



VILLAGE NEWS



Small Community • Big Possibilities

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CENSUS COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEE

The U.S. Census determines the allocation of \$1.5 trillion in federal spending, and New Mexico officials estimate that a 1% undercount would cost the state more than \$700 million in federal aid over a decade.

That's why people involved with Valencia County's "complete count" committee are working on providing kiosks with computer access to internet connections at public places for people to fill out census forms.

People will be able to fill out census forms online, by phone, or by mail which could make being counted in the U.S. Census easier for the about 41% of state residents who live in hard-to-count areas. The 41% is the largest proportion of any state in the nation.

The Valencia County Complete Count Committee has been at two events to start Census 2020 outreach.

The committee partnered with the Los Lunas Fire Department in the Christmas Electric Light Parade to hang banners from the ladder truck and hand out pencils. The committee was helped with this project by the Valencia High School baseball and softball teams.

The committee had a booth at the Village Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, where committee members talked to folks to make sure they know how important the census is to the state and Los Lunas.

Valencia County Complete Count Committee members plan on being at other events to tell people about the importance of Census 2020.

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ELECTRIC LIGHT PARADE WINNERS

The Village Electric Light Parade changed its route in 2019 due to work on the new bridge over the Rio Grande, but lots of folks still came out to watch as the parade headed north on NM Hwy 314 and west on Main Street / NM Hwy 6.

Parade Winners for 2019 are:

- 1st Place: Zia Volleyball
- 2nd Place: Valencia Elementary Razzle Dazzle Team
- 3rd Place: SODA Dance Team

Honorable mentions are Lucero Welding and St. Mary's.

"BEST OF" GOES TO VILLAGE ENTITIES

The Valencia County News Bulletin's Best of Valencia County 2019 Awards went to several Village entities. They are:

- Best Place to Work – Village of Los Lunas
- Most Helpful Elected Official – Los Lunas Mayor Charles Griego
- Best Police Officer – Los Lunas Police Chief Naithan Gurule
- Most Helpful Public Employee – Los Lunas Economic Development Manager Ralph Mims
- Best Park – Daniel Fernandez Park, Los Lunas

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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JOB FAIR JAN. 28

Goodwill and Workforce Connections in Los Lunas have partnered to hold a job fair Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2020, at the Transportation Center located at 101 Courthouse Rd SE from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

About 30 employers are expected to participate in the job fair.

Anyone interested in participating as an employer should contact Jonna Toledo at Goodwill, 201 Desert Willow Rd., Los Lunas, 505 944-0289, jtoledo@goodwillnm.org or Frank Tafoya at Workforce Connections, 428 Los Lentos SE, 505 212-9124, frank.tafoya@state.nm.us.

Setup will be possible at 9 a.m. Chairs and tables will be provided.



NEW FIREFIGHTERS

At the last Los Lunas Village Council meeting of 2019 two new Village firefighters were pinned by their family.

Andrew Yamamoto and William Jackson completed their probation and are now fully on board as part of the Village of Los Lunas Fire Department.

Both men have answered numerous fire calls and fought fires, said Los Lunas Fire Chief John Gabaldon.

Village firefighters attending class at the New Mexico Fire Training Academy this month are:

- Jordan Linton and Christopher Harvey – Firefighter I/II
- Jeriko Garcia and David Sanchez – Emergency Vehicle Driving Course

Village Administration Office: 505 839-3840

KING OF THE HILL MARCH 7

The 5th annual King of the Hill 5k – 10k – Half Marathon will be held Saturday, March 7, 2020.

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 Jan. 31, the registration fee is \$30 for the 5k; \$35 for 10k and 10k rucksack; and \$45 for the half marathon. The price increases \$5 for Feb. 1-22; and an additional \$5 Feb. 22 – March 7.

Check the Village website for more information loslunasnm.gov.



A King of the Hill participant.

AEROBICS CLASSES AT DANIEL FERNANDEZ

Make a resolution to exercise now.

