

# discover RioVista

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**Cheryl Wood**

Owner / Broker  
[woodrealestate@gmail.com](mailto:woodrealestate@gmail.com)

**510-220-1514**

DRE# 01002783



**Chris Boothe**

Realtor Associate / GRI  
[pigboothe@yahoo.com](mailto:pigboothe@yahoo.com)

**916-798-7674**

DRE# 01419822



**Debbie Werter**

Realtor Associate  
[debbie1222@frontiernet.net](mailto:debbie1222@frontiernet.net)

**707-673-7667**

DRE# 01125366



**Charlene Fowler**

Realtor Associate / SRES®  
[charlenefowler715@gmail.com](mailto:charlenefowler715@gmail.com)

**707-372-0203**

DRE# 01988913

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## Editor's Corner

Spring leads to summer, providing many activities and sights to see. This edition of the magazine presents some events and places in Rio Vista and the surrounding Delta. It also includes information about the history of Solano County.

The RioVision Roundup section covers updates from RioVision, including their activities and new board members. The Chamber Corner features updates from the Rio Vista Chamber of Commerce.

Laurie Oleksiewicz highlights restaurants located upriver and introduces new businesses. Doris Noriega identifies prime locations for fresh vegetables and fruits at farm stands and farmers' markets. Linda Jensen discusses places for socializing, such as the Rio Vista Library and the Rio Vista Senior Center. Check out Aiden Mayhood's historical article.

Laurie Oleksiewicz is known by our advertisers as the advertising specialist. She also provides distribution details, writes articles, and has recently taken on the role of co-editor of the magazine. Laurie has been associated with the magazine since its inception eleven years ago and is well acquainted with its operations.

We hope you find this issue informative. Past issues are accessible on the Discover Rio Vista website at <https://discoverriovista.com/discover-riovista-magazine>.

— Co-Editor, Robie Williams

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discover  
Rio Vista



#### CO-EDITORS

Robie Williams  
[drveditor@riovision.net](mailto:drveditor@riovision.net)  
Laurie Oleksiewicz  
[minmayinc@aol.com](mailto:minmayinc@aol.com)

#### ADVERTISING

Laurie Oleksiewicz  
925-301-7389  
[minmayinc@aol.com](mailto:minmayinc@aol.com)

#### LAYOUT

Suzanne Black  
[deltawebs2012@gmail.com](mailto:deltawebs2012@gmail.com)

#### CONTRIBUTORS

Grace Armburst, Linda Jensen, Aiden Mayhood, Doris Noriega, Laurie Oleksiewicz, Tom Surh, Robie Williams

*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 707-469-3080 to help!

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

COVER: Ken and Laura Scheidegger, Owners of the Delta Farmers Market. Photo by Doris Noriega



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# EVENT CALENDAR 2025

## MAY

- **May 3:** Trilogy Community Garage Sale, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Trilogy Community at Summerset. Grab a map at the Trilogy gate to locate homes selling furniture, appliances, yard equipment, clothing, housewares, antiques, tools and more. Open to the public.
- **May 8-11:** Dixon May Fair, 655 South 1 st Street, Dixon, CA. Experience a small-town fair with lots of animals, a carnival, a car show and more. Don't forget to visit our local 4H and FFA members while you're there!
- **May 16:** Marta Drone Memorial Golf Tournament. Golf Club at Rio Vista. Rotary Club of Rio Vista hosts the 24 rd Annual event. <https://riovistarotary.org/marta-dron-memorial-24th-annual-golf-tournament-friday-may-16-2025> for details and more information.
- **May 17:** Rio Vista Foundation 3 rd Annual Tea Party. 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Senior Center – 25 Main St. Annual tea party fundraiser. Tickets available at Pets 4 All, \$35.00 each for more information contact Mark at 925-628-8097.
- **May 17:** Rio Vista CARE Annual Gala, 5:30 pm – 10:00 pm. St. Joseph Catholic Church – 220 S. 4 th St. Rio Vista. Annual fundraiser to support Rio Vista CARE a Family Resource Center serving Rio Vista and the Delta. Contact Cindy Bradford at [cbradford@rvcare.org](mailto:cbradford@rvcare.org) for more information.



## AUGUST

- **August 23:** 11th Annual Hog August Bites, 10:00 am – 11:00 pm. Downtown Rio Vista. Rib & Chili Cookoff with a car & truck show, craft vendors, kid zone and more. More information can be found in this edition.

## ONGOING EVENTS

- Rio Vista Farmers Market, 1st & 3rd Thursday May 15th through Oct. 16th, 2025. Front St. & Main St. Rio Vista, CA 4:00 to 7:00 pm. Come check out the fresh produce, great food, locally made goods, live music, and food trucks.
- Artisan Market - Rio Vista Chamber of Commerce will host the Artisans Market as part of the Rio Vista Downtown Association's Farmers' Market (see article on page 4 in magazine) and offers Chamber members and other artisans an opportunity to market their wares. The Artisans Market will be held indoors at 45 Main Street starting on May 15 and continuing the first Thursday through October.
- Self-Guided Walking Tour Rio Vista Museum, 16 N Front Street. 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.
- RioVision Community Forum, Community Center, 45 Main Street on the 2nd Monday of each month, 6:00 -8:30 pm. Join RioVision for varied topics of interest for Rio Vista and the Sacramento Delta. July and August there will be a short hiatus and we will return in September. Meetings feature a variety of topics of interest to 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.
- Senior Center 25 Main Street, offers Bingo the first four Fridays of each month from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Sitting Yoga on Wednesday at 2:00 – 3:00 pm. For more information on Senior Center events call (707) 374-3349.
- 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.







**W**e are fortunate to live in the Delta, where we have access to a wide variety of fresh, locally grown products, including fruits, vegetables, and meats. The Rio Vista Downtown Farmers Market returns this year on May 15th and runs through October 16th. Held on the first and third Thursday of each month at Front Street and Main in Rio Vista, the market is open from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

With the motto, “Eat Fresh, Buy Local”, this market is managed and operated by a Market Advisory Committee under the umbrella of the Rio Vista Downtown Association. As stated on their Facebook page “their mission is to build a strong sense of community by providing an informal meeting place where people from all neighborhoods can gather.” They strive to offer a generous selection of produce and other products while supporting local growers and businesses. This also gives customers an opportunity to talk to the vendors who can provide valuable information about the increased health benefits and nutritional content of their products. Live music will also be provided!

In addition, there are other vendors offering olive oil, wines, bake goods, honey, flowers, candles, knife sharpening by LaBrado Forge, artisan products, massages by Zen Den owner, Cierra Padilla ... and more.

Mark your calendar and come experience the best of what Rio Vista has to offer!

#### Our favorite food trucks:

- Lasagna Con Amore - authentic Italian lasagna with your choice of Bolognese or Pesto as well as meatballs.
- What's Up Dog- Hotdogs and other tasty specials.
- Run the Sweets - sweet treats, gelato, and their signature frozen custard donut.
- Portu-Goal - Portuguese and Mediterranean dishes.

Our primary fruit and vegetable growers like Lockwood Farms from Vacaville, Lucero Organic Farms from Galt and McCormack Ranch's cherries, pears, and apples from Walnut Grove.

#### Other popular booths are:

- Let's Get Sauced featuring our local Rio Vista baker, Heather Souza, whose sourdough bread loaves run out quickly.
- Paulo's Sausages from Pittsburg. They have an incredible variety of delicious tasting sausages from spicy to savory to sweet, such as Hazy Jalapeño Cheddar and Blueberry Maple Delta Tails from Ryer Island supplies.
- Delta Tails from Ryer Island supplies farm-fresh chicken and duck eggs.
- Honest Fish Farms in the Delta brings farm fresh eggs, pasture-raised chicken and pork.

- Greek Table from Vacaville brings delicious Greek staples like hummus, olives, tzatziki, and grape leaves etc.
- Boujikian Family Apiary brings honey from Galt.

For more information: [www.rvfarmersmarket.com](http://www.rvfarmersmarket.com). More vendors will be added before the May opening.





