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Rio Review

THE CITY OF RIO GRANDE CITY'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

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FREE • MONTHLY • ONLINE at www.therioreview.com

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Ready to Ride

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Patrol Training**

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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.

A Publication of the
City of Rio Grande City

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Working Together and Being Prepared



The Rio Grande City Chief of Police, Mr. Noe Castillo, held a meeting to discuss various challenges facing our local law enforcement agencies and school districts when it comes to an active shooter situation.

There have been over 2000 tragic active shooter situations in the United States alone, creating the question: What is the best way to prevent a shooting incident in our community?

"The main point of this meeting is to have

an open conversation," stated Mayor Joel Villarreal as he welcomed the guests from the community, "we want to coordinate efforts to prevent a tragic event from occurring in our schools and community."

Representatives from IDEA Public Schools, RCGISD Police Department, Roma ISD Police Department, Rio Grande City Police Department, Roma Police Department, Escobares Police Department, La Grulla Police Department, and the Starr County Sheriff's Office came together with the

superintendents from Rio Grande City Grulla ISD, Mr. Adolfo Pena Jr., and Roma ISD, Mr. Carlos M. Gonzalez Jr., to openly discuss ideas should an active shooter situation occur.

On behalf of Mayor Joel Villarreal, Chief of Police Noe Castillo, and the City of Rio Grande City, we would like to thank everyone who took the time to attend this meeting and we hope to continue these conversations in the future for the safety and well being of our community.

A Colorful
Welcome

RGC's Sister City of Camargo, Tamps Welcomes City Officials with Dazzling Art Exhibit



Mayor Joel Villarreal and International Business Ambassador, Ruben Islas visited Camargo, Tamps earlier this month and were welcomed with an incredible work of art created by Maestro Jacobo Dominguez Osorio. We would like to thank all the international dignitaries for extending this invitation to take part in such a creative and unique exhibit in this historically rich city.

Collaboration
and Unity

We want to extend our sincerest gratitude to the City of Diaz Ordaz for their gracious hospitality during Mayor Joel Villarreal and International Business Ambassador, Ruben Islas visit earlier this week. It is important to work in conjunction with our neighboring international cities to build strong collaborations and unity in our region. We look forward to visiting their beautiful city again very soon.

DROUGHT CONTINGENCY

P L A N :

The City is now entering into Stage 2 of the Drought Contingency Plan. The latest TCEQ Map on the drought situation places Starr County on a Moderate Drought Condition.

* Car Washing and Irrigation shall be limited to Sundays and Thursdays for addresses ending with even numbers.

* Car Washing and Irrigation shall be limited to Saturdays and Wednesdays for addresses ending with odd numbers and only allowed from 8pm to 8am

Prohibited Uses of Water:

- * Washing down sidewalks, driveways, parking lots or other hard-surfaced areas;
- * Washing down buildings;
- * Watering for Dust Control

For More Information Call the Public Utilities Dept. at
956-487-2702



Rio Grande Village Expansion Continues



On Thursday, July 21, 2022, Stripes held a ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating their newest store located at Rio Grande Village. Stay tuned for more announcements to come.

DHR Hospital Breaks Ground for Upcoming Medical Facilities in Starr County



A groundbreaking ceremony took place for an upcoming state-of-the-art medical development that will provide the necessary facilities enabling patients to stay within Starr County to access specialized healthcare.

The development will include a new laboratory, a clinic, a research facility and other facilities in hopes of attracting physicians to the area.

"Today is a day I'm proud to be part of," said Mayor Joel Villarreal. "This project will transform our region for generations to come and ensure our medical needs are serviced right here in Rio Grande City." The new medical development will be an expansion of DHR's services in Starr County following a partnership between the hospital system and Starr County Memorial Hospital. Through the existing partnership, DHR physicians provide services at the Starr County hospital.

"Today, we stand here to redirect the same commitment of DHR Health to the family and friends of Starr County," Dr. Manish Singh, CEO of DHR Health, said during Thursday's groundbreaking ceremony.

