

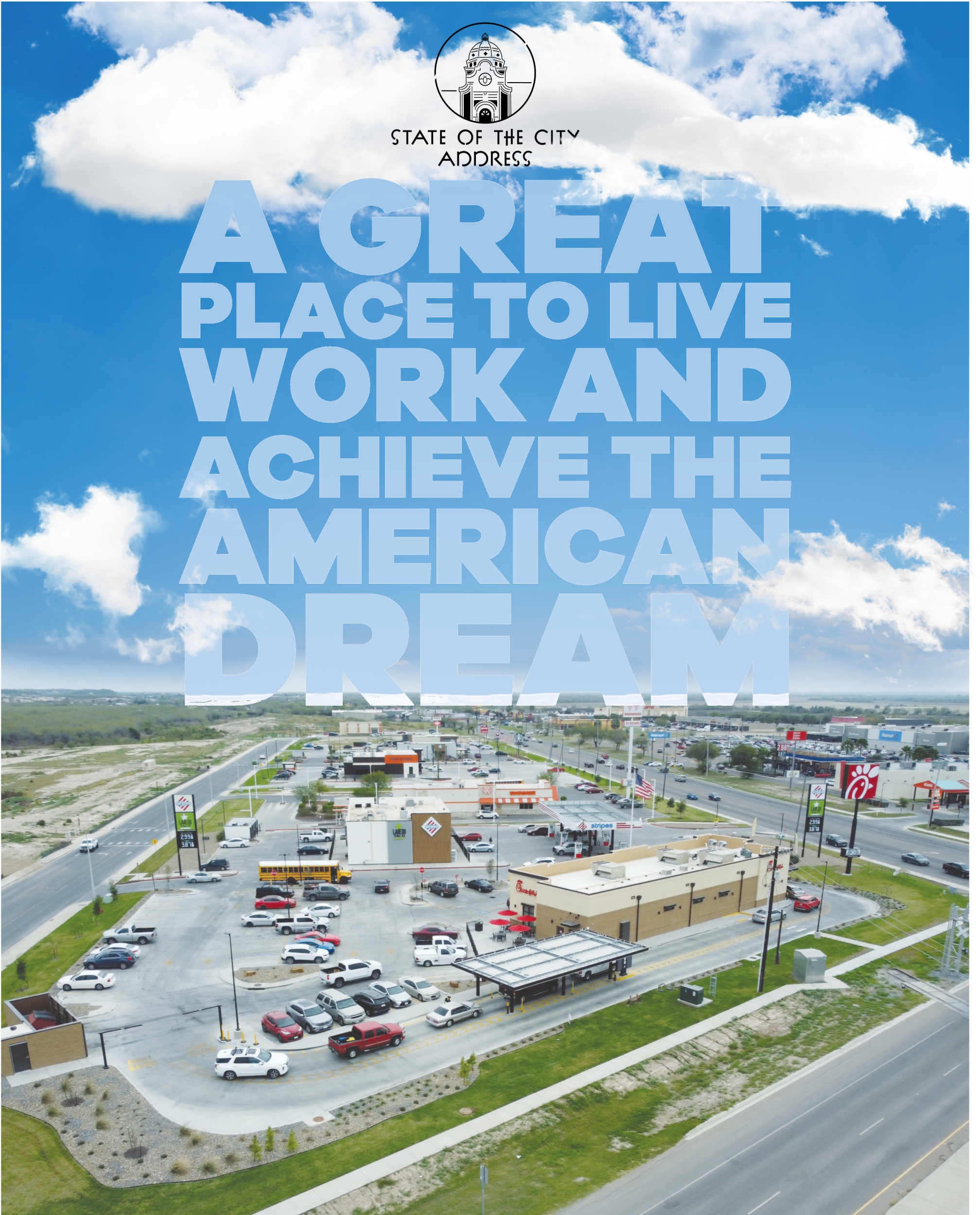
# THE RIO REVIEW

VOLUME THREE • EDITION TWO • FEBRUARY 2023



STATE OF THE CITY  
ADDRESS

**A GREAT  
PLACE TO LIVE  
WORK AND  
ACHIEVE THE  
AMERICAN  
DREAM**







## 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.

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

# THE RIO REVIEW

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Mayor Joel Villarreal and City Officials were invited to attend the swearing in ceremony of U.S. Congressman Henry Cuellar in Laredo, Texas. On behalf of the City of Rio Grande City we would like to congratulate Congressman Cuellar and wish him success as he continues to represent South Texas in Washington DC.

## FREE TAX PREPARATIONS AVAILABLE FOR RGC HOUSEHOLDS WITH INCOME OF \$60K OR LESS

City of Rio Grande City employees will be partnering with the United Way of South Texas to provide FREE Tax Preparation to households with incomes of \$60,000 or less starting on Monday, January 23rd, from 5pm to 7pm at City Hall Suite C.

To schedule an appointment you can call the Planning Department at (956)488-8728.

