



VILLAGE NEWS

Small Community • Big Possibilities

Volume 24 - Number 2 - February 2020

WONDER WOMEN OF RIO ABAJO AT MUSEUM

The Village Museum of Heritage and Arts has scheduled a wide variety of events this winter and spring at the facility located at the intersection of Main Street / Hwy 6 and Luna Avenue under the water tower. There should be something for everyone at the museum which is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

At the museum through Feb. 29, is "The Weirdest, Most Creative, Mailboxes in New Mexico" by Dr. Richard Melzer. Also running through Feb. 29 is the 7th Annual Student Juried Art Show.

Opening March 7 is "Wonder Women of the Rio Abajo: Celebrating 100 Years of Women's Rights" with music, presentations, local women's art, historical women's panels, refreshments, and much more. The women's exhibit runs through May 30 with the opening reception 1 – 5 p.m. March 7.

On March 14 the museum is sponsoring a tour of the San Antonio, Isleta and Peralta churches which includes lunch and presentations for \$10. Call 505 352-7720 to sign up.

Presentations scheduled are:

- March 21 "Comida Sabrosa: New Mexico Food" by Irene Sanchez 2 - 4 p.m.
- March 28 "Death Rituals of New Mexico" by Ana Pacheco 2 - 4 p.m.
- April 4 "Women's Voting Rights" by Roberta Scott 2 - 4 p.m.
- April 18 "Local Herbs Along the Rio Grande Valley" by Elena Ayala 2 - 4:30 p.m.
- 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 2 - 4 p.m.

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.

UTILITY BILLING STATEMENTS PROCESSED BY VILLAGE

Beginning February 2020, the Village of Los Lunas will process your Utility Billing statements in house in the Utility Billing Division.

Previously, the statements had been outsourced to an out-of-state organization. Folks in the Utility Billing Division are eager to have this process brought back locally to serve the residents of the Village.

Any questions regarding this matter, please call the Utility Billing office at 505 839-3841.

NEW SEWER RATE

The Village sewer average calculation for single family residential accounts will be reflected on the March Village sewer statement once February's usage is registered.

This will be the new sewer average/rate for the year until calculated again in February 2021.

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2020 GARBAGE PICKUP DAYS

Holiday Observed

New Year's Holiday
 Martin Luther King Day
 Presidents Day
 Easter Holiday
 Memorial Day
 Independence Day
 Labor Day
 Veterans Day
 Thanksgiving
 Day After Thanksgiving
 Christmas Eve
 Christmas

Regular Trash Pickup

Wednesday, Jan 1
 Monday, Jan. 20
 Monday, Feb. 17
 Friday, April 10
 Monday, May 25
 Friday, July 3
 Monday, Sep 7
 Wednesday, Nov, 11
 Thursday, Nov. 26
 Friday, Nov. 27
 Thursday, Dec 24
 Friday, Dec 25

Days Will Be Picked Up On

Thursday, Jan. 2
 Tuesday, Jan. 21
 Tuesday, Feb. 18
 Thursday, April 9
 Tuesday, May 26
 Thursday, July 2
 Tuesday, Sept. 8
 Thursday, Nov. 12
 Wednesday, Nov. 25
 Monday, Nov. 30
 Wednesday, Dec. 23
 Monday, Dec. 28

MORE FUNDING HELPS VILLAGE PROJECTS

The Village of Los Lunas Public Works Department has started several improvement projects in 2020 thanks to the Village receiving additional funding.

- The Transfer Station Composting Facility was awarded \$912,808.83.

This project will turn green waste and sludge waste from the wastewater treatment facility into Class A compost material.

Compost has 100% nutrient value and will save the Solid Waste Division landfill disposal fees and the Parks and Recreation Department the cost of fertilizers used in the parks.

- Water Well No. 3 replacement Phase I, \$1,318,396.24.

Current Water Well No. 3 was constructed in 1969.

This improvement project will drill a new deeper water well with a stainless-steel casing rather than the previous cast-iron pipe.

Water pumping capacity will increase by 40% due to design and larger pumps.

