

CITY OF RIO COMMUNITIES New Mexico



Volume 5 Number 2

Rio Communities City Hall
360 Rio Communities Blvd.
P.O. Box 565
Rio Communities NM 87002
505 861-6803
Hours: Monday-Thursday
First & Third Friday
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Open with appointment
admin@riocommunities.net
info@riocommunities.net
website -- riocommunities.net
Economic Development
www.riocommunitiesedc.net/

August 2022

Governing Body

Mayor Joshua Ramsell

505 861-6803

jramsell@riocommunities.net

Councilor Margaret (Peggy) Gutjahr

Mayor Pro Tem

505 861-6803

pgutjahr@riocommunities.net

Councilor Arthur Apodaca

505 861-6803

aapodaca@riocommunities.net

Councilor Lawrence Gordon

505 861-6803

lgordon@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

Get a 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.

Economic Development in Rio

Communities Keeps Moving Forward

The last few months has been very active in Rio Communities as Economic Development Consultant Ralph L. Mims attempts to form the groundwork layout for a very strong Economic Development business infrastructure.

Mims is currently marketing the community to attract economic and residential projects to Rio Communities. Economic Development is about marketing and making contacts, telling a good story that promotes a community to the outside world. Here are the key initiatives that have been created for the City of Rio Communities.

1) The formulation of a Rio Communities Logo and new Tag Line "Spectacular Views, Endless Opportunities!"

2) Creation of an economic development marketing brochure, pins and rack cards to help with business recruitment.

3) On-going creation and formation of a new Economic Development website

4) A retail survey will be sent to the community in August. The goal of the survey is to determine the top retailers that residents want. Once the survey is tabulated, Mims will reach out to those businesses and attend retail trade shows to promote Rio Communities.

5) The creation and home of the Valencia County Business Incubator (VCBI), headquartered in Rio Communities City Hall. The VCBI will be the home for start-up area businesses.

6) Reaching out and networking to area economic development organizations, including the NM Partnership, Albuquerque Regional Economic Alliance, (AREA) and the NM Economic Development Department.

7) A marketing supermarket recruitment letter signed by the Mayor and City Council to help commercial brokers and developers attract a much-needed supermarket to Rio Communities!

8) Reaching out to commercial real estate brokers and area retailers in Valencia County as well as land developers to identify Rio Communities as a place to do business.

Finally, remember that Rio Communities is a city with Great Potential and Endless Opportunities!

City of Rio Communities Funding

CAPITAL OUTLAY/GRANTS/NMDOT/OTHER SPECIAL FUNDING STATUS							
PROJECT	APPROPRIATION YEAR	APPROPRIATION /GRANT AMOUNT	CITY MATCH	TOTAL EXPENDED	EXPENDE D %	Resolution	Information
CITY HALL RENOVATION	2020	\$ 321,750.00	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	In Progress	NOO/Purchase Order Issued to FBT Architects for Architectural Design & Sego Insulation
LIBRARY	2020	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ 9,416.58	94.2%		Items Purchased.
SAFETY STREET LIGHTING	2021	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 8,860.92	\$ 12,035.43	20.1%	In Progress	NOO/Purchase Order Issued to HDR Engineering
CITY HALL COMPLEX	2021	\$ 300,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%		Received Fully Executed Grant Agreement
TRAILS, PARKS & OPEN SPACES CONSTRUCTION	2021	\$ 250,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	#REF!		City Manager working with Developers.
AMERICAN RECOVERY PLAN ACT	2021	\$ 1,122,193.00	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%		Project planning underway.
CITY HALL FLOODING	2021	\$ 16,500.00	\$ 4,125.00	\$ 35,629.62	100.0%	In Progress	Waiting for reimbursement
CHAMARTIN DRAINAGE, Avienda Del Fuego, Other Misc. Streets	2021	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ -	0.0%	In Progress	Engineer to begin work on design
DEBRIS REMOVAL	2021	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 16,250.00	\$ 57,155.25	87.9%	In Progress	Waiting for reimbursement
PAVEMENT REHABILITATION SAN LUCAS/CHAMARTIN	2021	\$ 139,854.00	\$ 46,618.00	\$ -	0.0%	In Progress	Engineer to begin work on certifications & Bid documents
YOUTH AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS	2021	\$ 75,000.00	\$ -	\$ 75,000.00	100.0%	In Progress	Items Purchased.

Do You Know: Comprehensive Plan

Under New Mexico statutes, each city shall prepare and adopt a master or comprehensive plan, the purpose of which is to assess where Rio Communities is today and document what residents and community leaders want for the future.

