



# the Rio Review

THE CITY OF RIO GRANDE CITY'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

• Vol-03 • Edi-02 • MARCH 2022

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

## New Wendy's Restaurant Opening Soon

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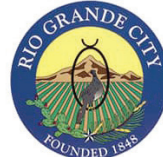
## 2021 Achievement of Excellence in Libraries Award

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## 2022 RGC State of the City Event

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## 2022 STATE of the CITY ADDRESS





## 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](http://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

## 2022 RIO GRANDE CITY STATE OF THE CITY



Thursday, February 24th, the community was invited to join live on the City's Facebook page (City of Rio Grande City, Texas) at approximately 6 p.m to hear about legislative projects and policy direction embalming the theme: "Our River, Our City, Our Future!"

Notable community members invited include all elected officials within Starr County, Starr County Memorial Hospital, Rio Grande City Grulla ISD, Mayors of border towns and prominent Rio Grande Valley cities as well as the President of South Texas College and representatives for the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley and more.

Mayor Joel Villarreal and City Commissioners Rey Ramirez (Mayor Pro-tempore), Flor Flores, Alberto Escobedo, and Rogerio Olivarez presented an overview of the City's current state and future plans for growth. Economic development, infrastructure, public safety and quality of life encompassed the majority of fundamental details that spelled out Rio Grande City's fruitful year. Furthermore, Mayor Villarreal expanded on special projects which include the Rio Grande Village, an Animal Kennel expansion, the SCMH-DHR medical expansion, a new public safety building along with an emphasis on clinical and trade binational

efforts. He even coined a name to illuminate the newly established partnership between all municipalities of the county—"Starr Alliance".

While Villarreal provided a snapshot of the past, he also tipped the audience in on a real treat before closing out with the announcement of plans that have commenced for a municipal boys and girls club and even moreso, possibly a golf course.

In conclusion, this year's State of the City Address made waves that resonated further than the Starr County county limits and our river. According to recent internal conversations, the City Administration aspires to continuously amplify that positive spirit that lends itself to the success and betterment of our great border City.

With the support of the following sponsors, this year's address was presented by Mayor Joel Villarreal, in-person for special guests and live for the public to join: DIAMOND - The Warren Group Architects, Inc. GOLD - Starr Camargo Bridge Co. GOLD - Linebarger GOLD - Rio Grande City RGC Economic Development Corporation SILVER - Lonestar National Bank BRONZE - Versailles Events



## TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY

On March 2nd The City of Rio Grande celebrated Texas Independence Day. Texas Independence Day is the celebration of the Texas Declaration of Independence which was a document that was signed by 59 delegates in 1836. The settlers in Mexican Texas officially declared Independence from Mexico and created the Republic of Texas. We had the pleasure of speaking to Kevin Farly, Director of Public Affairs at Texas State Guard. We asked Mr. Farly what Texas Independence meant to the Texas State Guard, this is what he had to say. "It is a special day that each of us recognizes and we are honored to be Texans and proud of our heritage. We are people that love your state and love to keep helping out our fellow Texans" So on behalf of the City of Rio Grande Happy Independence Day to all.

[www.CityofRGC.com](http://www.CityofRGC.com)





*Rio Grande City Supports*

## CHILDREN OF ADDICTION AWARENESS WEEK

*February 13th - 19th, 2022*



### CHILDREN OF ADDICTION AWARENESS WEEK

The City of Rio Grande informed the committee about Children of Addiction Awareness. To Support this cause the City of Rio Grande had an awareness week from February 13 through February 19th, 2022. One in four children live in a family with a parent addicted to drugs or alcohol. That translates into 18.25 million children who need help eliminating the adverse impact of parental addiction.

Children of addiction are more likely than others to have emotional, psychological, or physical problems related to their childhood. As such, they need the support of caring adults to bring awareness, hope, and ultimately healing.

Here are six ways you can make a difference:

1. Be caring and consistent (and do not pry).
2. Remember: children love their parents (even if they have said or done terrible things).
3. Remind them (repeatedly) it is not their fault.
4. Look beyond a child's behavior (instead ask why).
5. Help kids learn to deal with their emotions (in a healthy way).
6. Let kids be kids. (encourage silliness!)

For more information, please visit the National Association of Children of Addiction ([www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org)).

