is deserving of the highest praise."

This was truly one of the saddest days in Rio Vista's history, but if there had been a lesson learned, it was that the city needed a better water works system.

Read how the town rebuilt in our next Discover Rio Vista issue.



Looking down Main Street in 1869 or 1874. This is the earliest known photograph of Main Street Rio Vista.

Spotlight On

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

AJK Unique Emporium Writer: Laurie Oleksiewicz

At the end of 2019, Rio Vista welcomed a brand new store to its beautiful downtown, AJK Unique Emporium. This is owner Josephine Evonc's first and only location. In fact the location itself is unique, a renovated Rio Vista movie theater. AJK Unique Emporium contains a wide variety of products for every age. According to Josephine, "I have, over the years, found various interests and had some difficulty parting with my collections, thus deciding to open a store where I could share my joy with my new neighbors in Rio Vista."

Prior to moving to Rio Vista in 2019, Josephine was an elementary teacher for 41 years. "I can't get enough of the classroom environment and still substitute teach in Rio Vista."



*An impressive display of sports memorabilia.
(photographer: Josephine Evonc)*

Josephine and her store have stepped up to the plate during this COVID-19 crisis by offering COVID-19 related essentials such as masks, gloves, PPE, etc. "What I love to see is the amazing look on the faces of customers, as well as the positive comments that they

share. It feels pretty wonderful to know that my store is making a difference in the overall community, as well as helping to lift the spirit of the beautiful downtown."

Be sure and visit Josephine and AJK Unique Emporium. You will definitely be pleased with the selection. And if there is something you still need, just let them know. "We will do our very best to locate, pick up the item, and contact the customer once it is brought to the store." Talk about service, this is the spirit we all appreciate here in Rio Vista.

The Emporium is open Wednesday through Friday 11:00 am to 5:30 pm and Saturday 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.

2nd Street Gym Writer & Photographer: Susan Whitesell

Upon reopening, walk into the 2nd St. Gym at 40 North 2nd Street and you are greeted by owner Kelly Graupensperger or one of her friendly staff. Your temperature is taken and tracked. After sanitizing your hands you are handed a sterilized bottle of disinfectant and an individual cleaning towel. If you haven't been in for a while, you are asked to sign a waiver that addresses COVID-19 precautions and patron expectations such as cleaning protocols and face mask use.

Employees take similar precautions upon arrival, taking and tracking their temperatures and wearing assigned face coverings and gloves.

The new check-in procedure is just one of many changes to the gym in response to COVID-19. Automatic membership payments were suspended and a three month gratis period added to all memberships to account for COVID-19 closure.

All gym equipment and surfaces are sprayed down with a solution of bleach and water disinfectant each morning, noon, and night. New air filtration systems "scrub" and recirculate air both upstairs and downstairs. Three new UV lights sanitize bathrooms and heavily used areas, such as the annex, where spin classes are held. Equipment has been spaced six feet apart, giving both floors a refreshing openness. Barriers are erected between stations where separation is unachievable.

Gym hours are 5:00 am to 9:00 pm Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 6:00 pm Saturday, and 10:00 am to 6:00 pm Sunday. The gym is closed for cleaning from noon to 1:00 pm Monday through Saturday. Classes are typically combo High Intensity Interval Training (HIIT)/Barre, HIIT and Senior HIIT, Tai Chi, Dance, Spin, and Burn and Pump. Call (707) 378-2637, access their web site at 2ndstreetgym.com or go to their Facebook page at facebook.com/2nd-Street-Gym.



*Owner Kelly Graupensperger takes
Spencer Emigh's temperature at
check in.*

ACE Hardware Writer & Photographer: Susan Whitesell

According to store Manager Will Wright, "Business has actually been booming since the COVID-19 pandemic started. That first week, maybe two, business was really, really slow and then it just sky rocketed."

The store routinely receives weekly shipments. With increased



*Josh Vieira helps new homeowner
Lee Kozokas.*

demand from all ACE stores, the supply chain overloaded and the store suddenly began to experience severe shortages. According to Will, "We had to do a couple of really big buys to get a bunch of inventory into the store." Inventory accuracy compounded the supply issues. Will continues, "We started to get 50% of what we were ordering."



At the time of print Will admits that the store is just now catching up and is attempting to stockpile against future supply chain shortages. “We know that demand is going to stay steady. It went up and now it’s plateaued. Now we’re making sure that we have enough stock so the supply chain issues can work themselves out.”

