



# VILLAGE NEWS



Small Community • Big Possibilities

Volume 27 - Number 4 - April 2023

## EARTH DAY CELEBRATION SET FOR APRIL 22

On Saturday, April 22, 2023 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. the Friends of the Los Lunas Library will present an "Earth Day Celebration" at the Museum of Heritage & Arts, corner of Main Street / NM Highway 6 and Luna Avenue, under the downtown water tower.

Live music, arts and crafts, a silent auction, food truck, and more will be available.

This will coincide with a student art show at the museum.

Tickets are on sale at the library and museum for \$10 per person. Children (up to age 18) admitted free.

See the flyer about the event: <https://rb.gy/x2aasg>.

For more information e-mail [llfriendsoflibrary@gmail.com](mailto:llfriendsoflibrary@gmail.com)

Among the items for the Auction are:

- Crocheted (shell stitched) baby blanket made of acrylic yarn
- Several gift baskets: <https://tinyurl.com/skyju5x2>
- Another gift basket: <https://tinyurl.com/2mkw4hh9>
- Fitness themed gift basket: <https://tinyurl.com/bdw9wvr4>

## AUTHOR HILLERMAN IN LOS LUNAS

On Saturday, May 13, 2023, at 2 p.m. the Friends of the Los Lunas Library and Museum of Heritage & Arts will host New Mexico author Anne Hillerman, who will talk about her work and her newest book "The Way of the Bear", and answer questions from the audience.

Copies of her books will also be available for purchase.

This event will be held at the Los Lunas Transportation Center Auditorium (next to the Rail Runner station).

## MUSEUM EXHIBIT

The Los Lunas Museum at 251 Main St. SE (under the downtown water tower) is now hosting "Wildlife of the Middle Rio Grande", an exhibit of the work of photographer Christopher Tafoya.

All photographs are available for sale. See this Facebook post: <https://rb.gy/duyzoj>.

For more information call the museum at 505 352-7720. Museum open Tuesday thru Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES

Little free libraries are now located at:

- Daniel Fernandez Park, 1103 NM Highway 314
- Los Cerritos Park, Los Cerritos Road and Emilio Lopez NW
- Los Lunas Public Library, 460 Main St. NE
- Mesa Cruzada near Cruzada Court

Books are free from the Little Free Library but people who take a book are asked to leave a book.

## JOB HUNTING

Need help finding a job in the community?

Call Jonna Toledo, a Career Specialist with Goodwill in Los Lunas. 505 944-0289 or 505 450-4315.

Jonna works by appointment and helps with job leads, electronic applications, resumes, and interview talking points.

This is a FREE service! Contact Jonna if you would like help securing a job.

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## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS OF THE VILLAGE'S AUDIT

The Village's finances are audited every year with the Village Council presented financial statements also every year.

A representative from the auditing firm, Pattillo, Brown & Hill L.L.P. presented Fiscal Year 2022 statements to the Village Council in March as required by Section 2.2.2.10.M.(4) of 2.2.2 NMAC Audit Rule 2021 Requirements for Contracting and Conducting Audits of Agencies.

Financial highlights of the report show that as of Fiscal Year 2022, the village reported a total of \$255 million in assets which is composed of: cash, \$6 million; investments, \$1million; receivables \$18 million; capital assets \$163 million; and deferred outflows, \$7 million.

The assets of the village have increased approximately \$35 million, the primary reason for the increase is cash increasing \$13 million and capital assets increasing \$26 million in FY22.

Village revenues increased approximately \$14 million in FY22 due to an increase in gross receipts taxes of approximately \$11 million.

In FY22 expenditures increased approximately \$5 million because of the adjustment related to Public Employees Retirement Association funding and RHC actuarial reports which were approximately \$3 million higher than the amount in FY21.

There was also an increase in public safety of approximately \$2 million.

Village liabilities for FY22 total \$83 million comprised of the following: accounts payable, \$6 million; accrued, \$2 million; long term debt, \$36 million; net pension liabilities, \$17 million; net OPEB liability, \$10 million; and deferred inflows \$12 million.

Village Administration Office: 505 839-3840

## VILLAGE PLANNING AND ZONING

The Village of Los Lunas Planning and Zoning Commission is the appointed board of five members that hears land use cases in a public forum for the Village.

The Commission can review and decide on some matters relating to planning and zoning within the Village. However, other land use cases, such as zone changes, are recommended for approval or denial by the Commission to the Village Council for final approval or denial.

Each Commissioner is appointed by the Mayor of Los Lunas and affirmed for a two-year term by the Village Council. There is one at-large member and four district members, each representing an individual Village district.

All Commission districts follow the same boundaries as the Village Council districts.

Planning and Zoning Commission hearings are generally held on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Village Council Chambers. For meeting information, please visit the Village Calendar.

