



# VILLAGE NEWS



Small Community • Big Possibilities

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## RIGHT TURN LANE & OTHER ROAD PROJECTS

Work begins this month on turning the north parking lot of the Blake's Lotaburger at the intersection of Main Street / NM HWY 314 into a right turn lane from Main Street onto NM HWY 314.

This project should facilitate traffic. Expected completion is late April.

Several other road projects are in the works for the Village.

The intersection of Courthouse Road and NM HWY 314 is in the design stage of a realignment. Courthouse on the east side will line up with Colonial Avenue on the west side of NM HWY 314 when the project is completed.

This project will be paid for by federal funds as part of the Highway Safety Improvement Program. The realignment work is expected to begin in October 2019 with six months to complete.

Also in the design stage are improvements to NM HWY 314 north from Main Street to approximately James Street. This work on NM HWY 314 will include ADA sidewalks, drainage, and curbing.

The Village hopes to eventually continue improvements to NM HWY



*A right turn lane will replace this north side parking lot at Blake's Lotaburger*

314 between James Street and Trujillo Road and then on to Griego.

The improvements to NM HWY 314 on the south side of the Village will be completed soon and also include sidewalks, drainage and curbing.

Sequoia Landscaping has the contract to continue the beautification of the Village's Interstate 25 Exit 203.

Landscaping similar to that on the exit ramps off I-25 south and northbound will be placed on the ramps onto south and northbound Interstate 25.

Work is currently proceeding on the extension of Camelot Boulevard to Morris Road.

The construction includes a new concrete ditch crossing, streetlights, storm water retention, and a new base asphalt roadway.



## NEW LLFD LADDER TRUCK

The new Los Lunas ladder truck arrived in the Village just in time for Christmas.

Acquiring the ladder truck and constructing the new fire station on Sand Sage Road were made possible by Village voters approving a General Obligation bond issue in March 2016.

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## JUBILEE DONATION SUPPORTS LLPD PROGRAM

The Los Lunas Police Department received \$11,000 for the "Cops for Kids" program from the Jubilee community following the adult community's annual Arts and Crafts Fair held in September.

The Cops for Kids program helps less fortunate children have a brighter Christmas season.

The donation helped LLPD sponsor about 100 children on a shopping spree.



*Motorsports donated bikes.*

## LL MOTORSPORTS DONATES BIKES

Los Lunas Motorsports donated 35 bicycles to the Los Lunas Police Department's Cops for Kids program in December.

The bicycles were given away to children before Christmas so those children had them in time for the holidays.

LLPD Chief Naithan Gurule said, "The people and business owners we have in this great community are outstanding. Thank you to Los Lunas Motorsports for such generosity to the children."

*Village Administration Office: 505 839-3840*

## LIBRARY FRIENDS MEETS

The annual meeting of the Friends of the Los Lunas Public Library & Museum of Heritage & Arts will be Wednesday, January 23, at 6 p.m. at the Los Lunas Library.

Nick Otero will be the guest speaker. Call the library at 839-3850 for more information.

## OVER 100 FLOATS IN LIGHT PARADE

The Village's Annual Light Parade in December had more than 100 floats traveling on Main Street.

- 1st Place: Boardwalk Gymnastics
- 2nd Place: Valencia Elementary Cheer
- 3rd Place Tie: Franco's Framing
- 3rd Place Tie: Mule Barn Rucking Fitness
- Honorable Mentions: Bosque Farms 4H, IBEW Local Union 611, and Los Lunas Mighty Mites.

## MUSEUM JURIED ART SHOW WINNERS

More than forty artists participated in the Los Lunas Museum of Heritage and Arts sixth annual juried art show, Expressions of New Mexico.

The art is on display at the museum through Jan. 26, 2019.

Works included oils, pastels and watercolors, woodcarvings, metalwork and pottery, traditional furniture, plus lace and photographs.

Gerald Armijo won best of show with Los Pinos; first place, Charlie Sanchez Jr., Cerro De Tome; second place, Mac MacDonald, Along the Pecos; third place, Robert Fink, Trastero (Southwestern).

Armijo will have his own show at the museum July 20 through August 31, 2019.

