



VILLAGE NEWS



Small Community • Big Possibilities

Volume 28 - Number 5 - May 2024

HOSPITAL IN LOS LUNAS

On April 24, the Valencia County Commission approved a trio of agreements that hopefully portend the construction of a hospital that will serve Valencia County residents as well as others.

The county commissioners voted 4-0 to award a healthcare facilities contract to Brazos — a joint venture between Texas-based Community Healthcare Corporation (CHC) and Albuquerque's Lovelace Health System — for the operation of a Valencia County hospital.

The commissioners also approved a design-build contract with Albuquerque-based construction company Bradbury Stamm and its design partner FBT Architects, also out of Albuquerque. The facility will be built on the northeast corner of NM HWY 6 and Sand Sage, west of Interstate 25. The property is southeast of Los Lunas Fire Station 2 on Sand Sage Street.

In a joint statement issued by CHC and Lovelace, the companies indicated the hospital will be owned by Valencia County and operated by a joint venture of the two companies.

Funds for the operation and maintenance of a hospital were collected from county taxpayers in the form of a property tax — an eight-year mill levy that was approved by voters in November 2006 and collected from 2007 to 2014.

Valencia County officials report that collections total about \$28 million and those funds are kept in an interest-bearing account at Bank of the West.

LIBRARY TIDBITS

Upcoming activities for adults at the Los Lunas Library (all necessary materials provided).

On Thursday, May 9, at 3 p.m. you can create old book page customized greeting cards.

On Thursday, May 16, at 3 p.m. you can try your hand at silhouette mono-color gradient painting.

Library amnesty: during the month of May, any overdue fines for items checked out from the Los Lunas Library will be waived.

For more information, call the library at 505 839-3850.

OTHER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWS

During the first quarter of 2024 the Village welcomed 38 new businesses to its growing community giving a strong start to the year.

There was a wide variety of industries including technology, retail, and miscellaneous others. The community's economic future looks bright.

Included in the openings across the Village are:

- Two locations of the Human Bean coffee shops; one on the east side of the Rio Grande and the other on the west side of Interstate 25.
- 1st Care of New Mexico.
- New commercial strip mall at 2226 NE Main Street.
- Warehouse located at 450 Sand Sage NW.

Watch for news about the next career expo at Los Lunas High School. The expo will offer opportunities to talk to many employers.

The Village will hold a job fair and career expo in June at the Daniel Fernandez Recreation Center, 1103 Highway 314 SW.

Dozens of employers, resources and job connections will be present.

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

THE VILLAGE'S FINANCE & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENTS

The Village's newly 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 this newsletter to the Annual Report so people better understand how the Village works.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The Finance Department works to support Village staff and internal operations by providing oversight of revenue received by the Village. The Finance Department has:

- Obtained an unmodified or "clean" audit opinion from an external audit firm.
- Received recognition by the New Mexico State Auditor, Joseph M. Maestas for the Best Overall Audit by a Large Municipality.
- Provided oversight for 31 individual funds, to include budgeting, monitoring expenditures, and fulfillment of related reporting requirements.
- Processed over \$45 million of vendor invoices.

The Finance Department provides the best possible stewardship over the revenue received by the Village.

This is achieved through the preparation and monitoring of the annual budget, the production of timely financial reports, oversight of the procurement process, and timely payments to vendors.

In 2023, the Village began to make expenditures towards the largest capital project in the Village's history, the I-25 Second Interchange/Los Lunas Boulevard project which requires regular oversight by Finance.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT)

The IT Department oversees technology, equipment and software for the Village, coordinating regular service and compliance with cybersecurity. IT has:

- Processed 866 Internal Service Requests, 210 of which were high priority.
- Supported 539 End-User devices: 321 Windows, 207 iOS, and 11 Android.
- Supported 38 software systems, 21 of which are managed in the cloud.
- Provided cybersecurity awareness training to reduce the number of phish-prone employees.

The Village had an impressively low 4.4% of phish-prone employees compared to the government industry benchmark of 16%.

