



VILLAGE NEWS

Small Community • Big Possibilities

Volume 27 - Number 12 - December 2023

AS THE VILLAGE GROWS SO DOES THE BUDGET

The growth of the Village of Los Lunas can readily be seen in the population numbers – 973 in 1970 and 17,242 in 2020. The growth can also be seen in the ever-increasing number of stores and businesses. Another way to see the growth of the Village of Los Lunas is in the Village budget.

The Fiscal Year 2024 Village budget is \$227,033,593, the largest budget in the Village's 95-year history. Included in this budget is an estimated \$149 million for phase one of the new Interstate 25 (I-25) Interchange and East-West Corridor (to be known as Los Lunas Boulevard) project in Los Lunas and Valencia County, one of the largest locally-led projects ever in New Mexico.

This project, once fully completed, is expected to relieve traffic on Main Street in Los Lunas by approximately 40%.

Phase One of the project includes a new two-lane road that will connect I-25 to NM Hwy 47 across the Valley and the Rio Grande. This phase includes a new (second) interchange, a new river bridge – anticipated to be the longest in New Mexico – two major signalized intersections, five minor intersections, a major railroad crossing, and more than a dozen ditch/drain/canal crossings.

Phase Two of the project, once funded, will add a second travel lane in each direction the entire distance of the new corridor.

In addition to the Los Lunas Boulevard project, the Fiscal Year 2024 budget also includes the following major purchases and capital projects:

- Purchase new Class A Pumper Truck in the Fire Department.
- Finish second gym and expansion at Daniel Fernandez Recreation Center.
- Complete improvements at Los Lunas River Park and Los Lunas Sports Complex.
- Design and construct intersection at Edeal Road and Main Street, and other intersections.
- Complete improvements on various Village streets.
- Finish construction of miscellaneous trails.
- Design and construct Metropolitan Redevelopment Area (MRA) infrastructure improvements at 5-acre Village property east of Los Lunas Transportation Center
- Design and construct Phase Two of NM Hwy 263 infrastructure improvements.
- Design and construct NM Hwy 6 and Sun Ranch Village Road intersection improvements.
- Design and construct NM Hwy 6 sound barrier wall at Jubilee gated community.
- Design and construct NM Hwy 6 and I-25 interchange operational improvements.
- Design and implement NM Hwy 6 traffic mitigation/signalization improvements.
- Construct new water and sewer line extensions, as needed.
- Begin construction of new booster station and 750,000-gallon potable water storage tank at Central New Mexico Rail Park.

Creating the annual budget is a nearly year-long process and involves a multitude of Village experts who understand the municipal budget process. As the list of capital outlay projects continues to grow, Village staff take advantage of miscellaneous grants and projected one-time revenue to help pay for them.

In total, the Village projects to receive \$211,545,107 in revenues in Fiscal Year 2024, an increase of \$131,337,965, or 164% from the prior fiscal year budget. Major revenue categories are gross receipts taxes, intergovernmental grants/distributions, and charges for services.

Continued on page 2

CHARLES GRIEGO
MAYOR

griegoc@loslunasnm.gov

DR. JAMES RUNYON
VILLAGE COUNCILOR

runyonj@loslunasnm.gov

CHRISTOPHER S. ORTIZ
VILLAGE COUNCILOR

ortizc@loslunasnm.gov

GINO M. ROMERO
VILLAGE COUNCILOR

romerog@loslunasnm.gov

CRUZ MUÑOZ
VILLAGE COUNCILOR

munozc@loslunasnm.gov

AVILIO CHAVEZ
MUNICIPAL JUDGE

avchavez@loslunasnm.gov

FRANK LUCERO
POLICE CHIEF

flucero@loslunasnm.gov

JOHN GABALDON
FIRE CHIEF

jgabaldon@loslunasnm.gov

GREGORY D. MARTIN
VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR

marting@loslunasnm.gov

Continued from page 1

The largest source of revenue in the Fiscal Year 2024 budget is intergovernmental grants/distributions associated with the Los Lunas Boulevard project, which totals \$144,337,214 in revenue, or 68% of total revenues.

The second largest source of revenue is from gross receipts taxes (GRT), which is estimated at \$26,718,464, or 13% of total revenues.

The Village projects to spend \$227,033,593 in expenditures, an increase of \$133,225,128, or 142% from the prior fiscal year budget.

Major expenditure categories include salaries and wages, employee benefits, and capital outlay.

