



# the Rio Review

THE CITY OF RIO GRANDE CITY'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

• Vol-01 • Edi-09 • DEC. 2021

FREE • MONTHLY • ONLINE at [www.cityofrgc.com](http://www.cityofrgc.com)

## Flag and Tackle Football Season Set to Begin

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## The City of Rio Grande City and RGCCISD Team Up to Host the First Annual Winter Festival of Lights

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in Rio Grande City with preparations by Rio Grande City Grulla ISD and other entities for our FIRST ANNUAL Winter Festival of Lights! RGCCISD schools and local departments have been working diligently day in and day out to ensure that this will be one of the best events of the year! The Winter Festival of Lights will be held at the Fort Ringgold Parade Field on Friday, December 10, 2021, and Saturday, December 11, 2021 and we hope to see YOU there! At RGCCISD, we offer you experiences of a lifetime!



THE CITY OF  
RIO GRANDE CITY

## Rio Grande City Hall

## Located at:

5332 E. Highway 83,  
Rio Grande City, TX 78582

## Phone No.:

956-487-0672

## Website:

www.cityofrgc.com

## Hours of Operation:

Mon-Friday  
8:00 am - 5:00 pm

## Closed

Saturday - Sunday

Explore  
Our  
Beautiful  
City

The mission of the City of Rio Grande City is to provide quality municipal services in partnership with our citizens to build a progressive city and to provide a better quality of life for all our residents. Rio Grande City is rich in history and honors traditions. Come and explore a multitude of historical sites, take a walk run or bike ride through our Fordyce Trails, and enjoy our many festivals.

A Publication of the  
City of Rio Grande City

Chief Noe Castillo Speaks  
at Special Olympics Brunch

Over the weekend of November 6th, Police Chief Noe Castillo was invited to speak at the Special Olympics Brunch on behalf of Rio Grande City Police Department for their exceptional fundraising efforts for the Special Olympics Texas - Rio Grande Valley Area.

Castillo shared that the collaborative efforts of the entire department along with the community outreach of two special individuals, Myda Garza and Angelina Villarreal, served as the key to their success. Also in attendance was Senator Eddie Lucio who shared tribulations during the write up of SB 776, which would provide adaptive sports programs in UIL for children with disabilities.

With a whopping \$2,418 out of a total of \$3,208 valley wide, Rio Grande City Police Department leads the valley in funds raised for the Special Olympics Torch Fundraiser 2021. Because of these efforts and the amount of community support, Special Olympics Texas corporate has selected the area to represent the entire Rio Grande Valley region in a state-wide virtual Torch Run production.

Entities involved include Roma ISD Police Department, Roma Police Department, and Starr County sheriff's office, Department of Public Safety Starr County, Rio Grande City Grulla ISD, La Grulla and Escobares Police Department.

Unfortunately due to COVID-19 concerns, the organization postponed the Torch Run 5K event statewide until spring 2022. Funds raised in the 2021 year will roll over to the next term.

Want to be involved? Contact lgarza@sotx.org for more information.

Social  
Assurance

Hello there Rio Grande City residents! We wanted to let you know we've updated our 'About Me' Info section on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter with the addition of our 'External Social Media Policy'.

For the safety and security of the public and public systems, along with the best interests of the community in mind, this updated policy will now be in effect as of November 30, 2021. It can be found on any one of our social media pages or by using the following link located under 'Documents' on [www.cityofrgc.com](http://www.cityofrgc.com): <https://www.cityofrgc.com/Social%20MEDIA%20Policy.PNG>.

In summation of social media initiatives, the City of Rio Grande City pledges (when possible) to provide information, support community engagement and outreach, support marketing and promotional campaigns, frame the public conversation around Rio Grande City, and assist with recruitment efforts. By participating and engaging on any social media platform handled by the City of Rio Grande City, each member agrees to the terms mentioned on our policy statement.

For any questions, concerns, or comments please contact [publicrelations@cityofrgc.com](mailto:publicrelations@cityofrgc.com).

# Rio Grande City

## EXTERNAL SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

## PURPOSE

To build communication and trust with residents and visitors, and to encourage participation through comments and feedback.

## GOALS

Rio Grande City aims to effectively use Social Media Accounts to:

- Provide information
- Support community engagement and outreach
- Support marketing and promotional campaigns
- Frame the public conversation around Rio Grande City
- Assist with recruitment efforts

Please be aware that when engaging with this agency through Social Media, you agree to the following...

## MODERATION OF THIRD PARTY CONTENT

The agency does not necessarily endorse, support, sanction, encourage, verify or agree with Third Party comments, messages, posts, opinions, advertisements, videos, promoted content, external hyperlinks, linked websites (or the information, products or services contained therein), statements, commercial products, processes or services posted on any Social Media Site.

This agency social media site serves as a limited public forum and all content published is subject to preservation and disclosure in accordance with the Texas Public Information Act. User-generated posts may be rejected or removed when the content includes any of the following:

- incitement of violence or violent behavior,
- defamation or spread of misinformation,
- copyrighted or commercial material
- fraudulent material or accusations, or
- obscene or illegal material.

We do not allow information intended to compromise the safety or security of the public or public systems. You participate at your own risk, taking personal responsibility for your comments, your username and any information provided.