Will said, “Our sales in lawn and garden have been astronomical.” The store has suffered severe shortages of potting soil and mulch and manufacturers have not been able to keep up with demand. Trying to project for demand and making sure that everything is stocked in the store, and that our vendors can fill the products we’re ordering – that’s been the greatest challenge.”

Call ACE Hardware at (707) 374-6434. Business hours are Monday through Friday 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, Saturday 8:00 am to 6:00 pm and Sunday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Gifts & Galleries Writer & Photographer: Linda Solomon

Gift and art shopping are not dead in Rio Vista. With modification of hours and taking steps for safe shopping, several shops have managed to open again. COVID-19 played havoc with our local merchants, causing shops to close then open again. If open, please support these local shops to help them remain viable.

AJK Unique Emporium, covered earlier, has enough space for safe social distancing and merchandise to keep you entertained for hours.

Delta Marina Shop Boating in our beautiful river is one of the few activities that is safe during these trying times. Unique gift items, boat parts and RV supplies can be found at the Delta Marina shop. Find something that “floats your boat.” Open Monday through Saturday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and Sunday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Fool Crow, one of Rio Vista’s most unusual and exotic shops, is where quality vintage meets taxidermy in a fascinating, eclectic mashup. Open Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

RioVision Gallery is open for your comfort and enjoyment. Social distancing is easy since the space is open and bright. The original art is changed each month for fresh viewing. The Gallery is a RioVision project that features talented local artists. It’s a great place to drop in when you are in town. Open Tuesday through Saturday, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Rio Vista Pharmacy has always had a reputation for interesting gift items in addition to the traditional pharmaceuticals. If they don’t have it, you don’t need it! Whatever your needs, try here before driving to a neighboring town. Their service is exemplary, from changing the battery in your watch to gift wrapping. Open Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 7:00 pm and Saturday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.



A whimsical display at Delta Pharmacy.





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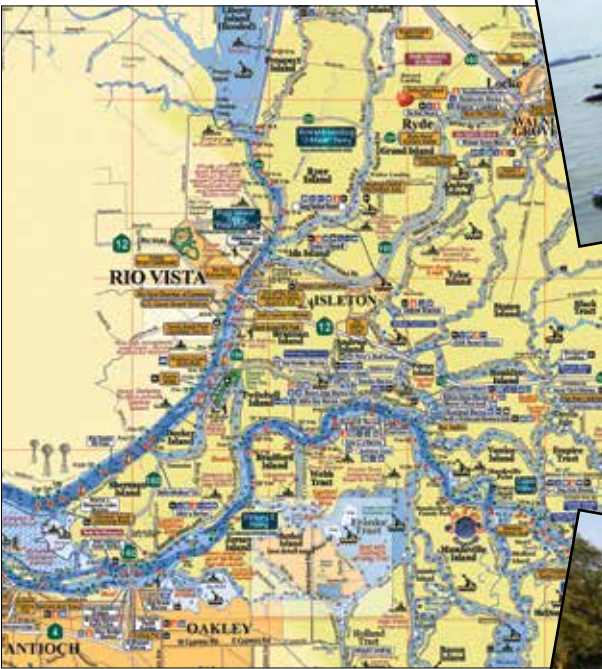
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Outdoor Delta Activities

The California Delta abounds with unique small towns and a myriad of waterways providing endless opportunities to explore – day trips, overnight-adventures, or vacations. The Delta offers a variety of camping or glamping opportunities, along with boating, fishing, sailing, kayaking, windsurfing, bird watching, hidden restaurants and a chance to just meander along the river. This article samples a few outdoor activities in and near Rio Vista to pique your interest to explore the Delta and find your own favorite place or hidden treasure.

Delta Marina Yacht Harbor and RV Park is in Rio Vista at the south end of Second Street. The resort has one of the largest guest docks in the Delta, with nearly 800 feet of docking space, an RV Park with 25 sites and the cute and handy Delta Marina Shop. The Point restaurant, also on the property, offers outdoor dining and is a favorite in town. For more information call (707) 374-2315 or (866) 774-2315 (toll free), or go to deltamarina.com.



This is a portion of the Delta Boaters Map and Visitors Guide, designed and published by Kelli Pearson of MapCo Marketing, is available online at DeltaBoatingMap.com or may be purchased for \$10 at the Rio Vista Visitors Center, 33 N. 2nd Street.

Sandy Beach County Park on the Sacramento River just south of Rio Vista is a great place for a day visit, a picnic, boating, camping, or RVing. Enjoy the sunrise over the Sacramento River and walk into town for breakfast. Be safe and pay attention to the no swimming allowed sign at the beach. For more information call (707) 374-2097 and for reservations go to www.co.solano.ca.us/depts/rm/countypark/sandybeach.asp.

