



the

Rio Review

THE CITY OF RIO GRANDE CITY'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

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FREE • MONTHLY • ONLINE at www.cityofrgc.com

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LET FREEDOM RING



Thousands gather at the Basilio Villarreal Municipal Park to celebrate Rio Grande City's 7th Annual Freedom Fest



The City of Rio Grande once again teamed up with local Grammy Award Winning band SOLIDO to host the 7th Annual Rio Grande City Freedom Fest Event on Saturday July 2.

This year the event featured a Softball and T-Ball Tournament, a cook-off competition, a car show, a mega-taco eating contest, kiddie rides, food, craft vendors and live music.

Performing at the event were Grupo INEVITABLE, LATIN VIBE, SOLIDO, AND SIGGNO. Also joining the festivities this year was popular multimedia personality Rock-N-Roll James.

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

MANAGING EDITOR

SARA HERNANDEZ

COPY EDITORS

CATHY RUBIO, ANGELA SOLIS, & TRIVA SOLIS.

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

CHRISTIAN SALINAS

“The American Dream is a Powerful and Inspiring Ideology”



WATCH MAYOR JOEL VILLARREAL'S
FULL FREEDOM FEST SPEECH
(SCAN QR CODE)

Rio Grande City Public Utilities Department Acquires New ‘Jetter’

Public Utilities Director Elisa Beas declares new trailer jetter will improve the overall sewer operations for the department.



The Rio Grande City Public Utilities

Department (PUD) is proud to announce it has recently acquired a new Trailer Jetter (Rooter) which has a 700 gallon tank and a 40 GPM Water Pump, all powered by a 74 HP Kubota Diesel Engine.

The new machine comes equipped with hoses, tool storage, accessories, safety lighting and nozzles.

The PUD uses this equipment for sewer backup problems.

This new acquisition replaces a 20 year old Jetter previously used by the department.

The new Jetter was Purchased with the 2020 CO Bonds.

Rio Grande City Residents Encouraged to Practice Voluntary Water Conservation

SAVING WATER OUTDOORS

Plant water-efficient, well-adapted, and/or native shrubs, trees, and grasses. Choose plants that are drought and heat tolerant and can survive the minimum winter temperatures in your area. In odd-shaped areas, use drought-tolerant groundcover instead of grass. Many cities provide lists of water-efficient plants.

Don't abuse the benefits of an automatic sprinkler system by over-watering. Set it to provide thorough but infrequent watering. Check sprinkler heads regularly to make sure they are working properly. Install rain shut-off devices and adjust sprinklers to eliminate coverage on pavement. For plants that need more water, use a hose or watering can to give them additional water.

Prevent evaporation of water. Water lawns early in the morning. Never water on windy days. Use drip irrigation systems for bedded plants, trees, or shrubs and use low-angle sprinklers for lawns. Cover pools and spas. This can save the equivalent of your pool volume each year!

Harvest the rain. Buy a rain barrel or a cistern and collect the water from your gutters to water your plants.

Use your water efficiently. Don't waste water by cleaning patios or sidewalks with it; use a broom.

