

# CITY OF RIO COMMUNITIES New Mexico



Rio Communities City Hall  
360 Rio Communities Blvd.  
P.O. Box 565  
Rio Communities NM 87002  
505 861-6803  
Hours: Monday-Thursday  
8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
email:  
admin@riocommunities.net  
info@riocommunities.net  
website -- riocommunities.net

Volume 3 Number 3

July 2020

## Navigating the City Website Is Easy

Searching for information about what's going on in the City of Rio Communities? The City has a great website filled with all sorts of information that might be just exactly what you are looking for.

For instance, you might be curious what goes on at City Council meetings. Go to the City home page by typing in the URL riocommunities.net. Once at the home page (pictured below), click on the icon on the right hand side of the page that has Agendas & Minutes below it. You will get a list of meetings of City bodies that includes agendas

and minutes.

You can click on the approved agenda before a meeting or click on the approved minutes following a specific meeting. You can also click on View Details and that will take you to that specific meeting page and both agenda and minutes will be available for viewing.

The City's accounts payable are now being published and can be found under the Agendas & Minutes under the date of the meeting after the accounts payable are approved.

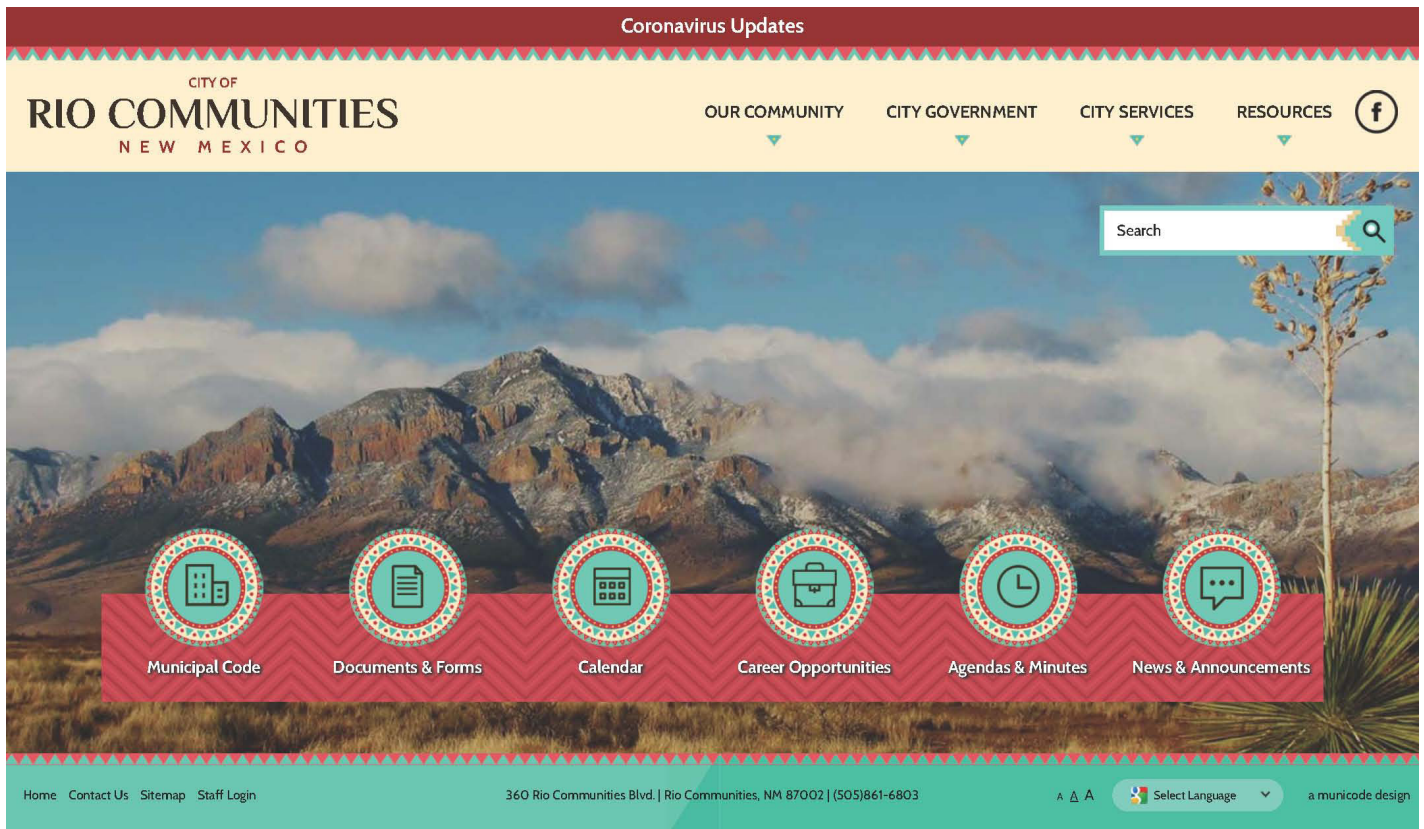
If you are looking for customer complaint forms/solid waste collection