- Effluent Loadout Station, \$311,420.00.

This project will store and transfer effluent water from the wastewater treatment facility to water trucks used at construction sites for dust control including street sweeping.

Contractors will be charged a reduced price which will save drinking water from being used in construction site development. This project is part of the 2018 Village of Los Lunas Water Conservation Plan.

- New effluent line at wastewater treatment plant, \$975,850. The new 24" effluent waterline will support Village of Los Lunas growth for the next 50 years.

Currently, the 18" water line was constructed in 1979 and has reached 80% of its conveyance capacity. The new 28" effluent waterline will allow the Village to take the current 18" waterline off-line and refurbish it for continued use.

KING OF THE HILL COURSE CHANGES

The course for the March 7, 2020, King of the Hill race has changed.

Due to new construction in the area around the water tank, the 5k course has been slightly altered. Since all three races run the 5k course it affects all races.

Now the 5k course will utilize more of the Bowl Trail.

The races take place on the challenging trails of El Cerro de Los Lunas Preserve with beautiful views and large elevation changes on the 10k and half marathon course.

Until Feb. 22, the registration fee is \$35 for the 5k; \$40 for 10k and 10k rucksack; and \$50 for the half marathon. The price increases \$5 Feb. 22 – March 7.

Check the Village website for more information loslunasnm.gov.

LOS LUNAS CHAMBER

The Los Lunas Chamber of Commerce continues to have monthly luncheons.

Visit www.loslunaschamber.com for more information on time and location.



FRESH GOURMET POPS AT PALETA

The Paleta Bar, home to fresh gourmet Mexican pops, has arrived in Los Lunas at 1651 Main Street SW Suite D.

Paletas is Spanish for ice pops which are handmade daily with a fruit and cream base. The paletas are produced from natural fruits.

Paletas come in a unique format with different flavors.

At The Paleta Bar you have the choice of dark chocolate, white chocolate, or milk chocolate.

Toppings include pecan, pinon, peanut, coconut, chile powder, sprinkles, plus others.

Flavors can be combined or ordered solo with a paleta that can be fully dipped, half dipped, or drizzled. A plain paleta can be ordered also.

Also available at the Paleta Bar are fruit cups, jerky bags, Juanpuccinos, elote (corn), Dorinachos, and Paletas can be ordered in family packs.

Online ordering is available from The Paleta Bar website thepaletabar.com. Los Lunas phone 505 200-2759. Open at 1651 Main Street SW Suite D Monday through Thursday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.



Each paleta made individually.

Village Administration Office: 505 839-3840

MARIO'S BARBER SHOP NOW OPEN

When he was twelve-years-old Mario Sandoval picked up a pair of scissors and wanted to cut hair. He's not put them down much since then. Now he's opened Mario's Barber Shop on Sun Ranch Village Loop..

Mario is one of two barbers at the shop. The other is Nathan Chavez. There are three other chairs that could have barbers. Mario is looking for barbers who would be the perfect fit for his shop.

In addition to a regular haircut at Mario's Barber Shops, you can also get a razor fade, straight razor fade, beard trim (no cut), beard lineup (no cut), and a haircut with beard trim and lineup. Also available are designs and edge ups. Discounts are offered to military, seniors, and "badges."

Babies who get their first haircut at Mario's Barber Shop can receive a "My First Haircut" certificate commemorating the occasion.

Mario worked for ten years at Jake's Barber Shop in Los Lunas. He was motivated to open his own business by his growing family. He and his wife Sarah have three children, a four-year old daughter, and two sons, aged two years and seven months (who recently received his own first haircut Certificate). A 2008 Los Lunas High School graduate, Mario has spent his life in the Village. He encourages people to try his family friendly barber shop with its amenities.

Mario's Barber Shop is located at 2210 Sun Ranch Village Loop SW Suite C, phone 505 550-9473. Open Tuesday through Saturday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. You can find Mario's Barber Shop on Facebook and Instagram.



Mario Sandoval with client.

NEW MANAGING PARTNER AT LEIGH VAN GILST CPA & ASSOCIATES

Leigh Van Gilst, CPA and Associates has a new managing partner – Ron Bhatt, CPA, MBA.