Information Technology has grown significantly over the past two years to serve the technology needs of a growing community and the increased cybersecurity risks worldwide.

In 2023, IT focused on server upgrades, both replacing on-premises servers that were beyond their service life, and transitioning software and services to a cloud-based environment.

Cybersecurity has also been a major focus.

A new Core Security Gateway was implemented, as well as a Cyber Security Program with dashboards and prevention strategies.

2024 ANNUAL STUDENT ART SHOW

Now on display at the Village Museum of Heritage and Arts is the work of student artists with the theme "Enchanted New Mexico".

Students receiving awards were:

Elementary School

Best of Show is Riley Clifton with "New Mexico Maps". **First place** is Carolyn Villalba with "New Mexico Desert Vision". **Second place** is "Dinner at Grandma's House" by Glanna Jimenez. **Third place** is "Sandia Peak Tram" by Gavin Strawderman. **Two honorable mentions** were "Untitled" by Victor Guerra and "Transportation Over New Mexico" by Juliet Silva.

Middle School

Best of Show is "New Mexico Evening" by Alaina Sanchez. **First place** is "Sun" by Angelique Ortega. **Second place** is "The Puzzle to Home" by Venn Ferrel. **Third place** is "1.6.1912" by Jaylynn S. Romero. **Two honorable mentions** were "Happy New Mexico" by Arianna Lores-Chavez and a team project by Kaitlyn Jordan and Amiliana Villanueva titled "Spanish Town".

High School

Best of Show is Arielle Senior for "Enchanted View from Above." **First place** is "Past and Present Collide" by Melissa Parada. **Second place** is "Enchanted Farolitos" by Camriel Demers. **Third Place** is "Calm" by Mioelena Tapia. **Two Honorable Mentions** are "My Past Four Years" by J'zelle Carrieman and "Horse's Glass View" by Michelle Hope Gallegos.

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

BUSINESS ROUNDUP



THE HUMAN BEAN LLC WEST
2680 MAIN ST NW
This is their 2nd shop



**THE MAIN SHAKE
&
ENERGY BAR**
319 HIGHWAY 314 SW STE D
HERBAL LIFE SALES



AT&T
1402 MAIN ST NW STE D
Check out this new store
in our area



**U-HAUL MOVING AND
STORAGE OF LOS LUNAS**
2217 AUTUMN BRUSH RD NW
505-565-7125
New to our community

THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN WALKING

Summer mornings can be a perfect time to walk in the Village, but safety needs to be a prime consideration when walking.

Walk on the sidewalk if there is one, say Los Lunas Police officers.

If no sidewalk, walk facing traffic. If there is no sidewalk and you must walk on the road, be sure to walk facing traffic.

Be safe. Be seen. Brightly colored clothing makes it easier for drivers to see you during the daytime.

At night, you need a flashlight or special reflective material on your shoes, cap, and jacket or on your arms or legs that bounce the car's lights off you and back to the driver.

This light should caution the driver that there is something or someone moving and they should slow down and be careful.

Remember that those coming down the street can't always see you!

FREE PLANE RIDES FOR KIDS

On Saturday, May 11 there will be free plane rides for kids ages 8 to 17, from 8:30 a.m. to noon, at Mid Valley Air Park (E98) Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) hangar (at the South End of the field ... follow the signs)

Presented by EAA chapter 530.

Parental permission is required (form provided at sign in).

A certificate of the Flight will be given to each participant.

For more info call Jerry Donovan at 505 450-3892 or Rose at 505 249-4530. Get there early.

MEMORIAL RUN

The annual Los Lunas Veterans Memorial Run will be Saturday, June 8, starting at Starlight Cinemas on Sun Ranch Village Loop.

Registration open now. This is a fundraiser to benefit Valencia County veterans. See the two page brochure at this link for more information and how to register: <https://tinyurl.com/585khn5d>.

For additional info or any questions contact Chris at 505 480-2639 or at asais40505@gmail.com.

BUSINESS REGISTRATION

Remember to register your business with the Village Community Development Department either as a new business or renewing your registration.

