

# THE RIO REVIEW

VOLUME THREE • EDITION THREE • MARCH 2023



# RUN RIO RUN

RIO GRANDE CITY'S POPULAR FUN RUN RETURNS

**+HEALTH FAIR  
BLOOD DRIVE  
AND MUCH MORE**

SCAN TO  
REGISTER FOR  
BLOOD DRIVE







## 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

## IN THIS ISSUE

PUBLIC UTILITIES	3
RIO GRANDE CITY EDC	4
PARKS AND RECREATION	5
FIRE DEPARTMENT	6
POLICE DEPARTMENT	7
RGC PUBLIC LIBRARY	8
TOURISM AND MAINSTREET	9
PUBLIC WORKS	10
PLANNING AND ZONING	11
COMMUNITY	12



City of Rio Grande City officials were invited to attend the 95th Anniversary of the Historical Roma-Miguel Aleman Suspension Bridge hosted by the City of Roma on Friday, March 3rd, in Roma, Texas. Starr County officials met with officials from the Mexican side of the bridge to commemorate this significant event. On behalf of the City of RGC we would like to thank the City of Roma, Texas for inviting us to celebrate this important milestone in your history.

# \$597,295.66

## FINANCIAL REPORT

- 8.10% increase in sales tax revenue from last fiscal year.
- 5.71% increase in FYE 22' from FYE 21'
- 13.61% increase in FYE 21' from FYE 20'
- 37.75% increase in sales tax revenue over the last 5 years!
- 53.07% increase in sales tax revenue over the last 10 years!
- \$2,726,811 General Fund balance as of 9/30/21
- \$2,469,811 EDC Fund balance as of 9/30/21
- \$3,602,727.99 American Recovery Plan funds (currently in our bank account for future projects)



**\$597,295.66, February 23' sales tax revenue. The highest the city has ever received for a single month.**



## WE ♥ STARR COUNTY

The City of Rio Grande City Mayor Joel Villarreal and the City Commission attended the State of the County address held on Thursday, March 2nd, hosted by the Honorable Judge Eloy Vera. On behalf of the City of RGC we would like to congratulate Judge Vera and the County Commission on this momentous occasion for Starr County.

### 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

#### MANAGING EDITOR

Sara Hernandez

#### PUBLIC RELATIONS

Becky Rubio

#### GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Christian Salinas

#### CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Juan Morin





STATE OF THE CITY  
ADDRESS

# IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

City of Rio Grande City Mayor Joel Villarreal hosted the annual State of the City Address on Thursday, February 16th, at Versailles Events. Mayor Villarreal discussed the historic year our city has seen, and the future of what's to come. On behalf of the City of Rio Grande City, Mayor Joel Villarreal and our City Commission, we would like to thank everyone who joined us for this special event, and our sponsors for making this such a successful evening.

**WATCH THE ENTIRE  
2023 RIO GRANDE CITY  
STATE OF THE CITY  
PRESENTATION ON  
FACEBOOK**



## AS SPRING BRINGS MORE MORE SUN TO THE VALLEY

It is important to be mindful of our water use during warmer weather. Experts estimate that roughly 50% of our water that is used outdoors is wasted through evaporation or runoff that is caused by overwatering. Being mindful of the amount of water we use can not only help prevent water shortages during drought season, but it can also help reduce the cost of your water bill.

Here are a few tips to help you keep your water usage down during the warmer months.

### SPRINGTIME WATER CONSERVATION TIPS FROM THE RGC PUBLIC UTILITIES DEPT.

- Do not over-water plants and lawns.
- Avoid water runoff into streets and gutters.
- For best results, try morning watering.
- Evaporation loss is at a minimum.
- Avoid washing down paved areas.
- Sweep driveway and sidewalks instead.
- When washing the car use a bucket of water. Use the hose only to rinse.
- Invest in drought-tolerant landscaping. It requires less watering to keep your landscape healthy.
- Use a drip irrigation system. This reduces run-off and promotes deep rooting.
- Preserve existing trees. Established plants are often adapted to low water conditions. Porous paving materials such as brick, decomposed granite, or gravel used in patios and walk-ways help keep water in the garden rather than in the gutter.
- Set automatic timing devices. This allows efficient watering on a schedule suited to each area of the landscape.



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



## ***Igniting Prosperity: Rio Grande City EDC attends binational roundtable***

Following an announcement by Tesla Inc. to build its new plant in Monterrey, Mexico, the American Chamber Mexico held a binational border trade dialogue to strengthen cooperation for economic development in north-east Mexico and the Rio Grande Valley region.

Private and public sector trade representatives from both sides of the Texas and Mexico border gathered to discuss the opportunities nearshoring presents to Mexico and the Rio Grande Valley Border Region.

David Eaton, President of the American Chamber/ Monterrey Chapter moderated the dialogue expressing enthusiasm and support for an alliance to attract and retain new investments into the region.

