

# THE RIO REVIEW

VOLUME THREE • EDITION ELEVEN • NOV. 2023

# HARVEST OF BLESSINGS

**Rio Grande City  
Wraps Up Fiscal Year  
with Record Sales  
Tax Earnings**

**Traditional  
Downtown  
Tree Lighting  
Ceremony Set  
for Nov.29**





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**City of RGC Personnel Dept. Honors 'Best Boss' Noe Castillo**



City of Rio Grande City staff took a moment out of their busy day to honor Noe Castillo on Monday

morning, October 16, in honor of National Bosses Day.

"On behalf of the entire staff here at the City of Rio Grande City we would like to wish Chief Noe Castillo, Deputy City Manager, a very Happy Boss's Day," stated Executive Assistant Sara Hernandez. "Thank you for your leadership and talent in administration, it takes a special person to not only encourage, but uplift your employees at the same time. We hope you have a great day."

Boss's Day is an annual observance dedicated to acknowledging and appreciating the contributions and leadership of bosses and supervisors in the workplace. Celebrating Boss's Day can have numerous benefits for workplace culture and morale by fostering positive relationships between employees and their superiors.

"When employees feel appreciated and valued by their bosses, they are more likely to be engaged in their work," stated RGC Human Resources director Valerie Brown-Garza. "Leaders deserve employee recognition too, and taking a day to appreciate them can improve the overall work experience and keep them committed to their jobs."

**Rio Grande City Wraps Up Fiscal Year with Record Sales Tax Earnings**



Collection of sales taxes by the City or Rio Grande City in the just-completed fiscal year reached almost \$6 million surpassing the previous year's revenue deposits by more than 11%.

Totals reported by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts represented receipts by the state during the period from October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2023.

The city took in \$596,911.01 more in tax revenue than in the prior fiscal year. The City's latest total sales tax earnings were \$5,759,733.70.

The City's sales tax revenue hit an all-time high in August of this year at \$643,666.12 marking a 35% increase from last August.

"We would like to thank our community for doing their part and shopping locally to help boost the economy of our great City" declared Rio Grande City Mayor Joel Villarreal.

**RGC City Secretary Continues Efforts to Ensure Efficiency and Transparency**



Rio Grande City City Secretary, Angela Solis, attended the Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc. (TMCA)/The Texas Municipal Clerks Certification

Program (TMCCP) Advanced Institute Seminar in Frisco, Texas last week along with hundreds of participants from all over the state.

The TMCCP Advanced Institute Seminar is a specialized training program designed for municipal clerks in the state of Texas who are

looking to enhance their knowledge and skills in the field of municipal government.

Some of the topics discussed at the seminar were related to municipal government functions, legal compliance, records management, election administration, public relations, and other areas critical to the role of municipal clerks. The goal was to provide municipal clerks with advanced knowledge and skills to help them excel in their positions and serve their communities more effectively.



**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.



# GROUNDWORK

## RGC'S PUBLIC UTILITIES DEPT. CONTINUES INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS TO ACCOMMODATE GROWTH

Over the past few days, the Rio Grande City Public Utilities Department (PUD) has been busy with infrastructure improvements to accommodate new commercial growth.

"As we get closer to the grand opening of the Dutch Bro. Coffee shop, our PUD's Distribution Crew has been working on lowering a manhole on site," stated recently hired Rio Grande City PUD director Eric Flores.

Manholes are often used as an access point for an underground public utility, allowing inspection, maintenance, and system upgrades.

"Thank you for always working so hard to continue to improve our 'lindo' Rio Grande City," said Rio Grande City Mayor Joel Villarreal about the PUD department's recent infrastructure improvements.

Set to open its new location in Rio Grande City within the next few weeks,

Dutch Bros Coffee is a drive-through coffee chain that is known for its specialty coffee drinks, including its signature Dutch Freeze, which is a blended coffee drink made with Dutch Bros' private reserve espresso and flavored syrups.

