

CITY OF RIO COMMUNITIES New Mexico



Volume 2 Number 2

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
April 2019

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

City Manager Leisa Haynes

Municipal Clerk Lisa Adair

Treasurer/CPO Celina Benavidez

City Offices — 505 861-6803

New City Manager

The first things Leisa Haynes fell in love with when she arrived in Rio Communities was the Manzano Mountains and the Rio Grande.

She discovered both when she crossed the River Road bridge to enter Rio Communities where she will serve as City Manager.

Leisa comes to Rio Communities from the City of Magnum, Oklahoma, where she served as City Manager. Magnum is the county seat of Greer County in southwest Oklahoma and has a population of about 3,200.

Leisa has earned a bachelor's degree in communications (emphasis in radio and television) from East Central University in Ada, OK., and a masters in public administration from the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond, OK.

In anticipation of her job in Rio Communities Leisa has been reading

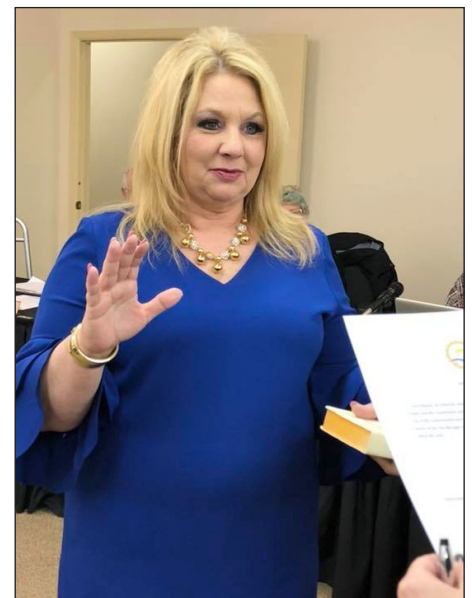
and reviewing local and state ordinances and other items pertinent to her job.

She wants to work with the people of and in Rio Communities.

"I'm looking forward to building our community," says Leisa. "Part of the way to do that is improving the quality of life for residents. That is done through park development, constructing good roads, working with people and businesses on all levels so they don't have to go far to get what they need."

Leisa wants to bring more businesses and jobs to Rio Communities among other goals.

Leisa can be reached at Rio Communities City Hall, 505 861-6803, or via email lhaynes@riocommunities.net.



Leisa Haynes is sworn in as Rio Communities City Manager.

RC Health Fair April 27

The 4th annual Rio Communities Family Wellness Fair will be held Saturday, April 27, 2019, at Rio Communities City Hall, 360 Rio Communities Blvd.

The event is sponsored by the Rio Communities Wellness Council in partnership with Aristech™ Surfaces.

Available that day should be:

- Rock climbing wall from Albuquerque Parks and Recreation
- Bounce house, Rio Grande Estates Fire Department

- Golf putting, Tierra del Sol Golf Club
- Face painting
- Video Game contest
- Heart Start
- Blood Mobile
- Immunizations
- Puppets – Pilot Club
- Boy Scouts
- Various insurances
- Parents as Teachers
- Kids at Hope

Continued on page 3

The City of Rio Communities Budget

It's that time of year in Rio Communities.

The Rio Communities City Council is putting together the budget for the July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 fiscal year.

All municipalities (and other government agencies) in New Mexico operate with a budget.

The City of Rio Communities abides by fund balance accounting as formally determined by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board and the State of New Mexico in the city budget.

The State of New Mexico and other issuing bodies determine revenue restrictions. At present the city has eight special revenue funds and eleven restricted funds:

City of Rio Communities Funds

General fund is the city's operating fund.

Corrections fund is restricted (restricted funds can only be spent on specific items) comes from special revenue and is for the judicial operating fund (Rio Communities has a municipal judge who holds court).

The Environmental Gross Receipts Tax is restricted, a special revenue, and can only be used for environmental control and solid waste abatement.

