

CITY OF RIO COMMUNITIES New Mexico



Volume 6 Number 1

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/
January 2023

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

City Election in November

An election for two city councilors will be held Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2023. Terms will be for four years. Filing day for candidates will be in August 2023.

Search Is On for Rio Communities Police Chief

The City of Rio Communities is currently recruiting for a Police Chief, and has put out a second call for applications throughout the State of New Mexico, and shortly nationwide.

In addition, the City of Rio Communities will be announcing an opening for a Patrol Officer in the near future.

Renovations are underway, with completion expected early this Spring, for the new police station in the City Hall Complex. Equipment for the police station is being ordered.

Police vehicles have arrived at the automotive dealership and are being outfitted to serve as patrol units.

Rio Communities Budget Approved

The Rio Communities City Council approved a diversity of big-ticket projects for the city and its residents for this year's budget, 7/1/2022 – 06/30/2023.

Projects include a Special Code Enforcement Operation, two full time Public Works positions, a Public Works yard, contracts with professional Economic Development Specialists, \$60,000 for a special city-wide clean-up project, a full-time Fire Chief, a full-time Police Chief, and monies to renovate the Municipal Complex to include a Police Department.

The city has also been awarded numerous grants which include Public Works equipment, parks and trails/open spaces, numerous street projects, Municipal Complex renovations, and community programs.

The city's finances are in great shape, says City Manager Dr. Martin "Marty" Moore, with revenues and expenses on track for what was budgeted.

Even with the pandemic, Rio Communities continues to move forward in a positive direction. City Officials look forward to what 2023 brings!

Street Light Plan Brightens Rio Communities

The Street Lighting Plan for our City is completed. This plan lays out a model for where to put streetlights on major intersections, estimates how much these projects might cost, and provides a model for putting together projects in different parts of the city to increase lighting.

This Plan allows the City to apply for outside funding for both immediate and long term street light projects. The ultimate goal is the appropriate lighting of key safety areas (bus stops, intersections, etc.) with the type of lights that both respect our dark skies and improve safety for residents' families and properties.

Selected intersections studied as part of the plan, include but are not limited to key locations on the following streets;

Horner Street; Hillandale Avenue; De Haan Loop; Manzano Expressway; Goodman Avenue; Damon Avenue; Nancy Lopez Boulevard; Lee Trevino Boulevard; Kaghan Loop; and Hillman Street. Numerous other areas were also considered, such as Western Drive, Horizon Vista, and Maddox Loop areas.

An estimated 2022 cost for setting up a typical intersection (construction design, electrical service, installation, construction, and equipping) ranges from \$83,000 to \$148,000 for lights at each intersection, depending largely on the number of lights needed at each intersection, and the cost to run electrical line to each light.

RC Special Funding

The following is Capital Outlay, grants, New Mexico Department of Transportation, and other Special Funding for projects in Rio Communities at the current time,

CITY HALL RENOVATION - appropriated 2020; appropriation/grant of 3.22E+0; In Progress; NOO/Purchase Order Issued to FBT Architects for Architectural Design & Seigo Insulation.

LIBRARY = appropriated 2020; appropriation/grant of \$10,000.00; expended \$9,416.58 (94.2%) NOO/PO Issued to Sharp Business Systems.

SAFETY STREET LIGHTING - appropriated 2021; appropriation/grant of \$60,000.00; city match \$8,860.92; total expended \$12,035.43 (20.1%); In Progress; NOO/Purchase Order Issued to HDR Engineering.

CITY HALL COMPLEX - appropriated 2021; appropriation/grant of \$300,000; 100.0% expended; Received Fully Executed Grant Agreement.

TRAILS, PARKS & OPEN SPACES CONSTRUCTION - appropriated 2021; appropriation/grant of \$250,000; City Manager working with Developers.

AMERICAN RECOVERY PLAN ACT - appropriated 2021; appropriation/grant of \$1,122,193. Project planning underway.

CITY HALL FLOODING - appropriated 2021; appropriation/grant of \$16,500.00; city match \$4,125.00; total expended; \$35,629.62; In Progress; Sent in items for reimbursement. Insurance covered everything minus the deductible.

CHAMARTIN DRAINAGE Avenida Del Fuego, Other Misc. Street; appropriated 2021; appropriation/grant of \$400,000; \$100,000.00 city match \$16,500; In Progress; Engineer to begin work on design.

DEBRIS REMOVAL - appropriated 2021; appropriation/grant of \$65,000; city match \$16,250.00; total expended \$57,155.25 (87.9%) In Progress; sent in items for reimbursement.

PAVEMENT REHABILITATION SAN LUCAS/CHAMARTIN - appropriated 2021; appropriation/grant of \$139,854; city match \$46,618. In Progress; Engineer to begin work on certifications & bid documents.

YOUTH AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS - appropriated 2021; appropriation/grant of \$75,000; total expended \$33,861.98 (45.1%); In Progress; Council approved plan, purchasing items

Public Library Open

City of Rio Communities officials are happy to announce the reopening of the public library. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m, Tuesday through Thursday. Additional books have been added and there is full access to the six computer stations.

Workers are currently in the process of adding online books through Overdrive. The Overdrive link will be available at www.riocommunities.net, within the Library tab. Rio Communities is also in the process of creating spring and summer break programs through the library and Makerspace.

