



VILLAGE NEWS

Small Community • Big Possibilities

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VILLAGE COUNCIL SAYS STAY SAFE

The Los Lunas Village Council, with the support of Mayor Charles Griego, has passed a resolution supporting New Mexico public health orders, and strongly imploring all Los Lunas residents to adhere to the following COVID-19 Safe Practices, and any others intended to help keep people healthy and our community safe:

- Stay at home, especially when you are sick (except for medical emergencies).
- Avoid unnecessary travel.
- Wash your hands frequently.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Meet remotely, whether for work or with friends and family, whenever possible (including for family gatherings for the holidays).
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Wear a face mask in all public spaces, except as otherwise provided by updated public health orders.

- Maintain a six-foot distance from others.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

The resolution points out that in December 2019, a novel coronavirus, known as COVID-19, was detected in Wuhan, China; and on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization Director General declared the outbreak of COVID-19 as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. The first COVID-19 cases in New Mexico were reported March 11, 2020, after the virus had already spread globally and throughout the United States.

The President of the United States declared a state of emergency on March 13, 2020, and COVID-19 has continued to spread rapidly despite early prevention measures.

The number of COVID-19 cases continues to grow throughout New Mexico and Valencia County, placing a significant and dangerous burden upon regional hospitals, healthcare facilities, and local businesses.

Mayor Griego and the Village Council recognize that following strict public health measures is critical to helping stop the spread of COVID-19 and prevents unnecessary deaths due to this illness in the community.

Mayor Griego and the Village Council understand the frustration and eagerness of residents who wish for a return to normal life and for the upcoming holiday season, and realize how practicing social distancing – especially with families – will make this holiday season very different for everyone.

Despite these challenges, the Mayor and Village Council believe that maintaining public health practices this holiday season will help ensure that life in general and next year's holiday season will be "normal," and that we can enjoy them with all our loved ones.

RENEW YOUR BUSINESS REGISTRATION

Now is the time to purchase or renew your business registration for the Village of Los Lunas, says Community Development Director Erin Callahan.

All businesses, multi-national or Mom and Pop, home-based or otherwise, pay the same fee, \$25.

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JURIED ART SHOW WINNERS

The top winners at the Museum of Heritage & Arts Juried Art Show were:

Best of Show: "Final Tribute," an oil painting by Eddie Ramirez with a prize of \$300 plus a private exhibit at the museum in 2021.

First Place: "Glorious," a pastel painting by Linda Boatwright, \$200.

Second Place: "The After Party," a watercolor by Laura Sanchez, \$200.

Third Place: "Dia De Los Muertos," acrylics by Harriet Anaya (tie), \$100. Third Place: "Count Your Blessings," mixed media by Viola Luna (tie), \$100.

People's Choice: "Day of the Dead / Dia de los Muertos" by Gerardo Castro.

Honorable Mention had a three-way tie: Bill Killough, "Convergence," elm wood, \$50; Lyle Brown, "Welcome Home," oil, \$50; and Micyael Boerding, "Artistic Chemistry," oil, \$50.

Judges were:

- Brent Thomas, art teacher, Los Lunas Schools, historian and artist.
- Michael Snyder, private art instructor and photographer.
- Al Otero, artist and art teacher, Los Lunas Schools.
- Katherine Soskin, Taos and local artist.



Best of Show Juried Art Show

WORK ON INTERCHANGE CORRIDOR CONTINUES

Work on the Los Lunas I-25 Interchange and East-West Corridor project continues.

The project would extend a new roadway from Interstate 25 east across the Rio Grande to NM Hwy 47 in Los Lunas and Valencia County.

The purpose of the project is to enhance community transportation service and safety by improving traffic flow on NM Hwy 6 and other facilities, providing access to high-growth areas, and enhancing the efficiency of emergency response services.

The project is sponsored by the Village of Los Lunas, in cooperation with the New Mexico Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration.

A virtual meeting was held in late October to present the project purpose and need, the preferred alternative, right-of-way and environmental factors, funding, and the project schedule, and to obtain valuable input about the project from citizens

A video presentation explained the project and there was an opportunity for questions and comments.

Roles for this project are:

Village of Los Lunas – local funding and project proponent – "Local Lead."

New Mexico Department of Transportation - state funding, and oversight of Federal Highway Administration.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) - federal funding and federal lead for the National Environmental Policy Act.