## RETENTION

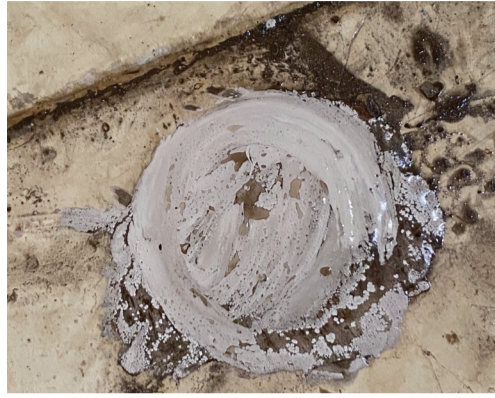
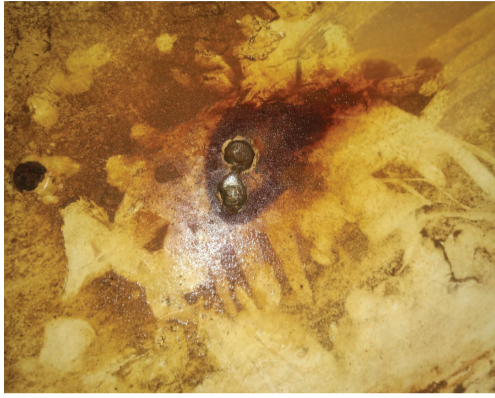
Social media sites contain communications sent to or received by the Agency and its employees, and such communications are therefore public records subject to SB 1368. These retention requirements apply regardless of the form of the record (e.g. digital text, photos, audio, and video). The Department maintaining a site shall preserve records pursuant to a relevant records retention schedule.

## EMERGENCY POSTINGS

Social media sites are not monitored 24/7. If there is an emergency, contact 911.



## Public Utilities Crewmen Fix Water Tower Leak



Over the first weekend of December, Public Utilities crew men went into the Eisenhower Rio Grande City water tank to initially fix a leak described to be "Pouring out like a shower," by Public Utilities director Elisa Beas. Once the crewman made their way in, the conditions of the cleanliness of the water tank were made evident. In addition to fixing the leak, the crewman spent their weekend cleaning and disinfecting the walls of the tank. The progress photos can be seen here.

## Public Notice

The Public Utilities department has updated policy for incoming developers wishing to build an apartment complex. Complexes larger than a duplex are required to function from a centralized master water meter instead of individualized meters for each unit.

## Public Utilities Progress Report:

### 1. VFW Lift Station (A):

This project is complete pending pavement of the drive

### 2. BLUEBONNET Lift Station (F):

This project is complete pending pavement of the drive

### 3. BBVA Lift Station (E):

This project is complete pending pavement of the drive

### 4. LOS GARCIAS Lift Station (G):

A. Wet well, receiving MH, and the collector line is in the ground, the connection to the existing LS(MH) is ongoing with the contractor making effort to stabilize the area before continuing with excavation.

B. AEP has installed the new service pole and shifted power to the existing Ls to the new service pole temporarily

C. The integrity of the bottom of the existing LS has been ascertained and thus the ongoing operation to complete the connection to it continues as a viable option to re-directing the incoming flows from the five contributing lines.

D. A need for an extension of another 5 mos. to the contract was discussed.

Change Order #5 will add time to extend the contract to May31, 2022.

### 5. SOLIS Lift Station (H):

This project is complete pending pavement of the drive.

The required yard faucet is not yet active until a new meter application is made to Rio WSC by the City.

### 6. RIO MOTORS Lift Station (C):

1. The new lift station is in place and in operation.

2. The power to the old lift station has been cut off and the Contractor will complete the demolition of the old LS as soon as possible.

3. The paving of the drive is pending.

\*Adapted from 'Monthly Progress Meeting Minutes' with Delta Engineering

## Affordable and Sustainable

# WATER — for — TEXAS



Currently, the City takes on about 1.4 million gallons of wastewater a day, barely making it under its maxxed out capacity of 1.5 million gallons. With the help of a grant funded by the Texas Water Development Board and North American Development Bank. The monies will be utilized to fund a full feasibility and environmental study that strategizes how to support the expected population growth of the community for the next 20 years. This could entail the addition of more lift stations and an estimation of the projected longevity of the projects proposed.

In order to meet compliance for infrastructure to support more economic growth, the Rio Grande City Sanitation plant will be undergoing an expansion. During the December City Commission Meeting, an engineer will be selected to formulate the details of such a project. Other attributes involved include running a completely new sewage line from Hernandez street to Alvarez road. Homes and businesses in the area receive clean water from independent septic tanks or water treatment systems. Normally, residents and businesses receiving city water must provide access to allow maintenance of water meters located on the outskirts of the central property.



**Texas Water  
Development Board**  
www.twdb.texas.gov

# Hilton Hotel Coming Soon to Rio Grande City



It's official! Starr County will have a new, state of the art Hilton Hotel making its way to the Rio Grande Village and we can hardly wait for 2022 to share a bit of our warm hospitality with friends and visitors alike. Renderings can be seen in the rough digitized image provided.

# Rio Chamber Hosts Annual Parade Marshal Dinner



Rio Chamber held an Annual Parade Marshal Dinner honoring local Healthcare Heroes. Thank you to those who contributed in the effort of promoting herd immunity and for your dedication to protecting our dear community.

A parade Marshal is an organization or group that leads the parade through the town. This honor is usually presented to someone who has made a significant impact in the community.

The Lighted Parade took place Friday December 3, 2021 at 7:00 PM and encompassed the theme 'Christmas Around the World'. Participation was extended to local businesses, companies, corporations to develop partnerships within the community.

