

# Rio Dell-Scotia News



## Holiday decorating contest – enter, judge, win

Decking your halls in winsome fashion can net some cash, and who doesn't need that this time of year? The chamber is putting on a holiday decorating contest for all residents and businesses in Rio Dell and Scotia. The Rio Dell, Scotia, Shively, and Redcrest Volunteer Fire Departments are putting forth \$1,500 to be given as cash prizes, and the competition is a peoples' choice so – you get to vote for the winners!

Here's how it works – sign up by Dec. 4 if you would like your Rio Dell or Scotia home, apartment or duplex, or business to be judged. You can sign up any of several ways.

- old-school, on paper, at the chamber of commerce office (406 Wildwood Avenue);
- text your address and contact info (so we can tell you if you win) to 707.599.4658;
- sign up on the chamber Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/RDSCvisitorscenter>)
- sign up on the website ([riodellscotiachamber.org](http://riodellscotiachamber.org)) using the “Contact Us” form; put “decorating contest” in the subject line and the address of the property to be judged and whether it is a home, apartment, or business, and submit email that information ([rdschamber@gmail.com](mailto:rdschamber@gmail.com))

Whichever method you choose to get included, provide your name and phone number (which will NOT be publicized and are only for contacting winners) and your street address and city (which will be publicized so others know they can vote for you) and whether that is a home, apartment or business.

By Dec. 8, lists of homes, businesses and apartments or duplexes that are competing for prizes will be posted on sheets that can be picked up at the chamber, and online at [riodellscotiachamber.org](http://riodellscotiachamber.org) where you can print it out and take it to see the entrants. Check out the entrants' displays and vote your favorite in each of the three categories by Dec. 20, turning in your paper ballot to the chamber (through the slot in the side door on Columbus if the building is not open) or recording your vote online by that deadline using the “Contact Us” form and putting your choice for winner in each category in the message portion.

Votes will be tabulated, and winners notified, soon after. First-place winners in each category (home, apartment or duplex, or business) will receive \$250; second place in each category will receive \$150 and each third-place winner will get \$100.

So get creative, have some fun, challenge your neighbors and friends!

## Tree lighting, fire truck parade Dec. 4

The annual lighting of the tree that stands in the median at Wildwood and Columbus in Rio Dell will again take place on the first Saturday of December – Dec. 4 this year – at dusk. Heading up the festivities will be a fire truck parade starting at 5 p.m. bringing Santa to town.

Refreshments, music and more will be on offer. The Community Resource Center will be handing out goody bags, and Wildwood will be lit up, as it is each year, with decorations purchased by the chamber with donations from the City of Rio Dell, businesses, agricultural producers, and individuals supporting the goal of expanding civic pride, and creating a destination for those from other communities wanting to come here to enjoy holiday lighting displays. This year, two area growers, Rumen Sutsov and Yama Schafer, donated a total of \$3,000 used to purchase additional lighting for the community display.

The tree is again donated by Humboldt Redwood Company. Sunbelt Rentals donated use of the lift again this year as it has in the past, for use installing the lighting, and hours of work was volunteered to wrap the trees in Memorial Park, put decorations on poles throughout downtown, string decorations across **(Continued on page 2)**

## NEWS AND NOTES

### Get involved! Join chamber monthly call-in meetings to share ideas

The chamber of commerce board meets on the first Friday of the month at noon. During Covid meetings began to be held by phone and as restrictions loosened with vaccines, the ease of calling in (as opposed to having to be somewhere in sometimes tight schedules) won out and the meetings have continued by phone. They are always open to the public. So jump in and call to hear what is being discussed, share ideas and see where you can help! The next meeting is Dec. 3 at noon. Call 605-313-4802 and at the prompt, enter access code 860467.

### Marlene Snell plaque

The chamber purchased a redwood plaque that will be placed in Triangle Park across from City Hall honoring Marlene Snell, who died earlier this year and who tended the flowers in the park for a decade. Rio Dell resident Adam Dias created the plaque at his shop, Redwood Laser, in Redcrest.



### Shop cuts grand opening ribbon

My Mother's Garden, a shop featuring gift, jewelry, art, clothing and garden items, formally opened Nov. 8 with a ribbon cutting. Owner Deborah Hart Tinsley of Rio Dell, pictured with scissors, said it was a dream of 35 years to have a brick-and-mortar store. It is open at 406 Wildwood, at the corner of Columbus, in the Chamber of Commerce building. Chamber board members and shoppers hold the ribbon in the photo.

### Check here for Covid vaccine availability

A state-wide website (replacing the one run by Humboldt County) lets you be notified of opportunities to get the Covid shot so sign up here: [MyTurn.ca.gov](https://myturn.ca.gov). [It provides a place where those needing a ride to the site for the shot can indicate that.](#)

### Ad renewals are due for newsletter insert

Businesses advertising each month on this newsletter's insert will be notified this month of the need to renew for 2022. Prices stay the same - \$20/month for a large ad and \$10 for a small one, payable in advance. All the advertising slots at this point are full, and the chamber thanks businesses for supporting its work in this way while promoting their offerings to the community. Watch for your renewal notice, please, and call or email us (707.506.5081, [rdschamber@gmail.com](mailto:rdschamber@gmail.com)) to schedule a business feature article in a future issue of this newsletter, a free benefit of advertising.

### Membership renewals happen in December, too

It's time to renew chamber membership for 2022. The membership drive will begin this month. Watch for notification – the dues levels remain a bargain price - \$35 for individuals, \$40 for couples, and \$50 for businesses. It's a great way to show your pride in and support of the communities where we live, work and play.

