



the

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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Kicks-Off
Football Season**

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"Shoebox"
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Honored at
Banquet**

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS



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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It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas

Rio Grande City Staff have been busy decorating at City Hall as well as several other areas across the City to help promote the holiday spirit. *On behalf of everyone at the Great City of Rio Grande City, we would like to wish everyone a safe and joyous holiday Season!*

RGC Greater Chamber of Commerce Hosts 2022 Christmas Parade



The Rio Grande City Greater Chamber of Commerce held the annual 2022 Christmas Parade Marshal Dinner on Thursday, December 1st, at the KC Hall in Rio Grande City, Texas. Members of our community elected officials, and our Starr County and Rio Grande City queens attended to honor the 2022 Parade Marshal, Retired Lieutenant General Ricardo Sanchez. The following day the annual 2022 Lighted Christmas Parade glided through historical Main Street in Rio Grande City, Texas to the delight of our community members.

A Token of Appreciation



The City of Rio Grande City gifted each employee with a turkey in honor of the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday, November 17th, at City Hall. Employees showed up to claim their turkey for the big day!



Efforts of City of Rio Grande City Staff Recognized at Annual Christmas Banquet

The City of Rio Grande City hosted their annual Christmas Celebration at City Hall to show appreciation for the hard work each of our city employees puts in all year long. The Mayor and City Commission commended city employees for their hard work. Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal and some employees were honored for their long years of service. On behalf of Mayor Joel Villarreal, Mayor Pro Tem Rey Ramirez, City Commissioner Alberto Escobedo, City Commissioner Rogerio Olivarez and City Commissioner Ben De Leon, our city administration and personnel we would like to thank each and every one of you for all your hard work and dedication to our beautiful city!



Rio Grande City EDC Commercial & Investment Tour



The Rio Grande City EDC and Rio Grande Valley Partnership co-hosted the Rio Grande City EDC Commercial & Investment Tour at UTRGV Starr Campus on Wednesday, December 7, 2022.

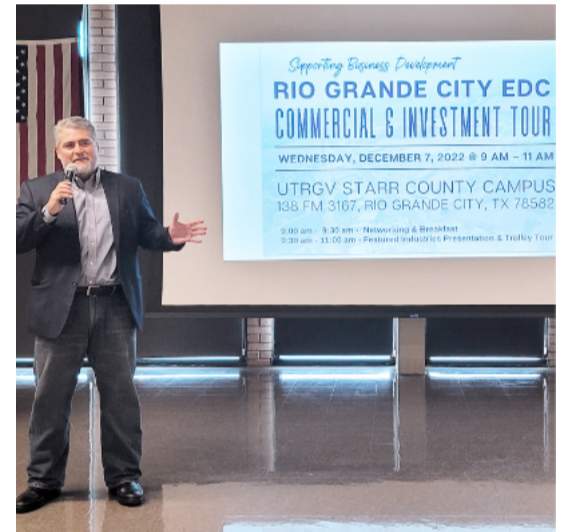
Mayor Joel Villarreal welcomed the group saying, "It is without question that this city has enjoyed tremendous growth, prosperity, and success," he continues by saying, "we have invested millions of dollars in infrastructure in order to sustain and support any and all future development." Dalinda Guillen, Executive Director of the Rio Grande City Economic Development corporation gave updates on the City's anticipated upcoming projects. These include a Public Fire Safety Building & Emergency Shelter, upgrades to the newly acquired Fort Ringgold Park, RGCGISD Performing Arts

Center, and DHR Medical Plaza in the works across from Starr County Memorial Hospital.

Rose Benavidez, President of the Starr County Industrial Foundation spoke on plans of a cold storage warehousing project taking place in proximity to the Starr Camargo Bridge, Rio Grande City's port of entry and the continued growth of Starr County.

After the presentation, guests were invited to take a tour of the city on the Bessie III Trolley and see first-hand the activity in Rio Grande City.

The Rio Grande Valley Partnership Commercial & Investment Tours are held monthly throughout the Valley and are open to real estate agents, land developers, and investors to learn about retail and industrial opportunities of the host city.



Joyeria Daisy Grand Opening



The Rio Grande City Economic Development Corporation would like to congratulate Joyeria Daisy on the grand opening of their new store in Rio Grande City. The Rio Grande City Greater Chamber of Commerce hosted the event on Monday, November 21, 2022.

For 28 years, Joyeria Daisy has been a family owned business and now, siblings Daisy and Jesus Garcia are taking the reins in this new chapter.

