



PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
EDDM Retail

*****ECRWSS*****

LOCAL
POSTAL CUSTOMER

City of Rio Dell Winter 2015 Newsletter

City of Rio Dell

675 Wildwood Avenue

Rio Dell, CA. 95562

City Hall: (707) 764-3532

Police Department: (707) 764-5641

COMING UP:

- Economic Development Workshop: Tuesday, February 24th, 3:30pm @ City Hall. Bring your ideas on how to improve Rio Dell's business environment.
- Rio Dell Community Resource Center Grand Opening: Wednesday, March 4th between 11:00am and 2:00pm @ 99 Wildwood Avenue. Come learn about the services offered by the Resource Center at its new location.
- Neighborhood Watch Meeting: Thursday, March 5th at 6:30pm here at City Hall. Learn about how a Neighborhood Watch program can benefit the community.
- The next City Council meeting is on Tuesday, March 3rd 2015 at 6:30pm.

City Council Meetings: The City Council meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The City encourages residents to attend the meetings.

City Council Members: Mayor Frank Wilson, Jack Thompson, Gordon Johnson, Tim Marks, and Debra Garnes.

Planning Commission Meetings: The Planning Commission meets the fourth Thursday of each month. The Commission meets at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The next regularly scheduled meeting is February 26, 2015.

Planning Commission Members: Chairperson Nick Angeloff, Billy Joe Long, Alice Millington Bud Leonard and Jared Wilson.



In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in any meeting at City Hall, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at (707) 764-3532. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to assure accessibility to the meeting.

**675 Wildwood Avenue
Rio Dell, CA 95562
(707) 764-3532**



PUBLIC NOTICE City of Rio Dell

Solicitation for Nuisance Hearing Committee Public Members

Notice is hereby given that the City of Rio Dell is soliciting applications from Rio Dell Residents for one (1) public member to be appointed to the City's Nuisance Hearing Committee. The Nuisance Committee consists of two (2) City Council Members and one (1) alternate, the City Manager, and two (2) public members. The Nuisance Hearing Committee is responsible to hear appeals regarding the determination of a violation and nuisance or the imposition of an administrative penalty, assisting staff in identifying priorities and recommending amendments to the Nuisance provisions of the Municipal Code. The Committee typically meets late afternoon on the third Tuesday of each month.

**The deadline for submitting an application is 5:00 p.m. Wednesday,
March 18, 2015.**

Applications may be obtained at and returned to:

City of Rio Dell
675 Wildwood Avenue
Rio Dell, CA. 95562

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the City Clerk at (707) 764-3532

Garbage: The City has received numerous complaints lately regarding the accumulation of garbage and the problems associated with it. Garbage is not only unsightly and diminishes property values in the area, but it also attracts rodents, flies, stray pets and produces odors. The buildup of garbage is in violation of Section 8.05.070 of the Rio Dell Municipal Code (RDMC). This regulation requires that:



- Garbage be stored in a watertight receptacle (garbage can); and
- That the cans (receptacles) not be visible from the street; and
- That the cans be disposed of at least once a week.

In addition the accumulation of garbage and the presence of rats (vermin or rodents) is in violation of Sections 17920.3(a)12 and (a)15 of the California Health and Safety Code. The accumulation of garbage is considered a “Public Nuisance and Blight” pursuant to Chapter 8.10 of the Rio Dell Municipal Code. Public Nuisances could be subject to fines and penalties up to \$1000 per day. Be a good neighbor and do the right thing!

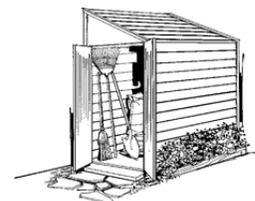


Vehicle/RV/Boat/Trailer Parking: The City has also received complaints about the parking/storage of commercial, recreational vehicles, including boats and trailers on City streets. With the exception of Wildwood Avenue in the Town Center zone, Section 17.30.180 of the Rio Dell Municipal Code limits the parking/storage of recreational vehicles, including boats and trailers on City streets to 72 hours. Along Wildwood Avenue in the Town Center zone the parking/storage of recreational vehicles, including boats and trailers is limited to 24 hours.

