



the Rio Review

THE CITY OF RIO GRANDE CITY'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

• Vol-01 • Edi-08 • NOV. 2021

FREE • MONTHLY • ONLINE at www.cityofrgc.com

Operation Christmas Child

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Gather Here With Grateful Hearts

The Rio Grande City Main Street Pumpkin Patch will remain open to the public for the remainder of the Fall Season. The patch is located next to the RGC Fire Department at 910 US-83, in Rio Grande City.

Happy Harvest

Happy Thanksgiving

From all of us at the Great City of Rio Grande City. November is the time to be thankful, a time to remember and to embrace those who enrich our lives.

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

FROM THE MAYOR

A MESSAGE FROM RIO GRANDE CITY MAYOR JOEL VILLARREAL



On behalf of Rio Grande City, I would like to emphasize our goal to seek and fortify regional growth and prosperity. Since 1848, Rio Grande City has been a destination to achieve the American Dream. Our mission 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. The BBBRC Grant Proposal will provide the infrastructure needed to do just that. By bringing our medical and logistical staff up to proper ratio and injecting opportunity into the workforce, the overall economic and living standard in the region will improve. (RELATED TO ARTICLE ON PAGE 11)

One More Shot



City employees received their booster shot with the help of Popular Pharmacy. We protect our team so we can continue to protect and build the community.

City Rescue Plan Funds Received

Rio Grande City received the first half of the city's portion of the American Recovery Plan on November 1st in the amount of \$1,797,810.95. Leonel Cantu, Rio Grande City Finance Director shares that the Commission plans to hold a workshop to learn about how the funds can be expended within the next couple of weeks.

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) is a bill passed by the 117th United States Congress and signed into law by President Joe Biden. This bill is intended to strengthen communities that faced heavy economic losses during the pandemic. In addition to the \$65 billion in direct relief allocated to all 19,000 cities, towns and villages, ARPA also provides more than \$350 billion in competitive federal grants for local housing, health care, technology modernization, education, workforce, transportation, and economic development needs as stated by the National League of Cities organization.

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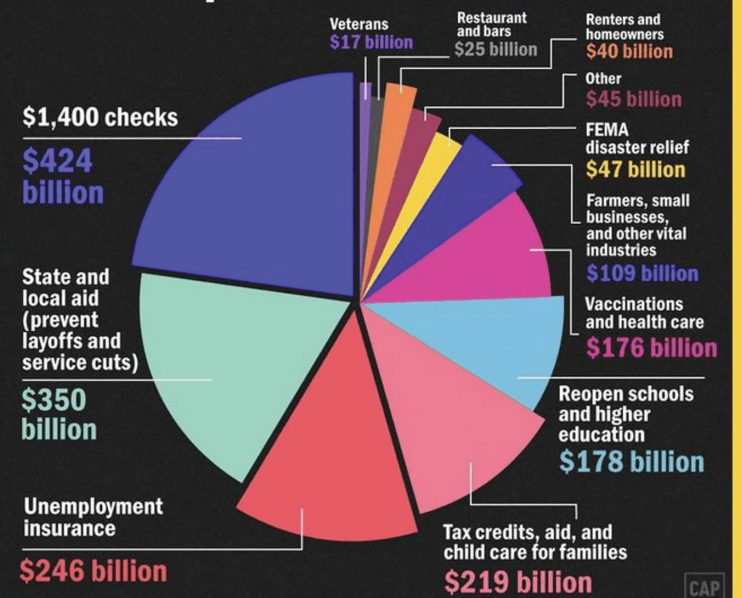
COMMUNITY

THIS MONTH'S SOCIAL SCENE

City Hall Expected Closures

Attention Residents, City Hall will be closed on Veterans Day November 11th, Thanksgiving Day on November 26th, and November 26.

