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Ribs on the grill at Hog August Bites Photograph: Susan Whitesell

## Editor's Corner

I recently stumbled across this quote about public art. I'll admit, I don't know this person. But I agree with his sentiment... that public art reveals something very

The point with public art, I think, is that it helps people form a sense that the place they live in is unique, that there's something special about it.

Andy Stewart

special about where we live and our collective consciousness. We are fortunate to have several public art installations that reflect our vibrant, unique and creative community and its history. Our town art treasures include several outdoor murals and even a steel girder and memorial to the World Trade Center disaster. The latter is really an amazing accomplishment for a town our size. This edition features five articles about the arts in Rio Vista.

Author Amy Schmidt reports on two public art installations — the new RVPD mural and "Rock the Flock," five life-size fiberglass sheep sculptures painted by local artisans. Author Robie Williams showcases four talented local artists featured at the RioVision Gallery — Jan Vick, Susan Prince, Garen Patterson and Harvey Steinhaus. Robie and new contributor Craig Ahlstrom introduce something new and exciting for Rio Vista — the June 18th Rio Rock Music Festival featuring the Briefcase Blue Brothers, River Rats, Groovy Judy and Skynnyn Lynnyrd bands. A reprinted article from the Delta Heritage Courier pays tribute to two of the most celebrated artists of the Delta — Joan Didion and Wayne Thiebaud, who both passed away recently.

Tucked in between these artsy articles, historian Phil Pezzaglia captivates us with how our streets, blocks, tracts and subdivisions have evolved in our city's 164 year history. Robie covers our upcoming August 27th Hog August Bites Rib and Chili Cookoff event. Yumm! You'll learn that ribs, and now chili, are judged by juried tasting. (I wonder if being *Discover Rio Vista* editor qualifies me to be a judge?) In her RioVision Roundup article, Robie shines some light on the inner workings of the Promotion and Communication (P&C) team, the umbrella organization that supports this publication.

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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 the childhood fun of a water slide at Hog August Bites.

# RVPD DEBUTS MURAL

Writer: Amy Schmidt    Photographer: Harvey Steinhaus

When Police Chief, Jon Mazer, arrived at Rio Vista's police department he said, "I wanted visitors to the Police Department lobby to see and understand our priority and values as soon as they walked in. Officer Ventura, our School Resource Officer, had already hosted a couple of community art contests, so we joined the two concepts together."

The first project was the remodel of the lobby. Hank Fontecilla, with the help of the CAPS (Citizens Assisting Police Services) organization, took on that project. When they completed the remodel, it was ready for the next phase, which was the designing and painting of a mural.

RioVision asked Police Chief Mazer to speak at one of their Town Hall meetings last year. He learned of RioVision's goal, which was to help beautify our lovely town of Rio Vista. He realized that RioVision's goal meshed well with his own vision of what the lobby should reflect. The whole point of the mural was to embody community partnerships, so RioVision was invited to participate in the administration of the project. This in turn brought in the Art & Music Center volunteers.

The initial meeting was held at the police station. A few RioVision board members and Art & Music Center volunteers discussed how the mural project would develop. Chief Mazer explained what he wanted to see depicted in the mural. He wanted to see activities in and around the Sacramento River, the Rio Vista Bridge, fishing pier, and dock. A call for artists was advertised in the Beacon in September 2021. Harvey Steinhaus' mural submission was selected because it matched Chief Mazer's description of what the mural should include.

Harvey explained, "I selected the promenade to be the focal point of the mural to show the park, river, bridge and fishing pier. My concept was to show the police

personnel helping and engaging with the people and providing safety for families enjoying the park."

The painting of the mural required many volunteers, some of whom were Ellen LaVacarre, Dianna Pierce, Sandy Danley, and Greta Thurkettle, artists from the Trilogy Art Guild. The Art & Music Center recruited a few other artists to help on October 23. Harvey spent 90 hours and the other volunteers spent another 80 hours to complete this mural.

Diana Fontecilla, Volunteer Chaplain for the police department, said the forced shutdown inhibited the incorporation of all the details included in the original plans. However, the volunteer artists, led by Harvey, and the additional volunteers from the Art & Music Center did a fantastic job and were quite pleased that Chief Mazer was able to have this project completed in record time.

The mural also reflects the appreciation and admiration for the police department by the residents and visitors of Rio Vista. The department is dynamic and proactive in its response to the needs and safety of the town. In addition to responding to emergency and nonemergency calls for service, they offer tremendous support to the community in their outreach programs and community projects, some of which are held in conjunction

with Solano County. To see a list of all their services go to their website or follow them on Facebook.

The Police department hours are Monday through Thursday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, closed from 12:00 to 1:00 pm. You are welcome to visit. Stop by to see this magnificent masterpiece at 50 Poppy House Road.



*The projected image of the mural.*



*Left to right: Bob Kinney, Michael Morgan, Ellen LaVacarre and a friend of Michael's, Allans Brown.*



*Artist Harvey Steinhaus with the finished mural.*





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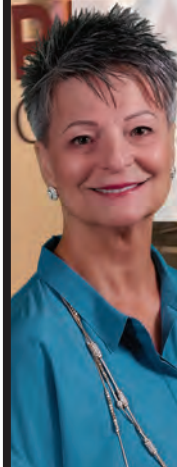
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“Rock the Flock” is a concept developed by RioVision, a non-profit 501 (c)(3) volunteer-based organization, with its mission to revitalize and enhance the beauty of Rio Vista. Since its inception in 2013, RioVision has been involved with a number of projects throughout the city such as the Riverview School garden program, concrete bench painting, planters and bench at the library, historic designations, Trim & Tidy, dedicated brick pavers, and promenade plaques. In August 2020 RioVision began working with the City of Rio Vista to use the money from the Public Art Fund, established in 2016 with contributions, among others, from local real estate developers, to financially support public visual art projects.

“Rock the Flock” is a unique pioneering project where local artists create, design and paint five life-size fiberglass sheep sculptures, including depictions of ewes, one lamb and one ram. These are secured to concrete pads along various Main Street locations.