Many businesses, especially, join or renew at higher levels such as Bronze (\$250); Silver (\$500); Gold (\$1,000) or Platinum (higher still); make donations throughout the year in support of projects in which they are especially interested; or make in-kind donations. Examples noted on our page 1 stories include the Christmas tree, donated each year by Humboldt Redwood Company, which stands on the median at Wildwood and Columbus; the \$1500 cash prizes for the holiday decorating contest, donated by the Rio Dell, Scotia, Shively and Redcrest Volunteer Fire Departments; and the use of a lift to install the decorations in the city, by Sunbelt Rentals. Two area agricultural producers together donated \$3,000 to purchase additional lighting: Yama Schafer and Rumen Sutsov. Thanks to all these supporters for making the season merrier.

### Tree lighting, fire truck parade Dec. 4

(Continued from Page 1) Wildwood, and set out the cut-outs depicting holiday themes on the median and city hall lawn, among other tasks, by chamber volunteers, friends, and supporters.

So start the season right, among friends and neighbors – come enjoy the atmosphere and festivities downtown, where all the lights are bright. The fire department will ride again on Christmas Eve, as is traditional, when members will hand out candy canes throughout the community, so listen for the sound of sirens then, as well.

## Resolve to Stay Active! By Jennifer Weiss, Project Coordinator

*Ed Note: This is a monthly feature produced in coordination with the Safe Paths to Schools effort. The Redwood Community Action Agency's Natural Resources Services Division was contracted to conduct this educational component.*



There is no question that the pandemic has made life challenging for everyone. With a new year on the horizon, many of us will be making resolutions to prioritize health, wellness, and self-care in 2022. We are fortunate to live in a beautiful community with many options for maintaining a healthy mind and body through outdoor recreation opportunities. Exercising outdoors is key to staying well and walking, running, or bicycling can be excellent outlets for increasing strength and endurance and releasing stress or worry. One of the most appealing aspects of getting physical activity through walking or bicycling is that it won't cost you an arm and a leg. All you need is a decent pair of shoes and/or a bicycle in working order and they don't need to be fancy!

Looking for motivation to get outside? Exploring new routes can help boost your motivation by providing new scenery and eliminating the predictability of traveling the same familiar roads over and over. Choosing a rewarding destination, such as your favorite coffee shop, might be the catalyst you need to get moving and be sure to reward yourself when you reach a goal!

Finding a walking or bicycling partner and committing to a date or schedule is another great way to ensure you get it done because telling someone else you are going to do it makes it more difficult to back out. Running errands by foot or bike will appeal to "Type A" personalities because you can add a stop or two and cross pesky chores off your to-do list. Make sure you pre-select a route that is fun as well as rewarding. Consider wind direction, elevation and even sunlight levels (particularly important during winter months) so you can complete your walk or ride in a pleasant and safe way while reinforcing a positive association with your sneakers or bicycle. Happy new year and happy trails!



### **The HWMA Tire Recycling Program is back!**

The Hawthorne Street Transfer Station in Eureka will accept up to nine auto or light truck tires per day at no extra charge. It's ok if they're on rims. No business-generated tires please. This program is only for household generated tires. The program runs until next summer. This program is funded by Cal Recycle.

Call or email us for details:: 268-8680 or [info@hwma.net](mailto:info@hwma.net)





# Fire departments update, streamline equipment



A new fire truck is on order for the combined fire departments of Rio Dell, Scotia, Shively and Redcrest. It will be similar to the one purchased about five years ago by the Rio Dell department, with what is considered a Type 1 engine, serving both wildland and structural firefighting missions. It is due to arrive next May or June. It will be housed in Redcrest, Chief Shane Wilson said, as part of the combined department's strategic plan to allocate equipment to serve the varying needs of the four communities it serves. Wilson hopes it comes in under the \$600,000 budgeted for the purchase.

"We're downsizing!" Wilson notes. An inventory of apparatus at the time of the merger showed the four departments owned a combined 25 units and some pieces were deemed no longer necessary. They, along with non-vehicular surplus equipment, will be sold on a government-surplus auction site, govdeals.com, if a local buyer is not found.

The plan is to have one piece of firefighting apparatus each in Redcrest and Shively, as well as a water supply vehicle called a tender in each. Considerations for the allocation of equipment include the capabilities of each in the community to which it will be assigned – for instance, to navigate and turn into narrow streets, such as can be found in Rio Dell, vs. the two track dirt roads one sees in Shively or Redcrest, or the ability to go off-road in fighting wildfires.

Rosenbauer America will build the new unit, as it did with the one purchased five years ago, at its Minnesota plant north of Minneapolis. "They are our choice for this type of engine," Wilson said.

A new fire department building is under construction in Redcrest as well – a 40 by 40, two-bay structure. The local grange is offering a 99-year lease on the land, Wilson said. Building plans are in the works at Scotia as well, for a three-bay structure at the site of the existing department. In Shively discussion is underway for a future station. The new structures will provide needed space for storage of all kinds. "We have all these wooden sheds we have to maintain all the time," Wilson indicated the ones bordering Firemen's Park in Rio Dell.

Another hope is that the energy around the new truck in Redcrest will boost participation in the department that community. "We only have about four volunteers there," Wilson said.



## Rio Dell-Scotia News

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**Deadline for January newsletter copy is Dec. 10. Call the Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce at 506-5081 to advertise.**