

# Village of Los Lunas



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## Statistics Show Los Lunas Not Number One in Crime

An updated analysis of the village's crime reports showed the Village Council that the village is not ranked number one in crime for 2005 as reported in the *Albuquerque Journal* and *Valencia County News-Bulletin*.

Stories in the publications used statistics found on the Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) website.

Village planner Peter Fernandez told the council at a January meeting that:

- The FBI maintains the system where the information was found;
- Local police entities report data through the state;
- The FBI publishes data statistics; and
- The FBI does not provide a ranking of agencies.

Fernandez added that the FBI discourages data users from ranking agencies or using the data on the website as a measurement of law enforcement effectiveness.

One of the primary objectives of the FBI's UCR is to generate reliable crime statistics for use in law enforcement administration, operation, and management.

FBI officials caution agencies to report offenses not according to local or state statutes, but according to those guidelines provided in the handbook. Local reporting mechanisms may not match the FBI's guidelines making it difficult to have crime statistics which match when comparing municipalities.

In examining the police reports entered into the FBI's UCR website, Fernandez explained it was discovered that some of the reporting was not done according to the FBI's requirements.

Police reports for 2005 were entered again into the system which resulted in new statistics for the Village of Los Lunas.

The revised 2005 listing shows Los Lunas 23rd of 34 municipalities reporting UCR data.

The new 2005 statistics also show 52 Violent Crime Offenses and Violent Crime equaling 4.37 violent crimes per 1,000 population.

For 2006 Los Lunas had 4.5 Violent Crimes per 1,000 population resulting in an estimated ranking of 22nd.

Not every police agency in the state submits their community's data to the FBI, added Fernandez, who pointed out that only 34 municipalities had data in the FBI report used by the publications for their stories. New Mexico has about 100 municipalities.

While conducting research Fernandez found:

- The Village of Bosque Farms has a general fund of \$1,682,730 with 50 percent or \$841,365 budgeted for law enforcement.

• The City of Belen general fund is \$6,168,024 with 32 percent or \$1,946,834 budgeted for law enforcement.

• The Village of Los Lunas general fund is \$19,888,163 with 16 percent or \$3,208,163 budgeted for law enforcement.

And some other statistics:

• The Village of Bosque Farms budgeted \$213,653 in the 2006 budget per 1,000 population on law enforcement.

• The City of Belen budgeted \$276,618 per 1,000 population in the 2006 budget population on law enforcement.

• The Village of Los Lunas budgeted \$268,840 in the 2006 budget per 1,000 population on law enforcement.



**The Archuleta building, located on the southwest corner of Main Street and Luna Avenue, is about to undergo rehabilitation. See page 2 for the story about that and the expansion of the village administration building.**

# Newly Reconstructed Archuleta Building Will Hold Archives; Village Administration Building Gets New Wing

Two village buildings will be undergoing remodels and renovations over the next six months.

At a January meeting the Village Council approved the awarding of work on the village administration building at Don Pasqual and Main and the Archuleta Building at Luna Avenue and Main Street to TEF Construction of Albuquerque.

The Archuleta Building currently houses the village's technology department and in the past housed the village library, police department, the Chamber of Commerce and even Comcast Cable.

The new project will cost \$384,451 and includes gutting the building and reconstructing it. Porches on the side and front will also be added and new windows installed.

When the reconstruction is completed, the Archuleta Building will hold archives that include the history of the community.

A new wing on the northeast corner of the building

## Los Lentes Project Awarded

Rio West Construction of Albuquerque has been awarded the contract to complete work on Los Lentes Road from Camino Higinio to NM Highway 314. Work began on the project in January.

The contract for \$513,299 includes paving, curb, sidewalks and improved lighting.

## Always Shop Locally

## Attend A Council Meeting!

The Los Lunas Village Council meets twice a month in the council chambers in the Administration Building on the corner of Don Pasqual and Main Street.