"I want to thank everyone for helping us celebrate today and I want to thank our parents because without them this would not have been possible," said Daisy Garcia.

"We want to thank everyone who helped make this possible, our employees who are

fundamental to Joyeria Daisy," said Jesus Garcia. "And our customers who are the foundation of this business and make this possible."

"I cannot express enough of the importance of investing in our communities here locally, creating jobs, building a strong economy and it's wonderful to be a part of that," said Mayor Joel Villarreal. "Congratulations and we wish you the best."

Joyeria Daisy is located at 4567 E. US Highway 83 in Rio Grande City. Business hours are Monday through Friday, 10 am to 5:30 pm, closed Saturday and Sunday. For more information, call (956) 487-1173.

For more information about the Rio Grande City Greater Chamber of Commerce, call (956) 488-5609 or email at riochamber@gmail.com.

YEAR OF THE PANDA



Panda Express celebrates One Year Anniversary in Rio Grande City. Panda Express will have a one year celebration on December 23rd at noon. More details to follow.



Let the Games Begin

The Rio Grande City Parks and Recreation Department jump started their Tackle Football Youth Program on Saturday, December 3rd, at the Rio Grande City High School Practice Field. The 4th-5th Grade division played first, with the Rio Battlehawks taking on the La Grulla Titans. In the end, the Battlehawks came out victorious beating the La Grulla Titans 12 to 6. The 6th Grade division played next, with the RGC DiamondHawks taking on the La Grulla Gators, with the game ending in a tie 12 to 12.

The Parks and Recreation Department continued with the Rio Grande City Youth Flag Football League! The 2nd-3rd RGC Falcons played the RGC Bulldogs and defeated them 18 to 6 and the La Grulla Raptors played the RGC Diamond. The Raptors won 26 to 21, and are still undefeated.



A Moving Tribute

Multiple RGC Departments Come Together, to build the City's Official Parade Float.

The Rio Grande City Parks and Recreation Department, along with the Rio Grande City Public Works Department, created a beautiful float for the annual Lighted Christmas Parade. The float they created was a replica of the original Bessie steamboat that used to run through Rio Grande City in the 1800s.



Thank you, RGC Fire Department & Emergency Management for visiting The Edutainment Zone - Rio Grande City to teach our younger community about fire safety! It's never too early to learn!

Gongrats Grads!



We wish to recognize and congratulate three of our Firefighters for the completion of their Associates Degree in Fire Science at STC. They will be officially graduating in mid- December. We are all so proud of your accomplishment and know you will put your education to use here at the RGC Fire Department. Pictured L-R Jorge Garza, Hector Escoto, Jorge Alvarez

FIRE DEPT.

NOW HIRING

JOIN OUR FIREFIGHTER SQUAD

A FULFILLING CAREER YOU CAN BE PROUD OF.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
WWW.CITYOFRGC.COM/DEPARTMENTS/EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.PHP

RGCPD Delivers “Shoeboxes” for the Christmas Child Samaritan’s Purse Operation



For the 3rd year in a row, the Rio Grande City Police Department stopped by St. John’s United Methodist Church on Friday, November 18th, to drop off “shoeboxes” for the Christmas Child Samaritan’s Purse Operation. Each year St. John’s United Methodist Church collects premarked “shoeboxes” filled with toys for children across the globe, and this year, our RGCPD donated over 30 boxes!

RIO GRANDE CITY

TOYS FOR RIO KIDS

**WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 21
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

BASILIO VILLARREAL PARK

**SEE BLUE SANTA & FRIENDS
FREE GIFTS FOR KIDS!**
(12 & UNDER ONLY, LIMITED QUANTITY)

Curbside Pick Up Only

Please Stay in Your Car

Thanksgiving Dinner Giveaway



The Rio Grande City CrimeStoppers and the Rio Grande City Police Department hosted their annual Thanksgiving Dinner giveaway in collaboration with Jorge Falcon and H-E-B on Monday, November 21st, at the Kelsey Bass Museum. Our Mayor Joel Villarreal, our city commission, and several of our police officers were present to help pass out these meals to members of the community. On behalf of the City of Rio Grande City, we would like to thank our local H-E-B along with Jorge Falcon for their generosity and without whom this donation would not be possible.



On behalf of the City of Rio Grande City, our Rio Grande City Police Department, Mayor Joel Villarreal, and our City commission we would like to thank Medina Electric Cooperative, Inc. in Rio Grande City for donating toys to our RGCPD and Rio Grande City CrimeStoppers Toy-Drive!