The coffee shop also offers a variety of other drinks, including cold brew, tea, lemonade, and smoothies.



### REYNA ST. UPDATE: STREET IMPROVEMENT

The Rio Grande City Public Utilities Department is excited to report the trenching on Reyna Street has been completed by McAllen Signal & Boring LLC. The next step in the street improvement project is to connect the water lines, which has been completed by the RGC Public Utilities Department. The upcoming step in this project is paving.



### ADMINISTRATION (CONT.)

## Rio Grande City, Reynosa Vow Partnership and Prosperity with New "Sister City" Agreement



The City of Rio Grande City and the city of Reynosa, Tamaulipas became official 'Sister Cities', at a signing ceremony held in Reynosa on Wednesday, October 25.

RGC Mayor Joel Villarreal, Commissioner Alberto Escobedo, and International Business Ambassador Ruben Islas were present at the meeting as well as officials from la Ciudad de Reynosa. During this meeting, a formal agreement was signed between the two entities making them "sister cities" and strengthening international relations. "We would like to thank city officials from Reynosa for allowing us to come together for the betterment of our region," declared Mayor Joel Villarreal. Generally speaking, when two cities officially declare themselves sister cities, it means they have established a formal and often

ceremonial partnership or relationship to promote cultural, economic, educational, and sometimes political ties. This declaration is a symbolic gesture of goodwill and cooperation between the two municipalities.

One of the primary objectives of sister city relationships is to promote cultural exchange. This can involve sharing traditions, arts, cuisine, and promoting an understanding of each other's cultures.

Sister cities often engage in economic initiatives such as trade partnerships, business collaborations, and joint ventures. These connections can stimulate economic growth in both cities.

Promoting tourism is another common aspect of sister city relationships. Cities may encourage residents and tourists to explore their sister city, boosting tourism and local economies.



City of RGC International Business Ambassador, Ruben Islas, accompanied members from the City of Reynosa as they paid a visit to the City of Rio Grande City today, Thursday, November 2nd, as a part of the new Sister City document signed on October 25th. Amongst these special guests were Lic. Sandra Elizabeth Garza Faz. Regidora del ayuntamiento de Reynosa, Quimica Alicia de Leon Directora del Archivo Municipal, and Ing. Alonso Ramirez Coordinador de Enlace. On behalf of Mayor Joel Villarreal and the City Commission of Rio Grande City we would like to thank the City of Reynosa for visiting our GREAT city and continuing our strong partnership to promote our region.



# OH CHRISTMAS TREE

RIO GRANDE CITY'S TRADITIONAL TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY SET FOR NOV. 29



## Rio Grande City Main Street Coordinator attends annual conference



Yandery De La Cruz, Rio Grande City Main Street Coordinator represented Rio Grande City at the Texas Main Street Program annual conference held in Nacogdoches, Texas on October 24 through October 27, 2023. The Texas Downtown Conference featured keynote and breakout speakers, field sessions, tours of Nacogdoches' downtown, and events.

## Several downtown businesses receive Main Street facade grant

The Rio Grande City Economic Development Corporation awarded several downtown businesses the Main Street Facade Grant. These reimbursable grants are used to help support and encourage downtown businesses to reinvest in their buildings by restoring storefronts to create a positive visual impact, stimulate investment, and complement other community revitalization efforts in the downtown business district.

The Rio Grande EDC provides a selection of incentives and tools for businesses of every size. The requirements vary widely, so business owners are encouraged to contact the Rio Grande City EDC for more information. Visit [rgcedc.com](http://rgcedc.com) or call (956) 487-3476 to learn more.



The Rio Grande City Main Street Program will host its annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Wednesday, November 29 at the Historic Britton Ave. Quiosco starting at 6:00 pm.

The downtown Tree Lighting Ceremony officially marks the beginning of the holiday season in our community, bringing people together to celebrate and share the joy of this festive time of year, with music, fun activities, and maybe a very special surprise guest from the North Pole.

