



VILLAGE NEWS



Small Community • Big Possibilities

Volume 28 - Number 2 - February 2024

VILLAGE APPOINTMENTS MADE

The Los Lunas Village Council voted affirmatively on a four-zero vote to reappoint Gregory D. Martin as Village Administrator at the Jan. 11, 2024, Village Council meeting. Mayor Charles Griego recommended Martin.

Martin has been Village Administrator since April 2012. Immediately prior to arriving in Los Lunas, Martin served as Assistant Town Manager at Strasburg, Virginia. He also spent three years as City Manager at St. Johns, Arizona. He attended school at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Spanish Translation and a Master's Degree in Public Administration.

The Village Council approved the reappointment of John Gabaldon as Fire Chief by a vote of four-zero as recommended by Mayor Griego. Gabaldon was appointed Chief in 2016. He was hired as a career firefighter in the Los Lunas Fire Department in 1997.

The Village Council approved the appointment of Frank Lucero by a vote of four-zero as Village Police Chief on the recommendation of Mayor Griego. Chief Lucero has been in law enforcement nearly 20 years.

District Two Village Councilor Gino Romero will serve as Mayor Pro Tem after the Council voted four-zero for his appointment. Gino Romero was re-elected Village Councilor in District Two in November 2023 for a third four-year term.



Gregory D. Martin
Village Administrator



John Gabaldon
Village Fire Chief



Frank Lucero
Village Police Chief



Gino Romero
Village Mayor Pro Tem

CHARLES GRIEGO

MAYOR

griegoc@loslunasnm.gov

GINO M. ROMERO

VILLAGE COUNCILOR

romerog@loslunasnm.gov

FRANK LUCERO

POLICE CHIEF

flucero@loslunasnm.gov

DR. JAMES RUNYON

VILLAGE COUNCILOR

runyonj@loslunasnm.gov

CRUZ MUÑOZ

VILLAGE COUNCILOR

munozc@loslunasnm.gov

JOHN GABALDON

FIRE CHIEF

jgabaldon@loslunasnm.gov

CHRISTOPHER S. ORTIZ

VILLAGE COUNCILOR

ortizc@loslunasnm.gov

AVILIO CHAVEZ

MUNICIPAL JUDGE

avchavez@loslunasnm.gov

GREGORY D. MARTIN

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR

marting@loslunasnm.gov

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.

ART SHOW AT MUSEUM

Works of The Camino Real Artists are now showing at the Village Museum of Heritage & Arts.

Before that, the 11th annual Juried Art Show opened in November with the theme "Enchanted New Mexico" featuring over 70 pieces submitted by 33 different artists.

Three independent judges selected the winners – Irling Smith Best of Show with his Mahogany Bowl, Eddie Ramirez first place with "It wasn't Joseph, it was Jesus," Marilyn Smiel for 2nd place with "Sandia Crest," and third place for Gaye Garrison with "Ole' Jack." The show included multiple mediums and judges awarded five honorable mentions.

The museum is located at 251 Main St. SE, under the downtown water tower, phone 505 352-7720, open Tuesday – Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

SCENES FROM OUR COMMUNITY

The annual 2024 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.

FRIENDS MEET, ELECTS OFFICERS

The Friends of the Los Lunas Public Library and Museum of Heritage and Arts held its annual meeting in January 2024 at the Los Lunas Library.

The meeting began with an informative talk by New Mexico author and historian Don Bullis about unsolved murders in New Mexico. The talk was supported by the Historical Society of New Mexico. Board members and officers elected at the meeting:

Jim Rickey – President

Kristi Whistler – Vice-president

Lindsay Lacher – Treasurer

Michelle Osowski – Secretary

Vickie Otero – Board Member

Stephanie Williams – Board Member

Richard Grissom – Board Member

Library director Cynthia Shetter – member ex officio

Two board members, Sarah Garde and Tammie Nolde, have resigned from the board. Board president Jim Rickey said they helped the organization grow.

VILLAGE BUSINESS REGISTRATION RENEWAL

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

Create an account or use an existing account at www.xpressbillpay.com. All you need is your business registration account number and last name or business name.

JOIN THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOR PHOTOS

On Sunday, Feb. 18, 2024, at 2 p.m. at the Belen Public Library, 333 Becker Avenue in Belen, the Valencia County Historical Society will hold its annual meeting. The meeting will feature a historical photo presentation by Ronnie Torres.

Also at the event will be the society's annual awards and the election of officers. The event is open to the public.

Upcoming Valencia County Historical Society events are:

- March 16, 2 pm, Belen Public Library—Tina Raven Kingston will present her award-winning documentary entitled "Women in the Heart of Belen."
- April 14, 2 pm, Los Lunas Museum of Heritage and Arts—Paul Parmentier will speak on the Fossilized Footprints at White Sands
- May 18, 2 pm, Harvey House Museum, Belen - John Taylor will speak on 49 New Mexico individuals who have been awarded the Medal of Honor.

GENSEN DRIVE WORK

The Village Public Works Department has started the Gensen Drive Road and Utility Improvement Project.

The Village has received a \$475,000 award from the New Mexico Department of Transportation Local Government Road Funds which the Village will match with \$275,000 from the water-sewer fund to upgrade the water and sewer lines.

These improvements will include new ADA sidewalks, storm water drainage, curb, gutters, and roadway surface. The project is estimated to be completed by April 2024.

A COMMUNITY THAT WORKS

When you read about the Village of Los Lunas you may find the phrase A Community That Works. You might be curious about that tagline.

Here's information on how that tagline came to be.

Los Lunas is a friendly, pro-development community located 20 minutes south of downtown Albuquerque, 15 minutes from the International Sunport and easily accessible off the I-25 interstate that runs north and south.

