



# VILLAGE NEWS



Small Community • Big Possibilities

Volume 28 - Number 1 - January 2024

## VILLAGE CONSIDERING AN AQUATIC CENTER

Village officials are gathering information to find out what people want to have in an aquatic center in Los Lunas.

In December 2023, a brief meeting was held to address what the public desired in an aquatic center. A brief survey has also been available online for the community to provide input. Visit [www.loslunasnm.gov](http://www.loslunasnm.gov) to find the survey linked to the homepage of the Village website.

Community planners say that not having a swimming pool, including recreation, competitive and therapeutic facilities, has been a long-standing concern.

The December 2023 meeting was led by Evan Eleff, a partner with Sports Facilities Advisory, and Kevin Post, a representative of Counsilman Hunsaker, an aquatic planning and design firm. The Village commissioned these companies to explore the possibilities of an aquatic center.

At the meeting, Eleff and Post presented their process for developing aquatic centers and what kind of amenities the space could offer, including lap lanes and water slides.

Pools are vital to the health and safety of a community, said the meeting leaders.

Aquatic centers can also provide a wide variety of uses and multigenerational opportunities to participate in different activities like swim teams and clubs, group exercise classes, birthday parties, and more.

Three main phases must be accomplished before submitting a final report to the council in early or mid March. They are currently in the first phase, which involves market analysis and community engagement.

At the meeting, members of the public said Belen's pool is the closest option around for kids to utilize in the county, so an aquatic center is something the community needs. The idea of an indoor/outdoor option was widely received and those in attendance said a facility that could be used year round is ideal.

Eleff emphasized to the attendees this project is bigger than just Los Lunas, as an aquatic center will be beneficial for people from surrounding communities as well.

To further engage the community, the consultants created an online survey to learn more about the public's preferences and what they rank as most important in the facility. Data from the survey will be integral to the design of the facility. Visit [www.loslunasnm.gov](http://www.loslunasnm.gov) to find the survey linked to the homepage of the Village website.

The estimated cost to construct the aquatic center is around \$20 million, so the more community engagement the survey receives the more momentum there will be to move the project forward.

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## BEST COMMUNITY TO LIVE IN

The Village of Los Lunas was voted "Best Community to Live In" in the Best of Valencia County 2023 sponsored by the Valencia County News-Bulletin.

Village Mayor Charles Griego said this reflects the community's commitment to an exceptional quality of life and the Village's second place standing as fastest growing community in New Mexico.

Many other Los Lunas based businesses or organizations were honored in the News-Bulletin's Best of 2023 including the following. Addresses shown are Los Lunas.

**Weck's** on Main Street was selected Best Breakfast of Valencia County.

Other food Best Of's included

- **Blake's Lotaburger**, Main Street & NM Hwy 314, Best Breakfast Burrito.
- **Teofilo's**, 120 Main Street NW, Best Carne Adovada, Best Green Chile, Best Lunch.
- **Range Café**, 740 Main Street NE, Best Dessert.
- **Dion's**, 3460 Main Street NE, Best Pizza, Best Salad.

Best of's continued:

**David C. Chavez**, 651 NM Hwy 314 SW, Best Attorney.

**Captain Raquel Torres**, Best Firefighter. Raquel started volunteering with the Los Lunas Fire Department in 2002 and became a career firefighter in 2005. She was promoted as the first female captain in the LLFD in February.

**Daylight Electric**, 267 Courthouse Road, tied with Randy's Electric for Best Electrician.

**Greg Hennington**, Los Lunas High School Coach, Best High School Coach.

**Rodney Baca**, Farmers Insurance, 1202 Main Street NE, Best Insurance Agency.

**Eric Tiger**, Los Lunas High School, Best Principal.

**Nancy A. Montoya**, Century 21 Real Estate, 2601 Main Street SW, Best Real Estate Agent.

**Manny's Fine Pastries**, 515 Main Street SE, Best Bakery.

**Mario's Barber Shop**, 2210 Sun Ranch Village Loop, Best Barber Shop.

**Los Lunas 4th of July events** including parade and celebration, Best Community Event.

**Valencia Shelter Services**, 445 Camino del Rey SW, Best Community Service Organization.

**Nusenda Credit Union**, 320 Main Street NE, Best Financial Institution and Best Mortgage Lender.

**Bloom Flowers and Gifts**, 1402 Main Street NW Ste E, Best Floral Shop.

**Noblin Funeral Service**, 2211 Main Street SE, Best Funeral Home.

**Main Street Muscle & Fitness Center**, 435 Main Street SW, Best Gym.

**RAKS Building Supply**, 108 Carson Drive SE, Best Hardware & Lumber Store.

**Baskin-Robbins**, 3457 NM Hwy 47, Best Ice Cream Shop.

**Nails Time**, 3457 NM Hwy 47, Best Nail Salon.

**Tillery Buick & GMC**, 2221 Autumn Brush Road, Best New or Used Car Dealership.

**Tractor Brewing Company**, 470 Sand Sage Road NW, Best Place to Get an Adult Beverage.

**My Lube Center**, 1505 Main Street SW, Best Place to Get an Oil Change.

**Teri's Sweet Garden**, 120 Main Street NW, Best Place to get a Sweet Treat.

Village Administration Office: 505 839-3840

## 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 2025 per Ordinance 13.8.120.

## COUNCIL APPROVES WATER LEASE

The Village Council has approved the lease of up to 921.328 acre-feet of water rights on a year to year basis for no more than five years to the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission.

