



# VILLAGE NEWS

Small Community • Big Possibilities

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## DESERT WILLOW FIRE HITS LOS LUNAS

On June 21, 2025, the Cotton I Fire started in the bosque south of the NM Highway 6 / Main Street river bridge in Los Lunas, resulting in the loss or damage of a number of homes in the Carson Park neighborhood, and forcing evacuations of the surrounding neighborhood.

On June 22, 2025, the Cotton II Fire started north of the same river bridge, forcing evacuations of neighborhoods in unincorporated Valencia County and Peralta. The response from these two fires was combined on June 22 and is now known as the Desert Willow Complex Fire.

The Desert Willow Complex Fire impacted multiple jurisdictions, and the Village of Los Lunas is using the Village website as a landing page for the community overall to connect to resources and information.

For updates about the fire itself, please visit New Mexico Fire Information website <https://nmfireinfo.com>.

If you have damage to your home because of the fires, you can call 1-800-RED-CROSS for support in navigating resources.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, the United Way of North Central New Mexico is assisting local jurisdictions to support recovery efforts in the aftermath of the Desert Willow Complex Fire. Visit the United Way website <https://www.unitedway.org> to donate.

If you have items that you are willing to donate, we appreciate you, but we are not accepting any donated items at this time because the shelters are at capacity with donated items.

You can fill out the Los Lunas / Valencia County Cotton Fire Donation Form to be added to a database, and we will contact you if your donated items are needed in the future. The form can be found on the Village of Los Lunas website <https://www.loslunasnm.gov/FormCenter>.

## VILLAGE COUNCIL APPROVES PROJECT LOAN

The Village Council has voted to apply for a \$14 million dollar loan in support of the construction of a new East/West corridor from I-25 across the Rio Grande from the New Mexico State Infrastructure Bank established by the New Mexico Department of Transportation.

As part of the application process for the loan, the Village of Los Lunas governing body is required to issue an official approval authorizing the Village of Los Lunas to negotiate a loan agreement pursuant to which the village would be liable for repaying and securing the repayment of the requested financial assistance.

The project includes a new river crossing bridge, at-grade railroad crossing, signal and lighting improvements, storm water mitigation, and bike/pedestrian facilities.

The proposed term of the loan application, now approved, is 15 years with interest accruing on the outstanding principal balance at the rate of 1.5% per annum.

The council approved repayment of the loan through the pledging of gross receipts tax revenue from the Village of Los Lunas Municipal Gross Receipts Tax and the New Mexico State Shared Gross Receipts Tax.

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## PAYING YOUR UTILITY BILL

Your online bill pay is the easiest way to pay your Village of Los Lunas utility bill. The Village online bill payment option saves time and gives you more flexibility.

If you have an internet connection and an e-mail address, you can pay your utility bill online.

It's fast, it's easy and you no longer have to write a check each month or find a stamp.

The Village has partnered with Xpress Bill Pay, the premier provider for online bill payment systems.

When you sign up for online bill payment you get a unique password to access your personal account.

A reminder e-mail will let you know when your bill is online. Then just log in to view your bill, which will look like a paper statement.

Go to the Xpress Bill Pay website <https://www.xpressbillpay.com>. From there you can create a new account.

To create a new account, provide a valid e-mail address. After submitting your information, you will receive a default password by e-mail. Return to the Xpress Bill Pay website, log in with your e-mail and password, and follow the on-screen steps to add the Village of Los Lunas to your Xpress Bill Pay account. Once registered, you can view and pay your bills online anytime.

If you already signed up with Xpress Bill Pay you can log in with your e-mail address and password follow the instructions on the screen.

## CHILD HELMET SAFETY ACT

The Child Helmet Safety Act (Chapter 32A, Article 24 NMSA 1978) states that anyone under the age of 18 (a minor) must wear well-fitted protective helmet, fastened securely upon the head with the straps of the helmet.

This law states that anyone (an operator) on bicycles, skateboards, scooters, motorized cycles, or skates must have a helmet.

