

CITY OF RIO COMMUNITIES New Mexico



Volume 1 Number 3

Rio Communities City Hall
360 Rio Communities Blvd.
P.O. Box 565
Rio Communities NM 87002
505 861-6803
Hours:
Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
email:
admin@riocommunities.net
info@riocommunities.net
website -- riocommunities.net
July 2018

Governing Body

Mayor Mark Gwinn

505 264-3412

mgwinn@riocommunities.net

Councilor William (Bill) Brown

505 864-0718

bbrown@riocommunities.net

Councilor Margaret (Peggy) Gutjahr

505 864-6908

pgutjahr@riocommunities.net

Councilor Joshua Ramsell

505 861-6804

jramsell@riocommunities.net

Councilor Arturo R. Sais

505 966-6168

asais@riocommunities.net

Municipal Judge Heather Benavidez

505 861-6804

hbenavidez@riocommunities.net

Municipal Officers

Municipal Clerk Lisa Adair

Treasurer/CPO Celina Benavidez

City Manager Bob Skerry

bskerry@riocommunities.net

City Offices — 505 861-6803

Rio Communities National Night Out

Tuesday, August 7

5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

City of Rio Communities

Municipal Building &

Parking Lot

360 Rio Communities Blvd.

- Vendors • Games for Kids
- Meet Area Law Enforcement
- Food • And So Much More!

850 Medical Calls in RC in 2017

Operators at the Valencia Regional Emergency Communications Center (VRECC) respond to emergency calls from citizens in all five Valencia County municipalities as well from people in unincorporated Valencia Country.

Those operators dispatch law enforcement, emergency medical services, and fire equipment with firefighters from the \$3.2 million, 11,490 square foot VRECC building in Los Lunas behind the Village Administration Building.

Fireworks Ban, Restricted

The Rio Communities City Council has banned the sale and use of permissible aerial and ground fireworks through July 12.

In addition, the use of permissible fireworks is restricted through July 12.

For details, see the Mayor's Proclamation at riocommunities.net under Municipal Code.

In 2017 VRECC operators handled a total of 82,068 calls for all of Valencia County.

Calls in Rio Communities, estimated population of 5,558, totalled 3,636 with 2,655 for law enforcement; 850, medical; and 131, fire, in 2017.

Calls in Los Lunas, estimated population 15,338, totalled 24,498 with 20,828 law enforcement; 3,104 medical; and 566, fire.

Calls in Belen, estimated population 7,152, totalled 18,605 with 15,855 law enforcement; 2,362 medical; and 388, fire.

Calls in Bosque Farms, estimated population 3,803, totalled 4,809 with 4,271 law enforcement; 395 medical; and 143 fire.

Calls in Peralta, estimated population 3,585, totalled 4,686 with 3,971 law enforcement; 386 medical; and 329,

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Road Improvements Continue Including Manzano Expressway



Road improvements have been ongoing throughout the Spring in Rio Communities. At left work continues on Frederico Boulevard. The rebuild of Manzano Expressway was accomplished earlier this year from the road to Valencia High School south to Highway 47. Thanks to Valencia County for the Manzano Expressway work.

850 Medical Calls in Rio Communities in 2017... Continued from page 1

fire.

The 850 medical calls in Rio Communities are 23% of the total calls made to the VRECC in Rio Communities.

For the other Valencia County municipalities, medical calls are these percentages:

Los Lunas 13% (3,104) of the 24,498 total

Belen 13% (2,362) of the 18,605 total

Bosque Farms 8% (395) of the 4,809 total

Peralta 8% (386) of the 4,686 total

According to *Suburban Stats*, Rio Communities has 1,996 households with 1,038 households having one or more people over the age of 60 or 52%.

Los Lunas has 5,463 households with 1,746 households having one or more people over the age of 60 or 31%.

Belen has 2,887 households with 1,137 households having one or more people over the age of 60 or 39%.

Bosque Farms has 1,543 households with 694 house-



Medical calls in Rio Communities totalled 850 in 2017.

holds having one or more people over the age of 60 or 44%.

Peralta has 1,370 households with 545 households having one or more people over the age of 60 or 40%.

NM Municipal League Participation

City employees and councilors attended New Mexico Municipal League June meetings to help create the League's legislative agenda for the upcoming year.

Mayor Mark Gwinn and Councilor Bill Brown participated in a meeting focusing on Community, Economic Development, Government Operations and Human Resources.

Mayor Gwinn and City Manager Bob Skerry attended a Finance, Intergovernmental Relations and Taxation meeting.

City Clerk Lisa Adair attended a Public Infrastructure and Communications workshop.

The results of these meetings will be discussed at the League's annual conference in August.

Remaining 2018 Cleanup Days

To help keep Rio Communities clean, the city will have a dumpster in the parking lot of City Hall, 360 Rio Communities Blvd., on July 21, August 18, Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17 and Dec. 15.

Improving Life in the City

Do you have something that you would like to see in Rio Communities that would improve life?

Every year the City Council puts together an Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) for the future which lists projects that could improve the quality of life in the city.

Project funding comes from sources that include legislative appropriations such as capital outlay, grants, the city budget, and loans.

If you have something in mind for improving the quality of life, attend a city council meeting, tell a city councilor, or contact the city via the website at riocommunities.net.

New Street Signs and Lights

New street signs and lights will be going up in Rio Communities to help make the community safer and life easier for drivers.

Digital speed signs will be placed facing east on Hillandale, on Golf Course Road, west facing on Nancy Lopez, and east and west facing on Manzano Expressway near Highway 47.

