



# VILLAGE NEWS

Small Community • Big Possibilities

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## 2022 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

### Is my drinking water safe?

The 2022 Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report), as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), is now available on the Village website, [loslunasnm.gov](http://loslunasnm.gov).

This report provides details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by the New Mexico Environment Department / Drinking Water Bureau (NMED/DWB).

It is a comprehensive report of last year's water quality for the Village of Los Lunas and reflects how committed the Village of Los Lunas is to provide this information so that you are aware of the contaminants in your drinking water.

### Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers and/or EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants.

More information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). Your health is important to the Village of Los Lunas so please contact a physician with any health concerns.

### Where does my water come from?

The Village of Los Lunas provides excellence in quality and service to customers at a minimal cost while protecting the environment and exceeding all quality standards. The Village is supplied by ground water pumped from the Santa Fe Group aquifer in the Albuquerque Basin by four wells located within the Village of Los Lunas.

Daily and weekly operations include administration, 24-hour on call emergency response, maintenance and inspection of water/sewer utility distribution and collection systems and water treatment facilities, laboratory sampling, and fiscal reports.

## LIBRARY PURCHASES eBOOK PLATFORMS

The Los Lunas Public Library has purchased two eBook platforms in an effort to provide access to reading materials for the youth and teens of the area.

While patrons can download eBooks and eAudibooks at New Mexico Library to Go: <https://nm.overdrive.com/>, the selection for youth and teens has been limited.

To address this limitation, the Los Lunas Public Library purchased access to Tumble Book Library and Teen Book Cloud.

Tumble Book Library is an online database of over 1,100 titles for grades K – 6, and includes unique animated, talking picture books, graphic novels, read-along chapter books, National Geographic videos, non-fiction books, playlists, as well as books in Spanish and French.

The collection is available online around the clock. No downloads, no waiting! You can access at <https://www.teenbookcloud.com/autologin.aspx?u=loslunas&p=libra>.

For more information on accessing any of these databases, contact the library at 505 839-3850.

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## LLPD AUTO THEFT UNIT SUCCESSFUL

The Village of Los Lunas has grown over the last decades and the Police Department, with its officers, has worked hard to deal with concerns and problems occurring because of the growth.

The Department produces yearly reports detailing how officers keep citizens safe. The following is the second excerpt from this report in this newsletter. Both the July 2023 excerpt and the 2022 report may be found on the Village website, [loslunasnm.gov](http://loslunasnm.gov).

Los Lunas Police Chief Frank E. Lucero points out that when the Los Lunas Police Department established its auto theft unit in 2019 the primary mission was to reduce the incidence of vehicle theft and increase the apprehension of auto thieves using proactive methods and educating the public.

With the assistance of several agencies, including Albuquerque Police Department auto theft, New Mexico joint counter drug task force, the National Insurance Crime Bureau, and Lincoln County Sheriff's Department, the Los Lunas Police Department's Auto Theft Unit has not only been very successful in the apprehension of auto thieves but also in vehicle recovery.

The Auto Theft Unit uses several bait vehicles which are deployed in various areas throughout Los Lunas and Valencia County. Throughout the year the Auto Theft Unit conducts a variety of auto theft tactical operations.

Through auto theft investigations conducted by the Auto Theft Unit, the Police Department recovers stolen vehicles, trailers, boats, and construction equipment, and also arrests people through drug and weapons violations.

For the year 2022 the Los Lunas Police Department received reports about 101 stolen vehicles. Also in 2022 the Police Department made 51 arrests of individuals in stolen vehicles. The auto theft unit conducts free vehicle VIN inspections for the public as well as hosts free Vehicle Identification Numbers etching events.

If you're interested in having your VIN etched on your glass call the Police department at 505 539-3855.

The Los Lunas Police Department etches the VIN on the fixed glass of a vehicle with this with very small numbers. Etching that number on the glass helps prevent theft because all the glass has to be replaced when stolen vehicles to be sold. The Police Department holds periodic events which can help vehicles from being stolen.

## PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST HEAT

The temperatures have been soaring this year so it is time to increase public awareness of the leading safety and health risks that increase during the summer months thus decreasing injuries and deaths at homes and workplaces.

Anyone can be at risk for a heat-related illness.

Follow these safety tips, like taking extra breaks and drinking lots of water. Moderate your exposure to heat.

Take extra steps to avoid being outside for long periods in the sun and heat, especially during the peak hours of the strongest ultraviolet (UV) rays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Dehydration is a safety concern during summer months. Be sure to drink enough liquids throughout the day, as our bodies can lose a lot of water through sweat.

Use a sunscreen 30 minutes before going out. Reapply sunscreen every couple hours after swimming or working in the heat. Limit sun exposure during the peak of the day.

Stay in shade when possible. Do not leave children or pets in vehicles.

Remember to always have adult supervision for children whether in the pool or playing around water. Having someone to help is essential if an emergency should occur.



## NOVEMBER ELECTION

An election will be held Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2023, for Mayor of the Village of Los Lunas, Municipal Judge, and Village Council seats in districts Two and Four.

Filing day for candidates is August 29, 2023.

The election will be conducted by the Valencia County Bureau of Elections.

Contact the Valencia County Bureau of Elections at 505 866-2080 for more information.

## JUBILEE ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR

Jubilee at Los Lunas Arts and Crafts Fair will be held Saturday, Sept. 30, 2023, at Jubilee.

This Fair hosts various New Mexico artists who will display their jewelry, paintings, pottery and handmade creations.

There will also be a bake sale, raffle and food truck. Jubilee is located 1.8 miles west of I-25 on NM Hwy 6.

Admission is free. Profits donated to Charities in Valencia County.

