



VILLAGE NEWS



Small Community • Big Possibilities

Volume 29 - Number 4 - April 2025

KING OF THE HILL IN LOS LUNAS

On a chilly March morning King of the Hill participants took in the sights as they raced on El Cerro de Los Lunas Preserve.

The event, started in 2015, featured four separate races – 5k, 10k, 10k ruck sack and half marathon,

The top three finishers in the 5K in the men's category were Isaac Gonzales, Los Lunas; Ethan Urtiaga, Los Lunas; and Andrew Jojola Barnett, Isleta; women's category, Deborah Valencia, Belen; Staci Barka, Albuquerque; and Mikayla Maestas, Los Lunas.

In the 10k men's category, Eloy Urtiaga, Los Lunas; Jesse Espinoza, Los Lunas; and Marle Dayzie, Albuquerque; and in the women's Annie Roberts and Franchesca Castillo, both Albuquerque; and Ashley Robinson, Los Lunas.

In the 10k ruck sack top three in the men's division were Clifford Matthews, Albuquerque; Steven Apodaca, Los Lunas; Gabriel Barela, Los Lunas; with the women's division winners Vickie Yarnes, Rio Rancho; Demetria Vasquez, Albuquerque; and Monica Padilla, Albuquerque.

In the men's half marathon Jeff Cuno, Albuquerque; Ean Elias, Peralta; and Benjamin Flaata, Albuquerque; finished up front and the women were Greta Rickenauer, Albuquerque; Kristen Yarnel, Socorro; and Valerie Hermanson, Albuquerque.

King of the Hill offers 100% trail running at 5k, 10k, and half marathon distances.

The races took place on the beautiful and challenging trails of El Cerro de Los Lunas Preserve.

The courses feature beautiful views and large elevation changes on the 10k and half marathon courses. The event grows every year.

NEW TRASH ROUTES

The Village of Los Lunas Solid Waste Division has implemented new trash routes for all residential customers.

Visit the Village website, www.loslunasnm.gov, or call the Solid Waste office at 505 839-5658, to inquire on what day your trash will be picked up.

Please ensure trash cans are placed by the street curb by 7 a.m. on scheduled trash days.

VALENCIA COUNTY COOKBOOK

Calling all home cooks and food enthusiasts!

The Los Lunas Library is sponsoring entries for a Valencia County Community Cookbook.

This is a chance to share recipes passed down through generations and highlight the rich culinary heritage of our community.

Bring recipes to the potluck at the Los Lunas Transportation Station (next to Rail Runner station) at 101 Courthouse Road on Thursday, June 12, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATION

The Village produces an annual report filled with handy information about what is occurring throughout the community and Village offices.

Over the next months the village newsletter will have excerpts from that 2024 annual report which is available online at [https:// www.loslunasnm.gov/slash/1199/Annual-Reports](https://www.loslunasnm.gov/slash/1199/Annual-Reports).

This month we have the first half of a two-part series about the Village administration.

The Administration Department includes the functions of the Village Administrator, Municipal Clerk, and Economic Development.

The Department provides strategic oversight for Village operations, interfaces with the business community for economic development, coordinates Village Council meetings, and manages public records and information.

A key function of the Administration Department is to track progress on Village Council Strategic Priorities, which are updated every four years.

In 2024, the Village made notable progress on current Council Strategic Priorities, which include the I-25 Second Interchange and Los Lunas Boulevard Project, Quality of Life Improvements, Infrastructure Improvements, and Economic Development.

The Village obtained all required environmental clearances and certifications and secured funding to move forward with bidding and advertising Phase I of the Los Lunas Boulevard project, for which a bid award and construction is expected to begin in spring 2025.

To advance two specific needed and desired quality of life improvement projects, the Village completed a Needs Analysis for a future Indoor Aquatic Center, including a cost analysis and conceptual design, with extensive public input and participation, and completed a preliminary design of a new Public Library.

The Village is currently seeking funding for both the proposed Indoor Aquatic Center and new Public Library to make these facilities a reality.

In terms of Village infrastructure, in 2024, the Village made significant progress towards creating multimodal transportation opportunities throughout the community by completing two bicycle and pedestrian pathway improvement projects: NM 314 from Romeroville Road to Griego Road and South Los Lentes from Aspen Road to Morris Road.

Finally, the Village continued its efforts to support economic development throughout the Village by including a Main Street Overlay in the zoning code update to support economic development by presenting tools to support affordable housing development, including downpayment assistance update to support a thriving business district on Main Street programs and direct investment in qualified projects.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION WALK

The Family Resource Center in Los Lunas is sponsoring a 'Walk Down Main Street for Child Abuse Prevention (CAP)' Saturday, April 26, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event kicks off at YDI – Family Resource Center at 428 Los Lentes Rd. SE, and ends at Daniel Fernandez Park, for a walk of 1.5 miles.

The first 150 attendees receive a free cap which goes with the event's slogan, Let's Put a Cap on Drug Abuse.

Hamburgers and hot dogs will be available for participants.

MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM OPEN

The Southwest Model Railroad Museum is open in Belen at 118 S. Second Street, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. and Saturday from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m.

The museum provides information about and preserves the history of aspects of railroading and model railroading.

For information, contact 505 379-7243 or SWMRMP@gmail.com.

WORKING TOGETHER ON TRASH

Working as a cooperative group, volunteers successfully cleaned up nineteen bags of garbage on Emilio Lopez Road in front of Los Lunas High School as part of the Toss No Mas event which is also known as "Trek for Trash".

Collected bags of trash are shown in the picture below.

Village Public Works Director Michael Jaramillo said, "We appreciate the efforts of the volunteers and our employees. We are looking into possibilities to encourage more volunteer participation. We understand the time and effort taken to Keep Los Lunas Clean and Beautiful."

The Village will hold the Great American Recycling Event Saturday, May 10, from 8 a.m. to noon. Call 505 352-7699 for more details.



VISIT MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

The Friends of the Los Lunas Library and Museum Gift Shop offers a wide selection of handbags, books, jewelry, and other items that can be purchased any time of year.

Visit the museum Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. to see items for sale.

Museum purchases support the Village Museum and Library.

PAINTING PARTY

A painting party will be held at the Village Museum & Heritage of Arts so that participants are guided through the process of creating a small masterpiece to grace their home. Watch for information about the free event which includes all supplies and refreshments.

Space is very limited so call the museum to reserve your spot at 505 352-7720. Attendance is limited to adults and youth ages 14 and up.

LOS LUNAS LIBRARY INFORMATION

Patrons of the Los Lunas Library can borrow a wide variety of books, audio books and movies.

They can also download audio books as well as learn a language, research a family tree and more from the mobile platforms with a Los Lunas library card.

Library cards are available free of charge. Applicants must present photo identification and proof of mailing address for verification purposes.

Patrons who are age 12 to 17 must have signed parental permission to obtain a library card. Children 12 and under can be added to the family library card.

The friends of the Los Lunas Public Library and the Museum of Heritage and Arts offers a variety of volunteer opportunities for individuals to help with library programming.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

The Village of Los Lunas encourages residents to always shop local!



A BIT OF LOS LUNAS HISTORY

"A Cultural and Economic Story of Los Lunas" is written by Los Lunas library director Cynthia Shetter and can be found on the Village website loslunasnm.gov. This month concludes our series of articles taken from this publication with current Mayor Charles Griego.

CONCLUDING OUR SERIES

Charles Griego (Born 1951) Served as Mayor 2014 - Present

Charles Griego was born on July 12, 1951, in Los Lentos to Ramon and Juanita Perea Griego.

A life-long resident of Los Lunas, Charles is a graduate of the University of New Mexico, where he was conferred a Bachelor of Arts in History.

In 1984, he became the manager of Heritage Title of Valencia County, a company he currently owns and operates.

He is married to Angela Griego née Carabajal of Los Lunas; and they have two children Charles Joseph Griego and Ana Emilia Van de Putte.

His career in public service began in 1982 upon his election to the Village Council.

As the Village's population increased throughout the 1990s, the community was partitioned into four council districts in 2000, and Charles represented District 2 until 2014.

After thirty-two years as a councilman, he was elected the 11th Mayor of Los Lunas in March 2014.

During his first term in office, the Village experienced considerable growth, which necessitated long-range land-use, water conservation, transportation, and wastewater plans.

With the announcement by the social media company Facebook (now Meta) in 2016 of a data center in Los Lunas, the Village regained some of its national recognition that had been diminished when U.S. Route 66 was realigned through Albuquerque in 1937.

Charles continues to serve as Mayor of Los Lunas, having been elected to a second term in March 2018 and third in November 2023.

In the more than nine decades since Los Lunas incorporated as a Village, many changes have occurred in the once-sleepy town along the banks of the Rio Grande.

Eleven men with deep local roots have guided and managed the Village's growth, a process which continues under the leadership of Mayor Griego.

LOCAL EVENTS

Friday, April 18, 2025

Good Friday

Village Offices closed.

Garbage picked up Thursday, April 17, 2025

Attend a Village Council Meeting

6 p.m. Thursday, April 10 & 24, 2025
660 Main St. NW

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

STUDENT ART SHOW

The deadline for applications to participate in the Los Lunas Museum of Heritage and Arts 12th annual student art show is April 19 with April 23, the date for final submission of the work. Submit digital or printed entries via mail, e-mail or in person.

The theme for this year's student art show is Tales Through Time.

The opening reception will be April 26 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Entries must be original works and may be any medium — acrylic, oil, pastel, watercolor, pen and ink, photography, ceramics, fibers, mixed media, etcetera that portrays the theme.

Abstract and nonrepresentational works are welcome but works must align with the theme.

The art show will be on exhibit April 26 through June 7 at the museum which is located under the downtown water tower at Luna Avenue and Main Street.

Questions, comments or concerns can be directed to the museum by calling the museum at 505 352-7720.