



the Rio Review

THE CITY OF RIO GRANDE CITY'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

• Vol-01 • Edi-05 • AUGUST 2021

FREE • MONTHLY • ONLINE at www.therioreview.com

Back-to-School: School Safety Zones

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August is National Immunization Month

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Three New Developments in RGC

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LET THE GAMES BEGIN

Registration Now Open for Rio Grande City Parks and Recreation Tackle & Flag Youth Football

The Rio Grande City Parks and Recreation Department is delighted to announce registration is now open for its tackle and flag youth football program.

Parents are reminded to please present birth certificate and proof of physical exam upon registration. Registration fees, which will cover the cost of athletic gear, will be \$40 for 2nd and 3rd grade students, and \$60 for 4th through 6th

grade students.

The RGC Parks and Rec. department is also looking for members of the community to volunteer to coach teams.

For more information on the Rio Grande City Parks and Recreation Youth Football Program, or to inquire about coaching, residents are encouraged to contact the Rio Grande Parks and Recreation Department by calling (956) 487-0672, or by stopping by the office located on 5332 E. U.S. Highway 83, Ste. C.

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 by the
Rio Grande City Tourism Dept.

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

FROM THE MAYOR

A MESSAGE FROM RIO GRANDE CITY MAYOR JOEL VILLARREAL



Thank You all who helped at Operation Lone Star providing free medical services to the community. Vaccines and immunizations were also available.



[WATCH VIDEO](#)

“
Let's not let our guard down. I know we're just about turning the page on this global pandemic; however I know we can still improve our vaccination rate here in Rio Grande City and Starr County. Please contact your healthcare provider about vaccinations.
”

**RIO GRANDE CITY
PARKS & RECS**

**VOLUNTEER
COACHES
NEEDED**

**CALL 956-488-8728
TO SIGN UP**

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THIS MONTH'S SOCIAL SCENE

‘HELLO’ HIGH WATER



RGC Public Utilities’ Colossal Water Tank Restoration Project Nears Completion

The Rio Grande City Public Utilities Department reports the municipal water tank located on Garcia’s street is in its final stretch of completion. The tank has been fully rehabbed and will soon receive a fresh coat of paint.

“In fact, all the water tanks around RGC will have a shiny new coat of paint thanks to the vision and commitment of our city council, stated Rio Grande City Mayor Joel Villarreal. “The development and expansion of our infrastructure is necessary to prepare for growth. The city is undergoing a boost of commercial and residential development. The abundance of water tanks and lift stations are necessary in order to withstand the demand of new developments and not affect water pressure and sewer services to surrounding areas.”

“There is still a lot of work needed to be done to address the needs of our growing community. The city is working diligently for our community and putting tax dollars to work,” added Villarreal.

QUICK FACT
HELPS SUSTAIN WATER
PRESSURE FOR HOMES AND
BUSINESSES

[WATCH VIDEO](#)



ON OUR WAY TO ST. IVES...

In the next 6 month to 12 months our community is going to really get to see the transformation of the St. Ive's area. (Rio Grande Village)



The St. Ive's development is steady and busy with new construction.

The main frame of the Panda Express is reaching its completion, while the Stripes/7-11 and Starbucks structures are currently laying the foundation.

Recent building plans have been submitted for Buffalo Rings and Wings with an expected start date of September 2021.

Soon residents can look forward to enjoying some delicious wings and catching a sporting game on TV. A Hilton hotel brand has also been signed on and is pending a site plan.

"This transformation is the collaborative effort of our Mayor and Commission to get to this position of progress", stated Deputy City Manager, Noe Castillo. "So many people behind the scenes make developments as large as this one possible. In the next 6 to 18 months, the community is going to really get to see the transformation of the St. Ive's area."

City and construction staff ask for the patience of the public during this construction period and to take safety



[WATCH VIDEO](#)





“Coaching youth football requires preparation, integrity, discipline, enthusiasm, and communication.”

“YOU CAN DO IT!”

Sign up today to be a volunteer youth tackle or flag football coach

Coaching youth football requires preparation, commitment, enthusiasm, integrity, and communication. Great football coaches are a positive influence on every single player that they coach. A great football coach is not only known for his win-lose record, but he is known as a coach that makes a difference in all of his players lives. Here are 10 keys to becoming a great youth football coach.

10. Football System. It is absolutely critical that you select a youth football offense, defense, and special team system that accommodates your team's skill set. Whichever system you elect to run, make sure you understand the system.

9. Discipline. Place high value on discipline. Doing the little things right can be the difference between winning and losing. It can also be the difference between safe and unsafe. Players and parents need to make sure they focus on eating a nutritional diet and proper hydration before every practice and game. Getting enough sleep the night before a practice and game is also vital for overall performance.

