



RIO VISTA MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

www.riovistamuseum.com

November 2023

Message from Museum President Peter Hamilton

As 2023 winds down, the Rio Vista Museum celebrates the holidays. In this newsletter you'll see pictures from Halloween at the Rio Vista Museum. What started out a few years ago as a simple giveaway by some board members who didn't get trick-or-treaters at their homes has turned into quite a display of skeletons, pumpkins, and cobwebs. Everyone who came by was impressed, and hopefully a little scared.

It seems like the Halloween decorations went down as the Christmas decorations went up. That's because before long our annual Old Time Christmas Faire will take place. I hope you will be able to join us at what has become a traditional Rio Vista event.

In the newsletter you'll find a message from Josiah Tingey, our Museum's building manager, detailing a number of issues our building faces. The Rio Vista Museum has been fortunate to have gone over 40 years without any major repairs to our building. However as any business or homeowner knows, repairs and fixes eventually have to be done.

We hope to raise \$75,000 to cover the costs of the repairs and upgrades to our building. The money brought in from our annual memberships and fundraisers (Christmas Faire, Mad Hatter Tea Party, Hamburger Feed) covers our yearly expenses, but would not cover the costs of what we need to do. The board is looking at ways to raise the needed funds, and we hope to share our plans with you at the start of 2024.

This year our Museum curator Phil Pezzaglia put together a series of photo displays showing places around Rio Vista as they look today and how they looked in the past. The exhibit was on display in our Museum as well as in a number of local businesses. Newer residents – and even some long time citizens – who saw the displays were surprised by the photos. Who would've guessed what used to be on the vacant lot next to Delta Pharmacy? A number of the images are in the Rio Vista Museum's 2024 calendar. The calendar is now for sale for \$15 at the Museum.

This fall the Museum became part of a restarted consortium of the museums in Solano County. One of the goals of the consortium is to create exhibits or activities that would involve all the county's museums. Closer connection with the other museums should be a real help to us. Unlike our completely volunteer run museum, many of Solano County's museums have professionally trained staff from whose expertise we can benefit.

In closing I wish to thank you for your support and interest in the Rio Vista Museum. Whether you are a member, come to our events, or are just a visitor to our Museum your support makes what we do possible. On behalf of the Rio Vista Museum, happy holidays.

2024 Museum Dues

Please return your dues in the enclosed envelope. Remember, the Museum depends on these funds, and there is extra need this year as we have several projects involving capital improvements to our museum building.

Our Museum Building Needs Some Love

The Rio Vista Museum was established in 1975, but the building it's in is much older. It was a blacksmith shop and an auto repair shop. Well, now this wonderful building needs some love. It is time to repair, upgrade, and make nice again this place that stores so much of Rio Vista's treasures and history.

We have a variety of projects that must be taken care of. The gutters to this building have rotted in some areas, dropping water right next to the outside walls. On the northeast side, during the rainy season, the water pools up right next to the building. The drainage system outside is clogged with dirt, the waterspouts aren't directing water into the drains, and large amounts of water flow from off the surrounding roofs and the parking lot behind the building. Water had seeped through the wall, into our back room. You can see where the stains are on the carpet. A huge thank you to Moore Construction Milestones! Chris has been the most helpful and transparent guy, who is donating most of the billing hours to fixing our biggest problem. They have replaced the gutters, fixed the downspouts, repaired the drainage system, built a retaining wall to protect our building and help direct the large amounts of water to the drains that they have installed. This cost about \$6000 – even with some of the work being donated.

Second, the facade of the building has been rotting over many years. You can experience it for yourself. Poke a finger into the softwood and discover rotten spots all over. Some of the trimming is coming off the building, and the two front windows are no longer effective. Because of the rotting, the windows are no longer vacuum sealed, but have moisture inside, fogging up the windows. Moore Construction Milestones has stepped up to the task for this as well. We discussed all the needs to be done as far as removing and disposing of the old siding and trim, repairing anything underneath, replacing new siding and trim, painting and waterproofing it. Chris is also willing to donate two new windows.



Third, all the gutters around need to be replaced.

Fourth, the siding on the northwest corner needs to be replaced.

Fifth, the carpets need major cleaning.

Sixth, and this one we just got taken care of -- thanks to Aaron Williams from Williams Electric -- the electrical and wiring to our lights have been updated.

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Halloween at the Museum – Becoming an Annual Tradition

As the end of October approaches, the Museum is transformed by a few dedicated board members into a wonderland of ghosts, black cats, jack-o'-lanterns, spiders and cobwebs. This year we welcomed more than a hundred trick or treaters and their families. This is a natural companion event to the Main Street Trunk or Treat celebration. If you missed it this year, be sure to visit next Halloween!



Check out the Museum on social media!

We have a Facebook page where you can see more pictures from Halloween, the Christmas Faire and upcoming events. -- **@riovistamuseum**

We also have a website **where you can see pictures** and past newsletters.
riovistamuseum.com

Building continued from p. 2

The building is old. It needs our love. Thank you, Chris from Moore Construction Milestones, for helping us know what to do and expect, and giving us dollar amounts. All the work we had done for our flooding and damage problems cost us \$6000. The facade of the building will be about \$43,000. All the gutters will cost about \$1,500. The northwest corner is about \$15,000, which includes scaffolding, demolition, weather proofing, materials, prep and paint.

We will continue our traditional fundraising -- the Hamburger Feed, Old Tyme Christmas Faire, Mad Hatter Tea Party -- but we are asking for more help now. We have a goal to raise \$75,000. Please support us by becoming a member of the museum and donating generously to our cause. Thank you, Rio Vista.

Upcoming Events at the Museum

Rio Vista Museum's
15th Annual - 2023
Rio Vista Museum 16 N. Front Street

Older Tyme Christmas Fair

Greeting Cards

Jams & Jellies

Handmade Signs

Handknit and Crocheted Originals

Bath Products



Christmas Wreaths

Quilted Items

Photography & Artwork

Candles

Many other Unique Handcrafted Items

Saturday, December 2nd - 10:00 am-6:00 pm
Sunday, December 3rd - 11:00 am-4:30 pm

Don't miss our very popular
~ **BAKE SALE and RAFFLES** ~



Annual Membership Meeting and Program

Come to the museum Monday, January 29, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. to enjoy a program of local historical interest and to elect the 2024 officers and board members. Refreshments will be served.

Cookies and treats needed for the Christmas Faire Bake Sale



Collecting 101

Are you a collector? I was influenced by an aunt who loved to collect. She started me on my first collection of small antique porcelain and more shoes when I was quite young. My collection is about 100. From there I became a collector of many things, teal pottery, flower frogs and juicers (reamers) being just a few. I have passed the love of collecting down to my kids.

The Rio Vista Museum would love to display your collection in our display case. If you would like to share a story of your collection feel free to do so. Small collections are welcome.

If you would like to display your collection, please call Mary Anne Peterson, 707-374-2102

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