



VILLAGE NEWS



Small Community • Big Possibilities

Volume 29 - Number 8 - September 2025

WORK BEGINS ON I-25 LOS LUNAS BOULEVARD PROJECT

Twenty-five years ago, planning began for the I-25 Interchange and Los Lunas Boulevard Project.

Los Lunas Mayor Charles Griego and Village Administrator Gregory D. Martin stood before an audience of about 200 people in mid-August 2025 to break ground.

Mayor Griego thanked the “many government agencies and dedicated partners throughout the state,” who worked on the project.

“It’s a relief,” Griego said with a chuckle after the project broke ground at the intersection of Morris Road and Camelot Boulevard Southwest.

Mayor Griego noted he believes the four-year project, which has a price tag of \$159.1 million, is the largest infrastructure project undertaken by a municipality in the history of New Mexico.

Initial talks about a river crossing and I-25 exit began in the 1990s when county residents were asked to support the project, which focused on Tomé as the area for a proposed bridge. The effort was largely abandoned by 2000, as county residents expressed their disapproval in several meetings.

Village of Los Lunas officials began working on the project while developing a transportation master plan and traffic model.

In 2015, the Village began convening meetings and coordinating with other agencies to secure funding for the project.

In 2019, the Village received initial funding from the N.M. Legislature and design work began. After a public meeting in 2024, permitting and certifications were secured at the beginning of this year and a contractor, El Terrero Construction, was secured.

In her remarks at the groundbreaking, Governor Michelle Lujan-Grisham praised Los Lunas for its leadership on the project and said, “This is a celebration, and it should be.”

“It (this project) creates a future for our children and our families,” she said, before praising Village officials for saying “I like your courage to say, ‘We’re already planning Phase Two.’”

Phase One of the project contains seven parts. The first part involves the start of construction on the river bridge, building the Interstate 25 median crossover and building a new Camelot Boulevard connection to Morris Road.

For information on the I-25 Interchange and Los Lunas Boulevard Project, including project features, traffic impacts, construction details and an FAQ, go to <https://loslunasnm.gov/interchange>.

In addition to the Village Council, Sen. Joshua Sanchez and State Reps. Gail Armstrong, Brian Baca and Tanya Mirabal Moya were also in attendance, as were officials from Bosque Farms, Belen and Rio Communities.

On its informational webpage, located off the main page of loslunasnm.gov, the Village said regular work hours will be Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. with possible work beyond those hours and on weekends.

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

SPORTS SHORTS

Open Gym

All Ages, Skill Sets and Persons Welcome.

Call 505 352-7661 to hear about North and South Gym availabilities. When not in use for a structured program, activity or rental, both gyms are free to the public to shoot hoops and play pick-up games.

Be sure to sign in at the front desk before beginning your session.

Pickleball

No Experience Needed

Enjoy a full-body workout without the high impact of sports like tennis or basketball. Perfect for improving agility, balance, and coordination. Pickleball is beginner-friendly with simple rules and a quick learning curve.

Pickleball Open Play:
Mon-Fri | 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Senior Basketball

Games are designed with mature athletes in mind; low-contact, slower pace, and plenty of breaks. Basketball improves health, flexibility, coordination, and mental sharpness.

Senior Basketball:
Mon & Wed | 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.

CHOOSE VILLAGE OPEN SPACE

The Village has a variety of Open Space areas throughout the community that can be enjoyed any time of year.

The Village has accepted donations of Open Space property such as El Cerro de Los Lunas.

The Open Space Division was established in June of 2007 to meet educational and enforcement needs throughout the Village of Los Lunas Community Services Department.

NOVEMBER 4 ELECTION

An election will be held Tuesday, Nov. 4.

Candidates who registered for the Village local election are:

Council District 1

Christopher Ortiz (Incumbent)

John B. Walker

Council District 3

Cruz Munoz (Incumbent)

Naithan Gurule

Matthew D. Chavez

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

The positions are four-year terms on the Village council.

A map of the village council districts is available on the village website at loslunasnm.gov.

OPEN SPACE continued

Rangers and their vehicles can be seen across the community. Primary objectives of the Park Ranger include:

- Carrying out conservation efforts to protect plant and animal life in park lands from fire, disease, and visitor usage along with historical artifacts.
- Developing and implementing programs to inform visitors of a park's historical, cultural, and natural significance. Rangers protect natural resources through resource management practices, including:
 - Prevention of illegal dumping.
 - Deterring theft of natural resources and artifacts.
- Graffiti prevention.

JUBILEE ARTS AND CRAFTS

The 18th Annual Arts and Crafts Fair at Jubilee is being held on Oct. 25, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Jubilee Villa in Los Lunas. The address is 601 Jubilee Blvd. and is located 1.8 miles west of I-25 on Hwy 6.

The Fair will present 60 crafters from around New Mexico who will display their items that include, but are not limited to, jewelry, painting, pottery, soaps, clothing, cards and many other handmade creations.

There will also be a raffle with donations from Los Lunas and Albuquerque sponsors to support the Fair. A food truck will be available. There will also be live music and a pet adoption.

Admission to the Fair is free.

Two Valencia County organizations will benefit from this year's profits.

The first is the Los Lunas High School Club - Lending-a-Paw. The students do community service projects, plus run a free thrift store and food bank. Lending-a-Paw seeks to change the perception of youth in the community. The food bank will be supported also.

The second organization is El Ranchito de los Ninos, a local children's home that houses up to 16 children. Their primary mission is to keep sibling groups together who might otherwise be separated in foster care.