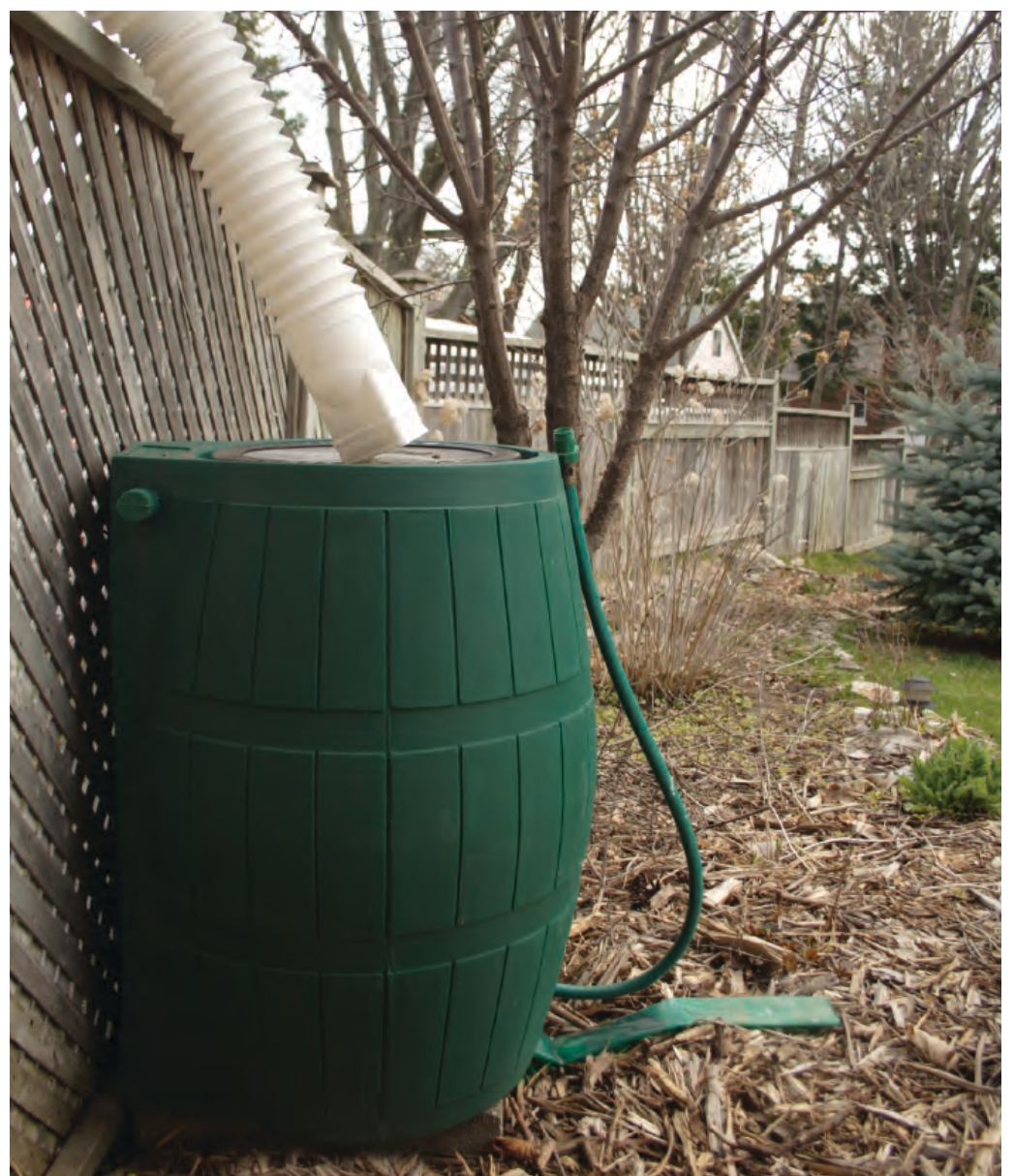
Taller grass holds moisture better. Don't cut more than one-third of its length at one time. Don't scalp lawns when mowing during hot weather. Leave lawn clippings on the lawn instead of bagging.

Use lots of mulch around your shrubs and trees. It will retain moisture, reduce run-off, moderate soil temperatures, and help with weed control.

Don't over-fertilize! Get a soil kit to determine what nutrients your soil needs. If you apply fertilizer only in the spring and fall, your grass will be healthy, use less water, and require less mowing.

Use a car wash that recycles water. If you are washing your car at home, use a bucket of soapy water and a hose nozzle that shuts off the water while you scrub.

Did you know that as of September 1, 2013, all Texas homeowners can save water with drought-resistant landscaping? Some homeowner associations may require preliminary approval of any major changes to the landscape, but Senate Bill 198 (83rd Texas Legislature) prohibits an association from restricting a property owner's decision to make water-wise landscape choices.



Free Online Events Aim to Provide Local Small Businesses with Essential Resources

Learn how to start-off on the right foot, and create a brand Style Guide for your business.

In an effort to increase the rate of success and accelerate the growth of small business in Rio Grande City, the Rio Grande City EDC delivers quality business training content through partnerships with UTRGV Small Business Development, U.S. Small Business Administration and other agencies dedicated to supporting entrepreneurs and small businesses development.

This month, the Rio Grande City EDC invites the business community to two online events:

Smart Start - July 14th from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. This webinar helps participants plan out their business ideas and become better prepared to become successful entrepreneurs.

Creating a Brand Style Guide for Your Business - July 19th from 10 a.m. to noon, This webinar helps participants develop essential tools to ensure that your small business creates and maintains consistent materials inside and outside your company.

Don't miss these great opportunities to learn for FREE!

For more information call the Rio Grande City EDC at (956) 487-3476 or to view other training opportunities and small business resources visit: <https://www.utrgv.edu/sbdc/index.htm>





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ATTENTION YOUTH!



SCAN TO LEARN MORE!

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- Interested in a paid internship
- Interested in upgrading your job skills

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Scan the QR code or visit us online at www.wfsolutions.org/trf, provide us your contact information and a career advisor will contact you to discuss available opportunities.

