

discover RioVista

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September - December 2024

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Editor's Corner

Welcome to the 34th edition of Discover Rio Vista! Whether you're just passing through or call this charming town home, there's plenty to explore.

For event enthusiasts, the Event Calendar on page 3 is a must-see, with Holiday Events highlighted on page 5. Don't miss Rio Vista's biggest annual event, the Bass Festival and Derby, one of California's oldest bass fishing contests. Anglers from around the world gather to fish in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, home to four different bass species. Find all the details on page 6.

Kids will love this edition's bass coloring picture and Bass Derby and Festival Trivia. Art lovers can visit the RioVision Gallery on the 3rd Saturday of each month to celebrate local artists. Learn about the Artists of the Month on page 16.

If you have some free time, consider joining one of Rio Vista's many nonprofit and service groups. Discover opportunities on page 13. Finally, Tom Surh, the Executive Director of RioVision, shares the nonprofit's history and celebrates its achievements on page 19.

If you're curious about any of the previous editions you can find them all on the website, Discover Rio Vista! Including the very first edition located at discoverriovista.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Fall_2014.pdf

If you're a writer, photographer, reviewer, or simply interested in contributing to the creation and distribution of Discover Rio Magazine, we'd love to hear from you! Reach out to us at drveditor@riovision.net.

We hope you enjoy reading the magazine as much as we enjoy bringing it to you.

— *Interim Editor, Robie Williams*

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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. For additional information about RioVision see riovision.net and facebook.com/riovistavision. RioVision is a non-profit 501(c)(3) group.

COVER:
Photo by John Lompa

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**RIO VISTA
76TH BASS DERBY & FESTIVAL**

A Night in Rio

(Kickoff Dinner)



**Thursday, October 10
6 PM - 9 PM**

Honoring local heroes
Parade Grand Marshal: Chief Jon Mazer
Heart & Soul of Rio Vista Awardee: Archie Thompson

Dinner & Dancing by the River
Dinner Prepared by Local Caterers
Dancing to the Music of Eddie Davis and the Notes of Choice

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Silent Auction

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EVENT CALENDAR 2024

SEPTEMBER

- **September 14:** Airport Day Planes & Pancakes. 9:00 – 11:00 am. Hosted by the Lions Club at the Aero Club Hangar 3000 Bauman Rd.
- **September 14:** Airport Day Wings & Wheels. 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. 3000 Bauman Rd., Rio Vista. See Wings, Wheels & Halloween, too. See article for more information.
- **September 20:** Daub'n for Donations Rio Vista Care. Veterans Memorial Bldg, 610 St. Francis Way Doors open at 6 pm Bingo starts at 7:00 - 9:00pm. A fun day of Bingo to benefit Rio Vista CARE. Win Bingo prizes or raffle prizes! Food and drink are available for purchase. Bingo pack is \$35 call Cindy Bradford at (707) 374-5243 for more info. Bingo will also be held on the third Friday of every quarter.
- **September 21:** Saturday Street Faire Final event for 2024, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm. Stop, shop and enjoy our quaint downtown for the last event of the season. Sign up with the Rio Vista Chamber of Commerce.
- **September 27:** Summer Concert Series 7:00 - 9:00 pm. Downtown, at the foot of Main.



OCTOBER

- **October 5:** Trilogy Community Garage Sale. 9:00am – 3pm Trilogy, Rio Vista. 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.
- **October 11, 12 & 13:** Noon – 6:30 pm Saturday, October 12, 9 am – 8pm Sunday, October 13, 12:30pm – 4:30pm. Catch of the Day™ Treasures Sale, 45 Main Street - 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.
- **October 12 & 13, October 19 & 20, October 26 & 27:** Western Railway Pumpkin Patch, 5848 Hwy 12, Suisun. 10:00 am – 4:30 pm. Take a scenic train ride down to our famous Gum Grove Farm for the best Pumpkin Patch in Solano County! There's food, activities and fun for the whole family.
- **October 12-14:** Annual Bass Derby & Festival Downtown. See the Bass Derby & Festival article for more info including times.
- **October 14:** Pancake Breakfast Rio Vista Fire Dept., 350 Main St. 7:00 am - 11:00 am. Dig into a pancake and sausage breakfast co-sponsored by the Rio Vista Lions and the Rio Vista Hot Shots.
- **October 25:** Summer Concert Series 7:00 - 9:00 pm. Downtown, at the foot of Main.
- **October 31:** Trunk or Treat Downtown Rio Vista. Time to be Determined. A Halloween parade down Main St. followed by trunk or treating, Games and more.



NOVEMBER

- **November 19:** Gift, Craft, Art Faire & Jewelry Show. 10:00 am – 3pm. Trilogy Vista Club, west of Rio Vista. See the Holiday Events article for more info.
- **November 28:** 10th Annual Turkey Trot. 8:00 am. N. 2nd Street, Rio Vista. See article on for more info.

DECEMBER

- **December 7:** Tree of Lights Main Street. 5:30 pm. Hospice of San Joaquin lights the tree in remembrance. See the Holiday Events article for more info.
- **December 7:** Lighted Boat Parade. 6:00 pm. Waterfront from Marina to Public Fishing Pier. See the Holiday Events article for more info.
- **December 7-8:** Olde Tyme Christmas Faire Rio Vista Museum, 16 N. Front S. Sat 10:00 am – 6:00 pm. Sun, 11:00 am – 4:30 pm. See the Holiday Events article for more info.
- **December 21:** Daub'n for Donations, Rio Vista Care. Veterans Memorial Bldg, 610 St. Francis Way Doors open at 6:00 pm. Bingo starts at 7:00 - 9:00 pm. A fun day of Bingo to benefit Rio Vista CARE. Win Bingo prizes or raffle prizes! Food and drink are available for purchase. Bingo pack is \$35, call Cindy Bradford at (707) 374-5243 for more info.



