

# 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](http://www.loslunasnm.gov)

Volume 15 Number 4

April 2011

## Live/Work Focuses On Home-Based Businesses; Meets Tuesday, April 19

The Live/Work Committee meets Tuesday, April 19, at the village Transportation Center, corner of Juan Perea and Courthouse Roads, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

The focus of the meeting will be developing a group of mentors who can help people who want to have a home-based business. Owners of home-based businesses as well as people interested in starting such a business are encouraged to attend.

The Live/Work 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.

For additional information about the Live/Work in Los Lunas project, contact Ralph Mims at the Village of Los Lunas, 505 839-5654 or [mimsr@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:mimsr@loslunasnm.gov).

## Village Home Occupation Ordinance Being Revised

The ordinance covering home occupations in the Village of Los Lunas is being revised to facilitate economic development in the community.

One of the revisions is the elimination of the need to obtain a conditional use permit for people who want to operate a home-based business.

The proposed revised ordinance includes a list of home occupations which do not require a conditional use permit. Those occupations cover a wide range from authors/composers/artists to real estate/insurance/sales agents to arts and crafts and many others.

The Village Council will consider the revised ordinance. For information on the ordinance contact Community Development Director Christina Ainsworth at 352-7659 or [ainsworthc@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:ainsworthc@loslunasnm.gov).

## Los Lunas Grows 48% in 10 Years

The 2010 Census figures show that Los Lunas grew from 10,034 in 2000 to 14,835 in 2010, an increase of 48 percent.

The growth in the village was the second largest in the Albuquerque metropolitan area. Rio Rancho was first with a 69 percent increase.

Belen's population increased from 6,901 to 7,268, a five percent increase. Bosque Farms decreased .7 percent from 3,931 to 3,904. Peralta's population is 3,660 and was incorporated since the 2000 census so there are no comparison figures.

The 2010 Valencia County population was 76,569, according to the U.S. Census figures. This is up 16 percent from the 2000 number of 66,152.

## Village Comprehensive Plan Priorities Set

Following meetings with the Village Council as well as the Planning and Zoning Commission, work is proceeding on updating the village's comprehensive plan.

Priorities for the comprehensive plan include:

- Preserve rural character
- Manage growth sustainably
- Effective and proactive transportation planning
- Proactive economic development – including community branding
- Beautification of the community
- Focus on Transit Oriented Development for town center creation

At the suggestion of Village Councilor Richard Lovato, the plan will look at the development of a comprehensive solid waste program.

Village Community Development Director Christina Ainsworth said that all interested parties in planning for the community, including the schools and the county, will be asked to contribute to the comprehensive plan.

## ***Pardon our Progress . . . An Update on Village Projects***

The Village council says Thank You for everyone's patience in March when the traffic lights were changed over to newer models at the intersection of Main Street (Highway 6) and NM 314.

The Los Lunas police department helped with the traffic during the changeover, pointed out Public Works Director Jim Blasing.

During April final adjustments will be made to the new signals and railroad crossing facilities. The next phase widens NM 314 northbound and southbound. The new signals are timed for the rebuilt intersection so please be patient during the last phases of construction, which should be completed soon.

The Calle de Las Familias project should be finished this month.

The contractor is completing the landscaping on the American Reconstruction and Recovery Act (ARRA) project on the west side of NM 314. New pedestrian/signal improvements at Courthouse Road will be done as well as enhanced crosswalks. Benches and trash receptacles will be installed along the walkway.

Landscaping is being planted on the ARRA Project on the east side of NM 314. Light fixtures will be installed next, as well as guardrails. The enhanced crosswalk at Otero Street will be installed within the next couple of weeks.

The sewer force main replacement project is complete. The contractor is cleaning up the work areas.

The New Mexico Department of Transportation will be upgrading sidewalks to comply with American with Disabilities Act requirements on Main Street (Hwy. 6) between Don Pasqual and NM 314 this summer.

The Village Council and employees thank everyone for their support when projects are underway.

### ***Did You Renew Your Business Registration?***

Registration is required annually for "all persons, firms, corporations or associations of any character engaged in any of the various pursuits, businesses or occupations," as called for in the municipal code.

### **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



*Volunteers unload a vehicle at the March recycling day event.*

## **Event Draws Lots of Recycling**

The Great American Recycling Day Event held March 26 attracted 216 cars with lots of recycling.

Items recycled included metal, 3,300 pounds worth \$377.25; glass, 1832 pounds crushed to be used for landscaping; cardboard, 500 pounds; plastic, 390 pounds; aluminum, 20 pounds; oil, 70 gallons; batteries, 25 small flashlight batteries; Clothes Helping Kids, 20 bags; Toys for Tots, 25 bikes; and an extensive amount of paper.

Recyclers at the event included Enchantment Electronics, Clothes Helping Kids, Toys for Tots and Cemco Glass. Many Village of Los Lunas employees as well as numerous volunteers helped that day.

Walmart Distribution Center lent a barbecue grill to grill hot dogs for the workers.

Monthly cleanups continue throughout the year. If you would like to assist, contact Marie Marquez at 352-7658.

## ***Shop Los Lunas***

### **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.

Meeting dates for 2011 are:

April 28 May 12 & 26 June 9 & 23

July 7 & 21 August 4 & 18

September 8 & 22 October 6 & 20

November 3 & 17 December 1 & 15

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).

