

# THE RIO REVIEW

VOLUME THREE • EDITION FOUR • APRIL 2023

# SPRING IS HERE

## *The City of Rio Grande City Parks and Rec. Dept.*

hosted Easter at the Park on Saturday, April 1st, at the Basilio Villarreal Municipal Park. It was a day filled with Easter Egg hunts, face painting, balloon animals, games, food, and so much fun! McDonald's sponsored a very special GOLDEN Easter egg, found by Jenna Cabello, which has won her a week of the McDonald's Play Van! On behalf of the City of Rio Grande City we would like to thank McDonald's for sponsoring the Golden Egg prize, Lone Star National Bank for sponsoring many of the day's events, and The Grid for providing free arcade games for kids of all ages. We would also like to thank all of our departments and volunteers who participated in this event. This day would not have been such a success without your help and support.





## 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](http://www.cityofrgc.com)

# THE RIO REVIEW

IN THIS ISSUE

PUBLIC UTILITIES	3
RIO GRANDE CITY EDC	4
PARKS AND RECREATION	5
FIRE DEPARTMENT	6
POLICE DEPARTMENT	7
RGC PUBLIC LIBRARY	8
TOURISM AND MAINSTREET	9
PUBLIC WORKS	10
PLANNING AND ZONING	11
COMMUNITY	12



City of Rio Grande City Mayor Joel Villarreal along with Commissioner Benjamin de Leon, Deputy City Manager Noe Castillo, and several Starr County officials attended Starr County Day at the Capitol in Austin on Tuesday, March 7th, 2023. During this special day, city and county officials met with different branches of government and discussed matters for future programs and funding for upcoming projects to ensure a better future for Rio Grande City and Starr County.



## HONORING OUR PAST

Loyd Michael Davis, great great grandson of Rio Grande City Founder Henry Clay Davis, spoke during the public forum of the regular City Commission Meeting on Thursday, March 10th, to thank our commissioners for honoring Henry Clay Davis at the last regular City Commissioners meeting and naming February 10th as the official Rio Grande City Founder's Day. Loyd Michael Davis also presented our commissioners with a history book acknowledging H. Clay Davis' achievements in Texas and copy of a Letter of Recognition from Governor Greg Abbot.



**RIO GRANDE CITY HALL**  
5332 E. Highway 83, Rio Grande City, TX 78582  
**Phone No.:** 956-487-0672  
**Website:** [www.cityofrgc.com](http://www.cityofrgc.com)  
**Hours of Operation:** Mon-Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
**Closed:** Saturday - Sunday

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**MANAGING EDITOR**  
Sara Hernandez  
**PUBLIC RELATIONS**  
Becky Rubio  
**GRAPHIC DESIGNER**  
Christian Salinas  
**CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER**  
Juan Morin



# RAIN OR SHINE



**R**ain or shine our Public Utilities Department ensures there are no disruptions in our utilities as our roads are being paved! Thank you for everything you do!



## THE PUBLIC UTILITIES DEPARTMENT ATTENDED AND PARTICIPATED IN THE COLOR RAIN DASH & HEALTH FAIR

on Saturday, March 25th, at the Basilio Villarreal Municipal Park. The PUD Outlaws participated in the highly anticipated tug-o-war tournament, as well as the softball tournament!





# A GROWING ECONOMY



**EZ Furniture**



**Workshop**



**Business Mixer**

## **EZ Furniture celebrates grand opening**

The Rio Grande City EDC congratulates EZ Furniture on their grand opening held on Monday, March 20th.

"We are very excited to be here," said J.J. de la Torre, owner of EZ

Furniture Appliances and Electronics. "Rio Grande City has been growing and we didn't want to stay behind. We want to bring EZ Furniture to the Rio Grande Community."

"Thank you for your investment in our community and we look

forward to having you here for many, many years," said Dr. Jake Margo, Rio Grande City EDC Treasurer.

EZ Furniture Appliances and Electronics is located at 4570 East

U.S. Highway 83 Ste. 80. For more information, call (956) 263-1243 or visit [www.getezfurniture.com](http://www.getezfurniture.com).

For more information about the Rio Grande City EDC, call (956) 487-3476 or visit [www.rgcedc.com](http://www.rgcedc.com).

## **Show me the Money! Small Business Financing Options Workshop**

UTRGV Small Business Development Center, in partnership with the Rio Grande City EDC, Rio Grande City Public Library, Rio Grande City Greater Chamber of Commerce, StarrCounty Industrial and RGV Hispanic Chamber, held a Show me The Money! Small Business Financing Options workshop at UTRGV at Starr County Campus in Rio Grande City.