The Interstate Stream Commission will use the pre-1907 Rio Grande Surface water rights for deposit into the Strategic Water Reserve to benefit threatened or endangered species and to ensure continued compliance with the state's Rio Grande Compact obligations.

## ART SHOW AT MUSEUM

The Camino Real Artists showing at the Village Museum of Heritage & Arts will begin Saturday, Jan. 27, 2024.

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.

## GUITAR LESSONS

Register now for guitar lessons to be offered thru the Los Lunas Recreation Division.

Choose a six week (Saturday) series of sessions.

For ages five and up at \$70 per participant.

[www.loslunasnm.gov](http://www.loslunasnm.gov)

# LL SPECIAL EVENTS /DRIVE-IN MOVIES

Badlands Drive-in opened in February 2021 by the Village of Los Lunas where the Badlands Dirt-Bike Park used to be at Morris Road and NM Hwy 314.

Tickets for Badlands can be purchased online for \$15 per car for family-oriented shows on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday.

Here's information about movies being shown in 2024 plus special events in the Village.

## January 2024

Drive-in Movies  
Date: January 12 & 20  
Time: Sundown  
Location: Badlands Drive-in  
Movies: Mean Girls (Jan 12) & Spiderman with Andrew Garfield (Jan 20)

## February 2024

Drive-in Movies  
Date: February 9 & 17  
Time: Sundown  
Location: Badlands Drive-in  
Movies: Pulp Fiction (Feb 9) & Shark Tale (Feb 17)

## March 2024

King of the Hill 5k, 10k, 10k Rucksack & Half Marathon Run  
Date: March 9, 2024  
Time: 7 a.m.  
Location: El Cerro de Los Lunas Preserve  
Drive-in Movies  
Date: March 8 & 16  
Time: Sundown  
Location: Badlands Drive in  
Movies: John Wick (Mar 8) & HOP (Mar 16)  
Spring Outdoor Adventures  
Date: March 11 - 13  
Time: TBD  
Location: River Park  
Egg Hunt 2024  
Date: March 28, 2024  
Time: TBD  
Location: Sports Complex

## April 2024

Drive-in Movies  
Date: April 12 & 20  
Time: Sundown  
Location: Badlands Drive in  
Movies: Dodgeball (April 12) & Benchwarmers (April 20)

Summer Recreation Opens  
Date: April 1, 2024  
Time: 8 a.m.

## May 2024

May the Fourth Be with You  
Date: May 4, 2024  
Time: Sundown  
Location: Badlands Drive-in  
Drive-in Movies  
Date: May 10 & 18  
Time: Sundown  
Location: Badlands Drive-in  
Movies: 21 Jump Street (May 10) & Nacho Libre with Jack Black (May 18)

## June 2024

Summer Recreation Starts  
Date: June and July  
Time: 8 a.m.- 4 p.m.  
Location: Daniel Fernandez Recreation Center  
Drive-in Movies  
Date: June 7 & 15  
Time: Sundown  
Location: Badlands Drive-in  
Movies: Shrek (June 7) & White Chicks (June 15)

## July 2024

Fourth of July Celebration  
Date: July 4, 2024  
Parade: TBD  
Park Festivities: TBD  
Location: Daniel Fernandez Memorial Park  
Register for the Parade  
Drive-In Movies  
Date: July 12 & 20  
Time: Sundown  
Location: Badlands Drive-in  
Movies: Top Gun Maverick (July 12) & Sandlot (July 20)  
Full Moon Hike  
Date: July 21  
Summer Outdoor Adventures  
Date: July 22 - 26  
Time: TBD  
Location: River Park

## August 2024

Summer Outdoor Adventures  
Date/Time: TBD  
Location: El Cerro de Los Lunas Trail  
Head NM Hwy 6  
Hosted by Los Lunas Open Space  
Drive-In Movies  
Dates: TBD  
Times: Sundown  
Location: Badlands Drive-in  
Movies: TBD

## September 2024

Drive-in Movies  
Date: September 23  
Time: Sundown  
Location: Badlands Drive-in  
Movie: Remember the Titans (Sept 23)

