



VILLAGE NEWS



Small Community • Big Possibilities

Volume 20 - Number 2, February 2016

BOND APPROVAL WOULD IMPROVE FIRE FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT

All registered voters in the Village of Los Lunas are eligible to vote on the General Obligation Bond question on the March 1, 2016, ballot.

The bond issue question is "Shall the Village of Los Lunas issue up to \$5,795,000 of general obligation bonds, to be repaid from property taxes, for the purpose of providing fire protection including purchasing apparatus for fire protection and providing, enlarging and improving fire protection equipment and facilities?"

Early voting opened Wednesday, Feb. 10, while voters can absentee vote now.

Passage of the G.O. Bond would mean a second fire station on the west side of Los Lunas off Sandsage.

Currently the main station is at 465 Main Street SE with a

substation located in facilities at the former Los Lunas Hospital and Training School.

Fire Chief John Gabaldon said the Village needs an additional fire station to:

- increase and improve the current level of fire and emergency medical services
- preserve prompt and consistent response times for emergencies
- obtain new firefighting equipment for the new fire station
- maintain fire prevention efforts throughout the community.

Chief Gabaldon said a second fire station will help efforts to maintain current insurance ratings while continuing to work on lowering them. Lower ratings result in lower fire insurance rates.

The polling site for the March 1, 2016, election is the Village Administration Building, 660 Main Street NW, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Only registered voters may vote in this election.

Nonresidents owning property within the Village limits are eligible to vote on the G.O. Bond question on Election Day because G.O. bonds affect property taxes.

Property owners must contact the Valencia County Clerk/Bureau of Elections, 505 866-2080, to express their desire and certify their eligibility to vote.

VILLAGE COUNCIL DISTRICT ELECTION

Three candidates are running for Village Council in the March 1, 2016, Village election.

District One candidates are Christopher S. Ortiz and Amanda M. Perea.

District Three candidate is Gerard Saiz.

Registered voters living in these districts may vote for one person for this position.

CHARLES GRIEGO
MAYOR

griegoc@loslunasnm.gov

GINO M. ROMERO
COUNCILMAN

romerog@loslunasnm.gov

NAITHAN GURULE
POLICE CHIEF

ngurule@loslunasnm.gov

PAULETTE SANCHEZ-MONTOYA
COUNCILWOMAN

montoyap@loslunasnm.gov

GERARD SAIZ
COUNCILMAN

saizg@loslunasnm.gov

JOHN GABALDON
FIRE CHIEF

jgabaldon@loslunasnm.gov

AMANDA PEREA
COUNCILWOMAN

pereaa@loslunasnm.gov

AVILIO CHAVEZ
MUNICIPAL JUDGE
avchavez@loslunasnm.gov

GREGORY D. MARTIN
VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR
marting@loslunasnm.gov

VILLAGE EMPLOYEES PROMOTED

Several employees in the Village have been promoted or moved on to other positions.

Community Services Director Michael Jaramillo has been appointed by the Village Council to the position of Public Works Director.

Jason Duran is the new Community Services Director.

Andrea Chavez, who worked at the Museum of Heritage and Arts, will be the new assistant library director. The museum is part of the village library system.

Los Lunas Police Department Deputy Chief David Gurule retired Dec. 31, 2015.

The Village Council approved the appointment of Lt. Vincent Torres as deputy police chief.

Sergeant Lisa Valenzuela was appointed lieutenant in the police department.

Officer Cassandra Linehan was appointed sergeant as that position was left vacant by Valenzuela's appointment. In addition, LLPD Officer Mark Gurule was also promoted to sergeant.



A path at El Cerro de Los Lunas

Village Administration Office: 505 839-3840

VOLUNTEERS WORK ON TRAILS AT EL CERRO PRESERVE

Looking for a place to hike, or just walk, that's close to home and offers fantastic views?

El Cerro de Los Lunas Preserve offers 1,444 acres of natural open space that can be used for running, jogging, or walking.

El Cerro is the hill on the west side of Los Lunas.

The Village recently honored two citizens who have been instrumental in fixing and maintaining preserve trails.

Niles McCall and Jeff Caldwell have worked on more than five miles of trail since November 2014.

Mayor Charles Griego and Village council members thanked these volunteers for their work at a recent Council meeting.

TRANSPORTATION CENTER UNDERGOING CHANGES

The Village Transportation Center, sometimes called the New Mexico Rail Runner Express Station, will undergo dramatic changes this spring and summer.

The area directly to the north of the building will be transformed into a plaza with street furniture and other amenities. Parking will no longer be allowed in this area.

Additional parking will be constructed in the lot to the north across Courthouse Road.

Changes will also be made to the configuration of the parking lot located east of the building.

The drop off point will be changed to make it more convenient.

A separate area will be created for staging the public transportation shuttles.

The cost is \$1,035,000 for the earth and concrete work plus an extensive landscaping program will be \$298,758.

A \$1,000,000 grant from the Federal Transit Administration and a \$100,000 grant from Housing and Urban Development provide the bulk of the funding for the improvements. The remainder of the cost is allocated in the Village budget as a match.

The Transportation Center opened in 2008 with Village offices, meeting rooms, a café, and a station for the New Mexico Rail Runner Express.

Visit the Village's newly revamped website, loslunasnm.gov, to view the area plan for the Transportation Center/ New Mexico Rail Runner Express Station.



