

# 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 16 Number 8

September 2012

## Auto Parts Store Now Open in Los Lunas

The following business has opened in Los Lunas:

NAPA Auto Parts, 3507 Main Street SE, 865-1006.

Economic Development Manager Ralph L. Mims is happy to assist those interested in doing business in the village. He is available at 505 839-5654 (direct line), 505 604-4156 (cell), or e-mail at [mimsr@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:mimsr@loslunasnm.gov).

## Renovations Around Main Street/Don Pasqual

If you're driving by the village administration building at Don Pasqual and Main Street over the next few months and wonder what's going on, here's what you need to know — the area is undergoing renovations that will make it more accessible and attractive.

The Village Council awarded a \$585,479 contract in early September to Altor Construction for concrete amenities and sidewalks as well as drainage, parking lot, and pedestrian improvements.

A second phase will add additional landscaping around the building and vicinity including new trees.

The first phase will enlarge the police department parking lot on the west side of the complex, repave the parking lot in the front of the building (southeast corner), and relocate the area for the flag poles.

Some of the improvements are being made in conjunction with the opening of the First Choice Family Health Care Center behind the Administration Building.

The Village recycling area remains by the Fred Luna Senior Citizen Center, located at 197 Don Pasqual NW. Items that can be recycled include newspapers, magazine, cardboard and plastics.

*Halloween's Coming  
and so is the Village of Los Lunas*

## Haunted House

October 31 Daniel Fernandez Park

## New Facilities Improve Medical Care in Area

With the opening of the 21,582 square foot First Choice Community Health Care Center on Don Pasqual this month and the announcements of a clinic and a possible hospital in Los Lunas, the community is seeing improvements in medical care.

The 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 has 18 medical exam rooms, 10 dental rooms, and will provide mental health services. It is located north of the Village Administration Building.

Lovelace announced this summer that it expects to open a clinic in Los Lunas by January 1, 2013. The clinic would be accessible to anyone who is a member of the Lovelace Health Plan.

The opening of a clinic was prompted partially by the decision made by the Village Council to award the health coverage contract to Lovelace. The Village's 500 employees and their families are covered by Lovelace effective July 1, 2012.

An Oklahoma-based company, Miller Architects LLC, has said that it has the ability and funding to build an 80,000 to 90,000 square foot hospital in Los Lunas.

Darin Miller, president of the company, said that some of the major services the hospital will provide are between 30 and 40 inpatient beds, a 24-hour emergency facility with the necessary supportive services, an obstetrics unit, and surgery capabilities.

A spring ground breaking is possible with an estimated 18-month construction time table. It is possible the hospital could be open in January 2015.

No site or even general location has been announced for the hospital.

## Live/Work Meets in October

The next Live / Work in Los Lunas meeting will be in October. Watch for details of the date, time, place and speaker.



**A worker puts glass into a grinding machine which helps recycle that glass during the August recycling event sponsored by the Village's Keep Los Lunas Clean and Beautiful.**

## **Children's Program at Museum**

Every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. the children's program is held with story time and a craft for children three to four years old at the Los Lunas Museum of Heritage and Arts.

- There is no fee and all materials are provided!

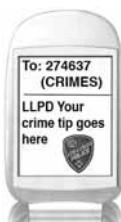
On the first visit each child must be registered before the 10:30 a.m. start time.

The museum is located at the corner of Luna Avenue and Main Street, under the downtown water tower.

The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed Sunday and Monday.

## **Text Crime Tips**

Send a text to 274637. Begin your text with LLPD. Send your text and Los Lunas police officers will respond. It's all done anonymously for a safer Los Lunas.



## **VILLAGE OFFICIALS**

*Robert Vialpando Mayor*

**Councilors**

*Charles Griego Richard Lovato  
Amanda Perea Gerard Saiz*

**Municipal Judge** Henry Perea

**Police Chief** Roy E. Melnick

**Fire Chief** Atiliano "Lito" Chavez

**Village Administrator** Gregory Martin

# **August Recycling Event Proves Very Successful**

The recycling event held August 18 by Keep Los Lunas Clean and Beautiful was a success with the following collected: cardboard, one ton; plastics, one-half ton; newspapers and similar products, one-half ton; metal/white goods, one-half ton: aluminum, fifty pounds; used oil, five gallons; car batteries, three; and 800 pounds of glass that was ground up.

Numerous electronic devices were collected by Enchantment Recycling and clothing items were also recycled.

A total of 116 vehicles went through the line on that clear and pleasant Saturday morning.

Many people enjoyed a lunch of cold drinks and hot dogs that day after finishing their work. Marie Marquez of the Keep Los Lunas Clean and Beautiful program coordinated the event. Other Village employees involved included Lori Kurtz, Adolph Lopez, Joe Garcia, Jason Marquez, Marcus Montoya, Joshua Chavez, Roberto Chavariz, David DeAnda and Tommy Gurule.

Marquez said that people's comments were: "these events are so nice," "it sure helps the community get rid of unwanted stuff," and "comes in handy for elderly people who can't drive far to recycle."

Small souvenirs prepared by Joshua Chavez of the Village's Solid Waste Department were passed out to participants. The souvenirs were a replica of a trash bin with recycling information.

Marquez thanked the recyclers who helped: Cemco Glass, Clothes Helping Kids and Enchantment Electronics. Thanks also go out to New Mexico Disposal for providing two large dumpsters for non recyclable trash.

The next recycling event, America Recycling Day, takes place November 17 from 8 a.m. to noon behind the Fred Luna Senior Citizen Center on Don Pasqual.

