

THE RIO REVIEW

VOLUME THREE • EDITION SIX • JUNE 2023

AMERICAN BEAUTY

The City of Rio Grande City hosted the 2023 Miss Freedom Fest Pageant on Friday, June 9th, in the historic Fort Ringgold Auditorium.



Naetzy Nitzel Ramirez
JR. MISS FREEDOM FEST

Victoria Salinas
MISS FREEDOM FEST

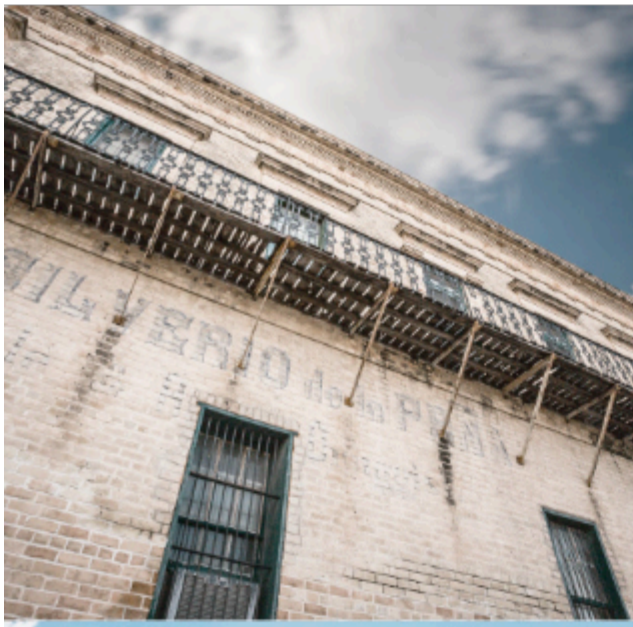
Kendra Gómez
LITTLE MISS FREEDOM FEST

Mariana Andrea Avila
TINY MISS FREEDOM FEST

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With the traditional embrace of friendship, on the Camargo-Rio Grande international bridge between civil authorities headed by Mayor María del Carmen Rocha Hernández and Mayor, Joel Villarreal as well as representatives of organized commerce on both sides of the border, the 32nd edition of Trade and Tourism Day begins on Sunday morning. Camargo is not separated by a river, the River unites us, said the head of the local executive, who reiterated the invitation to the residents of the Texas Valley to come to Camargo, since here, she added, they will find top quality products and services as well as historical and tourist places that make it the most attractive municipality of the so-called small border frontier.



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



SATURDAY
JULY 1
 BASILIO VILLARREAL PARK
SOFTBALL
TOURNAMENT
 COOK-OFF AND CAR SHOW
FIREWORKS

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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PUBLIC SERVICE



TRAINING



TML MEETING



TEXAS ONCOLOGY

TRAINING

The Public Utilities Department attended a Safety Training with Assistant Chief Jose Solis on the increase of immigrant crossings. Our Public Utility Department Crewmen work very close to the Rio Grande River with the river pumps, sewer plant, and old water treatment plant so the RGCPD wanted to make sure all employees are safe and protected.

TML MEETING

On Thursday, May 18th, and Friday, May 19th, City Commissioner Ben de Leon and City of RGC staff attended the 12th Annual Texas

Municipal Leavue Region 12 Training Workshop at South Padre Island. Some areas of discussion included Legislative Updates, Municipal Financing Options, Economic Vitality and Codes of Ethics.

TEXAS ONCOLOGY

Yolanda Guzman, Texas Oncology Senior Liaison, met with Deputy City Manager, Noe Castillo, and other City of RGC staff to discuss the current and future relationship between Texas Oncology and the City of Rio Grande City. The City of RGC has shown exponential growth within the last two years, and we are always looking for ways to improve our community for the betterment of our citizens.

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY



PAYNE AUTO GROUP



LILIBEL'S TEA



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WEEK



BI-NATIONAL TRADE MEETING



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPS

RIO GRANDE CITY MAIN STREET RECEIVES NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

Rio Grande City Main Street has been designated as an Accredited Main Street America™ program for meeting rigorous performance standards. Each year, Main Street America and its partners announce the list of Accredited programs to recognize their exceptional commitment to preservation-based economic development and community revitalization through the Main Street Approach™.

"We take pride in this level of distinction and the recognition it brings to our proud community," said Rosa Gonzalez, Rio Grande City Main Street Advisory Board President. "We are honored to receive this accreditation."

