



VILLAGE NEWS

Small Community • Big Possibilities

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STATE FUNDS NEW INTERCHANGE, ROAD to NM HWY 47

The State of New Mexico has set aside \$55 million to build an I-25 interchange south of Exit 203 along with a road heading east from the interchange to cross the Rio Grande and head on to NM Hwy 47.

Village officials believe the interchange and road will alleviate a lot of the heavy traffic on Main Street / NM Hwy 6, the main highway through the Village.

"I think anybody who has been on the roadways in Los Lunas, in the morning, or in the afternoons, understands the need for the project. We're having backups on traffic from the river at times all the way to the freeway," said Mayor Charles Griego.

Mayor Griego says the traffic situation is an inconvenience and dangerous.

Phase one will include construction on that new I-25 interchange, a two-lane road to the river, and a new four-lane bridge over the Rio Grande, connecting I-25 to NM-47.

Right now, the project is still in the design phase. Phase one of the project is expected to cost about \$60 million.

Griego says he expects construction to begin at the end of 2021 and could take up to three years to finish.

Phase two which will cost about \$30 million has not yet been funded. That project will add two lanes to the four-mile road between I-25 and NM Hwy 47.

Traffic in Los Lunas has increased with a growing population, more businesses, and construction of the Facebook Data Center.

A New Mexico Department of Transportation website announcement says the proposed location for this new roadway, named the Morris Road alignment, is about 1.5 miles to the south of NM Hwy 6.



New interchange as seen on NMDOT website.

The Morris Road option was determined to be the preferred alignment through a comprehensive corridor study conducted by the Mid-Region Council of Governments.

The east-west corridor project will link three main north-south routes in a four-mile connection that will span the Rio Grande valley and river.

Engineering studies indicate that once completed, the corridor will decrease traffic on NM Hwy 6 by nearly 45% and provide drivers an alternative route to reach destinations east of the river and south of the Village.

The Village of Los Lunas is currently utilizing \$3.5 million in Federal Highway Transportation funds to purchase needed right-of-way for the project. Additionally, the Village has committed \$2.5 million in local funds, plus there is \$2.0 million in GO Bond funds, approved in 2018 by Valencia County voters, to go toward this project.

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STUDENT JURIED ART SHOW WINNERS

The Village Museum of Heritage & Arts held its seventh annual Student Juried Art Show.

High School Winners were:

Best of Show: **Salma Cruz-Ramirez**, "Never Gone," Los Lunas High School

1. **Isabel Otero**, "Prey," Los Lunas High School.

2. **Mya Avila**, "The Coyote," School of Dreams Academy.

3. **Enrique Hernandez**, "City Scape," Los Lunas High School.

Middle School Winners:

Best of Show: **Marianna Luna**, "Balloons Over Sandias," Canon Christian Academy

1. **Lillian Ferdinand**, "Snowy Deer," SODA.

2. **Ismael Ottley**, "Worn Out," Home schooled.

3. **Adrianna Vallejos**, "Reflecting on Nature," Valencia Middle School.

Elementary School Winners:

Best of Show: **Tomas Peseke**, "Error Sans," Collett Park Elementary

1. **Jade Chavez**, "Doozer the Buffalo," Gil Sanchez Elementary.

2. **Tristan Saiz**, "Vision of Wind," Rio Grande Elementary.

3. (Tie) **Danni Moya**, "New Mexico Aspen Country," Valencia Art Academy, and **Daniel Kiehne**, "Balloons Over the Rio Grande" Valencia Art Academy.

In 2021 the Student Art Show will be held in the spring with the theme "New Mexico Celebrations." Any student under the age of 18 may enter.

EASTER EGG HUNT APRIL 8

The Village annual Easter Egg Hunt will be Wednesday, April 8, at Daniel Fernandez Park.

Come out and take a picture with the Easter Bunny and hunt for thousands of eggs.

The event is free and open to the public at 4:00 PM.

Egg Hunt Times on April 8, 2020:

- 0-3 Years of age - 4:30 P.M.
- 4-7 Years of age - 4:45 P.M.
- 8- 13 Years of age- 5:00 P.M.

SUPERVISOR RECEIVES AWARD

Village Waste Water Treatment Plant Division Supervisor Craig Byers was named Outstanding Operator of the Year for 2019 by the New Mexico Water and Wastewater Association (NMWWA).

The NMWWA also presented a 2019 Good Housekeeping Award to the Village for the Conventional Activated Sludge Plant 20 Years and Older as well as a 2019 Good Housekeeping Award for the Membrane Bio-Reactor Plant 20 Years and Under.

In November 2019 the NMWWA Good Housekeeping Committee toured the Village facilities and interviewed the employees.

The NMWWA Committee studied how the plants operate and the knowledge and dedication of the operators.

BELIEVE IN HEROES RUN

It's not too early to enter the 9th annual Believe in Heroes Memorial Run and Walk.

The event, presented by Los Lunas Invested in Veteran Events (L.I.V.E. Inc.), will be held Saturday, May 30.

Contact Chris at 505 480-2639 or asais40505@qwestoffice.net with questions or suggestions. Register online at www.LosLunasVets.com.

NEW SIGN CODE IN VILLAGE

The Los Lunas Village Council has adopted an updated Sign Code for the municipality.

The Sign Code provides all regulations for the size, placement, measurement standards and permitting requirements for signs within the Village.

The Sign Code includes a comprehensive table with all size, number and placement requirements for all sign types, organized by sign district.

The Sign Code

- Clarifies signs that are exempt from regulation, which include required public notices or warnings, works of art with no commercial message, and any interior signs.
- Provides a definitive list of all types of signs allowed on private property and categorizes which signs require a permit and which don't.
- Specifies how all signs will be measured, which is used to determine fees and maximum sizes.
- Provides restrictions on electronic message content to ensure it is neither too bright nor too distracting.
- Provides guidelines for temporary signs that may be allowed in the public right-of-way (excluding state highways) including subdivision directional signs and single event signs.

