



VILLAGE NEWS

Small Community • Big Possibilities

Volume 25 - Number 4 - April 2021

LOS LUNAS TEAM COMMITTED TO SERVING

The Village of Los Lunas Council and Executive Leadership Team are committed to serving the residents and businesses that call Los Lunas home.

The growth of our Village and attracting new businesses to the area provides jobs for our residents, and taxes to pay for the Village's needed services including road upgrades, the Public Library and Museum of Heritage & Arts, police and fire departments and outdoor amenities.

Likewise, new subdivisions also provide a steady revenue stream in property taxes to pay for needed services.

That said, please know that the team don't support development at all costs. We work hard to ensure development has the least possible impact.

Unfortunately, while construction is happening, there are disruptions including road closures and detours, noise and dust.

Many times the Village of Los Lunas is not the lead agency on a project, and /or there are other decision making bodies that must be involved.

We are sympathetic to the residents, and we are always open to input and potential solutions.

As we look to the future, let's keep our eye on the long-term and work together to get through the challenges of the short-term.

Some of the major projects the Village Council and team have worked on recently include:

- Upgrades to the library and museum
- Added solar to the fleet building and recycling centers
- Secured and distributed COVID19 funds and grants to businesses impacted negatively by the pandemic
- Upgraded various roads throughout the Village
- Worked with various developers on new home subdivisions

LITERACY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Valencia County Literacy Council is seeking volunteer tutors.

Subjects to be tutored include Early Literacy (zero to five years), Adult Basic Literacy, and English as a Second Language (not required to be bilingual).

Volunteer requirements include being 18-years old; ability to read, write and speak English; able to tutor students two to three hours a week; and able to plan and prepare for tutoring sessions,

If interested, visit the website valencialiteracy.org or contact Executive Director Cassandra Montano at edirector@valencialiteracy.org, or call 505 859-3414.

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VILLAGE RECOGNIZED AS ENERGY EFFICIENT

The Village of Los Lunas has been recognized as a Business Energy Efficiency Star Award Winner for outstanding participation in the PNM Business Energy Efficiency Programs in 2020.

The Village submitted a rebate application on behalf of the recent I-25 High Mast LED Lighting Project. PNM provided a rebate in the amount of \$23,205.30.

The decision to replace the high pressure sodium light fixtures (yellow light) with LED light fixtures will obtain a 2.18-year return on investment (ROI). In addition, the 106,614 kWh savings were enough to power 16 homes a year and removed 59 metric tons of carbon dioxide from the air with a savings of 34,970 gallons of water.

Village Public Works Director Michael Jaramillo thanked Village employee Ray Marquez for taking ownership of this project and making sure it was completed as planned. In addition, thanks to Dominic Garcia with Facility Solutions Group for providing the technical expertise and installation of these new fixtures.

Since 2007 PNM energy efficient programs have given customers almost \$100 million back in rebates and saved almost 44.5 billion kilowatt hours of electricity, enough to power approximately 660,000 homes for a year.

Helping business customers save money by becoming more energy-wise is an important part of what PNM does. These programs have kept an estimated 2.7 million metric tons of carbon dioxide out of the air and saved 1.5 billion gallons of water.



MUNICIPAL COURT

The Village has a Municipal Court which operates out of the Administration Building at 660 Main Street NW, corner of Main Street and Don Pasqual. The judge is Avilio Chavez

The responsibilities for the Village of Los Lunas Municipal Court include:

Providing adjudication of all violations of all Village Ordinances and criminal offenses

- Arraigning persons cited for Municipal Ordinances

Village Administration Office: 505 839-3840

- Accepting pleas
- Conducting trials
- Assessing fines and sentences to persons guilty of violating Municipal Ordinances
- Collecting and recording fines
- Answering questions related to the function of the court system
- Providing village administrators with information from the Court as necessary

This is the third in a series about Village offices.

FRIENDS CREATES SCHOLARSHIP

The Friends of the Los Lunas Public Library & Museum of Heritage & Art has created an annual \$500 scholarship for a student at the University of New Mexico Valencia Campus, through a \$5,000 donation to the university.

The donation will be used as an endowment with the funds invested, to ensure that the scholarship is funded year after year.

On Tuesday, March 9, the Friends of the Library turned over the check to UNM at the new outdoor pavilion of the Los Lunas Museum of Heritage & Arts.

In the picture left to right are Los Lunas Museum of Heritage & Arts museum specialist Jan Micaletti; Friends of Library treasurer Stephanie Williams; UNM Development and Donor Relations Manager Brittany Padilla; Friends of Library president Jim Rickey (rear); and Friends of Library board member Cindy Archer.



VILLAGE HAS PHASED REOPENING PLAN

The Village COVID-19 phased reopening plan is intended to define coordinated strategies for preparedness, response, and reopening actions related to COVID-19 within the Village of Los Lunas.

This phased reopening plan will support the existing New Mexico Department of Health plans by applying their principles to the specific needs and challenges of COVID-19.

The Village of Los Lunas is committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace for all employees and residents. To ensure the Village has a safe and healthy workplace, the Village Team has developed a COVID-19 phased reopening plan. The goal is to mitigate the potential for transmission of COVID-19 in workplaces and community, and that requires full cooperation among staff and management.

Only through this cooperative effort can the Village establish and maintain the safety and health of staff, workplaces, and residents.

Management and staff are responsible for implementing and complying with all aspects of this COVID-19 phased reopening plan.

COVID-Safe Practices (CSPs) and Social Distancing in the Workplace

1. Continue to encourage teleworking to the greatest extent possible.
2. Arrange workplace to provide for six feet of distance between individuals wherever possible.
3. Stagger work schedules of employees to allow for less frequent person-to-person contact in the workplace wherever possible.
4. Close common areas where personnel are likely to congregate, like breakrooms.
5. Have staff meetings or training done remotely whenever possible.
6. All Village Employees are to wear face coverings while at work when in contact with the public or co-workers.
7. Train all employees on daily cleaning station with prior approval.

