

# CITY OF RIO COMMUNITIES New Mexico



Volume 1 Number 1

Rio Communities City Hall  
360 Rio Communities Blvd.  
P.O. Box 565  
Rio Communities NM 87002  
505 861-6803  
Hours:  
Monday-Thursday 9 am. - 2 p.m.  
email:  
admin@riocommunities.net  
info@riocommunities.net  
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February 2018

## 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 Arturo R. Sais*

505 966-6168

asais@riocommunities.net

*Councilor Thomas Scroggins*

505 321-0063

tscroggins@riocommunities.net

*Municipal Judge Heather Benavidez*

505 861-6804

hbenavidez@riocommunities.net

## Municipal Officers

*Municipal Clerk Lisa Adair*

*Treasurer/CPO Celina Benavidez*

*City Manager Bob Skerry*

bskerry@riocommunities.net

City Offices — 505 861-6803

## *Municipal Election March 6*

Registered voters in the City of Rio Communities can vote for mayor, two city councilors, and municipal judge in the Tuesday, March 6, municipal election.

Candidates are:

Mayor – Mark Gwinn

City Council (in ballot order) –

Bill Brown

Joshua Ramsell

Thomas Scroggins

Municipal Judge – Heather Benavidez.

All positions will be elected for four years. The top two vote getters in the council race will be elected.

Voting on election day will be

from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the south side of City Hall in the City Council/Courtroom Chambers, 360 Rio Communities Blvd.

Early voting will be in the office of the Municipal Clerk at 360 Rio Communities Blvd from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 14; Thursday, Feb. 15; Monday through Thursday, Feb. 19 through Feb. 22; and Monday through Friday, Feb. 26 through March 2.

Applications for absentee ballots may be obtained only from the office of the Municipal Clerk.

Voter registration closes Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2018.

## **RC Now Has Fire Station #2**

The City of Rio Communities now owns the Rio Grande Estates Fire Department (RGEFD) Station #2.

The station had been owned by Tierra Grande Improvement Association (TGIA) which built it in the early 1990s.

It is located on the west side of Highway 47 in Rio Grande Estates Unit M just north of Tierra Grande.

The TGIA Board of Directors approved giving the station to Rio Communities at no charge.

Future plans for the station include adding sleeping quarters and adequate shower facilities.

If the City of Rio Communities should dissolve or the structure is not maintained as a fire station, then the property reverts back to TGIA.

The resolution accepting the station said “The RGEFD will continue to serve the outlying areas of Fire District #1 and respond to all calls and requests for mutual aid and assistance.”



*The Tierra Grande fire station is now RGEFD Fire Station #2.*

# RC Street Improvements Scheduled

The City of Rio Communities has received a \$75,000 cooperative grant from the New Mexico Department of Transportation which will be matched by the city with \$25,000 for a total of \$100,000.

The City has also received another \$85,000 in Department of Transportation cooperative road improvement Funds which it is matching with \$35,000 for additional road work.

A full-service repair and replace will be or has been done to the following intersections and streets with the \$100,000 :

- Arnold Palmer Loop / Nancy Lopez Boulevard
  - Riggs Street / McDougal Avenue
  - Cambridge Avenue / Hillman Street (east)
  - Brugg Drive / Howard Street
  - Frederico Boulevard / Plunkett Street
  - Palmer Lane / Boros Street
  - Lee Trevino Boulevard / Brown Road
  - Suncrest Boulevard / Howard Street
  - Kaghan Loop / Perion Court
  - Kaghan Loop / Perion Drive
  - Clinton Court / Pueblo Nuevo
- Cul-de-sacs to be repaired and replaced are Clinton Street, Blanda Court, Lee Elder Court, Fiala Court, Crenshaw Court, and Irwin Court.

Other streets to be worked on with the \$100,00 are Guapo Road (east of Kaghan Loop), and the north and south end of Frederico Boulevard.

The streets to be worked on with the other cooperative funds are the intersections of McKnight and Damon; Horner, Kaghan and Suncrest;



## ***Work on street improvements in Rio Communities.***

Guapo and Kaghan Loop; Guapo and Aviso Street; Kaghan Loop and Dulcinea Lane; Goodman and Hillman Avenues; Frederico and Unitas Court.