The Emergency Medical Services fund is restricted, a special revenue, and is the EMS operating fund.

Fire Protection Fund is restricted, a special revenue, and is the fire protection services operating fund.

Law Enforcement Protection Fund is restricted, a special revenue, and funds law enforcement equipment as requested by individual police officers.

Municipal Street Funds are restricted, a special revenue, and funds road maintenance and repair.

Capital Projects Funds are restricted, a special revenue, and fund capital outlay improvements and maintenance.

Debt service is a restricted fund, not a special revenue, and is used to report on unencumbered financial resources.

Renew or Get a New Business License

Rio Communities Ordinance Number 2013-10 calls for all persons, firms, corporations or associations engaged in business in the City of Rio Communities to annually pay a fee for a business license.

Stop by City Hall at 360 Rio Communities Blvd. and renew or get a new business license.

Other special revenue, restricted, is money received from Valencia County which provides support and discretionary payments to volunteer firefighters. There is also an Infrastructure Gross Receipts Tax Fund which funds infrastructure.

General Fund Reserve

New Mexico requires that municipalities maintain a General Fund Reserve which can be no less than 1/12th or 8.3% of the General Fund. The City of Rio Communities maintains a reserve of 20% to cover emergency situations such as if a catastrophe happened to a major gross receipts tax producer which then did not produce that tax revenue.

2017-2018 General Fund Revenues

City of Rio Communities General Fund revenues in 2017-2018 were --

- Property tax, \$233,145 or 26% of the total, a mill levy approved by the city council
- Franchise fees, \$153,514 or 17% of the total, paid by utility companies to the municipality but billed back to the customer
- Local and state gross receipts tax, \$360,716 or 40% of the total
- State appropriations, \$131,703 or 15% of the total

Property tax and franchise fees are paid by residents / property owners in Rio Communities. Gross receipts tax is paid by anyone making a purchase. The state appropriation is the Small City Assistance Fund which is given to New Mexico municipalities under 10,000 population.

Largest General Fund Expenditure

The largest expenditure in the General Fund in 2017-2018 was salaries and benefits for (then) four employees, minimal salary to municipal judge (\$3,600), and small stipend to members of Planning and Zoning and Economic Development Commissions (\$7,800). This totaled \$176,417 which is 20% of total general fund expenses. Another 15%, or \$130,000, of the General Fund expenditures was spent on a law enforcement officer.

Revenues and expenditures for the 2019-2020 fiscal year will be very similar, with a minimal cost of living increase except there will be six city employees (full time code enforcement officer and financial clerk added) and the cost of law enforcement may increase.

Citizens Patrol Creation Continues

Work continues on the creation of a Citizens Patrol in Rio Communities.

The mission of the Citizens Patrol will be to patrol the community to reduce the incidence of crime, increase communications with the Valencia County Sheriff's Department, and enhance public safety in Rio Communities.

Patrol members will report suspicious activity and conduct routine checks of residences whose homeowners are out of town or otherwise vacant.

The Citizens Patrol is an extension of the Rio Communities Neighborhood Crime Watch and will be a volunteer corps of city residents sponsored by the City of Rio Communities and the Valencia County Sheriff's Department.

Patrol volunteers will undergo a background check and driving record review. Patrol members will not carry weapons or wear a uniform resembling security or police. Patrol members do not stop citizens and are only allowed to observe and report.

City Councilors Peggy Gutjahr and Joshua Ramsell have been working on making a Citizens Patrol a viable project for the City of Rio Communities.

Health Fair April 27

Continued from page 1

- Health Council
- Voter registration
- Nutrition, exercise, and DWI information
- City of Rio Communities information and sign ups
- Optimist Club and Neighborhood Watch information
- College Fund Savings accounts for students with disabilities (ABLE)
- WIC (Women, Infants & Children) services and Family First

Food vendors will offer food. There will be popcorn and water for attendees.