Dr. Singh said the hospital partnered with the Starr County Industrial Foundation, the Rio Grande Economic Development Corporation, Rio Grande City, and Starr County Memorial Hospital to bring “a medical lab to provide faster results for the patients, develop various residency programs to recruit even more skilled physicians to the area, a clinic, housing for those physicians — that’s right, an apartment complex so they can live near the workplace right here.”

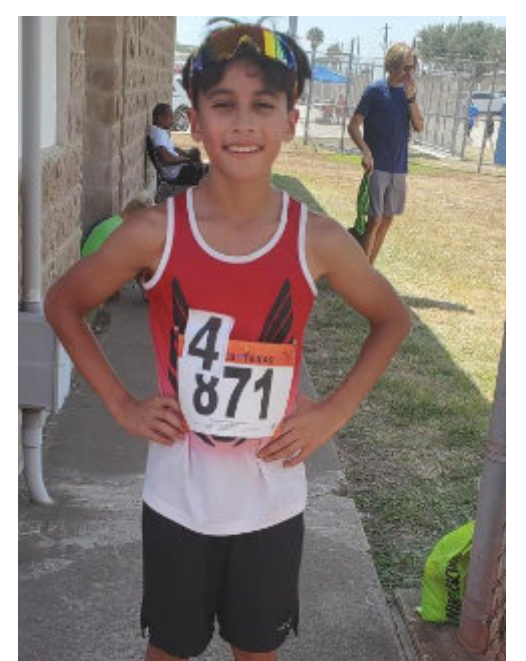
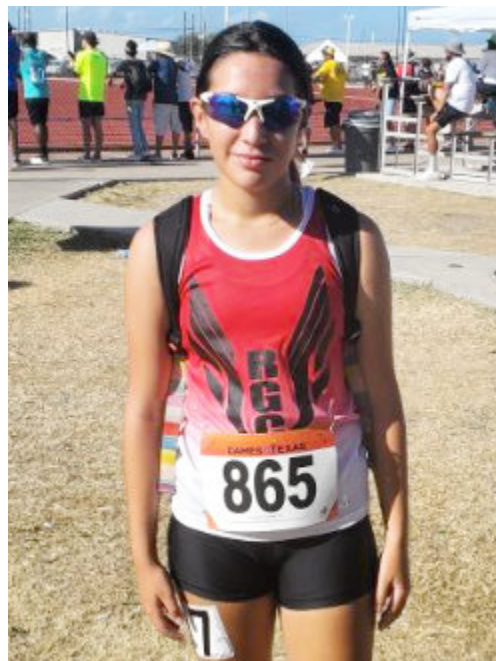
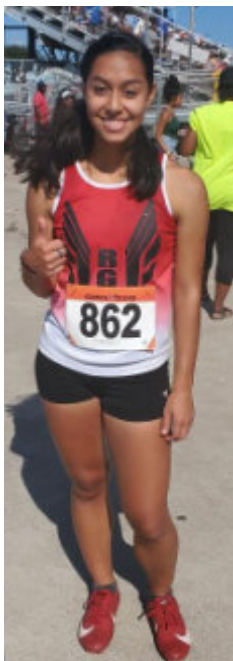
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Our Rio Grande City Athletes Compete at TAAF State Games

Rio Grande City Parks and Recreation Athletes Competed Against Athletes from Across the State of Texas.

The Rio Grande City Parks and Recreation coaches and athletes traveled to the TAAF State Games held in Corpus Christi, Texas from July 21 to July 24, 2022. Our young, recreational athletes competed against athletes from the state of Texas in running events, hurdles, relays, shot put, and discus. We are extremely proud of our young Olympic hopefuls and we are excited to see where they go in the future!



RGC Fire Department Personnel Attend Flood and Swiftwater Rescue Training



Personnel from the Rio Grande City Fire Department attended the Flood and Swiftwater Technician - Rescue 1 training held in New Braunfels, Texas. This training focuses on real-time swiftwater rescue in the event of a flash flood, or other emergency situations. We would like to thank Lieutenant J. Ceballos, Firefighter J. Alvarez, and Firefighter H. Escoto for attending this training to ensure the safety of our community!

