



the Rio Review

THE CITY OF RIO GRANDE CITY'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

• Vol-02 • Edi-02 • JAN-FEB. 2022

FREE • MONTHLY • ONLINE at www.cityofrgc.com

**Need Utility Bill
Assistance?**

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**New Panda Express
Now Open**

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**New Look
Same Mission**

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

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



Mayor Joel Villarreal along with local Mayors in the region have been working together on a number of various areas concerning the region as a whole. Deliberating amongst pressing private and public concerns, offering feedback to each other is a tactic Starr County Mayors have adopted. In the photo attached, Mayors of Starr County: Mayor Villarreal, Rio Grande City; Mayor Escobar Jr., Roma; Mayor Solis, La Grulla; and Mayor Escobar, Escobares joined together just before the holiday season. Mayor Villarreal exclaims that, "partnerships and collaborations are the cornerstones of successful communities." Perhaps this is the source of the fortified growth in the area.



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



Proclamation of the City of Rio Grande City VIRAL SAFETY MONTH

WHEREAS, It is of vital importance for all residents to protect their family, community and themselves by researching the positive effects of proper indoor humidity, Vitamin D exposure, and COVID-19 preventative measures; and

WHEREAS, Early treatment of COVID-19 has changed Rio grande City recommends the consultation of a medical professional to begin early treatment immediately as soon as symptoms display; and

WHEREAS, It is recommended for all persons to get tested to determine Vitamin D levels and to adopt a Vitamin D regimen specially designed by a medical provider to improve the immune system; and

WHEREAS, Based on recent studies it is recommended to maintain an indoor humidity of 55-65% to prevent the transmission of infectious disease particles; and

NOW THEREFORE, I Joel Villarreal, Mayor of Rio Grande City do hereby proclaim the months of November and December 2021 as VIRAL SAFETY MONTH in Rio Grande City and encourage promotion of COVID-19 Safety measures in order to save lives and improve the overall health of residents.

Joel Villarreal

Dated this 24 day of November, 2021

Joel Villarreal
Mayor of the City of Rio Grande City

Attested by: *Melissa Garza*

Melissa Garza
Rio Grande City City Secretary

VITA Program Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

40 Years of
IMPACT



BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Greeters, Tax Preparers, & Quality Reviewers Needed!

- ★ No experience needed
- ★ Materials and training provided
- ★ Flexible volunteer hours
- ★ To sign up for the trainings visit:

<https://forms.gle/vYyb9hRbCwAnLGQA>



2021-2022 VITA Training Dates

All trainings will be conducted virtually.

Training *	Date	Time
Volunteer Standards of Conduct	Nov. 30, 2021 Dec. 7, 2021 Jan. 4, 2022	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Intake/Interview & Quality Review	Nov. 30, 2021 Dec. 9, 2021 Jan. 6, 2022	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Advanced Scenarios/Certification	Dec. 2, 2021 Dec. 14, 2021 Jan. 8, 2022	5:00 PM - 8:00 PM 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Training Recap (Optional)	Jan. 22, 2022	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

*Volunteers must attend **one** Volunteer Standards of Conduct, **one** Intake/ Interview & Quality Review, and **one** Advanced Scenarios/Certification training.

For more Information, contact Janet Terrazas at 956-686-6331 or at jterrazas@unitedwayofsothx.org.

For more Volunteer Opportunities visit: www.volunteersotx.org.

United Way's VITA Program Offers Free Tax Preparation Services

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 unitedwayofsothx.org

*Photo from left to right: Alondra Guillen, Madeley Morin, Laura Ramirez, Elisa Beas

Need Utility Bill Assistance?

Low income households throughout the U.S. have assistance to pay their water bills. The Rio Grande City Council meeting taking place on the 5th of January, 2022 will include an agreement between the South Texas Development Council with the City. Locally, applications will be received through their office located in precinct one.

According to Mrs. Beas, director of Rio Grande City Utilities, about 20% of RGC water accounts reside in a delinquent status. After 10 days of a missed payment, protocol requires that the city send out notices and shut off water supply for those in a delinquent status. However, patrons

may call to schedule a payment plan in the case of extenuating circumstances.

With this program, those on payment plans or in a delinquent status can be helped. It will help the city improve their delinquent status while also helping residents pay on their defaulted accounts.

Those federal funds available for residents through the agreement are available to any water supply company in the nation.

