



VILLAGE NEWS

Small Community • Big Possibilities

Volume 27 - Number 2 - February 2023

KING OF THE HILL MARCH 11

The King of the Hill 2023 race event has been scheduled for Saturday, March 11, 2023.

The races take place in the beautiful and challenging trails of El Cerro de Los Lunas Preserve. King of the Hill offers 100% trail running at 5k, 10k, and half marathon distances.

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 7th 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.

Interested in sponsorship opportunities? Contact Marcos Castillo at 505 352-7662.

EXTRA TRASH PICKUPS

The Village will pick up two special large pickup loads each year at each Village address at no charge.

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

Please call 505 352-7632 for questions and information.

REGIONAL TRANSIT FACILITY

A new Metro Regional Transit district facility is under construction on Lambros Loop on the east side of Los Lunas.

The facility will house district offices, parking for the district's fleet of vehicles, storage space, and a vehicle storage area. Construction of the building means consolidation of Rio Metro's services in Valencia County for the first time

The facility is expected to be completed by the end of 2024.

The Rio Metro Regional Transit District is building a new transit facility in Los Lunas to support its Valencia County bus service thanks to a \$6 million grant from the highly competitive Section 5339(b) Bus and Bus Facilities program and an additional \$1.5 million in matching funds.

The project will include administration/ operations and storage buildings; staff, visitor and bus parking areas; utilities; drainage; landscaping; fencing and gates; security cameras and access controls.

Pending future funding, the facility will also feature expanded bus parking, a maintenance building, wash bay, and fuel island.

The new facility will enable Rio Metro to relocate its bus administration and operations from two at-capacity facilities leased from the Village of Los Lunas and shared with other Village services.

It will also give Rio Metro the ability to enlarge its bus fleet in future years and provide even more service to Valencia County residents.

MAIN STREET TRAIL

Fox Construction is creating a multi-use trail on the south side of Main Street / NM HWY 6 between Huning Ranch Loop (west) to Jubilee.

Construction will be performed between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday thru Friday until construction is complete.

This project will include pathway signage, striping, drainage, and lighting.

This project was awarded thru a competitive bid to Desert Fox Paving Inc for \$515,000. 80% of the funds will be reimbursed to the Village of Los Lunas thru the NMDOT Transportation Alternative Program (TAP).

CHARLES GRIEGO
MAYOR
griegoc@loslunasnm.gov

GINO M. ROMERO
COUNCILMAN
romerog@loslunasnm.gov

FRANK LUCERO
POLICE CHIEF
flucero@loslunasnm.gov

DR. JAMES RUNYON
COUNCILMAN
runyonj@loslunasnm.gov

CRUZ MUÑOZ
COUNCILMAN
munozc@loslunasnm.gov

JOHN GABALDON
FIRE CHIEF
jgabaldon@loslunasnm.gov

CHRISTOPHER S. ORTIZ
COUNCILMAN
ortizc@loslunasnm.gov

AVILIO CHAVEZ
MUNICIPAL JUDGE
avchavez@loslunasnm.gov

GREGORY D. MARTIN
VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR
marting@loslunasnm.gov

AUTHOR! AUTHOR

On Wednesday, February 15th at 3 PM the Los Lunas Library hosts teen author Kit Rosewater, who will give a presentation on writing your own book.

The Friends of the Library is providing the funding for this event. See this flyer: <https://tinyurl.com/4ptfpn9v>.

On Saturday, May 13, at 2 p.m. The Friends of the Library will host New Mexico author Anne Hillerman, who will talk about her work, 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).

BOOK CLUB AT LIBRARY

A new book club is being formed at Los Lunas Public Library.

The club will normally meet the first Saturday of each month from 11 a.m. to noon.

Books will be supplied by the library. Sign up at the front desk at the library.

Call the library at 839-3850 for more information.

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.

COLD WEATHER PRIME TIME FOR WARM-UP THEFTS

The term "Warm-Up Theft" is a widely used term among car thieves to describe the stealing of a car that has been left running and unattended to "warm-up."

Many motorists are tempted to leave their vehicle running to warm up the interior prior to getting behind the wheel. However, this practice is one that causes two problems.

First, leaving a car unattended and running is a violation of the Village of Los Lunas Municipal Village Code Ord. 12-12-18, which can result in up to a \$500 fine and, second, the practice of leaving your vehicle running and unattended provides for a quick and easy target for car thieves.

Following these simple tips will help keep you from being left out in the cold.

- Never leave your car running or the keys in the ignition when you are away from it, even for "just a minute."
- Keep valuables out of sight or in the trunk. Purses, credit cards, and cell phones in plain view only help attract thieves.
- Always roll up the windows and lock your car, even if it is in your driveway, garage, or in front of your home.
- 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.

Books will be supplied by the library. Sign up at the front desk at the library.

Call the library at 839-3850 for more information.

FREE BOOKS FOR KIDS 0-5

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a book gifting program that mails FREE, HIGH-QUALITY books to children from birth to age five, no matter their family's income.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a book gifting program that mails FREE, HIGH-QUALITY books to children from birth to age five, no matter their family's income.

Signing up is easy! Just fill out the online form. Within a few months, you'll start receiving a free book every month for each of your children ages 0-5!

Check it out here: <https://imaginationlibrary.com/usa/affiliate/NMVALENCIA/>.

(This link is exclusively for Valencia County Residents)

STREETLIGHT REPAIR / FORMS

The nights are still dark a long time.

If you want to report a malfunctioning streetlight, go to the village website at loslunasnm.gov.

Locate Home and then click.

Then click on Form Center to locate Street Light Repair Form.

