

# Village of Los Lunas



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## *Village is Part of 21-Year National Children's Study*

Valencia County, including Los Lunas, is the only county in New Mexico to be part of the National Children's Study, the largest research study of the environment's effects on children's health and development ever conducted in the United States.

Local study teams will work with doctors, nurses, community leaders and public health officials across the United States to observe 100,000 children from before birth to age 21.

The study will examine the effects of environmental and genetic influences on the health and development of the children involved. Important child health issues such as birth defects and other pregnancy-related problems, injuries, asthma, obesity, diabetes, behavior, learning and mental health will be studied.

In Valencia County teams will visit the homes, schools and neighborhoods of the children and families who participate in the study.

Valencia County was chosen based on factors that include location, diversity and the number of children born in the area each year.

Valencia County is predominantly rural and has four incorporated areas where many people live: Belen, Bosque Farms, Los Lunas and Peralta.

New Mexico is considered a predominantly rural state with a high percentage of Hispanics and the third highest percentage of American Indians in the United States.

The study is being conducted through Health Sciences at the University of New Mexico. The people working with the study have been in touch with the local governments in Valencia County making sure people know about the study.

The National Children's Study is the largest long-term study of children's health ever to be conducted. It is expected that 1,100 children from Valencia County will be involved. In addition to the children, mothers and fathers will also be involved.

Participants in the study will be recruited door to door and through a media campaign. An office will be

## New Director of Utilities Settles Into Position

The Village's new Director of Utilities has found a friendly community and is looking forward to the challenges he will be facing in his job.

Director of Utilities Jim Blasing arrived in Los Lunas from Colorado the beginning of June.

Just prior to taking the job in Los Lunas, Blasing was in business as consultant. Before that he was the director of Public Works in Canon City, Colorado for two years.

That followed a 28-year career at the Pueblo Board of Waterworks in Pueblo, Co., where he was in charge of transmission and distribution.

Blasing points out that the Pueblo Board of Waterworks is not part of the local government, but is a separate self-funding entity. He said his job there included operations and maintenance.

While he was in Pueblo, Blasing also worked on commercial and industrial development.

He has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from Colorado State University in Pueblo. He once wanted to be a teacher. And a master's degree in public administration from Colorado University, also in Pueblo.

Blasing and his wife are "empty nesters" who wanted to make a move to be somewhere different, but wanted to stay in the West. When he put out feelers for a new job, he discovered the opening in Los Lunas.

"The community has been very friendly," said Blasing. "We've even been welcomed by people in the stores in the area."

He added that Mayor Robert Vialpando and the Village Council have been very supportive as well as Village Administrator Peter Fernandez.

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located at the UNM-Valencia Campus. Further information may be obtained by calling the main UNM study number at 272-4462 or at [www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov](http://www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov).

## Student Workers Clean Up Village in July

Forty students were hired by the village council to work in July to clean up the village under the guidance of Marie Marquez. There were two student supervisors, Rachel Martinez and Gay Ann Cooper.

To facilitate the work and help the students, all were issued a safety vest, gloves, sun glasses, water bottles, sun block, and mosquito repellent.

Areas cleaned include the village vehicle maintenance yard, village recycling yard, Tondre Road, Sun Ranch, Desert Willow, Los Morros area, the entrance to northbound I-25, Los Cerritos Park and Los Cerritos near the Los Lunas High School football field.

Also Juan Perea Road, Morris Road, South Los Lentos Road, Desert Flower Avenue, Lujan Street, the Transportation Center parking lot, Fernandez Street, several areas in Carson Park, around the wastewater treatment plant, Village River Park Heritage Park area, and the westside of the Albertsons Shopping Center.

Marie Marquez pointed out that the participants were taught to be responsible, punctual and respectful as they earned their own money.

## Events at the Los Lunas Museum

Upcoming events at the Los Lunas Museum of Heritage and Arts include:

Saturday Aug. 14, 2-4 p.m. Antonio Zuni, a local scholar/musician and Isleta Pueblo tribal artist, speaks on Native American History, culture and music.

Saturday Sept. 11, 2-4 p.m. Dr. Richard Melzer, local historian/lecturer/university professor, lectures on Edwin Berry, a native Valencia County resident, and his role in New Mexico history and the corridos and colonial music he wrote and inspired.

