



VILLAGE NEWS

Small Community • Big Possibilities

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Water/Sewer Rate Increase Considered by Council

The Village Council will consider raising the water and sewer rates at the December 18 meeting, 6 p.m. at the Village Administration Building, 660 Main Street NW.

Those attending the November 20 Council meeting heard a presentation by Public Works Director Rudy Archuleta about the proposed rate increases.

Archuleta explained that a rate increase is necessary to generate adequate revenue to meet existing water and sewer operational and maintenance costs; increasing costs for water supply treatment, sanitary sewer treatment, water distribution and sanitary sewer collection system maintenance; and proactive management for planned water and sewer system capital improvement projects.

Factors influencing the need for a rate increase are:

- The Village's rapid growth from the mid 90's through the latter part of the early 2000's and subsequent infrastructure expansion to provide services for water distribution and sanitary sewer collection, water and wastewater treatment.



- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issuing the Arsenic Rule reducing the drinking water Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for arsenic from 50 ppb to 10 ppb. All four Village wells were not in compliance with this new mandate, necessitating the design and construction of four arsenic treatment facilities.
- The incurred cost for engineering design and construction of the membrane bioreactor wastewater treatment plant.

The rate increase is proposed to be phased in over a five year period. The average residential water customer (one who uses 6,200 gallons per month) inside the Village limits will expect to see the following increases per month:

- Year One: water \$5.56, sewer \$4.70.
- Year Two: water \$1.47, sewer \$1.86.
- Year Three: water \$1.59, sewer \$2.00.
- Year Four: water \$1.71, sewer \$2.17.
- Year Five: water \$1.85, sewer \$2.34.

If the rate increase is approved, the overall increase per month from current year to Year Five would be \$12.18 for water and \$13.07 for sewer for the average residential water customer (6,200 gallons per month).

The Village utility bill in Year Five for the average residential customer inside the Village limits (excluding garbage) would be water, \$42.84 (the current bill is \$30.66), and sewer, \$47.34 (currently \$34.27).

The proposed water and sanitary sewer rates will increase by 8% per year over a five (5) year period beginning January 1, 2015, and concluding January 1, 2019, for a total of 40%.

Village of Los Lunas water usage and charges are based on a metering system. Both residential and commercial users are charged for the water used per the meter reading.

Village residential sewer usage is determined by taking the average water usage from the months of November through February.

Village commercial sewer usage is determined as equal to the water meter reading.

The last ordinance pertaining to water/sewer rate increases was adopted May 25, 2006 by the Village Council.

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November Recycling Day A Success

The Village's November recycling day event was very successful with the occupants of 156 cars bringing in recycling.

Village employees Lori Kurtz and Marie Marquez welcomed participants who were given a small trash bag for vehicles with a Christmas Card and 2015 calendar.

Village staff assisting included Marcus Montoya, Arturo Romero, Jason Marquez, Joshua Chavez, James Flores, Jesus Montoya, Roberto Chavariz, and Eric Beach.

Recycling coordinator Marie Marquez said she has seen more and more residents recycling. People want to participate in events as well as use the recycling center which is open 24-7.

The November America Recycling Event items collected included:

- 2,380 pounds crushed glass
- 1.5 tons cardboard
- 500 pounds plastic
- Ten cubic yards metal
- 25 gallons assorted paints
- Ten gallons used oil
- Small amounts of lithium batteries
- 29 television sets collected by NM Recyclers, LLC
- 12 computers
- A variety of clothes collected by Clothes Helping Kids.



Recycling Coordinator Marie Marquez welcomes participants to November recycling day.

Village Holidays / Trash Pickup Reminder

Village offices will be closed Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 24 and 25, for Christmas. Garbage picked up Wednesdays will be picked up Tuesday, Dec. 23, while trash picked up Thursdays will be picked up Friday, Dec. 26.

Thursday, Jan. 1, 2015, is also a holiday for the Village and garbage pick up usually done on that day will be picked up Friday, Jan. 2.

The usual Monday garbage pick up for Martin Luther King Day will be on Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2015.

Fire Department Still Collecting Non-Perishables

The Los Lunas Fire Department members and volunteers are still collecting non-perishable food items for the less fortunate in the Village.

Your donations will help provide families with a complete meal.

To donate your non-perishables drop them off at the fire department at 465 Main St. SE or call Vivian at (505) 352-7616.

