



the Rio Review

THE CITY OF RIO GRANDE CITY'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

• Vol-02 • Edi-09 • SEPT. 2022

FREE • MONTHLY • ONLINE at www.therioreview.com

**Construction
Begins on New
Medical Center**

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National Night Out
Set for September 27**

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**Several New
Businesses
Coming Soon**

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BUILDING A SAFER FUTURE

**Additional funding secured for construction
of new Rio Grande City Public Safety Building**

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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A Matter of Time

On Thursday, August 18, Rio Grande City Mayor Joel Villarreal hosted a Binational Meeting with local and international officials to discuss operating times of the Starr-Camargo International Bridge. Currently, the Starr-Camargo Bridge opens at 7am and closes at 11pm, but officials, on both sides, are discussing opening one hour earlier and one hour later to accommodate students who may have early morning practices and possibly late school activities. Sam Vale, owner of the Starr-Camargo Bridge, also attended the meeting held at City Hall. Mr.

Vale discussed and proposed important topics with RGC Mayor Joel Villarreal, Camargo Mayor Maria del Carmen Rocha, Beatris Castro, Camargo Chamber of Commerce President, and Ruben Islas, City of RGC International Business Ambassador. Also present at this meeting were Mr. Andres Guerra, Port of Entry Director, SAP Directors, and Camargo Bridge and Highway Federals. We would like to thank everyone who took time out of their busy schedules to attend this important meeting!



Rio Grande City Receives \$2.5M in Funding for New Public Safety Building, Emergency Shelter

The city of Rio Grande City, in collaboration with US Representative Henry Cuellar, held a press conference on Friday, August 19, at city hall in recognition of the \$2.5M grant check presented by Representative Cuellar for a brand new Public Safety Building and Emergency Shelter. "The reality is that the strength of a municipality is synonymous with public safety," expressed Rio Grande City Mayor Joel Villarreal as he addressed everyone in attendance.

"This is going to be an amazing building," remarked Representative Cuellar, "Not only will it be a centralized location for all safety departments, but also for the shelter itself." This brand new facility will consolidate emergency functions into one building, and house fire, police, and other emergency first responders, as well as include an emergency shelter for the community in the event of extreme, hazardous weather.

On behalf of Mayor Joel Villarreal, the city commissioners, and the entire city of Rio Grande City we would like to thank Representative Cuellar for being a champion for the citizens of Rio Grande City and Starr County.

*Be on the lookout for STREET
IMPROVEMENTS coming to the City of RGC!*



We are excited to announce that several of our streets will see improvements in the upcoming weeks and months! This initiative is the result of Bond Project No. 2020-04 that was approved by our city commission. Mayor Joel Villarreal and our City Commission would like to thank the residents of Rio Grande City for placing their confidence and trust in the decisions to help beautify our city streets. Great things are happening in Rio Grande City! (see ad on Page 3)

RGC Public Utilities Explores High-Tech Water Metering Systems



The Rio Grande City Public Works Department is currently looking to upgrade the Water Meter System from a digital reading system to an antenna reading system, or Advanced Meter Infrastructure (AMI). An Advanced Meter Infrastructure (AMI) uses a powerful, long-range, radio system with more bandwidth to communicate with each meter, remotely. The RGC Public Utilities Department will continue to research this new project until further notice.

CITY OF RIO GRANDE CITY



UPCOMING STREET PAVING:

GARCIA ST.
BRITTON AVE.
COLUMBUS ST.
SAN BENITO ST.

ROBLE ST.
ENCINO ST.
LIVE OAK AVE.
LAS BRISAS SUBDIVISION

REYNALDO GOMEZ DR.
EMBASSY ST.
PINE ST.
EISENHOWER ST.

Growing a greater city with you!

Joel Villarreal
Mayor

Rey Ramirez
Mayor Pro-Tem

Ben de Leon
Commissioner

Rogelio Olivarez
Commissioner

Alberto Escobedo
Commissioner

Medical Center Development Construction Begins



Earlier this summer, an expansive medical center project in Rio Grande City was announced by DHR officials. The project will expand access to healthcare and create quality jobs for Rio Grande City residents. Site work on the property has commenced placing us one step closer to a more prosperous Rio Grande City.