ONGOING EVENTS

- RioVision Community Forum Community Center 45 Main Street, 2 nd Monday of each month, 6 -8pm. Join RioVision on the 2 nd Monday of the month for varied topics of interest for Rio Vista and the Sacramento Delta. Topics and information for each meeting is posted on social media and our website at riovision.net For more information email info@riovision.net or call (707)469-3080.
- Self-Guided Walking Tour Rio Vista Museum, 16 N Front St. Any time — at your convenience This booklet is available at the Rio Vista Museum. Take a self-guided Street-by-street walking tour of a selection of Rio Vista's historic homes. This booklet contains an easy-to-follow guide showing the locations of the historic homes as well as a brief history of each one.
- Self-Guided Art Walk – There is art to see in Rio Vista! Grab your camera and the Art Walk pamphlet (available at the RioVision Gallery, 116 Main Street) to find art in unexpected places.

DISCOVER THE WORLD OF Geocaching

STORY BY ROBIE WILLIAMS



Geocaching is a modern-day treasure hunt that combines outdoor adventure with technology. It involves using GPS devices or smartphones to locate hidden containers, known as geocaches, which are placed by other participants. This activity has grown into a global phenomenon, with millions of geocaches hidden in over 190 countries.

How did geocaching get started? On May 2, 2020, tens of thousands of GPS receivers around the world were upgraded instantly and accuracy improved exponentially. This enabled people to find the location of items or themselves with pinpoint accuracy.



May 3, 2020, David Ulmer, a computer consultant tested the accuracy by hiding a container near a navigational target in the woods near Beaver Creek, Oregon. The container held a logbook, a pencil, videos, books, software, and a slingshot. The rules were simple using the navigational “address” that was posted on an internet GPS user group find the container, log your find, take something if you wanted, but you needed to leave something behind, and it was off to the races to find the hidden item using only a GPS receiver.

Rio Vista contains a few geocache sites. Not always in a container, but some are easier to find than others. If you’re curious, read on to discover how to get started in this fun activity and find the Rio Vista sites.

To start geocaching, you’ll need a GPS-enabled device and a free account on a geocaching website, such as [Geocaching.com](https://www.geocaching.com). Once registered, you can search for geocaches near your location. Each geocache has a set of GPS coordinates and a description to help you find it. Geocaches come in assorted sizes and shapes, from tiny magnetic containers to large, camouflaged boxes.

The excitement of geocaching lies in the hunt. Each geocache is a hidden treasure waiting to be discovered. Some are cleverly disguised, blending seamlessly into their surroundings,



while others are placed in scenic or historically significant locations. The challenge of finding these hidden gems adds an element of adventure to your outdoor activities.

Inside a geocache, you’ll typically find a logbook where you can record your name and the date you found the cache. Some geocaches also contain small trinkets or toys, which you can take as a souvenir, provided you leave something of equal or greater value in return. This practice of trading items adds a fun and interactive element to the experience.

Geocaching is more than just a solo activity; it’s a community-driven adventure. Geocachers often share their experiences online, posting photos and stories



of their finds. There are also geocaching events and meetups where enthusiasts can connect, share tips, and embark on group hunts. This sense of community fosters a supportive and engaging environment for both beginners and seasoned geocachers.

Geocaching offers numerous benefits beyond the thrill of the hunt. It encourages physical activity, as it often involves hiking, walking, or even climbing. It also promotes exploration and discovery, leading you to novel places you might not have visited otherwise. Additionally, geocaching can be a great educational tool, teaching participants about geography, navigation, and the natural environment.

If you’re interested in trying geocaching, here are a few tips to get you started:

1. Create an Account: Sign up on a geocaching website to access the database of geocaches.
2. Choose Your Gear: A smartphone with GPS capabilities is sufficient for beginners. More advanced geocachers might invest in a dedicated GPS device.
3. Start Small: Begin with easy-to-find geocaches to get a feel for the activity.
4. Respect the Environment: Follow the “Cache In, Trash Out” (CITO) principle by picking up litter during your hunts.
5. Have Fun: Enjoy the adventure and the opportunity to explore unfamiliar places.

Geocaching is a fantastic way to combine technology with outdoor exploration. Whether you’re looking for a new hobby, a way to stay active, or an adventure for the whole family, geocaching offers something for everyone. Happy hunting!

HOLIDAY EVENTS



Holidays 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 9th 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.

Olde Tyme Christmas Faire

Enjoy a truly old-fashioned Christmas at the Rio Vista Museum Olde Tyme Christmas Faire Saturday, December 7th from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm and Sunday, December 8th 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 can contact Nora Crane at (707) 334-6191 or via email at onetwin1960@gmail.com.



World Class Caroling

Sing your socks off at the Rio Vista Chamber of Commerce's wildly popular World Class Caroling on Saturday, December 7th. 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 is hoping to break that record this year!

Bike Raffle

Saxon Creed MC of Napa/Solano County hosts their annual bike raffle on Saturday, December 7th. 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 the 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 7th 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. 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!



Photo by Raylene Nelson



Rio Vista Bass Derby

STORY BY DENNIS & MERILYN ELLIOTT

Welcome to the 76th Annual Rio Vista Bass Derby and Festival. For some people, the annual Rio Vista Bass Derby & Festival will be about catching fish and taking home the \$4,000 grand prize. For others, it will be about catching Kenny the Clown™ riding by handing out balloon animals to their kids or watching their youngsters enjoying a village of bounce houses. The more adventurous event attendees may try to master the 40-foot-long blow-up obstacle course or scale a 25-foot-high climbing wall. For those who prefer their excitement while sitting down, there will be a mobile video game van.



