



VILLAGE NEWS

Small Community • Big Possibilities

Volume 29 - Number 8 - August 2025

COUNCIL APPROVES NEW WATER & SEWER RATES

A new tiered payment system for water and sewer users in Los Lunas will go into effect Oct. 1, following the approval by the Village Council of the Village's water and sewer ordinance update.

The approval of updates to Ordinance 483 enables the Public Works Department to revise standards for water and sewer services, as well as update fees and penalties for violators.

The last rate increase came in January 2015.

"All of the customers we have (now) have been paying the same as a residential rate, which should not happen," said Village Public Works Director Michael Jaramillo, "because you have commercial and industrial users that are using more. The objective is to encourage water conservation."

Jaramillo said he is "excited about having this change" because it is primarily aimed at higher water users and should help them learn how to better manage their water use.

The new tiered system establishes the base rate (use of 0 to 2,000 gallons); usage level 1 (2,001 to 10,000 gallons); usage level 2 (10,001 to 40,000 gallons); usage level 3 (40,001 to 80,000 gallons); usage level 4 (80,001 to 350,000 gallons); and usage level 5 (350,000 gallons and above). Actual usage charges shall be prorated to the closest 100 gallons.

Water rates for all customers inside the Village limits will start with a base rate of \$24.99 per month for the first 0-2000

gallons, and an additional charge of \$4.25 for each additional thousand gallons used at usage level 1; \$4.55 for each additional thousand gallons used at usage level 2; \$5.23 for each additional thousand gallons used at usage level 3; \$6.38 for each additional thousand gallons used at usage level 4; and \$8.61 for each additional thousand gallons used at usage level 5.

Sewer rates for all customers inside the Village limits will start with a base rate of \$31.59 per month for the first 0-2000 gallons, with an additional charge of \$3.75 for each additional thousand gallons used at usage level 1; \$4.50 for each additional thousand gallons used at usage level 2; \$6.53 for each additional thousand gallons used at usage level 3; \$11.09 for each additional thousand gallons used at usage level 4; and \$21.63 for each additional thousand gallons used at usage level 5.

Water rates for all customers outside the Village limits will start with a base rate of \$34.35 per month for the first 0-2000 gallons, and an additional charge of \$4.68 for each additional thousand gallons used at usage level 1; \$5.00 for each additional thousand gallons used at usage level 2; \$5.75 for each additional thousand gallons used at usage level 3; \$7.02 for each additional thousand gallons used at usage level 4; and \$9.47 for each additional thousand gallons used at usage level 5.

Sewer rates for all customers outside the Village limits will start with a base rate of \$40.92 per month for the first 0-2000 gallons, with an additional charge of \$4.13 for each additional thousand gallons used at usage level 1; \$4.95 for each additional thousand gallons used at usage level 2; \$7.18 for each additional thousand gallons used at usage level 3; \$12.20 for each additional thousand gallons used at usage

level 4, and \$23.79 for each additional thousand gallons used at usage level 5.

The approved ordinance stipulates that "rates shall be subject to annual adjustment for inflation, based on the percentage increase of the Consumer Price Index (CPI)."

Because the updated ordinance is designed to encourage water conservation, the most significant increase will primarily affect higher water users, who account for about 30 percent of Village water users, including high commercial and industrial water users.

"Residential users make up 70 percent of our water and sewer service, and they'll be affected the least by these changes," Jaramillo said.

Jaramillo said that regular water and wastewater operations and maintenance, and needed upcoming projects, are the main reasons for the rate changes at this time, as well as bringing the Village up to current standards of more in line with other New Mexico municipalities.

Within five years, the Village plans to build a new well west of Interstate 25 and replace all outdated clay and iron pipes in its water and sewer systems, among other projects.

JOBs AVAILABLE IN THE VILLAGE

You can apply on-line for a job at the Village. Go to the Village website at loslunasnm.gov. Find the jobs open for hire. Click on the "Apply" link. After reviewing job descriptions, click the "Apply" tab.

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

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

Is my drinking water safe?