# Rock the Flock!

Writer: Amy Schmidt

A project of this magnitude requires many hours of planning and coordination with the city. Ann Jacobs and Ellen LaVacarre co-chair the project with support from Art Darden, Tom Surh, James Pezzaglia, Chris Quan, and Amy Schmidt, RioVision board members. Other committee members are Marilyn Nelson and Diann Murphy.

The city and surrounding Delta offer many worthwhile possibilities for a focal point for this project. The committee decided to focus on sheep ranching and hence the concept of “Rock the Flock.” Rio Vista and the surrounding area has a long history and strong ties to the sheep ranching community. Three prominent families, the Hamiltons, Emighs and McCormacks, have been ranching in the area since the 1800’s. These ranches are now operated and diversified by fourth and fifth generation family members. Much of this area’s economy has developed around the industry and expanded to other related markets, increasing employment opportunities, growth of supporting local businesses, and real estate development. Sheep ranching produces enormous amounts of meat and wool that also fuels the city’s economy. As an added touch of relevance, the mascot of our Rio Vista High School is a ram.



“Rock the Flock” invokes familiar images that speak to the shared contributions of the agricultural and ranching communities, both the present day and historical, as well as the quality of small-town life. According to RioVision committee members, the most consequential aspect of this project is to foster a sense of community pride.

In addition, there is the added visual enjoyment for both citizens and visitors. The installations also complement the existing mural paintings throughout town.

A call for artists to submit designs was announced in February 2022 via the Beacon and social media. As of this writing, submissions range between colorful, whimsical and creative. The actual sculptures are being manufactured by Cowpainters LLC. This company has produced sculptures for the past 21 years that have been used in more than 695 community art projects. The fiberglass sculptures can be placed outdoors and are well able to withstand the effects of weather. A protective coat is applied to protect the sculpture's surface artwork. While the sculptures are designed to be sturdy and durable, they are not intended as play equipment and should be viewed as objects of art. The sculptures are professionally installed and do not hinder pedestrian walkways or conflict with parking and local traffic requirements.

The “Rock the Flock” project is a significant art installation that enhances the quality of life in Rio Vista.



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# STREETS, BLOCKS,

During the 1920s, while Calvin Coolidge was holding down the office as the 30th President of the United States, his administration formed the “Advisory Committee on City Planning and Zoning,” which in 1926 created “The Standard State Zoning Enabling Act.” In 1928 the “Standard City Planning Enabling Act” was enacted, and thus, the era of subdivisions was born.

## Homes, Additions & Subdivisions Where do you live?

As the community of Rio Vista slowly grew over the past 164 years, more streets were laid out, homes built, and eventually subdivisions planned. It is quite common these days for someone, when asked where they reside to reply by saying, “I live at Trilogy” or “I live in Homecoming” or maybe “I live at Vineyard Bluffs,” or the person responds that he lives in one of the newest subdivisions: Summit at Liberty or Luminescence at Liberty. But have you ever heard someone respond with, “I live in the Drouin Addition,” or “I live at Vista Heights Tract?” Never.

It seems that the only individuals who remember the name of the tract or addition that their home is in, is the original owner of the home. As time goes by and the homes change hands several times, this type of information is forgotten. One always remembers the new streets and areas of town, but what about the additions to town that were made fifty or seventy-five years ago and why they were named that way.

How many residents know what their block number is on the block maps of Rio Vista? Or their lot number(s)? The same can be said for the derivation of street names. Does anyone remember who “Gertrude” or “Joseph” was and why there are streets named after them? Here is a challenge — can anyone find “Cemetery Drive,” “Drouin Lane,” or “Gertrude Street” on a Rio Vista map? They are still technically streets. These streets are different then Drouin Drive and Gertrude Avenue.

## The Oldest Neighborhoods

After the settlement of Rio Vista was relocated to its present site in March 1862, the first town map was created. The Map of the Town of New Rio Vista showed the town borders as Fifth Street to the West; Wharf Street to the North; the Sacramento River to the East; and the alley behind the lots located on the South side of Main Street. By the time the 1886 town map came out, the third official mapping, Wharf Street had been renamed Logan Street, Bruning Avenue had been created due to the Bruning Addition, and to the West, the town had expanded to Ninth Street.

Unfortunately, most of the earliest homes constructed in Rio Vista have been torn down for more modern structures. Also, fires destroyed many structures before modern fire-fighting equipment was available. The earliest structures were constructed on Main Street and within the first



*Front Street, circa 1892.*

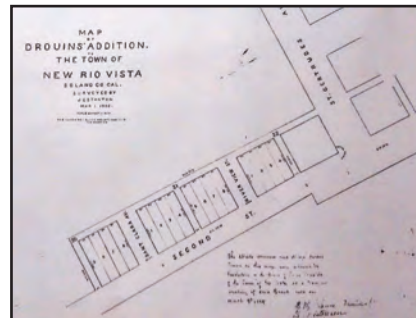
two blocks located to the north and south. Although the buildings and homes may have followed general popular designs, the homes were always considered “custom.”

Currently, random examples of homes that date from the late 1800s can be found dispersed around town, on Front Street, Second Street, Third Street, Fourth Street, and California Street. Some of the last old homes to be torn down were located on the north side in the 300 block of Montezuma Street. Those homes were removed in 1991 for an apartment building.

## Additions During the 1900 - 1920s

Traveling down any street or through any neighborhood, one can easily recognize the era in which most of the homes were constructed.

Drouin’s Addition was mapped in March 1905 and consisted of part of blocks 30 and 32 and all of block 31. These are the lots on the west side of Second Street, starting at the alley after St. Gertrude’s Ave. and ending at the alley past Santa Clara Ave.



*Drouin Addition, 1905.*



*Front Street, circa 1905.*



# TRACTS & SUBDIVISIONS

Writer: Phil Pezzaglia Photographs: Rio Vista Museum

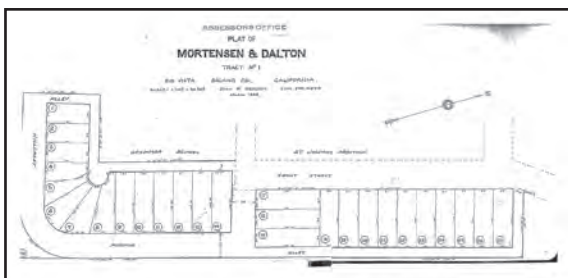
Two more additions in the older section of town are Hamilton's Addition and Perry's Addition. Hamilton's is on the northwest side of Fourth Street from Bruning to Santa Clara Ave. Perry's is the homes on Third Street and the odd number homes on Fourth Street from Bruning Ave to Santa Clara Ave.