Thank you Starr County Community Coalition for helping us curate this message

## THE "TEAM ADELANTE" INITIATIVE

Rio Grande city furthered its initiative of "Team Adelante" early in February with a second round of community meetings with one being held at Rio Grande City High School Gym and another at the Knights of Columbus Hall.

During these meetings, residents were taken through a rotation of exercises meant to further the development of the City's comprehensive plan in partnership with Texas A&M Agrilife. Residents provided concerns and constructive pointers on how to improve Rio Grande City. 'Big Ideas' were presented as the overarching categories that will drive future conversations and aid in information organization. Based on the first round of public meeting, the following Big Idea categories were formed:

- Buena Vida – Good Life
- Estabilidad y Progreso – Stability & Progress
- Viviendo Saludable – Living Healthy
- Fuerza Unida – United Community
- Bloques Fundamentales – Essential Building

Blocks

- Desarrollo Inteligente – Smart Growth

According to Emily Guderson, project manager and masters of urban planning student, since January 25th, "there had been 4 Team Adelante meetings, 3 public meetings, 2 community events, 1 focus group, approximately 116 active participants, and approximately 520 pieces of data gathered."

The City Comprehensive Task Force, or better known as Team Adelante, will be meeting the second week of March to review the findings from the public meeting and transportation workshops, present the final draft of a community dispersed survey, and give feedback on the preliminary transportation recommendations. [#RGCProud](#) [#TeamAdelante](#) [#RGCComprehensivePlan](#)



## 13th Annual Chili Showdown

Rio Grande City had their Annual Chili Showdown on Saturday, January 29th. This event took place at Britton Avenue in Historic Downtown. Cooking Teams from around the Rio Grande Valley gathered to compete in the Chili Showdown. The Showdown had five different categories that people were able to participate in: Pan de campo, Fajitas, Beans, Peach Cobbler and Chili. A total of seventeen teams competed that day but there could only be one winner. The winners of the different categories are listed below.

Pan de Campo: 1st – Regulators 2nd – Muy Apenas 3rd – Los Papalotes  
Fajitas: 1st – Los Papalotes 2nd – Pino's Pizza 3rd – Ultimate Hype  
Beans: 1st – Rio Bandits  
2nd – Muy Apenas 3rd – Burn ya House Down  
\$750 Chili Jackpot: Western Glamour  
\$450 Peach Cobbler Jackpot: Los Papalotes  
People's Choice Best Chili: Burn ya House Down

## RGC EDC Job Fair

The Rio Grande City Economic Development Corporation held its sixth Rio Grande City Employer Expo and Job Fair in Rio Grande City. This event was organized by the Rio Grande City EDC in collaboration with [Workforce Solutions](#), [Rio Grande City Public Library](#) and [UTRGV at Starr County Campus](#) to bring together employers and jobseekers in Rio Grande City with career opportunities.

The two-day event began on February 2, with three free workshops hosted by the Rio Grande City Public Library. These activities led up to the Employer Expo and Job Fair on February 3, 2022.

Over 20 employers such as the IOC Company, Idea Public Schools, The City of Rio Grande City and U.S Customs and Border Protection, and many others were present and looking to fill positions in the event.

## First Time Home Buyer Seminar

Attention first-time homebuyer: Join us and Lone Star National Bank for a First Time Homebuyer Seminar on Thursday, March 10th. In this informative seminar, you'll receive a step-by-step guide to purchasing your first home. The seminar will take place from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm at Holiday Inn Express in Rio Grande City. See you there!



**FIRST TIME HOME BUYER SEMINAR**  
A Step-by-Step Guide to Purchasing Your First Home.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2022**  
**6:30 PM - 7:30 PM**

**HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS**  
CONFERENCE ROOM  
5274 US-83 | RIO GRANDE CITY, TX



## Starbucks Job Fair

Looking to improve your latte making! Join us Wednesday March 9th for our Starbucks Hiring Event right here in our City Hall Chambers. Starbucks is hiring for all positions you can also apply at [starbucks.com/careers](https://starbucks.com/careers). So feel free to stop by and see what Starbucks has to offer.



