



# VILLAGE NEWS

Small Community • Big Possibilities

Volume 29 - Number 10 - October 2025

## ATTEND VETERANS DAY PROGRAM

Join the Village's annual Veterans Day Program beginning at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 11, at Daniel Fernandez Memorial Park, 1103 NM Hwy. 314.

Thanks to the following businesses and people for their support of the event:

American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. Albuquerque Chapter  
American Legion Post 81  
Belen American Legion Riders Chapter 25  
Belen Amor Flowers  
Blue Star Mothers of Valencia County  
Boy Scout Troop 360  
Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association  
Daniel D. Fernandez VFW Post 9676  
Event Pros/Audio Visual  
Fiesta Tent Rentals  
Jim & Kathy Fawcett (Jubilee)  
Jubilation! Barbershop Singers  
Jubilee (Adult Community)  
Los Lunas Fire Department  
Los Lunas High School JROTC  
Los Lunas Parks Department

Los Lunas Police Department  
Main Street Muscle & Fitness Center  
Overture Andalucia - Albuquerque  
Patriot Riders  
Printers Press - Albuquerque  
Pueblo of Isleta Veterans Association  
Romero Funeral Home  
Starbucks  
Valencia High School JROTC  
VFW Post 2387 Belen  
VFW Post 9676 Los Lunas  
Sponsors of this event are Los Lunas Invested in Veteran Events (LIVE), Inc., Blue Star Mothers of Valencia County, Village of Los Lunas and RAKS Building Supply.  
Patriotic music as well as other songs will be performed by Jubilation! Barbershop Singers!  
Refreshments and fellowship will be available when the program concludes.  
Veterans Day is a public holiday dedicated to honoring anyone who has served in the United States military.  
The holiday began as a day to remember the end of World War I and was declared a holiday by President Woodrow Wilson in 1919. Originally known as Armistice Day, the holiday became Veterans Day in 1955.

## ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR

The 18th Annual Arts and Crafts Fair at Jubilee is being held Oct. 25, 2025, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Jubilee Villa, 601 Jubilee Blvd.

The Fair will present 60 crafters from around New Mexico displaying items that include jewelry, paintings, pottery, soaps, clothing, cards and other handmade creations. There will also be a raffle.

A food truck will be available plus live music, and a pet adoption.

Admission is free.

Two Valencia County organizations will benefit from this year's profits -- Los Lunas High School Club Lend-a-Paw and and El Ranchito De Los Ninos, a local children's home.

## EASY REPORTING FOR ISSUES

Are you troubled by dogs that get loose in your neighborhood, or about a house with two foot high weeds in the front yard?

Report these issues to the Village with the Code Enforcement Service Request. It allows residents to report any type of code enforcement or animal control issue by easy-to-use categories, and view recently reported issues and status updates through an online map at [loslunasnm.gov/956/Report](http://loslunasnm.gov/956/Report).

### CHARLES GRIEGO

MAYOR

[griegoc@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:griegoc@loslunasnm.gov)

### GINO M. ROMERO

VILLAGE COUNCILOR

[romerog@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:romerog@loslunasnm.gov)

### FRANK LUCERO

POLICE CHIEF

[flucero@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:flucero@loslunasnm.gov)

### DR. JAMES RUNYON

VILLAGE COUNCILOR

[runyonj@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:runyonj@loslunasnm.gov)

### CRUZ MUÑOZ

VILLAGE COUNCILOR

[munozc@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:munozc@loslunasnm.gov)

### JOHN GABALDON

FIRE CHIEF

[jgabaldon@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:jgabaldon@loslunasnm.gov)

### CHRISTOPHER S. ORTIZ

VILLAGE COUNCILOR

[ortizc@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:ortizc@loslunasnm.gov)

### AVILIO CHAVEZ

MUNICIPAL JUDGE

[avchavez@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:avchavez@loslunasnm.gov)

### GREGORY D. MARTIN

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR

[marting@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:marting@loslunasnm.gov)

## COMMUNITY CONNECT

In October 2024, the Los Lunas Fire Department launched Los Lunas Community Connect, a program designed to improve the community's safety and emergency response.

Village Fire Chief John Gabaldon points out that Los Lunas Community Connect helps build a safer community through prevention, preparedness, and response.

All Village residents have access to this platform, which allows users to securely share valuable information with local emergency responders.

Community Connect enables residents to provide important property information (such as details about household members, pets, and unique access points) directly to the Los Lunas Fire Department.

This information helps ensure more effective and informed responses during emergencies, benefiting you and your loved ones.

Learn more and create your household life safety profile today at [loslunasnm.gov/1294/Community-Connect](http://loslunasnm.gov/1294/Community-Connect).

And while you are considering Community Connect remember that October is Fire Prevention Month!