**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 Don Pasqual and Main Street.

Remaining meeting dates for 2012 are:

September 20 October 11 & 25

November 15 & 29 December 6 & 20

Meetings begin at 6 p.m. Meetings may be canceled or rescheduled so check at 839-3840 or the village website at [www.loslunasnm.gov](http://www.loslunasnm.gov).

# Community Branding Recap: Strengthen the Los Lunas Brand

*The following was written by Jim Glover of The Idea Group. Glover works with Los Lunas on branding and associated projects.*

As I've mentioned several times before, a brand is simply everything and it resides in the mind of the individual. A brand is built upon the frequency and quality of experiences a person has with a product or service. Or, in our case, a community. Given this definition, Los Lunas is making major strides toward establishing a leading community brand in New Mexico.

Driven by its new slogan — Small Community. Big Possibilities. — Los Lunas is striving to accomplish big things. Each positive accomplishment enhances its brand in the eyes of residents, local businesses, organizations, and visitors. These favorable impressions also generate brand recognition and recall with people throughout New Mexico and the United States who previously might have never heard of the village. Three recent local activities come to mind when I think about building the stature of the Los Lunas brand.

First is the latest news about the hospital. The continuous efforts to bring a hospital to the community definitely enhance the community and its brand.

Second, Los Lunas is hosting the 2013 Rural Forum, an annual event where rural New Mexico communities come together to discuss Quality of Life initiatives. Word is already spreading about the great job the Los Lunas planning committee is doing and how the event might be the best rural forum ever. This, too, is positioning Los Lunas as a progressive economic development leader in the state.

Lastly, Los Lunas continues its Live / Work Los Lunas program supporting home-based workers. As home-based workers improve their businesses, Los Lunas becomes known as a community that values its local entrepreneurs. Another positive check mark for the brand.

Branding is an ongoing process. It never sleeps, so to speak. These latest efforts are a good start toward building a recognized brand that everyone in the community will be proud of.

## Library G.O. Bond Issue “B” on November Ballot

If General Obligation Bond Issue B for \$9.7 million on the November 6, 2012, Ballot passes then the following money will come to our community libraries —

- The Los Lunas community library and its branch, the Museum of Heritage and Arts, will receive an estimated \$53,816.55.
- The Los Lunas School District libraries will receive an estimated \$64,723.
- Belen Public Library will receive an estimated \$43,573.
- Belen School District libraries will receive an estimated \$40,325.
- Bosque Farms public library will receive an estimated \$ 13,127.
- UNM/Valencia Campus library will receive an estimated \$21,514.

How does this affect you? The maximum size of the bonds is \$140.2 million. Based on current projections, the State Board of Finance estimates that this is the maximum bond size that can be issued while keeping the state property tax mill levy roughly flat at the current rate of 1.36 mills. If all three G.O. issues are approved by the voters in November 2012, the average cost to the owner of a property worth \$100,000 over a 10-year period will be \$8.04 per year. Of that \$8.04 average cost per year, \$6.88 is attributable to the higher education bond, \$0.59 to the senior facilities bond, and \$0.56 to the library acquisitions bond. Without voter approval of the bonds, the State property tax mill rate could be expected to decline slightly.

Los Lunas Library Director Cynthia Shetter points out that all libraries are providing more and more services in leaner times. Library services are essential to our community.

For additional information call Los Lunas Library Director Cynthia Shetter, 839-3850 or go to <http://bondsforlibraries.org> .



# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT THE TREK FOR TRASH

*September 22, 2012*  
*8 a.m. – Noon*

Meet in front of Village Administration Building  
660 Main Street NW

Lunch, as well as trash bags, will be provided. Please dress appropriately for the weather. In case of inclement weather, the cleanup will be cancelled.

CALL 839-3842 or 352-7658 TO VOLUNTEER



## OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, October 13  
9 a.m. ~ Noon  
911 Dispatch Center  
Police Department  
Administration Building  
660 Main Street NW

### **Carson Drive Improvements**

The Los Lunas Parks, Recreation and Street Department is coordinating and overseeing a road improvement project on Carson Drive with G Sandoval Construction. This project consists of replacing water lines, storm water drains, and replacing the asphalt roadway surface between Cortez Street and Pine Street and will be completed by mid October 2012.

The cost is \$133,264.00, funded by New Mexico Department of Transportation and Village of Los Lunas.

## 34th Annual Old Cars and Parts Swap Meet

**Morris Field – Corner of Morris Road and  
Highway 314   South Los Lunas**  
**Friday Sept. 28 Set Up at 1 p.m.**

**Saturday, Sept. 29 –**  
**7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.**  
**Sunday, September 30 –**  
**8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

For more information contact  
New Mexico  
Council of Car Clubs  
at [nmcarcouncil.org](http://nmcarcouncil.org) or  
[joyce@nmcarcouncil.net](mailto:joyce@nmcarcouncil.net)  
505 450-1203  
Sponsored by the  
New Mexico Council of Car Clubs  
and the Village of Los Lunas



### **Grant Will Light Crime Scenes**

The Los Lunas Police Department received a grant in the amount of \$11,323 from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program.

The grant funds will be used to purchase two state-of-the-art 3000 watt halogen platform electronic rise and pivot lights, which will be mounted on the top of the department's mobile command center and easily operated with the push of a button.

These lights will provide enough light to any crime scene so that officers can properly process the crime scenes and collect valuable pieces of evidence that may have been lost without the existence of the lighting. In addition, these lights will also be used during any special event or joint operation that may require the use of the mobile command center.

This lighting will provide an added safety feature for both citizens and officers working in or around the area of the command center.