



# VILLAGE NEWS

Small Community • Big Possibilities

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## FORMER MAYOR LOUIS F. HUNING DIES

Louis F. Huning, who was elected mayor of the Village of Los Lunas seven consecutive times, has died. He was born June 10, 1949, in Albuquerque and died June 5, 2024, in Los Lunas. Mayor Huning is buried in Terrace Grove Cemetery in Belen.

Huning was first elected mayor of the Village in 1982.

Elected as Village Councilors that year were two of Huning's fellow 1967 Los Lunas High School graduates, Charles Griego and Robert Vialpando.

Los Lunas Library and Museum Director Cynthia Shetter wrote in the publication *A Cultural and Economic History of Los Lunas* that, in 1982, Los Lunas was a small, sleepy town with a population of between 1,500 and 2,000, at the most, people.

Main Street was a two-lane asphalt road, and there were only a handful of police officers on the force.

As mayor, Huning, along with Griego and Vialpando, increased the number of Village employees from twenty to more than 200 while raising the Village's operating budget.

Improvements and events during Huning's tenure include:

- Supporting the growth and strengthening of the Village Police Department
- Extending sewer lines into the Luna Hills subdivision south of Main Street, east of I-25
- Supporting Village employees as they developed new programs and events
- Replacing the Village garbage collection system
- Improving the roads and infrastructure throughout the Village
- Using industrial revenue bonds to bring the Walmart Distribution Center
- Supporting an economic development program which brought additional stores, restaurants, industries and more to the area
- Helping to bring the NM Rail Runner Express to provide transportation services.

Mayor Huning presided over his last Village Council meeting on March 19, 2009.

He resigned citing his need to spend more time with his family and business as well as work on his health. He had been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease.

Several central New Mexico mayors and New Mexico Secretary of State Mary Herrera issued proclamations in honor of Huning's accomplishments while in office. Those 2009 proclamations included the following sentiments:

"Whereas Mayor Louis F. Huning made sure the Village of Los Lunas had the infrastructure to support the residential, commercial and industrial growth of the community.

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"Whereas Mayor Louis F. Huning made sure the Village of Los Lunas hired people who constantly helped the Village develop into a community where people want to live, work and play.

"Whereas the improvements brought to Los Lunas by Mayor Louis F. Huning have included those in economic development, transportation, public buildings, parks and recreation as well as many other areas.

"Whereas Mayor Louis F. Huning has made sure that many of these improvements will continue for another generation of Los Lunas residents."

Along with being mayor, Louis F. Huning also helped run the family's hardware store and then the cattle ranching and land development business, Huning Limited Partnership.

The business, which is now overseen by Ruth Ann Huning-Gonzales and Nancy Schmierbach, has also played a pivotal part in the economic development of Los Lunas.

## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Los Lunas Police Department is asking for donations of backpacks to go with the school supplies donated by Los Lunas Schools for National Night Out.

National Night Out 2024 is Tuesday, August 6, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Los Lunas Sports Complex. If you want to be involved, email [Mshplet@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:Mshplet@loslunasnm.gov).

Food will be available at no charge while the supply lasts. Albertsons is providing the food and cooks.

A variety of community services will be giving out information. There will be activities for children and adults.

*Village Administration Office: 505 839-3840*

## DON'T WASTE WATER!

The hot months are upon us. Village residents need to avoid wasting water.

Residents should follow Municipal Ordinance 8.24.040 Water Waste Restrictions through September 30.

Spray irrigation is allowed only between 6 p.m. and 10 a.m.

Water waste must not flow onto adjacent properties or public right-of-way whether served by the municipal water utility or by a private well.

Shut-off nozzles are required on any hoses used for hand watering, vehicle or equipment washing, or other outdoor uses:

- Outdoor watering performed with permanent drip irrigation system, sub-surface irrigation, harvested water, or gray water;
- Watering of containerized plants and nursery plant stock;
- Repair and maintenance of irrigation systems;
- Single-day irrigation for application of chemicals for landscape maintenance;
- Non-profit car washes held as fundraisers, if vehicles are washed using handheld buckets and hoses equipped with shut-off nozzles.