This is just a glimpse of the excitement awaiting attendees during the three-day Rio Vista Bass Derby & Festival. From Friday, October 11th through Sunday, October 13th, you will be able to lose yourself in free, live music along the picturesque Sacramento River. There will be a lineup of nine great bands onstage: River Ratz; Angela Street Band; The Grinders; Groovy Judy Band®; The Fabulous CruiseTones; Afterglow; Vegas McGraw™; Garratt Wilkin and the Parrot-heads; and the Derek Abel Band™. They will be rocking the Starlight Stage until the festival closes each night.



Hungry? Thirsty? Not to worry! The food court is the perfect place to reel in a bite to eat. Treat your taste buds to a diverse range of cuisine including Mediterranean, Filipino, Brazilian, and Portuguese. And you will not want to miss the Lira's Market mouthwatering BBQ tri-tip. Of course, there will be hotdogs, corn dogs, hamburgers, and kettle corn as well. In the lounge, adults can enjoy a variety of snacks and beverages, including beer, wine, or frozen margaritas.

Each day from 6:00 am, the Striper Cafe on Main Street will be open for anglers and festival goers to get a hearty breakfast, as well as grab-and-go lunch options for those getting an early start fishing. On day two, festival goers can enjoy a Lions Club pancake breakfast at the Rio Vista fire station between the hours of 7:00 am and 11:00 am. Go to e-clubhouse.org/sites/riovista for details.

Those who want to do some holiday shopping or snag the perfect birthday gift will find scores of vendor booths offering an array of items from fine leather goods to home rain gutters. Among the offerings you can expect to find are distinctive clothing, exquisite jewelry, and expertly crafted woodwork.

For the bargain hunters, the Rio Vista Food Pantry “Catch of the Day” rummage sale will be open from noon until 6:30 pm Friday, Saturday from 9:00 am until closing at 8:00 pm, and again on Sunday from 12:30 until closing at 6:30 pm. Seasoned festival attendees know that arriving early and checking back throughout the day is the smart way to shop, as the non-profit Food Pantry frequently unveils new merchandise for sale.

Saturday from 8:00 am until the close of judging at 2:00 pm, the Rio Vista Lions Club presents a special event for car lovers. Parked along Main Street you will see expertly restored classic cars and be able to talk to their proud owners. Prize winners will be announced at 3:00 pm on the Starlight Stage. The car show is open to anyone who wishes to enter a vehicle, by paying an entrance fee and submitting a registration form to the Rio Vista Lions Club. For prize, fee, and registration information see the website e-clubhouse.org/sites/riovista.

AND if all this is not enough, hold on to your Stetson! Country headliner Vegas McGraw and fireworks over the river will light up Saturday night. Make plans to be at the Starlight Stage early for Vegas McGraw’s™ Tim McGraw tribute. He will get pulses racing and boots stomping, and, as he likes to say, make it a time “where country meets rock and roll.” *“He and his talented crew have opened up for 42 National Acts all over the United States, including: Taylor Swift, Trace Adkins, Jason Aldean, Charlie Daniels, Blake Shelton, Josh Turner, Luke Bryan, Eric Church, Tracy Lawrence.” VegasMcGraw.Com.*

After his show wraps, festival goers will be primed for an amazing fireworks show. This year, event organizers have added an extra touch of magic by launching the fireworks from a barge floating in the middle of the Sacramento River. Thanks to this addition, the fireworks display will be accessible to all shore-side visitors.

For a special small-town experience, be here on Sunday. Main Street will shut down from 11:00 am until noon on the 13th for the festival’s hometown parade. The parade will feature colorful floats and entries from various local clubs and civic organizations. The fire department trucks and police cruisers always draw a crowd, and this year, Shriners International will make a splash with their zany sub-sub-compact cars joining in the parade.

Jon Mazer, the retiring Chief of Police for the City of Rio Vista, will be proudly recognized as the parade Grand Marshal. After 28 years of dedicated police service, the residents of Rio Vista extend their heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to him and his family as they begin their much-deserved retirement.

The parade organizers are also delighted to have the “Heart and Soul of Rio Vista” service award winner, Archie Thompson, at the head of the parade with Chief Mazer. Archie moved to Rio Vista in 2020 and formed The Rio Vista Litter Pickers, a group of conscientious citizens who volunteer every month to remove litter that has been carelessly tossed out of passing cars. The RV Litter Pickers are dedicated volunteers who take pride in our city and how it looks to both residents and visitors.

The 76th Annual Rio Vista Bass Derby

Calling all outdoor enthusiasts! The Striped Bass Fishing Derby kicks off on Friday, October 11th at 6:00 am and wraps up on Sunday at 3:00 pm. The derby is not only for grown-ups. Kids 15 and under can compete for prizes too.

Prize categories are: Adults (Big Money Pot)

Striped Bass Only (To protect the salmon and sturgeon population, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife is

enforcing a no-fishing rule for both for the balance of this year.)