The line-up for floats began at 3:00 PM west of Britton Avenue on Water St. The Parade end location is the Fort Ringgold Campus.

## PAYROLL COMPLIANCE

A Seminar for Small Business Employers

**December 16, 2021 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM**  
Virtual Session | via Zoom  
Fee: None | General Information: 956-665-7535

South-West Texas Border  
Small Business  
Development Center Network  
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley SBDC

### Are you planning to hire employees?

Hiring employees involves more than just signing a paycheck. Before hiring employees, business owners must understand and prepare for the additional obligations that come with being an employer. This workshop sheds light on the compliance requirements of payroll.

### Workshop Highlights

Learn about:

- ◆ Steps to meeting general State and Federal requirements
- ◆ Laws and types of payroll taxes business owners must pay
- ◆ Contact information for the different agencies that govern payroll taxes
- ◆ Helpful resources

### Presented by

This workshop is presented by a certified business advisor with the UTRGV Small Business Development Center (SBDC).

### Hosted and promoted by

This workshop is hosted by the UTRGV SBDC with promotional support by the Greater Pharr Chamber of Commerce, Palmview Chamber of Commerce, Rio Grande City Economic Development Corporation, and South Padre Island Chamber of Commerce.



Funded in part through the State of Texas and a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency will be made, if requested at least two weeks in advance, by calling the UTRGV SBDC at (956) 665-7535. Assistance for the hearing impaired can be obtained by calling the TDD line at 1-866-410-5787 or 1-866-327-8877.

Rural Development  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Together, America Prospers

## USDA Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program (DLT)

### Opportunity to Apply for Funding

The USDA begins accepting applications for funding under the DLT program on April 5, 2021. Applications must be received no later than June 4, 2021, to be eligible for funding under this grant opportunity.

- The Agency encourages applicants to consider projects that will promote equity and economic opportunity in rural America, specifically those that advance the following key priorities:
  - Containing the COVID-19 pandemic
  - Ensuring racial equity
  - Rebuilding our rural economy and
  - Addressing the climate crisis.
- Congress provided USDA Rural Development \$57 million in DLT funding in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021. As it was authorized to do, the Agency applied \$18 million from FY 2021 to award projects from the prior fiscal year. Approximately \$44.5 million is available. This amount includes \$39.2 million in funds appropriated for FY 2021 as well as funds totaling \$5.3 million which were not awarded during FY 2020.
- The Agency also reserves the right to increase funding for applications should additional appropriations become available for the same purposes.

#### What does this program do?

This grant program helps rural communities acquire the technology and training necessary to connect educational and medical professionals with students, teachers, and patients in rural areas.

#### Who may apply for this program?

Eligible applicants that provide education or health care services through telecommunications facilities, include:

- State and local governmental entities
- Federally recognized Tribes
- Nonprofit organizations
- For-profit businesses
- Consortia of eligible entities

#### What is an eligible area?

The intent of the DLT program is to benefit rural areas with populations of 20,000 or less.

#### How may funds be used?

Grant funds may be used for:

- Audio, video and interactive video equipment
- Broadband facilities that support distance learning or telemedicine
- Computer hardware, network components and software
- Acquisition of instructional programming
- Acquisition of technical assistance and instruction for using eligible equipment

#### What kinds of funding are available?

Grants funds are awarded through a nationally competitive process. Funding is not currently available for DLT loans or loan / grant combinations.

#### What are some grant requirements?

- Awards can range from \$50,000 to \$1 million
- A minimum 15 percent match is required and cannot be from another federal source

#### How do we get started?

- Application windows for this program are announced through the national office on a periodic basis
- Program Resources are available online at [rd.usda.gov](http://rd.usda.gov) (includes forms, guidance, certifications, etc.)
- Check back here or contact your [General Field Representative](#) for additional information

#### Who can answer questions?

Contact a [General Field Representative](#) that serves your area. Call (202) 720-0800 or email [dltinfo@usda.gov](mailto:dltinfo@usda.gov).

#### What governs this program?

- Code of Federal Regulation: 7 CFR Part 1734

#### Why does USDA Rural Development do this?

The DLT program helps rural residents tap into the enormous potential of modern telecommunications and the Internet for education and health care, two of the keys to economic and community development.

**NOTE:** Because citations and other information may be subject to change, please always consult the program instructions listed in the section above titled "What Governs This Program?" You may also contact your local office for assistance. You will find additional forms, resources, and program information at [rd.usda.gov](http://rd.usda.gov). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Last Updated April 2021

## Flag and Tackle Football Season Begins, RGC Parks and Rec Welcomes Two New Employees

A total of 10 local teams from Starr County are ready to kick off the season on December 8th for this year's Flag and Tackle football games. Parks and Rec's Director Frank Eguia stated "our teams have been busy practicing in preparation for the season and we look forward to getting back to hosting sports now that vaccines are available for children 5 and up". Parks and Recs work together with the local school district to encourage the youth to take up sports in preparation for Middle and High School. It is a great opportunity to familiarize them with learning the rules of the game and working as a team, stated Parks and Rec's Director, Frank Eguia.

Parks and Recs also welcomed two new part time employees to continue to keep our city parks clean and safe for our community.