EDINBURG 2719 W. UNIVERSITY DR. EDINBURG, TX 78539 (956) 380-0008	MISSION 901 TRAVIS ST., STE. 7 MISSION, TX 78572 (956) 519-4300	WILLACY COUNTY 700 FM 3168, STE. 3 RAYMONDVILLE, TX 78580 (956) 689-3412	STARR COUNTY 5408 BRAND ST., STE. 1 RIO GRANDE CITY, TX 78572 (956) 487-9100	WESLACO 2290 W. PIKE BLVD. STE. 100 WESLACO, TX 78596 (956) 969-6100
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Spotlight:



Rio Grande City EDC Executive Director Dalinda Guillen attended the LRGV River Basin Flood Study Workshop hosted by the Texas General Land Office. The workshop focused on flood risks and mitigation projects within the four-county region. "Our participation in this study is critical in protecting our community from extreme weather events," said Guillen. City, county and state agencies were represented at the workshop. Pictured from left: Steven Valdez, Weslaco EDC, Dalinda Guillen, RGC EDC, and Victor Perez, Pharr EDC.

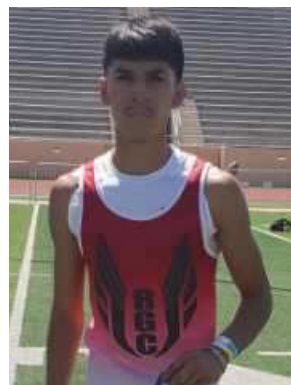
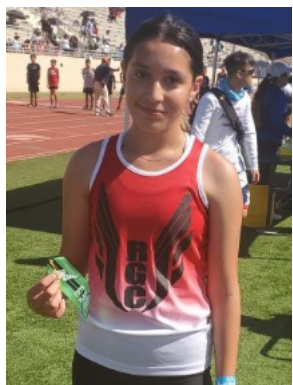
Furiously On Display



Rio Grande City residents enjoy a Car Show at the Basilio Villarreal Park as part of the City's 2022 Freedom Fest Celebration held July 2.



Rio Grande City's Parks & Recreation Department Youth Program Competes at Palmview Track & Field Meet



Rio Grande City Parks & Recreation Track & Field athletes and coaches travelled to Palmview, Texas to Compete with athletes from other RGV cities. Our Youth athletes placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd at the event event.

Safety First



The Rio Grande City Fire Department played a key role in maintaining safety during the 2022 RGC Freedom Fest Event, especially during the Fireworks Show.



Spotlight:



Rio Grande City Fire Department crews continue regular maintenance on city Fire Hydrants.

Coffee With a Cop

The Rio Grande City Police Department sat down with members of the community recently for friendly conversation over a fresh brewed cup of coffee,



Spotlight:



Rio Grande City Police officers were onsite to serve and protect the residents of Rio Grande City and all visitors at the 2022 Freedom Fest celebration held on Saturday July 2, at the Basilio Villarreal Park.

Your Friendly Neighborhood Librarians



Rio Grande City Public Library staff were at the 2022 Freedom Fest celebration assisting with the always popular Bike & Boards prize raffle.

Looking Good



Take a drive down Main Street and Second Street, and you will notice some properties getting some much needed TLC. The Main 111 property has seen considerable improvement inside and out. The addition of a new roof line and patriotic weathervane is a beautiful addition to the building's façade. On Second Street, the property next to Principessa Salon is getting a new façade and curb appeal while the old Martinez Grocery Store is getting cleaned up beautified for future projects. Great things are happening in Downtown Rio Grande City.



