



VILLAGE NEWS

Small Community • Big Possibilities

Volume 30 - Number 1 January 2026

JOIN THE EVENTS IN LOS LUNAS

Thanks to teamwork at the Village of Los Lunas, there are many activities throughout the year that you can enjoy.

King of the Hill

You can join hundreds of runners on March 7, 2026, at the King of the Hill for a scenic, fast-paced, and fun filled day you won't forget!

Whether you're chasing a personal best or your first finish line, the King of the Hill is a race that delivers. King of the Hill offers a 100% trail running race at 5k, 10k, and half marathon distances.

The races take place in the beautiful and challenging trails of El Cerro de Los Lunas Preserve.

The courses feature beautiful views and large elevation changes on the 10k and half marathon.

Fourth of July

Come and join folks on Independence Day in an opportunity to engage with the community in celebration, patriotism, and summer fun.

Show your Spirit in the parade and bring your dancing shoes later at our celebration!

Haunted House

Get ready for four days of Halloween the three nights leading up to Halloween — giving you even more chances to get spooked.

On Halloween Day, we're going all out when the full event will take place: food, games, music, and of course, the Haunted House.

Whether you're into creepy costumes, tasty treats, or just a night of festive fun, this is the place to be. Bring your friends, dress to impress, and celebrate the spookiest night of the year!

Celebrate Being Thankful

Thanksgiving is all about gratitude, good food, and gathering with loved ones.

It's the perfect time to celebrate community, share a hearty meal, and kick off the holiday season with warmth and tradition.

Start your Thanksgiving with our annual Turkey Trot!

You can kick off your Thanksgiving with a with a fun family-friendly run.

Winner takes home a FREE turkey on Thanksgiving Day!

Location- River Park Trail

Price - \$20 each on day of event / \$15 each for early registration.

Christmas in Los Lunas

Don't forget to join us on December 5, 2026, for the Los Lunas Christmas parade.

Celebrate right before the Christmas Holiday on Dec. 12, 2026, with the Santa's Coming into Town event at Daniel Fernandez Memorial Park, 5 p.m. – 9 pm.

The heartwarming holiday experience will be filled with lights, music, treats, and cheer.

Whether you're meeting Santa or someone else, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Whether you're a lifelong local or visiting for the holidays, this is the can't-miss event that brings our entire community together.

Come early, bring your lawn chairs, wear your ugliest sweater, and enjoy a night of holiday cheer.

EXTRA TRASH PICKUPS

The Village will pick up two special large pickup loads each year of trash at each village address at no charge.

More than two per address within the year will be charged a fee which is the cost of collection and disposal.

Call 505 352-7632 for questions and information.

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CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF AMERICA'S MOTHER ROAD: ROUTE 66 AND ITS LEGACY IN LOS LUNAS

In 2026, the Village of Los Lunas will proudly join communities nationwide in celebrating the Centennial of U.S. Route 66—America's "Mother Road." Established on November 11, 1926, Route 66 spanned more than 2,400 miles from Chicago, Illinois, to Santa Monica, California, connecting small towns, major cities, and generations of travelers in a new era of mobility and opportunity.

Before Route 66 became a national symbol of freedom and adventure, its earliest alignment passed directly through Los Lunas. From 1926 to 1937, motorists followed two routes through the Village on their westward journey.

One route carried travelers from Albuquerque to Isleta, then south along today's Highway 47 through Bosque Farms and Peralta, crossing the Rio Grande and entering Main Street. They passed Huning Mercantile—now Leftovers Etc.—before continuing along what is now Highway 6.

The second route guided travelers from Isleta down old Highway 85 (now Highway 314) beside the railroad tracks to Main Street, where Otero's 66 Service Station—today's Route 66 Smoke Shop—offered a final chance to fuel up.

During these early years, Route 66 brought commerce, tourism, and national attention to Los Lunas, local businesses supporting as visitors stopped for gas, food, and hospitality while crossing New Mexico's vast desert landscape.

Although the alignment shifted north to Albuquerque in 1937, route 66's footprint Los Lunas remains a treasured part of the community's heritage.

