



# VILLAGE NEWS

Small Community • Big Possibilities

Volume 24 - Number 9 - September 2020

## DRIVE-IN MOVIES IN LOS LUNAS

Drive-in movies in Los Lunas are expected to start in September!

Village staff has turned the Badlands BMX Park at the corner of NM Hwy 314 and Morris Road into the Badlands Drive-In Theater.

The drive-in theater will fill a need for additional things to do in the Village that fall under the public health orders during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Details for the drive-in theater are still being worked out including what movies will be shown and the potential charge.

There will be a minimal fee to attend the drive-in because of the licensing expense for showing movies.

Patrons will purchase tickets online through the Village website, [loslunasnm.gov](http://loslunasnm.gov). Prior purchase is necessary to track the number of cars since only about 100 vehicles will fit on the lot.

Village staff hopes to work with different groups on possibly running a concession stand at the drive-in theater.

The Village has purchased an FM transmitter so patrons can listen to the sound of the movie on a vehicle's radio.

Keep up with what's happening with the drive-in theater on Facebook with the Parks and Recreation Department.

## CURBSIDE SERVICE CONTINUES AT LIBRARY

The Los Lunas Public Library will open in phases as the New Mexico Department of Health relaxes the COVID-19 restrictions. In the meantime, the library continues to offer curbside service. If you would like to check out books, audiobooks, and videos you can place the items on hold here: <https://www.loslunaspubliclibrary.org/> and the library will arrange a time to pick up.

Looking for items to read on a mobile device? Download eBooks and eAudiobooks at New Mexico Library to Go: <https://nm.overdrive.com/> or select magazines at Flipster: <http://search.Ebscohost.com>. The user ID is s9152873 and the password is Lo5luna\$.

The library is also offering curbside printing service through their mobile print app PrinterOn.

The library staff recommends the New Mexico State Library's El Portal <https://www.elportalm.org> for students, parents and the community to access a variety of resources.

Brainfuse provides live online tutoring and homework help in English and Spanish, along with access to quizzes, lessons and standardized tests for all ages. It also has a tab for adults to access career information and resume help.

Gale Elementary has news, pictures and videos on animals, art, music, geography, health, literature, people,

geography, health, literature, plants, science, social studies, sports and technology. There is also scholarly articles, business insights, newspapers, Chilton's, health and medicine and more for adults.

Like [facebook.com/library](https://facebook.com/library) to access live story hour broadcasts with Stephanie, Cathy's Corner, At Home with Ronda and more!

For more information call 505 839-3850.

## NEW TENNIS COURTS OPEN

Six new tennis courts are now open for use at Huning Ranch Park located at the intersection of Huning Ranch Loop and Sundance Street.

The courts could also be used for pickleball.

Also in the park are a basketball court, playground, walking trail, pavilion, and dog park,

To access the park from east of I-25 head west on NM Hwy 6 and turn to go south on Huning Ranch Loop.



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# POLICE CHIEF TALKS ABOUT DEPARTMENT

The following was prepared by Village of Los Lunas Police Chief Naithan Gurule to inform the public about Village of Los Lunas Police Department procedures. This is a three-part series that started in August. The following is the second part and the third part will run in October. The entire article previously appeared in the Valencia County News-Bulletin.

## Use-of-Force Policies and Review Procedures

American law enforcement currently does not have a standard definition of use of force. Departments use varying definitions of use of force, ranging from force that is anything more than un-resisted handcuffing to believing force was used only if an injury occurred.

American law enforcement also does not have a use of force reporting standard. Agency reporting requirements range from a requirement to report un-resisted handcuffing to reporting only if an injury occurs.

Generally, use-of-force reporting requirements are similar to the definitions of use of force. The lack of both a standard definition and a reporting standard for use of force generates a lack of oversight.

Because the spectrum of reporting requirements is so broad, not every agency is sufficiently examining use of force by their police officers. The Los Lunas Police Department requires a thorough investigation when any officer(s) use force greater than un-resisted handcuffing or a firm grip. This helps us to closely monitor all officers to ensure they are utilizing force according to state law and departmental procedure.

The Los Lunas Police Department has in-house trainers in the subject of use of force to include myself, the deputy chief, and several other supervisors. The deputy chief's bachelor's degree Capstone Project was on use of force; my bachelor's degree Capstone Project and my master's degree thesis was also on use of force.

