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## Editor's Corner

Once again, we are amazed by just how artistically diverse we are as a community. Those who paint, draw, sketch, photograph, write or compose, pull from the Delta's treasure trove of unique experiences—Byzantine waterways, immense big sky and varied terrain, to name a few.

A first for the magazine—we delve into the new (to us) artistic genres of literature and music. We start with Scott Brizel's heartfelt essay on the venerable band Afterglow and its rich musical contributions to mid-1960's West Coast "soft-psych" harmony. An experienced novelist, but new to the magazine, Peter Bradley contributes (with a little help from Robie Williams and Susan Whitesell) to a piece on the plethora of talented local novelists. There are even a few story lines that take place in Rio Vista! We hope this leads to an ongoing series with greater detail about some of our clever local writers.

Historical homes with beautiful architecture are seen throughout Rio Vista and the Delta. Historian Phil Pezzaglia's article, "Architecture as Art," reveals the building styles of our historic homes and institutions and their unique visual and structural aesthetics. Our theme about art in our community continues with an article about two extraordinary local artists, Eugenie Quan-Corral and Ellen LaVacarre, written by Marilyn Nelson, and continues with "Art About Town," a fun tour of some of the unique artistic gems in Rio Vista by writer, photographer and Assistant Editor Jan Vick. Moving up river, writer and photographer Doris Noriega highlights artists Garen Patterson and Theresa Jessie, owner of the new 40 Main Street art gallery in Isleton.

We're also excited to revisit a few of our revered events after a long COVID-induced hiatus, including Bass Derby, and holiday favorites such as the lighted boat parade, Rio Vista Museum Olde Tyme Christmas Faire and the RioVision Holiday Home Tour.

Enjoy this issue and the many events and artistic variables that make our community so unique!

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*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](http://discoverriovista.com). For additional information about RioVision see [riovistavision.com](http://riovistavision.com) and [facebook.com/riovistavision](https://facebook.com/riovistavision). RioVision is a non-profit 501(c)(3) group.

**COVER:** Photographer Ken Atkins captures two children enjoying the "teacup" ride at the Bass Derby & Festival.

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## The Legend of Afterglow

Writer: Scott Brizel

They began humbly in 1964 under the name "The Medallions," debuting at a Dorris, California pizza parlor "just to see the reaction of the people to our sound," says original lead singer and guitarist (and current Rio Vista resident) Gene Resler. After changing their name to "Afterglow," the group would go on to create a classic psychedelic album now treasured by connoisseurs of the genre.

Not released until 1968, their self-titled album was begun after the group went into hiatus for most of 1966, when some band members attended Yuba College in Marysville while another member attended Chico State. The band resumed musical activities while working on their degrees, and by Fall of 1966, began recording in San Francisco on what would become their legendary album with Leo Kulka at Golden State Recorders.



The original album cover. Photo: Scott Brizel

The album is now a well-recognized gem of mid-1960's West Coast "soft-psych" harmony sound: contemporary with, and reminiscent of the likes of Beau Brummels, the Association, Byrds, Buffalo Springfield, Left Banke, Turtles and the more experimental side of Beach Boys, with a nod across the pond to the Beatles and Zombies. But unlike the preceding bands, Afterglow also flirted with Kesey Acid-Test/Warhol Factory-tangent avant-gardism at a time when contemporary bands, such as Red Crayola, Fugs, Velvet Underground, Godz, The Mothers of Invention, and West Coast

Pop Art Experimental Band were likewise newcomers. Other 1960's bands noted today among genre-aficionados specifically for taking such experimentation to extremes, such as Fifty-Foot Hose, did not emerge until after Afterglow's album was released.



The band in 1968.

Due to prioritizing their studies, recording for the album was intermittent. The album did not materialize on record store shelves and radio stations until early 1968. It was reportedly ignored by record buyers and disc jockeys alike. The delay undoubtedly had an impact on the success of the release, as during the mercurial sixties, musical fashions arced in months, not years. In that era, an idea that had been fresh and innovative at inception could be perceived as dated (or misperceived as derivative) if its exposure was delayed by even six months, let alone fifteen months.

Life on the road didn't appeal to the band's original leader and principal songwriter, Tony Tecumseh, so he left shortly after the album was released. Gene reflects, "after Tony left the group, I became rhythm and lead guitar. We had a chance to join the National Guard

and that was when we realized that we could commit to music full time and not worry about our college deferment from the draft... Viet Nam was in full strength."

Gene states that, "Afterglow was a band that progressed after the album was released and added new members as we continued our music as a dance and show group playing upgraded hotel lounges, Reno and Tahoe, and was booked on a Military Base Circuit for NCO and Officer Shows all over from California to Hawaii." Gene, Ron George (the original and current bassist/backing vocalist and Elk Grove resident), and original drummer Larry Alexander continued to perform on the road until 1974.

Interest in the heretofore obscure California group was revitalized in 1995 when retro-specialty label "Sundazed" bought the Afterglow master tapes from Leo Kulka's Golden State Recorders archive and released it on CD to critical acclaim. Six years later, the company also re-released the album on vinyl. Subsequently, PBS produced a special about the band. Gene noted, "We had no idea that our album would ever receive the recognition that later happened down the road."

The current trio finds a recent change to the group lineup. Whereas the band has been performing with a keyboard player and a programmed drum machine, the current lineup features live drums from music industry veteran Jim Weyeneth of Rio Vista.



The band today.