Details for registration can be obtained by calling the South Texas College Development Board Starr County office at (956) 722-3995 or on stdc.cog.tx.us.

Longevity Awards

The announcement of the Longevity Awards took place at the annual Municipal Christmas Luncheon. The following seventeen City employees were recognized for their outstanding servitude to the community and City of Rio Grande City. Each received recognition and a token of appreciation from the City Commission.

30 Years of Service, Maria M Villarreal. **25 Years of Service**, Humberto Vela Jr, Hector Barrera. **15 Years of Service**, Elisa Y Beas, Alejandro Guerra. **10 Years of Service**, Roel Pena, Maria Veronica Alaniz, Robert Barrera. **5 Years of Service**, Juan M Saldana, Noe Flores Jr., Gabe Garza, Epifanio Perez, Jr, Imelda Cruz, Santana Martinez, Jr, Mario Salinas.



Rio Grande City Building Permit Awarded to Buffalo Wings Rings

Buffalo Wings and Rings received a building permit from Rio Grande City Planning Department at approximately 4 P.M on Friday afternoon, January 28th. The property is located in Rio Grande Village, on U.S. Highway Business 83 near FM 755. The official address will be 4521 E. U.S. Hwy 83, Rio Grande City TX.

Gilbert Millan, Rio Grande City Planning Director states that, "the first inquiry regarding the obtainment of the permit was in June of last year." Today, the permit was issued. The growing sports restaurant chain may break ground anytime within the next year, before the permit expires. The City is unaware of when that will be.

The sports oriented atmosphere will be the first of its kind in Rio Grande City, servicing a population of a growing 17,000+ residents. The valuation of the building is \$1.6 million, covering an area of 5,243 sf.

"An awesome dining experience beyond buffalo wings awaits families, sports fans, and connoisseurs of good food coming soon to beautiful Rio Grande City," remarks Rio Grande City Mayor, Joel Villarreal.

This Buffalo Wings & Rings permit represents the collaboration of Rio Grande City, Rio Grande City Economic Development Corporation, St. Ives Realty, Starr County, and Starr County Industrial Foundation working together for the prosperous expansion of the community.

Chick-Fil-A Coming Soon

Chick-Fil-A fans, here's some good news for 2022.

The Atlanta-based chain serving its famous original Chick-Fil-A sandwich is coming to Rio Grande City, according to plans submitted to the Rio Grande City Planning Office and filing with the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

Chick-Fil-A is scheduled to start construction this summer on an approximately \$12 million construction project on the southeast corner of US Highway 83 and FM 755 at Rio Grande Village in Rio Grande City. Completion is scheduled for early December.

Panda Express Now Open

Panda Express made a big splash over the Christmas holiday as it debuted its opening in Rio Grande City. The new fast casual restaurant is located at the Rio Grande Village subdivision on US Highway 83.

Rio Grande City residents can look forward to new announcements at Rio Grande Village this January as it expands its offering of retail and dining.

Rio Grande City Employer Expo and Job Fair Set For February 3

Whether hoping to find a fresh start, a better job, or a new career direction, job

seekers will find a variety of opportunities at the Rio Grande City Employer Expo and Job Fair on February 3, 2022 at the UTRGV Starr County Campus located at 138 N. FM 3167 in Rio Grande City.

The job fair is organized by the Rio Grande City EDC in partnership with Workforce Solutions to provide employers and jobseekers in Rio Grande City with career-matching opportunities. Last year, the event was held on-line.

The Rio Grande City Employer Expo and Job Fair is a two-day event and begins with a hands-on resume writing and mock interview activity on Wednesday, February 2nd at the Rio Grande City Public Library. These activities will lead up to an expo and career fair from 9 a.m. to noon with employer interviews from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, February 3rd at the UTRGV Starr County Campus.

For more information call the Rio Grande City EDC office at (956) 487-3476 or look for event details on the Rio Grande City EDC facebook page.

Rio Grande City's Largest Chili Bash Makes its Return in January

We're gearing up for the 13th Annual Rio Grande City Chili Showdown Cook off & Festival taking place on January 29, 2022 at the historic Quisco in downtown Rio Grande City. Cooking teams from around the Rio Grande Valley will go head-to-head and compete for top prizes. There is no entry fee for the pan de campo, fajita, and bean categories. There are two \$50 Jackpot categories: chili and peach cobbler.

