



# VILLAGE NEWS



Small Community • Big Possibilities

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## VILLAGE BUDGET WILL PROVIDE SERVICES AND PROGRAMS, COMPLETE PROJECTS

The Village of Los Lunas Council has approved the Fiscal Year 2025 Final Budget for the Village.

The approved budget includes information demonstrating how the Village will use its resources to deliver superior services and programs, and complete or continue numerous projects, for the benefit of Los Lunas residents, visitors, and businesses.

The budget is available on the Village website [loslunasnm.gov](http://loslunasnm.gov).

### *Principal Budget Issues*

Preparing a budget for a full-service municipality is always challenging. As in years past, the Village will monitor its budget using a careful and conservative approach, to meet the needs of the community.

The Los Lunas economy continues to grow.

Meta's Los Lunas Data Center is operational, and has been under continuous construction and expansion since 2016, bringing 1,100 skilled trade workers at peak construction, and over 400 operational jobs once completed.

Amazon's recently completed fulfillment center, brings many new full-time jobs.

Other industrial, manufacturing, commercial, and residential projects are either completed, underway, or planned, which bodes well for the future of the Los Lunas economy.

Another major project expected to begin construction in 2025 is the new I-25 Interchange and East-West Corridor (Los Lunas Boulevard) project in Los Lunas and Valencia County. This regional transportation infrastructure project is anticipated to cost \$220 million, one of the largest in New Mexico. Phase I of the project includes a two-lane roadway connecting I-25 to NM Hwy 47 across the valley and the Rio Grande.

The new interchange and road will be located about a mile south of NM Hwy 6 and will include a new second I-25 interchange, a new river bridge—the longest in New Mexico—two major signalized intersections, five minor intersections, a major railroad crossing, and more than a dozen ditch/drain/canal crossings.

The FY 2025 budget contains enough to finish the design and start construction of Phase I of the project. Phase 2 of the project, once funded at approximately \$80 million, will add an additional lane in each direction to complete the project.

Once finished completely, the new interchange and roadway is expected to relieve traffic congestion on Main Street in Los Lunas considerably.

Village staff monitor and make recommendations regarding how these and many other projects and issues will have an impact on the Village of Los Lunas and its budget.

Village staff remain committed to accomplishing the major budgetary and strategic priorities of the Council and maintaining a strong financial position through sound financial planning and responsible fiscal management.

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## VILLAGE BUDGET continued

### *Budgetary Goals*

The Village budget for 2025 is an extraordinary budget in that it is \$243,024,259 in expenditures. The revenues that Los Lunas is expected to receive are \$227,619,424 including intergovernmental grants of \$173,867,395. Of course, the bulk is the I-25 project which is \$154,788,934.

In the general fund, the village rolled over some revenues from FY2024, the Police Department had vehicle appropriations for \$445,000.

The \$1.1 million for the Palmia Improvements which was approved by Council was added into the budget.

There is an increase in expenditures and an increase in revenue.

## MRS. WYATT EARP AND THE LONE RANGER

The Valencia County Historical Society presents Chuck Hornung discussing "A Romantic Adventure: Mrs. Wyatt Earp and the Lone Ranger" which explores Josie's fascinating life on Saturday, Sept 21, at the Los Lunas Museum of Heritage and Arts at 2 p.m. under the downtown water tower.

Josephine Sarah Marcus Earp (Mrs. Wyatt Earp) was a lady of her era.

She was born into a lower middle class Jewish family, became a self-made business-woman, married an American frontier legend, and, with him, became famous and wealthy.

She was a strong protector of his mystical deeds as a gunfighter-gambler-lawman after his death in 1929.

Josie squandered their wealth in her old age and died near penniless, living with distant family relatives. In her old age she enjoyed cowboy movies and musicals and was a special fan of "Amos and Andy".

Her aunt Jean Lang recalled that Josie felt every American child should live up to the Lone Ranger's creed and be a member of his Safety Patrol. Before she died in 1944, 4.4 million kids had fulfilled her desire.

## JUBILEE ARTS & CRAFTS RETURNS

The Annual Jubilee Arts and Crafts Fair is back this year on Sept. 21, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Jubilee Villa in Los Lunas, 500 Jubilee Blvd. located 1.8 miles west of I-25 on NM Hwy 6.

The Fair will present 60 crafters from around New Mexico who will display their items that include jewelry, painting, pottery, soaps, clothing, cards and many other handmade creations.

There will also be a raffle with gifts donated by sponsors from Los Lunas and Albuquerque to support the fair.

A food truck will be available. Admission is free.

## CHOOSE VILLAGE OPEN SPACE

The Village has a variety of Open Space areas throughout the community that can be enjoyed any time of year.

The Village has accepted donations of Open Space property such as El Cerro de Los Lunas.

The Open Space Division was established in June of 2007 to meet educational and enforcement needs throughout the Village of Los Lunas Community Services Department.

Open Space Rangers are part of the Village Open Space Division. Rangers and their vehicles can be seen across the community. Primary objectives of the Park Ranger include:

- Carrying out conservation efforts to protect plant and animal life in park lands from fire, disease, and visitor usage along with historical artifacts.
- Developing and implementing programs to inform visitors of a park's historical, cultural, and natural significance.

Rangers protect natural resources through resource management practices, including:

- Prevention of illegal dumping.
- Detering theft of natural resources and artifacts.
- Graffiti prevention.
- Visitor assistance.

Rangers ensure compliance with regulations established by the Village of Los Lunas Parks Department.

Rangers engage in patrol duties, address safety concerns, and respond to emergencies.

## THE LOS LUNAS FIRE DEPARTMENT

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. This month we highlight the Village Fire Department as taken from the Annual Report.