Meeting dates for 2007 are:

February 22

March 8 & 22 April 12 & 26

May 10 & 24 June 7 & 21

July 12 & 26 August 9 & 23

September 6 & 20 October 4 & 18

November 1 & 29 December 6 & 20

Meetings begin at 6 p.m. Once in a while meetings are rescheduled so check with village officials at 839-3840 to be sure a meeting has not been changed.

The agenda will be available at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the scheduled meeting from the bulletin board in the lobby of the Administration Building, at 660 Main Street NW, Los Lunas, NM; the Los Lunas Library located at 460 Main Street NE; and posted on the village website (address: [www.loslunasnm.gov](http://www.loslunasnm.gov)).

will be added to the village's Administration Building as part of the \$574,554 project. The entrance to the parking lot will also be reconfigured.

Office space for village employees will be reorganized with the addition of the wing especially the office space for departments which have expanded personnel.

Security in the administration building will also be increased with the new construction.

## Pay Your Village Water Bill Online Go To [www.loslunasnm.gov](http://www.loslunasnm.gov)

## Council Passes Open Meetings Resolution

The Village Council passed its annual Open Meetings Resolution at its December 28, 2006 meeting.

The resolution states that all meetings of the council will be "open to the public at all times," will be held only after reasonable notice to the public; and will be held at the Village Council Chambers at 660 Main Street.

The resolution also says special meetings may be called by the mayor or a majority of the council members upon three days notice or an emergency meeting will be called only under the unforeseen circumstances that demand immediate action to protect the health, safety and property of citizens to protect the public body from substantial financial loss.

## VISIT THE VILLAGE WEBSITE [www.loslunasnm.gov](http://www.loslunasnm.gov)

### VILLAGE OFFICIALS

**Louis F. Huning Mayor  
Councilors**

**Cecilia CC Castillo Charles Griego**

**Gerard Saiz Robert Vialpando**

**Municipal Judge Jeff Aragon**

**Village Administrator**

**Phillip Jaramillo Master Municipal Clerk**

**Chief of Police Nick Balido**

# Treatment Plant Project Goes to Bid This Spring

With the new year here, the village will go to bid to complete a project which has been planned for years to make sure the village continues to provide quality services to its citizens.

Village Public Utilities Director Betty Behrend says the design of the wastewater treatment plant expansion is about sixty-five percent complete and expected to go to bid this spring.

The wastewater treatment plant treats all the village sewage which is basically everything that goes down the drain as well as what comes from toilets within the limits of the village. The treatment prevents contamination of the ground water supply.

Currently the village's wastewater treatment system services approximately 4,200 residential customers, 85 apartments and about 400 commercial units.

The wastewater treatment system cleans the sewage so that the water left after the cleaning is fed into the Rio Grande.

The quality of the water returned to the Rio Grande is determined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency which has minimum standards.

The village's goal is to protect the health and safety of the citizens by having the best wastewater treatment plant, points out Behrend, adding "plus we need to preserve our environment which can be done with an efficient and effective wastewater treatment plant."

The village's wastewater treatment plant, which came on line in 1983, was upgraded in the mid 1990s.



***The current wastewater treatment plant building which holds the offices and lab.***

The plant expansion is expected to meet new EPA standards for ammonia and will allow for additional growth in the village.

"It's better to have wastewater going to a treatment plant than septic tanks," Behrend said.

The treatment process is all done with bacteria, she explained.

Included in the bid for sewage improvements will be construction of a building housing a new treatment filter process which produces an even higher quality of effluent than what the village has been producing.

The new plant will handle 1.2 million gallons per day while the older plant, which will continue to operate, will process .6 million gallons per day.

A 15-foot buffer of native vegetation will be planted around the treatment facility as part of the project.

## **The Village of Los Lunas and its Water**

The Village of Los Lunas strives to produce the best water possible for its citizens and visitors. Part of the effort to do this is constant testing of the water that is consumed by people.

In 2005 the Village conducted tests for over 80 contaminants and only detected 10 of those contaminants with only one at a level higher than the EPA allows. Contaminants tested for include arsenic.

Arsenic is a semi-metal element in the periodic table which is odorless and tasteless. It enters drinking water supplies from natural deposits in the earth or from agricultural and industrial practices.