Our department conducts a yearly policy review for use of force and requires training and certification in the use of less lethal force / weapons and the use of deadly force. We track and examine uses of force by officers utilizing the Early Intervention Personnel System to alert us to potential problematic behavior.

All our officers have attended crisis intervention / de-escalation training. We have in-house instructors to teach de-escalation training. This training is ongoing and helps our officers during encounters with those who are mentally ill, intoxicated, or under the influence of drugs.

In conclusion, I feel it is important for a police department to be open to the needs and concerns of its community. To the citizens of our community, your police department is always open to new ideas to help ensure we continue to be a progressive department. .

A law enforcement agency must always strive to be cutting edge and ahead of the curve. We can't wait for something to happen before we make changes; if we do that, we've already lost.

Your Los Lunas police officers stand ready and work hard daily to ensure the safety and success of our wonderful community, and I am incredibly proud to be a part of it.

*Chief Gurule will handle Questions and Answers about the Village of Los Lunas Police Department in the October 2020 Village newsletter. In the August 2020 newsletter he discussed body-worn cameras, the early invention personnel system and the complaint system. The August 2020 newsletter is available on the Village website, [loslunasnm.gov](http://loslunasnm.gov).*



LLPD Chief Naithan Gurule

## RECREATION ADDING EVENTS, CLASSES

The Village Recreation Division is incrementally adding events, including fitness classes, into the calendar.

Some events have been and are being held virtually. August events included virtual Zumba, Summer Send Off Virtual 5k, and Virtual Senior Bingo 55+.

Recreation Division staff looks forward to eventually returning to a full calendar of events and classes. Remember that COVID-19 safe practices will be in place. If you want to check out a fitness class, you must wear a mask.

Check out the Village Recreation Division events and classes on Facebook.

# WORK CONTINUES ON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Village of Los Lunas staff continue seeking feedback from residents to update the Comprehensive Plan.

Community Development staff has created online community activities so planners can understand your goals for the Village's future development. Activities include:

**Personality Quiz** - A fun way to spend five minutes taking a magazine-style personality quiz. It provides community members with some insight into their "ideal future Los Lunas" and helps Village Planning Staff better understand how constituents want to see their community grow.

**Mapping Activity** - Much like the personality quiz, this activity helps Village Planning Staff understand how community members see the current and future Los Lunas, but in a more individualized and visual way. They can place points of interest and create polygons where different land uses are perceived.

The link to the activity page - <https://voll-2040-comprehensive-plan-update-voll.hub.arcgis.com/pages/community-engagement-activities>

Also on the activity page - Community Demographics, which are an essential part of the planning process, providing the most information about the community and helping planners better understand for whom the planners are planning.

Community meetings about the Comprehensive Plan will be held in September. Check the Village website for meeting information and creation of a community task force at [loslunasnm.gov](http://loslunasnm.gov).

If you don't have internet access call Village Community Planner Alex Ochoa at 505 352-7630 to get a print copy of the activity. Or call Alex for information or to volunteer.

**CHECK OUT FACEBOOK FOR DIFFERENT VILLAGE DEPARTMENTS**

## SHORT-TERM RENTAL REGULATIONS

The Los Lunas Village Council is scheduled to consider short-term rental regulations at its Sept. 24, 2020 meeting.

A short-term rental is a residence rented to guests for a short-term visit, much like a hotel. The rental can be one room of a house or the entire house.

Short-term rentals are a relatively new way to travel so government agencies are continuing to learn how to deal with them.

Currently the Village has no regulations regarding short-term rentals including charging lodgers tax, which is used to increase tourism in the community and ultimately economic development.

The Village Planning and Zoning Commission was scheduled to review the short-term rental regulations on Sept. 2 and vote on a recommendation to the Village Council for the Sept 24 meeting.

The Village Council usually meets in Council chambers in the administration building, 660 Main St. NW, but might be meeting virtually Sept. 24. Check the website, [loslunasnm.gov](http://loslunasnm.gov), for the agenda.

For more information about the short-term rental regulations contact Community Development Director Erin Callahan at [callahane@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:callahane@loslunasnm.gov) or 505 352-7259.

## DATA CENTER, EXPLORA SUPPORT STEAM

The Los Lunas Facebook Data Center and Explora Science Center is supporting STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art & math) for students at Los Lunas Schools.