Capital outlay expenditures account for \$186,462,378, or 82% of total expenditures. The Los Lunas Boulevard project totals \$149,183,053 in expenditures, or 80% of total capital outlay.

The entire Village budget is available on the website at loslunasnm.gov.

KING OF THE HILL MARCH 9

King of the Hill 2024 has been scheduled for Saturday, March 9, 2024.

King of the Hill offers 100% trail running at 5k, 10k, and half marathon distances.

The races take place in the beautiful and challenging trails of El Cerro de Los Lunas Preserve.

The course features beautiful views and large elevation changes on the 10k and half marathon courses. The event has grown every year, and this is the 9th annual so it could be the biggest and best yet!

Entry prices vary with type of race, distance, and day of entry. Check the Village website, loslunasnm.gov, for specific prices. Entry is also possible on that website.

2024 GARBAGE PICKUP DAYS

Holiday Observed

New Year's Day
MLK Jr. Day
Presidents Day
Memorial Day
Easter Holiday
Juneteenth
Independence Day
Labor Day
Veterans Day
Thanksgiving
Day After Thanksgiving
Christmas Eve
Christmas Day

Regular Trash Pickup Day Will Be Picked Up

Monday, Jan 1	Tuesday, Jan 2
Monday, Jan 15	Tuesday, Jan 16
Monday, Feb 19	Tuesday, Feb 20
Monday, May 27	Tuesday, May 28
Friday, Mar 29	Thursday, Mar 28
Wednesday, June 19	Thursday, June 20
Thursday, July 4	Friday, July 5
Monday, Sept 2	Tuesday, Sept 3
Monday, Nov 11	Tuesday, Nov 12
Thursday, Nov 28	Wednesday, Nov 27
Friday, Nov 29	Monday, Dec 2
Tuesday, Dec 24	Monday, Dec 23
Wednesday, Dec 25	Thursday, Dec 26

DON'T LET YOUR VEHICLE BE STOLEN

A few tips to avoid the "Warm-Up Thieves" stealing a car that has been left running and unattended to "warm-up."

Here are those tips to keep you from being left out in the cold:

- Never leave the vehicle title in your car. If stolen, it makes it easier for the thief to dispose of your vehicle. It can also make you a target for identity theft.
- Install a mechanical locking device commonly called a club, collar, or j-bar that locks to the steering wheel, column, or brake.
- If your vehicle has an alarm or other anti-theft device, USE IT.

EXTRA TRASH PICKUPS

The Village will pick up two special large pickup loads each calendar year (January – December) at each Village address at no charge.

Additional pickups per address within the calendar year will be charged a fee which is the cost of collection and disposal.

Please call 505 352-7632 for questions and information.

VILLAGE RECEIVES BUDGET AWARD

The Village of Los Lunas has been presented the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the Fiscal Year beginning July 2022, by the Government Finance Officers Association.

GFOA established the Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program in 1984 to encourage and assist state and local governments to prepare budget documents of the very highest quality.

These documents should reflect both the guidelines established by the National Advisory Council on State and Local Budgeting and the GFOA's best practices on budgeting and also recognize individual governments that succeed in achieving that goal.

Approximately 1,800 governments, including states, cities, counties, special districts, school districts, and more have been recognized for transparency in budgeting.

To earn recognition, budget documents must meet program criteria and excel as a policy document, financial plan, operations guide, and communication tool.

RECYCLING FOR THE HOLIDAYS IN THE VILLAGE

The holidays always seem to generate more “trash” than other times of the year. That makes the Holiday Season a good time to recycle as much as possible which is easy to do in Los Lunas.

The Village Recycling Center is a state-registered drop-off recycling center located just north of the Fred Luna Multigenerational Center on Don Pasqual Road.

The Village of Los Lunas Recycling Program began in 1993.

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
- TVs: all TVs cost \$20, not just the monitors that contain a CRT.

Plastic bags should not be left in the recycling bins.

ENCHANTED NEW MEXICO WINNERS

Stop by the Village Museum of Heritage & Arts to enjoy the current display of the 11th Annual Juried Art Show with the theme “Enchanted New Mexico.”

Works will be on display through Jan. 6, 2024.