The Village of Los Lunas has released the 2024 Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by the New Mexico Environment Department / Drinking Water Bureau (NMED / DWB).

This is a comprehensive report of last year's water quality for the Village of Los Lunas. The Village and its employees are committed to providing this information so that you are aware of the contaminants in the drinking water.

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV / AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections.

These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers and / or EPA / Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium guidelines and other microbial contaminants.

More information is available from the state drinking water hot line at 800 426-4791. Your health is important so please contact a physician with any health concerns.

Where does my water come from?

The Village of Los Lunas provides excellence in quality and service to customers at a minimal cost while protecting the environment and exceeding all quality standards.

The Village of Los Lunas is supplied by groundwater pumped from the Santa Fe Group aquifer and the Albuquerque basin by four wells located within the Village of Los Lunas.

Daily and weekly operations: administration, 24-hour on call emergency response, maintenance and inspection of water / sewer utility distribution and collection systems and water treatment facilities, laboratory sampling, and fiscal reports.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Safe Water Drinking Hot Line at 800 426-4791.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring materials and in some cases radioactive material.

It can also pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity (microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife).

A variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses may contain inorganic contaminants such as salts and metals that can be either naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, farming, pesticides, and herbicides.

The source water assessment has been performed for the Village of Los Lunas and is available for review. A copy of the assessment contact the Drinking Water Bureau at 505 476-8620 or toll free at 1-877-654-8720.

Although throughout the United States it is common to find potential sources of contamination located atop wellheads, continued regulatory oversight wellhead protection plans and other planning efforts continue to be the primary methods of protecting and ensuring high quality drinking water.

THE VILLAGE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT)

The newsletter continues its series of outtakes from the Village's 2024 Annual Report with the following about the Village Information Technology Department.

The Village of Los Lunas Information Technology Department oversees technology, equipment and software for the Village, coordinating regular service and compliance with cybersecurity.

Information Technology has grown minimally over the past year in order to serve the technology needs of a growing community and the increased cybersecurity risks worldwide.

In 2024, IT focused on three primary objectives; improving network and data center infrastructure for resilience and security, migrating systems to the cloud while upgrading and maintaining local server software upgrades, and building a more compliant and robust cybersecurity operation to prevent catastrophic cyber attacks on the Village IT infrastructure.

By partnering with private industry and implementing redundant fiber network links between critical Village sites, IT has quietly increased the resilience of the Village network, substantially reducing the number and duration of network outages.

This allows the Village to maintain governmental functions in the event of fiber cable damage, equipment failure or adverse weather events.

By upgrading local server software that was beyond its service life and continuing to transition software and services to a cloud-based environment when strategically warranted, the Village team has increased reliability and security across the system's environment.

This solidifies backup and business continuity capability in the event of systems failure or cyber attack. Cyber security has also been a major focus.

A new Risk Assessment strategy with software was implemented along with increased email security and visibility, as well as Managed Detection and Response further increasing the ability to detect and respond to Cyber security Incidents.

The Village IT Department has started the implementation of cyber security solutions provided by the State of New Mexico under federal grants with full implementation to be completed in 2025.

SCHOOL BACK IN SESSION

Students attending Los Lunas Public Schools and the School of Dreams Academy are back in school.

School zones will be enforced as school buses return to the streets.

Watch out for students and obey all traffic laws.

VENDORS NEEDED

The 18th annual Arts and Crafts fair at Jubilee is looking for vendors. The fair will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25, at Jubilee which is 1.8 miles west of I-25 on Main Street.

The money raised goes to philanthropic causes in Valencia County.

Anyone interesting in becoming a vendor can send an e-mail to PamHull47@gmail.com by Sept. 1.

NOV. 4 ELECTION

Registered voters can vote Nov. 4 in the regular local election to select a Village Councilor from Village Council District One or Three. Only registered voters in those districts will be able to vote.

The positions are four-year terms on the Los Lunas Village Council.

A map of the Village Council Districts is available on the Village website at loslunasnm.gov.