Additional restrictions may be applied during declared drought or emergency events.

For more information, call the Public Works Office at 505 839-3857.

## THE VILLAGE LIBRARY

The Village's 2023 annual report is designed as a communications tool revealing how the Village and its devoted teams are dedicated to transparency and accountability.

The Library Department works to bring information, ideas and people together, and includes the Los Lunas Public Library and the Los Lunas Museum of Heritage and Arts.

In 2023, the Los Lunas Library and Museum:

- Welcomed 47,450 visitors to the Public Library, and 9,125 to the Los Lunas Museum of Heritage and Arts.
- Offered a total of 41,736 physical items in the Library collection, and an additional 1,624 items at the Museum. 2,585 items were added to the Library collection, and 25 to the Museum collection.
- Circulated 77,030 total items through the Library.
- Offered more than 50,000 digital items in the collections, and circulated 13,415.
- Provided reference help in-person and virtually, assisting 6,872 people at the Library and 258 at the Museum.
- Provided programming for children, teens and adults, with over 4,000 total attendees.

The Los Lunas Library Department had a busy year in 2023, expanding its materials and offering programming for all ages and interests. Both the Library and Museum are active on social media promoting events.

The Library's Facebook page had 11,262 visits and a reach of 26,800, with 337 new likes.

The Museum's Facebook page had 1,783 visits, a reach of 16,500, and 187 new likes/follows. The Library also utilized Instagram and TikTok to reach a broader audience.

## STREETLIGHT PROBLEMS?

Have you noticed a streetlight off or flickering? Want to report it?

Go to the Village website, [loslunasnm.gov](http://loslunasnm.gov), and under RESIDENTS you will find Online Forms and Applications. Under Public Works is the Streetlight Repair Form.

Use the form if you live in the Village of Los Lunas.

When filling out the form provide a very specific location and describe as best as possible what the problem is.

Indicate if the light is out, flickering, winking in and out, glass casing missing or damaged.

The Village asks that PNM not be contacted because streetlight repairs in the Village are centrally managed by the Village, even though many of them are repaired by PNM.

If a faulty streetlight is in the county, contact the PNM link to report that streetlight: <https://www.pnm.com/>

## GROUND BREAKING FOR NEW INTERCHANGE

Ground is expected to be broken this fall to signal the start of construction of the new Interstate 25 Interchange and road with bridge to NM Hwy 47.

At a public hearing held in late May people expressed their feelings about the Los Lunas Boulevard Corridor project, which, when completed, may include New Mexico's longest bridge.

The corridor will span from Interstate 25 to the east, across NM Hwy 314, over the Rio Grande and ending at NM Hwy 47.

There are four identified reasons for the corridor, including deficiencies of the existing transportation system, growth and development, traffic and congestion and emergency response service.

NM Hwy 6 is the only east-west roadway connecting I-25, across the river to NM Hwy 47 for more than 10 miles both north and south.

Growth and development increases population and employment and then traffic and congestion.

It is estimated that it will take three years to complete Phase 1 of the project, which will include the entire length of the corridor from I-25 to NM Hwy 47.

## PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST HEAT

The temperatures have been soaring this year so it is time to increase public awareness of the leading safety and health risks that increase during the summer months thus decreasing injuries and deaths at homes and workplaces.

Anyone can be at risk for a heat-related illness.

Follow these safety tips, like taking extra breaks and drinking lots of water. Moderate your exposure to heat.

Take extra steps to avoid being outside for long periods in the sun and heat, especially during the peak hours of the strongest ultraviolet (UV) rays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Dehydration is a safety concern during summer months. Be sure to drink enough liquids throughout the day, as our bodies can lose a lot of water through sweat.