Over the years, many residents have expressed how the downtown Christmas lighting ceremonies help foster a sense of community unity. "These events bring together people from all walks of life, transcending differences and promoting a shared sense of togetherness," stated Main Street Coordinator Yandery De La Cruz. "Whether you're a longtime resident or a visitor, everyone can join in the celebration, making it a powerful force for community bonding."

Rio Grande City's downtown Christmas lighting ceremonies have also shown to have a positive economic impact on the local community. They encourage residents and visitors to shop, dine, and explore the downtown area. Many businesses stay open late during these events and offer special promotions, resulting in increased foot traffic and sales. This boost in economic activity benefits local merchants and contributes to the overall prosperity of the community.

**Rio Grande City's Main Street Program Continues to Promote Tourism with its Annual Pumpkin Patch**

Rio Grande City's Main Street program recently announced its annual Pumpkin Patch, located next to the City's downtown Fire Dept., is now open to the public.

"We invite everyone to come out and take a photo this holiday season. Make sure to tag us @RGCMainSt when posting your photos," stated RGCMSP program coordinator Yandery De La Cruz. "We'd like to thank our Main Street Advisory Board and volunteers for the helping hands. You are marvelous."

Over the past few years, the City's annual Pumpkin Patch has become a popular destination for families during the Fall season as a backdrop for portraits and other activities.

Tourists visiting the City's Pumpkin Patch have also led to increased revenue for local photographers, local businesses such as restaurants, hotels, and popular shops along Rio Grande City's Historic Main Street.

Rio Grande City's Pumpkin Patch is located on 910 E Main St. For more information, please contact the RGC Main Street Program at (956) 488-0047.





# RIO GRANDE CITY TRUNK OR TREAT

GHOSTS, GOBLINS & GOODIES



## Hundreds Gather at Basilio Villarreal Municipal Park for Halloween Fun

The City of Rio Grande City hosted the annual Trunk or Treat event on Wednesday, October 25th, at the Basilio Villarreal Municipal Park.

"There were several businesses and organizations in attendance giving out goodies to all the little ghosts and goblins who participated in the trick or treating," said Rio Grande City Parks & Rec. Director Frank Eguia Jr. "These events are made possible for our community by the combined efforts of local businesses, organizations, school districts, city departments and our City Commission. When we come together, we can continue to provide great things for the City of RGC."

"We would like to thank everyone who participated and made this event so successful," added Rio Grande City Mayor Joel Villarreal.

A Trunk or Treat event is a Halloween event where a group of cars with elaborately decorated trunks gathers in a parking lot, and kids go from car to car for treats, games, and other Halloween fun.

Trunk or Treat events are generally considered safer than traditional trick-or-treating because they are often held in a controlled environment where parents can keep an eye on their children. Additionally, because the event is organized, there is less chance of children wandering into unsafe areas or encountering strangers. Trunk or Treat events also tend to be shorter in duration than traditional trick-or-treating, which means that children are exposed to fewer risks.





## Starr County Burn Bans Still in Effect Despite Cooler Weather



Following a major Starr County blaze earlier this week, the Rio Grande City Fire Department would like to remind residents that a burn ban is still in effect despite cooler weather.

"I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the entire RGC Fire Department & Emergency Management, as well as the La Rosita Volunteer Fire Department for their quick response to the fire on FM 3167," said Fire Chief Manuel Muniz. "We are thankful to report no injuries were reported and continue to remind everyone about the burn ban in effect."

Burn bans are enacted at the county level based on local drought, wind, and other conditions, and the threat of wildfire. When enacted, they prohibit or restrict outdoor burning for public safety, including campfires, controlled burns, etc.

Burn bans can remain in effect even in cooler weather. The decision to enact a burn ban is based on local drought, wind, and other conditions, and the threat of wildfire. Cooler weather may reduce the risk of wildfires, but it doesn't necessarily mean that the risk has been eliminated completely.

It's always a good idea to check the Rio Grande City website ([www.cityofrgc.com](http://www.cityofrgc.com)) and social media for the most up-to-date information on burn bans in your area.



