

# Village of Los Lunas



660 Main Street NW P.O. Box 1209  
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Phone (505) 839-3840 FAX (505) 352-3580 [www.loslunasnm.gov](http://www.loslunasnm.gov)

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## LL Council Okays Contract With Fernandez To Serve As Administrator

Peter Fernandez will remain village administrator/clerk/treasurer after the village council approved a continuing contract with him at the March 25, 2010, meeting.

Fernandez has been serving in that position since the resignation of Phillip Jaramillo in April 2009.

Fernandez graduated from Los Lunas High School in 1967. He earned a degree in general business and accounting from New Mexico Highlands University and served in the Air Force for four years.

He worked for 21 years with the United States General Accounting Office in Denver and Albuquerque. He started at the village as a computer specialist and worked as the financial services planner for 11 years.

Married to his high school sweetheart, Pris-

cilla, the couple has three sons, Michael who lives in Albuquerque with his family; Jason, who lives with his wife and twins in Arizona; and John and his wife in Utah, both captains in the Air Force.

Peter Fernandez has been active in the community including serving as president of the Valencia County Chamber of Commerce.



**Peter Fernandez**

## New Community Development Director Wants to Update Comprehensive Plan

Updating the Village of Los Lunas's Comprehensive Plan is a project that Christina Ainsworth, the new Community Development Director, is looking forward

to working on.

Ainsworth arrived in March after eight years working for the City of El Paso.

At the City of El Paso she worked seven years as a city planner after starting as a plans examiner in Code Enforcement.

She grew up in El Paso where she graduated high school and then went to Yale University where she

earned a Bachelor's Degree in Architecture.

The Comprehensive Plan is a master plan that has a vision of the growth and development of Los Lunas. Comprehensive plans typically extend out 25 to 30 years to plan for a community's future.

The village's Comprehensive Plan was approved in 1999. Although it has been used, it has not been updated since then.

Public hearings will be held to gather community input for the update. Ainsworth said it is important for the public to be involved in the process which will probably start in late summer 2010.



**Christina Ainsworth**

**Help Your Friends!  
Help Your Neighbors!  
Shop in Los Lunas All The Time!  
Help Keep Jobs in Los Lunas!**



## Cleaning Up

*Workers at the March monthly cleanup collected 21 bags of trash. Saturday, April 17, is the Village's Great Recycling Day behind the Administration Building. The next monthly cleanup is Saturday, May 15. Call Marie Marquez at 352-7658 to inquire about any of these events.*

## Snapshot Day at the Los Lunas Library

Wednesday, April 14, was Library Snapshot Day in New Mexico and Los Lunas. That was the day that the Los Lunas Public Library and libraries all over New Mexico took a one day "snapshot" which collected information about the impact New Mexico libraries have on their communities on a typical day.

Library Snapshot Day was a joint project between the New Mexico State Library and the New Mexico Library Association.

The purpose of the project was to encourage libraries to collect basic data such as how many people use the library, how many use computers, attend programs, etc. New Mexico's libraries are busier than ever, with people coming not only to check out books, but use computers, look for a job, or attend the many programs that libraries offer.

## VILLAGE OFFICIALS

*Robert Vialpando Mayor*

### Councilors

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| Cecilia CC Castillo                          | Charles Griego |
| Richard Lovato                               | Gerard Saiz    |
| <b>Municipal Judge</b> Jeff Aragon           |                |
| <b>Police Chief</b> Roy E. Melnick           |                |
| <b>Fire Chief</b> Atiliano "Lito" Chavez     |                |
| <b>Village Administrator</b> Peter Fernandez |                |

## Do You Have 10 Minutes?

We need everyone to join in taking ten minutes to complete and return their census form.

Census data help determine how more than \$400 billion per year in federal funding is distributed to school, state and local governments for services in our communities.

Be sure you filled out the form mailed to you.

If census personnel come to your house, ask for identification and then work with them on the information needed.

Census information is confidential and all census employees take an oath of nondisclosure.

## Lovato Elected LL Mayor Pro Tem



**Councilor Richard Lovato**  
at his 2009 swearing-in

Richard Lovato has been elected by his fellow village councilors to serve as Mayor Pro Tem for a year.

Lovato was elected to his District Four council position in March after being appointed to that position to replace Mayor Robert Vialpando when he was selected mayor in 2009.

## PAY YOUR WATER BILL ONLINE — Go To [WWW.LOSLUNASNM.GOV](http://WWW.LOSLUNASNM.GOV)

## New Water Lines on Carson Drive

The water line is being replaced on Carson Drive between Cordoba Court and just south of DeVargas.

In the process of replacing the line, the contractor will repave the street and put in pedestrian islands.

The pedestrian islands will make it safer to cross the street for everyone.

## Attend A Council Meeting!

The Los Lunas Village Council meets twice monthly in the council chambers in the administration building at 660 Main St. NW. Remaining 2010 dates are:

April 22

May 13 & 27 June 10 & 24

July 8 & 22 August 5 & 19

September 9 & 23 October 7 & 21

November 4 & 18 December 2 & 16

Meetings begin at 6 p.m. Once in a while meetings are canceled or rescheduled so check with officials at 839-3840 or the village website at [www.loslunasnm.gov](http://www.loslunasnm.gov).

# Melnick Reappointed Police Chief

The Los Lunas Village Council has appointed Police Chief Roy E. Melnick to another year in that position. Melnick was first appointed in March 2009.