The department is in the Village Administration building, 660 Main Street NW, northwest corner of Main Street and Don Pasqual, phone 505 839-3842, or visit the Village website, loslunasnm.gov.

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.

In 1946, shortly after World War II ended, future Mayor Howard C. Simpson and his family moved to Peralta. There, they established a chile farm. He worked on the farm until he suffered a heart attack. After recovering, he went to work for the Zuni Milling Co. in Los Lunas which milled fluorspar.

The mill was built in 1942 by the Defense Plant Corporation as part of the war industry during World War II. The mill was situated on a straight spur about 200 yards off the line of the Santa Fe Railway just south of the present-day transportation center. Fluorspar played a very active part in the production of atomic energy in the nuclear age; it is also used as a flux in steel making. The flotation plant made its initial production in March 1943 and was the largest producer of fluorspar in New Mexico in 1943.

Most of the concentrates were shipped to hydrofluoric-acid plants, but some were shipped to the Government stock pile at East St. Louis, Illinois, and to glass plants. The mill feed was supplied by the Navajo mine in western Valencia County (now Cibola) near Grants. In addition to supplying milling ore to the flotation plant, the Navajo mine shipped 7,700 tons of fluxing-gravel fluorspar. The Navajo mine was acquired during the latter part of 1943 by the Shattuck Denn Mining Corporation, that also took over management of the flotation plant at Los Lunas in 1944 and operated it until it closed in 1953.

After the plant closed, Simpson relocated to Sandoval Road in Los Lunas and began working with Lloyd Ball, who owned a gas station on Main Street, just east of Los Lentes Road, currently the property of the Range Café. Along with Felix Baca, he drove a truck for Ball. Eventually he bought the truck and started his own company. Known as Hub Oil, Simpson's company provided gasoline to service stations from Albuquerque to Socorro, with two retail outlets in Los Lunas and El Cerro.

By 1960, the population had risen to 1,186 and Simpson was induced to run for mayor. In 1962, he narrowly edged out Fred Huning, Jr. in a close election. Even though he beat Huning, Mayor Simpson collaborated with Huning on local residential and commercial development. Together they were both instrumental in the Interstate 25 project that brought the freeway to the west side of Los Lunas. During his three terms as Mayor of Los Lunas, Simpson pioneered the first sewer plant to be built in the country under the Federal Accelerated Public Works Program, initiated plans for a new bridge over the Rio Grande, oversaw the adoption of the Village's first comprehensive plan, zoning ordinances, and subdivision regulations.

MEMORIAL DAY

Remember to honor veterans and soldiers in every branch of the military for Memorial Day, Monday, May 27.

Thank these people for their service to our country.

Memorial Day and weekend events occur across New Mexico.

Village offices will be closed Monday, May 27.

LOCAL EVENTS

Los Lunas Public Library

Open Monday – Saturday
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Memorial Day

Observed Monday, May 27, 2024
Village Offices closed
Monday, May 27, 2024
Monday garbage picked up
Tuesday May 28, 2024

Thursday, July 4, 2024

Village events include parade,
entertainment at Daniel Fernandez
Park and Recreation Center
Fireworks after dusk

Attend a Village Council Meeting

6 p.m. Thursday, May 9 & 23, 2024
6 p.m. Thursday, June 13 & 27, 2024
660 Main St. NW
Main Street and Don Pasqual
Meetings will be virtual and
in-person. Check Village website for
agenda loslunasnm.gov.

DATES FOR ELECTION

Starting Tuesday, May 7, early voting begins for the June Primary Election at the Valencia County Bureau of Elections, 444 Luna Ave., Monday thru Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Starting Saturday, May 18, early voting begins at three other locations, Monday thru Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.:

- Belen Community Center on Eagle Lane.
- Bosque Farms Public Library on West Bosque Loop.
- Isleta Pueblo Veterans Center on NM Hwy 314.

Tuesday, June 4, is election day at multiple locations from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

For more information about the upcoming primary election, contact the Valencia County Bureau of Elections at 505 866-2080