

CITY OF RIO COMMUNITIES New Mexico



Volume 2 Number 1

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

February 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

Municipal Clerk Lisa Adair

Treasurer/CPO Celina Benavidez

City Offices — 505 861-6803

Municipal Election Will Be Held Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2019

The City of Rio Communities municipal election will be held Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2019, rather than in March 2020.

At this time, it appears voters in Rio Communities will be electing two at-large city councilors at that election.

New Mexico municipalities have held their elections in March for decades.

The New Mexico State Legislature passed legislation, called the Local Election Act, in 2018, which establishes a statewide Local Election every November of odd-numbered years for non-partisan officers and local government ballot

questions.

The Legislation said that municipalities could opt in for November or hold the election in March of even-numbered years.

The Rio Communities City Council voted to hold the election in November.

Other governmental bodies must hold district elections during the November elections including school districts and soil and water conservation districts.

The Local Elections Act is intended to allow voters to vote for all non-partisan offices and local questions at one time using the same rules of conduct each time.

City Worker Retires

Pamela Johnson, center, holds the commemorative plaque presented to her on retiring in December 2018 from her Deputy Clerk position at the City of Rio Communities. Pam was the first person people saw when entering the municipal offices. She also answered the phone. During her three years at the city, she was the front line person at City Hall plus took the minutes for the Planning and Zoning as well as Economic Development Commissions. Her plaque reads, "Your employment with the City of Rio Communities may finish, but the wonderful memories of working with you will never diminish." She and her husband, Nelson Johnson, plan on traveling. At left is City Clerk Elizabeth (Lisa) Adair and Mayor Mark Gwinn is at right.



Rio Communities Councillors Attend Municipal League Training

The New Mexico Municipal League has developed and sponsors the Municipal Officials Leadership Institute (MOLI) to educate newly elected city officials so that they are better able to serve their communities including Rio Communities.

Certified courses are available for new Councilors, Mayors, City Managers, Judges, City Clerks, Finance Officers, Fire Chiefs, Police Chiefs, and Librarians.

The City of Rio Communities strongly encourages city officials to complete the courses appropriate to the position held in the municipality because regardless of previous education, workplace and life experiences, city governance is unique. The duties and responsibilities require strict adherence to specific rules and regulations. Adherence includes city legal issues and moral and ethical conduct in city business and private life.

There are steep learning curves in the conduct of city leadership and governance. "Learn by Doing" can be very risky in city business, and mistakes can be costly. MOLI training reduces risks and minimizes well intentioned errors.

The result of MOLI training is a certification of competence for municipal officials to perform at a high level of proper city governance. This is a very small investment of time and money in an official for the very large benefit of competent service to our residents.

*Thanks to City Councillor
Bill Brown for sharing this information*

2019 Official Holidays

Rio Communities City Hall will be closed the remaining holidays in 2019:

- Memorial Day — Monday, May 27
- Independence Day — Thursday, July 4
- Labor Day — Monday, September 2
- Columbus Day — Monday, October 14
- Veterans Day — Monday, November 11
- Thanksgiving Day — Thursday, November 28
- Day after Thanksgiving — Friday, November 29
(Observed President's Day)
- Christmas Day — Wednesday, December 25

2019 Rio Communities Clean Up Days

Dumpsters will be in the Rio Communities City Hall parking lot at 360 Rio Communities Boulevard these Saturdays:

- February 16, 2019 March 16, 2019 April 20, 2019
- May 18, 2019 June 15, 2019 July 20, 2019
- August 17, 2019 September 21, 2019
- October 19, 2019 November 16, 2019

New Rio Communities Brochure for Economic Development

The Rio Communities Economic Development Commission has a new brochure that details the advantages of doing retail and industrial business in the City of Rio Communities.

The brochure points out that Rio Communities is "a new, modern city that offers an opportunity to be remarkable! Innovative and sustainable with a strong infrastructure for the future."

According to the brochure, people should chose Rio Communities because --

- The City has space to grow at competitive prices.
- Offers a competitive tax profile and low cost of doing business.
- The Rio Grande Industrial Park contains a rail spur with access to NM HWY 304.

Rio Communities offers a better quality of life because of affordable housing, great outdoor activities, low crime rate in safe and tranquil neighborhoods, clean air, and excellent weather.

