



# VILLAGE NEWS



Small Community • Big Possibilities

Volume 27 - Number 11 - November 2023

## MAYOR GRIEGO, JUDGE CHAVEZ RE-ELECTED

Incumbent Village of Los Lunas Mayor Charles Griego, and incumbent Village Municipal Judge Avilio Chavez, both won re-election to four-year terms in the Nov. 7, 2023, election.

Griego was challenged by Alonzo Baldonado, a local realtor and former state representative. Baldonado has a bachelor's degree in business.

Griego, mayor since 2014, is the manager of Heritage Title of Valencia County. He served on the Village council from 1982 to 2013 and has a bachelor's degree in history.

Two Village Councilors were elected to another four-year term with no opposition in the election. Incumbent Gino Romero, a broker in the food service industry, will serve his third Village Council term in District Two. He has an associate's degree in business. Dr. James Runyon, is a minister who holds a doctorate degree. He will serve his second term as a District Four councilor.

Mark A. Aguilar, challenged Municipal Judge Chavez, for the municipal judgeship position. Aguilar is a high school graduate who is the Village code enforcement supervisor and sits on the Valencia County Planning and Zoning Commission. Chavez has a bachelor's degree of arts.

## CALLAHAN HIRED AS DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR

Erin Callahan, who has served as the Village of Los Lunas community development director for the last four years, has been promoted to be the first-ever deputy village administrator.

Callahan has been with the Village for eight years. She is a community planner by training and as community development director, she oversaw planning, code enforcement, economic development, animal control and business registration for the Village.

Prior to that position, Callahan was the Village's land use planner.

She received her master's degree in community and regional planning from the University of New Mexico in 2014, and occasionally teaches there as an adjunct faculty member.

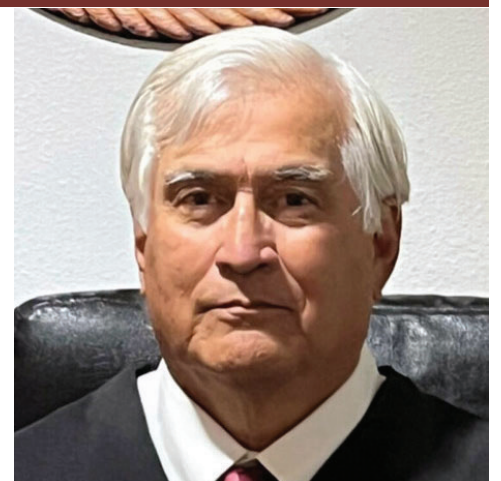
The Village Council has appointed Alex Ochoa as the new community development director.



*Deputy Director Erin Callahan*



*Mayor Charles Griego*



*Judge Avilio Chavez*

**CHARLES GRIEGO**

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**GREGORY D. MARTIN**

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR

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## MUSEUM FEATURES “ENCHANTED NEW MEXICO”

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 Nov. 18, 2023, through Jan. 6, 2024.

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

## ATTEND THE CHORAL PROGRAM

A Christmas choral program and nativity display will be held Sunday, December 10, 2023, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Anyone and everyone is welcome to participate in the choir performance and come watch. The nativity display is open to all.

Choir performance and display at 5 p.m. Sunday, December 10, 2023, at the Church of Jesus Christ Latter-day Saints, 180 James St. NW.



## VILLAGE OPEN MEETINGS RESOLUTION

To keep the Village of Los Lunas running smoothly all year long the Village Council passes an Open Meetings resolution every year.

The resolution establishes the rules of procedure for all transactions considered by the Council. It presents detailed rules of conduct establishing policy and procedure for the notice of general, special, and emergency meetings of the Council.

The resolution establishes that all meetings of a quorum of members of any board, council, commission, administrative adjudicatory body or other policymaking body of any state or local public agency held for formulating public policy, discussing public business or for the purpose of taking any action with the authority of or the delegated authority of such body, are declared to be public meetings open to the public at all times. The resolution also establishes that any meetings are subject to the Open Meetings Act at which the discussion or adoption of any proposed ordinance, resolution, rule, or regulation for formal action shall be held only after reasonable notice to the public.