He says he looks forward to another 12 months and hopes that as much can be accomplished in the future as was the past year. Among the accomplishments:

- Reorganization with the promotion of five Sergeants and two Lieutenants.

- Specialty Assignments

including School Resource Officer, Training Officer, Gang Task Force, Teen Court officer, Juvenile Drug Court Officer, Valencia County Resiliency Corps Officer and Drug Task Force Officer.

- Criminal Investigations Division added with two detectives.

- Renovated the police facility to utilize space more efficiently and so employees could be more efficient and productive..

- Implemented the LOCATER Program for the immediate dissemination of information regarding missing children locally, countywide, statewide and nationwide.

- Modernized the police vehicle fleet and reduced the number of vehicles thus saving insurance costs.

- Began updating the vehicle laptop computers program.

- Commissioned the Los Lunas School District School Resource Officers as police officers.

- Effectively dealt with critical events including two homicides that were quickly solved with arrests and a reported missing toddler.

- Authorized the writing and submission of grants in the amount of \$1,029,645 that were either received, or are pending with state and federal agencies.

- Purchased the latest police equipment and technology including GPS Tracking devices, digital video/audio recording systems, Panasonic mobile laptops, personal body digital video/audio recording systems, digital cameras, rifles, state of the art training equipment and the purchase of Ford Crown Victoria and Chevy Tahoe SUV police vehicles.



*Police Chief Roy Melnick*

- Reduced the number of lawsuits filed against the department through increased training, accountability of personnel and supervisors and reorganization of duties and responsibilities and in the process of updating the policies and procedures.

- Increased community policing programs and implemented an educational component to issue warnings in lieu of citations for first time offenders.

- Reduced the overall number of crimes in the community. In 2008, 880 crimes were reported and in 2009, 797 crimes were reported.

- Reduced the number of citizen complains filed against officers..

## Canine and Officer Graduate From Canine Academy

Los Lunas Canine Officer Horacio Deanda and his canine Ricky have graduated from the New Mexico Department of Corrections Canine Academy.

Deanda and Ricky received training in several areas including basic handling, mock court scenarios, narcotics detection, felony stops, building searches, and classroom work exercises.

The training was physically demanding and both demonstrated a high level confidence, skill and protocol, said Los Lunas Police Chief Roy E. Melnick.

Deanda and Ricky are now on routine patrol in the Village. They are available for appearances in the schools, businesses and at community events.

To schedule a personal appearance, call 505 839-3855 and leave a message or send an email to [hdeanda@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:hdeanda@loslunasnm.gov).



## Canine Fund Raising

Los Lunas Canine Officer Horacio Deanda congratulates Chase Canon on raising \$400 as part of a 4-H project. The \$400 is providing a bullet proof vest for Ricky Luna, the village's canine. The Valencia Valley Kenney Club of New Mexico Inc. has given \$1,000 to the police department for Ricky.

# Summer Recreation Program Enrolling

The Parks and Recreation Department is taking registrations for the summer recreation program.

The summer program consists of two three week sessions for youths from the ages of six to 13 (or age five if kindergarten has been completed).

A proof of residency and birth certificate are required at the time of registration. Proof of residency can include one of the following: Village of Los Lunas water bill, PNM bill or New Mexico Gas Company bill.

Registration ends when the first 300 children are registered. Once the sessions are full then a child will be placed on a waiting list and contacted if participants withdraw from the program.

Registration fees are \$65 per child for a village resident and \$75 for county resident. Cash or credit/debit cards are accepted, but no personal checks.

The fee includes the first (June 7 - June 24) and second (July 11 - July 29) sessions. Both sessions are

Monday-Thursday 9 am. - 3 p.m.

Activities include kickball, flag football, basketball, archery, arts and crafts, soccer and volleyball. Field trips could include the Albuquerque Zoo, movies, fishing and Isleta Fun Connection.

## Don't Waste Water

From April 1 through September 30 spray irrigation is allowed in the Village of Los Lunas from 6 p.m. to 10 a.m on all properties.

Shut-off nozzles in the village are required on any hoses used for hand watering, vehicle or equipment washing or other outdoor uses.

Information on the village's ordinance regarding no water waste can be found at Chapter 8.24 Water Waste Restrictions under About Us Municipal Codes at [www.loslunasnm.gov](http://www.loslunasnm.gov).

## Author to Speak April 18

Author Don Bullis will be the guest speaker at the April 18 meeting of the Valencia County Historical Society at the Los Lunas Transportation Center, Juan Perea and Courthouse Roads, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

A graduate of Eastern New Mexico University, Bullis is the author of five non-fiction and two fiction books including *New Mexico: A Bibliographic Dictionary*, in two volumes.

Bullis has won multiple awards for his books focusing in New Mexico history. He will talk about Law and Order in Territorial New Mexico 1850-1912.

The public is welcome to attend Bullis's talk which will begin at 2 p.m..

**The Los Lunas recreation program offers a wide variety of sports and activities.**



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**GREAT RECYCLING DAY  
SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 2010  
8 A.M. - 2 P.M.**

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This event for Los Lunas residents will be held behind the Village of Los Lunas Administration Building on Don Pasqual. Bins & other receptacles will be at the location and will be labeled. It will be a drive-through event with volunteers assisting.

## The Village of Los Lunas 5th Annual Health & Wellness Fair

*Friday, April 23, 2010 9 am to 2 pm*

Daniel Fernandez Park Gym -South Highway 314

**Los Lunas DWI Program and Underage Taskforce/MADD/Cops For Kids**