Workshop panelists included representatives from the U.S. Small Business Administration, PeopleFund, Liftfund US, and Lone Star National Bank and provided information on business financing options, free business counseling and non-profit business loan lenders.

The UTRGV Small Business Development Center provides seminars and workshops that are free and available to the public. They are geared towards small business owners who are interested or are in need of information regarding topics like finance, customer

service and steps on how to open a business. The SBDC provides free, individual business counseling and low-cost advanced training to help find practical solutions for small businesses.

For more information about UTRGV Small Business Development Center, visit [www.utrgv.edu/sbdc](http://www.utrgv.edu/sbdc) or call (956) 665-7535.

## **Business Mixer**

The Rio Grande City Greater Chamber of Commerce hosted the Spring Forward with your Business Mixer on Wednesday, March 22nd, at the Lopez-Tijerina Complex. Mayor Joel Villarreal encouraged business owners to invest in the future of Rio Grande City and continue to help our city grow. This mixer is a culmination of business owners and representatives who are part of the chamber of commerce and those that would like to join. On behalf of the City of Rio Grande City, we would like to thank everyone for attending this event in our historic downtown area.



# LET IT RAIN

The Rio Grande City Parks and Recreation Department was instrumental in preparing and setting up for the 2023 Color Rain Dash and Health Fair on Saturday, March 25th, held at the Basilio Villarreal Municipal Park. Members of the Parks and Recreation team helped set up tables, prepared the park for guests, and cooked the food for the entire event.





# FIRE BALL

The Rio Grande City Fire Department participated in the 2023 Color Run Dash held Saturday, March 25th, at Basilio Villarreal Municipal Park. Several of our firefighters not only ran in the race, but the Fire Department set up and conducted the children's obstacle course. Our RGC Fire Gods also participated in the much-anticipated Tug-o-War tournament as well as the Softball tournament.



## THE RIO GRANDE CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATED AT THE DR. MARIO RAMIREZ ELEMENTARY CAREER DAY

Students had a great time learning about what Firefighters do daily. They also learned about the importance of practicing fire safety. We have some future RGC Firefighter in the making!



RIO GRANDE CITY  
FIRE DEPARTMENT



WILL YOU ANSWER THE CALL?

VOLUNTEER  
FIRE  
FIGHTERS

CALL 956-487-5312  
FOR MORE INFORMATION





# TUG LIFE

The Rio Grande City Police Department Code 3 Team participated in the Color Rain Dash and Health Fair tug-o-war tournament where they annihilated every team they competed against.

## ***Eddie the Eagle***

Eddie the Eagle and the Rio Grande City Police Department visited Ringgold Elementary and Ac2E Elementary to talk to students and teachers about the importance of gun safety. Students listened and had a fun time meeting Eddie the Eagle!

## ***Working Together***

Local law enforcement agencies and our very own Mayor Joel Villarreal, Police Chief and Deputy City Manager Noe Castillo, Assistant Chief Joey Solis and our International Business Ambassador Ruben Islas had the opportunity to meet with Border Patrol Sector Chief, Gloria Chavez, at STC recently. Discussions were held on upcoming initiatives and partnerships to keep our community safe. We would like to officially welcome Chief Chavez to the Rio Grande Valley and especially to Starr County. Thank you for your leadership and we look forward to continue working together.

## ***Driving Safely***

We would like to thank Rio Grande City High School for allowing the Rio Grande City Police Department to talk to students about the risks of driving while impaired. We would like to wish everyone at Rio Grande City Grulla ISD a safe and happy Spring Break!

## ***March is National Women's History Month***

Female members of the Rio Grande City Police Department, along with other law enforcement agencies, were invited to attend a National Women's History Month luncheon hosted by the US Customs and Border Protection Office of Field Operations on Thursday, March 16th, at the UTRGV Starr Campus. On behalf of the City of Rio Grande City we would like to thank US Customs and Border Protection for hosting such a wonderful event to celebrate women!



***Working Together***



***Eddie the Eagle***

***Driving Safely***

***Women's History Month***



# RIO POETS SOCIETY

## Story Time

"Barn Yard Fun" story time was held during Spring Break at 2:00pm on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 filled with stories, songs, and activities.

## Poetry Slam

Rio Grande City Public Library & RGC Grulla ISD present a POETRY SLAM that showcased poets and artists. An Open Mic event is one where anyone can perform their poems. There were several locals who recited their favorite poems. Local artists and students' artwork were displayed for all to view. It was wonder event.