With the creation of a new coding program, the City will be able to offer patrons of all ages the ability to learn to computer code. For those who would like to begin a career in coding, the program will offer advanced training to prepare for coding certificate exams.

Check riocommunities.net and the electronic sign in front of City Hall for updates on future library events.

2023 Rio Communities

Official Holidays

New Year's Day (Observed) -- Monday, January 2

M. L. King Jr. Birthday -- Monday, January 16

Presidents Day -- Monday, February 20

Memorial Day -- Monday, May 29

Juneteenth -- Monday, June 19

Independence Day -- Tuesday, July 4

Labor Day -- Monday, September

Indigenous Peoples' Day -- Monday, October 9

Veterans' Day (Observed) -- Thursday, November 9

Thanksgiving Day Thursday, November 23

Christmas Day Monday, December 25

City Public Works Cleans Up

Significant strides have been made in the effort to clean up the City using the Public Works Department. Making the City of Rio Communities a more attractive and safer place to live, work, and play has been a major goal in 2022.

So far, this work has focused on cleaning walking areas, highway rights-of-way, and blind intersections. Some areas completed so far include the City-owned walkway behind Hillendale, Highway 304 (spring) and Highway 47 (summer) vegetation control, Goodman Avenue vegetation control, culvert cleanouts in key stormwater drainage areas, intersection cleanup (winter) at Manzano and Highway 47, Hillendale and Manzano, and Golf Course Road at Highway 47.

Other activities currently underway include winter fill-in of potholes, repairing stormwater erosion along city streets, and replacing missing and old street signs.

The city's plans for 2023 include desert trash cleanup inside the city limits, continued cleanup along Highways 47 and 304, removal of roadside hazards on city streets, cleanup along Sundial Road, continuing the re-

City Hall Improvements Continue

The City of Rio Communities has made major progress renovating the City Hall / Public Use Complex in 2022 on Rio Communities Boulevard.

This progress includes making the building more energy efficient with upgraded insulation and a phased move to LED interior lighting; remodeling the space that is now occupied by the Valencia County Business Incubator; officially opening a community library; cleaning and making available the community center room in the building, where has hosted summer youth, non-profit organization events, Lego Robotics, and a Chess Club for school age children.

The space also provides a Maker Space for youth, adult, and private business use, which enables the community to have special events and host training opportunities for aspiring start-up, and business expansion prospects.

The space has been remodeled for a new Police Station with City Council chambers moved into a more secure space; and internet and cell phone access in the building has been improved

In 2023, plans are to complete renovation of the partially-completed City Administration offices, start design work and expansion of the City Council Chambers to make them more publicly accessible as well as improve the sound quality for City meetings.

placement of old and missing signs throughout the City, upgrading the City's neighborhood park in the Chamisa subdivision, and starting design work for community sized city park facilities.

City officials are pleased to let the public know that Rio Communities is finally acquiring its own Public Works equipment and supplies using grant funds and a portion of the Bill Brown memorial funds, which will save tens of thousands of dollars in rental and contracting costs. This equipment includes a new backhoe and hauling trailer, a dump trailer, a truck (on order) to pull the hauling trailer, a brush-hog and tractor for streetside mowing, and pothole repair equipment and supplies.

Business Incubator Helps

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 meeting.

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. Call Interim Director Ben Romero at 505 514-5555.

Municipal Clerk Office Reminders

It's time for friendly reminders in the community. Thanks to area businesses for being in the city. Many more businesses are needed. The Clerk's Office has sent business registration packets to current businesses as a reminder to renew your licenses.

If you are a new business or a business that did not realize you need a license in Rio Communities, January would be a great time to apply for one. Business license registration forms are at City Hall or on the website: www.riocommunities.net.

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Dog registration and breeders permits are due in January. Current vaccination records are needed for registration, along with a fee of \$5 per spayed/neutered dog or \$25 for those who have not been. As it gets colder, please make sure your pets have warm shelter.

CITY OF RIO COMMUNITIES
New Mexico
NEWS

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Hours: Open to the Public
Monday - Thursday
First & Third Friday
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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

Public Works

Cleans Up

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City Hall

Improvements

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Seeking Police Chief

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 Cleanup Dates
For 2023

Third Saturday of the Month

January 21, 2023 February 18, 2023

March 18, 2023 April 15, 2023

May 20, 2023 June 17, 2023

July 15, 2023 August 19, 2023

September 16, 2023 October 21, 2023

November 18, 2023

NO DUMPSTER IN DECEMBER

Garbage Pickup / Conejo Collection Center

Universal Waste System pickup days: westside of Hwy 47 Monday and the eastside of Hwy 47 are Tuesday. Recycling pickup is the last Friday of the month (if you subscribe to this service). Two dumpsters behind City Hall for residents are to be used for Recycling (no trash)

The Conejo Collection Center is open Monday – Saturday 8 am – 3:45 p.m. Sunday Noon – 5:00 p.m. Pricing is \$3.50 per cubic yard of waste.

The City has a new slogan
 and logo –

Spectacular Views

Endless Opportunities

Economic Development

Business growth in Rio Communities continues with the aid of economic development specialist Ralph Mims. Watch for news in future newsletters.

Read About
the City of Rio
Communities