Planning and Zoning Commissioners are: Michael Montoya, at large; District One, Vacant; District 2 Andy Gomez, Chairman; Daniel Salas, District 3; Marcia Spencer, District 4.

## 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.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Foot & Ankle Specialists

311 Los Lunas Blvd SE  
Los Lunas, NM 87031  
505-391-0788

<http://newmexicofootspecialists.com/>

Call, visit us online, or simply stop by the clinic!

<https://goo.gl/maps/EfCSenrygTo9UWGQ8>

### Get your gardening supplies locally!

#### RAKS Building Supply, Inc.

108 Carson Drive  
505 865-1100

#### Route 66 Ace Hardware

2510 Main St NE Suite B  
505 508-4073

## BELIEVE IN HEROES RUN

The 11th Annual Believe in Heroes Memorial Run fundraising running event begins at 7:30 a.m. Saturday, June 3, 2023.

This annual 5k, 10k race and kids k fun run begins and ends at the Starlight Theater parking lot on Huning Ranch Loop.

The event is presented by L.I.V.E., Inc., (Los Lunas Invested in Veteran Events) and raises funds supporting various veteran organizations in Los Lunas and Valencia County such as the VFW, Blue Star Mothers, American Legion, Military Order of the Purple Heart, and Wounded Warrior Project to name a few.

The total elevation gain on the 10K course, which starts at 7:30 a.m. June 3, is 141 feet to the highest point above Los Lunas. The course circulates through the Huning Ranch neighborhood and then back east ending at the Starlight theatre.

The 5K course has a total elevation gain of 85 feet. This course loops through the Huning Ranch neighborhood. This is a fast course finishing back at the Starlight Theater. Rucksack participants run or walk with a backpack weighing a minimum of 35 pounds.

The children's fun run event takes place right in front of the Starlight Theater.

Past events have raised over \$125,000 for veteran programs.

After the race refreshments will be available for participants.

Awards will be presented to the male and female top three finishers of each age group in ten-year increments.

You can register online at [www.LosLunasVet.com](http://www.LosLunasVet.com) or call Chris at 505 480 2639 or e-mail [40505@gmail.com](mailto:40505@gmail.com) with any questions or suggestions.

On Veterans Day, November 11, 2023, New Mexico L.I.V.E. hosts an event commemorating the date and honoring Valencia County veterans.

Support is always needed with all these events.

## OVER 300 CHALLENGE EL CERRO

Nearly 350 runners registered for the seventh annual King of the Hill Race making the event the biggest race in the event history.

There are four events to the race -- 5K, 10K, 10K rucksack race and the half marathon.

In the 5K the top three finishers were Isaac Gonzales of Los Lunas, Mario Hernandez, Albuquerque; and Sergio Jurrado, Los Lunas.

In the 10k the top three finishers were Ryan Roanhorse, Ryan Lasadee, and Matthew Hubbard, all of Albuquerque, In the half marathon, the top three finishers were Jeff Cuno, Patrick Goschke and Brett Winegar.

Rucksack top three were Clifford Matthews of Albuquerque, Irvin Vasquez of Los Lunas, and Demetria Vasquez of Albuquerque.

Village Administration Office: 505 839-3840

## OPEN SPACE RECEIVES AWARD

The Village of Los Lunas Open Space Division is among 47 organizations to receive an Outdoor Equity Fund award in 2022. The division was granted \$15,995 to spend on four separate outdoor recreational adventures.

The intent of the award is to teach youth what it means to be stewards of the land.

The Outdoor Equity Fund was created to enable all New Mexican youth equitable access to the outdoors. It is sponsored by the New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Division, a division of the New Mexico Economic Development Department.

The grant supports programming that provides outdoor experiences that foster stewardship and respect for New Mexico's land, water, and cultural heritage.

For many, all 18 and younger, these transformational outdoor experiences are the first time they've participated in these kinds of outdoor recreation.

Two excursions have been held so far – a fishing event and a skiing excursion, both to accommodate about 20 kids.

These trips include all associated costs, including transportation, meals, equipment and lodging when appropriate. Los Lunas Open Space personnel accompany the youth and help with the educational aspects needed for each activity while encouraging the kids to become stewards of the outdoors.

Village staff work with teachers and counselors at schools to help choose who should go.



## THE ORIGIN OF THE NAME LOS LUNAS

"A Cultural & Economic History of Los Lunas" was written by Los Lunas Library and Museum Director Cynthia Shetter and can be found on the Village's website [loslunasnm.gov](http://loslunasnm.gov). This newsletter will run excerpts from Shetter's writing.

The Village of Los Lunas is located within the San Clemente land grant, one of the oldest land grants made in the Río Abajo, or lower Río Grande valley of New Mexico. Mateo de Sandoval y Manzanares was granted the tract of land before the expulsion of the Spanish during the Pueblo Revolt of 1680.