The event also features a People's Choice Best Chili Contest. The public is invited to taste and cast their votes for their favorite chili. Tickets are \$1 per taste or \$10 to taste them all. All proceeds benefit the Rio Grande City Public Library.

Musical line up will feature Los Palominos, Tropical Panama, Grupo Roble, Mariachi Real Del Valle and Sergio Roping the Wind.



**Registration Starts:
Jan 12 - Feb. 16**

\$40 FEE

YOUTH **BASKETBALL LEAGUE!**

MUST HAVE PHYSICAL COMPLETED PRIOR TO REGISTERING!

**2ND AND 3RD GRADE LEAGUE
4TH AND 5TH GRADE LEAGUE
6TH GRADE LEAGUE**

FOR MORE INFO. CALL MR. ESCAMILLA OR

MR. EGUIA TO 956-488-8728

REGISTER AT: 5332 E. HWY 83, SUITE C - RGC

VOLUNTEER COACHES NEEDED

COACHES NEEDED - Rio Grande City Parks & Recreation will be starting their Boys & Girls Recreational Basketball League soon and is seeking volunteer coaches! Coaches are needed for both male and female basketball teams. The team has a tentative set date for their first game to happen this April. Parks and recreation Director, Frank Eguia states, "The amount of volunteers we receive and kids signed up for the basketball league will determine when we can begin the season." Mr. Eguia further reminds citizens that the Rio Grande City Basketball League will only begin after school basketball season ends.

Registration opened January 12th and will close mid-February. Players - Make sure to register to secure your spot. For questions regarding registration or volunteer opportunities, call our Parks & Recreation Department at 956-488-8728.



The Fire is Growing

Rio Grande City Fire Department received new inventory this January to keep up with the growing needs of the community. The two new vehicles include an E-3 and an E-4 commercial cab-pierce freightliner pumper truck that can hold approximately 1,000 gallons of water. The trucks are the general fire trucks needed to complete most calls the department receives on a daily basis. Last year, the Fire Department acquired two other large pieces of equipment- a brush truck and a tanker truck.

Assistant Fire Chief, Martin Galvan states that, "Now the Fire Department is able to carry-out equipment for several jobs at a time." In previous cases, the City has been able to help neighboring cities outside of its normal operating areas between Alvarez rd and U.S. highway 83 to La Puerta near the Dollar General on Hospital rd.

In other Fire Department related news, in a recent Facebook Live public service announcement, Mayor Joel Villarreal along with Chief noe Castillo and Fire Chief Manuel Muniz discuss the future of the Rio Grande City Fire Department.

Aside from housing one station in the recently announced Public Safety Building, another station has taken roots right next door to the Municipal Airport located on the northeast side of the City. Renovations are expected to come in the near future as the city continues to expand its public safety services to the residents of Rio Grande City.

PUBLIC HEALTH

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 risk 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 not excluding 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.

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.

Health & Wellness Fair

Rio Grande City

March 4th & 5th

HEALTH FAIR AT
Ringgold AC2E Elementary
Friday & Saturday
9AM - 4:30PM

- Glucose tests
- Stress Tests
- Liver Screenings
- Cardiac Health Screenings
- Medicine Consultation
- Car Seat Checks
- Vaccinations
- Physical Therapy Services
- Social Services

WELLNESS FAIR AT
Joe R. Sanchez Stadium
Saturday (1/2 day)
8AM - 12PM

- 5k Run
- 1 Hour Fitness Class
- Fit Kids Camp
- Arthritis & Mobility Class

New Look Same Mission



Watch the Video by
scanning the QR Code

In a recent public announcement found on Rio Grande City's Facebook Page, Assistant Chief Solis notified the public that starting January 28th, RGC Police Department will begin using new uniforms. In 1985, the original color resembled a light blue color. Through the years, various uniforms had been implemented. The new color will be an LA blue, according to the Assistant Police Chief.

Various reasons went into this new look for the Rio Grande City Police Department. Solis goes on to mention that one reason is due to the extreme summer temperatures. This is especially true for officers wearing thick, long-sleeved uniforms with bulletproof vests on top of it all. "There are two companies that make a different kind of 'French Blue'", says Solis. This makes it difficult to coordinate continued colors in uniform for the squad.