"This is the 7th consecutive year our Main Street Program has received national accreditation," said Mayor Joel Villarreal. "We are extremely proud of the work our Main Street Advisory Board has achieved this year."

"We are very proud to acknowledge this year's 862 Accredited Main Street America programs, and their steadfast dedication to nurture economically and culturally vibrant downtown districts," said Hannah White, Interim President & CEO of Main Street America. "The increase in the size and impact of our network speaks volumes to the power of the Main Street movement to respond to the needs of local communities and drive innovative solutions."

In 2022, Main Street America programs generated \$6.2 billion in local reinvestment, helped open 7,657 net new businesses, facilitated the creation of 29,174 net new jobs, catalyzed the rehabilitation of 10,688 historic buildings, and leveraged 1,528,535 volunteer hours. On average, for every dollar that a Main Street program spent to support their operations, it generated \$24.07 of new investment back into their downtown communities.

Collectively, 2 million people live or work within

the boundaries of designated Main Street America districts. An estimated workforce of 1.1 million people contribute their skills and expertise to advancing the missions of these historic downtowns and commercial corridors.

Rio Grande City Main Street's performance is annually evaluated by Texas Main Street, which works in partnership with Main Street America to identify the local programs that meet rigorous national performance standards. To qualify for Accreditation status, communities must meet a set of rigorous standards that include commitments to building grassroots revitalization programs, fostering strong public-private partnerships, nurturing economic opportunity for small businesses and entrepreneurs, and actively preserving historic places, spaces, and cultural assets.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPS TO SINGLE DIGITS IN STARR COUNTY FOR APRIL 2023

The Texas Workforce Commission released the April 2023 Labor Market and Employment reports and unemployment in Starr County has slid into single digits to a 9.2%.

Starr County has seen a significant decline for the past year. Last April's unemployment rate for the county was at 10.7%.

The trend is consistent with the rest of the Rio Grande Valley counties, which are also down to single-digit unemployment.

For more information about the Rio Grande City EDC, call (956) 487-3476 or visit rgcedc.com.

BI-NATIONAL TRADE MEETING

The City of Rio Grande City EDC hosted the monthly Bi-National Trade Meeting on Wednesday, May 31st, at the UTRGV Starr Campus. Mayor Joel Villarreal welcomed the group of Mayors, EDC Directors, and other elected officials from Starr County and our

sister cities across the border. One of the most important topics during this meeting was the discussion of alternative routes for commerce between Nuevo Leon, Tamaulipas, and the Rio Grande Valley. On behalf of the City of RGC we would like to thank everyone who attended this important meeting.

PAYNE AUTO GROUP

The Rio Grande City Greater Chamber of Commerce hosted a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to celebrate the 11th anniversary of Payne Auto Group - Rio Grande City on Tuesday, May 9th, with several City Officials and community members in attendance. On behalf of Mayor Joel Villarreal and the City Commission, we would like to thank Payne Auto Group for investing in the GREAT City of Rio Grande City!

LILIBEL'S TEA

On behalf of Mayor Joel Villarreal and our City Commission, we would like to congratulate Lilibel's Tea on their Ribbon Cutting Ceremony held on Thursday, April 20, 2023. We invite everyone in our community to stop by and try Lilibel's Tea!

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WEEK

The City of Rio Grande City held the Regular Meeting of the City Commission on Wednesday, May 3, 2023, at the City Hall Commission Chamber. During this meeting, Mayor Joel Villarreal read proclamations recognizing the week of May 8-12, 2023 as Economic Development Week, as well as the month of May as Historic Preservation Month. Mayor Villarreal and the City Commission also welcomed Lynette Montemayor and Roel Solis to the City of Rio Grande City team. Lynette is the new Administrative Assistant to the City Secretary, and Roel is part of the IT Department. Welcome to the family!



WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE NEW SIGN AT THE BASILIO VILLARREAL MUNICIPAL PARK HAS BEEN INSTALLED!

This endeavor was made possible with the collaboration of our City Commission, RGC Economic Development Corporation Board, and our Parks and Recreation Department. We would also like to thank the community for their cooperation during this time.