All events are sponsored/funded in part by the New Mexico Humanities Council, the Village of Los Lunas, and the Valencia County Historical Society and are prequel events to the Smithsonian New Harmonies Traveling exhibition that will be on display from November 13 to December 25, 2010.

The museum is located at Main Street and Luna Avenue (under the water tower) and is open Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed Sunday and Monday.

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

## Recycling in the Village

The Village continues to have containers for the recycling of cardboard, newspapers, magazines and aluminum behind the Village Administration Building at Don Pasqual and Main Street.

Currently the village is no longer accepting plastics. Village officials are exploring different options for plastic recycling, but in the meantime, plastics can be taken to Unicolor, 2440 Alamo Ave. SE, in Albuquerque.

Unicolor is located off Yale Boulevard by the Albuquerque International Airport. The phone number is 843-7600 and website is unicolor.com.

## Watch for Treatment Plant Open House

The expansion of the Village's wastewater treatment plant is just about completed and an open house will be held in October for the renovated facility.

Work on the treatment plant started in December 2007. The goal of the expansion was to produce much cleaner effluent. The plant came on line in 1983 and had not been upgraded since the 1990s.

The 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 the contamination of the ground water supply.

## Waste Transfer Station Expanding

The Village's waste transfer station will be expanded by 3,000 square feet. It is located west on Highway 6.

In addition to the expansion, the exterior lighting will be repaired with more exterior lighting added plus heating and cooling will be installed in the office area.

## 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:

August 19 September 9 & 23 October 7 & 21  
November 4 & 18 December 2 & 16

Meetings begin at 6 p.m. Meetings may be canceled or rescheduled so check with officials at 839-3840 or the village website at [www.loslunasnm.gov](http://www.loslunasnm.gov).

### VILLAGE OFFICIALS

*Robert Vialpando* Mayor

#### Councilors

*Cecilia CC Castillo*

*Charles Griego*

*Richard Lovato*

*Gerard Saiz*

**Municipal Judge** Jeff Aragon

**Police Chief** Roy E. Melnick

**Fire Chief** Atiliano "Lito" Chavez

**Village Administrator** Peter Fernandez

## ***Village Works With Pilot Program Focusing on Work at Home***

The Village's Municipal Code includes a section on zoning. As with all the sections of the code the first item is a list of chapters. The chapters include designated use and conditional use permits, permitting, enforcement and review, zoning districts with a zoning map, permissible uses, density and dimensional regulations sign code and off-street parking.

There is an extensive list of definitions involved with zoning including home occupation which is defined as "a commercial activity that is conducted by a person on the same lot, in a residential district, where such person resides. This is a conditional use that requires that a permit for the planned activity may be renewed on an annual basis as required by the planning and zoning commission."

The village Community Development Department is currently reviewing the issue of home occupation permits. The review came about partly because the village is participating in a pilot program to focus attention on individuals who work at home.

With a growing segment of the population working at home due to the economy, the program hopes to bring money from outside New Mexico into the community to be paid to people who work at home.

There are a wide variety of businesses that could be operated out of a home and the village is going to try to address the differences between those businesses when out of a home.

Community Development Director Christina Ainsworth is looking for community input on the issue of working out of the home. She can be reached at 352-7659 or [ainsworthc@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:ainsworthc@loslunasnm.gov).

## ***Drivers Need To Look Out For Road Projects***

Several road projects should be starting in the next few months in Los Lunas and drivers need to be on the lookout for road construction signs and then follow the instructions on those signs.

Work on the intersection of Highway 314 and Main Street has been delayed while electrical poles are moved and decisions made on keeping the railroad crossing safe.

However, the project should be started soon. Improvements/changes include:

- Adding a right turn lane from westbound Main Street on to northbound Highway 314.
- Adding a right turn lane from northbound 314 on to eastbound Main Street.
- Creating two left turn lanes from northbound

*Village of Los Lunas*

## ***Blue Dots Help Firefighters Do Their Jobs in Los Lunas***

Have you noticed blue dots on the streets of Los Lunas?

If you haven't yet, you will soon, as Village Fire Department employees carefully place blue dots to help firefighters locate fire hydrants.

Los Lunas Fire Chief Atiliano "Lito" Chavez says that locating a hydrant is critical in getting water on a burning structure. That's why the Fire Department became involved in the community's "Blue Dot Project."