South Texas College, Starr County Firefighters, and Emergency Management personnel along with representatives of the Border Pacific Railroad have met to discuss how to support training firefighters for wildfires in their area. One of the areas identified by city and county personnel was the lack of available bulldozer operators that could assist with cutting fire breaks to stop the spread of wildfires. In response, South Texas College developed a Heavy Equipment Operator course with a Bulldozer Emphasis for initial training of Starr County firefighting personnel. The 18 hour course consists of basic classroom and dozer specific curriculum that includes topics such as routine maintenance and inspection, general safety parameters, use of personal protective equipment, and applicable laws. The training further encompasses basic correct blade positioning and angle, material spreading, ground leveling, excavation and firebreaks.

**RGC Firefighters who attended were:** Captain P. Morin, Driver L. Melendez, Driver J. Alvarez, Firefighter J. W. Garza

## RGC Fire Department Celebrates Fire Prevention Week



The RGC Fire Department & Emergency Management kicked off Fire Prevention Week with a fun-filled skit performed for Rio Grande City Grulla ISD students on Tuesday, October 10th, at the RGCISD Auditorium.

This year, the theme for Fire Prevention Week is focusing on cooking safety, "Cooking Safety starts with YOU! Pay attention to fire prevention."

"Students had a great time learning about safe cooking practices, reviewing stop, drop, and roll procedures, and remembering to find two safety exits in case of a fire," said RGC Fire Chief Manuel Muniz.

"We would like to thank the Rio Grande City Fire Department for taking the time to educate students in our community about the importance of fire safety," declared RGC Mayor Joel Villarreal.

Fire Prevention Week is an annual event celebrated in the United States to promote the importance of fire safety and prevention.

### RGCFD Helps Promote Food Safety during National School Lunch Week

Rio Grande City Mayor Joel Villarreal and the RGC Fire Department & Emergency Management donned hairnets, gloves, and aprons and volunteered to serve lunch to students at General Ricardo Sanchez Elementary in celebration of National School Lunch Week.

"The RGCISD Child Nutrition Program faculty and staff do a great job serving the students of our community a hot lunch every day, rain or shine, and we would like to recognize them for their continued dedication and commitment to our community," stated Rio Grande City Mayor Joel Villarreal.

Hairnets, gloves and aprons are an important part of food safety in a cafeteria setting. They help prevent hair from falling into food and potentially

contaminating it with bacteria or other harmful pathogens.

National School Lunch Week (NSLW) is an annual event celebrated in the United States to promote the importance of healthy school lunches in a child's life and the impact it has inside and outside of the classroom. It was created by President John F. Kennedy in 1962.

NSLW is celebrated during the second week of October each year.

Throughout the week, schools can promote healthy eating habits and encourage students to make nutritious choices. It also provides an opportunity for schools to showcase their food service programs and highlight the hard work of cafeteria staff.

### Rio Grande City Fire Department Assists With Homecoming Bonfire

The Rio Grande City Fire Department assisted with the traditional Rio Grande City GCISD Homecoming Parade and Bonfire celebrated on Friday, October 20 in downtown RGC.

"It's homecoming time in the City of RGC. We would like to thank the Rio Grande City Police Department and RGC Fire Department & Emergency Management for their participation in today's parade and bonfire," declared Rio Grande City Mayor Joel Villarreal.

High school homecoming is a week-long celebration that usually includes dress-up days, a pep rally, a parade, a football game, and a dance. It is a way for high schools to build school spirit and bring together students, alumni, and the community.

Bonfires are often held at high school homecomings to raise team spirit.