The storage/parking of all recreational vehicles, boats and trailers is required to be located entirely within the property boundaries on all-weather surfaces so as not to extend into the public right-of-ways, including public utility easements and sidewalks and be improved with an all-weather surface (i.e. asphalt, concrete, gravel, etc.). The Police Department will be stepping-up enforcement of the City’s parking regulations.



Portable Carports and Sheds: The City has been contacted by a number of residents lately regarding whether or not Building Permits are required for portable carports and sheds. Pursuant to Section 105 of the California Building Code, one-story detached accessory structures used as tool and storage sheds, playhouses and similar uses, provided the floor area does not exceed 120 square feet. (*Note: If you are adding electrical to the proposed structure a permit will be required*). Regardless of whether or not a Building Permit is required, portable carports and storage sheds must meet the setback requirements of the zone the property is located in. Contact the Planning and Building Department if you have any questions.





Medical Marijuana Regulations

The City's Medical Marijuana Regulations, Section 17.30.155 of the Rio Dell Municipal Code regulations were adopted in response to complaints regarding the neighborhood impacts of the cultivation of marijuana. The intent of the Medical Marijuana Regulations is to balance the needs of patients and their caregivers and to minimize impacts that can accompany the residential cultivation and processing of medical marijuana for an individual patient's use. Widespread indoor cultivation of marijuana in the County and Cities has led to a decrease in needed rental housing stock, as rental homes are converted solely to structures to grow marijuana. As rental homes are converted to these grow structures, the character of the neighborhood around the grow structure deteriorates. Below is a summary of the regulations:

- ❖ Outdoor cultivation is not allowed.
- ❖ Indoor medical marijuana cultivation in a residence or detached accessory building shall not exceed fifty (50) square feet or exceed ten (10) feet in height per residence on a parcel, **regardless of the number of qualified patients or primary caregivers residing at the residence or participating directly or indirectly in the cultivation.**
- ❖ A greenhouse may be considered a Detached Accessory Building if it is a fully enclosed, secure and lockable structure that has a roof supported by connecting walls extending continuously to a perimeter foundation or equivalent base to which the connecting walls are securely attached.
- ❖ The medical marijuana cultivation and processing area in the residence or detached accessory building shall be indoors, as defined herein, posted with a legible copy of the individual patient's medical marijuana recommendation, secured against unauthorized entry, and maintained for the exclusive use of the qualified patient.
- ❖ Grow lights for medical marijuana cultivation for personal use in a residence or a detached accessory building shall not exceed 1200 watts total.
- ❖ All electrical equipment used in the indoor cultivation of medical marijuana in a residence or a detached accessory building shall be plugged directly into a wall outlet or otherwise hardwired. The use of extension cords to supply power to electrical equipment used in the residential cultivation of medical marijuana is prohibited.
- ❖ The use of gas products (CO₂, butane, etc.) for indoor medical marijuana cultivation or processing in a residence or a detached accessory building is prohibited.
- ❖ No toxic or flammable fumigant shall be used for indoor cultivation of medical marijuana in a residence or a detached accessory building unless the requirements of Section 1703 of the California Fire Code have been met.

- ❖ No odor of medical marijuana shall be detectable from the property boundaries by a person of ordinary senses. To achieve this, the medical marijuana cultivation area shall be, at a minimum, mechanically ventilated with a carbon filter or other superior method to prevent the odor of marijuana from escaping the indoor cultivation area and negatively impacting neighbors and the surrounding community. Ventilation systems shall be installed in a manner that facilitates decommissioning and a return of the cultivation area to non-cultivation residential uses.
- ❖ From a public right of way, neighboring properties, or neighboring housing units, there shall be no visual or auditory evidence of medical marijuana cultivation at the residence or detached accessory building that is detectable by a person of ordinary senses.
- ❖ Medical marijuana cultivation, processing, or transfers in a residence or detached accessory building are prohibited as a Home Occupation.
- ❖ No sale, trading, or dispensing of medical marijuana is allowed on a parcel where residential cultivation of medical marijuana occurs.
- ❖ The qualified patient shall not cultivate medical marijuana for his or her personal use in more than one residence or detached accessory building within the City jurisdiction.
- ❖ The residence where medical marijuana is grown indoors for personal use shall maintain a kitchen and bathroom(s) for their intended use, and the kitchen, bathroom(s), and bedroom(s) shall not be used primarily for medical marijuana cultivation.
- ❖ No effluent, including but not limited to waste products, chemical fertilizers or pesticides shall be discharged into drains, septic systems, community sewer systems, water systems or other drainage systems including those that lead to rivers and streams as a result of the cultivation of medical marijuana.
- ❖ The residential cultivation of medical marijuana shall not adversely affect the health or safety of residents, neighbors, or nearby businesses by creating dust, glare, heat, noise, noxious gasses, odor, smoke, traffic, vibration, or other impacts, or be hazardous due to use or storage of materials, processes, products or wastes associated with the cultivation of medical marijuana.
- ❖ The indoor residential cultivation of medical marijuana must comply with all applicable state and county laws, including fire and building codes.
- ❖ A waterproof membrane or other waterproof barrier shall be installed in the cultivation area or beneath individual plants to protect the floor of the indoor cultivation area from water damage.

