

CITY OF RIO COMMUNITIES New Mexico



Volume 2 Number 3

Rio Communities City Hall
360 Rio Communities Blvd.
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Hours:
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July 2019

Governing Body

Mayor Mark Gwinn

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Councilor Margaret (Peggy) Gutjahr

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Municipal Clerk Lisa Adair

City Offices — 505 861-6803

State Awards City Two Grants

City of Rio Communities Mayor Mark Gwinn has announced that two grants have been awarded to the City from the State of New Mexico.

The first grant is for a Drainage Master Plan evaluating the infrastructure in the area of Avenida Del Fuego, the oldest area in the community which was developed in the 1960's.

The plan will examine (1) Largo Place, (2) Diamante Place, (3) Estrella Place, and (4) La Luna Place. Mayor Gwinn explained that the current drainage system is breaking down and needs serious attention. "The roads are also in bad shape," said Gwinn, "but before we can replace the roads, the drainage issue must be solved."

Another area that will be examined is off Chamartín Avenue where last year's rains did major damage. Parts of San Lucas Avenue drain onto Chamartín adding to the drainage problem.

The grant to the City of Rio Communities is for \$115,000 with a 5% match. "It's a good deal for our city," said Gwinn.

There is generally one thing for sure in July in New Mexico...rain. When it rains, water runs off the roof and into the gutters and downspouts and to the ground making deep arroyos. But then where does it go?

This is where a drainage plan comes in. A drainage plan is a plan to contain rainwater, so it doesn't pool at homes, businesses, streets, etc., maybe even causing the Rio Grande to flood or streets to wash away.

One of the most expensive homeowner insurance claims is a "water damage" claim. City Manager Leisa Haynes says "having a city Drainage Master Plan should help every resident in some way and we're very excited to address this important need."

The second grant will help light up intersections all over the City. Mayor Gwinn explains that streetlights are needed for public safety including making it easier for fire and police personnel to find you.

Streetlights also lower the risk of theft and other criminal activity, help you to find your way home, and keep your neighborhood safer, according to many insurance companies.

The \$60,000 grant will be added to another \$60,000 from the City's 2019-2020 budget to purchase 25-foot tall solar streetlights.

City Manager Haynes added, "We expect to be able to light up 10 or 11 intersections with two lights at each intersection. We're hoping some can be installed this Fall or at least by early Spring 2020. It depends on how fast they can be made for us." This is the first phase of lighting.

The City Council of Rio Communities has set the intersection priorities as Nancy Lopez & Frederico, Nancy Lopez & Lee Trevino, Hillandale & Horner, Goodman & Horner, Horner/Suncrest & Kaghan, Perion & Kaghan, Goodman & Damon, Hillandale & Pageant, Horizon Vista & Western, and Hill Street & Goodman.



Finishing touches are being put on the renovations to the City of Rio Communities Municipal Complex. The project was funded through Capital Outlay funds which can only be used to build, improve, or equip physical property that will be used by the public.

Medical, Law Enforcement, Fire Calls Total 3,384

Fire, medical and law enforcement calls for services in the City of Rio Communities totalled 3,384 in 2018, according to the Valencia Regional Emergency Communications Center (VRECC).

The VRECC responds to emergency calls from citizens in all five Valencia County municipalities as well from people in unincorporated Valencia Country. VRECC operators dispatch law enforcement, emergency medical services, and fire equipment with firefighters.

In 2018 VRECC operators handled a total of 91,747 calls for all of Valencia County.

The 3,384 calls in Rio Communities, estimated population of 5,558, were 2,136 for law enforcement; 1,006, medical; and 242, fire, in 2018.

Calls in Los Lunas, estimated population 15,338, totalled 25,074 with 21,294 law enforcement; 2,914, medical; and 876, fire.

Calls in Belen, estimated population 7,152, totalled 15,982 with 13,392, law enforcement; 2,105, medical; and 485, fire.

Calls in Bosque Farms, estimated population 3,803, totalled 5,253 with 4,725 law enforcement; 405, medical; and 123, fire.

Calls in Peralta, estimated population 3,585, totalled 3,788 with 3212 law enforcement; 445, medical; and 131, fire.

The 1,006 medical calls in Rio Communities are 30% of the total calls made to the VRECC in Rio Communities.

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

Los Lunas 12% (2,913) of the 25,084 total

Belen 13% (2,105) of the 15,982 total

Bosque Farms 11% (405) of the 3,803 total

2020 Census Important to Rio Communities

2020 is a census year

As mandated by the U.S. Constitution, our nation gets just one chance each decade to count its population so the U.S. census counts every resident in the United States. The census is mandated by Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution to take place every 10 years.

The data collected by the census determine the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives (a process called apportionment) and is also used to distribute billions in federal funds to local communities including Valencia County and Rio Communities.

United States®
Census
2020

Peralta % (445) of the 3,585 total

According to *Suburban Stats* from 2018, 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 households 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%.



Remaining 2019 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 20, August 17, Sept. 21, Oct. 19, Nov. 16 and Dec. 21.

Citizens Patrol Looking for Volunteers

Volunteers are needed for the recently-formed Rio Communities Citizens Patrol.

Driver qualification include being 21 or older; clean driving record and background check; willing to follow the rules; attending all meetings; signing off on rules and city policies; being prompt for assigned shifts; and taking care of the assigned car.