BASKETBALL

The Rio Grande City Parks & Recreation Department basketball season is officially over. Our teams had some great games and we are extremely proud of their accomplishments! Our 2nd to 3rd grade teams Mavericks scored 8 points and lost by a small margin against the Warriors who won by 12 points. Our 4th to 5th grade teams Battlehawks (2nd-3rd) & Battlehawks 20 vs Celtics 19 (4th-5th) and Venom 27 vs Panthers 14.

MOWERS

RGC Parks and Recreation Department acquired two 360 mowers to maintain the Ringgold Park. This purchase was possible by the support of our City Commission.

IN THE LINE OF FIRE

FIRE

We want to commend our RGC Fire Department & Emergency Management and Rio Grande City Police Department for their swift response to successfully stop this fire. Great job everyone!

FIREFIGHTER'S DAY

On behalf of the City of Rio Grande City Mayor Joel Villarreal and our City Commission, we would like to wish the RGC Fire Department & Emergency Management a very happy #internationalfirefighterday! We would like to thank you for everything you do to keep our community safe, you are truly HEROES.

TRAINING

Our RGC Firefighters attended the Edinburg Training Facility today to receive hours and provide training to the current cadets attending the fire academy. Thank you Captain Morin, Lieutenant Ceballos, Firefighter Garza and Driver Meléndez for your dedication. Keep up the good work!



Hurricane Preparedness **Take Action Today**

weather.gov/hurricane



Determine your risk from water & wind



Begin preparing now, before a storm



Learn how to understand hurricane forecasts and alerts



Learn what to do before, during, and after a storm



NOAA

AGENTS OF SHIELD



The Rio Grande City Police Department held a Ballistic Shield Training on Thursday, May 11th, and Friday, May 12th, at the Basilio Villarreal Municipal Park. The Rio Grande City Police Department received 26 Rifle Ballistic Shields through the Rifle Resistant Shield Grant, last week. All RGC Police Officers will be trained on how to appropriately handle these shields for any kind of violent situations to ensure they are protected as they protect our community.

Summer Reading

Rio Grande City Public Library is the place to be this summer. You will see activities, books, and programs that center around the 2023 Summer Reading theme, All Together Now: Todos Juntos Ahora – Kindness/Friendship/Unity. The 2023 Summer Reading Program (SRP) will kicked-off June 2, 2023, with a Fun Friday program about Cosplayers. The Summer Reading Program schedule is Monday to Wednesday, Pre-K- K Grades start at 1:30 PM and 1st - 2nd Grades start at 3:30 PM, then Tuesday & Thursday 3rd - 5th Grades start at 1:30 PM and 6th - 8th Grades start at 3:30 PM. Participants are given minimum number of books to read to receive an incentive and be eligible to enter a special drawing June SRP for Adults is “Mindfulness Sessions” on Mondays at 10:00AM and Crafts on Thursdays at 10:00AM. For more information, call 487-487-4389 or go online to the Rio Grande City Public Library’s website or Facebook page.

COSPLAY

The Rio Grande City Public Library kicked off their summer #FunFriday program with The World of Cosplay! The World of Cosplay was presented by local Rio Grande Valley cosplayers who spoke about what goes into the intricate costume designs, and what it’s like to be a cosplayer. All children in attendance had a fun time answering questions, earning prizes, and left with free comic books. On behalf of the City of Rio Grande City we would like to thank the Rio Grande City Public Library and the Cosplayer presenters for hosting such a fun activity for our community! #FunFriday

ART WALK

The Rio Grande City Public Library hosted the Keepin’ It Rio Art Walk and Poetry Slam on Thursday, May 4th, at the Lopez-Tijerina Complex. Several members of our community attended the event, and were treated to a performance from special guests, the Rio Grande City High School Jazz Band! On behalf of the City of RGC we would like to thank the RGC Public Library for hosting this fun event for our community!

MENTAL HEALTH

Border Region Behavioral Health Center hosted the 9th Annual Mental Health Awareness Event on Thursday, May 11th, at the KC Hall. Several community entities and business attended this important event to help spread awareness about different ways to support individuals with mental health diagnoses. On behalf of the City of RGC we would like to thank Border Region for hosting such an important event for our community.

PETS

The Rio Grande City Public Library held their second #FunFriday presentation on Friday, June 9th, where VIPets spoke about what it takes to own a pet and how to care for them. On behalf of the City of RGC, we would like to thank VIPets for taking the time to speak at the RGC Public Library. Make sure to join us at the next #FunFriday event on June 16th where author Maricela Flores will be in attendance!

