



VILLAGE NEWS



Small Community • Big Possibilities

Volume 23 - Number 12 - December 2019

WORK STARTS ON NEW BRIDGE

Work has begun on building a new bridge across the Rio Grande in Los Lunas. Current project work is clearing out brush and trees in construction areas.

The New Mexico Department of Transportation bridge project area is on Main Street / NM Hwy 6 between milepost 35.231 (Carson Drive intersection) and milepost 35.819 (Edeal Road intersection) with a total project length of 0.5819 miles and a structure length of 966 feet.

The existing bridge is the only Rio Grande river crossing in Los Lunas, and is one of only two primary river crossings in Valencia County.

The current bridge will remain in place while the new one is constructed. The project is expected to take about two years.

FNF, Inc., is the contractor for the project with a contract total work bid of \$18,490,159.75.

VILLAGE PROJECTS UPDATE

The Village of Los Lunas has 57 projects throughout the community in the process of design or construction. Here are a few of those projects.

- NM Hwy 314 Sports Complex Improvements – budgeted for \$475,000; this project includes new landscaping, shade structures around the gazebo, a trail, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements. Construction to start December 2019.
- River Park and Bosque Open Space Improvements – \$70,000; signage, shade structures and playground; start December 2019.
- General Park Improvements – \$200,000; playground and fencing at Chester Skinner Park, shade structures at Artistic and Heritage Parks, fencing at Buena Vista Park; project started.
- Local Street Improvements – \$1,000,000; improve roadway conditions of Don Frederico Road, Tome Hill Road, Vaisa Road, Coronado Street, and Taylor Road; construction ongoing.
- Main Street Improvements Canal to Los Cerritos –\$150,000; landscaping improvements on Main Street between Canal and Los Cerritos Road on north side to include sidewalk replacement, irrigation, trees, plants, rock, and park benches; scheduled to start April 2020.
- NM 314 Bike/Pedestrian Improvements (Main St to James St) —\$1,850,000; sidewalk, multipurpose path, lighting, irrigation, and landscaping improvements on both sides of NM Hwy 314 between NM Hwy 6 and James Street; scheduled to start January 2020.



CHARLES GRIEGO

MAYOR

griegoc@loslunasnm.gov

GINO M. ROMERO

COUNCILMAN

romerog@loslunasnm.gov

NAITHAN GURULE

POLICE CHIEF

ngurule@loslunasnm.gov

PHILLIP JARAMILLO

COUNCILMAN

jaramillop@loslunasnm.gov

CRUZ MUÑOZ

COUNCILMAN

munozc@loslunasnm.gov

JOHN GABALDON

FIRE CHIEF

jgabaldon@loslunasnm.gov

CHRISTOPHER S. ORTIZ

COUNCILMAN

ortizc@loslunasnm.gov

AVILIO CHAVEZ

MUNICIPAL JUDGE

avchavez@loslunasnm.gov

GREGORY D. MARTIN

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR

marting@loslunasnm.gov

BE COUNTED IN 2020

2020 is a census year and everyone needs to be counted!

The data collected in Spring 2020 will be used to

- Apportion representation among states
- Draw congressional and state legislative districts, school districts and voting precincts
- Enforce voting rights and civil rights legislation
- Distribute federal dollars to states
- Help make planning decisions for federal, tribal, state and local governments
- Help make organizational decisions (e.g., where to locate, size of market, etc.) by businesses.

United States®
Census
2020

TRACTOR BREWING CO. RETURNS

Tractor Brewing Co.'s newest location in Los Lunas features a spacious patio, and a variety of food, craft beers, fresh ciders and handmade cocktails.

Patrons can enjoy their libations in house as well as cans, growlers and bottles to go.

Tractor Brewing Co. in Los Lunas has a huge kitchen with a menu that includes appetizers, 12" artisan pizzas, oven-baked sandwiches, salads, and Little Tractors for kids.

Handcrafted cocktails at Tractor Brewing Company include NM Mule, The Sipper, Duke 75, and Luna Roja. There is a great variety of beers and ciders.

Village Administration Office: 505 839-3840

JURIED ART SHOW WINNERS

The Juried Art Show, Frontiers of New Mexico, will be on display at the Museum of Heritage and Arts through Jan. 10, 2020.

