

DISCOVER RIO VISTA

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September - December 2026

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Editor's Corner

Welcome to this issue of Discover Rio Vista! As the Delta's summer haze starts to give way to golden evenings, we are excited to bring you another issue packed with the people, places, and stories that make our town special.

Thank you to the community of Rio Vista and guests alike for their support of RioVision's Hog August Bites. Thanks to you and our volunteers, it was another successful year!

Additionally, thank you to everyone who wrote in with feedback on our refreshed look. We are still tinkering on design, and your notes are shaping every page. Keep it coming to:

drveditor@riovision.net

In this issue, we're excited to share Rio Vista's new city branding, along with a peek into an exciting downtown Rio Vista lighting project coming soon. You'll also learn about the California Conservation Corps, as well as get to know several new businesses that have opened their doors here in recent months.

We are also taking a trip to the Western Railway Museum, one of our neighboring great hidden gems, and we will also preview Rio Vista's upcoming Airport Day, a favorite for kids and adults alike. Hear a story about our friend Helen, along with a story on the Artists of the Month from September to December 2026.

Thank you as always for being part of the Discover Rio Vista community!

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Barn off of Collinsville Road (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

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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) 469-3080 to help!

See the Discover Rio Vista website at discoverriovista.com. For additional information about RioVision, see riovision.net. RioVision is a non-profit 501(c)(3) group.

COVER: Aerial photo of the Rio Vista area. Photo taken by: Pi.1415926535 (Wikimedia Commons)



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🕒 Tuesday-Saturday (9am-5pm)

Event Calendar

September - December 2026

September

September 12: Airport Day at the Rio Vista Municipal Airport. Free admission and free parking. 3000 Baumann Road. 9am - 2pm.

September 13: Rio Vista Roots Community Garden Clean-Up. Corner of 3rd Street and St. Gertrudes Street. 8am - 12pm.

September 18: 10th Annual Kinser Golf Tournament. Register/Sponsor now: <https://www.post178rvca.org/kinser-golf-tournament>

September 18: Rio Vista CARE Bingo. Veterans Memorial Building. 610 St. Francis Way. 6:30pm - 9:30pm.

September 19: RioVision Gallery Artist of the Month. 116 Main Street. Come in and meet the Artist of the Month. Light refreshments will be served. 3 - 5pm.

September 19: Harvest Festival by Downtown Association. Signature long-table dinner on Main Street highlighting local food and wine. Main Street. 4 - 8pm.

October

October 2-4: Bass Derby. Downtown Rio Vista. 4pm - 10 pm (Fri), 10am - 11pm (Sat), 10am - 4pm (Sun).

October 3: Lions Club Car Show from Main St. to 5th St. 7am - 3pm. Awards at 2pm. Pancake Breakfast with the Rio Vista Hotshots at the Fire Station. 8am - 11am.

October 10: 155th Harvest Festival Lamb BBQ. First Congregational Church. 230 Sacramento St. 5 - 7pm.

October 11: Rio Vista Roots Community Garden Clean-Up. Corner of 3rd Street and St. Gertrudes Street. 8am - 12pm.

October 17: RioVision Gallery Artist of the Month. 116 Main Street. Come in and meet the Artist of the Month. Light refreshments will be served. 3 - 5pm.

October 24: Fall Festival by Downtown Association. Family-friendly downtown celebration with vendors, entertainment and children's activities.

October 31: Spooky Trunk or Treat. Family-friendly trick-or-treating, creative vehicle trunk displays, and costumed community fun. Main Street. 4 - 6pm.

November

November 8: Rio Vista Roots Community Garden Clean-Up. Corner of 3rd Street and St. Gertrudes Street. 8am - 12pm.

November 14: Trilogy Gift, Craft, Art & Jewelry Faire. Trilogy Vista Clubhouse. 10am - 3pm.

November 21: Artist of the Month at RioVision Gallery. Located at 116 Main Street. Stop by to meet the featured artist of the month. Light refreshments will be available. 3 - 5pm.

November 26: Turkey Trot by Downtown Association. Thanksgiving Day 5K fun run to kick off the holiday season.

December

December 5: Rio Vista Chamber of Commerce World Class Caroling. Caroling attire requested but not required. 45 Main Street. 4:30pm.

December 5: Saxon Creed Bike Raffle. 45 Main Street. 3:30pm.

December 5-6: Old Tyme Christmas Faire. Rio Vista Museum. 16 N. Front Street. 10am - 6pm (Sat), 11am - 4:30pm (Sun).

December 6: Tree of Lights. Foot of Main Street in front of City Hall. 5:30pm.

December 13: Rio Vista Roots Community Garden Clean-Up. Corner of 3rd Street and St. Gertrudes Street. 8am - 12pm.

December 18: Rio Vista CARE Bingo. Veterans Memorial Building. 610 St. Francis Way. 6:30pm - 9:30pm.

December 19: RioVision Gallery Artist of the Month. 116 Main Street. Come in and meet the Artist of the Month. Light refreshments will be served. 3 - 5pm.

Ongoing Events

RioVision Gallery: Tuesday-Saturday, 11am - 3pm. 116 Main Street. Art & See's Candies. Call (707) 469-3080 for more information.

Rio Vista Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center: Tuesday-Saturday, 10am - 1pm. 33 North 2nd Street. Call (707) 374-2700.

Food Pantry Free Food Distribution: 1st & 3rd Sunday. - 1105A Airport Road. 12:30pm - 1:30pm. Clothing closet open 11:30am - 1:15pm on distribution days. Call (707) 374-5406 for more information.

Open Mic @ The Art & Music Center: Last Sunday of the month. 2pm - 3pm. Comedy, music, poetry, art.

Rio Vista Museum: Saturday - Sunday, 1:30pm - 4:30pm. 16 North Front Street.

Isleton Museum: Saturday, 12pm - 3pm. 29 Main Street, Isleton.

Sewing & Quilting Group: Monday, 12:30pm - 4:00pm. Bring your project. Meet at Rio Vista Public Library.

Rio Vista 4-H Club: 2nd Mondays, 7pm - 8pm. D.H. White School.

