

Village of Los Lunas



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More Businesses Locating Or Relocating in the Village

To help encourage people to shop in Los Lunas this newsletter features businesses that recently arrived, plan to open or changed hands in the village.

The grand opening was held in June for Pawfections Pet Spa, a dog and cat boarding and grooming facility, located at 1400 Main Street NW. The facility moved its location recently. The phone number is 865-5369 and website www.pawfectionspetspa.com.

Valencia Family Medicine and Express Care held the grand opening of its second location at 328 Main Street NW on July 9 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with music, food and games plus a ribbon cutting.

The old Chevron station, located at Main Street and Grant Boulevard, is expected to reopen this summer with new owners. It will include gas pumps and a convenience store.

Village Council Approves New Home Occupation Ordinance

The Village Council approved changes in the home occupation ordinance in May which are designed to facilitate home-based work as a means of growing the local economy.

The newly approved ordinance lists home occupations that do not require a conditional use permit and those occupations not considered viable for a home occupation.

The village is participating in the Live/Work New Mexico pilot program which is aimed at increasing the number of home occupations in the community.

Los Lunas Fixed Route Bus Service Public Input Meeting

Los Lunas Transportation Center

751 Juan Perea Road

Wednesday, August 24, 2011

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting is to provide information about the Fixed Route Bus Service proposed for Los Lunas and to receive public comment.

Village Continues Services In 2011-12 Budget Year

July is the start of a new budget year for the Village of Los Lunas and the 2011-2012 budget shows the village will be maintaining services as well as having a substantial reserve in the General Fund portion of that budget.

Municipal governments in New Mexico are mandated to retain a reserve equal to one-twelfth of its General Fund expenses. That would be \$1.485 million in reserve for the village, however Los Lunas' reserve is projected to be nearly five times that or \$13 million.

Village Administrator Peter Fernandez explains that a reserve is important for any governmental entity in case revenues come in under projections.

In the 2011-2012 budget, the village is maintaining its level of services offered such as extensive public library hours, upkeep of 17 community and neighborhood parks, a multi-faceted recreation program and cultural programs including the Museum of Heritage and Arts.

Salary increases for village staff and maintaining its current employee benefits are also part of the 2011-2012 budget.

Fernandez points out that the budget is helped by departments obtaining grant money to supplement yearly funding. For example, the police department has applied for or been granted almost \$1 million in funding over the last three years and the Community Development Department was just awarded a \$50,000 Community Development Block Grant for planning.

Future village budgets will also be helped by the work being done by Ralph Mims, the Economic Development Manager hired last year, as he actively seeks businesses to establish a home in our community.

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.

Children's Study Recruiters Continue To Visit Area Homes

National Children's Study Community Recruiters continue to visit homes throughout Valencia County, including Los Lunas, recruiting women who are pregnant or may become pregnant in the next few years to participate in the 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 over 100,000 children all across the United States.

Over the next year or so, more than 10,000 households will be visited in Valencia County to inquire if there are any women over 18 years of age pregnant or expecting to become pregnant.

When a National Children's Study Community Recruiter visits a household and a short survey is answered, \$5 is donated to the local school district. In the past few months, over \$5,000 has been donated to the Los Lunas and Belen schools.

The results of the National Children's Study may help prevent and treat children's health problems such as prematurity, asthma and diabetes. The study also means local job opportunities through the University of New Mexico.

The study is headquartered at the Valencia Campus. More information about the study or the jobs is available at the UNM Valencia Campus study office 925-8888 or the national website www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov.

Workshops To Be Held This Summer for Redistricting

Public workshops will be held this summer so the village council can redistrict village council seats.

The village grew from 10,034 in 2000 to 14,835 in 2010, an increase of 48 percent. Council seats need to be redistricted due to the growth.

Watch for information about the time and location of these workshops.

Los Cerritos Park Improvements

Work will begin this summer on improvements to Los Cerritos Park, located at the intersection of Los Cerritos and Emilio Lopez NW.

Improvements will be made to the sidewalks and drainage as well as pedestrian access.

The Los Lunas Village Council approved a \$101,099 contract with G. Sandoval for the work.

June Cleanup Nets 33 Bags of Trash

The June Community Service cleanup resulted in 33 bags of trash being picked up. Areas cleaned included Juan Perea Road, Lopez Road, Morris Road, Los Lentes South and one side of Main Street from the Los Lunas Campus entrance to Murphy's Express Gas Station.

Village in Total Compliance With Arsenic Requirements

The New Mexico Environment Department has told Village of Los Lunas officials that the village is totally in compliance with arsenic requirements. The rolling average is now well below 10 parts per billion.

Sampling will continue for two more consecutive quarters and if the village is within the limits then sampling will only occur every three years.

Contract Awarded for Improvements

In the village's continuing effort to make sure village water is safe, the Village Council awarded Fox Builders the contract to make improvements to village well sites and arsenic treatment facilities for \$509,600.

Shop Los Lunas Every Day

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:

July 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.

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

Police Department Receives Nearly \$1 Million in Grants

Over the last three years the Los Lunas Police Department has received or expects to receive almost one million dollars in grant funds for the agency. Most recently the department applied for grant funding through the United States Department of Justice, COPS Hiring Program (CHP).

The largest grant will be \$391,934 to hire two police officers for three years who will then be integrated into the village's budget. The smallest has been a little less than \$3,000 to help with the "Click it or Ticket" improving seat belt usage program.