Gene reflected on Rio Vista audiences and Rio Vista itself, "There's a certain peacefulness that brings one to Rio Vista. If you can't watch a sunrise or a gorgeous sunset and not be impressed, I don't know what it will take. Beauty is in nature, music, and all the other wonderful happenings in Rio Vista. I believe Rio Vista has a huge heart for giving with all the charitable fund raisers and work behind the different non-profit organizations that are represented. How can you not say that these people are the very best audience anyone can have!"

Afterglow is featured at the 2021 Bass Festival in Rio Vista as the opening act on the main stage, Saturday October 9th, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. The band has two pages on Facebook, "Afterglow 1968" and "Afterglow Trio 1968." The latter deals with the current band, the former with the classic band. Contact email for the band is [resler@citlink.net](mailto:resler@citlink.net).

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# Perspective on the Rural Muse

Writer & Photographer: Doris Noriega

This past June, "40 Main Art Gallery" opened in Isleton showcasing several artists' works including that of the gallery's local owner, photographer Theresa Jessie and local artist Garen Patterson.

## Theresa Jessie

Theresa took up photography as a way to relax and enjoy the outdoors as relief from her high-stress Bay Area job. She began by exploring nearby cities and waterways, and for a time specialized in street art and street artists, seeking as well to capture, in her powerful black and white photographs, the lifestyle and spirit of various distinctive urban dwellers in and around Oakland and San Francisco.

Theresa left the Bay Area an accomplished, award-winning photographer (gold and silver ribbons at county and state fairs), and apropos to the expansion of her subject matter to include animals in their natural habitats, relocated to our fecund Delta Loop. She soon realized she would need a place to show her work; thus was born 40 Main Art Gallery in Isleton.

Theresa strongly believes in the revitalizing of Delta towns by bringing people together through the appreciation of art and photography. She is grateful for the Delta's broad art community and their interest in 40 Main Art Gallery.

Besides displaying work in her own gallery, she has shown her photography at "Hog August Bites" and the Bass Festival. The Oakland Art, Culture, and Food Guide has featured her work. Her awards include Best of Class at the Alameda County Fair and Silver Ribbon at the California State Fair in Sacramento.

Contact Theresa at TJ@YourLifeMyLens.com or [www.40MainArtGallery.com](http://www.40MainArtGallery.com).



Theresa with her photographs displayed at 40 Main Art Gallery.

## Garen Patterson

Where am I?

For those of you who are on Facebook's Delta News this sounds familiar! Garen Patterson regularly posts his sketches, challenging us to identify the building or structure, alley or street, and in what Delta town he's in. The response has been tremendous and has brought people and stories together in surprising ways.

Garen and his wife, Dianne, moved from Sonoma to Rio Vista several years ago. As a way to get to know Rio Vista and other Delta towns, he started by taking photos of the narrow picturesque streets and alleys of our Delta towns, and later would leisurely sketch them at home. Garen expanded his repertoire to other aspects of the environment and began posting a variety of sketches on Facebook. People have had such fun identifying the locales and then sharing stories about them.

Garen's work has inspired residents to further appreciate their surroundings and history, and in turn, Garen enjoys the feedback and new friendships that have developed. As one Delta News fan effused, "You are giving us what we already have!"

Garen not only does sketches, but also paints, sings, writes and plays guitar. Find his work at the RioVision Gallery, 40 Main Street Gallery in Isleton, Mac Boodery, Myrtle & Maeh's, Mei Wah, Books Rio V, and Lira's.



One of Garen's many "Where Am I?" sketches.

Garen, the son of an architect, began drawing as a child in his native Menlo Park. Later, he received a Fine Art degree from California College of Arts in Oakland and eventually, with Dianne, established a successful painting and decorating business in Sonoma



Garen poses with a painting.

Garen thinks that the way we interpret and process art says a lot about who we are. He observes that people who end up in Rio Vista share an appreciation of quiet, natural beauty, but also a passion for freedom, individuality and recreation—all of which are enabled by Delta life. Garen believes the art movement marshaling these values should be called "Deltaism."

Contact Garen at [garenp@comcast.net](mailto:garenp@comcast.net) or (707) 337-2313.

## Also Featured...

40 Main Art Gallery is featuring (or has recently featured) the following works: Garen Patterson's sketches and oil paintings of the Delta, Marianne Biner's "Pour Art" fluid acrylic abstracts, Varian Mace's watercolors of flowers and landscapes, Diane Patterson's healing and reiki Fine Jewelry and Crystals, and Malcolm Stewart's Lapidary Jewelry and Mineral Collections.



Necklace by Diane Patterson.



"Pour Art" by Marianne Biner.



Abstract water color by Varian Mace.



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# 73rd Annual Bass Derby & Festival

## See You There!

Writers: Karen Dozier & Cindy Green

We're back – and better than ever! The Rio Vista Chamber of Commerce and the City of Rio Vista hosts the 73rd Annual

and margaritas. Enjoy all of this while listening to some great music scheduled on the pole barn stage, or make your way to

Rio Vista Bass Derby & Festival on October 8, 9, & 10, 2021. This is the oldest Bass (Striper) Derby fishing event on the West Coast!

The fishing derby begins Friday, October 8 at 6:00 am and ends Sunday, October 10 at 3:00 pm. This year the 1st Place Striped Bass winner receives \$3,000.00, 2nd Place Striped Bass winner receives \$1,500.00, and 3rd Place Striped Bass winner receives \$1,000.00. For Sturgeon and Salmon categories, the prizes are: 1st Place \$1,000.00, 2nd Place \$500.00 and 3rd Place \$250.00. In addition, on Sunday afternoon there is a drawing for gear and other prizes for fishing participants following the cash awards ceremony. Tickets to fish the derby are available online at [bassfestival.com](http://bassfestival.com) or at the Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center, 33 North 2nd St. in Rio Vista, which is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 am-1:00 pm. Adult tickets are \$50.00 and tickets for children 15 and under are \$10.00. The kids' derby is for largest catfish and target-length striper and prizes include gift cards and fishing gear. For additional information, please call the Rio Vista Chamber of Commerce at (707) 374-2700.

