

# Village of Los Lunas



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## Police Officers Learn About Drug Interdiction

Los Lunas police officers, as well as officers with other area police departments, have been trained on techniques to identify potential drug traffickers.

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents came to Los Lunas to teach officers from Los Lunas, Belen, Bosque Farms and Isleta about Highway Interdiction.

Class was spread over two days with time spent in the classroom watching videos and then out in the field making motor vehicle stops.

Drivers can only be stopped for probable cause, points out Police Chief Roy E. Melnick. Probable cause include expired license plates and erratic driving.

Once a driver is stopped then officers need to know what to look for to decide if a search for drugs needs to be conducted. Part of the class was devoted to locating hidden compartments in vehicles.

Stopped vehicles may also have cash, money which could go to the village if the driver is involved with drugs.

Cash is split with the DEA and any funds going to Los Lunas would be used to buy equipment which helps the department budget, explained Melnick.

The officers who took the class now know the DEA agents who can be called to assist with a "bust" if the local officers want that help.

Training police officers from throughout the county helps build partnerships which can result in better police protection, said Melnick. Training with the DEA agents creates a partnership with that agency.

The Los Lunas Police Department and its officers are going to be proactive about drug enforcement, said Melnick. Officers are committed to keeping all Valencia County safe.

Officers will be able to patrol Highway 6 west of the village and on Interstate 25, but the first priority will always be safety inside the village limits.

Chief Melnick points out that the village police department now has two officers dedicated to drug investigations full time. The officers operate out of the village's Wellness Center.

## Children's Study Begins Work in LL

The University of New Mexico's National Children's Study (NCS) in Valencia County is currently underway and will ultimately involve more than 1,000 children from Valencia County. Nationally, the NCS will enroll over 100,000 children and their families.

This is the largest and longest research study about children's health ever conducted in the United States. Children will be followed from before birth until they reach age 21.

The study will examine the effects of the environment--where children live, learn, and play--and genetics on children's health and development to learn more about health problems such as asthma, diabetes, prematurity, and autism in children.

This is an observational study only and will not include any medications or treatments.

Study liaisons have visited with community leaders, business owners, schools, organizations, and local churches to discuss the study in Valencia County.

Community Research Assistants will soon be visiting Los Lunas neighborhoods asking women and their families if they are interested in participating.

Various advertisements are announcing the program including ads in the local newspaper and on Albuquerque television stations as well as billboards.

The study is hiring Community Research Assistants through UNM Temps. To apply go to: [www.unm.edu](http://www.unm.edu), position #0808122 or contact UNMTemps @ 277-6947 for more information. Applicants should answer the question about how the applicant heard about the job posting.

For more information about the study, go to the NCS website at [www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov](http://www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov).

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

# STEP Aims to Reduce Village Traffic Accidents

Reducing the number of traffic accident and the corresponding injuries and fatalities is the goal of the Village's Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) run by the police department.

A secondary STEP goal is to reduce overall crime in the village.

Police Chief Roy E. Melnick said STEP targets troubled areas. Such areas could have more accidents than might have occurred previously or perhaps people speed too much in the area.

More police officers with cars that are labeled as Village Police are assigned to the troubled area. Criminals seeing the cars may decide not to commit crimes because of the increased police presence.

Some cities have reduced crime in their community by 20 to 30 percent using STEP, said Melnick.

Meghan Sanchez is the village's full time traffic enforcement officer. She works 40 hours a week on traffic which allows other officers to perform other work in the village.

A second full time traffic enforcement officer will be added in the spring. Both traffic enforcement officers will have specialized training in accident reconstruction.

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

## 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.

The final meeting of 2010 was December 9. Watch for the January 2011 newsletter for dates of the 2011 meetings.

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
<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	

## Chilly Weather Doesn't Keep People from Recycle Day

The American Recycle Day held by the village brought out people driving 73 vehicles with items to be recycled despite the chilly November morning temperatures.

The items collected for recycling included:

- 210 pounds of plastic;
- Four cubic yards of glass;
- Twenty gallons of paint;
- Two batteries;
- Ten gallons of oil;
- Three bicycles;
- One microwave;
- One freezer;
- 2,134 pounds of electronic equipment; and
- 30 pounds of clothes.

People also brought trash on recycling day to place in the roll off bin provided.

Several organizations helped with the recycling event as well as 23 village employees and other volunteers.



*Trucks belonging to different organizations wait for recyclers at the November American Recycling Day event. Organizations brought their trucks so items could be loaded and taken away.*

## Exhibit Continues at Museum

The traveling Smithsonian exhibition New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music, will remain at the Los Lunas Museum of Heritage and Arts through the end of the year.

Dec. 24, 25 and 31 are village holidays and the museum will be closed.

From the diddley bow to Bo Didley (who once lived in Valencia County), New Harmonies addresses the history and influences of roots music in America.

New Harmonies is part of the Museum on Main Street program, a unique partnership between the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Services, state humanities councils and local host institutions.

The Museum of Heritage and Arts is located under the water tower at Main Street and Luna Avenues, open Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The phone number is 352-7720.