Who does the American Rescue Plan help? **American families**





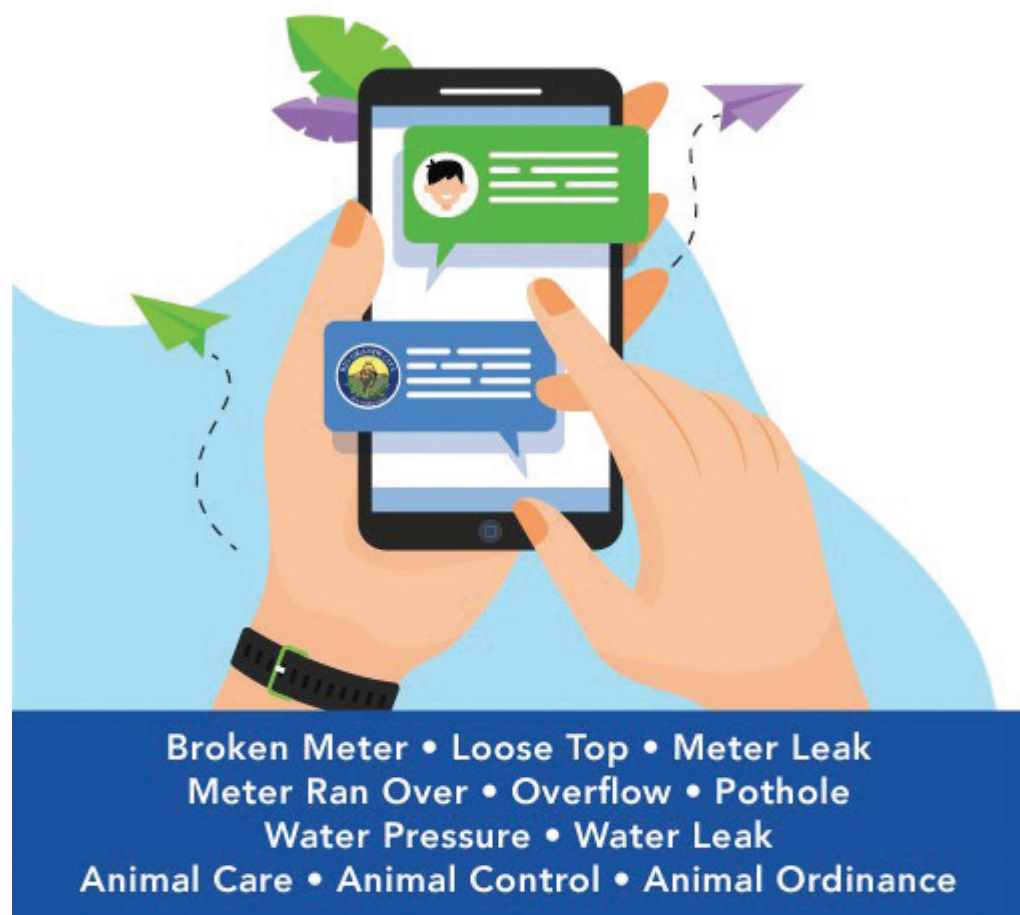
Rio Grande City Public Utilities Ongoing Projects

1. The Lift Station project on HWY 83 and W Bluebonnet St is nearing the last phase of construction. This project will service areas in west Rio Grande City.
2. The Waste Water Treatment Plant Expansion and the West Side Sewer Line Extension is a project funded by the Texas Water Development Board and the North American Development Bank. This project will double the capacity of the wastewater treatment plant from 1.5 million gallons per day to 3 million gallons per day, and the sewer collection line will provide first time sewer service to areas west of Hernandez Road to Alvarez Road. (Photo insert)
3. Another project underway is the Street Improvements Project 2020-02 which is funded by the 2020 Certificate of Obligation Fund. This project will revitalize smooth traffic by fixing potholes, restructure road drainage, etc. The Engineer team currently working on developing this project is HALFF and Associates.

The following streets will be considered:

- US Highway 83
- Robles Street
- Cypress Street
- Hill Street
- Rio Street/ Grande Street
- River Oak Avenue
- E Monroe Street
- Live Oak Avenue
- N Huisache Street
- E Olmito Street
- E Olmito Street
- Columbus Street
- Mi Ranchita Drive
- S Garcia Street
- N Garcia Street
- N Garcia Street
- Water Street
- Industrial Drive
- W 5th Street
- W 6th Street
- Live Oak Avenue
- Las Brisas Subdivision
- N Bluebonnet Circle
- W Eisenhower Street
- Plainview Street
- S Britton Avenue
- Embassy Road-Concrete
- Embassy Road-Asphalt
- E San Benito Street
- Pine Street

We're introducing the new way to skip a phone call and use your mobile phone's messaging app to find answers to your questions.