The weekend is a fun-filled event for the whole family. In addition to the fishing derby, there are food and beverage vendors, along with arts and crafts and informational booths along North Front St. The pole barn comes alive with music all weekend long with some new-to-the-festival bands as well as our local favorites. Food vendors serve up delicious food and drinks, and picnic tables are available in the beer garden, serving ice-cold beer, wine,



Our local cub scout pack marches in the parade. Photo: Robie Williams



Event chair Noel O'Brian presents an award to a 2018 winner. Photo: Ken Atkins



The midway awaits! Photo: bassfestival.com

stop there! Just down the street from the pole barn is the carnival and midway offering exciting rides and games for all ages. Over on Main St., the Rio Vista Food Pantry and Rio Vista CARE sponsor the "Catch of The Day" Rummage Sale at 45 Main St. On Saturday, the Lion's Club Car Show takes place on Main St., and at 9:15 pm, come down to the river to watch the glorious fireworks! On Sunday, line up on Main St. for the old-fashioned downtown parade. Sign up to be in the parade! Applications are available at the Rio Vista Chamber of Commerce office or call (707) 374-2700 for more information. Also on Sunday, there is a Corvette show. Come on down and see these beautiful cars on display.

Entrance to the festival and parking is free. Our very popular People Mover shuttles festival-goers up and down Main St. during the day on Saturday and Sunday.

Be sure to check out the website at [bassfestival.com](http://bassfestival.com) for more and/or changing information on our wonderful Bass Derby & Festival or call (707) 374-2700. Information is also available on our Facebook page at [facebook.com/riovistabassderby](https://facebook.com/riovistabassderby) or stop by the Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center at 33 North 2nd St., Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 am-1:00 pm for Bass Derby hats, t-shirts, and more.

See you there!



# Rio Vista Writers

Writers: Peter Bradbury, Susan Whitesell & Robie Williams

Rio Vista is home to many writers and avid readers of both fiction and non-fiction. Among the books offered by local authors there are themes about life experiences, poems, fish, therapy, travel, medical issues, biographies, and many others. Some take place in Rio Vista!

If you like to write, there are writers groups, such as the Rio Vista Writers Group and the Trilogy Writers Club. If you prefer to read and discuss, there are also readers groups in the Trilogy and core Rio Vista communities.

Among the many writers are:

## Marianne Aleck

**The Liberty Club** – This non-fiction family memoir follows the lives of a Greek and French family through their true life adventures that the author coins, “A slice of Americana with a European twist.” You’ll learn their struggles and ingenuity, and how the family adapted in America, while still preserving their rich European traditions.

## Peter C. Bradbury

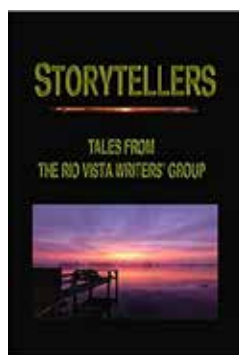
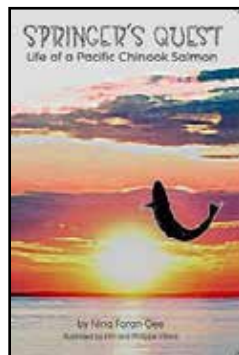
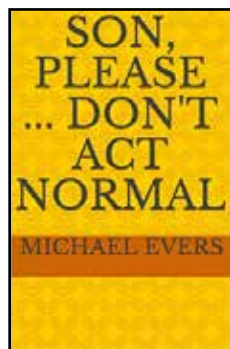
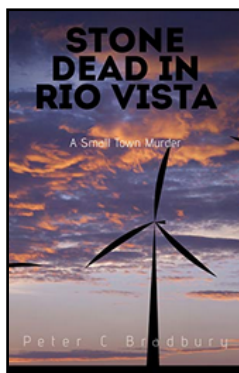
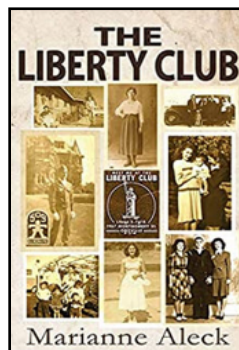
Peter C. Bradbury has written seven novels to date:

**Stonebridge Manor** – A murder mystery set in an English mansion. Lady Baldwin is manipulative, sexy, desirable, generous, and moody. She is loved and hated, so when her body is found after a weekend of excess, there are many suspects.

**Prospects** – A thriller set in San Francisco about serial killing brothers. The older brother has looks, intelligence and wealth, and the need to kill, but doesn’t like the blood when he finally does so. His brother has no such qualms, and is only too happy to dispose of the bodies.

**Consequences** – After years of suffering, a young man deals with those who bullied him along with the bullies of others.

**The Innocent Children** – Often ignored, trafficking of children in the USA is a big problem that is only too real. Children are bought, lured, taken and sold... with few happy endings.



**Burnt** – Left to die in a burning room with her family, a young girl survives fourth degree burns and struggles to heal and seek justice despite killers who need to finish the job.

**Stone Dead in Rio Vista** – A member is brutally murdered at the golf club in Rio Vista and nobody understands why it happened. The killer finds she is good at it, and soon another member is murdered. Can the police officer catch her before she disappears?