Rio Vista Senior Center Food Giveaway: 4th Mondays, 10am - 11am. Seniors 55+ only. Bring your own bag(s).

Advisory Council to the N/S Area Agency on Aging: 1st Tuesdays, 10am - 12pm via Zoom. Serving Napa and Solano Counties. Apply to participate at www.aaans.org/advisory-council.

Knights of Columbus Delta Council General Meeting: 1st Tuesdays, 7pm. St. Joseph's Parish hall. 220 South 4th Street.

RIO Solano County Community Services Assistance: 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 2pm - 4pm. Rio Vista Library. By appointment only.

Explorer Meeting: 4th Tuesdays, 6pm - 8pm. Rio Vista Fire Station. 350 Main Street.

Senior Center Chair Yoga Class: Wednesdays (except 5th Wednesdays and November 27th), 2pm - 3pm. 25 Main Street.

Community Produce Program (Lighthouse Ministries): 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 2pm - 3pm. 101 Montezuma Street.

NAMI RV Family Support Group: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 6:30 pm - 8:30pm via Zoom. For adults with loved ones with mental health challenges. For more information, contact rvfsg@yahoo.com or (707) 422-7792.

American Legion Member Meeting: 2nd Thursdays, 5pm - 6pm. 610 St. Francis Way.

Citizens for Seniors Board Meeting: 4th Thursdays, 9:30am - 11:30am. 45 Main Street.

St. Vincent de Paul Conference Meeting: 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 1pm - 3pm. St. Joseph's Church Hall Conference Room. 4th & California Streets. Call (707) 374-3426 for more information.

Open Gym for Students, K-12: Fridays, 3pm - 6pm. Riverview Middle School. Sponsored by the RV Lions. Contact Tony at (530) 845-4893 for more information.

Senior Center Bingo: 1st four Fridays, 1pm - 3pm. 25 Main Street. Contact (707) 374-3349 for more information.

Food Pantry Deliveries: 1st and 3rd Friday mornings. To qualified seniors only. Contact (707) 374-5406 for more information.

Seniors Food Distribution: 2nd Fridays, 9:30am - 10:30am. 25 Main Street. 55+ low income individuals only.

Introducing California's River Town: Rio Vista's New Identity

BY EDWIN OKAMURA, MAYOR OF RIO VISTA

Every city has a story to tell. Rio Vista's begins along the Sacramento River, where historic charm, local character, and a relaxed pace of life come together in a destination unlike anywhere else in Northern California.

Here, visitors can stroll through a walkable downtown, browse quaint shops, enjoy a meal at a restaurant, and take in sweeping views of the Sacramento River. Throughout the year, signature events such as Hog August Bites, the Harvest Table, and Wild West Watercross bring the community to life and offer visitors an authentic taste of Rio Vista.

That experience is at the heart of the City's new brand.

Rio Vista's bold, contemporary logo reflects the creativity, independence, and welcoming spirit of the community—unlike any other in the region. Paired with the trademarked tagline, **California's River Town™**, it captures what makes Rio Vista so memorable: a genuine waterfront town with deep agricultural roots, strong community pride, and a personality all its own.

The tagline "California's River Town™" is displayed in a blue, sans-serif font within a light blue rectangular box.

Rio Vista's new trademarked tagline.

Although officially incorporated as a city, Rio Vista has the warmth and character of a small river town. Life moves at a more relaxed pace here, making it an ideal place to spend an afternoon, enjoy a weekend getaway, or simply take the scenic route.

Its location makes the discovery even more appealing. Rio Vista is approximately 45 minutes from Napa Valley and Walnut Creek and just a short drive from many of Northern California's best-known destinations. Yet once visitors arrive, it feels refreshingly removed from the pace of nearby urban centers.

The City's logo, color palette, typography, and messaging are designed to create a consistent sense of place across signs, banners, websites, events, and tourism materials. Together, they help visitors recognize Rio Vista not simply as a collection of attractions, but as a complete destination with a clear identity and a compelling story.

That story is also reflected in new investments throughout the community. The Downtown Decorative Lighting Project, for example, will replace aging infrastructure while creating a more inviting evening atmosphere. Decorative overhead lighting will encourage visitors to linger after dinner, explore local businesses, attend events, and experience downtown in a new way.



Rio Vista's new logo and type face.

These improvements complement what Rio Vista already does best: creating memorable, personal experiences. The character of the community can be found in the pride merchants take in their storefronts, the volunteers who organize events, the service clubs that welcome guests, and the residents who are always ready to share what they love about their town.

A logo alone cannot define a destination. But when it reflects the people, landscape, history, and experiences behind it, it becomes a symbol of something much larger. In Rio Vista, that symbol represents a place worth discovering, returning to, investing in, and perhaps even calling home.



Images included as part of Rio Vista's new brand.

The story is already here. The new brand simply helps more people find it.



American Legion Rio Vista Post 178



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Celebrating 50 Years of the California Conservation Corps

BY DORIS NORIEGA

California is blessed with so many wonderful natural resources and it is our job to take good care of them. The California Conservation Corps does exactly that. Imagine being paid to be trained and prepared for possible new careers. It is the largest and longest running conservation corps in the nation. In fact, this is their 50th Anniversary! There are 25 different Corps locations in the state and 1,587 Corpsmember positions available. Approximately 3000 new Corpsmembers enroll every year.

“The California Conservation Corps’ mission is to protect and enhance California’s natural resources while empowering and developing young adults through hard work and education.” The Corpsmembers develop job skills that can lead to meaningful careers. They work on environmental projects and respond to natural and man-made disasters. Once accepted into the Corps they have number of programs to participate in.



Inland Empire working at Big Sur (courtesy of the CCC).



The California Conservation Corps performing brushing at Tahoe (courtesy of the CCC).

Here are the programs that are offered:

Trails:

The Trails program gets members out into nature. California has an extensive trail system throughout the state. This is a vital program that enriches our lives in being able to enjoy the outdoors. Corps members work at the beach, throughout the valleys, and in the mountains. These crews work in conjunction with the State Parks experts. Due to the combination of weather, vegetation growth, and over use, the quality of the trails erode over time. This work continues all year round, and the Corpsmembers’ goal is to maintain safe pathways for the public to use. As a hiker and photographer, I truly appreciate their hard work as I have hiked on many of these restored trails. This type of training can lead to careers as park rangers and state resource management positions.