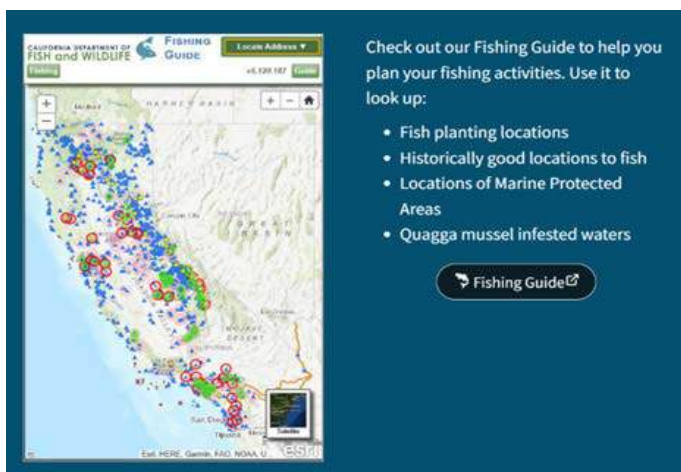
1st Prize	\$4,000
2nd Prize	\$2,000
3rd Prize	\$1,000

Or the angler may choose to enter their catch in a 2nd Chance-To-Win raffle.

Kids (ages 15 and under): Striped Bass and Catfish

1st Place	\$100 Gift Card.
2nd Place	\$ 75 Gift Card.
3rd Place	\$ 50 Gift Card.

Local derby sponsors will donate additional prizes.



The California Striped Bass Fishing Association of Isleton will oversee judging the contest again this year. The Association’s website, striper-csba.org, is well worth a look. It has helpful tips for striper fishing and water safety. Another valuable resource is The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Fishing Guide. The guide has fishing spots, boat safety tips, and information on tides and currents along the Pacific coast and in California’s rivers. CDFW website is apps.wildlife.ca.gov/fishing/Visitbassfestival.com for more information about the fishing derby, events schedule, parade, festival, directions, parking, and more.

In the words of Chuck Clark, contributing editor of In-Fisherman Magazine, “Three-fourths of the Earth’s surface is water, and one-fourth is land. It is quite clear that the good Lord intended us to spend triple the amount of time fishing as taking care of the lawn.”

For the last 75 years, those who love the outdoors have chosen to pack up the family and meet their friends at the Rio Vista Bass Fishing Derby & Festival, rather than mow grass and rake leaves, on at least one exciting weekend in October.



Kenny the Clown™ fishing for the catch of the day.

BASS DERBY TRIVIA

#1
How are Striped Bass measured for Derby?

#2
When was the first Bass Derby?

#3
When was the big gap in the annual Derby?

#4
When did the Derby become a Derby and Festival?

#5
What size wins?

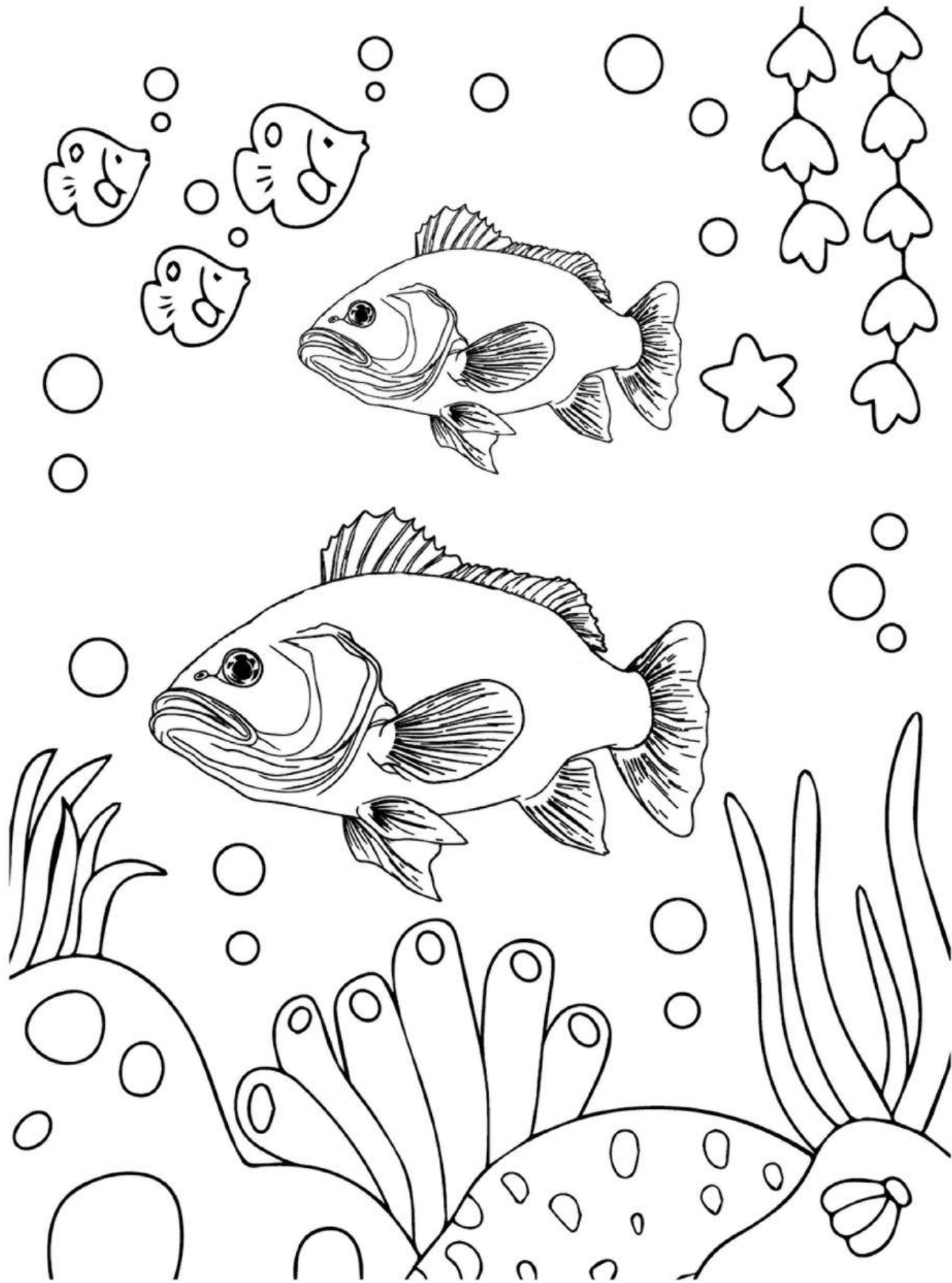
#6
Where can you fish?

