

# VILLAGE OF LOS LUNAS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



*Small Community.  
Big Possibilities.*

## Administrative

### Offices:

505-839-3840

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

## **Support Still Needed for Valencia Regional Medical Center**

Construction is still expected to start in summer 2014 with an anticipated opening date of winter 2015 for the Valencia Regional Medical Center (VRMC) on the west side of Los Lunas.

Information about VRMC is available on the village website at [loslunasnm.gov/vrmc](http://loslunasnm.gov/vrmc).

A mill levy has been collected in Valencia County since 2007 after voters approved the tax which is to be allocated to a hospital in Valencia County.

Allocation of mill levy funds to VRMC would result in a facility with more services. People are encouraged to contact Valencia County Commissioners to express support for allocating the mill levy to VRMC.

An easy way to communicate with Valencia County Commissioners is below.

The full \$55 million VRMC project would be 110,000 square feet with 85,000 square feet for a hospital and 25,000 square feet of clinic space. It is projected the full VRMC project would create 500 local construction jobs and 450 full-time medical jobs. The VRMC budget is estimated at \$40 million a year, including \$14 million for salaries and benefits.

## **Support Valencia Regional Medical Center**

*Visit the Village website at*

*[www.loslunasnm.gov/vrmc](http://www.loslunasnm.gov/vrmc)*

*to let Valencia County Commissioners know you want their support of the new medical facility in Los Lunas.*

## **Comprehensive, Transportation Plans Look to Village Future**

In its continuing effort to plan for the future, the Village Council has approved the 2035 Comprehensive Plan and the 2035 Master Transportation Plan for the municipality.

The Comprehensive Plan starts with an executive summary, history and a community overview, and then outlines future land use and growth for the community, environmental and natural resources, economic development, housing, and community character.

A plan of action, along with how to implement that plan, is included.

The Village Council has voted that "the overall densities, character and design of all land uses and development (in the village), including residential, agricultural, commercial, industrial, and recreation and open space shall be in accordance with the policies and the goals of the (2035) Comprehensive Plan."

In addition, "the provisions, maintenance, and design of public and private facilities and services, including roads, public safety, educational employment, solid waste disposal, drainage, and water and sewer systems shall be in accordance with the goals and policies of the (2035) Comprehensive Plan."

The 2035 Master Transportation Plan is an element of the 2035 Comprehensive Plan. The Transportation Plan provides:

- Guidance for the development and function of the multi-modal transportation system compatible with the character and desires of the Village.
- Appropriate land use assumptions to estimate travel.
- Documentation of existing facilities and service needs.

The 2035 Comprehensive Plan and Master Transportation Plan are available on the Village website at <http://www.loslunasnm.gov/documentcenter/view/6525>.

## **Warrant Amnesty Offered for Municipal Court Defendants**

Until December 31, 2013, anyone with a warrant issued by the Los Lunas Municipal Court can have it dismissed by appearing before the court and taking care of the original issues that led to the warrant.

Municipal Judge Henry Perea urges people not to take the risk of being apprehended in a warrant sweep or routine traffic stop during the holidays when families should be together. A person with an outstanding warrant could be placed in the County jail, have a driver's license suspended, and be fined up to \$500.

Municipal Court takes place Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 10 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. (with the exception of observed holidays). In December, Judge Perea will also conduct court Fridays at 10 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. and at 6 p.m. on December 3 and 10 to make it easier for those who work.

Judge Perea said, "I encourage people to take advantage of this opportunity to clear up a warrant before the holidays."

# Improvements Made To Park, Rec. Center

An asphalt paved trail now connects the Fiesta Neighborhood to Buena Vista Park.

Cost of the trail construction was \$40,000 with the work completed by Albuquerque Asphalt.

The trail is open to walkers, joggers, and bicyclists, but off-highway vehicles (OHV) are not permitted.

Daniel Fernandez Recreation Center staff painted the restrooms, gymnasium, and building exterior. Other improvements include replacing the tile floors, partitions, and cove base in the restrooms as well as sanding and varnishing all the bleachers. Cost for these improvements was \$4,000.

The recreation center has 5,000 users monthly.

## Chavez Lane Now Has ADA Sidewalks

The village has made several Americans with Disabilities Act sidewalk improvements along Chavez Lane.