"Border trade is a major focus for Rio Grande City as it is home to one of two border crossings closest to the industrial giant of Monterrey," said Dalinda Guillen. "Aligning our resources to support the growing demands of border trade is necessary."

Rio Grande City is one of several border cities advocating for expanded infrastructure and security to Mexico's Federal Highway 54 as it brings international commercial trade directly into the United States market.

## ***Rio Grande City Employer Expo & Job Fair 2023***

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 January 23rd with three free workshops hosted by the Rio Grande City Public Library and presented by Mere Vela, Community Liaison for Workforce Solutions. These activities led up to the Employer Expo and Job Fair on January 24th.

Employers such as AT&T, Wal-Mart, Terra Firma Materials, and Nuestra Clinica del Valle and many others were present and looking to fill positions in the event.

"We are a family of three companies: IOC Company, IOC Trucking and Terra Firma Materials," said Peter Roeglin, Terra Firma Materials, LLC. "Right now, we are hiring for general labor, truck drivers and heavy equipment operators."

Refreshments were sponsored by Starbuck's of Rio Grande City and the RGC Public Library.

For more information about the RGC EDC, please visit [www.rgcedc.com](http://www.rgcedc.com) or call (956) 487-3476.

## ***Show me the Money! Small Business Financing Options Workshop***

Are you looking to launch or expand your business? Do you need funding to get started or to move to the next level?

Join this free in-person session on financing options for small businesses.

Guest speakers include: US Small Business Administration, PeopleFund, LiftFund, Lone Star National Bank.

This event also includes a mini-fair and an opportunity to set a one-to-one appointment with the UTRGV Small Business Development Center for no-cost business advisement.

This in-person session is presented by the UTRGV SBDC and hosted by the Rio Grande City Economic Development Corporation, Rio Grande City Greater Chamber of Commerce, Rio Grande City Public Library, RGV Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and Starr County Industrial Foundation.

Date/Time: March 21, 2023, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM  
No Fee, Location: UTRGV at Starr County (138 N FM 3167 Rio Grande City, TX)

**SCAN TO  
REGISTER**





# REMEMBER THE TITANTS



## The Rio Grande City Parks and Recreation Department

hosted a Youth Football League Playoff game between the Rio Battlehawks and the La Grulla Titans. The La Grulla Titans took the win, and the Rio Battlehawks came home with 2nd Place.



# HEROES IN TRAINING

## 1. The Rio Grande City Fire Department assisted in a Vehicle Fire Simulator Training

with the South Texas Fire Academy. "We're thankful to STC for allowing us to use this tool and help our team. We're looking forward to visiting the regional center and learning more about the equipment STC has made available to us," said City of Rio Grande City Fire Chief Manuel Muniz.

2. RGC Fire Department was invited to Career Day at General Ricardo Sanchez Elementary. students tried on equipment while the fire fighters educated them about the job of a first responders.

3. Thank you to Ac2E Elementary for allowing us to share our line of work with students at this morning's career day.





# LAW, ORDER & LOVE



**T**he Texas Border Czar, Michael Banks, met with Mayor Joel Villarreal and other South Texas law enforcement agencies today, Friday, February 24th, at City Hall Chambers. During his meeting he spoke about his roll as the Border Czar, and asked about the needs of local law enforcement agencies when it comes to border and community safety. On behalf of the City of Rio Grande City, we would like to thank Mr. Banks for visiting and working hand in hand with our local agencies to keep our community safe.

**Assistant Chief Solis and Det. A. Ramirez visited the DAEP on Friday, February 17, 2023, to talk to students about the dangers of TikTok challenges, drug abuse, and other issues. Also, they advised students not to let**

those mistakes of their past define their future. Mr. Jose Hinojosa, acting principal, and Mr. Orlando Ariel Guerra, counselor, would like to thank the RGCPD for their service to everyone in our community.

#### **Rio Grande City Municipal Court Amnesty Program**

Our Amnesty period will begin starting March 20, 2023 - March 24, 2023.

All failure to appear and capias warrants will be forgiven once the original violation is paid in full. We will lower the amount of fines and will work to make an agreement to reduce your burden. If you need a payment plan, we are more than glad to help our citizens. We know these are hard times for all of us, so we are trying to make life a little easier for all. Thank

you and stay safe.

We will also be offering NIGHT court from 9AM-8PM on March 22, 2023. This will be held by appointments. Therefore please call our office to schedule an appointment. 956-487-8889



**Congratulations to our newly weds, Mr. & Mrs. Gonzalez! May God grant you a lifetime of happiness! Happy Valentine's Day.**



# LIBRARY OF ART



## Poetry Slam

We are excited to announce that Rio Grande City Grulla ISD and the Rio Grande City Public Library will cohost a Poetry Slam Event on March 21, from 5:00pm – 7:30pm at the historic Lopez-Tijerina Courtyard. This event will also include the ever popular Keepin' it Rio Art Show. *We'll see you there!*

**"Libraries are a work of HEART"** from February 1- 22, 2023 the Rio Grande City Public Library together with the SCAN Starr County Staff, hosted a

weekly craft program. Projects included Painting a Canvas Heart, building a Birdhouse, creating a Gnome Floral Wreath and Decorating a Candy Bow. All participants enjoyed this wonderful make-and-take event. Our Rio Craft program is great place to meet people.

