



# VILLAGE NEWS

Small Community • Big Possibilities

Volume 28 - Number 3 - March 2024

## ANNUAL REPORT DETAILS VILLAGE ACTIVITIES

If you have been wondering how the Village continues to grow there is a new way to find out.

Available on the Village website [loslunasnm.gov](http://loslunasnm.gov), the 2023 annual report has been designed as a communication tool revealing how the Village of Los Lunas and its devoted teams are committed to transparency and accountability.

The year 2023 proved another year of remarkable growth and significant achievements for the Village. With a population exceeding 18,000 and growing, Los Lunas is currently recognized as the second-fastest growing municipality in the state of New Mexico.

Village Administrator Gregory D. Martin points out that the Village has always been a regional destination for recreation, and in 2023 recreation projects included adding to the growing network of multi-use paths to walk and bike throughout our beautiful community.

In addition, expansion of Daniel Fernandez Recreation Center included a second gymnasium and other new program rooms that encourage the growth of sports leagues and youth programs to meet the recreation needs and desires of the growing region.

The most anticipated project in the region is the I-25 Second Interchange and Los Lunas Boulevard Corridor Project. After two decades of effort, this project is finally underway! In 2023, several significant milestones were reached on this project: (1) 90% design, (2) nearly \$150 million in funding for Phase I, and (3) acquisition of property for required right-of-way. This critical new roadway connection will extend from I-25 on the west to NM Hwy 47 on the east, relieving congestion on Main Street and providing faster and safer routes in and around Los Lunas and Valencia County.

The full interchange and corridor project will be a limited access road and will include the longest river bridge in New Mexico. Phase I of this project will go into construction in 2024, while funding is sought for Phase II —approximately \$80-85 million— which will add a second travel lane in each direction.

Thanks to stable leadership, a progressive and visionary Governing Body, and a tenured workforce of experienced and dedicated employees, the Village of Los Lunas is poised and prepared for another productive and successful year in 2024.

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## TAX FORMS

The Los Lunas Library, in the front hall, has:

- State tax forms (includes instructions)
- Federal form 1040 packets and instructions

Library must be open to get forms.

## CHILD HELMET SAFETY ACT

The Child Helmet Safety Act (Chapter 32A, Article 24 NMSA 1978) states that anyone under the age of 18 (a minor) must wear protective gear on their head to prevent any accidents.

This law mandates that anyone (operator) on a bicycle, skateboard, scooters, motorized cycles, or skates must have a helmet.

While these outdoor activities are a fun way to exercise and get around, thousands of kids go to emergency departments with head injuries each year. Wearing a helmet can decrease the risk of head injuries by about 85% and facial injuries by about 65%.

The law states; "It is unlawful for a parent or legal guardian of a minor to knowingly permit that minor to operate or be a passenger on a bicycle, skates, scooter or skateboard unless that minor wears a well-fitted protective bicycle helmet, fastened securely upon the head with the straps of the helmet."

The Child Helmet Safety Act will be enforced by Los Lunas Police Officers and Open Space Park Rangers in public parks, streets, and sidewalks. Enforcement will include verbal notification to parent or guardian. If continued, parent or guardian will be cited at their expense.

Helmets are now mandated on Los Lunas Parks and Recreation property including the Skate Park.

## EASTER EGG HUNT

An Easter egg hunt for kids 12 and under will be held Thursday, March 28, 2024, 4 - 6 p.m. at the soccer fields at the Los Lunas Sports Complex on NM Hwy 314.

Sponsored by the Village Parks and Recreation Department, the egg hunt has three different hunts for three different age groups.

The event is free and the Easter Bunny will be there. No registration is required.

See this web page for more information <https://www.loslunasnm.gov/723/Egg-Hunt>.

## 11th ANNUAL STUDENT ART SHOW

The Village Museum of Heritage and Arts is now accepting submissions for the 11th annual student art show.

Entries for the show will be on display April 6 through June 1, 2024, at the museum, corner of Main Street and Luna Avenue under the downtown water tower.

The show is open to artists 18 years of age and younger living in Valencia County. Entries must be original work and may be in any medium, e.g. acrylic, oil, pastels, watercolor, pen and ink, photography, ceramics, fibers, and mixed media that portrays the theme of Enchanted New Mexico.

Abstract and representational artworks are welcome as long as they are within the theme.

Additional information about the art show is available by contacting Louis Huning or Owen Baca at the museum, 505 352-7720.

The opening reception for the show is April 6 from 2 to 4 p.m.

## JOBS AVAILBLE AT VILLAGE

The Village of Los Lunas has made it easier to apply for a job.

You can now apply online on the Village website [loslunasnm.gov](http://loslunasnm.gov). Click Employment Opportunities on the Home page for a list of available jobs.

Click on the job title you are interested in, review the Job Description and then click the 'Apply' tab.

If this is the first time you are applying, you will need to create an account and select a Username and Password.

After your account has been established, you can upload your resume from a saved document on your computer, or enter all of your information manually. This application will be saved and used to apply for future job openings.

Online applications are stored on a secure site. Only authorized employees and hiring authorities have access to the information submitted.

It is important your application shows all the relevant education and experience. Applications may be rejected if incomplete.

If you have any questions regarding the application process email the Human Resources Department at [castillom@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:castillom@loslunasnm.gov) or call 505 839-3840.