Text 'Hi' or one of the above phrases to:
+19564743774
to quickly find the answers you're looking for
or report an issue to the city.



TextMyGov

'Curb' Your Shopping Experience



Rio Grande City officials joined the Rio Grande City Walmart team as they announced that they are now offering curbside pickup and online ordering for groceries at their Rio Grande City store. This marks the second local grocery store to offer the popular and convenient grocery curbside service to Rio Grande City residents.

Expanding Workforce Skills



Rio Grande City Mayor Joel Villarreal and EDC Executive Director Dalinda Guillen met with South Texas College president Dr. Ricardo Solis during his visit to Rio Grande City in October. Dr. Solis gathered with city and county economic partners to discuss new programs and projects that'll help expand workforce skills and job opportunities for Rio Grande City and Starr County residents. The Rio Grande City EDC values its partnership with higher education and looks forward to collaborating with Dr. Solis and his team at South Texas College to expand training opportunities that will strengthen the local workforce and economy.

Multimedia, Bilingual Marketing



Rio Grande City EDC has produced a Spanish-language promotional video to complement Rio Grande City's business recruitment efforts in Mexico. The video highlights the city's investment opportunities and tourism offerings. Additionally, the Rio Grande City EDC is producing its annual economic snapshot publication to share with potential investors. We're taking our message on the road and looking forward to creating new job opportunities for Rio Grande City.

Free Online Training: The HR Process

Rio Grande City EDC has partnered with UTRGV to co-host and promote its upcoming webinar on The HR Process. The online seminar is free; however registration is required on or before Nov. 10. The seminar for small business employers will cover HR tips for small business, the importance of HR planning and more. For more information or to register go to: <https://utsa.ecenterdirect.com/events/33398>

Spanish Language Small Business Webinar: Rio Grande City EDC has partnered with UTRGV to co-host and promote its upcoming online seminar on: Business Communications This Spanish language webinar will cover:

- Benefits of managing communication
- Leaders' communication skills
- Guidelines for good internal communication

In this webinar, Dr. Brown will cover the importance of communication as a management tool to integrate an organization's greatest resource, its people, for greater success. The online webinar is free; however registration is required on or before Nov. 16. For more information or to register go to: <https://utsa.ecenterdirect.com/events/33140>

Bi-National Cooperation

The City of Rio Grande City has successfully organized key conversations between regional leaders in both Starr County and its neighboring border cities in Tamaulipas, Mexico to help plan the growth of international trade and attract new business to the region. On October 7, the city co-hosted its 2nd bi-national roundtable program with the Greater Rio Grande City Chamber of Commerce. The event drew many regional leaders. The keynote speaker was Andres Guerra, port director for the international bridges of Roma and Rio Grande City. He presented data on commercial operations at the ports and discussed his ongoing work with the Rio Grande City EDC and Roma EDC on a marketing campaign to promote the advantages of commercial crossings through Rio Grande City and Roma, Texas.



THE HR PROCESS

A Seminar for Small Business Employers

November 11, 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

Do you have an HR department?

Human resources is an important component of a small business. In addition to recruiting and hiring employees, an HR department can set the guidelines on employee engagement and customer relations, among other critical areas. This workshop provides insight on the process of setting up HR in your business.

Workshop Highlights

Learn about the following:

- ◆ What are the appropriate steps to take when you are planning for Human Resources?
- ◆ What does each step involve and why it is important for your business?
- ◆ Human Resource tips for small businesses
- ◆ Helpful resources

Presented by

This workshop is presented by 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, Rio Grande City Greater Chamber of Commerce, Starr County Industrial Foundation, and Weslaco Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center.

Reserve your spot today. Click and register on eCenter Direct.

*Deadline to register is November 10, 2021.



POWERED BY
VISIT US ONLINE: UTRGV.EDU/SBDC

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.



Rio Grande City CISD Veterans Middle School Student Council students worked on a pilot program to test the walkability from the middle school towards Miriam Vale Park.