The Los Lunas Police Department applies for grant funding as a way to supplement the needs of the department and community because of budgetary constraints. Funding which does not come from the village budget allows police officers to put more of an emphasis on community policing by having additional officers attend community and school functions, neighborhood meetings and other events to better educate and work with the community.

Grants have also purchased police equipment including cameras, vests and vehicles as well as providing training and helped the canine program. Grants have been made by the New Mexico Traffic Safety Bureau, New Mexico Attorney General's office and U.S. Department of Justice as well as others.

Explorer Program Introduces Young Adults to Law Enforcement

The Los Lunas Police Department has instituted a program for young adults so they can gain experiences that will aid them in deciding whether to make law enforcement a career.

The Explorer Program is primarily for those entering the 2011 school year as high school juniors and seniors. Operated through Boy Scouts of America and the Police Department, participants work with School Resource Officers from the Los Lunas Schools.

The program develops leadership skills as well as physical and mental fitness while providing positive social interaction.

One of the most important goals of the program is to pique the law enforcement interests of the young adults in Los Lunas.

Police Chief Melnick said, "Law Enforcement is a calling and most of the youth interested in our program will become future law enforcement officers . . . The program builds self confidence and leadership skills, two qualities that can be used in any industry."

Area Branding to Increase Tourism, Attract Businesses

The first meeting was held July 12 to discuss ways to increase community pride, attract new businesses, recruit and retain local human capital and increase tourism in Los Lunas.

The meeting is part of the village's effort to develop a single community brand that will guide current and future marketing efforts for the town and position Los Lunas as part of one of America's emerging regions.

The project runs concurrently with the Village's efforts to update the comprehensive plan which shares a similar process for community visioning. Project goals include building the foundation to generate greater community pride; to attract new businesses; to recruit and retain local human capital; and to increase tourism.

"The Village of Los Lunas is excited about embarking on a community branding campaign that will help us define our community identity as we move forward with several initiatives. We have selected The Idea Group to work on the project because of their prior success working with small communities and The Idea Group founding partner James Glover's enthusiasm for this project," said Christina Ainsworth, Community Development Director.

Water From Village Fire Hydrants Not Drinking Water

Fire hydrants serve an important purpose -- for use by firefighters to fight fires.

Fire hydrants are not to be used for obtaining drinking water.

The Village of Los Lunas has a coin-operated water dispenser located north of the Administration Building at Main Street and Don Pasqual, which can be used to obtain water for drinking.

People obtaining water from hydrants, for construction work or other purposes, should be using a meter connection so bills will be sent to the proper people for the water used.

If you see someone taking water from a hydrant without using a meter, report this theft by calling 865-9130.

Main Street Sidewalks Being Repaired

Be careful driving Main Street, also known as Highway 6, this summer, as there will be lane closures for sidewalk repairs on various days and times.

"INSPIRATIONS"

Featuring: Camino Real 8

July 9 - Sept 17, 2011

at the

Museum of Heritage and Arts

Main Street & Luna Avenue

Under the Downtown Water Tower 505 352-7720

The Camino Real 8 formed seven years ago as Fine Arts Unlimited. Eight artists came together once a month to encourage each other in the solitary journey of producing quality art. The name was later changed to Camino Real 8 and all are residents of the Rio Abajo or the Middle Rio Grande Valley.

Current members of The Camino Real 8 are: Lorraine Lopez Burleson; Judy Farrow; Janice Leach; Sondra Schlotterback; Jean Stone; Gwen Wilemon; Evelyn Yoder; and Penny York.

Summer Children's Program

Every Wednesday at 10 a.m.

at the Museum of Heritage and Arts

Call 352-7720 for more information

Hospice Volunteers Sought

Hospice of the Sandias is looking for compassionate people to visit hospice patients in the Los Lunas area.

Hospice patients are often isolated and lonely. Volunteers who visit these patients offer companionship, socialization, and comfort to the patients or relieve an exhausted caregiver for an hour.

Volunteers for Hospice of the Sandias are required to be TB tested annually, drug tested and fingerprinted for a background check at no cost to the volunteer. Volunteers are also trained and supported by a volunteer coordinator.

For further information, contact Maralee Self at 505 881-5342 or mself@hcotw.com.

Hospice of the Sandias has been serving the Los Lunas area since 2007.

National Night Out Scheduled Aug. 2 in LL

National Night Out will be held in Los Lunas on Tuesday, August 2, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Daniel Fernandez Park on Highway 314 south of Courthouse Road.

National Night Out has been held on the first Tuesday of August for the past 27 years and the Village of Los Lunas Police Department performs the organizational work to bring people together in this fight against crime.

The event is designed to —

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness;
- Generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs;
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and
- Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

National Night Out has proven to be an effective, inexpensive and enjoyable program to promote neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships.



Los Lunas police officers and staff stand in front of the mobile crime van at the 2010 National Night Out.

Focus on Economic Development

A meeting will be held Monday, July 25, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. to discuss a variety of issues regarding economic development in the village including the services offered by New Mexico Partnership.

The meeting will be held at the Village Council Chambers in the Administration Building, Don Pasqual and Main Street.

Also to be discussed is how to help companies with a base in Los Lunas that have to shut down.

Anyone with questions should contact Ralph L. Mims, Economic Development Manager, at 839-5654.