## 2023 Spring Librarians Workshop

City of Rio Grande City Mayor Joel Villarreal welcomed guests of the 2023 Spring Librarians Workshop held on March 2nd at the UTRGV Starr County Campus. Morning workshop was conducted by Katherine Adelberg, Manager, Continuing Education and Consulting together with Jeremy Selvidge, TexShare Program Coordinator, Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) The afternoon presentations were conducted by Wendy Woodland, Director, Advocacy & Communication, Texas Library Association (TLA) and Mark Smith (former state library director) sponsored by the Tocker Foundation.

## Rio Adults & Crafts

St Patrick's Adult Craft Class We hosted a special Saint Patrick's Day class for Border Region Behavioral Health Center with Mayra Arevalo from Serving Children and Adults in Need (SCAN), Inc.

## Health Happens in Libraries

HEALTH HAPPENS IN LIBRARIES – "Libraries Choosing Wellness" Wednesday's at 10:00am with Lizette Garza, Wesley Nurse – Methodist Health Care Ministries (WHM). Weekly topics presented were on March 08 -Blood Pressure, March 15 – Vaccines, March 22 - Breast Exams, and on March 29 - What is Cholesterol?



Story Time



Poetry Slam



Poetry Slam

FREE PRIZES  
FREE GAMES  
FREE BOOKS



Join our

## Día del Niño

APRIL 27th, 5PM

Basilio Villarreal Municipal Park  
1473 Stephen Saenz St., RGC

# 956-487-4389

www.rgclibrary.org



Poetry Slam



# NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM



**Movies at the Museum**



**Grulla Elem.**



**Donations**



**Grulla Elem.**



**Guests**



**Absolute Creations**

## **Movies at the Museum**

Kelsey Bass Museum hosted a movie matinee on March 16, 2023. The movie *Pot O' Gold*, starring Jimmy Stewart and Paulette Goddard, is on the public domain list and was a wonderful choice to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day. Guests enjoyed the movie, popcorn, sodas, and other refreshments, and many arrived early or stayed late to tour the unique exhibits available at the museum. The Kelsey Bass Museum is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Follow our social media pages for special events and extended hours.

## **Donations**

Roberto Olivarez, RGCHS graduate of 1975, generously donated more items to be displayed at the Kelsey Bass Museum. The KBM staff gladly accepts donations and acquisitions for the public to see and enjoy. A visit to the Kelsey Bass Museum is free of charge and rich in history. Make plans to visit our local jewel.

## **Grulla Elem.**

Grulla Elementary treated their "Friends of the Library" to a tour of our historic downtown, Fort Ringgold, Robert E. Lee House, and of course, the beautiful, Kelsey Bass Museum. Students enjoyed learning about our extensive local history and getting a first-hand look of our city via our very own Bessie III. Thank you Grulla Elementary for choosing Rio Grande City.

## **Guests**

Visitors continue to come by the Kelsey Bass Museum to admire the countless historical exhibits and to listen to the colorful stories of our beautiful city. Some of our incredible guests have even helped the KBM curator identify and verify the age of some of the many items the museum has on display. The Kelsey Bass Museum is a great place to visit and learn about our local history.

## **Absolute Creations**

The Rio Grande City Greater Chamber of Commerce hosted a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for their newest business Absolute Creations on Tuesday, March 28th, at 306 2nd Street in the heart of Rio Grande City! On behalf of the City of Rio Grande City we would like to thank Absolute Creations for choosing RGC to launch their new establishment!

## **New Main Street Coordinator**

Yandery De La Cruz has been named Rio Grande City's new Main Coordinator. Ms. De La Cruz, a Mission native, has made her home here in Rio Grande City for the past 17 years. She previously worked in the Student Assessment department at RGCGISD.



"I am looking forward to working with the advisory board members, partners, business owners and our community leaders in growing and enriching our main street district," Ms. De La Cruz said.

The goal of the Rio Grande City Main Street Program focuses on revitalization of the downtown historic district by implementing the Four Point® approach set by the National Main Street Center. These points include building partnerships within the community, promoting downtown through Main Street events, designing and maintaining historical elements unique to Rio Grande City and identifying historical value and fostering economic development.

Rio Grande City was designated as a Texas Main Street City in 2002. The Rio Grande City Main Street Program also provides several services and assistance grants available to Main Street businesses including: Design Assistance from the Texas Historical Commission and Business Development grants, Main Street Façade and Commercial Revitalization grants.

The Rio Grande City Main Street Program provides many opportunities to get involved in downtown revitalization efforts. Anyone interested in volunteering is encouraged to visit the Main Street office at 406 E. Main Street or call (956) 488-0047.



# City Slickers

The Public Works Department City Slickers participated in the Color Rain Dash & Health Fair Tug-o-War Tournament and came in Second Place in the Softball Tournament! Congratulations to our City Slickers!