# RED RIBBON WEEK



**Rio Grande City Police Department staff speak with Grulla Middle School Students on the dangers of drug abuse in celebration of Red Ribbon Week.**



On Monday morning, October 23rd, Rio Grande City Mayor Joel Villarreal helped kick-off this year's Red Ribbon Week with the reading of the program's official proclamation via a video produced by the Rio Grande City GISD and circulated on social media. "During Red Ribbon Week, community members of all ages are urged to show their commitment to a drug free life." stated Mayor Joel Villarreal. "At the City of Rio Grande City, we encourage everyone to don red ribbons in support of this important campaign." Red Ribbon Week is an annual drug prevention campaign observed in the United States from October 23 through 31. The campaign began in

1985 as a tribute to fallen DEA special agent Enrique Camarena, who was killed in the line of duty by drug traffickers he was investigating in Mexico. The campaign is the largest drug-abuse prevention campaign in the United States and aims to raise awareness about the dangers of drug abuse and encourage participation in drug prevention activities.

During Red Ribbon Week, schools and communities across the country participate in a variety of activities aimed at promoting drug-free living. These activities include hosting special speakers, throwing contests, decorating school campuses, and more.

**WATCH THE VIDEO**



## Rio Grande City Crime Stoppers Recognized for Outstanding Achievements



At the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Texas Crime Stoppers Conference held at the McAllen Convention Center earlier this month, the Rio Grande City Crime Stoppers were presented with the 'Greatest Dollar Recovery Award' and the 'Most Cases Cleared' Award.

The Greatest Dollar Recovery Award is one of the productivity awards given to Crime Stoppers corporations in Texas that have the highest dollar recovery and/or most cases cleared in each population category. The award is presented during the annual Texas Best Awards ceremony, which recognizes Crime Stoppers corporations from around the state that stand out in a variety

of categories.

Crime Stoppers is a community-based program that encourages members of the public to provide anonymous tips and information about criminal activities to law enforcement agencies. These tips can lead to the arrest and conviction of criminals, the recovery of stolen property, or the prevention of crimes.

Receiving these awards can be seen as a testament to the program's success in engaging the community, solving crimes, and preventing criminal activities, often resulting in a safer and more secure environment for the public.

## Rio Grande City PD Welcomes New Officer

Earlier this month, Officer Eric Carrillo was officially sworn into the Rio Grande City Police Department.

"Welcome to our family in blue," said Rio Grande City Police Chief Noe Castillo to Officer Carrillo immediately after he was sworn in.

According to the Texas Constitution, all elected and appointed officers, including police officers, must take an official oath of office before they enter upon the duties of their offices.

The oath includes a promise to faithfully execute the duties of the office and to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States and of Texas.

The purpose of the oath is to ensure that police officers are committed to upholding the law and protecting the rights of citizens. By taking the oath, police officers are held accountable for their actions and are expected to act with integrity and professionalism.





# GOOD EATS

## RGC Library to Host Healthy Cooking Lecture-Series on Maintaining Healthy Blood Pressure

The Rio Grande City Public Library will host a Healthy Cooking lecture series, starting November 15, aimed at helping residents maintain healthy blood pressure.

The Library's Health & Wellness program presents the "Cooking Well for Healthy Blood Pressure" with Neida Martinez, who currently serves as County Extension Agent with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

"Please join us at 10:00 am, November 1st, 15th, and 29th, at the RGC Public Library for a cooking workshop to help those concerned about high blood pressure," stated Rio Grande City Public Library Director Norma Fultz.

People with high blood pressure, also known as hypertension, should be mindful of their diet to help manage and control their condition. It's essential to avoid or limit certain foods and dietary practices that can contribute to high blood pressure.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, often referred to simply as AgriLife Extension, is an educational outreach and extension agency affiliated with Texas A&M University. It serves the people of Texas by providing research-based information, educational programs, and resources related to agriculture, natural resources, community development, family and consumer sciences, and youth development.



# FREE

# GED & ESL CLASSES



Classes available near you!

Mission | Alton | La Joya | Penitas  
La Grulla | Rio Grande City | Roma

Contact us for more information  
about qualifications, class sites and schedules.



Call our office  
956-984-6270

Must have any form of  
ID available to register.



Complete an interest  
form and we'll send you  
program information!