Rio Grande City Main Street's New Website is Complete and Now Live

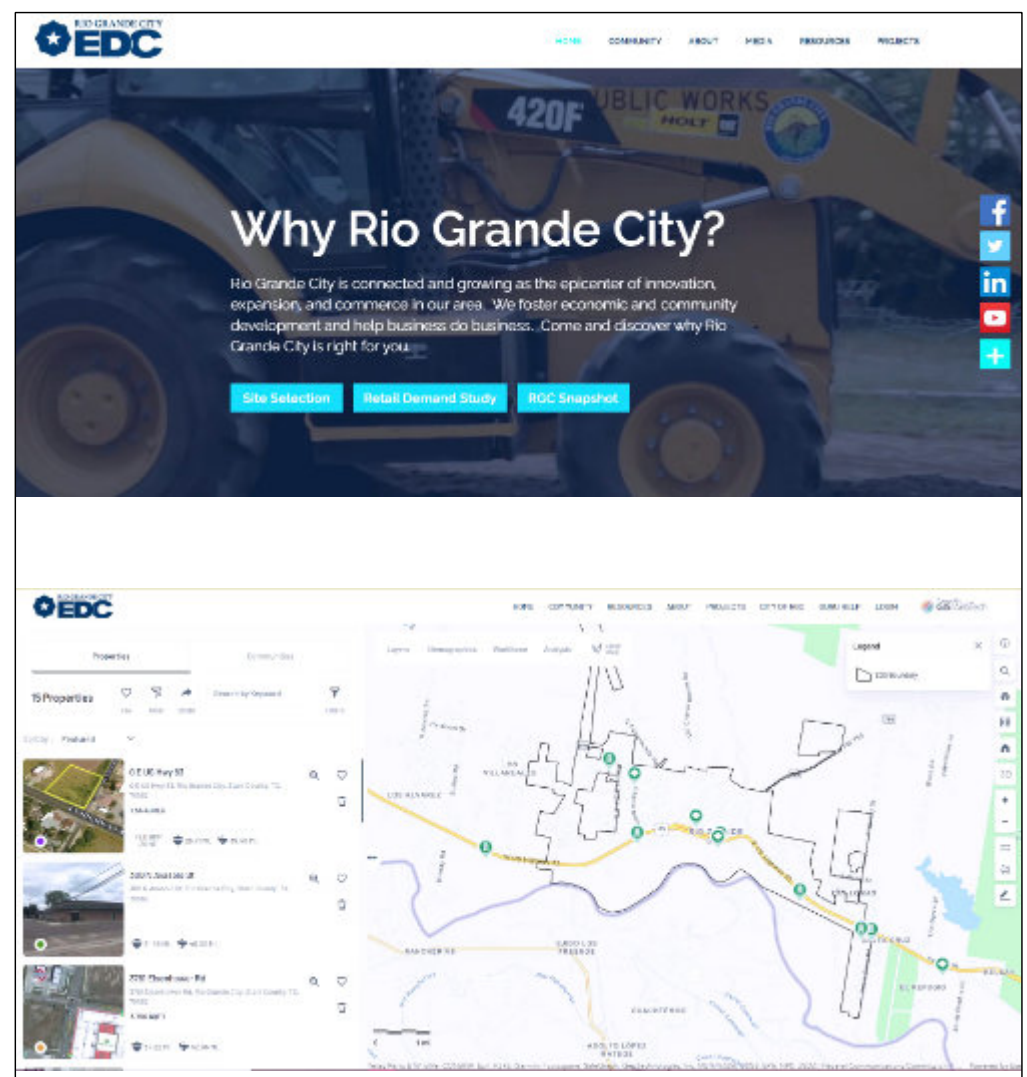


The Rio Grande City Main Street website is now mobile and enables visitors, merchants, residents, and all who visit to access it from anywhere on any device while still having the ability to use all features of the site.

The website includes information on purchasing or renting a space downtown through downtowntx.org, a downtown business directory, a list of annual events happening downtown and resources that business owners in the area can access to help further their ventures.

The new website will allow Rio Grande City Main Street to better serve the community by providing more touch points among Main Street, volunteers and residents. Visit us today at www.rgcmainstreet.com!

Rio Grande City EDC Launches Redesigned Website



The newly redesigned EDC website offers an enhanced, user-friendly experience with improved navigation and functionality while allowing visitors to search for resources and information.

The website provides data including, but not limited to, commercial site availability, demographics, retail demand, labor force, economic indicators and a multitude of business resources.