Congratulations to the winning artists--

Best of Show: Irling Smith, Mahogany Bowl

1st Place: Eddie Ramirez, It wasn't Joseph, it was Jesus

2nd Place: Marilyn Smiel, Sandia Crest

3rd Place: Gaye Garrison, Ol' Jack

Honorable Mentions:

Gary Strawderman, Two Feathers

Yolanda Ramirez, Escondida Lake

Monica Kemsley, Let's Take a Ride

Jane Chevalier, Turquoise Jewelry

Sally Idoine, White Sands

Best of Show: Irling Smith, Mahogany Bowl

The museum is located at the intersection of Main Street and Luna Avenue under the downtown water tower and open Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

DON'T BE SCAMMED

Unfortunately the Holiday Season is a particularly popular time for unscrupulous people to conduct scams. And unfortunately scams come in different propositions and offers.

Be on the lookout for people conducting those scams. Individuals may knock on your door or call you on the phone making claims that appear to be true but can ultimately rob you of money and security.

If someone arrives at your residence claiming to be something you think they are not, do not open the door, but contact the police immediately.

The Los Lunas Police Department encourages citizens to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity by calling the department at 505 865-9130.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

MY BARBER SHOP BY J. MARTINEZ LLC
1400 MAIN ST NW STE G
505 363-9275
jaysea1983@gmail.com

DUPREE'S TREES
Landscaping
505 401-6891
dupreestrees@yahoo.com

GRANDMAS HOUSE RETRO GAME PLUS
959 HIGHWAY 314 SW STE D
505 518-8545
vanessam142@gmail.com

MISTER CAR WASH
1503 MAIN ST SW
505 532-4292
compliance@mistercarwash.com

POLITICAL HISTORY

"A Cultural & Economic History of Los Lunas" was written by Los Lunas Library Director Cynthia Shetter and can be found on the Village's website loslunasnm.gov. Here is another excerpt from this history.

In 1915, the new Congressional Union for Women Suffrage (CUWS) representative, Ella St. Clair Thompson recruited Adelina 'Nina' Otero-Warren²⁰ and in 1917 national suffragist leader, Alice Paul chose Nina as CUWS New Mexico chapter leader.

That same year she was also appointed Superintendent of Santa Fe Schools, defeating a male opponent in an open election for the position. On February 21, 1920, New Mexico approved the 32nd of 36 states needed to ratify the 19th Amendment. Nina Otero-Warren played a key role in this process at the State Republican Caucus, a first for a woman in the state. The following year Nina ran for federal office as the Republican nominee but lost the election by less than 8%.

This woman, who spent her childhood in the Luna Mansion, was honored by the U.S. Mint by being portrayed on the fourth coin to be released in the American Women Quarters series.

While 1920 promised to be a successful year, New Mexicans were confronted with the enactment of the 18th Amendment which was ratified on August 18, 1920 prohibiting the importation, transportation, and sale of alcoholic beverages, along with a variety of other civil rights barriers that triggered unprecedented activism.

Native American children were forced to attend boarding schools, where their cultures were suppressed, as an attempt to make them 100% American.

To compound this, Senator Holm O. Bursum from Socorro, New Mexico, introduced the Bursum Bill in 1921 whose effect would have been to divest Isleta and other pueblos of large portions of their lands in favor of non-Indians who had occupied property on pueblo borders.

The bill was defeated and in 1924, the U.S. Congress granted U.S. Citizenship to all Native Americans guaranteeing their right to vote in all states except for New Mexico and Arizona. This put a strain on relations between some Los Lunas and native Isleta residents.

In addition, most black New Mexicans experienced discrimination, especially in public school. The Ku Klux Klan (KKK) intimidated individuals and burned crosses in scattered parts of New Mexico.

An anti-Klan bill was enacted but it had little effect. Hispanics also felt the sting of racism as well, especially in education. Often some educators separated Hispanic children and made them feel inferior because of their language, their culture and their ethnicity in efforts to Americanize them.

These were obstacles that would not be overcome for years to come.

LOCAL EVENTS

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

Village Offices closed Monday, Dec. 25 & Tuesday, Dec. 26
Monday garbage picked up Friday, Dec. 22, 2023
Tuesday garbage picked up Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2023

NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY

Village Offices closed Monday, Jan. 1, 2024
Monday garbage picked up Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024

MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY

Village Offices closed Monday, Jan. 15, 2024
Monday garbage picked up Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2024

Attend a Village Council Meeting

6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7 & 21, 2023
Thursday, Jan. 11 & 25, 2024
660 Main St, NW
Main Street and Don Pasqual
Meetings will be virtual and in-person.
Check Village website for agenda at loslunasnm.gov.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

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
loslunasnm.gov