It is unlawful for a parent or guardian to know that the child has no helmet while operating a bicycle, skateboard, or scooter.

Wearing a helmet while riding greatly improves safety, reducing head injury risk by up to 85%. Helmets absorb impact and help protect against brain injuries in accidents.

The Child Helmet Safety Act is enforced by the Los Lunas Community Police Officers and Open Space Park Rangers in public parks, streets, and sidewalks. Enforcement will include verbal notification to parent or guardian. If continued, parent or guardian will be cited.

Helmets are mandated on all Los Lunas Parks and Recreation Properties.

## BADLANDS DRIVE-IN

The Badlands Drive-In is a single-screen, permanent drive-in movie theater located in Los Lunas at 1600 NM Hwy 314 SW. Built and operated by the Village of Los Lunas this unique venue is also owned and managed by the local government.

Constructed in 2020 on the site of the Village's former BMX track, the Badlands Drive-In features a large permanent screen, digital projection, and a vehicle capacity of approximately 100 cars.

Although construction was completed in December 2020, the drive-in's grand opening was delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions in Valencia County. It officially opened to the public in February 2021.

Admission is \$15 per vehicle, and tickets can be purchased online in advance when available. Guests are welcome to bring food and drinks; however, **alcohol and pets are not permitted**. Additionally, **UTVs and ATVs are prohibited** on the property.

Come enjoy a fun, family-friendly movie experience under the stars—right here in the heart of Los Lunas.

Badlands Drive-In can be rented for your event. Visit <https://www.loslunasnm.gov/1312/Badlands-Drive-In> for more information.

## STREETLIGHT PROBLEMS?

Have you noticed a streetlight off or flickering? Want to report it? Go to the Village website, [loslunasnm.gov](https://www.loslunasnm.gov), and under RESIDENTS you will find Online Forms and Applications. Under Public Works is the Streetlight Repair Form.

# VILLAGE OF LOS LUNAS FINANCE 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 the 2024 annual report which is available on the Village website at [loslunasnm.gov](http://loslunasnm.gov).*

The Village Finance Department works to support Village staff and internal operations by providing oversight of revenue received by the Village.

- In 2024 the Village obtained an unmodified or “clean” audit opinion from an external audit firm.
- The Village also received the Government Finance Officers Association’s (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the FY 2025 budget. This award is granted to entities who show “commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of government budgeting.”
- The Village provided oversight for 35 individual funds, to include budgeting, monitoring expenditures, and fulfillment of related reporting requirements.
- The Finance Department processed over \$46.8 million of vendor invoices.

In 2024, the Finance Department made significant advancements to enhance efficiency, accountability, and operational effectiveness. One of the most impactful changes has been the research of a new banking system, streamlining financial transactions and improving security measures.

This transition will continue through 2025 and the modernized system will allow for faster processing, enhanced tracking capabilities, and better integration with financial reporting tools, ultimately contributing to a more transparent and accurate financial management process as the Village grows.

To further strengthen leadership and oversight within the department, an Assistant Finance Director position has been added. This role provides crucial support in financial planning, budgeting, and auditing functions, ensuring that key financial strategies are executed effectively.

The addition of this position enhances the department’s ability to manage complex financial operations while maintaining compliance with policies and regulations.

Additionally, the Finance Office has also implemented a new vendor application process.

This system ensures that all vendors meet the necessary qualifications and compliance standards before conducting business with the organization. The application includes thorough documentation requirements, verification steps, and approval workflows to enhance transparency and reduce risks.

By streamlining vendor onboarding, the new process improves efficiency, minimizes potential fraud, and strengthens relationships with trusted vendors, ultimately contributing to a more secure and well managed financial operation.

These improvements collectively contribute to a more robust and responsive finance office, positioning it for continued success and growth.

## DON'T WASTE WATER!

The hot months are upon us. Village residents need to avoid wasting water.

Residents should follow Municipal Ordinance 8.24.040 Water Waste Restrictions through September 30.