Staff Choices were Leslie Thorton, Morris Road; Miguel Chavez, San

Antonio de Los Lentes; Harriet Anaya, Running in White Sands; and Roger Hocking, New Mexico Rancher.

People's Choice: Marcella Velasquez, Railyards; Jude Pacheco, Our Lego of Guadalupe; Bill Killough, Lost Cavern; Gaye Garrison, Abo Cavern; Eddie Ramirez, Native Pride; and Woody Duncan, Father's Day

Honorable Mention: Jan Chevalier, Black Hawk Quail Egg; Linda Boatwright, Tree with a View; and Eddie Ramirez, Traveling to New Mexico .

## VILLAGE IS "BEST OF"

The Village of Los Lunas received several awards in the Valencia County News-Bulletin's 2018 Best of Valencia County.

Awards presented to the Village were

- Best Place to Work – Village of Los Lunas

- Most Helpful Elected Official – Mayor Charles Griego

- Most Helpful Public Employee – Economic Development Manager Ralph L. Mims

- Best Police Officer – Police Chief Naithan Gurule

- Best Park – Daniel Fernandez Memorial Park

Awards were presented at the 2018 Best of Valencia County Awards banquet at the Belen Business Center.

## BUSINESSES WIN HOLIDAY LIGHTING CONTEST

Arrow Animal Hospital and J Sharp Music were the winners of the inaugural Holiday Light Up the Village Contest.

Businesses were judged on creativity, best use of space, use of LED lights, and energy consciousness. In addition, Facebook likes were counted.

Arrow Animal Hospital, located at 3424 NM HWY 47, won in the category of all Village businesses.

J Sharp Music, located at 428 Main St. NW, won in the category of Village businesses along the Electric Light Parade route.





*Home Furniture at Los Lentes Road and Main Street.*

## HOME FURNITURE NOTES 56 YEARS

Fifty years is a long time to be in business, fifty-six years is a major accomplishment.

Home Furniture, located at the corner of Los Lentes Road and Main Street / NM HWY 6, was opened in 1962 by brothers Bernard and Bennie Sanchez.

Eventually Bernard bought Bennie out and now the store is run by Bernard's daughters, Marilyn and Beverly Sanchez.

Home Furniture offers —

- Furniture for every room, including bedroom, dining room, living room, and more!
- A variety of other items including window coverings, carpet, flooring, and items for an office or business.
- Mattresses including twin, full, queen, king, and California king, and brands including Serta and many others. Hybrid and memory foam mattresses and adjustable bases are also available.
- Appliances including refrigerators, ranges, dishwashers, washers and dryers.
- A wide variety of brands, regular specials and sales, and will price match.

Marilyn Sanchez points out that customer service is very important to the folks at Home Furniture as exemplified by the store motto: "It pays to shop at home."

The store offers free delivery and free setup along with no interest financing and layaway plans.

*Village Administration Office: 505 839-3840*

Home Furniture is located at 704 Main Street NE, phone 505 865-9891, open Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

## WATER/SEWER RATES INCREASE IN 2019

Village of Los Lunas water and sewer bills sent in February 2019 for January 2019 services will reflect a slight increase in the base rate as approved by the Village Council in December 2014.

This will be the fifth year of a five-year rate-based increase in utilities approved by the Village Council.

The base water rate of 0-2000 gallons will increase by \$1.85.

- Current base of \$23.14 will increase to \$24.99 for customers inside the Village limits and from \$32.50 to \$34.35 for customers outside the Village limits

- The calculated rate over the base will remain at \$4.25 per thousand gallons.

The increase to the base sewer rate calculated at 0-2000 gallons average will be \$2.34.

- Current base of \$29.25 will increase to \$31.59 for customers inside the Village limits and from \$38.58 to \$40.92 for customers outside the Village limits.

- The calculated rate over the base will remain at \$3.25 per thousand gallons.

There will be no rate increase for solid waste / garbage.

February services, which will be billed mid-March, will reflect each residential customer's new calculated sewer rate, using the months of October 2018 through February 2019 water use.

For further information, visit the Village website at [loslunasnm.gov](http://loslunasnm.gov). If you have questions call the Village Water Department at 505 352-7620.