The children are raised as a family in a rural farm setting, taught responsibility and educated as a means of building a foundation to help break the cycle. The home is a non-profit charity funded 100% by private donations and considers all children regardless of age, sex, ethnicity, religion or disability.

They are licensed by the state of NM CYFD and certified by the NM Christian Child Care Association.

DRAMATIC PHOTOS EXHIBIT

The Los Lunas Museum of Heritage and Arts presents Richard Kozak's award-winning "Art of Photojournalism" through Oct. 11 at the museum, 2251 Main St. SE, under the downtown water tower.

Rick Kozak was born in Utica, New York in 1956 and is one of six children.

He followed his passion in photography by attending Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara, CA, where he received a BA in 1980.

As a consummate photographic professional, Kozak produced national award-winning dramatic and compassionate photography. These photos included the powers-that-be in Washington DC, the streets of Moscow the playing fields of the NFL, as well as the battlefields of Iraq, Afghanistan, Africa, Central America and many others.

Patience, creativity, and adaptability have led Kozak to cover all aspects of life around the world.

Kosak says he is comfortable in the studio, on location, and with the man on the street.

The Village Museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through

BUSINESS REGISTRATION

Remember to register your business with the Village Community Development Department either as a new business or renewing your registration.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

The Village Council has approved the Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) and submitted it to the state with the Number One priority of the Interstate 25 interchange and bridge construction project.

Plans are for the corridor to run along Morris Road from I-25 to NM Hwy 314 before crossing over the Rio Grande and connecting to NM Hwy 47 so that additional access will be provided.

The second item on the ICIP list is the Central Rail Park utility extension project. The total cost is estimated to be \$6.4 million, and the Village has so far secured \$4.1 million. The project will be broken into phases.

The third item on the ICIP list is an Aquatic Center with an estimated cost of \$20 million. Improvements to the Sun Ranch Village Road and NM Hwy 6 intersection are the fourth ICIP item.

The fifth priority approved by the Village council is construction of a sound barrier on NM Hwy 6, spanning the northern perimeter of Jubilee, the active adult community. This project came about because of concerns about the high volume of traffic on the highway and the noise it generates.

NEW RATE STRUCTURE

Beginning with the Village of Los Lunas October statement for September's water and sewer usage, the newly approved rate structure will take effect.

For questions or review of the new rate structure refer to the Village website; loslunasnm.gov or call the utility billing office at 505 839-3841.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP



WINDMILL BOBA TEA
2270 MAIN ST NW STE G
505-503-7790
hlluong009@yahoo.com
Now Open



WEBSTERS MIXED MARTIAL ARTS ACADEMY
227 Highway 314 NW Ste B
765 717-6616
webstersmmaa@yahoo.com



INTO THE STORM CREATIONS
319 Highway 314 SW Ste B
505 304-5717
intothestormnm@gmail.com

VILLAGE OF LOS LUNAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

This newsletter continues its series of outtakes from the village's 2024 Annual Report with the following about the Village's Community Development Department

Los Lunas is one of the fastest growing communities in New Mexico, and the Community Development Department worked in 2024 to support the community, ensure regulations comment and procedures are up to date with today's development trends and issues.

The Village almost always has not comprehensively updated the municipal zoning code since 2011. Over time, amendments were made to address specific issues, ensure compliance with federal and state statutes, and promote best practices.

However, these piecemeal changes have resulted in a document that is challenging for residents, staff, and developers to read, administer, and enforce.

Beginning in 2023, the Village along with Consensus Planning, began to develop a revised code, and in 2024, the Planning Division continued refining the code and focused on community outreach to gather feedback. This effort included attending community events such as the Easter Egg Hunt, the 4th of July Parade, and other smaller events.

Staff also engaged residents directly by tabling at local establishments during lunch and dinner hours. Additionally, Consensus Planning and Village staff held 10 Council Workshops open to the public to present revisions and obtain input and direction from the Village Council.

As of December 2024, the proposed final draft of the Municipal Zoning Code was on track for a final decision by the Village Council in January 2025. An ongoing effort within Community Development, across all divisions, is file management and digitizing records.

Our Village Permit Technicians and Planning Intern worked diligently to scan and archive permanent property records to establish order and facilitate ease of research.

In addition, the Department has initiated contact with industry-leading permitting, land use, code enforcement, and animal control software companies to streamline operations and maintain transparency with residents and developers.

Finally, Community Development has worked to support large projects within the Village, such as the right-of-way acquisition and planning for the Los Lunas Boulevard project, Valencia County Hospital, Amazon, Meta, and several others.

The Department prides itself on assisting residents and small business owners in constructing new homes, establishing businesses, and using their property to support economic growth and community resilience.

Community Development includes the Planning and Code Enforcement/Animal Control Divisions.

LOCAL EVENTS

Farmers Market

Tuesdays 4 - 7 p.m.

Heritage Park on Lambros Loop
Across from Smiths Grocery
Fresh locally produced items

Saturday, October 18

Oktoberfest

Badlands Drive-In
Corner of NM Hwy 314 and Morris
Road Noon to 6 p.m.
Bring the whole family because it
is Family Friendly
Food Trucks, Music, Beer, Wine.

Friday, October 31

Halloween is Coming!

Get Your Costume Ready

Attend a Village Council Meeting

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

6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 9 & 23, 2025

660 Main St. NW

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

FREE EXCHANGE SWAP MEET

The 2025 free exchange is a swap meet where everything is free with no cash needed. You can take everything you want -- no trades required and no money needed. This includes clothes, books, toys, tools, household items, and other things. You can connect with your neighbors, reduce waste, and spread generosity during the event.

The free exchange is October 10 and 11th, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 160 James Street NW.