**A Killing in Rio Vista** – Police Officer Morales has another murder to deal with, along with her private life, in this follow-up to Stone Dead. Surprised to find many suspects, Julie Morales has a real “who did it?” on her hands.

## Verla Shirley-Chaddick

**A Matter of Honor** – Based on the author’s 1999 journey from Florence, Oregon to Germany, Belgium and France, plus excerpts from the 612th Company 1943-1945 Quartermasters Graves Registration Journal, the past and present mingle to tell the story of a World War II veteran’s search for his first love and his return to pay homage to the fallen heroes of the liberation of Europe.

## Charles Doubleday

**Roger Doubleday’s Arrival in America** – This family memoir traces the history of Roger Doubleday’s arrival in America, through various descendants, to the author Charles Doubleday.

## Richard D. Draper

**A Fullness of Joy** – This book contains a timely message that brings peace, clarity and understanding to anyone who is searching for answers to life’s questions.

## Michael B. Evers

Michael B. Evers has written three novels:

**A Simple Man: An Anthology** – A compilation of poems, essays, and thoughts about the inner-working of life intended to entertain while provoking thought in the reader.

**Son, Please Don’t Act Normal** – Recollections of the author’s youthful experiences, perceptions of what his parents and others taught him as he grew older, and reflections based on what he learned later in life.

**The Destination** – An intriguing account of a trip halfway across the United States where two people meet and help one another find what had been lost to them, leading toward a future that was never to be.

## Nina Gee

**Springers Quest: Life of a Pacific Chinook Salmon** – Known and celebrated around the world for food and sport, the author follows a female salmon from the beginning to end of the fish’s life, examining its biology and environment as she chronicles its descent from its natal Salmon River to the Pacific Ocean and back.

## Robert V. Hardy

**Circular Passages: A Young Man’s 480 Day Global Odyssey** – The author shares both the tender parts of an adventure and the near misses with tragedy in this endearing, funny, and awe inspiring memoir of his travels at twenty-four. His story is one of two expeditions, one the inner voyage of his soul, the other the globe-trotting journey from his native Oregon through Europe, the Middle East, and across Asia to way Down Under.

## George Marshall

George Marshall has written two novels:

**Fire Walk: The Journey Home** – A perilous journey into the dense forbidding jungle of the Amazon seeking treasure leaves two men’s lives challenged by the unknown, deceit and greed.

**Return to Fire Walk** – In this follow up novel, suspense, treachery, and mystery take place in the forbidding Amazon jungle as one native tribe prepares for battle with another unsuspecting tribe, changing all their lives forever.

## Molly McIntyre

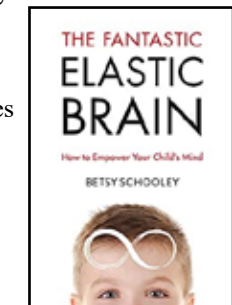
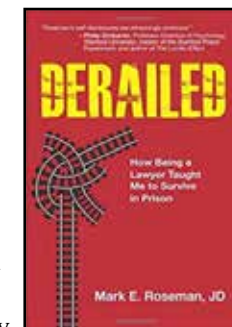
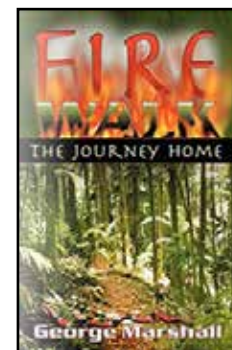
**What Are They Doing?** – A child’s fun book of animals and actions that helps develop speech and language, developed by the author, an experienced Speech and Language Pathologist.

## Geraldine Naughton (nee Faulkner)

The author writes stories that come to life for all children including **King of the Lily Pads**, **The Perfect Gift**, **Joeys Birthday Pet**, **No More Bullies in Our School**, **Floppy Meets Santa**, **Owls Birthday**, **A Whale of a Tale in Rio Vista** and more.

## Phil Pezzaglia

Not only is Phil Pezzaglia a contributing writer to *Discover Rio Vista* magazine, he also writes a monthly column, “Searching Out Solano County’s Past with Phil Pezzaglia,” in the Dixon Tribune. He has published four books about the area:



**Images of America – Rio Vista** – Based on the best 211 images from the Rio Vista Museum’s archives and private local collections, the book chronicles the establishment of the town of Rio Vista in 1858, relocation to its present site, the events that shaped the city, and its evolution from fishing community to agriculture to industry on its journey into the 21st century.

**Images of America – Towns of the Sacramento River Delta** – Covers the first major exploration of the Sacramento River and tells the stories of the founding pioneers and the establishment or failure of the towns along the banks of the lower Sacramento River Delta.

**True Tales of the Sacramento Delta** – Uncovers the facts behind many of the stories and historical events of the lower Sacramento Delta – early pioneers, shipwrecks, murder, robbery, vigilante justice, bootleggers and more – that have become legends of the Delta.

**Rio Vista Through Time** – A photographic journey through a collection of historical photographs augmented with recent photographs taken from the same perspectives that examine and illustrate the 160-year history of the City of Rio Vista.

## Rio Vista Writers Group, and others

**Storytellers: Tales from the Rio Vista Writers Group** – Founded in the spring of 2016 by David Teves, C.A. (Cece) Giacom, and Jake Kimbrell, this group met Thursdays at the Rio Vista Library to improve their writing, support one another and have a good time. Stories vary greatly in style, tone and range from funny, to serious, to controversial. The stories represent writers from the Rio Vista Writers Group, Trilogy Writers Club and a small satellite group in Elk Grove. Contributors include: C.A. Giacom, Jake Kimbrell, Ellen Desmond, Teresa Whitaker, Judy Stinson, Elaine Earl-Cooper, Zoe Mrdeza, Suzi Cassone, Diane and Garen Patterson and David Teves.