Rio Grande City CISD Veterans Middle School Students and Staff.

Paving the Way

“Kids have already told me they feel safer,”

- Rio Grande City Parks and Recreation director Frank Eguia



Rio Grande City Parks & Rec. Staff Eric Escamilla and Mario Salinas.

In collaboration with Rio Grande City Parks and Recreation and Working on Wellness Environments - Texas A&M Agrilife Extension (WOW)

Rio Grande City CISD Veterans Middle School Student Council students worked on a pilot program to test the walkability from the middle school towards Miriam Vale Park.

“I know parents have been calling in regards to the sidewalks. Following this project, kids have already told me they feel safer,” says Rio Grande City Parks and Recreation director Frank Eguia.

Currently this area lacks sidewalks and visibly painted walkways. The purpose of this Community Challenge is to incite conversation and observe the behavior of not only the kids but of the community. The

demonstration will be on display for the week.

WOW incorporates interviews of students and interacting parties into feedback from surveys that are administered in the days following the initial demonstration to compose a full comprehensive study. The Community Challenge and other studies alike can be used to promote awareness and attract funds to address the needs of our growing city.

This specific collaborative project with WOW is made possible by a CDC Grant awarded to Texas A&M Agrilife Extension and Texas A&M Health Science Center School of Public Health which aims at achieving an increase in community wide practices that promote and support healthy behaviors and robust environments in need.

Red Flags

The US National Weather Service has officially declared Rio Grande City a

RED ZONE

We'd like to notify citizens that Rio Grande City is in a RED ZONE according to the, US National Weather Service. When low humidity combines with strong northern winds, fire warnings are more likely to occur. You may recall the fires that occurred earlier



this month in La Gloria and surrounding areas along FM 755, engulfing about 208 acres of brush. According to San Isidro Fire Department Chief Bernabe Benavidez, the area experienced temporary evacuations.

Rio Grande City Fire Department invites citizens to be mindful of these occurrences. A

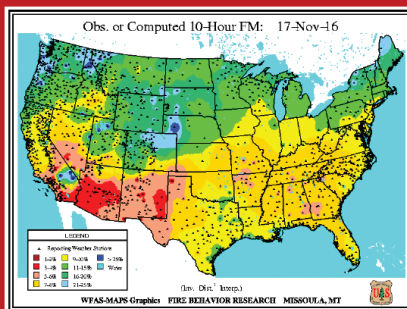
Red Flag Warning means warm temperatures, very low humidities, and stronger winds are expected to combine to produce an increased risk of fire danger. During a Red flag Warning, please refrain from burning debris and brush. Outdoor burning is strongly discouraged. Any fire will likely spread rapidly.

Keep in mind that

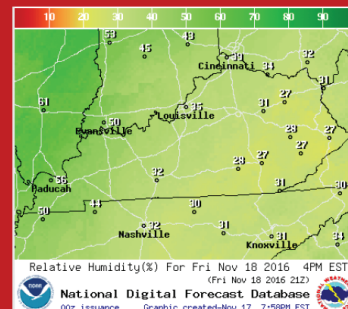
1. If you are allowed to burn in your area, all burn barrels must be covered with a weighted metal cover, with holes no larger than 3/4 of an inch.
2. Do not throw cigarettes or matches out of a moving vehicle. They may ignite dry grass on the side of the road and become a wildfire.
3. Extinguish all outdoor fires properly. Drown fires with plenty of water and stir to make sure everything is cold to the touch. Dunk charcoal in water until cold. Do not throw live charcoal on the ground and leave it.
4. Never leave a fire unattended. Sparks or embers can blow into leaves or grass, ignite a fire, and quickly spread.

What Is a Red Flag Warning?

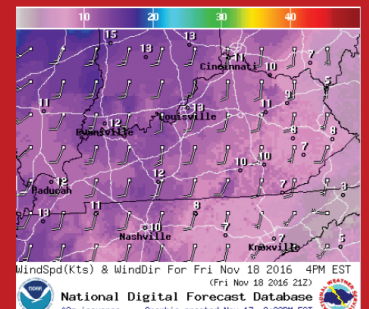
Red Flag Warnings alert fire managers on federal lands to conditions that are highly unfavorable for prescribed burns and that may lead to especially dangerous wildfire growth. To issue a Red Flag Warning, we need the following:



Ten-hour fuels of 8% or less. This parameter describes how much water is held by small vegetation such as grass, leaves, and mulch that take only about ten hours to respond to changes in dry/wet conditions.