The Open Meetings Act requires the Mayor and Council to determine annually what constitutes reasonable notice of its public meetings.

The resolution passed by the Mayor and Council calls for all meetings to be held at the Village of Los Lunas Council Chamber located at 660 Main Street, and/or via the Internet using appropriate virtual meeting or video conferencing software, beginning at, or as indicated in the meeting notice. Regular meetings shall be held each month as indicated on the yearly calendar.

The agendas will be available at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the scheduled meeting, posted at the following locations: the bulletin board located in the lobby of the Village Hall, 660 Main Street NW, posted on the bulletin board at the Los Lunas Public Library at 460 Main Street NE; and posted on the Village of Los Lunas website ([www.loslunasnm.gov](http://www.loslunasnm.gov)).

Special meetings may be called by the Mayor or a majority of the Council members with 72 hours' notice. The notice for all special meetings shall include an agenda for the meeting or information on how the public may obtain a copy of the agenda.

Emergency meetings will be called only under unforeseen circumstances that demand immediate action to protect the health, safety and property of citizens or to protect the public body from substantial financial loss.

## NON-PERISHABLES NEEDED

Many families in our area are experiencing difficult times and your generosity can help them enjoy the Holiday season.

By contributing non-perishable food items such as canned goods, pasta, rice, and cereal, you can help make sure people in our community do not go hungry.

Your donations will go a long way in providing essential sustenance in feeding those who are in need.

Bring donations to the Los Lunas Fire Station at 465 Sand Sage Rd. NW, west of Interstate 25.

## 2024 COUNCIL MEETING AND HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

### JANUARY

Council Meetings: 1/11 & 1/25  
Holiday(s): 1/1 – New Year's Day  
1/15 – Martin Luther King Day

### FEBRUARY

Council Meetings: 2/8 & 2/22  
Holiday(s): 2/19 – Presidents' Day

### MARCH

Council Meetings: 3/7 & 3/21  
Holiday(s): 3/29 Good Friday

### APRIL

Council Meetings: 4/11 & 4/25

### MAY

Council Meetings: 5/9 & 5/23  
Holiday(s): 5/27 Memorial Day

### JUNE

Council Meetings: 6/13 & 6/27  
Holiday(s): 6/19 Juneteenth

### JULY

Council Meetings: 7/11 & 7/25  
Holiday(s): 7/4 Independence Day

### AUGUST

Council Meetings: 8/8 & 8/22

### SEPTEMBER

Council Meetings: 9/12 & 9/26  
Holiday(s): 9/2 Labor Day

### OCTOBER

Council Meetings: 10/10 & 10/24

### NOVEMBER

Council Meetings: 11/7 & 11/21  
Holiday(s): 11/11 – Veterans Day  
11/28 & 11/29 – Thanksgiving Holiday

### DECEMBER

Council Meetings: 12/5 & 12/19  
Holiday(s): 12/24 & 12/25 - Christmas Holiday

## RENEW BUSINESS LICENSE

All business licenses issued in the Village of Los Lunas expire on December 31.

The Village offers three different ways to pay business registration renewals beginning this year.

- You can create an account through Xpress Bill Pay where you will also have the option to go paperless.
- If you choose in-person renewal, the Village cashier's office is located at the administration building, 660 Main St. NW. Cash, checks, or credit cards are accepted to pay the fee. You must present your renewal form.
- You can also mail your payment with a copy of your renewal form to Community Development 660 Main St. NW, Los Lunas, NM 80731.

Business registration renewals received after March 15, 2024 are subject to a 10% penalty. If your business is required to have a state or federal license which expired in the past year, the Village requires updates when turning in the business permit renewal.

The copies can be brought to the Village office or scanned and emailed to [communitydevelopment@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:communitydevelopment@loslunasnm.gov). Reference the business account number on the email.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact the Community Development Department at 505 839-3842. For issues with Xpress Bill Pay, call 888-312-1653 option two.

## PARADE REGISTRATION

Registration is now open for the Village of Los Lunas Electric Light Parade.

The Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023, parade route will begin at Smiths and end at Daniel Fernandez Park.

Register at [loslunasnm.gov](http://loslunasnm.gov).

