



# VILLAGE NEWS

Small Community • Big Possibilities

Volume 25 - Number 10 - November 2021

## LL FACEBOOK EXPANDING, RESTORING WATER

The Facebook Los Lunas Data Center is expanding by two new buildings.

Once completed, the nearly 3.8 million-square-foot data center will represent an investment of nearly \$2 billion and will support more than 400 operational jobs.

And Facebook officials have announced a new goal to restore 200% of the water the data center consumes into New Mexico watersheds.

To date, Facebook has invested in a total of five local water restoration projects. In 2020, these projects restored approximately 64 million gallons of water in New Mexico.

Through these projects, the Los Lunas Data Center already restores more water than it consumes. As Facebook grows, officials want to make sure the organization is doing its part to replenish New Mexico's water resources through partnerships with local environmental organizations.

Facebook is also partnering with Lokket and Valencia County to bring free Wi-Fi to up to 900 homes in the area.

A \$225,000 grant will be used to deploy and install hardware in homes throughout Valencia County and place distribution points on fire stations, schools, and other buildings.

Since 2017, Facebook has provided over \$2.3 million in grants and donations to local organizations.

Facebook will continue to invest in new wind and solar resources in the state, adding two new solar projects to the Facebook portfolio—a 190MW project in Valencia County and a 50MW project in Sandoval County. That brings the Facebook investment to 10 new renewable energy projects across six counties in New Mexico.

During construction, these projects supported 1,400 construction jobs and provided \$120 million in construction labor income.

Facebook officials say Los Lunas has been a terrific location for the data center since breaking ground five years ago.

During that time, the following has been accomplished - erected nearly 20,000 tons of steel, poured 126,792 cubic yards of concrete, recycled 88% of construction waste, and had 1,100 construction workers on site at peak.

Facebook officials express gratitude to the Village of Los Lunas, Valencia County, and the State of New Mexico, and all the community partners who have worked with Facebook.

The officials "look forward to a continued strong and fruitful partnership for years to come."

## VILLAGE COUNCILORS ELECTED

The following were elected as Village of Los Lunas councilors at the Nov. 2, 2021, election: Christopher S. Ortiz, District One; Cruz Muñoz, District Three; and James T. Runyon, District Four.

District One and District Three terms are four years. District Four is for the remaining two years of a four-year term. Terms start in January 2022.

## LIGHT UP THE VILLAGE

It's that time again to show your community spirit and what Los Lunas is all about!

The Village of Los Lunas Community Development Department is hosting its fourth annual Light Up the Village contest and invites every residence and business within the Village limits to participate in this annual event.

Get your family, neighbors, employees, and pets ready to decorate for the holidays. The best display will win a unique and special prize representing your community spirit.

2021 is your time to shine!

As details become final, keep an eye on the official Village social media sites and [loslunasnm.gov](http://loslunasnm.gov) for more information.

Contact Cynthia Lavato with Community Development at 505 839-3842 with questions.

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## GAMBOA, HUNING JOIN VILLAGE

Kristen Gamboa has joined the Village as Senior Economic Developer following the retirement of Ralph Mims, and Louis F. Huning Jr. is now Museum Specialist at the Village Museum of Heritage & Arts with the departure of Jan Micaletti.

Gamboa has plans to assist in general growth of the Village as pandemic-related restrictions lift across the state.

In an interview with the Valencia County News-Bulletin, Gamboa said she wants to grow the local economy through partnerships with nearby communities, such as Belen, Isleta Pueblo, Rio Communities, and even as far south as Socorro.

Gamboa is putting a special focus on social media — a COVID-friendly way to support local businesses, especially mom-and-pop shops.

Gamboa said she looks forward to being able to advocate for Los Lunas businesses through physical and in-person promotions thanks to fewer pandemic-related restrictions.

Gamboa grew up near the Rio Grande in El Paso, Texas, before heading to Albuquerque to attend the University of New Mexico. She graduated in 2011 with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a focus on International Management.

She has worked in retail leadership and community organizing as well as with the New Mexico Partnership, an economic development position for the state.

Huning is a history buff who is particularly interested in the Civil War as well as the Spanish Colonial Era in New Mexico.

His love of history comes from his family who settled in the area in the 1850s. Among Huning's tasks is planning the 2022 exhibits for the museum.

He looks forward to his work with the museum and the people involved with the museum.

Huning grew up in Los Lunas and has a degree from the University of New Mexico.

## BALLOONS GLOW AT JUBILEE LOS LUNAS

Jubilee Los Lunas hosted the Darth Vader and Master Yoda balloons along with other hot air balloons from the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta for the second annual Jubilee Balloon Glow on Oct. 5, 2021.

The event benefited the New Mexico Youth Foundation and Alliance to help local kids with scholarships, summer and athletic camp and tuition.