Fun Friday
PROGRAMS - 10AM
www.rgclibrary.org

JUNE

- 2nd - Cosplayers
- 9th - VI Pets Salon
- 16th - Author Maricela Flores
- 23rd - National Butterfly Center
- 30th - RGV Pokefest / SRP Party

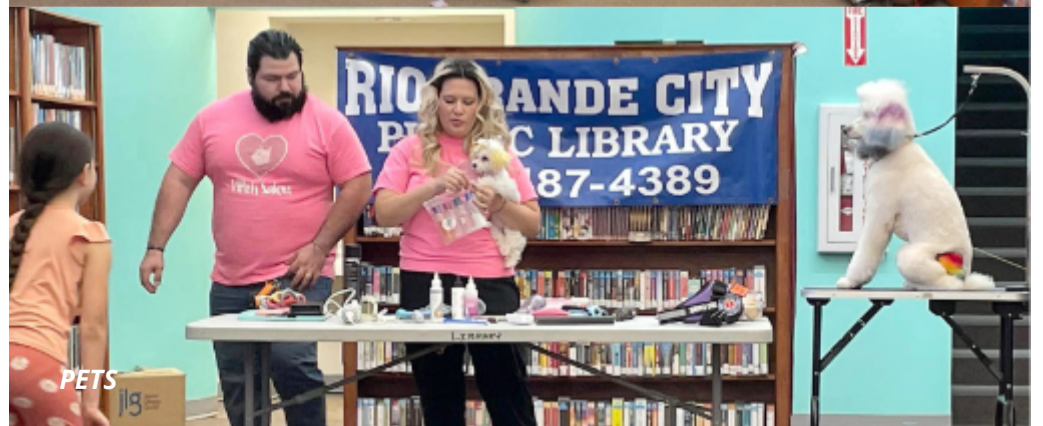
Please call the library for location details at 956-487-4389.



ART WALK



COSPLAY



PETS

HISTORIC SUMMER



GUESTS AT THE MUSEUM

GUESTS AT THE MUSEUM

The Kelsey Bass Museum has happily hosted guests from all over Texas, the US and beyond. Recently, however, students from the surrounding school districts and several local community members stopped by the museum to learn about our local history. Many of these guests were amazed at the rich history and the incredible beauty of our "downtown gem." Wonderful things are happening at the Kelsey Bass Museum.



MILLIONAIRES AT THE MUSEUM

The Kelsey Bass Museum was pleased to host elementary and middle school students who completed the RCGISD "Sensational Readers Millionaire Challenge." Over 50 students enjoyed a trolley tour of our historic city and Fort Ringgold, an informative visit at the RGC Public Library, and a local history lesson at the Kelsey Bass Museum. Congratulations to all the students who met this monumental achievement! Have a wonderful summer, and make plans to come visit us again.



MILLIONAIRES AT THE MUSEUM

MOSAICS AT THE MUSEUM

Ladies of all ages enjoyed an evening of crafts and comradery at the Kelsey Bass Museum. Museum Coordinator, Cathy Rubio, gave a lesson on basic mosaic art to over 30 ladies from our community. The participants all agreed that the crafting process was very relaxing, and the end results were incredible. Thank you to everyone who took part in this event.



MOSAICS AT THE MUSEUM



PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

We would like to thank our Public Works Department, under the direction of Hector Barrera, for everything they do for our great city. This department always arrives early, leaves later, and is always ready with a helping hand. Thank you, again, for everything you do!

STREET PAVING PROJECT UPDATE:

We would like to remind everyone that our Street Paving Bond Project at Las Brisas Subdivision has begun the oil-dropping process. We are asking residents to be careful when driving through this area for the next two to three hours while the oil dries. Our RGC Public Works Department and Public Utilities Department are working hand in hand with a paving company to ensure this project is completed as quickly as possible. Thank you for your patience during this time.



STREET PAVING



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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FEBRUARY

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OCTOBER

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NOVEMBER

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DECEMBER

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IN THE ZONE



PINO'S HARDWARE

PINO'S HARDWARE

We are happy to announce that the BRAND NEW Los Pinos Hardware Store will be opening their doors to our community early this Fall. Most of their structure has gone up, and they are working hard every day to complete this project for the citizens of Rio Grande City!