The goal of Fire Prevention Month (and week October 5 – 11) is to raise fire safety awareness and help protect homes.

In 1922, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) named the second week of October Fire Prevention Week in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire in 1871.

Los Lunas Fire Chief Gabaldon points out that every moment matters in emergency situations. Gather your family to discuss fire safety awareness.

## INTERESTING 2024 VILLAGE LIBRARY STATISTICS

The Village welcomed 54,974 visitors to the Public Library, and 8,101 to the Los Lunas Museum of Heritage and Arts in 2024.

Also at the library:

- Offered a total of 43,339 physical items in the library collection, and an additional 1,819 items at the Museum.
- 2,861 items were added to the library collection, and 194 to the museum collection.
- Circulated 80,438 total items through the library.
- Offered more than 50,000 digital items in the collections and circulated 16,044.
- Provided reference help in-person and virtually, assisting 5,960 people at the library and 140 at the Museum.
- Provided programming for children, teens and adults, with over 4,500 total attendees.

The Los Lunas Library Department had a busy year in 2024, expanding its materials and offering programming for all ages and interests.

Both the Library and Museum are active on social media promoting events: The Library's Facebook page had 27,744 visits and a reach of 21,187, with 190 new likes.

The Museum's Facebook page had 4,603 visits, a reach of 8,145, and 133 new likes/follows.

The library also utilized Instagram (3,500 views) and TikTok (1,000 followers) to reach a broader audience.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR TAX-AIDE PROGRAM

Do you have a desire to serve the citizens of Valencia County and learn a new skill?

Volunteers are needed for the AARP-sponsored Tax-Aide program.

You will be fully trained to help seniors and low-income residents file their tax returns.

To volunteer, visit the AARP Foundation's portal: <https://www.aarp.org/aarp-foundation> and click on the "Volunteer" menu link.

Choose the "Tax-Aide Volunteer Opportunities" option to provide your contact information, and a local representative will reach out to you to answer your questions.

## TUESDAY NOV. 4, ELECTION

Candidates who registered for the Village local election are:

Council District 1 - Christopher Ortiz (Incumbent) and John B. Walker.

Council District 3 - Cruz Muñoz (Incumbent), Naithan Gurule, and 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. Go to the Village website at [loslunasnm.gov](http://loslunasnm.gov), click on the Government tab, click on Mayor & Council, then click on Council Districts.

## VILLAGE BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The entire Fiscal Year 2026 budget is available on the Village of Los Lunas website [loslunasnm.gov/1266/Village-Budgets](http://loslunasnm.gov/1266/Village-Budgets).

This budget demonstrates how the Village uses its resources to deliver services and programs to Los Lunas residents, visitors, and businesses.

Here are highlights of the budget the Village of Los Lunas is now operating under:

**Budget Highlights Revenues:** The Village projects to receive \$246,146,455 in revenues, an increase of \$16,486,874 or 7.2% from the prior year adjusted budget.

Revenues are received from gross receipts taxes, intergovernmental grants, charges for services, other taxes, and miscellaneous revenues. The proposed FY 2026 budget revenues include intergovernmental grants of \$187,417,525, of which \$172,653,681 is allocated for the I-25 Interchange/ Los Lunas Blvd Corridor project.

**Budget Highlights Expenditures:** The Village projects to spend \$195,395,354 in expenditures, a decrease of \$57,821,307 or 22.8% from the prior year adjusted budget. Expenditure categories include capital outlay, salaries, and benefits, operating costs, debt service, purchased property services, contractual services, supplies, and employee training costs. The proposed FY 2026 budget includes capital outlay expenditures of \$145,410,375, of which \$111,114,127 is allocated for the I-25 Interchange/ Los Lunas Blvd Corridor project.

**Reserves:** The Fiscal Year 2026 budget maintains a minimum general fund cash balance of at least six months of general fund expenditures or \$21,711,625 and, in accordance with New Mexico State Statutes, 1/12 (8.33%) of general fund budgeted expenditures, or \$3,382,486.

**Personnel:** Employee salaries and benefits account for \$28,399,078, or 14.5% of the total budget, which includes the I-25 Interchange/Los Lunas Blvd Corridor project.

Employee salaries and benefits would account for 33.7% of the budget if the I-25 Interchange/Los Lunas Blvd Corridor project were removed from the budget. The budget includes a step increase on the Village's pay plan along with a 3.0% market rate adjustment (based on the FY 2026 Base Pay Structure as proposed by the latest wage and compensations study) for all eligible employees, and a rate increase of 9.75% in medical insurance premiums from the prior year.

**Capital Outlay:** Capital Outlay accounts for \$145,410,375, or 74.4% of the total budget, which reflects a net change of -\$60,649,528, or 29.4% decrease from the prior year adjusted budget.

