

Friends Of Monte Rio Community Report/ Update 2012

The Friends of Monte Rio (FOMR) is pleased to have been able to present several events benefiting the Russian River community this year. The revival of the traditional Easter Egg Hunt and Games enjoyed a successful second year attracting over one hundred fifty family members to the Monte Rio Community Center for a day that included egg games, a raffle, a sing along with Mr. Music, Jim Corbett, and a bake sale to benefit the Monte Rio School. The highlight of the day brought lines of children with their homemade contraptions and parachutes to participate in the Famous Egg Drop From the Bridge. A lot of the credit goes to volunteer coordinator Mary Black who brought her energy and passion to running this event for a second successful year.



In July, FOMR was awarded a grant from the Community Foundation Sonoma County for the purchase of a portable audio system, which will be greatly appreciated at upcoming events. Also in July, The Friends were invited to have a booth at the 101st Variety Show and Benefit at the Amphitheater alongside the Russian River Historical Society (RRHS) helping to raise funds for the event and had the opportunity to introduce our organization to the community.

At the request of the MRRPD, the FOMR took over the organizing and running of the Annual Russian River Car Show for it's 14th year. Thanks to the sharing of past information, advice and help from many who have been involved in past efforts, including Dawn Bell, Claudia Corello, Stephanie Felch, Brian Grant, Don and Suzie Shaffert, it proved to be a very successful transition. FOMR would like to thank the MRRPD for their co-sponsorship of the event and for waiving the facility rental fee for our first year. In grateful consideration of their generosity, the FOMR board voted to make a \$500 donation to MRRPD.

The day began with a pancake breakfast headed up by a crew of master pancake makers –retired fireman from San Francisco and San Luis Obispo– who served heaping plates of pancakes, sausage and eggs to over a hundred guests. Seventy car owners entered their beautifully restored and kept vehicles, a 22% increase from 2011. The event attracted over two hundred community members who could wander between the competing cars while listening to car themed songs being played by our guest KGGV DJ Damien Olsen, visit the Russian River Historical Society booth and participate in the raffle which featured dinner and wine gift certificates, art work and services donated by local businesses. Registered participants also had the extra fun of joining in the Poker Walk, which introduced them to the town of Monte Rio.

FOMR would like to give special recognition and thanks to the [thirty-eight local businesses, organizations and individuals](#) who signed on as award sponsors and donated raffle prizes. We are also very happy to hear from many of our neighbors about the positive benefits felt by the wider community. Several of the local restaurants, including The Rio Bridge Café and Don's Dogs told us that they had very large numbers of Car Show attendees stop by for lunch and dinner. John Shubert and the volunteers running the Russian River Historical Society booth reported they had the best day ever in terms of garnering donations and new members.



The idea of bringing adult enrichment classes to the community has also become reality with the start of the Spanish Conversation class each Monday night at the Monte Rio Community Center. The FOMR Board also recently approved a request to purchase a pottery wheel so that a ceramics class can begin soon.

The Mission of the Friends of Monte Rio is to enhance the quality of community life in Monte Rio, and the lower Russian River area, by sponsoring a series of social events and educational programs within the Monte Rio Recreation & Park District. The Friends of Monte Rio is an all volunteer, 501(C)(3) Non-Profit Charitable Organization. FOMR is thankful to all of the members of our community who contribute their time, creativity and support through tax-deductible donations.

Join us at www.friendsofmonterio.org