Pedestrian mobility was improved by providing sidewalks and ramps along the roadway. New stretches of sidewalks were added in several locations. Albuquerque Asphalt did the project for \$65,000.

## 300 Pounds of Medications Collected

Approximately 300 pounds of prescription medication were collected during the National Take Back Initiative in Los Lunas at the end of October.

The Los Lunas Police Department partnered with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration with two designated drop-off sites.

The service was free and anonymous; officers were not allowed to ask questions or log any information.

## Grant Will Help Conduct Checkpoints

The Los Lunas Police Department has been awarded a \$37,650 grant through the New Mexico Department of Transportation Traffic Safety Division to help reduce traffic related injuries and deaths.

The police department will use the funding to conduct sobriety checkpoints, saturation patrols, and seat belt enforcement from Oct. 1, 2013, to Sept. 30, 2014.

The funding is broken down into:

- Operation Driving While Intoxicated.....\$23,700.
- Operation Buckle Down/Click It or Ticket...\$6,990.
- 100 Days and Nights of Summer.....\$6,960.

Police Chief Roy E. Melnick points out that the department supports the mission of the Traffic Safety Division "to provide a seamless transportation system that safely and efficiently moves people and supports a growing economy and to prevent injuries and save lives by eliminating crashes on New Mexico public roadways."

## LiveWork Meets Nov. 26 For Home-Based/Mobile Business

Anyone and everyone is welcome to attend the November 26 Live/Work meeting at the Los Lunas Transportation Center, corner of Courthouse and Juan Perea Roads, from six to 7:30 p.m. to learn about starting or improving a home-based or mobile business.

The Los Lunas LiveWork program provides start-up support to home-based and mobile entrepreneurs.

LiveWork speakers cover a variety of topics that help businesses operate in today's world.

No LiveWork meeting will be held in December.

## Keep Your Holidays Bright and Safe

The holidays are almost here. Families and friends gather and may find a need for additional lighting or electricity. Here's a few safety tips from Fire Marshal Jason Gonzales of the Los Lunas Fire Department to keep the whole year bright and happy.

- Avoid overloading electrical circuits.
- Inspect electrical cords and appliances for damage.
- Do not tack cords to the wall or run them under rugs.
- Maintain air space around electrical equipment such as televisions, VCRs, stereos, etc.
- Have a qualified electrician install additional outlets to avoid using cube taps and extension cords.
- Extension cords are only for temporary use.
- Use only extension cords with a built-in circuit breaker.

## 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.

Upcoming 2013 meeting dates are:

November 21      December 5 & 19

Meetings begin at 6 p.m. Meetings may be canceled or rescheduled so check at 505 839-3840 or the village website at [www.loslunasnm.gov](http://www.loslunasnm.gov).

## 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*

# **Looking Forward to 2014**

*By Ralph L. Mims, Economic Development Manager*

As 2014 approaches, the Village of Los Lunas Community Development Department thanks everyone in our community for your ongoing support of our branding and economic development activities. Los Lunas, our village, has accomplished so much and we anticipate greater achievements in the coming year.

Let's take a quick look back at the past 12 months. We have new development at Lowe's Hardware Store including Applebee's Neighborhood Grill and PetSense, a national retail pet supply and service provider. The long vacant Cariño's building, just west of I-25, now is the home to Mariscos Altamar Mexican and Seafood Restaurant, an Albuquerque-based restaurant expanding in our growing community.

We completed the Village of Los Lunas 2035 Comprehensive and Transportation Master Plans. The two docu-

ments provide the strategic direction we will follow in the years to come to enhance our quality of life.

Our community was awarded the state's best economic development marketing (at the Rural Forum) and the New Mexico Infrastructure Finance awards for the Transportation Center Master Plan (at the Infrastructure Finance conference). We also secured funding for our I-25/NM 6 interchange beautification, enabling us to build a stunning gateway to our village.

As we enter 2014 we can look forward to lots of new ground breaking including the Transportation Center Phase II Plaza, the I-25/NM 6 (Main Street) interchange project, and the Valencia Regional Medical Center. Each is an exciting addition to our growing list of economic development activities but collectively show how vibrant our community has become. This vitality should give all of us a lot to smile about this holiday season.