Relative humidity (RH) less than 25% for several hours. RH depicts how much water is in the air, relative to the temperature of the air.



Winds 20 feet off the ground of at least 15 mph for several hours.

Red Flag Warnings are usually only issued during the spring and fall fire weather seasons, February 15 – April 30 and October 1 - December 15. When warnings are issued, officials know to curtail planned burns and to be on the lookout for wildfires.



Operation Christmas Child



Photo credits:
Samaritanspurse.org

Rio Grande City Police Department is teaming up with St. John Methodist Church for the second year in a row to help out with Operation Christmas Child this holiday season.

Operation Christmas Child gift-filled shoeboxes open the door for the Gospel to be shared with children all around the world. And after they receive their gifts, they are invited to participate in The Greatest Journey discipleship course with the organization where they learn more about the Bible and God's great love, according to the Samaritan's Purse organization's website. The Samaritan's Purse is a nondenominational evangelical Christian

organization providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world.

Rio Grande City Police Department staff helps out by fundraising and filling shoe boxes with toys for underprivileged children from around the world. Police Department Assistant Chief Jose Solis reiterates, "the program is not only to give children gifts for the holidays but teaches them about Jesus Christ."

Last year Rio Grande City Police Department teamed up with Rio Grande City Fire Department and the St. John Methodist Church to create 120 shoeboxes full of goodies. This year, we're hoping to supersede that number. National collection week is November 15-22, 2021. If you or someone you know would like to contribute to this cause, please contact 956-487-8892.

To learn more about Samaritan's Purse, watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y14JLsQQR3k>



Night Court

Rio Grande City Municipal Court will be holding night court on November 17, 2021. If you have outstanding tickets, and aren't available during the regular office hours, now is your chance! Night court will be open from 9:30 until 7:30 PM.

You can call the Municipal Court office at 956-487-8889 to set up an appointment now. Walk-ins are also welcome!



RIO GRANDE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION
Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Chapter 683. 012 of the Texas Department of Transportation Department, that the following vehicles have been taken into custody by the Rio Grande City Police Department and will be auctioned on Saturday, NOVEMBER 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM.

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	COLOR	VIN #	SALVAGED
1994	DODGE	PK	BLACK	3B7HC16X0RM546053	UNKNOWN
1999	CHEVROLET	PK	WHITE	1GCEK19TXXZ136337	UNKNOWN
2000	CHEVROLET	PK	WHITE	1GCEK19T1YE127177	UNKNOWN
2000	FORD	EXPEDITION	BLUE	1FMPU16L7YLC37326	UNKNOWN
2001	CHEVROLET	SUBURBAN	GREEN	3GNEC16TX1G285234	UNKNOWN
2001	CHEVROLET	S-10 PK	WHITE	1GCCS19581K162069	UNKNOWN
2002	CHEVROLET	AVALANCHE	BLACK	3GNEK13T12G242233	UNKNOWN
2002	FORD	MUSTANG	RED	1FAFP40422F131338	UNKNOWN
2003	CHEVROLET	TAHOE	PEWTER	1GNEC13V73R149085	UNKNOWN
2004	FORD	EXPLORER	BEIGE	1FMZU72K34ZA65828	UNKNOWN
2005	CHEVROLET	PK	BLACK	2GCEC19V751301121	UNKNOWN
2006	CHEVROLET	TRAILBLAZER	GOLD	1GNDT13S062274086	UNKNOWN
2007	CHEVROLET	EQUINOX	BLUE	2CNDL63F276085805	UNKNOWN
2010	BUICK	LACROSSE	BROWN	1G4GC5GG6AF272858	UNKNOWN
2012	NISSAN	VERSA PC	WHITE	3N1BC1CPXCK207381	UNKNOWN
2013	CHEVROLET	MALIBU	GOLD	1G11F5RR6DF119717	UNKNOWN

PLACE OF AUCTION: 632 W. EISENHOWER RD. RIO GRANDE CITY, TEXAS
DATE: NOVEMBER 13, 2021 AT 10:00 A.M.

