



# the Rio Review

THE CITY OF RIO GRANDE CITY'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

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

## 2021 National Night Out Celebration

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## Free Trick-or-Treat Event at Basilio V. Municipal Park

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## Hispanic Heritage Month at RGC Library

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# SAFETY FIRST

## Sparky Encourages Everyone to Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety

**T**he Rio Grande City Fire Department is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) – the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week for more than 90 years

- to promote this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety". This Year's campaign, October 3-9th, works to educate everyone about the simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe.

"What do the sounds mean? Is there a beep or a chirp coming out of your smoke alarm or carbon monoxide alarm? Knowing the difference can save you, your home and your family," said Lorraine Carli, vice-president of outreach and advocacy at the NFPA.

(Continued on Page 6)



### October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

If you are a woman over 40, take this opportunity to schedule your annual mammogram.





## 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.

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Rio Grande City, TX 78582

# FROM THE MAYOR

A MESSAGE FROM RIO GRANDE CITY MAYOR JOEL VILLARREAL



Rio Grande City Mayor Joel Villarreal read the City's official Proclamation of Fire Prevention Week on Saturday, October 9th. In the United States, the first Presidential proclamation of Fire Prevention Week was made in 1925 by President Calvin Coolidge. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) continues to be the international sponsor of the week.

# IT'S THE GREAT PUMPKIN, RIO GRANDE CITY



The Rio Grande City Main Street Pumpkin Patch is now open to the public. Located next to the RGC Fire Department at 910 US-83, in Rio Grande City.

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#### COMMUNITY

THIS MONTH'S SOCIAL SCENE



## BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Breast cancer is the second most common form of cancer among women in the United States (behind skin cancer).



About 1 in 8 U.S. women — 12% — will develop invasive breast cancer over the course of her lifetime.



Every 3 minutes, a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer.



Death rates from breast cancer have been declining since about 1990.



In 2016, it's estimated that just under 30% of cancers diagnosed in women will be breast cancers.

### BUT, THERE IS HOPE.



Today, a woman diagnosed with breast cancer at an advanced state has a 27% chance of being alive in 5 years. With early detection, you can increase your chances to 98%.

The American Cancer Society invests more in breast cancer research than any other cancer type. Society-funded research has led to the development of potentially lifesaving breast cancer drugs, as well as the discovery of genes linked to breast cancer.



There are nearly 3 million breast cancer survivors in the U.S. The American Cancer Society recommends a baseline mammogram between the ages of 35-40 and then once yearly thereafter. Monthly self-exams are also recommended for women over the age of 20. Screening guidelines vary by age, so talk with your physician.



**ATTENTION** PROPERTY OWNERS,  
RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL



## REPORT VACATED TENANTS TO PREVENT WATER METER REMOVAL

METERS BELONGING TO ACCOUNTS WITH INACTIVITY AND PAST DUE  
CHARGES. CALL RIO GRANDE CITY UTILITIES TO PUT A HOLD ON THE ACCOUNT  
UNTIL PROPERTY IS OCCUPIED.

**956.487.2702**





**Mayor Joel Villarreal meets with investors to discuss opportunities for new business in Rio Grande City.**

# We Mean Business

**T**he Rio Grande City EDC is pursuing various business leads to help create a robust local economy and ensure a high quality of life for Rio Grande City residents. In September, the EDC met with prospective clients in the hospitality, medical and service industries to discuss site selection, the development process and workforce needs as they plan to make their move into our community.

"Rio Grande City upholds a pro-business environment that is welcoming to new investment," said RGC EDC Executive Director Dalinda Guillen. "The growing interest in our city for new business is encouraging and our activity over the last month is a testament to that."

For EDC news and announcements follow us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/RioGrandeCityEDC/>

**"Rio Grande City upholds a pro-business environment that is welcoming to new investment,"**

-Dalinda Guillen

# You May be Eligible for Free Child Care

**I**f you work in a restaurant, hotel, retail, or in other service industries, you may be eligible for free child care under a new program offered by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).

TWC together with Workforce Solutions is offering funds to qualifying families starting next year, but the time to sign up is now.