**We're hiring.**

Discover your potential with us.  
Possible opportunities include:

- Now Hiring – All positions
- Rio Grande City
- Job Fair : March 9th All Day Event  
Rio Grande City Hall (9am-4pm)

**APPLY TODAY**  
[starbucks.com/careers](https://starbucks.com/careers)

Search for store number  
**66301**





Rio Grande City Presents

# ***AEROBICS***

**IN THE PARK**

## ***BASILIO VILLARREAL PARK***

1473 Stephen, Saenz St, Rio Grande City

***TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS***

10:15 AM - 11:15 AM

***ALL AGES WELCOME***

Personal Weights and Mat

Recommended

***Jose Dominguez***  
Aerobics Instructor

For questions, please call Michelle Castillo  
Activities Coordinator at 956-716-1795



Aerobics In The Park - Join us for a fun and energetic free aerobics class every Tuesday and Thursdays. Jose Domingues is the aerobics instructor, the classes take place at Parque Basilio Villarreal Park. It's not required, but recommended, to bring your own yoga mat and weights. For any questions, please feel free to call Michelle Castillo, Activities Coordinator at 956-716-1795. We hope to see y'all there!





The Fire Department began fire hydrant maintenance. It is important to maintain fire hydrants annually to ensure that they are functioning properly. Maintenance on fire hydrants improves the Insurance Services Office(ISO) rating.

Firefighters are continuing their education hours that are mandated by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection, in turn, education hours improve the ISO annual rating.

The Fire Department continues to assist at the Port of Entry Vaccination Clinics. This effort aids the border crossing individuals to be vaccinated and their well being.

The Fire Department stresses to residents to be cautious when turning on BBQ pits, especially when windy days are upon us.

The Fire Department personnel will attend the annual All Hazards Conference in McAllen. As the Texas Division of Emergency Management assists local first responders to educate about emergency preparedness, this effort enhances knowledge about sheltering, hurricane evacuation, declaration decisions, school district preparedness, disaster preparedness, school bullying, and public safety.



## WILDFIRE SAFETY

**Properly discard cigarettes.**

**Keep vehicles off of dry grass.**

**Avoid activities with open flames or sparks.**

**Avoid power equipment that creates sparks .**

**Obey burn bans.**

**Evacuate if fire/smoke is heading your way.**

**Evacuate if ordered to do so by local officials.**



## New Leash Law 2022

Is it illegal to chain your dog outside in the state of Texas? Unlawful restraint of a dog which includes them being chained and without shelter or water is now a criminal offense in Texas.

The law is called "Safe Outdoor Dogs Act" which bans chaining up dogs that are outside. This new law was passed mid January

of this year. Chains are an unsafe tethering option for outdoor dogs. It's required that outdoor dogs have access to drinking water and a good shelter that will protect them from any weather conditions. The act was passed by the Texas legislature last year with broad bipartisan support.



**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





# MARCH



## 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
	Beanstack Reading challenge MHP Salud Navigator By Appointment	Storytime 4:00-5:00 Beanstack Reading Challenge	3D Printer Class By Appointment MHP Salud Navigator By Appointment	Beanstack Online Reading Challenge	Rio Toddler Time 10:30 Beanstack Reading Challenge	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Beanstack Reading challenge MHP Salud Navigator By Appointment	Storytime 4:00-5:00 Beanstack Reading Challenge	3D Printer Class By Appointment MHP Salud Navigator By Appointment	Beanstack Online Reading Challenge	Rio Toddler Time 10:30 Beanstack Reading Challenge	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Beanstack Reading challenge MHP Salud Navigator By Appointment	Beanstack Online Reading Challenges	3D Printer Class By Appointment MHP Salud Navigator By Appointment	Beanstack Online Reading Challenge	Beanstack Online Reading Challenge	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Beanstack Reading challenge MHP Salud Navigator By Appointment	Storytime 4:00-5:00 Beanstack Reading Challenge	3D Printer Class By Appointment MHP Salud Navigator By Appointment	<b>Story Walk</b> Miriam Vale Park 6pm-8pm	Rio Toddler Time 10:30 Beanstack Reading Challenge	
27	28	29	30	31		
	Beanstack Reading challenge MHP Salud Navigator By Appointment	Storytime 4:00-5:00 Beanstack Reading Challenge	3D Printer Class By Appointment MHP Salud Navigator By Appointment	Beanstack Online Reading Challenge		

3D Printer Class may be on any day Monday through Friday by appointment  
MHP Salud Navigator Mondays and Wednesdays by Appointment

## New Cooling System

As summer approaches the Rio City Public Library is getting a new cooling and heating system. The City of Rio hired Terex to install the new system on March 1, 2022. It had been over 18 years with their old cooling and heating system. Their new cooling and heating system is bigger and better than the last one. Providing a cool or warm environment for our city library employees.