Delta Resource Program in the mountains.

Wildland Firefighting:

The dreaded “Fire Season” is upon us! Traditionally, it runs from June through October. However, due to the changing climate patterns, and sometimes year-round dry conditions, significant wildfires can happen anytime. This program partners with CAL FIRE and Bureau of Land Management. Corpsmembers remove hazardous fire fuels, cut fire lines, lay hoses, and participate in controlled burns and clean up. It is arduous work fighting catastrophic wildfires. At the end of their training, they will earn “Wildland Firefighting” certificates which can lead to a career with a fire department or state agencies.



The California Conservation Corps at the Palisades Fire (courtesy of the CCC).

Habitat Restoration:

California is the home to a wide variety of plants and animal species. There are many natural and man made stresses on the different habitats, and the Corpsmembers’ task is to mitigate these stresses by removing invasive vegetation, plant native species, stabilize hill sides, and add modifications to improve the environment. Corpsmembers use many of the same tools that are used in caring for the trails and forests.

Emergency Response:

Corpsmembers work with CALFIRE, California Office of Emergency Services, the Department of Water Resources, and other emergency response teams. Crews may be needed to support wildfire base camps, work to reduce flooding, protect local watersheds, and clean up hazardous wastes. Corpsmembers may be dispatched out of state. For example, after Hurricane Ian in 2022, Corpsmembers mucked out and gutted homes in Florida. After the Palisades Fire, they worked on protecting the watershed. At other fire sites, they provide water bottles to the fire crews. In 2023, they sandbagged Walnut Grove during the flooding. Training like this can lead to careers in state and local emergency response agencies.



The California Conservation Corps at the Palisades Fire (courtesy of the CCC).

Resource Conservation:

Corpsmembers may be involved in building and maintaining park facilities, installing signage, retrofitting energy systems, conducting energy surveys, installing solar panels or EV charging stations, creating defensible space, and reducing flood risk in communities by reinforcing levees etc. Finally, they are focused on using our energy resources wisely.

Culinary:

Corpsmembers train for careers in commercial kitchens, resorts, and restaurants. As part of their training, they provide the meals to the residents living in the “CCC” centers. Their work is critical to the health and well being of other Corpsmembers who are working out in the field. These Corpsmembers take on the challenge of preparing delicious and nutritional food not only at the centers but also during emergency disasters by serving other responders. At the end of their training, they receive certificates in food preparation and safety.

Veterans Fisheries:

US Military veterans are able to enter a unique program that trains them to monitor endangered fish populations and restore their natural habitats. This can lead to careers in environmental agencies.

Backcountry Trails Program:

The seasonal program runs from April to September where members work primarily in the back country. They perform many of the same tasks the Corpsmembers do in the year around programs. The goal is the same in learning new skills, developing good work habits, and being aware of the many career possibilities in land management and conservation.

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Watershed Stewards:

The Watershed Stewards program includes a wide range of activities and training. Corpsmembers conduct field surveys of spawning grounds, habitat, and wildlife. The results of this data is used in determining future needed projects such as river restoration which includes native species planting and invasive species removal. Some projects involve the trapping of juvenile or adult fish for counting and measurement or helping to remove fish passage barriers such as dams and culverts. An important part of the watershed program includes the development of outreach education programs for schools and communities. Finally, training in the Watershed program can help build teaching and communication skills for those interested in careers in education, community outreach, and water management agencies.



Wetting down a burn pile in Chico (courtesy of the CCC).

I had the opportunity to interview a Corpsmember to get a first-hand account of a Corpsmember's experience. Jessica is 24 years old and has been in the Corps for one and a half years. She joined the Corps because she really enjoyed the outdoors and was very interested in conservation. Deep down, she wanted to do something that was meaningful and impactful where she could really make a difference.

So, Jessica chose to enroll in the Trails program. There, she learned how to use specialized hand and power tools to combat overgrown brush, dense chaparral and downed trees. She specifically learned how to use battery operated mini chainsaws. The work is strenuous and she became stronger and improved her conditioning.

For six months, she worked in Calaveras Big Tree State Park and then at Portola State Park in the Santa Cruz mountains. In these parks, she helped make trails ADA (American Disabilities Act) accessible, which required more technical and detailed work. Jessica especially likes learning new things and feels that she has had so many new experiences.

In terms of good work habits, she learned to be more regimented and to extend herself beyond what she initially thought she could do because the Corps' standards are so high. Working with others and watching them increase their skills and competencies was very rewarding to her. Her advice is to "Just go for it. It is a great program for learning new skills and connecting with others."

Tree of Lights

Hospice of San Joaquin illuminates their Tree of Lights on Saturday, December 6th 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.

Lighting of the Menorah - Date to be announced.

'Tis the Season

BY ROBIE WILLIAMS

The holidays are a time for friends, family, and neighbors to come together and celebrate. Here in Rio Vista, the season is filled with festive events and local traditions for everyone to enjoy. Share these opportunities with friends, neighbors, and family, and make the most of the holiday spirit close to home.

Gift, Craft, Art and Jewelry Faire

Kick off your holidays at the Trilogy Gift, Craft, Art & Jewelry Faire Saturday, November 14th 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.

Holiday Lego® Display by Kenny Paul

Enjoy the holiday charm of a Lego® Village in the lobby of Richard's Ice Cream, located at 210 Main St., Suite A. The Paul family has delighted families and friends with their holiday displays since 2003. Add to the fun by trying the "Can you find this?" activity! The display opens December 5th and runs through mid-February. Open daily from noon to 8:00 pm.

Olde Tyme Christmas Faire

Enjoy a truly old-fashioned Christmas at the Rio Vista Museum Olde Tyme Christmas Faire Saturday, December 5th from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm and Sunday, December 6th 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 5th. Gather at 45 Main Street around 4:30 pm. Caroling attire is requested but is not mandatory. The 2025 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 5th. 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 2025 they gave away 64 bikes to Rio Vista youth.