The Village continues to honor this history by preserving local landmarks and celebrating the road that connected small communities like ours to the wider world.

As we commemorate 100 years of Route 66, Los Lunas celebrates not only the highway itself but enduring resilience and the spirit of adventure, resilience, and community that has defined this iconic road for a century.

Here's to the Mother Road — and to the special place Los Lunas holds in its story.



IT'S BACK! THE BEST OF

The Valencia County News-Bulletin prints a special edition in the Fall highlighting the Best of products and miscellaneous other items.

The Village of Los Lunas is proud to have won four categories in the 2025 Best of Valencia County Awards.

Best Community Event

Los Lunas Christmas Parade

The Los Lunas Christmas Light Parade has become one of the community's most cherished holiday traditions, bringing families together to celebrate the season in a big way.

Best Community Service/ Nonprofit Organization

Friends of the Los Lunas Library and Museum of Heritage & Arts

Best Tourist Spot

Los Lunas Museum of Heritage & Arts

251 Main St., SE
505-352-7720

Best Firefighter

Capt. Raquel Torres
Los Lunas Fire Department

Monica Kemsley, Museum Technician, Museum Division of the Library Department, was voted the Best Artist.

Congratulations to all of the winners!

FIGHT GRAFFITI IN LOS LUNAS

Graffiti and repairing the damage it causes costs the Village of Los Lunas precious tax dollars. Area properties can be devalued and business owners can lose customers from the negative image that graffiti generates.

Graffiti can send the message that a community is having problems, which is not good for that community. You can help reduce graffiti by immediately reporting all graffiti sightings. The faster graffiti is cleaned up, the less graffiti that appears.

Village graffiti removal paint crews are on the job five days a week to eradicate graffiti on public and private property.

The crews either remove graffiti through water blasting or use paint matching for graffiti paint-overs.

To report graffiti anywhere within the Village limits, call the Los Lunas Police Department at 505 865-9130 or fill out the Graffiti Removal Request form under Forms and Applications on the Village website, loslunasnm.gov.

When the form is filled out, both the Village Facility Maintenance and Solid Waste Divisions receive the form. Facility Maintenance deals with graffiti on Village-owned property and Solid Waste deals with all private property.

VILLAGE OF LOS LUNAS UTILITY DIVISION

It's a new year and we continue paying the bills for our homes and businesses.

You may be paying bills to the Village of Los Lunas Utility Division. It's good to know how this division works.

The Utility Billing Division is located on the east side of Village Hall, offering walk up and drive-through service during regular business hours 8am-5pm, with a drive-up depository available after hours. Utility Billing is responsible for all billing for the Village of Los Lunas, including:

- Residential and commercial bills for water, sewer and solid waste service
- Permit fees for new buildings, subdivisions and zoning applications
- Violation fees for code enforcement and animal control issues
- Pet registrations
- Court fees and fines for Municipal Court
- Collection and processing of a variety of fees for other departments, including Parks and Recreation and the Library.

Staff will assist customers with their applications for new water service and reestablishing service after a disconnection.

Connection, reconnection, and return check fees will be assessed to start, restore or disconnect services.

The Village of Los Lunas offers Online Bill Pay for recurring monthly utility bills, including, drive-up and officer hour services Monday thru Friday from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. (An after-hours night depository is located on the east side of Village Hall located at 660 Main Street.)

Online Bill Pay - The Easiest Way to Pay Your Bill!

If you have an internet connection and an email address, you can pay your utility bill easily from the Village website www.loslunasnm.gov/1272/Online-Bill-Pay.

Village Administration Office: 505 839-3840

ONGOING ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Construction continues on the four-year project addressing traffic flow and congestion on New Mexico Hwy. 6, travel demand in the greater Los Lunas area, improvement of the efficiency of the emergency response services.

Phase 1 of the project features a new interchange at I-25 about one mile south of the I-25 and New Mexico Hwy 6 interchange, four miles of new roadway (Los Lunas Boulevard from I-25 to Hwy. 47). A full build out of intersections with New Mexico Hwy 314 and New Mexico Hwy 47, and one lane of new road in each direction.

Regular work hours are Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The crews may work longer hours or on the weekends when necessary. All construction is weather permitting and subject to change without notice.