8. Reward hard work. Reward our hardworking players with playing time, hard worker of the week awards, and weakly captain honors. Preach to your players that in football and in life, when you work hard, good things will happen.

7. Resilience and Sudden Change. Always keep a positive attitude and never panic. When the game or practice is not going well, winning youth football coaches will keep their cool and keep their players focused.

6. Compete. The goal should be

to win every single game and get better after every single practice. Football is a very competitive game. Players and coaches should never quit and always coach hard throughout the entire game, regardless of the situation.

5. Communication. Coaching requires excellent communication skills. When communicating with kids, be sure you have a loud tone and you keep things moving fluently. Communication with parents is vital. You must be able to interact with the parents fluently. Be organized and make sure you and the parents are all on the same page.

4. Enthusiasm. Keeping things upbeat and fun is recipe for success in youth football. To avoid having the kids lose focus, coach with a positive- upbeat tempo, and have some fun. Kids react to emotion and energy more so than anything else.

3. Be Organized. Practices must be organized and upbeat. All assistant coaches must understand their job/plans and must be able to execute. In youth football, practice time is limited, being organized is crucial for getting the most out of each practice.

2. Have Integrity. Be honest with all parents, coaches, and players. When coaching youth football, coaches need to handle themselves with professionalism at all times, win, lose, or draw.

1. Fundamentals & Safety. It is vital that kids play with proper fundamentals when blocking and tackling. This is not just needed for successful football play, but for player safety as well.

Sign up to be a volunteer coach today by calling the RGC Parks & Rec. Dept. at 956-487-8728.

YOU HAVE THE POWER TO PROTECT

AGAINST VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES

National Immunization Awareness Month is sponsored by the National Public Health Information Coalition (NPHIC) and is observed in August annually across the USA.

The campaign aims to raise awareness of the importance of vaccinating people of all ages against a number of serious and sometimes deadly diseases. The awareness month also celebrates the successes of the different immunizations that have been created in the 20th century and beyond.

Every year, the National Public Health Information Coalition (NPHIC), in collaboration with CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, has developed a communication toolkit for use in your communities, schools and work places and encourages people to become involved, raise awareness and most important of all, get immunised. There are 4 key messages of the toolkits that produced annually, these being:

- Vaccines protect against serious diseases.
- These diseases still exist and outbreaks do occur.
- Vaccines are recommended throughout our lives.
- Vaccines are very safe.

There are many debates around the safety of many of the vaccinations available, however governments across the world, acting upon the advice of leading scientists and medical professionals overwhelmingly support immunization schemes. Despite this, the growing voice of the anti immunization supporters (and some other factors) has lead to a decrease in the number of people becoming vaccinated and there is little surprise that the number of people affected by diseases that in some cases had been eliminated from some countries is on the rise again.



The Rio Grande City Fire Dept. reminds residents August is National Immunization Awareness Month



CATCH UP ON CHECKUPS AND ROUTINE VACCINES

As opportunities for in-person learning and play grow, it's important for your child to catch up on checkups and recommended vaccines to protect their health now and in the future.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends children continue to see their doctor for regular checkups and routinely recommended vaccinations, even during COVID-19.

UNIFORM SHOPPING

‘Shop with a Cop’ is an initiative geared towards helping local Rio Grande City families prepare for the new school year by providing school uniforms.

Back to school shopping is busy any year. Even now during the uncertainty of COVID-19, students still need new tools for learning. Officers from the Rio Grande City Police Department stepped in to help children whose families are unable to afford school supplies.

“We’ve been doing our Back-to-School, Shop-with-a-Cop initiative for over 10 years,” stated Rio Grande City Police Department Chief Joey Solis. “This year we were able to help 33 students from Rio Grande City. I want to thank the RGC Crimestoppers as well as our PD staff for making this possible.”



[WATCH VIDEO](#)



THE SAFETY ZONE

Local Law Enforcement Agencies Remind Parents to be Mindful of School Safety Zones

5 7 million children travel daily to and from school in America, either walking, biking, taking the bus, or are being dropped off. School safety zones require drivers to slow down and take precaution for potential children that may be around: however, traffic accidents are the leading cause of injuries/death for school-aged children. School safety zones are the most prevalent for a child to be struck by a vehicle compared to any other location.

School zones are areas outside of schools, playgrounds, and areas immediately around any type of school bus or transport vehicle with children being both picked up and dropped off.