Also, Palmer Lane and Blanda Court; Nancy Lopez and Arnold

Palmer Loop; Palmer Lane and Player Court; Frederico and Golf Course Road.

The entire length of Goodman Avenue will be patched and reconditioned as well as a spot on McDougal Avenue patched and chip sealed.

## **Manzano Expressway Work**

Valencia County is spearheading the project to totally resurface Manzano Expressway from Rio del Oro South Loop to the Highway 47 intersection.

The project is scheduled for spring 2018 as weather permits and utilizes federal matching funds through the Transportation Improvement Program.

## ***Rio Communities Website***

Have you checked out the City of Rio Communities Website?

Riocommunities.net offers information about City policies and procedures, City plans, how to contact City personnel, a calendar, plus much more.

It also has applications for per-

mits, variances and appeals.

## **Business Licenses Available**

Doing business in Rio Communities? Remember to get a business license from the City of Rio Communities. It's only \$35, available at City offices, 360 Rio Communities Blvd.

# Jobs at the Highway 304 Industrial Park



## Comprehensive Plan Looks to the Future

The City of Rio Communities is a young municipality, only five years old, but it is planning for the future with the City's Comprehensive Plan.

The plan was created from public input and recommendations in the form of goals, objectives and policies. These are meant to guide the physical and financial development as well as long-range planning (20 to 30 years) of the community.

The plan takes into account land use; public safety; community design; commercial growth; capital investments in infrastructure; protecting natural resources; and preserving cultural heritage.

A few goals are to develop a safe community, diversify the local economy, provide quality health care resources and options, and improve public mobility and transportation.

The plan is used by city officials in a number of ways including creating the municipal budget.

The Comprehensive Plan is available on the city website, [rio-communitateis.net](http://rio-communitateis.net), under Plans.

At the end of 2017, some 400 people were employed in the businesses located in the Industrial Park on Highway 304 south of Rio Communities.

Jobs are usually available at these companies which includes:

Israeli housewares company Keter Plastics which is investing \$36 million renovating and expanding the old Solo Cup building by adding 80,000 to 100,000 square feet to the existing 165,000 square feet structure.

Keter is expected to hire 175 people to work for the company which produces quality plastic home and outdoor storage solutions.

Aristech Surfaces manufactures Aristech Acrylics™, an acrylic sheet sold primarily into the bath and hot

tub manufacturing industries, and Avonite™ Surface, a global leading brand of surface products for the construction industry.

Clariant is a specialty chemicals company that focuses on care chemicals (consumer and industrial); catalysis; natural resources (oil and mining, minerals), plus plastics and coatings.

Among the materials that Hydrocut can cut are acrylic, aluminum, aerospace alloys, brass, copper, granite, hardwood, marble, rubber, stainless steel, stone, steel, and titanium.

Mesa Oil handles the collection of used oil with 50 company-owned tank trucks and specializes in oil recovery and oil recycling.

## ICIP Lists Improvement Projects

The City of Rio Communities Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) for budget years 2019-2023 has been approved by the City Council which means the council, as well as the village staff, are planning for the future of the community.

The ICIP lists projects that would improve life in the city. This list is reviewed every year.

Project funding comes from sources that include legislative ap-

propriations, grants, the city budget, and loans.

The City Council approved the following as the top projects:

1. Work on the City Hall complex and emergency operations center
2. Public safety equipment
3. Roadway beautification
4. Parks and open space
5. Pavement reconstruction
6. Simulcast radio system for public safety

## New Traffic Signs for Safety

In an effort to keep citizens safe, City workers have installed 188 new traffic signs, 20 speed limit signs, 70 stop signs, and 20 traffic signs throughout Rio Communities.

These signs are easier to read.

The new street signs also help emergency personnel find the sites where aid is needed.



# New RC Rescue Units



The Rio Grande Estates Fire Department (RGEFD), the department that serves Rio Communities and the surrounding area, has two new up-to-date rescue units. The units cost \$261,000, funding available to the City of Rio Communities through the collection of gross receipt tax allocated directly to fire and rescue. One unit will be stationed at the main station near River Road/Highway 47 and the other at Fire Station #2 near the north end of Tierra Grande. In 2017 nearly 900 medical calls were answered in the Rio Communities area.

## 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

Election Day is March 6  
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**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  
**City of Rio Communities Municipal Court**  
meets 5:30 p.m. 2nd and 4th Thursday

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