

CITY OF RIO COMMUNITIES New Mexico



Volume 2 Number 4

Rio Communities City Hall
360 Rio Communities Blvd.
P.O. Box 565
Rio Communities NM 87002
505 861-6803
Hours: Monday-Thursday
8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
email:
admin@riocommunities.net
info@riocommunities.net
website -- riocommunities.net

October 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

505 720-9066

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

email lhaynes@riocommunities.net

Municipal Clerk Lisa Adair

Finance Officer/Treasurer

Stephanie Finch

City Offices — 505 861-6803

**New Hours at
Rio Communities**

**City Hall
8:30 a.m. to
3:00 p.m.
Monday
through
Thursday**

Six Candidates Running for Rio Communities Council

Six candidates are running for the two City of Rio Communities council seats to be filled in the Nov. 5, 2019, election.

Candidates will be on the ballot in the following order:

- Arturo R. Sais
- John Keith Thompson
- Jimmie Dale Winters
- Allan A. Zach
- Jerry Don Gage
- Margaret (Peggy) R. Gutjahr

Voters may select two candidates.

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 of-

ficers 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.

New Mexico municipalities have held elections in March for decades.

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

Early voting for the November election is Saturday, Oct. 19 through Saturday, Nov. 2, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday thru Saturday.

Early voting and Election Day voting will be at City Hall, 360 Rio Communities Blvd., in the room north of the main double doors on the south side of the building.

RC Wellness Fair Oct. 18

The 4th annual Rio Communities Adult Wellness Fair will be held Friday, October 18, 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 and St. Anthony's Home Healthcare.

Available that day should be:

- Blood Mobile
- Immunizations including flu shots
- Nutrition, exercise, and DWI information
- City of Rio Communities and Citizen Patrol information and sign ups
- Optimist Club and Neighborhood Watch information

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Be Sure You Are Counted!

2020 is a census year and everyone in Rio Communities needs to be sure they are counted!

The data collected in Spring 2020 will be used to

- Apportion representation among states
- Draw congressional and state legislative districts, school districts and voting precincts

United States®
**Census
2020**

- Enforce voting rights and civil rights legislation
- Distribute federal dollars to states
- Help make planning decisions for federal, tribal, state and local governments
- Help make organizational decisions (e.g., where to locate, size of market, etc.) by businesses.

Do You Need a Building Permit?

If you are planning on any kind of construction on your home or any building in Rio Communities then visit with the folks at Rio Communities City Hall to see if you need a building permit. Do this before you start work on anything!

RC Health Fair Oct. 18

Continued from page one

- Veterans Services
- Lovelace, Presbyterian Health Plan, Blue Cross Blue Shield
- AARP
- Several in home senior care services
- Chiropractic services
- Hearing and vision services

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

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 Steve Togami from Aristech™ Surfaces, Ray Gonzales, Mark Gwinn, Bill Brown, Sallie Rizzo, Fran Rossberg, Loedi Silva, Liz Sagrestano, Marilyn Winters, and Peggy Gutjahr.

Councilor Brown Receives MOLI

Rio Communities City Councilor Bill Brown has received the Certified Municipal Official designation from the Municipal Officials Leadership Institute (MOLI) sponsored by the New Mexico Municipal League;

Brown received the official designation at the New Mexico Municipal League's 62nd annual conference this past August in Las Cruces.

The institute was founded in 2003 to give New Mexico municipal officials the knowledge and tools required to provide effective and ethical leadership to the citizens of their communities.

Miscellaneous City Council News

The Rio Communities City Council has approved an updated version of the Zoning Ordinance as well as an updated version of the Subdivision Ordinance. Both are available on the website, riocommunities.net.

The New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration has approved the city Fiscal Year 2019-2020 budget.

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 Oct. 19 and Nov. 16.

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 505 864-4134.

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 Council Plans for Future

The Rio Communities City Council is planning for the future with its approval of the 2020-2025 Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP).

Every year the City Council puts together an ICIP for the future which lists projects that could improve life in the City of Rio Communities.

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

Municipalities put together ICIPs so community projects are readily identifiable should funding for a project become available.