If you have any questions regarding the Medical Marijuana Regulations or would like a copy of the Ordinance, please contact Kevin Caldwell, Community Development Director at (707) 764-3532.

Misuse of Publicly Available Recycling Containers



Eel River Disposal and the City of Rio Dell provide a recycling container in back of City Hall free of charge for residents with recyclable materials. The container is picked up once a week and its contents are recycled through the City's contract with Eel River Disposal. Over the course of this summer we have seen a growing trend of people misusing this service. Materials that are not recyclable are being placed into the recycling container, creating a lack of space for users who have recyclable materials. Sometimes this garbage is not even placed inside the container, but instead it is strewn around the container, making the removal and emptying of the container unnecessarily time consuming and potentially dangerous. Some of the inappropriate dumping's has included material such as mattresses, batteries, furniture, used oil, diapers, clothing and styrofoam.



City Updates

Economic Development Workshop: Have an idea or two about how to improve the economic condition of Rio Dell? The City Council wants to hear what you have to say! The City Council has scheduled Tuesday, February 24th at 3:30pm to have an Economic Development Workshop where your ideas are front and center! There will be a presentation from city staff followed by brainstorming session where we want to hear from the public about the best way in which the city should proceed.

Storm(s) Update: During December and February, Rio Dell experienced two significant rain events following one of the driest years on record. During both events, the city deployed its sand bag station behind City Hall for the use of our residents. Particularly with the February storm, Rio Dell was lucky to avoid some of major impacts our neighbors in Fortuna and Redway experienced. The City continues to work on a solution to the Belleview/Ogle drainage issue through our contracted engineer, Whitchurch Engineering, who is currently conducting work on this issue.

Drought Update: While we have had a wet winter so far, there is concern that California will remain in a drought condition throughout the rest of 2015. The state government continues to call for common-sense water conservation through limiting outdoor watering to twice a week and elimination of the wanton waste of water resources. Your help is appreciated.



Keep Fats, Oils, and Greases Out of the Sewer: When it's washed down the sink, grease from meat fats, lard, oil, shortening, butter, margarine, food scraps, baked goods, sauces and dairy products sticks to the insides of sewer pipes. Over time it can build up and block an entire pipe on your property or in the street. Moreover home garbage disposals do not keep grease out of the plumbing system. And hot water and products such as detergents that claim to dissolve grease only pass it down the line and cause problems elsewhere. Results can include raw sewage overflowing in your home, the house next door, parks, yards or streets, and potential contact with disease-causing organisms. Sewage overflows resulting from grease in the system can also mean expensive clean-up costs for the involved home or business owners and well as increased operation and maintenance costs, which leads to higher sewer bills for customers. You can help prevent sewer overflows by following a few simple suggestions:

- **Never pour grease down sink drains or into toilets.**
- **Scrape grease and food scraps into a can or the trash for disposal or recycling (where available).**
- **Put baskets or strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids, and then empty them into the trash.**



It's a Toilet, Not a Trashcan! Toilets are only meant for one activity, and you know what we're talking about! When the wrong thing is flushed, results can include costly backups on your own property or problems at your local wastewater treatment plant. That's why it's so important to treat toilets properly and flush only your personal contributions to the local wastewater treatment plant. Don't flush any items like:

