

THE RIO REVIEW

VOLUME THREE • EDITION SEVEN • JULY 2023

STAR SPANGLED *Summer*



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The City of Rio Grande City celebrated Independence Day with a BANG on Saturday, July 1st, at the Basilio Villarreal Municipal Park. The celebration included a cook-off, softball tournament, and several food and craft vendors. Several special guests made this party extra fun such as La Casetera, David y Fernando, Sólido, and La Firma! This event would not be possible without our sponsors and the support of our City Commission and Mayor Joel Villarreal!

BEFORE THE STORM



The City of Rio Grande City RGC Fire Department & Emergency Management Department met with RGC officials, safety officers, and Gaby Rodriguez with the Texas Division of Emergency Management to discuss Hurricane Preparedness procedures in order to ensure the safety of our community. We would like to thank our RGC Fire Department for organizing this meeting aiding in the planning of our emergency hurricane procedures.



The City of Rio Grande City, along with TMLIRP, hosted a meeting at the City Hall Chambers on Tuesday, June 13th, for city employees. This meeting focused on how to avoid heat stroke, working around heavy equipment, and safe vehicle operations. Now more than ever is the best time to stay hydrated and make sure to know the signs of heat stroke if you're working outside. On behalf of the City of Rio Grande City, we would like to thank our employees for making time to attend this important workshop.



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.

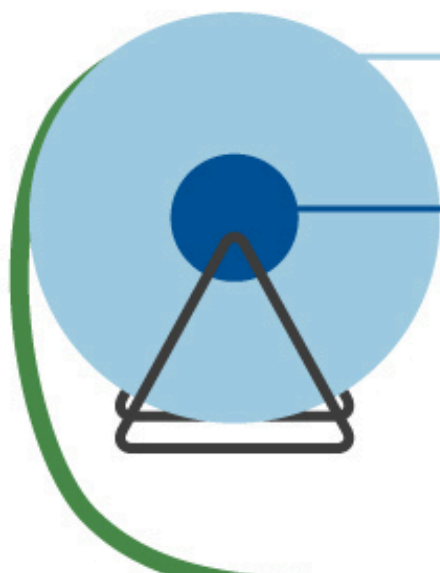
www.cityofrgc.com

RIO GRANDE CITY HALL
 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

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SAVE WATER IN THE YARD THIS SUMMER

As temperatures rise in the summer, so does our outdoor water use, mostly on lawns and landscapes.



29 billion gallons of daily household water use across the U.S.

9 billion gallons come from daily residential outdoor water use, mainly for landscape irrigation.

Water use spikes in the summer!

Depending on the region, homeowners use **30-60%** of their water outdoors.



50% of that is wasted, in part, due to overwatering.



Average family's water use:
320 gallons per day



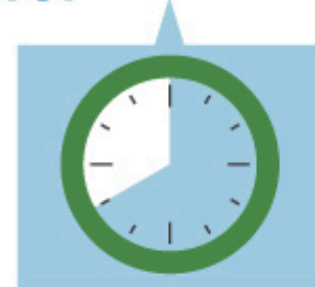
During the summer, can be up to
1,000 gallons per day



Some even use up to
3,000 gallons per day



—equal to leaving a garden hose running for nearly
8 hours!



Simple Things We Can All Do

Step on it:

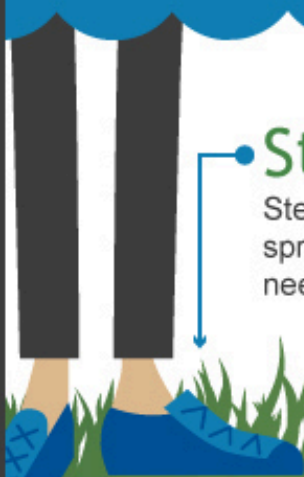
Step on the lawn: if the grass springs back, it doesn't need water.

Leave it long:

Longer grass promotes a more drought-resistant lawn, reduced evaporation, and fewer weeds.

Take a sprinkler break:

Grass isn't really meant to be bright green in the summer.



Texas Regional Bank Breaks Ground in Rio Grande City



Texas Regional Bank board members, staff and community members from Rio Grande City and Starr County gathered on Thursday, June 15, 2023 to break ground of Texas Regional Bank's new branch.

Michael Scaief, Chairman and CEO of TRB, expressed his admiration for the historical architecture of Rio Grande City and how it has influenced TRB banking centers, "Several years ago, I toured downtown and fell in love with the architecture," said Mr. Scaief. "Today, every TRB branch built in the Rio Grande Valley was inspired by Rio Grande City brickwork." The construction of the Rio Grande City banking center will utilize 115,000 artisan handmade bricks. "I look forward to serving the community that has had a substantial impact on Texas Regional Bank's identity," added Scaief.

"Texas Regional Bank builds relationships through loyalty, trust, and hard work, which is synonymous with the values of Rio Grande City," said Mayor Villarreal. "It's an investment in the future of our community and welcome to Rio Grande City."