Spray irrigation is allowed only between 6 p.m. and 10 a.m.

Water waste must not flow onto adjacent properties or public right-of-way whether served by the municipal water utility or by a private well.

Shut-off nozzles are required on any hoses used for hand watering, vehicle or equipment washing, or other outdoor uses:

- Outdoor watering performed with permanent drip irrigation system, sub-surface irrigation, harvested water, or gray water;
- Watering of containerized plants and nursery plant stock;
- Repair and maintenance of irrigation systems;
- Single-day irrigation for application of chemicals for landscape maintenance;
- Non-profit car washes held as fundraisers, if vehicles are washed using handheld buckets and hoses equipped with shut-off nozzles.

Additional restrictions may be applied during declared drought or emergency events.

For more information, call the Public Works Office at 505 839-3857.

# VILLAGE MUSEUM OF HERITAGE & ARTS

The Los Lunas Public Library provides equal access to a vast range of information and resources.

## ◊ Customer Service

People are the museum's top priority. Museum staff offer welcoming personalized service to everyone who visits in person, online, and by telephone.

## ◊ Education & Discovery

Providing and developing educational resources, presentations, history exhibits, and art shows that celebrate the history and culture of the community.

## ◊ Preserving History

Embracing technology to collect the community's diverse human experiences.

## ◊ Community Engagement

Bringing people, organizations, and ideas together through cultural heritage and art.

## DON'T LEAVE THEM IN VEHICLES

The Village Code Enforcement Division gets a lot of calls about dogs in hot vehicles.

A comfortable 85 degrees F outside can heat a car up to 104 degrees F in only 10 minutes.

If you are out and about, leave your animals at home where they can stay cool.

And make sure children and adults are not placed in danger in hot vehicles.

# MAPPING SERVICES & GIS IN THE VILLAGE

Mapping and GIS (Geographic information Services) provide access to geographic data and mapping resources to support informed decision-making and community planning.

You can explore interactive maps, used for zoning, land use, infrastructure and other planning efforts within the Village on the Village website loslunasnm.gov.

Print maps are available upon request. For inquiries and pricing, contact the Village planning division.

The Village offers easy to use online maps for your convenience. You can click on the images on the Village website to explore.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THE LOS LUNAS PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Los Lunas Public Library provides equal access to a vast range of information and resources.

- Los Lunas Public Library workers actively embrace new ways to adapt the Library to the changing needs of the people served.
- The Los Lunas Public Library offers collections that are of interest to users in ways that are most convenient for them.
- People working at the Los Lunas Public Library are passionate about providing library service to our community.
- Los Lunas Public Library workers conduct all interactions with respect and can be counted on to do the right thing in a fair and equitable manner.

## LOCAL EVENTS

**Monday Sept. 1, 2025**

**Labor Day**

Village Offices Closed  
Garbage usually picked up  
Monday will be picked up Sept. 2

**New Mexico Music Explosion**  
**Sunday, August 17**

Daniel Fernandez Park  
Noon – 7 p.m.  
Gonzalo Cuarenta Y Cinco  
Roberto Griego Blue Ventures  
FREE ALL AGES  
FOOD VENDORS

**Attend a Village Council Meeting**

6 p.m. Thursday July 10 & 24, 2025  
6 p.m. Thursday, August 7 & 21, 2025  
660 Main St. NW  
Main Street and Don Pasqual  
Meetings will be virtual and  
in-person. Check Village website  
for agenda loslunasnm.gov.

## 2025 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

National Night Out in 2025 will be Tuesday, August 5, at the Los Lunas Sports Complex 5 to 7 p.m.

This annual event, also known as "America's Night Out Against crime", is designed to strengthen community spirit, promote police-community partnerships, and heighten crime and drug awareness.

Residents are encouraged to turn on their porch lights, lock their doors, and spend the evening outside with neighbors.

The event usually includes meeting law enforcement and emergency responders, free food, and community services representatives giving items out.