

Village Fire Rating Drops To Class 5 in February

The Village's Fire Rating will drop to a Class 5 effective February 1, 2009, which is a step better than the Class 6 assigned to the village since May, 1995.

The cost of fire insurance is influenced by the fire rating. The lower the fire rating the better it can be for communities.

Three components are important to the ratings for fire departments and communities — the dispatching center, the water supply and the fire department itself, explained Los Lunas Fire Chief Atiliano "Lito" Chavez.

Valencia County has a new dispatching center headquartered in the Los Lunas Police Department. This new center dispatches for fire, police and emergency medical personnel for the municipalities and the unincorporated area of the county as well as dispatching other agencies.

The Village of Los Lunas has made various improvements to the water system over the last few years including digging new wells and extending lines and hydrants.

Training and equipment for the fire department and its members are among the issues when a community is tested for its rating. Types of calls and response time as well as coverage for growing areas in the community are also part of the ratings tests.

The fire department has 15 full time firefighters and 21 volunteers.

The change in rating is effective only in the village limits of Los Lunas, said Chavez. People who live in the unincorporated areas of Valencia County need to check with county officials about the rating of their particular area.

Highway 314 Closed from James Street to South of Griego; Local/Emergency Access Provided

Highway 314 from James Street to south of Griego Road in Los Lunas will be closed until approximately the middle of January.

Local and emergency access will be available for residents and businesses. Through traffic from NM 314 to Main Street (NM 6) will be detoured using Griego Road and Los Lentes Road.

Work on the village's \$4.2 million Interceptor Sewer Improvement project is causing this closure which is being coordinated with the New Mexico Department of Transportation.

The current project is Phase II of the Interceptor Improvement Project. The \$3.98 million Phase I included the installation of the Morris Road lift station with a sewer line crossing Interstate 25.

In Phase II a new interceptor sewer line is being run from the Belen Highline Canal to Sichler Road. This will take all sewer flows from west of the Highline Canal, both north and south of Main Street, to the new lift station on Morris Road.

An eight-inch collector line is being built on Tondre Road from Don Pasqual to Highway 314 where a lift station will be constructed. An Interceptor line is now being extended on Highway 314 from Main Street to

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the village limits on the north. The new line will be tied in at Main Street and Highway 314.

The contractor for the Phase II project, New Mexico Underground Contractor, Inc., of Albuquerque, is trying to keep the inconvenience minimized while working on this project. New Mexico Underground is closing as small a portion of Highway 314 as possible.

Time for Business Licenses

It's time to renew your business license. It is best to renew your license before December 31.

All businesses, whether Mom and Pop or multi-national, pay the same fee, \$25.

A license is required for "all persons, firms, corporations or associations of any character engaged in any of the various pursuits, businesses or occupations" in the village before March 15 every year at the latest.

In the event that any license fee is not paid by the fifteenth day of March, a penalty in the amount of ten percent of the license fee due shall be added for late filing, according to the village ordinance.

Licenses are renewed annually. Village staff send out notices in the latter part of the year to make it easier to renew.

Spending in Village Even More Important Now To Bring Tax Money To Village Budget

The changing economic scene in the United States has resulted in changes in people's spending habits throughout the country.

Some people are spending less, others are reallocating how their limited resources are spent as they search for holiday presents as well as everyday items.

Spending your shopping dollars at shops and businesses in the Village of Los Lunas has become even more important this year with the changes in people's spending habits.

The gross receipts tax charged on many purchases is an important part of the income for the Village of Los Lunas. When people spend less then there may be less gross receipts tax paid and passed on to governmental agencies.

Twenty-eight percent of the general fund revenues for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 are generated through gross receipts tax and property tax revenue created within the village limits.

This 28 percent is \$6.7 million which provides needed services throughout the village.

The general fund pays for the services people depend on in the community including the police

and fire departments, municipal court, library and museum, parks and recreation, community development and street department.

This year it is even more important to support your local businesses which in turn pay Gross Receipts Tax to the Village to continue providing services to residents and people who use the roads and other services in the community.

NORTH HIGHWAY 314 BUSINESSES REMAIN OPEN

Work on the Village Interceptor Sewer has resulted in the closure of North Highway 314 between James Street and south of Griego Road.

Local access remains open to the businesses off Highway 6/Main Street. Do not let the construction keep you away from these businesses. They need you more than ever!

Happy Holidays
From the
Mayor, Council
& Staff of the
Village of Los Lunas



PAY YOUR WATER BILL ONLINE — Go To WWW.LOSLUNASNM.GOV

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.

The final 2008 meeting date is:

December 18

Meetings begin at 6 p.m. Once in a while meetings are canceled 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 at 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).

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