Over the past 40 years, Los Lunas' population increase has made the community one of the fastest growing in New Mexico. This is due to the ease of doing business by offering competitive incentives and speed-to-market capability for both commercial and residential projects.

Some of the largest employers are Los Lunas Meta (Facebook) Data Center campus, Walmart Distribution Center, Wall Colmonoy, Niagara Bottling, Accurate Machine & Tool, Party Outlaw, and Fresenius Medical Care distribution. There are also many other businesses including various industries and national retailers.

The University of New Mexico Workforce Training Center opened its doors in January 2022. Located close to three industrial parks and a short distance from I-25, this unique 19,000 SF facility accommodates classrooms, computer labs, a vocational lab, Small Business Development (SBDC) Office, and tutoring areas.

The facility offers classes and training focused on manufacturing and industry, as well as "soft" skills needed in the workforce.

Students train to become New Mexico employees with the specific skills they need to get the job done quickly, safely, and efficiently.

Los Lunas might look like a small community but with over 2,000 acres of available commercial and industrial land across three business parks with direct access to two major interstates as well as rail, there are big possibilities in the Village of Los Lunas, A Community That Works.

SOLAR USED IN VILLAGE

The Village of Los Lunas Public Works Department has completed its third solar facility installation.

The Fleet Maintenance Building was the first. Then the Public Works Building and now the Streets Building is generating electricity.

The benefits of solar panels have been validated for years, especially in New Mexico, says Village Public Works Director Michael Jaramillo.

Within five months of solar operation at the Streets Building, 6.6 MWh was produced; CO2 was reduced by 4.7 tons; and 78 trees were planted.

The largest solar energy-producing system at Water Well #7 and Water Sewer Administration building will be in production shortly.

The Village and its dedicated team have committed to the environment, and enjoy the electrical savings each month.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

RILEY REAL ESTATE

1850 Main St NE Ste C

505 362-2424

leah@real505.com

There is a new realtor
in our area.

AFFORDABLE RV SERVICE

1930 Main St NE Ste 9

505 401-0770

RV service and parts

INNERCIRCLE PROPERTIES

rebeccabald4242@gmail.com

Check out this new realtor
in our area.

MATTHEW MINGE FARMERS INSURANCE AGENCY LLC

110 Main St NE Ste C

505 788-7088

mminge@farmersagent.com

A new insurance agency
in our area.



A BIT OF LOS LUNAS HISTORY

“A Cultural & Economic History of Los Lunas” was written by Los Lunas Library and Museum Director Cynthia Shetter and can be found on the Village’s website loslunasnm.gov. This newsletter is running excerpts from Shetter’s writing.

Several full service gas stations appeared along the main street in Los Lunas, including one that Climaco Aguirre owned located next to the courthouse on Main and Luna Streets. Climaco was authorized to issue automobile licenses, and in his capacity as the county clerk he was able to issue marriage licenses - sometimes from the service station – and as the superintendent of Valencia County Schools, he was actively involved in the County’s educational programs. Climaco and the other residents of Los Lunas witnessed the migration of hundreds of thousands of people in search of a better life as they passed through. Today, only one of the era’s service stations remains on Main Street in Los Lunas on the northwest corner of the intersection of Highway 6 and Highway 314 as a testament to the glory age of the Mother Road.

On October 29, 1929, Black Tuesday hit the Wall Street Stock Exchange wiping out thousands of investors and launching America into The Great Depression. This was immediately followed by dust bowl conditions that lasted over a decade and propelled people to migrate West seeking reprieve from conditions and employment. Combined, these events placed Los Lunas in a position to become an integral stopping point on the road west... Route 66. John Steinbeck described Route 66 in his 1939 iconic novel, *The Grapes of Wrath* as...

“...the path of a people in flight, refugees from dust and shrinking land, from thunder of tractors and shrinking ownership, from the desert’s slow northward invasion, from the twisting winds that howl up out of Texas, from floods that bring no richness to the land and steal what little richness is there. From all of these the people are in flight, and they come into [Route] 66 from tributary side roads, from the wagon tracks and the rutted country roads. [Route] 66 is the mother road, the road of flight.”

“...there’s an end to Texas. Tucumcari and Santa Rosa and into the New Mexican mountains to Albuquerque, where the road comes down from Santa Fe. Then down the gorged Rio Grande to Los Lunas and west again on 66 to Gallup, and then there’s the border of New Mexico.”

The 1930’s heralded the introduction of modern conveniences to the residents of Los Lunas. Electricity and natural gas arrived in the area and in 1939, the water works system and water tower were completed utilizing funds raised by a bond issue vote.

LOCAL EVENTS

La Vida Felicidad

Boots and Bowties Gala

Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024

6:30 - 11:00 p.m.

Location: The Horseshoe

4555 NM-314 Los Lunas

Dinner and Dance

Live Band by Loaded

\$50 a person

Tickets available at www.lvfnm.org

PRESIDENTS DAY

Village Offices closed

Monday, Feb. 19, 2024

Monday garbage picked up

Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2024

Attend a Village Council Meeting

6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8 & 22, 2024

Thursday, March 7 & 21, 2024

660 Main St, NW

Meetings will be virtual and in-person. Check Village website for agenda loslunasnm.gov.

KING OF THE HILL MARCH 9

King of the Hill 2024 has been scheduled for Saturday, March 9, 2024.

King of the Hill offers 100% trail running at 5k, 10k, and half marathon distances.

The races take place in the beautiful and challenging trails of El Cerro de Los Lunas.

Entry prices vary by race, and go up on March 1. Check the Village website, loslunasnm.gov, for specific prices. Registration is also available on race day.