MASSAI SEPT. 13 AT MUSEUM

Historian and archaeologist Karl Laumbach will present Massai: New Mexico's Apache Kid at the Los Lunas Museum of Heritage & Arts Saturday, Sept. 13, beginning at 2 p.m.

Massai, who is often confused for the Apache Kid from Arizona, was a former Apache scout who rebelled with other scouts in 1886 after being imprisoned in Florida. He made his way on foot to the Southwest where he survived for 20 years in the mountains of southwestern New Mexico.

During this time, he married and raised a family of six. In 1906 his trail was picked up in the San Mateo Mountains near Socorro and he was shot during an ambush. The location of his death was marked on a tree, but his body lay unburied. His bones were finally buried in the 1960s.

Laumbach, a native of northeastern New Mexico, is the principal investigator and associate director of Human System Research and serves on New Mexico's Cultural Properties Review Committee. He has been pursuing archaeology and history for many years.

This presentation is courtesy of The Friends of the Los Lunas Library and Museum of Heritage & Arts and the support of the Historical Society of New Mexico.

INFORMATION FROM 2024 POLICE REPORT

The Los Lunas Annual Police report is now available on the Village website loslunasnm.gov.

Chief of Police Frank Lucero says 2024 has been another successful year for the Los Lunas Police Department. Dedicated officers and staff worked tirelessly to serve and protect a growing community.

In 2024, two police officers graduated from the New Mexico Department of Public Safety (NM DPS) Academy. Additionally, two new uncertified officers will be attending the NM Department of Public Safety Academy.

These additions to the department ensure the continued strengthening of the team and provides the highest level of service.

Community engagement remains a top priority with the department hosting many successful events throughout the year. The most significant is National Night Out, which brings together residents, businesses, and law enforcement in a shared commitment to safety and partnership.

Events like these are a testament to the strong relationship between the Police Department and the community it serves.

The Los Lunas Police Department continues to handle the highest call volume of all agencies within Valencia County. This demand reflects the steady growth of our community and reinforces our commitment to meeting the evolving needs of our residents.

Perhaps one of our most significant achievements in 2024 was earning re-accreditation for the Los Lunas Police Department.

Accreditation is a rigorous process that ensures our department meets and maintains the highest standards of professionalism, accountability, and operational excellence. It is a critical measure of a commitment to continuous improvement and best practices in law enforcement.

This achievement would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of Professional Standards Lieutenant Jonathan Norris. His leadership and attention to detail were instrumental in a successful re-accreditation process, said Chief Lucero.

The community's trust and partnership are invaluable in the mission to keep Los Lunas safe.

Thank you to the hardworking men and women of the Los Lunas Police Department for the continuing dedication, professionalism, and commitment to public safety.

VILLAGE OF LOS LUNAS BUSINESS ROUNDUP



THE RAZOR'S EDGE
526 Sun Ranch Village Rd SW Ste C
505 315-9456
barbername7797@gmail.com
NEW BARBER SHOP

FAMILIA REYES RENTALS LLC
505 604-3659
desireerreyes5@gmail.com
JUMPER RENTALS



LA ESQUINA DEL SABOR DE VALENCIA
223 Highway 314 SW
505 355-5174
NEW RESTAURANT

LOCAL EVENTS

Monday Sept. 1, 2025

Labor Day

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

Farmers Market

Tuesdays 4 - 7 p.m.

Heritage Park on Lambros Loop
Across from Smiths Grocery
Fresh locally produced items
New Mexico Music Explosion

Sunday, August 17

New Mexico Music Explosion

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

Friday, October 31

Halloween is Coming!

Get Your Costume Ready

Attend a Village Council Meeting

6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 7 & 21, 2025

6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 4 & 18, 2025

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

DOOR-TO-DOOR VENDORS

With the warm weather and long days of summer, you may see door-to-door vendors in the Village of Los Lunas.

All door-to-door vendors need to register with the Village, and an official vendor will be able to show you a Village-issued license, an ID, and will be wearing attire with the company logo.

If you are not sure if a vendor is legitimate, you can ask to see their license and company ID, and if you are still not sure, you can call the Community Development Department at 505 839-3842 during normal business hours.