#7
What year is this Derby?

#8
What time does Derby start and end?

#9
Are Striped Bass native to the Delta?

See if you can answer the questions.
The answers are in this magazine so look for them as you read through.



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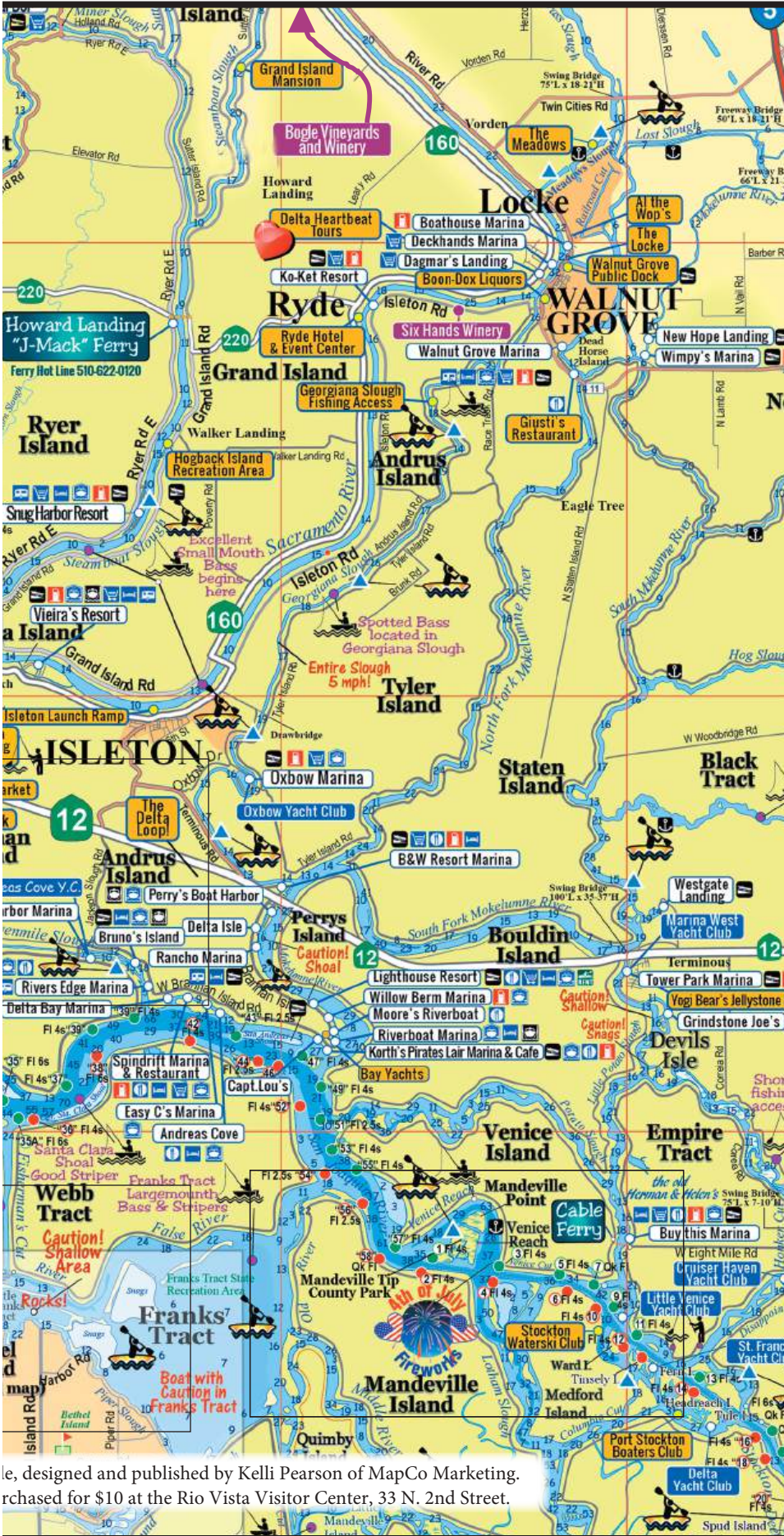
Save the Date
 May 3rd, 2025

RIVER FRONT
 arts fest

For more information contact
 Chris Armbrust at
 carmbrust@rioivision.net

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This is a portion of the Delta Boaters Map and Visitors Guide, de
 It is available online at DeltaBoatingMap.com or may be purchas



Map 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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10 am - 11 pm
Downtown Rio Vista

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TURKEY TROT

STORY BY MARILYN NELSON - PHOTOS BY ROBIE WILLIAMS

Get ready for that big Thanksgiving Day meal with a calorie deficit by signing up for the 10th Annual Turkey Trot (a run/walk) on Thanksgiving Day morning from 8am to 11am. The event is hosted by the Rio Vista Downtown Association.

If you are up for it, you can enter the 5K race. This should really work up an appetite. For those less experienced 4-to 7-year-old runners, there is a quarter-mile dash. Children up to age 12 can challenge themselves to a 1-mile race. However, all



racers can participate in the 5K race, if they are optimistic, by running, jogging, or walking. Prior to race day, a map will be released to all those who have signed-up. The course is predominantly on paved streets and generally flat with only a few gentle up and downhill sections.

