



# VILLAGE NEWS



Small Community • Big Possibilities

Volume 27 - Number 1 - January 2023

## VILLAGE RECEIVES AWARDS

The Village of Los Lunas will receive two prestigious awards from the New Mexico Water and Wastewater Association (NMWWA) during the association's annual meeting the end of this month, January 2023.

Ruben Moreno, Supervisor of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Division, won the "Operator of the Year" award from NMWWA. The association supports water and wastewater divisions in New Mexico through education, certifications and as a valuable resource for water and sewer operators to ensure federal, state, and local compliance.

The Village of Los Lunas Water Division was awarded the "NMWWA Section Presidents Award" for most improved municipality facility for 2022.

The Village has invested over \$12 million for construction of new water treatment facilities including a complete rehab of water well #3, arsenic treatment facilities, and the Tiger storage tank as well as the construction of new water well #7 and its arsenic treatment facilities.

The Wastewater Treatment Plant Division of the Village of Los Lunas operates two wastewater treatment plants (WWTP) – the original activated sludge treatment plant and the newly constructed membrane bioreactor treatment plant.

The two plants operate in tandem as separate plants to treat the wastewater (solids and liquids) generated by over 6,000 residential and commercial customers within the Village. Liquid effluent is disinfected within each respective plant and blended prior to discharge to the Rio Grande.

Solids are treated and after the final digestion process, transported and land applied to the 220-acre sludge disposal site located on Dalies Road south of NM Hwy 6, west of the Village.

Staff personnel attend yearly training courses to achieve and maintain the highest level of Wastewater Systems Utility Operator certification recognized by the NM Water Quality Control Commission to ensure operations are following New Mexico Environmental Department and EPA Standards and conform to the Village's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and Ground Water Discharge Plan permits.

## FLUSH ONLY TOILET PAPER

The Village Public Works Department reminds everyone to flush only toilet paper in the toilet.

Do NOT anything but toilet paper down the toilet.

## DANIEL FERNANDEZ FITNESS CENTER

Visit the Fitness Center at the Daniel Fernandez Recreation Center with its variety of exercise equipment and the staff to help learn how to use it.

Work out in the equipped weight room, participate in the many classes offered by fitness instructors, or come in and play a friendly game of basketball on courts designed for adults and youth.

Fitness Cards are offered and can be used for all activities. More information is available at the front desk at the recreation center or call 505 352-7661.

Daniel Fernandez Recreation Center is a public recreational facility located inside Daniel Fernandez Memorial Park. The Center is currently undergoing major improvements so tread carefully in the area.

## SCENES FROM OUR COMMUNITY

The annual 2023 calendar is now available at the front desk of the Village administration building at the intersection of Main Street and Don Pasqual. They are free to anyone.

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## THE BEST OF IN VALENCIA COUNTY

The Valencia County News-Bulletin asks the community to select what and who they think is the best in different categories in our community.

Among a variety of categories this year the News Bulletin asked people to select the best community to live in in Valencia County. People selected the Village of Los Lunas as the best community to live in in Valencia County.

Village Mayor Charles Griego said "It's a compliment to the residents and the businesses within the Village of Los Lunas, together with the village government and the employees. It is nice to be recognized in such a manner."

Other "Best of" categories associated with the Village of Los Lunas are:

- Nusenda Credit Union, 320 Main St. in Los Lunas, was named Best Financial Institution / Best Mortgage Lender. Nusenda is the state's largest credit union both in membership and assets. Branch manager Judy Sandoval said, "Our team is honored to receive this recognition from our community. Each day we strive to uphold Nusenda's value of people helping people."
- Selected as best Grocery Store was Albertson's Market, 2351 Main St NE, in Los Lunas. Store director Julie Worley told the News-Bulletin, "Being from Los Lunas, these people work hard it's amazing for them. It's just pride, it's pride for them. Every year they get this it means a lot."
- Chosen as best Place to Get an Adult Beverage was Tractor Brewing on Sand Sage Street NW, in Los Lunas. Tractor Brewing started in Los Lunas in 1999 in the Ribs Restaurant. Evening events and marketing director for Tractor Brewing Company Jeremy Kinter said, "We work really hard on our menu, not just the beer that we brew ourselves, but our cocktail menu that we do seasonally as well."
- First Care of New Mexico, located on Main Street in Belen and Main Street in Los Lunas, was voted best Home Healthcare Provider. First Care offers a variety of services including daily assistance with meal preparation, light housekeeping, bathing, medication reminders, mobility assistance, running errands, or companionship, the staff can do it all.
- Teri's Sweet Garden, 120 Main St. NW, was selected the best Place to Get a Sweet Treat. Teri Leahigh opened the store 12 years ago. Caramel Apples are the best sellers followed by homemade pickles.
- Blake's Lotaburger was selected as best Breakfast Burrito. With three locations in Valencia County, including one at 314 W Main St. NW, in Los Lunas, Blake's serves six different flavors of breakfast burrito until 11:00 a.m. daily. Blake's has more than 100 locations.
- Dion's was voted Best Pizza. Dion's CEO Mark Herman told the News-Bulletin, "We're pleased to be recognized by the residents of Valencia County." You can find Dion's at 3460 Main St. SE in Los Lunas.
- Best Sopaipilla honors goes to Teofilo's New Mexican Restaurant, 114 Main St. NW. The sopaipilla recipe dates to at least 1949.
- Best Bakery went to Manny's Fine Pastries, 515 Main St. SE, in Los Lunas. "I love it when our customers say they enjoy us," said Betty-Jean Villa, one of Manny's owners / bakers.
- RAKS Building Supply, 108 Carson Drive SE, was voted Best Hardware and Lumber store.
- Wolff Family Chiropractic, located at 643 NM Hwy 314 in Los Lunas, was selected Best Chiropractor. Doctors Ryan and Nikki Wolff have been helping patients with their health care through chiropractic for two decades.
- Daylight Electric, Best Electrician, can be found at 267 Courthouse Road in Los Lunas. Matt Thomas, owner, said his crew takes great pride in their work giving customers a fair and honest product.
- Best Insurance Agent Rodney Baca at 1202 Main St NE in Los Lunas has been in the insurance business for 25 years starting in Rio Communities with his father's car dealership. Baca said he loves the business because he helps people make sure their property is covered.
- Nancy Montoya of Century 21 at 2601 Main St. SW was reselected best Real Estate Agent Montoya has been in the real estate business since August 1978 and has helped make her clients' dreams come true whether buying a residence or commercial property
- School of Dreams Academy agriculture teacher Shannon Watling was voted best Teacher in Valencia County. She has been teaching agriculture at SODA for the past seven years and has grown their Future Farmers of America chapter into the largest in the county.
- Orlando Sedillo of Second Chances Tattoo, 231 Sandoval Road in Los Lunas, was named best Tattoo Artist in Valencia County and specializes in coverups and restoration. He works out of his studio where he also displays his other artwork.
- Noblin Funeral Home was the choice for Valencia County's Best Funeral Home. With two locations in Valencia County, Los Lunas and Belen, Noblin Funeral Home offers funeral services, memorial services, Burials, and cremations.

## 2023 GARBAGE PICKUP DAYS

### Holiday Observed

M.L.K. Jr Day  
 Presidents Day  
 Good Friday  
 Memorial Day  
 Independence Day  
 Labor Day  
 Veterans Day  
 Thanksgiving  
 Day After Thanksgiving  
 Christmas Holiday  
 Christmas Holiday

### Regular Trash Pickup

Monday, Jan 16  
 Monday, Feb. 20  
 Friday, April 7  
 Monday, May 29  
 Tuesday, July 4  
 Monday, Sept. 4  
 Friday, Nov. 10  
 Thursday, Nov. 23  
 Friday, Nov. 24  
 Monday, Dec. 25  
 Tuesday, Dec. 26

### Day Will Be Picked Up On

Tuesday, Jan. 17  
 Tuesday, Feb. 21  
 Thursday, April 6  
 Tuesday, May 30  
 Wednesday, July 5  
 Tuesday, Sept. 5  
 Thursday, Nov. 9  
 Wednesday, Nov. 22  
 Monday, Nov. 27  
 Friday, Dec. 22  
 Wednesday, Dec. 27

Garbage can(s) need to be out for pick up by 7:00 a.m. on your scheduled pick-up day. Any can(s) that are missed will be charged for a 2nd pick up. If you have any questions or concerns about your garbage services, please contact the Solid Waste Department at 505 352-7699.