Powered by GIS Web Tech Guru and ESRI, leaders in geographic information system (GIS) software, location intelligence and mapping, site selection data is designed to assist businesses, organizations and site selectors by providing key data that enables them to make strategic decisions. Visit www.rgcedc.com today.



RGC PARKS AND REC. STAFF ATTENDS TRAINING

Rio Grande City Parks and Recreation Department Director, Frank Eguia, along with staff members Eric Escamilla and Jesus Adame, attended the CPTED and Maintenance Action Institute 2022 from August 23 to August 25 in McAllen, Texas. This institute provides informational sessions about Crime Prevention through Environmental Design, Parks Maintenance, and Planning. This training provides attendees with the expertise to meet the needs of our community as well as implement plans for the future and safety of our parks.



CPTED & Maintenance Action Institute 2022





Rio Grande City Presents

ZUMBA

IN THE PARK *WITH BEE*



BASILIO VILLARREAL PARK
1473 Stephen, Saenz St, Rio Grande City

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

ALL AGES WELCOME
Water bottle and towel recommended

BIANCA CASTILLO
Zumba Instructor




For questions, please call Michelle Castillo, SCAN CCP-COV Activity Coordinator at 956-716-1795



TACKLE & FLAG FOOTBALL

REGISTER NOW
5332 E. HWY 83 RIO GRANDE CITY, TX 78582

VOLUNTEER COACHES NEEDED

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

Life Saving Equipment Donation



The RGC Fire Department donated eight Carbon Fiber Cylinders to Oscar Gerardo Garza, Oficial Bomberos Voluntarios de Ciudad de Camargo. These cylinders will be used to provide service, and safety, to their respective jurisdictions.

A NEW HOME



The Rio Grande City Fire Department attended a press conference hosted by US Congressman Henry Cuellar where he presented a check to the city for over \$2.5M in grant money to build a state of the art Public Safety Building that will be a new home for our Fire Department, Police Department, as well as house an emergency shelter to be used during natural, hazardous, disasters.

HIGHLIGHT:



Starr-Camargo Bridge Co. has awarded an Educational Scholarship to the RGC Fire Department & Emergency Management and San Isidro Fire Department in appreciation for their collaborative efforts in combating multiple fires along the riverbank by the bridge in the month of July 2022. Thank you for your prompt response, and for keeping Starr County safe



The Rio Grande City Police Department and the Rio Grande City Crime Stoppers raised funds to help 40 local students purchase uniforms during the Back-to-School Shop with a Cop event held at the Rio Grande City Walmart on Friday, August 5, 2022. We would like to thank Wal-Mart associates, the RGC PD Shopping Buddies, and we would like to give a special thanks to J&F Trenching for your generous donation!

Growing and Nourishing Healthy Communities



Growing and Nourishing Healthy Communities starts with how to start your own "Herb & Vegetable Garden", in partnership with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension – Starr County. Each participant received an herb plant and plastic pot to take home. Session topics included: how to select the right garden

location, building raised and container beds, planting and watering techniques, controlling insects, composting, and maintaining and harvesting from their own garden! This program was presented by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Heidi C. Arteaga.



A Fresh Start to a Healthier You!



This 4-lesson series is a holistic adult-learning series that uses practical experience and information to help change lives and improve health. Participants learn how to provide safe, healthy, and economical meals for their families, and themselves. As a part of the Better Living for Texans (BLT) Program, "A Fresh Start to a Healthier You!" includes research-based lessons that integrate the importance of healthy nutrition with an emphasis on increasing fruit and vegetable intake, physical activity, food safety, and food resource management. This program is offered at no charge to the participant. This program was presented by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Better Living Texas, Adela Mancha.