The Facebook Data Center has funded at-home learning science kits for Los Lunas Schools students. The Data Center partnered with the Explora Science Center to put together the kits. Tara Henderson, Explora's Director of Visitor Experience, delivered 800 kits to the district.

Once the kits are in the hands of students, they can use video links, which were created to complement the kits, to assist with their projects

Through the support of Facebook, Explora also has funding to support STEAM learning and programs this fall. These can be virtual visits where students log in from their homes with their teacher.

Some of this funding is specifically for middle and elementary school students.

Explora will most likely begin scheduling these programs in September once families, students, and schools have had the time to reconnect.

## BACKPACKS DONATED

Goodlife Senior Living and Memory Care on Los Lentes in Los Lunas recently donated backpacks filled with school supplies plus a snack pack as well as senior care packs to a variety of organizations.

# WILD WEST PICKLES ARE HOT STUFF

If you have driven through the intersection of NM Hwy 314 and Main Street / NM Hwy 6 lately you should have seen a change -- Teri's Sweet Garden is now Wild West Pickles.

Owner Teri Leahigh was looking for something different and that different has been created in the store at 120 Main St. NW with Wild West Pickles.

The store interior now features a Wild West theme that goes along with the Wild West pickles and there's plenty of pickles to choose from. A sealed jar of pickles keeps for a long time and could be perfect for a quarantine.

When you select your pickles you can choose from pickles that are Hot and Savory (Your Favorite Snack with a Kick) or Tart and Sour (Pucker Up – They're Sour). Samples of the crisp homemade pickles are offered at the store.

It's been a hot summer so it's apropos to quote the website -- with an array of red and green chile spices, Wild West Pickles provides a heat you just can't beat.

Wild West Pickles has a made-to-order caramel apple bar plus a cotton candy machine and snow cone machine. The slush machine is still in the store.

Find Wild West Pickles at [wildwestpickles.com](http://wildwestpickles.com), on Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter. Open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 120 Main St. NW, phone 505 865-5834.

And ask the folks about shipping wild west pickles. Not too long ago they sent four jars to Virginia that arrived safe and tasty.



Village Administration Office: 505 839-3840

## MUSEUM EXHIBITS, ADDITION

The Los Lunas Museum of Heritage & Arts has recently featured two online exhibits on its Facebook page.

The first is works of the New Mexico Pastel Society.

The second exhibit is by Marilyn Drake, the winner of the 2019 adult Juried Art Show.

The Juried Art Show exhibit winner is awarded a private show for the public at the museum. This year the Juried Art Show winner's art exhibit is virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic and state public health orders.

Work is proceeding on an addition to the museum which will provide patio space for outdoor events and other activities associated with the museum.

Check the museum's Facebook page frequently to keep up with what is happening.

The museum re-opened at 25% capacity on August 29th. It will open with a condensed version of the Wonder Women of New Mexico exhibit.

## STAY IN TOUCH

Visit the Village website for any announcements, which will appear on the right side of the home page: <https://www.loslunasnm.gov/>

The Village also has an alert center, which can be accessed from its home page: <https://www.loslunasnm.gov/AlertCenter.aspx>.

The Village also has a COVID-19 information page: <https://www.loslunasnm.gov/1056/COVID-19-Information>.

## LOCAL EVENTS

**Monday, October 12, 2020**  
Village Offices Are Open  
Garbage Collection as Usual

**Farmers Market**  
Tuesdays 4-7 p.m.  
3447 Lambros Loop  
Across from Smith's  
Through mid-October

**Veterans Day Program**  
11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2020  
Hosted by  
Village of Los Lunas  
Los Lunas Invested in Veteran Events (LIVE), Inc.  
Blue Star Mothers of Valencia County  
New in 2020 --  
This will be a virtual event  
Watch for details

**Attend a Village Council Meeting**  
September 24 October 8 & 22  
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)

## DON'T BE SCAMMED

As our community, state and country continue to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic there are unscrupulous people who conduct scams.

Be on the lookout for people conducting those scams during the pandemic and at any other times. Individuals may knock on your door or call you on the phone making claims about testing for COVID-19.

If someone arrives at your residence claiming to be something you think they are not, do not open the door and contact the police immediately.

The Los Lunas Police Department encourages citizens to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity by calling the department at 505 865-9130.