For more information regarding economic development and business in the village contact Ralph L. Mims, MCP; Economic Development Manager, Community Development Department; 505 839-5654, direct line; 505 604-4156, cell; or e-mail [mimsr@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:mimsr@loslunasnm.gov).

## **Mayor, Judge, Councilors To Be Elected in March**

The Village will hold an election in early March to elect a mayor, municipal judge and two councilors.

The councilors will be elected from District Two and Four while all registered voters in the Village will be able to vote for mayor and judge.

You may only vote in this election if you are a registered voter in the village limits of Los Lunas.

If you are not registered to vote then contact the Bureau of Elections at the Valencia County Clerk's office, located in the Valencia County Administration building on Luna Avenue, or phone 866-2080.

## **Remember, Reflect, & Rejoice**

### **1st Annual Juried Art Show Runs through Dec. 7 at Los Lunas Museum of Heritage and Arts**

251 Main St SE Under the Water Tower  
505 352-7720 • [loslunasnm.gov/museum](http://loslunasnm.gov/museum)

## **New Businesses on Main Street**

PetSense has opened on Main Street in the new shopping center in front of Lowe's.

Also now open are:

- B-Unique Boutique, 3459 Hwy 47 Suite #5, 865-8733, contact Yolanda Garley.
- Ciao Bella (Salon and Day Spa), 244 Main Street NW, 866-8939.

## **MADD Honors LLPD Officer**

Los Lunas Police Officer Charles Files was honored by Mothers Against Drunk Driving at an event called Honoring Heroes in early November for his efforts to combat DWI.

Officer Files is a Drug Recognition Expert, provides on-going training in the use of the standardized field sobriety tests, and has been an adjunct instructor for the Drug Recognition Expert and Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) programs.

He coordinates and runs sobriety checkpoints throughout the year, working the night shift where he regularly conducts DWI investigations.

## **November Events/Trash Pickup**

The Sundance Elementary School second annual Shoppers' Fair is Nov. 16 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the school, 3701 Sundance Rd. SW.

The American Recycling Event is Nov. 16 on Don Pasqual by the Fred Luna Multigenerational Center. Call 352-7658 for information.

Trash pickup for Thursday, Nov. 28, Thanksgiving Day, is Wednesday, Nov. 27. The Friday day after Thanksgiving pickup, will be Monday, Dec. 2.

Trash pickup for Christmas Day, Tuesday, Dec. 25, will be Wednesday, Dec. 26.

# **Bust A Move Dance Center Presents Dancing Through The Movies Dance Recital**

*December 21, 2013*

*Performances Begin at 6 p.m.*

*Los Lunas High School Auditorium  
1176 Emilio Lopez Rd.*

*Call Jeralyn Duran 505 352-7717 for information*

# **Christmas Light Parade**

*Saturday, December 7  
Starting at 6:30 p.m.*



*Begins at  
Carson Drive  
and proceeds  
west to  
Emilio Lopez*

*(this is a change due  
to construction on the  
Rio Grande bridge)*

*Call the Community Services Department  
at 505 352-7761 or register online  
at [www.loslunasnm.gov/parksandrec](http://www.loslunasnm.gov/parksandrec)*

**Winter Ball Friday, Dec. 6  
Cops With Kids Saturday, Dec. 14**  
Contact Treena Saavedra,  
Los Lunas Police Dept., 505 352-7648,  
or [tsaavedra@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:tsaavedra@loslunasnm.gov).

The Village of Los Lunas Open Space  
Division in conjunction with NM Game & Fish  
and The Ditchbank Bandits will hold a

# **Fishing Derby**

**November 23 8 a.m -2 p.m.**

**at the Los Lunas River Park  
located at 1660 Main St SE.**

**THIS IS AN ALL AGES EVENT!**

For more information contact Los Lunas Open Space  
3447 Lambros Rd. (505) 352-7728  
Email: [jaramillopa@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:jaramillopa@loslunasnm.gov)

# **Visit With Santa At The Park**



**6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14**  
Daniel Fernandez Recreation Center  
1103 Highway 314 South Los Lunas  
Stocking Given to Children Present