"TWC's child care assistance program provides an important subsidy many Texas families use to enter the workforce" said TWC Chairman Bryan Daniel.

The Service Industry Recovery program

targets low-wage workers in the arts, entertainment and recreation industry, as well as accommodations, food services and retail trade — industries which were most impacted by the pandemic.

"This much needed resource is a huge step forward in providing stability for our service workers and the industry in general," said Dalinda Guillen, RGC EDC Executive Director. "I encourage employers whose staff may be eligible to benefit from this new program to share this information with their employees."

For program eligibility requirements and application forms visit: <https://rb.gy/erxfgn>.



**FREE CHILD CARE FOR 12 MONTHS**

FOR SERVICE INDUSTRY WORKERS

Parents must work in the arts, entertainment and recreation, accommodations, or food services and retail trade industries to qualify.

**LEARN MORE: [HTTPS://RB.GY/ERXFGN](https://rb.gy/erxfgn)**

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IS THE LAW  
LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD DBA WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS IS AN EQUAL  
OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER/PROGRAM AND AUXILIARY AIDS AND SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST TO  
INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES. TTY/TDD: 711 OR (202) 877-8337 (VOICE).  
1-800-735-2989 / 1-800-735-2988 (VOICE).





# Ghouls Night Out

# TRUNK

-or-

# TREAT

**COSTUMES ENCOURAGED**

STOP BY TO TRICK-OR-TREAT FOR  
SOME GOODIES AND SPIRITED FUN!

**FREE  
EVENT!**

**BASILIO VILLARREAL PARK PARKING LOT**  
1473 STEPHEN, SAENZ ST, RIO GRANDE CITY, TX 78582

**OCTOBER 27TH 6 PM - 8 PM**

**OWN A BUSINESS AND WANT TO JOIN THE TRUNKS?**

TEXT OR CALL 956.573.3900 TO SIGN UP FOR FREE

\*ALL TREATS/CANDIES MUST BE PREPACKAGED







## CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

"It's important to learn the different sounds of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. When an alarm makes noise – a beeping sound or a chirping sound – you must take action!" Rio Grande City Fire Department Chief Manuel Muniz. "Make sure everyone in the home understands the sounds of the alarms and knows how to respond. To learn the sounds of your specific smoke and carbon monoxide

alarms, check the manufacturer's instructions that came in the box, or search the brand and model online."

The Rio Grande City Fire Department is virtually hosting an educational video in support of this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety", the video will be furnished to the counseling departments of the school districts in our community.

To find out more about National Fire Prevention Week history, programs and activities in Rio Grande City please contact the RGC Fire Department at 956-487-5312. For more general information about Fire Prevention Week and fire prevention in general visit [www.fpw.org](http://www.fpw.org).

## The Rio Grande City Fire Department would like to share safety tips to help you "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety".

1. A continuous set of three loud beeps – beep, beep, beep – means smoke or fire. Get out and call 911, and remain outside.
2. A single chirp every 30 or 60 seconds means the battery is low and must be changed.
3. All smoke alarms must be replaced after 10 years.
4. Chirping that continues after the battery has been replaced means the alarm is at the end of its life and should be replaced.
5. Make sure your smoke and CO alarms meet the needs of all your family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities.







[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

## National Night Out 2021

Several Law Enforcement agencies, including the Rio Grande City Police Department, gathered at the Basilio Villarreal Municipal Park on Tuesday, October 5, 2021 to celebrate 2021 National Night Out.

National Night Out is a community-police awareness-raising event in the United States, held the first Tuesday of October in Texas. The event has been held annually since

1984, and is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch in the United States. National Night Out began simply with neighbors turning on their porch lights and sitting in front of their homes. The first National Night Out involved 2.5 million residents across 400 communities in 23 states; National Night Out 2016 involved 38 million residents in 16,000 communities across the United States.



The Rio Grande City PD is pleased to announce that they are now in charge of the city kennels. Sgt. Daniel Cruz will be overseeing the Animal Control Department for our great city. Earlier this month, Pct. 4 Commissioner, Ruben D. Saenz generously donated a pallet of dog food to help with the city's kennel endeavors. The commissioner's generosity is wholeheartedly appreciated.