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**Celebrating Community and Culture on August 23, 2025, from 10:00 am to 11:00 pm in Downtown Rio Vista.**

On August 23, 2025, the charming town of Rio Vista will come alive with the Hog August Bites Festival, an annual event known for its vibrant celebration of community, culture, and culinary delights. This festival, beloved by locals and visitors alike, promises a day packed with engaging activities and mouthwatering treats, making it a must-attend event for everyone in the region.

### The Origins of Hog August Bites

Hog August Bites has grown into a significant cultural event in Rio Vista, attracting thousands of attendees each year. The festival was originally conceived to bring the community together, celebrate local talents, and support local businesses. Over the years, it has evolved, incorporating new elements and expanding its reach, yet it has always remained true to its core values of camaraderie, celebration and supporting youth activities.

### A Culinary Extravaganza

At the heart of Hog August Bites is the culinary experience. Food enthusiasts will delight in the variety of offerings available throughout the festival. Local chefs, restaurants, and food vendors will showcase their best dishes, highlighting the rich culinary heritage of the region. Barbecue enthusiasts will find themselves in paradise, with numerous stalls offering succulent ribs, pulled pork, and other smoked delicacies.

### Barbecue Cook-Off

One of the main attractions is the barbecue cook-off, where teams compete for the coveted title of "Best Barbecue." Participants will demonstrate their skills in preparing mouthwatering barbecue dishes, judged by a panel of culinary experts. The competition is fierce, but the atmosphere remains friendly and supportive, embodying the spirit of the festival.



### Sweet Treats and Refreshing Beverages

Beyond barbecue, the festival offers a range of sweet treats and refreshing beverages. From homemade pies and pastries to craft beers and local wines, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Attendees can indulge their sweet tooth or unwind with a cool drink as they soak up the festive atmosphere.

### Entertainment for All Ages

Hog August Bites is not just about food; it's a full-fledged entertainment extravaganza. The festival features live music performances from local bands, offering a diverse mix of genres to suit all tastes. Stages are set up across the festival grounds, ensuring there's never a dull moment.

### Family-Friendly Activities

Families will find plenty of activities to keep the little ones entertained. From face painting and carnival games to interactive workshops and storytelling sessions, children will have a blast while parents can relax and enjoy the festivities. The event is designed to be inclusive and welcoming to all age groups.

### Cultural Exhibits and Local Art

Another highlight of Hog August Bites is the cultural exhibits and local art showcases. Visitors can explore booths featuring handmade crafts, paintings, and sculptures from local artists. These exhibits provide a glimpse into the rich cultural tapestry of Rio Vista and offer attendees the chance to take home a unique piece of art.



### Supporting Local Businesses

The festival is also an excellent opportunity for local businesses to shine. Vendors and artisans from around the region come together to sell their products, ranging from handmade jewelry to organic produce. The event fosters a sense of community and supports the local economy, encouraging attendees to shop locally and support small businesses.

### Car and Truck Show

Walk down Front Street to see vintage cars and trucks. You'll find classic models like the Ford Model T, Chevrolet Bel Air, and Dodge Power Wagon. Some vehicles are beautifully restored, showcasing their original features and colors, while others display unique modifications that highlight their owners' creativity. Whether you're an automobile enthusiast or just enjoying a stroll, the variety and history of these vehicles make for an interesting experience.



Best Corvette  
John Dimsdale

### Looking Forward to a Memorable Day

As August 23, 2025 approaches, anticipation for Hog August Bites continues to build. The festival promises to deliver an unforgettable experience, blending culinary delights, entertainment, and cultural enrichment. Whether you're a long-time resident of Rio Vista or a visitor discovering the town for the first time, Hog August Bites offers a perfect opportunity to immerse yourself in the community spirit and enjoy a day of festivities. Mark your calendar and join us in Rio Vista for Hog August Bites. It's more than a festival; it's a celebration of everything that makes this town special. Prepare to eat, dance, and create lasting memories as we come together for a day of joy and togetherness.

For further information or to participate in this exceptional event, please visit the website at [hogaugustbites.com](http://hogaugustbites.com), email [info@hogaugustbites.com](mailto:info@hogaugustbites.com), or call 707-469-3080.



# Safe Travels by Land or by Sea with These New Businesses

BY LAURIE OLEKSIWICZ

**R**io Vista continues to attract new businesses to its charming downtown area just steps from the Sacramento River. Last fall two new businesses opened their doors catering to the needs of our cars and boats. Rio Vista already has several car repair businesses, including dealerships, and there are boat repair businesses as well. But with the growing population, a major highway running through town, and the Sacramento River right at our doorstep, supply is growing to meet the demands.

Near the Rio Vista bridge on highway 12 you will find the new Pitstop. Pitstop Tires and Wheels provide top quality tire service. It is open seven days a week from 8:00 AM until 6:30 PM.

Last September Ali Kahn and his brother Muddasar (aka Mudd) purchased the former Eagle Tire store. They quickly remodeled the building and restocked the tire and wheel inventory. They also added a full-service car wash that includes detailing not included at automated drive-through car washes.

Pitstop is indeed as its name implies, fast, accurate, high quality, and responsive just like a pit crew at the NASCAR or Indy races. With fast, honest service and attention to detail for both the tire service and car wash, Ali and Mudd have made a huge impression within the community.



The Pitstop team understands that customers have places to be, and they work hard to deliver reliable service that keeps people

moving. Mud describes that along Highway 12, where road issues and flats are common, Pitstop Tires and Wheels is the only tire shop in the area. Being open seven days a week until late\* ensures that drivers will always have a place to turn when they need help. You don't even need an appointment. Just drive in and they will take care of you quickly and efficiently, often saving you money from what you would have to pay elsewhere.

The two brothers love everything about the new business, from working on the cars to interacting with the customers. The support from the community has been



incredible and they consider Rio Vista a hidden gem full of awesome people. The warmth and appreciation from customers make running the business even more rewarding.

Visit their website at [www.pitstoptiresandwheels.com](http://www.pitstoptiresandwheels.com), or call (707) 684-4378. Ali and Mudd are enthusiastic and eager to help keep you rolling smoothly down the road and sparkling as well.

If you are also a boater, be sure to check out The Boat Shop, located at the Delta Marina Yacht Harbor. The Boat Shop is a new wave of marine excellence, bringing premium marine service to the Delta. The Boat Shop is a powerhouse collaboration bringing together two of Delta's most respected marine service providers. The Delta's Details, established by Rob Randall in 2021 and Brite Side Marine Services, founded by John Keefhaver and Chris Cyr in 2017 have brought together expertise in boat aesthetics and maintenance.

The Boat Shop's service lineup reads like a boater's wish list: from detailed vessel cleaning and professional cut and buff services to complex hull repairs, bottom painting, and comprehensive mechanical services for all makes and models. What sets them apart isn't just their technical capabilities, it's their commitment to delivering quality work with transparent pricing and efficient turnaround times.

The merger wasn't just a business decision, it was a natural evolution of two companies that shared the same values and vision. After years of working in parallel and building sterling reputations individually, joining forces made perfect sense. The result is a one-stop marine service center that combines technical expertise with customer-focused service.

For Delta boating enthusiasts, The Boat Shop represents more than just another service provider, it's a promise of excellence and reliability in an industry where quality and trust are paramount. As The Boat Shop charts its course forward with their experience, dedication to quality, and focus on customer satisfaction. They're not just servicing boats; they're building lasting relationships with Delta's boating community. Be sure to stop by or call them on 915-623-5292.



Rio Vista continues to offer so many unique and fun places to visit along with skilled and dedicated service providers. Just walk around the quaint downtown and enjoy the shops, restaurants, and other businesses in a quiet friendly atmosphere. With Rio Vista's unique backdrop sitting on the scenic Sacramento River, be sure to enjoy a stroll along the Sacramento River on the beautiful Promenade while in town.



