



# VILLAGE NEWS

Small Community • Big Possibilities

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## 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 Hall, 660 Main Street NW, northwest corner of Main Street and Don Pasqual, phone 505 839-3842.

## THE SPLASH PAD IS OPEN

The Los Lunas splash pad is now open to the public at Daniel Fernandez Memorial Park.

The splash pad is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, closed Sunday and Monday. No reservations are needed.

Entrance into the splash pad will be on a first come first serve basis. Maximum capacity for the pad is 75 people. There is no attendant on duty and adult supervision of children is required.

The splash pad closes on Labor Day, Monday, September 1.

## YOUTH SUMMER RECREATION

The Village of Los Lunas 2025 Summer Recreation program for children ages 5 through 12 runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, June 2, through Thursday, June 26, and Monday, July 7, through Thursday, July 24, excluding Fridays with lunch provided.

Registration is cash and check only and can be done at the Daniel Fernandez Recreation Center, 1103 NM Hwy 314 SW.

Field trips are \$20 per week per child. The field trip schedule is to be announced.

For more information, call 505 352-7661. Check the Los Lunas website for availability at [loslunasnm.gov](http://loslunasnm.gov).

The Village's Open Space Outdoor Adventure program runs Monday through Friday July 14 through 18 for ages 8 to 12.

The Outdoor Adventure program meets at River Park in Los Lunas. For more information, including programming and cost, call 505-352-7761.

## NOVEMBER ELECTION

An election will be held Tuesday, November 4, to elect a Village Councilor from Districts One and Three for a four-year term on the Village Council.

Only registered voters in those districts will be able to vote.

A map of the Village Council districts is available on the Village website [loslunasnm.gov](http://loslunasnm.gov).

## MEET ASTRO

The Los Lunas Public Library purchased Astro – a robot dog quadruped embodied with Artificial Intelligence (AI) to promote Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics (STEAM) to students in Los Lunas schools and in the library's afterschool programs.



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# VILLAGE OF LOS LUNAS HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

*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 run excerpts from that 2024 Annual Report which is available on the Village website [loslunasnm.gov](http://loslunasnm.gov).*

Human resources focuses on attracting well-qualified diverse candidates who are committed to providing outstanding customer service and exceptional work.

The Human Resources Department works to recruit and retain a skilled workforce so that Los Lunas remains an outstanding place to live, work and play.

Every year HR focuses on employee retention, ensuring that the Village is truly one of the best places to work. In 2024 our turnover rate was 13.1%, a slight increase from 2023 but still well under the industry average of 16 to 20%.

In addition, our vacancy rate has shown only a marginal increase from 3.2% in 2023 to 3.7% this year.

HR managed 50 recruitments for full and part-time work positions across all Village departments. Each summer, HR hires approximately 60 seasonal youth employees to work in our Summer Recreation Program and our Summer Youth Employment Program, providing valuable work experience to our local youth.

Employee well-being is a major component of the Human Resources Department.

HR works to ensure that our employees are well taken care of inside and outside the workplace. The Village offers a robust benefits package which is a leader among our peers.

This year the HR department took part in 13 job fairs throughout the region. HR staff also participated in several outreach events with Los Lunas Schools, performing mock interviews with students to prepare them for college entrance interviews and for entering the workforce.

HR also coordinates the Appreciate YOU program, which promotes employee enrichment and engagement, holding quarterly events for Village employees and their families.

The Village Council approved the continuation of the three-year progressive pay plan that was recommended by the 2023 compensation and classification study allowing the Village of Los Lunas to remain a leader among our peers for employee compensation.

In 2024 the Human Resources Department:

- Processed 1,081 job applications for Village job opportunities, a 45% increase from 2023. Our job postings were reviewed 32,417 times on our website, creating a conversion rate (views versus applications) which is well above the industry average of 1%.
- Continued phase two of the implementation of NEOGOV, a human resources information system (HRIS) software which connects the Village to government.com, a nationwide job search resource. This software has streamlined the HR process, better serving our external applicants as well as our internal systems, creating a higher, more efficient, level of service from HR.
- Completed the first full scale rewrite of the Village of Los Lunas personnel ordinance since 2007. The new personnel ordinance clarified and updated our personnel policies in line with the current work environment. The new ordinance was approved by the Village Council on Feb. 23, 2024.

## SAFE WHILE WALKING

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

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

## STUDENT ART SHOW WINNERS

Hope you visited the Los Lunas Museum of Heritage & Arts while the 12th Annual Student Art Show entries were on display recently. The theme of this year's Student Art Show was "Tales Through Time."

There was a total of 199 student artists with 266 art pieces.

Awards were presented to the following:

### Elementary

Best of Show was Hazel Pearson with a piece titled "Tales Through Time Clock"

1st place was Kaden Kniffin with a piece titled "A Time Piece"

2nd place was Kathleen Conroy with a piece titled "The Infamous Coyote & Puebloans"

3rd place was John Conroy with a piece titled "Old & New Pueblo"

Honorable Mention was Cameron Kreiner with a piece titled "Native Prayer"

Honorable Mention was Caroline Villalba with a piece titled "Ballroom Dance"

### Middle School

Best of Show was Timothy Garcia with a piece titled "Dinosaurs Tale"

1st place was Irene Maylin Ramirez with an untitled piece

2nd place was D Mcree with a piece titled "Life & Death"

3rd place was Briella Lucero with a piece title "Earth Loses its Color"

Honorable Mention was Osiris Delomis with a piece titled "Words of the Past-Laguna"

Honorable Mention was Shaylin Esquibel with a piece titled "Silver Sunflower"

### High School

Best of Show was Cesar Avitia with a piece titled "El Caido"

1st place was Kenya Gomez Parra with a piece titled "A Lovers Dance"

2nd place was Liliana Maldonado with a piece titled "Time Keeper"

3rd place was Arielle Senior with a piece titled "Mountain Majesty"

Honorable mention was Siraya Behrend with a piece titled "The Day the Sun Rose Twice"

Honorable Mention was E. Marie Major with a piece titled "Life of A Star"

## WELLNESS COUNCIL FOCUSES ON PUBLIC HEALTH

The Community Wellness Council (CWC) is the designated health council of Valencia County. The CWC is the public health convener for community-based organizations and partners throughout Valencia County.

