

# Monte Rio Musings

By Suzi Shaffert

suzis@sonic.net (707) 865-0913

www.monte-rio.info



Happy New Year!!! Can you believe it is 2010 already! I hope that this year is one filled with peace, love, joy and prosperity, as well as health and happiness for all of you. I wish everyone success with their New Years' resolutions, this year I am actually making some and do hope to keep them.

I wish all business owners in the West County the best for the New Year, I hope this economy comes around because I know how everyone is struggling to keep the doors open. From the closing of the Pink and all the businesses that have closed in Guerneville---it is getting to feel like a ghost town. If you love a local business, now is the time to support them in any way you can if you want them to be here next year!

The **Rio Theater** is now open 5 days a week again (Wed - Sun), as we get closer to the Academy Awards! There are some great movies out there and don't forget, we have rolled our prices back to just \$5.00 for a great film! Imagine that, \$5.00, all ages, all movies! Make sure you dress warm though---it is very cold in the theater! Don't miss Pirate Radio starting on January 10---the two local radio stations, Guerneville and Occidental, will be performing at 2pm with some great music, talks and all around fun!

Don's Dogs Café is also open 5 days a week and putting out some great sandwiches, incredible breakfast burritos, great Peet's coffee in the Espresso Machine, and of course all those yummy dogs and chili dogs---steamed or grilled!

The **Village Inn** will be closed for a short vacation from January 3 - 12 and

will reopen with all those fabulous dinners on Wednesday January 13. Also, they have a locals discount on hotel rooms for your out of town guests---just \$75.00 and up, per night!

**Sophie's Cellars** has a great deal going with many of the local restaurants. Bring in a bottle of wine that was purchased at Sophie's and there is no corkage fee, the limit is one bottle. You can do this at the Village Inn, Highland Dell, Cape Fear, and Rivers End---just to mention a few. Call for details.

Also, don't forget the **Highland Dell** and **Café Les Jummels** for other delicious and different meals.

Well, that's all for this month; please let me know if you have info for this column. You can call me at 865-4190 or email me at suzis@sonic.net.

Happy New Year and Happy birthday wishes to some pretty famous locals and friends: 1/1: my friend, Zeld Michaels, 63; and Rio artist Arthur Longoria; 1/2: J'Mari Curtiss; 1/3: Kei Lani Howard; 1/4: Kristina Haynes, 18; 1/6: Andy Bosch, 18; and Gregorio Pehrson---ageless; 1/7: Ricardo Silos, 66; 1/9: Philip Hampton of Village Inn fame; 1/12: Ashley Ogletree; 1/14: Josh Curtiss, & Gloria Potter, great lady!; 1/15: Georgie Gildea, sis-in-law & Andy LeCount; 1/16: William Palmer; 1/17: Morgan Conway-O'Neil, 21; 1/20: Sherry Chojnacki, ageless beauty and another ageless beauty---Sean Loundagin; 1/21: Allen Rivers, my forever "old" boss resting in peace; also Jared O'Connell; 1/23: Gideon; 1/25: Steven; 1/26: Consuela O'Malley, ageless & great! And finally 1/29: Waylon Nicholson, 27.

# Buzz in Rio Nido

by Chris AuZston,

Auzston@yahoo.com

& Domenic Farnocchia,

Dom@rionido.org



Rio Nido is buzzing with enthusiasm these days. This community is mobilizing itself to reclaim the identity it seems to have lost in recent years. Our quaint hamlet of canyons and one-lane streets is undergoing a fundamental shift in how it views itself and how it wants to be viewed by the world. This community is determined to reclaim its' historical rights as a well thought of entertainment venue, relaxation summer destination and homes to everyday folks as well. This community is home to nurses, lawyers, architects, contractors, administrators, training professionals, marketing consultants, actors, singers, dancers, poets, bloggers, activists, artists, laborers, web designers, and many others of professional significance. The perception of Rio Nido has long been that this is an impoverished community of substance abusers and low income households. The residents want to restore our community to it's rightful heritage as a thriving, vital, interesting place to visit and live.

## Recent Happenings:

Buzzing! Perhaps because Rio Nido now has a wonderful and successful community garden, and a well used dog park, along the children's play area in Bruno Farnocchia Park. All are gathering places for the locals to share, laugh and enjoy our quaint sunny community common areas. Rio Nido has in it's wonderful community park, a tennis court, picnic tables, barbecue pits, and the streets surrounding are also very walkable. Thanks to the Parks District and several wonderful volunteers Rio Nido built a dog park on a razor thin budget and donated materials. A day has not gone by without doggie friendships being made.

## Homeowner's Events:

The Rio Nido Homeowners Association led by it's President Douglas Misner makes sure the weekends during the summer months is filled with family oriented gatherings and fun. Rio Nido has long been known for live music and great parties.

## Parade of Lights:

Are you aware that Rio Nido recently won a 1st place trophy at the "Parade

of Lights" for it's wacky and inspired group of folks who wanted to represent the community in the parade? Well, we did! The contingent was quickly assembled, the entry planned out and executed without a moment to spare, but the biggest challenge of the evening was avoiding the surprises left by the horse in front of our contingent. Some people missed it and others did not. Thanks horsee!

## Feeling of Community:

Fed up and tired of the substance abuse and prostitution problems at the Rio Nido Lodge, this community is now making efforts to avoid allowing this to be repeated. Several recent community meetings have been focused on neighborhood security and solutions to the problems created by a long ignored social problems. Rio Nido has had enough and is working on ways to curb the perception of Rio Nido as "Rio Needle", or whatever the current favorite term may be. As a community, Rio Nido is feeling a sense of empowerment as we work together to accomplish our goals. You need not look further than our recent successful parade entry, the several successful community meetings held to address neighborhood issues and working together on community projects. No longer does Rio Nido want to be the place on River Road where you slow down and drive through on the way to Guerneville, that is if you remember to slow down at all. Rio Nido wants you to visit and get to know us.

## Place to Visit:

So you see, there is a lot of buzzing going on in Rio Nido. Like the Phoenix rising out of the fires of blight, the Rio Nido community is determined to be economically vibrant again. With the potential ideas being talked about for the Rio Nido Lodge and the formation of task forces, it may soon again be added to the list of 'places to visit' on the Lower Russian River. Rio Nido has many interesting people and with that many interesting stories to be told. If you have any suggestions or topics to share, please feel free to contact us. When you get the chance be sure to buzz into Rio Nido.

## More U.S. Census Testing in Monte Rio

**Good pay, work close to home, flexible hours and paid training!**

Sound good? 2010 Census Jobs are available in our area and if you are interested, you can sign up for a Census Test on one of the following dates:

Friday, January 8th -- 3PM or 6:30PM

Thursday, January 28 -- 10AM or 1PM

Friday, January 29 -- 3PM or 6:30PM

Wednesday, February 3 -- 10AM or 1PM

Jobs Available include: Census Takers, Crew Leaders, Crew Leader Assistances, Recruiting Assistance and Census Clerks.

**CONTACT THE JOB LINE TO SCHEDULE YOUR TEST: 1-866-861-2010**

Visit their website for more details and take a sample test at: [www.2010censusjobs.gov](http://www.2010censusjobs.gov)