

# 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)

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August 2011

## Ground Broken for New Health Clinic in LL

Ground breaking was held August 11 for the construction of a 21,582 square foot health care center located on Don Pasqual between the village administration building and the Fred Luna Senior Center.

First Choice Community Health Care received a grant for just over \$8.1 million to build and equip the facility. The funding was made available through the affordable health care act and was applied for through a capital development grant.

The new facility will have 18 medical exam rooms, 10 dental rooms and will provide mental health services.

It is anticipated that the new center will provide patients with medical, dental and mental health care when it is needed. The center will have an after hours clinic and a demonstration kitchen to show patients how to prepare food.

During the 10-month construction phase, 30 to 40 full-time equivalent jobs will be created and once the center is operational 23-and-a-half FTEs will be added to the staff, bringing the total to 53 people.

The current First Choice clinic in Los Lunas is more than 20-years-old, and at only 4,800 square feet is unable to meet the expanding primary medical needs of the community.

## Students Join LL Police Department Explorer Program



Pictured are three of the first four teenagers who are part of the village police department's Explorer Program as they were introduced at a July Los Lunas Village Council meeting. The program is aimed at having teenagers learn about law enforcement to see if they would be interested in a career in the field.

## Be Careful Crossing Train Tracks On Main Street; More Gates Going Down

In an effort to make the train track crossing on Main Street near Highway 314 safer, all four gates on the crossing will begin coming down on August 25..

Only the two gates which block the approaches to the crossing have been coming down when a train comes through this crossing.

The new system is called a quad gate system because it will have the four gates operating instead of just the two.

The quad gate system should result in the decrease of trespassing into the buffer area at the tracks where a vehicle can be struck by a train.

In the past there have been accidents (and almost accidents) caused by drivers pulling up and parking on or near the tracks.

With the new quad gate system, drivers on west-bound Main Street should not proceed across the tracks when the near signal is red. If a driver does proceed then the vehicle may be stuck between the descending gates.

Drivers should not have their vehicles on the area near the tracks with the big X markings while waiting for the light to change.

Additional information will be made available to drivers with this change. Rio Metro will be operating the new safety feature at the crossing.

## Los Lunas Corridor Study Public Meeting

Wednesday, August 17, 2011

Los Lunas Transportation Center

751 Juan Perea Road 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting is to inform the public about the status of the Los Lunas Corridor Study and to receive input about the proposed recommendation of a locally preferred alternative.

## Burning Ban Lifted

Village Fire Chief Lito Chavez has lifted the ban on open burning within the village's incorporated area.

"We have been fortunate to receive rain and increased humidity recently, thus allowing us to lift this ban," says Chavez. "Citizens need to remember that the fire danger is still high, but has been aided slightly by the recent moisture."

Anybody who wishes to conduct open burning within Los Lunas needs to obtain a burn permit and abide by the rules of the Open Burn Ordinance.

Burn permits can be obtained at the Los Lunas Fire Department, 465 Main St. SE, during normal business hours. Anybody with questions can call the non-emergency line at (505) 866-2116 or visit the village website at [www.loslunasnm.gov](http://www.loslunasnm.gov).

## New Burn Ordinance

A new ordinance regarding burning in the village has been approved by the council.

Anyone wanting to burn in the village limits should call the Valencia County Regional Emergency Communication Center to confirm that burning is allowed that day.

The only reason to burn is for:

1. Disposal of fully dried weeds;
2. Agricultural management, excluding timber, directly related to the growing or harvesting of crops;
3. Recreational, cooking, or ceremonial purposes.

Any individual, firm, partnership, or corporation that violates any provision of the burn ordinance is guilty of a petty misdemeanor and upon conviction can be punished by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500) or imprisonment for a period of not more than ninety (90) days or both fine and imprisonment.



### Trash Collection Continues

Bags of trash collected by student workers this summer are collected on Los Morros. The students cleaned up various sites in the village. Remember to help keep Los Lunas clean every day.

