



# VILLAGE NEWS



Small Community • Big Possibilities

Volume 23 - Number 2 - February 2019

## VILLAGE ELECTIONS WILL BE IN NOVEMBER

Election of Village Councilors and the Mayor will be held in November of odd-numbered years effective November 2021 after the Village Council voted to make this change.

The New Mexico State Legislature passed the Local Election Act in 2018 creating a consolidated election day for non-partisan local governmental bodies on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of odd-numbered years.

Village of Los Lunas municipal officers elected or appointed to a term ending in 2020 will now serve until Dec. 31, 2021, the new term of the position shall be elected at the regular local election in November 2021, and the new term commences Jan. 1, 2022.

Village municipal officers elected or appointed to a term ending in 2022 will serve until Dec. 31, 2023, the new term of the position will be elected at the regular local election in November 2023, and the new term will commence Jan. 1, 2024.

## VILLAGE COUNCILOR GERARD SAIZ RESIGNS

Longtime Village Councilor Gerard Saiz has resigned from his seat as Village councilor for District Three because he is now serving as Valencia County Commissioner.

Saiz was elected County Commissioner in November 2018 for District One and took office Jan. 1, 2019. He resigned his Village seat effective the end of January 2019.

Saiz was first elected to the Village Council in 2000. Council candidates then had to run for the position throughout the incorporated village.

The council was districted after the 2000 Census showed the village had more than 10,000 population, the cutoff population for running at large in New Mexico municipalities. Saiz was re-elected to his council district in 2004, 2008, 2012 and 2016.

Mayor Charles Griego called for letters of interest from individuals wanting to serve on the Los Lunas Village Council, representing District Three, fulfilling the remainder of Saiz's term. Those individuals had to be at least eighteen years old and registered to vote in Los Lunas Council District Three.

A new Village Councilor for District Three is expected to be appointed at the Feb. 21, 2019, Village Council meeting.



Gerard Saiz

## UNM-VALENCIA GALA

UNM-Valencia's 10th Annual Scholarship Gala, Route 66, will be held Saturday, March 2, 2019, at Isleta Resort and Casino.

Evening proceeds are matched one-to-one with funds from the U.S. Department of Education and are utilized to provide student scholarships in perpetuity. Contact Marcus Gallegos at 505 925-8550 or [mgalle2@unm.edu](mailto:mgalle2@unm.edu) for sponsorship or ticket information.

CHARLES GRIEGO

MAYOR

[griegoc@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:griegoc@loslunasnm.gov)

GINO M. ROMERO

COUNCILMAN

[romerog@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:romerog@loslunasnm.gov)

NAITHAN GURULE

POLICE CHIEF

[ngurule@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:ngurule@loslunasnm.gov)

PHILLIP JARAMILLO

COUNCILMAN

[jaramillop@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:jaramillop@loslunasnm.gov)

GERARD SAIZ

COUNCILMAN

[saizg@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:saizg@loslunasnm.gov)

JOHN GABALDON

FIRE CHIEF

[jgabaldon@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:jgabaldon@loslunasnm.gov)

CHRISTOPHER S. ORTIZ

COUNCILMAN

[ortizc@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:ortizc@loslunasnm.gov)

AVILIO CHAVEZ

MUNICIPAL JUDGE

[avchavez@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:avchavez@loslunasnm.gov)

GREGORY D. MARTIN

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR

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

## WORK CONTINUES ON I-25 PROJECT

The Village continues to work on the Interstate 25 Interchange and East-West Corridor project.

The project will add a second Interstate 25 exit south of the current one and build the Morris Road corridor extending to NM HWY 47.

The Village was not on the list of approved projects to receive Federal Department of Transportation funding this fiscal year for the project.

The Village will apply again for funding at the appropriate time. The Village continues to secure right-of-way property along the Morris Corridor. Officials have set aside about \$2.5 million for design costs.

The Valencia County Commission has designated \$2 million from the recent General Obligation Bond for the interchange design as well. The design is expected to cost about \$6 million and would take about a year to complete.

## VARIOUS VILLAGE PROJECTS

The Village is working on having an additional backup waterline.

As part of that effort, a waterline will be placed between Silver Lane and NM HWY 314 around the north side of the village to the Rio Grande during the first six months of 2019.

Design work is proceeding on the replacement bridge across the Rio Grande in Los Lunas. This two-year project is expected to begin in October 2019.

