



VILLAGE NEWS



Small Community • Big Possibilities

Volume 25 - Number 6 - June 2021

Help the Village Get Greener

Sign up for the electronic version of the Village newsletter

The Village electronic version is available on the Village website [loslunasnm.gov](https://www.loslunasnm.gov)

Sign up to receive the electronic version

To sign up for the electronic version, go to:

<https://www.loslunasnm.gov/list.aspx>

NO 4th PARADE

Due to the mass gathering ban in the State of New Mexico and to COVID-19, there will NOT be a 4th of July Parade in 2021.

However, a fireworks show will be on El Cerro de Los Lunas to be enjoyed by all.

Please enjoy from your home and be careful!

VACCINATE NOW

Valencia County has been designated as “Turquoise” in New Mexico’s “Red to Green Framework.” This designation, which the Village of Los Lunas team has hoped for, and worked hard for, means changes in the way the Village operates.

Check with the Village if you have a question about how the Village is operating at the Village website, [loslunasnm.gov](https://www.loslunasnm.gov).

If you haven’t already received your COVID-19 vaccine, the Village team encourages you and everyone you know, to get vaccinated, as soon as possible, so we can continue to move closer, and more quickly, to the percent threshold, set by the state, of eligible New Mexicans that have been fully vaccinated, to allow the state “to graduate out of the color-coded county risk system and remove most pandemic-related restrictions on commercial activities.”

The Village team encourages everyone to continue following COVID-19 Safe Practices (CSPs).

All individuals, including those who are fully vaccinated, should continue to wear well-fitted masks where required by localities, tribal entities, and individual businesses.

Many younger New Mexicans are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine and are strongly encouraged to schedule their vaccine appointment today at vaccineNM.org or by calling 1-855-600-3453. Parents of New Mexicans age 12-15 are encouraged to register their child for the approved Pfizer vaccine at vaccineNM.org.

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TAILS & TALES SUMMER READING & MORE

The Los Lunas Public Library invites you to join library folks for a wild adventure this summer!

Through July 31, the library will be a one-stop shop for crafts, STEAM activities, reading challenges, cultural experiences, story times, weekly prizes and more! There are programs and prizes for all ages, so if you love reading and learning (and being rewarded for it), Tails & Tales at the Los Lunas Public Library is for YOU!

To be respectful of state and local regulations and to prioritize our community's safety, all activities are currently scheduled to take place virtually. Supplemental materials for programs will be made available via curbside pickup.

If regulations evolve over the summer, some programs may be adapted to take place in-person. The best way to stay up-to-date about summer reading at the Los Lunas Public Library is to register. When registering, you have the opportunity to opt in to receiving weekly updates about activities via phone or email.

Register at <https://forms.gle/7qHBsB4WLK2uwYZ37>.

Here's a taste of what to expect this summer:

- weekly craft kits for both preschool and elementary aged students
- virtual visits from educators at the Museum of International Folk Art, the Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum, the Hispanic Cultural Center, and ¡Explora!
- weekly draw-along art lessons (learn to draw some of your favorite characters, superheroes and animals)
- weekly story times for preschool and elementary students
- Pokémon trading sessions
- take and make gardening projects
- exploration-based Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math activities
- weekly prize drawings (must read 1 hour each week to be eligible)
- grand prize drawing (must read 10 hours total during the summer to be eligible)

Check us out online this summer for up-to-date info and important links to activities and resources.

Website: <https://www.loslunasnm.gov/Library>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/loslunaslibrary>

Instagram: @ll_publiclibrary

Library Catalog: <https://www.loslunaspubliclibrary.org/> (reserve books & movies for curbside pickup!)

Reading Log: (link live May 31): <https://loslunaspl.beanstack.org/>



FACEBOOK 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY

In celebration of Earth Day on April 22, Facebook shared the news that Facebook's operations are now supported by 100% renewable energy, including the Los Lunas Data Center.

Learn more about what this means and how Facebook achieved this important goal: <https://tech.fb.com/renewable-energy/>.

ACE HARDWARE ARRIVES

Locally owned and operated Ace Hardware has opened at 2510 Main Street NE.

Co-Owner Ben Sine's family has been in the hardware business since 1912, and he has owned and operated Ace Hardware Stores in Belen and Silver City for the last 14 years.

Co-Owner Rick Unrein will be the General Manager at both the Belen and Los Lunas locations. The new 12,500 square-foot location will employ 18. Hours of operation are Monday through Sunday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

As the business expands, service hours will expand as well. The store will offer both residential and commercial products.

"I've been watching the growth in Los Lunas for years and am really excited to be contributing to it with this new location," Sine said. "Ace excels at customer service. Unlike the big box stores, what people will find is a team that really cares and is extremely knowledgeable."

There will be a grand opening celebration June 18 – 20 with grill demos, refreshments and a storewide 20% off sale. "I hope everyone will stop in to see what we have and utilize us for their home or business needs," Sine added.

LATE FEES REINSTATED

In April 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Village waived utility billing late fees for customers late 30, 60, and 90 days. In addition, customers were not turned off if they were 30 days past due on their utility bills; however, a customer was turned off if they were 60-days past due.

The Village team worked to assist customers with on-time payments and located financial assistance through various sources.

In addition, every year in March the Village adjusts sewer rates based on average water consumption during the winter months. Some customer sewer rates go up and others go down based on winter water usage.

This method provides a customer an understanding that the Village sewer rate is based on average low water consumption rather than actual and/or high water (summer) usage months.

In 2021, the Village did not make these sewer rate adjustments due to COVID-19.

During this pandemic the Village has supported the community. After a year hiatus, late fees will be reinstated beginning July 2021, on any past due utility accounts. If a customer is late, their actual bill will not reflect that until the August billing statement.