Besides the overall Best Female and Best Male winners of the race, there will be prizes awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places in each age category. The cost of the 5K Turkey Trot is \$30, as it was last year. The 1-mile race is \$5 and the quarter-mile dash is free. To sign up for "trotting" and pay online go to runsignup.com (search Rio Vista Turkey Trot) after October 1st. Runners will get a free T-shirt if they sign up before the deadline on November 8th. If they miss the deadline, same-day registration will be offered but the cost will be \$40, and a T-shirt is not guaranteed. There will be no refunds or exchanges.

As always, one hundred percent of all net proceeds from the Turkey Trot will be donated directly to the Rio Vista High School Cross-Country Team, as well as other high school athletic teams who helped with the event. All participants should be thankful that they have earned a big guilt-free Thanksgiving Day feast and helped out some deserving students. The students will certainly be thankful for all the donations which will help their teams.



If your business or organization would like to help sponsor the event, or if you would like to volunteer or donate, please contact Tami Mitchell at tami.mitchell.26@gmail.com or (925) 819-4822. Whether you give a little or a lot, it will be very much appreciated and will be put to good use. See you Thanksgiving morning at the Trot!



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TRIVIA ANSWERS (from Page 8):

1. From tip of nose to fork of tail.
2. Semi-finals December 10, 1933. Finals December 17, 1933
3. 1939 to 1949
4. 1934 There was entertainment and dancing
5. Striped Bass – target size – closest
6. Sturgeon – target size – closest
7. Kids – Striped Bass – size
8. Catfish – top length and weight
9. All waters connecting to Delta from Golden Gate Bridge to Sacramento and Stockton
7. 76th
8. 6 am Friday the 11th;
9. 3 pm Last weigh-in Sunday
9. No – Their natural range is on the Atlantic coast but were introduced to the San Francisco Bay/Delta where they have thrived. Now considered a protected game fish.

Nonprofits in Rio Vista

LITTLE TOWN, BIG HEART

STORY BY LAURIE OLEKSIEWICZ

Rio Vista might be considered a small town when compared to the other cities in Solano County, but the people living there have big hearts. Just look at the number of nonprofit organizations in town, the people involved, and the good these organizations have done for the town and the people living there.

Take RioVision, the nonprofit responsible for this magazine. A group of volunteers put this magazine together. Why? Because they love the town and the delta life surrounding it. Sharing information is important, whether it's history or current events. Besides the magazine, RioVision's volunteers have been working for ten years on projects which improve the town for its residents and visitors. Hosting fun events like Hog August Bites and the Holiday Home Tour.

There are nonprofits that support critical services such as the Rio Vista Hotshots who volunteer with the fire department and the Citizens Assisting Police Services (CAPS).

There are organizations helping the youth of the community such as Rio Vista Athletics, Rio Vista Little League, Rio Vista Friends of the Library with summer reading programs, Rio Vista High School Booster Club, Rio Vista Swim Club, and Rio Vista Youth Services.

On the other end of the spectrum, the Rio Vista Citizens for Seniors runs the local senior center, where events and services assist that sector of the population. And no one goes hungry in Rio Vista thanks to the Rio Vista Food Pantry.

Besides feeding the body, Rio Vista Care addresses the state of the mind, providing counseling, crisis intervention and support groups for families and children.

The Art and Music Center provides art and music lessons to those who may not have the opportunity to do so on their own, plus they have brought wonderful concerts to the community to enjoy.

An important part of downtown is its museum. This treasure of history is made possible by the Rio Vista Museum Association.



We can't forget the veterans who have made this county great, and the American Legion Post #178 is the place for veterans to meet and support one another and their families. The American Legion Post #178's Veterans Memorial Building has been utilized for many events conducted by other nonprofits for their own fundraisers.

There are nonprofits focused on helping women and girls in the community such as the Women's Improvement Club of Rio Vista, and Soroptimist, providing scholarships



to help women and girls in the community get ahead in life. There is even a nonprofit to help our four-legged friends, RV 2 the Rescue. This group saves dogs and finds them new loving homes, even flying them to their new life.

There are local groups such as the Rio Vista Downtown Association and the Rio Vista Foundation focusing on the viability of the town itself and supporting activities of the youth and seniors.

In addition to all the organizations mentioned so far, Rio Vista is home to some major national and international nonprofits such as the Rio Vista Lions, the Rotary Club of Rio Vista, and the Moose Lodge. Each of these groups supports many people and projects in the community.



There are even more organizations and groups within the community, such as the many churches, who contribute to the well-being of the town and its citizens.

Wow! For a small town this is amazing and it's the people who make it happen. There is something for everyone. Visit the websites of these organizations and other nonprofits or contact them to learn more. Being a part of these organizations is very fulfilling, and it doesn't take much. Sometimes it is nothing more than a monthly meeting to discuss the various projects underway. Even if you don't have the time to volunteer with these groups, you can always support their causes with donations or by attending one of the many fundraisers that take place during the year. The small town of Rio Vista is full of life and dedicated people.

The logo for Isleton Coffee Company, featuring a stylized coffee cup with a flame above it, and the word "ISLETON" in a banner below.

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The logo for Flamingo Lounge, featuring a stylized pink flamingo and the word "Flamingo" in a cursive font, with "LOUNGE" in a smaller font below it.