For more information, visit loslunasnm.gov and click on the I-25 second interchange box. Construction notifications are available through the website.



FIND THAT
SOMETHING SPECIAL
FOR THAT
SPECIAL SOMEONE
THIS VALENTINE'S DAY!

SHOP
LOCAL!



www.loslunasnm.gov

DWI PROGRAM IN THE VILLAGE

The Village of Los Lunas/Valencia County LDWI (VLL/VC LDWI) is the program serving Valencia County.

The program funded the following components in Fiscal Year 25: Alternative Sentencing (Misdemeanor Compliance), Community Wellness & Outreach (Includes Prevention, Enforcement & Teen Court), Program Administration, and Treatment.

Screening is a component that is self-sustained but is also provided through the DWI Program.

VLL/VC LDWI program in FY25 partnered with Argus Private Security Force LLC to oversee Alternative Sentence/Drug Testing services,

Youth Development Inc./Valencia provides Teen Court, and Valencia Shelter Services for the Domestic Violence services piece.

State Funding for LDWI Funding: • \$473,352 = Distribution Grant • \$209,859 = Competitive Grant Demographics – DWI Offender Profile: • \$184,458 = Administrative In-kind • \$40,324 = % (281 of 8928) of the total DWI Arrests in New Mexico during 2023.

The DWI Planning Council includes 11 members representing sectors of the community: Law Enforcement (3 separate agencies), County Clerk's Office, Valencia Shelter Services, DWI Drug Court Valencia County, Community Wellness Council, Youth Development Inc., Valencia County Detention Center.

General Board membership has active representation from: Magistrate Courts, Law Enforcement, District Attorney's Office, Department of Health, DWI Drug Court, Community Wellness Council. Also La Vida Felicidad, Presbyterian Community Health/Office of Substance Abuse Prevention, NM Veteran's Administration, Juvenile Justice Board, Juvenile Probation, TNT Boxing and Youth Mentoring and community members.

FREE TAX REPARATION AVAILABLE

Seniors and lower-income residents of Valencia County can have their 2025 tax return prepared by an AARP Tax-Aide volunteer beginning in early February 2026. Two locations will be available: the Fred Luna Multigenerational Center in Los Lunas and the Business Center in Belen. There is no charge for the service.

Richard Pincus, Tax-Aide District Coordinator for Valencia County, made the following remarks when asked how to take advantage of this service. "Taxpayers must first go to either location and pick up an Intake packet. Those will be available beginning January 15. Due to the high volume of demand for services, we require that taxpayers make an appointment. They can do so in Los Lunas when they pick up their packet. In Belen, they should call the client facilitator, Peggy, at (505)966-6803.

Pincus commented about the changes that taxpayers may encounter this year due to new provisions in tax law. "We anticipate a number of changes, and many will require additional documents. We will include a checklist in the packet for the taxpayer so that they can bring all the necessary forms with them."

The Fred Luna Multigenerational Center is located at 315 Don Pasqual Rd in Los Lunas. The telephone number is (505) 839-3853.

The Belen Business Center is located at 719 S. Main St. The telephone number is (505) 966-2567

LOCAL EVENTS

Martin Luther King Day

Monday, Jan. 19
Village Offices Closed
Monday garbage picked up
Tuesday, Jan. 20

President't Day

Monday, Feb. 16
Village Offices Closed
Monday garbage picked up
Tuesday, Feb. 17

Attend a Village Council Meeting

6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15 & 29, 2026
6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12 & 26, 2026
660 Main St. NW
Main Street and Don Pasqual
Meetings will be virtual and
in-person. Check Village website for agenda loslunasnm.gov/agendacenter.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

JOSHUA'S RESTAURANT

727 HIGHWAY 314 SW
nayeliiv0908@gmail.com
505-865-7172
NEW RESTAURANT

ASAP APPLIANCE REPAIR LLC

2060 MAIN ST NE STE D
info@asap505.com
505-356-2600
APPLIANCE REPAIR

GRAB MY BIN

nmgrabmybin@gmail.com
505-288-1984
TRASH CAN CLEANING SERVICE