



VILLAGE NEWS

Small Community • Big Possibilities

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COVID-19 VACCINE AND THE VILLAGE

Efforts to combat COVID-19 in the greater Los Lunas area started on Dec. 18, 2020, and continue today.

As of Feb. 22, 2021, the Los Lunas Fire Department estimates the department has been involved in administering nearly 5,700 doses of the Pfizer vaccine. An increase in the weekly average is anticipated in March and it is hoped it continues.

"Large distribution sites are up and running throughout Valencia County thanks to a team of professionals comprised of Los Lunas Fire Department, Valencia County Fire Department, Los Lunas Parks and Recreation, Los Lunas Schools Nursing and Security staff, Belen Schools Nursing and Security staff, and the unsung heroes from the local public health offices," said Village Fire Chief John Gabaldon.

"We have had support from several other agencies not listed and wish to thank everyone for their commitment to our community," Gabaldon said.

For more information, and to register to get a COVID-19 vaccine, go to cv.nmhealth.org/covid-vaccine.

If you or someone you know needs help with registration, you can call Los Lunas Parks and Recreation at 505 352-7661 to schedule an appointment or stop by Daniel Fernandez Gym after 5 p.m. Monday – Friday and 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Saturdays.

Assistance is also available at Los Lunas Fire Department by calling 505 866-2116 to make an appointment.

Village Mayor Charles Griego said, "I want to thank our community for all the hard work and effort to get in front of this virus. We as a Village will continue efforts to be part of a solution during the pandemic for the health and safety of all Valencia County residents."

"It is vital that we all continue COVID safe procedures and not let the virus get the best of us," said Griego.

TRAFFIC SAFETY FACTS

For more than two decades, speeding has been involved in approximately one-third of all motor vehicle fatalities. In 2017, speeding was a contributing factor in 26% of all traffic fatalities.

Speed also affects your safety even when you are driving at the speed limit but too fast for road conditions, such as during bad weather, when a road is under repair or in an area at night that isn't well lit.

Speeding endangers not only the life of the speeder, but all the people on the road around them, including law enforcement officers, points out Village Police Chief Naithan Gurule

Speeding is more than just breaking the law. The consequences are far-ranging:

- Greater potential for loss of vehicle control
- Reduced effectiveness of occupant protection equipment
- Increased stopping distance after the driver perceives a danger
- Increased degree of crash severity leading to more severe injuries

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KING OF THE HILL IN 2021

King of the Hill 2021 races have been postponed until 2022.

The races are normally held in March and include a 5k, 10k, 10k rucksack, and a half marathon.

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.

TRANSFER STATION BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

To keep Village employees and citizens safe, the transfer station is closed to the public and available by appointment only.

Village residents may contact the Solid Waste Division for an appointment by calling 505 839-5658.

BUSINESS REGISTRATION

Remember to register your business with the Village Community Development Department either as a new business or renewing your registration.

The department is in the Village Administration building, 660 Main Street NW, corner of Main Street and Don Pasqual, phone 505 839-3842, or visit the Village website loslunasnm.gov.

WATER, WASTEWATER AWARDS

The Village of Los Lunas Facility received the New Mexico Water and Wastewater Association (NMWWA) Section Presidents Award for Most Improved Facility at the NMWWS virtual awards ceremony the end of January.

Former Village employee Steven Freeman received the NMWWA Outstanding Lab Analyst Facility Operator of the Year Award.

WWTP supervisor Craig Byers received the NMWWA Caroline Martinez Achievement Award. This award is presented to an individual who best demonstrates a significant or outstanding achievement or accomplishment during that year.

Byers demonstrated his outstanding accomplishments with his leadership and management of the Village wastewater treatment facilities. Byers had operational responsibilities in the management of a new sludge management facility and the effluent load-out station.

Byers has been elected president-elect by the NMWWA.

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.

PROPERTIES NEED ATTENTION?

Junk cars, weeds, accumulations of junk or trash are eyesores and in violation of Village of Los Lunas ordinances.

The Code Enforcement Division does routine patrols through neighborhoods and commercial areas in the Village limits year round, but code enforcement officers do not always see everything.

If you would like to make a report, please contact the Code Enforcement Division via phone at 505 839-3842, email Code Enforcement Supervisor Adolph Lopez at lopeza@loslunasnm.gov, or fill out the online Code Enforcement Complaint Form on the village website, loslunasnm.gov.

ACCESS THOUSANDS OF BOOKS

The Los Lunas Public Library offers free access to thousands of e-books and audio books with New Mexico Overdrive.

Here's how you access:

1. Visit <https://nm.overdrive.com>.
2. Select Los Lunas Public Library as "Your Library".
3. Sign in using your existing library account number and pin or create a new account with your mobile number.
4. You're all set! Start browsing and checking out digital material.

Access the items you've checked out on a web browser or through the Libby App, which is free to download to your phone, tablet, or Kindle.