## Coffee With a Cop

The Rio Grande City Police Department observed National Coffee with a Cop Day on Wednesday morning, October 6, at the local Whataburger restaurant.

Coffee with A Cop was launched in Hawthorne, California in 2011 when Officers from the Hawthorne Police Department were looking for ways to interact more successfully with the citizens they served each day. Community policing has long been considered a framework for establishing trust between the community and the police.



However, over time the character and composition of our nation's communities have changed due to shifting demographics, more commuters, and the introduction of different communication methods such as websites and social media.

Coffee with a Cop events are now held in all 50 states and is one of the most successful community oriented policing programs across the country.

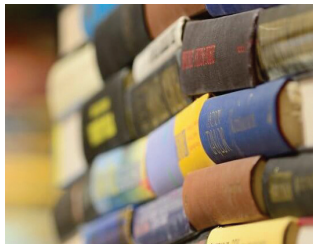


## The library offers many services beyond just checking out materials.

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



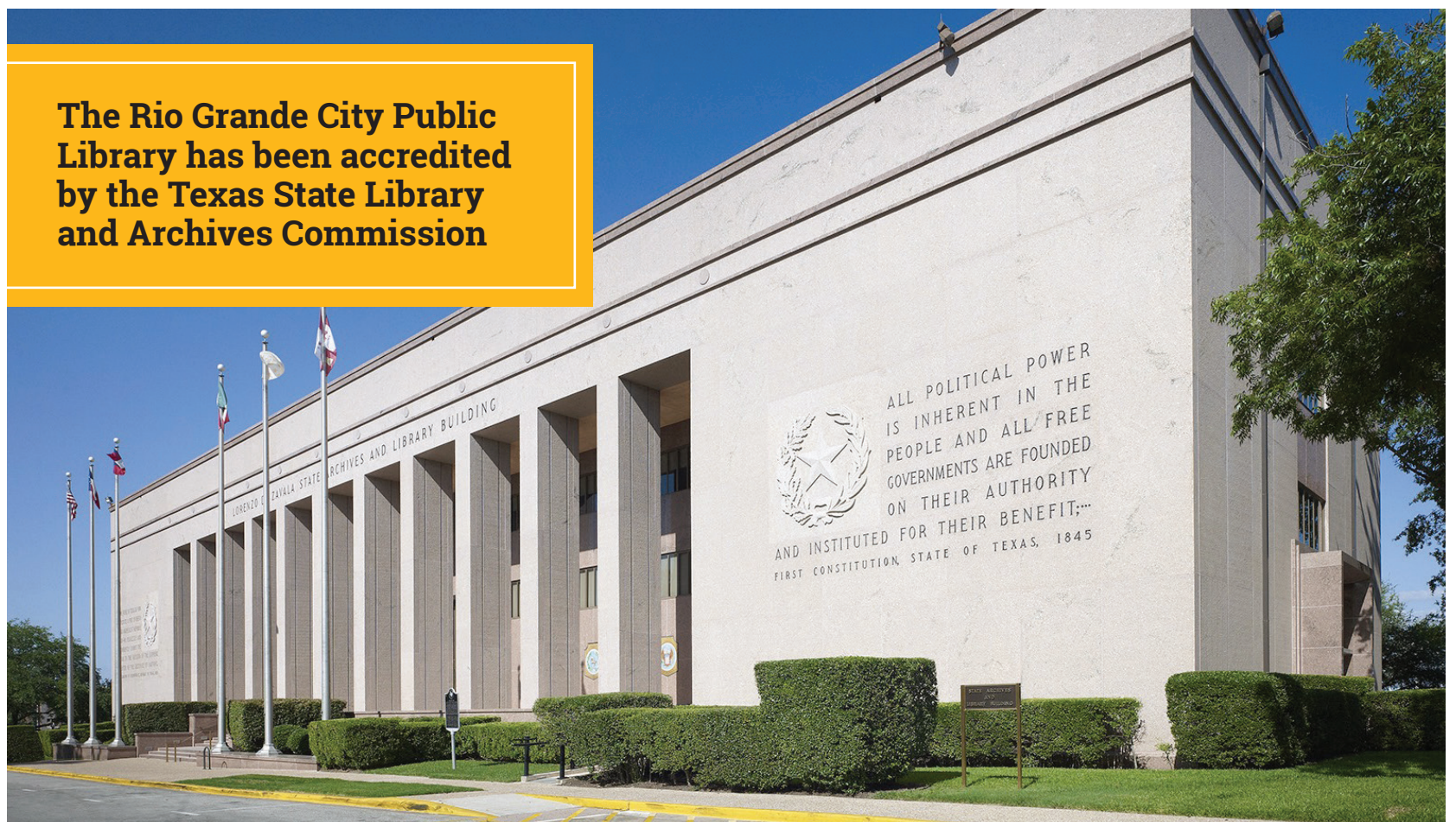
Free Virtual Toddler Time Activities Every Friday. Call 956-487-4389

# Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

**L**atinx Hispanic Heritage Month is a time to celebrate the rich and colorful histories and contributions of Latinos and Hispanics communities within the United States. The month (September 15 - October 15) commences mid-September to align with the independence of five Latin American countries: El Salvador, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Honduras. Mexico (September 16) and Chile (September 18) also celebrate their independence days mid-month. The month closes October 15th in close proximity with Día de la Raza (October 12). A book display of Latinx authors is available at the Rio Grande City Public Library, eBooks and audiobooks are available online.



**The Rio Grande City Public Library has been accredited by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission**



## MAKING THE GRADE

**T**he Rio Grande City Public Library has been accredited by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission and will be a fully qualified member of the Texas Library System for State Fiscal Year 2021-22 fiscal year.

"We are honored to have met the standards to become an accredited library for over 10 years. This is possible with the hard work and support of the City of Rio Grande City Mayor, City Commission, Administration, Library Staff and Community", said Norma Gomez Fultz, Library Director.

Accredited libraries are eligible to apply for E-rate, can apply for competitive grants and eligible to participate in the state-wide Interlibrary Loan (ILL) program.

Accredited libraries can participate in the TexShare databases consortium at a discounted rate. They provide full-text articles from journals, newspapers, magazines, and many other sources. Entire books can be read online. Database topics include homework help for students, health information, business information, biography and genealogy, as well as literature and archival information. Examples are Chilton Library, Job & Career Accelerator, Learning Express, Sanborn Maps, Hobbies & Crafts, Home Improvement, and Consumer Health Source.

For more information on the Rio Grande City Public Library visit [www.rgclibrary.org](http://www.rgclibrary.org)



## TRAINING DAYS



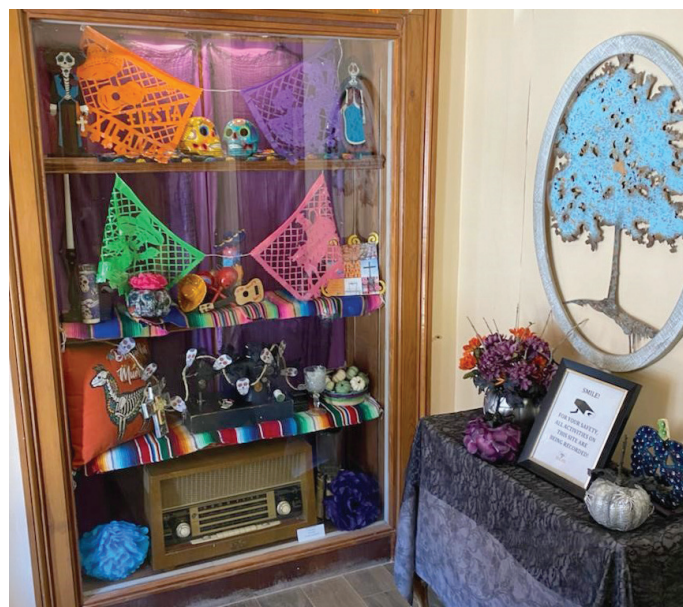
in order to determine their contribution to the city's or town's historic standards. During one of several walking tours, the attendees visited several locations which displayed great renovation work in their buildings. Several establishments were able to successfully replace all antiquated and/or faulty electrical and

**E**arlier this month, City of Rio Grande City, Main Street Coordinator, Sara Hernandez, attended a Main Street Training in Seguin, Texas.

