

Village of Los Lunas



660 Main Street NW P.O. Box 1209
Los Lunas New Mexico 87031
Phone (505) 839-3840 FAX (505) 352-3580 www.loslunasnm.gov

Volume 14 Number 5

May 2010

GRT Revenues Down But Village Services Should Remain the Same

Gross receipts tax (GRT) revenues are down in the Village, but officials say no layoffs or furlough days are planned nor are there plans for reduction in services.

Village administrator Peter Fernandez said village officials have been proactive in dealing with the lower GRT revenues for the past two years. Departments have reduced expenses and three vacant positions in the Community Development Department were not or have not been filled for several months.

In addition, capital projects funded from the village's general fund are ongoing at a reduced level.

The village will receive \$2 million in federal stimulus money for roadway improvements near the New Mexico Rail Runner Express Station. Phase One of the project has gone out to bid and Phase Two is expected to go to bid in a few weeks.

The voter-approved Emergency Medical Tax has helped the budget. The tax, approved in the November 2008 election, supports the 911 dispatch center and distributes funds for emergency services, funds which no longer come directly from the village budget.

Rio Metro will be taking over the countywide transportation system the village has been running so that village funds will no longer go to the system which will also have a positive impact on the budget.

Although several new businesses will be opening in Los Lunas this year, village officials are taking a conservative approach to spending money.

New Mexico governmental entities are expected to have one-twelfth of general fund expenditures as a reserve. As the new fiscal year starts July 1, the Village expects to have \$6.4 million in reserve, considerably more than the one-twelfth requirement of \$1.8 million.

Public Works Director Retires After 28 Years of Service to Los Lunas

In 1982 Betty Behrend was hired as a lab tech to work in the wastewater treatment plant in Los Lunas. In 2010, she will retire as public works director, having worked for 28 years with the village.

Behrend was promoted to supervisor at the wastewater treatment plant in 1988. She was the first woman in New Mexico to serve as plant supervisor.

In 1992 she was promoted to utility director and compliance officer for the village. This was followed in the late 1990s with her appointment as public works director.

As public works director Behrend's duties included:

- Running the water/wastewater system;
- Overseeing the solid waste system as well as the transfer station and recycling station;
- Supervising vehicle maintenance;

- Managing roads and transportation projects; and
- Dealing with compliance issues.

Behrend will retire May 31. She says among the things she will enjoy in her retirement are her family (including two granddaughters), traveling, hiking and boating.

She has a master's degree in biology and a bachelor of Arts degree with a major in zoology and a minor in biology. Both are from the University of New Mexico.



Betty Behrend

Great American Recycling Day Proves a Success

With several companies and organizations assisting, the village's April Great American Recycling Day proved a success. Materials recycled included:

- Cemco Glass recycled four cubic yards of glass.
- Clothes Helping Kids received 20 bags of clothing.
- Village of Los Lunas took in 80 gallons of oil.
- Alpha Appliance Recycler accepted 17 different types of appliances..
- Enchantment Electronics Recycler received 13,220 pounds of electronics and 39 televisions.
- Avalos Tire Recycler took in 30 tires
- Bicycles for Kids received six bikes and two

Local Artists Featured

The works of several local artists will be featured at the Camino Real 8 Art Show and Sale to be held July 16 through July 29 at the Harvey House in Belen.

The sale of works benefits the historic preservation of the Harvey House, a Valencia County landmark.

Right Turn at El Cerro Rd.; Main Street/Highway 314 Work to Start Soon

Design is underway for the construction of 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.

The village has received \$280,000 in Highway Safety Improvement Project funds to create the right turn lane.

The work on this intersection is part of the village's improvements along Main Street. Other intersections where improvements have been accomplished include Main Street with Emilio Lopez, Los Cerritos, Los Lentes, Carson Park and Highway 47.

The contractor for the Highway 314 and Main Street project will begin that project soon. This will have a major impact on traffic in the village. Watch for construction signs. Please be patient and careful.

VILLAGE OFFICIALS

Robert Vialpando Mayor

Councillors

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

stationary bikes.

- A & R Recycling received 1,000 pounds of steel, six batteries and 30 pounds of aluminum

Two large roll-off bins were placed on site to dispose of items not accepted by recyclers.

About 60 volunteers worked during the event. The Walmart Distribution Center brought in several managers and provided \$250 for food and water items for the volunteers.

Event coordinator Marie Marquez thanked everyone for participating by volunteering or recycling. She said plans are being made for more recycling events since there is such a great demand for recycling.

Los Lunas Police Website Expands with Updates

The Los Lunas Police Department has added interactive sites on its website which can be accessed at <http://www.loslunasnm.gov/police>.