Another popular writers group, the Trilogy Writers Club, was founded by Judy Stinson, Elaine Earl-Cooper and Suzi Cassone.

## Mark E. Roseman

**Derailed** – This autobiography details how a well-known California attorney ends up in prison, loses his freedom and endures a starkly different culture, then puts his life back together when he gets out after two years. The author shares his transformative journey—part memoir and part scathing indictment of the American justice system.

## Betsy Schooley

**The Fantastic Elastic Brain** – The author shares the “how-tos” for helping kids who are struggling in school. Full of specific exercises, helpful illustrations, and student success stories, and driven by the idea that every child can thrive in the academic space.

These are some of the writers of Rio Vista. We apologize if we missed anyone. Whatever your interest give them a read, write your own book, or join one of the many writers and readers clubs.





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# Art About Town

Writer & Photographer: Jan Vick

There is a lot of wonderful, surprising art to see in Rio Vista. Some are easy to find just by walking around. Other art has to be searched out. There are murals, signs, sculptures and more. So, wander about town to see what you can find.

Many of our beautiful murals were designed and painted by local artists.

Starting on Front Street the murals on the old warehouse at the north end of the Promenade were painted by the Rio Vista High School art classes under the direction of former RVHS art teacher Ryan Pace, with assistance from local residents and Trilogy activists. The flag facing the river is in memory of 9/11.

The mural on the Rio Vista Museum on Front Street was designed and painted by Harvey Steinhaus, a talented Rio Vista watercolorist, assisted by a Rio Vista High School student, and supported by RioVision.

Hap's Bait mural, a fantasy of the Delta, has been in place for many years and was updated by Linda Solomon and Richard Laswell a few years ago also under the auspices of RioVision.

The historical representation of the saloon and barber shop on the side of Books RioV on Second Street and Main was designed by Linda Solomon based on the original uses of the building and painted by a large team of local artists. The Barber Shop was painted mostly by Amy Schmidt. This mural was the first of several sponsored by RioVision.

Walking up Main Street to the Rio Vista Fire Department, view another tribute to 9/11 featuring a reproduction of the famous photograph of firefighters with the flag after the fire as well as a piece of a girder from the World Trade Center. This mural was conceived and painted by Linda Solomon and Amy Schmidt and sponsored by RioVision. Take a short walk down the parking area on the right side of the firehouse to the beautiful historic mural of the original firehouse trucks and staff painted by Nick Styles, formerly a Rio Vista High School art student and local artist.

A second mural by Nick Styles needs a bit more searching. Walk along Second Street from the Pizza Factory towards the Library and peek down the alley to see the mural along the side of the Emigh building honoring the long history of sheep ranching in the Montezuma Hills.

Well off the beaten track are the beautiful mosaics by the High School art students, also under the guidance of Ryan Pace. The mosaics are along the driveway from 4th Street by the student parking lot. One of the mosaics was commissioned by Nadine Pennick as a memorial. These are well worth the detour – they are amazing.

Not only are there murals on the buildings in town, but a few local businesses also have lovely art in unlikely places. Walk into Pets4All on Main Street and ask to peek into the back yard at the mural on the face of the metal building. (Note: this is behind the dog grooming studio so it may not always be available to view.)

The mural at the Taqueria on Main street by Ryan Pace's students, is unexpected; it is on the ceiling! Try looking from different aspects – fascinating!

The building now housing AJK Emporium has been through several lives. Starting out many, many years ago as a theater it has been at various times a church and a real estate office. At one point the owner repainted the art deco walls and ceiling originally in the theater building. Next time you are shopping, take a look – it is gorgeous.

On Highway 12, Tortilla Flats has a new mural representing a Mexican town. It is charming and adds greatly to the ambiance.

There are several other types of art to see in Rio Vista.

Two of the historic neon signs have been completely refurbished: Fosters Bighorn and The Striper Cafe. Hopefully, the old Rio Vista Hotel and Flamingo sign can be done in the future.

Walk towards the river on Main Street just past Lucy's to view the sign on the Youth and Community Hall. This installation was designed by Linda Solomon using graphic figures as an inspiration, cut by Lira's Welding, and painted by Linda. This artful endeavor was also sponsored by RioVision.

A beautiful, unique art piece is worth a visit to the Promenade. The kinetic sculpture is a memorial to Donna Hamilton from her husband David and best friend Raye Hansen, and is also sponsored in part by RioVision. The sculptures, designed by metal artist Lyman Whitaker, represent the wind, and are titled Star Dancer, Double Helix Sail, and Single Helix Oval. The landscaping was designed by local architect John Bento. It is especially beautiful at dusk with a rising moon in the background.

These are but a few of the artworks to be seen about town. There are more, including painted utility boxes, benches, newspaper boxes and a delightful rock garden outside the firehouse. Just spend a day rambling and looking to find these artistic gems. Enjoy!



