

# discover RioVista

Lenese Coughran  
and Lynda Lira  
cross the finish line  
at Turkey Trot.

race | result  
Precision. Passion. German Engineering.  
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# Editor's Corner

As the year begins to wind down to the New Year, Rio Vista continues with exciting events planned. *Discover Rio Vista* magazine captures the excitement and joy of new and returning events and businesses throughout the city.

The 75th Annual Bass Derby and Festival is showcased by Doris Noriega, with pictures highlighting previous years by several photographers. This 3-day festival draws crowds from all over Northern California and is not to be missed with vendors, music, food, and of course the fishing derby. The Chamber of Commerce is hosting a special dinner the day before the official opening to celebrate long-time businesses.

Laurie Oleksiewicz highlights the businesses that keep the downtown vibrant and active. She features several businesses that have persevered for many years as well as new businesses that keep things jumping. Robie Williams showcases Fosters Bighorn, which is under new management, while Laurie introduces Clutterbug, a new business on Second Street, which offers eclectic crafts.

Phil Pezzaglia continues his article showcasing the Rio Vista Museum history and unique displays. The annual Museum Christmas Faire, a favorite for buying that special hand-made gift is highlighted by Robie Williams.

The bi-annual, extremely popular Holiday Home Tour is back with Tom Surh highlighting the 7 homes that will be open for viewing, ranging from historic Victorian homes to a remodeled mid-century home and homes with special themes. This event coincides with the Museum Christmas Faire, and carols on the waterfront with the tree lighting and the lighted boat parade.

Dennis Elliott showcases the ever-growing 9th Annual Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving morning. This race supports the Rio Vista High School cross-country and soccer teams.

In September, Rio Vista welcomes back two popular events. Cathy Lindstrom encourages participation in the "See You in September" fundraiser by the Rio Vista Hot Shots to support the Rio Vista Fire Department. The City of Rio Vista is sponsoring Wings and Wheels at the airport, starting off with a breakfast by the Lions Club. The City is also sponsoring the popular Trunk or Treat event downtown on Halloween.

The RioVision Gallery features a wide variety of artists from Rio Vista. Several artists are highlighted by Jan Vick in an article featuring the Artist of The Month for September through November, as well as more artists in December who create smaller items ideal for gifts.

Need more events? See the RioVision Roundup and Events Calendar to find just the activity you are looking for.

—Co-Editor, Jan Vick

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discover  
Rio Vista



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bridge to the future

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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 [rio-vision.net](http://rio-vision.net) and [facebook.com/rio-vision](http://facebook.com/rio-vision). RioVision is a non-profit 501(c)(3) group.

COVER: Lenese Coughran and Lynda Lira cross the finish line at Turkey Trot 2022. Photo by Richard Flink.



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# THE ICONIC Foster's BIGHORN

STORY BY ROBIE WILLIAMS · PHOTOS BY JAN VICK

There was no fanfare, nor big announcements, just a yellow Public Notice of Application for Ownership Change sign in the window of Foster's Big Horn that meant change was imminent. In September, the keys quietly exchanged hands, as Foster's Bighorn kept serving food and pouring your favorite drink. And so this iconic business continues.

The recognizable neon sign and the lights are brightly lit. It is a welcoming beacon on Main Street. The glass doors and large front window have been blacked out, now sporting the Foster's logo, giving it a finished, upscale appearance. As you walk in, your eyes are drawn to the bar, sixty-five feet of polished wood and the herd of animals that adorn the walls. The lighting fixtures have been changed, shining a soft brightness throughout.

The bartender smiles and welcomes you as you walk back to the dining area. With the removal of one of the booths, it is more open and inviting. Plus, it is easily accessible for wheelchairs and walkers.

Chris Wakeman, the new owner greeted me, and we went up to the mezzanine, closed the louvered doors and sat down for a chat. Chris has been living the Delta life for many years. First as a weekend boater and then purchasing the land near where he tied up the boat. During Covid, he moved in permanently, although his business took him back to the Bay Area.

When asked what prompted his purchase of Foster's Big Horn, he said "I was taught to reach beyond what I'm comfortable with and I love the Delta." He wants to keep Bill Foster's vision alive, as well as the memories. The photographs that line the walls document Bill's life as he traveled and hunted big game in Africa, Canada, and Alaska. Times were different



back then and Bill brought the exotic back to people who had never seen, nor would they have without him. Chris enjoys hearing people's stories about the restaurant and the old days. He also intends to follow the three previous owners in preserving the collection.

Chris has worked in the restaurant and hospitality industry. He meets with the staff asking for their input and involving them in keeping Foster's an icon.

Many of Foster's favorites are still on the menu, including the Wednesday night prime rib special and the Friday lunch specials. Chris intends to make more changes to enhance the experience. Effective In July Foster's began closing on Mondays through the summer for maintenance (except nationally recognized holidays such as Labor Day). They will also ramp up the improvements, building on changes they have already made.

Of course, preserving Bill Foster's legacy for generations to come is ongoing!

TOP: Elephant, rhino, and other African animal heads in the dining room. CENTER: The renovated sign out front. BOTTOM LEFT TO RIGHT: From pub fare to fine dining. Moose heads and other North American animals above the bar area.





# 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Bass Derby and Festival

“Through the Years”

October 13, 14, 15

STORY BY DORIS NORIEGA ·  
PHOTOS BY DENNIS CLIFTON (FIREWORKS),  
RICHARD FLINK (FERRIS WHEEL), DORIS NORIEGA  
(PEOPLE AT BOOTHS), ROBIE WILLIAMS (TALL RIDE)

The annual Rio Vista Bass Derby and Festival is the oldest fishing contest in the state and is filled with wonderful memories, a proud history, and so much family fun and entertainment!

## EARLIEST HISTORY

In 1933 the proposal for the striped bass fishing derby originated with Phil Ross of Redwood City and Harry Proctor of Oakland. Both were newspaper men. The Rio Vista Chamber of Commerce and other city leaders were instrumental in helping them to develop and organize the event. In that very first year there were 1,300 anglers entering the semifinals and of those 160 competed in the finals. The winning fish was 29.8 pounds.