## RGC EDC (continued)

# Border Town, A Little Market in a South Texas Border Town



From a very young age, Armando Peña Jr. grew up surrounded by business. Working at his father's Gulf Gas Station originally located in Roma, Texas, he saw his entrepreneurial father work towards realizing his goal of opening up a grocery store. Slowly incorporating beverages and snacks in that small gasoline station, Amando Sr. eventually opened the Riverview Family Center in 1978.

This would serve as a jumping off point for Armando Jr. As he saw the grit and determination his father displayed in achieving this long-term goal, he would use what he learned while attending Texas A & I University and running his father's company for 28 years to envision his own group of retail stores.

It was after the passing of his father, Amando Jr. along with his wife Dalina, and his children: Liana, Amando III and Reynaldo, set out and opened the first Border Town in Alto Bonito. This would lay the foundation of what would become a burgeoning empire of homegrown neighborhood markets in Starr County including two and another in construction in Rio Grande City.

Can you provide me with a description of your business?

How did you get started in this business?

How did you get the background and skills necessary to run this type of business?

Does your business have a stated mission statement, the reason that this business exists?

What has been the hardest part of running a business? The easiest?

When I started running my father's company in 1981, things were relatively easy.

You would price the merchandise and the cashier would key in the price at the register; everything was simple. Nowadays, there is a lot of technology and it's really complex. Technology makes everything easier in the long run but a glitch potentially creates a major nightmare. That is the reason my sons are the driving force as they take on the technological aspect of this business. The easiest part is working with employees and wanting to serve our customers with good quality products, fresh produce and meats.

How many employees do you have?

How important have good employees been to your success?

It's everything. Our stores are located in small towns, in small neighborhoods and it's the same customers coming in and out every week, every day, to shop. Our employees go out of their way to welcome and serve them. They get to know our customers by name thus, establishing relationships and that makes all the difference in the world.

Company culture is the personality of a company and is defined by a variety of elements, including work environment, company mission, value, ethics, expectations and goals. What kind of culture exists in your organization? How did you establish this tone and why did you institute this particular type of culture?

How did you decide on the location for your business in Rio Grande City?

Do you believe there is some sort of pattern or formula to becoming a successful entrepreneur?

What's the best business advice anyone gave you?

Keep it simple, stupid. One of my professors in college taught us that phrase and it's a very basic saying but it makes all the sense in the world. Everything we do, we try to keep things simple.

Describe the moment at which point you knew your venture might actually become a success.

How do you differentiate yourself from your competitors?

Where do you see yourself and your business in 10 years? 20 years?

Geographically all of our stores are in a cluster, each one approximately a 10-minute drive from each other and that makes it easier to operate and visit. However our goal is to open a least one new grocery store per year for the next 10 years and we plan to open in Zapata and Hidalgo County

Who is your role model?

What do you do in your non-work time? What are your hobbies?

I am an ordained minister and a deacon of the Catholic Church. So on weekends and weekday afternoons, I do ministry work. That is my vocation and I invest many hours in ministry. As for hobbies, I am a fisherman. I like to head out to Falcon Lake and for freshwater fishing.

# Rio Grande City Fire Department Welcomes Two New Firefighters

Rio Grande City Fire Department received 2 new hires in the month of November, 2021.

Probationary firefighters are Ernesto Lopez, who previously was employed with our fire department between June 7, 2017 to October 14, 2019.

Probationary firefighter Hector A. Escoto, previously employed for the Roma Fire Department. We currently have 12 full time firefighters, 2 volunteer firefighters and 2 administrator/firefighters. A little information regarding day-to-day activities include the following: Every month a maintenance inspection on all fire trucks is completed. We currently have 2 engine trucks, 2 tankers, 2 brush units and 3 other trucks. The Department is in the process of receiving 2 additional engine trucks by the end of this month.

Goals for the future of Rio Grande City Fire Department as stated by Fire Chief Manuel Muniz, include "making sure we are fully equipped both with needed apparatuses, PPE, fire equipment and that our firefighters are all up to date in certifications. We respond to different assortments of emergencies including calls from structure fires, vehicle fires, grass fires, medical calls, vehicle accidents to fire alarms and gas leaks. The list goes on." The Chief goes on to mention that anyone interested in becoming a firefighter can do so by attending any fire academy. Chief Muniz says that the most challenging aspect of being a firefighter is "not knowing what the day may bring in terms of calls. And also the challenges of working 24 hours a day." However, he concludes that he loves his job and continues to do it for both his family and community..

