

Before the Board of County Commissioners
Martin County, Florida
A Proclamation

**Congratulating the Rio Civic Club upon the occasion of their 75th Anniversary
in Martin County, Florida**

- Whereas,** a group of 25 residents of Rio met on June 2, 1950 at the Rio Baptist Chapel and formed the Rio Civic Club for the purpose of supporting community improvements; and
- Whereas,** Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Ward gifted the Rio Civic Club a parcel of land for the construction of the Rio Civic Center and Commissioner Seymour Gideon laid the cornerstone at a ceremony on October 14, 1951. The original building was expanded in 1964 and has served as a polling location, hurricane shelter and meeting site, and the structure was donated to Martin County in April 2005 for continued community use; and
- Whereas,** the Rio Civic Club hosted dinners and card parties to raise funds for improvements to Langford Park, Jensen Beach-Rio United Fund Drive, Jensen-Rio Samaritans, Cancer/Heart/Martin Hospital, July 4th fireworks, Sheriff’s Boys Town, beautification work, Jensen Beach Causeway and the Rio Volunteer Fire Department. The club held Christmas parties for children, sponsored the Peanut League and mended linens and purchased chairs for the hospital. The club initiated the creation of Rio Nature Park in 2000 and continues to host rummage and bake sales to fund scholarships and coordinate Adopt-A-Road and Rio Nature Park Cleanups; and
- Whereas,** the Rio Civic Club prepared the grant for the creation of the Pat Mark Rio-Jensen Skatepark and held multiple skateboard competitions for funding the construction of additional skate park facilities. Club members worked to prepare and present the application for the 1926 Stuart Welcome Arch to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2004. In 1999, the Rio Civic Club garnered support for Rio to be designated a Community Redevelopment Area and continues to support a sense of community, Rio amenities, law enforcement, schools and a healthy economic environment.

Now, therefore, be it proclaimed by the Martin County Board of County Commissioners that the Rio Civic Club members are congratulated on their 75th Anniversary and commended for their community service.

Presented this Eighteenth Day of November 2025

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

CAROLYN TIMMANN, CLERK OF THE
CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

SARAH HEARD, CHAIR

EDWARD V. CIAMPI, VICE CHAIR

EILEEN VARGAS, COMMISSIONER

STACEY HETHERINGTON, COMMISSIONER

J. BLAKE CAPPS, COMMISSIONER