In September of 1934 at the second Bass Festival there were 3,720 anglers and over 5,000 visitors. The entertainment consisted of a dance with the music provided by the Al Wittenbrock's orchestra. There was also a performance by a 50-piece band called the Sacramento Pyramid of Sciots.

In 1935 there were 9,000 anglers and 27,000 visitors. That year there were parade floats with the Boy Scouts and Fire Department participating. The Fishing Derby winner was Young Corbett II who was an ex boxing champion.

By 1938 more activities were added such as a BBQ, open air concert by the Rio Vista Band, a softball contest, motorcycle races, and boxing exhibitions. Finally, there were performances by various dance groups and “Jack Cleary's” Kiddies Dance Troupe.

From 1939 to 1948 the Bass Festival was suspended due to World War II and its aftermath. When it started up again there were other changes in the entertainment and activities. The Beauty Pageants began during the 1950s. The parades were expanded to include horseback riders, and horse-drawn carriages. Water skiing on the river was also a new activity for festival goers.

Much has changed over the intervening years, yet the true spirit of the festival lives on. The following contains the 2023 Fishing Derby information and festival daily schedule at the time of print. Always check the newspaper or online closer to the date of the event for the most current information.



## FISHING DERBY

This is a family event for adults and enthusiastic young anglers. Since the recreational California ocean salmon fishery is closed in all regions, salmon will not be included in this year's derby. For more information and specific details go to [www.bassfestival.com/bass-derby/](http://www.bassfestival.com/bass-derby/).

## ENTERTAINMENT, FOOD & DRINKS, VENDORS

Family fun continues over three days with a lively musical line-up:

*Friday* - Groovy Judy, Vinyl Countdown, and Elvis Tribute

*Saturday* - Angela Street Band, Tom Petty Tribute, Johnny Cash Tribute, and the River Ratz

*Sunday* - After Glow and Moving Parts



Many food and drink vendors offer visitors a variety of refreshments. Favorite food offerings are bacon wrapped hot dogs and corn dogs, BBQ sandwiches, tacos, cotton candy, kettle corn, fruit smoothies, yogurt, and parfaits, etc. A wine and beer garden is again adjacent to the stage.

Arts & Crafts and other vendors are selling items such as hats, jewelry, kitchen gadgets, toys, and a wide selection of photography, paintings, and hand-crafted items.





**FESTIVAL SCHEDULE**

*Thursday – Oct. 12*

—A **kick-off dinner** celebrates Rio Vista businesses that have stood the test of time, supporting the Bass Derby over 30 years or more. Tickets are \$50/pp (advanced purchase only).

—**Firetruck rides** (subject to change) are offered by RVFD, Solano County Sheriff's Dept. & Montezuma FD.

*Friday – Oct. 13*

—The first day of **live stage music** entertainment, drink, food, and other vendors.

*Saturday – Oct. 14*

—The Lions Club and Fire Department Hot Shots prepare their **annual pancake breakfast**.

—A “Catch of the Day” **Rummage Sale** is held in the Youth Center.

—A **Bake Sale** of delicious pies, cakes, cookies and other goodies are offered by the Senior Center.

—The Lion's Club **Car Show** on Main Street features cars and trucks in all makes and models.

—A spectacular **fireworks show** begins at 8:45 pm off the Dutra Barge.

*Sunday – Oct. 15*

—The **Corvette Show** featuring “America's Sports Car,” starts off the morning.

—The “**Old Fashioned Home Town Pride**” Parade begins at 12:00 pm.

—The Soroptimist Freezer Full of Meat **Raffle & BBQ winner is announced**.

—The **Bass Derby Awards Presentation** takes place at 4:00 pm at #1 Main Street.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
[www.bassfestival.com](http://www.bassfestival.com).

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# THE RIO VISTA MUSEUM

## Rio Vista's Hidden Treasure Chest, Part Two

STORY BY PHIL PEZZAGLIA, PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE MUSEUM

**I**t was lucky for the City of Rio Vista that in 1975 a group of seventeen local citizens gathered to discuss the feasibility of establishing a museum in the city and formed the Rio Vista Museum Association. Some of those citizens had been involved in the Centennial celebration fifteen years earlier.

The group agreed that the purpose of the association would be to collect, safeguard, and publicly display documents, photographs, and objects of historical significance to the city of Rio Vista. The time was right to open a local museum to coincide with the country's 1976 Bicentennial Celebration.

In September 1975 officers of the Rio Vista Museum Association elected Genevieve (McCormack) James as the association's first president. As the news of the association got around town, members of the community contributed a variety of historical artifacts. Little by little, images of pioneers, houses, businesses, and steamships from Rio Vista's past covered the walls. Most of the items brought in were easily identified, however there were a few that were not, and in some cases the museum did not know what to do with some of them. During those early years, Krug Dunbar was the curator at the museum. If an object had a label, Dunbar would often write to the manufacturer to inquire about its history. Unfortunately, some manufacturers no longer existed, and he could not find contact information for them. Times have changed and the internet has made it much easier and faster to date and acquire information about an item. You still need the name of the manufacturer and an idea of what the item is, but the almost immediate response time from internet resources accelerates the process.

Luckily for the museum association, the historic blacksmith building, located on Front Street was empty. Most recently the building had been an auto parts store. The committee looked the building over and unanimously felt that it would meet their needs. It was a historic building more than large enough to accommodate the artifacts that had been arriving, and it was in a central location.

The museum opened its doors for the first time during the Bass Derby in October 1975, manned by a group of enthusiastic volunteers. With ample space, the unique collection spread throughout the building. There was overwhelming support that weekend and from that time the museum has continued to grow. In 1978 the Rio Vista Museum raised enough money to purchase the historic building for \$33,510.

As the collection expanded so did the need for space. The first phase of expansion was the rear display room, reading room, and upstairs archives, and the second expansion created the side farm room.

