

RioVision

“Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house.....” Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, or in some other way, may the blessings of the season be upon you.

In western Christmas traditions, supposedly Santa keeps a Naughty List and a Nice List. I can't imagine who could be on the “naughty” list since everyone I know would show up on the “nice” list. There are really too many to mention but I will start off with the core team of RioVision: There's Dave, MaryEllen, Jim, Linda, Edwin, Tom, Constance, Donna, Elaine, Dennis, Jan, Lynne, David, Walt. Then add in all those who have helped throughout the year: Cindy, Linda, Mark, Jeanne, Jim, Galen, Hale, Sue, Laurie, Greg, Tim, Norman, Vic, Beverly, Susan, John.....the list goes on with too many to list here. Each and every one of them contributed in a way that enabled change in our little town.

RioVision started off this year getting ready for a visit by the Regional/Urban Design Assistance Team (R/UDAT) from the American Institute of Architects. Meetings were held with townspeople, comments were gathered and recommendations were made. In March the R/UDAT presented their final recommendations with over 400 people attending the final town hall meeting. Following that a local team of volunteers was formed and off we went. This is where the beauty that is Rio Vista really came through. All the people who volunteered their time, their talents and gave of their money really made things happen. Pretty soon we had bike racks installed, a beautiful new mural, and lights on our trees on Main Street, a cleaned up town entrance, piloted redone planters, a draft Public Art Ordinance and plans for so much more.

But this isn't just about RioVision volunteers doing good deeds, other groups and individuals made significant changes to our little town this year: a redone Lira's exterior, remodeling of the Ford and Chevrolet dealerships, a new merchant on Main Street, repainted St. Joseph's church, events at Hunter Hall, groundbreaking for the new promenade extension, a Farmers Market downtown, the start of renovations on the Veterans Memorial Building, a re-opened Point Restaurant and numerous events downtown. Behind the scenes work went on for future projects, including the development of a community garden, proposals for a new youth center, community center and waterfront promenade extension. What a year it has been.

Next year promises to be even better. The discussions that started on the development of a new entrance monument that reflects our town will continue; the mural on the side of Hap's Bait Shop is getting a repaint and more bike racks will be installed. More planters will get a new treatment to create a streetscape in the downtown area and the two neon signs on the Striper Café and Foster's Bighorn will be redone (thank you to some generous donors for funding this

work). The city will complete the extended promenade and the renovations that Solano County is doing to the Veterans Memorial Building should be complete.

Soon we will start funding the new Main Street streetscape with more benches, tables and chairs and artwork. Anyone looking for someplace to make a last minute contribution before the end of the year, look no further. RioVision is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit. You may write your check to RioVision and mail to 187 Main Street, Rio Vista. You can find out more about RioVision by checking out our website at: Riovistavision.com. You may also find us at RioVision on Facebook.

On behalf of the RioVision Board of Directors and Steering Committee, and with apologies to Clement Clarke Moore, "Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night."

Jim Wheeler
Executive Director
RioVision