Preliminary project cost estimate is \$97,733,378.

Cost of right of way is \$2,018,902 and design is \$7,671,790. Right of way and design will be funded by FHWA, State of New Mexico, and the Village of Los Lunas.

Additional funding will be provided by the Village and Valencia County, \$3,500,000 plus the New Mexico Department of Transportation and New Mexico Legislature, \$50,000,000.

Video presentation from the 10/29/20 public meeting is available on the Village Facebook page and on YouTube.

FACEBOOK FUNDS LLS STEM HUB

Facebook has awarded Los Lunas Schools a \$100,000 grant to help the district create a STEM Learning Hub and Lending Library. It will be a place where teachers can use STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) equipment to create virtual lessons for remote learning, as well as build a manufacturing area and outfit the lab with Wi-Fi, computers, tablets, robotics and more.

The space will allow Los Lunas Schools to provide both educators and students a place to learn and explore various STEM/STEAM initiatives and strategies. Teachers can check out equipment like microscopes, virtual reality headsets, and other tools to create virtual or in-class lessons and return the equipment for other teachers to utilize.

The STEM Hub will also include technology to use on-site or to check out.

"Los Lunas Schools is very excited to create our own STEM Learning Hub and Lending Library for our faculty and staff," said Susan Chavez, the Assistant Superintendent of Special Services at Los Lunas Schools. "The grant money for the hub and library will enable our faculty and staff to learn cutting-edge educational technology that they will then share with our students. We are so excited for this opportunity and the ability to further educate our students in the STEM field."



BASIC FAMILY SERVICES SURVEY

The Community Wellness Council invites people to share their thoughts and experiences on access to basic family services in Valencia County by participating in an important survey.

The 100% Community Valencia and the Anna Age 8 Institute wants to learn about experiences getting access to medical care, childcare, job training, transportation, housing, and more.

The survey will ask about how easy or difficult it is to get these services and the types of challenges faced. The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

The results will be used to make recommendations to Village and county officials and community organizations to improve the quality of life in Valencia County.

Participation in the survey is voluntary and there is no penalty for not participating. In addition, this survey is completely anonymous.

All responses will be grouped together, analyzed, and presented in aggregate form so no one can be identified by their responses.

To participate, use this URL: 100% Community Survey Valencia. or type this link in your browser: <http://bit.ly/ValenciaSurvey100>

The Community Wellness Council (CWC) promotes community collaboration through the framework of coordination, assessment, and solutions.

CWC focuses its work on a wide variety of issues including wellness, health equity, injury prevention, and health promotion. On-going council-sponsored assessments provide county stakeholders and other residents with data on community problems and how collaboration and cooperation are effectively addressing them.

The survey will be open until enough responses are collected for it to be statistically significant and representative both geographically and demographically.

YOUTH MENTORING CENTER

The Youth Mentoring Center recently held a fund raiser to raise money to support the center which is located on North Los Lentes in Los Lunas.

The Youth Mentoring Center is operated through TNT Boxing PAL, a 501c3, and offers programming /services which include: TNT Boxing Club, Botvin Life Skills, tutoring, a Reception and Assessment Center and the Village of Los Lunas/Valencia County Police Athletic league.

The fund raiser started in October and closed November 30. The prizes were gift baskets.

All proceeds from the fund raiser go to cover the cost of operating the Youth Mentoring Center, such as utilities, cleaning supplies, and property taxes.

Programming at the Youth Mentoring Center is funded in part through grants; however, current grant funds are restricted to youth programming and may not be used for operating expenses.



2021 COUNCIL MEETINGS & HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

JANUARY 2021

Council meetings: 14 & 28
Holidays: 1/1 New Year's Day
1/18 Martin Luther King Day

FEBRUARY 2021

Council meetings 11 & 25
Holiday: 2/15 Presidents Day

MARCH 2021

Council meetings: 11 & 25

APRIL 2021

Council meetings: 8 & 22
Holiday: 4/2 Good Friday / Easter Holiday

MAY 2021

Council meetings: 6 & 20
Holiday: 5/31 Memorial Day

JUNE 2021

Council meetings: 10 & 24

JULY 2021

Council meetings: 8 & 22
Holiday: 7/5 In observance of Fourth of July

AUGUST 2021

Council meetings: 12 & 26

SEPTEMBER 2021

Council meetings: 9 & 23
Holiday: 9/6 Labor Day

OCTOBER 2021

Council meetings: 7 & 21

NOVEMBER 2021

Council meetings: 4 & 18
Holidays: 11/11 – Veterans Day
11/25 & 11/26 Thanksgiving Holiday

DECEMBER 2021

Council meetings: 2 & 16
Holidays: 12/24 In observance of Christmas Holiday
12/31 In observance of New Year's Day

ECONOMIC DEVELOPER RETIRES

For more than ten years Ralph L. Mims has been the point man for economic development in Los Lunas. He is retiring the end of 2020 to go on to other things in his life.