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## Branding Our Community

*The following was written by Jim Glover of The Idea Group. Glover is working with the village on branding the community.*

When it comes to branding, everything matters. In today's competitive world, branding matters even more as consumers are bombarded with so many choices. Fact is, consumers gravitate toward brands they understand and trust.

One might not think the same holds true related to the brand of a community, but branding is branding. It doesn't matter whether it's a consumer brand, industrial brand or a community brand, the more recognized and respected the brand the more it drives traffic.

Communities need to understand that they have the power to develop a brand that represents where the community is now and where it is heading. The tools that allow Nabisco to brand an Oreo cookie or McDonald's to brand the Big Mac directly correlate to community branding.

In the case of Los Lunas, how does its markets — which include residents, businesses and visitors — perceive the community? Does the current Los Lunas brand correctly position and accurately represent the Village on all fronts? If not, there is room for improvement, and a branding strategy can be developed that will align the community's brand image and identity, and raise the overall stature of the brand.

The community branding initiative will be followed in the next few newsletters. Watch for that information and more about what 'brand' is and what 'branding' is all about.

### Fill Out Community Survey — Please

The Los Lunas Community Survey is now available to be filled out and will take only a few minutes. A link to the online survey can be found on the home page of the Village website ([www.loslunasnm.gov](http://www.loslunasnm.gov)) or copies are available at the Village office at Don Pasqual and Main Street.

Everyone in the community is urged to fill out the survey which will provide the Village with valuable input from the community members to help make Los Lunas a better place to live, work and recreate.

### VILLAGE OFFICIALS

Robert Valpando Mayor

#### Councillors

Cecilia CC Castillo Charles Griego  
Richard Lovato Gerard Saiz

#### Municipal Judge

Police Chief Jeff Aragon

Police Chief Roy E. Melnick

Fire Chief Attiliano "Lito" Chavez

Village Administrator Peter Fernandez

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## Intersection Improvements

### Will Help Main Street Traffic

Plans for improvements are in the works for eighteen intersections connecting with Main Street, also known as NM 6, in an effort to ensure traffic moves smoothly.

Many of the improvements will be creating right hand turn bays into streets coming off Main Street. The improvements may be accomplished by Summer 2012.

Proceeding west to east on Main Street/NM6, the intersections and improvement work include

- Sand Sage — pedestrian access and sidewalk.
- Huning Ranch Loop/Desert Willow/Sun Ranch — sidewalk.

- Enilio Lopez — decelerating right turn lane.
- Grant — decelerating right turn at Grant and the commercial access east of Grant.

- Los Cerritos — median improvements on Main Street as well as to Los Cerritos.

- Canal — decelerating right turn lane.
- Don Pasqual — southbound auxiliary lane and sidewalk.

- Sichter — intersection improvements and decelerating right turn lane to business in area.

- Sandoval/Munoz — Sandoval intersection and westbound decelerating right turn lane at Munoz.

- Carson/Diana — median improvements: east-bound right turn lanes to Carson and the Post Office; and westbound right turn lane to Diana.

- River Park entry — decelerating right turn lane and intersection improvements.

- Edeal/Mountain Laurel — median improvements, eastbound right turn lane at Edeal, westbound right turn lane at Mountain Laurel and auxiliary lane on Edeal.

- Blue Bonnet — decelerating right turn lane.
- Lakeview — decelerating right turn lane.

- Lujan — decelerating right turn lane.
- Apaloosa/Stover — improved access and median improvements.

## 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 2011 meeting dates are:

August 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).

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## 2011-2012 Budget Includes

### Capital Outlay Projects

The Village Council has approved the final budget for the 2011-2012 fiscal year and it includes several capital outlay projects which will improve the village.

The bulk of the capital outlay expenses are in street department and includes \$1.9 million to improve intersections along Main Street, also known as NM6.

Other capital outlay street projects include improvements to the intersection of NM314 and Court-house Road, additional improvements to the NM314 pedestrian railroad crossing and improvements to the intersection of Main Street and NM263, which is an extension of El Cerro Loop. The village wants to complete the rehabilitation of NM314 between Main and Otero Streets so funding has been allocated for design in anticipation of locating the money for construction.