The Sign Code defines what constitutes a code violation in addition to stating that violations may carry penalties.

The updated Sign Code was expanded from the previous sign code and includes much more than what is in this article.

The updated Sign Code is Chapter 17.56 of the Los Lunas Zoning Code, Title 17 of the Los Lunas Municipal Code, which is available on the Village website, loslunasnm.gov.

PLACES TO TAKE U.S. CENSUS

In mid-March, 2020, homes across the country, including in Los Lunas, will begin receiving invitations to complete the 2020 Census.

Once the invitation arrives, you should respond for your home in one of three ways: online, by phone, or by mail.

The results of the 2020 U.S. Census determine federal, state, and local funding for the next ten years so it is important that every person is counted.

A 1% undercount of Valencia County residents could mean a loss of \$22,569,368 for Valencia County over the next ten years.

Public computers and assistance to be counted in the U.S. Census will be available at the:

- Los Lunas Public Library
- Main Street Fire Station
- Sand Sage Fire Station

Some facts about the 2020 U.S. Census:

- There are only ten questions (some require answers for each household member)
- Everyone living in the U.S. is required by law to participate
- Answers are strictly confidential and protected by law
- There is no citizenship question
- You can and should respond even if homeless or living in a group facility.

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>.

SBDC HELPS BUSINESSES

Thinking of opening a business? Don't know where to start? Start at the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at the University of New Mexico Valencia.

The folks at SBDC help aspiring entrepreneurs and business owners make decisions affecting their businesses with four services: training, counseling, referral, and library resources.

SBDC staff work to strengthen the economy of the UNM-Valencia service area by providing direct assistance, entrepreneurial education, and resource links designed to facilitate the retention and expansion of existing small businesses, and foster the creation of new businesses

Center Director is Vernon F. Mulanix who served as a bilingual business consultant at the CNM SBDC before coming to UNM-Valencia.

Mulanix has owned several businesses, worked in Mexico and South America, been an employer and employee as well as community volunteer, and earned bachelor and master's degrees.

SBDC is located at UNM Valencia, 280 La Entrada, Los Lunas, phone 505 925-8980, website Valencia.unm.edu.



Vernon Mulanix

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.

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

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 open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

BURRITOS ALINSTANTE OFFERS NEW MEXICO FOOD

Looking for a restaurant with a menu of New Mexico food staples for any meal? Try Burritos Alinstante at the intersection of Carson Drive and Main Street / NM Hwy 6.

Be patient with the traffic on Main Street due to the construction of a new bridge over the Rio Grande. That patience will be rewarded with that variety of New Mexico food choices.

For easy pick up get your order at the drive-up window on the north side of the building. Or park your vehicle in the lot and dine in.

Burritos can be filled with eggs, bacon, sausage, chorizo, carne adovada, steak, ground beef, chicharrones, chicken, and/or potatoes. And there's the beans, cheese, and red or green chile too.

Menu items not only include a variety of burritos, but also tacos, nachos, tamales, and Frito pies. There's a wide choice of beverages and sides.

Burritos Alinstante has six locations – two in Los Lunas, 1140 Main St. NE and 105 Sun Ranch Loop SW, plus one each in Belen (the original store) and Bosque Farms, and two in Albuquerque's South Valley.

Burritos Alinstante on Main Street in Los Lunas is open 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, phone 505 565-8570. Website burritosalinstante.com. Call in your order before you go and make it easier on yourself.



Easy drive up at Burritos Alinstante.

EL PARAISO HOME CARE SERVICE MOVES

The Los Lunas office of El Paraiso Home Care Service has moved to 536 Los Lentes Rd. SE.

Services provided by El Paraiso include cognitive assistance, meal preparation, eating, household services, hygiene and grooming, minor maintenance of assistive devices, skin care, and other support services.

In addition to Los Lunas, El Paraiso has offices in Albuquerque, Socorro and Las Cruces.

Counties served are Bernalillo, Santa Fe, Valencia, Cibola, Sierra, Catron, Torrance, Sandoval, Socorro, and Dona Ana.

El Paraiso can be reached at 505 865-2994 in Los Lunas. Check out the website at elparaisomgmt.com.

TALK ABOUT NICOTINE PATCH

New Mexico Tech Professor Frank Etscorn, patent holder and inventor of the nicotine patch, will make a presentation about the patch at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 14, 2020, at the Los Lunas Transportation Center, 101 Courthouse Road.

For more information, call the Los Lunas Library, 505 839-3850, or email j7057r@msn.com.

The talk is sponsored by the Friends of the Library and Museum of Heritage & Arts.

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.

LOCAL EVENTS

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

March 19, 2020 April 9 & 23, 2020
660 Main St NW
Main Street and Don Pasqual
Meetings begin at 6:00 p.m.

RECYCLING IN THE VILLAGE

The Village of Los Lunas Recycling Program began in 1993.

With time and with dedicated staff, the community now has access to a state-registered drop-off recycling center located just north of the Fred Luna Multigenerational Center on Don Pasqual Road.

The Recycling Center accepts:

- Cardboard (No chipboard/wax board)
- Plastic (#1 and #2 only)
- Aluminum
- Metals
- Paper
- White goods (i.e. washers, dryers, stoves, water heaters, refrigerators)
- Glass
- Paints are accepted at the transfer station with prior approval from the Solid Waste office.
- Oils accepted at the transfer station with prior approval.
- Electronics
- TV's: all TV's cost \$20, not just the monitors that contain a CRT.

Plastic bags should not be left in the recycling bin.