



# VILLAGE NEWS

Small Community • Big Possibilities

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## SUPPORT AREA BUSINESSES, RESTAURANTS

The COVID-19 Pandemic has changed all our lives in many ways.

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham has temporarily ordered New Mexicans to shelter-in-place creating new lifestyles. Some businesses have had to close their doors with owners hoping to reopen and stay open. Restaurants serve only to-go or curbside food, no sitting in dining rooms.

Eventually there will be a move back to normal, or to what has been called the "new normal". It will probably be a slow move to that new normal while officials figure out how to prevent a possible resurgence of the coronavirus.

As businesses and restaurants operate in the new normal, owners and workers will be depending on customers to help them keep the doors open.

Village Economic Development Manager Ralph L. Mims reminds people to shop in Los Lunas and Valencia County. "When you shop locally you help the whole community," said Mims.

Watch for the opening of businesses in Valencia County. Show your support.

As you show support, remember that the Village of Los Lunas continues to provide its usual services, but with some changes to protect people from the coronavirus.

The Village has developed an online map that shows Los Lunas restaurants and the level of service they are offering (take out, closed for now, etc.) which is available on the Village website, [loslunasnm.gov](http://loslunasnm.gov).

Things may change during the month of May so call where you are going to check on hours, staff availability, and other business concerns.



Shop Locally.

## VILLAGE IMPROVEMENTS CONTINUE

Despite the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Village has finished several projects that improve the lives of citizens of Los Lunas and the surrounding area. These include:

- General Park Improvements – fencing completed around Buena Vista Park. New playground equipment to be installed at Chester Skinner Park.
- Fleet Maintenance Building Addition – new metal building addition finished to the Village fleet maintenance shop.

- Camino del Rey Improvements – repaved roadway from Angel Wings to Castillo Road, including replacing non-conforming ADA sidewalks and storm drainage.
- Parking Lot / Drainage Improvements – repaired Los Cerritos Park parking lot (south side) and repaired storm drains at Sandoval, Schmidt, Otero, and Sichler Roads.
- Right-of-Way Improvements – Morris Road and Camelot Improvements near prison have been completed.
- Waste Water Treatment Plant Effluent Tank – prepared groundwater discharge permit application for use of effluent water for construction purposes plus designed and constructed new effluent loadout station.
- North Waterline Loop Phase II – ran 1.5 miles of 18-inch waterline and 2-inch fiber optic conduit on the north side of Los Lunas.
- Water/Sewer Extensions – extended sewer service to a property within the Village limits on Sichler Road.
- Recycling Center Solar Power Project – installed new solar system at Village Recycling Center on Don Pasqual.

Projects expected to be completed this spring or summer include:

- Huning Ranch Park Tennis Courts – six new tennis courts with appropriate lighting and landscaping at Huning Ranch Park.
- Daniel Fernandez Park – a splash pad will be available for use this summer.
- Sports Complex – shade / trellis structure around gazebo, landscaping, a trail, and ADA improvements.

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# LIBRARY, MUSEUM OFFER LOTS TO DO

Sheltering-in-place may not have been easy, especially with the Los Lunas Public Library and Museum of Heritage and Arts closed to protect people from COVID-19. But the people at the library and museum came up with creative and entertaining ways to deliver services.

Facebook posts of At Home with Ronda videos features gardening tips. It has a following with comments of how Ronda is inspiring people to plant gardens to keep fit and mentally balanced during the quarantine.

Some other library staff projects —

- Created video tutorials on accessing Mango Languages and posted on Facebook.
- Set up online gaming platform in JackboxTV where people can play against each other in Jeopardy-like games.
- Meditation music posted which was created and edited by staff member Manuel Mora.
- Posted free ebook and movie sites on Facebook.
- Posted free exercise videos from YouTube and area gyms on Facebook.
- Posted miscellaneous content of interest to Facebook patrons.



Among the Museum of Heritage and Arts projects —

- Online tutorial posted on Facebook about accessing HeritageQuest, an online genealogy database accessible with a library card.
- Digital presence created to highlight the current museum exhibit, "Wonder Women of the Rio Abajo," via Facebook.
- Researched local history and posted photos and biographies of local and state interest.
- Set up an online Quarantine Art Show to help record this historical pandemic event.
- Researched German POW camps and WWII for future exhibits and presentations.
- Researched and posted on Facebook content of interest to patrons.
- Researched and prepared for the June New Mexico Navy exhibit.