# JOIN OUR FIREFIGHTER SQUAD

**BECOME A VOLUNTEER  
FIREFIGHTER**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL  
(956)487-5312**



## The Rio Grande City Police Department and RGC Crime Stoppers Distribute Over 20 Turkeys to Families

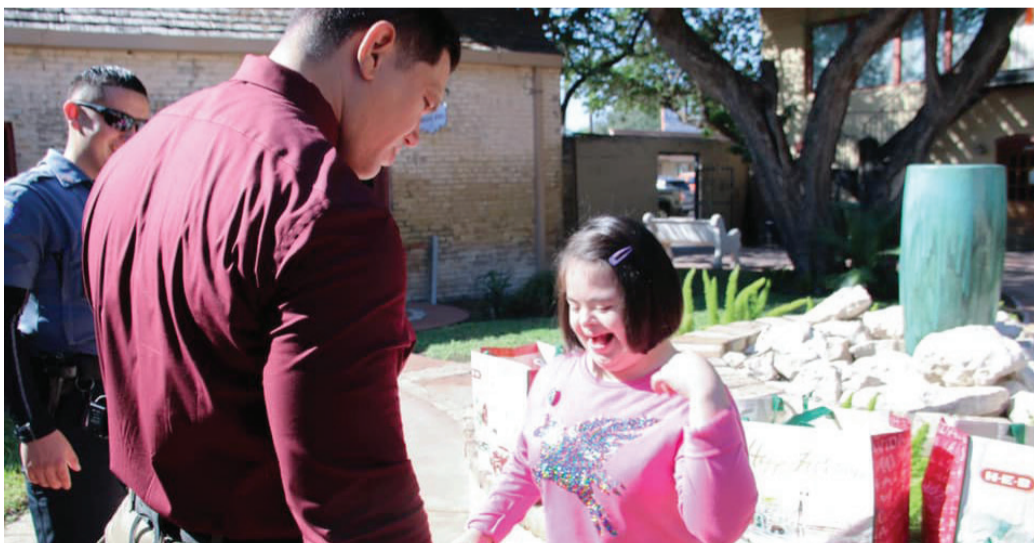
The Rio Grande City Police Department and Rio Grande City Crime Stoppers teamed up to give away over 20 turkeys to families in need this Thanksgiving season. This distribution was possible through the generous donations of a few local businesses, H-E-B and JF Trenching. On behalf of the Rio Grande City Police Department, we want to wish everyone a safe Holiday season.



### UPCOMING

- The police department will have our annual Christmas Toy giveaway on December 21st, 2021 at the Basilio Villarreal Park.
- School Presentations addressing the consequences of vaping. (Dates Pending)

## Rio Grande City Police Dept. Helps Make a Little Girl's Dream Come True



Rio Grande City Police Department along with a few other City staff were able to provide a local little girl the ride of her dreams. "We would like to give Ms. Rebecca a huge thank you along with her mother, Rachel Cantu for their service as the 2022 Special Olympics Texas Torch Poster Child," says Special Olympics Co-Chair of the Special Olympics Rio Grande Valley Board, Angelina Villarreal.

Following her photo shoot, Rio Grande City Police Department Chief Noe Castillo approved a sweet surprise for Rebecca with a trip to a local donut shop riding in a Rio Grande City Police Department unit. Myda Garza, a communications officer with Rio Grande City helped Rebecca select the perfect treats for her and her family.

Board Member Angelina continues that, "for a moment, we were able to give her a taste of her dream career— living the life of a police officer." Villarreal goes on to say that the City is proud of the commitment of Lauro Garza, Special Olympics Rio Grande Valley South Texas Director, for his dedication to our underserved athletes. Areas around Rio Grande City have not had much participation in recent years.

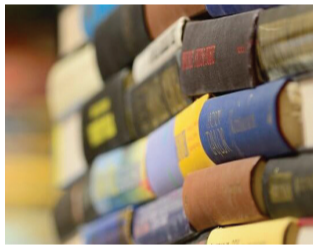
Rio Grande City has committed to support the growing effort of promoting inclusion in the area. For more information on sports enrollment, you may contact lgarza@sotx.org.

## The library offers many services beyond just checking out materials.

You can connect to the outside world with our Computer & Internet Access; have materials brought to you through Interlibrary Loan and use the library facility for a library tour. The Meeting Room is also available for non profit organizations.

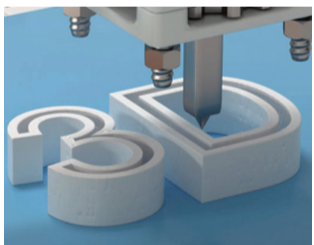
## Other Available Services

### ESL Classes



ESL Learn Basic English Conversation Skills: Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M

### Gardening Classes



3D Printer Demonstration: by Appointment (Monday – Friday 9am-4pm)

### Toddler Time



Free Virtual Toddler Time Activities Every Friday. 10:30 AM

# StoryWalk™ with the Rio Grande City Public Library

StoryWalk™ is a way to promote literacy and walking. Currently we have "Dragons Love Tacos" by Adam Rubin. A deliciously funny to read-aloud is an unforgettable take of new friends and the perfect snack that will make you laugh. Dragons love tacos. They love chicken tacos, beef tacos, great big tacos and teeny tiny tacos. In partnership with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Working on Working on Wellness Environments (WoW-E) and the Rio Grande City Public Library are hosting a StoryWalk™ at the RGC Miriam Vale Park. The StoryWalk™ will be on display at the Miriam Vale Park, located on the corner of San Roberto Rd and Santa Elena Ln. until further notice. We are also encouraging parents to share StoryWalk™ photos with us

at #rgcLibrary or email them to [rgclibrary@yahoo.com](mailto:rgclibrary@yahoo.com) and we will post them on our Social Media. Participants will be entered into a random drawing once a month for a chance to win 1 of 5 prizes! Thank you to Girl Scout Troop 3065, GFWC Florence J. Scott Woman's Club and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension staff for joining us at our StoryWalk Kick-Off.

Active People, Healthy Nation in Parks: Creating a More Active America, Together.

For more information and additional events, call 956-487-4389 or visit the Rio Grande City Public Library website at [www.rgclibrary.org](http://www.rgclibrary.org).



**RIO GRANDE CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**#rgcLibrary**

Share your StoryWalk™ photos with us at [#rgcLibrary](https://www.instagram.com/rgcLibrary) or email them to [rgclibrary@yahoo.com](mailto:rgclibrary@yahoo.com) and we will post them on our Social Media. Participants will be entered into a random drawing once a month for a chance to win 1 of 5 prizes.