Rio Vista Museum



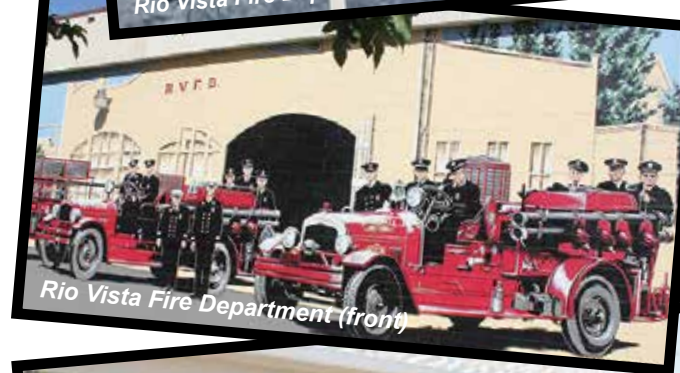
Second & Main Street



Second & Main Street



Rio Vista Fire Department (front)



Rio Vista Fire Department (front)



Second Street (alley near Main Street)



Rio Vista High School (near student parking lot)



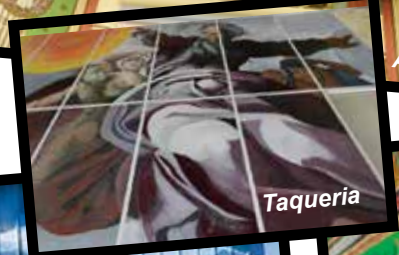
RVHS (near student parking lot)



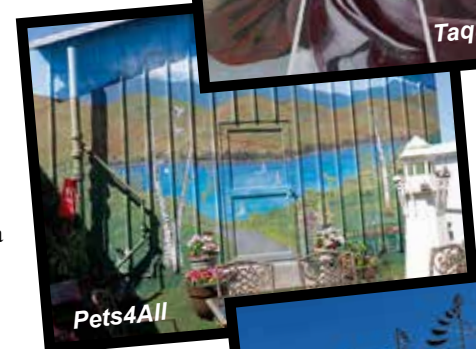
RVHS (near student parking lot)



AJK Emporium



Taqueria



Pets4All



Tortilla Flats



Promenade



# ARCHITECTURE AS ART

Writer: Phil Pezzaglia

Dan Rice, the 19th century man of many talents once said, "there are three forms of visual art; painting is art to look at, sculpture is art you walk around, and architecture is art you can walk through."

The city of Rio Vista has several styles of architecture lining its streets. Many of our earliest structures were either destroyed by fire or removed for more modern structures, during an area of modernization and an attitude of "out with the old, in with the new." There are, however, a few examples of Victorian, Craftsman, Tudor, Gothic and Mission style architecture still standing.

## Victorian

Victorian architecture became popular in the mid-to-late 19th century. It received its name, from the style of architecture designed during the reign of Queen Victoria in Great Britain. Rio Vista has a couple of homes that reflect this era of design. Most prominent would be the former home of Captain Lars Peter Larsen, located on the corner of Second Street and Bruning Avenue, as well as the contemporary homes of James Sullivan and Jesse Thomas.



*The Thomas home on South 2nd Street.*

Described as late Victorian, the 1897 Larsen home is considered one of the most beautiful homes ever built in Rio Vista. The home was constructed in the fashion of the day: brick foundation, wood framing, and lathe and plaster interior walls. Captain Larsen, being wealthy, was able to purchase the best of materials. Also, by owning a lumber company, he was able to hand pick all the best lumber. The woodwork was constructed of all redwood with beautiful hand painted graining. The floors were all hardwood with decorative trim strips. The fireplace was Italian marble. Two very noteworthy exterior items are the widow's walk atop the home, the Queen Anne corner tower, and the carved decorations under the gabled eaves on the verge boards.

The 1899 Thomas home was constructed of the finest redwood available. It was easy to get since Sullivan and Larsen Lumber Company was located in Rio Vista on Front Street. The 3,843 square foot, three-story, ten-room home included a large living room with fireplace, kitchen, breakfast nook, formal dining room with three built in hutches, and six bedrooms but only one bathroom.

The home is considered a Victorian with characteristics of the Queen Anne style, popular during the era of its construction. Queen Anne style is categorized by the heavy use of decorative gingerbread woodwork and the original balustrades.

The home is a Victorian, featuring a gabled dormer with fixed sash and multi-pane sidelights, fish-scale shingles, bay windows, horizontal siding, transom light above first floor window, stained glass sidelights on each side of the front door, eaves brackets, lattice work, balustrade, tower, and ornate decorative woodwork.

## Craftsman

One of the more popular architectural designs for builders in Rio Vista's past is the American Craftsman design, inspired by the arts and crafts movement at the turn of the century. The style put emphasis on the skill or dexterity of the carpenter and/or builder. There are many examples of these homes in the older portions of Rio Vista, on the south side of Main Street.



*A Craftsman home on South 2nd Street.*

Craftsman homes could be of various square footage and either single or two story. Some of their most notable characteristics are the tapered columns, which support the roof, covered front porch, and exposed rafter tails.

## Tudor Revival

During the 1920s and 1930s Tudor Revival architecture became exceedingly popular across the United States, second only to Colonial Revival. Tudor was recognizable for its steeply pitched roofs, with front facing gables or multi-bed gables, and half-timbered wall surfaces. The exterior was almost always stucco with a side or front chimney, diamond shaped casement windows and an arched or round entry door.



*The Harry Stewart home on South 4th Street.*

The Harry Stewart home constructed in 1932 at 450 South Fourth Street is an example of Tudor Revival. The living room was a step down from the formal entry and featured a fireplace and large front window. The dining room had a beautiful oak built in hutch. Throughout the home was hardwood flooring. One bathroom featured green ceramic tile with black trim.

The exterior featured front facing gables, a steeply pitched roof covered with wood shingles, false half-timbering employed as decoration, brick wall on the ground floor with stucco wall

treatment on the floor above, tall, narrow windows with multiple glazing, and an entryway with a round-topped arch.

