



# VILLAGE NEWS

Small Community • Big Possibilities

Volume 27 - Number 10 - October 2023

## VOTE IN 2023 ELECTION

Registered voters in the Village of Los Lunas can vote early, absentee or on the day of the Nov. 7, 2023, election.

Voters in the Village will vote for the positions of Mayor, Municipal Judge and Village Councilor. All will be for four-year terms.

Village of Los Lunas Candidates:

Mayor:

- Charles Griego
- Alonzo Baldonado

Municipal Judge:

- Mark Aguilar
- Avilio Chavez

Village Council District Two:

- Gino Mark Romero

Village Council District Four:

- James T. Runyon

Absentee voting may be done by requesting an Absentee Ballot Application from the Valencia County Bureau of Elections or online at NMVOTE.org.

The last day to request a ballot is Oct. 24, 2023.

Early voting begins on October 10 at the Valencia County Administrative Offices, and on October 21 at additional locations. Early voting ends on November 4.

- Belen Community Center: 305 Eagle Lane, Belen
- Bosque Farms Public Library: 1455 W Bosque Loop, Bosque Farms
- Valencia County Administrative Offices: 444 Luna Avenue, Los Lunas

Election Day is November 7, and voters may cast their ballots at any of the following locations from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.:

- Ann Parish Elementary School: 112 Meadow Lake Road, Los Lunas
- Belen Community Center: 305 Eagle Lane, Belen
- Belen Public Library: 333 Becker Avenue, Belen
- Bosque Farms Public Library: 1455 W Bosque Loop, Bosque Farms
- Daniel Fernandez Intermediate School: 32 Sun Valley Road, Los Lunas
- Del Rio Senior Center: 351 Rio Communities Blvd., Belen
- Don Jose Dolores Cordova Cultural Center: 426 Jarales Road, Jarales

- El Cerro Mission Community Center: 309 El Cerro Mission Road, Los Lunas
- Logsdon Hall: 19676 Hwy 314, Belen
- Los Lunas Schools Administration: 119 Luna Street, Los Lunas
- Pueblo of Isleta Veterans Center: 4001 Hwy 314, Los Lunas
- Tome Dominguez de Mendoza Community Center: 2933 NM Hwy 47, Los Lunas
- Town of Peralta: 90A Molina Road, Peralta
- UNM Valencia Workforce Training Center: 1020 Huning Ranch East Loop, Los Lunas

The terms will start on January 1, 2024.

The election is being run by the Valencia County Bureau of Elections. Any questions should be addressed to the Bureau of Elections, 505 866-2080.

For complete information about this election, visit the Valencia County website at [www.co.valencia.nm.us/419/REGULAR-LOCAL-ELECTION-2023](http://www.co.valencia.nm.us/419/REGULAR-LOCAL-ELECTION-2023).

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# HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOSTS SPEAKERS, ROAD SHOW

The Valencia County Historical Society is sponsoring several events this fall.

The second annual Valencia County historical roadshow will be held Sunday, Oct. 29, 2023, from two to four p.m. at the Belen Harvey House Museum.

You can bring your historical item to be evaluated for historic content by local experts. Prizes will be awarded in three categories -- most historical, most unique, and People's Choice. Items may have historical elements related to the United States, the State of New Mexico or Valencia County.

Entries will be accepted from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. and must be small enough to be exhibited on a table. Results of the judging will be announced at 4 p.m. Only the first 100 items will be accepted (no firearms). Exhibitors from last year are encouraged to participate.

The story of the U.S. Army's famous mobile camel brigade will be featured in a talk later this year.

## MUSEUM HAPPENINGS

The Los Lunas Museum of Heritage and Arts presents a Veterans Day exhibit through Nov. 11, 2023. Opening day will be Oct 7, 2023, from two to four p.m.

The Museum of Heritage & Arts will host a Saints and Sinners Tour on Oct. 21, 2023, from nine a.m. to three p.m.

The tour starts at the Immaculate Conception Church in Tome and goes to Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Peralta. At the Peralta Church will be the 3rd annual Charlie Otero Matanza and Art Show. Lunch, included in the \$20 fee, will be served in Peralta. The last stop will be the Camino Real Winery in Los Lunas.

Call the museum at 505 352-7720 to sign up.

The museum is located at the intersection of Luna Avenue and Main Street under the downtown water tower.

## HOLIDAY BAZAAR

The crafty ladies of the Peralta Methodist Church will host their 44th annual holiday bazaar at 25 Wesley Road in Peralta off Highway 47 on Friday, Nov. 17, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 18, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Ladies spend months creating handcrafted items, many holiday themed. Also available will be jams, jellies, pickles and baked goods.

The Methodist Men will sell breakfast burritos, taco soup, and drinks.

## HONORING OUR VETERANS

The annual Veterans Day ceremony will be held Saturday, November 11, 2023, at 11 a.m. at Daniel Fernandez Memorial Park hosted by the Village of Los Lunas, Los Lunas Invested in Veterans Events, and Blue Star Mothers of Valencia County.

Speaker will be Commander Chet Pino of VFW Post 9676. The event will include refreshments, songs performed by the Jubilation Barber Shop Singers and more.

## PARADE REGISTRATION

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

The parade will be held on December 2, with a final parade route still being determined due to ongoing construction on Main Street east of the river.