## HELPING OTHERS

Volunteers belonging to a wide variety of Valencia County service organizations and churches banded together this fall, to sort and distribute 32,300 pounds of food to local organizations who distributed the food to those in need.

The commodities were donated and delivered by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to the St. Vincent de Paul pantry in Los Lunas.

Some 225 volunteers put in 375 hours of service for the project.

The organizations receiving food included Belen Area Food Pantry, Peralta Methodist Church, Midwest Community Action Program, Grace NM Church, Seventh Day Adventist Church, Valencia Community Action Network, Valencia County Resource Center, and five St. Vincent de Paul Deanery Conferences.

These organizations provided volunteers as did Los Lunas High School, Lending A Paw Service Group, [justserve.org](http://justserve.org), the First Baptist Church of Bosque Farms, and the Los Lunas Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

## SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN!

Santa will arrive at the Transportation Center at 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023, and the Christmas tree will be lit at 6:30 p.m.

Stockings will be given to all kids while supplies last. Pictures with Santa will be available. Food trucks and jumpers will be on site.



## LOS LUNAS AND STATEHOOD

"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](http://loslunasnm.gov). This newsletter runs excerpts from this history.

Don Solomon Luna, arguably the most powerful politician in Los Lunas and in New Mexico at the turn of the twentieth century, was born in Los Lunas, the third son of Don Antonio José Luna and Isabela Baca.

He was educated by private tutors until his teenage years when he graduated from St. Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri. Upon his return to New Mexico, he focused his attention on expanding his family's finances and political fortunes.

His 1882 marriage to Adelaida Otero enhanced the former while involvement in public office augmented the latter.

His business interests were extensive and in addition to being the leading sheep grower in New Mexico, and the owner of substantial real estate, he held board positions with the Bank of Commerce, The First National Bank of Albuquerque, and Occidental Life Insurance Company.

During his political career Don Solomon served as: Probate Clerk (1885), Sheriff (1892), Treasurer (1894 – 1912) and National Committee delegate (1896).

He was unanimously nominated as the Republican delegate to Congress in 1900, but declined the honor. Don Solomon was considered the most important delegate at the New Mexico Constitutional Convention in 1910 where he was chairman of the committee to appoint committees.

Luna was considered the largest sheep owner in New Mexico. He served as the president of the Sheep Growers Association and the Sheep Sanitary Board.

Ironically, he fell into a sheep dipping vat and drowned August 30, 1912, just eight months after New Mexico was admitted to the Union as the 47th state on January 6, 1912.

In 1963, he was inducted into the Hall of Great Westerners of the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.

## LOCAL EVENTS

### VETERANS DAY

Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023 Special program at Daniel Fernandez Park 11 a.m. All Village offices closed Friday, Nov. 10, 2023 Garbage pickup on Thursday, Nov. 9.

### THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Village Offices closed Thursday, Nov. 23 & Friday, Nov. 24, 2022 for Thanksgiving Holiday. Thursday garbage picked up Wednesday, Nov. 22. Friday garbage picked up Monday, Nov. 27.

### CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

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

### Attend a Village Council Meeting

6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023  
6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7 & 21, 2023  
660 Main St, NW  
Meetings will be virtual and in-person. Check Village website for agenda [loslunasnm.gov](http://loslunasnm.gov).

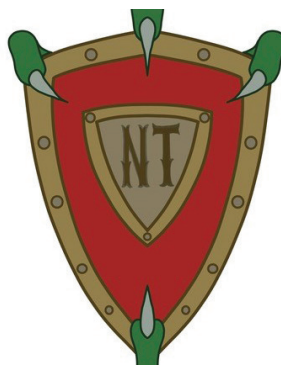
## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

**Mister**®

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HOMESERVICES NM  
PROPERTIES**  
1052 MAIN ST NE STE C  
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205 HIGHWAY 314 SW STE B  
[mb.nerdtopiagaming@gmail.com](mailto:mb.nerdtopiagaming@gmail.com)  
New owners

### SQUEEKY KLEEN

505-307-1445  
[squeekkleen505@gmail.com](mailto:squeekkleen505@gmail.com)  
The only locally owned  
trashcan cleaning business in  
our area  
Certificated with the  
Village of Los Lunas and  
the Environment Health  
Department