

CITY OF RIO COMMUNITIES New Mexico



Volume 4 Number 1

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. - 1:30 p.m.
email:
admin@riocommunities.net
info@riocommunities.net
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April 2021

Governing Body

Mayor Mark Gwinn

505 861-6803

mgwinn@riocommunities.net

Councilor Margaret (Peggy) Gutjahr

Mayor Pro Tem

505 864-6908

pgutjahr@riocommunities.net

Councilor William (Bill) Brown

505 864-0718

bbrown@riocommunities.net

Councilor Joshua Ramsell

505 861-6803

jramsell@riocommunities.net

Councilor Jim Winters

505 861-6803

jwinters@riocommunities.net

Municipal Judge

Holly Noelle Chavez 505 861-6803

nchavez@riocommunities.net

Municipal Officers

Dr. Martin Moore *City Manager*

Municipal Clerk Lisa Adair

Finance Officer/Treasurer

Stephanie Finch

City Offices —

505 861-6803 505 861-6804

Get Tag for Your Dog

All dogs in Rio Communities must have tags which are available at City Hall at a cost of \$5 spayed or neutered and if not, then \$25. Please have proof of rabies shot.

New City Manager Hits the Ground Running

In this visit with Dr. Martin Moore, the new City Manager, he discusses the move to Rio Communities and outlines an assertive agenda for his first 100 days in office, and beyond.

“I greatly appreciate the warm welcome to Rio Communities,” says Dr. Moore. “The City Council, employees and citizens of our city have gone out of their way to make me feel welcome, and I look forward to my wife and family being here very soon.”

Moving on to the topic of how he plans to approach his job, Dr. Moore shares that he is moving assertively to complete projects that were waiting for a City Manager to direct.

“We have hit the ground running on numerous items,” says Dr. Moore. “These projects include, but are not limited to, completing the library space, filling key staff vacancies, preparing a balanced budget ahead of schedule, following through on street upgrade projects, scheduling the repair of potholes, replacing dead street lights, improving compliance enforcement, preparing strategic plans, completing grant projects, upgrading city ordinances, and respectfully responding to citizens’ daily

concerns.”

When asked how Rio Communities expects to achieve such an assertive agenda, he replies that it is easily accomplished with “organized hard work, combined with a team effort involving everyone who works and volunteers at the city.”

No 2021 Business License Fee

In an effort to help Rio Communities businesses recover from any effects from public health orders and other things during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Rio Communities City Council has voted to eliminate the 2021 business license fee that is charged every year.

Businesses must fill out the usual form and turn it into City Hall.

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 in order to provide the needed services to the municipality.

Budget Procedures for Rio Communities

Budgets seem like mundane and dry topics, but budgets are important to New Mexico governments.

The City of Rio Communities has a process which must be followed each year to create the budget. Here is a simplified version to help better understand that process.

- o Compile and average revenue predictions for next Fiscal Year 2022 Budget

- o February 8 - Department heads meet on budget requests

- o February 25 – March 1 budget requests from Department heads

March

- o March 1 - Deadline for Department heads to submit budget requests

- o March 8 – meetings with department heads

April

- o April 1 - Budget draft ready

- o April 8 - Special budget workshop

- o April 22 - Budget Hearing

- o April 29 - Extra budget hearing (if needed)

May

- o May 11 - Council consideration of interim budget (tentative)

- o May 20 - Interim budget submittal to NM Department of Finance and Administration (tentative)

June

- o June 1 Interim FY 2022 budget to DFA/LGD - deadline

July

- o July 13th - BAR, Final Quarter and Budget Resolutions. Council consideration.

- o July 15 - Final Quarter Reports and Final Budget submitted to DFA

- o July 31 - Deadline to submit to DFA/LGD

- o Final FY 2022 budget review and approval by DFA/LGD.

2021 Rio Communities Cleanup Dates

January 16 February 20 March 28 April 17

May 15 June 19 July 17 August 21

September 18 October 16 November 20

Two thirty-cubic-yard containers will be provided on clean-up day. On May 15 separate container for green waste (grass, weeds, branches, etc.). Open 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., or until filled.

Do You Know P & Z?

Welcome to the newest section of Rio Communities' newsletter called Do You Know.

In this section, members of the Planning and Zoning Commission will try to provide answers to all things related to Planning and Zoning and how these ordinances directly affect residents of Rio Communities.