# Dining Discoveries Along The Sacramento River

BY LAURIE OLEKSIEWICZ

This is our second installment in a series of articles about discovering unique dining experiences driving north of Rio Vista along the Sacramento River. While Rio Vista is home to a wide array of eating establishments, it is fun to drive along the scenic Sacramento River and stop at some of the interesting and almost hidden restaurants that can be found along the way.

We begin this journey by crossing the Helen Madere Memorial Bridge on Highway 12 to cross the beautiful Sacramento River. At the light turn left onto highway 160. In our last edition we featured the eating establishments in and around Isleton, which is the first small town we encounter along the river. This time we will continue driving along the delta levees for another ten miles, or about 15 minutes to reach the riverfront town of Walnut Grove and its neighbor Locke.

After departing Isleton, you will come upon the Isleton Bridge. At this point you can continue driving north on the right side of the river, or cross over the river via the bridge to continue your drive north on the left side. Either way, you will arrive at the next destination, Walnut Grove.

If you don't cross the bridge and continue driving on the right side of the river, you will come upon Ko-Ket Riverfront Resort. Here you will find a peaceful escape to spend your time along the river with a choice from a wide variety of cabins, cottages, RVs, and glamping tents to stay in and relax, as well as several RV spots for your own rig. Ko-Ket's Island Bar & Grill is open seasonally Thursdays through Sundays. The Island Bar & Grill is a perfect place to grab a bite to eat after a fun day on the river, or just because you feel like stopping by.



After leaving Ko-Ket's, as you are approaching Walnut Grove, you will cross the Georgiana Slough via the Georgiana Slough Bridge. Here you can turn left onto River Road and drive into the town of Walnut Grove.

If you do cross the Isleton Bridge and drive along the left side of the river, you will come to the Ryde Hotel, which is just across the river from the Ko-Ket Resort. You can't miss it. It's peach tone facade literally stops traffic. You can almost hear and feel the roaring 20's from a

hundred years ago emanating from the building. There are 42 Art Deco rooms, some overlooking the river. The Ryde Hotel has indoor and outdoor venues for weddings and other special occasions. The hotel offers a lovely Sunday Champagne Brunch Buffet.

Shortly after passing either Ko-Ket Resort or the Ryde Hotel you will arrive in Walnut Grove. Walnut Grove is the only delta town encompassing both sides of the river. The town of Walnut Grove was founded in 1851, by John Wesley Sharp as a steamer stop on the Sacramento River. By 1865, Walnut Grove had become an important port for agricultural produce, primarily Bartlett pears. Many Asians migrated to the area to work the fertile fields and open thriving businesses in the area. In 1915, a fire broke out, destroying 80 buildings in a three-block area. This resulted in changes in the makeup of Walnut Grove's Chinese community. Several Chinese businessmen moved one mile north, helping to establish the town of Locke.

All the eating establishments in Walnut Grove are within walking distance of each other. There are three right on the main road on top of the levee. And if you decide to come by boat, there is a beautiful dock right in the heart of Walnut Grove with immediate access to all the restaurants and stores to explore in town.



The first being Fat Lou's Cafe. Here you will find many options for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The owner, Lou, is a friendly host who ensures that every meal is perfect. His wife provides excellent service, making guests feel like old friends. There's even outdoor seating to enjoy the delicious Mexican fare at Fat Lou's.



A few doors away is Mel's Mocha & Ice Cream. Here you will find breakfast items and coffees, along with a deli selection of sandwiches, and don't forget to have some of that delicious Gunther's ice cream. Enjoy the old time feel of the deli or take your goody outside at one of their picnic tables.



And if you are in the mood for pizza, Walnut Grove has the Pizza Factory just across from Mel's. Pizza Factory outlets are found in several small hometown communities and enjoy bringing hometown goodness to Walnut Grove. Here too you can dine inside or out.



If you drive a block off the levee onto Market Street you will find a historic place to dine in Walnut Grove, Tony's Place. The building was originally a restaurant and soda fountain from 1938. Here you can belly up to the bar, or head back into the dining area to enjoy a hearty lunch or dinner. Tony's is a fun place hosting several events and entertainment.



Next to Walnut Grove is the tiny town of Locke. Be sure to stop and look. Driving through the narrow one-way road of Main Street feels like stepping back through time or driving onto a movie set. Some of the buildings look like they are barely standing, which adds to the charm and mystique of this community with a definite oriental appearance to many of its buildings.

Here in the heart of Locke you will find an unexpected treat, Al the Wops. Al the Wop's was built in 1915 by Lee Bing and three partners who ran a Chinese restaurant. In 1934 Al Adami and an associate came up the river from Ryde to become the first non-Chinese business in town. Later Al purchased the building from Lee Bing and continued in the business until his death in 1961. From the beginning, Al's idea was for a place with no pretense, that's probably why he named it Al the Wops. The goal was to create an establishment for the working man, a place to "Come in, relax, and leave your worries outside." From this many traditions were born. The first was cutting off businessmen's ties and leaving them at the front door. This tradition was followed by tacking dollars to the ceiling as homage to the people of Locke. This money was used to host an annual liver feed for the local people who had supported him.

Many of those traditions are still alive and well at Al's, the dollars are still on the ceiling, you are expected to take your tie off before you



come in, and you want to leave your worries outside". In its almost 100-year history Al the Wop's has become a destination for bikers, boaters and tourists from around the world. They pride themselves on holding on to the values that Al established. It's a place to leave your worries at the door, enjoy good drink and food, and experience the community of the California Delta with your friends.

Just down the street from Al's is Lockeport Grill & Fountain. Here you will find an eclectic mix of curiosities, antiques and art created and curated by the owner, Martha Esch. Usually open on the weekends, you can find sandwiches, ice cream and frozen yogurt. Upstairs is an old-time bed and breakfast for the weary traveler who will feel as if they stepped back into the old west.



Locke has a rich history going back before the arrival of the Chinese from Walnut Grove. In 1852 George W. Locke at age 22 was lured by the Gold Rush to California from New Hampshire. Much of his Locke Ranch's 490 acres became developed, along with pear orchards. A fruit shed-railyard-shipping wharf can still be seen sitting on the levee in Locke, now the Locke Boathouse. Be sure and pick up some of the historical information at the Lockeport Grill and speak with Martha, she will be happy to give you more information about the history of Locke.

Both Walnut Grove and Locke are worth the visit. Fun and interesting places to explore while enjoying some delicious bites along the way.