The Rio Grande City Fire Department Welcomes Five New Volunteers



Left to right, Cristian Garza, Liana Rios, Victoria Reyes and Noe Castillo Jr. Not pictured Jaime Garcia.

Fire Chief, Manuel Muniz, introduced 4 out of 5 volunteers at the July City Commission Meeting. Chief Muniz indicated the department was very grateful to have them join the team of firefighters and get first hand experience.

CPR Certified



We would like to thank Mr. Ivan Garza for helping to ensure our RGC firefighters are CPR trained and certified!

BIKE PATROL

Five of our Rio Grande City Police Officers attended a week-long Bike Patrol Training held at South Texas College in Pharr, Texas. From July 11 to July 15 our officers learned about the different bike skills needed to effectively serve their community. Some of the topics covered in this essential training combine Emergency Vehicle Operations for bike officers with patrol procedures, tactics, night operations, scenarios, and basic bike maintenance and on-the-road repairs. Our officers also underwent over 20 hours of on-bike training to build their endurance and develop their riding skills! We would like to thank Officers David Garza, Josue Perez, Juan Estrada, Juan Saldana, and Armando Lazos for taking the time to improve their skills for the safety of our community!



Eddie Eagle



The Rio Grande City Police Department's gun safety mascot, Eddie the Eagle, delights crowds at our neighborhood H-E-B

Two New Officers Join the Rio Grande City Police Department



We are happy to announce the hiring of two new officers to the Rio Grande City Police Department. Officers Eli Gonzalez and Christian Diaz were presented at the July Commission Meeting. Officer Gonzalez is a returning officer after retiring from CPS, and was one of the original 9 police officers hired in 1995. Officer Diaz is the youngest officer to be certified in the State of Texas after completing the academy at 20 years of age. Assistance Chief Joey Solis stated he was honored to have these two fine gentlemen join his police force.

RGC Library Wraps-Up Another Successful 'Fun' Summer

The Rio Grande City Public Library's FUN FRIDAY programs help enlighten, entertain and enrich our community. These programs are FREE and open to everyone. See you next Summer!



OCEANS OF POSSIBILITIES: 2022 SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Rio Grande City Public Library's "Oceans of Possibilities" Summer Reading Program was a success! All participating SRP children and teens took on the reading challenge and met the goal of reading at least 20 books. All participants received a book tote, food & drink coupons and incentives. Library staff read books, taught children songs and fingerplays and introduced new crafts related to the theme for each group. Participants who met the reading goals received a special prize courtesy of the Friends of the Rio Grande City Public Library.



Summer Adult & Crafts Programs



RGC Public Library's Adults & Crafts program is an opportunity to encourage creativity in a safe, welcoming space, within the setting of a guided program, for people who may have found themselves disconnected from their own creativity.

In June we kicked off with "Calming Crafts" with Michelle Castillo the SCAN Starr County CCP-COV activity coordinator with stress relieving activities every week during the month. Each week the group made and took home a new craft from Fourth of July wreaths, decorating Ocean theme frames, wooden signs, garden pots and more. In August we will offer "A Fresh Start to a Healthier You!" presented by Adela Mancha, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

Rio Grande City Public Library's StoryWalk™



Rio Grande City Public Library's StoryWalk™ is a fun way for families to combine health and literacy, encouraging both reading and outdoor exercise in an engaging way. Together with the A&M AgriLife Extension and the RGC Parks & Rec staff the StoryWalk™ Planning Committee recently met to discuss permanent locations and StoryWalk™ roaming sets to be lent out to organizations within Starr County.

In a collaborative effort with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Rio Grande City Public Library, Working on Working on Wellness Environments (WoW-E), Starr County, Healthy Nation in Parks: Creating a More Active America, Together and community leaders.