TEXAS REGIONAL BANK

The City of Rio Grande City Planning Department, under the direction of Gilbert Millan, would like to congratulate Texas Regional Bank for obtaining the building permit for the 2782 sq. ft. building that will be coming to Rio Grande City soon. We would also like to acknowledge the 4600 sq. ft. retail building and 118 sq. ft. title company which will be in the same plaza, all totaling a \$4million valuation.

NURSING

We would like to thank Starr County Nursing and Transitional Care for their generous support of the Rio Grande City Planning Department! This week we stopped by city hall to show our appreciation to the Planning/Code enforcement department staff. Thanks for all that you do, handling permits, maintaining clean neighborhoods and streets, pest control, and code enforcement.

"SUPPORT OUR REGION SO WE ALL DO WELL"

A work meeting was held on the Halcones Stadium to present the project called "Ciudad Siller" to businessmen and authorities on both sides of the border. Leading the meeting was the president of the Buro de Buró de Turismo de México, Lic. José Moreno Huerta and Mayor Biol Ramiro Cortez Barrera. Both shared their commitment to "make the region so that we all do well with a comprehensive project with a broad vision."

"The purpose of this meeting is for them to feel part of this great project carried out by the Buró de Turismo de México," stated the municipal president in his message.

A private investment of 500 million pesos will be made for the 8-a-side football stadium of the Halcones", remarked Mr. José Moreno Huerta, who also presented the "Ciudad Siller" project, accompanied by C. Alfonso Siller, representative of the family that donated the land for the sports space where artistic, school, religious events and competitions from other disciplines can also be held.

The president of the Tamaulipas branch of the Buro de Turismo de Mexico, Mr. Alexander Sáenz Salazar, gave two separate recognitions for his great support to Biol. Ramiro Cortez Barrera, and to Mr. José Moreno Huerta.

Mayor Joel Villarreal in addition to Mayor of Roma, Jaime Escobar Jr., and International Business Ambassador, Ruben Islas, were present as guests. Also in attendance were representatives of the Cabildo, authorities of Díaz Ordaz and businessmen from both sides of the border.



TEXAS REGIONAL BANK



NURSING



"SUPPORT OUR REGION SO WE ALL DO WELL"

FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS



MEMORIAL DAY

The City of Rio Grande City Main Street held the Remembering Our Fallen - Memorial Day Observance Ceremony on Thursday, May 25th, at the historic Britton Avenue Quiosco -Kiosk. This event is a commemoration to remember those individuals who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country and freedoms. On behalf of Mayor Joel Villarreal and our City Commission we would like to thank everyone who participated in this special event.

MENTAL HEALTH

KGR Psychological Health Services hosted a Mental Health Awareness event on Wednesday, May 10th, at the Lopez-Tijerina Courtyard. Mayor Joel Villarreal read a proclamation recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness Month and spoke about the importance of taking care of our community members and taking action to strengthen the mental health of our communities and our Nation. After, everyone in attendance was invited to participate in interactive activities and refreshments. On behalf of the City of Rio

Grande City we would like to thank KGR Psychological Health Services for hosting such an important event for our community. #mentalhealthawareness

DIA DEL NINO

Mayor Joel Villarreal along with International Business Ambassador, Ruben Islas, attended the Dia del Nino celebration on Sunday, April 30th, in Diaz Ordaz, Tamaulipas with Alcaldesa Nataly Garcia Garcia. On behalf of Mayor Villarreal, International Business Ambassador, Ruben Islas, and the GREAT City of Rio Grande City, we would like to thank Alcaldesa Garcia Garcia and Diaz Ordaz for extending such a kind and thoughtful invitation.

DESAYUNO

Recently, RGC Mayor Joel Villarreal and International Business Ambassador Ruben Islas attended the Desayuno Empresarial hosted by Camara de Comercio Internacional in McAllen, Texas. Guillermo Rico Leal from the Port of Entry in Brownsville was the guest of honor at this

event and spoke about large investments coming to the Rio Grande Valley. On behalf of the City of Rio Grande City, we would like to thank Camcoin for inviting Mayor Villarreal and Ruben Islas to this informative event.



DQ

We'd like to recognize an outstanding and extremely loyal DQ team member, Fina Bazan. Fina has worked 46 consecutive years at our Rio Grande City Dairy Queen and also has more years of service than any other employee in our

Company. She possibly has more years of service than any DQ team member in the State of Texas and beyond. What an amazing feat by an equally amazing person. We love you Fina!! #DQTexas