Daniel Fernandez Recreation Center offers aerobic classes Monday through Saturday.

Whether you want to build flexibility, improve core strength, or burn calories, the classes can help achieve a healthier life style.

BOOK CLUB AT LIBRARY

A new book club is being formed at Los Lunas Public Library called the "Ultimate Tea Lovers Book Club."

The club will normally meet the first Wednesday of each month at 4 p.m.

Books will be supplied by the library. Bring your own tea cup. Sign up at the front desk at the library.

Call the library at 839-3850 for more information.

LIGHT UP THE VILLAGE WINNERS

Winners of the second annual Light Up the Village contest were:

Jason Gonzales in the category for homes and businesses along the Christmas Electric Light Parade route.

In the category for businesses off the parade route, the Edward Jones Co. was the winner.

All businesses within the Village limits and businesses and residences along the Electric Light Parade route were encouraged to register, participate, and compete to be recognized for their community spirit for the contest.

The event was coordinated by the Community Development Department staff.

LOS LUNAS CHAMBER

The Los Lunas Chamber of Commerce continues to have monthly luncheons on the 3rd Thursday of the month. Visit www.loslunaschamber.com for more information on time and location.

GROSS RECEIPTS TAX RATE HAS INCREASED

The gross receipts tax collected in the Village increased by 0.3625% effective Jan. 1, 2020, after the Village Council approved the increase.

The new total rate is 8.675% in the Village.

It is anticipated the tax will generate more revenue and make up for the loss of reduced amounts of hold harmless revenue from the state.

The state has estimated that the tax would generate an additional \$2.2 million per year to help provide services throughout the Village.

Of the new 8.675% gross receipts tax, 5.125% goes to the state. The village portion of the tax is 2.175% with the increase. The county portion of the GRT tax is 1.375%.

HALTOM ORTHODONTICS SINCE 1973

Haltom Orthodontics has been serving Los Lunas and Valencia County since 1973 when Dr. Tucker Haltom noticed a need for an orthodontist in Los Lunas.

Creating World Class Smiles is the Haltom Orthodontics motto and that creation is accomplished by the Haltom Team led by father and son orthodontists, Drs. Tucker and Darren Haltom.

Dr. Tucker Haltom has been in dental practice for over 40 years in central New Mexico. Dr. Tucker's specialty is creating great smiles.

Dr. Darren Haltom has been straightening teeth as an orthodontist at Haltom Orthodontics since 2004.

Orthodontic treatments offered include adult orthodontics, braces, bruxism treatment, Invisalign, retainers, and TMJ treatment

Haltom Orthodontics is now accepting new patients and accepts most insurance plans and Medicaid. Payment plans with interest-free financing are available.

Haltom partners with Smiles Change Lives so children who would not otherwise have access to braces or other orthodontic options can get the treatment they need.

Haltom Orthodontics is open 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday at 725 Main St. SW, in Los Lunas, phone 505 866-9296, website haltomorthodontics.com.

Haltom also has offices in Albuquerque and Grants.

Village Administration Office: 505 839-3840

MEET AND GREET THE AUTHORS

On Saturday, Jan. 11, 2020, several authors from the New Mexico chapter of Sisters in Crime, Croak and Dagger, will be at the Los Lunas Transportation Center to meet and talk with people about their books starting at one p.m.

Authors will talk about their books and the audience will ask questions.

The authors have penned mystery, suspense and thrillers.

For more information contact the Los Lunas Public Library at 839-3850 or e-mail j7057r@msn.com.

Authors will also sell and sign copies of their books at the event.

Refreshments will be served.

MUSEUM OF HERITAGE & ARTS HAPPENINGS

Main Street and Luna Avenue
505 352-7720

EXHIBITS

Weirdest & Most Creative Mailboxes in New Mexico
Exhibit by Richard Melzer
2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18, 2020
Reception with refreshments

Saturday, Feb. 1, 2020
Opening of student art show
New Mexico Frontiers

Saturday, March 7, 2020
Opening of "Wonder Women of the Rio Abajo – Women's Art Show".
Presentations in the weeks following the opening.