## KING OF THE HILL MARCH 11

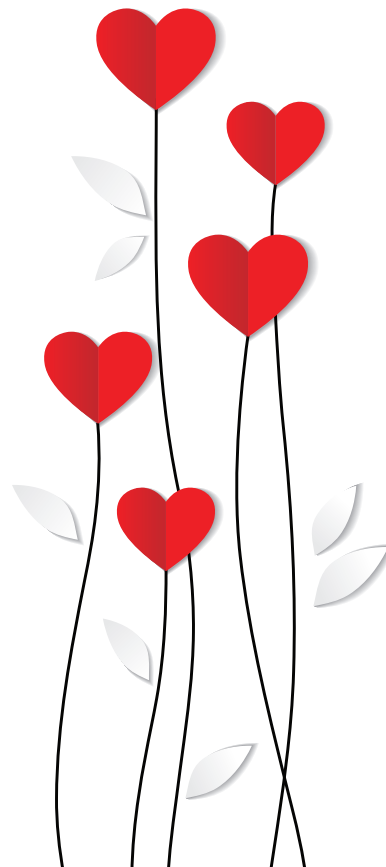
The King of the Hill 2023 race event has been scheduled for Saturday, March 11, 2023.

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](http://loslunasnm.gov), for specific prices. Entry is also possible on that website.

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



**Lots to Choose  
 From in  
 Valencia County  
 for  
 Valentine's Day  
 Shop  
 Valencia  
 County**

## 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.

Located off the Fiction room, the STEM Lab is equipped for the following programs and more:

- Summer and After-school STEM Program - Staff organize programming that teaches students about science, technology, engineering and mathematics by utilizing computers, iPads, robotics, video equipment, and other fun learning activities.
- Educational Presentations, Movies and Gaming - The STEM lab is equipped with a large-screen television for viewing presentations, watching movies, and playing video games on the library's video game consoles.

## TRAFFIC LIGHT CONTROLS ON MAIN

Work will be starting soon on the removal and replacement of outdated traffic light controllers on Main Street / NM Hwy 6 from Carson Drive to Los Morros Road.

The project includes installing remote monitoring systems with support services and development of a corridor-wide traffic light timing plan.

## SEWER AVERAGE

The sewer average calculations for single family residential accounts will be reflected on the March statement once February's usage is registered.

This will be your new sewer average / rate for the year until calculated again in February 2023 per Ordinance 13.8.120.

## BUILDING TO BE DEMOLISHED

Demolition is scheduled to start in the next few months of the Gallegos / Archuleta building located on the South side of Main Street about 2 blocks west of NM Hwy 314.

During the Route 66 era in 1926-1937, the site was home to the Acoma Service Station and motor lodge cabins for travelers; later, the property was reopened as the Country Inn.

For several years Route 66 came through Valencia County.

Watch out for and stay out of the way of demolition vehicles.

It is cost prohibitive to preserve the building.

## VILLAGE ADDRESS

The mailing address for the Village of Los Lunas is now 660 Main Street NW Los Lunas, NM 87031.

Please update your records with this change of address. The mailing address had been P.O. Box 1209, Los Lunas NM 87031.

## 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

### 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

### 10th Annual Juried Art Show

"Musica y Baile" (Song & Dance)  
Through Jan, 29, 2023  
Museum of Heritage & Arts  
Under the Downtown Water Tower  
Main Street and Luna Avenue  
505 352-7720

### MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY

Village offices closed  
Monday, Jan. 16, 2023  
Monday garbage picked up  
Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2023.

### Attend a Village Council Meeting

6 p.m. Thursday,  
January 12 & 26, 2023  
February 9 & 23, 2023  
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).