AN EASY WAY TO PAY YOUR VILLAGE UTILITY BILL

The Village's online bill payment option saves time and offers more flexibility in paying the utility bill.

With an Internet connection and an email address, you can pay your utility bill online. It's fast, it's easy, and you no longer have to write a check each month or find a stamp when it's time to send in your payment.

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

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 the Village sends you a reminder email that your bill is online.

Then, log in through your Web browser and view your bill, which looks like the paper statement you're familiar with.

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

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

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Valencia County Extension Master Gardener Program, will award \$1,000 scholarships to two Valencia County residents, that are 2021 graduating high school seniors.

The scholarships will be awarded to students who, this Fall 2021, enroll on one of the NMSU campuses and into one of the following fields of study: Agricultural Science, Horticulture, Food and Nutrition, Environmental Science, Landscape Architecture and / or Design.

The deadline for the students' applications and recommendations is April 30, 2021. The applications are available through the Valencia County Extension website at <https://aces.nmsu.edu/county/valencia/>.

Contact Lynda Garvin, Agricultural Agent, @(505)565-3002 for more information.

SAFETY TIPS WHEN CROSSING THE STREET

There's plenty of opportunities to walk in the Village, points out Police Chief Naithan Gurule, that include crossing the street. Here's some safety measures,

Stop at the curb or the edge of the road if there is no curb.

Stop and look left, then right, then left again for moving cars before you step into the street.

If you see a car, wait until it goes by. Then look left, right, left again until no cars are coming.

If a car is parked where you are crossing, look to make sure there is no driver and that the car is not running. Go to the edge of the car and look left-right-left to see if cars are coming.

When no cars are coming, walk — do not run — across the road. Keep looking left-right-left for cars while you are crossing.

HOME FURNITURE FOR ALMOST 60 YEARS

In 1960 Los Lunas had a population of 1,186. In 1962 brothers Bernard and Bennie Sanchez opened Home Furniture at Main Street and Los Lentes.

Nearly sixty years later, Home Furniture continues to offer furniture for all rooms of the house or office, window coverings, flooring, appliances, electronics and more.

Bernard bought Bennie out over the years and now Bernard's daughters, Marilyn and Beverly Sanchez, run the store.

Marilyn points out that customer service is very important. The store offers free delivery with free setup, and various forms of financing.

Home Furniture is located at 704 Main Street NE, phone 505 865-9891, open Monday – Saturday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.



APRIL / MAY AT THE MUSEUM

Los Lunas Museum of Heritage & Arts is holding a private online viewing of a short film by David Ethan Ellis titled "Rudolfo Anaya's The Magic of Words."

All you will need to do is call the museum, 505 352-7720, and you will be lined up with the link for this extraordinary short film.

Los Lunas Museum Virtual Facebook events the month of April include Richard Melzer's presentation of his Casey Luna biography and "John Taylor Presents The Los Lunas Mystery Stone with special Drone features by John Taylor."

Village Administration Office: 505 839-3840

APRIL 10 THROUGH MAY 29 ART SHOW

The Los Lunas Museum of Heritage & Arts presents its 8th Annual Student Art Show, "Celebrations of New Mexico," an exhibition of outstanding student artwork from our Valencia County youth. The museum is at Main Street and Luna Avenue.

This exhibit shows the progression and artistic development of students from elementary, middle and high school.

By hosting the exhibit, The Los Lunas Art Museum gives the students the rare opportunity to see their artwork in a real museum setting!

The opening is Saturday, April 10, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with recognition awarded For Best of Show, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners.

Museum staff knows the museum experience is a bit different this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and thank you in advance for helping build a community of care so we can all enjoy a moment of joy, and inspiration art by the youth participating.

Site enhancements made to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19:

- Visitor capacity is reduced to 25% of maximum capacity.
- Hand sanitizer units stationed throughout the museum
- Masks required and temperature checks at the entrance door are required.
- Social-distancing and one-way markers will be located throughout the museum.

Please call for more information 505 352-7720.

LOCAL EVENTS

1 p.m. April 10, 2021

Virtual Interview with Noted Author Michael McGarrity Call Los Lunas Public Library For information 505 839-3850

Monday, May 31, 2021

MEMORIAL DAY
Village Offices Closed
Monday, May 31, 2021
Garbage Pick Up
Tuesday, June 1, 2021

Attend a Village Council Meeting

6 p.m. Thursday, April 8, 2021
6 p.m. Thursday, April 22, 2021
660 Main St NW
Main Street and Don Pasqual
Meeting may be conducted virtually.
Check agenda on Village website loslunasnm.gov

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Welcome to the Business Roundup where you learn about businesses in Los Lunas that want to be viable for their customers.

COVID-19 has made it a tough year. The pandemic has been deadly for people while businesses have also suffered.

Many Los Lunas businesses are struggling as they serve customers. Here's just a few:

Surreal Cereal, 244 Main St SW in Los Lunas. Surreal Cereal is a dessert bar where you can get your sweet tooth fix! Offering custom cereal bowls, milkshakes, waffles, and ice cream!

Follow Surreal Cereal on Instagram Surrealcerealm for **grand opening** updates!

Manny's Fine Pastries, 515 Main St NE, 505 865-7082.

Kid's Korner Preschool and Daycare 207 Courthouse Rd SE.

Anytime Fitness, 2510 Main St NE, 505 375-2400.

Eclipse Roofing LLC, LIC #402621, Jose Ramos Morales co-owner.. Jesús Parra-father owner. Father and son owned and operated.