

# Rio Dell-Scotia News



Turn clocks **BACK** one hour before going to bed Sat., Nov. 6.  
Daylight savings time **ENDS** Nov 7.



## Christmas is coming – get in the spirit!

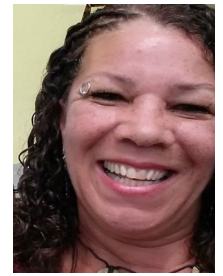
The chamber of commerce is planning the annual decorating of Wildwood Avenue in Rio Dell the weekend of November 20 and 21. Want a light-hearted, outdoors family activity to share with neighbors and friends? Come help deck the city!

Meet at 9 a.m. both/either day at the chamber office, 406 Wildwood Avenue, at the corner of Columbus with the big clock in the median, and dress for the weather. If you can't join up til later, just look for work teams around town and jump in. Whatever isn't finished will be done the following weekend, Nov. 27 and 28. Projects will involve setting up the wooden, decorative cut-outs in the median and on City Hall lawn, stringing lights on the trees in Memorial Park, decorating the tree on the median outside the chamber office, and more.

Each year more decorations are added, financed by donations of chamber supporters. Efforts to engage outside assistance, such as through the local chapter of the California Conservation Corps, have been put on hold due to that organization's Covid restrictions. So come on out and pitch in if you can, this effort has grown each year and is intended to make the city a place people can come to for viewing of holiday lights, to increase traffic and business in the community, as well as creating a source of local pride.

**The tree lighting**, as in the past, will be the first Saturday of December at dusk, so mark your calendar for Dec. 4 at about 5 p.m. The **fire truck parade** that was held just before the lighting proved popular last year, though the county health department rules surrounding what was permissible for gatherings in our first year of Covid were ever-changing, so it was late in being decided and light in being publicized. This year, the department is eager to do it again according to Susan Pryor, chamber board member who is on the fire department.

## New shop to open on Wildwood



**My Mother's Garden** is the name of a new shop set to open this month at 406 Wildwood Avenue in Rio Dell in the facility operated by the chamber of commerce. Deborah Hart-Tinsley says her new store will offer "previously-loved" clothing items in search of a new home, hand-made jewelry and "other fun stuff."

Gardening figures prominently in her life. She cites the saying "In search of my mother's garden, I found my own," and says both her mother and grandmother were avid gardeners who drew the admiration of many, so the store's name is a way of paying tribute to both women who, she says, "cultivated my love of all things garden." That love has deep roots. Hart-Tinsley says "spending time in the garden is literally therapeutic for me and I absolutely love seeing a garden in full bloom. I also found that I enjoy creating garden-themed items that can be worn or given as gifts, as inspiration."

From gardening, "I noticed many of life's lessons were making themselves known to me," she says. An example: A seed contains within it everything needed for maturity, if only it is nurtured. "I use the theme of garden and/or nature to remind people of the potential that lies within," she says. "When they see a flower, they will remember it came from something as small as a seed."

**Watch for the opening of this new shop, just in time for holiday shopping.**



### Recent river clean-ups net tons of trash

Jonathan Brodeur's volunteer river clean-up crews have been hauling literally tons of trash that otherwise would be washed away downstream when rains arrive. In September more than three tons of trash were hauled, with the dump fee paid by Shotz Coffee and Elway Construction. In October there was only 1,000 pounds that could be hauled with available labor and more left for another day. Watch for his announcements on Facebook and turn out to help when you can to make our land and waterways both more attractive, and safe, by removing trash potentially dangerous to the environment.

### Nov. 11 veterans' salute



The flags will go up on Wildwood for Veterans Day, Nov. 11, and the veterans' display initiated in May will again be on the lawn at city hall, expanded with some new additions. Watch for times (it will be after Daylight Savings Time ends) to deploy and take down the flags if you want to join in, and remember to stop by the display on the lawn at city hall to pay respects to those who have served.



### 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 Nov. 5. Call 605-313-4802 and at the prompt, enter access code 860467.

### New building taking shape at the industrial park

Sacramento-based Sean Suh is the force behind a new structure going up at the industrial park north of Rio Dell. It is the first of a four-phase project and this greenhouse, when completed, will be the most modern in the world, Suh told the planning commission when the project was approved in mid-2020. It is sited on one of two parcels he owns at the park, called Marathon 101 LLC and Marathon 102 LLC.



### Got tires you don't want? Here's your fall clean-up tip

Clear out those extra tires in your yard or garage – the Humboldt Waste Management Authority will accept up to nine auto or light truck tires at no extra charge at its Hawthorne Street Transfer Station, 1059 Hawthorne Street, Eureka, through next summer. This is only for households, not businesses. Unwanted tires harbor rain and therefore mosquitos so load them up and take advantage of this tire recycling program now. Call 268-8680 or go to [www.hwma.net](http://www.hwma.net) for more.

### Check here for Covid vaccine availability

Covid vaccinations are open to everyone 16 and over now, and Pfizer's has been approved for those 12 to 15. A state-wide website (replacing the one run by Humboldt County) lets you be notified of opportunities to get the shot so sign up here: [MyTurn.ca.gov](http://MyTurn.ca.gov). [It provides a place where those needing a ride to the site for the shot can indicate that.](#)



## Chamber names new board member

The chamber named Heather Watkins to its board, filling an opening caused by a resignation. Filling that spot was put on hold during the pandemic as so many projects and activities were sidelined or scaled down. With a sea of plans now in the works, the need to fill out the board was posted on Facebook, in this newsletter and in a monthly email to members, advertisers and supporters.



Watkins is a Realtor with Humboldt Equity in Fortuna. She “brings a level of professionalism, organization, and a strong desire to help others achieve their goals,” the website for the agency says, noting she is certified as a Short Sales and Foreclosure Resource agent.