Texas Regional Bank is a diversified financial services company offering financial services in banking, wealth, trust, international, and mortgage.

Texas Regional Bank is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Texas State Bankshares, Inc. Ownership of the organization spreads across more than 1,000 shareholders, the majority of whom are from Texas. Texas Regional Bank is proud of its broad and influential shareholder base that has been key to its success since 2010.

For more information about Texas Regional Bank, please visit www.texasregionalbank.com.

Market-Days

The Rio Grande City Main Street Program has been hosting Downtown Market Days every third Saturday of the month in the historic Britton Avenue. These Market Days have been extremely successful within our community with over 40 craft and food vendors and live music! There is something for everyone at our RGC Downtown Market Days and we invite everyone to visit every third Saturday of the month!



MARKET DAYS

SUMMER GAMES



TRACK



SEMI-PRO SOCCER



PONY League



STORY WALK



PONY League

For the first time, the Rio Grande City 6u All Stars Team qualifies to advance to the PONY League South Zone World Series in Youngsville, LA on July 19-22, 2023. The kids represented the RGC PONY League in the Shetland division this weekend during the PONY League Super Regional Tournament in San Antonio, TX. Ten teams from across the state of Texas competed for a chance to advance to the World Series. The Rio Grande City 6u team has been preparing over the season and have earned their way up, earning their spot at the PONY League South Zone World Series.

Track

This summer the RGC Parks and Recreation summer Track and Field participants had a very successful season with several participants earning accolades, medals, and trophies.

Semi-Pro Soccer

We are excited to announce that the City of RGC are proud sponsors of the new RGC Roadrunner Semi-Pro Adult Soccer League! Their coach, Fabian Zamora, is excited to take the lead in coordinating try outs in the coming days. On behalf of the City of RGC and our City Commission we would like to congratulate Coach Zamora and the future RGC Roadrunner family! Go Roadrunners!

Story Walk

The RGC Parks and Recreation crew worked with the RGC Public Library to put up the brand new Storybook Walk at the Basilio Villarreal Munciple Park and Mariam Vale Park in Rio Grande City.

BIG WHEELS KEEP ON TURNING

Our RGC Fire Department was awarded a 1998 Stewart Stevenson M1078 Truck, Cargo 2.5 Ton through an application submitted to the Texas Forest Service - Firefighter Property (FFP) Program Assistance grant. This newly acquired unit will be converted into a brush and rescue unit to greatly benefit our area. Thank you to the Texas A&M Forest Service for this tremendous addition to our fleet.



Thank you to STC for allowing us to share our profession with the students.



PROTECT YOURSELF FROM HEAT & SUN



Drink plenty of **water** and avoid alcohol. Beverages with electrolytes can also help protect against heat stress.



Apply **sunscreen** (SPF 30 or higher) every two hours.



Wear lightweight, loose-fitting, and **light-colored clothing**.



Take regular breaks in the **shade**.



weather.gov



THE HEALTHY LIFE OF PETS



PETS

The Rio Grande City Police Department and the Rio Grande City Animal Kennel teamed up with local veterinarians, Dr. Margo and Dr. Rios, and hosted a FREE Rabies Vaccine Clinic on Saturday, June 10th, at City Hall for RGC residents! It was a very successful event with over 108 pets receiving FREE rabies vaccines. On behalf of the City of RGC City Commission we would like to thank Dr. Margo and the RGCPD for helping our community ensure their pets had affordable access to care.

Units

The Rio Grande City Police Department received four brand new patrol units thanks to the generosity of Operation Stone Garden. These units will be used by our officers to ensure the safety of our great city!



UNITS



Never leave your pets in a parked car!



[weather.gov/heat](https://www.weather.gov/heat)

Safety Tips For Your Pets



Watch the humidity



Limit exercise on hot days



Provide ample shade and water



Don't rely on a fan



Watch out for hot pavement

SNAKE ON A BUS



Vipers



Vipers



Vipers



Vipers



Drawing Activity

Vipers

We would like to thank the Rio Grande Valley Vipers for a fun entertaining morning. We had a great time with April, Viva, and the Vipers mascot Fang. The kids enjoyed stories read by April and touring the Vipers bus.

Author's Visit

Author, Maricela Flores, visited the Rio Grande City Public Library for their #FunFriday program and spoke about the importance of creative writing and illustration. Thank you for taking the time to speak to our community!

Drawing Activity

Ready Set Draw! Kids had a blast during our read and draw along activity.