It is a fluid public document developed and adopted in concert with community participation as a policy guide to decision-making about the physical development of the community. It describes in a general way

how the leaders of the government want the community to develop in the ensuing 20 years.

The Comprehensive Plan outlines the steps to achieve the community's vision through goals, policies, and measurable actions. The Comprehensive Plan serves as a guide for current and future decision making while identifying needs that support the City's capital funding requests within an Infrastructure Capital Improvements Plan (ICIP).

Teaming Up Means Kids Get More!

The City of Rio Communities welcomes summer programs to our city. To foster the love of learning, the City of Rio Communities has teamed up with the City of Belen's Summer Recreation program for the weekly use of our Makerspace. Students are given an opportunity to work with coding, drones, and 3D printers.

The City of Rio Communities has also welcomed back the Rio Communities Optimist Club's LEGO Robotics Camps. The Optimist Club's goal goes hand in hand with our own, to get students excited about learn-

ing and developing ideas for future career paths. The free camps were designed for various ages and levels of difficulties of robotics.

We believe our children deserve the best opportunities, and we are working together with them to create knowledge and inspiration. We would like to thank the City of Belen as well as the Rio Communities Optimist Club for helping us create a fun, learning environment within our City.

Police Department Funded by Residential Property Tax Increase

At the July 25, 2022 City Council meeting, the City of Rio Communities Council adopted an increase in the City residential property tax rate and voted to form and operate a Police Department.

The City of Rio Communities is fulfilling its promise to provide the citizens with their own (Police) Department. In order to keep that commitment, we have raised residential (not commercial) property tax rates. This increase will provide up to \$274,000 dollars in revenue, which is the additional amount needed to start and run a Department.

Initially, the Department will consist of a Police Chief (who will work in the field), two (2) Patrol Officers, and an Office Manager / Evidence Technician to protect the integrity of evidence, aid case management and facilitate daily office operations. The City of Rio

Communities will remodel space inside the City Hall complex to house the Department.

The average residential property value in the City is an estimated \$158,000 per home, with actual values ranging from under \$100,000 to over \$600,000 per residence. Using the averaged residential property value of \$158,000, a typical property tax bill would increase about 51 cents per cay, \$15.36 per month or \$184.33 per year. (Note: This is an estimate for illustrative purposes only.)

"We reiterate that the entire amount of money raised by this property tax increase will go toward the creation, operation, and maintenance of our police force", concludes Ramsell.

Literacy Volunteers Tutors Needed

The Valencia County Literacy Council seeks volunteer tutors. Subjects to be tutored include Adult Basic English Literacy (listening, speaking, reading and writing), English as a Second Language (ESL) for non-native speakers of for English speakers who need to improve their reading and writing skills, Digital Literacy & computers, Financial Literacy, and Civic/Citizenship Literacy. Tutors are not required to be bilingual.

Volunteer requirements include being 18-years old; ability to read, write and speak English; able to tutor students in a classroom or online and conduct classes one-on-one or in small group.

Contact Programs Coordinator Cecy Rodriguez at cecyrodriquez822@gmail.com 505-925-8935 or Dores Jay-Pang: edirector@valencialiteracy.org, 505-925-8926.

<h1>LIBRARY CARD</h1> <p>City of Rio Communities, NM</p> 	
AUTHORS	
Public Library & Makerspace	
TITLE	
Grand Opening	
DATE	MAY WE BORROW YOU?
07.30.2022	Bookmark the Date of July 30, 2022 Please join us in the celebration of our new Public Library and Makerspace

Come Visit the Library Now Open

CITY OF RIO COMMUNITIES
New Mexico
NEWS

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Hours: Open to the Public

Monday - Thursday

First & Third Friday

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

City Council Meetings

2nd & 4th Mondays 6 p.m.

City Council Workshops

2nd & 4th Mondays 3 p.m.

**Contact City Hall if you need to
come in some other time**

**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

RC Projects

**Teaming Up Means
Kids Get More**

**Economic Development
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.**

Area Business Incubator Helps Throughout County

The Valencia County Business Incubator is now helping people start and grow their businesses.

The Valencia County Business Incubator is housed in Rio Communities City Hall and uses space at the UNM-Valencia Workforce Training Center in the Village of Los Lunas for client intake meetings. It was 2017 when people first considered a countywide business incubator.

It was early 2018 when a USDA-funded feasibility study was completed. The study found a small business incubator was feasible in Valencia County, specifically when it came to edible products. A mixed-use kitchen incubator would also be needed.

The incubator is open to anyone in the county and is headed by the Village of Los Lunas and the City of Rio Communities. The goal of the incubator is to help people who have a business in mind turn their ideas into that successful business.

mail information