Solar street lights will be placed at the intersection of Horner and Goodman, the intersections of Nancy Lopez and Highway 47, Frederico and Lee Trevino; and at the intersection of Guapo and Horner/Sunset.

Fire Rating of 4 / Fire Department

The Rio Grande Estates Fire Department continues to provide excellent service to the greater Rio Communities area. Because of that service, Rio Communities has a fire rating of 4 which impacts insurance costs. Lots of volunteers keep the fire department running. Support them whenever and wherever you can.

Business Licenses Available

Doing business in Rio Communities? Remember to get a business license from the City of Rio Communities. It's only \$35, available at City offices, 360 Rio Communities Blvd.

Use Rio Communities

The 87002 zip code now encompasses Rio Communities and Belen which is why it is important to use Rio Communities for all address issues.

When dealing with emergency services it is very important to tell the Valencia Regional Emergency Communications Center operator that the emergency is in Rio Communities when the emergency is in the City of Rio Communities.

Change any address information that says Belen to Rio Communities. Use Rio Communities as a return address. Change the addresses on your communication to Rio Communities rather than using Belen.

Economic Development Commission, Planning & Zoning Work to Better City

Economic Development Commissions and Planning and Zoning Commissions are often part of a municipality's day-to-day operation. This is true for many long-established communities.

Even though the City of Rio Communities is only five years old, an Economic Development Commission and a Planning and Zoning Commission meet regularly to help the municipality grow and flourish.

The Economic Development Commission has been looking at ways to bring more businesses to the city. One of the critical statistics for a business to locate in a municipality is the number of "roof tops" (homes) in that municipality, especially new roof tops.

The Planning and Zoning Commission is working with developers to bring new roof tops into Rio Communities. Those developers are looking at building new homes in Rio Communities which could help bring the new businesses citizens have been asking for.

The Economic Development Commission works with other economic development organizations in New Mexico, such as Albuquerque Economic Development and the state economic development office, to bring new businesses to Rio Communities.

Councilor Attends Finance Conference

City Councilor Arturo Sais joined the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund, the nation's preeminent Latino leadership organization, and nearly 50 other municipal and county level policy makers from across the country for the NALEO National Policy Institute on Public Finance and Pension Fund Management and Bonds held in May in Long Beach, CA.

Topics covered included The Role of Public Officials as Fiduciaries; Understanding the Budget and Revenue Sources; Financial Reporting and Forecasting; pension funds; and municipal bonds.

The conference goal was to enhance the knowledge of complex public finance issues. Attendees networked with officials from across the country.

Check out the City Website

Have you looked at the City of Rio Communities Website?

Riocommunities.net offers information about City policies and procedures, City plans, how to contact City personnel, a calendar, plus much more.

The Economic Development Commission points out that the assets of Rio Communities include

- Affordable housing within easy commute distance of Albuquerque and Los Lunas
- The only golf course in Valencia County
- A private water and sewer system
- Existing and untapped business sites in the city and adjacent I-3 industrial park with 400 + jobs
- Forward thinking city government

You can learn more about the Economic Development Commission and the Planning and Zoning Commission by reading the minutes of meetings available on the city's website, riocommunities.net.

There is also a separate Economic Development Commission website, riocommunitiesedc.net.

The Economic Development Commission meets at 10 a.m. the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month while the Planning and Zoning Commission meets at 6:30 p.m. the first and third Thursdays of the month. Meetings are at Rio Communities City Hall, 360 Rio Communities Blvd.

Meetings may be canceled due to lack of agenda items so check with the folks at City Hall by calling 505 861-6803 and asking about the meeting status.

Municipal Complex Improvements

Renovations of the City of Rio Communities Municipal Complex is being funded through Capital Outlay funds.

Capital outlay funds, in the context of government, are those used to build, improve, or equip physical property that will be used by the public. Roads, museums, playgrounds, schools, irrigation ditches, hospitals, lands, and furniture can all be capital outlay projects.

In New Mexico, state capital outlay is authorized by the Legislature and generally is nonrecurring – one-time – money.

Because of provisions in the New Mexico Constitution, capital outlay can only be used for government-owned facilities such as the municipal complex on Rio Communities Boulevard.

The City of Rio Communities received \$200,000 in capital outlay funds in 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2018 for a total of \$800,000 to make improvements on the municipal complex. These buildings were constructed in 1973.

The City Council has hired FBT Architects to coordinate the municipal complex renovations plus other improvements in the City of Rio Communities.

Planning and Zoning Members



Municipal Judge Heather Benavidez, center, swore in Jim Winters, left, and Thomas Scroggins to the Rio Communities Planning and Zoning Commission at a May City Council meeting. They join five other members for twice monthly meetings.

RC Health Fairs

The April Health Fair in Rio Communities was a success with more than 300 people participating.

Another health fair is scheduled in Rio Communities in October.

Newsletter by Email

Sign up to receive this newsletter by email.

Send an email to admin@riocommunities.net with a note requesting the newsletter.

Rio Communities National Night Out Tuesday, August 7

Welcome to the City of Rio Communities New Mexico NEWS

A digest of what is going on in the City of Rio Communities.

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Rio Communities City Council

meets 6 p.m. 2nd and 4th Tuesday

Economic Development Commission

meets 10 a.m. 2nd and 4th Wednesday

Planning and Zoning Commission

meets 6:30 p.m. 1st and 3rd Thursday

City of Rio Communities Municipal Court

meets 5:30 p.m. 2nd and 4th Thursday

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NEWS

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Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
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87002
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