Holiday Events Create Trash Glass

The holidays often mean more social events for people which can result in glass bottles and containers that need to be thrown away.

The village does glass crushing so you can recycle that holiday glass. You can recycle glass all year round.

Glass crushing will be at the recycling center near the Fred Luna Multigenerational Center, 197 Don Pasqual NW, on Dec. 13.

Bring the glass with no liquids inside the glass and, please, do not bring trash with the glass.

To find out the time and any other information, call the Village Solid Waste Office at (505) 352-7699.

Money Helps Keep River Park in Shape

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish has granted the Village \$5,000 per year for fifteen years to assist in the operation and upkeep of the River Park, located off Main Street just east of the Rio Grande.

The funding can be used to replace park amenities damaged through vandalism, rebuild off highway vehicle training site structures, and install new recreational features.

River Park has nature trails, picnic tables, fishing, and a stack wall on its seven acre site.

Visit the Village's website to find out about the recreational opportunities available for all age groups, loslunasnm.gov.



River Park in Los Lunas, on Highway 6 just east of the Rio Grande.

Clean Up After Your Pets

Many pet owners love to walk their pets. It is difficult to keep these pets from leaving evidence of that walk, but owners need to clean up whatever their pet does, especially if it is where other people walk or run.

In many neighborhoods cleanup stands have been placed which provide a bag and a receptacle in which to place that bag. The stands may be sponsored by the Village or by neighborhood associations such as Huning Ranch.

The Village municipal code says that dogs are permitted on Village streets or in public places only if they are secured on a leash not exceeding eight feet in length, under the immediate physical control of the person with custody.

In addition, it is unlawful to deposit any solid waste in or upon the streets, alleys, sidewalks, gutters, curbing, storm sewers, parkways, or vacant lots within the municipality, except in the manner and in the receptacles or containers provided.

The municipal code points out that, in the interest of the inhabitants of the municipality, it is necessary to prohibit the accumulation of junk, trash and refuse on property within the limits of the municipality by declaring such accumulations a nuisance. This includes solid waste.

Thank you for your courtesy and cooperation.

Remember To Shop in Los Lunas

If you're looking for gifts or holiday food then be sure you shop in Los Lunas before even considering going anywhere else.

When you shop in Los Lunas your tax dollars remain in the Village and people have jobs here.

There has been an increase over the last years in the number of retail establishments, small and large, in the Village. This means a wider choice in products and services.

In addition, the number of restaurants has increased with a great variety in the menus.

Every time you pay gross receipts tax, the Village receives a major portion of this tax which is used for essential services throughout the community.

Fit Los Lunas Firefighters Recognized

Two Los Lunas firefighters were recognized by the Village Council for their fitness at a council meeting.

Fire Department Lt. Tommy Madrid and Firefighter David Adame attended a certified fitness coordination workshop hosted by the Los Lunas Fire Department and conducted by Health Metrics, Inc.

Madrid and Adame both scored in the excellent level on the health fitness assessment and received their certificates for instructors.

Both told the Council they have a goal of taking their physical fitness lessons out in the Village to help people become healthier and more fit.



Los Lunas Events

Condensed Realities Exhibition

The Evocative Miniature Constructions of Albuquerque Sculptor Tim Prythero

Presented as Realistic
Photo-Composites by
Belen Photographer Robert Christensen

Through Saturday, January 10, 2015
The Museum of Heritage and Arts
251 Main Street SE (505) 352-7720

Attend A Council Meeting!

December 18, January 8 and 22
660 Main St. NW, Main Street
and Don Pasqual
Meetings begin at 6:00 p.m.

Buffalo Wild Wings Under Construction



Ground has been broken and construction has begun on a new Buffalo Wild Wings Restaurant at 1901 Main Street SW, just west of Camelot Boulevard. The Village Council has approved the transfer of a liquor license from Farmington to the restaurant.

If you are interested in opening a business in Los Lunas contact Economic Development Manager Ralph L. Mims at (505) 839-5654, direct line; (505) 604-4156, cell; or e-mail mimsr@loslunasnm.gov.

Renew Business Registration Before Dec. 31

All businesses, whether Mom and Pop or multi-national, pay the same fee, \$25. A registration is required for "all persons, firms, corporations or associations of any character engaged in any of the various pursuits, businesses or occupations."

Registrations must be renewed annually. Village staff send out reminder letters in the latter part of the year to make it easier to renew.