Rio Grande City urges citizens not to be alarmed by the change in uniforms. Our Police Department is more prepared now than ever to continue protection and community defense services.

Operation Blue Santa 2021



During the 2021 Rio Grande City Toy Drive, our local police force funneled toys into the hands of hundreds of children based in the Starr County area for the holiday. Aside from providing Christmas cheer to the children, the Police Department continued an initiative that tends to draw quite the social media crown along. Operation Blue Santa is a project meant to enlighten the experience of spotting those blue and red police lights in your rearview mirror. Once the vehicle has been pulled over, a sneaky redirection from a driver's license exchange to a 'Merry XMAS' gift card catches many by surprise.



Watch the Video by
scanning the QR Code or
by using the link
<https://fb.watch/aAHh8CdQ-L/>

Notice from the Rio Grande City I.T. Dept

Previously, the Rio Grande City sourced Spectrum as its primary internet service provider, or isp, for all municipal buildings. Eduardo Lopez, the City's Information and Technology personnel, sheds a little light on how functionality and efficiency have improved fivefold in the past year.

One reason for change was the route for internet funneling to each City department structure. In comparison to the original connection, with 200 megabits per second (Mbps), the city amped up to 1 gigabyte per second (GBps) with its move to Smartcom. Lopez stresses, "It saves us a lot of money-with approximately \$16,000 per year." Lopez goes on to speculate that the weakened connection under the former plan could have been caused by an extra circuit not being utilized. Investigation is still underway.

So now let's break down how City departments are wired. The main site is located in the Tijerina Courtyard area while the other sites are fed off the centralized Main Distribution Facility, or MDF. The main internet, which has become about five times faster, is linked to other circuits at nearby sites. These nearby sites have doubled in speed. Connected to the main circuit are eight subcircuits. Sites that were 50 megabits are now 100 megabits with the adjustment.

The great news is that this growth is not in its completion stages yet. Currently, the city is undergoing an addition to these circuits with facility renovations underway.

Curious about your internet speed? Check your internet speed here using the QR Code.



Rio Grande City Police Dept. Applies for Grants

Rio Grande City Police Department has been very busy the month of December, and that's aside from their North Pole duties. Assistant Chief of Police, Jose Solis, mentioned during his monthly report that, "This upcoming month we are applying for 5 different grants to help better serve the community." Here's a breakdown of what Rio Grande City could see after the start of the new year:


1. Crime Victim Liaison Grant - A Crime Victim Liaison will act as a liaison between victims, family members of victims, victim advocates, various service providers and law enforcement in accordance with the grant. This position is subject to grant funding and could be eliminated without grant funding.
2. Violence Against Women Detective Project - The goal of the grant program is to develop and strengthen law enforcement entities, invigorate prosecution and court strategies to combat violent crimes against women and to develop and strengthen victim services, including community-based and culturally specific services.
3. Drug and Human Trafficking Interdiction Grant - The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) is one of six components within the Office of Justice Program (OJP). OJP receives funding under 22 U.S.C. § 7105(b)(2) for the purposes of developing, expanding, or strengthening victim service programs for victims of trafficking. The table below outlines information about OJP human trafficking funding from Fiscal Year 2011-present.
4. Body Worn Camera Grant - Law enforcement agencies across the United States and throughout the world are using body-worn cameras (BWCs) as a promising tool to improve evidentiary outcomes, and enhance the safety of, and improve interactions between, officers and the public. BWCs also are proving to be an important tool to assist broader law enforcement, problem-solving, and community engagement strategies within jurisdictions.
5. BJA's Body-Worn Camera Team developed the Body-Worn Camera Toolkit to serve as a comprehensive clearinghouse for criminal justice practitioners interested in planning and implementing a body-worn camera program in an effort to improve officer and community safety.
6. Rifle Vest Grant - Back in January, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott announced grant funding that will provide rifle-resistant vests for nearly 33,000 Texas police officers. Abbott announced the \$23 million grant at the Dallas Police Association, though the vests will be handed out statewide.T