We also spoke with Norma Fultx, Library Director at Rio City Library about some of their upcoming events. On March 24, 2022 the Rio City Library is going to host a Story Walk at Miriam Vale Park at 6pm - 8pm. Rio City Library is also going to be hosting an event for Children's Day on April 28th more information to come on that event.



## 2021 Achievement of Excellence in Libraries Award

Congratulations for earning the 2021 Achievement of Excellence in Libraries Award.

Of the 565 public library systems in Texas, your Rio Grande City Public Library is one of only 59 who have earned this year's award. With this honor, your library is still in the top 10% of all public libraries in the State. A list of the award winners will be posted on the TMLDA website at <https://tmlda.org/2021-award-recipients>.





Clang, clang, clang went the trolley. 2022 has seen a boost in Bessie III tours and reservations. Our beautiful city is averaging at least three trolley tours per week. Driver, Willie Rodriguez, and tour guide, Aminta Reyna are delighted to show our winter visitors the historic sights in our beautiful downtown area and beyond.



The Kelsey Bass Museum has been a hub of activity these last two months. The museum has seen an influx of visitors eager to learn about the rich history of our local gem. Also staff member, Cathy Rubio, has been busy representing our city at the Starr County Youth Fair, guest hosting a local radio show, "Moments of Faith-Moments in History," participating in "World Read-Aloud Day" at Alberto and Celia Barrera Elementary and taking part in a focus group to promote and improve our beautiful city. Great things are happening in the Kelsey Bass Museum.







2022

Public Works  
BULKY ITEMS DROP-OFF SCHEDULE

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   JANUARY 2022	02   FEBRUARY 2022	03   MARCH 2022	04   APRIL 2022
<div>S M T W T F S</div> <div>1</div> <div>2 3 4 5 6 7 8</div> <div>9 10 11 12 13 14 15</div> <div>16 17 18 19 20 21 22</div> <div>23 24 25 26 27 28 29</div> <div>30 31</div> <div>01 : New Year's Day 17 : Martin Luther King Day</div>	<div>S M T W T F S</div> <div>1 2 3 4 5</div> <div>6 7 8 9 10 11 12</div> <div>13 14 15 16 17 18 19</div> <div>20 21 22 23 24 25 26</div> <div>27 28</div> <div>21 : Presidents Day</div>	<div>S M T W T F S</div> <div>1 2 3 4 5</div> <div>6 7 8 9 10 11 12</div> <div>13 14 15 16 17 18 19</div> <div>20 21 22 23 24 25 26</div> <div>27 28 29 30 31</div>	<div>S M T W T F S</div> <div>1 2</div> <div>3 4 5 6 7 8 9</div> <div>10 11 12 13 14 15 16</div> <div>17 18 19 20 21 22 23</div> <div>24 25 26 27 28 29 30</div>
05   MAY 2022	06   JUNE 2022	07   JULY 2022	08   AUGUST 2022
<div>S M T W T F S</div> <div>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</div> <div>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</div> <div>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</div> <div>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</div> <div>29 30 31</div> <div>30 : New Year's Day</div>	<div>S M T W T F S</div> <div>1 2 3 4</div> <div>5 6 7 8 9 10 11</div> <div>12 13 14 15 16 17 18</div> <div>19 20 21 22 23 24 25</div> <div>26 27 28 29 30</div>	<div>S M T W T F S</div> <div>1 2</div> <div>3 4 5 6 7 8 9</div> <div>10 11 12 13 14 15 16</div> <div>17 18 19 20 21 22 23</div> <div>24 25 26 27 28 29 30</div> <div>31</div> <div>04 : Independence Day</div>	<div>S M T W T F S</div> <div>1 2 3 4 5 6</div> <div>7 8 9 10 11 12 13</div> <div>14 15 16 17 18 19 20</div> <div>21 22 23 24 25 26 27</div> <div>28 29 30 31</div>
09   SEPTEMBER 2022	10   OCTOBER 2022	11   NOVEMBER 2022	12   DECEMBER 2022
<div>S M T W T F S</div> <div>1 2 3</div> <div>4 5 6 7 8 9 10</div> <div>11 12 13 14 15 16 17</div> <div>18 19 20 21 22 23 24</div> <div>25 26 27 28 29 30</div> <div>05 : Labor Day</div>	<div>S M T W T F S</div> <div>1</div> <div>2 3 4 5 6 7 8</div> <div>9 10 11 12 13 14 15</div> <div>16 17 18 19 20 21 22</div> <div>23 24 25 26 27 28 29</div> <div>30 31</div> <div>10 : Columbus Day</div>	<div>S M T W T F S</div> <div>1 2 3 4 5</div> <div>6 7 8 9 10 11 12</div> <div>13 14 15 16 17 18 19</div> <div>20 21 22 23 24 25 26</div> <div>27 28 29 30</div> <div>11 : Veterans' Day 24 : Thanksgiving</div>	<div>S M T W T F S</div> <div>1 2 3</div> <div>4 5 6 7 8 9 10</div> <div>11 12 13 14 15 16 17</div> <div>18 19 20 21 22 23 24</div> <div>25 26 27 28 29 30 31</div> <div>25 : Christmas Day</div>