## StoryWalk™ with the RGC Library



#rgcLibrary

Check out our StoryWalk™ at Miriam S. Vale Municipal Park. Walk along and read "Dragons Love Tacos".

StoryWalk will be available for you to enjoy at your leisure until further notice.



## Shop Local This Holiday Season



This holiday season let small businesses in your community know how much you appreciate them – be sure to #ShopSmall. Because the holidays are happier together. Visit ShopSmall.com to learn more.

Meet me Downtown and Shop Small this Holiday Season. Small Business Saturday took place November 27th, 2021 and many of our Main Street businesses are already running promotions for all your holiday needs. As a token of our appreciation, the Main Street program began distributing promotional items to be given away to customers who choose to Shop Small with us in Rio Grande City.



## Buried in History Scavenger Hunt

The Kelsey Bass Museum and Event Center wrapped up the first ever Buried in History Scavenger Hunt. Students from Preparatory for Early College High School and Rio Grande City High School took part in this project to promote awareness of our local history and

time honored tradition. Students who completed the project were entered in a raffle to win incredible prizes geared for today's teen. Winners from PECHS were Abel Ramirez Jr., Ebeyddi Granados, Angela Mendoza, and Felix Ortiz. RGCHS student Lino Hinojosa Jr. earned top prize. A special THANKS goes out to Mrs. J. Anderson, Mrs. Delgado, and Mrs. V. Guerrero for all of their support.

## Posada Ready

Kelsey Bass Museum and Event Center is all decked out for the holiday season. The display case in the entrance is decorated in a traditional "Posada" motif. Each shelf has a component of the Christmas story along with items commonly used in a Posada celebration. Merry Christmas and Feliz Navidad.r

## SIGHTSEEING | EXPLORE THIS MONTH'S FEATURED TOURIST SPOTS



The Rio Grande City Foryce Hike & Bike Trails are located at 1496, US-83, in Rio Grande City



**OUR LADY OF LOURDES GROTTO**

101 E. Third St.,  
Rio Grande City, TX  
78582



**RGC SKATE PLAZA**

1473 Stephen, Saenz  
St, Rio Grande City,  
TX 78582



**LA SANTA CRUZ**

(Behind) 5381 US-83,  
Rio Grande City, TX  
78582



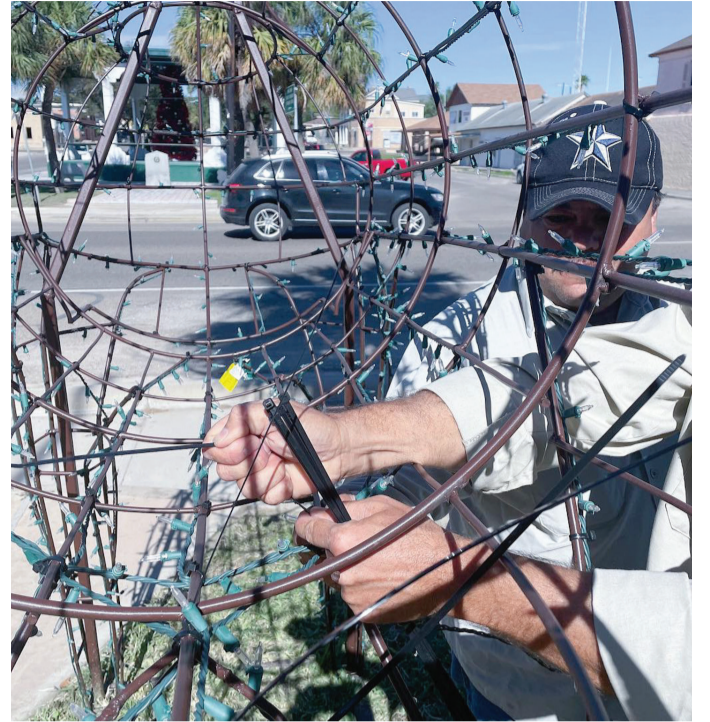
**KELSEY-BASS MUSEUM**

101 S Washington St,  
Rio Grande City, TX  
78582



**LOPEZ-TIJERINA COURTYARD**

101 S Washington St.,  
Rio Grande City, TX  
78582



## It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas

Say hello to a few of Santa's helpers working on our Downtown Rio Grande City Main Street area. We are thankful for such a hardworking team who provides the muscle to make this holiday season the best Rio Grande City residents have seen yet!

Rio Grande City Public Works, Utilities, and Parks and Recreation helpers have been spotted all over town, decking not only the streets of downtown but the areas along Britton Avenue, the Rio Grande City Fire Department, and City Hall.

A city is composed of numerous moving parts that function together to form one body. During our busiest times of the year, it is up to the muscle of the city to make our ideas truly come to life. From cleaning our roads, to decorating our streets, these guys do it all. If you have a friend or a family member part of our work crew, thank them for helping improve our beautiful City with their hard labor.



Ubaldo Garcia with our Public Works department for Rio Grande City will be available this month December 17-18 and December 27th through the 31st to receive residents and their bulky items for disposal AT 632 west Eisenhower.

**Monday through Friday: 9 AM - 6 PM**  
**Saturdays: 9 AM - 2 PM**

Don't forget to bring your ID and a recent utility bill. Bulky items include tires, beds, appliances, furniture, brush etc. Items NOT accepted include construction materials such as plywood, concrete, drywall, insulation, etc.