Tony's Place





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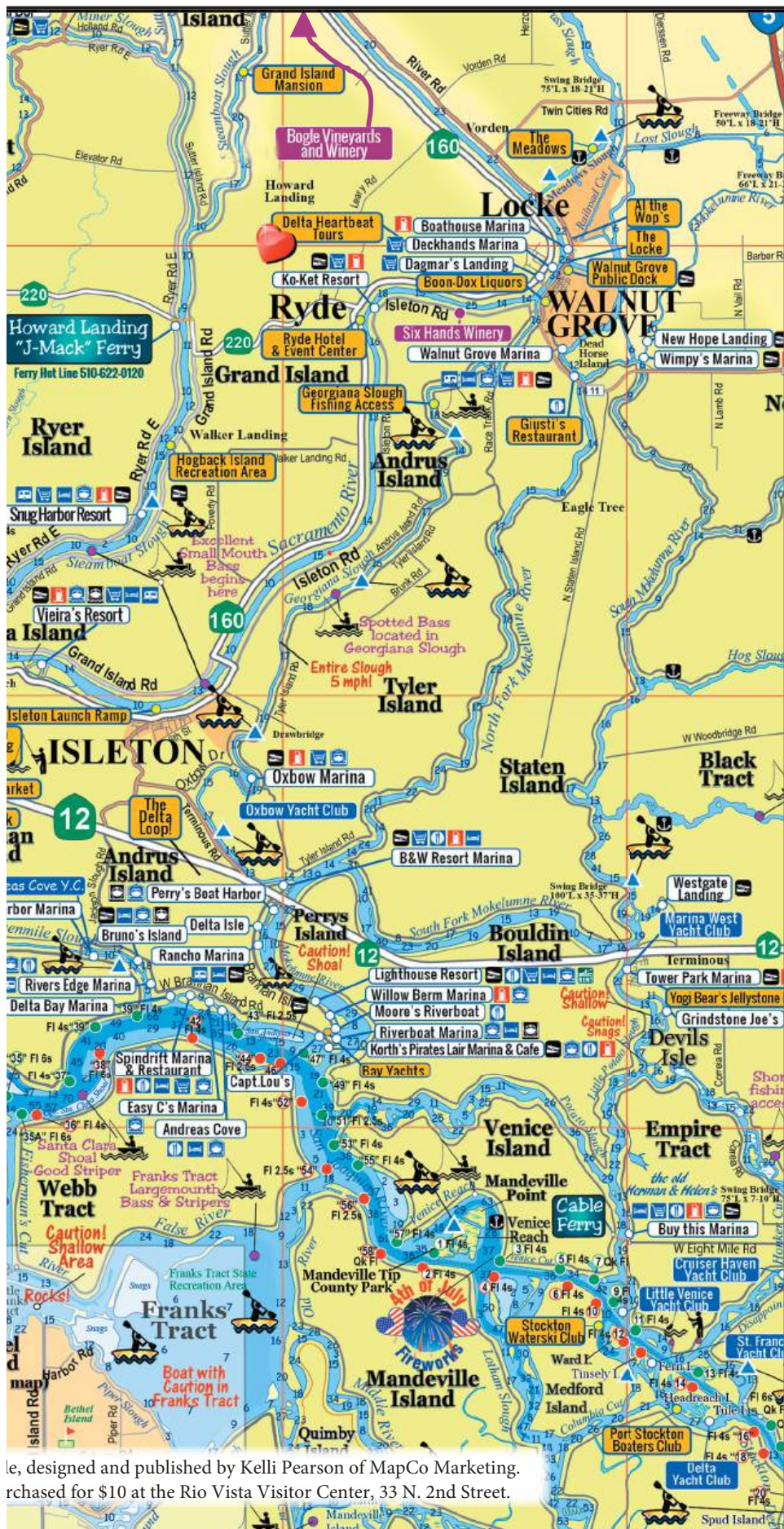
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# Have Fun and Make New Friends, too!

BY LINDA JENSEN

**D**o you want to have some fun and make new friends here in Rio Vista? Come to the Rio Vista Library-44 South 2nd Street (corner of 2nd and Montezuma). There's a Sewing Club at Rio Vista Library that meets every Monday afternoon from 12:30 to 4:00 pm. - Don't know how to sew? These crafty folks will be happy to teach you. Do you have a project that you want to make or need help to finish? This is the place to get the help you need. Need advice on sewing machines, craft supplies and equipment? You can get it here. Best of all, they are super welcoming people and lots of fun. They make quilts, placemats, totes, aprons and more. One lady has been dropping in to sew children's dresses to donate to a charity. Attendance varies from week to week as people come when their schedule permits. Drop in this Monday!



Usually on hand at Sewing Club are Linda Gaughan, Ann Thomas, Laura Casdia, Charlotte Dockery and Kathleen Klessen.

Each November the Sewing Club has a Holiday Workshop where they provide all the supplies and help you to create a gift item (or something for yourself)!



Rio Vista Library's Book Club is a bit different than most. Everyone reads a different book! The club decides on the "genre" that they will read each month and then everyone picks their own book. The genre for May is "Autobiography or Memoir." In June it will be "Non-fiction." The Book Club meets on the third Saturday of each month at 10:00 am and is a great place to discover new books and authors plus make delightful new friends.

Join the Friends of the Library. Their meetings are a good place to make new friends while supporting the library's programs and events. They meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 4-5:30 pm. Their book sales help the staff provide some of the special events at the library. There is a craft event for adults at 1:00pm almost every Friday. Other special events include Tween and Teen events, help with job search, and more. For more information about the library, give them a call at 866-572-7587 or go to their website: [solanolibary.com](http://solanolibary.com) and click on Rio Vista Library.

Come to Rio Vista Senior Center - 25 Main Street (next door to City Hall). Come for Lunch. They dish up lunch at 11:30 am every weekday

and if you're a senior or disabled adult you are invited! There's no better way to make friends than over a good meal. You can learn more about services and programs for seniors from the people and the posters at the senior center. The recommended lunch donation for seniors 60+ is \$4. (The meal is free for seniors who cannot pay). If you're coming with a senior but not quite in the age bracket, the recommended donation is \$7. They do need to know you're coming, so call them at 707-374-3349 to ask about the day's menu and make a reservation a few days before you plan to come. The monthly menu and the lunch reservation sheet is available at the Senior Center, so you can just drop by and sign up. Good food, good conversation, new friends.

Come back for Yoga. At 2:00 pm every Wednesday the Chair Yoga class meets for a fun, safe workout and a good time to make new friends. New students are always welcome. The class is FREE although voluntary donations of \$5 per session to help with costs if you can afford it are appreciated. (A donation jar will be available.)

Stay for Bingo! Bring a friend. Make a friend. Win prizes! Bingo starts at 1:15 pm on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Friday of each Month. \$10 buys a pack of 10 sheets and each sheet has four Bingo Squares. There's also an Early Bird Game (\$1 per 1 up sheet) and a Drawing for a Free Prize. You must be at least 18 years of age to play, and this is a very fun group, so a great place to make friends.

Watch for special events at the Senior Center including MOBEC Health Screenings and information on diabetes, cholesterol and blood pressure sponsored by Touro University and Sutter Health, monthly food giveaways, and special informational programs about subjects of interest and concern for seniors. Watch for advertisements and announcements in the Rio Vista Beacon.

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# RioVision Roundup

BY ROBIE WILLIAMS

April brought changes to RioVision in 2025. The Board of Directors welcomed several new members with fresh ideas. On the Executive Board, Chris Quan continues as President, Chris Armbrust serves as Vice-President, Robie Williams is Secretary-Treasurer, and Tom Surh is the Executive Director. The Board members are Jim Pezzaglia, Tinker Casteel, Drew Haisley, Aiden Mayhood, Eric Brown, Fred Brown, and Anna Ramos.

RioVision recently marked their 10th Anniversary and decided to assess their future direction. They began with the Vision and Mission Statement. The team reviewed both statements and made revisions to incorporate innovative ideas while maintaining the original concepts that initiated RioVision. Below is the revised Mission Statement: The primary objectives and purposes of this corporation are to collaborate in building, energizing, beautifying, and sustainably developing the greater Rio Vista community, with an emphasis on community engagement and involvement.

RioVision's Vision Statement includes:

Support the development of a viable, thriving business community.

- Promote the revitalization and creation of a more vibrant Rio Vista commercial, industrial and waterfront.
- Foster connections among Delta areas to build a sense of unity and shared community.
- Beautify the community by integrating the natural Delta environment, agricultural landscape, and historical heritage.
- Support youth programs and activities to engage and empower our youth in education and arts appreciation.
- Build, encourage, and support the community's education, arts, entertainment, and cultural quality of life.

RioVision is looking forward to encompassing these revisions in both current and future projects and events.

**RioVision**  
bridge to the future



For Family Fun, Art, Music & Food

BY GRACE ARMBURST

On Saturday, May 31, 2025, from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm, the 2nd Annual much anticipated RioVision Riverfront Arts Festival returns to Downtown Rio Vista at Main & Front Streets.



This vibrant event features FREE ENTRY; art, activities and entertainment for ALL AGES/family-friendly; a memorable day for the art-curious, art enthusiasts, artists, and music lovers; youth activities, craft & food vendors, 2 live-music

stages; cash prizes (\$100, \$75, \$50) and coveted bragging rights in 'The People's Choice' Art Show competition.

NEW FEATURES are "Art on Wheels & Waves", highlighting painted cars-boats-motorcycles-bicycles-surfboards & skateboards; "Art in Action" as artists demonstrates their techniques (plein air, pottery, mosaics, gourd art) for youth, face-painting, balloon art, crafts, chalk art & painting; "Walking Art" encompassing Degas Dancers from Nicole Powers Dance School, Spot the Firehouse Dog, RVHS art club members doing polka-dot art, T-shirt painting a la Jackson Pollock, and many more surprising activities!