## CHECK OUT BADLANDS DRIVE-IN

For only \$15 you can fill your vehicle with people and watch a movie at the Los Lunas drive-in cinema, Badlands Drive-In, located at the intersection of NM Hwy 314 and Morris Road.

Check out the schedule online at [loslunasnm/1094/badlandsdrive-in](http://loslunasnm/1094/badlandsdrive-in).

## BOB CHRISTENSEN PHOTOGRAPHY FEATURED

Bob Christensen photography will be featured at the Los Lunas Museum of History & Arts with an opening reception Saturday, Aug 5, 2023, two to four p.m. The show runs through Sept. 30, 2023.

Christensen moved to New Mexico after being discharged from the Army in 1970. He has been a resident of Valencia County since 1972.

Since the mid-1970's he has travelled around New Mexico photographing the state's distinctive vernacular architecture.

He has had exhibits in 2010 at the Los Lunas Museum of Heritage & Arts; in 2014 in collaboration with Albuquerque sculptor Tim Prythero at the Los Lunas Museum; in 2015 at the Albuquerque Museum; and in 2016 at the Roswell Museum.

Christensen was featured in an article by Kate Nelson in November, 2013 issue of New Mexico Magazine as well as numerous other publications. He also was featured in an episode of *¡Colores!* In 2014 that was picked up nationally in major PBS markets.

His complete collection is in the Palace of the Governors Photo Archives in Santa Fe.



*Remember shopping here?*

## PANCAKES FOR A CAUSE

Rotary Club of Los Lunas presents 2023 Pancakes for a Cause, benefitting Clothes for Kids and other youth programs.

The annual Pancake Breakfast will be Saturday, October 7, 2023, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Ribs Hickory Pit BBQ, 120 Nelson Lane, Los Lunas.

The Rotary Club of Los Lunas is a local service organization with a focus on youth programs and opportunities. Annually, the club provides winter clothing for kids in the Los Lunas School District, dictionaries for Los Lunas Third Graders, Leadership Scholarships and more!

# A BIT OF LOS LUNAS HISTORY

"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 runs excerpts from Shetter's writing.

## Wool Industry

Sheep had traditionally been used as a medium of exchange in New Mexico, and wealthy Hispanic families dominated the trade since the eighteenth century and well into the nineteenth century.

The Luna family herded sheep as far as the Arizona border near Luna, New Mexico, the Oteros in the Estancia Valley, and the Hunings as far as the White Mountains in Arizona.

The introduction of the railroad presented new business opportunities that strengthened the New Mexican economy. Sheep ranchers started freighting their wool to train depots to be sent back east. In Los Lunas, Louis and Henry Huning acted as freighters, consignment agents, and bankers for area ranchers.

The amassed products would be gathered then shipped east by the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway to be sold in wool commission houses in Philadelphia. In 1880, New Mexico produced 4,019,188 pounds of wool and 2,088,831 sheep grazed throughout the territory (Gonzales R. , 2017). That same year, L & H Huning accounted for one quarter of the wool produced having consigned 1,000,277 pounds of white wool to eastern markets making Valencia County, the sheep capital of New Mexico.

## The Railroad Arrives / The Luna Mansion

In the early 1880s, the Atchison, Topeka, & Santa Fe Railroad arrived in Los Lunas and in anticipation of the tracks, a depot was constructed in 1879. José Enrique Luna's son Antonio José Luna provided the land on which the depot sat in exchange for \$13,000 to build a new home that later became known as the Luna Mansion.

Antonio José died in December of 1881 before construction was completed. His son Tranquilino Luna, his wife Amalia Jaramillo de Luna, and their son Maximiliano were the first to occupy the home along with his mother Doña Isabela Baca y Luna. Tranquilino transferred the deed into his wife's name and placed the home in a trust.

After Amalia's death, Tranquilino's brother Solomon purchased the home in 1889 and Tranquilino moved to Peralta with his new wife Dolores Chaves Armijo.

Eduardo Otero, their nephew, and his wife Josefita Manderfield Otero were the next to reside in the home (Sullivan, 1975). They are the individuals responsible for turning the territorial style home into the antebellum style we see today.

Josefita's son Theodore Roosevelt Armijo-Otero and family were the last of the Luna family to reside in the mansion.

The home was eventually sold to Eunice Turner Sullivan. Her and her sons, Charles and Kenneth Sullivan, lived there in the 1960's. Eunice petitioned and succeeded in having the "Tranquilino Luna House" placed on the New Mexico Register of Cultural Properties and the National Register of Historic Places in 1973 and 1975 respectively.

In 1978, Earl Whittemore and his business partners Bob Middleton, Mike Munsey and John Purcell restored the mansion and converted it into a high-end steak restaurant. Today, the Luna Mansion is owned by Pete and Tenci Torres.

## LOCAL EVENTS

### Monday, September 5, 2023

Labor Day  
Village Offices Closed  
Monday, September 5, 2023  
Garbage collected  
Tuesday, September 6, 2023

### Farmers Market

Tuesdays 4 - 7 p.m.  
Heritage Park on Lambros Loop  
Across from Smiths Grocery  
Fresh locally produced items

### Attend a Village Council Meeting

6 p.m. Thursday, August 10 & 24  
6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 7 & 31  
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).

### Los Lunas Public Library Now Open

9 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Monday – Saturday  
460 Main Street NE 505 839-3850

### 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

## VETERANS DAY IN LOS LUNAS

The annual Veterans Day ceremony will be held Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023, at 11 a.m. at Daniel Fernandez Memorial Park, hosted by the Village of Los Lunas, Los Lunas Invested in Veterans Events (LIVE), Inc and Blue Star Mothers of Valencia County.

Speaker will be Jack Lovato, quartermaster, VFW Post 9676 in Los Lunas. The event will include refreshments, songs performed by the Jubilation Barbershop Singers and other events.