We hope to see you stop by! Here's to keeping Rio Grande City beautiful!

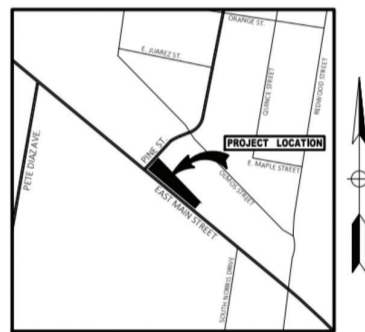


## Rendering for New Public Safety Building

Plans are almost complete to house Rio Grande City's Police Department, Fire Department, and other additions. Laura Warren, lead architect with the Warre Group Architects, Inc advised, "we will have an updated revision before the end of December." With the population skyrocketing in the previous years and more commercial development underway, some may argue that this expansion to vital public safety resources is long overdue.

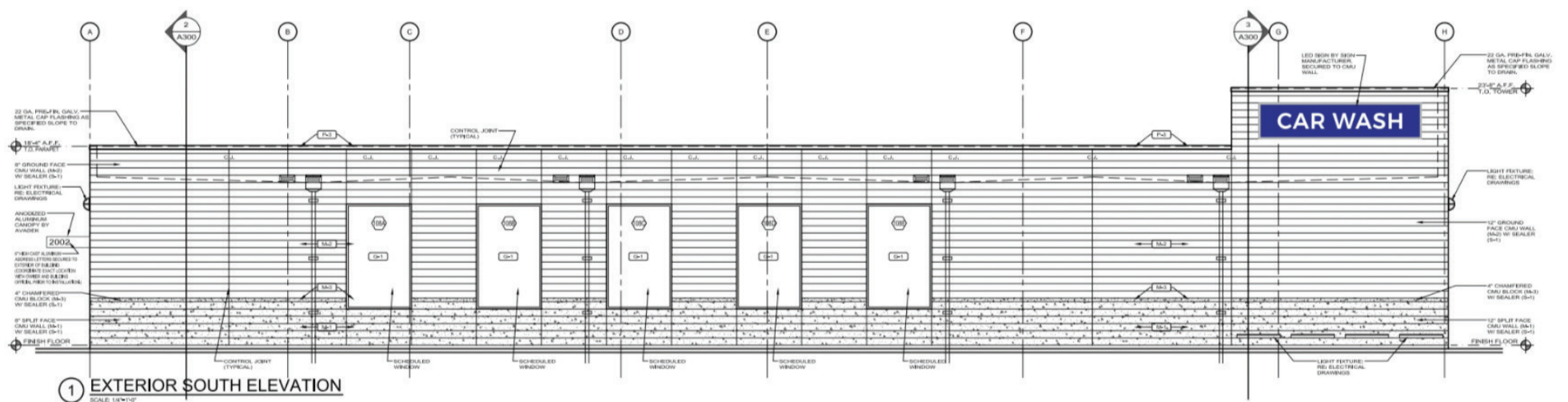
The new public safety building is to break soil just north of the St. Ives Realty development, alongside FM 755.

## A Wave of Blue



Vicinity Map  
Not to Scale

Our Planning Department has received permit requests for a new Blue Wave set to come into Rio Grande City. The building alone is valued to be about \$1,610,000.00 with a square footage of 4515 feet. Blue Wave Express Carwash prepares to break soil at 4343 US Highway 83, 78582 on the corner of FM 755. The architecture is being composed by CDA Architects while civil engineering and landscaping is being forged by CEI Engineering. Please note, plans are subject to change at the discretion of the owner and may not be to scale. Plans are courtesy of Bluewave Express.



1 EXTERIOR SOUTH ELEVATION  
SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"

## A New Marshall in Town



The Rio Grande City Planning and Coding Enforcement Department has received plans for the new Marshalls interior buildout. This will be the only Marshalls location within an hour's drive. The trendy and affordable department store will make its landfall at the Starr Plaza Shopping Center at 4027 E. US Hwy 83 in suite 300. A completion date is yet to be announced.



## Notice of Ordinance Rio Grande City Historic District

# Temporary Signage Ordinance

A person may not place a handbill, poster, placard or other temporary sign in the historic sign district except inside a window or on a bulletin board and with the consent of the owner or the tenant. If a person files an application for a signed permit in the historic sign district and the application complies with all applicable regulations of this chapter and other building codes adopted by the city of real Grande in City then the planning Director will review the application and determine whether it complies with the resort sign district guidelines.

More information regarding the Temporary Signage Ordinance can be found at [www.CityofRGC.com](http://www.CityofRGC.com)

## Free Tax Preparation

United Way's VITA Program provides free tax preparation for families in Hidalgo and Starr Counties. Every year, Rio Grande City staff joins in on providing free tax services to the community. We are seeking volunteers to assist with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program coming at the end of this coming January, 2022. In 2021, families saved an average of \$600,500 in tax preparations fees and received about \$5.2 million in federal tax refunds. This coming year, families who earn \$60,000 or less may be eligible to benefit from this service at no cost. Make sure to prepare ahead of time to potentially qualify for your tax refund. To find out more, please visit [unitedwayofstx.org](http://unitedwayofstx.org) (Photo from left to right: Alondra Guillen, Madeley Morin, Laura Ramirez, Elisa Beas)