Rio Grande City Main Street Receives 2022 National Main Street Accreditation

For the sixth consecutive year, the Rio Grande City Main Street has been designated as an Accredited Main Street America program for meeting rigorous performance standards set by the National Main Street Center.

Rio Grande City's Main Street Program's performance is annually evaluated by Texas Main Street, which works in partnership with Main Street America to identify the local programs that meet rigorous national performance standards.

Evaluation criteria determine the communities that are building meaningful and sustainable revitalization programs and include standards such as fostering strong public-private partnerships, supporting small and locally owned businesses, and actively preserving historic places, spaces, and cultural assets.

"As a project of the Rio Grande City EDC, our

Main Street program reinforces our mission to spur economic vitality in our historic downtown," said Mayor Villarreal. "We are extremely proud of Rio Grande City Main Street's national accreditation and the work our Main Street Advisory Board and volunteers have achieved this past year."

The Rio Grande City Main Street Program provides several services and assistance available to Main Street businesses including: Design Assistance from the Texas Historical Commission and much more. Rio Grande City Main Street also hosts a variety of special events throughout the year.

There are many opportunities to get involved in downtown revitalization efforts. Anyone interested in volunteering is encouraged to visit the Rio Grande City Main Street office at 408 E. Main Street or call (956) 488-0047.

End-of-the-Year Awards



On Wednesday, July 20, 2022,, Kelsey Bass Museum Coordinator, Cathy Rubio, assisted the Starr County 4-H /Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Office with their interviewing process for end of year awards. The committee spent the day speaking with many incredible young men and women whose hard work, dedication, and contributions have brought them much deserved recognition and helped so many in our community. These young men and women left an indelible mark on every committee member that day. . Congratulations to all the participants and award recipients.

Summer Trolley Tours



Rio Grande City's Bessie III has been working hard this summer taking eager tourists to view our city's historical sights. One such group, Girl Scout Troop 1056, booked a trolley tour and visited La Borde House, Fort Ringgold, Robert E. Lee House, City Hall, Kelsey Bass Museum, Lopez-Tijerina Courtyard, and learned about the walking tour on Main Street and Second Street. These girls learned much about our beautiful city and local legends thanks to our very own, incredible tour guide, Aminta Reyna. Thank you, Girl Scout Troop 1056, for choosing to tour Rio Grande City.



The Kelsey Bass Museum continues to welcome guests throughout the summer days to enjoy the historical exhibits and lovely courtyard areas. The Kelsey Bass Museum is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 Pm. Thank you for your visit.