Sometimes additions can create confusion years later when it becomes known that one side of the street may be in a different tract or addition than the other side of the street. This becomes apparent on Front Street. If you have an odd number address you are in the Mortensen & Dalton Tract No. 1, but if your address is even then you are in St. Joseph's Addition, which was mapped in February 1917 and includes all of blocks 42 and 43. That amounted to fifty-four lots - the even number Front Street homes and odd number Second Street homes located between Bruning Ave. and Hamilton Ave.

## Additions During the 1930s & 40s



South Second Street homes, circa 1910.



Mortensen & Dalton Tract, 1922.

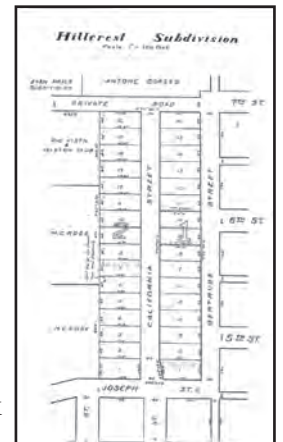
The Evan Price Subdivision, mapped in 1931, is located on Seventh Street across from the Rio Vista and Isleton Club's Hall. Any home on California Street between Joseph and Seventh Streets belong to the Hillcrest Subdivision, mapped in May 1933. These homes are all located on the old grounds of St. Gertrude's Academy for Girls. The literary class of the school used to put out a publication of student's poems and that publication was called the "Hillcrest." But this was not the only instance that the name "Hillcrest" shows up in the layout of town. Hillcrest Avenue was the



Rio Vista, circa 1949.

name of a potential street. In the 1920's a "Hillcrest Ave." was mapped out as part of the Mortensen & Dalton Tract No. 1. That Hillcrest was planned to come off Hamilton Ave., below Front Street and circle behind the grammar school, but it was never created. The reason for the name "Hillcrest" remains a mystery.

Homes in the vicinity of the intersection of Logan, Fifth and Sixth Streets belong to the Sullivan, Larson, and McCormack Tract created during the 1940s after the war.



Hillcrest Subdivision, 1933.

## Additions During the 1950s & 60s

In 1950 the population of Rio Vista was 1,831 and by 1970 it had grown to 3,135.

The homes on the North side of Highway 12 are part of prestigious sounding areas such as the: Trigueiro Tract, Highland Estates and Vista Heights Tract. The homes located on Elm Way at the junction of Hillside Terrace and just above are part of the Highland Estates, while the homes located between Elm and Gardiner Way and from Linda Vista to Virginia Drive are part of the Vista Heights Tract of the mid 1950's. Trigueiro Tract, drawn up in 1947 comprises the homes, not covered in the aforementioned Highland Estates and Vista Heights Tract. Trigueiro Tract consists of homes on St. Francis Way, Virginia Drive, Laurel Way, Thereza Way, Linda Vista Way, Gardiner Way, Flores Way, and Hillside Terrace.

Eventually Rolling Green Drive was established during the early 1960s. Originally the street was supposed to be named Augusto Street, but the name was changed before completion. These homes were constructed with remarkably similar floor plans to those on Yosemite Drive, which were constructed at the same time.

*Continues on page 17.*



# Ribs & Chili are the

Writer: Robie Williams

Save the date! Mark your calendar, for August 27th, 2022! The Hog August Bites Rib and Chili Cookoff returns with a kickoff at 10:00 am!

The rib and chili contestants are often called the stars of the event held in downtown Rio Vista with the beautiful Sacramento River as the backdrop on the fourth Saturday in August every year. This year is the 8th annual event and there are a few new twists!

Chili cooks gather early in the morning to begin preparations to each cook five gallons of chili. Of course, cooking five gallons of chili outdoors in a pop-up tent isn't the easiest thing to do and can be a little daunting for the beginner. However, everyone gets their start somewhere and Hog August Bites is the perfect starting point. This year Hog August Bites is adding a new twist to the chili cook-off. With the help of new Chili Coordinator, Dave Allen, we have added juried judging for the chili. Dave is not only an experienced chili contestant, having entered all the Hog August Bites events; he's also run contests previously. He plans to sign up the judges and bring in some new chili cooks. The People's Choice Chili Tasting continues with festival visitors sampling and judging all chili offerings. Remember it's all about the taste and the heat!

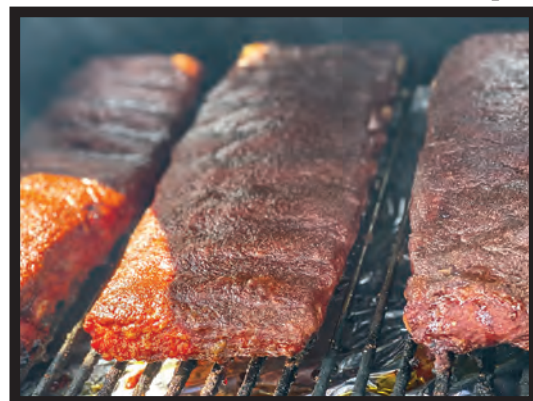
Rib cookers begin smoking and grilling ribs about 7:00 am. They are located on Main and Front Streets and most love to chat with folks walking through. Can't you just smell those awesome aromas intermingling? Not only are there local favorites, there are always returning contenders from the previous Hog August Bites annual events, and some new contestants are sure to sign up. Contestants come from all over the Delta, the San Francisco Bay Area, Sacramento and beyond.

Ribs are judged by a panel of Rio Vista VIPs led by Kansas City BBQ Society Master Judge Tracy Allen. While Hog August Bites is not a KCBS event, it does abide by all the rules. The ribs are submitted in numbered containers to retain anonymity and are evaluated on texture, flavor, and appearance.