Website updates include:

- Recruitment flyer with updated information on hiring practices, salary, benefits, where and how to apply for a position with the police department.
- Web mail/employee roster with officer's names with email contact information.
- DWI prevention and enforcement detailing the efforts to reduce and eliminate drinking and driving.
- Underage Drinking Task Force relates efforts to reduce and eliminate underage drinking with retailer education programs and school-based educational programs.
- The alcohol screening site is an alcohol use identification test to be used as a self screening tool with alcohol consumption guidelines and tips for teens.
- Speed trailer request form is used when a problem is detected with speeding motor vehicles.
- Report a crime/neighborhood watch.
- Commend an employee.

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:

May 13 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.

Police Officers Promoted

Los Lunas Police Chief Roy Melnick has promoted the following officers to supervisory and administrative positions —

—Naithan Gurule to the position of Lieutenant, Professional Standards Division, replacing Captain Charles Nuanes.

—Denise Romero to Detective Sergeant, Criminal Investigations Division, replacing Naithan Gurule.

—Francisco Lucero to Sergeant, Patrol Operations Division, where he is Sergeant in Patrol Operations providing 24/7 coverage of first line supervisors.

These promotions complete the department's reorganization that began Sept. 11, 2009, when several officers were promoted to sergeant and lieutenant.

Melnick pointed out that those who were promoted are the next generation of leaders in the Los Lunas Police Department.



Celebrate July 4th In Los Lunas Sunday July 4

**Parade on Main Street
Festivities at
Daniel Fernandez Park
Enjoy the 4th at Home!**

Events at LL Library

Summer can be hot, but the Los Lunas Library, located at 460 Main Street N.E., can be a cool place so here's some events you might like to attend.

On Tuesday a variety of children's interactive activities will be held at the library beginning at 11 a.m. including Ticklefish June 8, Houdini June 15, Rainforest June 22 and Andy Mason June 29.

The July interactive activities will be Wednesdays starting at 1 p.m. with Finding Nemo July 7, Pirates of the Caribbean July 14, The Little Mermaid July 21 and Sea Monsters July 28.

Story and Craft will be Wednesdays in June from 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Museum of Heritage and Arts at Main Street and Luna Avenue.

The Story and Craft will be held Tuesdays in July at the Museum starting at 10:30 a.m.

Starbucks Open Mic Night will be Thursday, June 3, starting at 5:30 p.m. at the library. The other Thursdays in June and July will be Wii and Board Games from 1 to 3 p.m.

The Twilight Saga Party will be held Wednesday, June 30, from 1 to 3 p.m. and will include a costume party, book give away, trivia games and photo booth.

More information on library and museum events can be found at www.loslunasnm.gov or call 839-3850.

**Check with the
Village Fire Department On
Use of Fireworks — 839-3847**

SUMMERFEST

Car Show and Bar-B-Que Cook-Off

Pin Strippers Bash!

**Fun and Games
throughout the day
for the entire family**

**For more information call
the Valencia County Chamber
of Commerce**

505 352-3596

**Heritage Park
June 11 & 12**



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

The Los Lunas Water System has a level of Arsenic above Drinking Water Standards for the first quarter of 2010

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Testing results from quarterly arsenic samples collected on April 23, 2009, July 22, 2009, October 30, 2009 and March 24, 2010 show that Wells 3, 4 and 5 exceeded the **new** standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for arsenic. The current running annual average for arsenic is 0.017 mg/L (17 ppb) at Well 3. The standard for arsenic is 0.010 mg/L or 10 parts per billion (ppb); this old standard was 50 ppb and the water supply was in compliance. Nothing in the water has changed except the new standard. Therefore, the Los Lunas Water System has exceeded the arsenic MCL in the first quarter of 2010 (January - March). Wells 4 and 5 have also exceeded the arsenic MCL in this quarter.

What should I do?

You **DO NOT** need to use an alternative (e.g., bottled) water supply. However, if you have specific health concerns, or have a compromised immune system you may consult your doctor or drink and use bottled water.

What does this mean?

This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

What happened? What is being done?

The arsenic in our water is from the erosion of natural deposits. The Los Lunas Water System will continue to post this arsenic public notice every 3 months as long as this MCL exceedence persists. Construction of arsenic treatment facilities at Wells 3, 4, 5 and 6 are complete and **current levels in the water are below the 10 ppb**, however compliance is based on an annual average and until the lower levels currently pumped lowers the annual average the notice of violation will be sent out.

For more information, please contact Betty Behrend at (505) 839-3842 or PO Box 1209, Los Lunas, NM, 87031.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people doing business with your establishment, temporary workers or visitors, etc.). You can do this by posting this notice in public places and distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by the Los Lunas Water System.

System #NM 35 253-32

Address PO Box 1209, Los Lunas, NM 87031 Phone (505) 839-3842

Method Used To Distribute: Mail XX Posted XX Hand Delivery Other

Signed by: Betty Behrend Dated: 4-28-10