At this three day event, Ms. Hernandez, and other experienced and novice main street coordinators throughout the state, were able to brainstorm, discuss, and strategize ways to revitalize many of our small town main streets. Throughout the week, there were discussions on a variety of topics, but most noteworthy were those concerning strategic planning, or rather, the physical inventory of historic buildings. This in depth discussion ended with the "majority approved" suggestion for coordinators to look into having an independent company evaluate and inventory buildings in downtown areas

phone wiring with new, underground wiring. This juxtaposition of the historic with the new streamlined technology allowed for a clutter-free street, and a more enjoyable main street experience. The attendees also participated in a photo contest, which allowed them to look at their surroundings through a different lens. This exercise was geared to helping the participants have a different vision from "what is" to "what can be" in their own main streets. Finally the training ended with more varied discussions on how to take a seemingly community "eyesore" and transform it into a jewel of a town or city's main street. All in all, this event proved that Texas Main Streets are worth the effort to renovate and revitalize! It's good for commerce and community!

## ON DISPLAY



**K**elsey Bass Museum and Event Center is decked out for the months of September and October. The front display case features elements of an altar or "ofrenda" in celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month which is observed from September 15 through October 15. The front entrance of the museum is done up in all manner of pumpkins and jack-o-lanterns to usher in the beginning of fall and the upcoming Halloween season. Kelsey Bass Museum and Event Center is open for tours from 9:00 to 4:30 every weekday.

## SIGHTSEEING

## EXPLORE THIS MONTH'S FEATURED TOURIST SPOTS



Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto is located in Rio Grande City, behind Immaculate Conception Church at 101 E. Third Street.



### FORCYCE BIKE 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



### KELSEY-BASS MUSEUM

101 S Washington St, Rio Grande City, TX 78582



### LOPEZ-TIJERINA COURTYARD

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



# HELP KEEP THE WATER FLOWING

Rio Grande City Public Works crewmen Jorge Medina and Margarito Bermudez have been working on keeping our drainages clean from debris to ensure water drains clearly. We encourage residents to please dispose of all waste properly.



RGC Public Works crewmen Antonio Zamora and Juan Toscano have been hard at work with our JD Tractor's cutting grass along HWY 83 and larger grassy areas.