Lighted Boat Parade

The annual Lighted Boat Parade is sponsored by the Delta Marina Yacht Harbor on December 5th. 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!

Rio Vista is Shaping Up: New Businesses Building Better Places and Better People

BY LAURIE OLEKSIWICZ

The little town of Rio Vista is shaping up in more ways than one. Several new businesses have opened, catering to everything from building a better place to building a better you.

Moore Construction Milestones:

At the corner of Highway 12 and St Francis, Moore Construction Milestones has opened a new office. Moore Construction Milestones is a full-service general contractor based in Rio Vista, CA with over 20 years of proven experience. Led by Executive Director Chris Moore, they handle projects big and small, commercial and residential, with commitment to craftsmanship and accountability.

From kitchen remodels and custom homes to ground-up commercial builds and tenant improvements, Moore Construction Milestones manages every phase with quality, safety, and clear communication. Their team coordinates permits and inspections, so you don't have to.



The Moore Construction Milestones team.

Moore works closely with homeowners, business owners, and architects to keep timelines tight, budgets on track, and surprises off the jobsite. Whether it's a bathroom update or a multi-million-dollar facility, no job is too complex or too small for their crew.

Chris's wife Maddie states it perfectly, "We didn't just land in Rio Vista — we chose it. Chris was working jobsites across the Delta and saw how tight-knit this community is. When it came time to plant roots and start a family, Rio Vista made sense: small town values, hardworking people, and a place where your reputation is built one handshake at a time. We made some amazing friends here and we are so blessed to be part of such an amazing community. What sets us

apart, it's personal for us. This isn't a branch office. We live here. Our crew lives here. The homes and buildings we work on are the ones we pass every day taking our kids to school."

Moore Construction Milestones is licensed, bonded, and insured. The team is committed to getting it done right the first time. Contact them for more information and help with getting your place in shape. 925-864-3503 | <http://mcm-building.com>

Sukurai:

Next on our list is a cute little shop at 231 Main Street called Sukurai, a wireless bra boutique. Owned and operated by Maggie, here ladies can find the best fitting and most comfortable support with the personalized attention and knowledge of owner operator Maggie.

Maggie graduated with a master's degree from the University of San Francisco but always knew she wanted to build a business one day. She also wanted it to be something meaningful — something that could truly help people in their daily lives. After graduation, she began helping with her family's lingerie business. At first, like many new businesses, she explored selling bras online. But very quickly, she realized that bras are not like ordinary products. You cannot always choose the right bra just by looking at a picture or reading a size chart.



Maggie, owner and operator of Sukurai located on Main Street.

For many women, bra shopping can feel confusing, frustrating, or even discouraging. There are so many sizes, styles, shapes, and promises, but very little personal guidance. Many women have spent years buying bras that looked right, only to find that they felt too tight, rolled up, dug into the shoulders, left red marks, or created pressure around the underarms, back, or sides.

[CONTINUES ON PAGE 12]

Lighting Up Downtown Rio Vista

BY TAMI MITCHELL

Set along the Sacramento River on the eastern edge of Solano County, Rio Vista offers something increasingly rare in Northern California: a peaceful riverfront setting, an authentic downtown, and a location that feels wonderfully removed without being far away.

Surrounded by open farmland and Delta landscapes, Rio Vista serves as a natural gateway between the wine regions of Napa and Solano counties to the west and Lodi and Clarksburg to the east. San Francisco and Napa are approximately an hour away, while the Sierra Nevada is within a few hours' drive. It is a convenient destination that still feels like an escape.

Although Rio Vista has grown considerably over the past 20 years, its population remains under 11,000, allowing the community to retain its small-town character. Main Street leads directly toward the Sacramento River, which stretches nearly half a mile across at one of its widest points. Visitors can explore locally owned shops and restaurants, enjoy the waterfront, and experience the relaxed pace of life that defines the California Delta.

Throughout downtown, property owners and entrepreneurs are thoughtfully restoring historic buildings, opening new businesses, and working with the City to create a more welcoming environment for residents and visitors. The next major step in that effort is a downtown lighting project designed to bring even more energy and activity to the district after sunset.

The project will replace the City's aging light poles with energy-efficient fixtures and add decorative string lights that will criss-cross several downtown blocks. Beyond their visual appeal, the lights will make downtown feel safer, warmer, and more inviting—encouraging visitors to stroll, dine, shop, and stay longer into the evening.