Throughout the years since the opening of the museum, members and former members of the community have helped the museum become what it is today, through their support. The Rio Vista Museum Association is a private tax-exempt 501(c)(3) corporation led by a board of directors elected annually by the membership. The museum receives its financial support entirely from memberships,

memorials, donations, and fund-raisers, such as the annual Hamburger Feed and various open houses. Your membership will help in the continued preservation and exhibition of the distinctive history of this lively community.

Each year the museum hosts several highly anticipated events: The Olde Tyme Christmas Faire (hard to believe but the event has been around for fifteen years), Mad Hatter's Tea Party, and the Rio Vista Museum Hamburger BBQ, which has been held for longer than anyone can remember.

The museum offers a variety of great gift items for sale including T-shirts, coffee mugs, and an assortment of books written on local history. Also available is the Rio Vista Museum Calendar, which contains wonderful historic photographs depicting the town's past. Another fun item to pick up is 2021's *"A Self-Guided Walking Tour of the Historic Homes of Rio Vista."*

Three years ago, the museum created 24" x 36" poster boards made up of photographs of military veterans of Rio Vista and displayed them around town for Veterans Day. The great response to the veteran posters led to the addition of fifteen more poster boards depicting "then and now" photos of town.

These are just a few ways of inducing individuals to stop in and support the museum. The museum is open Saturday and Sunday from 1:30 to 4:30 pm. Tours are available by appointment, please call (707) 374-5169. For additional information, visit the museum website at: [riovistamuseum.com](http://riovistamuseum.com) and check it out on Facebook.



Garden-party dresses with hats and jewelry, and a work truck among tools from curated displays in the museum.





# Come to Rio Vista's 9th Annual Turkey Trot

STORY BY DENNIS AND MERILYN ELLIOTT · PHOTOS BY RICHARD FLINK

On Thanksgiving morning, Thursday, November 23, more than 150 participants will run, walk, amble, or sashay over a 5-kilometer route through the streets of Rio Vista. For younger participants, there are quarter mile and one-mile courses. Historically, some (very wise) adults have opted to walk the course because they were “already in shape” for the feast to come later in the day.

All proceeds from the Turkey Trot benefit the Rio Vista High School Cross Country and Soccer teams. Previous checks to the teams have been as much as \$5,000, helping with urgently needed uniforms and equipment. Despite the pandemic, the Turkey Trot is continuing for the ninth year in a row. The top male and female runners in this year's 5k race will each receive a medal, thanks from the Rio Vista High School booster club, and \$100 in prize money.

Medals will be awarded to other athletes and near-athletes who place first, second, and third in their age and gender categories. There will also be prizes for the Best Dressed Turkey Trotter and another for the Best Dressed Flock.

The entry fee is \$30 for early online registration, or \$40 on race day. Kids are no-fee up to 10 years of age. Rio Vista and the Cross-Country team also gratefully welcome private and business sponsorship donations. Past donations have ranged from \$50 up to \$500, with the most typical donation averaging \$250, although any amount is appreciated. The RVHS Booster Club sincerely thanks all past and present sponsors. Please contact Tami Mitchell, this year's race chairperson, at [Tami.Mitchell.26@gmail.com](mailto:Tami.Mitchell.26@gmail.com) if you would like to sponsor the race.

Chandra Drury, President of the RVHS Booster Club, is sponsoring a drink and snack table featuring coffee, soda, donuts, hot bagels, and hot chocolate. Runners and rooters should bring a little pocket change to purchase snacks during and after the race. All proceeds from the snack table will go to the Booster Club. There will be water for runners and walkers along the 5K route.



The race starts at Rio Fit, winds along the beautiful Promenade, down 2nd Street and Bruning Avenue to Edgewater Drive, back to 2nd Street via Hamilton Avenue, out to Beach Drive, and back to Rio Fit in the final sprint. To register for the event, go to [www.runsignup.com](http://www.runsignup.com). Credit cards are accepted for registration fees.

Race organizers and officials give up their time each year to volunteer for this event, and Chairperson Mitchell wants to thank all who take part in this fun and worthwhile event.

Thanks are due to RVHS' Cross-Country coaches, Edwin Okamura and Noelle Gomes, PR and Marketing video whiz, Erin Kidwell, and snack bar organizer, Chandra Drury, for organizing this year's Turkey Trot.

The Turkey Trot committee extends its appreciation to the City of Rio Vista, RioVision, and the city crew, Ken Gaston, Jason Debo, John Preston, Kathryn Dragiccevic, Trevor Gomes, and John, Ryan and Mary Mitchell for their support.

Asked why she volunteers for this event, Tami said: “I enjoy the comradeship, and the friendly get together spirit of our community. We all work together to make it better for our kids and extend the warm-heartedness of our town. Here, no one is a stranger.”



2022 turkey trotters in their natural habitat.



# RIO VISTA HOT SHOTS

## SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER BBQ

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CATHY LINDSTROM

The Rio Vista Fire Department has a community support group called the “Hot Shots.” The Hot Shots was formed by a group of community volunteers in 2015 and is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Currently, the organization has fourteen active Hot Shot members. In 2022, the Hot Shots raised over \$50,000 in support of RVFD. In collaboration with the Rio Vista Professional Firefighter’s Association, the Hot Shots also assist in other unique events including the annual “fire truck rides.” The mission of the Hot Shots is to continue to support the Rio Vista Fire Department by assisting with staffing at public events, and by fundraising to assist with improving the level of service.

The Hot Shots have provided, through fund raising, such things as an AED for the Senior Center, water stations and an updated telecommunication system at our local high school, a water rescue boat, water rescue training, an incident drone, mini medication vaults, Lucas tools (automatic CPR machines), and most recently thermal imaging cameras for use by Rio Vista firefighters. This year the Hot Shots hope to provide scholarships for the required EMT training for new firefighters and additional rescue equipment.

The September fundraiser supports the Hot Shots efforts to update, replace, or fund new contributions to support Rio Vista’s courageous hometown heroes.