## Storm Drains

The RGC Public Works Department repaired a storm drain that was damaged during the recent storms we had in Rio Grande City. The Public Works Department completed the project quickly and ready for any more storms coming this way.

## Street Paving

We would like to remind everyone that our Street Paving Bond Project continues on West Eisenhower Road (from San Antonio St. to Fairgrounds Rd.) and will be closed off for approximately two weeks, if weather permits. 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 Cleaning

The Rio Grande City Public Works Department is always hard at work keeping our streets and highways clean and tidy! Thank you for all your hard work!



Storm Drains



Street Paving



Street Cleaning

# 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

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# In the Zone

*The following before and after pictures are nuisance abatements due to the efforts of the Planning & Zoning Department staff members.*



## New Hire

The City of RGC City Commission held their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, March 9th, at the City Hall Chamber room. Planning and Zoning Director, Gilberto Millan, recognized our newest Planning and Zoning Department employee, Juan Manuel Ureña, as well as Antonio Cantu and Fernando Guerra Jr. for obtaining their Vector Control License. On behalf of the City of Rio Grande City Mayor Joel Villarreal and the City Commission we would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest employee and congratulations to Mr. Guerra and Mr. Cantu!

## Blue Wave Construction

We are delighted to announce that the BRAND NEW Blue Wave Carwash will be opening their doors by Fall 2023! This new Carwash takes pride in taking care of our environment by using advanced water reclamation technology and non-toxic 100% biodegradable soaps. On behalf of the City of RGC we are very happy to welcome this new business to our community!

## Tractor Supply Co. Construction

We are excited to announce that the

new Tractor Supply Co. has most of their structure up and will be opening their doors to our community as soon as May 2023! On behalf of the City of Rio Grande City we look forward to this new endeavor in this new location!

## Ethics Webinar

Our Planning and Zoning Department Code Officers attended Ethics for Code Enforcements Hybrid Webinar Event on Thursday, March 23rd, and learned about the difference between law and ethics and how ethical issues can become legal issues. Our Code Enforcement Officers earned 3 hours of Continuous Education, and knowledge that will benefit the residents of the City of Rio Grande City.

## Progress Report

During the month of March, the Planning Department processed permits with a valuation of \$2,755,168.00 and a total square footage of 95,674. Construction of three new homes began. Two new plans were also received for review for new homes. In Addition, on March 22, the Planning Department officially received the plans for the Public Safety building!







Awareness Walk



Special Olympics



Consulado Móvil



Golf Classic

# COMMUNITY SERVICE

## Awareness Walk

City of Rio Grande City Mayor Joel Villarreal, along with other City of RGC officials, attended the Rio Grande City Grulla ISD Special Services Department Disability Awareness Walk on Friday, March 24th, at the Basilio Villarreal Municipal Park. Mayor Villarreal spoke about embracing and accepting everyone for who they are, and read a proclamation for Disability Awareness. On behalf of the City of RGC we would like to thank the RGC Parks and Recreation Department for helping set up for this event and RGC GISD for hosting such an important celebration in our community.

## Special Olympics

The Rio Grande City Police Department took part in the annual Special Olympics hosted by Rio Grande City Grulla ISD Special Education Department on Thursday, March 9th, at Joe R. Sanchez Stadium. Our RGCPD officers, along with other law enforcement agencies, ran the torch into the stadium to start the torch relay with students and kick-off the games. On behalf of Mayor Joel Villarreal

and the City Commission we would like to thank the RGC GISD Special Education Department for inviting our officers to participate in this GREAT event!

## Consulado Móvil

Consulado Móvil-Rio Grande City: The Consulate of Mexico, McAllen TX is currently offering services to the residents in Rio Grande City, to process the Mexican Passport, ID cards and INE voter credentials. Mr. Froylan Yescas Cedillo, Head Consul thanks the Mayor, City Commission and International Business Ambassador for the hospitality in making this effort available to the community.

## Golf Classic

Officials from the City of Rio Grande City attended the 17th Annual RGC GISD Superintendent's Golf Classic on Monday, March 27th, at TopGolf in Pharr, Texas. This annual event is designed to help seniors in our district reach their goals of post-secondary education by fundraising for scholarships. On behalf of the City of RGC, we would like to thank Rio Grande City Grulla ISD for everything they do for the students in our community.



On Saturday, March 25th, the Girl Scouts of Greater South Texas Rio-Roma Service Unit helped clean up our Rio Grande City Main Street area as a community service project. On behalf of the City of Rio Grande City we would like to thank everyone who helped in this kind endeavor for our city!