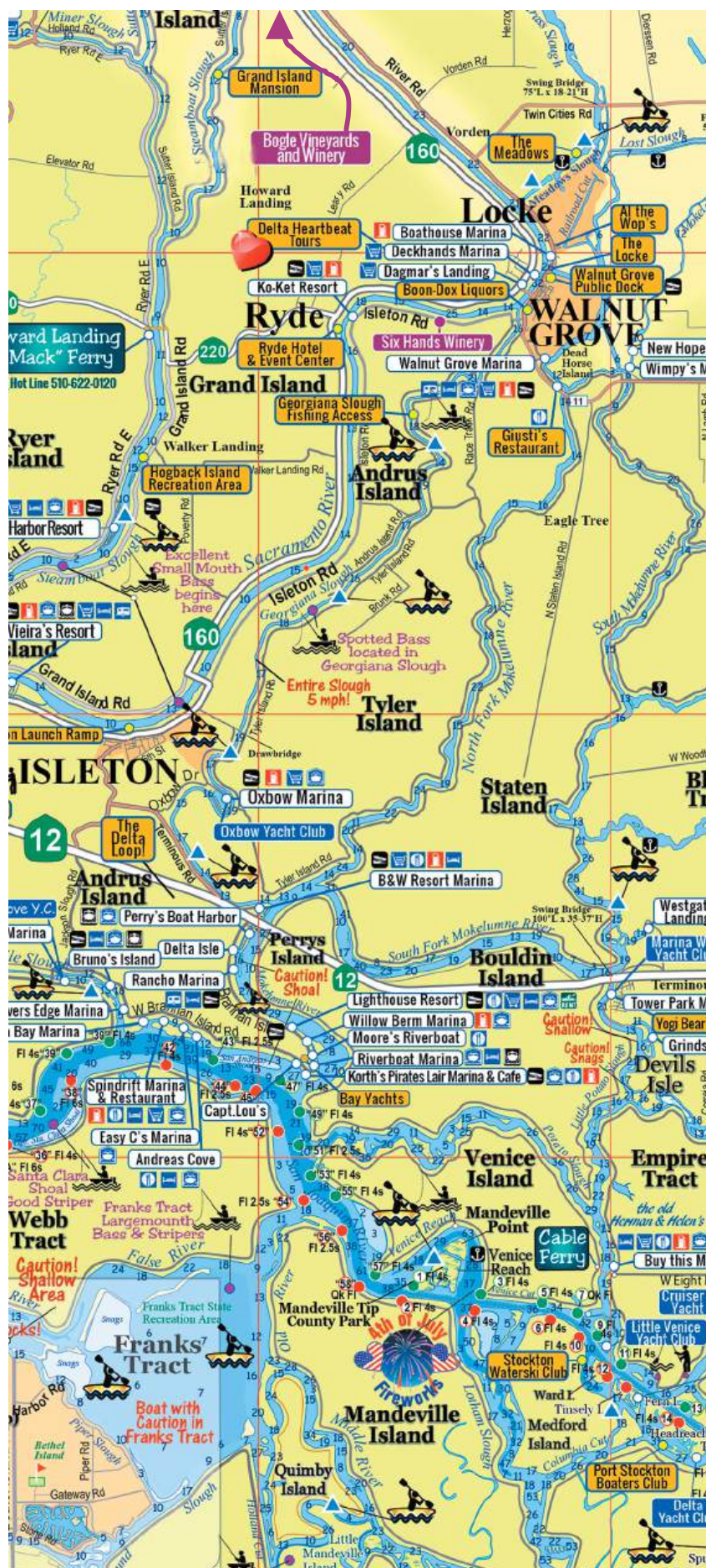
On many nights, live music already fills Rio Vista's restaurants and outdoor gathering spaces. With new lighting overhead, those evenings will become even more memorable. Increased visibility and foot traffic may also encourage local businesses to extend their hours and offer additional nighttime activities.

The goal is to transform downtown Rio Vista into a vibrant evening destination—a place where visitors can enjoy dinner, listen to live music, walk beneath glowing lights, and end the day beside the Sacramento River.

More than an infrastructure improvement, the project is a message: downtown Rio Vista is open, welcoming, and ready to shine.



This is a portion of the Delta Boaters Map and Visitors Guide, designed and published by Kelli Pearson of Map Co Marketing. It is available online at DeltaBoatingMap.com or may be purchased for \$10 at the Rio Vista Visitor Center, 33 N. 2nd Street.



Pets 4 All

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[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9] Sukurai specializes in wireless bras that prioritize everyday comfort. Many people hear “wireless bra” and assume it means no support. Maggie understands that concern. “For years, many women were told that only underwire bras could provide shape and lift.” But modern wireless bras can be very different. The styles carried at Sukurai are selected with features such as wider shoulder straps, wider side bands, stable support bands, soft fabrics, and different cup shapes. These details can help reduce digging, pressure, and bulging while still offering support for daily wear.

“Our goal is not to tell every woman she needs the same bra. Our goal is to listen first.” Sukurai is built around a consultation-based fitting experience. “We also believe comfortable bras should be accessible. We do not believe a bra has to be expensive to be supportive. We do not charge a fitting service fee, and we do not want customers to feel pressured. Our hope is that every woman who walks into Sukurai feels welcome, respected, and comfortable asking questions.”

The part Maggie loves most about her business is seeing the moment when a customer realizes that a bra can feel different from what she expected. “Sometimes a woman walks in unsure, frustrated, or skeptical. Then, she tries on the right style, looks in the mirror, and says, “Wow, this actually feels comfortable. I’ve never worn a bra like this before.”

Sukurai is more than a lingerie shop. It is a local space where women can be heard, where their comfort matters, and where bra shopping does not have to feel overwhelming. 415-322-3258, <https://sukurai.life.com>

Still Waters Co.:

Now it’s time to shape up that wardrobe. Down at the foot of Main Street next to the Sacramento River, you will find Still Waters Co., a new shop providing apparel, accessories and gifts. Here you will find a sanctuary of faith, fashion, and fellowship. 22 Main Street.



BTY Fitness:

And if you are a fitness buff or someone looking to take a little bit better care of yourself, you’re in luck. Rio Vista may already be home to some fine fitness venues, but 2026 saw the arrival of three new business ventures catering to those desiring to get fit and stay healthy.

Just off Main Street at 21 S. Front Street is BTY Fitness, a veteran owned and operated business. At BTY Fitness, their mission is simple: help every member improve, stay consistent, and build a healthier lifestyle one day at a time. They focus on progress over perfection and create an environment where showing up matters. From student athletes to working parents and retirees, BTY Fitness is built for every generation in Rio Vista. Whether you’re training for sports, building strength, or staying active as you age, you’ll find a place at BTY Fitness.



BTY Fitness in the old River News Herald building on Front Street.

BTY Fitness offers flexibility. You can drop in on your schedule to work out and train without committing to a full membership. They are open 24 hours. How’s that for convenience? 916-747-0910, <https://btyfitness.biz>.

Strength and Aloha Fitness:

Over at 170 Main Street is the newest gym in town with a focus on catering to women. Welcome to Strength and Aloha Fitness Studio. Here, ladies can relax and focus on their workout.

“Strength & Aloha Fitness was built on the belief that strength has the power to change lives—because it changed mine” says owner Nicole Zamarripa. Nicole has turned her own personal transformation into a business dedicated to helping others. After being diagnosed in her 30s with type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol, she knew she needed to make a change. Through strength training, proper nutrition, and consistency, she lost nearly 90 pounds, reversed her type 2 diabetes, and found a passion she never expected: helping others discover just how strong they truly are.

What started as a handful of women working out together in her garage quickly became something much bigger than fitness. It became a community built on encouragement, accountability, and genuine friendships. As more people joined and lives began to change, Nicole realized it was time to create a permanent home where that same sense of community could continue to grow.