Don’t miss the “See You in September, Fun, Food and Gaming Fundraiser,” September 16, 2023 at D.H. White School. Tickets are \$35.00 if purchased prior to the event or \$40.00 at the door. Buy tickets at the Fire Station or Pets 4 All. Doors open at 4:30 pm. A tri-tip/chicken dinner is served at 5:30 pm. Enjoy a no-host bar, fun gaming tables, and silent and live auctions. Contact Cathy Lindstrom for further information at (831) 206-4963.



Indoor-outdoor fun with the Hot Shots. If you crap out in the casino, you can always replenish your strength with dinner and drinks in the patio.



# Airport Day Wings and Wheels plus Halloween Fun, too!

STORY BY ROBIE WILLIAMS · PHOTO BY BETH ROBERTS

It's almost time for the City of Rio Vista's Airport Day Wings and Wheels! A day to show off Rio Vista's hidden gem. This is the second recent event of an old Rio Vista favorite. Located at 3000 Bauman Road on September 9 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Start your day with a pancake breakfast being held in the Aero Club hangar, prepared by the Lions Club at 9:00 am. After an enjoyable breakfast, head on over to the car and motorcycle show featuring classic cars, trucks, and motorcycles. Don't forget to check out the airplanes! There will be some memorable planes including experimental aircraft.

This year the event includes a Kid's Zone with fun events for the kiddos, food truck court with a variety of yummy offerings and great local vendors as well as information booths.

The Halloween Trunk or Treat event returns for its second year on October 31, 2023. The City, working with nonprofit organizations, will host the event at the foot of Main Street. It includes a Halloween parade to kick off the event, starting at 4th Street, down to the end of Main Street. The Youth and Community Hall located at 45 Main Street hosts games for the kids and food is available for purchase. Local businesses are invited to join in the fun with Halloween offerings.

Both fun events are free to attend. For more information about the events contact Beth Roberts at [broberts@ci.rio-vista.ca.us](mailto:broberts@ci.rio-vista.ca.us) or visit the city's website at [riovistacity.com](http://riovistacity.com)







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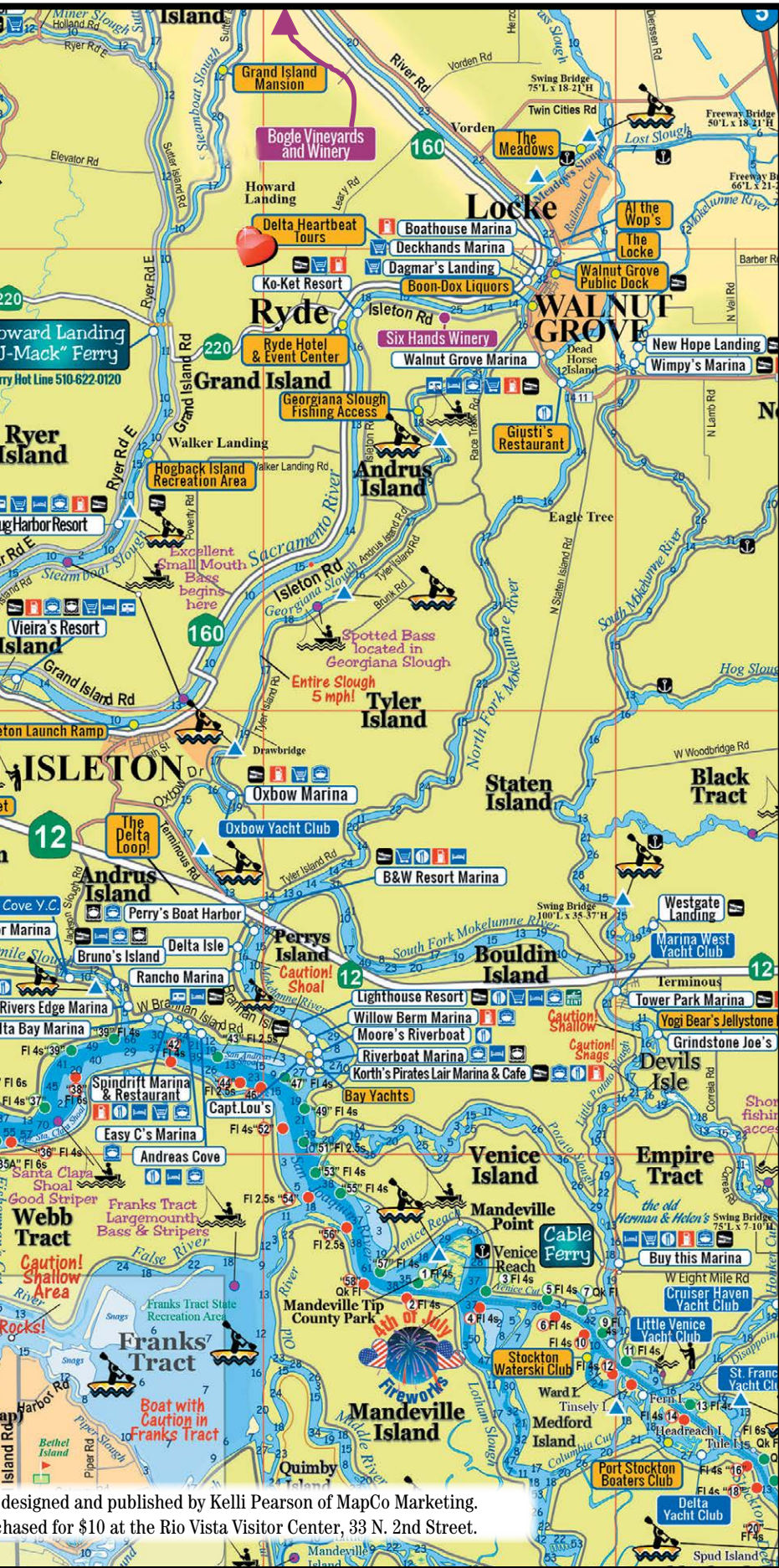
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This is a portion of the Delta Boaters Map and Visitors Guide, It is available online at [DeltaBoatingMap.com](http://DeltaBoatingMap.com) or may be purchased





Designed and published by Kelli Pearson of MapCo Marketing. Purchased for \$10 at the Rio Vista Visitor Center, 33 N. 2nd Street.