Duck Island RV Park and Fishing Resort, located at 16814 Hwy 160, is an adult-only park on the Sacramento River across from Rio Vista. Enjoy a Delta sunset as you fish off one of the six lighted fishing docks. Facilities include a clubhouse with a kitchen and meeting room. For directions and information call (916) 777-6663 or (800) 825-3898 (toll free), or go to duckislandrv.com.

Brannan Island State Recreation Area is on Hwy 160, less than 5 miles from Rio Vista. The park offers picnic areas, access to windsurfing, camping slips for boaters, RV sites, walk-in camping sites, and a small hike-in cabin. For directions and information go to the California Department of Parks and Recreation website at parks.ca.gov; for reservations call (800) 444-7275 or go to reserveamerica.com.

Snug Harbor is about 10 minutes from Rio Vista via the Real McCoy II Ferry. The resort offers waterfront cottages and RV sites with dock space in front of your cottage or RV site (reservation only). For more information call (916) 775-1455 or go to snugharbor.net.



Sandy Beach



Duck Island



Snug Harbor



*The boat launch at Brannan Island.
(photograph: Jan Vick)*

Vieira's Resort located at 15476 Hwy 160 is a fun, family vacation resort with all the amenities: vacation cabins, camping, RVing, private beach, picnic area, fishing, boating, resort store, bait store, launch ramp, covered berths and guest dock, WIFI and more. Call (916) 777-6661 or (855) 843-4727 (toll free) to confirm activities that are open or visit their website at vieirasresort.com.



*A beautiful Fall day at Vieira's Resort.
(photograph: Doris Noriega)*

(916) 776-1488 for information and to confirm hours; or go to koketresort.com.

Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park Camp-Resort is located at 14900 Hwy 12. The resort is adjacent to Tower Park Marina and offers deluxe cabins, RV sites, tent sites, bike and golf cart rentals, canoe and kayak rentals, fishing, swimming pools, hot tubs, playgrounds, laser tag, miniature golf, and more! For more information call (209) 369-1041 or go to towerparkresort.com.



*The water park at Jellystone Park.
(photograph: towerparkresort.com)*

Perry's Boat Harbor, located at 5000 Brannan Island Road, sits on its own private 24 acre island with migrating birds and beautiful sunsets. For more information call (916) 777-5000 or go to perrysboatharbor.com.

Ko-Ket Resort is located at 14174 Isleton Rd just south of Walnut Grove. The resort offers rental cabins, an RV park, camping and paddle board rentals. Grab a bite to eat at the Resort Marina Bar & Grill and enjoy your picnic with a water-front view. Call

The following are in the area known as "The Loop" on Brannan Island:

B&W Resort is the first resort at the north end of The Loop, at 964 Brannan Island Rd. The resort has 23 rustic cabins, a boat launch, a grassy waterfront area, boat slips, covered berthing, and a snack bar. They can also host events. For more information call (916) 777-6161 or go to bandwresort.net.

Lighthouse Sports Bar and Island Pizza at 151 Brannan Island Rd is across from the private, Lighthouse Resort and Marina. This restaurant is a popular and friendly sports bar and pizza joint right on the Mokelumne River. Hours are 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm Tuesday through Sunday. Call (916) 777-4007 for more information and to confirm hours. Check out their Facebook page at facebook.com/Lighthouse-Sports-Bar-and-Island-Pizza-101943318095238.

Korth's Pirates Lair Marina, located at 169 W Brannan Island Rd, boasts a picnic area, restaurant, two guest docks, a gas dock, gift shop and launch ramp. For more information call (916) 777-6464 (marina), (916) 777-6565 (restaurant) or go to korthspirateslair.com.

Riverboat Marina, located at 106 W Brannan Island Rd, occupies over 26 acres. The horseshoe shaped island, inhabited by native species and huge cottonwood trees, creates an impressive rookery for great blue herons with over 100 nests. For more information call (916) 777-6462 or go to riverboatmarina.com.

Moore's Riverboat Restaurant, a floating restaurant, overlooks the scenic river on the same property as the Riverboat Marina. For more information call (916) 292-8490 or go to mooresriverboatbar.com.

Sacramento Delta Bay Marina, located at 950 W Brannan Island Rd, is across the street from the adjoining Park Delta Bay (formerly Sacramento River/Delta KOA). It can accommodate boats up to 65 feet. The marina offers a pump-out station, kayak rentals and charter boats for sport fishing. For more information call (916) 777-4153 or go to sacdeltabaymarina.com.