## December is Viral Safety Month

A Proclamation signing and informative session regarding Viral Safety Month, featuring City of Roma, Mayor Escobar, Mayor Villarreal, and Dr. Mussett, a Roma Family Practice Physician was held November 24, 2021 alongside Mayor of Roma, Jaime Escobar. The proclamation spreads across the month of December with high hopes it will reach a year-round awareness campaign effort. The campaign has been coined the name of Visualizing Hope™ in an effort to provide a way to prevent the spread of Covid-19 by education regarding preventable measures, not limited to adding Vitamin D3 to your daily vitamins regimen. According to the program's pilot program on the City of Roma's website, Visualizing Hope™ is a cutting edge public health initiative to lower the risk of COVID-19 mass spread by turning on the body's natural protections against the virus. The initiative tracks The Viral Safety Index inside various public buildings where people are likely to be infected. Numerous scientific studies show that when the absolute humidity of the air we breathe INDOORS is 10 g/m<sup>3</sup> or above, COVID-19 mass-spread ALL BUT DISAPPEARS. Dr. Mussett and Dr. have been published across many media outlets, including Forbes in late 2021. The campaign highlights the following measures:

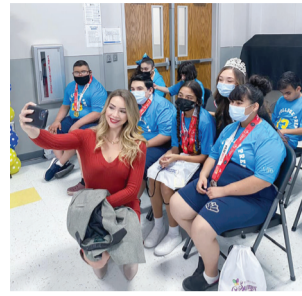
- LOW VITAMIN D turns off our body's natural immunity against Covid-19. Low Vitamin D impacts who lives and who dies from Covid-19.
- Get Started, Get Tested, Get Right™ is an urgent call to action urging employers to help employees test & know whether they are high risk because they have LOW VITAMIN D.
- EVERYONE in your workforce with LOW Vitamin D places your YOUR ENTIRE WORKFORCE AT RISK of Covid-19 mass spread because LOW Vitamin D impairs Cell-Mediated HERD IMMUNITY.
- Communities of color face extreme Covid-19 danger and don't know it.
- Nearly 100% of Hispanic Americans and African Americans now have Vitamin D levels below the 55 ng/ml level required for maximum protection against Covid-19.
- Only a blood test can tell if you are low. You can't "feel" LOW Vitamin D.
- Many people who have been taking Vitamin D for years will be surprised to learn they are dangerously low.

Get Started, Get Tested, Get Right is a critical part of Visualizing Hope because lifesaving Cell-mediated Herd Immunity, turned on when INDOOR Absolute Humidity is 10 and above, is turned off when Vitamin D is LOW.

For more information Please contact Dr. Gusky on LinkedIn or at [jeff@jef-fgusky.com](mailto:jeff@jef-fgusky.com).



## A Morning Full of Stars



Last month, Special Olympics Texas - Rio Grande Valley Area congratulated a few Rio Grande City IDEA students at the Morning Full of Stars Event on their success at the Texas 2021 State Athletics Champions League Meet.

After a local competition, athlete scores were

ranked amongst all scores in the state. These participants placed overall throughout the state of Texas. On November 19th, these athletes received an honorary awards ceremony. On behalf of Rio Grande City, Congratulations!

## 2021 Christmas Parade Champions



Scan QR Code to Watch the Full Parade Video

Congratulations from Rio Grande City and thank you to everyone who participated! View the full Parade Video using the QR link provided below.

## The First Annual Community Health and Wellness Fair is Set for February

Rio Grande City will host its 1st Annual Community Health and Wellness Fair on February 4th-5th, 2022.

Rio Grande City, Texas - Rio Grande City announces its 1st Annual FREE Community Health and Wellness Fair, Friday and Saturday February 4th and 5th, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the AC2E Elementary School in Fort Ringgold. Dedicated to the health and wellness needs of families in the Rio Grande City area, local clinicians and health professionals will provide free health screenings, medical information, education, and health related services, including:

**Cholesterol Screenings, Vision Exams  
Blood Pressure Screenings, Liver Scans  
Medical Weight Loss, Rehabilitation  
Women's Health, Sexual Health  
Behavioral Health, Medical Weight Loss  
Flu Vaccines, and much more**

Several local healthcare entities will also be in attendance to provide free health screenings to help the community identify their risk of some of the following:

**Cardiovascular Disease, Diabetes  
Stroke, Dental Problems, Alzheimer's Disease**

The Texas Department of Health Services, TAMU School of Pharmacy, and Starr County Memorial Hospital teams will be on site along with the Rio Grande City Police Department.

Parents will have the opportunity to ask about car seat safety, social services will be available to provide advice and resourceful information and pharmacists will be available to answer any questions about medications.

The wellness aspects will accommodate nutritional and physical health education for the Rio Grande City Community with the following:

**5K Color Run, 1-Hour Yoga Class  
Arthritis and Mobility Class, Fit Kids Camp  
And access to many locally established nutritional resources**

The 1st Annual Community Health and Wellness Fair is open to the public and all visitors will be eligible for exciting door prizes!

The community is encouraged to attend this FREE event. The Rio Grande City Community Health and Wellness Fair is open to the public and attendees will have the opportunity to engage one-on-one with healthcare providers and win exciting door prizes. Take advantage of all of the FREE resources that were offered. Local businesses and healthcare providers are invited to participate, only registration is required for the 1st Annual Community Health and Wellness Fair. Please call the Rio Grande City Public Relations at (956)573-3900 for more information and to register your business today.