The primary focus of this section is educating the public by restating the zoning codes in more "plan language," and providing examples of specific zoning codes and their application. The P & Z wants to solicit input from residents - any question they might have concerning a specific zoning code.

Contrary to popular notion, the Planning and Zoning Commission is NOT about over-regulating the use of our residents' properties, homes, or businesses. Rather, the primary focus is to create reasonable ordinances that benefit the most, while making them the least burdensome to a very few.

Simply stated, our goal is not to tell homeowners what they can and cannot do, rather, we strive to find reasonable solutions and compromises to sometimes very complex issues.

This is our on-going mission, and admittedly, though we may occasionally fail, we will nonetheless seek input from residents in this forum and in public Zoom meetings.

People should take advantage of the city's homepage at <https://www.riocommunities.net/> where you can examine a wealth of information about the city, its ordinances, city government and services, and much more.

Finally, P & Z is always looking for qualified and dedicated volunteers to join our team. If you, or someone you know may be interested, please notify the City Clerk.

Literacy Volunteers Needed

The Valencia County Literacy Council is seeking volunteer tutors

Subjects to be tutored include Early Literacy (zero to five years), Adult Basic Literacy, and English as a Second Language (not required to be bilingual).

Volunteer requirements include being at least 18-years-old; ability to read, write, and speak English; able to tutor students two to three hours a week; and able to plan and prepare for tutoring sessions.

If interested, visit the website valencialiteracy.org or contact Executive Director Cassandra Montano at edirector@valencialiteracy.org, or call 505 859-3414.

Public Works Accomplishes Much

The small staff in the City of Rio Communities Public Works Department has accomplished amazing results.

The upcoming work the Department has identified is the repairing of potholes, installing missing road signs, weed control, the NM Hwys 47 & 304 road clean up and the cleaning out of the arroyos along the highway.

Current and upcoming projects include the new City Library, where work is moving right along so it is soon to be open. Installed new exterior LED light fixtures behind City Hall.

Public Works is also preparing to upgrade NM Hwy 304 streetlights to LED light fixtures, and repair the non-illuminated lights on Rio Communities Boulevard.

Upcoming are plans to install the City's message board along Rio Communities Boulevard in the City Hall parking lot area.

Support the Businesses in Rio Communities

New Look For Fire Station

The Rio Grande Estates Fire Department station has a new look! The old bay doors were in constant need of repairs as well as being an egress hazard; the decision was made to replace the old doors with new, glass, red-paneled bay doors. The new doors allow much needed natural light into the bay area. Funded through Emergency Medical Services.

RGEFD hosted an EMT basic class. Six members successfully completed the class and are now awaiting test dates to take the National Registry. One member has also successfully completed the Fire 1 and 2 course.

The department is very proud of all the accomplishments of the Rio Grande Estates Fire Department fire and EMS personnel.



New look at the fire station

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Welcome to the
City of
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New Mexico
NEWS

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

Inside this Edition

No Business Fee / Need Form

RGE Fire Dept Spruces Up

Do You Know P & Z?

And Much More in This Issue

Meetings of the City of Rio
Communities Council,
Economic Development
Commission, and Planning and
Zoning Commission may be
viewed on Facebook at
the time of the meeting.

Rio Communities Code Enforcement

The City of Rio Communities Code Enforcement Department is evaluating the east side of the city for Code and City ordinance compliance.

If your property falls in these determined areas for non-compliance, rectify the situation before you receive the non-compliance letter, for the following discoveries --

- Ordinance 2019-69 Ch 11 Article 4 Solid Waste Collections.
- Ordinance 2017-53 Ch 11-3 Trash Accumulation, 2019-73.
- Uniform traffic Ordinance 12-7-9 Off-Hwy Motor Vehicles (ATV) and non-registration of vehicles.

- Ordinance 2017-54 Ch 13 Public Peace, Morals Vice, sec 5 weed control.

- Ordinance 2021-76 Zoning Code Ch 4-3-1 proper storing of RV.

Refer to the City's web site, www.riocommunities.net, Resources, then to Code of Ordinances.

April 17, 2021 is tire day for residents, bring them to City Hall for free disposal. (no rims)

Lots going on in
Rio Communities
Read this
newsletter to find
out about all the
projects.