Minimum bids established by the Rio Grande City Police Department
VEHICLES SOLD AS IS - NO WARRANTY

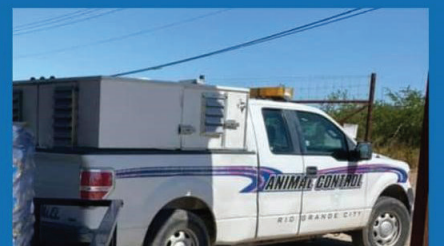
All bids are to be cash, cashier's check or money orders

By authority of:
Chief of Police Noe Castillo
Rio Grande City Police Department

Animal Control Department



Please be advised as of today any matters pertaining to Animal Control will now be directed to the Rio Grande City Police Department.



Rio Grande City Police Department

402 E. MAIN ST

RIO GRANDE CITY, TX 78582

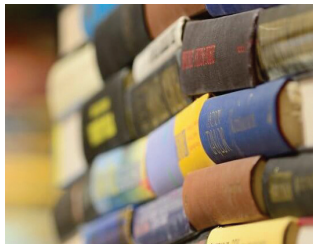
(956) 487-8892

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.

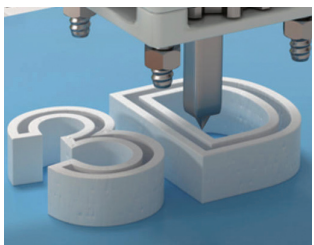
Other Available Services

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 for families to enjoy the benefits of reading and the outdoors at the same time. "We are very excited to promote our first StoryWalk™ in Rio Grande City. This is a great way to promote literacy and encourage families to walk and read," states Norma Gomez Fultz, Rio Grande City Public Library Director.

In partnership with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Working on Wellness Environments (WoW-E) and the Rio Grande City Public Library are hosting a StoryWalk™ Kick-Off from 6pm to 8pm on Tuesday November 16, 2021 at the Miriam Vale Park.

WOW-E encourages communities to implement StoryWalks™ to create a trail-like experience which allows people to follow a story (literally page by page, sign-by-sign). StoryWalks™ can activate an environment and encourage youth and families to walk further and more often.

The first story on display will be "Dragons Love Tacos" by Adam Rubin. A deliciously funny read-aloud is an unforgettable tale 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.

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 during normal park hours. There is no registration required.

The Library would like to give a special thanks to the City of Rio Grande City Parks and Recreational department for their support.

For more information and additional events, visit the Rio Grande City Public Library website at www.rgclibrary.org.

RGC to Host Drive-Thru Luncheon for Local Veterans

The Kelsey Bass Museum along with the Rio Grande City Public Library held a Veterans Free Drive-Thru Appreciation Lunch in honor of those who served this great country. The event took place Tuesday, November 16, 2021, at the Basilio Villarreal Park, Rio Grande City at 10 AM.

StoryWalk™ with the Rio Grande City Public Library

Join us for our kick-off on November 16, 2021 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Miriam Vale Park
(Located on the corner of San Roberto Rd, & Santa Elena Ln. Rio Grande City, TX 78582)

Fun for the Family!

Walk along and read "Dragons Love Tacos"

WOW-E encourages communities to implement StoryWalks™ to create a trail-like experience which allows people to follow a story (literally page by page, sign-by-sign). StoryWalks™ can activate an environment and encourage youth and families to walk further and more often.

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

THANK YOU VETERANS

VETERANS APPRECIATION DRIVE-THRU LUNCHEON

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 10:00 AM
BASILIO VILLARREAL PARK

CALL (956) 487-4389 TO RSVP

★ ★ ★

KELSEY BASS MUSEUM AND EVENT CENTER

RIO GRANDE CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Marketing Towards a New Direction

The Rio grande City Main Street board has worked diligently to develop and implement a promotional campaign that supports downtown businesses. Main Street Coordinator Sara Hernandez adds that, “the ‘Meet Me Downtown – Eat, Shop Play’ was developed to attract customer traffic downtown and showcase our Historic District. Step one was putting a face to our campaign in the form of a logo.”