## IT'S ALL PART OF THE PLAN

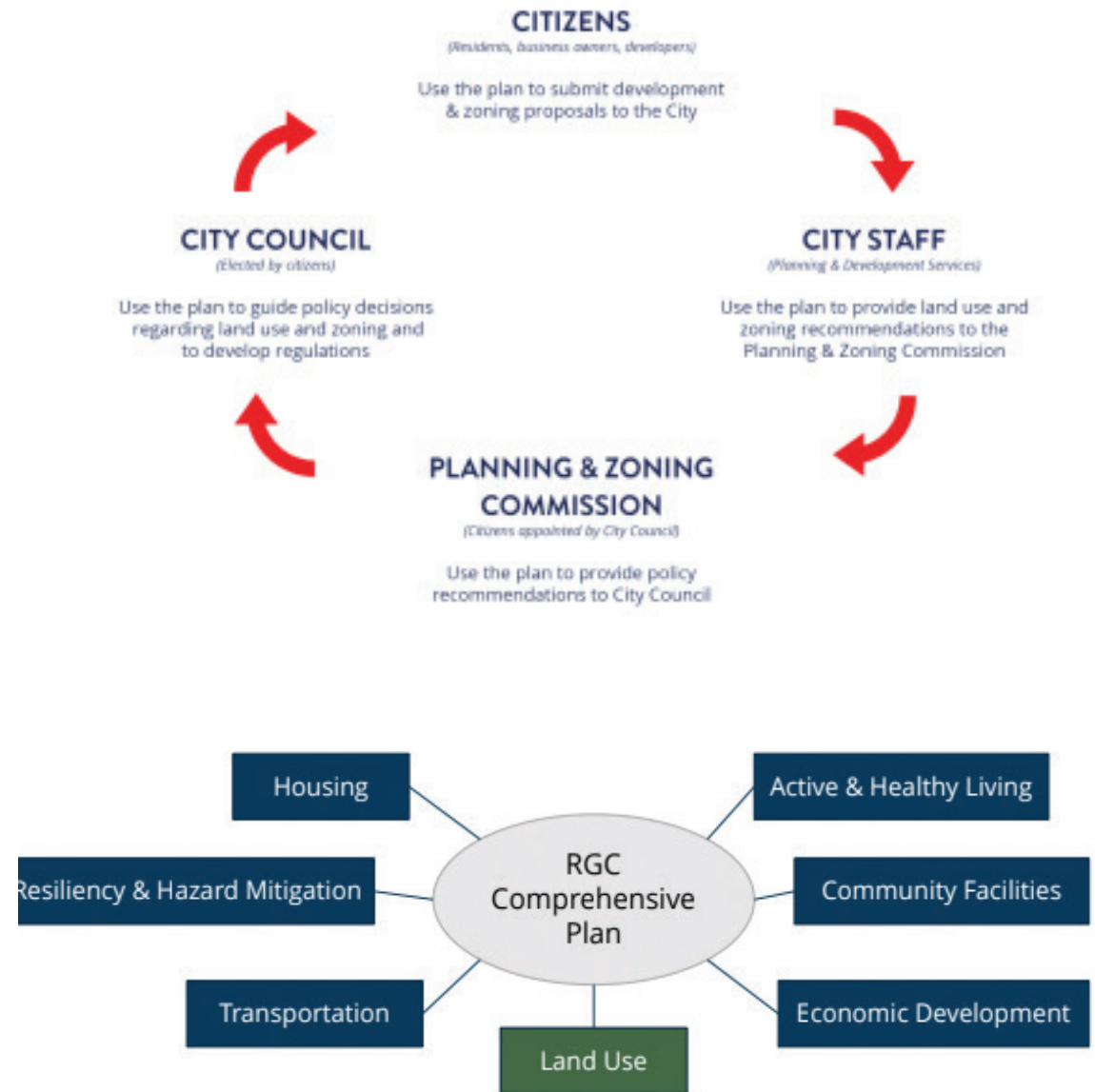
**T**he City of Rio Grande City is working with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension on a Municipal Comprehensive plan that aims at targeting strategic growth, leaving a lasting impact in Rio Grande City for years to come. One may ask, what is a comprehensive plan? It is an official planning document that must be adopted by city ordinance that links existing city plans, regulations, and initiatives. A comprehensive plan becomes the basis for policy and zoning. The first meeting with Team Adelante was held September 21st in the Economic Development conference room. A cocktail of sixteen community members make up Team Adelante.

The planning process has four phases and the city is currently in phase 1-- Visions and Values. The remaining phases are 'Big Ideas, 'Land Use and Development' and 'Recommendations and Presentations'. Each phase of the planning process will have one public meeting, in three separate locations creating three opportunities where community members may participate.

During the first phase of the Comprehensive Plan, three open public meetings are scheduled for the evening of Monday, October 25th at Rio Grande City High School Cafeteria at 5:30 PM, Tuesday, October 26th at South Texas College at 12 PM and the evening of Tuesday, October 26th at Ringgold Elementary Cafeteria at 5:30 PM, tentatively. The public is encouraged to attend and provide insight on community concerns and provide feedback.

In total, there will be 12 general open public meetings covering the four phases. Looking to the future, the next Team Adelante task force meeting is on Tuesday, October 12th.

### WHO USES THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?



### PROGRESS REPORT

Progress continues at the Rio Grande Village Development. Scan the QR code to view the latest news from the Rio Grande City Public Relations Department.