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# Holiday Events

STORY BY ROBIE WILLIAMS · PHOTOS BY RICH VICTOR

**H**olidays are about friends, family and sharing time together. There's no shortage of things to do during the holiday season here in Rio Vista. Share these events with friends, neighbors, and family.

## GIFT, CRAFT, ART & JEWELRY FAIRE

Kick off your holidays at the Trilogy Gift, Craft, Art & Jewelry Faire Saturday, November 11 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Trilogy Vista Clubhouse. Open to the public, this convenient and fun shopping experience features thousands of unique handcrafted items. Enter the raffle to win amazing hourly prizes.

## WORLD CLASS CAROLING

Sing your socks off at the Rio Vista Chamber of Commerce's wildly popular World Class Caroling on Saturday, December 2. Gather at 45 Main Street around 4:30 pm. Caroling attire is requested but is not mandatory. The 2021 caroling event was attended by approximately 500 enthusiastic singers. The chamber hopes to break that record this year!

## BIKE RAFFLE

Saxon Creed MC of Napa/Solano County hosts their annual bike raffle on Saturday, December 2. Parents, bring your children to 45 Main St. about 3:30 pm to get a free raffle ticket. After the tree lighting, Saxon Creed MC begins raffling the bikes away to children. In 2022 they gave away 25 bikes to Rio Vista youth.

## TREE OF LIGHTS

Hospice of San Joaquin illuminates their Tree of Lights on Saturday, December 2 at 5:30 pm at the foot of Main Street in front of City Hall. Dedicate a light on the tree to remember or honor a loved one by donating on their website at [www.hospicesj.org/treeoflights](http://www.hospicesj.org/treeoflights). Your donation supports the agency's programs of nursing care and bereavement services for terminally ill patients and their families throughout San Joaquin County and neighboring communities including Rio Vista.

## LIGHTED BOAT PARADE

The annual Lighted Boat Parade is sponsored by the Delta Marina Yacht Harbor. Catch the brightly decorated boats as they proceed from the Marina's guest dock at 6:00 pm and continue north to the bridge and back. View the boats decked out in lights and wired with music along the waterfront from the marina up to the public fishing pier and promenade. This event is "weather permitting." Dress warmly, it can be chilly out there!

## OLDE TYME CHRISTMAS FAIRE

Enjoy a truly old-fashioned Christmas at the Rio Vista Museum Olde Tyme Christmas Faire Saturday, December 2 from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm and Sunday, December 3 from 11:00 am to 4:30 pm at the Rio Vista Museum located at 16 N. Front Street. Come in and listen to holiday music, buy raffle tickets for fantastic prizes from the vendors, and enjoy delectable treats at the popular Bake Sale. Discover distinctive 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. Interested vendors should contact Nora Crane at (707) 334-6191 or via email at [onetwin1960@gmail.com](mailto:onetwin1960@gmail.com).

## HOLIDAY HOME TOUR

Seven homes located throughout Rio Vista are decked out in their holiday best on December 2. The self-guided walking tour begins at 11:00 am and ends by 4:30 pm. Tickets are available through Eventbrite or the RioVision Gallery at 116 Main St. for general admission and the limited VIP tickets, which includes a gala after party. See the article on page 13 for more info.





# Holiday Home Tour 2023

STORY BY TOM SURH · PHOTOS BY RICH VICTOR

This very popular event returns to Rio Vista on December 2, 2023. It features attractive homes dressed to the nines for the Christmas season. Tour historic and restored homes in old town, some that are newer on the outside and really surprising inside. The tour coincides with the Olde Tyme Christmas Faire held at the Rio Vista Museum, the annual Christmas tree lighting, and the Lighted Boat Parade. A full day of activities to get you in the holiday spirit.

This event has been going on for many years. It was started by Soroptimist of Rio Vista. Donna Hamilton, whose passion for all things Christmas, was the driving force behind the 2015 Holiday Home Tour sponsored by RioVision. The event occurs in alternate odd-numbered years, with a similar event put on by Trilogy organizers in even-numbered years. The self-guided tour of seven homes begins at 11:00 am and ends at 4:30 pm. Greeters at each home are there to assist with access as needed. The owners are happy to answer questions. The homes on the tour include:

- A recently remodeled (with additions) mid-century modern home on the waterfront.
- A home featuring a Santa's Workshop theme.
- A Gentlemen's Quarters that has been on the tour for several years, but with surprising and amazing renovations each year
- A mansion built in the early 1900s, now restored and operating as a bed and breakfast and tastefully decorated for the holidays, with greens and traditional Christmas items on display.
- A historic, beautifully updated 100-year-old Victorian that is available for rent through Air BnB. Take an early peek of the home by searching for Rio Retreat on Airbnb for Rio Vista, CA.
- A modern home that will literally take your breath away when you enter. You will see a huge collection of Christmas collectibles, including custom-made items, and this year featuring A Christmas Carol theme.
- A home that is entirely decorated, even the bathrooms! Each part is decorated with a different theme, including four trees and featuring glass ornaments, silk ribbons, handmade crafts, and antique mercury glass."

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

This event always sells out early, so look for tickets to go on sale mid-September online at [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) or downtown at the RioVision Gallery at 116 Main St., open Tuesday through Saturday from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. General Admission tickets for the tour only are \$25.00 each and the VIP Event is \$50.00.

The Holiday Home Tour benefits RioVision, an all-volunteer non-profit dedicated to revitalizing the Rio Vista community. RioVision supports many community projects including this magazine.





# RioVision Roundup

STORY AND PHOTO BY ROBIE WILLIAMS

**I**t is that time of year again when the RioVision Board meets, elects new officers, and adds a new board member to the group. Board members serve three-year terms.