Use a sunscreen 30 minutes before going out. Reapply sunscreen every couple hours after swimming or working in the heat. Limit sun exposure during the peak of the day.

Stay in shade when possible. Do not leave children or pets in vehicles.

Remember to always have adult supervision for children whether in the pool or playing around water. Having someone to help is essential if an emergency should occur.

## 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?

It is now easier than ever to report these issues in 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 to 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).

## CATCHING UP WITH 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](http://loslunasnm.gov). This is an excerpt from Shetter’s writing.

When Louis F. Huning, Sr. first ran for mayor in 1982, he teamed up with Charles Griego and Robert Vialpando, who were both running for council seats, on the “Vote for a Change in Los Lunas” campaign.

In an interview for the Valencia County New Bulletin, Mayor Huning remembered, “We were all businessmen, and we felt we needed to bring some life into the community to help our businesses.”

They “wanted a community where you could live, work, and play .... We started on that trip, and we ran a successful campaign. Then the morning after came. We didn’t know what we got ourselves into — we had no idea.”

In 1982, Main Street was a two-lane asphalt road, and there were only a handful of police officers on the force. The first few months, and even years, were spent trying to muddle around the red tape of local government.

Mayor Huning, along with the council members Charles Griego, Robert Vialpando, Frank Gurule, Ruben Sais and Clerk/Treasurer Phillip Jaramillo, struggled to get projects funded.

Their first village budget totaled about \$750,000 for the whole community, and the village had around 20 employees.

“We knew that people were leaving our community because they weren’t able to stay in our community and work,” said current Mayor Charles Griego. They knew they needed to attract businesses into the community to create the revenues being spent in other communities.

The previous administration did not promote growth, so when the medical supply company Ethicon wanted to build a manufacturing plant in Los Lunas, the council did not want to extend utilities.

This is one of the instances that spurred Huning, Griego, and Vialpando to run for office. They started attending economic development seminars and sought out professional consultants such as Adelmo “Del” Archuleta with Molzen-Corbin, an architectural, engineering and planning firm based out of Albuquerque.

Together, they began building water and storm lines, sewer lines, roads and installing street lights on Main Street. They revised the zoning ordinance, developed a master plan, and started building a water rights portfolio for future growth.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

**NURTURING TAILS  
DOG TRAINING**  
stephanie@nurturingtailsdogtraining.com

**ROCK-A-BELLY REBEL**  
335 COURTHOUSE RD SE  
505 730-2549  
b2b480@outlook.com  
Take Out only

**BLOOM FLOWERS & GIFTS LLC**  
1402 MAIN ST NW STE E  
505 865-7338  
New owner

**T&T NAILS**  
1930 MAIN ST NE STE 5  
505 865-2020  
New owners. New nail salon

## LOCAL EVENTS

### Monday, September 2

Labor Day  
Village Offices Closed  
Monday, September 2  
Garbage collected  
Tuesday, September 3

### Farmers Market

Tuesdays 4 - 7 p.m.  
Heritage Park on Lambros Loop  
Across from Smiths Grocery  
Fresh locally produced items

### Attend a Village Council Meeting

6 p.m. Thursday, July 11 & 25  
6 p.m. Thursday, August 8 & 22  
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).

## HIGH SCHOOL YEAR BOOKS SOUGHT

One of the favorite collections at the Los Lunas Museum of Heritage and Arts is that of Los Lunas High School yearbooks from years past.

The museum is missing some years in the collection and needs help to make a complete set. There are no yearbooks previous to 1941 nor are there yearbooks for 1944, 1956, 1975, 1976, 1984, 1996, 1998, 2014, or 2017 (either a copy or original one).

There is a copy of these years but not an original copy: 1979, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1985, 1990. It would be nice to have an original.

The museum would also like to begin collecting Valencia High School yearbooks.

If you have any of these items to donate, or even loan to the museum for a brief period to create a digital copy then visit the museum under the downtown water tower or call the library at 505-352-7720. Thank you!!