

CITY OF RIO COMMUNITIES New Mexico



Volume 1 Number 2

April 2018

Governing Body

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Councilor Joshua Ramsell

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Councilor Arturo R. Sais

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Municipal Judge Heather Benavidez

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Municipal Officers

Municipal Clerk Lisa Adair

Treasurer/CPO Celina Benavidez

City Manager Bob Skerry

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City Offices — 505 861-6803

RC Health Fair Saturday, April 21

The 3rd annual Rio Communities Family Wellness Fair will be held Saturday, April 21, 2018, at Rio Communities City Hall, 360 Rio Communities Blvd.

The event is sponsored by the Rio Communities Wellness Council in partnership with Aristech™ Surfaces.

Available that day should be:

- Rock climbing wall from Albuquerque Parks and Recreation
- Bounce house, Rio Grande Estates Fire Department
- Golf putting, Tierra del Sol Golf Club
- Face painting
- Video Game contest
- Heart Start
- Blood Mobile
- Immunizations
- WIC (Women, Infants & Children) services and Family First
- Puppets – Pilot Club
- Home visiting
- Boy Scouts
- Mammogram
- Various insurances

• College Fund Savings accounts for students with disabilities (ABLE)

• Nutrition, exercise, and DWI information

- La Merced Elementary School
- Johnson Chiropractic Clinic
- Parents as Teachers
- Kids at Hope
- Health Council
- Voter registration
- City of Rio Communities information and sign ups
- Optimist Club and Neighborhood Watch information

Big Mikes will provide the food. There will be popcorn for attendees.

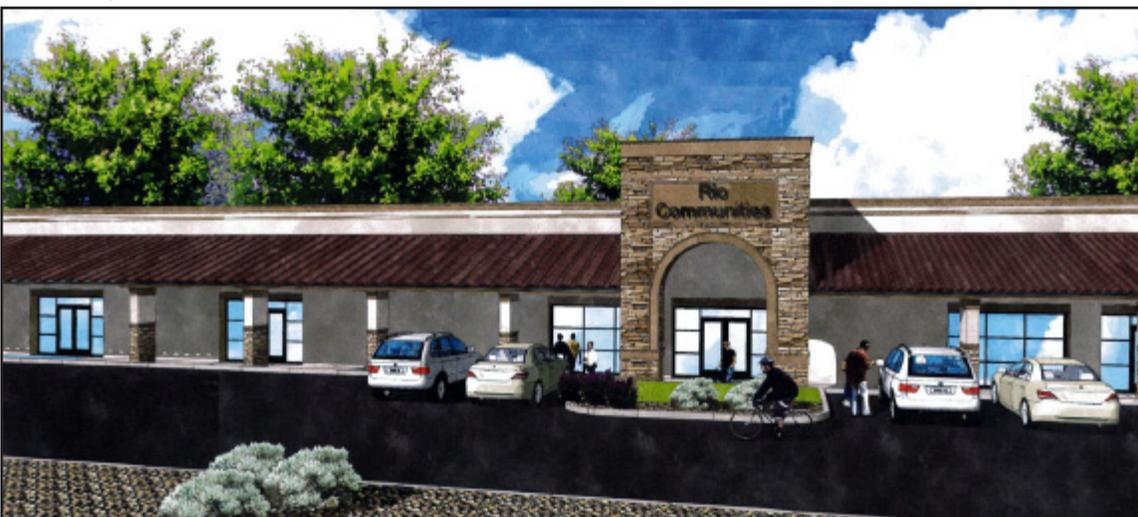
The first health fair was October 2015. Three health fairs with a focus on seniors have been held in October.

The 2018 fair will be the third held on the third Saturday of April.

The fairs average 40 to 60 vendors. The first fair had 250 attendees with a growth in attendance up to 400.

Peggy Gutjahr, one of the principal

Continued on page 2



Proposed new facade for City of Rio Communities Municipal Complex.

See story page 3.

VRECC Serves All Valencia County

The new Valencia Regional Emergency Communication Center (VRECC) building in Los Lunas, home to Valencia County's 911 services, is now operational.

The \$3.2 million, 11,490 square foot VRECC building has 13 work stations, with the capability of increasing to at least 18.

Operators handle emergency calls from all across the county, dispatching police, emergency medical services, and fire equipment with firefighters.

In 2017, VRECC operators handled 2,655 calls for people in the City of Rio Communities -- 208, January 2017; 256, February; 279, March; 208, April; 227, May; 228, June; 236, July; 242, August; 199, September; 176, October; 200, November; and 196, December.

The new building is created with the continued growth of the area in mind as well as changes in technology.

The facility was constructed to serve all of Valencia County's residents for several years.

The City of Rio Communities is represented on the



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VRECC Operator at her station in the new building

VRECC Board by City Manager Bob Skerry and a member of the governing body.

Do Not Encroach on Pipelines on Property

If you own property in Rio Communities, that property may have a pipeline running through it.

If there is a pipeline, then property owners must realize that any encroachment on a pipeline right-of-way has the potential to create hazardous situations and/or impede a pipeline operators' ability to maintain that pipeline.

Third party coordination with the pipeline operator significantly minimizes the chance of third-party damage and allows for the performance of routine maintenance as well as required state and federal inspections.

In order to perform these critical activities, pipeline maintenance personnel must be able to access the pipeline right-of-way as provided by the easement agreement.