The Darth Vader and Master Yoda balloons have been a favorite at the Balloon Fiesta. Pilot Benoit Lambert has been flying the Darth Vader Balloon since 2007.

The Master Yoda Balloon is flown by pilot Michel Lambert and premiered in 2014. The Storm Troopers, Legion and Rebels joined Darth Vader and Master Yoda at Jubilee Los Lunas.

"It is a once in a lifetime experience," said Nick Blea, Jubilee's developer. "At Jubilee it is all about living the best years of your life and amazing events like this make it easy."

Visit Jubilee at 500 Jubilee Blvd, Los Lunas, NM 87031, or view the website at [www.jubileeloslunas.com](http://www.jubileeloslunas.com).

## CRAFTY LADIES HOLIDAY BAZAAR

The Crafty Ladies of Peralta Methodist Church will hold the 42nd Holiday Bazaar on Friday, Nov. 19, 2021, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 20, 2021, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the church, 25 Wesley Road in Peralta (off Hwy 47).

Many holiday decorations and home decor items will be sold, along with jams / jellies and much more. The church phone number is 505 865-9334. No tablespace will be rented.

## VILLAGE HOLIDAY PARADE

The Village of Los Lunas Electric Light Parade will be Saturday, Dec. 4, 2021, starting at 6 p.m. and traveling on Main Street / NM Hwy 6 from the area around Smith's Shopping Center to the intersection with Don Pasqual.

Registration for floats (free) for the parade now being accepted. See this web page for more info: <https://www.loslunasnm.gov/551/Christmas-Parade>.

## NON-PERISHABLES BEING COLLECTED

Members of the Los Lunas Fire Department are collecting non-perishables for food baskets for those in need at Thanksgiving and Christmas time.

Drop off what you can give at fire station #2, 465 Sand Sage NW. Any questions, contact Vivian Torrez at 505 866-2116.

## BASKETBALL COURTS, I-25 INTERCHANGE ON PROJECTS LIST

Work continues on more than 60 projects in the Village of Los Lunas. There are several major projects including the I-25 Interchange/East-West Corridor. Other projects could be called minor such as basketball courts or signage.

The public may not always see projects. Examples are improving computer technology or the wastewater treatment plant.

The Village is not always responsible for projects such as the Courthouse Road and NM Hwy 314 realignment project (state), or miscellaneous fiber optic line installation projects (private companies).

Project funding comes from a variety of sources including loans, the Village budget, grants, and state funds. Several current projects were featured in the August and October 2021 Village Newsletter. Here are more:

- Park Improvements (construction starting soon)
  - New Basketball Court at Chester Skinner Park
  - New Basketball Court and Playground at Artistic Park
- Signs on new bridge over Rio Grande (aiming to be installed by end of 2021)
- I-25 Interchange / East-West Corridor — Design (approaching 60% design complete)
- New Water / Sewer Offices and Well 7 Arsenic Treatment Facility (being built at the same location)
- Huning Ranch Loop East Sewer Line Interceptor (approximately 85% complete).

To stay up to date about current and upcoming Village projects visit [loslunasnm.gov/list.aspx](http://loslunasnm.gov/list.aspx), where you can sign up to receive regular updates and alerts. Village newsletters are also on the site.

## WORKFORCE TRAINING CENTER NEARS COMPLETION

Construction of the University of New Mexico Valencia Workforce Training Center, located on Huning Ranch Loop East, is nearing completion.

The training center will offer classes and training focused on manufacturing and various industries, such as computer-assisted drafting and design, as well as general academics, like business writing classes.

Soft skills will be a large component of what is offered at the training center. It will also have the facilities to help companies with training.

Funding for the center was approved during the 2019 legislative session and then the legislation was signed by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham.

The anticipated 18,000 square foot building is constructed on a nine-acre site donated to UNM-Valencia by Huning Partnership LLC.

UNM-Valencia Chief Executive Officer Alice Letteney said that the site is ideal because it is near an area of Los Lunas housing, manufacturing, and industrial businesses.

Letteney said one of the good things about the location is that programs can be taken to the businesses so that people learn in familiar surroundings.

The building will be one story with extensive landscaping on the site.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

*This is another in a continuing series about departments in the Village of Los Lunas.*

The Village Community Development Department includes the Planning Division, Economic Development Division, and Code Enforcement Division.

The department issues business registrations, building permits, animal licenses, and assists with the application and public hearing process for all zoning and subdivision applications.

The department also responds to complaints for animal control and code enforcement issues.

In addition, it supports economic development, long range planning, and ordinance updates, and spearheads the Los Lunas Roads Less Traveled tourism initiative.

Previous Village newsletters with information about departments are available at [loslunasnm.gov](http://loslunasnm.gov).