## ***Police Taking Unused, Unwanted Prescription Drugs April 30***

On Saturday, April 30, 2011, between the hours of 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Los Lunas Police Department will accept unused, unwanted prescription drugs for safe and environmentally responsible disposal, no questions asked. This service is free and anonymous.

The police department is located at 660 Main Street in Los Lunas.

This is being done to prevent abuse of prescription drugs and ensure that unused and unwanted medications are disposed of in an environmentally responsible way.

Police Chief Roy Melnick encourages everyone to participate in National Drug Take-Back Day on April 30.

Questions regarding this program can be directed to Chief Melnick at 352-7650 or Lieutenant Naithan Gurule at 352-7639.

## ***New Police Officer on Board***

Cassandra Linehan has joined the village's police department.

Linehan worked for the Isleta Police Department for the last three years.

Previous to Isleta, she worked with the Laguna Police Department in New Mexico and the Sioux Tribal Department of Public Safety in South Dakota.

She completed training at the Police Academy in Artesia as well as the Department of Public Safety Academy in Santa Fe. She was an Emergency Medical Technician prior to becoming a police officer.



*Linehan*

## ***Easter Egg Hunt***

***Wednesday April 20***

***Noon 1-5 year olds***

***Carson Drive***

***Neighborhood Park***

***4 PM 6-11 year olds***

***Daniel Fernandez Park***



## ***Summer Recreation***

The Village will offer its annual summer recreation program to the children in the Los Lunas School District during summer 2011.

To be eligible for the program a child must have completed kindergarten during the 2011 school year. The top age for the program is thirteen.

Recreation will be held Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Buses will only provide transportation to and from field trips. There will be no pick up and delivery of recreation participants.

The program will be offered in two sessions:

- Session I - June 13 to June 30, 2011
- Session II - July 11 to July 28, 2011.

Cost is \$40 per session. The program is held at the Daniel Fernandez Youth Center, 1103 Highway 314, on the south side of Los Lunas.

The Summer Recreation Program is a service to children in the Los Lunas School District. It is intended to provide education as well as healthy and wellness activities as a service.

The Los Lunas School District and Village of Los Lunas are not responsible for insurance coverage for the children. In case of an injury or accident, the parent or guardian is totally responsible for medical costs.

The phone number for the Parks and Recreation department is 352-3584.

## ***Work Begins Soon on Park***

Work is expected to begin soon on additions to the community park located in Huning Ranch.

The village council approved awarding a contract for construction of new basketball courts, parking improvements which comply with the American Disabilities Act and an asphalt pathway.

HO Construction of Albuquerque was the low bidder for the job which drew 18 bids. The council approved \$164,118 for the work.

Huning Ranch/Sundance Park is planned to be twelve acres with tennis, volleyball and basketball courts, walking trail, picnic tables, a pavilion, landscaped gardens, two playgrounds and restrooms once it is completed.

The park is being developed as funding becomes available. It is located off of Huning Ranch Loop east.

***PAY YOUR WATER BILL ONLINE —  
Go To [www.loslunasnm.gov](http://www.loslunasnm.gov)***



## Melnick Reappointed Chief

The Los Lunas Village Council reappointed Roy E. Melnick to the position of police chief at the March 24, 2011, council meeting.

Melnick was first appointed chief in March 2009. He was reappointed to the position for one year in March 2010.

He has more than 30 years of experience in investigative and police work. He has a law degree from the Massachusetts School of Law and a master's degree of business administration from Rivier College as well as a bachelor of science with a concentration in criminal justice from St. Anselm's College.

He has served as chief of police in several jurisdictions including St. Johns, Arizona, and Ashland, Massachusetts.

For information about what has been occurring at the police department, see the tab for the department at the village's website, [loslunasnm.gov](http://loslunasnm.gov).



**Melnick**

## Habitat to Close Doors in June

After more than a decade of helping people through out Valencia County, Habitat for Humanity of Valencia County will be closing its doors by the end of June due to financial difficulties.

The Habitat offices have been located at the village's Transportation Center. The village council agreed to let the program operate out of the center because of all the help given to the community and its residents over the years of Habitat's operation.

Participants in the Habitat for Humanity programs built many homes in Valencia County.

## Plastic Recycling Continues

The village's plastic recycling program continues despite a glitch in the program.

The vendor who was handling the plastic withdrew from the program a few months ago.

Solid waste employees are now bailing the plastics at the transfer station where it is being stored as another vendor is sought.

The solid waste employees came up with this plan so that plastics could continue being recycled in the village.

## RAILROADING IN VALENCIA COUNTY

*MUSEUM OF HERITAGE AND ARTS*

*LUNA AVENUE AND MAIN STREET*

*UNDER THE DOWNTOWN WATER TOWER*

*OPEN 10 A.M. - 5 P.M. TUESDAY-SATURDAY*



## Cops and Kids Fun Run and Walk

The 7th Annual Cops and Kids Fun Run and Walk was held the end of March. The funds raised are used to support the annual Cops for Kids program in December when children are treated to pizza and Christmas shopping. See the results on the police department section of the village website [loslunasnm.gov](http://loslunasnm.gov).

The Village of Los Lunas 6th Annual  
**Health & Wellness Fair**  
*Friday, April 15, 2011 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.*  
Daniel Fernandez Youth Center  
*Contact Debra Sanchez 352-7624*  
*Or Ginny Adame 352-7723*

*Los Lunas Has  
Great Mother's  
Day Gifts!*

*•Flowers •Clothes •Jewelry  
•And More!*



*Shop  
Los  
Lunas  
First*