## Gothic

Two features of Gothic Architecture in churches are large stained-glass windows and increased height, which are both found in St. Joseph's Parish Catholic Church located on South 4th Street. The church falls under the style of architecture referred to as Carpenter Gothic. This beautiful 1904 church features stained glass windows, each with inscriptions dedicating the lancet windows. The building follows the cruciform floor plan formed by the intersection of the nave, chancel, and apse with the transept.



*St. Joseph's on South 4th Street.*

## Mission Revival

Mission Revival was an architectural style that became popular in the late 19th century and continued through the 1920s. It drew its inspiration from the Spanish missions of California. The style became quite popular in institutional structures, such as schools, as well as being quite common in railroad depots and churches. The style was also popular in residential homes.



*The Windborn Church on Main Street.*

Examples of Mission Revival style in Rio Vista are the Windborn Church, located on the corner of Main and Third Streets, and the Bruning School, (now called River Delta Unified School District Office), located on Montezuma Street. The Windborn Church was erected in 1919. The building's exterior walls are finished in stucco with a red mission-style roof, low pitch, hipped roof, open eaves with exposed rafters, and multi curved gables with parapets. The Bruning School was dedicated in 1929, in memory of Joseph and Gertrude Bruning, the first benefactors of Rio Vista. This Mission Revival style stucco schoolhouse is currently the oldest standing public school building in Rio Vista.

Like many small towns across America, the homes and buildings in Rio Vista reflect several different eras with a diverse representation of artful architectural styles.



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# More Talented

Writer: Marilyn Nelson

Rio Vista has become a real artists' community. It is blessed with a plethora of painters, photographers, sculptors, carvers, and jewelry designers. Two of the best artists in the area are featured here—Eugenie Quan Corral and Ellen LaVaccare.

## Eugenie Quan Corral

Eugenie is a native of the San Francisco Bay Area. She was born in Oakland but has lived and worked in several other cities around The Bay including San Jose, San Ramon, and Danville. Four years ago, she moved to Rio Vista.

Art has always been an essential part of Eugenie's life. She studied at the California College of the Arts in Oakland, where she earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. Since then, she has put her art to work in various ways, including graphic design for advertising agencies, artistic work at KNTV station in San Jose, and for her own design firm.



After she became a mother, she volunteered for over sixteen years in public schools. Using her design and business skills she raised over \$800,000 for education.

Eventually, Eugenie's focus moved more towards mindfulness, wellness, and healing. Her intentions are to release messages to improve the health of mind, body, and spirit through her art.

Experience the special feelings her pieces evoke or purchase her beautiful artwork at the RioVision Gallery at 116 Main Street or on her website at [www.equanc.com](http://www.equanc.com).

## Ellen LaVaccare

Ellen grew up in an Air Force family and thus lived in many parts of the United States. Maine was where she spent the most time and it was there where she earned her BS in Art Education at the University of Maine and an MA at the Rhode Island School of Design. She used her degrees teaching in elementary school, high school, and college.

Fourteen years ago, after Ellen retired from teaching, she and her husband came out to sunny, warm California. They moved to Rio Vista to be closer to their children. She finds the light and landscape in California very different from that of New England, but she loves to paint in both places.

Art has always been an especially important part of Ellen's life. Even as a child she knew she wanted to be an artist. She is happiest when she is in her studio, outside painting, or browsing a museum or art gallery.

Her early paintings were primarily figurative, but her interest has evolved towards landscapes and some abstracts. She prefers painting in oil, acrylic, and watercolor.



Ellen is a highly regarded artist in Maine, Idaho, and Northern California. She has shown her work with art associations, in galleries, and at juried shows winning numerous awards.

# Local Artists

Photographer: Doris Noriega



Some of the galleries in the area where she has shown include those in Walnut Creek, Mill Valley, Lodi, Napa, Fairfield, and Vacaville.

See more of Ellen's beautiful work and perhaps purchase one of her pieces at Valley Art Gallery at 1661 Botelho Drive, Suite 110 in Walnut Creek or online at [valleyartgallery.org/artist/ellen-lavaccare/](http://valleyartgallery.org/artist/ellen-lavaccare/).

At the 2021 Solano County Fair she won sixteen ribbons – half were First Place and the others included 3 Best of Division and a Best in Show! The winning subjects included landscapes/seascapes, figures, faces, abstract, plants and animals.



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## Holiday Home Tour

*Downtown, Trilogy & Brann Ranch Homes*

Writer: Mary Ellen Lamothe

RioVision is proud to present several festive and unique homes on the 2021 Holiday Home Tour, Saturday, December 4th. The event coincides with the Rio Vista Museum Olde Tyme Christmas Faire, annual Christmas Tree Lighting at the end of Main St., and the Lighted Boat Parade.

A limited number of VIP tickets are available that include all the homes on the tour, plus a gala evening from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm at a private home on the river where guests watch the annual Lighted Boat Parade with holiday cocktails and hors d'oeuvres.

The self-guided tour is open to the public from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. General admission tickets are \$25.00 and limited VIP tickets are \$50.00, available online at [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) or downtown at The Gallery, 116 Main St., open Tuesday through Saturday from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm.



The homes, still to be confirmed at time of print, include three homes in core Rio Vista, three homes in Trilogy, plus two special historic homes, part of the old Brann Ranch, just west of Trilogy. All homes on the tour are decked out in full holiday décor.

The Holiday Home Tour benefits RioVision, a community-based non-profit dedicated to revitalizing and beautifying the Rio Vista community. RioVision supports various community projects including this magazine.