Library and museum staff researched and posted many items of interest to patrons on Facebook. The posts can be seen at <http://facebook.com/loslunaslibrary> and a blog was created to capture Facebook posts at <https://birrs3.wixsite.com/loslunaslibraryblog>. The blog has many activities, videos, and things to do.

Tens of thousands of people have been reached via the internet, says Village Library Director Cynthia Shetter. She commends the library staff for "stepping up to the plate" when the coronavirus pandemic hit Los Lunas and New Mexico.

The library's circulation and cataloguing system are web-based so staff has been able to catalogue from home.

Shetter encourages people to phone, 505 839-3850, or email, [shetterc@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:shetterc@loslunasnm.gov), any time. Leave a message day or night and Village library staff will get back to you.

# MEMORIAL DAY

Remember to honor veterans and soldiers in every branch of the military for Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, 2020. Thank these people for their service to our country.

Events usually held to commemorate Memorial Day may be cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Village offices will be closed Monday, May 25, 2020.

# FILL OUT CENSUS FORM

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 area over the next decade.

# MEMORIAL RUN AND WALK NOW 2021

The 9th annual Believe in Heroes Memorial Run and Walk has been scheduled for Saturday, June 5, 2021, after being cancelled in 2020.

The event, presented by Los Lunas Invested in Veteran Events (L.I.V.E. Inc.), has raised over \$100,000 for veteran organizations such as VFW, Blue Star Mothers, and American Legion.

Participants can choose from adult 5k/10k; rucksack 5k; 65+ 5k/10k; student 13-17; and Kid K for 12 and under.

Contact Chris at 505 480-2639 or [asais40505@qwestoffice.net](mailto:asais40505@qwestoffice.net) with questions or suggestions. Register online at [www.LosLunasVets.com](http://www.LosLunasVets.com).

# MUSEUM ART CONTEST OPEN TO ALL

The Los Lunas Museum of Heritage & Arts is sponsoring an online art contest, the Conform Project, via Facebook entries with prizes offered.

Contest entries must represent the COVID-19 circumstances, surrounding health issues, and stay-at-home / shelter-in-place orders issued because of the coronavirus.

Email entries to [micalettie@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:micalettie@loslunasnm.gov) and include the name and phone number of the entrant.

Entries may be submitted through Friday, May 22. Winners will be announced the last week of May.

One entry per person with all mediums welcome. All entries will be displayed on the museum Facebook page.

All art must be appropriate for all ages. All art is subject to approval.

For more details, call 505 252-3871 or 505 352-7720.



*Picturing Shelter-in-Place.*

# WORK ON NM HWY 314

Work has begun on a bike and pedestrian path extension on NM Hwy 314 north of NM Hwy 6 / Main Street.

Project work includes sidewalk, multipurpose path, lighting, irrigation, and landscaping on both sides of NM Hwy 314 between NM Hwy 6 / Main Street and Romeroville Road (previously known as Ellen).

The Village Council awarded Star Paving Inc. the contract for the job in the amount of \$2,671,381.92 without New Mexico Gross Receipts Tax in November 2019. The project did not start until April 2020 due to weather delays.

The project is funded through the New Mexico Department of Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) with 80% federal funds and 20% local funds.

## YOUR VILLAGE SEWER BILL

The average calculated sewer rates are reflected in the April Village utility statement.

This charge is calculated using water usage from October through February inclusive.

The meter reads for this time period result in a calculated average and are charged according to the sewer rate increase effective January 1, 2016.

Contact the utilities office at 505 839-3841 with any questions.

## FLUSH ONLY TOILET PAPER

The Village Public Works Department reminds everyone to flush only toilet paper in the toilet.

Do NOT flush sanitary napkins, paper towels, wash rags, baby wipes, unpaid bills, junk mail, a pet goldfish, or anything but toilet paper down the toilet.

# LLPD ENFORCES RULES FOR OHVS

The Los Lunas Police Department monitors and enforces the regulations for off-highway vehicles (OHV) on public roadways and private property.

Officers point out that New Mexico law prohibits the operation of OHV/ATV's on public roadways, sidewalks, ditches, the bosque, and private property without the consent from the property owner.

No municipality in Valencia County allows OHV/ATV's to be operated legally on public roadways.

OHV/ATV equipment requirements:

- Safety helmets. All off-highway motor vehicle operators and passengers under the age of eighteen shall wear safety helmets that comply with state and federal safety standards.
- Eye protection. Unless the off-highway motor vehicle has a protective windscreen, all off-highway motor vehicle operators and passengers must wear eye protection.