For more information contact City Councilor Peggy Gutjahr at 505 864-6908 or City Councilor Joshua Ramsell at 505 720-9066.

Rio Communities is the 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 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 communications to Rio Communities rather than using Belen.

Rio Communities Solid Waste Ordinance

City of Rio Communities Planning and Zoning Commission members and City Councilors have been considering a Solid Waste Ordinance for the community for several years. The City Council passed the ordinance at its June 25, 2019, meeting.

The ordinance calls for the City to “enforce a general system for the collection and disposal of solid waste within the City. The City shall have the exclusive right to collect and dispose of solid waste within the city.”

The ordinance calls for “every person owning or controlling an occupied residence or commercial establishment in the city to arrange for and receive the solid waste collection service provided by the City or the City’s franchised collectors and to pay the solid waste collection fees approved by the City.” The fees will be billed by the franchised collector.

To achieve the purposes of the ordinance, “and in lieu of the City directly providing and maintaining the equipment and personnel therefor, the governing body of the City may

enter into a single exclusive franchise agreement for the collection, haulage and disposal of solid waste from commercial and/or residential sources.”

City Manager Leisa Haynes says that City residents should look at the benefits of only one provider of garbage collection services. Garbage trucks are very heavy and can damage roads. Having more than one garbage truck travel on a municipal street can cause even more damage to roads.

The City will go to bid to find a franchised collector of solid waste in the municipality. Not until the bid is approved will the quarterly billing amount be known. There is a possibility it could be less than what a resident is paying now.

The franchised collector will bill customers quarterly. Every owner of real property in the municipality is responsible for payment of solid waste collections. The ordinance discusses what will happen if someone is delinquent in payments for the collection of solid waste. Manager Haynes points out that placing a lien on someone’s property is not the intent of having a Solid Waste Ordinance.

The City will request that the franchise collector provide billing discounts to senior citizens and veterans. Nothing in the Solid Waste Ordinance prohibits residents from participating in recycling services offered by another entity if the City or the City’s franchised collector do not provide recycling opportunities.

The full Solid Waste Ordinance can be found on the City website rio-communities.net.

New City Website

Take a look at the City of Rio Communities website at rio-communities.net and you will find it has been redesigned for maximum user friendliness.

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

Selling Rio Communities

City Manager Leisa Haynes and Municipal Clerk Lisa Adair attended the 2019 Northern/Central (New Mexico) Familiarization Tour in Taos in May where they had the opportunity to sell Rio Communities to site selectors who work with businesses seeking new locations.

One-on-one meetings were held with the site selectors to give them information about what Rio Communities has to offer different types of businesses. Site selectors also answered questions and discussed current trends as well as ways New Mexico communities can work together to ensure the state’s ongoing success.

NM IDEA and Rio Communities

As part of its continuing economic development work, Rio Communities is maintaining its membership in New Mexico IDEA, a statewide organization that promotes, assists, and enhances the expansion of the New Mexico economy.

NM IDEA promotes New Mexico’s economic growth through focused advocacy of economic development issues, providing networking, professional development, education, and training opportunities for its members.

Rio Communities Foundation Forming

To better serve the Rio Communities area, the Rio Communities Economic Development Commission is organizing the formation of the non-profit Rio Communities Foundation (RCF).

The mission of the RCF is “to enhance and support the Rio Communities area” which will “add to the general welfare and quality of life in Rio Communities and the surrounding area.”

As a non-profit, the RCF can pursue grants and promote businesses in the area. Specific projects could include: parks and trail development, festivals/cultural events, a health clinic, city beautification, industrial park additions, sustainability projects, and more retail shops.

The general public is invited to attend a RCF planning meeting on Wednesday, July 17, 2019, 6 p.m. at the Rio Communities City Hall.

Board members and officers are needed for RCF. Attend the meeting to see if this opportunity would work for you. All are welcome.

For more information please call Kuan Tikun 505 800-1119.

Oasis Cafe Now Open in Rio Communities

The Oasis Cafe is open at 480 Rio Communities Blvd, Suite G, for dine in or carry out.

Hours are Monday - Saturday 7 am. to 7 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. with an all-you-can-eat buffet. Phone number is 505 433-2182.

The menu has a wide variety ranging from breakfast choices to sandwiches and burgers to New Mexican specialties plus other choices to please the palate.

To find the cafe "look for the blue roof" south of Rio Communities Way.

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Candidates File in August for November Election

People who want to run for city councilor in the City of Rio Communities file for that office on Tuesday, August 27, 2019. The municipal election will be Tuesday, Nov, 5, 2019. Voters in Rio Communities will elect two at-large city councilors and vote on a mil levy at that election.

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.

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



RIO COMMUNITIES



CITIZENS PATROL



Learn how to get involved with the volunteer program at
6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 7, in the council chambers at
Rio Communities City Hall

Driver Qualifications

- Resident of Rio Communities
- 21 years old or older
- Clean driving record
- Willing to follow rules

- Attend all trainings
- Sign off on the rules and city policies
- Prompt for assigned shifts
- Responsible for care of car, including check-off list
- Affordable criminal and driving background checks

**For information, call Councilors Peggy Gutjahr at 864-6908
or Josh Ramsell at 720-9066.**