



# VILLAGE NEWS

Small Community • Big Possibilities

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## VILLAGE OPERATIONAL CHANGES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 Pandemic that has swept across the United States and the world has disrupted the lives and activities of most of us.

The Village of Los Lunas continues to provide services even as Village employees have made changes in their work habits. Many employees are working remotely from home to help prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus.

Other changes in Village operations include:

**Parks & Recreation:** Daniel Fernandez Recreation Center and playgrounds are closed until further notice. All special events, leagues, facility rentals, and programs are cancelled until at least the end of April. No new rentals will be booked, until further notice.

All partner organizations using Village-owned facilities and fields have been postponed. Parks and trails remain open with additional cleaning of restrooms daily.

**Library / Museum:** are closed. Patrons are urged to download e books, movies and videos. The museum is posting pictures on Facebook of the current exhibit, "Wonder Women of the Rio Abajo."

**Administration:** Utility Billing remains open and is accepting payments through the drive thru only. The utility billing lobby is closed and all water shut offs have temporarily been suspended until further notice.

Police and Fire Departments continue to put public safety as the top priority. Police officers and firefighters are taking precautionary measures to ensure the health and safety of employees and the community. Anyone with symptoms, a history of possible exposure, or who is part of a vulnerable population, may be asked additional questions and / or be asked to take protective measures during an emergency call.

The Village Police Department has made contact with many local businesses that are closed to ensure the safety and security of the properties during that closure.

Wastewater, Water and Solid Waste Departments are functioning as normal, as is the Public Works Administration.

Things are subject to change depending on many variables. The information in this newsletter is current as of the time of writing. If necessary, please check the information by contacting the Village.

## DON'T BE SCAMMED

Be on the lookout for people conducting scams during the COVID-19 Pandemic and at any other times.

It has been reported in some parts of the county that individuals were knocking on doors and telling people who answered they were from the Red Cross and could do in-person testing for COVID-19.

These people were not from the Red Cross and the Red Cross does not provide coronavirus testing.

If someone arrives at your residence claiming to be something you think they are not, do not open the door and contact the police immediately.

The Los Lunas Police Department encourages people to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity by calling the department at 505 865-9130.

## WATCH OUT FOR REDUCED SPEEDS

Work continues on building a new bridge across the Rio Grande in Los Lunas which has reduced the speed limit on Main Street / NM Hwy 6.

Speed limits will be enforced to keep the community safe.

Obey the speed limit and watch out for construction vehicles.

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# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT COVID-19 OPERATIONAL CHANGES

In an effort to help halt the spread of COVID-19, the Village Community Development Department has implemented several temporary changes in the way the department operates. The changes are intended to limit person-to-person contact and limit traffic in the department's offices.

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham and the New Mexico Department of Health recommended that local New Mexico governments, such as municipalities and counties, take steps to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

The Community Development Department changes are in effect until further notice and are:

- **Animal registrations.** Animal registrations are suspended until further notice. If your animal is not registered, or the current registration expires while this is in effect, you will not be considered late or be subject to a penalty. We will notify you when registrations are open again.
- **Animal control and code enforcement.** Complaints will be reviewed and emergency situations addressed. Non-emergency situations - such as overgrown weeds, cars parked in the wrong direction, barking dogs – will be tracked. We will begin issuing notices of violation for non-emergency situations after restrictions are lifted. Please direct complaints to the online code enforcement complaint form at [loslunasnm.gov](http://loslunasnm.gov) or to the main Community Development Department phone line (listed below).
- **Animal releases.** Call the general Community Development Department phone line if an animal needs to be released from the shelter. The release will be processed over the phone. The Valencia County Animal Shelter will require a phone call first before picking up an animal, and has signs posted on the county facility to alert visitors of their changed procedures.
- **Applications.** Complete applications should be mailed or emailed. Any applications brought to the office must be left in the designated basket at the front desk. All applications dropped off, mailed or emailed, will be reviewed and responded to via phone or email. If a payment is owed for an application, an invoice will be sent. A check can be sent or a one-time credit card authorization form completed.
- **Meetings.** Meetings must be scheduled in advance. Please consider meeting over the phone or email. Any scheduled in-person meeting will take place in the lobby.
- **Questions.** Please call or email with any questions. Call the Community Development Department general phone line for general questions, or review the contact information below if you know who you are trying to reach.

Non-emergency operations suspended until further notice are animal traps, special event permits, and door-to-door vendor permits.