February



2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		Story Time 4:00-5:00 Beanstack Reading Challenge	3D Printer Class Employer Expo Job Workshop 9:00-11:00 @RGC Public Library	Beanstack Employer Expo Job Fair 9:00-12:00 @UTRGV Starr County	Toddler Time 10:30 Beanstack Reading Challenge	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Beanstack On-Line Reading Challenge	Story Time 4:00-5:00 Beanstack Reading Challenge	3D Printer Class By Appointment Beanstack Reading Challenge	Beanstack On-Line Reading Challenge	Toddler Time 10:30 Beanstack Reading Challenge	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Beanstack On-Line Reading Challenge	Story Time 4:00-5:00 Beanstack Reading Challenge	3D Printer Class By Appointment Beanstack Reading Challenge	Beanstack On-Line Reading Challenge	Beanstack On-Line Reading Challenge	
20	Closed	21	22	23	24	25
		Story Time 4:00-5:00 Beanstack Reading Challenge	3D Printer Class By Appointment Beanstack Reading Challenge	Beanstack On-Line Reading Challenge	Toddler Time 10:30 Beansstack Reading Challenge	
27	28					
	Beanstack On-Line Reading Challenge					

RIO GRANDE CITY
PUBLIC
LIBRARYHOLIDAY
FUN
COLORING
CONTEST

6 Years

London Lopez
Lauren Martinez
Luis J. Hasbun
Scarlett H. Alaniz
Honorable Mention:
Ana Gonzales
Jey Martinez
S Lopez

7 -9 Years

1st - Alexandra Gonzalez
2nd - Layla Flores
3rd - Leila R. Martinez
4th - Aleyna Sanchez
Honorable Mention:
Jaden Lopez
Oscar Santos
Sarah Garza

10- 12 Years

1st - Edellin Zurita
2nd - Myrna L. Martinez
3rd - Angelynn Terrazas
4th - Arianna Lozano
Honorable Mention:
Luke Hinojosa
Angie Ramirez
Karolina Barrera

Thank You
Friends of the Rio Grande City Public Library
Starr County Town Crier
City of Rio Grande City



GFWC Florence J. Scott Woman's Club Project Promotes Literacy in the Rio Grande Valley

GFWC Florence J. Scott Woman's Club of Rio Grande City's commitment to literacy shows in this beautiful tree on display at the Rio Grande City Public Library. Ornaments honor and recognize Rio Grande Valley authors, books, and libraries that support the acquisition of literacy. Over three hundred hours of research and production contributed to the final product, which promoted the theme, "Celebrating Literacy in the Rio Grande Valley." The club won honors at the International Museum of Art and Science 2021 Guild Christmas Tree Forest competition in McAllen, and the public is invited to come by and view it at the RGC Public Library, Monday-Friday, 8:00-5:00. A handout is provided with information about the authors, books, and libraries.

In partnership with the Friends of the Rio Grande City Public Library, Starr County Town Crier we held a Holiday Fun Coloring Contest for 4 -6 years old, 7- 9 years old, and 10 – 12 years old. We had over 300 entries that included children from Grulla to Roma. All entries were colorful and amazing, 1st , 2nd, 3rd place winners and we added a 4th place and three honorable mentions in each age group.

KB Museum Staff Attend
Conference Commemorating
175th Anniversary of the U.S.
Mexico War.



Kelsey Bass Museum staff and Revive Fort Ringgold volunteers jointly sponsored and attended “To Conquer. To Defend. A Conference to Commemorate the 175th Anniversary of the U.S.-Mexico War.” This full day conference, put together by the Rio Grande Guardian International News Service, took place at the Port Isabel Event & Cultural Center on December 9, 2021. Speakers from around the state and Mexico regaled the audience with their expertise and anecdotes regarding the subject matter while the various exhibitors shared information and promotional material with all in attendance. The City of Rio Grande City and Revive Fort Ringgold welcomed many visitors to their booth with the hope of future tours to our historic city.