The first health fair was October 2015. Three health fairs with a focus on seniors have been held in October. No health fair was held in October 2018 due to work on City Hall.

The 2019 fair will be the third held in April.

The fairs average 40 to 60 vendors. The first fair had 250 attendees with a growth in attendance up to 400.

Peggy Gutjahr, a principal organizer of the health fair, points out that it takes a hardworking group of dedicated individuals to organize the event.

The Health Fair committee includes folks from Aris-tech™ Surfaces plus Steve Togami, Ray Gonzales, Betty Towle, Marilyn Weiland, Mark Gwinn, Bill Brown, Sallie Rizzo, Fran Rossberg, Loedi Silva, Liz Sagrestano, Marilyn Winters, and Peggy Gutjahr.

Community Cleanup in April

Members of the Valencia Association of Local Elected Officials (VALEO) are working together to promote community clean up on April 13, 2019. and throughout the month of April.

Watch for community clean up events throughout Valencia County.

Get involved and make a difference! For more information call Rio Communities City Hall at 861-6803.

Staying Safe in Rio Communities

Thanks to Rio Communities City Councilor Joshua Ramsell for the following tips on staying safe in Rio Communities.

Remember to always lock vehicles, and never leave personal items, such as purses, or cell phones, in plain view. Do not leave a vehicle running while unattended whether it is when warming it up in a driveway or just to run into a store. Minimize the chance of becoming a victim.

When leaving your house vacant tell a neighbor or friend to keep an eye on the house.

If you are feeling threatened or see something suspicious then call law enforcement.

Council Supports School Attendance

The Rio Communities City Council has signed a proclamation supporting the Belen Consolidated Schools 3rd Annual Attendance Challenge which runs through May 3, 2019.

The Attendance Challenge focuses on the importance of school attendance by encouraging all children to learn, grow, and thrive academically, emotionally, and socially.

This year's Attendance Challenge motto is "on time, every day, all day . . . attendance matters."

Check Out Rio Communities Website

If you have not checked out what's available on the Rio Communities.net website then you might be surprised at what is there.

For instance, under Applications for Permits/Variations/Appeals, you can find applications for conditional use permits, sign variances, zoning variance, residential breeders or litter permit, building usage policy/applications for building usage, and more.

Junior Firefighting Program Helps Local Department

The Rio Grande Estates Fire Department (RGEFD) has kicked off the junior firefighter program.

This program teaches young adults about the fire service, giving them an opportunity to experience being a firefighter. Junior firefighters develop a skill set and experience that last a lifetime and can carry them through fire-

fighting careers.

Skills taught include how to maintain fire trucks, such as washing the trucks filling them up with water, checking emergency lights, and training on various real life scenarios, such as vehicle extrication, brush fires, structure fires etc.

Young people are the next generation of firefighters. Kendal Good is a RGEFD junior fire fighter. She has been working hard on training including how fast she can get her bunker gear on, with her current time at 38 seconds!

Kendal is taking classes for her EMT First Responder certification, a 13 week course.

Anyone wanting to volunteer or be a part of the junior firefighter program should contact Chief Nate Gonzales or Assistant Chief Andrew Tabet at the Rio Grande Estates Fire Department.

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.

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

Welcome to the City of Rio Communities New Mexico NEWS

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

Inside this Edition

New City Manager

Health Fair April 27

City of Rio Communities Budget
Community Cleanup in April
Citizens Patrol Creation Continues

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

website -- -- riocommunities.net

info@riocommunities.net

admin@riocommunities.net

email:

Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Hours:

505 861-6803

Rio Communities, NM 87002

P.O. Box 565

360 Rio Communities Blvd.

Rio Communities City Hall

NEWS

CITY OF RIO COMMUNITIES
New Mexico

Permit No. 360

87002

Rio Communities, NM

PAID

U.S. Postage

Bulk Rate