



# VILLAGE NEWS

Small Community • Big Possibilities

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## HAPPENING AT OUR MUSEUM

The "Tales through Time" juried art show will be on display at the Museum of Heritage and Arts located under the downtown water tower at the intersection of Main Street and Luna Avenue, through Jan. 25.

Best of show for the "Tales through Time" exhibit was presented to Rick Kozak for "Power of the Spirit."

First place - John Rosborough for "Wood Model of 65 HP Case Steam Tractor Engine."

Second place - Joanne Lisa for "Gone But Not Forgotten."

Third place - Robert Fink for "Charles Rennie Mackintosh meets New Mexico."

Honorable Mention - Marlies Sichler for "Feather Round About."

Honorable Mention - Michael Romero for "Manos Ancestrales."

1970s photos of Valencia County by Bob Christiansen will be on display at the Museum from Jan. 28 through Feb. 15.

On Feb. 1, a painting party will be held at the Museum where participants will paint "cute" cardinals enjoying the snow in a winter theme park.

No artistic experience required and attendees will be guided through the process to create a small masterpiece to be taken home.

Supplies will be provided and there is no charge for this event; however, space is limited.

Call the museum at (505) 352-7720 to reserve your spot. Attendance is limited to adults and youth 14 and older.

From Feb. 22 through Apr. 19, the Camino Real Artist Showcase will be on display at the Museum. Watch for more details.

## BUSINESS REGISTRATIONS & MORE

Los Lunas requires all businesses to be registered by the Village.

All forms should be printed, completed, and submitted with any necessary additional documents to the Community Development Department located at 660 Main St. NW.

Business registration forms can be found at the Village website [loslunasnm.gov](http://loslunasnm.gov). Other forms available include:

- Home Occupation Registration
- Vendor Permit
- Liquor License
- Recreational Cannabis Permit
- Special Event Permit

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## BEST PLACE TO LIVE — LOS LUNAS!

For the third year in a row the Village of Los Lunas was voted “Best Community to Live In” in the Best of Valencia County 2024 sponsored by the Valencia County News-Bulletin.

Village Administrator Gregory D. Martin told the News-Bulletin “( . . . ) winning the award is rewarding because it validates all the hard work and dedication put in by all the individuals working together to make Los Lunas the best place to be.”

The Los Lunas Museum of Heritage & Arts, on the corner of Main Street and Luna Avenue, (505) 352-7720, was selected Best Tourist Spot.

The Los Lunas Christmas Parade, traditionally held the first Saturday in December on Main Street, was named the Best Community Event.

Many other Los Lunas based businesses were honored in the News-Bulletin’s Best of 2024 including the following (addresses shown are in Los Lunas):

Rutilio’s Restaurant, 2350 Main St NE, (505) 565-2055, Best Breakfast Burrito and Best Red Chile.

The Range Café, 740 Main St NE, (505) 508-2144, Best Green Chile and Best Green Chile Stew.

Dion’s, 3460 Main St NE, (505) 865-5050, Best Pizza.

El Toro Patron Taqueria, 244 Main St NW, (505) 785-5639, Best Taco.

TJ’s New Mexican Restaurant, 319 NM Hwy 314 SW, (505) 866-4123, Best Posole.

Europa Food. Farm. Festival, 2105 NM Hwy 314, (505) 328-1874, Best Place to Get a Sweet Treat.

David C. Chavez, 651 NM Hwy 314 SW, (505) 865-9696, Best Attorney.

Nancy Montoya, 2601 Main St SW, (505) 866-4721, Best Real Estate Agent.

Orlando Sedillo, 231 Sandoval Rd SW Suite A, (505) 203-5940, Best Tattoo Artist.

Livingston Hearing Aid Center, 835 Main St NE, (505) 565-7285, Best Hearing Center.

Greg Hennington, Best High School Coach.

Dr. Patrick Sanchez, 419 Main St SW, (505) 866-1852, Best Veterinarian.