## LIBRARY HELPS NEW BUSINESSES

The Los Lunas Public Library is one of nine New Mexico community libraries offering access to a new business pre-accelerator program, Libraries as Launchpads, offered by Creative Startups, the globally recognized New Mexico-based business accelerator.

The program aims to highlight public libraries as information hubs for startups and expand the depth of their entrepreneur services while serving over 50 entrepreneurs this year.

For more information and to apply, visit [creativestartups.org/libraries-launchpads](http://creativestartups.org/libraries-launchpads) on the web.

Village Administration Office: 505 839-3840

## OUTDOOR ADVENTURES PROGRAM

The Village Open Space Division is accepting registrations for the Spring Outdoor Adventures Program at Daniel Fernandez Recreation Center, 1103 Hwy 314 SW.

The Outdoor Adventures Program is for children eight to twelve- years-old and will be held March 11-13 at the Los Lunas River Park.

The cost, \$35 per child, is due at the time of registration.

## WATER/SEWER RATES INCREASE

The Village of Los Lunas water and sewer bill you receive in February 2019 for January 2019 services reflects a slight increase in the base rate as approved by the Village Council.

This is the fifth and final rate increase approved by the Village Council five years ago.

The water base rate for 0-2000 gallons of \$23.14 increased to \$24.99 for customers inside the Village limits and from \$32.50 to \$34.35 for customers outside the Village limits.

The sewer base rate of \$29.25 increased to \$31.59 for customers inside the Village limits and from \$38.58 to \$40.92 for customers outside the Village limits.

There is no rate increase for solid waste / garbage.

For further information, visit the Village website at [loslunasnm.gov](http://loslunasnm.gov).

## MUSEUM HOSTS AYER, HOY Y MANANA

The Los Lunas Museum of Heritage & Arts hosts Ayer, Hoy, y Mañana – Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow: An Exhibition of Traditional Hispanic Arts March 1 through May 3, 2019.

The traditions in creating Hispanic Arts in New Mexico can be traced back over 400 years to the Spanish Colonial era. These customs, artistry, and skills have been passed down from generation to generation.

Ayer, Hoy, y Mañana highlights the craftsmanship and authentic traditions of fifty-five award-winning Spanish Colonial Artists from New Mexico and Southern Colorado.

The exhibition consists of woodcarvings, tinwork, colchas, straw appliqué, furniture, weavings, jewelry, pottery, and ironwork.

The opening reception will be Friday, March 1, 2019, at 6 p.m. at the Museum, under the water tower, corner of Luna Avenue and Main Street / NM HWY 6.



*Village Museum Exhibition.*



## WALMART MARKS 20 YEARS

The Walmart Distribution Center celebrates twenty years in Los Lunas in February 2019.

The distribution center does just what its name implies, distributes 250,000 cases of merchandise each day to 98 Walmart stores in New Mexico, West Texas and Southern Colorado.

This merchandise had been delivered to the 980,000 square foot distribution center by various trucking companies. Distribution center associates load 135 to 170 semi-trucks a day which travel an average of 224 miles per delivery trip.

Almost 600 people work at the distribution center, with 342 from Valencia County. Starting wage is \$15.80 per hour.

"We're thrilled to celebrate the 20-year anniversary of our Walmart Distribution Center in Los Lunas," said distribution center manager John Rencher. "Los Lunas has a strong sense of community and culture that make it so enjoyable to live and work here."

Rencher points out that the center and associates have donated time, money and merchandise to a variety of causes in Valencia County.

The Walmart Distribution Center is located at 670 Los Morros Road NW, phone 505 866-8600. The center operates twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, 364 days a year (the center is closed Christmas Day).



*Walmart Distribution Center has 980,000 square feet.*

Village Administration Office: 505 839-3840

## LLPD EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

The Los Lunas Police Department has announced the 2018 employees of the year.

Sergeant Anthony Baca was promoted to sergeant in May 2018 after finishing number one during the sergeant promotional process. Since then he has exceeded the expectations for a new supervisor.

Baca has instructed his graveyard patrol shift to meet the needs of the community and the department. LLPD Chief Naithan Gurule says Baca leads his team by example and is a good role model.

Officer Xiomara Sanchez began with LLPD in 2015 and brought her experiences from working as an officer with the Albuquerque Public Schools Police Department.

In 2018 Sanchez took an active interest in traffic enforcement. As a result, she wrote 835 traffic citations.

Sanchez's increased traffic enforcement not only serves as a visual deterrent to criminal offenders, but also identifies crimes in progress, says Chief Gurule.