Instant digital cards to access Overdrive materials are available to residents within Los Lunas Public Library's legal service area only.

For assistance, please call Los Lunas Public Library at 505 839-3850.

MARTIN CHAIRS BOARD

Village Administrator Greg Martin has been re-elected chairman of the Valencia Regional Emergency Communication Center (VRECC) E911 Board.

Valencia County Sheriff Denise Vigil has been elected board vice chair.

The board approved Resolution 2021-01 Open Meetings Act which sets dates for future board meetings in 2021, including:

- April 8, 2021
- June 24, 2021
- September 30, 2021
- December 9, 2021

VILLAGE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

This is the second in a series about what makes the Village of Los Lunas work.

The Village of Los Lunas Public Works Department consists of five divisions. Each division plans and directs the implementations of goals, work objectives, and work standards within their assigned responsibilities.

The responsibilities, activities, and services include street maintenance, solid waste collection, waste water treatment, fleet maintenance, water sewer production and distribution; in addition, to street light, right-of-way, traffic lights and sidewalk maintenance.

The Public Works Department goal is to plan, develop, maintain, and construct the Village of Los Lunas infrastructure. This includes road surface management, storm water collection, water distribution and sanitary collections systems in support of current and future development and growth within the Village.

The Department is dedicated to maintaining and improving the quality of life in the Village of Los Lunas.

Public Works Department special projects are the I-25 Interchange and East/West Corridor Project.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

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

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

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

Family Dollar has been remodeled. Stop by to see the remodeled store at 411 Hwy 314 SW, phone 505 600-4011.

Minerva Canna can be found at 336 Main St. SW, phone 505 865-7809.

Haynes Cattle Company. Order grass fed beef locally and get it delivered to your door. From the pasture to your plate. Phone 505 553-9336 or order online at <http://www.haynescattlecompany.com/>.

La Michoacana De Los Lunas is a Mexican ice cream and snack shop offering tasty treats at 2510 Main St. NE, phone 505 328-7208.

Main Street Muscle and Fitness Center is family owned and easy to find at 435 Main St. SW, phone 505 865-0139.

Other business news in the Village:

The UNM Valencia Campus Workforce Training Center officially broke ground in February. The expected completion is Winter 2021 with the hope of starting classes Spring 2022.

STUDENT JURIED ART SHOW

The Los Lunas Museum of Heritage & Arts is hosting the 8th Annual Student Juried Art Exhibit with this year's theme "Celebrations of New Mexico" for children age 18 and under.

Works will be on display April 10, 2021, thru May 29, 2021.

If you know of any children who may be interested, pass this information on.

Show Awards: (in elementary, middle, and high school categories)

- First Place (cash prize)
- Second Place (cash prize)
- Third Place (cash prize)
- Juror's Choice (no cash prize)

Important Dates:

1. Deadline for entries:
Postmarked by March 26, 2021.
2. Delivery of accepted work to museum: April 1, thru April 3
3. Opening Reception:
April 10, 2021
(may be virtual.)

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Jan Micaletti, micalettie@loslunasnm.gov or Rebecca Ortiz at ortizr@loslunasnm.gov or at 505 352-7720.

Applications can be emailed, mailed, or picked up at the museum from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays thru Saturdays.

MARCH MUSEUM EVENTS

The Village Museum of Heritage & Arts is now open at 25% capacity and visitors must wear masks. Visitors may also call to set up an appointment any time from Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 505 352-7720.

Mark your Calendars - The new Los Lunas Museum Pavilion will be opening one the capacity limit is raised.

Many museum presentations are available on the museum Facebook page.

All the month of March "Unusual and Strange Signs" by Richard Melzer will be on the museum's Facebook page. Visitors may view at their convenience.

March 6 - Rudolfo Anaya and "The Magic of Words." A short film presented virtually on Facebook, Filmed by David Ethan Ellis. (Will run presentations the complete month of March once posted on Saturday March 6)

March (Date TBD). Author Richard Melzer's presentation and book signing of "Casey Luna, A Colorful Life in Business, Politics, and Motor Sport Championships."

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

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

The scholarships will be awarded to students who, this Fall 2021, enroll on an NMSU campus 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.

LOCAL EVENTS

Friday April 2, 2021

GOOD FRIDAY

Village Offices Closed

Friday, April 2, 2021

Garbage Pick Up

Thursday, April 1, 2021

Attend a Village Council Meeting

6 p.m. Thursday, March 11, 2021

6 p.m. Thursday, March 25, 2021

660 Main St NW

Main Street and Don Pasqual

Meeting may be conducted virtually.

Check agenda on Village website loslunasnm.gov

DRIVE-IN THEATER OPEN

The Los Lunas drive-in theater is open.

The number of cars at the drive-in theater is limited due to mass gathering restrictions

The drive-in theater is located at the former Badlands BMX Park on NM Hwy 314. Construction was completed in November.

A variety of issues prevented the drive-in theater for being completed sooner than that. Village employees worked on the project.