SCHOOL ZONE DRIVING SAFETY TIPS

BE ON THE LOOKOUT for school zone signals and ALWAYS obey the speed limits.

WHEN ENTERING a school zone, be sure to slow down and obey all traffic laws.

ALWAYS STOP for school busses that are loading or unloading children.

WATCH OUT for school crossing guards and obey their signals.

BE AWARE of and watch out for children near schools, bus stops, sidewalks, in the streets, in school parking lots, etc.

NEVER PASS other vehicles while driving in a school zone.

NEVER CHANGE lanes while driving in a school zone.

NEVER MAKE U-Turns while driving in a school zone.

NEVER TEXT while driving in a school zone.

AVOID USING a cell phone, unless it is completely hands-free, while driving in a school zone.

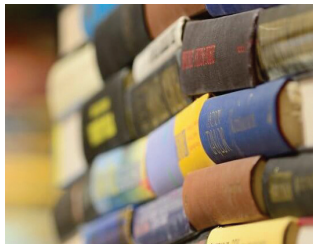
UNLESS LICENSED to do so, never use handicap or emergency vehicle lanes or spaces to drop off or pick up children at school.

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



Free Virtual English as a Second Language Classes Every Tuesday. Call 956-487-4389

Gardening Classes



Free Virtual Gardening Classes every Tuesday. For more information call 956-487-4389

Toddler Time



Free Virtual Toddler Time Activities Ever Friday. Call 956-487-4389

CARNIVAL OF READING



The Rio Grande City Public Library's Beanstack Challenge is Carnival of Reading Challenge, August 2- August 31, 2021. Join this 4-week program, earn badges by logging in minutes read and completing activities along the way. Activities include games, craft activities and virtual tours. Are you ready for some fun, games, and quizzes join our challenge by going to the library's website rgclibrary.org or if you have any questions call (956) 487-4389.

Are you ready for some fun, games, and quizzes? Join our challenge.

ALL GOOD THINGS...

THE RIO GRANDE CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY WRAPS UP ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SUMMER READING PROGRAM

As Summer Reading programs come to an end, you can count on the McDonald's Play Van supporting Rio Grande Valley Libraries every year to celebrate their participants. This year Rio Grande City Public Library had over 140 participants in the Summer Reading Program (SRP) and Beanstack Online Reading & Activity challenges. Here are the Rio Grande City Public Library winners of McDonald's prizes which included two participants who took home a Video Arcade Game for a FREE one-week rental. Thank you to McDonald's Play Van featuring Laugh and Giggles for promoting reading, providing fun activities, and sponsoring two video arcade game cabinets for one whole week, winners are Dante Ruiz and Josue Ruiz and the lucky winner of the happy meals for a month is Samuel Garcia. Friends of the Rio Grande City Public Library also gave away two backpacks full of supplies. Winners are Genesis Garza and Sarah Garza.

NEW
MANAGEMENT



Sara Hernandez has been recently appointed as new Main Street & Tourism Coordinator for the Rio Grande City Economic Development Corp. at City of Rio Grande City, Texas.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)



18 vintage street lights on Rio Grande City’s historic downtown district get fresh new coat of paint.



SIGHTSEEING | EXPLORE THIS MONTH’S FEATURED TOURIST SPOTS



FORDYCE NATURE TRAILS
1496, US-83, 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



HISTORIC MAIN ST.
101 S Washington St, Rio Grande City, TX 78582



OUR LADY OF LOURDES GROTTO
101 E Canales Bros. St, Rio Grande City, TX 78582



HAIL TO THE STREET SWEEPER DRIVER

The Rio Grande City Public Works Department's Street Sweepers have been cleaning-up city streets following several days of continuous rain which made city streets muddy and rocky.