complaint forms/vacant property application/permits or any other forms, then click on the resources link at the top of the home page.

Click on Forms and Applications; you will find forms and applications used / required by the city.

Need help finding the Facebook links for the City?

On the upper right hand side of the home page is the Facebook symbol. Click on it and it will take you to the City's Facebook page.



## Did You Respond to 2020 Census?

Work continues on the 2020 U.S. Census. If your household has not responded to the pleas to be counted there is still time to do so.

As of June 25, 2020, 68.8% of Rio Communities households responded online, by phone or by mail, to be counted in the 2020 Census. This compares to 74.5% in Bosque Farms and 51.1% in Belen.

In New Mexico there was a 50.7% self response rate as of June 25, 2020, while the national rate was 61.2%.

You can be counted for the 2020 Census by going to [2020census.gov](http://2020census.gov) or calling 844 330-2020 toll free. Make sure everyone in your household is counted to be sure Rio Communities is counted.

## RC News Snippets

Burning is allowed in Rio Communities but only on days designated as "Burn Days." Check if it is a Burn Day on the Valencia County website, [co.valencia.nm.us](http://co.valencia.nm.us) or call 505 866-2036. And be very careful as it has been very dry in New Mexico. Check the City website for fireworks limitations.

Remaining Saturday dates in 2020 when a dumpster will be at the City Hall, 360 Rio Communities Blvd., are July 18, August 15, September 19, October 17, and November 21.

The City Council has approved joining the Public Employees Retirement Association and approved health insurance benefits for employees, on an 80/20 percent split.

## Economic Development Looking For New Commission Members

The Rio Communities Economic Development Commission is looking for new members. If you would like to help build awareness of the city and ensure economic growth, submit a letter of intent and a brief resume to [admin@riocommunities.net](mailto:admin@riocommunities.net). Include what your interests are in serving and what you would like to see the group doing.

The City Council and Economic Development Commission will review interested volunteers whose applications are received through Sept. 28. Commissioners are paid a small stipend for each meeting; however, the work is voluntary.

The Economic Development Commission recently completed a new website: [www.riocommunitiesedc.net](http://www.riocommunitiesedc.net). Check it out to see how the city is being promoted and then send a letter with ideas for the future.

## Enforcing City Ordinances

Rio Communities Code Enforcement Officer Gordon Reeves reminds people that he is enforcing the City of Rio Communities ordinances for the health and safety of the public.

Reeves reminds people that he must follow a process when doing his job. Following that process can result in people who violate ordinances going to court and/or being fined. People who dump illegally can be fined. He encourages people to talk to him if violations are issued. Do not ignore him or the violation but work together to find a solution.

## RC Public Works Department

The Rio Communities Public Works Department employees continue to work on various projects through out the municipality.

