

THE RIO REVIEW

VOLUME THREE • EDITION NINE • SEPT. 2023

CELEBRATING OUR

HISPANIC HERITAGE





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

THE RIO REVIEW

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The City of Rio Grande City has done it again! The Sales Tax Revenue hit an all time high with a 35% increase from last August, and an overall increase of 11.6% for the entire fiscal year. On behalf of the City Commission of Rio Grande City we would like to thank our community for doing their part and shopping locally to help boost the economy of our GREAT city!

WE WILL NEVER FORGET



Mayor Joel Villarreal, the RGC Fire Department & Emergency Management, and the Rio Grande City Police Department attended a memorial service hosted by the Rio Grande City

Port of Entry in commemoration of the events of September 11, 2001. We would like to thank the RGC Port of Entry for hosting such an important event in remembrance of those that lost their lives on that day.



WATCH THE VIDEO

SCAN THE QR CODE to watch an oral history presentation about September 11, 2001. The short documentary was produced by the Kelsey-Bass Museum.

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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DROUGHT

CONTINGENCY PLAN

01 Car Washing and Irrigation shall be limited to **Saturdays** and **Wednesdays** for addresses ending with **odd numbers**.

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



The City of Rio Grande City is now entering into Stage 2 of the Drought Contingency Plan.

The latest TCEQ Map on the drought situation places Starr County on Severe 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. The hours are from before 8:00 a.m. and after 8:00 p.m.

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 and detail please visit the City's website under the Public Utility Department. The Drought Contingency Plan is on the City's website under the Utility Department..



THE ROAD TO PROSPERITY



COMMISSIONER ALEX MEADE



WORKSHOP



SYMPOSIUM



LAPTOPS



SUMMIT

Meet the Commissioner Alex Meade, Texas Department of Transportation

Officials of the Rio Grande City EDC and the City of Rio Grande City attended a luncheon hosted by the Starr County Industrial Foundation where Pete Alvarez, Pharr District Engineer Texas Department of Transportation presented road project updates for Starr County. Keynote Speaker Alex Meade, Commissioner of the Texas Department of Transportation, expressed his eagerness to represent the Rio Grande Valley and information on upcoming appropriations to the Rio Grande Valley, Rio Grande City and our community.

Rio Grande Valley Economic Summit

Members of the RGC City Commission and Rio Grande City EDC attended the 2023 Rio Grande Valley Economic Summit being held at the Bert Ogden Arena with Special Guest Governor Greg Abbott. Community and business leaders from across the Rio Grande Valley were present for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding highlighting efforts to foster collaboration and cooperation among cities and entities within the Rio Grande Valley to maximize economic potential, attract investments, and promote growth.

Roma-Rio Grande City Binational Trade Symposium

Regional collaboration and focus on economic prosperity were at the core of discussion among leaders and stakeholders at the Roma-Rio Grande City Binational Trade Symposium at South Texas College

Starr County in Rio Grande City. Rio Grande City EDC Executive Director, Dalinda Guillen, gave remarks on the positive economic indicators of Rio Grande City's continuous growth and opportunities available for future trade at the port of entry.

What's Behind the Numbers? UTRGV Small Business Development Center Workshop held at RGC Library

Rio Grande City EDC in partnership with UTRGV Small Business Development Center, Rio Grande City Greater Chamber of Commerce, Rio Grande City Public Library, Starr County Industrial Foundation, Rio Grande Valley Hispanic Chamber hosted a business finance workshop on Tuesday, August 22, 2023.

Senior Business & Trade Advisor, Marcela Arrerondo, presented the What's Behind the Numbers workshop, highlighting the importance of using financial statements for business growth strategies.

AT&T and Human-I-T donates laptops to students in Rio Grande City

Rio Grande City students and families received refurbished laptops from AT&T and Human-I-T through the Rio Grande City Friends of the Public Library.

These efforts are part of AT&T's commitment to addressing the digital divide through investments in internet accessibility, affordability, and the safe use of technology.

In Rio Grande City, it's estimated that more than 3,500 K-12 students do not have access to reliable internet, computers, or the skills needed to navigate

the online world - an issue known as the digital divide.

"It's mission-critical that we address the digital divide in Rio Grande City," said Texas State Representative Ryan Guillen. "The collaboration between AT&T, Human-I-T, and the library will help reach the more than 3,500 students here who continue to lack access to the tools and technologies necessary to compete in an ever-connected world."

"Every day, we all use the internet to access education, economic, health, and other online resources and opportunities," said Dalinda Guillen, Executive Director of the Rio Grande City Economic Development Corporation. "Many of our residents can't take advantage of these resources and opportunities. So, today is about addressing that challenge and closing that divide for Rio Grande City students and families. I appreciate AT&T, Human-I-T, and the library for coming together for this important initiative."

"AT&T is proud to collaborate with organizations like Human-I-T and Starr County Public Library Friends to help close the digital equity gap in Rio Grande City," said J.D. Salinas, Vice President External Affairs, AT&T-Texas.