These funds have budgeted the following amounts for capital outlay: Major Funds: General fund \$7,533,444; Infrastructure fund \$14,777,491; I-25 Interchange Capital Projects fund \$111,114,127; Water/Sewer fund \$4,458,026; Solid Waste fund \$2,115,714. Subtotal \$139,998,802. Non-major Funds \$5,411,573. Total \$145,410,375.

## OFFERINGS AT THE VILLAGE MUSEUM

Did you know that the Los Lunas Museum of Heritage & Arts has a beautiful events pavilion and patio area that's available for rent? This venue is perfect for smaller weddings and receptions, business meetings, musical entertainment, etc.

All rentals include access to chairs and tables, electricity, restrooms, and the current exhibit at the Museum.

Maximum pavilion and patio occupancy is 130 and alcohol is not permitted.

For full details about rental terms or to take a tour of the space, please stop by the Museum under the downtown water tower at the intersection of Main Street and Luna Avenue.

Museum staff offer tours, talks, paint parties and exhibits throughout the year. Recently, a coloring corner station for all ages was added to the offerings.

Staff can also help with genealogical research, providing the use of historic publications, church, and census records. The digital archives house oral histories provided by local residents.

If you're interested in adding to the oral history project, call 505 352-7720 to make an appointment or [www.LosLunasNM.gov/Museum](http://www.LosLunasNM.gov/Museum).

## PARADE REGISTRATION

Registration is now open for the Village of Los Lunas Electric Light Parade. The parade will be held on Saturday, Dec. 6 along Main Street.

Call the Parks and Recreation Department if you have parade questions, 505 352-7661.

## US TREASURY ENDS PAPER REFUNDS

Beginning with the 2025 tax filing season, taxpayers who usually receive paper checks but who already have a bank account can enroll in direct deposit by calling the federal agency responsible for their payments, enrolling online at [www.GoDirect.gov](http://www.GoDirect.gov), or calling the electronic payment solution center at 800 967-6857, according to the Treasury Department.

Taxpayers who do not have a bank account for direct deposit can open one at [www.FDIC.gov/GetBanked](http://www.FDIC.gov/GetBanked) or [www.MyCreditUnion.gov](http://www.MyCreditUnion.gov) or at the banking institution of their choice.

Taxpayers who already receive electronic refund payments do not need to take action.

Alternatively, they may choose to receive their refund electronically through a Treasury-sponsored debit card.

To sign up, call the Treasury's electronic payment solution center at 800 967-6857.

Taxpayers who owe taxes when they file for tax year 2025 cannot send a paper check to the US Treasury.

Instead, they must use the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS,) the IRS Direct Pay, a personal online IRS account, or a debit card, credit card, or digital wallet.

## TEENIORS® PROGRAM & YOU

Are you a senior citizen? Do you want to learn to better use your phone or computer?

Teeniors® is a tech-savvy program that empowers senior citizens using the tech savvy skills of teens.

Coaches are friendly, patient and five-star rated with one-on-one coaching via phone, video, or in person.

Over 5,000 seniors have been coached in New Mexico.

Teeniors are tech savvy teens and young adults who help seniors or any aged person learn technology through one-on-one coaching.

Whether it's a smartphone, computer or software, the goal is to empower people wanting to connect with loved ones as well as the world while providing paid meaningful jobs for youth.

Learn more by calling 505 600-1297 or at <https://www.teeniors.com>.

## LOCAL EVENTS

### OKTOBERFEST

Saturday, October 18  
Badlands Drive-In  
Corner of NM Hwy 314 and Morris Road

Noon to 6 p.m.  
Family Friendly Food Trucks

### HALLOWEEN BASH

October 24-26 Haunted House ONLY  
4 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
October 31 Music, Games, Food, Haunted House, and More!  
Daniel Fernandez Recreation Center 1103 NM Hwy 314  
505 352-7661

### ELECTION

Tuesday, Nov 4, Vote absentee, early or in person. Call the Valencia County Bureau of Elections for more information  
505 866-2073

### VETERANS DAY

Tuesday, Nov. 11  
Village offices closed  
Special program at Daniel Fernandez Park 11 a.m.  
Tuesday garbage pickup on Monday, Nov. 10.

### THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Village offices closed  
Thursday, Nov. 27 &  
Friday, Nov. 28,  
Thursday garbage picked up  
Wednesday, Nov. 26.  
Friday garbage picked up  
Monday, Dec. 2.

### Attend a Village Council Meeting

6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 9 & 23, 2025  
6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 6 & 20, 2025  
660 Main St. NW  
Main Street and Don Pasqual Meetings will be virtual and in-person. Check Village website for agenda [loslunasnm.gov/agendacenter](http://loslunasnm.gov/agendacenter).