Rio Grande City Enjoys Bright
Lights Downtown Courtesy of
RGC Main Street

The City of RGC Main Street hit the ground running in early November preparing to light up our historic downtown. The magical changing lights, giant tree, and lighted decorations on every electric poll testify that Christmas is coming to our great city. The newest additions to the downtown décor were the enormous, lighted deer. The gorgeous pair have been the “talk of town” since their debut in late November. On December 1st the official tree lighting took place to herald the start of the Christmas season. This yearly event took place right at our very own kiosk on Britton Avenue. It was a grand event with music, refreshments, Blue Santa, bike giveaways, school performances, and hundreds of people in attendance. On December 3rd, the City of RGC Chamber of Commerce sponsored its annual lighted parade. The Kelsey Bass Museum and Event Center was honored to host the judges for this spectacular event. The City of Rio Grande City Main Street has also sponsored a Christmas photo-op located at the city’s fire department. Like the previous pumpkin patch, there have been many families who have taken advantage of this festive and free of charge photo backdrop. Finally, the City of RGC Main Street collaborated with RGC GISD to plan, promote, and put-on the first ever “Festival of Lights.” This incredible, community event was in the planning stages for months and required a “herculean” effort to pull off, but the community was blown away by the entertainment, food, and vendors available at our own Fort Ringgold as well as the spectacular lights that remained on display throughout the New Year. This holiday season was one for the books for City of Rio Grande City Main Street, and there will be bigger things to come. Welcome 2022!

SIGHTSEEING | EXPOLRE 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



City 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 discard brush, appliances, and other bulky items.

Available dates are highlighted in **yellow** below.

*Holiday hours subject to change.

Monday – Friday 9 AM – 6 PM
Saturdays 9 AM – 2 PM

01 JANUARY2022	02 FEBRUARY2022	03 MARCH2022	04 APRIL2022																																																																																																																																																																																						
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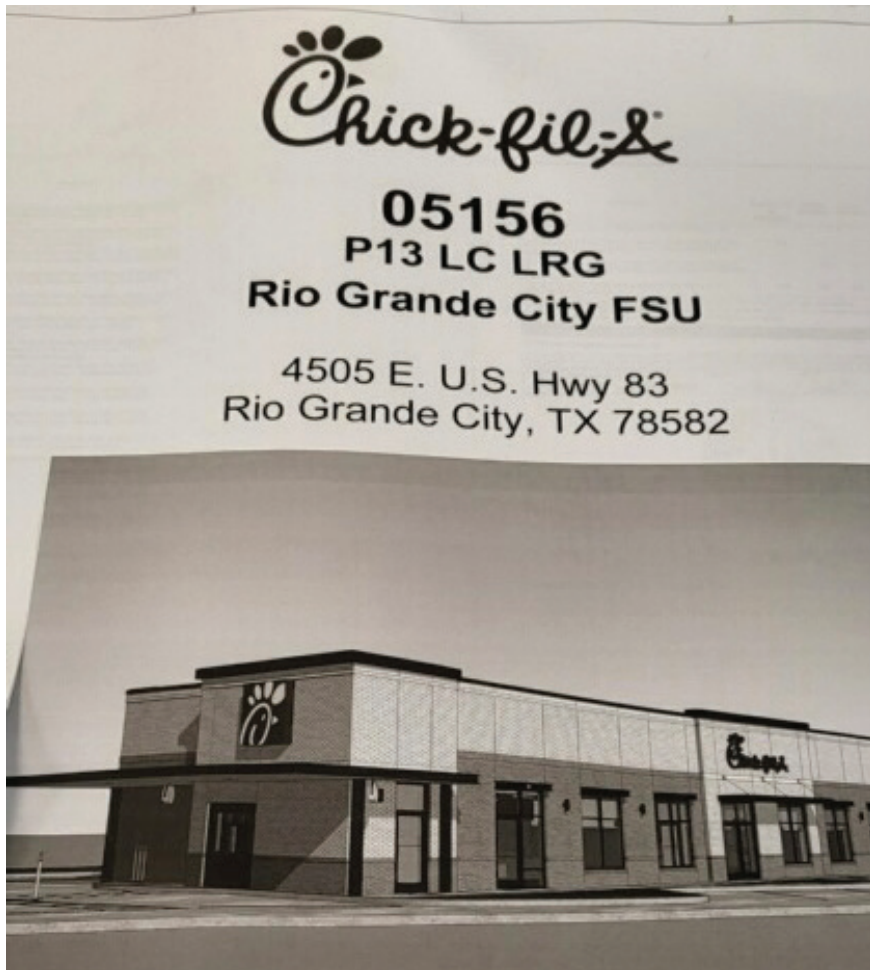
MORE INFORMATION