At a recent Economic Development meeting, Annemarie Henton, vice president, business development and marketing, for Albuquerque Economic Development, spoke with the group. She explained various economic development incentives available in New Mexico and ways to appeal to industries and retail stores.

Check out the Rio Communities Economic Development website at riocommunitiesedc.net.

The Economic Development Plan for Rio Communities, adopted February, 2018, is available on the city website under Ordinance - Municipal Ordinance 2018 - 62 Chapter 1- Part B.

Tom Zanotti was recently appointed by the Rio Communities Council to serve on the Economic Development Commission. Other members are Frank Logan, chairman; Fran Rossberg and Kuan Tikun.

If you are interested in helping with the Economic Development Commission or elsewhere in the city then call city hall at 505 861-6803.

Time to Renew Business License

It's time to renew your 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 \$35 fee for a business license.

The deadline for renewals is March 15, 2019. A \$10 late fee will be assessed starting March 16, 2019.

Code Enforcer At Work in Rio Communities

Rio Communities Code Enforcer Gordon Reeves encourages people to talk to him about any concerns or problems they might have in the municipality.

Reeves can be reached by calling Rio Communities City Hall, 505 861-6803.

Reeves reminds people that dismantled, partially dismantled and /or inoperative motor vehicles or any parts of a motor vehicle may not be stored, placed or allowed to remain on any occupied or unoccupied land within the Rio Communities City limits.

According to City of Rio Communities ordinances, the Code Enforcer performs a variety of administrative, clerical, routine, and complex technical work in code enforcement and other related codes and assuring standards are met within the city. He also performs duties in the interpretations and enforcement of adopted codes and related rules and regulations within the city.

Among the code enforcer's typical functions are:

- Follows all personnel policies and procedures as set forth by the City of Rio Communities;
- Generates necessary statistical and informational reports;
- Enforces local codes such as nuisance and zoning. Issues correction notices and citations.
- Performs a variety of functions related to the interpretation and enforcement of adopted code, rules and regulations;
- Patrols or inspects assigned areas to monitor for violation of local codes;
- Responds and investigates complaints of potential code violations relating to building occupancy, nuisances, hazardous sidewalks, or other conditions, construction, land use, zoning, animals, noise, dumping, clearing, grading, filling, polluting, weed control, improper licensing, crowd control, encroachment, or other code related matters.



Municipal Judge Heather Benavidez swears in Rio Communities Code Enforcer Gordon Reeves in City Council Chambers.



Municipal Judge Heather Benavidez, right, swears in Deputy Clerk Amy Lopez, left, as Clerk Lisa Adair holds the Bible.

Lopez To Serve As City Deputy Clerk

Amy Lopez is the new deputy clerk for the City of Rio Communities.

A graduate of Belen High School, Amy has two associate degrees from the University of New Mexico - Valencia. She has almost finished a bachelor's degree in elementary education.

Amy's duties will include being the person on the front-line at Rio Communities City Hall and answering the telephone. She will take minutes for the Economic Development as well as the Planning and Zoning Commissions.

Amy has three children, three stepchildren and two step-grandchildren.

Animal Control in Rio Communities

As Rio Communities continues to grow, the city will be able to provide a variety of services, but in the meantime the city has worked out agreements with other governmental agencies to provide services the city does not yet provide.

This includes animal control.

The City of Rio Communities has an agreement with Valencia County to provide animal control.

Any concerns about animals in Rio Communities should be addressed to Valencia County Animal Control at 505 866-2479.

Citizens Patrol Being Organized

The Rio Communities City Council has been working on creating a citizens patrol of volunteers who would drive around Rio Communities viewing and observing what is going on in the community.

The Rio Communities patrol would be patterned after the one in Bosque Farms.

You can check the Rio Communities website (riocommunities.net), email blast and Facebook for new information. And watch for more information in upcoming newsletters.

Morgan's Cakes and More Now in Rio Communities

Morgan's Cakes and More is now open 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 480 Rio Communities Boulevard Suite B with a wide variety of products that will suit your sweet and not-so-sweet tooth. There's even sugar free and gluten free items. Owner Morgan Neesslage says her shop is a cak-



ery, not a bakery. Phone number is 505 800-8272.

Use Rio Communities for Address

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 operators

that the emergency is in Rio Communities when it 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 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

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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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Rio Communities, NM

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