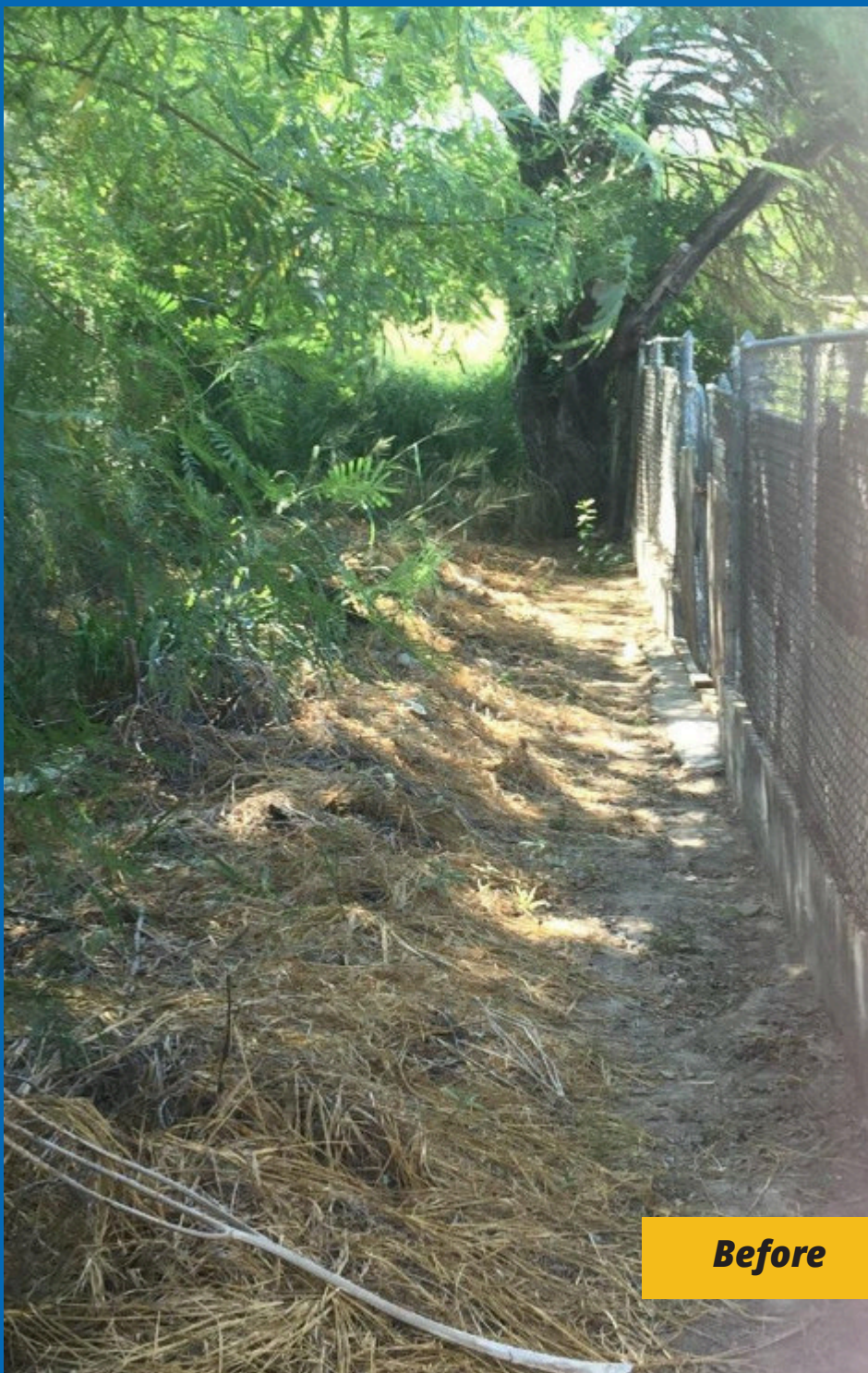
Skilled Crew

Rio Grande City Public Works crewmen attended a training on, Thursday, July 28, to enhance their skills on Safety and Risk Management as well as Professional Driving for Public Works and Utilities Work Zone Safety. We would like to thank our Public Works Department for working hard for the betterment of our great city!