The Los Lunas Museum of Heritage & Arts has a new app. Go to this web page for more information:
<https://lineupr.com/loslunas>.

NEED SPACE? TRANSPORTATION CENTER MIGHT DO

If you need space to hold your next meeting, seminar or training then the Village Transportation Center offers an auditorium equipped with video/audio equipment for organization meeting purposes.

The Transportation Center is managed by the Village Parks and Recreation Department. The center houses the Rio Metro Regional Transit District and the Village of Los Lunas Parks and Recreation Department.

15 HOMES UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Las Terrazas at Fiesta subdivision by D.R. Horton now has 15 homes under construction with an additional four homes closed by buyers and four homes under contract in northwest Los Lunas.

These homes are part of Phase Two of Las Terrazas, a master-planned community with homes starting in the low \$200's.

Phase One of Las Terrazas, with 68 homes including 12 by Twilight Homes, is now closed. There is a total of 118 lots in Las Terrazas.

Las Terrazas has brand-new floor plans and a brand-new model to tour.

The homes feature the D.R. Horton trademark open-design philosophy and a dedication to high-quality construction. D.R. Horton has earned the top spot on the Builder 10 since 2002.

The homes are created for every stage in life including raising children, entertaining friends and family, or enjoying retirement.

Las Terrazas offers a variety of home designs, sizes, and amenities.

D. R. Horton provides dedicated support to purchasers including a home buying guide, information about buying a new home, and the Home Is blog. A warranty is available.

The new model home is located at 1717 Nicho Court which is accessible via Los Cerritos Road to Highline Street to Las Terrazas. Model home hours are Sunday and Monday noon - 6 p.m., Tuesday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

For more information, visit www.drhorton.com/nm or call the local sales counselor at 505 750-1209.



Las Terrazas home.

GRAFFITI IN THE VILLAGE

Removing graffiti and repairing the damage it causes costs community tax dollars. Properties can be devalued and business owners can lose customers from the negative image that graffiti generates. Graffiti can send the message that a community is having problems.

You can help reduce graffiti by immediately reporting all graffiti sightings. The faster graffiti is cleaned up, the less it appears.

Village graffiti removal paint crews are on the job five days a week to eradicate graffiti on public and private property. The crews either remove graffiti through water blasting or use paint matching for graffiti paint-overs.

To report graffiti anywhere within the Village limits, call the Los Lunas Police Department at 505 865-9130 or fill out the Graffiti Removal Request form under Forms and Applications on the Village website, loslunasnm.gov.

When the form is filled out, both the Village Facility Maintenance and Solid Waste Divisions receive the form. Facility Maintenance deals with graffiti on Village-owned property and Solid Waste deals with all private property.

Village Public Works Director Michael Jaramillo said handling graffiti removal service this way improves response times for that removal.

Village Administration Office: 505 839-3840

LOCAL EVENTS

Thursday, Jan. 16, 2020

Valencia County Veterans Resource Day

Daniel Fernandez Park
Gymnasium 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 20, 2020

Martin Luther King Day

Village Offices Closed
Garbage Pickup Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2020

Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2020

Friends of the Los Lunas
Public Library & Museum
of Heritage & Arts
Annual Meeting 6 p.m.
Los Lunas Public Library

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

Jan. 23, 2020 Feb. 6 & 20, 2020
660 Main St NW
Main Street and Don Pasqual
Meetings begin at 6:00 p.m.

LOS LUNAS LIBRARY

505 839-3850

Tabletop game nights are the first and second Thursdays of the month at the Los Lunas Library, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. In January games were Dungeons and Dragons and a variety (such as card or board games, etc.). For more info, call the Los Lunas Library at 839-3850; ask for Manuel, the game master.

Stop by the library at 460 Main St. NE to check out a book, DVD or CD.

Try out the Los Lunas Library app for your smart phone. Go to this link for more information: <https://tinyurl.com/y5vmktux>.