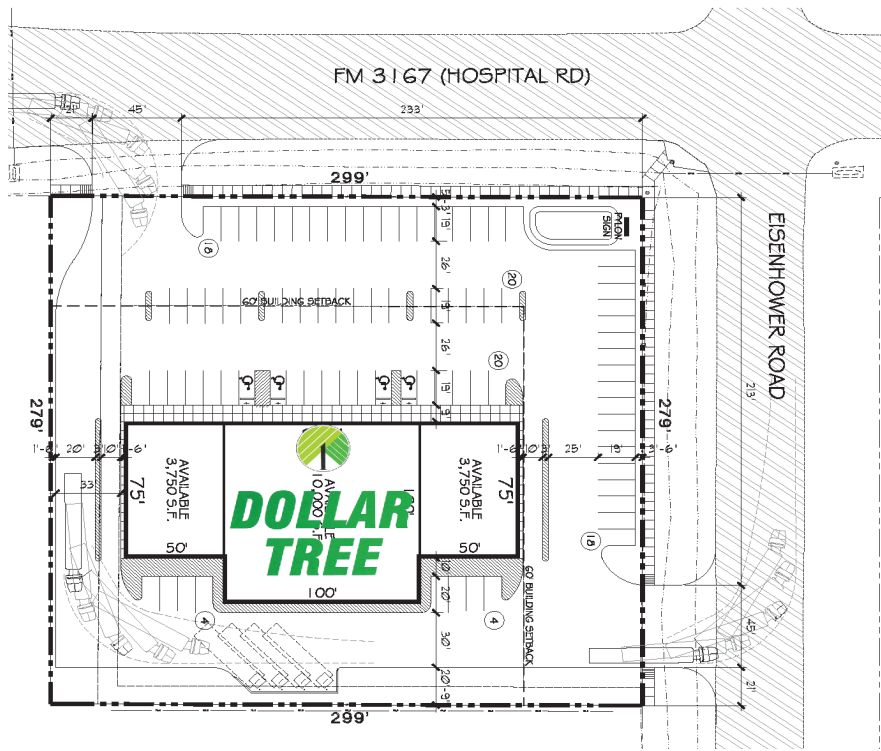


Rio Grande City Public Works' Motor Grader scrapes the alley on Mitchell St. Scraping the ground helps smooth out potholes and erosion created by the recent rain.

TWO DOLLARS

New 12,000 square foot development will house Rio Grande City's second Dollar Tree Store

A new 12,000 square foot plaza is coming to Hospital Rd / FM 3167 thanks to the Dollar Tree. This new plaza will house a second RGC location for the Dollar Tree with an additional 2 suites available for rent. FM 3167 corridor continues to grow with plenty of available residential and commercial property still up for grabs. This area has several commercial plazas, neighborhoods, 3 apartment complexes, an elementary school, two middle schools, Starr County Memorial Hospital, STC and two gas stations. It is an excellent area for development and will be growing very soon.



[WATCH VIDEO](#)



For the Month of July, the Planning Department processed permits with total improvement values of over **\$1,796,573.00** and over **79,155 sq. ft.** of construction improvements.

HEALTH & FINANCE



A new Lone Star Bank location has now opened on FM 3167. This marks the 3rd location for the banking center in Rio Grande City in an excellent location across Starr County Memorial Hospital. Right behind the bank is a recently completed medical plaza. Dr. Kanhiri's Valley Health Clinic and Dr. Luis Valencia's Valley Pediatric Clinic are now open and serving our community in new state of the art facilities. To the left of the bank, construction of the Guerra Family Dentistry plaza has commenced. Soon this area will welcome Valley Health Pharmacy, DHR Health Specialties in Orthopedic and Sports Therapy. "Expanding our medical services and specialties is needed for Rio Grande City and the county as a whole", proclaimed Mayor Joel Villarreal. A major announcement for this area is in the works and more information is to come.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)



THE NEW BORDER



The third Border Town store is in the works in Rio Grande City. This new construction will be located right next to Rio Bank. A 7,752 square foot building will house a grocery store and meat market. Residents living in the center of town will now have the convenience within close proximity

[WATCH VIDEO](#)



SOCIAL SCENE



During the July City Commission Meeting Rio Grande City presented STARR of Hope with a donation of \$2,500. Monies were a result of leftover funds raised for our local Fourth of July Event, RGC Freedom Fest.



We want to thank Lone Star National Bank and RGVFC Toros for hosting a few members of our great city and providing us the opportunity to support our regional soccer league.



Two Starr County Ports of entries working as a team in effort to increase business and prosperity throughout the border and neighboring cities in the region.



Mayor Joel Villarreal and the City of Rio Grande would like to welcome the new president for South Texas College, Dr. Ricardo Solis.

TACKLE & FLAG
FOOTBALL

REGISTRATION STARTS
AUGUST 18

5332 E. HIGHWAY 83, SUITE C

REGISTRATION FEE

2ND & 3RD – \$40 & 4TH, 5TH & 6TH – \$60
[COVERS SHOULDER PAD & HELMET]

**BRING BIRTH CERTIFICATE AND PHYSICAL TO
CITY HALL – FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
956-488-8728**



**Preventing COVID-19
is worth a shot.**

☒ mask up ☒ social distance ☒ get vaccinated

Do your part, for you, and others.



Free PCR COVID-19 Testing

**Fort Ringgold Softball Field
Curative Kiosk**

**Monday - Thursday
8:00 AM - 6:00 PM**

****Testing site will be closed on July 5th & will close on days with severe weather.**



curative

