

Scotia homes continue to sell, St. Patrick's congregation to move



Twenty five homes in Scotia have been sold so far to private owners, with six more in escrow

as of mid-February according to Mary Bullwinkel who handles the town's marketing. The homes for which sales are completed are on Church Street, Mill Street and Mill Lane, and Eddy Street. That leaves eight more homes and other buildings to be sold in Phase 1. Repair work is underway at several of the houses and others will be listed soon, Bullwinkel says.

Part of Phase 1 is St. Patrick's Catholic Church, where the congregation has been given an eviction notice that was extended to allow the members to hold Easter service at the church. The rectory is among the houses already sold, and a second church in town, the Scotia Union Presbyterian Church and rectory, which has not been in use in recent years, has also been sold to a private buyer.

Attorney Frank Bacik, president of the Town of Scotia corporation, notes that the Diocese of Santa Rosa has been contacted more than once concerning the potential of purchasing the church, but has not indicated any interest. Tracing in a letter the transfer of ownership of the community's various properties, he encouraged anyone with an interest in purchasing the church to contact him. Options for parishioners to attend Mass locally include St. Joseph Church in Fortuna and Church of the Assumption in Ferndale; Scotia's pastor, Rev. Mario Laguros, is also the pastor of the Ferndale church.

Phase 2 homes sales are projected to begin in late March or later, depending on when a final map is received from the Bureau of Real Estate. Phase 2 home sales will include portions of B and Main Streets, and First, Second, and Third Streets.

Green Bean opens in Rio Dell



The Green Bean is open in Rio Dell, offering what owner Tawny Morse likes to see for herself - healthy food options for people on the go, as well as comfort food. "We have a convenient drive thru as well as tables inside and on the front deck," she says. "We have developed an extensive menu: fresh sandwiches, soups, salads, panninis, fresh locally sourced fruits and vegetables when available. We have a fresh juice bar, espresso and

milkshakes, baked goods and some gluten free options."

Check out the Facebook page or stop by - the Green Bean is open daily at 281 Wildwood Avenue.

Doctor's office re-opens in Rio Dell

Dr. Frank Fisher, who has practiced medicine in Humboldt County for a decade, has reopened his practice in Rio Dell after a stint working at Southern Trinity Health Services in Scotia, and is accepting new patients. A California licensed physician and graduate of Harvard Medical School, he notes he is assisted by Arlene Staton, family nurse practitioner, and that both of them have decades of experience.



What sets this practice apart from so many others is a personalized approach, he says, "which is a throwback to a previous era. Time is given to listen to the concerns of the patient and address them in the context of the whole person and what is going on in their life. The atmosphere in the office is comfortable and relaxed in contrast with the rushed sterile environment so many other practices offer." A broad range of conditions are treated including mental health issues, he notes. Most types of insurance are accepted including Medicare. Specialist referrals are provided as needed in and out of the county.

Business profile: CC Market stresses family, community



"We're a family here, there's no boss and employees," Ranjeet Singh says of CC Market in Rio Dell, which he purchased last July from long-time owners Wally and Sandra Close.

Praising the staff, and the support he sees from the community, Singh notes that he likes small towns where people know each other, as he had experienced growing up in his native

India. Singh lives in Ferndale with his wife, Gagandeep, who manages the Valley Grocery there, which he also owns. Singh notes he was working as a truck driver, traveling across country from Sacramento to New York and New Jersey, when he and his wife took a vacation and discovered this area. They purchased the Ferndale grocery store a couple years ago.

Charlie Harralson is the manager of CC Market. She started working at the store as a cashier in 2009 and was named to her current post after Val Barrote retired last fall after 42 years at the store. "People love our meat, the quality and the price," Singh says, as well as how the store is maintained. He believes in having some fun at work, describing the staff Christmas party and pointing to the sign still hanging from the last birthday celebration at the store, noting that each of the 13 full- and part-time workers gets his or her own birthday party.

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Get your community garden spot now!

The Community Resource Center in Rio Dell is accepting applications for a plot in the community garden for 2018. Located on the property of the First Baptist Church, 100 Butcher Street in Rio Dell, the garden has been inactive for a couple years and is being re-started. Lumber for raised beds was donated by Forbusco Lumber in Fortuna and Root 101 Nursery in Rio Dell. Applications for a plot can be picked up and returned to the Rio Dell Community Resource Center at Wildwood and Monument.

Kids' running club started in Rio Dell

A running club for Rio Dell school children of all ages has started. The kids run on the school track from 4 to 5 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays when school is in session, and do other exercises like jumping jacks and squats. There are refreshments, and prizes for the winners of relay races. Olivia Rodrigue who works at the Rio Dell Community Resource Center started the club with the help of after school coordinator Shari Barros. Initially there were three children participating but typically 16 to 20 now participate, Rodrigue says.

