



VILLAGE NEWS



Small Community • Big Possibilities

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CELEBRATE JULY 4TH!

The 2024 Fourth of July Celebration will take place at the Los Lunas Sports Complex, located at the intersection of Morris Road and NM Hwy 314.

There will be food, live music, an assortment of drinks, entertainment for the kids, an artisan market, and one of the largest fireworks displays in the state!

Start your Independence Day with the annual Fourth of July parade which begins at 9 a.m. Watch for information about the parade route which is chosen depending on traffic concerns and current events.

Register your float if you haven't done so already online at [loslunasnm.gov](https://www.loslunasnm.gov).



SPECIAL TRASH PICKUPS

Each address in the Village of Los Lunas is entitled to two special trash pickups per year.

Call 505 839-5658 to arrange it; allow several days for a pickup.

Items that are left beside the regular blue trash container on your regular pickup day will not be picked up by the truck.

You also have the option to take trash items to the village transfer station on the north side of NM Hwy 6, west of Jubilee.

See this web page for very detailed information: <https://www.loslunasnm.gov/799/Los-Lunas-Transfer-Station>.

FOOD / BOXES NEEDED

St. Vincent de Paul's Food Pantry provides food for many families in our community. At this time they are in need of cardboard boxes no larger than 20x16x16. The organization is also in need of dried beans (pinto) and any kind of pasta and tomato sauce/spaghetti sauce.

Donations are greatly appreciated. Located at 960 Main Street NE in Los Lunas next to the Enterprise Car Rental.

FARMERS MARKET NOW OPEN

The Los Lunas Farmers Market is open from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. every Tuesday through October, weather permitting, at Heritage Park on Lambros Loop across from Smiths Grocery Store.

The market provides shoppers with fresh locally produced vegetables, fruit, honey, eggs, meat, bread, and more in a friendly environment that supports the local economy, agriculture and community.

Check with vendors on what food cards are accepted such as EBT and Fresh RX cards.

LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES

Little free libraries are now located at:

- Daniel Fernandez Park, 1103 NM Hwy 314
- Los Cerritos Park, Los Cerritos Road and Emilio Lopez NW
- Los Lunas Public Library, 460 Main St. NE
- Mesa Cruzada near Cruzada Court

Books are free from the Little Free Library but people who take a book are asked to leave a book.

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LOS LUNAS SCHOOLS TO HOLD SPECIAL ELECTION

Los Lunas Schools is holding a Special Election to help fund technology. The district approved a resolution for the special election following the loss of the crucial 3 Mill Levy in November 2023.

The Special Election is mail-in only. Ballots must be postmarked by August 13, 2024.

What is the 3 Mill Levy?

The 3 Mill Levy dedicates a small percentage of property taxes for the district to maintain and stay up to date with technology.

District school buildings require new cabling and network equipment at least once every 15-20 years for 15+ district sites.

Although the district utilizes E-Rate funding for these projects, the district still must put up 80-90% of the overall cost, which runs into millions of dollars overall. Each project can be several hundreds of thousands of dollars for the total cost.

- Servers, Wi-Fi equipment, and network equipment must be refreshed periodically, typically at least every five to eight years.
- Primary source of funding for student and staff iPads and MacBooks (\$10,000 devices) with an estimated five-year lifecycle for iPads and \$1,800 MacBooks are purchased for high school students every two years. MacBooks and iPads also provided for all teachers and most staff.
- Staff PCs, audio/visual components from projectors, large displays, and support for interactive flat panels.
- District Server Infrastructure (40-50 servers).

- WiFi Infrastructure – Controller and access points must be refreshed every five to seven years.
- All network components such as routers, servers, Wi-Fi Infrastructure, district firewall.
- Annual warranties for core network components in the event of a hardware failure.



SPLASH PAD TEMPORARILY CLOSED

The Village splash pad is temporarily closed due to compliance issues related to the initial construction of the facility.

The construction plans for the splash pad had not been submitted to the New Mexico Environmental Department as required.

Per NMED's guidelines, the splash pad must remain closed until they have had time to review and approve the plans.

To address this oversight, the Village of Los Lunas is currently in the process of submitting all the necessary applications, including engineered stamped plans, to ensure the splash pad meets all regulatory standards. This step is essential to guarantee that all components of the splash pad are in full compliance with current environmental and safety regulations.

The closure is due to inspection compliance requirements and not to any known safety or operational issues.

SECURE WHAT'S IMPORTANT

ReportIt, a proactive tool that allows you to easily catalog information about your valuables, is available on the Village website, loslunasnm.gov under Police.

This includes serial numbers, owner applied numbers, photos of property, and scans of receipts. It's completely internet based, so you need not worry about losing the data you have saved.

ReportIt is free and available to residents in the jurisdictions LeadsOnline serves, and each account may store up to 100 items. For additional storage, email citizen@leadsonline.com.

Nobody expects to be the victim of property crime, but if it does happen, you'll need to be able to provide the information to law enforcement and your insurance provider.

ReportIt information is password protected and is accessed via a Secure Socket Layer (SSL) network connection. This is the same type of connection used to access a bank account online. The information is also protected by the same high-level security measures used by financial institutions and government agencies.

Just about anything of value such as collectibles, jewelry, electronics, machinery, lawn equipment, and even designer clothes and handbags can be kept in ReportIt.

Information can only be accessed using the username and password.

Should property go missing, you'll be able to print the information from any computer with internet access and give it to a detective.

ReportIt Community Tools include flyers and even a "How to use ReportIt" video that can be shown at neighborhood watch meetings.