Park Delta Bay (formerly Sacramento River/Delta KOA) is an RV and tiny-house resort adjoining the Sacramento Delta Bay Marina. For more information call (916) 777-5588 (park), (916) 777-4153 (marina) or go to deltabay.org.

For Delta adventurers, here are a few additional websites:

Information on fishing in the Delta, including a fish species list and local bait shops, is available at sacdelta.com/fishing.

Information on sailing and windsurfing is available at visitcadelta.com/what-to-do/water-recreation/sailing.

Complete map and guide of the San Joaquin and Sacramento Rivers is available at dbw.parks.ca.gov/pages/28702/files/146011_Delta_Map-r4.pdf.



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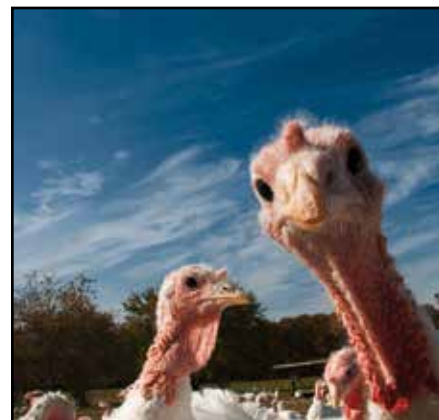
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6th ANNUAL TURKEY TROT

Benefits RVHS Cross Country Team

Writer and Photographer: Edwin Okamura

"Yes, it's still on!"

While fall sports at Rio Vista High School are postponed until winter, the Cross Country Team is fortunate to be greenlighted for workouts, with strict guidelines to ensure their health and safety. While this is new territory for everyone involved, the kids find running to be a great outlet for stress, and having social interaction—much needed during a time where only online classes are being offered.

The Cross Country program is the 100% beneficiary of the Rio Vista Annual Turkey Trot, held each year on Thanksgiving morning—with funds used to buy supplies and help those in need with event entry fees and uniforms. The Turkey Trot is an annual tradition, drawing around 200 participants each year. People take pride in wearing their previous years' tee shirts, and competing with friends and family for bragging rights.

In the past, the Turkey Trot emphasized the benefit of shedding a few calories before a glutinous afternoon of feasting. Now, the emphasis is the importance of training in advance to shed a few COVID pounds gained while sheltering in place. The Turkey Trot this year is a celebration of well being and health!

Look for more details in The Beacon, but the event is expected to proceed November 26, at 8:00 am, beginning at the 2nd St. Gym at 40 North 2nd St. in downtown Rio Vista. If needed, the event will implement social distancing. The route meanders along the river, tree-lined streets, past manicured lawns and historic homes. The turnaround is at Sandy Beach Park.

Those who register early are guaranteed a commemorative shirt. Entry fee for adults is \$25 (\$30 after November 1), \$15 for youth (ages 13 and under). A \$50 award is given to the top female and male runner. Medals and turkey garb are awarded to the top three in each age category.



The 2019 winners.

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RioVision Roundup

Check Out Our Accomplishments!

Writer: Robie Williams Photographers: Jan Vick, Linda Solomon & Robie Williams

As part of our ongoing series about RioVision, we share the projects, programs and events that RioVision has done to fulfill our mission statement of joining together to build, revitalize, energize and beautify the Rio Vista community.

RioVision's first large endeavor was the Main Street Planter Project. The project was paid for by selling inscribed pavers. Involved volunteers re-did each of the 77 Main Street planters with new irrigation, soil and plants. After completion, this became a program named Trim 'N Tidy to provide upkeep for all the planters.

Murals created and painted by RioVision volunteers include the old tavern scene on the side of Books RioV, the 9/11 mural at the Rio Vista Fire Department, the blacksmith shop at the Rio Vista Museum and the youth center wall. Our volunteers refreshed the Hap's Bait mural and smaller murals painted on benches by local students.

The first event hosted by RioVision was the Holiday Home Tour in 2015. Funds raised by the event were donated to the City for the floating dock that was installed in July 2018. The Holiday Home Tour has become a bi-yearly event happening in odd years.

The first large outdoor event was the 2016 Party on the Promenade. An interpretative sign describing the history of the waterfront was installed. The net profit was earmarked for the Promenade Shade Cover Project that is ongoing having just completed Phase I. The Promenade Walkway also showcases the Hamilton Memorial Project.



A community garden was built at RE:Church in 2016. Unfortunately, the site was not easily maintained and was dismantled. RioVision learned from this experience and went on to create the Riverview School Garden benefiting the middle school children. Produce grown is donated to the Rio Vista Food Pantry.