The April meeting saw a change in membership, as the resignation of Amy Schmidt was accepted, leaving an opening for a new member. Amy continues with RioVision as the Gallery Curator and is part of the Holiday Home Tour 2023 planning committee.

After a bit of discussion, Chris Armbrust was nominated for board membership. Lucky for RioVision, he accepted the nomination! Chris brings with him audio/video technical skills, as well as experience in decision making, and working with a group to move the mission forward. He was unanimously elected.

Art Darden remains as the RioVision President, bringing innovative ideas and ways to implement them. Chris Quan moves into the Vice-President position, replacing Brian Spradling who stepped down. Donna Armanino remains as the ever-vigilant treasurer! Tom Surh is the Executive Director and Robie Williams accepted the Secretary position.

Donna Nunes and Evelyn Wilson remain on board and are part of



the Holiday Home Tour 2023 committee. Jim Pezzaglia also remains as one of our legal advisors. Diann Murphy is busy planning the Riverfront Art Fest, scheduled for the spring of 2024 and is an active member of the City Art Program committee. Brian Spradling rounds out the team.

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# New Business in Town: CLUTTERBUG

STORY BY LAURIE OLEKSIWICZ · PHOTOS BY JAN VICK

Clutterbug offers a plethora of items sure to please any shopper. Barbara McNeely opened her fun new shop on March 1 of this year, 2023, in the recently restored Sidwell Hotel building, located at 93 South 2nd Street, Suite C3, across the street from the Rio Vista library. The shop highlights locally made handcrafted items for gifts and personal use. Barbara likes to say that when you buy a handcrafted item, you are supporting a dream, and “welcome to our neighborhood.” Come in and see their pajamas and robes, aprons, quilted treasures, Warm Embrace wellness products, jewelry, fused glass art, metal garden chimes, crocheted purses, aroma therapy candles, doTerra essential oils, Napa Soaps, wall art, wreaths, bows, and home décor.

This is not Barbara’s first go as a shop keeper. She started Clutterbug in Gualala in the early fall of 2000, as a small shop perched above the breath-taking Pacific Ocean along the rugged Mendocino coast of Northern California. After fifteen years, Barbara closed her shop to join her retired husband on some RVing adventures around California. They then decided to move from their beautiful town on the coast to be closer to their daughter and grandson in Sacramento, settling in the Trilogy community of Rio Vista in January 2020, just at the beginning of the Covid-19 outbreak.

Waiting for the Covid restrictions to lift delayed Barbara’s plans to reopen the store. Now she is in full swing with her wonderful little shop. Stop by to say hi and enjoy the wonderful selection of lovingly created items waiting for your discovery.



## Stacy Marie's Bakery & Café

30 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Rio Vista CA 94571

**Opening late Summer/early Fall 2023**



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**Also opening this Summer - Richard's Ice Cream - 210A Main St. Rio Vista CA 94571**  
**Featuring 32! hand scooped flavors of Dryers and Hagen-Dazs ice creams - cones & cups**  
**Shakes - Banana Splits - Smoothies - Frozen Yogurt - Individual Treats - Prepacked Ice Cream**



# Gallery Artists

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JAN VICK

## *Anna Chunn* is the September artist of the month



Anna Chunn grew up with a mother who fostered her creativity. She learned to sew and create crafts in her early years, beginning as a fiber artist, painting (dyeing) silk scarves in 1984. Each of her scarves (referred to as “wearable art”) is a “one of a kind” piece. Anna’s interest in watercolor is a direct result of painting on silk. She has found that watercolor paint-

ing challenges her patience, which she has had to learn to control.

To develop her art, Anna has studied with several well-known Bay Area teachers: Linda Sutton, Jane Loveall, Sandy Delehanty and Sue Clanton, Marsha Connell, Sally Baker, Tessia Blackburn, Jeannie Vodden, and Florence Lauzon. Florence was her first watercolor teacher, and her influence can still be seen in Anna’s paintings. But her best influence came from her mother, who inspired creativity through her parenting and artistic skills.



Anna’s inspiration comes from all aspects of her life. She enjoys trying to recreate what is in front of her in some artistic form such as matching colors, creating a unique pattern, or bringing two elements together in a painting. Her inspirations often come from nature. She has always loved flowers, trees, birds, butterflies, and other creatures. She loves exploring abstract designs in her acrylic works.

Anna is a member of the Trilogy Art Guild and has exhibited in most of the art shows the Guild sponsors. She has received 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons for her work, and even Best of Show for her “Black Butterfly” painting.

Anna teaches two watercolor classes each week. She finds that her students greatly inspire her own work as she continues to educate them and herself at the same time.

Come and meet Anna at her reception on September 16, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm at the RioVision Gallery.



## *Judy Katona* is the October artist of the month

Judy was born and raised in Florida, moved to California in the 60s and settled in Rio Vista in 2003. Her interest and studies in art began in childhood and took permanent shape in her adult life. She taught oil, acrylic and watercolor painting in galleries. Judy is a Bay Area and Delta artist with a great appreciation for nature. She’s known for her delightful trompe l’oeil designs using mixed mediums on walls, furniture, fabrics, metal wood and canvas,



as well as millinery, home linens, accessories and gift items. Her fascinators, decorative hats attached to a headband or small combs, are very popular. Judy’s work has been exhibited and sold in design galleries throughout the United States, including San Francisco, Denver, Dallas, Atlanta and St. Paul. Many of her small works such as painted glassware, small boxes and other delightful works have recently been shown in the RioVision Gallery.



Meet Judy at her reception at the RioVision Gallery on October 21, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. Refreshments to be served.





# of the Month

**Kris Hall** is the September November artist of the month



When she was young, Kris did not do well in art and did not dream of becoming an artist. As an adult, however, Kris aspired to be a Rock and Roll artist, so she started modeling and then became a member of a Rock and Roll band. She made her dream come true; she was an artist! However, due to circumstances beyond her control, Kris had to leave the world she had come to love. She shifted gears and stepped into the business world. She became a banker and later a consumer lender and mortgage broker. During the 2007/08 financial crisis, her mother needed help, so Kris be-

came an Uber driver for its flexible hours. As her mother needed more health care, Kris moved into her home in Rio Vista. Having an enterprising spirit, Kris knew she needed to make money. She wrote three books including *Mocha Secret* and *Niches to Riches* under her married name Kris Holmes and self-published them. She wrote two children's books that she has yet to publish.