Today, Strength & Aloha Fitness is more than a place to work out. It’s a place where people come to build confidence, improve their health, challenge themselves, and support one another. “While the majority of our members are women and our classes are designed to help women feel strong and confident, everyone is welcome.” Whether you’re stepping into a gym for the very first time or you’ve been training for years, you’ll find a supportive environment where you can grow at your own pace.

“One of the things that sets us apart is our culture. Our motto, ‘We’re not just a gym... we’re an ohana,’ isn’t just something we say—it’s how we operate every day. We celebrate each other’s victories, encourage one another through challenges, and create an atmosphere where every person feels like they belong.” Nicole’s hope is that everyone who walks through the door leaves feeling stronger than when they arrived—not just physically, but mentally and emotionally. “If I can help someone gain confidence, improve their





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health, or believe in themselves again, then Strength & Aloha Fitness is doing exactly what it was created to do." 707-386-5683 or 707-378-9812, <https://strenghtandalohafitness.com>.

Rio Fit 2:

Our final stop is at the corner of Main and Second at 40 N. Second Street. Here you will find Rio Fit 2. Owner Eric Lomeli has always had a passion for health and fitness and wanted to create more than just a place to work out. His vision was to build a gym where members feel supported, encouraged, and part of a positive community. Whether someone is just beginning their fitness journey or has years of experience, everyone is welcome at Rio Fit 2.



Rio Fit 2's sign and entrance on the corner of 2nd and Main Street.



The equipment inside of the Rio Fit 2 gym.

Rio Fit 2 was founded with one goal in mind: to provide Rio Vista with a clean, welcoming, and motivating fitness center where people of all ages and experience levels feel comfortable working toward their goals. Eric proudly states, "Our facility offers quality strength and cardio equipment, a friendly atmosphere, flexible membership options, and personal training services. Members also enjoy secure key fobs and smartphone app access, with the gym open from 4:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., seven days a week. At Rio Fit 2, we're committed to creating a space where members can build confidence, improve their health, and achieve their personal fitness goals in a supportive environment. We're excited to continue growing and serving the Rio Vista community for years to come." 707-920-3146, <https://rioFit2gym.com>.

Phew, that's an impressive number of new businesses to open recently this year in Rio Vista. More proof that Rio Vista isn't a sleepy little town. It's filled with vibrant people and their businesses, bringing new life to the town and offering residents and visitors new options to explore. Show your support to these new businesses and keep Rio Vista thriving.

Western Railway Museum Celebrates Bay Area Transit History and Fall Family Fun

BY TOM SURH

The Western Railway Museum in Suisun City is giving visitors two very different reasons to climb aboard in 2026: a milestone celebration of Bay Area Rapid Transit history and the return of one of Solano County's favorite fall traditions. Together, the BART Inauguration Celebration and the annual Pumpkin Patch Festival show how the museum connects transportation heritage with hands-on community experiences.



Train operated by the Western Railway Museum (by Jack Snell).

BART Inauguration Celebration Highlights a new Interactive Exhibit

On September 11, 2026, from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM, the museum will host its BART Inauguration Celebration at 5848 California 12. The event marks the opening of a new interactive exhibit featuring one of the original BART rail cars, honoring the innovation and regional impact of Bay Area Rapid Transit.

The celebration is expected to include an official ribbon-cutting ceremony, a VIP reception, a first look at the new exhibit, and special remarks from transportation and community leaders. For longtime BART riders, rail enthusiasts, and local families, the event offers a chance to see a familiar piece of Bay Area transportation history preserved in a new setting.

The exhibit is part of a larger effort to preserve three original BART cars at the Western Railway Museum. BART's legacy fleet served the Bay Area for more than 50 years before its retirement, and the museum's Rapid Transit History Center is intended to interpret that story for future generations.

Pumpkin Patch Festival Brings Autumn to the Rails

Just a few weeks later, the museum will shift from transit milestones to fall festivities with the Pumpkin Patch Festival, scheduled for October 10–11, 17–18, and 24–25, 2026. The event invites guests to ride a vintage train to Gum Grove Farm, where pumpkins, outdoor activities, food, and entertainment turn the museum visit into a full-day family outing.

Festival admission includes unlimited train rides to and from the Pumpkin Patch and access to most activities. Guests can look forward to favorites such as a giant hay fort, zipline, tractor rides, a petting zoo, live music, and more. Pumpkins, food, beverages, and pumpkin chucking are sold separately, with local Rotary Clubs helping provide refreshments and support the event.

The first Pumpkin Train is scheduled to depart the museum at 10:00 AM, with trains running about every 30 minutes throughout the day. The museum recommends arriving before 3:00 PM so visitors have enough time to enjoy the train ride and the festival grounds before the final return trains.

Why These Events Matter

Both events reflect the Western Railway Museum's mission to preserve the regional heritage of electric railway transportation as a living resource. The BART celebration looks back at a major chapter in modern Bay Area mobility, while the Pumpkin Patch Festival uses historic trains to create a seasonal experience that feels accessible, festive, and rooted in local tradition.



Petaluma and Santa Rosa Interurban Trolley (by Don Barrett).

For visitors, the appeal is simple: one event offers a rare look at preserved rapid-transit history, and the other pairs vintage rail travel with pumpkins, music, food, and family activities. Whether guests come for the legacy of BART or the charm of an autumn train ride, the museum continues to make transportation history something people can see, touch, and experience together.

The Secret Life of Rio Vista

BY PATTY GRANT



I've decided Rio Vista has an image problem.

Mention our town to someone who has only driven through, and they'll lean in with great concern and whisper, "What about the bridge?"

The bridge? Really?

That's like describing Paris by saying, "Well... they have sidewalks."

Yes, we have a bridge. She's a gorgeous bridge, actually. Her name is Helen Madere. If we're going to talk about her, we might as well call her by her full name. She's earned it.

Consider this today's conversation over the backyard fence.

And around here, Helen has been carrying more than traffic for nearly 65 years, she's been carrying the conversation, too.