During his tenure he has seen the arrival of Facebook and other businesses in the Village's tech area, an increase in retail establishments, more restaurants with a variety of flavors available, plus other economic development successes. Of course, this was pre COVID-19.

Mims came to the village in 2010 after working on economic development in the Planning Department of the Metropolitan Redevelopment Agency for the City of Albuquerque. He worked four years as a zoning inspector before joining the Metropolitan Redevelopment Agency in 1999.

When appointed, Mims said his duties would include spurring private investment by attracting businesses to the village which adds to Gross Receipts Tax (GRT) revenue. He has been successful in accomplishing this.

"Since I'm a resident of the village I have a great deal of incentive to help create positive growth in our community," said Mims in 2010.

The position of Economic Development Manager was then new at the village, created to help Los Lunas grow in a positive manner.

At its late November 2020 meeting the Village Council appointed Kristen Gamboa as senior economic developer for the Community Development Department. She most recently served as director of business development at New Mexico Partnership in Albuquerque.

Gamboa has a bachelor's degree from the University of New Mexico and master's degrees from Grand Canyon University and Ashford University.



Ralph L. Mims

LLPD TIPS TO PREVENT SCAMS

Here's tips from the Los Lunas Police Department to prevent scams during the Holiday Season:

1. Spot imposters. Scammers often pretend to be someone close to us or we trust, such as family, government officials, a company you do business with, or even a charity.
2. Do online searches yourself- Type a company or product name into a search engine with words like scam or complaint. Or search phrases such as "IRS scam". You can even search phone numbers to see if they are related to scams.
3. Do not believe phone numbers on caller ID. Technology allows scammers to clone local New Mexico phone numbers. If someone asks for money or personal information hang up; do not engage in the phone conversation. If you research the call and determine the phone call was legitimate, then call them back.
4. Don't pay up front for promises, such as debt relief, mortgage assistance, warrants, or a job. If they say you need to pay for taxes and fees up front, they will probably take the money and run.
5. Consider how you pay. If a law enforcement agency or debt/loans company asks you to send money cards or a money gram, you can almost bet this is a scam. The aforementioned entities would not ask for payment in this form.
6. Hang up on robocalls, this is not how businesses conduct business.
7. Don't deposit a check and wire money back. This is definitely a scam!
8. Scams can include Federal Law Enforcement Agency advising of a warrant, Vehicle Warranty, someone screaming they are kidnapped in Mexico, and new ones for COVID-19.

If you feel you have been a victim of a scam call the Los Lunas Police Department non-emergency number, 505 865-9130, or the New Mexico Attorney General's Office, 1 844-255-9210.

Village Administration Office: 505 839-3840

LOCAL EVENTS

Thursday, Dec. 24 & Friday, Dec. 25, 2020

Christmas Holiday
Village Offices Closed
Thursday garbage pickup on Wednesday
Friday garbage pickup on Monday

Friday, Jan. 1, 2021

New Year's Day
Village Offices Closed
Friday Garbage Pickup on Thursday

Monday, Jan. 18, 2021

Martin Luther King Day
Village Offices Closed
Monday Garbage Pickup on Tuesday

Attend a Village Council Meeting

December 17, 2020
January 14 & 28, 2021
660 Main St NW
Main Street and Don Pasqual
Meetings begin at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting may be conducted virtually.

Check agenda on Village website
loslunasnm.gov

STAY SAFE IN DECEMBER

New Mexicans sheltered in place the last two weeks of November to help combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

As this newsletter went to press, Gov Michele Lujan Grisham was informing citizens about necessary safety measures in December. These safety measures may impact services provided by the Village.

Check with Facebook and other social and local media for changes to the operation of the Village library, museum, recreation, and other community activities.

PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