Contact information for the Community Development Department:

- General Contact Number, 505 839-3842.
- Director Erin Callahan, 505 352-7659, [callahane@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:callahane@loslunasnm.gov)
- Community Planner Alex Ochoa, 505 352-7630, [ochoaa@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:ochoaa@loslunasnm.gov)
- Planning Technician Sonia Walker, 505 352-7658, [walkers@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:walkers@loslunasnm.gov)
- Code Enforcement Adolph Lopez, 505 352-7622, [lopeza@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:lopeza@loslunasnm.gov)

## POP WARNER IN LOS LUNAS

Pop Warner is now in Los Lunas!

Pop Warner helps young athletes benefit from team sports and activities in a safe and structured environment through football and cheer.

This includes teaching fundamentals, skills, and knowledge while emphasizing the importance of academic success.

NM Pop Warner is currently registering for football for ages five through twelve and cheer for ages five through fourteen online at [www.loslunastigerspopwarner.org](http://www.loslunastigerspopwarner.org) for the fall 2020 season.

The cost for tackle football is \$200. The cost for cheer is \$135. A \$20 deposit is required.

NM Pop Warner has scheduled a GoodDeeds Donation Drive and bake sale on Sunday, May 3, 2020, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Subway, 835 Main St., Suite 103, in Los Lunas.

Up-to-date information on the event or a possible cancellation is available on Facebook: @loslunastigersnmpopwarner.

Anyone having questions can call Mike Baca at 505 977-4345 or email [loslunasnmpopwarner@gmail.com](mailto:loslunasnmpopwarner@gmail.com).

## VILLAGE HAS CONTINUITY PLAN

The Village of Los Lunas Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) provides instruction and guidance to Village of Los Lunas employees, enabling essential Village functions to continue when there is a catastrophic emergency that severely impacts the Village's ability to operate as usual.

Village department heads and elected officials have developed actions and processes to ensure all public services legal in requirement, mandated by act or regulation, and/or affecting safety and health will continue under the worst of environmental, economic and technological conditions.

# PARKS AND RECREATION OFFERINGS

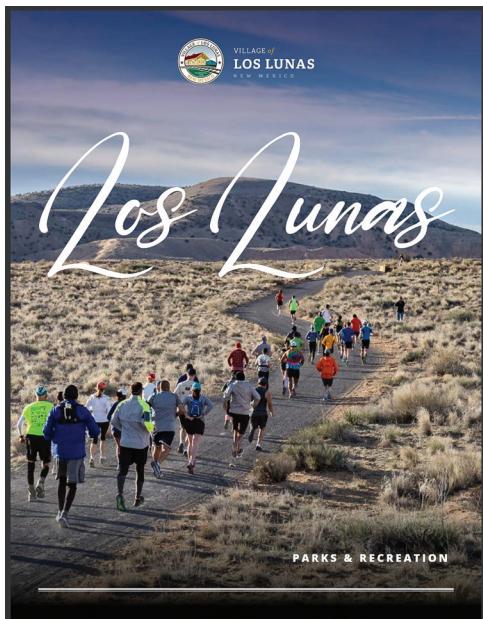
Under normal circumstances, the Village Parks and Recreation Department offers a wide variety of programming.

You can find a complete list of programs in a brand-new booklet available online at <https://issuu.com/loslunasnm/docs/programguidefinal> or through the Issuu website.

Print copies will be available throughout the Village once they have been distributed.

Topics include

- General Village Information
- Map of Village Facilities
- Daniel Fernandez Recreation Center / Fitness Classes
- Park and Facility Rentals
- Youth Sports
- Children's Programming
- Summer Recreation
- Route 66 Dance Program
- Special Events
- Open Spaces
- Senior Programming



New Parks and Recreation booklet.  
Village Administration Office: 505 839-3840

# PLANNING AND ZONING MEMBERS REAPPOINTED

The Village Council re-appointed three members to the Village Planning and Zoning Commission: District 1, Frank Vigil; District 3, Billy Baca; and At Large, Andy Gomez.

They will join Marcia Spencer, District 4, and Benjamin Romero, District 2.

The Planning and Zoning Commission makes reports and recommendations for the planning and development of the Village and its environs to all village authorities as required by the village council.

Additionally, the commission makes recommendations to Village administrative and governing officials for programs of public improvement and their financing.

## DIAL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES

It is critically important that you dial 9-1-1 for emergencies only, reminds Los Lunas Fire Chief John Gabaldon.

If you develop a cough, fever, or difficulty breathing and have traveled recently, you should consult the Center for Disease Control's guidance for travelers, which is regularly updated as the situation changes.

Additionally, the experts have asked that community members reference [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) for other information.

Likewise, you are encouraged to reach out to your primary care provider or local clinic directly.

The New Mexico Department of Health has established a coronavirus hotline at 1-855-600-3453 and has information on their website [cv.nmhealth.org](http://cv.nmhealth.org).