RioVision and Soroptimist joined together for the Sheepdog Trial at the McCormack Ranch in 2016 followed up with a repeat performance in 2017.

The original organizers of The Hog August Bites Rib & Chili Cook-off handed the reins to RioVision to organize in 2017. Our fundraising for this annual event has helped Rio Vista



Boosters Club purchase vans for the high school and supplemented the Promenade Shade Cover project. Both the 2020 Sheepdog Trial and Hog August Bites events were canceled due to COVID-19. Early Thanksgiving morning brings the Turkey Trot coordinated by RioVision. Funds raised benefit the Rio Vista High School Cross Country team.

Other RioVision events include the Party at the Park, grand opening for the skate and dog parks and short silent movies performed with musical accompaniment on the antique Wurlitzer.

Repainting the curbs downtown, hanging holiday decorations, the bike racks in front of the Rio Vista Bakery and Bank of Rio Vista Bank Administration Building, the table in front of Pizza Factory, benches at the dog park, the



installation of gutter covers, planters redone and maintained at the Rio Vista Library, maintenance of the lights in trees along Main Street, upkeep and replacement of the flags at the foot of Main and the Western Entrance are all courtesy of RioVision volunteers.

Lastly, the RioVision Gallery offers downtown shoppers an opportunity to purchase original art, photographs, handcrafted jewelry and other genres created by local artists.

Hometown Heroes

continued from page 5

The clinic now performs COVID-19 testing. Jeanne says, "We've had a really full schedule with the COVID testing and also with the antibody testing." In the case of possible COVID-19, the initial consultation is always done over the phone to determine if testing is appropriate. "We don't want really sick people like that in the clinic. We go out to the car to test them." Recently, according to Darrell, "We're seeing more businesses that are requiring COVID testing to see if their employees are actually sick and they're repeating those tests every two weeks. That's put a different spin on what we do from a lab standpoint." COVID testing is typically done in the morning to enable lab pick up at 2:00 in the afternoon.



Rio Vista Holistic Health Center owners Darrell and Jeanne Brown.
(photograph: Jan Vick)

The clinic recently added stem cell therapies, used to address medical issues such as joint pain, COPD, autoimmune disease, diabetes and Parkinson's. Often given as an injection, for example to treat joint pain, stem cells may also be administered intravenous, and soon, inhalable.

With respect to their clinic Jeanne and Darrell agree, "We just want to give back to the community, not just in medicine, but the whole part of being a community."

Rio Vista Holistic Health Care Center is located at 500 Main Street and can be reached at (707) 374-3142. Hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm and 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, closed Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday.

RIO VISTA CITY, FIRE & POLICE

Writer: Robie Williams

The City of Rio Vista continues to provide city services through the pandemic. Although all city office lobbies are closed, the staff are there answering the phones and emails and conducting city business. A video detailing plans during the pandemic is narrated by Mayor Kott and displayed on the Rio Vista Comcast Cable Channel and on the city website. The city implemented the Emergency Operation Center with Fire Chief Jeff Armstrong at the helm in early March. More information may be found on the city website at riovistacity.com. Sign up to receive text message updates from the city by texting "Hello" to (855) 907-2229.

Rio Vista Fire Chief Armstrong leads the Emergency Operation Center. An experienced EOC coordinator, he met the task head on starting in February, updating the city's emergency preparedness plan. Activated at Level 3 on March 12, with three staffers working part time at both the EOC and regular city positions, the EOC was in business. The three areas of primary concern are public information regarding COVID-19 and the city's response, Contingency Planning for preserving continuity of services to protect, serve, and govern the community under various possible scenarios, and resource management and preparation logistics such as protective equipment for emergency personnel.

For COVID-19 related questions or advice contact the EOC at (707) 374-5889 Monday thru Friday.

The **Rio Vista Police Department** finds that policing during a pandemic requires adjusting to changing mandates from all levels of government. The police department is there to educate when it comes to wearing masks or responding to complaints about businesses that may not be complying with new logistics such as protective equipment for emergency personnel. Based on Best Practices and Risk Management Models, Rio Vista submitted a re-opening plan to Solano County a week before the County had their plans in place. State, County, and City plans have since lined up. The EOC was ready to assist businesses with the reopening, all while still providing fire and emergency services! Additionally, the fire department staff assisted Lira's with delivering grocery orders.

Chief Jackson Harris invites questions. Please ask the officers on duty about meeting with the Chief or he will meet with residents at the station for a socially distanced, masked chat. Contact the RVPD at (707) 374-2300 for non-emergency information.

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