



# VILLAGE NEWS

Small Community • Big Possibilities

Volume 22 - Number 4 - April 2018

## VILLAGE OFFICIALS APPOINTED

The Los Lunas Village Council appointed the following at the March organizational meeting: Village Administrator Greg Martin; Police Chief Naithan Gurule; Fire Chief John Gabaldon; and Mayor Pro Tem Christopher Ortiz.

Martin has been Village Administrator since 2012 after serving as city manager in St. Johns, Arizona, and assistant town manager in Strasburg, Virginia.

He earned a bachelor's degree in Spanish Translation and a master's degree in Public Administration from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah.

Martin and his wife Chelsey have eight children.

Chief Gurule was a lieutenant, Division Commander of the LLPD Professional Standards Division, before being appointed chief in 2014.

He was also responsible for internal investigations, the traffic division, and served as a department public information officer. He was born in El Paso and raised in Los Lunas. He and his wife have six children. He has about fifteen years of law enforcement experience.

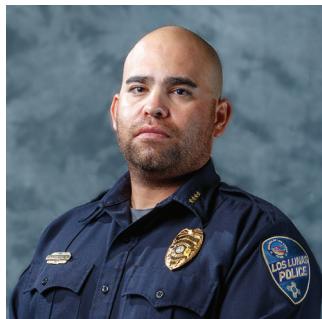
Chief Gabaldon began his firefighting career as a volunteer with the Belen department and then came to Los Lunas where he decided to become a career firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician.

A Los Lunas High School graduate, Gabaldon and his wife Jessica have two sons, Kayden and John III. He was appointed Los Lunas fire chief in 2016.

Christopher Ortiz was elected to represent District One on the Village Council in March 2016. As Mayor Pro Tem, he fills in for Mayor Charles Griego when necessary.



Village Administrator  
Greg Martin



Police Chief  
Naithan Gurule



Fire Chief  
John Gabaldon



Mayor Pro Tem  
Christopher Ortiz

CHARLES GRIEGO  
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[marting@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:marting@loslunasnm.gov)

## LUNA PAINTING IN MUSEUM

A painting of Maximiliano Luna, a Los Lunas native who served with the Rough Riders, now hangs in the Village Museum of Heritage and Arts thanks to the painting's artist and the Valencia County Historical Society.

Village resident Brent Thomas created the portrait in 2015 for the cover of a book about Luna written by University of New Mexico-Valencia professor Richard Melzer.

The March 2018 Village newsletter mistakenly attributed this painting to Brent Anderson. The artist is Brent Thomas.

Thomas's portrait shows Luna as a captain in Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders during the Spanish-American War.

Thomas has presented the painting to the Valencia County Historical Society which asked that the Los Lunas Museum display the painting. It now hangs in the museum.



*Rough Rider Maximiliano Luna*

## STUDENT ART SHOW AT MUSEUM

Over 200 people attended the 5th Annual Student Art Show at the Los Lunas Museum of Heritage & Arts in March.

Some 380 students from Los Lunas and Belen submitted art pieces judged by Gay Garrison, Harry Musselwhite and Baldwin G. Burr. A total of 225 were accepted into the exhibit at the museum.

Chosen to be in the show were

### High School

Best of Show — Autumn Dealy, School of Dreams Academy (SODA)

1st Place — Alex Anderson, Belen High School (BHS)

2nd Place — Gavriella Sanchez, Los Lunas High School (LLHS)

3rd Place — Deanne Towne, LLHS

Honorable Mention — Ashlena Burningham, BHS

Honorable Mention — Alex Edaakie, LLHS

Judges Choice — Destiny Torrez, BHS

### Middle School

Best of Show — Patricia Nicol, SODA

1st Place — Marisol Sanchez, Los Lunas Middle School (LLMS)

2nd Place — Eleana Barela, Valencia Middle School

3rd Place — Taylor Wright, Belen Middle School

Honorable Mention — Muriel Welch, LLMS

Honorable Mention — Hannah Chavez, LLMS

Judges Choice — Ramon Rel, SODA

### Elementary School

Best of Show — Cesar Quinonez, Home Schooled - V.A.S.