Mario’s Barber Shop, 2210 Sun Ranch Village Loop SW, (505) 550-9473, Best Barber Shop.

Big O Tires, 1820 Main St NW, (505) 565-1800, Best Place to get an Oil Change.

Manny’s Fine Pastries, 515 Main St NE, (505) 865-7082, Best Bakery.

Champion Express, 250 Main St NE, (833) 808-2876, Best Car Wash.

Starlight Cinema, 2226 Sun Ranch Village Loop SW, (505) 866-9066, Best Entertainment Value.

Nusenda Credit Union, 320 Main St NE, (505) 889-7755, Best Financial Institution.

RAKS Building Supply, 108 Carson Dr SE, (505) 865-1100, Best Hardware / Lumber Store.

Noblin Funeral Home, 221-D Main St SE, (505) 866-9992, Best Funeral Home.

## UTILITY BILLING DIVISION

Utility bills are paid to the Village every month through the Utility Billing Division, but did you know this division handles much more than just utility bills? Utility Billing is located on the east side of Village Hall, offering walk up and drive-through service during regular business hours 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with a drive-up depository available after hours.

Utility Billing is responsible for all billing for the Village of Los Lunas, including:

- Residential and commercial bills for water, sewer and solid waste service
- Permit fees for new buildings, subdivisions and zoning applications
- Violation fees for code enforcement and animal control issues
- Pet registrations
- Court fees and fines for Municipal Court
- Collection and processing of a variety of fees for other departments, including Parks and Recreation and the Library.

Utility Billing Division Staff staff assist customers with their applications for new water service and reestablishing service after a disconnection.

Connection, reconnection, and return check fees will be assessed to start, restore or disconnect services.

The Village of Los Lunas also offers online bill pay for recurring monthly utility bills and business registration renewals.

# 2025 GARBAGE PICKUP DAYS

## Holiday Observed

New Year Day  
 Martin Luther King Day  
 Presidents Day  
 Easter Holiday  
 Memorial Day  
 Juneteenth  
 Independence Day  
 Labor Day  
 Veterans Day  
 Thanksgiving  
 Day After Thanksgiving  
 Christmas Day  
 Christmas Day (observed)

## Regular Trash Pickup Day

Wednesday, Jan 1  
 Monday, Jan 20  
 Monday, Feb 17  
 Friday, April 18  
 Monday, May 26  
 Thursday, June 19  
 Friday, July 4  
 Monday, Sept 1  
 Tuesday, Nov 11  
 Thursday, Nov 27  
 Friday, Nov 28  
 Wednesday, Dec 24  
 Thursday, Dec 25

## Will Be Picked Up On

Thursday, Jan 2  
 Tuesday, Jan 21  
 Tuesday, Feb 18  
 Thursday, April 17  
 Tuesday, May 27  
 Friday, June 20  
 Thursday, July 3  
 Tuesday, Sept 2  
 Wednesday, Nov 12  
 Wednesday, Nov 26  
 Monday, Dec 1  
 Thursday Dec 23  
 Friday, Dec 26

## AARP TAX-AIDE

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide provides tax preparation help to anyone, free of charge, with a focus on taxpayers who are over 50 with low to moderate income.

Tax-Aide is the largest free, volunteer-based tax assistance and preparation program in the U.S.

Tax-Aide Volunteers are trained and IRS-certified every year to make sure they know about and understand the latest changes and additions to the tax code.

Assistance types vary by location and are subject to change.

AARP membership is not required.

For the 2024 tax season, 27,771 volunteers helped 1,680,084 taxpayers receive \$1,280,817,176 in refunds.

There are two sites in Valencia County:

Fred Luna Multigenerational Center  
 197 Don Pasqual Rd NW (Los Lunas)  
 (505) 839-3853  
 Open Mondays and Wednesdays  
 Services start Feb. 3.

Belen Business Center  
 719 S. Main St. (Belen)  
 (505) 966-6803 (ask for Peggy)  
 Open Tuesdays and Thursdays  
 Services start Feb. 3.