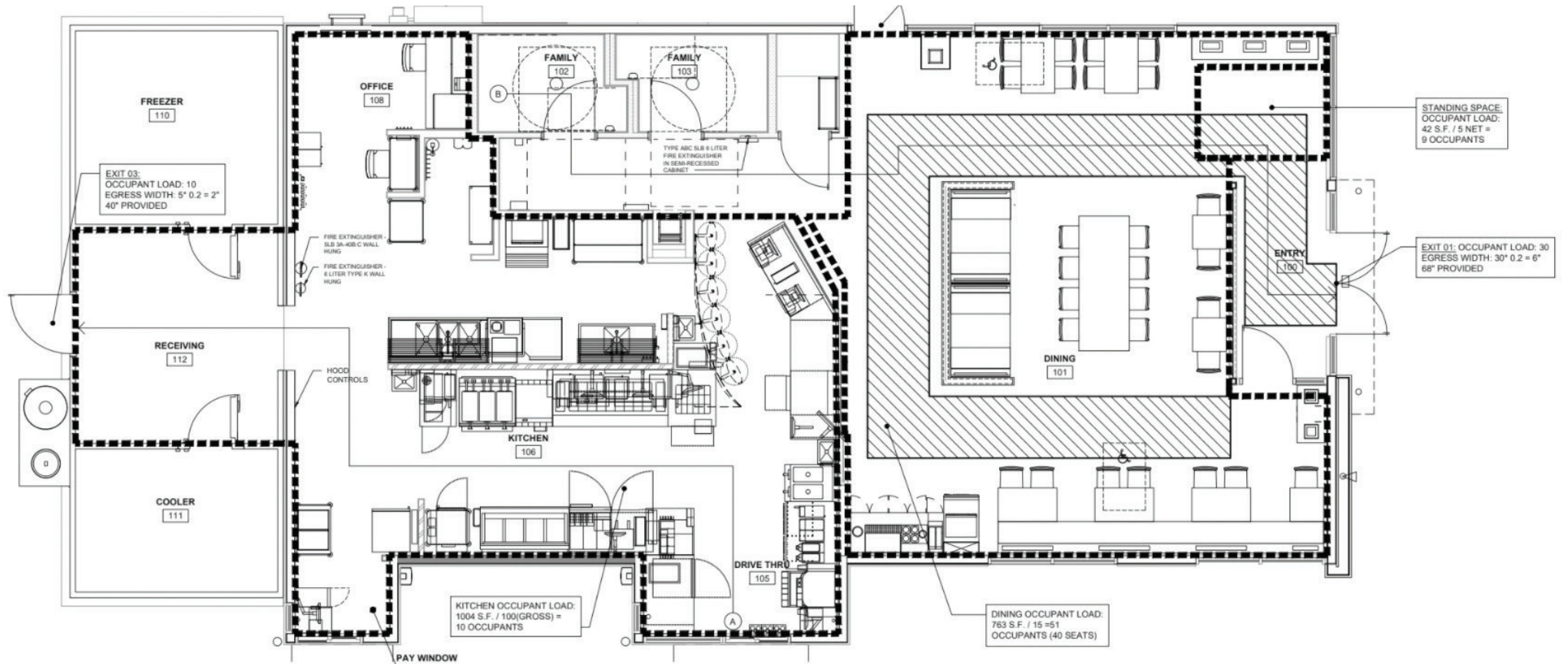
## MORE INFORMATION

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!