- **Baby wipes and diapers**
- **Rag's and towels**
- **Cotton swabs, syringes**
- **Candy and other food wrappers**
- **Toys**
- **Clothing labels**
- **Cleaning sponges**
- **Plastic items of any description**
- **Aquarium gravel or kitty litter**
- **Cigarette butts**
- **Sanitary napkins**
- **Hair**
- **Underwear**
- **Disposable toilet brushes**
- **Rubber items such as latex gloves**

▪ **PAY YOUR UTILITY BILL ONLINE** ▪

The City now accepts credit cards and offers on-line payment processing to pay your utility bill. To pay online go to the City's website home page at www.riodellcity.com and click on Pay Online Now. You'll be directed to a third party webpage that charges a small fee for the convenience of paying your bill on-line. If you have any questions please call City Hall at (707) 764-3532.

POLICE DEPARTMENT



We have had recent inquiries about assisting neighborhoods with setting up a **Neighborhood Watch Program**. We are very interested in participating in this project and can assist neighborhoods with getting a group off the ground. **We will be holding a meeting at the City Hall Council Chambers at 6:30 PM on March 5th, 2015.** We will be offering some information on how we think Neighborhood Watch can help our community deter criminal behavior, and make our neighborhoods even safer. So if you are interested in getting a group together for your neighborhood please attend the meeting and learn a little more about the program and what it has to offer.

Recent Thefts:

Recently we have experienced a rash of thefts from vehicles around the community. In almost all of the cases the vehicles were unlocked, and had valuable items in plain sight. We want to remind community members to do what they can to avoid being a victim of these types of crimes. Keep your vehicle and your home secure. Unlocked vehicles are often targeted by would-be thieves and don't offer much in the way of a deterrent. We recommend not storing items of value inside your vehicle. In cases when you do have valuable items in your vehicle, utilize a vehicle alarm system, and park your vehicle where it is easily seen and illuminated when possible (under a street light, or lighting from your residence). Same goes with your home. Unsecured doors and windows are the most common point of entry in residential burglaries. Simply making your home more secure and utilizing the security measures that you have can effectively deter the would-be thief in many cases.

In many cases when we are investigating these thefts we find someone who saw someone suspicious or out of place in the neighborhood, however they don't want to "bother" the police by calling. We want to encourage you to call when you see something out of place in your neighborhood. That's why we are here. We have 24-hour response. If you see something out of place, call us, and we can make a pass through the neighborhood. In many cases simply seeing the police car drive through can deter a theft or other criminal activity. In some cases when a response is not warranted, having the information about the unusual or suspicious activity can assist us investigating crimes that do occur.

We have gathered a lot of information regarding keeping your home safe through environmental design and we are more than happy to schedule a meeting with you to offer some suggestions about keeping your home safer and less inviting to a would-be thief.

As always, if you have any questions or suggestions for your police department feel free to call us.

Our business line is **707-764-5642** (If no one is in the office at the time you call this number you will go to an answering machine and an officer or representative of the department will get back to you).

If you have a more urgent matter, whether or not it is an emergency call **707-764-5641** (When you call this number, and we are not available in the office to answer, a dispatcher at the Fortuna Police Department will pick up and relay the information to the on-duty officer).

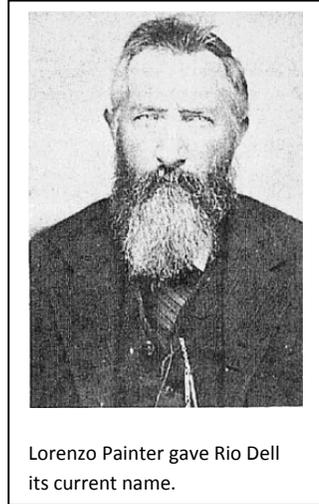
Use 911 in an emergency and you require immediate assistance.



Happy 50th Birthday Rio Dell!

“When Alonzo Painter arrived in Rio Dell in 1870 he made plans for Rio Dell to become a city. He laid out the map and named the streets. The actual incorporation did not take place until 95 years later.”

“Lorenzo D. Painter purchased several acres of land from William Shively who had moved to Bluff Prairie. Painter was a man of foresight having had much experience in his previous 53 years. He was raised in Ohio and left home as a teenager to make his own way. After working as a carpenter for a time he engaged in the lumber business. His first wife and the mother of his four daughters was Elizabeth Bousman.”



