



VILLAGE NEWS

Small Community • Big Possibilities

Volume 27 - Number 3 - March 2023

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR THE VILLAGE

The Village of Los Lunas has grown a lot over the last couple decades. It takes planning by Village staff and the Village council, with input from the community, to encourage and accommodate such growth.

Creating strategic priorities is one of the ways Village Officials encourage and accommodate growth while making improvements to the community.

The Village council has approved strategic priorities for 2023-2027 to create a better community for everyone. The priorities have goals and actions to accomplish as part of the plan.

Strategic priority #1 is the Interstate 25 interchange and East/West corridor which is scheduled to go South of the current Interstate 25, Los Lunas exit at Mile Marker 203.

The council hopes that by September 2024 construction will have started on the new East-West arterial roadway from I-25 to NM Hwy 47. This priority includes a full four-lane river bridge, full interchange at I-25, and two lanes in both directions from NM Hwy 47 to I-25.

Priority #2 is quality of life improvements to completely design, fund, and construct a new Public Library and indoor Aquatic Center.

The goal of this priority is to design a new modern and appropriately sized library to be built on a site adjacent to the west of the current library on Main Street.

The indoor Aquatic Center would be located on the site adjacent to the current Daniel Fernandez Recreation Center off NM Hwy 314.

Strategic Priority #3 is to work on the current infrastructure by enhancing, updating, modifying, and improving Village-owned water, sewer, wastewater, stormwater, pedestrian, bicycle, roadway, landscape and traffic infrastructure which support current and future residential, commercial and industrial development.

Goals to be accomplished while working on this infrastructure include:

- completing the overhaul of water well #4 which includes drilling a water well,
- replacing current arsenic treatment facilities, and
- refurbishing water storage tank #4.

The Village hopes to complete the construction of new water well #8 including associated water arsenic treatment facilities by July 2025 as part of priority #3.

By January 2026 the Village wants to improve access and connectivity for pedestrians and bicyclists. Details for such improvements can be found in the village pedestrian plan and proposed bikeway plan located on the village website loslunasnm.gov.

Removing and replacing all asbestos-lined water pipes within the Village limits is hoped to be accomplished by January 2027.

The Village hopes to start the construction of a new membrane bioreactor (MBR) wastewater treatment facility by January 2027.

Priority #4 centers around economic development and includes:

- ensuring new companies pay a living wage
- keeping the revenue stream of construction gross receipts tax
- completing the Main Street overlay project
- developing and implementing a Main Street building facade program.

The economic development priority would also develop and implement strategies for supporting small businesses and businesses in older parts of the Village. Another economic development goal is development of quality affordable housing throughout the community.

Strategic priority #5 revolves around personnel and would ensure staffing levels and positions keep up with community and organizational need and growth. This priority would also involve completing the latest compensation and classification study including public safety pay.

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PROMOTION IS FIRST

Congratulations to Raquel Torres on being named the first female captain in the Los Lunas fire department.

Torres has served with the department for the past 20 years, starting as a volunteer fire cadet while she was in high school to her most recent role as the second female lieutenant in the department's history.

SENIOR EXPO / HEALTH FAIR

The Senior Expo and Health Fair will be held Friday, May 5, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Daniel Fernandez Youth Center, 1103 NM Hwy 314.

Sponsors for this free event include La Vida Felicidad and the Valencia County Senior Coalition.

Events include health screenings, finding out about local community resources, and different prizes.

For vendor registration contact katie@lvfnm.org.

The event celebrates Valencia County senior citizens and Valencia County.

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.

FLEET MAINTENANCE SCORES

Village employees working in fleet maintenance recently tested and achieved certification or recertification within their field of expertise with the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE).

Since 1972 ASE, an independent non-profit organization <https://www.ase.com/>, has worked to improve the quality of vehicle repair and service by testing and certifying automotive professionals.

The Village of Los Lunas is a member of ASE and has the authority to utilize the ASE logo on the Village website and uniforms. Village technicians who participated in training and tested are:

- Miguel Cossio passed Diesel Engines ASE for Medium / Heavy Trucks.
- Troy Hibdon recertified in Steering and Suspension and Preventive Maintenance on his ASE for Medium/Heavy Truck.
- Eric Beach recertified in Engine performance on his ASE for Automotive.

TELEVISION TRASH

Village residents no longer have to pay to dispose of televisions (used to be \$25 for up to 42 inch).

Village residents can drop televisions off at the transfer station on NM Hwy 6 west of I-25.

County residents should drop their sets off at Conejo Transfer Station on the east mesa.

The Village has increased the charge for a commercial trash bin locking mechanism to \$36 from \$50. In addition, if the customer requests a replacement trash bin lock the new cost is \$12 per lock.

The Village is charging what the locks cost.

AT THE LEGISLATURE

Village officials participated in several events at the 2023 session of the New Mexico State Legislature.

Municipal Day included breakfast, speakers, and a Municipal Day Session.