Winners in the show are:

Best of Show – Seeking Sunshine, Marilyn Drake, artist

First Place -- Eaves Chapel, Steve Bundy

Second Place – New Mexico Luminarias, Sue Ann Mika

B.G. Burr Memorial Award – For Sale by Bud Edmondson, and Don Geraldo by Miguel Chavez

Honorable Mentions are:

High Mesa by Barbara Nahler

Apache Tears, AnnMarie Pearson

Discovering El Malpais, Harriet Anaya

Staff's Choice are:

Milky Way, Christie Bundy

Small Communities, Big Possibilities, Jude Pacheco

White House Ruins, Patrick Fulmer

Tractor Brewing Co. in Los Lunas is open seven days a week 11 a.m. to midnight, phone 505 243-6752.

Right now 14 people work at the restaurant but as business grows so will the number of workers.

Oh, and dogs are welcome as long as they are on a leash.



Tractor Brewing comes to Los Lunas.

KFC REMODEL IS 19 YEARS LATER

Nineteen years ago the owners of the Los Lunas KFC opened a restaurant on a lot on Sun Ranch Village Loop near the intersection of Main Street / Interstate 25. The area was almost barren.

Today there are restaurants, shops, a Walmart Super Center and other businesses plus many houses in the area and that KFC Restaurant held a grand opening for its remodel in mid-November, almost nineteen years to the day of the original opening.

The Los Lunas KFC remodel features touches of Colonel Sanders, the creator of KFC almost seventy years ago. The remodel style is called American Showman and Los Lunas is the third New Mexico restaurant to undergo this particular remodel.

A new innovation at the Los Lunas store will be Football Nights on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays with two big screen televisions to watch the games while eating.

KFC menu items include Kentucky Fried Wings, Spicy Famous Bowl®, boxed meals, tenders, nuggets, and other choices. There's a variety of sides, desserts, and beverages.

The Los Lunas KFC has 30 employees, seats 38 people, and is open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week. It is located at 2264 Sun Ranch Village Loop SW, phone 505 866-1624, website kfc.com.

The store is operated by Velda and Anthony Lovato and their son Shane Lovato. Velda is the daughter of Leo Gabaldon who opened the first KFC in Valencia County in Belen. The Los Lunas KFC is now the only store in Valencia County.



Los Lunas KFC has remodeled.

www.loslunasnm.gov

GIFTS FROM OUR MUSEUM

The Village Museum of Heritage and Arts, located under the water tower at the intersection of Main Street / NM Hwy 6 and Luna Avenue, has a great selection of unusual items for gifting any time of the year but especially for the holidays.

There's a variety of books on a wide spectrum of topics including many local subjects.

Also available —

- Southwestern blankets and pillows
- Coffee mugs
- Ceramics
- Notecards and postcards
- Woven bags and coasters
- Southwestern jewelry

The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., phone 505 352-7720.

WATCH THE SIGN ON MAIN STREET

A large crane placed the new electronic sign in front of the Village Administrative building at the intersection of Main Street / NM Hwy 6 and Don Pasqual in November. The sign will display information about events.

Watch the sign but make sure you drive safely on Main Street while doing so.



Crane places sign.

RECYCLING EVENT A SUCCESS

The Village Annual Great American Recycling Event was a success in November as 88 people recycled the following:

- 11 gallons used oil
- 38 gallons assorted paints
- 12 four-cubic yard bins cardboard, estimated 3,000 pounds
- 6 four-cubic yard bins plastic, estimated 800 pounds
- 1 cubic yard metal
- 51 pounds aluminum
- 5 pounds tin
- 2 cubic yard bins glass, estimated 736 pounds
- 4 televisions
- 20 pounds of electronic equipment
- 5 pounds assorted batteries

Village employees who worked the Recycling Event were Daniel Chavez, Juan Baca-Luna, Dominic Anzures, Jesus Montoya, Jason Marquez and Rome Monarrez.

Village Public Works Director Michael Jaramillo said, "It is great when we have a group of individuals working to support our environment with proper disposal of unwanted items."