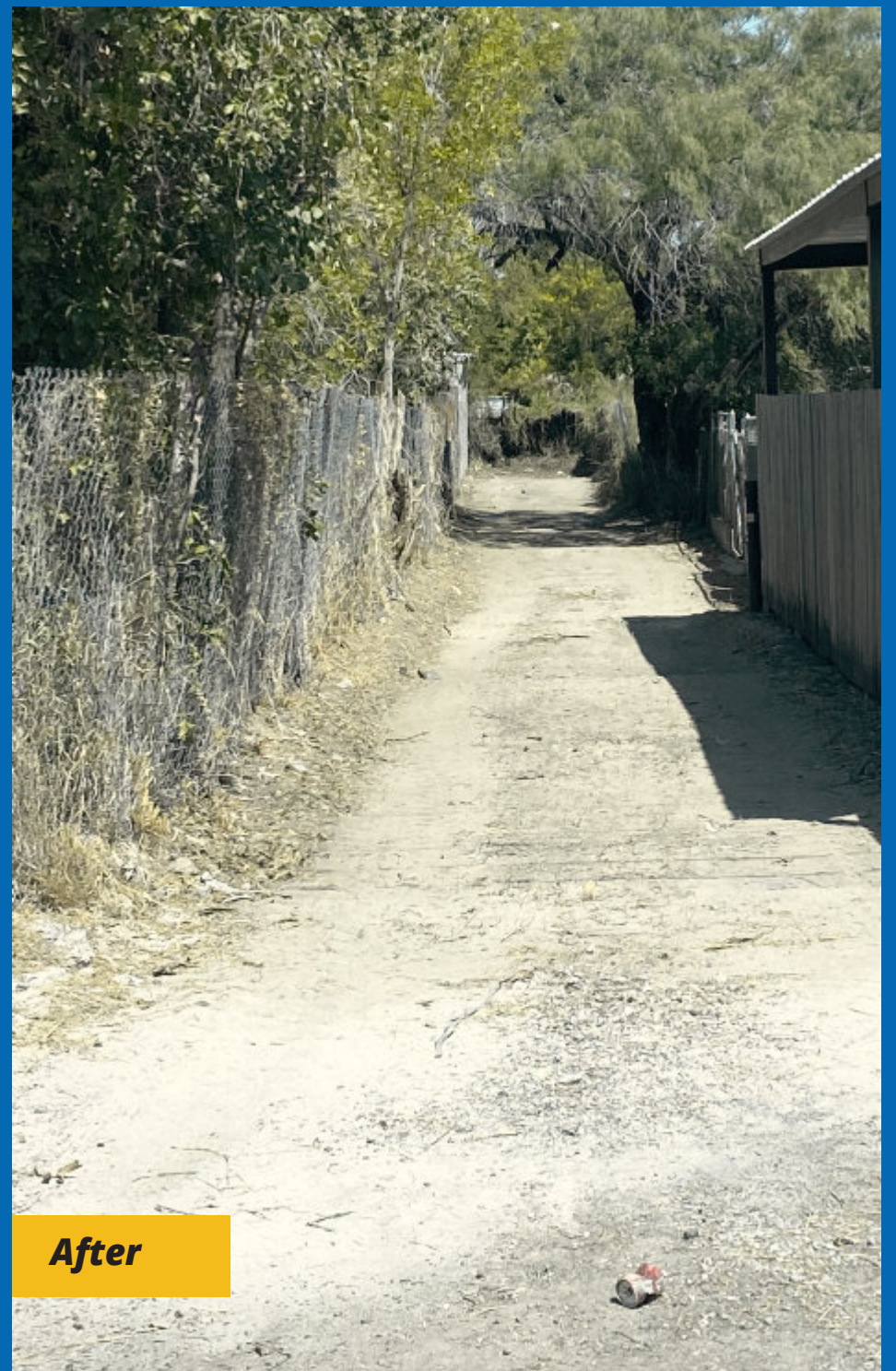


Clearing the Way

The Rio Grande City Public Works Department works around the clock to ensure our community is well maintained and continues to look beautiful. We are excited to show a side by side comparison of one of the many projects our Public Works Department has completed.




Before



After

LOCATION MAP

Rio Grande City, TX, Starr County



RIO GRANDE CITY GRULLA
Independent School District

The Contractor is to perform the work in accordance with the respective codes involved and the codes which apply to project area.

TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY

Title 19 Education, Part 2 Texas Education Agency Chapter 61 School Districts, Subchapter CG - Commissioner's Rules Concerning School Facilities, Rule 61.1036 - School Facilities Standards for Construction on or after January 1, 2004

Construction Plans For:

Faculty & Student Training Center

Fort Ringgold, Rio Grande City, TX.