Vipers



Author's Visit

WORDS OF WISDOM



Meet & Greet

Meet & Greet

The Kelsey Bass Museum had the honor of hosting book signing events by two very distinct authors. It was a standing room only event, on June 21, 2023. That day the Kelsey Bass Museum, in conjunction with the Starr County Historical Commission, hosted Stephen Michaud, author of *Robert's Story-the TRUE story of a Texas cowboy's troubled life and horrifying death*. Mr. Michaud discussed the research behind the book, and the necessity of telling Robert East's story. He then proceeded with a Q & A session where audience members were quick to ply questions to our incredible guest. At the end of this session, Mr. Michaud invited East family members and friends to expound on their experiences and encounters with the protagonist and other characters in the story. Afterwards, eager audience members formed a long line to purchase a book, get it signed, and take a photo with the author and East family members. On July 13, 2023, the Kelsey Bass Museum welcomed Rosario Ozuna, author of *The Tears Behind the Smile: Poems and Reflections from the Heart*. Mrs. Ozuna gave a detailed presentation on the myriad of themes and inspirations of her book, and then discussed the toils, travails, and ultimate triumphs of the self-publishing process. Following her presentation, Mrs. Ozuna invited audience members to ask questions which they did. Later, Mrs. Ozuna signed books, and posed for photos.



National Guard



Meet & Greet

National Guard

On Saturday, June 24, 2023, the Kelsey Bass Museum welcomed members from the Texas National Guard. These incredible men and women will spend the last week of July in Rio Grande City to conduct Operation Border Health Preparedness 2023; however, on this day, the group wanted to spend some time familiarizing themselves with the history and culture of our beautiful city by visiting the museum, the Lee House, and of course historic Fort Ringgold. Operation Border Health Preparedness 2023 will take place July 24-28, 2023 from 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM at Veterans Middle School. All are welcome!



Guests

Guests

The Kelsey Bass Museum continues to attract guests from all walks of life and different parts of the world. Students from South Texas College dropped by as part of their final assignment for their History 1301 class. Visitors from the Philippines also stopped by the museum to enjoy the rich history, and incredible exhibits. There's so much to see at your Kelsey Bass Museum.



San Isidro

San Isidro Nutrition Program

Participants of the Starr County Pct. 4 (San Isidro) Nutrition Program stopped by the Kelsey Bass Museum as part of their tour of historic Rio Grande City. These spry ladies and gentlemen boarded our very own Bessie III to tour Fort Ringgold, the Grotto, historic downtown, the beautiful Lopez-Tijerina Courtyard, and of course, the museum. There's so much to see and do in Rio Grande City.

Red Flags

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



We would like to congratulate Loro's Restaurant on their relocation to 3339 W. Hwy 83 in Rio Grande City, Texas! The Rio Grande City Greater Chamber of Commerce hosted a Ribbon Cutting ceremony to commemorate this special occasion and to celebrate owners Jorge and Brenda Flores that have been serving our community for over 12 years. On behalf of the City of RGC City Commission, we would like to thank Loro's Restaurant for choosing Rio Grande City!



GIRL SCOUTS



The Animal Control Department would like to recognize RGC Girl Scout Troop 1056 for their amazing work in the on-going effort to reduce the stray animal population in our community. These wonderful young ladies organized an adoption event, and handed out flyers with spaying and neutering information. Furthermore, the girls donated new cages and handmade pet beds to the kennel. From all of us at the RGC Animal Control Department, THANK YOU!

NOW OPEN IN RIO



The Rio Grande City Greater Chamber of Commerce hosted a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Riverside Building Materials on Friday, June 23rd, located at 6144 E. US Hwy 83, in Rio Grande City, Texas. Mayor Joel Villarreal welcomed Riverside Building Materials and encouraged everyone to stop by and shop local! On behalf of the city of Rio Grande city, we would like to congratulate Riverside Building Materials on their ribbon cutting ceremony and welcome them to our area!

Starr County

OPERACIÓN SALUD EN LA FRONTERA:
PREPARACIÓN PARA DESASTRES

Servicios Ofrecidos:

- Servicios médicos generales
- Vacunaciones para niños y adultos
- Revisión de diabetes, de audición, de la vista y de presión arterial
- Medicina del deporte
- Exámenes de la vista para niños y adultos
- Lentes gratuitos hechos con la receta personal
- Servicios sociales
- Salud conductual
- Educación nutricional
- Educación en seguridad para asientos de coche
- Programa para dejar de fumar
- Despensa de alimentos del Sur de Texas

24-28 julio 2023
8 AM - 3:30 PM

Veterans Middle School
2700 W. Eisenhower St.
Rio Grande City, Texas 78582

dshs.texas.gov/es/obhp2023

Starr County

OPERATION **BORDER HEALTH** PREPAREDNESS 2023

Services Provided:

- General Physician Services
- Immunizations for children and adults
- Diabetic, hearing, vision, and blood pressure screenings
- Sports physicals
- Vision exams for adults and children
- Free glasses made with your own prescription
- Social Services
- Behavioral Health
- Nutritional Education
- Car Seat Safety Appointments and Education
- Tobacco Cessation
- South Texas Food Pantry

July 24-28 2023
8 AM - 3:30 PM

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