1st Place — Ryan Argo, Bosque Farms Elementary

2nd Place — Marie Gerichs, Raymond Gabaldon Elem (RGE)

3rd Place — Lilly Genson, Tome Elementary

Honorable Mention — Jacob Garcia, RGE

Honorable Mention — Abigail Vigil, Home Schooled V.A.S.

Judges Choice — Agnes Griego, RGE

## SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM

Registration is ongoing for the Village's summer recreation program at the Daniel Fernandez Recreation Center.

The program is conducted Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Buses provide transportation to and from field trips only. Drop off and pick up transportation is not provided.

The cost is \$45 per child and the first 300 registrants are accepted.

A child must have completed at least kindergarten to be eligible for the program which takes children up to the age to 12.

All those registering must have proof of age in the form of a birth certificate or report card.

The summer recreation program is a service to children in the Los Lunas School District.

The Village and the School District are not responsible for insurance for any child in the program.

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

## HOME BUYER WORKSHOP

A Free Home Buyer Education Workshop will be held Wednesday, April 25, 2018, from 6 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. at the Los Lunas Transportation Center, 101 Court-house Rd. SE.

If you are considering buying a home, especially if you are a first-time home buyer, you should consider attending to hear discussion about questions that include:

- Where do I even start?
- What do I need to do to qualify?
- What if I have a credit issue?
- How much down payment is required?
- What is escrow/earnest money?

RSVP Jenna Mendoza to attend at 505 417-0272.

## MEMORIAL DAY RUN

The 7th annual 5K and 10K race and separate kids' fun run to support various organizations and presented by L.I.V.E., Inc., (Los Lunas Invested in Veteran Events) will be Saturday, May 26, Memorial Day weekend.

The fundraising event supports the military, veterans, and organizations in Valencia County such as the VFW, Blue Star Mothers, and American Legion.

Detailed information can be found at the web site, <https://runsignup.com/Race/NM/LosLunas/7thAnnualBelieveinHeroesMemorialWeekendRun>.

## BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

Los Lunas hosts the New Mexico State Battle of the Books Saturday, April 28, at Los Lunas High School, 1776 Emilio Lopez Rd NW, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Battle of the Books is a reading competition for students in grades four through eight.

Children read and meet with their peers throughout the year before entering a quiz-style battle.

Contact Karin Trujillo at [ktrujillo@llschools.net](mailto:ktrujillo@llschools.net) or 505 865-1750, ext. 6818, for more information.

## BACA FAMILY PROJECT CONFERENCE

The Village Transportation Center will be the site for the May 19, 2018, Baca Family Historical Project conference.

In New Mexico alone, the Baca Family Historical Project estimates one in 50 native New Mexico Hispanics may be affected with the Common Hispanic Mutation, a rare genetic disorder causing weakened capillaries in the brain.

The genetic disorder is linked to New Mexico's founding family, Cristobal Baca and his wife, Ana Maria Lara, who settled New Mexico in the 1600s.

The May 19 conference is free. Free DNA testing is offered for individuals who meet the criteria.

The Village Museum of Heritage & Arts has been helping coordinate this event.

## KING OF THE HILL RESULTS

Nearly 250 people participated in the Village's fourth annual King of the Hill event at El Cerro de Los Lunas in March.

The top five male half marathon finishers: 1. Linton Taylor, Belen; 2. Tyler Valdez, Belen; 3. Will Marquadt, Albuquerque; 4. Isaac Burleigh, Socorro; 5. Derek Logan, Belen.

The top five female half marathon finishers: 1. Nicole Roberts, Albuquerque; 2. Franchesca Castillo, Belen; 3. Bianca Avalos, Rio Rancho; 4. Dara Procell, Albuquerque; 5. Raquel Gabaldon, Grants.