ReportIt has accounts for the general public, law enforcement and corporations.

THE VILLAGE'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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

The Village is devoting sections of the community newsletter to the annual reports so people better understand how the village works.

Community Development includes the Planning, Economic Development, and Code Enforcement Divisions, handling both new growth and code compliance.

In 2023 the Community Development Department:

- Processed a total of 465 residential permits, 266 of which were for new construction.
- Processed a total of 35 commercial permits, 12 of which were for new construction.
- Coordinated applications and public hearings for 14 land use/zoning cases and 23 subdivisions.
- Opened 6,666 Code Enforcement cases, 6,360 have since been closed. An additional 280 Animal Control cases were opened, with 220 of those cases now closed.
- Code Enforcement sent 950 Notices of Violation, and issued 150 Citations.
- Economic Development coordinated 1060 Business Registration Renewals, and welcomed 160 new businesses to the Village.

Los Lunas is one of the fastest growing communities in New Mexico, and the Community Development Department worked this year to make sure regulations and procedures are up-to-date with today's development trends and issues.

The Zoning Code has not been comprehensively updated since 2001, and over time small updates and additions to the code have resulted in confusing procedures and formatting.

Language and regulations from 2001 are outdated, so, in 2023, the Community Development Department began working with a consultant to revitalize the Zoning Code and align it with the community's vision.

Impact Fees were also on the review schedule in 2023. NM State Statute requires that land use assumptions, impact fee capital improvement projects, and the schedule of impact fees are reviewed at least once every five years. The last update to impact fees was approved in 2018.

In 2023, Community Development worked with a committee to prepare updates to the impact fee schedule and revise the full ordinance.

File management and digitizing records is an ongoing effort in Community Development. Our permit and planning technicians worked to scan and archive permanent records so that property information can be easily researched.

A new contract was also initiated for permitting, land use case, and code enforcement software, allowing all operations to be streamlined.

2023 was also a busy year for Economic Development. A new initiative was started with the Small Business Development Center to hold quarterly new business luncheons, providing a venue for local small businesses to connect with resources and local agencies.

For business recruitment, Economic Development responded to 25 potential recruitment opportunities (PROs) for new companies seeking to locate in NM and the greater Albuquerque region.

Finally, Community Development worked to support infrastructure projects, and assisted with right-of-way acquisition for the Interstate 25 Interchange and East/West Corridor project throughout the year.

Village Administration Office: 505 839-3840

CHECK OUT BADLANDS DRIVE-IN

For only \$15 you can fill your vehicle with people and watch a movie at the Los Lunas drive-in cinema, Badlands Drive-In, located at the intersection of NM Hwy 314 and Morris Road.

Scheduled to be shown are Boulevard Nights, June 10; Sandlot, a La Vida Felicidad fundraiser on July 14; Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift will be shown with the Goonies on July 8; and Back to the Future on July 29.

A concession stand will be open during the showings serving drinks and snacks.

Check out the schedule online at loslunasnm.com/1060/badlandsdrive-in.

TIDBITS

On Friday, June 7, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. La Vida Felicidad will hold a family expo at the Los Lunas Sports Complex on NM Hwy 314.

On Saturday, June 8, an exhibit of the works of artist and woodworker Irling Smith will open at the Los Lunas Museum of Heritage and Arts at 251 Main St. SE (under the downtown water tower).

Smith was the winner of last year's adult juried art show. The exhibit will run through mid-July.

The museum is open Tuesday thru Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more info call the museum at 352-7720.

CATCHING UP WITH HISTORY

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

In 1968, Rio Grande Construction Co. of Albuquerque was awarded the contract of \$777,150 for construction of the first phase of a new Los Lunas High School. The first phase of the construction was the main portion of the new building that was completed in 1969.

I-25 and the interchange that Mayor Howard Simpson had helped negotiate was still under discussion. Mayor Emiliano Castillo attended several meetings to discuss the need for double lanes on the off ramps and a mile off the freeway.

The Los Lunas Hospital and Training School received a federal grant to construct a new 80-bed facility in 1969. The Training School was the only mental health facility with 24-hour care in the state.

In 1940, the New Mexico Penitentiary System built the Los Lunas Prison Farm for honors prisoners. In 1980, the correctional facilities were expanded and the New Central New Mexico Correctional Facility opened as a medium security prison with 480 beds. Today it features both minimum and maximum security units with a 666 offender capacity.

In 1970, the population had decreased 18% to 973. Then Los Lunas experienced a housing boom due to financial assistance of the Farmers Home Administration loans to develop rural New Mexico. By 1980 the population in Los Lunas had more than tripled to 3,525 residents.

LOCAL EVENTS

Wednesday, June 19, 2024

Juneteenth Day
All Village offices are closed.
Wednesday garbage pickup on
Thursday, June 20, 2024

Thursday July 4, 2023

Independence Day
All Village offices are closed
Thursday garbage pickup on
Friday, July 5, 2024

Thursday, July 4, 2024 9 a.m.

Fourth of July Parade
Register Your Entry Now
Online at loslunasnm.gov

Grounds Open 3 p.m. at
Los Lunas Sports Complex
Fireworks at dark

Attend a Village Council Meeting

6 p.m. Thursday, June 13 & 27
6 p.m. Thursday, July 11 & 25
660 Main St. NW
Main Street and Don Pasqual
Meetings will be virtual and
in-person. Check Village website for
agenda loslunasnm.gov.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

June is Wedding Month!



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