Free women's line dancing classes offered

Get in some low-impact exercise in a fun way at the Rio Dell Baptist Church, 100 Butcher St., on Thursdays, 1:15 to 2:30 p.m. These free sessions are taught by Nancy Gleaton.

Root 101 Nursery opens second location, gets honored

Root 101 Nursery in Rio Dell which has been open just a year, recently launched a second location, Root 101 Meadows, in Redway. The business was also honored by Pay It Forward Humboldt, an organization that collects items to help those who have lost their homes in fires, and the firefighters who work to save them. Root 101 has been the place where donations could be dropped off, and from which shipments to the fire-ravaged areas are readied for transport.

CalFresh/CalWorks:

Do you know if you are eligible for either CalFresh or CalWorks? Come to the Community Resource Center to find out how to qualify and apply for both programs. You can also apply for CalFresh, CalWorks and MediCal at www.cyourself.com.

Save the date for Easter egg hunt!

The Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Rio Dell Community Resource Center will be Sun., March 25 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Fireman's Park. Bring the kids for fun, games and prizes, refreshments, photos with the Easter Bunny, and a chance to learn about resources to help area families.

Scotia school events

March 2 to 3 will be the JayCee's basketball tournament in Crescent City, with good luck wishes to all the local teams and cheer squads that will be participating.

March 7 is the Parent-Teacher Organization meeting at 1:15 p.m. The school board meets March 8 at 7 p.m.

March 19 to 23 is conference week, with dismissal at 1 p.m. all week.

Kindergarten registration is underway, parents are asked to please stop by the school office between 9 a.m and 4 p.m. to pick up a packet of information.

Laundromat gets new owner

Earleen Finn is the new owner of the laundromat in Rio Dell, taking over from her parents, Joe and Marlene O'Dell. New driers are on back-order, she notes, and due to arrive soon. Stay tuned for more information!

Former Rio Dell police officer honored

Jordan Walstrom, who joined the Fortuna police force last November after serving in Rio Dell, has been honored for saving the life of a Fortuna resident severely bleeding from post-surgical injuries. Arriving before the ambulance and seeing the severity of the injury, he was able to apply a procedure in which he had been trained to stem the bleeding, according to a news release from the City of Fortuna cited in the Red Headed Blackbelt online news source.

Easter Week: Palm Sunday, March 25; Good Friday is March 30 Passover begins at sundown March 30.

Daylight Savings Time begins March 11 – remember to 'spring ahead.'

The first day of spring is officially March 20, the vernal equinox.

Thanks to our members!

The Chamber of Commerce membership drive is wrapping up for 2018 and the board of directors thanks all those choosing to support the chamber's work in the community. Call/email if you didn't see the notice and would like to join/rejoin! Special thanks go to the silver and gold members:

Gold:

Archeological Research & Supply, Nick Angeloff, www.arscl.com

Silver:

- Aqua Dam,
- Dayle's Diesel & Generator Repair,
- DIOS-BIO TECH,
- Humboldt Redwood Company,
- Kreations Auto Body,
- PMD Homes, Recology,
- Rio Dell Fire Protection District,
- Rio Dell Police Officers' Association, and
- Root 101 Nursery

Bridge to close for half year

The green bridge connecting Rio Dell and Scotia which constitutes Highway 283 will close in mid-March for six months, according to Cal Trans, to allow the bridge to be painted. Prior work will include constructing an enclosure across the bridge to enable pedestrian and bicycle traffic, which will remain available throughout the painting process according to Robert King, Cal Trans resident engineer.

King explained the plan including detour signs to direct traffic onto Highway 101 to bypass the bridge, and environmental testing that will occur to ensure the soil, river and air will remain safe from pollutants caused by sandblasting and other possible causes, such as lead that may still exist from former paintings. King said the bridge was last painted around 2002 and this go-round has been in the plans for more than four years. Cal Trans has considered the possibility of keeping half the length of the bridge open at a time but that would extend the project to two years and cost taxpayers considerably more.

Historic Scotia locomotive equipment to be auctioned

The Scotia Community Services District is auctioning the historic lumbering equipment on display next to the museum. Bids need to be received by March 13 at 3 p.m. A minimum bid of \$25,000 has been set according to the bid announcement on the home page of the Scotia CSD website. Items to be sold include the Heisler Engine #9 locomotive, the large and small steam donkeys, two tanks and eight pulleys as well as miscellaneous equipment.

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He's had a couple coloring competitions for children in the community, awarding prizes to the winners, whose photos are posted by the deli case. Plans for the store's future include additional food items, for instance burritos and tacos in the deli, and possibly an outdoor barbeque sometimes in the summer so people can pick up ready-made food easily to take to the river. "We're super-busy in the summer," he says of the added business from vacationers and travelers.