They have filled more than 70 potholes; picked up trash along the walking paths, fixed problems with the City Hall roof; made sure fire extinguishers work in City Hall; made sure City Hall has adequate COVID-19 safety markings; got the irrigation system up and running; and installed exterior cameras on City Hall among many other tasks performed.

## UWSNM Now Collecting Trash

The roll out for Universal Waste System of NM (UWSNM) to collect trash in Rio Communities has done well considering it's been three months, points out Mayor Pro Tem Peggy Gutjahr.

The City Council approved a contract with UWSNM in February 2020 to collect all trash in the municipality.

A committee has been created to help deal with any problems with UWSNM's collection in Rio Communities.

Collection days are Mondays on the west side of Rio Communities Blvd. / State Hwy 47 and Tuesdays on the east side. All garbage should be bagged.

UWSNM is available by phone, 505 377-8833 (open 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.); online, [uwsnm.com](http://uwsnm.com); or email, [service@uwsnm.com](mailto:service@uwsnm.com). Offices are located on Broadway SW in Albuquerque, but an office in Rio Communities is expected to be open before the end of 2020.

## Governing Body

*Mayor Mark Gwinn*

505 861-6803

[mgwinn@riocommunities.net](mailto:mgwinn@riocommunities.net)

*Councilor Margaret (Peggy) Gutjahr*

*Mayor Pro Tem*

505 864-6908

[pgutjahr@riocommunities.net](mailto:pgutjahr@riocommunities.net)

*Councilor William (Bill) Brown*

505 864-0718

[bbrown@riocommunities.net](mailto:bbrown@riocommunities.net)

*Councilor Joshua Ramsell*

505 861-6803

[jramsell@riocommunities.net](mailto:jramsell@riocommunities.net)

*Councilor Jim Winters*

505 861-6803

[jwinters@riocommunities.net](mailto:jwinters@riocommunities.net)

*Municipal Judge Holly Noelle Chavez*

[nchavez@riocommunities.net](mailto:nchavez@riocommunities.net)

505 861-6804

## Municipal Officers

*Municipal Clerk Lisa Adair*

*Finance Officer/Treasurer*

Stephanie Finch

City Offices — 505 861-6803

# Support Local Businesses

COVID-19 has created “new normals” for many of us as we deal or have dealt with coronavirus and quarantines over the last months.

Be sure to support local businesses. Part of the Gross Receipts Tax you pay when shopping at businesses in Rio Communities goes to the City of Rio Communities to keep the municipality thriving.

## *P&Z, Building Permits*

The Rio Communities Planning and Zoning Commission is working on an abatement ordinance and standard hearing procedures.

Building permits issued include one for a house on Frederico; two separate permits for houses on Nancy Lopez; multiple permits for solar roof top installations and two permits for storage buildings within the City.

This is the most permits issued in Rio Communities at one time in many years.

## Help With Seniors and Electronics

Attention seniors. If you need help with your Smartphone or computer, Teeniors can help. They are young adults (teenagers) who are computer savvy and help seniors. Call 505 600 1397 or email them at [teeniors@gmail.com](mailto:teeniors@gmail.com). They can do phone, video conference or meet you in person. Free for Valencia County seniors.

## *City Hall / COVID-19 Update*

City hall is open to the public 8 a.m. to 1:30 pm Monday through Thursday.

Visitors must wear masks and social distancing is in place.

All City meetings follow COVID-19 guidelines and are broadcast through Rio Communities Facebook page.

Local businesses are following the Governor’s plan/requirements.

### *Rio Communities City Council*

holds workshops at 3:30 p.m. and business meetings at 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  
Meetings are held virtually. Check the City website [riocommunities.net](http://riocommunities.net) for access.

### *City of Rio Communities Municipal Court*

held 10 a.m. 2nd and 4th Friday

## *New RC Municipal Judge*

Holly Noelle Chavez has been appointed Rio Communities Municipal Judge to take the place of Municipal Judge Heather Benavidez who resigned the position.