RGCGISD Board

Eduardo "Eddie" Ramirez - President
Jay Pena - Vice-President
Basilio D. Villarreal, Jr. - Secretary
Adolfo Pena, Jr. -

Civil Engineer
Rafael Gutierrez Engineering Corp.
130 E. Park Avenue
Haltom, Texas 76117
855.780.2557

Architect
Design Group International - Debbie Garcia, Jr.
1715 West Street
Lubbock, Texas 79402
806.568.2528

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- A-2 Distribution Plan
- A-3.1 Site Plan
- A-3.2 Roof Plan
- A-3.3 Floor Plan
- A-3.4 Exterior Elevations & Sections
- A-3.5 Interior Elevations & Sections
- A-4.1 Access Plans Schedule & Restroom Arrangements
- A-4.2 Reflective Ceiling Plan
- A-4.3 Details
- A-4.4 Details
- A-4.5 Details

Rio Grande City Grulla ISD to Construct New Student Training Center

We would like to congratulate Rio Grande City Grulla ISD for their upcoming construction on the 8900 square foot Faculty and Student Training Center addition at Fort Ringgold, Rio Grande City, TX. "The City is not only growing residentially and commercially, but also institutionally, and we are very excited," remarked Gilbert Milan, RGC Planning Director. Milan continued to say this addition has a building valuation of approximately \$5M. Congratulations once again to RGCGISD!




The Planning/Code Enforcement Department Keeps Strongly Enforcing the Nuisance Abatement Codes.


Progress Report

For the month of July, the RGC Planning Department processed 156 building permits with a total improvement valuation of \$6,670,176.00 and 67,289 square feet of area.


Before




After



Before



After



3-on-3 Basketball Tournament



A 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament, hosted by South Texas Breaks and the City of RGC Parks and Recs., was held at the Basilio Villarreal Municipal Park on July 31. **PHOTO:** Winning team; The Big Dawgs

The Country/Paisano Heroes Program

Mayor Joel Villarreal along with other distinguished officials participated in the regional lineup to help launch what is known as The Country/Paisano Heroes Program.

Participating this morning in the launch of the Country/Paisano Heroes Program of the National Institute of Migration (INE) at the height of the old checkpoint of Kilometer 22 in Ciudad Mier, the municipal president Biol. Ramiro Cortez Barrera, recognized the commitment of all the integrated Institutions in the strategy of providing guidance, support and security to families returning to Mexico during the current holiday season.

At the starting lineup, led by the INM delegate, Lic. Librado Treviño Gutiérrez, the Mayor of Mier, Lic. Patroclo Treviño Ramos; the Mayor of Guerrero, Profra. Iracema Peña Ramírez; the Mayor of the City of Rio Grande City, Joel Villarreal; representatives from Roma, Texas; Ruben Islas, Rio



Grande City International Business Ambassador; and Colonel Mario Gutiérrez Martínez, commander of the 25th Motorized Cavalry Regiment welcomed incoming nationals through the Mexican territory.

Biol. Ramiro Cortez Barrera recognized his counterparts, as well as businessmen, merchants and leaders who attended this event as guests, for their willingness to team up and work to consolidate a large region.

The Country/Paisano Heroes Program, orientation, support and security actions will continue from this Monday, July 25, 2022 until August 25, 2022.

A Royal Visit

We would like to thank Junior Miss Rio Grande Valley, Carolina Botello, and Pre-Teen Jr. Miss Rio Grande Valley, Anahi Botello, for visiting the City of Rio Grande City!

The Miss Rio Grande Valley Competition took place on Sunday, July 17, in the Upper Rio Grande Valley. Both of these queens are from La Grulla, Texas, and we are so proud of their accomplishments! Thank you to the Botello sisters for visiting City Hall and for representing Starr County!



Border Business



Mayor Joel Villarreal and RGC International Business Ambassador Ruben Islas were welcomed by Mayor of Guerrero Tamaulipas Iris Peña and discussed upcoming projects!

A Helping Hand



Kudos to Officer Vidal and the RGC Fire Department for changing a tire for a motorist. No task is too big or too small for our team.



TACKLE & FLAG FOOTBALL

REGISTRATION STARTS
AUGUST 15
 5332 E. HIGHWAY 83, SUITE C

REGISTRATION FEE
 2ND & 3RD - \$40 & 4TH, 5TH & 6TH - \$60
 (COVERS SHOULDER PAD & HELMET)

BRING BIRTH CERTIFICATE AND PHYSICAL TO CITY HALL - FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 956-488-8728