[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)



## SOCIAL SCENE



We now have a third COVID-19 test site in Rio Grande City! Our community can now test before or after traveling internationally. Thank you for working with us to provide these services to the community. #rgcstopthespread



A Bi-national Vaccination Clinic held at Rio Grande City Port of Entry with the help of Starr Camargo Bridge Co. and Popular Pharmacy brought essential workers from across the border to receive their vaccine. This initiative provides vaccines for any essential personnel that directly affect trade between Rio Grande City and Mexico, with or without visas. For inquiries regarding this and future clinics alike, please email Rio Grande City Public Relations at [avillarreal@cityofrgc.com](mailto:avillarreal@cityofrgc.com). #stopthespread #rgcstopthespread



Sunday, September 12, the nation celebrated Grandparent's Day which falls on the first Sunday after Labor Day and showcases the bond between grandparents and grandchildren. National Grandparent's Day was celebrated whole heartedly with the help of Roma ISD's Roma High School Mariachi Nuevo Santander. Every year, the Rio Grande City Public Library alternates between local mariachis to provide a tribute for loved ones at the City's very own Lopez-Tijerina Courtyard. Roma, La Grulla, and Rio Grande City CISD provide marvelous talent, bringing families together for some fun and easy listening. This year, COVID-19 has limited participation for public events however the city will continue to bring these events to you and broadcast them live for all to enjoy! #GrandparentsDay

## NURSING SCHOOL



Being able to use her skills as a future medical professional in her own community is a special privilege for Sayan De Leon. Among those students tasked with assisting with vaccinations for COVID-19 recently at South Texas College's Starr County Campus, De Leon says she has volunteered her time throughout the county to help residents in need.

Born and raised in Rio Grande City, De Leon says she comes from a family of nurses. Her mother is a nurse, which inspired her to pursue a career helping people.

"Today as a community, nursing students, pharmacists, the county, we are all working together to help people, encourage and

educate them on getting their vaccine. It's never too late," De Leon said. "There is plenty to go around and it's very important to stay safe and help out one another and hopefully everyone with time gets around to getting the vaccine they need to stay safe."

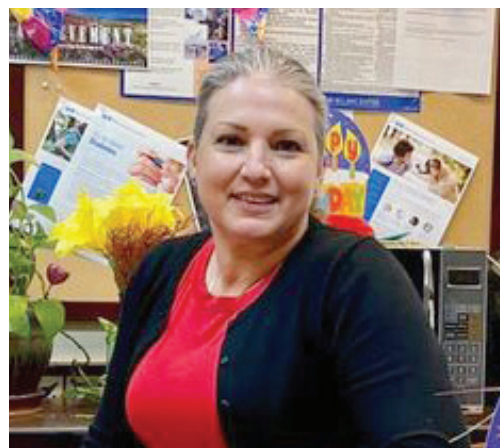
De Leon is currently in the South Texas College Vocational Nursing Program and will be graduating this December with her LVN. Her goal is to pursue a career as a registered nurse, and eventually complete her Bachelor of Nursing and finally become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA).

"I see the way my mom is with her patients, and it made me want to follow in her footsteps," De Leon said. "I'm just taking it step by step, but I really love this program. I really love that STC gives me this opportunity to pursue my career goals and I can't wait to end up in the field one day and start helping other people."

Following through with an announcement of a partnership to begin utilizing nursing students to assist with vaccination drive events at all campuses, STC in collaboration with Starr County held their latest vaccination clinic on Sept. 30.

The college and county along with the business community are seeking to help mitigate the spread of the novel virus by providing the vaccines free of charge to students, faculty and staff.

## FLU SEASON



RIO GRANDE CITY HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR VALERIE BROWN-GARZA

According to the CDC, most years, the US death toll from the flu is estimated to be between 34,000 to 43,000. In order to protect our employees as much as possible the City of Rio Grande City held a flu vaccine clinic for all city employees on Thursday September 2, 2021. In conjunction with Popular Pharmacy, the city offered the flu vaccine, as well as the shingles and tetanus shot to all city employees. We had a good turn out with 30 employees getting the flu shot, 7 employees getting the shingles shot, and 11 employees getting the tetanus shot. We are thankful for all those that came in to get vaccinated and to those at Popular Pharmacy for helping us to provide these vaccines at no cost to the employee.

OCTOBER  
BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

If you are a woman over 40, take this opportunity to schedule your annual mammogram.