To ensure access, the area on either side of the pipeline in the right-of-way must be maintained clear of trees, shrubs, buildings, structures or any other encroachments

that interfere with the operator's access to the pipeline.

This is the responsibility of the land owner.

Landowners must contact a pipeline's operator for review and approval of any potential encroachments on the right-of-way to ensure the safety of the landowner, the public, and pipeline employees.

Health Fair.continued from page 1

organizers of the health fair, points out that it takes a hard-working group of dedicated individuals to organize the event.

The original Health Fair committee included folks from Aristech™ Surfaces plus Steve Togami, Ray Gonzales; Betty Towle, Marilyn Weiland, Mark Gwinn, Bill Brown, Sallie Rizzo, Fran Rossberg, Liz Sagrestano, Kuan Takkun, Marilyn Winters, Linda Haverty, Ellen Hayes, and Peggy Gutjahr.

Newer members are Loedi Silva, John Mulquin, Debbie Johnston, and Joshua Ramsell.

This link goes to an anonymous survey about health issues in Rio Communities: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DTDFYJJ>.

This data helps plan for future services and educational efforts in the City of Rio Communities.

June Kids Golf Clinic

A golf clinic for kids will be held every Tuesday and Thursday in June at the Tierra del Sol Golf Club.

The clinic for kids six to nine will be from nine to ten a.m. while the clinic for ten to seventeen will be 10 to 11 a.m.

Cost is \$10 for the month.

Sign up for the clinic will be in May.

Call the golf club at 864-1000 for more information.

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.

PNM's Fourth Solar Center in the City

PNM now has four solar centers in Valencia County including one in the City of Rio Communities.

The 10-megawatt solar energy center came online at the end of 2015 after PNM invested about \$20 million to build the center in Rio Communities.

The center has 40,250 panels that generate the equivalent of the energy used by 4,025 average residential customers.

The City of Rio Communities has 2,137 households.

The new solar energy center will provide an estimated \$189,000 annually in new tax revenue for Valencia County with some of that going to the City of Rio Communities.

Addresses on Homes Are Very Important

Rio Communities residents should be sure the address for their home is plainly visible and is correct.

This is important for everyone's safety. A correct address helps ensure emergency personnel can locate a structure when there is an emergency.

All buildings should have approved address numbers, building numbers or approved building identification placed where it is plainly legible and visible from the street or road fronting the property.

Numbers shall contrast with the background and be a minimum of four-inches high with a minimum stroke width of 1/2 inch.

Where access is by means of private road and the building address cannot be viewed from the public right-of-way, then a monument, pole or other sign should identify the building.

If your address does not seem to fit with your neighborhood then check with City Hall.

Cleanup Days for 2018

To help keep Rio Communities clean, the city will have a dumpster in the parking lot of City Hall, 360 Rio Communities Blvd., on one Saturday each month which is generally in the middle of the month.

Those Saturdays are April 28, May 19, June 16, July 21, August 18, Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17 and Dec. 15.

Check out the City Website

Have you looked at 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.

The website also has the City of Rio Communities newsletter which had its first issue in February 2018. An error was made in the mailed copies showing February 2017. Apologies for that error.

Construction of the center on its approximately 103-acre site created 243 local temporary jobs.

The solar center features solar photovoltaic panels mounted on single-axis tracking devices that follow the sun for increased energy output.

The panels are ten-feet high at their maximum angle.

Solar panels create no air emissions or waste products and do not use water to produce electricity.

The panels can be recycled at the end of their useful life.



Municipal Complex Improvements

The City of Rio Communities Municipal Complex will be renovated with the front facing Highway 47 undergoing a transformation using a stucco-stone veneer.

The picture on page one shows the proposed renovation of the side facing Highway 47.

The Rio Communities Municipal Complex is part of a set of buildings constructed in 1973 when the area was just starting to be populated.

The City Council hired FBT Architects to coordinate the municipal complex renovations plus other improvements in the City of Rio Communities.

FBT Architects was founded in 1973. The company's employees work on projects using "innovative design combined with unparalleled service."

Funding for many of the Rio Communities improvements comes from state capital outlay funds.

More about those improvements as the projects are being worked on.

City Officials Sworn In

City of Rio Communities Mayor Mark Gwinn has been sworn in for another four-year term after his re-election in March.

Also sworn in were City Councilors Bill Brown and Joshua Ramsell.

Brown was serving a two-year council term he had been elected to in 2016 and will now serve a four-year term.

Ramsell was elected to a four-year term in March.

In addition, Municipal Judge Heather Benavidez was re-elected and sworn in to office for a four-year term.

Use Rio Communities for Your Address

Remember to use Rio Communities when putting your address on anything. It is the same zip code as Belen but the area is now the City of Rio Communities.

Sworn in to Serve



Valencia County Sheriff's Deputy Cole Knight is sworn in as City of Rio Communities' law enforcement officer on the left while L.E. Ruben is sworn in as Rio Grande Estates Fire Department Chief on the right. Cole has worked for the NM Corrections Department and spent 11 years with the Albuquerque Police Department before being



hired by the VCSO eight months ago. Ruben previously served as fire chief from 2000 to 2009. Also pictured are Rio Communities Municipal Clerk Lisa Adair and Municipal Judge Heather Benavidez. *Photos courtesy Valencia County News-Bulletin.*

Welcome to the City of Rio Communities New Mexico NEWS

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

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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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Hours:

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Rio Communities City Hall

NEWS
CITY OF RIO COMMUNITIES
New Mexico

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Rio Communities, NM

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