Shortly after Don Diego de Vargas re-established Spanish authority in Nuevo México in 1693, the Manzanares heirs returned to Nuevo México and his daughter Ana de Sandoval y Manzanares, widow of Blas de la Candelaria, successfully petitioned Governor Felix Martinez to grant her the land in 1716 (U.S. House of Representatives, 1882).

Soon after the restoration of her land claim, Ana de Sandoval y Manzanares named her son Feliciano "Félix" Candelaria as her heir to the land, which he maintained for eighteen years.

Although the grant was originally awarded to the Manzanares family, Los Lunas derives its name from Domingo de Luna a descendant of Capitán Diego de Luna. Capitán Luna was a native born New Mexican and described as tall, with a long face and long straight hair (Chavez F. A., 1954).

Capitán Luna was sixteen years old at the time of the 1680 Pueblo Revolt and fled with family members to the exile settlement of Corpus Christi de Ysleta just south of El Paso. He was listed as a member of La Cofradia de La Conquistadora (Brotherhood of the Conqueress) in 1689 and in 1692 he was ordered to assemble his men for the first Entry of Vargas into New Mexico (Chavez F. A., 1954).

In 1697, his daughter, María Gregoria Luna (1669 – 1746), had a son Antonio de Luna who is believed to have been the illegitimate son of Cristóbal Baca II (1635 – 1697) (Shetter, 2021) (HGRCNM, 2019).

Antonio de Luna (1697 – 1729) married María Jacinta Peláez in 1718 in Albuquerque and they had seven children. Baptismal records from San Augustine de Isleta place their son Domingo de Luna (1719 – 1773) in the San Clemente area as early as 1747 (FamilySearch, 2020). Domingo de Luna began acquiring portions of the San Clemente grant in 1747 and 1748 from Bonafacio Jollanga (Joyanga) (Twitchell, 1914) and Domingo's wife, María Josefa Lucero, inherited a small parcel of cultivated land near Tomé from her parents. The 1786 estate records for Domingo's son, Antonio de Luna (1748 – 1779), who was killed interstate at the hands of Apache on the ninth day of June 1779, is one of the earliest known references depicting the area as Los Lunas.

The document reads: "a tract of land in the said place of Los Lunas, the boundaries which are on the North lands of Los Lentos, on the South lands of Bernardo Padilla, on the East the Río del Norte [Río Grande], on the west the Río Puerco (Arteaga, 1784)". The court proceedings went on to state that on September 4, 1784, Miguel Lucero, a relative of Antonio de Luna's mother, was granted guardianship of Antonio's heirs, José Enrique, María Josefa, Antonio de la Encarnación, and Jose Bruno.

## OPEN HOUSE AT UNM CENTER

On Thursday, April 27, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., the UNM Valencia Workforce Training Center at 1020 Huning Ranch Loop (east) across from La Vida Felicidad, will hold an open house.

Everyone is welcome. It will include tours, snacks, information sessions, and more.

Link to a flyer about this event: <https://tinyurl.com/35m3sbj4>

For more info send e-mail to [mvoeager01@unm.ed](mailto:mvoeager01@unm.ed).

Village Administration Office: 505 839-3840

## LOCAL EVENTS

### Monday May 29, 2023

Memorial Day  
All Village offices are closed  
Monday garage pickup on  
Tuesday, May 30, 2023

### NEW LIBRARY HOURS

Monday – Saturday  
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

### Los Lunas Family History Center Genealogy Center

Open Tuesday & Thursdays  
9 a.m. – noon  
Wednesdays 6 – 8:30 p.m.  
Call 505 865-7305 for appointment.  
Located at 160 James St, NW

### Monday June 2

9:30 – 1:30 p.m.  
9th Annual Family Expo  
Daniel Fernandez Youth Center  
Food Face Painting Rock Wall  
Music Community Resources Youth  
Program Scholarships  
Daniel Fernandez Youth Center  
Sponsored in part by United Way of  
Central NM

### Attend a Village Council Meeting

6 p.m. Thursday, April 13 & 27  
6 p.m. Thursday, May 11 & 25  
660 Main St NW  
Main Street and Don Pasqual  
Meetings will be virtual and  
in-person.  
Check Village website for agenda  
[loslunasnm.gov](http://loslunasnm.gov).

## SPECIAL TRASH PICKUPS

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

Call 505 839-5658 to arrange it; allow several days for a pickup.

Items that are left beside the regular blue trash container on your regular pickup day will not be picked up by the truck.

You also have the option to take trash items to the village transfer station on the north side of NM Hwy 6, west of Jubilee.

See this web page for very detailed information: <https://www.loslunasnm.gov/799/Los-Lunas-Transfer-Station>.

[www.loslunasnm.gov](http://www.loslunasnm.gov)