JOIN US:



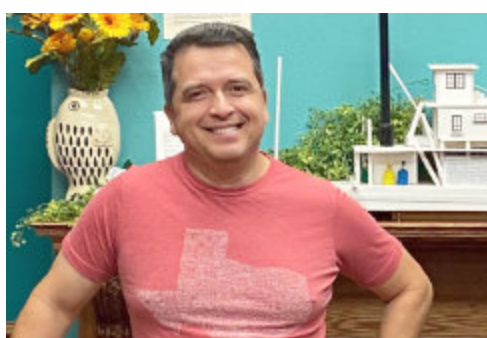
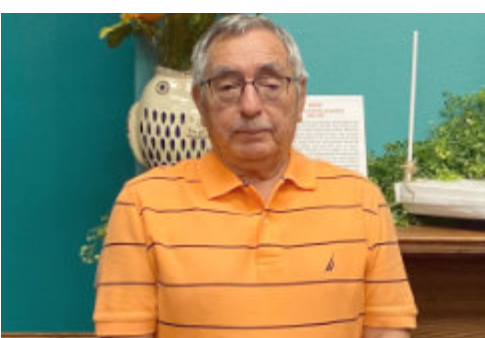
On Monday's and Wednesday's, the RGC Library staff introduces a story, song and a craft. For the craft, all the materials are laid out on tables and staff gives a quick demonstration on how to make the project. Participants may follow the staff example, or let their creativity lead the way. Staff will provide each person with step-by-step instructions as needed to allow everyone to work – and create – at their own pace!



RGC Main Street Program Coordinator Attends Training

Rio Grande City Main Street Coordinator, Cathy Rubio, attended the Texas Main Street Program annual summer retreat in Victoria, Texas. The three-day event hosted 70 representatives from 44 Main Street programs from across the state. Attendees toured the downtown areas of the three host cities, listened and participated in presentations provided by seasoned Main Street Managers and THC staff, and conducted roundtable discussions about preserving the historic character of our treasured, Texas communities.

Visiting the Past



Despite the sweltering South Texas heat, patrons continue to flock to the Kelsey-Bass Museum to appreciate the many exhibits displayed in our city's local gem. Thanks for the visit, and PLEASE Come Again! The Kelsey-Bass Museum is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Nights at the Museum



In an effort to provide greater access and accommodation to our community, the Kelsey-Bass Museum has initiated "History After Hours" providing extended operating hours once a month. The first such event, was held on August 4, 2022 and boasted over 20 guests and was deemed a complete success. Plans for future after-hour events are in the works to offer guest speakers, craft events, movie or video presentations, and of course continued museum tours. Great things are happening at YOUR Kelsey-Bass Museum located in the heart of our beautiful downtown, Rio Grande City!

WHITE STRIPES

The Public Works Department has been hard at work updating the stop bars and crosswalks from General Ricardo Sanchez Elementary to Veterans Middle School, as well as, Eisenhower Street in front of Alberto and Celia Barrera Elementary and areas located on Main Street and 2nd Street. We are happy to be able to provide these updates to our community, and are excited for what is to come.

A Sign of Things to Come



We are excited to show that the new Chick-fil-A signage has gone up! Great things are coming to the City of Rio Grande City!

RGC PLANNING DEPT. PROGRESS REPORT

During the month of August, the RGC Planning & Code Enforcement Department has processed building permits with a Construction Valuation of \$3,156,104.00 and 82,736 square feet of improvements. There have also been five new business occupancy permits in the Historic District, from a new flower shop to a couple of beauty shops, and one medical shop on the east side of town.

COMING SOON



A new Tractor Supply location has begun construction at the Saint Ives Commercial Development just behind Chick-fil-A.



We are excited to announce that a new car wash is coming to the city of Rio Grande City and construction has already begun! Help us welcome BlueWave Express, the new express car wash coming soon to RGC!

Rio Grande City Planning and Code Enforcement Staff Attend Training



The Rio Grande City Planning and Code Enforcement Department Inspectors attended the Rio Grande Valley Code Summit CEAT 2022 from August 29 to August 30, in Mission, Texas. This training not only helped fill the required hours of continuing education needed, but also provided useful information on topics such as code enforcement, mental health strategies, inspector credibility, zoning, court preparation, and effective communication. This training is provided by the Code Enforcement Association of Texas and the International Code Council.

RIO GRANDE CITY



GRITO

EN EL

KIOSKO

15 DE SEPTIEMBRE

6-8PM | DOWNTOWN KIOSKO

**MARIACHI
CONJUNTO
FOLKLORIC
DANCERS**

ARTISTS, CRAFT VENDORS
REFRESCOS
JALAPENO EATING CONTEST

**GRITO
CONTEST**
ADULT/CHILDREN
CULTURAL ATTIRE CONTEST
Y MUCHO MAS



Driscoll
Health Plan



KELSEY BASS
MUSEUM AND EVENT CENTER