Bhatt grew up in Santa Rosa, New Mexico. He has a Bachelor's degree in Accounting and a Master of Business Administration from the University of New Mexico. He is a Certified Public Accountant in the State of New Mexico.

Bhatt sees Leigh Van Gilst, CPA and Associates, continuing to deliver personalized, responsive, and quality accounting and business services like it has been for the past 20 years.

No task is too big or too small for the 11-person full time and one seasonal staff.

We have the expertise, resources, and an excellent team to deliver quality services to individuals and businesses of any size.

We are more than an accounting firm and do more than prepare taxes.

Our unique team offers services ranging from professional bookkeeping, business consulting and coaching, and estate and retirement planning.

Our goal is to understand the needs of our clients, and help them reach their financial goals. We are invested in our client's success!

Grateful for the opportunity to serve our clients and community.

Located at 121A Don Diego SE in Los Lunas. Phone 505 865-1040. Visit the website: VanGilstCPA.com.

www.loslunasnm.gov

DOLLAR TREE REOPENS

Dollar Tree, Inc., North America's leading operator of discount variety stores, has reopened the store at 701 Main Street SE in Los Lunas.

At the January reopening, festivities included gift card drawings, door prizes, coloring for the kids, and cake.

Dollar Tree stores are open seven days a week and offer great value and a broad assortment of merchandise all priced at \$1 or less.

Customers discover new treasures every week ranging from seasonal decor, household products, Hallmark greeting cards, party and craft supplies, dinnerware, food, teaching and school necessities, health and beauty essentials, toys, books and much more.

"Dollar Tree is proud to be part of the Los Lunas community," stated Kayleigh M. Painter, Dollar Tree's Investor and Media Relations Manager.

The Los Lunas Dollar Tree is open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday, website DollarTree.com.



Dollar Tree reopened on Main Street.

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>.

Village Administration Office: 505 839-3840

\$6 MILLION GRANT BENEFITS BUS SERVICE

The Rio Metro Regional Transit District will design and build a new transit facility in Los Lunas to support its Valencia County bus service thanks to a \$6 million grant from the highly competitive Section 5339(b) Bus and Bus Facilities program.

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) received 318 applications requesting a total of \$1.9 billion, but could only award 94 projects, including Rio Metro's, from the \$423 million available.

With this grant and an additional \$1.5 million in matching funds, Rio Metro will design and construct a new transit facility in Los Lunas to support its Valencia County bus services.

Design will begin in 2020 and construction is expected to commence in 2021.

The project will include administration/operations and storage buildings; staff, visitor and bus parking areas; utilities; drainage; landscaping; fencing and gates; security cameras and access controls.

Pending future funding, the facility will also feature expanded bus parking, a maintenance building, wash bay, and fuel island.

The new facility will enable Rio Metro to relocate its bus administration and operations from two at-capacity facilities leased from the Village of Los Lunas and shared with other Village services.

It will also give Rio Metro the ability to enlarge its bus fleet in future years and provide even more service to Valencia County residents.



Rio Metro bus.

LOCAL EVENTS

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020

Presidents Day

Village Offices Closed Monday
Garbage Pickup on
Tuesday, Feb. 18, 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

Feb. 20, 2020 March 5 & 19, 2020
660 Main St NW
Main Street and Don Pasqual
Meetings begin at 6:00 p.m.

SOLID WASTE SUPERVISOR PASSES AWAY

Longtime Village Solid Waste Supervisor Marcus G. Montoya passed away Thursday, Jan. 9, 2020.

He was a facilities manager for 20 years at UNMH, followed by many years as a supervisor with the Village of Los Lunas

Marcus was a graduate from Valley High School in Albuquerque in 1974 where he was a proud football player. Marcus was very proud of his 29 years of sobriety.

Marcus is survived by his wife, Anna Perea Montoya; and sisters, Roberta Montoya, and Madonna Montoya, and husband Dr. Raymond Hancock as well as beloved co-workers, friends, neighbors, and Perea family in-laws.