1. By Appointment - Por Cita	2. On Your Own - Por su Cuenta	3. Virtual Assistance Asistencia Virtual
 Scan QR Code - Escanea código QR Visit - Visite: VITA2023.as.me Or Call - O llame: 956-607-9030	 Visit - Visite: Myfreetaxes.com	 Scan QR Code - Escanea código QR Or visit - o visite: unitedwayofsothx.org

### IN INTERNATIONAL NEWS...

City of Rio Grande City Mayor, Joel Villarreal, and International Business Ambassador, Ruben Islas, attended a meeting regarding the safety and the development of Route 54 held in Ciudad de Cerralvo, Nuevo Leon on Tuesday, January 31, 2023.

Multiple representatives, along with members in the private sector, attended this meeting hosted by the mayor of Cerralvo, Baltazar Martinez, to continue the discussion on a safer way to travel through highways that connect South Texas, North Tamaulipas, and Northeast Nuevo Leon.

Both Mayor Villarreal and Ruben Islas represented the City of Rio Grande City and showed support for Route 54 to help create bonds of economic growth between Mexico and the United States.



**RIO GRANDE CITY HALL**  
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

**A Publication of the City of Rio Grande City**  
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# STATE OF PRODUCTION

Film crews follow Commissioner Alberto Escobedo and Rio Grande City Public Utilities Director Elisa Beas on a tour of the City's water treatment plant in preparation for the city's upcoming State of The City Address.



STATE OF THE CITY  
ADDRESS



**WATCH  
LIVE  
ON  
FACEBOOK  
FEBRUARY 16  
2023  
STARTING  
AT 7:00 PM**



## RIO GRANDE CITY *Longevity Awards*



RUBEN SANCHEZ JR.



REFUGIO SOLIS



LEONEL GARCIA JR.



SAMUEL PEREZ



# NOW OPEN

## IN RIO GRANDE CITY



# THE

RGC Economic Development Corporation hosted a Main Street Facade Grant Workshop to keep our community informed about resources available for commercial properties in our Rio Grande City Main Street area.



MEETING VIDEO

**Congratulations El Calabozo del Rhino!** We are happy to announce the opening of El Calabozo del Rhino on 600 N. Avasolo Street in Rio Grande City! El Calabozo del Rhino is an outdoor BYOB patio, with a fun environment, and GREAT food! Great things keep happening in Rio Grande City!

**The City of Rio Grande City is proud to announce the opening of Maritza's Buena Vida Spa!** This new business specializes in cavitation massages and lymphatic massages to improve your health and keep your confidence levels up! On behalf of Mayor Joel Villarreal and our City Commission we would like to thank you for bringing this new endeavor to our city. Great things are happening in Rio Grande City!

**The Cynthia Barrera Insurance Agency held their Ribbon Cutting Ceremony** on Friday, January 6th at their location on 111 E. Main Street in HISTORICAL Rio Grande City! Welcome to Rio Grande City Main Street! Great things keep happening in Rio Grande City!

**Wendy's held their Ribbon Cutting ceremony on Friday, January 13th**, at their brand new property in Rio Grande City! There was a great turnout, and the first 100 customers won free Wendy's for a YEAR! On behalf of the City of Rio Grande City we would like to welcome our FIRST Wendy's, great things keep happening in Rio Grande City!



RIO GRANDE CITY  
*Longevity Awards*



ERIC ESCAMILLA



RAMON LOPEZ

# FLAG FOOTBALL CHAMPS



**RGC Parks & Recreation flag football** championship game between Diamondbacks vs Raptors. The Raptors came back and won it in overtime 31-25.

**Register today for the RGC Youth Basketball League!** You must have a completed physical prior to registration. For more information contact the RGC Parks and Recreation Department at (956)488-8728.

**Looking for a way to stay active and have fun? Join Zumba** in the Park with Bee on Tuesdays and Thursday from 5:30pm-6:30pm at the Basilio Villarreal Municipal Park! Individuals of all ages are welcome, please make sure to stay hydrated and bring water and a towel! For more information, or if you have any questions, please call Michelle Castillo, SCAN CCP-COV Activity Coordinator, at (956)716-1795.



# BEHIND THE SCENES



Film crews follow Commissioner Rey Ramirez and Rio Grande City Fire Department Chief Manuel Muniz on a tour of the City's Fire Department in preparation for the city's upcoming State of The City Address.

## RIO GRANDE CITY *Longevity Awards*





# S.W.A.T.

Several Rio Grande City Police Department officers recently attended Special Weapons and Tactics (S.W.A.T.) training. It is the goal of the Department to eventually have all officers certified in S.W.A.T. Training.



## RIO GRANDE CITY *Longevity Awards*



JAVIER GONZALEZ



JOSE E. SOLIS



DEANNA T. SANCHEZ



DANIEL A. BECERRA



OCTAVIANO RAMIREZ



# Fun at the Library

## ESL/ Clases de Inglés

Literacy classes are held every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00am 11:00am at the Library. We are averaging 10-12 participants per class. This group is learning and practicing conversational English.