JOB HUNTING

Need help finding a job in the community?

Call Jonna Toledo, a Career Specialist with Goodwill in Los Lunas. 505 944-0289.

Jonna works by appointment and helps with job leads, electronic applications, resumes, and interview talking points.

This is a FREE service!

Contact Jonna if you would like help securing a job.

GETTING AROUND

Los Lunas, NM currently has one of the seven stations that make up the New Mexico Rail Runner Express. The Los Lunas station offers free parking and shuttle service to and from the Rail Runner.

There are scheduled shuttles to and from the New Mexico Rail Runner Los Lunas station.

You must call 24 hours in advance to schedule all rides call 505-352-3545.

CHILDREN'S SECTION PURCHASE

The board of The Friends of Los Lunas Library and Museum of Heritage & Arts has purchased 12 Playaway Launchpads for the children's section of the Los Lunas Library.

These devices will be available for checkout from the library as well as for use at the library.

The devices are for preschool children and are preloaded with educational materials and educational games.

One advantage of the devices is that they do not require an Internet connection so they can be used anywhere.

SPECIAL LOS LUNAS EVENTS

The Village of Los Lunas Parks and Recreation Department hosts a variety of special events among which are:

- King of the Hill
- Egg Hunt
- Fourth of July Parade (not 2021)
- Fourth of July Celebration (not 2021)
- Halloween Extravaganza
- Christmas Parade
- Santa Claus is Coming to Town & Tree Lighting
- Light Up the Village

Parks and Recreation also coordinates

- Badlands Drive In events
- Daniel Fernandez Recreation Center
 - Fitness Center
 - Fitness Classes
 - Open Basketball Gym
- The Dance Program
- Sports
 - Adult Sports
 - Youth Sports
 - Valencia County Senior Olympics
 - E-Sports
- Open Space
- Visitor Center

Check out www.loslunasnm.gov.

NOW'S THE TIME FOR CATCHING UP AT MVD

With the past year everyone's ability to do and go as we please has been affected by COVID-19. Many things have been put on the back burner, such as license renewal, registration and insurance, points out Village Police Chief Naithan Gurule

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, access to apply for or renew a driver's license or register a vehicle was limited or unavailable. As a result numerous vehicles are on the road with no current registration, driven by operators whose licenses have expired.

Now is the time to get your driver's license or renew it; in New Mexico you may apply for a Real ID driver's license or a standard driver's license. The Real ID license is acceptable for state or federal identification purposes and requires more proofs of identity and residency than does the standard license.

Visit the MVD website to assure arriving for your appointment with the required paperwork! Calling ahead and arranging an appointed date and time will assure a speedier process.

When registering a vehicle, have the title and bill of sale if you're not going through a dealership; if you've paid off a lien, make an appointment with MVD to issue a new title showing no lien and you as the owner.

You'll want to contact your insurance company and have them reissue the policy with you as the owner, otherwise any claims will be paid out to the former lien holder instead of you!

If upon contact with the MVD you find you need a VIN inspection to proceed with registering your vehicle, you can make an appointment through the MVD or contact the Los Lunas Police Department and arrange to have a VIN inspectors assist you!

Going to the MVD website and researching what is needed by you to register a vehicle or obtain the correct driver's license will save you time and frustrations. Once ready, call and make an appointment for as there is no walk-in service offered at this time.

Please drive responsibly and enjoy the Village of Los Lunas.

Village Administration Office: 505 839-3840

FUND HELPS RESTAURANTS

The U.S. Small Business Administration's Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF) has a total of \$28.6 billion in direct relief funds available to restaurants and other hard-hit food establishments (food carts, breweries, bars, bakeries, etc.) that have experienced economic distress and significant operational losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This program provides restaurants with funding equal to their pandemic-related revenue loss up to \$10 million per business and no more than \$5 million per physical location. Funds must be used for allowable expenses by March 11, 2023.

The SBA prioritized funding applications from businesses owned and controlled by women, veterans, and socially and economically disadvantaged individuals initially. All eligible applicants are encouraged to submit applications. Eventually all eligible applications will be funded on a first-come, first-served basis.

CADET PROGRAM SEEKS MEMBERS

The New Mexico Wing of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) invites participation in a new squadron in Los Lunas and is looking for at least eight to 10 interested men and women to join CAP and help organize the squadron.

Once the individuals have completed some initial training, the Cadet Program will be initiated. The Cadet Program is for children 12 years and older and will be the initial focus of this squadron.

Cadets will learn leadership skills, military drill, physical fitness, and aerospace education from airplane and glider orientation flights. CAP does not recruit for military services. Interested persons should call Lt. Col. Luisada at 505 433-4343.

LOCAL EVENTS

Monday, July 5, 2021
INDEPENDENCE DAY
Village Offices Closed
Monday, July 5, 2021
Garbage Pick Up
Tuesday, July 6, 2021

Watch for:
New Mexico's Navy
at the Museum of Heritage & Arts
June 2021

Attend a Village Council Meeting
6 p.m. Thursday, July 8, 2021
6 p.m. Thursday, July 22, 2021
660 Main St NW
Main Street and Don Pasqual
Meetings will be virtual and in person.
Check agenda on Village website
loslunasnm.gov

PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Los Lunas Library is open to the public. Patrons are required to wear a mask and social distance. Capacity restrictions limit patrons to 15 minutes inside the library to browse and select items for checkout.

Curbside service is still available for those more comfortable with limited contact service. Take advantage of the e-book, e-magazine, mobile print and other online services.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Support local restaurants.

Benny's II
1503 Main St SW
505-865-2255

AJ's Restaurant
727 NM-314 SW
505-865-7172

Casa De Pizza
106 Main St NE Suit B
505-865-7575

Valencia Tap Room
785 Main St SW
505-916-0082