## Event Calendar

**Sat, October 2, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm**  
**Trilogy Community Garage Sales**  
Trilogy, 55+ community west of Rio Vista

Hundreds of houses participate in this semi-annual sale! Furniture, kitchen appliances, yard equipment, clothing, housewares, antiques and more! Gates open to the public at 9:00 am.

**Fri – Sun, Oct 8 – 10**  
**73rd Annual Bass Derby & Festival**  
Downtown

See the 73rd Annual Bass Derby article on page 9 for more info.

**Fri, Oct 8, noon – 6:30 pm**  
**Sat, Oct 9, 10:00 am – 7:30 pm**  
**Sun, Oct 10, 11:00 am – 4:30 pm**  
**"Catch of The Day" Treasures Sale**  
45 N. Main Street (Youth Center)

Catch unique and one of a kind items you can't find anywhere else at great prices! Proceeds benefit the RV Food Pantry and Rio Vista CARE, who help those in need in our community and nearby areas.



## Event Calendar

(continued)

**Sat, Nov 13, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm**  
**Trilogy Gift, Craft, Art Faire & Jewelry Show**  
Trilogy Vista Club, west of Rio Vista

Open to the public, the 19th annual event comes just in time for the holidays! Peruse beautiful hand-crafted items. Enjoy entertainment from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Snack at the Vista Cafe until 3:00 pm. Buy tickets \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00 for the hourly raffle of amazing prizes to benefit Rio Vista Senior Center Meals on Wheels.



Photo: Nora Crane

**Sat, Dec 4, 10:00 am – 6:00 pm**  
**Sun, Dec 5, 11:00 am – 4:30 pm**  
**Olde Tyme Christmas Faire**  
Rio Vista Museum, 16 N. Front Street, Rio Vista

Take a trip back in time and enjoy the holiday atmosphere at the Rio Vista Museum. Listen to Christmas music, buy your raffle tickets for fabulous vendor prizes, and enjoy yummy treats at the bake sale. Find unique hand-crafted items by local artisans that include jewelry, soaps and candles, cards and stationery, quilted and knitted items, beautifully decorated fresh wreaths, and local homemade jams, jellies and honey.

**Sat, Dec 4, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm**

**Holiday Home Tour**

Check ticket for program pick up location

See the *Holiday Home Tour* article on the opposite page for more info.



**Sat, Dec 4, Exact time to be announced**  
**Holiday Sing Along**  
Main Street, Rio Vista

Meet on Main St. while we attempt to break the Guinness Book of World Records for Christmas Caroling. Per Guinness, the most people caroling is 1,880, achieved in Portsmouth, Ohio, December 15, 2018. Let's make some musical noise and set a new record!

**Sat, Dec 4, 5:30 pm**  
**Christmas Tree Lighting**  
Main Street, Rio Vista

Hospice of San Joaquin illuminates their Tree of Lights at the end of Main Street in front of City Hall. Dedicate a light on the tree to remember or honor a loved one at [www.hospicesj.org/treeoflights](https://www.hospicesj.org/treeoflights). Your donation supports the agency's programs of nursing care and bereavement services for terminally ill patients and their families in communities such as ours.



Photo: Diane King

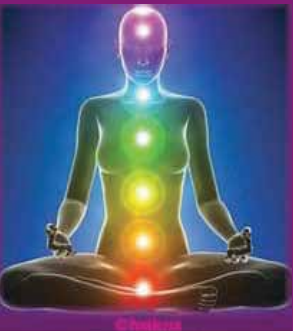


Photo: Monica Gianini

**Sat, Dec 4, 6:00 pm**  
**Lighted Boat Parade**  
Waterfront from Marina to Public Fishing Pier

Boats, decked out in their holiday best, take off from the Delta Marina guest dock and make their way to the Rio Vista Bridge. After a couple loops the boats make their way back to the Marina where an award is given for the best decorated boat. The parade is always a crowd favorite! As always, the parade is subject to weather conditions. Contact Delta Marina for more info at (707) 374-2315.

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# RioVision Roundup

## Meet Our New Board of Directors!

Writer: Robie Williams

The April 21st meeting of the RioVision Board of Directors included the election of new officers and additional members for the 2021/2022 year.



Art Darden has assumed the role of President. Art grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area. However, his family took day fishing trips to Rio Vista as he was growing up and he has fond memories of those times.

Brian Spradling replaces Art as the Vice-President. Brian is a lifelong Rio Vistan who has been involved in youth sports and is the owner and operator of Spradling Construction.



Chris Quan remains as Secretary of the organization. Chris grew up in Oakland and was a resident of San Francisco before coming to Rio Vista. Chris supplied the concept idea for the mural on Books RioV.

Donna Armanino is the Treasurer. Donna loves living in Rio Vista and working with so many people. She spent most of her married life on the San Francisco Peninsula where she worked for Hitachi and volunteered for her children's catholic school.



Tom Surh retains the Executive Director position. Tom moved from Oakland to Rio Vista in 2011. Tom has worked as an attorney, a family law facilitator and a court commissioner.

Jeanne McCormack, Jim Pezzaglia, Richard Pettijohn and Amy Schmidt all remain on the board. New additions include Donna Nunes, Robie Williams and Evelyn Wilson.

You can learn more about the current Board of Directors at [riovistavision.com/about-us/riovision-board-of-directors/](http://riovistavision.com/about-us/riovision-board-of-directors/).

The Board of Directors represents the interests of the community and acts as "governors" or "trustees" charged to pursue the mission of RioVision. The Board of Directors must advise, govern, oversee policy, provide direction, leadership, and generally promote the organization so as to support RioVision's mission. RioVision's mission is to join together to build, revitalize, energize and beautify the Rio Vista community.

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