The Village of Los Lunas offers a variety of jobs throughout all departments. From entry-level positions like administrative assistants and streets laborers, to skilled jobs like accountants and community planners, there may be just the position you are looking for to start or grow your career with a great organization.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP



**ROCKEN JV DESIGN LLC**  
1400 MAIN ST NW STE B  
505 300-7696  
rockenjvdesign@gmail.com



**LUXURY BARBERSHOP LLC**  
203 SANDOVAL RD SW STE B  
505 544-6242  
luxurybarbershop1412@gmail.com



**D'ALICIA'S FINE JEWELERS**  
2357 MAIN ST SE STE A  
505 565-1398  
rajewelers@yahoo.com



**ACCESSABILITY DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION LLC**  
505 967-7509  
jacque@accessability.com  
Landscaping Company

## GETTING A LIBRARY CARD

You can sign up for a new library card through the online borrower page and fill out the requested information.

After you have completed this information visit the circulation desk at the library at 460 Main St. NE. Library staff will update your account once you have verified your information, and provided your I.D. and proof of mailing address. Once your account is verified patrons can then check out physical items, digital items, and use other library services like public computers.

To verify your information you will need to provide a valid government I.D. and proof of a mailing address. Patrons can provide a copy of a utility bill, phone bill, or other piece of mail with their name and current mailing address.

If you have had a card with the Los Lunas Public Library in the past, do not fill out this form, instead visit the library circulation desk so staff can update your existing account.

If you already have an account with our library but have lost your library card visit the circulation desk to purchase a replacement card for \$2.00.

If you have lost your library card, staff can access your library account to make changes, check-out books, and purchase a replacement card once a patron provides a government I.D. to verify their identity.

## SENIOR OLYMPICS 2024 GAMES

Valencia County Senior Olympics 2024 Games registration is now open. Spring Games 2024 will be April 5 through April 17. Events include:

Pickle Ball - April 5 at 10 a.m. at Daniel Fernandez Recreation Center, 1103 Highway 314 SW, Los Lunas.

Eight Ball Pool - April 8 at 9 a.m. at Daniel Fernandez Recreation Center.

Cornhole - April 9 at 9 a.m. at Daniel Fernandez Recreation Center.

Basketball - April 9 at 10 a.m. at Daniel Fernandez Recreation Center.

Air gun - April 10 at 9 a.m. at 30-acre Soccer field.

Horseshoes - April 13 at noon at Daniel Fernandez Recreation Center.

Washers - April 16 at 10 a.m. at Daniel Fernandez Recreation Center.

Bowling - April 15 at 10:30 a.m. doubles/singles; May 16 10:30 a.m. team/mixed doubles at Holiday Bowl, 7515 Lomas NE, Albuquerque.

Canjam - April 16 at 10 a.m. at Daniel Fernandez Recreation Center.

Shuffle Board - April 17 at 10 a.m. at Daniel Fernandez Recreation Center.

Table tennis - April 17 at 9 a.m. Rio Communities Senior Center, NM Hwy 47, Rio Communities.

Field events - April 20 at 8 a.m. at Daniel Fernandez Recreation Center.

Dance - April 27 at Performing Arts Center, Valencia High School, 310 Bonita Vista Blvd., Los Lunas.

Golfing - TBD.

Contact the Daniel Fernandez Recreation Center at 505-352-7661 for additional information about the Valencia County Senior Olympics.

## 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](http://loslunasnm.gov). This newsletter is running excerpts from Shetter's writing.

In 1935, the gross receipts tax was introduced during the depths of the Great Depression.

Then Route 66 was realigned in 1937 - creating a direct link from Santa Rosa to Albuquerque - ultimately bypassing small settlements, Santa Fe, Bernalillo, and Los Lunas, that were along the original route.

Some residents had already felt the economic impact when the route was re-routed to parallel the railroad tracks linking Isleta to Los Lunas on the west side of the Rio Grande bypassing Bosque Farms, Peralta and Valencia on the east.

Business owners invested in cabins for overnight lodging and service stations but they were no longer on the direct path. The White Hotel had experienced a fire right around the time the first re-route occurred and they rebuilt the Hotel and added a cafe across from the Luna Mansion to be on the Route again.

Eleven years on Route 66 shaped what the Village is now. As 1940 rolled around Los Lunas boasted a population of 686 residents and as the years progressed, the numbers waivered until 1960.

In 1941, the United States entered the World War after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, taking some of the young residents of Los Lunas places all around the world offering them different opportunities.

Opportunities such as the G.I. Bill induced them to go to college giving them prospects they never had before. Many went into careers that didn't demand working in the fields.

The Korean and Vietnam wars were much the same so the population of Los Lunas had only risen to 973. For those that did return, they embraced their heritage and honored the friends and neighbors that had been lost.

## LOCAL EVENTS

### KING OF THE HILL TRAIL RUN

Saturday, March 9, 2024  
7 a.m. - 11 a.m.  
El Cerro de Los Lunas Preserve

### DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS

March 10, 2024

### SPRING OUTDOOR ADVENTURES PROGRAM

March 11-13, 2024  
Village Open Space  
El Cerro de Los Lunas

### GOOD FRIDAY

Friday March 29, 2024  
Village Offices closed  
Friday garbage picked up  
Thursday March 28, 2024

### Attend a Village Council Meeting

6 p.m. Thursday, March 7 & 21, 2024  
6 p.m. Thursday, April 11 & 25, 2024  
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).

## VILLAGE HAS BEST AUDIT

This year, the Village of Los Lunas received the New Mexico State Auditor 2023 Municipality Honoree for Best Overall Audit for a Large Sized Municipality.

This is the first year the State Auditor has given audit awards to municipalities, and the awards were given at Municipal Day in Santa Fe on Feb. 8, 2024.

Village Finance Director Cheryl Cates was instrumental in the Village receiving an award-winning audit, and she received the award on behalf of the Village.