Customers should keep in mind that the bill for water and sewer also generally includes the charge for garbage pickup in addition to the water and sewer charges.



*Renea and Jason Esslinger*

## TRY NUTRITION DYNAMIX

Looking for something different for your breakfast, lunch or dinner?

How about trying a shake from Nutrition Dynamix, located at 1400 Main Street SW Suite 5, at the intersection of Main Street / NM HWY 6 and Los Cerritos Road.

With a wide variety of shake flavors and many additives, you are sure to find something that will please your palate as well as your needs.

There's also different teas and coffees that can be served hot or chilled plus nutrition bars.

Herbalife products are available at Nutrition Dynamix.

A weight loss challenge is being held the beginning of 2019.

Nutrition Dynamix owners Jason and Renea Esslinger support a variety of projects to help the greater Los Lunas community. Jason said he and Renea want to work with community organizations to help people.

For Thanksgiving a friendsgiving event was held at the store. Recently 25 backpacks filled with supplies were given to kids who needed them.

Open Monday through Friday 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Phone 505 659-5974 or 505 803-7091.

Check out Nutrition Dynamix on Facebook or at [25FITNM.com](http://25FITNM.com)

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

## LOS LUNAS HISTORY TIDBITS

Los Lunas has a rich and colorful history. Located on the San Clemente Grant, it was given to Don Felix Candelaria in 1716, two years after his mother petitioned for the land. Shortly after Don Candelaria received the grant, the Luna family made claim to the grant and then took possession.

Antonio Jose Luna was born in 1808 and is sometimes referred to as the father of Los Lunas. He became a civic and political leader and married Isabella Baca, daughter of a prominent family from Belen.

Antonio and Isabella's son, Salomon, married Adelaida Otero, granddaughter of Antonio Jose Otero of Valencia. This formed a union of two powerful and rich Republican families who controlled and dominated the future of Valencia County for almost a century.

Through the influence of the Luna family, the county seat moved from Tome to Los Lunas in 1876.

When the Santa Fe Railroad arrived in Los Lunas, the railroad depot was built which facilitated the movement of livestock, hay, supplies and general merchandise. The depot was also used for telegraph communications as well as passenger and baggage service.

In 1928, the Village of Los Lunas incorporated with Antonio J. Archuleta as the first mayor. Electricity arrived in the Los Lunas area in the early 1930's. Water and sewer facilities came to the village in the late 1930's when the population was listed as 513.

For many years, Los Lunas Village Hall was located in the building which is now the public library.

In the mid-1990s, the village administration and police

department moved into a new building which still holds these departments plus the Los Lunas Village Council Chambers.

## LOCAL EVENTS

Monday, January 21, 2019  
Martin Luther King Day  
Village Offices Closed  
Monday Garbage Pickup  
On Tuesday Jan. 22, 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

Jan. 24, 2019 Feb. 7 & 21, 2019  
660 Main St NW  
Main Street and Don Pasqual  
Meetings begin at 6:00 p.m.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The Village of Los Lunas is accepting letters of interest from individuals interested in serving on the Los Lunas Village Council, representing District 3, to fulfill the remainder of the current term of office.

Interested individuals must be at least 18 years of age and be registered to vote in Council District 3 in Los Lunas.

To apply, individuals must submit a LETTER OF INTEREST, Attn: Mayor Charles Griego, Village of Los Lunas, PO Box 1209, Los Lunas, NM 87031, by the deadline of February 8, 2019 at 5 p.m.

Appointment to the position is anticipated at the regular Village Council meeting on February 21, 2019 at 6 p.m.

For more information, contact Village Administrator Gregory D. Martin at 505 352-7654, or by email at [marting@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:marting@loslunasnm.gov).

## LITERACY COUNCIL NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The Valencia County Literacy Council will conduct literacy volunteer training from 1 to 4 p.m. Feb. 7, 2019.

English as a Second Language training will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 9, 2019.

Literacy Council Director Jill Oglesby points out that literacy volunteers help build a better world.

For more information, call 505 925-8926.

## 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

## 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. at Teofilo's Restaurant. All welcome to attend.