Food Vendors will be on hand with a variety of choices for brunch, lunch and snacks. Wine service in front of 45 Main. Bay-Area

renowned music at TWO stages feature The Notes of Choice, Stratify, Delbert Bump Quartet 2, and Ken Scout Quartet in 45 Main and the corner of Front & Sacramento Streets. Parking will be in designated areas near the festival, and handicapped parking will be found at N. 2nd & Sacramento in the RioFit Gym lot. Supporters of the arts can contribute to the success of this Riverfront Arts Fest by SPONSORING a chalk art square, the event itself, or by volunteering in various capacities. Take this fantastic opportunity to engage and support the greater citywide community.



For more information/to apply, visit the website at [riverfrontartsfest.com](http://riverfrontartsfest.com), or contact the event coordinator at (707)-646-1710, or [info@riverfrontartsfest.com](mailto:info@riverfrontartsfest.com). Celebrate the vibrant art scene of Rio Vista at this fantastic event!





# Solano Irrigated Farms: Solano County's First Dance With Land Speculation

BY AIDEN MAYHOOD

In December 1912, Solano Irrigated Farms Inc. filed for incorporation in San Francisco, with \$7.5 million of capital stock and a board of 9 directors.<sup>(1)</sup> As soon as January 1913, the San Francisco Chronicle wrote a large story titled “Monster Project is Consummated: Syndicate of California and Eastern Capitalists Will Develop Vast Tract | 90,000 acres are in deal | Many prominent Californians figure in greatest of all irrigation schemes”.<sup>(2)</sup> They had purchased, for \$10,000,000, 140 square miles of “the richest acreage in the world” to build the most important irrigation project on record.<sup>(3)</sup> Solano Irrigated Farms properties extended from Elmira and Dixon in the north, to Suisun in the west, Rio Vista on the east, and the Montezuma Hills to the South. The idea to begin a large irrigation project had supposedly been conceived in 1910. The investors had looked at all of California, and Solano County was chosen for its extreme fertility, topographic advantages, and the nearness to large markets.

Investors included some of the most well-known businessmen across the nation, as well as Solano locals like Peter Cook and James Peterson. However, the investor of note was Patrick Calhoun, railroad magnate and grandson of former Vice President John C. Calhoun. 90,000 were to be irrigated, with 30,000 retained by the corporation to create “an experimental farm ... conducted along the most advanced lines”<sup>(4)</sup> and 60,000 sold back to farmers. The land at the time had been used primarily for wheat production and sheep grazing.

Investors celebrated their rapid success of land acquisition at a prominent dinner, serving courses titled “Rotation of Crops”, “Irrigation”, and “Reclamation”, holding the dinner in a large room themed as a duck blind and turning on the lights only for a triumphant orchestra to appear, an image of the transformation they were about to undertake on their land holdings.<sup>(5)</sup> Invitations were sent in the form of land contracts.<sup>(6)</sup>

The investors also concluded to “locate a new city at some point in this district” under the supervision of the corporation.<sup>(7)</sup> Plans for the city began to emerge, named Solano, east of Denverton on an electric railway line.<sup>(8)</sup> The company continued to purchase land, from the Lambie Ranch next to the modern-day Western Railway Museum, the McCrory Ranch at the intersection of Hay Road and Meridian Road east of Vacaville and Fairfield, and the Gates Ranch, the historic location of Old Town Rio Vista before it flooded in 1862.<sup>(9)</sup> Land like the 1,000 acre Barnes and West ranches continued to be purchased on account for “the demand for a larger development than had been originally planned.”<sup>(10)</sup>

In June 1913, Calhoun announced the creation of a “huge water filtration plant” in collaboration with a University of California professor.<sup>(11)</sup> Work on a 400,000,000 million gallon canal 85 feet wide and 16 feet deep was undertaken.<sup>(12)</sup> That same month, investors had bought a two-page large advertisement in the San Francisco Chronicle titled “The Awakening of an Empire”, with a Manifest Destiny-like woman holding up the Lindsay Canal crossing Highway 113. It reads in part, “Soil and location considered, here is the greatest land in America! Forty miles (two hours) from San Francisco, the marketing place of a million souls. Equipped with every modern transportation facility.”<sup>(13)</sup>

Purportedly, “San Francisco’s eye was caught during the last week by the bigness of the advertising campaign...[by] Solano Irrigated Farms.”<sup>(14)</sup> Families in San Francisco took excursions in the hundreds to the lands of Solano Irrigated Farms via newly-established railroads. Sales of lands to the public totaled \$600,000 in two weeks after three of these excursions.<sup>(15)</sup> By July 1913, “thirty blocks in the new city have been spoken for”, with 75,000 estimated to move in at its inception.<sup>(16)</sup> City planner Mark Daniels said, “Solano is the only city on the Pacific Coast, the second in America (Washington being the other), and one of the few in the world that has been started and planned all through, to its last detail, before any construction was begun ... Solano will be one of the most beautiful cities in America.”<sup>(17)</sup> \$500,000 worth of investments in streets, sidewalks, and sewer improvements were studied in September 1913.<sup>(18)</sup> Within a month, the narrative quickly changed.

On October 15, 1913, Solano Irrigated Farms had been sued, failing to meet payments on mortgages. Soon, the newspapers were flooded with stories of an imminent collapse of the project. The Martinez Daily Standard reported “it will only take a breath to destroy the fabric that was not constructed on a daily basis ...[as] the company operated too extensively on credit<sup>(19)</sup> and prospects, instead of bona fide developed values.”<sup>(20)</sup> Notably, San Francisco newspapers had not reported on the issue. Perhaps it was because investor M.H. deYoung owned the San Francisco Chronicle. Lawsuit after lawsuit followed by those seeking full payment. Former landowners, tractor companies, automobile garages, hardware companies, and more filed suit.<sup>(21)</sup> By May 1916, the last of personal property of Solano Irrigated Farms was auctioned off at Denverton.<sup>(22)</sup> Today, the only trace of the formerly planned city is the depot at the Western Railway Museum and the canal dug across Highway 113.<sup>(23)</sup> Big, well-connected capital and promises, backed only by empty words, failed to translate to prosperity for the people of the county and the state.




- (1) "Incorporations." The Recorder. 05 December 1912. Page 4.
- (2) "Monster Project is Consummated." San Francisco Chronicle. 09 January 1913. Page 3.
- (3) Ibid.
- (4) Ibid.
- (5) "David Rich and Patrick Calhoun Guests of Honor at Dinner." San Francisco Chronicle. 31 January 1913. Page 5.
- (6) "Parcel of Marsh Set Down in Hotel at Dinner to Mark Entry Into Farming." The San Francisco Examiner. 31 January 1913. Page 3.
- (7) Ibid.
- (8) "News and Personal Brevities." Winters Express. 28 March 1913. Page 3.
- (9) "Rio Vista Lands Added To Project." San Francisco Chronicle. 26 April 1913. Page 9.
- (10) "Buys Thousand Acres Near City of Solano." The San Francisco Examiner. 04 May 1913. Page 66.
- (11) "Patrick Calhoun Makes a New Water Deal." The San Francisco Call and Post. 14 Jun 1913. Page 9.
- (12) "Solano Farms Project is Almost Complete, All Kinds of Crops Are to Be Made Possible." Oakland Tribune. 22 June 1913. Page 29.
- (13) "The Awakening of an Empire." San Francisco Chronicle. 22 June 1913.
- (14) "More Land Tracts to Be Irrigated." San Francisco Chronicle. 29 June 1913.
- (15) "Third Land Excursion Brings Many Buyers." The San Francisco Call and Post. 07 July 1913. Page 17.
- (16) "Solano City A Realty Sensation." San Francisco Chronicle. 12 July 1913. Page 10.
- (17) Ibid.
- (18) "Building Virgin City Has Begun." San Francisco Chronicle. 13 September 1913. Page 5.
- (19) "To Foreclose Mortgage." The Los Angeles Times. 15 October 1913. Page 23.
- (20) "Big Smash Is Imminent." Martinez Daily Standard. 16 October 1913. Page 1.
- (21) "Solano Land Concern Fails." Turlock Tribune. 29 October 1913. Page 6.
- (22) "Local News." Solano County Courier. 25 May 1916. Page 5.
- (23) The Times-Herald. 01 December 1974. Page 23.