Valencia County Day at the Round House in Santa Fe included Village employees and community partners preparing and serving approximately 350 matanza-style lunches to state senators, state representatives, their staff, and members of the general public.

In addition, more than 120 "goodie bags" were given to state legislators with promotional items from throughout Valencia County.

CAMINO REAL 8

Relax and enjoy a wide variety of artistic works at the Los Lunas Museum of Heritage & Arts.

The works are on display until Saturday, April 8, and are created by the Camino Real 8, a group that has been displaying their work for more than 20 years. The group has had a display at the Los Lunas Museum before, but only one due to COVID.

The Camino Real 8 are Susan Brooke, Penny York, Linda Boatwright, Fran Ryan, Jean Stone, Gwen Wilemon, Lorraine Burleson, Sondra Schlotterback and Duffy Peterson.

The group has the number eight in its title but does not limit its membership.

Artists' demonstrations will be held every Saturday at 2 p.m. at the museum located at the corner of Main Street / NM Hwy 6 and Luna Avenue, under the downtown water tower.

The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

In celebration of International Women's Day in March, here are six local women-owned businesses.

Acupuncture Associates of America

Lorella Tapia Reyes, DO
427 Main St. SW
drsabq@gmail.com
505 275-9602

Brandy's Hair Studio
Brandy Mills
2261 Beck Rd. NE
bmills2213@gmail.com
505 261-6035

Impact Martial Arts and Fitness

Loretta Hallmark
143 Hwy 314 SW
masterhallmark@yahoo.com

Rainbow Candy Shop
Blanca Griego
1910 Main St NE Ste D
rainbowcandyshopdulceria@gmail.com
505 615-5076

Surrender Hot Yoga
Suzanne Sais-Mirabal
435 Main Street Southwest, Suite c
suzanne@surrenderhotyoga.com
505 480-2129

Wild Rose Flowers LLC (NEW)

Tessie Emond
2211 Main St SE Ste A-2
temond2iron@gmail.com
505 916-0339

CHECK IT OUT!

Rocken JV Designs

Graphic T's, Fundraising, Home Decor, Hair On Hide items, gifts for ALL Occasions!!

1400 Main St NW Ste B
505 300-7696

Rockenjvdesign@gmail.com
Follow Rocken JV Design on Facebook and Instagram.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY & MUSEUM

The Friends of the Los Lunas Public Library and Museum of Heritage and Arts held its annual meeting at the library the end of January where Jim Rickey was elected president for 2023.

The annual election of board members (who serve for a one year term) was conducted with the addition of two new members, Richard Grissom and Lindsay Lachey.

Other board members and officers for 2023: are:

President – Jim Rickey

Vice-president – Kristi Whistler

Treasurer – Lindsay Lacher

Secretary – Michelle Osowski

Vickie Otero – board member

Stephanie Williams – board member

Sarah Garde – board member

Tammie Nolde – board member

Richard Grissom – board member

Library director Cynthia Shetter – member ex officio

In 2022 the Friends organization:

- Held four monthly book sales at the library;
- Funded library adult reading challenge;
- Funded a library media cabinet with gaming console for teens;
- Funded a speaker to present a Chautauqua presentation of county native Nina Otero-Warren;
- Funded prizes for the museum's juried student art show;
- Built and erected three additional little free libraries;

- Funded gift cards for the summer reading program;
- Funded the purchase of bilingual children's books;
- Awarded an annual \$500 scholarship endowed by The Friends to a student at the UNM Valencia campus;
- Continued the sale of gift shop items at the Museum of Heritage & Arts;
- Served as fiscal agent for a Walmart Community Grant to the Los Lunas Library for its summer reading program;
- Served as fiscal agent for a \$5,000 Meta (Facebook) grant to the Los Lunas Parks and Recreation Dept.

LIBRARY TIDBITS

Tax forms: The Los Lunas Library has state and federal tax forms (with instructions for both).

Free notary service is now available during normal business hours Monday thru Saturday at the Los Lunas Library.

Adult reading challenge at Los Lunas Library.

Enroll through March 30 in the "Lands Near and Far" adult reading challenge by reading books for a chance to win prizes.

For more info call the library at 839-3850. There you can pick up the book lists (although there is latitude in which books you read).

Stop by the library at 460 Main St. NE to check out a book, DVD or CD. And check out all the events at the library for kids and teenagers.

And try out the Los Lunas Library app for your smart phone. Go to this link for more information: <https://tinyurl.com/y5vmktux>.

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).

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

Friday, April 7, 2023

Good Friday
All Village offices are closed
Friday garbage pickup on
Thursday, Feb 6, 2023

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. Thursday, March 9 & 23
6 p.m. Thursday, April 13 & 27

660 Main St NW
Main Street and Don Pasqual
Meetings will be virtual and
in-person.
Check Village website for agenda
loslunasnm.gov.

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 505 839-5658 (new phone number for this service) for questions and information.