MUSEUM OF HERITAGE & ARTS HAPPENINGS

Main Street and Luna Avenue
505 352-7720

EXHIBITS

Juried Art Show Winners
New Mexico Frontiers
On display through Jan. 10, 2020

COMING SOON!

The weirdest, most creative
Mailboxes in New Mexico
Exhibit by Richard Melzer
January 2020

The Los Lunas Museum of Heritage & Arts has a new app. Go to this web page for more information:
<https://lineupr.com/loslunas/museum/>.

MERRY Christmas

Please remember to avoid Drain Disasters

Be kitchen sink smart:

Water that contains fats, cooking oils, and grease can clog your drain, pipes and sewer system. Use paper towels to wipe grease and food particles off of your pots, pans and plates, and then dispose of these in the trash.

Thank You

Village of Los Lunas
The Wastewater Treatment Plant
loslunasnm.gov

NEW PROVIDERS JOIN FAMILY PRACTICE

Rodrigo Perez, a certified Physician's Assistant, and Celeste Walkos, a certified Family Nurse Practitioner, have joined Los Lunas Family Practice..

Perez received his Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of New Mexico in May 2016, and his master's degree at Advent Health University located in Florida this past August. He, his wife and children decided Los Lunas is a perfect place to call home.

Originally from Mexico, Perez came to the United States when he was 15. He feels his education, along with work experience, has prepared him to take on the community's need for clinicians

Perez has experience in Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Women's Health, Emergency Medicine, General Surgery, Behavioral Health, Orthopedics, CDL physicals, daily walk-ins and new patients.

Walkos received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Chamberlain College of Nursing in 2015 and her Master of Science in Nursing at Chamberlain College of Nursing in 2017. She lives in the community with her family and believes there is a great need for medical services in rural areas.

She worked as a nurse for seven years performing patient care to the inmate population in the correctional setting. She also organized and managed caseloads of patients at Ambercare Hospice along with treating patients at NextCare Urgent Care.

Walkos is experienced in Pediatric Examinations, Sports Physicals, Women's Health, Hospice Visits, Emergency Medicine, Specialty Referrals, Patient Education, daily walk-ins and new patients.

Los Lunas Family Practice, located at 127 Sandoval Rd SW, was opened by Dr. Joseph Aragon in 2000. He has been practicing medicine in his hometown of Los Lunas since 1981.

The website for Family Practice is loslunasfp.com. The phone number is 505 865-3373.



Celeste Walkos and Rodrigo Perez.

LOCAL EVENTS

**Wednesday, Dec. 25 &
Thursday, Dec. 26, 2019
Christmas Holiday**

Village Offices Closed

Wednesday, Dec. 25,
Garbage Pickup On Tuesday,
Dec. 24

Thursday, Dec. 26, Garbage Pickup
On Friday, Dec. 27

**Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2020
New Year's Day**

Village Offices Closed

Garbage Pickup Thursday,
Jan. 2, 2020

Business Watch

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

Attend a Village Council Meeting

Dec. 19, 2019 Jan. 9 & 23, 2020

660 Main St NW

Main Street and Don Pasqual
Meetings begin at 6:00 p.m.

LOS LUNAS CHAMBER

The Los Lunas Chamber of Commerce continues to have monthly luncheons on the 3rd Thursday of the month. Visit www.loslunaschamber.com for more information on time and location.

DON'T LET YOUR VEHICLE BE STOLEN PART II

In November's newsletter Village Police Chief Naithan Gurule offered a few tips to avoid "Warm-Up Theft," stealing a car that has been left running and unattended to "warm-up."

Here are those tips to keep you from being left out in the cold:

- Never leave the vehicle title in your car. If stolen, it makes it easier for the thief to dispose of your vehicle. It can also make you a target for identity theft.
- Install a mechanical locking device commonly called a club, collar, or j-bar that locks to the steering wheel, column, or brake.
- If your vehicle has an alarm or other anti-theft device, USE IT.

LOS LUNAS LIBRARY

505 839-3850

Stop by the library at 460 Main St. NE to check out a book, DVD or CD.

Check out all the events at the library for kids and teenagers.

And try out the Los Lunas Library app for your smart phone. Go to this link for more information: <https://tinyurl.com/y5vmktux>.