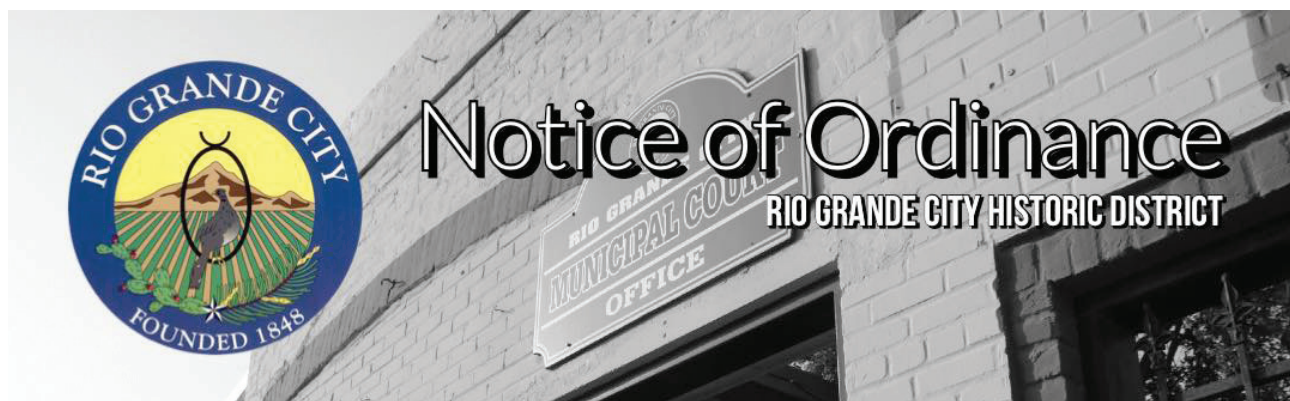
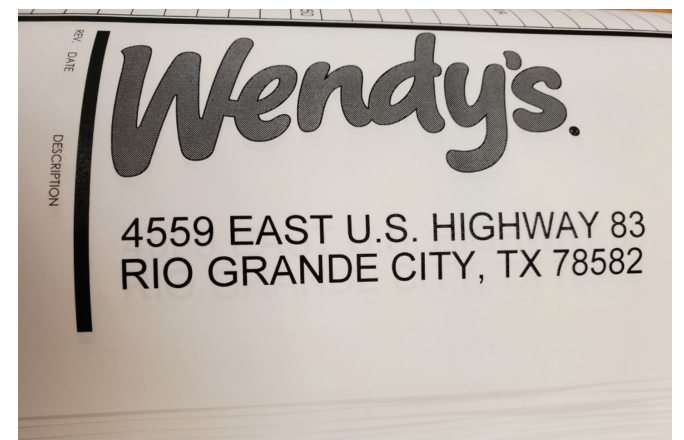


Great things are coming to Rio Grande City! Our Planning Department has received a permit request for a new Wendy's set to come into Rio Grande City. The building is valued to be about 800,000.00 with a square footage of 2,608 square feet. The location of the new Wendy's will be located at 4559 E Hwy 83. Once the application is complete, the permit should be ready within ten business days.

The Planning Department also processed four new occupancy permits for new businesses that include a law firm, a beauty salon, a fruit business and a yogurt house. "We have

also processed permits of improvements with a total value of 1,214,083.00 with a square footage of 60,992 square feet," says Planning Director Gilbert Millan.

Lastly, for the homey side of incoming permits, the department welcomed 5 new residential homes with a total valuation of 865,000.00 encompassing a total of 11,500 square feet of improvements. Each week, there are new projects getting started. It's great to see that the City of Rio Grande is growing!



## 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 Rio Grande City then the planning Director will review the application and determine whether it complies with the resort sign district guidelines.

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

## Notice of Ordinance

Rio Grande City Code Enforcement would like to remind citizens of the common areas that fall within prohibited temporary signage zones, as stated in Rio Grande City's Ordinance No. 2018-2. These areas include Britton Ave (South of the Courthouse), the downtown Main Street area on business 83 as well as all other historical district areas within Rio Grande City city limits. On that note, make sure to cast your votes!



# 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

5332 E. HIGHWAY 83, RIO GRANDE CITY, TX 78582

[WWW.CITYOFRGC.COM](http://WWW.CITYOFRGC.COM) | [FACEBOOK.COM/CITYOFRGC](https://FACEBOOK.COM/CITYOFRGC) | [TWITTER.COM/CITYOFRGC](https://TWITTER.COM/CITYOFRGC)

PHONE NO.: 956.487.0672