## HEALTH HAPPENS IN LIBRARIES

In 2023 we will be hosted a series of "Health & Nutrition" programs in January we've partnered with Maria Claudia Gonzalez of Nuestra Clinica del Valle. Weekly themes included Cervical Health Awareness, Folic Acid Awareness, Diabetes, and Nutrition and Exercise.

**Grab & Go Craft Kits** – February crafts for kids. The weekly Grab & Go Craft Kits are available in the front counter. The weekly craft kits include instructions, QR codes and materials needed to complete project. This is a great opportunity to encourage

patrons to sign up for library cards and give them information on library programs and events.

## Storytime

January "Ring in the New Year" Storytime. Children learned about the Chinese New Year, heard stories, sang songs, danced and participated in Fun Facts Trivia game.

## SCHOOL VISIT

We welcomed students from Immaculate Conception School on Monday, January 30, 2023. As part of ICS Catholic School Week, Montessori, Kindergarten, and 1st grade classes kicked off celebrations with a visit to the Rio Grande City Public Library. These ICS students learned about Groundhog Day with storybook reading, games and an impromptu dance party. They also saw first-hand the Library's 3D printer in action and left with a book of their choice and a goodie bag.



## RIO GRANDE CITY Longevity Awards



ENELINDA VERA



YOLANDA G. RIOJAS



LETICIA L. GUERRA



# NUESTRA HISTORIA



## PARTNERS IN HERITAGE

Kelsey Bass Museum Curator, Cathy Rubio, and Francisco Jose Aguirre Garza, Curator of the Casa Museo De Camargo met to discuss the various “ins and outs” and “trials and triumphs” of running a small, yet extremely significant institution. Another spirited topic of conversation was the shared heritage of both historic towns and the mutual benefits of working together to bring a better understanding of this shared history to our surrounding communities. Both Mrs. Rubio and Mr. Aguirre-Garza look forward to many future collaborations. A special THANKS to Mely Rocha-Alcaldesa of Camargo, Tamaulipas for the beautiful and generous gift to the KB Museum.

### UIL

Kelsey Bass Museum Curator, Cathy Rubio was invited to help with this year’s RGCGISD Elementary District UIL Meet. Mrs. Rubio was honored to be the official pronouncer for the 5th grade UIL Spelling contest. Congratulations to all the participants.

### Guests

The Kelsey Bass Museum continues to welcome guests from all over the city, state, country, and beyond. Everyone who comes to the museum is amazed at the incredible amount of history packed into our local gem. The Kelsey Bass Museum is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Make plans for a visit. We’re waiting for you.



# PUBLIC WORKS 2.0



**The Rio Grande City Public Works Department** recently acquired new uniforms equipped with safety reflective fabrics.

The RGC Public Works Department would like to share the 2023 calendar and invite the community to drop off bulky items at the 14-acres located at 632 W. Eisenhower Street in Rio Grande City. Please note the dates and times below for availability, this is a great opportunity to discard brush, appliances, and other bulky items! #citywidecleanup

## 2023

City Residents may utilize the city-wide trash drop-off located at the 14 acres property (632 W. Eisenhower St.) with a Drivers License and Utility Bill. This is a great opportunity to Discard Brush, Appliances and other bulky items.

## Public Works

BULKY ITEMS DROP-OFF SCHEDULE

MONDAY - FRIDAY 9 A.M. - 6 P.M.  
SATURDAY 9 A.M. - 2 P.M.

■ OPEN DAYS ■ CLOSED DAYS

### JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

### FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

### MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

### APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

### MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

### JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

### JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

### AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

### SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

### OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

### NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

### DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

### Holiday Observances

Jan 16 Martin Luther King Day  
Feb 20 Presidents Day  
April 7 Good Friday  
April 10 Easter Monday  
May 29 Memorial Day  
Jun 19 Juneteenth  
Jul 04 Independence Day  
Sept 04 Labor Day  
Oct 09 Federal Day  
Nov 10 Veterans Day  
Nov 23-24 Thanksgiving  
Dec 25-26 Christmas Day

## RIO GRANDE CITY Longevity Awards



HECTOR BARRERA



GABRIEL BARRERA



# Red flags



The Rio Grande City Planning and Zoning Department continues its efforts to make sure all areas of the City are safe for all residents.

## RIO GRANDE CITY *Longevity Awards*



ROLANDO BENAVIDEZ



# RIO GRANDE CITY EMPLOYER EXPO + JOB FAIR

## FEBRUARY 23 AND 24, 2023 *2 Day Event!*

3 Workshops • 1 Employer Expo and Job Fair

Explore employment options



Connect with local employers



Achieve your career goals



### FEB 23<sup>RD</sup> / 9AM-11AM

at Rio Grande City Public Library  
591 East Canales St

#### 3 Workshops

Resume Writing, Interviewing Skills  
& Dress for Success

### FEB 24<sup>TH</sup> / 9AM-1PM

at UTRGV at Starr County  
138 FM 3167

#### Employer Expo & Job Fair



For more information, call the Rio Grande City EDC at (956) 487- 3476

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 include individuals with disabilities. - TTY/TDD via RELAY Texas service at 711 or (TDD) 1-800-735-2989/1-800-735-2988 (voice).