# Museum Victorian Christmas Fund Raiser Dec. 18



*"A Victorian Christmas," a fund raiser for the Los Lunas Museum of Heritage and Arts, will be held Saturday, December 18, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Luna Mansion, 110 Main Street NE.*

*The event consists of a sit down dinner, music, event remembrance/goodie bag, and silent auction. Dress will be semiformal or Victorian era costumes.*

*Ticket prices are \$100 per person or \$175 per couple. Event sponsorships are available. Seating is limited to a total of 125 individuals.*

*For further information please contact the Los Lunas Museum of Heritage and Arts at 352-7720.*

## **Own a Dog? Get a License!**

People "harboring or maintaining" dogs over three months in the village must license and vaccinate those dogs, says the Village of Los Lunas Municipal Code.

Licenses can be obtained at the village administration building located at Don Pasqual and Main Street or a local veterinarian.

In the village, dogs and cats over the age of three months must be vaccinated against rabies, and so tagged by a licensed veterinarian.

When application is made for the license then the current rabies vaccination certificate is presented. A current license tag number should be affixed to the licensed dog at all times.

A dog or cat owner who intentionally or unintentionally breeds dogs must have a current hobby breeders license or shall pay a litter fee of twenty-five dollars for each litter, says the municipal code.

The twenty-five dollar fee may be refunded at the time proof of sterilization of the female animal is submitted and verified by the village but no later than two months from the time the female dog or cat delivers a litter.

Each hobby breeder shall pay an annual fee of fifty dollars in lieu of fees for individual litters, and such fee will cover all litters during the calendar year. An owner shall not advertise, sell, barter, exchange or give away any dogs within the village boundaries unless the litter fee is displayed legibly. An owner shall furnish the litter fee or hobby breeder permit number to any prospective recipient requesting the number.

## **Pardon our Progress — An Update on Road Projects**

Another road improvement project has started on Calle de Las Familias. This work features new sidewalks, mitigating nuisance ponding and developing a stronger street structure.

This work will be off the NM6/Main Street corridor so it should not affect the road projects that are occurring simultaneously, said Village Public Utilities Director James Blasing.

Scheduled to begin in mid-December is the sewer force main replacement project that will affect the right hand, east bound lane on the bridge over the Rio Grande.

Work continues at Main Street and NM 314 with construction of new turn lanes, new sidewalks and the installation of a much safer railroad crossing device.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) work on the west side of NM 314 south of Main Street enhances pedestrian walkways and landscaping, and brings wheelchair ramps and signal crossing safety to the intersection of NM 314 and Courthouse Road.

On the east side of NM 314, south of Main Street to Courthouse Road, the ARRA project will enhance pedestrian walkways and create a safety crossing across NM 314.

Blasing expressed the appreciation of village staff for the public's patience as road improvements are done.

**Remember to Renew  
Your Business License**

# Live/Work Los Lunas

Participants are being sought to be involved in a focus group for Live/Work Los Lunas.

Live/Work Los Lunas is a home-based work project to assist in developing economic-based jobs for village residents.

The program has three goals:

- To assist local residents in finding and initiating home-based work.
- To recruit new home-based workers from other communities to Los Lunas by focusing on people who can live anywhere and perform their work from home.
- To provide a network of service and support providers.

A core committee is currently working on a plan of action to achieve these goals.

A key component of the process is hearing from people involved and interested in the challenges, struggles and successes of home-based businesses.

It is anticipated the focus group will be meeting within the next three months.

Anyone interested in the focus group or the project to develop additional home-based jobs should contact Ralph Mims at the Village of Los Lunas, 505 839-5654 or [mimsr@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:mimsr@loslunasnm.gov).

## Nine Reasons Why You Should Holiday Shop in Los Lunas

9. You'll enjoy Christmas decorations in the community.
8. You can use a smaller phone book to locate what you need.
7. You'll save wear and tear on your car.
6. Stores in Los Lunas offer many choices and bargains.
5. When your car fills with packages, you can quickly return home, unload and start over again.
4. You're helping keep people employed in Los Lunas.
3. The crowds won't be as bad as the Big City.
2. You can drive almost to the door of most businesses.
1. The Gross Receipts Tax you pay returns to the Village of Los Lunas.

## LL Senior Center Restrooms Renovated

The Village Council has approved a \$87,500 contract with CC Construction to renovate the restrooms at the Fred Luna Senior Center.

The construction will make the restrooms fully compliant with the American Disabilities Act so that they will be totally wheelchair accessible. The work will also expand the facilities.

Funding for the project comes from a legislative appropriation.

Ten bids were received for the project which ranged from the low of \$87,500 to a high of \$115,000.

## Keep Grease and Oils in Their Place, Not Sewer System

The holiday season is usually a time for family and friends with lots of caring and sharing as well as lots of good food including sweets and not-so-sweets.

The folks at the village's wastewater treatment plant encourage everyone to keep grease and oils in their place, and not in the village sewer systems.

Before washing the dishes from that great holiday meal, wipe off the pots, pans and plates to ensure all are free of grease and food particles.

Doing this will keep your pipes and the sewer system flowing and free of blockages and clogs.

Village employees say thank you for keeping the system working smoothly and hope that everyone enjoys the holidays and has a great 2011.

## Police Apply for Grant for Village Canine Program

The Los Lunas Police Department is applying for a \$14,014.54 grant from the National Rifle Association which will be used to help fund the village's canine program.

The police department received \$8,000 last year from the National Rifle Association.

The village's canine officer Horacio DeAnda and his canine, Ricky Luna, are now on routine patrol in the village following graduation from the New Mexico Department of Corrections Canine Academy.

The duo are available for appearance in schools, businesses and at community events.

To schedule an appearance, call 505 830-3855 and leave a message or send an email to [hdeanda@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:hdeanda@loslunasnm.gov).