Once the logo for the campaign was approved, promotional material was selected to distribute to the businesses beginning November 27, 2021 in commemoration of Small Business Saturday. In addition to the promotional material, spotlight videos will be produced “in house” for several Main Street businesses in phases. We have over 200 Main Street businesses with each video highlighting 3-4 businesses. These videos and promo items will be used as a tool to assist not only new but existing businesses. The organization of video content will be separated into businesses that are located within the same street block. This marketing tactic will highlight the different types of businesses our unique Main Street has to offer.

Main Street Receives American Express Incentive



As part of the Meet Me Downtown Campaign, the organization submitted an application with American Express - Your Neighborhood Champion. This unique grant provides small business incentives in the form of promotional items for qualifying recipients and will be utilizing social media promotion to advocate to local and foreign travelers to Shop Small this upcoming holiday season.

For questions regarding how your Main Street business can get more information, email shernandez@cityofrgc.com

Buried in History

Kelsey Bass Museum teamed up with RGCHS and ECHS librarians to sponsor the Buried in History Scavenger Hunt. The purpose of this project is to promote our local historical landmarks as well as our culture’s time-honored traditions. The museum provided all the necessary items to the school librarians who then promoted the

project to the students and teachers. Students are encouraged to visit the city’s downtown cemetery, answer some questions pertaining to the landmark, and finally leave a small floral bouquet on one of the graves. This two week project is set to conclude the first of November, in conjunction with All Soul’s Day.

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

Road Work

Rio Grande City Public Works crewmen Joey Marroquin, along with Amador Garza and Ramon Lopez worked on providing a facelift to some roads in Rio Grande City. Rio Grande City Public Works repainted crosswalks along several schools throughout the city. This annual maintenance is a very crucial step to maintaining and protecting the safety of Rio Grande City students. Aside from crosswalks being improved, some may notice less bumps while driving through city neighborhoods. Potholes and other disturbances in vehicle passageways were improved as well.



Illegal Dumping Concerns

Illegal dumpings have become a great issue in city limits. Aside from trash and free-flying debris, pollution has affected the efficiency of sewage flow, air ventilation, as well as water purification processes. Aside from prevention of proper municipal management, dumping can have dangerous environmental effects. Illegal dumping can also be a fire hazard. Piles of trash and discarded chemicals can combine to create combustible gases and fuel for fires.

Public Works has installed several 'No Dumping signs' throughout the city in areas with recurring illegal dumpings in hopes this reminds citizens of possible consequences.

Rio Grande City would like to remind citizens that according to the Texas Health and Safety Code if you get caught illegally dumping, you can face steep fines up to thousands of dollars or possibly even jail time. While penalties vary from state to state, illegal dumping in Texas is considered a serious crime and can be very costly.

If you spot someone illegally dumping, you can report them by calling Rio Grande City 956-487-8892.





Public Works Bulk Drop Off Schedule

RGC residents may utilize the city-wide trash drop off located at the 14 acres property (632 W. Eisenhower St.) with a **Driver's License and Utility Bill**. This is a great opportunity to throw away any additional brush, appliances, and other bulky items.



Available dates for drop-offs are highlighted in yellow.
Hours: Monday - Friday 9 AM - 6 PM
Saturdays 9 AM - 2 PM

January

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28						

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August

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September

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 CityofRGC

 City of Rio Grande City, Texas

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Build Back Better Regional Challenge



Mayor Joel Villarreal writes to the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) Selection Review Committee as a Coalition Partner in support of the South Texas Development Council (STDC) as the Lead Institution for the Build Back Better Regional Challenge on behalf of Rio Grande City. The entities selected will receive a BBBC Grant that could provide the improvements needed for regional infrastructure.

The Build Back Better Regional Challenge was designed to assist communities nationwide in their efforts to build back better by accelerating the economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic and building local economies that will be resilient to future economic unexpected occurrences.