## DON'T BE SCAMMED

The entire world, including Los Lunas and Valencia County, continues to cope with the aftermath of the COVID pandemic while unscrupulous people continue to conduct scams.

Be on the lookout for people conducting those scams. Individuals may knock on your door or call you on the phone making claims about COVID or any number of things.

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.

## CHECK OUT BADLANDS DRIVE-IN

Fill your vehicle with people and watch a movie at the Los Lunas Badlands Drive-In, located at the intersection of NM Hwy 314 and Morris Road.

Check out the schedule online at [loslunasnm.gov](http://loslunasnm.gov).

# COMMUNITY BRANDING IN THE VILLAGE

Since 2010, Los Lunas has underscored the importance of branding and its long term benefit to the community when used regularly in marketing. A simple slogan can make a lasting impact and call attention to the admirable traits of the community it represents.

The Village uses three slogans to represent notable attributes of our community.

## ***Small Community. Big Possibilities.***

As the leading slogan of the Village, the phrase instills the importance of a tight-knit community and emphasizes the ability to accomplish great things. The Village has become the economic hub of Valencia County through perseverance and the desire for a better quality of life.

## ***Roads Less Traveled***

The tourism branding was established to accentuate the region's rural character and identify local points of interest off the beaten path. Still, the Roads Less Traveled always lead back to Los Lunas, where visitors have a memorable destination to play and stay.

## ***A Community That Works***

Although the phrase can take on a couple of different meanings, it was initially established when the Village enacted the Home Occupation regulations, allowing the community to live and work out of their primary residence. While this was the original intent, the phrase has now become the tagline of the Economic Development Division, referencing the strong and diverse local workforce.

# EASY REPORTING FOR ISSUES

Are you troubled by dogs that get loose in your neighborhood, or about a house with two foot high weeds in the front yard?

Report these issues to the Village with the Code Enforcement Service Request. It allows residents to report any type of code enforcement or animal control issue by easy-to-use categories, and view recently reported issues and status updates through an online map.

Find the Code Enforcement Service Request under the Forms tab on the Village website, [loslunasnm.gov](http://loslunasnm.gov).

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

**Leftovers**

**CHRISTOPHER'S LEFTOVERS ETC LLC**  
604 Main St NE  
505 865-3300  
(new owner)

**TACOS**

**EL SUPER TACO RESTAURANT**  
223 Hwy 314 SW  
317 220-2745  
(new location)



**FRESH BARBERSHOP**  
3476 Main St NE Ste C  
505 515-5829  
(new business)

**CHINA SUPER BUFFET**  
2510 Main St NE Ste G  
505 865-8822  
(new owner)

# FIRST DOCTORS ESTABLISH PRACTICES

"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.

Searching for new opportunities, Dr. William Frederick Wittwer left his Peru, Indiana, practice in 1899 and headed West. Arriving in Albuquerque, he visited his friend Dr. George S. Easterday and accompanied him on several house calls, including one as far south as Los Lunas.

The village had had practicing physicians, including Dr. Henry P. Brown in the early 1880s and Dr. J.L. Harrington in the early 1890s, but none had stayed very long and no physician hung his shingle in town at the turn of the century.

Lacking a full-time doctor for their community, local leaders suggested that Wittwer establish a practice in Los Lunas.

Several merchants, the local postmaster and the stationmaster, whose wife happened to be pregnant, quickly raised a subscription list to pay the doctor \$50 a month, plus whatever fees he charged on his own.

Wittwer turned down the offer and continued south, but did not receive a better offer in Las Cruces or El Paso. He decided to take the offer in Los Lunas, but lacking the funds to travel back to Los Lunas he pawned his bicycle. Still lacking sufficient cash for a railroad ticket north, Wittwer caught a ride on a freight train.

When railroad workers found him and tried to force him off the train, "I pretended I was mute and they left me alone."

His adventures did not end once he arrived in Los Lunas. According to local legend, one of the first local residents to "greet" the new physician was literally at the end of his rope, having been recently lynched from the hanging tree on Main Street.

In August 1899, Wittwer opened his office in a room in Simon Neustadt's residence, where he not only treated patients, but also lived. The doctor soon moved to the Hunings' store and home near the northwest corner of today's Los Lentes Road and Main Street.

Local residents had agreed to pay his room and board until his practice was well established. He then built a home directly across from the Luna Mansion and practiced out of his home.

Dr. Wittwer's home was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1987 and is now Teofilo's Restaurante owned by Pete and Tenci Torres.

## LOCAL EVENTS

### A HALLOWEEN BASH! HALLOWEEN EXTRAVAGANZA

Presented by the Village Parks and Recreation Dept. Transportation Center 101 Courthouse Road Saturday, Oct. 27 & 31, 2023 5-9 p.m. Candy, costume contest, dog costume contest, games and jumpers.

### ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2023  
Vote absentee, early or in person. Call the Valencia County Bureau of Elections for more information 505 866-2073.

### 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, 2023 for Thanksgiving Holiday. Thursday garbage picked up Wednesday, Nov. 22. Friday garbage picked up Monday, Nov. 27.

### Attend a Village Council Meeting

6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023  
6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 2 and 16, 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).

### Los Lunas Public Library Now Open

9 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Monday – Saturday  
460 Main Street NE 505 839-3850