"Many students here lack the devices and digital literacy they need for online learning and other online opportunities. Access to computers is vital in helping to bridge the digital divide, and we are glad we can assist in providing these resources to those who need them most."

WINNING STREAK



The Rio Grande City Road Runners FC played against the Laredo Heat SC

on Saturday, September 2nd, at the Rio Grande City High School Soccer Field. Our team took the win 5 to 2, which makes their record 2-0. Our team practices weekly with Coach Fabian Zamora and we are extremely proud of their hard work.

The RGC Parks and Recreation Department continues to work on the Veterans Middle School Connectivity Project in collaboration with the Texas A&M WoWi program. This project will help students cross the road from Veterans Middle School to their nearby homes.



United We Stand

Today Immaculate Conception School(ICS) held 9/11 Memorial Event to honor those who lost their lives and those who are in the line of duty to serve fellow citizens. Thank you ICS for the special recognition.

The RGC Fire Department & Emergency Management team attended a workshop hosted by Devin B. Keber with Flexgen on Wednesday, August 23rd, at the KB Museum. During this workshop our firefighters were educated on updated safety techniques when operating on a battery tower. On behalf of the City of RGC we would like to thank Flexgen for taking the time to talk to our firefighters for the safety of our community.

We would like to thank our RGC Fire Department & Emergency Management for supporting our Rio Grande City High School Rattlers at every home game! Our RGC Firefighters are EMS Certified and are always ready to lend a helping hand!



9/11 Remembrance




Workshop



Rattler Game

Hurricane Preparedness

weather.gov/hurricane 

Know Your Risk: Water & Wind



Consider your threats: storm surge, flooding from heavy rain, strong winds, tornadoes, rip currents



Determine if you live in a flood-prone area



Find out if you live in an evacuation zone



Identify your home's structural risks (mobile homes & basements can be especially vulnerable)

NOAA



SHIELDS UP

The Rio Grande City Police Department held a Ballistic Shield Training Course for all new Officers as well as RCGISD Police Department.



THE

Rio Grande City Police Department held a Ballistic Shield Training

Course for all new Officers as well as RCGISD Police Department. They were trained in how to appropriately handle ballistic shields during any kind of violent situation to ensure they are protected as they protect our community.

The Rio Grande City Police Department welcomed seven new officers to the Police Force during the month of August, and we would like to recognize each of the newest members of our team:

Officer Nieves Salinas,
Officer Maria Gonzalez Garza,
Officer Joel Garza III,
Officer Hugo Lopez,
Officer Jesse Morin Jr.,
Officer Daniel Trevino,
Officer Isaac Villarreal.

Welcome to our family in blue!

LA CIUDAD DE RIO GRANDE
PRESENTA

GRITO

EN EL KIOSKO
Y NOCHE
DE MERCADO



SÁBADO 16 DE (6:00-10:00 PM)
SEPTIEMBRE

EN EL KIOSKO HISTORICO DE RIO GRANDE
MUSICA, ANTOJITOS
JUEGOS, ARTE, Y MUCHO MAS!



KELSEY BASS
MUSEUM AND EVENT CENTER



Main Street
RIO GRANDE CITY



RIO GRANDE CITY
EDC
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

A LASTING LEGACY



LUPE at the Museum

An exhibition sponsored by LUPE (La Union del Pueblo Entero) will be on display at the Kelsey Bass Museum from September 11, 2023 to October 4, 2023. This exhibition explores the history, culture, and influence of the farm worker movement in South Texas. Be on the lookout for extended museum hours and special events and take advantage of this incredibly important exhibit.

RGC Fire Department Training

The Kelsey Bass Museum hosted the RGC Fire Department and Emergency Management Team who attended a workshop and training conducted by FlexGen Energy Systems. Afterwards, the presenters from FlexGen took the opportunity to tour the museum and enjoy the incredible exhibits. There's so much to see at your Kelsey Bass Museum.