## FLUSH TOILET PAPER ONLY

Only toilet paper should be flushed in the toilet. Do NOT flush any other purchased products.

# KING OF THE HILL TOP WINNERS

The Village Parks and Recreation Department hosted the annual King of the Hill 5k, 10k and half marathon races at El Cerro Preserve in March.

Thanks to the many people who participated and to the organizers of the event.

Top King of the Hill finishers were:

5k – Derrick Leach, first place; Rob Johnson, second; Joe Bressler, third; all from Albuquerque.

10k – Jonah Ruybalid, first; Sam Burleigh, second; Matthew Hubbard, third; Burleigh from Socorro; others Albuquerque.

10k Rucksack – Clifford Matthews, first; Trip Bennett, second; Demetria Vasquez, third; all from Albuquerque.

Half marathon – Josh Kerr, first; Jeff Cuno, second; Julian Florez, third; Cuno from Gypsum, CO; others Albuquerque.



King of the Hill has runners of all ages.

## MORATORIUM ON PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Village Council has approved a moratorium on public hearings held through the Community Development Department through April 24.

The moratorium is intended to maintain the public health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Village of Los Lunas, and to restrict any required public gatherings.

## WORK CONTINUES ON BUSINESS INCUBATOR

A business incubator to help startup businesses and entrepreneurs is moving closer to reality.

The incubator project is being organized by the Village of Los Lunas and the City of Rio Communities, but will be open to anybody in the county.

The site for the business incubator is 22 El Cerro Loop, on the road between Main Street / NM Hwy 6 in Los Lunas and NM Hwy 47.

The 4,000 square foot building is divided into two 2,000 square foot spaces which can be further divided into smaller areas for offices and businesses.

A business incubator for Valencia County entrepreneurs has been in the works for several years.

A feasibility study about the project, completed in 2018, found that a business incubator is feasible in Valencia County especially centering around edible products. The project would need a kitchen incubator for this.

The incubator has a startup budget of \$169,500 which includes lease of the building, utilities, salaries for a director and part-time administrative assistant, legal fees, and other operational costs.

The business incubator board continues working on the project with hopes of making it a reality soon.

## BICYCLE HELMETS DONATED

Officers with the Los Lunas Police Department handed out more than 150 donated helmets to local children and teens.

Police officers handed out the helmets to kids observed riding bikes or scooters without a helmet. The kids were also given messages about riding safely to prevent head injuries.

## WONDER WOMEN OF RIO ABAJO THROUGH MAY 30

“Wonder Women of the Rio Abajo: Celebrating 100 Years of Women’s Rights” runs through May 30 at the Village Museum of Heritage & Arts located at the intersection of Main Street / NM Hwy 6 and Luna Avenue under the water tower.

Check with the museum, 505 352-7720 or on Facebook, to find out if the museum is open or a presentation has been canceled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Presentations scheduled are:

- **May 2** “La Nina Otero Warren” by Deb Blanche, NM Humanities Council 2 - 4 p.m.
- **May 9** “Native Women of Isleta.”
- **May 16** “History of Flamenco and Performances” by Eva Encinas 2 - 4 p.m.
- **May 30** “The Big Cover-up: Aprons” by Maggie McDonald

Workshops:

- **April 25** “Learn to Colcha” by Annette Turk & Julia Gomez \$10 (supplies included) 9:30 a.m. – noon. Limited space. Call 505-352-7720
- **April 25** “Learn to Make Earrings” \$10 (supplies included) go home with a pair of earrings. 1:30 - 4:00 p.m. Limited space. Call 505 352-7720.

The museum is usually open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.



Wonder Women held its Grand Opening in March.

## LOCAL EVENTS

Village offices will be closed April 10 but other events may be canceled. Check before you go.

**Friday, April 10, 2020**

### Good Friday

Village Offices Are Closed  
Garbage Picked Up on Friday  
Will Be Picked Up Thursday, April 9

### 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

April 23, 2020 May 14 & 28, 2020  
660 Main St NW  
Main Street and Don Pasqual  
Meetings begin at 6:00 p.m.

## U.S. CENSUS IS ONLINE

Have you filled out your 2020 Census form yet?

For the first time ever, the U.S. Census is available online.

Everyone needs to fill out the Census form which helps to determine congressional representation, federal funding for road and infrastructure projects, and a variety of programs like Medicaid and SNAP.

An undercount of just 1% of Valencia County’s residents in the 2020 Census could result in a loss of over \$22 million dollars for the County over the next decade.

Follow the Village of Los Lunas and iCountNM on Facebook and learn more.

## LOS LUNAS CHAMBER

The Los Lunas Chamber of Commerce usually holds monthly luncheons.

Visit [www.loslunaschamber.com](http://www.loslunaschamber.com) for more information on time and location.