Benavidez was appointed to serve as a Valencia County magistrate judge following the retirement of Judge Tina Garcia.

Chavez’s appointment as judge was approved by the Rio Communities City Council on a unanimous vote. She was sworn into office in May.

Court will now be held at 10 a.m. on the 2nd and 4th Fridays.

## Animal Control, Law Enforcement

The City of Rio Communities Council and Valencia County Commission have approved two Agreements where Valencia County provides services to Rio Communities. They are:

- An ongoing agreement with Valencia County for continuing animal control services. According to the agreement, the city will pay the county \$30 per hour worked per animal control officer, and the county will provide housing, veterinary care, food and water for animals if they are seized in the City or surrendered by a resident. There is a charge of \$50 per day times 3 days per animal for housing paid by the City.

- An intergovernmental services agreement for law enforcement protection. The city will pay to the county \$150,000 annually for the services. The cost includes \$130,000 for the assigned deputy with things like a vehicle and equipment plus \$30,000 for coverage outside of the assigned deputy’s duty time.

## Urgent Care Opens July 27

Sina Medical Urgent Care and Medical Spa at 386 Rio Communities Blvd. will hold a grand opening July 27. The facility will offer a variety of services. Phone number is 505 899-5570. Website [sinamedicalcenter.com](http://sinamedicalcenter.com).

## *Library in Rio Communities Future*

The Rio Communities City Council has unanimously approved a design for a public library. During the 2019 legislative session, \$50,000 was allocated for a public library in Rio Communities. The approved design is for a 1,000 square foot space where the old treasurer’s office was located in City Hall.

## Model Home on Nancy Lopez Boulevard

Pecos Homes is building a model home in the Tierra del Sol golf community of Rio Communities. The model home will be open beginning Aug. 1, 2020, from noon to 6:00 p.m. Thursday through Sunday or by appointment.

The model home is 1,456 square feet with three bedrooms, two baths, a three car garage, many upgrades and front yard landscaping. It is offered at \$189,900. Buyers have twelve large lots to choose from on Nancy Lopez Blvd. Seven plans are available from 1,032 to 2,400 square feet. For information contact Pecos Homes at 505 832-7206 or by email at [nmruraldev@yahoo.com](mailto:nmruraldev@yahoo.com).

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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**

Navigating the Website

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Volunteer for Economic  
Development Commission

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New RC Municipal Judge  
And Much More in This Issue

Due to restrictions caused by the  
novel coronavirus/COVID-19  
pandemic, meetings of the coun-  
cil and commissions may be can-  
celled. Call Rio Communities City  
Hall at 505 861-6803 to find out.

## Resolving Your Complaints or Concerns

By Peggy Gutjahr, Mayor Pro Tem

In the last few months, our world has changed dramatically. We are all adjust-  
ing and rearranging our lives. In the process, the City of Rio Communities staff  
works diligently to develop and improve our community. Things do take time  
and require cooperation and patience.

Rules and procedures are followed when making any decision. The City  
makes every effort to keep the public informed. Please visit or call City Hall with  
questions, complaints, or problems. The City staff works hard to resolve any  
complaint or concern with respect and courtesy. We ask that you treat them in  
the same manner. Frequently, the staff did not make the decision about which  
you are concerned.

If you feel your concerns are not being addressed, please contact members of the City  
Council. Contact information is located on the 2nd page of this newsletter.

Thank you for your consideration and support.



**We're counting on you, New Mexico.**

✓ **Complete your census today online, by phone, or by mail.**

The 2020 Census impacts us all for the next 10 years.  
New Mexico receives over \$7 billion per year in federal funding,  
but only if everyone fills out their census. This funding helps  
communities across New Mexico get better roads, schools,  
health care programs, and more.

This is our one chance in a decade to get it right.  
And we're all counting on you.



**i COUNT NM**  
I count because I care

United States  
**Census  
2020**

2020census.gov  
(844) 330-2020