People who see an OHV/ATV operating illegally should call the Valencia County Regional Dispatch Center with a description of the OHV/ATV, operator, and location at 505 865-9130.

Anonymous tips can be submitted through the LLPD's "STOPit" mobile application available on all smart phones. (enter access code: loslunaspd)

Additional OHV information can be found at <http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/ohv/ohv-laws-and-rules/>.

## SPECIAL TRASH PICKUPS

Each address in the Village of Los Lunas is entitled to two special trash pickups per year.

Call 505 352-7699 to arrange for a pickup.

Items left beside the regular blue trash container are not picked up by the truck.

# DOLLAR TREE OPENS SECOND STORE

Dollar Tree, Inc., North America's leading operator of discount variety stores, has opened a second store in Los Lunas.

The new Dollar Tree store is located at 2341 Main St. SE, next to the Albertsons at the intersection of NM Hwy 6 / Main Street and NM Hwy 47.

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

Visit the Snack Zone™ at Dollar Tree where you'll find salty to sweet and everything in-between with cold beverages that range from soda and juice to energy drinks, Gatorade, milk, and a variety of waters, teas, and seltzers.

The Dollar Tree carries the office supplies needed to run a small business, classroom, school, office, or church efficiently! Stock up on pens, markers, and pencils, and find savings on essentials like paper and notepads, composition notebooks, and poster board.

The other Dollar Tree in Los Lunas is located at 701 Main St. SE at the intersection of NM Hwy 6 / Main Street and Los Lentes Road.

Dollar Tree opens at 9 a.m. Monday through Sunday, closes at 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 7 p.m. Sundays. Phone number for the Dollar Tree at 2341 Main Street SE is 505 415-7912.



## VILLAGE MUSEUM EVENTS

Presentations for the Museum of Heritage and Arts "Wonder Women of the Rio Abajo: Celebrating 100 Years of Women's Rights" have been or will be rescheduled since the museum was closed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

- Saturday, May 16, 2 – 4 p.m., "History of Flamenco and Performances" by Eva Encinas and her Flamenco dancers.
- Saturday, May 30, 2 - 4 p.m., "The Big Cover Up: Aprons" by Maggie McDonald.
- Saturday, June 20, through Saturday, August 1, "New Mexico Navy" with presentation by John Taylor at opening reception June 20 2 - 4 p.m.
- Saturday, July 18, 2 - 4 p.m. "Local Herbs Along the Rio Grande" by Elena Ayla.
- Saturday, July 25, 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. – Los Lunas Historical Tour at Luna Mansion, Teri's Sweet Shop, Huning Hacienda with lunch at Teofilo's Restaurant. \$20 for tour and lunch. RSVP: 505 352-7720.
- Saturday, August 8, through October 10. Signature Pastel Exhibit - Opening reception August 8, 2 - 4 p.m.
- Saturday, August 8, through October 10. Marilyn Drake's Private Exhibit – 2019 Juried Art Show Winner. Gallery II. Opening Reception With Pastel Show August 8, 2 - 4 p.m.

Check with the museum, 505 352-7720 or on Facebook, to find out if the museum is open or a presentation has been cancelled.

## LOCAL EVENTS

**Monday, May 25, 2020**

**Memorial Day**

Village Offices Are Closed

Monday Garbage Will Be

Picked Up Tuesday, May 26, 2020.

**Attend a Village Council Meeting**

May 28; June 11 & 25, 2020

660 Main St NW

Main Street and Don Pasqual

Meetings begin at 6:00 p.m.

These meetings may be conducted electronically,

Check the Village website  
[loslunasnm.gov](http://loslunasnm.gov)

## PAY YOUR VILLAGE UTILITY BILL ONLINE

The Village's online bill payment option can save time and provide more flexibility in paying the Village utility bill.

With an Internet connection and an email address, the utility bill can be paid online. It's fast, it's easy, and there's no need to write a check each month or find a stamp to send the payment.

The Village has partnered with Xpress Bill Pay, for online bill payment.

When you sign up for online bill payment you get a unique password to access your personal account at the Xpress Bill Pay site. Every month a reminder email is sent to let you know when your bill is online.

Then log in and view your bill, which looks like the paper statement.

Select a payment type, credit card, debit card, or electronic funds transfer, enter the information, and you're done.

It's easy, and only takes a few minutes each month.