Presenting the 2022 Miss Freedom Fest Court

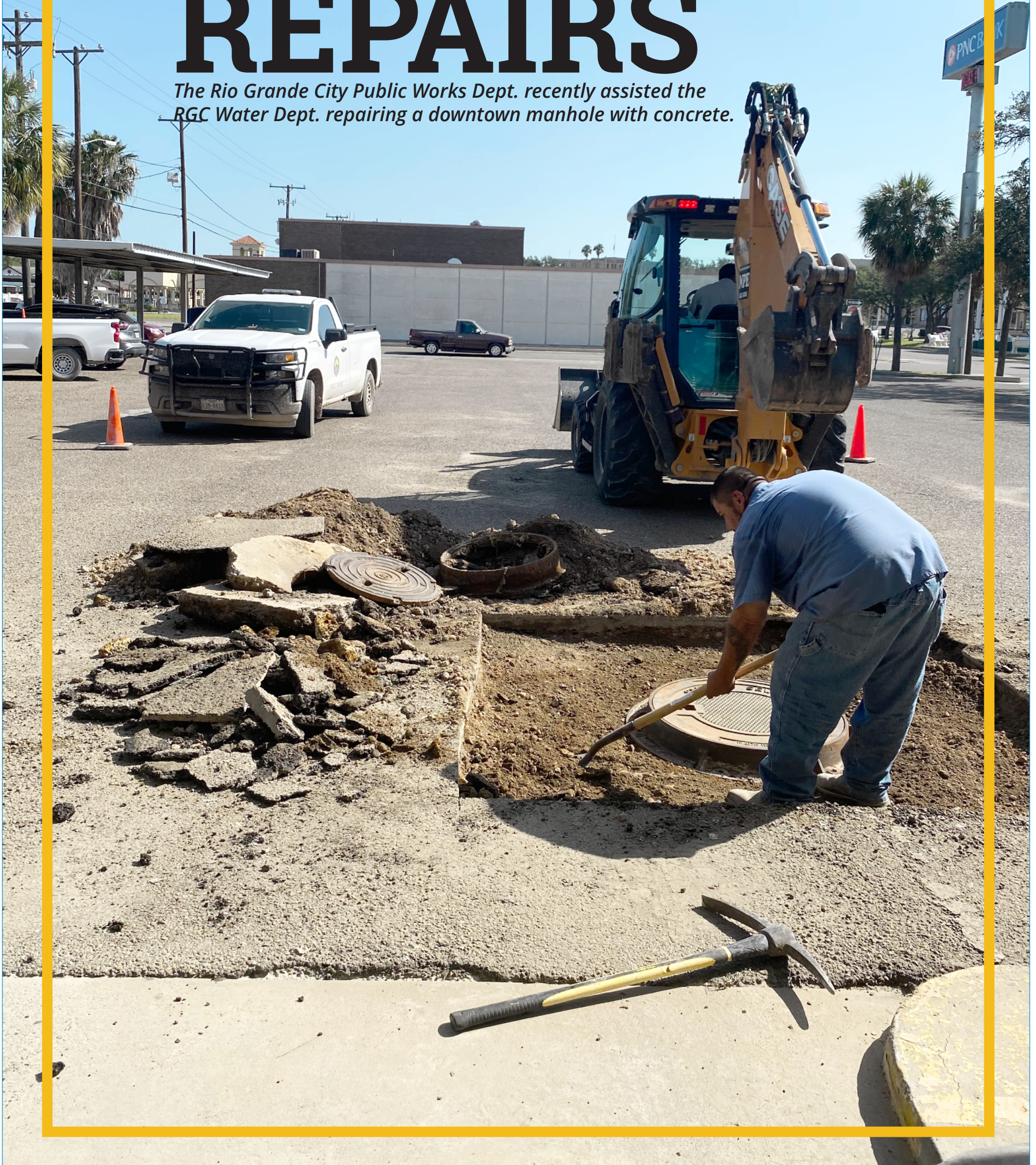
Kelsey Bass Museum staff member, Cathy Rubio, spearheaded the 2022 Miss RGC Freedom Fest Beauty Pageant. The pageant, which had been on a "Covid-hiatus" since 2019, made its long awaited return on June 17, 2022. Contestants from all over our community came to vie for one of the four titles up for grabs this year. Congratulations to Ariella Cano, Tiny Miss RGC Freedom Fest, Lexi Gutierrez, Little Miss RGC Freedom Fest, Aubrey Benitez, Junior Miss RGC Freedom Fest, and Danika Flores, Miss RGC Freedom Fest.

Thank you to our incredible judges, Liza Garza, Karina Cepeda, and Natalia Cepeda of Debi Lou Productions and KE Productions who provided entertainment for the event. A special THANKS goes out to all of the amazing sponsors and all those individuals whose work behind the scenes ensured an amazing program.



MANHOLE REPAIRS

The Rio Grande City Public Works Dept. recently assisted the RGC Water Dept. repairing a downtown manhole with concrete.



Work Crews Continue Efforts to Beautify our Great City

The Rio Grande City Planning and Zoning Department has continued with cleaning efforts throughout our beloved town. Pictured on this page are several of the properties recently cleaned out by work crews.

PROGRESS REPORT

For the months of May and June (until the 27th so far) the Planning Department has processed the following permits:

May: Valuation of Improvements in the amount of \$2,503,275.00 and of 49,061 square feet in area

June: Valuation of Improvements in the amount of \$4,806,507.00 and 53,471 square feet in area



2022 FREEDOM FEST COOK-OFF CHAMPS