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# Gallery Artists

You don't need to leave town for quality art. RioVision Gallery highlights works from over twenty Delta artists in various genres, including paintings, photography, jewelry, and more. Meet the featured artists at a monthly reception, held on the third Saturday of the month from 3 to 5pm, and enjoy their art while mingling with fellow enthusiasts and enjoying light refreshments.

## STORIES BY ROBIE WILLIAMS

### *Alexandra Loza* is the May artist of the month

Alexandra Loza is a self-taught painter from Antioch, California. Working primarily in acrylics, her art spans landscapes, self-portraits, still life's, and reimagining family photographs. Each piece reflects a personal connection, whether rooted in memory, emotion, or identity and speaks to a deeper exploration of self.

Alexandra draws inspiration from surrealist traditions, especially the emotional honesty and symbolic depth found in the work of Frida Kahlo. Like Kahlo, she embraces vulnerability as a powerful tool in storytelling, weaving it into her practice as both subject and process. Recently, she has begun to incorporate abstract elements into her work, pushing the boundaries of form and emotion in new, expressive ways. Painting through the past seven years of her life, techniques and subject matter have changed but one thing that has stayed constant is the use of color. All her paintings have that in common, vibrant & contrasting color that draws the viewer in.

Without formal art training, Loza has developed her technique through persistent experimentation and an intuitive understanding of color and composition. Painting has become more than a creative pursuit; it is a meditative outlet that helps her navigate anxiety and cultivate patience. Her art reflects personal growth and resilience. To be human is to suffer, and suffering is an underlying theme in a lot of Loza's work.

Loza's work is currently on display at RioVision Gallery in Rio Vista, where her evolving style and emotive approach continue to resonate with viewers. With each painting, she invites the audience into a world shaped by introspection, memory, and a profound appreciation for the transformative power of art.

Come out and meet Alexandra on May 17 th from 3:00 to 5:00 pm.



### *Theresa Jesse* is the June artist of the month

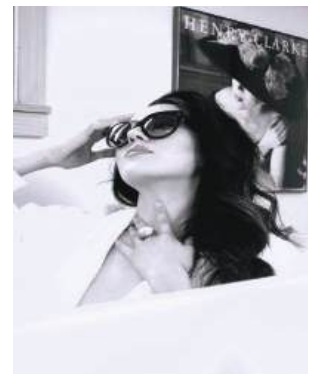
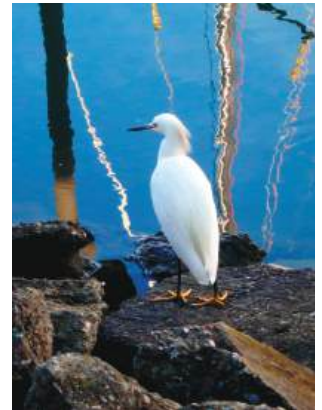
Theresa Jesse was born and raised in Oakland, California and currently resides on the beach in Alameda. This is where she was gifted with her first camera in 2009. An old Pentax that required the film to be inserted and wound up. She was told, once she had conquered that camera, she would graduate to a digital DSLR! Soon, she became the proud owner of another used Pentax that she took to local streets to shoot everyday life. "That's where I am most comfortable." Theresa says.

In 2012, she was published in "The Book of Art Memories." The next year, she won her first silver ribbon at the Alameda County Fair. She felt accepted and spent the next few years showing her artwork at the Alameda Art Association Gallery. Two years later in 2014 she took the Gold at the Alameda County Fair. Then, in 2018 she entered the Sacramento State Fair and won second place.

Theresa moved to the Delta a few years ago and her photography has evolved into nature's best! She has broadened her subjects to include wildlife, bridges, and sunsets on the Delta's beautiful rivers. She photographs privately for special events and conducted a magazine shoot in 2024.

For the past few Theresa opened and operated her own gallery in Isleton, "40 Main Art Gallery." "Picking up a camera has changed my life in so many ways. I feel that I can see life better and hopefully through a broader lens." Theresa stated.

Come meet Theresa on July 19th from 3:00 to 5:00 pm and enjoy the world as she sees it.





# of the Month

*Amy Schmidt* is the July artist of the month

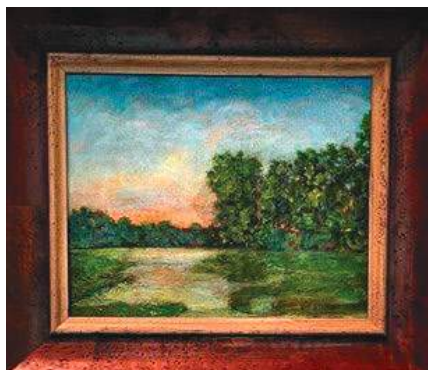
July highlights Amy Schmidt who retired from the Gallery as curator. Amy moved to Rio Vista in 2002. She volunteered to help set up the Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center with the RioVision Gallery on 2nd Street in 2015. Later, in 2016, she helped move it to its current location at 116 Main St. Amy is an award-winning artist for both her mixed media and jewelry, having won ribbons at the Solano County Fair, and the Fairfield Annual Juried Art Show in multiple years. Much of her jewelry is copper, and Amy points out the medical efficacy of wearing copper jewelry.



She also uses brass, natural stones, abalone, pearls, beads, and unique glass. She has a variety of designs which are hammered, torched, and twisted into beautiful shapes.



Until 2021, Amy taught Shibori style clothes dying. Recently, Amy has dabbled in wood-working and is also using clay to create different art. Amy was an integral part (and helped paint) both the 911 Mural at the Rio Vista Fire Department and the mural on 2nd Avenue on the Books Rio V building. Visit the utility box at Main and Front Street, near Hap's Taps, to view another creation by Amy. Although Amy has retired from her position at the Gallery, she continues to exhibit her artwork and volunteer. She is actively involved in pursuing her art and contributes her time to Habitat for Humanity and the Veteran's home in Yountville.



Visit with Amy and view her various genres of art on July 19th from 3:00 to 5:00 pm.

*Scottie Ross* is the August artist of the month

Scottie Ross was born in Philadelphia, PA in 1947. From an early age, Scottie was immersed in the arts, first shining as the star of Aunt Othella's recreation center plays, and then as a student learning sewing, knitting, and crochet from their mother. However, Scottie's true passion always lay in paper – either for writing stories or for creating art by tearing it up.

Scottie's professional career included designing for Levis, developing computer systems, managing telecommunication projects, writing screenplays, newsletters, and methods and procedures. Outside of work, Scottie traveled, participated in volunteer programs to teach writing to teens, designed and created holiday cards each year, and was self-taught in graphic design and Adobe Photoshop. She also became the go-to creator for party and wedding invitations for friends and family. Despite being a casual journal keeper, Scottie was a serial journal buyer and was always drawn to beautiful books and journals.

This interest

led Scottie to learn how to make their own paper and bind their own books. It became a tradition for friends and family to receive these handmade books for milestone occasions.



Encouraged by her Aunt Othella and others, Scottie decided to sell her works. However, Scottie found it difficult to put a price on the creations. The solution came in the form of using the proceeds to support causes she believes in. Thus, Scottie opened an Etsy shop, with all profits going to the Othella Vaughn Scholarship Fund at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA.

In 2020, amidst challenging times, Scottie discovered the artistic possibilities of the Procreate app, which she had initially used for calligraphy. This discovery opened a new outlet for Scottie, who began creating and selling art prints. This new venture brought immense joy and a sense of purpose.

At 78 years young, Scottie Ross continues to add art prints to her Etsy shop and participates in art shows, embracing the critical gaze of others and the thrill of sharing her creations with the world.