Thanksgiving Recipe Exchange



Thank you to Texas A&M Agrilife Starr County extension agent, Neida Martinez, for sharing healthy recipes and speaking about the importance of Food Safety at the RGC Public Library Thanksgiving Recipe Exchange.

RGC Public Library would like to thank all the participants that attended our Thanksgiving Recipe Exchange. We would also like to send a special thanks to Neida Martinez Texas A&M Agrilife Starr County extension agent for sharing her knowledge on Food Safety.



Thank You for Your Service



The City of RGC - Kelsey Bass Museum and the Rio Grande City Public Library hosted a Veterans Appreciation Drive-Thru Luncheon on Tuesday, November 8, at the Basilio Villarreal Park. Each of our local veterans that stopped by received a complimentary tote and a turkey lunch plate. Mayor Joel Villarreal, and commissioners Rogerio Olivarez and Benjamin de Leon greeted each vehicle and thanked our veterans for their service. We would like to thank STARR of Hope for volunteering, as well as everyone who sponsored this event and assisted in providing tokens of appreciation for their service to our country.

Winter Holidays Reading Challenge

December 1-30, 2022

RIO GRANDE CITY
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

Join us for this 4-week program, earn badges by logging books, minutes and completing activities along the way. Complete your badges and get a special prize at the end of your completion.
www.rgclibrary.org

Dear Santa,



The Rio Grande City Public Library participated in the annual Lighting of the Christmas Tree on Wednesday, November 30th, at the historical Britton Avenue Kiosko. The library hosted several Christmas activities, most importantly, helping some of the children prepare their letters to Santa.

RGC Market Days



Happy shoppers filled Main Street to the delight of our Market Days vendors. The City of Rio Grande City Main Street Program hosted the November event to coincide with Small Business Saturday, a nation-wide initiative to promote hometown businesses and vendors. Market Days are held every 3rd Saturday of the month, weather pending. Thank you for supporting small businesses.

Let There Be Light



The City of Rio Grande City and the Main Street Program hosted the annual Christmas Tree Lighting on November 30, 2022. This annual event has gotten bigger over the years, and heralds the start of the holiday season in our city. There were musical and dance performances by local school groups along with crafts, letters to Santa, and lots of hot chocolate. It was Christmas fun for everyone-young and young at heart.

Welcome to Rio Grande City

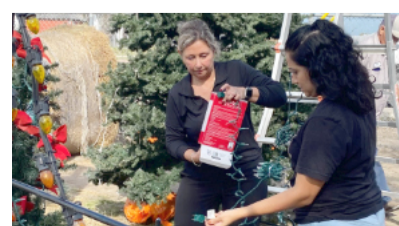


Bessie III has been making her way throughout the historic streets of Rio Grande City taking delighted tourists to view our beautiful sites. Thank you for visiting Historic Rio Grande City.



Kelsey Bass Museum continues to welcome guests from all over the state and country. Most recently, the descendants of Rio Grande City founders Henry and Hilaria Davis visited our historic museum and city. Great things are happening at your Kelsey Bass Museum.

Holiday Spirit



The Main Street crew has been busy filling our beautiful downtown with the holiday spirit. During the last two weeks of November, Main Street Advisory Board members, Main Street Coordinator, City of RGC employees, and various volunteers, joined forces to get the city Christmas tree decorated for the annual tree lighting event, as well as decorate the photo-stop area at the RGC Fire Department. These two locations have been a hub of activity for so many of our community members who stop to take a quick pic or a Christmas family photo. There is truly a feeling of Christmas in the air.

Major Street Improvements Underway



Currently, several streets in Rio Grande City have been worked on as part of the Street Paving Project Bond the City of Rio Grande City received to improve our street! The work on Britton Avenue and Encino Street has been completed and they are ready to be traveled on! The work on Garcia Street is very much near the finish line and should be completed within the next few days, while our Public Works Department is about halfway finished with the work on Roble Street.



The retention pond South of Trophy Street is in the process of being cleared in order to alleviate flooding in the surrounding areas during harsh weather conditions. We will keep you updated on this project as it progresses!



Our Public Works Department has been hard at work patching up our roads after the harsh weather conditions caused several pot holes in our area.

ONGOING MAINTENANCE

BEFORE



AFTER



Now Open in Rio Grande City



We are excited to announce that WellMed at Rio Grande City held their ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, December 1st, at the Doctor's Clinic of Rio Grande City, PLLC on Britton Avenue. This brand new location will bring a new direction to the way our community faces wellness and health. Great things keep happening in Rio Grande City!