The Los Lunas Fire Department is responsible for the preservation of human life through fire protection and rescue services, public awareness of fire safety, and managing fire prevention. The Los Lunas firefighters did the following in 2023:

- Installed smoke detectors in 50 homes, plus conducted 32 fire safety events for the community and 15 fire extinguisher classes for local businesses.
- Conducted 4 Project Heartstart Hands Only CPR Classes in the community.
- Conducted 636 fire and life safety inspections for local businesses.
- Provided 80 food boxes to the community for the winter holidays.
- Performed semi-annual maintenance on 2100 fire hydrants.
- Conducted 30 public relations events for the community.

The Los Lunas Fire Department is on an upward trajectory, mirroring the growth of the village itself. This year, marked by expansion both in staff and equipment, has been a milestone.

The acquisition of a state-of-the-art fire engine, crafted by Rosenbauer, stands as a testament to the commitment to excellence.

Securing a grant for brand new self-contained breathing apparatus and additional funding from the Village for yet another fire engine will add to the department's capabilities. These investments not only ensure the safety of firefighters but also improve the response to emergencies.

Operating from two strategically located fire stations and one centralized station in the heart of the Village, the Los Lunas Fire Department boasts a team of 35 highly skilled firefighters.

This team is unwavering in its dedication to responding to all hazards, equipped with the latest tools and technology.

Continuous improvement is ingrained in our ethos. Throughout the year, our professionals engage in rigorous training and earn certifications across multiple disciplines. In the past year alone, the team responded to an impressive 818 fire calls and 3,119 EMS responses, showing unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of the community.

Responsibilities extend beyond emergency responses.

## COUNCIL PLANS FOR FUTURE

The Village Council has approved the Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) and submitted it to the state with the **Number One priority of the Interstate 25 interchange and bridge construction project.**

Plans are for the corridor to run along Morris Road from I-25 to NM Hwy 314 before crossing over the Rio Grande and connecting to NM Hwy 47 so that additional access will be provided.

The second item on the ICIP list is the **Central Rail Park** utility extension project. The total cost is estimated to be \$6.4 million and the village has so far secured \$4.1 million. The project will be broken up into phases with work on phase one beginning later this year.

The third item on the ICIP list is an **Aquatic Center** with an estimated cost of \$20 million.

Improvements to the Sun Ranch Village Road and NM Hwy 6 intersection is the fourth ICIP item. The Village has obtained \$950,000 for the project through the New Mexico Legislature and needs an additional **\$707,000** to fully fund it.

The fifth priority approved by the Village council is construction of a **sound barrier** on NM Hwy 6, spanning the northern perimeter of Jubilee, the active adult community. This project came about because of concerns about the high volume of traffic on the highway and the noise it generates.

## "TALES THROUGH TIME" AT THE MUSEUM

The Los Lunas Museum of Heritage & Arts is accepting submissions for the 12th Annual Juried Art show which will be on display Nov. 30 through Jan. 4.

Artists 18 years of age or older living in the State of New Mexico may enter their work.

Call the museum for further information, 505 352-7730.

## A BIT OF LOS LUNAS HISTORY

"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 Shetter's writing. This month we offer miscellaneous Village facts.

The 17,000 square foot Fire Station #2 is more than twice the size of the Main Street station and was made possible by a \$5.79 million general obligation bond voters approved in March 2016. The GO bond also funded the purchase of a ladder truck received in the fall of 2018.

### Community Services

Over the years the Mayors and Council members have sought and approved a variety of building and expansion projects at the Daniel Fernandez Recreation Center, all the parks, the Los Lunas Public Library, and the Museum of Heritage & Arts to provide quality of life opportunities for the citizens of Los Lunas. This has enabled the Village of Los Lunas to offer a wide variety of programming for all ages.

### Community Parks

Daniel Fernandez Memorial Park, established 1967

Los Lunas Sports Plex, established 1998

Heritage Park, established 1999

Los Cerritos Park, established 1999

Buena Vista Park, established 2005

San Antonio Park, established 2008

Huning Ranch Park established 2010

Enchantment Little League, established 1983

River Park, established 1990

### Neighborhood Parks

Villa del Rosa, established 1999 (Native Lands)

Valley View Park, established 1985

Helen Court, established 2005 (Undeveloped)

Artistic Park, established 1986

Chester Skinner Park, established 1990

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

*Any time of year is a good time to make sure your heating and cooling works.*



**HEIGHTS PLUMBING & HEATING INC.**  
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## LOCAL EVENTS

### Farmers Market

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

### Oktoberfest

October 19, 2024  
Badlands Drive-In  
Corner of NM Hwy 314 and Morris Road  
Noon to 6 p.m.  
Bring the whole family because it's Family Friendly  
Food Trucks, Music, Beer, Wine

### Elections Past

**Of Valencia County and Beyond**  
Through October 23  
at the Village Museum of Heritage & Arts  
Under the Downtown Water Tower  
Tuesday through Saturday  
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

### Attend a Village Council Meeting

6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 12 & 26  
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).

## VETERANS DAY PROGRAM

The annual Veterans Day program will be held Monday, Nov. 11, beginning at 11 a.m. at Daniel Fernandez Memorial Park.

The event is sponsored by the Village of Los Lunas, Los Lunas Invested in Veterans Events (LIVE) Inc., Blue Star Mothers of Valencia County, and Raks Building Supply.

Guest speaker will be Retired New Mexico Adjutant General Andrew E. Salas.

Also there will be Jubilation Barbershop Singers, Daniel D. Fernandez VFW Post 9676, and Los Lunas Mayor Charles Griego.

Veterans Day is a public holiday that is dedicated to honoring anyone who has served in the United States military.