Top male 5K finishers: 1. Wayne Chick, Los Lunas; 2. Elvis Bitsilly, Albuquerque; 3. Zach Bohumil, Socorro; 4. Desi Garcia, Los Lunas; and 5. Andrew Jojola Barnett, Isleta.

Top female 5K finishers: 1. Marissa Gonzales, Los Lunas; 2. Johnelle Montoya, Albuquerque; 3. Noahlaya Bitsui; 4. Yvette Vigil, Peralta; Jill Maestas, Los Lunas.

Top male 10K finishers: 1. Jonah Ruybalid, Albuquerque; 2. Eric Coca, Albuquerque; 3. Sam Burleigh, Socorro; 4. Matt Bigelow, Albuquerque; 5. Keith Wyman, Albuquerque.

Top female 10K finishers: 1. Katie Coakley; 2. Rachel Cuellar; 3. Paige Kinucan; 4. Myrriah Gomez; 5. Nara Olivas, all of Albuquerque.



*King of the Hill participant celebrates his finish.*

# LOS LUNAS IN TOP 10

A new study from SmartAsset ranks the Village of Los Lunas one of the top 10 places to retire in New Mexico.

The study compares various factors for a successful retirement such as financial burdens, social life, and easily accessible medical care.

Considering both income and sales tax (state and federal), the Village's effective tax rate is 16.6% while the nationwide average is 17.2%.

This percentage is based on the average retiree earning \$35,000 from retirement savings, Social Security, and/or part-time employment, and purchasing taxable goods with disposable income.

The Village has the second-best rate compared to the other nine places in New Mexico with the 16.6% tax rate.



This sculpture at I-25 welcomes people to Los Lunas.

Village Administration Office: 505 839-3840

Seniors comprise 14.4% of the Village's population.

There are .5 recreation centers for each thousand people.

The Village has a higher number of doctors' offices per thousand people in the Village with 1.5 doctors' offices per thousand.

This is above the national and New Mexico average of 0.8.

## MUSEUM OF HERITAGE & ARTS HAPPENINGS

Main Street and Luna Avenue  
505 352-7720

### EXHIBITS

Pastel Society of New Mexico  
Saturday, April 21 –  
Saturday, June 2, 2018

Pastel Society Opening Reception  
Saturday, May 5, 2018

Juried Art Show Winner  
Bud Edmundson  
June – July

### TOURS

Call Museum 505 352-7720  
or stop by to sign up Saturday,

May 26, 2018  
Los Lunas Mystery Stone

Saturday, June 23, 2018  
Field trip to Tent Rocks

### SPEAKERS

Thursday, April 19, 2018  
Diana Molina

Saturday, June 9, 2018  
John Taylor

Museum Open  
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Tuesday - Saturday

## LOCAL EVENTS

Saturday, April 21  
Recycle Day 8 a.m. – noon  
Recycling yard behind  
Fred Luna Multigenerational  
Center  
Don Pasqual  
No household trash, tires or  
tree limbs  
\$20 fee for TVs

Saturday, April 28  
Take Back Drugs Day  
Bring unused/expired drugs  
Village Administration Building  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Don Pasqual and Main Street

Memorial Day  
Village Offices Closed  
Monday, May 28  
Monday garbage pickup on  
Tuesday, May 29

Last Wednesday of the month  
Business Watch  
Cops and Business Folks meet at  
Benny's Restaurant 8:30 a.m.  
1503 Main St. SW

**Los Lunas Public Library**  
460 Main St. NE

Adult Coloring Night  
Every Tuesday 5-6:30 p.m.

**Attend a Village Council Meeting**

April 26 May 10 & 24  
660 Main St NW  
Main Street and Don Pasqual  
Meetings begin at 6:00 p.m.

## LOS LUNAS CHAMBER MEETS

The Los Lunas Chamber of Commerce continues holding a monthly luncheon on the third Thursday of the month from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm at Teofilio's Restaurant in Los Lunas. Visit [www.loslunaschamber.com](http://www.loslunaschamber.com) for additional information.