Most of the contestants also participate in the popular "People's Choice Rib Tasting." At approximately 3:00 pm the people's judging begins at 45 Main and usually concludes by 5:00 pm.

Get those rib and chili tasting kits early because they do sell quickly. The kits are on sale at the entrance to 45 Main St. and at the RioVision information tent located in front of 116 Main St.

There are also great bands to listen to! With stages at Main St. and 2nd St. you can't go wrong listening to music. The Main St. Stage is booked and includes the bluegrass favorite, Wildcat Mountain Ramblers. New to the line-up this year is Buck Ford Pure Country Band. Don Gato Latin Band led by Orlando Ramos is returning, and to close out the night it's Matt Aplin and the Midnight Band with



*Mouth-watering ribs on the grill.*



*RioVision volunteers Joan Quan, Jim Pezzaglia and Chris Quan.*



*Byron Boys Tom Byron and Lori Holtzclaw.*



*Soroptimists Claudia See, Sybil Miller and Mingo Greco.*



# Name of the Game

Photos: Melissa France & Susan Whitesell

some smooth R&B. Entertainment at the 2nd Street Stage is still evolving so make sure to keep up to date on our Hog August Bites Facebook page!

There are over 60 spaces available for craft and information vendors. Early sign-ups include returning vendors Sassy Girl Creations, Bling Accent Accessories, Kim's Classy Boutique and Debbie Does Dazzle. A new information vendor is Wind River Adult School. They have many new classes coming up and want to get the word out!

Last and certainly not least is the classic car and truck show. From decked out Corvettes to tricked out oldies and everything in between. Be sure to check out last year's Best of Show, Dottie the antique police car, the pride and joy of the Rio Vista Police Department.

If you would like to sign up for any of the events, check out the online application on the Hog August Bites

website. You can even pay online! Additionally, the rib and chili cookoff rules are also posted on the website.

For more information about Hog August Bites, including the event schedule, check out the website [hogaugustbites.com](http://hogaugustbites.com) or the Hog August Bites Facebook page. Can't find an answer there? Call the event hotline at (707) 469-3080.

This year the net proceeds 1) help the Rio Vista High School Booster Club purchase a 3rd van, 2) continue to support the campaign for Egbert Field Improvements, and 3) commence funding needed upgrades and equipment at the swimming pool.

RioVision is a citizen driven 501(c)(3) non-profit organization working to bring about city wide revitalization. For more information check out our webpage at [riovistavision.com](http://riovistavision.com) or our Facebook or Instagram pages.



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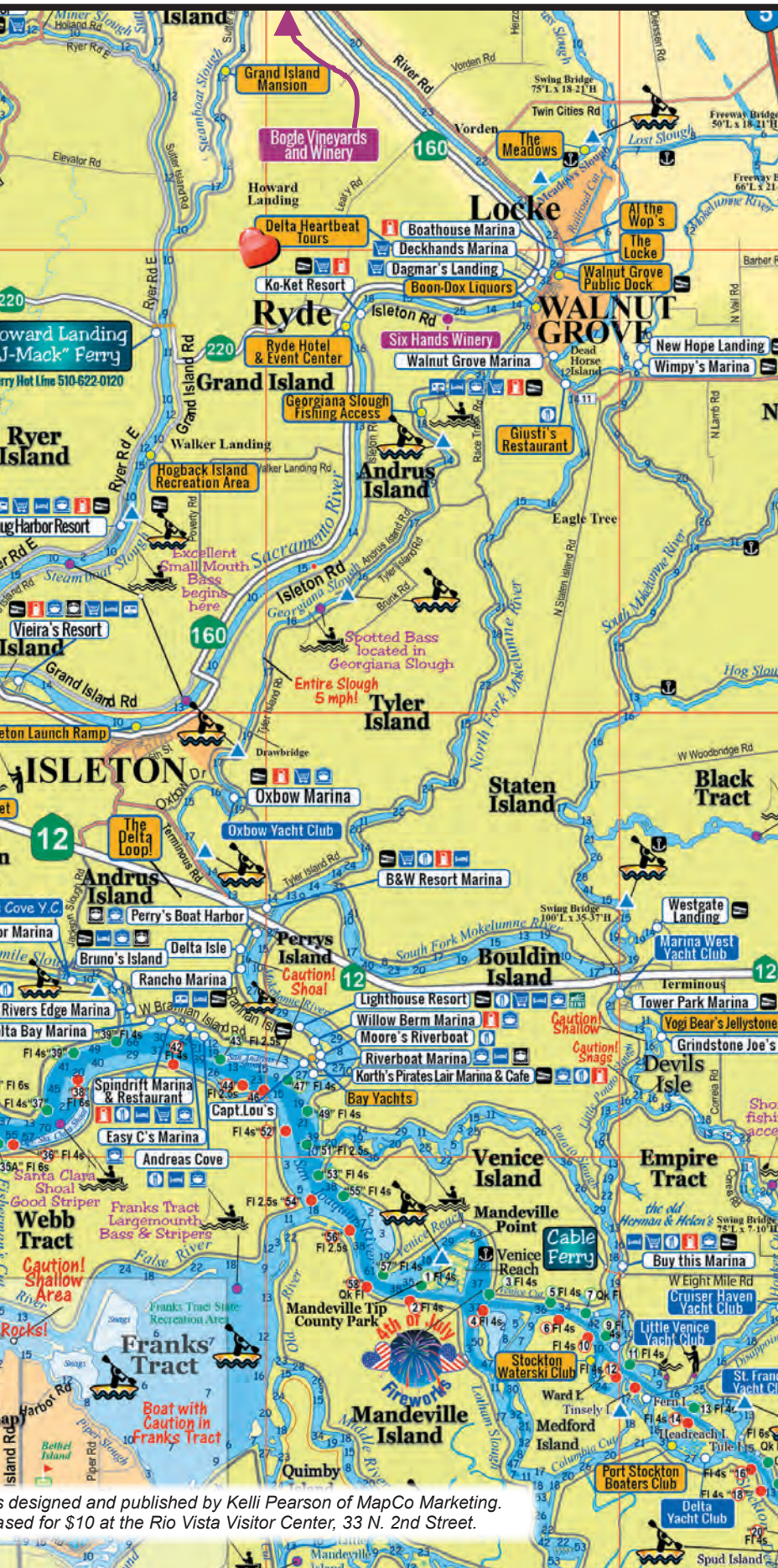
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# MUSIC SCENE

Writers: Craig Ahlstrom and Robie Williams

It has been said that being at a Music Festival makes you feel like you can fly. So smooth out your wings, get ready for flight, and plan on attending the Rio Rock Music Festival here in Rio Vista.