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AN OLD TIME CHRISTMAS FAIRE

STORY BY DORIS NORIEGA - PICTURES BY RIO VISTA MUSEUM

Jump start the holiday season with a visit to the “Olde Tyme Christmas Faire” at the Rio Vista Museum, 16 N Front Street. Come and enjoy a walk down memory lane of your own childhood memories of decorated trees, baked cookies, and home made gifts. All of this and more can be found at this year’s faire. You will find unique hand-crafted items by local artisans which include jewelry, lovely scented soaps and candles, cards and stationary, and quilted and knitted items. There will also be beautifully decorated fresh wreaths, and local homemade jams, jellies, and honey. Photography and artwork created by our own Delta artists will be available for purchase. For your added pleasure there will be a bake goods sale and raffle. The museum itself will be beautifully decorated with its finest Christmas decorations. You will see antique trucks and carriages adorned with festive green wreaths and red ribbons.

For those of you who have never visited the museum, you will be amazed at the wide variety of historical artifacts that have been donated by residents and multi-generational families who live in the surrounding area. It is indeed a travel back in time. There are items as far back as the early 1800’s. In fact the most current exhibit is “Travel in a Bygone Time” which you can visit now on Saturdays and Sundays from 1:30 pm- 4:30 pm.

What better was to get into the holiday spirit! So, don’t miss this unique opportunity and “Meet Me at the Faire.”

Saturday December 7, 2024 10:00 am - 6:30 pm
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Gallery Artists

STORIES BY ROBIE WILLIAMS & PHOTOS BY JAN VICK

Welcome to the world of Delta Art and meet the very talented artists who create it. The Gallery is open Tuesday thru Saturday, 11am to 3pm. Don't forget the See's Candies for holiday or special occasion gifts. The Gallery is available during nonbusiness hours at request. Please call 707-469-3080 to make arrangements.

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 at an early age, starting her journey as a fiber artist, painting (dyeing) silk scarves in 1984. Each of her scarves, referred to as "wearable art", is a unique piece. Anna's interest in watercolor emerged directly from her experience with silk. She has found that watercolor painting challenges her patience, a skill she has had to learn to master.

To develop her art, Anna 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, her first watercolor teacher, left a lasting influence that is still evident in Anna's paintings.



However, her greatest inspiration came from her mother, who fostered creativity through her parenting and artistic skills.

Anna draws inspiration from all aspects of her life. She enjoys recreating what she sees in artistic forms, whether it is matching colors, creating unique patterns, or combining elements in a painting. Much of her inspiration comes from nature, as she has always loved flowers, trees, birds, butterflies, and other creatures. Additionally, she loves exploring abstract designs in her acrylic works.

A proud member of the Trilogy Art Guild, Anna has showcased her work in many of the Guild's art shows. Her talent has been recognized with 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, finding great inspiration in her students as she educates them and herself.

You can meet Anna at her reception on September 21, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm at the RioVision Gallery.



Jan Vick is the October artist of the month

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 films. 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 October 19 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm.

of the Month

Randolph Robinett is the November artist of the month

Over the last 60 plus years, Randolph Robinett has been deeply involved with various forms of artistic expression. The creative process of bringing something from nothing has been a source of inspiration, surprise and sometimes frustration. He has explored a wide range of artistic styles from realism to abstraction in both 2D and 3D mediums. In 2D Randolph worked in materials as oil, watercolors, acrylics and ink. In 3D he explored the wonders of marble, bronze, wood, plaster, cement, and clay.

Academically Randolph had the opportunity to study under several notable instructors at the University of California, Santa Cruz, particularly within the Sculpture Department. This experience fostered a lifetime love of bronze casting, mold making, and working with marble. Later in Oregon, he had the good fortune of further developing this interest when he managed a small foundry, further exploring various materials and exhibiting them in local art forums. Having lived overseas for several years his work was exhibited and collected by various patrons.

Most recently Randolph has been working in clay drawing on Asian aesthetics, particularly the Japanese concept of natural simplicity and irregularity known as wabi-sabi. Randolph stated that "Creativity for me, is a combination of moments in time that beg, declare, and summon our base instincts and reveal their greater side."

You can meet Randolph at his reception on November 16, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm at the RioVision Gallery.



Gifts for All!

The RioVision Gallery on Main Street showcases several artists specializing in small works perfect for holiday gifts. Some artists feature home decorations while others offer wearable art. Diana Peugh creates delightful carved and painted gourds that fit any décor. Judy Katona specializes in fascinators, but also cute boxes, and painted glassware, to name a few. Amy Schmidt designs gorgeous, dyed silk scarves in various colors and patterns. Birdtown Designs, a group of four women, crochet lovely, beaded necklaces and create amazing wreaths and holiday décor. Jamie Victor has a stunning 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. Please drop by to see this wonderful collection of small gifts. A reception for these talented artists will be held on December 21, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm at the Gallery





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RioVision's 10th Anniversary

STORY BY TOM SURH - PHOTOS BY ROBIE WILLIAMS

When a new all-volunteer organization begins in a small town with a long history, its survival is far from assured. RioVision and this Discover Rio Vista magazine both began in 2014, and the fact that both continue ten years later show that they are both needed and appreciated. The origin of RioVision was with a whirlwind project from the American Institute of Architects that sent a team of experts in planning, development, architecture, transportation, design, landscape architecture, community design and community revitalization known as R/UDAT (Regional and Urban Design Assistance Teams). For four days in February-March 2014, this team held two very well-attended community meetings and numerous smaller meetings to gather information and present findings. They worked day and night to create their report titled "RioVISION: Coming Together", which became the blueprint for all RioVision activities. All new RioVision project proposals must show how they are justified and supported by the R/UDAT report. The full R/UDAT report may be found at www.riovision.net.