Helen spans a deep-water shipping channel where enormous ships glide by as though they're late for an important meeting somewhere. Occasionally, Helen politely steps aside because, contrary to popular belief, ocean-going cargo ships don't stop on a dime.

And somehow, this has become the defining feature of Rio Vista.

The funny thing is... I love Helen.

I've actually come to appreciate the delays she imposes on me.

Have you ever heard of the Burnt Toast Theory?

You burn your toast. You throw it away. You make another batch. Those extra few minutes may have kept you from being in exactly the wrong place at exactly the wrong time. Maybe you avoided an accident. Maybe you had time to text a friend good morning. Maybe nothing happened at all. Only the universe knows.

So, when Helen decides she needs a few extra minutes, I've learned to stop fighting it. The world isn't going to rearrange itself around my schedule. I can either sit there grumbling... or enjoy a few unexpected moments of solitude while watching a ship the size of a floating apartment building cruise through our little town.

Meanwhile...

Let's talk about the sunsets that stop conversations mid-sentence.

Let's talk about the Farmers Market, where you can buy enough fresh produce to convince yourself you'll definitely start eating healthier... on Monday.

Let's talk about the fact that our town is overflowing with musicians. For a place this size, we have enough talented bands to make Nashville shake in her boots, and maybe dance in them a little, too. They perform all over Northern California, and we're lucky enough to call them our neighbors and friends.

Then there was the Jet Ski competition.

If you missed it, imagine an action movie, a county fair, and Fourth of July excitement all blended together on the river. It was spectacular. People came from everywhere, and for one glorious weekend, Rio Vista looked like it had wandered onto ESPN.

And because apparently, we're overachievers, we also have a nonprofit organization -RV 2 The Rescue- that literally flies rescue dogs to new homes.

Not drives.

Flies.

We have airborne Labradors, Chihuahuas, mutts, mutt wannabes, and every lovable combination in between. It's an incredible organization run by people with enormous hearts, and one that's well worth supporting with your time, your talents, or a few dollars if you're able.

Some towns have potholes.

Well... okay. We do too.

But let's not ruin the mood. We're on a roll here.

The people are the real story.

Creative enough to surprise you.

Funny enough to keep you laughing.

Generous enough to show up when someone needs a hand.

Smart enough to know this little town is something special.

Rio Vista doesn't try to impress anybody.

It simply goes about its business, quietly being one of the most charming little towns in California while everyone else is still talking about Helen.

Frankly, I think Helen Madere gets way too much publicity.

She's just out there doing her job.

She opens. She closes. She lets the ships through.

She gives the rest of us a chance to slow down for a few minutes.

If we're being honest...

We could all use a little more Helen in our lives.

Before I sign off, it is my hope we all remember that it's the small towns, good neighbors, and everyday moments that make this country such a special place to call home.

This little conversation over the backyard fence is lovingly dedicated to the memory of Alma Marie Robinson, December 10, 1929 – July 2, 2025.

A proud Rio Vista resident for more than 75 years, her life became a part of the story of our little town.

Gallery Artists

Stop by the RioVision Gallery at 116 Main Street for a visual treat. Local artists show their unique styles including woodworking, pottery, photography, jewelry design and painting in many genres. The Gallery highlights an artist every month, so people have a chance to chat with them and get an inside view of their work. Don't forget See's Candies are available if you have a sweet tooth or need a last-minute gift!

BY ROBIE WILLIAMS

Kathie & Ed Boissiere are the September artists of the month. **Lori Azzolino & Amy Schmidt** are the October artists of the month.

There will be a "Double Artist of the Month" for September 2026! Married for 55 years, Ed and Kathie Boissiere will hold the spot for September.

Kathie has been with the gallery for 7 years, a professional artist for 45+ years, and has painted all of her life. She had encouragement from a very young age, started selling her work in her twenties, and showing in multiple galleries in her thirties. Her medium and style have changed over her career from Watercolor to Mixed Media to Collage and Abstraction and every combination of these. She is a self-taught artist with access to many fine workshop instructors such as Christopher Schink, Skip Lawrence, Catherine Chang Liu, and Charles Reid.

She grew up on the San Francisco Peninsula, has spent time at Lake Tahoe and Europe and has found inspiration in all of these places. Kathie is a Master Signature Member of California Watercolor Society and has received multiple awards in CWA's International Exhibitions.



Abstract artwork by Kathie Boissiere.

Ed Boissiere grew up with a very artistic painter, his mother Lise Boissiere, who was a respected local artist. Then he spent 52 years living with Kathie and supporting her in her art career. Suddenly, three years ago, he asked for some paper and started painting, having never touched a brush before or had an actual lesson. He started entering the Annual Exhibitions at Trilogy and received awards from the first show.

Please join us for the reception on September 19th from 3:00- 5:00. Refreshments will be provided and we'd love to have you join us.

In October, the Gallery showcases the work of friends and talented artists Amy Schmidt and Lori Azzolino. Although Amy has retired as curator, she remains an active Gallery volunteer.



Jewelry by Amy Schmidt.

Amy moved to Rio Vista in 2002 and quickly became involved in the community. In 2015, she helped establish the Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center in partnership with the RioVision Gallery on 2nd Street, then helped move it the following year to its current home at 116 Main Street. Her mixed media and jewelry have earned multiple awards, including ribbons from the Solano County Fair and the Fairfield Annual Juried Art Show.



Lori Azzolino at the Gallery.

Amy's distinctive jewelry often features copper, brass, natural stones, abalone, pearls, beads, and unique glass elements. She hammers, torches, and twists each piece into striking forms. Amy also taught Shibori-style fabric dyeing until 2021 and has recently expanded into woodworking and clay art.

Amy's creativity can also be seen in public art throughout Rio Vista, including the 911 Mural at the Fire Department, the mural on the Alison Turner building on 2nd Avenue, and the utility box at Main and Front Street by Haps Taps. Along with pursuing her art, she volunteers for Habitat for Humanity and at the Veterans Home in Yountville.

Lori Azzolino has called Trilogy home for the past 25 years, where she maintains a home studio and devotes herself to painting. She began with watercolor and later expanded into oil, acrylic, pastel, and Shibori cloth dyeing.