Watkins graduated from Humboldt State University with an M.B.A in Strategic Sustainability and a B.S. in Business Administration with a concentration in Management. Prior to joining Humboldt Equity, she taught finance and algebra at Fortuna Union High School and worked for seven years before that in retail management.

As a previous member of North Bay Rotaract and the Kiwanis Club of Rio Dell-Scotia, she enjoys volunteering in the community and making connections with others. Born to deaf parents, she is fluent in American Sign Language. Outside of work she enjoys spending time outdoors, and with her son, Ryder.

## November is Bike Gratitude Month

By Jennifer Weiss, Project Coordinator

Natural Resources Services Division,

Redwood Community Action Agency.



*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.*

It's officially fall and with Thanksgiving right around the corner it is a good time to reflect on gratitude. In honor of the holiday, here are 10 reasons to be thankful for bicycles:

1. Bicycles provide opportunities for people to get exercise in a fun way.
2. Regular cycling improves cardiovascular fitness, muscle strength, mobility, and flexibility.
3. Bicycle commuting creates zero emissions and promotes a clean environment.
4. More people bicycling as a means of transportation will create less vehicle traffic on roadways.
5. Regularly riding a bicycle can help prevent chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer, and Type II diabetes.
6. Riding a bicycle is less expensive than driving. The only fuel you need to power a bicycle is the food you eat!
7. Cycling is a low impact activity and results in less muscle damage than running because it is not a weight bearing exercise.
8. Cycling boosts brain power! Kids who bike (or walk) to school tend to perform better in school than those who don't.
9. Bicycling boosts mental health by decreasing stress levels.
10. Riding a bike improves your navigational skills and helps you get to know your neighborhood better.



## A visit to the iconic engine, loved by two towns

*The following article was written by Mary Bullwinkel and with the accompanying photos ran in the Times-Standard last month; it is reprinted here with permission.*

A lot has happened since Locomotive No. 9, the last remaining full-size piece of the historic Mount Tamalpais & Muir Woods Railway in the bay area, was removed from Scotia in November 2018.

Currently stored at an undisclosed ranch location in Sonoma County, the restoration process of the historic locomotive is underway.

Coordinating the restoration work is a non-profit organization called Friends of No. 9. “We are a band of people who love Mount Tamalpais and what No. 9 stood for,” said Chairman and Executive Director Fred Runner, “and we knew that No. 9 needed to come home. This is the only surviving piece of a very cool thing,” he added. During its operation, the Mount Tamalpais and Muir Woods Railway carried over a million people from Mill Valley to the top of Mount Tamalpais, and then down into Muir Woods.

Restoration work is presently underway on locomotive No. 9’s tender, which carried the water to generate steam to power the engine. The tender was removed on August 25 and taken to the Millerick Brothers metal shop in Sebastopol. The tender made two trips to Delta Sandblasting in Alameda, before repairs began and the plan is to keep as much of the original metal and rivets as possible. “Jeff and Don Millerick have been working in metal for over 50 years,” Runner said.

Repairs to the tender will also include applying an interior epoxy coating to prevent future corrosion and priming the exterior. The cost of this stage of restoration is being covered by a donation of more than \$30,000 from Jeff and Celeste Craemer of San Rafael.

The next step will be restoring the metal cab, where the locomotive’s operating crew worked, and replacing the gauges that were in the cab. Runner said the original gauges and other instruments were removed at some point by what he called souvenir hunters while on display in Scotia. “If anyone knows where to find original pieces,” Runner said, “we’d love to have them back on No. 9. The cab work is not funded yet,” he added. Donations are being accepted and can be made online through the non-profit’s website or by mailing a check to the Novato address of the organization.

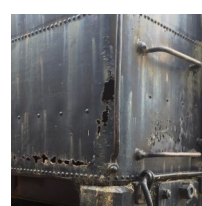
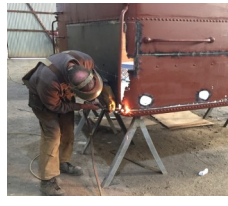
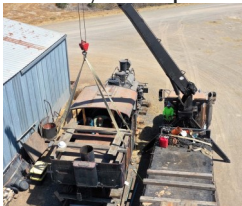
The first step to restoring locomotive No. 9 was the removal of asbestos, which was completed in July of last year. Friends of No. 9 contracted with Central Valley Environmental, a local hazardous waste materials removal company to complete this work. When the locomotive was built in 1921 it was common to use asbestos to insulate the boiler to keep the steam generated inside from cooling back into water. During the asbestos removal, it was determined that the locomotive’s boiler was rusty, but in good shape.

The complete cost of restoration is anticipated to be around \$250,000 and if donations come in to cover the costs associated with this process, the hope is to complete the project in two years.

“The final location (for display of locomotive No. 9) is still in the works,” Runner said, “but we want to put it where it worked 100 years ago, somewhere on (Mount) Tamalpais or in Mill Valley.”

Locomotive No. 9 was built at Heisler Locomotive Works in Erie, PA in 1921. It was used on the Mount Tamalpais & Muir Woods Railway, also known as the crookedest railroad in the world, until 1924. The locomotive was used for logging in Humboldt and Siskiyou counties until 1950. In 1953 The Pacific Lumber Company bought the retired locomotive for display next to the Scotia Museum. With the highest bid submitted, the Friends of No. 9 organization purchased the locomotive from the Scotia Community Services District in 2018.

In April 2021, Friends of No. 9 held an online centennial celebration for the locomotive, which first arrived in Mill Valley on April 18, 1921. This celebration can be viewed on the Friends of No. 9 YouTube channel.



### Rio Dell-Scotia News

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



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