In 2018 Kris began watching YouTube painting lessons and developed a style of her own. She was surprised by the positive reactions to her art. While she tried flowers, nature scenes and pottery, it just did not fill her artistic passion. Kris says,

"I found my passion in large canvases, working in abstract art and collage tributes of musicians!" Her large canvases include Rock and Roll artists Elvis Presley and Neil Young, country star Johnnie Cash and Reggae icon Bob Marley. She has also created a 4' x 6' canvas depicting a Harley Davidson.



Please attend her reception on November 18 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm at the Gallery.

**December – Gifts for Everyone!**

The RioVision Gallery on Main Street showcases several artists specializing in small works that are perfect for holiday gifts. Some artist feature decorations for the home; others provide decorations for the body. Diana Peugh creates delightful carved and painted gourds that fit any décor. Linda Fead creates felted animals of all types, from dogs to jellyfish. Judy Katona specializes in fascinators, but also cute boxes, and painted glassware, to name a few. Amy Schmidt creates gorgeous dyed silk scarves of many colors and patterns. Birdtown Designs, a group of four women, crochet lovely beaded necklaces. Jamie Victor has a gorgeous collection of felt flowers with added silk features and Czech glass buttons. Susan



Prince creates beautiful necklaces and earrings using a wide variety of materials, including semi-precious beads and stones. Randolph Robinette creates interesting large pottery vases. Please drop by to see this wonderful collection of small gifts.

A reception for all of these talented artists will be held on December 16, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm at the Gallery.



The RioVision Gallery is located at 116 Main Street in Rio Vista, and the hours are Tuesday through Saturday 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. While you are there checking out the art, pick up some Sees Candies (now with sugar free choices). Appointments are available outside of the normal hours by calling (707) 360-5244 during Gallery hours or (707) 469-3080 after hours.



# Discover Shopping in Rio Vista

STORY BY LAURIE OLEKSIEWICZ · PHOTOS BY A.V.

**T**ired of the boring big box stores? Ready for a fun relaxing shopping experience? Stroll the quaint streets of downtown Rio Vista for a pleasant day of shopping and explore the many unique offerings this cute little town on the Sacramento River has to offer. With the holiday season fast approaching, this is the place to go and discover your shopping finds!

As you enter Main Street from the west, one of the first major stops is Delta Pharmacy. Pharmacy you say? Yes. Besides the usual wide selection of items found in a pharmacy, there are many beautiful gift items, both personal and household, plus a great selection of greeting cards. Just across the street is a relative newcomer, Desert Blooms. This fun shop has a beautiful selection of succulents and other garden and household decorator items to make yours or anyone's home a relaxing retreat. Onto the next block there is AJK Emporium, a great place to find sports memorabilia and other collectors' finds, plus many other items for home or personal use. Also nearby is the Astrology Shop featuring various incense and crystals to calm our being.

Continue down towards the river, there are more stores to explore. You can't forget Fido and Fluffy. Stop in at Pets 4 All for all pet supplies and gifts needed for those furry, feathery, and finny friends we all have. Across the street is the RioVision Gallery. Here the artistic talents of the local community can be found in many forms of artwork and jewelry. Plus the Gallery offers See's Candies for those of us with a sweet tooth, or as a sweet gift to others on our shopping list.

Mind you this is only Main Street so far. Several other stores are located on the side streets just off of Main Street. On Second Street you find Clutterbug, a brand-new shop featuring handcrafted items for gifts or personal use. And nearby is Donnelly Floral & Event Design, to fulfill all your floral needs. Just around the corner on Montezuma Street is the Art and Music Center, which, besides offering fun art and music classes, is a full-service music store selling well-loved instruments, such as guitars.

Continue down Second Street a few blocks to the Delta Marina Yacht Harbor. Here, find a large shop full of merchandise for those boating or fishing on the Delta, plus a beautiful assortment of gift and decorating items with a nautical theme.

Last but not least, head north on Front Street right along the mighty Sacramento River. Enter Fool Crow to find the not-so-usual items that may be just the thing for that hard to buy for friend or relative. Mosey down the street to Robin's Nest, located right next to the bridge. Robin's Nest has a constantly changing selection of items available anywhere, from coffee cups to furniture looking for a second, and possibly third home. Robin's Nest was voted Best Thrift Store in Solano County

While on your shopping expedition, you will most likely work up an appetite. No need to worry. Find everything from down home comfort food to home cooked Mexican food, as well as Italian, Chinese, and



everyone's favorite, pizza, plus treats at the bakery. For a beautiful view of the Sacramento River, try the restaurant at the marina on 2nd Street. Whether you are a local or a curious visitor to this picturesque part of California, come and explore, have fun, and meet the fine folks that make Rio Vista great!



# Event Calendar

## Airport Day Planes & Pancakes

3000 BAUMAN RD., RIO VISTA  
Saturday, Sep. 9th, 9:00–11:00 am

Enjoy a delicious pancake breakfast hosted by the Lions Club.

## Airport Day Wings & Wheels

3000 BAUMAN RD., RIO VISTA  
Saturday, Sep. 9th, 10:00 am–4:00 pm

See the article on page 9 for more information.

## Daub'n for Donations

VETERANS MEMORIAL BLDG,  
610 ST. FRANCIS WAY  
Friday, Sep. 15th, 6:00 pm

Doors open at 6:00 pm, Bingo starts at 7:00 pm. A fun evening of Bingo benefits Rio Vista CARE. Win Bingo or raffle prizes! Food and drink are available for purchase. Bingo pack is \$30. Call Cindy Bradford at (707) 374-5243 for more information. Bingo is also held on the third Friday of every quarter.