Calla lilies by Lori Azzolino.

of the Month

Lori has studied with several accomplished painters, drawing particular inspiration from Tom Lynch and Gary Bergren. She has exhibited regularly in the Trilogy Juried Art Show since 2005 and has earned multiple awards, including People's Choice honors in 2005 and 2013, Second Place in the 2013 Discover Art League show, First Place at the 2013 Antioch Arts and Cultural Foundation show, and a recent Second Place at the Trilogy Art Show. Her delicate egrets and herons are especially graceful highlights of her work.

Together, Lori and Amy have taught Shibori cloth dyeing at Trilogy and created many exquisite clothing pieces. Stop in and meet them on October 17th from 3 – 5pm.

Textiles & Fiber artists are the November artists of the month.

Textile and fiber art celebrate the beauty, texture, and versatility of materials made from natural fibers. Some artists work with plant fibers such as cotton, flax, and jute, while others use animal fibers such as wool and silk. Through techniques such as felting, stitching, weaving, dyeing, painting, and embellishing, these artists transform soft, everyday materials into expressive works of art. The RioVision Gallery is pleased to showcase fiber and textile artists who bring warmth, color, and craftsmanship to this timeless art form.



Judy Katona wearing her handmade fascinator.



Jaime Victor and her handmade scarves.



Judy Katona specializes in fascinators and also creates charming boxes, painted glassware, painted towels, and more. Jamie Victor offers a gorgeous collection of felt flowers accented with silk features and Czech glass buttons. Jamie also creates lovely hats, scarves, and collars using a variety of fibers. Anna Chunn works with silk and other fabrics to create elegant scarves and lightweight wraps.

Stop in to enjoy the fiber art and meet the artists on November 21, 2026, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Anna Chunn, left, next to her watercolor painting displayed at the RioVision Gallery.

Decorative Art and Applied Art artists are the December artists of the month.

During December, the RioVision Gallery on Main Street will highlight decorative art, applied art, and fine crafts. Decorative art brings beauty, color, pattern, and personal expression into everyday spaces, while applied art combines artistic design with function. These works may be useful, wearable, or simply ornamental, but each reflects the artist's skill, imagination, and attention to detail.



Diana Peugh and her beautiful carved and painted gourds.

Several artists specialize in small works that make perfect holiday gifts. Some create decorations for the home, while others make decorations to wear. Diana Peugh creates delightful carved and painted gourds that suit any décor, including festive gourd ornaments for the holidays. Amy Schmidt creates jewelry using natural materials, including stones and copper. Birdtown Designs, a group of four women, crochets lovely, beaded necklaces. Susan Prince creates beautiful necklaces and earrings using a wide variety of materials, including semi-precious beads and stones. Rachel Warren creates art on glassware using vibrant colors.



A wreath designed by Cindy Stewart and Jill Graham, as well as a necklace by Susan Prince.

Please drop by to see this wonderful collection of small gifts. A reception for these talented artists will be held at the Gallery on December 19 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

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Airport Day: Wings & Wheels Returns to Rio Vista

BY JENNIFER SCHULTZ

Get ready for one of Rio Vista's favorite community traditions! The City of Rio Vista invites everyone to the 5th Annual Airport Day: Wings & Wheels on Saturday, September 12, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Rio Vista Municipal Airport, 3000 Baumann Road. This free, family-friendly event promises an exciting day filled with airplanes, classic cars, live music, delicious food, and activities for all ages.



Beechcraft Bonanza V-Tail (by Jack Snell).

Getting to the event is easy. Free parking will be available, with a complimentary tractor-pulled hayride shuttle transporting guests throughout the airport grounds. Visitors can hop on and off at convenient stops near the classic car show, aircraft display area, and vendor marketplace. At the far end of the airport, the Rio Vista Lions Club will serve its popular \$10 Pancake Breakfast from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., while the Food Truck Food Court will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. offering a variety of delicious options. Accessible parking will also be available in the Airport Terminal parking lot, accessible from Baumann Road.

Admission is free, and there is something for everyone to enjoy. Explore an impressive collection of experimental and vintage aircraft, admire more than 100 beautifully restored classic cars and trucks, enjoy live music from Groovy Judy, meet local military personnel and first responders, browse unique artisan and specialty vendors, savor great food from local trucks and booths, and connect with community organizations that help make Rio Vista such a special place to live.



Beechcraft F33A Bonanza (by Jack Snell).

Inside the Airport Terminal Conference Room, visitors can experience a remarkable LEGO® replica of the Rio Vista Municipal Airport created by local builder Kenny Paul, whose impressive creations have also been featured at Richard's Ice Cream and the Riverfront Art Fest. New vendors and food trucks will also be joining the festivities, making this year's event bigger and better than ever.

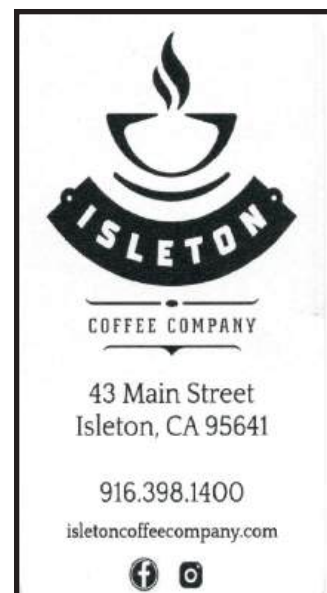
Behind this successful community celebration are months of planning and collaboration. Airport Day is organized by the City's Public Works Department, whose staff begin preparations in the spring and spend countless hours coordinating every detail before managing event setup and cleanup. They work alongside the Rio Vista Airport Advisory Commission, Travis Aero Club, and dedicated volunteers from the Experimental Aircraft Association coordinating aircraft displays, overseeing traffic flow, organizing activities, and ensuring the event is safe, welcoming, and enjoyable for everyone.



Curtiss Wright Travel Air 4000 (by Jack Snell).

Whether you're an aviation enthusiast, a classic car lover, or simply looking for a fun day out with family and friends, Airport Day: Wings & Wheels offers an unforgettable experience for visitors of all ages. We look forward to welcoming you to a day of community, entertainment, and hometown fun!

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