

Monte Rio Musings

By Dawn Bell
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Spring is on its way. Really! Despite the recent wet weather spring will be here before you know it. And that means

Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 23rd: Monte Rio Spring Celebration – with a special appearance from the *Easter Bunny!*

The famous Easter egg hunt returns to Monte Rio on **Saturday, April 23 at Koret Park and the Monte Rio Community Center** – Noon to 2PM. Refreshments and raffle too. Bring your own basket and plan to participate in games and win prizes! Kids under five will have their very own egg hunt on the patio at the Community Center. Bigger kids will hunt at Koret Park. Thanks to the **Friends of Monte Rio** for re-establishing this local favorite event. **Don and Suzi Schaffert** of **Rio Theater** and **Don's Dogs Café** put this event on for many years, so thanks to them for the innovation and to the **Friends of Monte Rio** for picking up the ball and running with it. *You don't want to miss this family fun event!*

Let's Play Golf!

Monte Rio Chamber Golf Tourney, May 13th: It's time again to prepare for the annual Monte Rio Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament. This year it will be on Friday, May 13th at **Northwood Golf Club** with dinner following at **Northwood Restaurant**. We are looking for golfers and tee sponsors.

This is the single most important fundraiser that the Chamber organizes. Funds from this event make it possible for the Chamber to produce the annual **Independence Weekend Celebration** at Monte Rio beach. Your help is essential. Please participate in any way you can enjoy a day of golfing and dinner, or just attend the dinner, and become a tee sponsor to show the community that you support this historic event!

For more information call **Jim Kokalis** at 865-2454.



Monte Rio Watch Update

On Monday, March 14th, three Sonoma County elected officials offered their views on Monte Rio, and answered questions from an audience of residents. Despite their overburdened schedules **Supervisor Efren Carrillo**, **District Attorney Jill Ravitch** and, **Sheriff Steve Freitas** spent nearly three hours with locals responding to questions about law enforcement and community safety in Monte Rio.

Guerneville residents were also in the audience mainly concerned with Plaza crime and homeless issues in their town. But the thrust of the meeting centered on decreased crime and lowered crime reporting that Sheriff Department stats have recently revealed.

Monte Rio Watch steering committee spokesperson Jennifer Schwinn, gave credit for this to residents and business owners whose increased vigilance and willingness to report crimes and suspicious behavior.

Ms. Schwinn also announced that the group will host a wine and cheese event to raise funds for more area signage to take place on **Sunday, June 5th** on the lawn at the **Village Inn and Restaurant**. More details to come.

Many, many thanks to the **Village Inn** proprietors for offering such a beautiful location for so many community events and fundraisers. Visit them and enjoy their \$19 four-course menu on **Community Nights** every **Wednesday and Thursday**.

As always, let me know if you have an event or activity you want to publicize in Monte Rio — dawnebell@comcast.net

Rockin' Rio Nido

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April showers...lack of power

As spring draws closer, Rio Nido bustles with all sorts of activity – some legal, some not. With all this jogging to get in swimsuit shape, while detouring around logging crews and storm-tossed redwood debris, who has time for reveling in the lush greenery and keeping an ear out for the chirping of baby birds? Especially since we're still catching our breath from a mid-March storm and two-day power outage! Yet we definitely see signs of spring, as neighbors launch into spring cleaning mode. Seneca Rising and the rest of the organic veggie garden gang came out in full force for the annual Community Garden kick-off meeting on March 20th.

Champagne fountain grand opening

During the March 26th Friends of Rio Nido (FRN) meeting, Rio Nido Lodge owner Dennis Judd announced his plans to pay \$1 million to Sweet Water Springs for installing a pipeline from Korbel to Rio Nido's entrance for a champagne fountain. "We're excited about the restoration of this historic structure," exclaimed Sweet Water Springs General Manager Steve Mack. Not to be outdone, the Rio Nido HomeOwner's Association proclaimed their plans to build a chihuahua race track and giant redwood bungee jumping tower in the picnic area. "I look forward to taking the first jump!" RNHOA President Doug Misner exclaimed. The grand opening will be held when pigs fly ... Happy April Fools Day, everyone!

St. Patrick's Day shenanigans

Around 30 infuriated Rio Nidans – including home owners from the city – attended the March 17th RRROC meeting at the Guerneville Veteran's Hall to protest Dennis Judd's proposed large-scale development in the front lot of Rio Nido. Not only did neighbors fear it would be big and ugly – we also worried about the lack of parking for the Roadhouse! Dennis withdrew the proposal via email shortly before the meeting.

The twins are back... at Tavern McHugh's

Les Jumelles recently closed, but we'll soon see more of the eponymous

twins, thanks to their mom and step dad's new venture at the same location. Rio Nido residents Ben & Sherell McHugh are busily preparing for opening day at Tavern McHugh's. El Molino High School students Amythist and Brianna (also from Rio Nido) will be pitching in to help. "We look forward to offering great quality food with fresh ingredients in a family atmosphere," Ben enthuses. In addition to lunch, dinner, and an amazing river view, the restaurant will offer a charming, old-fashioned ice cream parlour and video games for the kids. If all goes as planned, Tavern McHugh's will open in April. Since Ben and Sherell claim to actually *enjoy* working with the County's Permit Management and Resources Department, this may actually happen.

Featured personality: Erin Handy

On March 9th, Erin – an up-beat, doe-eyed, late twenties-ish brunette with a pixie cut – and her quiet, pragmatic, and sandy-haired partner Suzy welcomed neighbors to their home for the Handy Harvest Club and Coop's open house. While sipping wine and nibbling local artisanal cheeses, breads, and Erin's signature pickled tomatoes, Erin and Suzy explained their upcoming projects. The co-op will start out as an informal, outdoor gathering of neighbors looking to trade fruits, vegetables, and home-made foods. The Harvest Club will operate more formally as a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture), offering weekly or monthly subscriptions to local produce selected from local growers.

Roadhouse hosts 3rd annual Easter Egg Hunt

Held on April 24th at 1:00 p.m., the hunt is open to kids of all ages, and will be followed by a marshmallow roast and Hot Chocolate. There will also be a Peep's diorama contest (to be judged at 2:30 p.m.). To enter, sign up at the Roadhouse. For more information call 707 869-0821.

Got news? Email Elisabeth Parker at [RussianRiverRattina@gmail.com](mailto:russianriverrattina@gmail.com) and Elena Chronis at elenachronis@yahoo.com. For up-to-date information about Rio Nido, visit the Web site at <http://www.rionido.net/>.