"We're here if people want to ask us for donations for their events," he adds, citing a recent donation to the schools and stressing his eagerness to contribute to the community. A Facebook pages provides a chance to keep up with new treats such as examples of party platters and desserts that can be ordered for special occasions, and a new feature, pizza by the slice or a whole pizza, if one calls ahead.

Caught doing good: Tim Marks



The name plaques in Rio Dell's Memorial Park, located across Wildwood Avenue from City Hall, are getting refurbished, thanks to lifetime resident and city council member Tim Marks, who is volunteering his time and tools to give the signs a new lease on life. They had become weathered and looked badly, so he spoke to City Manager Kyle Knopp who agreed to supply varnish if Marks would do the work. He started last fall, with the city

crew taking down 12 name plaques at a time for him to work on.

Most of the names were on blocks of redwood, with the individual's name routed in and then painted white, and the surface varnished over. Marks re-routed and repainted the names, then sanded the surface and applied three coats of varnish to each. Some plaques, added at different times, were of non-matching wood, and some names weren't routed in, so he was able to gain uniformity, supplying matching wood from his own supply, and applying the names consistently to each piece.

"I had to stop when it began to rain as the varnish wasn't drying," he says, so the process is on hold until spring brings dry weather. City Clerk Karen Dunham dug into the files to share the history of the effort, explaining that in 1982 the city's Parks & Recreation Commission decided to plant 13 trees in the area now called Memorial Park; to raise the needed funds, people could pay \$50 each and have a memorial plaque placed on a tree to honor a community member who had made a notable contribution to the community. The following year, work began, with \$1,000 of funds received; Gino Bianchi, a city councilmember at the time, volunteered his time and materials to make signs for the park, and other community members pitched in; along the way the initial plan was changed to put the plaques on posts instead of directly on the trees, and a process was never completed to determine what notable contributions a person must make to be so honored.. The chamber of commerce initially took care of the park, then turned it over to the city in 1999; a year later, room was made for additional plaques. As of 2012, the cost to purchase a plaque was \$90, which covered its manufacture at Gorilla Graphics in Fortuna, and installation. Dunham's notes indicate the signs have been refurbished from time to time, but a look at the ones done and remaining to be done, show that it's a project whose time has come. Thanks a lot, Tim!

Ongoing Events

Senior Brown Bag Program: Food boxes given the 2nd Thursday of every month for local seniors. Boxes distributed from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Church of Christ, 325 2nd Ave. in Rio Dell. To sign up call Food for People at 445-3166.

Rio Dell Library: Tuesday-11-4, Wednesday – 1-6, Saturday- 11-4

There is a First 5 Puppet Story Time every Saturday at 11 a.m. 715 Wildwood Ave., 764-3333.

Emergency Food: Running low on food this week? Get a bag for your family or just for yourself at:

- **The Community Resource Center:** 99 Wildwood Ave., Rio Dell, no income verification is needed.
- **The Journey Church:** 95 Belleview Ave. Rio Dell, Tuesday & Thursday 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
- **Bread for Life Food Pantry:** 143 Main Street, Scotia, 3rd Thursday, from 10 am -2 p.m., For more info call 764-5239.

Clothing Closet: Ruth's Room: 100 Butcher St., Rio Dell, Rio Dell Baptist Church, Tuesdays 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Call 764-3811 for more information.

Women's Health Project: Breast and Gynecology Eel River Valley Outreach Center: 707-726-7919 or 825-8345.

Friday Playgroups: We have a new Playgroup leader named Nicole and she's so excited to meet our community families!

The Community Resource Center provides a First Five playgroup Fridays 10 a.m. to noon at the Early Head Start classroom, 95 Center St., Rio Dell.

SAIL: Staying Active and Independent Living helps prevent falls and broken bones. This free program meets noon- 1 p.m. Mon., Wed., and Fri. at the at the Rio Dell Baptist Church, 100 Butcher St. Call Susan at 407-8707. Join us!

5th Annual Community Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 25th from 1:00-3:00

Fireman's Park, Rio Dell

Free family fun, yummy food and kids' egg hunt.

All ages welcome.

Brought to you by the Rio Dell Community Resource Center!

Monday Storytime: Families with children 0-5 years old are welcome to join Community Resource Center staff at the Eagle Prairie School library room, Mondays from 8:20 to 9:20 a.m. to develop childhood literacy through stories and crafts. Snacks are provided.

Free Produce Available: Those whose households qualify based on income are reminded of the monthly Mobile Produce Pantry that comes to the Rio Dell Volunteer Fire Department on the second Wednesday of each month, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, contact Food for People at 445-3166.