## PARADE WINNERS

Congratulations to the winners of the 2024 Christmas Parade!

First Place: #31 Branded Coffee & More

Second Place: #6 Perez Party Rental

Third Place: #18 Christmas on the Farm

It's not too early to start planning entries for the 2025 Village of Los Lunas Christmas Parade.

## 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 website [loslunasnm.gov](http://loslunasnm.gov). This newsletter runs excerpts from Shetter's writing. This month we continue telling you about the Village mayors.

### Mayors of Los Lunas:

#### **Mayor Howard C. Simpson (1911 - 1978) Served 1962 - 1968**

Howard Cliborn Simpson, the youngest of 12 children, was born on November 20, 1911, at Datil, New Mexico.

His youth was marked by an upbringing tinged with poverty during the Depression era, but his experiences shaped his determination to dedicate himself to the betterment of the underprivileged.

He attended grade school in Duran, New Mexico, high school in Meadow, Texas, and Wayland Baptist College in Plainview, Texas, until a death in the family necessitated his return to the family farm.

As a professional baseball pitcher, he earned money to help care for his widowed mother and two orphaned nieces.

Howard married Edna E. Justiss in 1936 in Eddy County, New Mexico, and this union was blessed with two children, Howard Douglas and Barbara Anne D'Spain.

*Simpson operated a ranch near Scholle, New Mexico, as well as serving as president of the State Senior Citizens Group and on the Board of Directors of the New Mexico Municipal League. Upon leaving office in 1968, he retired to Jacksboro, Texas, where he became an ordained Baptist minister. Howard C. Simpson died in his home in Jacksboro on February 6, 1978.*

#### **Emiliano Castillo, Jr. (1914 - 1986) Served 1968 - 1982**

The youngest child of Emiliano Castillo, Sr. and Anna Weber Castillo, Emiliano, Jr. was born on October 18, 1914, in Los Lunas.

He was educated at Los Lunas Public School, Solomon Luna High School, and one year at the University of New Mexico.

Prior to America's entry in the Second World War, he married Lucy Romero of Los Lunas, and within the next few years their children JoAnn, Randolph, Barbara, and Jerome were born. Tragically, their youngest child died in infancy.

When Emiliano registered for the military draft in 1940, he was employed as the Assistant County School Superintendent and served on the Board of Education.

*Emiliano Castillo, Jr., the Village's eighth mayor, was the fourth member of his family to serve the citizens of Los Lunas in this capacity. Emiliano served as Mayor for 14 years, and he also served as the Municipal Clerk prior to his tenure. Notably, he served on the Board of Directors of the Los Lunas Hospital and Training School and was elected to a term as Valencia County Sheriff.*

## LOCAL EVENTS

### **Monday, Jan. 20, 2025**

#### **Martin Luther King Day**

Village Offices closed  
Monday garbage picked up  
Tuesday, Jan. 21

### **Monday, Feb. 17, 2025**

#### **Presidents Day**

Village Offices closed  
Monday garbage picked up  
Tuesday, Feb. 18

### **Attend a Village Council Meeting**

6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 16 & 30, 2025  
6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14 & 28, 2025  
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).

## KING OF THE HILL MARCH 8

The King of the Hill 2025 race event has been scheduled for Saturday, March 8. The races take place in the beautiful and challenging trails of El Cerro de Los Lunas Preserve.

King of the Hill offers 100% trail running at 5k, 10k, and half marathon distances. The course features beautiful views and large elevation changes on the 10k and half marathon courses.

The event has grown every year, and this is the 9th annual so it could be the biggest and best yet!

Entry prices vary with type of race, distance, and day of entry.

Visit [www.loslunasnm.gov/kingofthehill](http://www.loslunasnm.gov/kingofthehill) for registration and pricing information.

Interested in sponsorship opportunities? Contact the Village Parks and Recreation Division at (505) 352-7661.