*"Milagros" 2021 Best of Show*

## JURIED ART SHOW AT MUSEUM

The 9th annual Juried Art Show, Miracles & Remedies, is on display through Jan. 9, 2022, at the Village Museum of Heritage & Arts, located under the downtown water tower at Main Street / NM Hwy 6 and Luna Avenue.

Awards presented for work entered:

- Best of Show – Viola Luna for her wood piece "Milagros."
- First Place – Steve Bundy for his photograph "José's Remedios y Yerbas."
- Second Place – Laura Sanchez for her watercolor "Fevers and Headaches."
- Third Place – Nicole Dauk for wood burning "Healing Within."
- Honorable Mention – Linda Boatwright for her pastel "Fall Miracle."
- Honorable Mention – Bill Killough for his wood burning "Summer Solace."
- Honorable Mention – Margaret Hein for her oil "Memento Mori."
- Honorable Mention – Marilyn Smiel for her oil "Medieval Apothecary."

## THE ADOPT-A-COP PROGRAM

The Adopt-a-Cop program is designed to help bridge the gap between citizens and police officers by promoting positive relationships and perceptions of local law enforcement.

The program is all over the country including Los Lunas.

Arlene Sanchez keeps the Adopt-A-Cop program going in Los Lunas by assigning a family, group, or individual to a Los Lunas Police Department officer or civilian employee.

Participants "meet and greet" their adoptee to learn more about them. Participants can show support by delivering notes of encouragement and thanks for service to the community. Also welcomed are snacks, bottled water, pens / pencils, and note pads to take on patrol.

If you would like to help bridge the gap with our men and women in blue, call Arlene Sanchez at 1 609 124-4307 or email [mommomlove1@yahoo.com](mailto:mommomlove1@yahoo.com).



## SELF STORAGE OPENS SECOND LOCATION

Los Lunas Self Storage has opened its second location at 290 Los Morros Rd NE just down the road from the soon-to-be open Maverik gas station / convenience store.

It is the first-class self-storage facility built in Valencia County in the last 20 years. It features wide, paved drive aisles, gated keypad access, 24-hour video surveillance, and an on-site manager.

Storage units can be rented online and rent can be paid online. There are no administrative fees, no deposits, and rents are month-to-month.

Many unit sizes are available to accommodate all storage needs.

Office hours are Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; phone 505 595-6934; [www.Loslunasselfstorage.com](http://www.Loslunasselfstorage.com).

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

COVID is still affecting businesses. Here's a few businesses to patronize. Remember to shop in Los Lunas.

### Grandin Testing Lab, Inc.

11 Robert's Circle, Office: 505-865-7949. Grandin Testing Lab, Inc. (GTL) performs a wide variety of materials testing procedures on a wide variety of projects. GTL has performed work on over 5,700 jobs and has been rooted in the local community for over 27 years. GTL has highly certified technicians prepared to handle any needs for services including concrete, soil, aggregate, asphalt, and special inspections.

**Rainbow Candy Shop/Dulceria**  
1930 Main Street NE Suite 4, 505 453-0633. Candy, pinatas, and party favors!

**Nutrition Dynamix**  
1400 Main St. SW, 601 260-1466. Offering healthy meal replacement shakes.

## LOCAL EVENTS

### Veterans Day

November 11, 2021  
Village Offices Are Closed  
Garbage Pick Up for  
Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021  
is Friday, November 12, 2021

### Friday, Nov. 19, 2021, 6 p.m.

Full Moon Run / Walk  
Two mile guided / unguided hike / run  
El Cerro de Los Lunas Trailhead  
Free refreshments after  
For more information [loslunsnm.gov](http://loslunsnm.gov)  
Or call 505 352-7662

### November 25 & 26, 2021

Village Offices Closed  
Thanksgiving Holiday  
Garbage pick up for  
Thursday Nov. 25, 2021 is  
Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2021  
Garbage pickup for  
Friday, Nov. 26, 2021 is  
Monday, Nov. 30, 2021

### December 24 & 25, 2021

Village Offices Closed for  
Christmas Holiday  
Garbage pick up for  
Friday Dec. 24, 2021  
is Thursday, Dec. 23, 2021

### Attend a Village Council Meeting

6 p.m. Thursday, November 4 & 18, 2021  
6 p.m. Thursday, December 2 & 16, 2021  
660 Main St NW  
Main Street and Don Pasqual  
Meetings will be virtual and in-person.  
Check Village website for agenda  
[loslunsnm.gov](http://loslunsnm.gov).

**Happy Thanksgiving**

Please remember to avoid

**Drain Disasters**

### Be kitchen sink smart:

Water that contains fats, cooking oils, and grease  
can clog your drain, pipes and sewer system.

Use paper towels to wipe grease and food  
particles off of your pots, pans and plates,  
and then dispose of these in the trash.

**Thank You,**

Village of Los Lunas

The Wastewater  
Treatment Plant  
[loslunsnm.gov](http://loslunsnm.gov)