## See You in September BBQ

D.H. WHITE SCHOOL, 300 ELM WAY  
Wednesday, Sep. 16th

Doors open at 4:30 pm. See the article on page 8 for more information.

## Sidewalk Saturday

DOWNTOWN RIO VISTA  
Final event for 2023,  
Sep. 16th, 11:00 am–4:00 pm



Stop, shop and enjoy our quaint downtown for the last event of the season. Vendors, sign up with the Rio Vista Chamber of Commerce or call (707) 374-2700.

## Rockin' the River

DOWNTOWN, AT THE FOOT  
OF MAIN STREET

Saturday Sep. 19th, 2:00–7:00 pm

Relax after shopping at Sidewalk Saturday to the music from two bands on the Starlite Stage.

## Trilogy Community Garage Sale

TRILOGY, WEST OF RIO VISTA  
Saturday, Oct. 7th, 9:00 am–3:00 pm

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

## 75th Annual Bass Derby & Festival

DOWNTOWN RIO VISTA  
Oct. 13th, 14th, and 15th



See the article on page 4 for more information.

## “Catch of the Day” Treasures Sale

45 MAIN STREET (YOUTH CENTER)  
Friday, Oct. 13th, 12:00–6:30 pm  
Saturday, Oct. 14th, 9:00 am–8:00 pm  
Sunday, Oct. 15th, 12:30–4:30 pm

Catch unique and one-of-a-kind items you can't find anywhere else at great prices! Proceeds go to the RV Food Pantry and Rio Vista CARE to support those in our community and nearby areas who need help. Whatever isn't sold at Bass Derby is half-off the following Saturday, Oct. 21, 10:30 am–4:30 pm and Sunday, Oct. 22, 12:30–4:30 pm.

## RVFD Pancake Breakfast

350 MAIN STREET  
Saturday, Oct. 14th, 8:00–10:00 am

Dig into a pancake and sausage breakfast for \$10 co-sponsored by the Rio Vista Lions and the RVFD Hot Shots.

## Western Railway Pumpkin Patch

WESTERN RAILWAY MUSEUM,  
5848 HWY 12, SUISUN  
Weekends, Oct. 14th & 15th, 21st & 22nd,  
28th & 29th, 10:00 am–4:30 pm



Take a scenic train ride down to the famous Gum Grove Farm for the best Pumpkin Patch in Solano County! There's food, activities and fun for the whole family.

## Trunk or Treat

DOWNTOWN RIO VISTA  
Tuesday, Oct. 31st

Enjoy a small-town Halloween parade down Main St. followed by trunk or treating, games and more. Contact Beth Roberts at [brob-erts@ci.rio-vista.ca.us](mailto:brob-erts@ci.rio-vista.ca.us) for more information.

## Gift, Craft, Art Faire & Jewelry Show

TRILOGY VISTA CLUB, WEST OF RIO VISTA  
Saturday, Nov. 19th, 10:00 am–3:00 pm

See the article on page 12 for more information.

## Soroptimist Bingo Night

VETERANS MEMORIAL BLDG.  
610 ST. FRANCIS WAY  
Friday, Nov. 17th, 5:30–9:30 pm

No host beer and wine are available. Bingo play is 7:00–9:30 pm. Purchase tickets at [siriovista.org/events](http://siriovista.org/events).

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



# Event Calendar

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE



## 9th Annual Turkey Trot

N. 2ND STREET, RIO VISTA

Thursday, Nov. 23rd, 8:00 am

See article on page 7 for more information.

## Holiday Home Tour

HOMES LOCATED THROUGHOUT RIO VISTA

Saturday, Dec. 2nd, 10:00 am–4:30 pm

See the article on page 13 for more information.

## Olde Tyme Christmas Faire

RIO VISTA MUSEUM, 16 N. FRONT STREET

Saturday, Dec. 2nd, 10:00 am–6:00 pm

Sunday, Dec 3rd, 11:00 am–4:30 pm

See the article on page 13 for more information.

## Tree of Lights

FOOT OF MAIN STREET, RIO VISTA

Saturday, Dec 2nd, 5:30 pm

See the article on page 13 for more information.

## Lighted Boat Parade

WATERFRONT FROM MARINA TO PUBLIC FISHING PIER

Saturday, Dec. 2nd, 6:00 pm

See the article on page 13 for more information.

## Daub'n for Donations

VETERANS MEMORIAL BLDG, 610 ST. FRANCIS WAY

Friday, Dec. 15th, 6:00 pm

BINGO				
7	25	44	57	62
15	22	40	50	70
11	30	FREE SPACE	46	74
2	28	37	55	68
10	27	39	59	75

Doors open at 6:00 pm and Bingo starts at 7:00 pm. A fun evening of Bingo benefits Rio Vista CARE. Win Bingo prizes or raffle prizes! Food and drink are available for purchase. Bingo pack is \$30. Call Cindy Bradford at (707) 374-5243 for more information.

## RioVision Community Forum

YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTER, 45 MAIN STREET

2nd Monday of each month, 6:00–8:00 pm

Join RioVision for varied topics of interest for Rio Vista and the Sacramento Delta. Topics and information for each meeting are posted on social media and our website at [rio-vision.net](http://rio-vision.net). For more information email [info@rio-vision.net](mailto:info@rio-vision.net) or call (707) 469-3080.

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116 Main Street in Rio Vista

Tuesday - Saturday 11am - 3pm

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(707) 360-5244



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2023

## Holiday HOME TOUR

December 2, 2023

HOME TOUR - \$25  
VIP EVENT & HOME TOUR - \$50  
*includes Riverside Reception  
at Privat Residence*

Seven memorable homes in  
Core Rio Vista and Trilogy

Open for viewing from

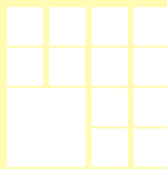
11:00 am - 4:30 pm

Raffle Prizes too!

Program and Map at start of tour

[WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM](http://WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM)

Tickets available at RioVision Gallery - 116 Main Street



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