The settlement that became today's Rio Vista began in 1858 (see Phil Pezzaglia's *Images of America Rio Vista*, 2005, Arcadia Publishing for a detailed history). A number of today's residents are descendants of the earliest settlers and bear the names of numerous legacy families. Recent housing developments including Homecoming, Vineyard Bluffs, Trilogy, and the Liberty Island projects, have more than doubled the city's population. With such diversity of living experience in the city, the "coming together" part of the vision has been especially important. This challenge has been addressed by moving ahead with projects that have broad appeal and being consciously open to anyone with ideas and energy to make them become a reality. Working together on a project does wonders to bring people together and build a sense of community.

Another way RioVision has pursued coming together is by serving as an umbrella for smaller programs such as Litter Pickers, the Turkey Trot Thanksgiving run, and the Delta Hwy Coalition, and by partnering with other nonprofit and social service organizations. In a small city with limited resources, the work of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) is critical to providing programming and services that residents need. By working together, NGOs can magnify the beneficial impact on the communities they serve.



From the beginning, RioVision has benefitted from the energy and creativity of many Rio Vista artists. They created murals in downtown locations and organized an art gallery that continues to display the work of local artists and is open five days a week. They also spurred the adoption of the city's public art ordinance that created a fund to support more public art. The first project using this fund was the decorated sheep project on Main Street that livens and attracts attention to this commercial area.

Large public events bring people together in a big way, not only to attend the events, but especially by gathering the people and resources together to put on the events. The grandmother of all Rio Vista events is of course the Bass Derby and Festival, now in its 76th year and put on by the Chamber of Commerce. RioVision took over the other big event known as Hog August Bites Chili and Rib Cook-off from its founders and just completed its 10th year. RioVision launched its Riverfront Arts Fest in 2024 and will continue in 2025. The Sheepdog Trial event that gathers shepherders and their dogs from around the US for a spring competition in the Montezuma Hills' McCormack Ranch. RioVision coordinates the public attendance of this fun event that is currently scheduled to return April 4-5, 2025. RioVision's Holiday Home Tour, an ever-popular tour of decorated private residences will return in December of 2025.

HOG AUGUST BITES



As it begins its second decade, RioVision continues to pursue its mission of "joining together to build, revitalize, energize and beautify the Rio Vista Community."





EXPLORE A BYGONE ERA

The Western Railroad Museum

STORY BY JAN VICK

Many of us remember when electric trolleys and streetcars dominated the downtowns of our cities. Many cities, such as San Francisco, still have them as an important piece of their transportation system. Others, such as Sacramento, have brought them back, linking outlying neighborhoods and towns to the downtown.

As electric trains and trolley systems have closed and their cars left to decay, the Bay Area Electric Railroad Association (BAERA) has, since 1946, sought to preserve and protect this history and to foster interest in electric railway cars and operators. BAERA bought a number of the historic cars and other artifacts as they went out of service to protect this rich history. As their collection built up, a permanent site was needed for the collection.



The Sacramento Northern Railway was incorporated in 1921 and ultimately bought out other smaller railroad lines to establish a route running from San Francisco to Chico with sidelines to Fairfield and Vallejo as well as Colusa and Woodland. A stop was created just east of Suisun City known as the Rio Vista Junction, and buses ran to Rio Vista and beyond in the Delta until 1940.

After many years searching for a site to house their collection of historic railroad cars, in 1960 BAERA selected and purchased 21 acres at Rio Vista Junction to create a museum. The first cars were moved to the site in 1961 and the first electric operation of the cars began in 1965. In 1993, the Union Pacific donated the 22 miles of former Sacramento Northern track, but the museum had to purchase all the rail and ties on the right-of-way. The track owned by the museum runs from Montezuma in the south to Dozier Road in the North.

Finally, in 1994 the first phase of re-electrification of the Sacramento main track was completed and some public operations began. Thirty years later, the museum has expanded not only the train cars they repair but activities and amenities for the public. The beautiful Museum building and archives includes display hall, the Museum Store, the F. M. Smith Memorial Library,

and the Depot Café. There are currently 3 car barns with a 4th being built as well as a large maintenance and repair facility.

Come Ride The Rails!!

A very large and enthusiastic group of volunteers not only repairs the cars – some almost from the ground up—and runs new electric lines along the track, and operates the cars on weekends for the public. The Museum is open on Saturday and Sunday from 10:30 am to 5:00 pm. Passengers board the trains in front of Car Barn 1 for a scenic ride through farmland to Pantana and a view of Mt. Diablo, a 9+ mile round trip. In addition, passengers have the opportunity to wander through two of the barns to see all the different cars that generally are just for viewing. You even might find one from your town or city. Its always an adventure.

In addition to the train rides, there is Laffin Park, a shady grassy area with some tables but ample lawn. A new place to explore is the Signal Garden that features a number of railroad signals that you can operate with the push of the button. Kids (and adult kids) will love this.

There are special events throughout the year. These events not only provide a ride on a restored car, but offer additional activities for the entire family. The following are special activities for August through December, in addition to regular weekend rides.

Hot August Rails: August 17, from 10:30 to 5:30. The fun includes train rides, a car show and a wine and beer booth.

Annual Pumpkin Patch Festival: October weekends starting October 12 th . Take a train to Gum Grove, a shady area with lots of activities. Explore the hay fort, zoom down the zipline, take tractor rides, participate in the scarecrow contest, or try pumpkin chucking. If you get hungry, try the tasty BBQ, and more. This is great fun for the whole family!

Holiday Express: Fridays to Sundays in December, beginning December 6. Hop on for a magical train ride, then visit Santa's House of Lights where Santa himself will be waiting. Holiday Fun is all around you!

Visit wrm.org for more info.

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