Meet Scottie on August 16th from 3:00 to 5:00 pm and enjoy her creativity.





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# The Rio Vista Chamber Fights to Keep a Valued Tradition Alive

BY TOM SURH

Throughout the region, some long standing annual community events are ending in the face of increasing challenges. Rio Vista is fortunate in having the longest standing bass fishing derby on the west coast and its accompanying festival now in its 77th year. The California Fish and Wildlife Department's 2024 decisions to remove sturgeon and salmon from California fishing regulations meant the Derby focused solely on striped bass, which contributed to declining participation. Carnivals throughout California face economic pressures making them prohibitively costly to bring to Rio Vista, so this long-popular feature of the festival is now gone. Rather than go the way of other long-standing community events that have been canceled, such as the ones in Pittsburg and Brentwood, the Rio Vista Chamber is fighting to keep Rio Vista's signature event alive.

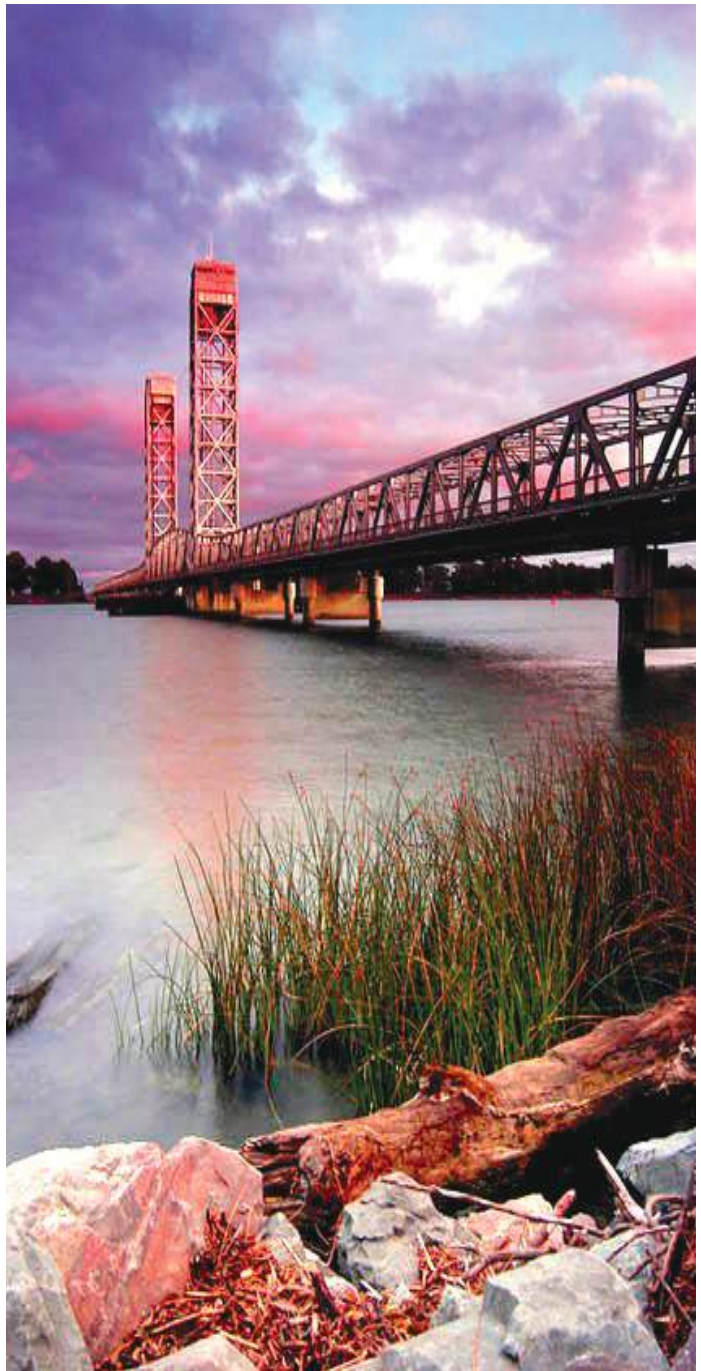
The Chamber's strategy includes boosting its musical offerings to include bands that in other venues charge to be seen and heard, and to begin requiring a modest fee for entry to the festival. Continuing festival offerings are the Saturday car show, Saturday night fireworks, a kids' zone to keep the young ones entertained, and the many craft and food vendors. The music lineup includes the RJae Haas Band, Jane Blonde and the Goldfingers, Spazmatic Delta Chicks, Ultra Sonics, The Grinders, Derek Abel Band, and Pride & Joy.

Join the Rio Vista Chamber of Commerce in the community effort to keep a great tradition alive and thriving by supporting this event. Your suggestions and new ideas are welcome. Also needed are volunteers, which are the lifeblood of community events.



Contact the Chamber at [slewallen.riovistachamber@gmail.com](mailto:slewallen.riovistachamber@gmail.com) or come to the Rio Vista Visitor Center that is staffed by Chamber volunteers Tuesday to Saturday, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at 33 North 2nd Street.

A new upcoming Chamber event is the Artisans Market that will be part of the Rio Vista Downtown Association's Farmers' Market (see article on page 4) and offers Chamber members and other artisans an opportunity to market their wares. The Artisans Market will be held indoors at 45 Main Street starting on May 15 and thereafter on the first Thursday through October.





# Delta Farmers Market by the Tower

BY DORIS NORIEGA



What a wonderful place to stop and shop for fresh produce, bakery items, wine, beer and soft drinks and so much more! The market is located at 2510 Hwy 12, Isleton. It is right at the intersection of Hwy 160 and Hwy 12. The market is owned and operated by Ken and Laura Scheidegger who have a long history of experience in the produce business. The market is open from 10:00 am to dusk seven days a week. Their list of vendors is extensive, and they make every effort to procure products from as many local farms, vineyards, and businesses as possible. Delicious tasting foods with high nutrient content are also very important priorities.



The main produce vendors are:

- Greg Paul Produce: red, white and Yukon gold potatoes
- Jeff McCormack Farm: cherries, pears, and apples
- Vierra's farm: black, red and traditional watermelons
- Larry's Produce: variety of vegetables
- Dwelley Farms: corn from Brentwood
- Delta Queen Farms: Asparagus

A wide variety of other specialty foods and products:

- Loubier BBQ Sauce - Benecia
- Cal Vinegar - Lodi
- McCauley jarred Olives and Olive Oil-Brentwood
- Beckner Farms Mango Slices and Pumpkin Seeds - Modesto
- Gregory Farms Nectarine Jams
- Local Honeys
- Savory Snacks
- Robert Ferry Lavender Farm's candles, soaps and lotions

Wine and Beer Tasting: Plus, Live Music on the outdoor patio!!

Saturday and Sunday 11:00 -5:00 pm. Wines: A few of the favorites:

- Weibel Family Wines - Lodi
- Kirchhoff Family Wines - Clarksburg
- Heringer Estates Winery - Clarksburg
- Six Hands Winery - Walnut Grove

Over 100 Local Craft Beers- A few favorites:

- Jack Rabbit
- Bike Dog
- New Glory Craft
- Almanac
- Fieldwork



Every weekend there are fresh baked pies and breads. These desserts are made by their own specially trained staff who studied under a San Francisco pastry chef. The pies are made from fresh fruit and nuts. They offer apple, pecan.... The breads are apple, zucchini, banana sometimes with a nuts or chocolate chips added.

To add even more to your weekend enjoyment there is a Lunch Wagon on weekends that serves sandwiches, soups, drinks, and vegetarian options. Pulled Pork sandwiches are especially popular. There is also a children's menu.

The Delta Farmers Market is a jewel in the Delta not to be missed. Come and have a wonderful time shopping and relaxing on the weekends in the fresh out-of-doors. For more information: Facebook or go to [dfmbythetower.com](http://dfmbythetower.com).