Evidence technician Julia Vazquez inherited an evidence room in need of restructuring when she started with the LLPD in June 2018. She took on the challenge and now the processing of evidence is more streamlined, accurate, and dependable than ever before.

## LOS LUNAS CHAMBER MEETS

The Los Lunas Chamber of Commerce holds a monthly luncheon on the third Thursday of the month from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Please visit their website [www.loslunaschamber.com](http://www.loslunaschamber.com) for luncheon location.

## KINGDOM BARBER SHOP NOW OPEN

Christian Rojas saw a need for another barber shop in Los Lunas and he noticed the Main Street Shopping Center. He put the two together and now operates Kingdom Barber Shop in the Main Street Shopping at 1651 Main Street SW, Suite B.

Working with Christian is his brother Polo Rojas, also a barber, while another brother, Abraham, helps with various tasks.

Christian has been a barber for ten years.

He says he really likes the Los Lunas community and that people have been very supportive of Kingdom Barber Shop. He points out that the business is faith-based.

Services offered at Kingdom Barber Shop include:

- Haircut
- Haircut with beard shave/shape up
- Senior cut for those sixty and older
- Kids cut for those ten and under
- Haircut and hair design
- Haircut plus eyebrow shape up

Kingdom Barber Shop is open 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., closed Sunday/Monday, call 505 306-8367. Look for the shop on Facebook or make an appointment using [kingdombarbershop@genbook.com](mailto:kingdombarbershop@genbook.com). Located at 1651 Main St. SW, Suite B.



*The folks at Kingdom Barber Shop.*

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

## LOS LUNAS CODE ENFORCEMENT

The Village of Los Lunas Code Enforcement Division enhances the quality of life and economy of Los Lunas by enforcing regulations which preserve and protect neighborhoods.

The Division promotes voluntary compliance by establishing a partnership with citizens, community groups and other agencies.

Code Enforcement is a division of the Community Development Department. It employs a Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Supervisor, two Code Enforcement Officers and an Animal Control Officer. Together they all investigate and prosecute violations dealing with the Village's Municipal Codes governing signage, nuisances, such as junk vehicles and overgrown lots, housing standards, adult entertainment, residential and commercial zoning. Code Enforcement's approach links fair enforcement with community outreach and education.

## KING OF THE HILL MARCH 9

The annual King of the Hill 5K/10K and Half Marathon trail run is Saturday, March 9, 2019, starting at El Cerro de Los Lunas Preserve trailhead, three miles west of I-25 off NM HWY 6.

The 5K proceeds along the Bowl Trail on the west side of El Cerro de Los Lunas on a mostly flat course with a few small hills.

The 10K begins on the same route as the 5K and diverts up a steep hill to meet the Overlook Trail.

The Half Marathon has a 2,100-foot elevation gain/loss covering the 10k overlook trail and continuing to the east side of Los Lunas Hill.

For more information contact Marcos Castillo at 505 352-7662 or [castillom@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:castillom@loslunasnm.gov).

## MUSEUM OF HERITAGE & ARTS HAPPENINGS

Main Street and Luna Avenue  
505 352-7720

### EXHIBITS

American Illustrative Art  
Through Saturday, Feb. 16, 2019  
Original Artworks Used  
in Popular Magazines

Ayer, Hoy, Y Mañana –  
Yesterday, Today,  
and Tomorrow:  
An Exhibition of  
Traditional Hispanic Arts  
Starts March 1, 2019

### TOURS

Saints and Sinners Tour  
Saturday, Feb. 23, 2019  
Churches, Art Show,  
Matanza and Winery/Taproom

Historic Los Lunas Tour  
Saturday, April 27, 2019  
Travel back in time  
touring five historic buildings

## LOCAL EVENTS

Monday, Feb. 18, 2019  
Presidents Day  
Village Offices Closed  
Monday Garbage Pickup on  
Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2019

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

### Attend a Village Council Meeting

Feb. 21, 2019 March 7 & 21, 2019  
660 Main St NW  
Main Street and Don Pasqual  
Meetings begin at 6:00 p.m.

## LOS LUNAS LIBRARY EVENTS

460 Main St. NE 505 839-3850

Tuesdays 5 - 6 p.m.  
Adult Coloring Night

Thursdays 10:30 a.m. - noon  
Preschool Story Hour

Thursdays 3 – 4:30 p.m.  
Movies or Games for Teens