An extensive amount of landscaping will be added around the Transportation Center.

www.loslunasnm.gov

KING OF THE HILL RUN MARCH 12

The Second Annual King of the Hill 5K/10K trail run will be held Saturday, March 12, beginning at El Cerro de Los Lunas Preserve Trailhead, located 3 miles west of I-25 on Highway 6 in Los Lunas.

The 5K takes the participant along the "Bowl Trail" on the west side of El Cerro de Los Lunas Preserve. It is mostly a flat course with a few small hills.

The 10K begins on the same route as the 5K and then diverts up a steep hill to meet the Overlook Trail, which offers breathtaking views of the Rio Grande Valley.

The 10K runners descend the hill and meet back up with the 5K course to finish. The 10K has approximately 700 feet of elevation change.

The 10K race starts at 9 a.m., 5K at 9:30 a.m. Awards ceremony scheduled at 10:30 a.m.

For more information contact Marcos Castillo at 505 352-7662 or castillom@loslunasnm.gov.



Village Administration Office: 505 839-3840

NEW SHOPPING CENTER COMING TO LOS LUNAS

Los Lunas Investors has said it will break ground this month on a \$3.5 million project called **The Shops@Los Lunas**.

The developers saw a need for soft-goods merchants on the Village's west side.

The center will be by the Lowe's Home Improvement store near Los Cerritos Road and Main Street.

Rue 21, Hibbett Sports, Maurices and Famous Footwear have signed long-term leases in the 20,000-square-foot development.

Construction is scheduled to be completed by the end of June.

It is the first ground up project for the development partners, Provident Realty and the Allen Sigmon Real Estate Group.

Among the recently opened businesses in this general area are Applebee's, IHOP, Buffalo Wild Wings, Petsense, and Subway.



Artist's rendering of the shops@loslunas

RATE INCREASE STARTS THIS MONTH

A reminder — Village of Los Lunas water and sewer bills sent in February 2016 reflect a slight increase in those charges as part of a five-year plan approved by the Village Council in December 2014.

The Council approved the five year water and sanitary sewer rate increase to both the base usage charge (0 – 2000 gallons) as well as the per thousand gallon usage charge above the base usage charge.

The rate increases are necessary to generate adequate revenue to meet existing water and sanitary 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.

The rate increases are being phased in over five years. The first increase was reflected in the February 2015 billing.

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

www.loslunasnm.gov

NEW MEXICO SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT COUNCIL (NMSBIC)

The NMSBIC was created in 2001 under the New Mexico Small Business Investment Act to help promote economic development throughout the state.

The NMSBIC provides funding for small business loans, through its Lending Program partners.

NMSBIC's Lending Program partners include the New Mexico Community Development Loan Fund (THE LOAN FUND), ACCION, WESST, and Rio Vista Growth Capital.

Since 2004, the NMSBIC has provided funding for more than 3,500 small business loans, through its lending partners, to virtually every community in the state. More information can be found at www.nmsbic.org, or contacting Russ Cummins, NMSBIC director/investment advisor, at russ.cummins@nmsbic.org.



Delicious Bobalicious!

Village Administration Office: 505 839-3840



LEIGH VAN GILST CPA & ASSOCIATES ... FIFTEEN YEARS!

Fifteen years ago Leigh Van Gilst CPA & Associates started her tax return business at her kitchen table.

Since then it has grown into a company with ten staff members. Leigh Van Gilst CPA & Associates is a full service CPA firm with clients across the United States.

Leigh and her staff specialize in bookkeeping, taxes, and payroll services from her office at 121A Don Diego SE in beautiful downtown Los Lunas. Call 505 865-1040 for more information.

TRY BOBALICIOUS DRINKS AND TEAS

Bobalicious, the Boba Tea Lounge, offers a variety of frozen drinks and chilled or hot teas.

The flavors of smoothies and slushies can be mixed and matched to create a favorite flavor or a new taste to be enjoyed.

You can pick a hot or chilled tea and add a flavor and/or supplement. Supplements include bobas, gellies, and bursts.

Bobalicious is located at 1400 Main St. NW, the corner of Los Cerritos Road and Main Street.
Phone number is 505 565-0575.
Hours are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

LOCAL EVENTS

SATURDAY, FEB. 13

Noon - 2 p.m.

The Making of Beer

Presented by Angelo Orona
Los Lunas Public Library
460 Main St. NE

MONDAY, FEB. 22 6 p.m

Open Meeting on G.O. Bond
Los Lunas Fire Station
465 Main St. SE

TUESDAY, MARCH 1

Election Day
Vote at the Village
Administration Building
7 a.m. – 7 p.m.
660 Main Street NW

ATTEND A VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING

February 18 March 10 & 24
660 Main St NW
Main Street and Don Pasqual
Meetings begin at 6:00 p.m.

EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM OF HERITAGE AND ARTS

Saturday, Feb. 20 2 p.m.
All In, Down and Out, The Great
Depression in Song & Story w/ith
Jane Voss & Hoyle Osbourne

Saturday, Feb. 27 2 p.m.
The Bosque Farms Project
with Dr. Richard Melzer.

Dust, Drought, and Dreams
Gone By
Through Saturday, Feb. 27

Museum of Heritage & Arts
251 Main St. SE
505 352-7720
Under the Water Tower
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Tues-Sat