Rio Grande City is home to the BRAND NEW Wings and Rings! This new establishment held their Ribbon Cutting ceremony on Monday, November 7th, and is located at 4521 East US HWY 83 in beautiful Rio Grande City, Texas. The RGC Wings and Rings owners, Victoria Alvarez and Raul Munoz, welcomed special guests and patrons in attendance before the official opening. We are very excited to announce that RGC Wings and Rings is NOW OPEN!

Progress Report:

For the month of November, the Planning Department has processed permits with a valuation of \$2,133,290.00 and 50,213 square feet of improvements. This includes three new residential homes of over \$147,000.00 each, one for over \$500,000.00 and the South Texas College welding lab with a valuation addition of \$780,000.00!

Codigo 54-2-83 Conference



The Rio Grande City International Business Ambassador, Mr. Ruben Islas, attended the Codigo 54-2-83 in Miguel Aleman, Tamaulipas to speak about the highways that converge in this region. The purpose of this meeting was to address concerns and have an open conversation about safer routes of transportation, for the greater economic development of the area.

"We recognize the problem, but we also recognize the great strengths we have and the commitment to all work together so that we can all do better," stated mayor of Miguel Aleman, Ramiro Cortez Barrera, when beginning this meeting.

On behalf of the City of Rio Grande City, we would like to thank Mayor Ramiro Cortez Barrera, of Miguel Aleman, the city of Miguel Aleman, and Mr. Ruben Islas for representing our great city at this

Commissioner Olivarez Jr. Visits with Zapata Students



Thursday, November 17th, City Commissioner Rogerio Olivarez, Jr. spent the morning with some cool kids at the La Joya ISD, Emiliano Zapata Elementary and shared a bit of insight and tokens of appreciation on behalf of the Great City of Rio Grande City. The Character Kid Club is unique to Emiliano Zapata Elementary, and every year students in grades 3rd-5th, are celebrated with a special inauguration ceremony. Parents and staff applaud the new members as they join an organization that teaches responsibility, respect, perseverance and obedience!

Escobedo, Islas Attend Aniversario Mier Celebration



Local Church Hosts Appreciation Luncheon

The City of Rio Grande City would like to thank Luz para Las Naciones staff, along with Pastor Dr. Carlos Mendoza and his wife, Aleyda Mendoza, for hosting an appreciation luncheon for Mayor Joel Villarreal, our City Commission, and our city directors and staff on Tuesday, November 29th, at Luz Para las Naciones church. It was a delicious meal and we are all so appreciative of your generosity!



VA TVCBHCS Unveils New Mobile Unit



The VA Texas Valley Coastal Bend Health Care System unveiled a brand new Mobile Medical Unit to provide health services to our local veterans on Friday, November 18th, at the Starr County Courthouse Annex. This unit will provide Primary Care, Women's Health, Audiology, Laboratory, and Telehealth Services to veterans in the surrounding Starr County area to help alleviate travel to farther distances for the same services. On behalf of the City of Rio Grande City, Mayor Joel Villarreal, and our City Commission we would like to thank the VA Texas Valley Coastal Bend Health Care System for seeing the need in our area, and providing a solution for our veterans.



Commissioner Alberto Escobedo - Rio Grande City Commissioner along with International Business Ambassador, Ruben Islas, attended the Aniversario Mier Pueblo Magico in Ciudad Mier, Tamaulipas. We would like to thank Ciudad Mier for inviting the City of Rio Grande City to celebrate this momentous occasion!



SBDC SMART START EN ESPANOL

Una seminario web para emprendedores

¿Tiene una idea empresarial? Este seminario le proporcionará la información y los pasos necesarios para un "smart start" o comienzo inteligente. Después del curso, estará listo para su cita de uno-a-uno con un asesor empresarial y asistencia continua.

- Puntos a destacar
- Genere ideas sobre su negocio con propósito!
 - Determine consumidores potenciales.
 - Examine su situación financiera.
 - Desarrolle un plan de acción concreto.
 - Recursos para emprendedores.

Presentado por



Marcela Arredondo, Asesora Sr de Negocios y Comercio Internacional
UTRGV Small Business Development Center

Con apoyo promocional de



Funded in part through the State of Texas and a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance by calling the UTRGV SBDC at 956.665.7525. Assistance for the hearing impaired can be obtained by calling the TDD line at 1-888-410-5797 or 1-888-327-6877.

FECHA
15 de diciembre, 2022

HORA
2:00pm-3:00pm CST

COSTO
Ninguno

LUGAR
Via Zoom

REGISTRO
Zoom Webinar

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