## ESL/ Clases de Inglés

Literacy classes are held every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00am 11:00am at the Library. This group is learning and practicing conversational English.

# READ ALL ABOUT IT



Our very own Commissioner Rogerio Olivarez, who also directs the McAllen Wind Ensemble, has been featured on the front cover of Welcome Home RGV! Congratulations, Commissioner Olivarez! Click on the link below to read the full article!



SCAN TO  
READ  
ONLINE

# CELEBRATING 175 YEARS



The County of Starr hosted a celebration to commemorate its 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. The event took place in front of the historic Courthouse and hosted such dignitaries such as U.S. Congressman Henry Cuellar, Judge Eloy Vera and other elected city and county officials as well as civic and school groups. At this ceremony Congressman Henry Cuellar presented Judge Vera and Deacon R.C. Salinas with a commemorative Congressional Record and U.S. Flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol. On behalf of Mayor Joel Villarreal and our City Commission we would like to thank the County of Starr for hosting such a beautiful event to celebrate the founding of Starr County and the City of Rio Grande City!





# A UNITED COMMUNITY



## **Cake Donation**

RGCHS CTE student, Danelly Perez, donated a beautifully decorated cake to the Kelsey Bass Museum. This cake, commemorating the 175th Anniversary of Fort Ringgold will be on display in the museum's Veteran's Room. RGCGISD personnel, community members, and local veterans-notably WWII Army Veteran, Arturo Garza, enjoyed refreshments, offered well wishes, and took photos. Thank you, Danelly, for your generous donation and incredible depiction of our community's proud, military history.

## **World Read Aloud Day**

Kelsey Bass Museum staff member, Cathy Rubio, celebrated World Read-Aloud Day with PK and 1st grade students at Alberto and Celia Barrera Elem. This event, coordinated by ACBE administration, invited members from all walks of the community to read a book and share the importance of reading. World Read-Aloud Day celebrates the power of reading and encourages the promotion of literacy as a fundamental human right.



## **Starr County Youth Fair**

Kelsey Bass Museum staff member, Cathy Rubio, judged arts and crafts projects at the 2023 Starr County Youth Fair. With over 100 amazing entries, and countless blue ribbons, this year's contest proved to be the best one yet. Congratulations to all of the participants.



## **Miss Freedom Fest Royal Court**

The 2022 Miss Freedom Fest Royal Court attended this year's State of the City. These lovely ladies have represented our city in countless events throughout the year. Thank you ladies, for gracing us with your presence.

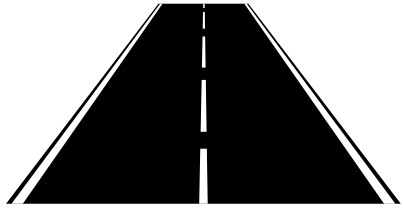


## **Guests**

Guests from all over have stopped by to enjoy the wonderful exhibits and rich history the museum has to offer. Thanks for visiting the Kelsey Bass Museum.



# ROAD WORK



## The Public Works Department

spread millings between the alleys of Main Street and Second Street, and also cleaned up the alleyway behind Washington Street.

Asphalt Millings are generally considered Eco-Friendly. It is a non-biodegradable material, so it will be around forever. That's why paving new roads and patching existing pavement with repurposed asphalt millings is better for the environment than using new gravel. Without this recycling method, old asphalt would simply go to waste and take up unnecessary space in the landfill.



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

**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**

## 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

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				

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			

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

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						

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			

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	

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					

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

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

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				

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	

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					



# Red flags

*The following before and after pictures are nuisance abatements due to the efforts of the Planning Department staff members.*



## PROGRESS REPORT



*The Planning Department processed 36 permits with a building construction valuation of \$391,085.00 and 15,096 square feet of improvements.*



## MAYOR JOEL VILLARREAL DELIVERS FOUNDER'S DAY PROCLAMATION

At the regular City Commission Meeting held on February 8, 2023 Mayor Joel Villarreal delivered a proclamation annually recognizing February 10th as "Founder's Day" in Rio Grande City - honoring founder Henry Clay Davis.





**Saturday**  
**March 25**  
**BASILIO VILLARREAL PARK**

**MUSIC**

**FOOD VENDORS**  
**BLOOD DRIVE**  
**PD VS FD TUG OF WAR**  
**HEALTH SCREENINGS**  
**GAMES & PRIZES**

REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:30 AM

**\$5 ADULT RUN**

**FREE KIDS RUN**

**KIDS OBSTACLE COURSE**

**EXERCISE CLASSES**



SCAN TO  
REGISTER FOR  
BLOOD DRIVE