In the letter submitted by Rio Grande City with STDC's Phase 1 application, it is stated that "since 1848, Rio Grande City has been a destination to achieve the American Dream. [The] mission is to provide quality municipal services in partnership with citizens to build a progressive city and to provide a better quality of life for all residents." If the STDC were to be selected for this grant, it would upgrade the overall economic and living standard of not only the city but the entire region.

The \$1 billion Build Back Better Regional Challenge will provide a transformational investment to approximately 20-30 regions across the country that want to reboot their economies, according to the EDA. These regions will have the opportunity to grow new regional industry clusters or scale existing ones through planning, infrastructure, innovation and entrepreneurship, workforce development, access to capital, and more. There are two phases to this grant:

Phase 1: 50-60 regional coalitions of partnering entities will be awarded ~\$500,000 in technical assistance funds to develop and support three to eight projects to grow a regional growth cluster.

Phase 2: EDA will award 20-30 regional coalitions \$25 million to \$75 million, and up to \$100 million, to implement those projects.

Rio Grande City vowed to support the project by providing resources about said opportunities to the public, supporting the planning process in any consulting capacity necessary, and contributing valuable and necessary information in regards to community statistics.

Sustainable Energy

Rio Grande City Mayor and ERCOT TML Advisory board member Joel Villarreal along with other city leaders, state leaders, current and former regulators met with ERCOT to identify important improvements in the Texas electric grid.

"Energy reliability is absolutely critical to the ever expanding needs of all Texans," said Mayor Joel Villarreal in response to questions about energy grid developments.

ERCOT interim President and CEO Brad Jones submitted a "Roadmap to Improving Grid Reliability," earlier

this year, following several devastating weathering events taking place in Texas.

This letter along with the roadmap procedures provides details of a variety of improvements to enhance the reliability and adequacy of the Texas power grid.

In creating this Roadmap, recent legislation, such as Senate Bill 2 and Senate Bill 3, have provided the committee direction. In collaboration with the Public Utility Commission, ERCOT plans to implement Governor Abbott's directives to ensure the continued reliability of the Texas electric grid.

Planning Makes Perfect

Rio Grande City's first Comprehensive Plan public meeting in partnership with Texas A&M AgriLife was a huge success. Citizens highlighted needed improvements in pollution, infrastructure, preservation and more.

Missed it? Don't worry! Rio Grande City will have more public meeting opportunities for public participation in the future. The recent meetings were held at Rio Grande City High School Library on October 25th, 2021 at 5:30 p.m., at South Texas College Student Activities Center on October 26th, 2021 at 11:30 a.m. and at Rio Grande City Grulla ISD FACE Building later that day at 5:30 p.m.

Highlights of the meeting included key information and public statistics



in terms of infrastructure, economy, and the community population, respectively. Attendees learned valuable information about the city's past along with being provided a glimpse of what's to come. Key concerns relied on the preservation of Rio Grande City history, incorporation of more events, along with the discussion of other ideas.

If you'd like to learn more about previous or future City Comprehensive Plan Public meetings, please email avillarreal@cityofrgc.com.

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

SOCIAL SCENE



Saturday, October 16, was #NationalBossDay and Rio Grande City Administration wants to give a warm appreciation to our City Manager, Noe Castillo. Thank you for your leadership and unwavering dedication to Rio Grande City!



Starr County Continues to lead in Vaccination Rates. If you need your booster or any of the vaccines for anyone 5 years of age and older, come by STC Starr County Campus building H today. We will be here all morning to ensure that anyone who wants to be vaccinated is given every opportunity to receive their vaccine.



Help us congratulate our hometown band and RGC Freedom Fest partner Grupo Solido in their nomination for the Latin GRAMMYS

Increased Security

Rio Grande City Information Technology department has implemented a new automated Security Awareness Program (ASAP) aimed at offering security protection to corporations and large scale companies. ASAP is a revolutionary new tool for IT professionals, which applies a customized Security Awareness Program for your organization that also includes actionable tasks, helpful tips, training content suggestions and a management calendar. Rio Grande City IT Director Eduardo Lopez says, "It's easy to use, effective, and great for our the protection of our administration."

KnowBe4 works as a training and simulated phishing platform that improves the management of the ongoing problem of social engineering.