The Blue Dots are raised markers which are also called delineators, "cat's eyes," road studs or reflectors.

The dots are blue reflective markers that enable firefighters to identify hydrant locations twenty-four hours a day, when it's light during the day or dark at night.

The blue reflective surface of the raised markers enables the marker to be clearly seen from long distances at night and in rainy weather.

Fire Department employees are placing the dots in the middle lane facing the hydrant. The dots are placed in such a way that they will be seen even if a vehicle is illegally parked beside a fire hydrant.

The reflectors are three-and-a-half inches by three-and-a-half inches on top of a five-inch-by-five-inch pad. Installation on the road involves heating the pad with a torch so it will then stick to the road. The reflectors are just about indestructible and barely noticeable when driven over.

The village has over 800 hydrants. The Fire Department employees work on the reflectors when not answering emergency calls.

Since there are about 220 medical calls and 30 fire calls a month in the village then it will take a few months to install the more than 800 reflectors, said Chief Chavez.

Sometimes other fire departments help our fire department. Chief Chavez pointed out that firefighters from other departments will be told about the Blue Dots so they will also have an easier time finding hydrants to fight a fire in Los Lunas.

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Highway 314 to westbound Main Street.

- Adding a right turn lane from southbound 314 to westbound Main Street.

TLC Plumbing & Utilities was awarded the contract for the work after submitting the low bid of \$692,627.

The Village has received \$280,000 in Highway Safety Improvement Project funds to create a right turn lane from Main Street, also known as Highway 6, to El Cerro Road. El Cerro Road connects Main Street and Vigil Road which becomes El Cerro Loop on the east.



# Trek For Trash Community Cleanup

Saturday, September 25, 2010

7 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Meet at the front of the  
Village Administration Building  
Main Street and Don Pasqual  
Groups and Individuals Welcome!



Help Clean Up Our  
Community!  
Call Marie at the  
Village of Los Lunas  
for more information  
352-7658  
Vests and bags  
are provided

## Nuestros Raíces: Our Roots Still On Display At Museum

*Nuestros Raíces: Our Roots* continues to be on display at the Los Lunas Museum of Heritage and Arts, corner of Main Street and Luna Avenue (under the water tower).

The exhibit has been designated a *We the People* project by the New Mexico Humanities Council (NMHC) and the National Endowment for the Arts and is sponsored by the NMHC, New Harmonics, Smithsonian Institution and Valencia County Historical Society. Exhibiting artists are:

- Ray John de Aragon, a Santero artist from Las Vegas, NM, with roots in Mora, Peralta and Los Chavez, who comes from a long line of Penitente artists.

- Rosa Maria Calles, a native of Tome, who is a highly recognized artist with works at the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe, the Sacred Arts Museum in Eureka Springs, Ak., and other collections.

- Ramón Juan Carlos de Aragón, a native of Las Vegas, NM, whose photos have been featured in various national and international aviation magazines.

Ray John de Aragón and Rosa Maria Calles exhibit oil and acrylic paintings while Ramón Juan Carlos de Aragón exhibits photographs

## Arsenic Treatment Plant Project Nears Completion

Work is just about completed on the village's arsenic treatment project. The work began in July, 2009, and was in the planning stage for eight years.

RMCI, Inc. built the arsenic treatment systems. Tonka Equipment Company provided the arsenic treatment equipment.

Treatment systems were installed at each of the village's four wells.

On Jan. 23, 2001, the Environmental Protection Agency lowered the arsenic maximum contaminant level to 10 parts per billion (ppb). Federal regulations had previously mandated drinking water systems could have up to 50 ppb.

When the regulations changed, all of the village's wells were below the 50 ppb, but higher than 10 ppb.

According to Village officials, the treatment project should bring the ppb down to seven.

Arsenic is a naturally-occurring mineral in ground water, especially in New Mexico where arsenic occurs naturally in volcanic soils and then leaches from the soil into the water. People may drink water containing arsenic for years and not show any effects.

## School Is Back In Session



Be  
Careful  
in  
School  
Zones

Jeans Cell Phones Pens/Pencils Computers  
Blouses Software Shirts Reference  
Calculators Binders Shoes/Sneakers Books  
Calendars/ Maps/Globes Paper/  
Backpacks Planners Snacks Notebooks

**BUY EVERYTHING  
IN LOS LUNAS**