This inaugural, fundraising event is scheduled to take place at the Rio Vista High School Football Field, (bring your own blanket/ chair) from 3:00 – 10:00 pm, June 18th, 2022, the Saturday before Father's Day.

Four celebrated bands help you wash away the dust from your life ...

## Briefcase Blues Brothers

The Briefcase Blues Brothers are one of the top Blues Brothers Revues. Michael "Jake" St. John and Marten "Elwood" Benatar are the Blues Brothers reincarnated, bringing fun to the stage and leaving their audiences smiling! Of special interest to the Rio Vista audience is the music director of the group... Bob Kinney! Bob is just one of the music instructors at the Art & Music Center.

## Skynnyn Lynnyrd

The Skynnyn Lynnyrd tribute band is so good you'll think you're back in 1972! Coming to you straight from Vacaville they have been dubbed the #1 Lynyrd Skynyrd tribute band in America! This band includes Larry Woodruff, Kurt Posthuma, Chris Durham, Jason Miller, Brad Andersohn, Wade Olson, Mike Klepic, Debra Lee Anderohn and Heather Rose. These talented musicians have worked together for over ten years, perfecting the Lynyrd Skynyrd sound.

# Rio Music

## Groovy Judy

Groovy Judy provides tributes to some well-known and loved rock artists including Jimi Hendrix and the Beatles. She is a guitarist, vocalist and writer, having dropped three full length

albums over her 20-year career. She plays some of San Francisco's most popular events and has played at the legendary Great American Music Hall.

She is one of the Bay Area's most recognizable musicians.

## River Ratz

The River Ratz is a Rio Vista local band that plays country, classic rock and contemporary music. They've played at the Bass Derby & Festival, Hog August Bites, Trilogy Monarch Grill, Mai Wah Tap Room and many other Delta venues.

Lead vocalist is Michelle Stahlman. Rob Stahlman is guitarist and vocalist. Rob is also a guitar instructor at the Art & Music Center. You'll find Bill Gross on bass and vocals along with Rick "The Conga Guy" McKinney. Bob Kinney, of the Art & Music Center and the Briefcase Blues Brothers, joins when time allows. Finally, Rocky Glugson is on drums and is the sound tech.



Clockwise, performers are Briefcase Blues Brothers, Groovy Judy, River Ratz, and Skynnyn Lynnyrd bands.



# Rock Festival

Besides the fantastic music line up, this Rio Rock day includes lots of fun activities for the whole family. There are games for both the adults and children, food, beer/wine and spirits, "Get out of Jail Free" gambit, portraits with Dottie the Police car (Winner of Best in Show at the 7th Annual Hog August Bites), prize wheel – spin to win,

fun games and activities, and more!

There is also a raffle with top prize a \$1,000 guitar! Plus, many more prizes are yet to be announced.

Purchase tickets for the event



online at [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) or in-person at the Rio Vista Art & Music Center. Prices are \$35.00 / adult, seniors and veterans are \$25.00 and children under 12 are free when accompanied by an adult.

The Rio Rock Music Festival is a non-profit fundraising event, dedicated to strengthening programs that have a positive charitable impact on the Rio Vista community. This community event benefits the hard-working men and women of the Rio Vista Police Department.

The event is sponsored by the Art & Music Center, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit whose mission is to help create a Rio Vista community that is a better place to live.

Don't forget to check out the [www.starlightstageshows.com](https://www.starlightstageshows.com) website for more events.

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# The Delta Loses Two Legendary Artists

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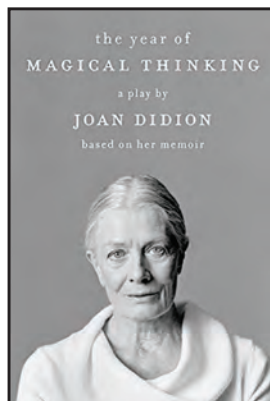
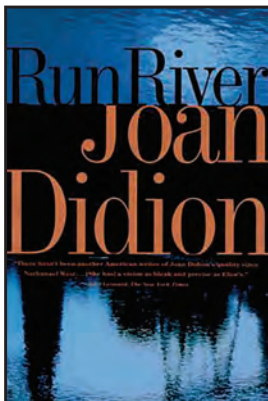
In just the span of three days last month, two of the most celebrated artists of the Delta passed away. 2021 was a year that also saw the passing of noted Delta artist Gregory Kondos.

## Joan Didion

Famed writer Joan Didion died in New York City on December 23. Although she lived most of her life across the country, she often reflected on her upbringing in

**“Didion yet found her literary voice in the Sacramento River delta and its people”**

Sacramento, the surrounding region, and the state. Her first novel, *Run River*, took place on a Delta farm, a place where she could explore shifting perspectives on life in California. In writing about *Run River*, Professor Philip Round declares that “Berkeley educated and drawn to cosmopolitan life in New York, Didion yet found her literary voice in the Sacramento River delta and its people.” She continued to delve into the issues raised by *Run River*, eventually becoming what Governor Newsom referred to as “easily the best living writer in California.”