[www.esc1.net/adulteducation](http://www.esc1.net/adulteducation)



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

RGC's Annual Veterans Appreciation Drive-Thru Luncheon Set for Nov. 8



The Kelsey Bass Museum, in conjunction with the RGC Public Library and Medina Electric Co-operative, will host a Veterans Appreciation Drive-thru Luncheon on at the Basilio Villarreal Municipal Park on Wednesday, November 8, from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm, to honor our veterans.

As a gesture of our deep appreciation for the dedicated service and sacrifices made by our veterans, we are delighted to announce our upcoming Veterans Luncheon event, taking place next Wednesday," declared Rio Grande City Kel-

sey-Bass Museum representative Cathy Rubio. "This event promises to be a heartfelt and memorable occasion dedicated to honoring the men and women who have served our country with valor and distinction."

All Starr County Veterans from all branches of the military are officially invited to this Luncheon event set to be filled with appreciation, camaraderie, and good food. "Thank you for service to our country and community," stated Rio Grande City Mayor Joel Villarreal. "God bless you and God Bless America."





# RECUERDAME

The Kelsey Bass Museum staff created a remembrance wall where visitors and city staff were encouraged to share photos of their deceased loved ones in observance of "Dia de los Muertos." City staff from several departments and friends of the museum donated photos for this touching exhibit. Plans are already in the works for next year's exhibit. This year's exhibit will be on display until November 10, 2023.

## Opening Our Eyes

The Kelsey Bass Museum hosted the opening reception for the Bridging Lives-Gift of Sight Altar of Remembrance exhibit. This exhibit with the photos of over 3 dozen RGV donors-two from Rio Grande City- is a colorful and moving tribute to those who left a legacy long after their passing. Gabriela Saldaña, of the San Antonio Eye Bank, spoke about the importance of organ and tissue donation, as well as the common misconceptions regarding the process. She also shared a letter from the recipient of one of these incredible gifts. Those in attendance asked questions and shared stories from their own experiences. Thank you to everyone who made this beautiful tribute possible.



# Thanks for the Visit

**The Kelsey - Bass Museum welcomes guests of all ages and walks of life.**

Often, these guests come in for other reasons than a museum tour, but they are always happy to stay and spend some time enjoying the rich history and amazing exhibits the KB has to offer. Thank you for making the Kelsey Bass Museum a part of your day. There is so much to see at your Kelsey Bass Museum.



# LIGHT BEARERS

RGC DOWNTOWN CHRISTMAS LIGHTS BRING HOLIDAY SPIRIT, PROMOTE TOURISM



The Rio Grande City Public Works Department has begun decorating the downtown area with the City's traditional Main Street Christmas Lights.

"The City of RGC Public Works Department is getting our great City ready for the upcoming holiday season," declared RGC Deputy City Manager Noe Castillo. "Thank you for all you do."

Aside from the downtown Christmas lights creating a festive and cheerful atmosphere, they

can also offer a small economic boost to the area. The holiday season is a significant time for retailers, restaurants, and local businesses. Festive decorations attract shoppers and diners to the downtown area, boosting local commerce.

Additionally, the media attention and social media buzz generated by elaborately decorated downtown areas can serve as marking and promotion for Main Street attracting visitors and encouraging a positive image of their community.

# CLEAN SWEEP



The Public Works Street Sweeper was put to work in our local neighborhoods to ensure the streets around Rio Grande City are neat and clean. The Public Works Department is constantly working on ways to keep our city clean and beautiful.



The Public Works Department has been working on improving streets in our great city by patching areas that have gotten some wear and tear.

## 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

**JANUARY**

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# GOING DUTCH

## Dutch Bros. Coffee Shop Preps for RGC Grand Opening



**T**he Rio Grande City Planning Department is thrilled to announce residents will soon have more options when it comes to purchasing a freshly brewed cup of Joe as the City's new Dutch Bros. location preps for its grand opening.