According to a Human Health Fact Sheet produced by Argonne National Laboratory, arsenic can be beneficial or toxic. Animal studies suggest that low levels of arsenic in the diet are essential. High levels can be toxic.

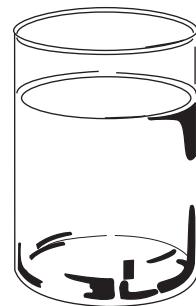
The Environmental Protection Agency has set the arsenic standard for drinking water at .010 parts

per million (10 parts per billion). The Village is working on compliance with this mandate and has received an extension on the time when it must be fulfilled.

Previously the EPA standard was 50 parts per billion and the Village consistently came in below this number.

Administrator Phillip Jaramillo said the village will continue to maintain the quality of water it has produced over the years. He added that information about the water and the water system is always available.

The most recent water report is available at the Village Administration Building, Don Pasqual and Main Street. "We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies," Jaramillo said.



# Budget Award

The Local Government Division of the Department of Finance and Administration presented the Village of Los Lunas with a 2006-2007 Annual Budget Award Certificate of Achievement for outstanding development and preparation of the government's operating budget. The award was presented at special ceremonies held in December.

## Cops & Kids Fun Run

**SATURDAY MARCH 17, 2007**

**Los Lunas High Football Stadium**

**Competitive 10K (6.2 miles) 8:00 am (\$15 registration)**

**Competitive 5K (3.1 miles) 8:00 am (\$15 registration)**

**Non-Competitive 5K walk (3.1 miles) 8:00 am (\$15 registration)**

**Non-Competitive kids 1K 9:30 am (\$10 registration)**

### RACE DIVISIONS

**Male & Female age categories**

**10K Run & 5K Run**

**14 & under, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-69, and 70+**

### RACE ENTRY INCLUDES

**\* Post-race refreshments**

**\* Custom designed short sleeve T- Shirt**

**\* Mail-in Deadline - March 3, 2007**

**\* Walk-in Registration at Pinnacle Fitness 1027**

**Los Lentes, Los Lunas (505) 866-0966**

**\* Race Day Registration until 7:15 am (\$25.00)**

**\* 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place finishers in each age category will receive medal**

**Register on-line at active.com**

**or call 991-4564**

*THE LOS LUNAS PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT AND*

*VALENCIA FLYING & RETRIEVAL SOCIETY PRESENT*

# SAINT PATRICK'S BALLOON RALLY

*STARTING AT 7 AM WEATHER PERMITTING*

*SATURDAY, MARCH 17*

*SUNDAY, MARCH 18*

*HERITAGE PARK 3445 LAMBROS ROAD LOS LUNAS*

*MUSIC, ARTS AND CRAFTS, FOOD,*

*ENTERTAINMENT AND LOTS OF HOT AIR BALLOONS*

*For information call 352-3584*

# Employees Win Awards

Public Utilities Director Betty Behrend and Michael Sanchez, who works at the village's wastewater treatment plant, were presented with Lifetime Membership Awards by the New Mexico Water and Wastewater Association at a conference held in Las Cruces in January.

Behrend has worked for the village for 23 years.

Sanchez previously worked for the City of Belen and has more than 20 years experience in the field of water and wastewater treatment.

Both were attending the annual short school held by the NM Water and Wastewater Association to certify people working in the field.

# Cleanups Continue

Despite a freezing fog on a Saturday in January and with only three volunteers, 16 bags of trash were collected around the New Mexico Rail Runner Express parking lot and other areas

In December groups from the Municipal Court and the New Mexico Women's Academy picked up 63 bags of trash in the Los Lentes area and along Main Street from Carson Drive west to Emilio Lopez.

If you or your group are looking for a project or want to help spruce up the village then consider helping with trash clean up.

Call Marie Marquez to coordinate a date and time, 839-3842 or 352-7658.

## GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP DAY

IS COMING IN APRIL

CALL MARIE OR JOSIE FOR DETAILS 839-3842