## October 2024

Halloween Bash  
Date: October 25th  
Time: 5pm - 9pm  
Location: TBD  
Halloween Moon Hike  
Date/Time: TBD  
Location: El Cerro de Los Lunas Trail  
Head NM Hwy 6  
Hosted by Los Lunas Open Space  
Drive-In Movies  
Dates: TBD  
Time: Sundown  
Location: Badlands Drive in  
Movies: TBD

## November 2024

Fishing Derby  
Date: November 24  
Time: TBD  
Location: Los Lunas River Park  
Drive-In Movies  
Dates: TBD  
Time: Sundown  
Location: Badlands Drive in  
Movies: TBD  
Turkey Trot  
Dates: November 28, 2024  
Time: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.  
Location: River Park

## December 2024

Christmas Parade  
Date: December 7, 2024  
Time: 6 p.m.- 9 p.m.  
Santa Claus is Coming to Town  
Date: December 14, 2024  
Time: 5 p.m - 9 p.m.  
(Santa's Arrival @ 6:00 p.m.)  
Winter Camp 2024  
Date/Time: TBD  
Location: Daniel Fernandez Recreation Center  
Drive-In Movies  
(Campfire and S'mores Kit included)  
Dates: TBD  
Time: Sundown  
Location: Badlands Drive-in  
Movies: TBD

# LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES

The Friends of the Los Lunas Library & Museum of Heritage & Arts has built and installed four little free libraries, located in the following Los Lunas parks:

- Huning Ranch Park on Sundance St.
- Los Cerritos Park on Los Cerritos Road
- San Antonio Park on North Los Lentes
- Valley View Park on Grant Blvd

## ROUTE 66 LEADS TO INCORPORATION

"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.

The arrival of the years immediately following the Great War of 1914 – 1918, America embarked upon a massive national undertaking to exert its new-found vitality and strength. America bristled with youthful energy during the decade. The Rio Abajo area was no exception. In 1925, a stretch of automobile highway was completed in Los Lunas.

This road was part of a circuitous route that ran from Santa Rosa to Romeroville, southwest of Las Vegas, before turning south to Santa Fe and then down to Los Lunas.

Fred D. Huning, Sr. was instrumental in overseeing the paving of this portion of highway. As the highway construction work was ongoing, on Armistice Day in 1926 the establishment of the United States Route 66 was realized. This new National highway was popularly known as Route 66 or the Mother Road. Travelers were making the trek from the east to the west coast. California was the destination drawing many for a variety of reasons. Oil, movies, manufacturing, military installations, trans-pacific trade, and agriculture were the key drivers of growth.

As his ancestors before him, Fred D. Huning, Sr., Joseph F. Tondre and many other residents of Los Lunas recognized the opportunity presented. This induced them to incorporate. The Valencia County Commission meeting minutes documenting the proceedings read:

"On July 2, 1928, during a board of county commissioners meeting at the Valencia County Courthouse, Fred D. Huning and Joseph F. Tondre presented a signed petition by residents of the settlement of Los Lunas requesting incorporation as a village pursuant to State law.

The commissioners ordered the petition be filed with the county clerk, while also appointing Pabla Aragon to conduct a census and ordering a survey of the proposed village, whereupon the meeting was adjourned until July 10. On that day, Emiliano Castillo, Sr., chairman; J. Procopio Silva, member; Jesus Gallegos, sheriff; and Luis Baca McBride, clerk (represented in proxy by his deputy Abelino A. Gutierrez) considered the matter of incorporation and, satisfied with the procedure, ordered and declared "the people of the territory embraced within the boundaries of the said survey platted and filed as aforesaid to be an incorporated village under the name and style of The Village of Los Lunas." On August 7, 1928, residents voted at the Los Lunas Public School and returned the following results:

Antonio J. Archuleta was elected Mayor. Joseph F. Tondre, Gilberto C. Luna, Abelino A. Gutierrez, and Jesus Maestas were elected trustees. Fred D. Huning, Sr. was elected clerk while Simon Neustadt would serve as treasurer.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Check out these businesses in the Village!

### **BARBER BAZAAR**

835 Main St. SE Ste 105  
Owner, Aaron Martin

### **THE HUMAN BEAN**

1770 Main St. NE  
505 548-7170

### **LUCKY BINZ LLC**

959 NM Hwy 314 SW Ste E  
[luckubinznm@gmail.com](mailto:luckubinznm@gmail.com).

### **HOUSE OF DOGS PLAY & STAY LLC**

Tonya Galbreth 505 460-5977  
[houseofdogs505@gmail.com](mailto:houseofdogs505@gmail.com)  
Dog sitting in clients' homes.

## LOCAL EVENTS

### **MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY**

Village Offices closed Monday,  
Jan. 15, 2024

Monday garbage picked up  
Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2024

### **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, Jan. 11 & 25,  
2024

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

660 Main St, NW

Meetings will be virtual and in-person. Check Village website for agenda [loslunasnm.gov](http://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 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.