Follow instructions on the form and you will facilitate getting the job done,

You can also call the Village at 505 839-3850 to report a streetlight in need of repair.

Many different forms are located under Forms on the Village website.

Check them out now so in an emergency you can find them.

SPECIAL LOS LUNAS EVENTS

The Village of Los Lunas Parks and Recreation Department hosts a variety of special events during the year among which are:

- King of the Hill. - March
- Fourth of July - July
- Fourth of July Parade - July
- Fourth of July Celebration - July
- Halloween Extravaganza - October
- Christmas Parade - December
- Santa Claus is Coming to Town & Tree Lighting - December

DO NOT USE ROCK SALT

Spring is approaching but it is still winter and we can still be covered in ice and snow.

Do not use rock salt to de-ice sidewalks and driveways.

Rock salt can soften and eat away at the concrete causing damage.

Concrete-safe de-icer can be purchased at a variety of stores.

VILLAGE BUSINESS REGISTRATION RENEWAL

Pay your Village of Los Lunas business registration renewal using Express Bill Pay.

Create an account or use an existing account at www.expressbillpay.com.

All you need is your business registration account number and last name or business name.

MORE THAN JUST BOOKS . . .

Los Lunas Public Library is More Than Just Books . . . is the title of a 2022-2023 publication about the Village of Los Lunas Public Library. Here's more information about our library.

The Los Lunas Public Library offers access to videos, news, and a wide selection of magazines.

You can find New Mexico newspapers and America's news magazines with unmatched U.S. news content from local, regional and national sources using the library's facilities.

Among what you will find are:

- USA—New Mexico
- Albuquerque Journal
- Roswell Daily Record
- Santa Fe New Mexican
- America's News Magazines.

You can also go to <https://www.elportalm.org> then scroll and click on NewsBank.

GFOA PRESENTS AWARD

The Village of Los Lunas has won the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the second year in a row for its July 1, 2022 (FY 2022-23) budget.

According to a press release from GFOA, "This award represents a significant achievement by the entity.

It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the budget award, the entity had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation."

Village Administrator Greg Martin thanked the entire Finance Team, especially former Finance Director Rebekah Klein and newly promoted Finance Director and former

Accountant Cheryl Cates, for their continued efforts to develop and produce another award-winning budget!



TextMyGov

Village of Los Lunas

Text the village to find information and report issues!

Try it today, Text **Hi** to **505.388.0798**

View terms and privacy policy info at textmygov.com/opt-in-terms-conditions. Msg & Data rates apply. Msg frequency varies.

TIME TO ENTER STUDENT ART SHOW

The theme for this year's 10th Annual Student Art show at the Village's Museum of Heritage & Arts is "Música y Baile" -- "Music and Dance."

Submissions will be accepted until April 10, 2023. Artwork will be on display April 15, 2023, thru June 10, 2023.

It is open to artists 18 years old or younger living in Valencia County.

- Entries must be original works and may be any medium (e.g. acrylic, oil, pastel, water color, pen and ink, photography, ceramics, fibers and mixed media) that portrays the specified theme.
- Abstract and non-representational works are welcome. However, works must be with the specified theme.

Artists may enter up to three works to be juried.

Artists may submit digital or printed entries via mail, email or in person. If possible, all student entries from a school should be turned in at the same time on the same device, or collected together in a binder.

If submitting printed versions of artwork, please include artist and title information on a separate piece of paper to keep your work anonymous for jurors. If submitting digital versions of artwork, acceptable files include PDF, JPG, TIFF or MSWORD files.

Printed photos, external storage device (CD or USB drive), or emailed file of submitted work. Artists accepted into the 2023 Student Juried Art Show will be notified by phone first, mail, as well by email.

Accepted works must be display- or hanging ready and delivered on or before April 8 thru 11, 2023.

Artists may choose to have artwork available for purchase throughout the exhibit. Pieces sold will remain in the show until its conclusion.
(Elementary, middle, and high school categories)

- Best of Show (cash prize)
- 1st Place (cash prize)
- 2nd Place (cash prize)
- 3rd Place (cash prize)
- Honorable Mentions (One per grade level).

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Show that special person in your life how much they really mean to you by making their whole month sparkle!

Bloom Flowers & Gifts
1402 Main St SW
505 865-7338

Ramos Flower & Gift Shop
2211 Main St SE
505 916-0339
(soon to be Wild Rose Flowers!)

Teri's Sweet Garden
120 Main St SW
505 865-5834

D'Alicia's Fine Jewelers
2357 Main St SE A
505 565-1398

Quality Jewelers
3457 NM-47
505 450-5025

LOCAL EVENTS

NEW LIBRARY HOURS

Los Lunas Public Library
Now Open
9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Monday – Saturday
460 Main Street NE
505 839-3850

Saturday, February 11 2 p.m.

Los Lunas museum
Opening of exhibit of works by Camino Real 8, a group of local artists
Los Lunas Museum of Heritage & Arts
Corner Main Street & Luna Avenue
Call 505 352-7720 for info

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

Attend a Village Council Meeting

6 p.m. February, 9 & 23, 2023
6 p.m. March 9 & 23, 2023, 2023
660 Main St NW
Main Street and Don Pasqual
Meetings will be virtual and in-person.
Check Village website for agenda
loslunasnm.gov.

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

Catherine Best, already on the library staff, has been selected as the new children's librarian, replacing Stephanie Birr, who left the library in early January.

The Friends look forward to working with Catherine in her plans to bring a variety of activities and events for children to the library.

Thank you and goodbye to Stephanie Birr for all her work at the Los Lunas Library where she served as the children's librarian. See this library Facebook post: <https://tinyurl.com/mtjw5y3s>,