You will find out more about the health initiatives the CWC is currently supporting and can read more about the health priorities in the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) available on the CWC website <https://communitywellnesscouncil.org/>.

The CWC began in 1993 as the Valencia County Coalition for Families, Children, and Community with a focus on building better futures for children and families.

It transitioned to the Valencia Community Partnership in 1999, shifting to health assessment and planning. In 2010, this organization reorganized to become the CWC.

Throughout its transitions, it has maintained its 501(c)(3) status, and an active leadership team committed to community wellness.

Health priorities in Valencia County are determined by combining epidemiological data with community feedback. The process involves ranking indicators and topics based on community burden, disease prevalence, and upstream indicators.

Community forums then categorize and rank these priorities through "dot voting." The top priorities are proposed to the CWC Executive Board for consideration, ensuring they reflect the community's voice and have the capacity to address them effectively.

The CWC Executive Board selects the top priorities for action planning, with the goal of addressing key issues and improving overall community health.

# LOS LUNAS LIBRARY FEATURES FUN FOR TEENS AND TWEENS

## Summer reading program

### Color Our World/Colorea Nuestro Mundo

The Los Lunas Public Library's summer reading program started in early June with a kickoff party featuring snacks, gaming, board games and a rock-climbing wall.

Come into the library at 460 Main St. NE to participate or you can also participate online by going to [llpl.readsquared.com](http://llpl.readsquared.com) to register.

The prize raffle announcement will be made on Facebook on Saturday, July 26.

### Summer fun for teens and tweens

- 1:30 p.m., Thursday, June 5: Build a variety of robots with Cubelets.
- 1:30 p.m., Friday, June 6: Get creative and create a scene with text, images and color using Canvas Collage.
- 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, June 11: Scrapbooking with Mrs. Cathy.
- Thursday, June 12: Tour the Spaceport America, ages 13 to 19. Sign-up is required due to limited space. Transportation provided. Call the library at 505 839-3850 to sign up.
- 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Thursday, June 12: Cookbook Potluck at the Los Lunas Rail Runner Station, 101 Courthouse Road. Submit your recipes for the cookbook to <https://forms.gle/BU1ziYoEAAE1zZt1A> or bring your dish and/or the recipe to the potluck. Submissions for the cookbook close June 12.
- 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, June 18: Story Creations by Denise Guard and her dogs, Joey and Kira. Bring your stuffed animals so they can sleep over at the library until Friday afternoon.
- June 20: Rocky Mountain Puppets pajama party. Wear your pajamas and pick up your stuffed animals after their sleep over!
- 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, June 25: Listen to Grammy nominee, Judy Pancoast, sing while you groove to the music.
- 1:30 p.m., Thursday, June 26: Coding for teens with Sphero Minis.
- 4 p.m., Thursday, June 26: Community Paper Mural; color, paint and doodle on the library's community mural.
- 2:30-5:30 p.m., Monday, June 30: Wonders on Wheels mobile museum features an interactive exhibit about the peoples and cultures in New Mexico history. Designed for ages 4 to 14.
- 4 p.m., Wednesday, July 2: Summer reading quilt embroidery; come embroider squares to patch together for our summer reading quilt. If you do not finish, come to the other sessions, at 4 p.m., Friday, July 18, or Wednesday, July 23.
- 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, July 9: Tall Paul Magic; silly, magical fun with Tall Paul.
- 1:30 p.m., Thursday, July 10: Make rock paperweights with melted crayons.

## LOCAL EVENTS

**Thursday June 19, 2025**

### *Juneteenth Day*

Village Offices Closed  
Garbage usually picked up  
Thursday will be picked up  
Wednesday, June 18.

**Friday, July 4, 2025**

### *Independence Day*

Village Offices Closed  
Garbage usually picked up Friday  
will be picked up Thursday, July 3.

### *Attend a Village Council Meeting*

6 p.m. Thursday, June 12 & 26, 2025  
6 p.m. Thursday, July 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](http://loslunasnm.gov).

LIBRARY continued ...

- 1:30 p.m., Friday, July 11: Origami envelopes and blackout poetry; create small envelopes and create blackout poetry to fit inside.
- 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, July 16: Exotics of the Rainforest; join the Exotics of the Rainforest as they fly, slither and crawl in the library.
- 1:30 p.m., Thursday, July 17: Come create with 3-D pens in a family science and workshop for teens.
- 4 p.m., Friday, July 18: Summer reading quilt embroidery; embroider squares to patch together for the library's reading quilt.
- 11 a.m., Wednesday, July 23: New Mexico History Artifact Interaction; see touchable artifacts from New Mexico history and a fun craft pairing.
- 4 p.m., Wednesday, July 23: Summer reading quilt embroidery; embroider squares to patch together for the library's reading quilt.
- 1:30 p.m., Thursday, July 24: Bubble gum chemistry; learn the chemistry of gum making.