www.CityofRGC.com / info@cityofrgc.com / Text 956.474.3774

City Hall - 5332 E Highway 83, Rio Grande City, TX 78582 956.487.0672

The city-wide collection center serves as the City's initiative to promote a clean and prosperous community. Usually, days the drop-off facility is open falls on either the second or fourth week of the month. The second week will consist of a Friday-Saturday accessibility while the fourth week will be available to Rio Grande City residents Monday through Saturday. Public works crewmen will be available during those designated days from 8 A.M. to 6 P.M. to receive residents and their bulky items for disposal. Requirements for utilization of bulky item -drop-off service includes the following: Bring your ID and a recent utility bill. Bring only acceptable items: Example: Bulky items include tires, beds, appliances, furniture, brush etc. Items NOT accepted include construction materials such as plywood, concrete, drywall, insulation, etc. Residents can find the facility located on 632 W Eisenhower Rd, Rio Grande City, Texas. The schedule provided may be accessed using the QR code below. For those interest in scheduling a #KeepRGCBeautiful Clean-up Event, citizens may call City Hall at 956-487-0672. We hope to see you stop by this February!

Rio Grande City Permit Application Submitted by Incoming Chick-fil-A Chain



Chick-fil-A applied for a building permit with Rio Grande Planning Department Friday morning, January 21st, to initiate the construction of the nation-wide fast-food restaurant chain. The proposed property is located in Rio Grande Village, on the corner of U.S. Highway Business 83 and FM 755. The official address will be 4505 E. U.S. Hwy 83, Rio Grande City TX.

Gilbert Millan, Rio Grande City Planning Director states that, "discussion had developed throughout the past three months. This permit application means that they are ready to pay for a building permit and start construction." However, the permit usually takes a couple of weeks to finalize before construction can begin.

Rio Grande City Code Enforcement completes about a hundred health inspections for restaurants and other food preparation businesses a year, with now another on the way. This Chick-fil-A permit application represents the harmonious effort of Rio Grande City, Rio Grande City Economic Development Corporation, St. Ives Realty, Starr County, and Starr County Industrial Foundation working together for the prosperous expansion of the community.

Permitted Growth

During the last month of 2021, the Planning Department processed permits with a valuation of \$1,689,242 worth of building improvements and 30,555 square footage. This includes the permit for our one and only "Marshalls" worth 1.2 million dollars worth of improvements!

January brought about a hefty amount of activity as well. The Planning Department processed permits with a valuation of \$740,100.00 and 21,793 square feet of improvements. Residential growth is seeing a steady incline with the average of 4 homes per week. New residential builds were permitted with a valuation average of \$177,000.00 each.

Rio Grande City Announces New Public Safety Building Concept



On Monday afternoon, Rio Grande City placed official signage north of the St. Ives Realty development, alongside FM 755, where the City's new Public Safety building will erect. The City has budgeted \$6.1 million for the contemporary two-story project. The blueprints for the approximate 29,000 sq ft of construction include plans for housing the Rio Grande City Police Department, Fire Department, along with a few other additions.

Furthermore, the price per square foot is set at \$265.00, according to the office of the Warren Group Architects, Inc. Laura Warren, lead architect with TWG Architects, Inc stated that the new development may "have updated revisions in the design process."

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. Mayor Joel Villarreal articulates that "Public Safety is the cornerstone of prosperous, successful and progressive municipalities."

The new public safety building is set to break soil sometime in the next few months.

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU



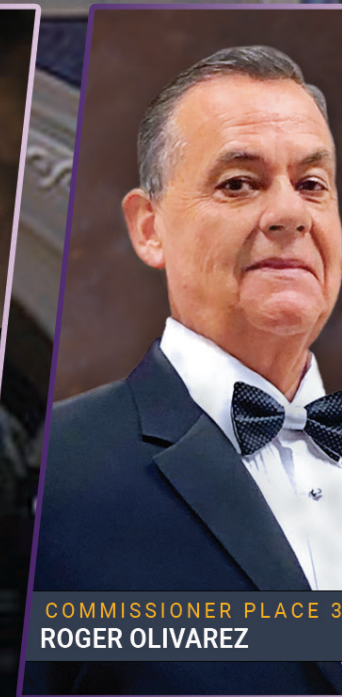
RIO GRANDE CITY MAYOR
JOEL VILLARREAL



COMMISSIONER PLACE 1
FLOR E. FLORES



COMMISSIONER PLACE 2
REY RAMIREZ



COMMISSIONER PLACE 3
ROGER OLIVAREZ



COMMISSIONER PLACE 4
ALBERTO ESCOBEDO

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