The first on the city's priority list of needs is a storm water and drainage infrastructure project. The city just received \$150,000 to plan for drainage. The drainage plan would deal with arroyos, retention ponds for future and existing parks, trails, commercial property, and roadways.

Public safety equipment needs are the second priority.

Need RC Information?

Try the City Website

Looking for information about the City of Rio Communities?

Go to the City of Rio Communities website at riocommunities.net and you will find lots of information about the community. The site includes City policies and procedures, City plans, how to contact personnel, a calendar, plus much more.

Business Licenses and the City

It's time to start thinking about renewing your business license or getting a 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.

Licenses can be renewed starting January 1. Deadline for renewals is March 15. Late charges are assessed on March 16.

Information required for business licenses includes the name of the person, firm, corporation or association, together with a description of the nature of the business conducted.

The license applicant must provide a current New Mexico Taxpayer Identification Number or evidence of application for that number.

Go to Rio Communities City Hall, 360 Rio Communities Blvd., to get your business license.

The city needs \$961,000 to plan, design and construct a training tower for the Rio Grande Estates Fire Department, buy an aerial ladder truck, and purchase and equip a mobile, cascade air filling station.

The third priority is pavement reconstruction on certain roads in the city. The city will be requesting \$1,125,000 from the state. Rio Communities just received a grant, based on its ICIP, for \$715,000, for road improvements.

The fourth priority is \$640,000 worth of roadway beautification on the median of NM HWY 47. In addition, city officials would like to plan and construct a shoulder along NM HWY 47 which would need the approval of the New Mexico Department of Transportation.

This priority would include planting trees and plants, and adding sidewalks, bicycle paths and benches. The first phase would be to design sidewalks to ADA standards.

The fifth ICIP priority is the city hall multi-use complex with an estimated cost of \$1,690,000. With the exterior work completed, city officials want to focus on the interior of the building.

This project would renovate the interior of the Rio Communities City Hall to include a recreation area, a new roof, security and fire suppression system. and, finally, a library (the city has a \$50,000 legislative appropriation for the library sponsored by State Representative Matthew McQueen).

Also part of this project is an electric car charging system, and an electric LED sign, which alone is \$40,000.

The city's sixth priority is \$5 million for a simulcast radio system for the Valencia Regional Emergency Communications Center which provides service to the entire county.

The seventh priority is \$860,000 for a parks and open space assessment plan. The city is currently paying \$25,000 for a parks study to determine where best to put parks in Rio Communities. Based on the study, the council will purchase park properties, and then plan and design open spaces, recreation parks, sports fields, and walking, hiking and bike trails.

The last priority on the city ICIP is approximately \$1 million for roadways, trails, paths and sidewalks.

City Hall Holiday Closings

Rio Communities City Hall will be closed Monday, Oct. 14, 2019, for Columbus Day and Monday, Nov. 11, 2019, for Veterans Day as well as Thursday, Nov. 27, and Friday, Nov. 28, in commemoration of Thanksgiving.

In addition, City Hall will be closed Christmas Day, Wednesday, Dec. 25, as well as New Year's Day, Wednesday, Jan. 1.

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New Mexico

NEWS

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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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RC Wellness Fair Oct. 18

Councilor Brown Receives MOLI
Business Licenses and the City

Council Plans for Future

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

Rio Communities Municipal Court

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

RC Association Meets Oct. 25

The Rio Communities Economic Development Commission has organized a non-profit which is now called the Rio Communities Association.

The mission of the association is to enhance and support the Rio Communities area.

The group recently heard from members of the Valencia Community Action Network about their community gardens as well as the experience of forming a non-profit organization.

The Rio Communities Association will meet Friday, Oct. 25, 2019, at 4 p.m. at a site to be determined. The public is

invited.

Call Kuan Tikkun, 505 800-1119, for more information or with comments or questions.

Park Presentation

In the continuing quest to enhance living in Rio Communities, landscape architect Robert Loftis, of MRWM, will make a presentation about parks to the Rio Communities City Council at the council's Nov. 12, 2019, 6 p.m. meeting. City Manager Leisa Haynes will discuss community gardens including possible sites for community gardens.

4th Annual

Adult

Wellness Fair

Friday, Oct. 18, 2019

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Rio Communities

City Hall

360 Rio Communities Blvd.