## Wayne Thiebaud

Renowned artist Wayne Thiebaud died in Sacramento on Christmas Day. Kristi Lin wrote a profile of Thiebaud in the Fall 2016 Delta Voice to mark the opening of the new Shrem Museum of Art at UC Davis, which is the primary home of his works. The profile praised his ability to convey the wonder of the Delta landscape:

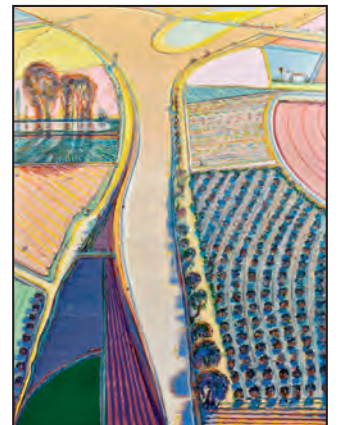


Thiebaud began a series of Delta paintings in the 1990s. Exploring the fields and levees, the colors and seasons, he uses his gift to show the world how beautiful the Delta is. The unusual vantage points, playful colors, and toy-like scale that he used in his Delta series have helped viewers experience the

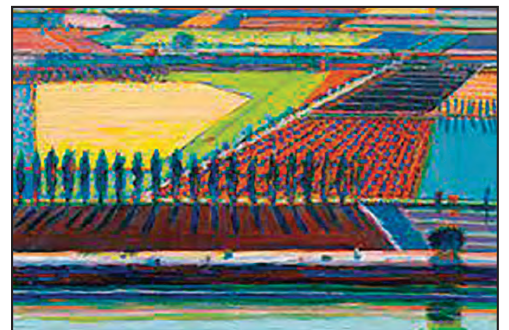
**“...he uses his gift to show the world how beautiful the Delta is”**

Delta in a brand new way. Talking about his painting *River Intersection*, Thiebaud says, “For me, painting has a lot to do with the exercise of empathy, where you have to believe that you’re walking the path or under the trees, that you are somehow able to transfer yourself into that picture.” Thiebaud’s Delta paintings are invaluable treasures, as they offer viewers who may never set foot into the Delta a chance to step in and discover its beauty.

While we celebrate their work, we send our deep condolences to the extended Didion and Thiebaud families.



*River Intersection, 2010.*



*Big Field, 2007.*

# STREETS, BLOCKS, TRACTS & SUBDIVISIONS

*Continued from page 9.*

Homes located on Delta Way or Crescent Drive reside in Sunnyside Terrace, which was opened during the 1950s. Homes located on either Edgewater Drive, Highland Drive, or the stretch of Bruning Ave. that connects into Front Street reside in the "Riverside Subdivision." These homes were constructed during the late 1950s thru 1960s and had their own HOA. They were located on the former St. Joseph's Military Academy for Boys (1903 - 1932), and later Sullivan & Larsen Ball Park (1938-1958).

Eighth Street became Sierra Ave., when the Morgan Community Tract was established during the late 1950s, consisting of Sierra Ave., Yosemite Drive, Tahoe Drive, Shasta Drive, Morgan Lane, and Morgan Circle. Those homes on Sierra Ave. along with the Bruna Vista Park made up the Pleasant Hills subdivision.

## Additions During the 1970-90s

Rio Vista continues to grow, still not rapidly, but consistently. The population was 3,135 in 1970; 3,142 in 1980; 3,316 in 1990; 4,571 in 2000, and 7,360 in 2010. During those decades, the following streets and subdivisions were established: B & R Lane (1970s); Rainer Court (1970s); Trinity Court (1980s); Amador Circle (1980s); Esperson Court (mid 1980s); River County Estates (1990); Travares Court (early 1990s); Vinyard Bluffs (1990s); Summerset at Rio Vista (1990s Trilogy 55+); Homecoming (1990s); LGI Homes – Summit at Liberty (2019); and most recently, Luminescence at Liberty (55+) (2019).

## Forgotten Street Names & Trivia

In an earlier paragraph, a challenge was issued to find "Cemetery Drive," "Drouin Lane," or "Gertrude Street" on a Rio Vista map. Now for the answers. Gertrude Street, not to be confused with Gertrude Avenue, is presently an alley way running parallel to Montezuma Ave into Seventh Street. The question of Cemetery Drive may confuse some; it is the street that runs parallel with Highway 12 and Sierra Ave. It is a glorified alley in some ways, which runs off Drouin Drive to the Catholic Cemetery. Drouin Lane should not be confused with Drouin Drive, since Drouin Lane goes northwest off Seventh Street past the high school's tennis courts, towards the Rio Vista High School's bus garages. During the 1950's, 60's and early 70's, several small homes, where schoolteachers often lived, were located on Drouin Lane. Eighth Street is on the 1929 map of Rio Vista; it became Sierra Ave. in the late 1950's.

## In Closing

So, the next time someone asks where in Rio Vista you live, surprise them by naming your Addition, Street, Subdivision, Block and/or Tract.

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# Gallery Artists

Writer: Robie Williams

The RioVision Gallery has approximately 20 artists of the Delta who share fascinating art genres. The RioVision Gallery highlights an artist and their work every month with a reception on the third Saturday of the month where the artist and the Gallery are showcased. It gives everyone a chance to meet the various artists, view their work and mingle with light refreshments.

The Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday 11:00 am to 3:00 pm and Sunday 12:00 to 4:00 pm. While you're there checking out the artwork, don't forget to pick up See's Candies, including new sugar free choices.

## *May – Jan Vick*

Jan's first foray into art was through painting – first oils and then acrylic. Jan began seriously practicing photography nearly 40 years ago when she moved to the Bay Area from Sacramento. After taking a couple

of courses at the local community college, she started working exclusively in black and white film and ultimately had her own darkroom – in her bathroom. Her genre of choice was small area landscapes with interesting shapes. Jan met her husband Gene in 1985 and moved on his boat. No more darkroom. So, Jan switched gears and began using color film. She and Gene began the first of many trips both on his motorcycle and by car. She started specializing in landscapes and would bring home at least 12 rolls of

36 exposure film to be processed after every excursion. The era of digital photography expanded her potential, so she ditched film for digital that she could process on her computer.



Jan became fascinated with the small pieces of landscapes, though she continued to try to get interesting viewpoints of somewhat standard scenes. She began looking for interesting segments of buildings, trees, rocks etc. One of her favorite places to visit was the Monterey/Pacific Grove area, particularly the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Over the years, and many visits, she determined how to take moving animals in a dark habitat using no flash. As her cameras improved, so did her pictures, and her most satisfying achievement was a good picture of a mola mola, one of the two heaviest known bony fish in the world.