"As construction starts to wrap up at the new

Dutch Bros Coffee location in Rio Grande City, we are happy to announce the sign and logo have been installed," stated Rio Grande City Planning Director Gilbert Millan. "It won't be long before we are able to enjoy a delicious beverage from this new establishment in our town."

Dutch Bros Coffee is a popular coffee chain

in the United States, with 538 stores nationwide and approximately 20,000 employees. The company has been expanding rapidly and plans to open over 4,000 chains worldwide.

Dutch Bros Coffee is known for its high-quality coffee and specialty drinks, as well as its friendly service and upbeat atmosphere.

## New Eco-Friendly Carwash Opens in Rio Grande City



Rio Grande City Residents now have a new environmentally friendly option when it comes to keeping their vehicles looking spic and span.

The new BlueWave Express Car Wash, located along Hwy 83, held its official grand opening ceremony on Friday morning, October 13. Present at the event was Mayor Joel Villarreal along with City of RGC administration.

"On behalf of the City Commission we would like to thank BlueWave for choosing the City of RGC. Great things continue to happen in the great City of Rio Grande City," stated Mayor Joel Villarreal.

According to their website, BlueWave Carwashes reclaim and filter most of their water, approximately 20 gallons per vehicle, and reuse it.

## New RGC Clinic Aims to Help Residents Suffering from PAD



A new clinic specializing in the treatment of Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD) held its official grand opening on Thursday morning, October 13, in Rio Grande City.

"On behalf of the City Commission of RGC we would like to welcome PAD Specialists to our 'lindo' Rio Grande

City," declared Mayor Joel Villarreal. The new clinic is located at 2764 Pharmacy Rd, Suite B, in Rio Grande City.

PAD is a condition that occurs when the arteries in the legs become narrowed or blocked by plaque buildup, which can reduce blood flow to both legs and feet.



# We Won!



**We would like to congratulate the Rio Grande City Road Runners for their victory over the Brownsville Guevara with a score of 4 to 2! Great job team**

## City of Rio Grande City Staff Support Domestic Violence Awareness Efforts



Several City of Rio Grande City staff attended the Starr County Domestic Violence Coalition Rally on Thursday, October 19, in observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The event was hosted by the 229th Judicial District Attorney's Office.

"During this month, anyone and everyone is encouraged to unite in the work to end domestic violence" declared Rio Grande City Mayor Joel Villarreal. "We ask you to help spread awareness about Domestic Violence to end abuse for good." Domestic Violence Awareness Month is observed every October in the United States. It is a time to raise awareness about domestic violence and its

impact on individuals, families, and communities.

The month-long observance was first introduced in 1981 by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. During this month, many independent organizations, as well as municipal, state, and federal bodies, bring heightened attention to domestic violence.

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence, there are resources available to help. You can contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or visit their website at [www.thehotline.org](http://www.thehotline.org) for more information.

## BUSINESS WITHOUT BORDERS

### Amb. Islas Continues to Promote RGC Abroad



Rio Grande City International Business Ambassador, Ruben Islas, attended the official inauguration of the Miguel Alemán Fair and Reynas de Miguel Alemán expo on Friday, October 6.

"It's always my honor to help support and represent Rio Grande City across international borders," said Islas. We would like to thank the city of Miguel Alemán for extending an invitation and for their continued support and partnership." Starr County and the entire US-

Mexico border region is home to a diverse range of economic activities, including manufacturing, agriculture, and tourism.

According to the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Travel and Tourism Office (NTTO), Mexican travelers spent \$11.7 billion in the United States in 2021.

Miguel Alemán is a city located in the northeastern part of the Mexican state of Tamaulipas. It is the municipal seat of the Miguel Alemán Municipality. The city is situated on the banks of the Rio Grande, which forms the border between Mexico and the United States.

## COMING HOME SAFELY



**It's homecoming season in the City of Rio Grande City! We would like to thank the Rio Grande City Police Department and RGC Fire Department & Emergency Management for their participation in this year's parade and bonfire! Go Rio!**