# FARMS IN THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA

BY DORIS NORIEGA

The Delta region is a highly productive agricultural area. It covers approximately 500,000 acres of farmland supporting a wide variety of crops, including wine grapes, almonds, asparagus, corn, alfalfa, rice, fruits, and vegetables. The Delta's agricultural value was first recognized during the Gold Rush when farmers planted orchards and vegetables to supply the mining camps with food. To this day agriculture is the dominant land use in the Delta, driving the local economy and providing livelihoods for many. There are a multitude of farms in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta which is designated as a National Heritage Area. It extends from Sacramento to Stockton and to Vallejo. The farm owners in this area offer several different ways for their customers to enjoy not only their products but also to share the rich farming experiences that the Delta has to offer.

**Lockwood Acres** is located at 7751 Locke Rd, Vacaville, Ca 95688. They sell heirloom clean organic fruits and vegetables that are high in nutrients and rich in taste. They are a CSA, Community Supported Agriculture, in which customers receive a prepaid subscription box per week. In their orchards they grow peaches, nectarines, plums, apricots, persimmons, Asian pears, apples, pears, figs, watermelons, and a variety of oranges. They also produce lemons, beets, tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplant, squash, kohlrabi, legumes, and leafy greens. You can find their produce at the Vacaville Farmers Market and the Rio Vista Downtown Farmers Market. Ben Lyons, the owner, has an entertaining video on his website explaining the history and management of his farm thoughts about food. Their tours are on Monday through Saturday at 4 pm. You can make reservations by calling 707-624-0831 or go to their website [LockwoodAcres.com](http://LockwoodAcres.com). It is \$16.00 for 2 people, \$32 for up to 5.



**Lucero Organic Farms** is a 20-acre ranch at 12561 Hauschildt, Galt Ca. It is a certified organic farm. They have created a sustainable biodiverse farm that also preserves the health of the surrounding ecosystems. To maintain soil fertility they rotate crops, plant cover crops, and apply compost. They produce cucumbers, collard greens, chard, eggplants, grapes, melons, tomatillos, okra, plums, raspberries, strawberries, and tomatoes. They sell at farmers' markets and have a farm stand. The farm stand is open on



Mondays and Wednesdays from 1pm-5pm. They are also a vendor at the Rio Vista Downtown Farmers Market. Later in the Spring when the soil is drier, they will allow visitors and will post this information on Facebook. They can be reached at (209) 507-6910, [luceroorganicfarms.net](mailto:luceroorganicfarms.net), and [info@luceroorganicfarmers.net](mailto:info@luceroorganicfarmers.net).

**Vierra Family Farms** is at 3010 Burrows Ave in West Sacramento. They produce watermelons, zucchini, corn, and more. Their produce is harvested for its rich flavor and nutritional value. Dave's Fresh Produce Stand is open starting the first



week in June through the end of October. The "farming area" itself is not open to visitors. However, there are several special event locations on their property that are open to the public. One is called Dave's Pumpkin Patch where the "Cornival" runs from mid-September to the end of October. Here they have a pumpkin patch, hayrides, a corn maze and so many other fun-filled activities for the kids, including nine different attractions, 4 types of entertainment, 2 play areas, pony rides, and three stores. Throughout the "Cornival" are food stands that sell apple cider, cinnamon donuts and many other delicious drinks and snack items. Call ahead to 916-849-9450 or go to their website [vierra-farms.com](http://vierra-farms.com) for reservations and ticket prices. If you choose to pay once you get there, they only take cash or check. So, plan ahead. From Black Friday in November to the last weekend before Christmas they have a Christmas Tree Farm where they sell a variety of trees.

**California Endive Farms** is in Rio Vista at 15 Poppy House Road. Endive is a member of the chicory family, and it has a crisp texture and a sweet nutty flavor with a mild bitterness. It can be served raw or cooked. It is a unique plant in that it requires a two-step growing process before it is ready to be harvested. Endive is a healthy source of essential vitamins and minerals and makes a nice low-calorie snack. For more information and recipes go to their website [endive.com](http://endive.com) or call 707-374-4828. As of this printing, the company is not offering tours.



**Delta Tails Farm** is located on Ryer Island directly across from Snug Harbor Resort. The farm produces both pasture-raised chicken



and duck eggs laid by hens who spend their days out in a pasture. They provide safe nesting and sleeping areas. These eggs have two times healthier Omega-3 fats and proteins. They contain more essential vitamins D and E, and beta-carotene. Delta Tails



delivers to Rio Vista, Isleton, Walnut Grove, Courtland, Clarksburg, and West Sacramento. You can order eggs at [Farmer@deltatailsfarm.com](mailto:Farmer@deltatailsfarm.com). They also sell at the Rio Vista Downtown Farmers Market. Due to concerns with the Avian Flu and ensuring a bio-secure site, no visitors are allowed currently.

Here are a few other Delta farms that produce fruits and vegetables. They sell their produce in several ways such as at farmers markets, food stands, or wholesale.

**Jeff McCormack** grows peaches, nectarines, cherries, and 10 varieties of pears on his family-owned agricultural ranch in the countryside of Walnut Grove. They are the fourth generation of farmers in the region since 1896. Jeff's produce is sold primarily to farmers markets such as the Rio Vista Downtown Farmers Market, the Delta Farmers Market at the Tower, and Elk Grove and Sacramento farmers markets.

**Silo Farm Organics** is a family-owned farm at 14591 Walnut Grove-Thorton Road in Walnut Grove. They grow heirloom vegetables, herbs, and flowers. Heirloom crop varieties have been developed by farmers through years of cultivation, selection, and seed saving, and passed down through generations. As a result, their produce is of the highest

quality, and they strive too to take care not only of their farm's soil but also of the other natural resources in the surrounding environment. Their produce can be found at farmers markets, their farm stand, and it is also sold wholesale. For more information call 916-451-8080 or go to their website at [silofarmorganics.com](http://silofarmorganics.com). They are also on Facebook.

**Choy and Susan Farm** has provided their delicious strawberries for over 20 years. They also grow cherries, greens beans and other seasonal vegetables. Their stand is located at Hwy 12 and 160, they are open from 9 am - 6pm seven days a week. They can be reached 209-817-2399 or on their Facebook page.



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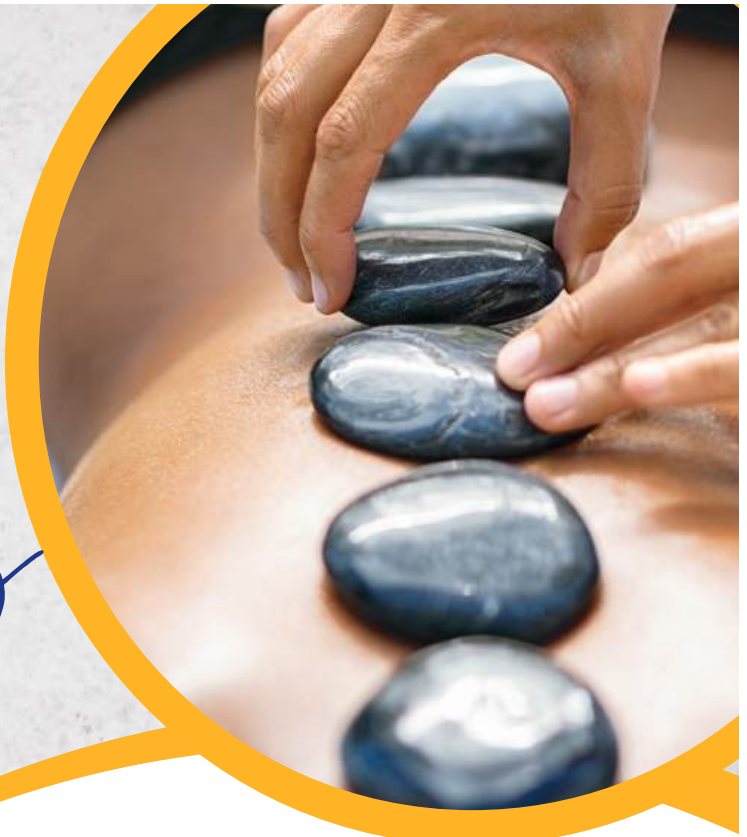
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