After moving to the Delta in 1995, Jan started specializing in photos of this area. Originally, Jan and Gene lived on the Loop – the land of stupendous sunsets. She commuted to Sacramento for work, usually via the river roads. She would explore different roads coming home and often rode the ferries in the summer. She made note of places to pull off and take pictures.

In recent years, Jan became interested in mixed media and assemblage using ideas and pictures from travels with Gene. These were a lot of fun, though done mostly for her own enjoyment and have not been shown much; that may change. Age has somewhat limited both the desire and ability to make frequent forays into nature, but she still tries to get out, particularly to photograph the winter birds that congregate in the Delta.

Jan's artist reception is May 21st from 3:00 to 5:00 pm.

## *June – Susan Prince*

Born in Long Island, New York, Susan grew up in a family of professional artists and photographers. As a young girl she had a gleam in her eye as she observed her mother's Bohemian art style in photography and her grandmother's innovative style in her own successful dress shop that catered to sophisticated women.

Susan went on to graduate with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the New York Institute of Technology. Through years of self-teaching, Susan developed an unusual attention to detail and an eye for color that shows in all of her work. While in New York, Susan designed abstract paintings for a number of major department store catalogs and created large abstract paintings for the homes of prominent people.

Susan grew up in California and eventually moved back as an adult. In California, Susan took up fitness and nutrition, photography, and faux finishing. Her faux finishing

# of the Month

Photographers: Jan Vick & Robie Williams

work has been commissioned for private homes and has appeared in model homes for local developers including Seeno Builders and Shea Homes. Her photography has



been shown at Studio 53 in Isleton, the Sports Gallery in Carmel, Autoaffair in Danville and the Blackhawk Museum in Danville.

In 2014, Susan retired from the world of fitness and searched for a way to reinvent her artful eye. After taking courses in jewelry making, she realized that she could offer her pieces to others. Her early work was in silver and gold beads, then she added colorful semi-precious beads and stones. Susan and her husband traveled through Istanbul, Greece, Spain, Italy and the Great Southwest of America searching for the rarest and most beautiful semiprecious beads and stones for her jewelry designs. In 2015 Susan established Jewels by Prince and has shown her work at exhibits, shows and professional retail shops, including the RioVision Gallery. Susan creates custom designs that have quickly become her signature work and



welcomes commissioned pieces.

Meet Susan at her June 18th reception between 3:00 and 5:00 pm.

## July – Garen Patterson

Garen's earliest memory of drawing is when he was six years old. While attending public school in Menlo Park, his teacher left the room. Garen proceeded to "teach the class," and the penalty was being kicked out of the school. While his parents made decisions about where he should go to school, Garen drew. The decision was made for Garen to go to Peninsula School where children learn in a nurturing environment that encompasses the whole child, and social justice in a progressive learning atmosphere. Garen later attended Woodside High School and then was

an art student at California College of Art in Oakland, graduating with a Bachelors in Fine Arts. Continuing his education, he also received a Master's in Early Childhood Education from Sonoma State.

Sonoma is where Garen landed and started Patterson Painting and Decorating, a business that he built and worked for 50 years. However, Sonoma got to be too big and too commercial and Garen yearned for the small-town life. He sold the business, left Sonoma and moved to Rio Vista with his wife Dianne.

Soon after Garen's mother passed away, just shy of her 100th birthday, Garen went for a walk in Rio Vista. He looked around and grabbed his phone to take pictures. He draws or paints from the photographs and brings them to life, interpreting what he sees in the photos. They are distinctly his style.

Garen is well known on Facebook's Delta News page, where he shares his drawings. He wasn't sure about sharing on Facebook as he's not a technology type guy. However, his wife showed him how and he started sharing his drawings titled, "Where am I?" Garen enjoys getting feedback from the Facebook community as it is almost instantaneous.



When asked what it is about art that moves him, Garen responds, "It is a spiritual connection. I've been wired that way from birth."

The reception for Garen is July 16th from 3:00 to 5:00 pm.

*Continues on page 20.*



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## Gallery Artists of the Month

Continued from page 19.

### August – Harvey Steinhaus

Harvey was born in Iowa and lived there until graduation from college. He was interested in art from an early age and enjoyed creative projects. While attending St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa, Harvey minored in art. The art department was small and focused on drawing, calligraphy and watercolor painting.



Harvey continued with some drawing and watercolor painting after college in his spare time. However, the demands of work and family became his life and he stopped painting. Digital photography piqued his interest and Harvey started taking photos and printing his own large format prints.



Upon retiring and moving from Oakland to Rio Vista seven years ago, "to get out of the big metro sprawl," he had more time available for art.

Besides the RioVision Art Gallery, you can find Harvey's art in some unusual places! Stop by the Rio Vista Museum at 16 N. Front St. in Rio Vista to see a mural on the roll-up door to the museum featuring a blacksmith shop. Harvey sketched out the design, and with RioVision's assistance, got the approval to paint the door. Harvey also had a couple of high school students help him with the painting. More recently, Harvey's mural submittal was chosen for the large interior wall of the Rio Vista Police Department. Harvey sketched the design on the large wall and then it turned into a community project with painters from the high school, the Art & Music Center and people from around town helping to complete it. Harvey's newest project is a mural for the entrance of the Flamingo in downtown Rio Vista. Keep your eyes on the doorway space to see his progress!

Harvey is a member of the Trilogy Art Guild and displays his art at the Point Restaurant and the RioVision Gallery.

The artist reception for Harvey is Saturday, August 20th from 3:00 to 5:00 pm.

# Event Calendar



Third Saturday of each month, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

## Sidewalk Saturday

May 21, June 18, July 16 & August 20, Downtown Rio Vista

Enjoy shopping in our unique and picturesque downtown. Monthly themes liven up your shopping experience.

Every other Friday, 4:00 - 10:00 pm

## Rockin' the River

5/13, 5/27, 6/10, 6/24, 7/8, 7/22, 8/5, 8/19  
Downtown Rio Vista Main Street stage



Head downtown with a chair and blanket Friday nights for lots of music, food and beverages. For more info on the bands and dates see [www.starlightstageshows.com/starlight-stage-events](http://www.starlightstageshows.com/starlight-stage-events).



