



VILLAGE NEWS

Small Community • Big Possibilities

Volume 29 - Number 2 - February 2025

TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS START THIS MONTH

Work begins this month on improvements to the intersections located at Interstate 25 and NM Hwy 6 and the on and off ramps.

The project will make significant improvements to reduce traffic problems on Main Street in Los Lunas.

The plan is to add another right-turn lane on the Interstate 25 southbound off ramp to make two right-turn lanes.

The project also includes the addition of another left turn lane on NM Hwy 6 to get on the I-25 northbound on-ramp for a total of two new turn lanes.

Currently there are five lanes on the bridge between the I-25 and NM Hwy 6 intersections. To accomplish the addition of another left turn lane, a 6th lane will be needed

The 6th lane will be created by shrinking down the existing lane sizes on the bridge from the standard 12- to 14-foot-wide size to 11 feet wide to allow for the secondary turn lane.

The bridge will also be repaved and restriped to accommodate another lane.

At this time there is a single "free right" lane for the westbound to northbound movement onto the I-25 northbound on ramp that allows people to just merge in. That will be removed as part of the project to improve pedestrian safety.

To remove that lane and retain capacity, two right turn lanes will be created for westbound to northbound movement to get onto I-25.

A traffic light where the free right lane is will be moved to accommodate the new lanes.

The plan is for a stop light for the two new right turn lanes.

Construction of the project is expected to take six to eight months. Sidewalk and pedestrian improvements will be part of the improvements.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS

The annual meeting of the Valencia County Historical Society will be held at 2 p.m. on Feb. 16, 2025, at the Belen Public Library.

The meeting will include a Chautauqua presentation of La Llorona by Rosalia de Aragon and a display of archival material from the Archival Collaborative's collection.

Annual awards will be presented and election of officers will be held. Mark your calendars!

- March 15, 2025 - Route 66 in Los Lunas by Patty Guggino: 2 pm, Los Lunas Museum of Heritage & Arts.
- April 23, 2025 - Historic Geology Experiments in New Mexico in Water Management and Atomic Energy Applications by Paul Parmentier: 2pm, UNMVC Workforce Training Center.
- May 18, 2025 - Annual Road Show and Personal Antiques Display: 2 pm, Los Lunas Transportation Center.

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SUMMER REC PROGRAM NEEDS WORKERS

The Village will be hiring high school and college-age aides to help with the Summer Recreation program.

Aides play a vital role in overseeing and assisting with the daily functions of the Summer Recreation Program.

An aide is a vital team member responsible for overseeing and participating in the daily functions of the Summer Recreation Program.

This role involves supervising youth participants, managing High School Aides, and contributing to the success of the program through various tasks.

Key Responsibilities include:

- 1) Participant Oversight
- 2) College Aides Provide Supervision of High School Aides
- 4) Check-In/Out Procedures
- 5) Equipment Management
- 6) Lunch Program Assistance
- 7) Conflict Management
- 8) Janitorial Duties

DO NOT USE ROCK SALT

Spring is approaching but it is still winter and we can still be covered in ice and snow.

Do not use rock salt to de-ice sidewalks and driveways.

Rock salt can soften and eat away at the concrete causing damage. Concrete-safe de-icer can be purchased at a variety of stores.

YOUTH VOLLEYBALL

Spring youth volleyball season is almost here!

Registration is open at the Daniel Fernandez Recreation Center, 1103 NM Hwy 314, and will close March 3.

Fundamental is ages 8 through 10; Competitive 11 through 13.

Registration is \$40 payable in cash or check.

Coaches are needed.

Games begin April 5.

For information call 352-7661.

VILLAGE BUSINESS REGISTRATION RENEWAL

Pay your Village of Los Lunas business registration renewal using Xpress Bill Pay.

Create an account or use an existing account at www.xpressbillpay.com.

All you need is your business registration account number and last name or business name

BUSINESS ROUNDUP



GOODFELLAS PIZZA
959 HIGHWAY 314 SW STE F
505-916-5054
jkemp1177@yahoo.com
<https://www.goodfellaspizzanm.com>
New Owner



BLOOM FLOWERS AND GIFTS
1402 MAIN ST NW STE E
505-265-7338
lawrence3376@yahoo.com
<https://www.bloomflowersloslunas.com/>
New owner



MOBILITY BJJ
1044 MAIN ST NE STE A
505-261-4384
coachmattbjj@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/488792207576449/user/100034516217810/>
JiuJitsu Instruction

DOCTOR DOOLITTLE
335 COURTHOUSE RD SE
505-444-8686
b2b480@outlook.com
<https://dogtordoolittle.org/>
Pet waste clean-up and removal

KATRINA'S RESTAURANT & BAR
785 MAIN ST SW
505-407-2320
cucoskitchen@gmail.com
Under new management

YOU MAY USE VILLAGE FACILITIES

The Village of Los Lunas Parks and Recreation Department allows for the public use of designated areas within the Village.

Park Permits

Shade structures, gazebos or park space is on a first come first serve basis. If you would like to reserve the Gazebo at Daniel Fernandez Park or the Gazebo area at River Park, the fee is \$75.

You are required to fill out a park permit one week prior to the event.

Parks can be used for birthdays, picnics, weddings, or any other family social activities.