The village is the lead agency for the Interchange/Bridge Corridor Study and funding is allocated in the budget for this.

The administration building and its surroundings at Don Pasqual and Main Street will undergo some changes in 2011-12. Funding is allocated for parking improvements to coincide with the construction of the health clinic between the administration building and the Fred Luna Senior Center to the north.

An addition is planned for the north side of the transportation building on Juan Perea Road. This building is also called the New Mexico Rail Runner Express station.

The addition will change the parking situation, but the village council approved the purchase of property across Courthouse Road to compensate for the parking lost on the north end of the current structure.

The total estimated village revenues for 2011-12 is \$33.8 million with budgeted expenses of \$38.1 million.

## New School Resource Officer

Los Lunas Police Officer Cassandra Linehan will be the new school resource officer. She will be the liaison between the Los Lunas Schools resource officers and the Los Lunas Police Department.

Linehan has worked for the Isleta Police Department Laguna Police Department in New Mexico and the Sioux Tribal Department of Public Safety in South Dakota.

She was appointed school resource officer after Officer James Rich was appointed to the position of Police Sergeant for the Los Lunas force. Rich had previously served as resource officer.



Linehan

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## Fixed Bus Route on Main Street; Meeting August 24

The Rio Metro Transportation District is proposing to start a fixed bus route which will run on Main Street, proceeding between Stover Road on the east side of Los Lunas and Jubilee Avenue on the west.

Busses will run continuously on the route with set pickup points. Those pickup points are currently under consideration. The route will be run primarily during the day.

The Rio Metro is the successor to the transportation system the village operated for several years.

The new fixed route should be operating by the fall. Rio Metro will continue to operate the Demand Response service also. The area bus service provided 60,000 rides last year.

A public input meeting will be held at the Los Lunas Transportation Center, 751 Juan Perea Road, on Wednesday, August 24, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Citizens are urged to attend to talk about the proposed fix route system.

# Farmers Market

**Tuesdays 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.**

**Saturdays 9 a.m. - noon**

## Heritage Park Lambros Loop

**Continues through October**

**Vegetables • Fruits • Soap**

**Jewelry • Flowers • Honey**

**Herbs • Chile • Scarves**

**Handmade Crafts**

**Sandwiches • Cold Drinks**

**EBT and Debit Cards Accepted**

**For more information or to rent a space**

**contact Loretta Torres at 505 869-9409**

**(senyas@qwestoffice.com) or George**

**Torres at 505 307-1891**

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

## Village Vender Information

Have you ever wondered what the guidelines are in the village of Los Lunas for various vendors you see in your neighborhood or on Main Street? Here's information about what vendors need to do.

No vendors are allowed to sell on the public right-of-way or vend in village parks unless authorized by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Signage for vendors must have a sign permit.

Summer hours for vendors are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. while winter hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

If a vendor wants to sell on private property, then the following must be provided to the village:

- The property owners' written permission indicating the number of days vendor will be selling which may not exceed 14.

- A fee of \$25 for Day One plus \$10 for each additional day.

- If the vendor plans to sell at the same location year round or seasonally, then a business license must be obtained.

- Non-profit organizations will not be charged a fee, but must provide a nontaxable certificate.

Door-to-door salesmen must do the following:

- Purchase an indemnity or surety bond for \$1,000.

- Provide the village with a copy of the bond.

- Fee is the same as above. The time frame can be renewed for 14 days.

A food vendor for a short time must:

- Obtain a permit from the New Mexico Environment Department before receiving a village vendor's permit. Fee is same as above. No fee is charged for a non-profit, but must have health permit (copy provided to the village) and document as a non-profit.

- A food vendor with a permanent year-round business needs a village business license plus the New Mexico health permit.



## National Night Out In Los Lunas

The Los Lunas Police Department sponsored National Night Out at the beginning of August at Daniel Fernandez Park. Department employees helping out that night included Chief Roy E. Melnick.