Thursday, May 5 - Sunday, May 8

## Dixon May Fair

655 South 1st Street, Dixon

Experience a small town fair with lots of animals, entertainment, a carnival and more! Visit our local 4H and FFA members too.

Saturday, May 7, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

## Trilogy Community Garage Sales

Trilogy 55+ community west of Rio Vista

Grab a map at the Trilogy gate to locate homes selling furniture, appliances, yard equipment, clothing, housewares, antiques and more!



Saturday, May 7, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

## Clothing Exchange

St. Joseph Church Hall, 220 South 4th Street

Bring your child's outgrown clothing, clean and in good condition to exchange for free usable garments. Please, only newborn to teen clothing and no adult sizes! For more info, call (707) 374-3426 in Rio Vista or (916) 776-9221 in Walnut Grove.

Sunday, May 22, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

## TAG Art Show

Trilogy Vista Club, 1201 Clubhouse Drive

Enjoy a juried art show featuring works in various media by talented Trilogy residents.



Saturday, June 18, 3:00 - 10:00 pm

## Rio Rock Music Festival

Rio Vista High School Football Field



See the story on page 14 for more info about this event.

Friday, June 24

## Marta Drone Memorial Golf Tournament

Rio Vista Golf Club



Rio Vista Rotary club hosts the 21st Annual event. See [riovistarotary.org/marta-dron-memorial](http://riovistarotary.org/marta-dron-memorial) for more info.

Saturday, July 23, 6:00 - 9:00 pm

## Tequila y Mas

Point Restaurant, 120 Marina Dr, Rio Vista



Sip, savor and experience premium Tequila and Mezcal profiles at the Sixth Annual Tequila Y Más. Pre-sale tickets are \$45 and at the door are \$50 per person. Check [riovistarotary.org/coming-events](http://riovistarotary.org/coming-events) for more info.

Saturday, August 27, 10:00 am - 11:00 pm

## Hog August Bites

Downtown Rio Vista



See *Ribs & Chili are the Name of the Game* on page 10 for more details.

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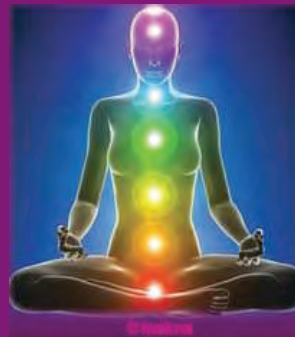
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# RioVision Roundup

## P&C Committee Gets the Word Out!

Writer: Robie Williams Photographers: P&C Committee Members & Contributors

RioVision is an all-volunteer, grassroots 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization where the ideas, creativity and energy of Rio Vista residents are turned into actions, projects, programs and events that improve lives and the physical and social environment. Often, RioVision works with service clubs, other non-profits, businesses, and the City of Rio Vista to make these improvements.

How does RioVision get the word out about all the different projects, programs and events to the citizens of Rio Vista? The Promotion and Communication (P&C) team organizes information and sends it out in articles to the Beacon, the Daily Republic, and postings on Facebook and Instagram, for starters. The team utilizes Nextdoor for events and to share information as well. They assist in drafting letters, creating posters, banners, flyers and updating the Rio Vista Community Calendar with events for all nonprofits and service clubs in the Rio Vista area. The community calendar is found on the RioVision, Discover Rio Vista and the City of Rio Vista websites. The RioVision and Discover Rio Vista websites are another tool in the P&C team toolbox. The

*Discover Rio Vista* magazine (DRV) is also published with the support of this group.

Donna Armanino was the original program coordinator for P&C. She brought with her

a mountain of experience gained from 30 years work experience with the Japanese giant, Hitachi.

Donna passed the baton to Robie Williams in 2019 when she became RioVision Treasurer and bookkeeper. Donna remains active with the group as she reviews articles and takes care of the finances for the magazine.

The team has fluctuated a bit with some people moving away, but a core group still works to get the word out.

*Discover Rio Vista* magazine key players are editor Susan Whitesell, assistant editor Jan Vick and advertising lead Laurie Oleksiewicz. Christine Ondersma is a new addition to the advertising team. Carol Bower Foote writes the monthly RioVision article for the Beacon. Ed Cattey is our webmaster. Amy Schmidt assists with the Gallery advertising and also writes for the magazine. Marilyn Nelson is a frequent writer and reviewer. Phil Pezzaglia provides the historical Rio Vista articles for the magazine and Cynthia Schroeder is his talented reviewer. Tom Surh is a RioVision Board liaison, writer and frequent reviewer.

Several photographers assist with photos and articles for the magazine including Jan Vick, Susan Whitesell, Robie Williams, Doris Noreiga, Ken Adkins and Greg Mitchell, aka RV Bridgeman. Many others help when they have time to spare.

Lisa Duke and Christine Ondersma assist with the social media accounts including Facebook and Nextdoor.

A monthly eblast goes out to those who have signed up to receive the information. You can sign up for the eblast by sending an email

to [info@riovision.net](mailto:info@riovision.net) and providing your name and contact information.

Diann Murphy recently joined the group as a liaison between the City Art Program and the P&C team. She works with Ann Jacobs

promoting the City Art Program projects.

Sadly, we recently said goodbye to Carolyn Azbell, who has done a great job at outside ad sales. Carolyn moved out of state. We wish Carolyn the best of luck as she starts a new chapter in her book of life.

If you are interested in writing, or becoming a member of this dynamic group, drop us a line at [riovisionsm@gmail.com](mailto:riovisionsm@gmail.com). There are lots of ways to help and you can choose to spend a little time helping or more according to your schedule.



Top row: Robie Williams, Susan Whitesell, Jan Vick, Doris Noriega, Diann Murphy and Lisa Duke.  
Bottom row: Donna Armanino, Laurie Oleksiewicz, Christine Ondersma, Tom Surh, Marilyn Nelson and Amy Schmidt.  
Not pictured: Carol Bower Foote, Ed Cattey, Phil Pezzaglia, Cyndy Schroeder, Ken Adkins, Greg Mitchell and Ann Jacobs.

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