A gathering will be asked to move if an area of the park has been previously reserved by another group.

Special Events

Any group, organization, club, or resident requesting to use any Village of Los Lunas Park, Recreation, Sports, or Open Space facility with more than 200 or more persons must submit a Special Events permit 60 days prior to the event.

A permit is required if any type of recreational activity other than walking or hiking is requested on the El Cerro de Los Lunas Preserve.

River Park shade structure can be reserved for a fee of \$75. For more information contact the Open Space Division .

The Wellness Center

The Wellness Center has three meeting rooms that are utilized for wellness and community-based activities including DWI Counseling/Treatment, Auricular Detoxification, Alcoholics Anonymous (English and Spanish Speaking), Meditation, Blood Drives, and Driver Improvement Classes.

The Transportation Center

The Transportation Center offers an auditorium equipped with video/audio equipment perfect for organization meeting purposes. Information about Village facilities is available on the Village website.

It is unlawful for a person to violate any provisions of a permit.

SCENES FROM OUR COMMUNITY

The annual 2025 calendar is now available at the front desk of the Village administration building at the intersection of Main Street and Don Pasqual. They are free to anyone.

SEWER AVERAGE

The sewer average calculations for single family residential accounts will be reflected on the March statement once February's usage is registered.

This will be your new sewer average rate for the year until calculated again in February 2025 per Ordinance 13.8.120.

TRANSFER STATION PROVIDES SERVICE

Village of Los Lunas residents who pay for utility (water, sewer and solid waste) services have additional access to dump various solid waste materials at the Transfer Station located at 7480 Main Street four miles west of Interstate 25 on NM Hwy 6.

The facility is usually open Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (Village Residents Only)

It is closed weekends and all holidays.

Call before visiting at 505 839-5658 to ensure the Transfer Station is accepting customers.

Transfer Station Rules

- No commercial haulers.
- No hazardous waste.
- No commercial truck tires or tractor tires.
- No construction or demolition materials.
- No commercial liquid containers that have products still inside.
- No containers without labels.
- No electrical ballast with polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB).
- No electrical ballast without manufacturing labels (mfg.).
- No florescent tubes or asbestos products of any kind!
- At NO time will any of our operators be allowed to unload trucks with a Village backhoe or any of the equipment on-site.
- At NO time do operators receive money.'

All loads must be separated.

Please tarp loads prior to coming to the Transfer Station.

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. This newsletter runs excerpts from Shetter's writing. This month we continue telling you about the Village mayors.

Mayors of Los Lunas:

Louis F. Huning, Sr. (1949 - 2024) Served 1982 - 2009

Louis F. Huning, Sr. was born on June 10, 1949, in Albuquerque to Fred D. Huning, Jr. and Ruth Ellen Dils Huning.

He graduated from Los Lunas High School in 1967 and later earned a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of New Mexico.

In 1986, he married Nancy Mountain of Belen, and together they are parents to Ruth Ann and Louis F. Huning, Jr.

A direct descendant of the Louis B. Huning who emigrated from Germany to New Mexico in 1861 to become a merchant in the Rio Abajo region, Louis F. continued the family tradition of working for the Huning Mercantile Company.

Louis B. Huning and his brother Henry opened their first mercantile at Belen in 1865. They then opened one at Los Lunas in 1871.

For more than thirteen decades the Hunings provided a wide-array of goods to nearby residents. With the store's closure in 1994, four generations of Hunings had worked there, including Louis F., whose tenure stretched across twenty years. He became a general partner in Huning Limited Partnership, a ranching and land development company.

In 1982, Los Lunas was a small, sleepy town with a population of between 1,500 and 2,000 people - at the most. Main Street was a two-lane asphalt road, and there were only a handful of police officers on the force.

As Mayor, Louis F., along with his 1982 Council running mates Robert Vialpando and Charles Griego, increased the number of employees from twenty to more than 200 while raising the Village's operating budget from \$750,000 to \$64,200,000 to serve the more than 12,000 residents of the community.

EXTRA TRASH PICKUPS

The Village will pick up two special large pickup loads each year at each Village address at no charge.

Additional pickups per address within the year will be charged a fee which is the cost of collection and disposal. Please call 505 352-7632 for questions and information.

LOCAL EVENTS

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, Feb. 13 & 27, 2025

6 p.m. Thursday, March 13 & 27, 2025

660 Main St. NW
Main Street and Don Pasqual
Meetings will be virtual and
in-person. Check Village website
for agenda loslunasnm.gov.

VILLAGE MUSEUM

There will be a dedicated show by photographer Rick Kozak, the winner of the juried art show, that begins in September at the Los Lunas Museum of Heritage & Arts located at the corner of Luna Avenue and Main Street.

Museum specialist and local artist Monica Kemsley taught a painting class the beginning of February which was full. Call the museum at 505 352-7720 to register for future classes.

ISLETA CENTER

Isleta Pueblo's Cultural Center Museum is featuring their unique exhibit entitled "Time Exposures," which depicts Isleta Pueblo in the 19th Century with photographs of the history and lifeways of the Isleta people.

There are several artifacts of tinwork from the St. Augustine church.

The Cultural Center, located on the Pueblo, is open from 10 am to 3 pm, or for groups by appointment.

Contact Stephanie Zuni at 505 869-9767.