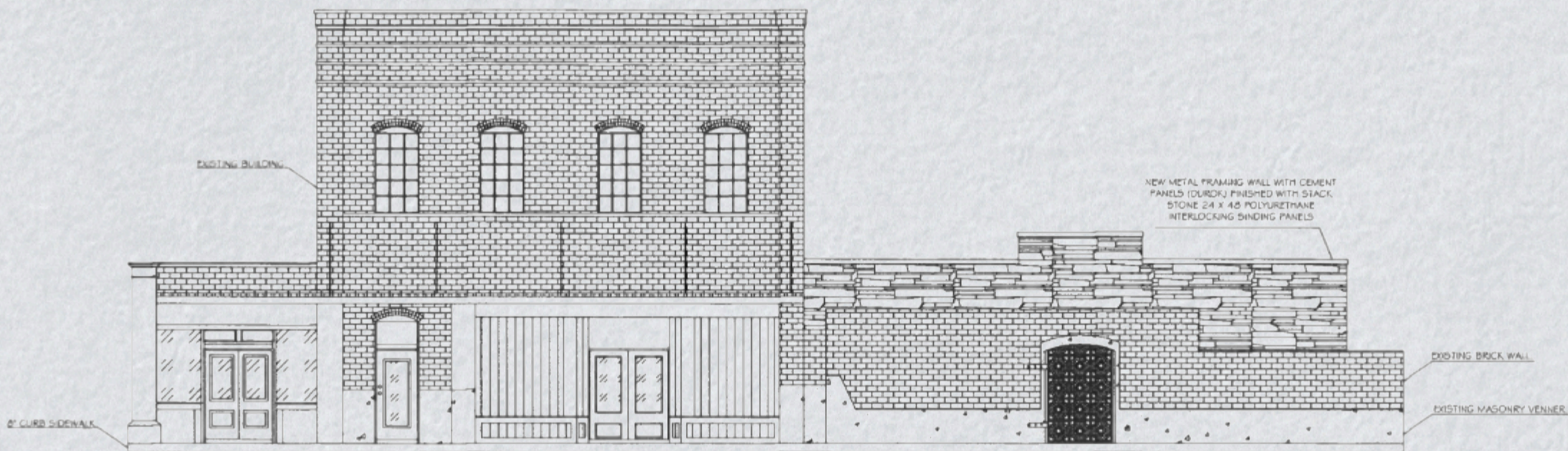
Guests

The Kelsey Bass Museum is honored to welcome guests from all over. With our extraordinary exhibits, and incredible history, the Kelsey Bass Museum offers guests a wonderful experience with a wealth of information. Plan your visit today!

Talk About the Museum

Kelsey Bass Museum staff member, Cathy Rubio, attended the Rotary Club meeting on August 18, 2023. Mrs. Rubio gave a presentation on the many exhibits that the museum has to offer. After the presentation, Mrs. Rubio hosted a rousing trivia game that covered the history of our great city. All in all it was a very successful event.

MAKING PLANS FOR DOWNTOWN



FRONT ELEVATION 1/4" = 1'-0"



MORE IMPROVEMENTS

to existing buildings downtown. Attached is a picture (draft) of a wall improvement by the above mentioned local business.

Progress and cleaning of our beloved Historical District continues downtown

Attached are pictures of the old Ford Dealership Used car lot, catty-corner of the Historic Cemetery on Main Street. This lot was cleaned by a proud new owner and will construct a new office following local historic guidelines and the United States Department of the Interior!

PROGRESS REPORT

Last month, the Planning Department processed 138 permits with a building construction valuation of \$2,258,454.00 and 509,148 square feet of improvements.

COMMUNITY NEWS



Market Days

August and September Market Days
The Rio Grande City Main Street held its monthly Market Days event on August 19th at the Britton Avenue Quiosco. Main Street Advisory Board members and city staff were on hand to help with the event. The September Market Day will be held in conjunction with the Grito en el Kiosko Event.

International Business

On Friday, September 8, 2023, Mr. Rubén Islas, Rio Grande City International Business Ambassador and on behalf of Mayor Joel Villarreal, attended the second government report given by Mayor Maria del Carmen Rocha in Camargo Tamaulipas. The City of Rio Grande City appreciates the invitation to such prestigious event.

International Business 2

The Mayor of the City of Rio Grande City, Joel Villarreal together with the RGC International Ambassador Ruben Islas attended the second government report given by Iracema Peña Ramírez, Mayor of Nueva Ciudad Guerrero. Mayor Villarreal appreciates the invitation along with the Rio Grande City Commission are ready to work together to build a better relationship between border communities.

El Alcalde de la ciudad de Rio Grande City, Joel Villarreal junto con el Embajador de Negocios Internacionales Ruben Islas asistieron al segundo informe gubernamental de la Profra. Iracema Peña Ramírez, Alcaldesa de Nueva Ciudad Guerrero.

El alcalde Villarreal agradece la invitación junto con la Comisión de la Ciudad de Rio Grande City

están listos para trabajar juntos en construir una mejor relación entre comunidades fronterizas.

Police Woman's Day

September 12th is National Police Woman's Day! Today, and everyday, we celebrate the strong women in the Rio Grande City Police Department who bravely protect our community. Thank you to Patrol Sergeant Monika Ramirez, Sergeant Detective Ana Ramirez, and Officer Maria Gonzalez for your valor and courage, and most especially for keeping the City of Rio Grande City safe!

Ac2E Elementary

Mayor Joel Villarreal took some time to make a special visit to one of our local 4th Grade classes at Ac2E Elementary on Thursday, Sept. 8th. During his visit, he read the inspiring book "Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez". Thank you for continuing to help inspire future readers in our community!

RGC Construction Update:

The construction at the Texas Regional Bank site is starting to take shape. This site will house the Texas Regional Bank and additional business suites. It's great to see the transformation of this area with brand new facilities that will be available to serve our community.

Tailgait

The City of Rio Grande City attended the Rio Grande City High School Rattler Tailgate to give out some goodies for the Starr County Super Bowl! Gooooo Rattlers!

Ma. Francisca "Panchita" Saucedo
Owner, Magic Creations

*New Meet Me Downtown promo out-Magic Creations
Check out our newest Meet Me Downtown, follow the QR code to watch.*

National Police Woman's Day

September 12, 2023