■ The Bluffs Around Us, pgs. 5, 10-11

“There is no "dell"--a small wooded valley--in the community of Rio Dell. Nor was there any good reason to use the Spanish word for river when referring to the nearby Eel. Yet these facts had no effect on Lorenzo Painter, apparently a man of poetic impulse, when he named his newly built hotel the Rio Del House. Painter's establishment sat upon a hillside, but his choice for its name started the locale down a slippery slope of nonsensical nomenclature that resulted in the still-bewildering name the town holds to this day.”

“The site of Rio Dell-to-be was a prairie set upon a broad benchland, the latter having formed within a bend of the Eel while the far side of the river was busy trying to erode away the Scotia Bluffs. It was a hospitable location, where a village belonging to the Bear River (Nekanni) tribe occupied part of the flat. The tribe's name for the village is not known, but it was called Tokemuk by the Wiyots, some of whom lived there.”

“In August 1911, A Bartini bought 12 acres of land from Selvage and laid out a townsite, which was called Wildwood. At first the new community was hardly more than a name. But it was invitingly close to PL's company town at Scotia, especially when the first Rio Dell bridge replaced the ferry in 1914. Those who chose to live in Wildwood could own their own homes, establish their own businesses, and live without the restrictions that PL placed on its residents. Some combination of a love of freedom and defiance of authority motivated many people to move into the new town. When Prohibition took effect in January 1920, it was easy for Wildwood to find its true calling-Scotia's Sodom, the high-powered hub of illegal activity on the lower Eel. It was Prohibition that truly put the "wild" in Wildwood. The town's main businesses were gambling, prostitution, and bootlegging, with fighting and the occasional murder serving as diverting pastimes. According to chronicler Julio Rovai, "the community was entirely without law.”

“...Italians, many of whom were hired by PL to work in its new Mill B, [built] their homes along Wildwood Avenue, which later became the route of the Redwood Highway, and also on Monument Road. Soon Wildwood gained the nickname "Little Italy," while a sizeable group of Portuguese also came to live there.”

“And then, during the 1940s, the number of residents increased rapidly. The Rio Dell elementary school, built in 1940, when fewer than 150 students were in attendance, grew so quickly it was forced to operate on split shifts in 1944. By 1949 there were over 250 squirming scholars crammed into its confines. The following year more than 300 students were in attendance, with construction of a much needed new school nearly ready to start. The population continued surging after the war, increasing from 900 residents in 1947 to nearly 2,000 in 1950. The large flat that was once Eagle Prairie invited residential expansion, and the 1949 conversion of the Redwood Highway to four lanes where it ran through town was seen as a stimulus to the business district. Wildwood, the raucous community down by the riverside, was now linked more closely to Rio Dell, the older, hillside community centered on Pacific Avenue. And Bellevue Park, at the north end of the flat, was rapidly filling with homes... There was talk of incorporating the area at least as early as 1949.”

■ Both Sides of the Bluff, pgs. 37-48

“In the early 1960's Rio Dell had shown such a rapid growth that county officials suggested that Rio Dell incorporate, as county services were unable to cope with the increased demands. A group of citizens met regularly at the home of Angelo Barsanti where plans for incorporation were discussed and finally formulated. Attorney Harold Neville Jr. worked closely with this committee and became city attorney. Melba Buckovic was the first city clerk. Incorporation proponents were John Baratti, Angelo Barsanti, Grace Close, Lawrence Francesconi, William Herndon, Ray Jensen, Guy Maxwell, Evelyn McCormick, Dr. Kurt Munchheimer, Elmer Nyberg and John Vevoda. At an election on **February 26, 1965** Rio Dell became an incorporated city with the following city councilmen: Angelo Barsanti, William Herndon, Guy Maxwell, Dr. Kurt Munchheimer and Merel Ritter. Maxwell was chosen mayor by his fellow councilmen.”

■ The Bluffs Around Us, pgs. 5



Rio Dell's current downtown was known as Wildwood prior to incorporation. Photo from 1940.

Sources:

- “The Bluffs Around Us” by Evelyn McCormick, 1981. Available at the Library.
- “Both Sides of the Bluff: History of Humboldt County Places: 1” by Jerry Rohde, 2014. ISBN: 978-0-964-0261-3-1 Please contact City Hall to find out how to purchase.