



VILLAGE NEWS



Small Community • Big Possibilities

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INTERCHANGE PROJECT MOVING FORWARD

The much-anticipated Los Lunas / I-25 interchange construction project is one step closer to reality.

Senators Martin Heinrich and Ben Ray Luján announced \$25 million in grant funding for the project from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) for the Village of Los Lunas, through DOT's INFRA grant program.

The funding will be used to design and construct a new interchange on I-25 at Morris Road, a river crossing, four signalized intersections, and approximately four miles of four-lane highway.

Los Lunas has experienced heavy commuter traffic and this interchange will relieve congestion caused by traffic, railway crossings, and construction.

In the Village, the new construction will relieve traffic on NM Hwy 6, which will allow for more efficient trips / access to services along NM Hwy 6 (Main Street). It will also relieve congestion and improve safety allowing Emergency Medical Services a quicker response time.

In Valencia County, it will provide a needed east-west corridor for daily work commuters who are trying to get from the east side of the Rio Grande to Interstate 25 to head to Albuquerque for work and back home in the evening.

"This new interchange will provide another bridge crossing over the Rio Grande and will function a lot like Paseo del Norte in Albuquerque providing a corridor with minimal interruptions to allow commuter traffic a more efficient transportation network," said Greg Martin, Village Administrator.

Martin added, "Additionally, it will reduce traffic for visitors coming to the area. We are grateful to the senators for helping us attain this funding, as well as for the hard work and assistance of our state and regional partners, including the New Mexico Department of Transportation, which has allocated and committed a significant portion of the remaining funding needed to complete this project."

The INFRA grant program is designed for states to complete large-scale projects that address national and regional highway and bridge infrastructure issues – beyond the scope of other discretionary programs.

Groundbreaking is anticipated to take place in the fall of 2022. The project will cost approximately \$120 million.

CHECK OUT VILLAGE OF LOS LUNAS ON FACEBOOK



COVID SAFE

Due to the recent growing number of COVID-19 cases in Los Lunas and Valencia County, starting August 2, 2021, until further notice, all Village facilities will re-implement and re-emphasize COVID-19 Safe Practices (CSPs) for all Village staff and visitors, including requiring face masks for all people at Village facilities regardless of their vaccination status. The Village strongly encourages all people to get vaccinated ASAP..

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VILLAGE IMPROVEMENTS CONTINUE WITH PROJECTS

As we drive around the Village we see various projects being worked on. Some projects might be considered minor, like sidewalk repair. Other projects could be called major, such as the rebuilding of road intersections.

Projects are not always visible to the public like improving computer technology or improving the waste water treatment plant.

Other projects are not the responsibility of the Village, such as the Courthouse Road and NM Hwy 314 realignment project (state), or miscellaneous fiber optic line installation projects (private companies).

Funding for Village projects comes from a variety of sources, including the Village budget, grants, loans, and state funds.

The Village has more than 60 projects in some stage of completion. Here are five of them:

- Daniel Fernandez Park Improvements - Design and partial construction of improvements to Daniel Fernandez Recreation Center - including a new (second) gymnasium.
- Sports Complex Improvements - Install lights and artificial turf on two ball fields.
- NM Hwy 314 Bike / Pedestrian Improvements - Romeroville Road to Griego Road (Phase three of improvements already made from Morris Road to James Street, including trail, lights, landscaping, etc.).
- South Los Lentes Road Improvements - Aspen Drive to Morris Road (Roadway improvements, including ADA sidewalks, lighting, and storm water drainage).
- Central NM Rail Park Sewer Line and Water Line Extensions (To extend Sewer and Water Service to the Central NM Rail Park).

To stay up to date about current and upcoming Village projects, please visit loslunasnm.gov/list.aspx, where you can sign up to receive regular updates and alerts.

DON'T LEAVE THEM IN VEHICLES

The Village Code Enforcement Division gets a lot of calls about dogs in hot cars.

A comfortable 85 degrees F outside can heat a car up to 104 degrees F in only 10 minutes.

If you are out and about, leave your animals at home where they can stay cool.

And make sure children and adults are not placed in danger in hot vehicles.

Village Administration Office: 505 839-3840

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

Free mental health first aid training will be held Friday, Sept. 17, from 8 a.m. to 5:30 PM, at the Belen Public Library at 333 Becker Ave.

The event is sponsored by the Valencia County Community Wellness Council and the New Mexico Department of Health.

Flyer with more details at <https://tinyurl.com/47kerjya>.

For more info or to register, contact Diana Good at 506 222-0958 or via e-mail at diana.good@state.nm.us.

AIRPLANE RIDES FOR YOUTH

The EAA Chapter 530 is offering Young Eagle flights on Saturday, August 21, at Mid Valley Park on NM Hwy 314 south of Los Lunas.

The flights are free to those ages eight to seventeen from 8:30 a.m. to noon at the south end of the field at the EAA hanger.

Breakfast and lunch will be served for a \$5 donation.

For more information call Lee at 775 842-9144 or Rose at 505 865-5516.



HONOR VETERANS

Honor all Who Serve on Veterans Day Thursday, Nov. 11, at 11 a.m. with fellowship and food at Daniel Fernandez Park, 1103 NM Hwy 314.

Hosted by the Village of Los Lunas, RAKS Building Supply, Valencia County and the Los Lunas Veterans Events.

NOVEMBER ELECTION

An election will be held Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2021, for three council seats in the Village. Filing day for candidates is August 24, 2021. The election will be conducted by the Valencia County Bureau of Elections. Contact the Valencia County Bureau of Elections at 505 866-2080 for more information.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

This is the second in a two-part series about the 2020 Village of Los Lunas Annual Police Department Report.

The first half appeared in the July 2021 Village newsletter which is available at loslunasnm.gov.

DWI in Los Lunas:

During this last year, the Police Department made 88 arrests for DWI, a 14.7% increase in DWI arrests since 2019.

The DWI Unit accounted for under half of these, 33 DWI, 37.5 percent of the police department's arrests. Patrol accounted for 55.7% of the department's DWI arrests and the department's DWI Traffic Unit accounted for 6.8% of the Department's DWI arrests.

In 2019, Saturday between 11 p.m. and midnight was the peak time for DWI arrests.

In 2020, the peak time was Saturdays between 10 and 11 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday between 7 p.m. and 3 a.m. also had the majority of DWI arrests in Los Lunas.

The DWI Unit's schedule adjusts according to the needs of the community and is dependent on statistical data.

There's lots more information in the 2020 Village Police Department report. Check it out on the web, loslunasnm.gov

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

The Village of Los Lunas has a mayor and council.

Their responsibilities are to approve ordinances, regulations, and policies consistent with the Laws and Statutes of the State of New Mexico aimed at the betterment of the community.

For meeting information visit the Village Calendar at loslunasnm.gov.

Mayor is Charles Griego.

Councilors are: Christopher Ortiz - District 1; Gino M. Romero - District 2; Cruz Munoz - District 3; and Phillip Jaramillo - District 4.

Information about the mayor and Village councilors is on the Village website loslunasnm.gov. Contact information for mayor, council and administration can be found on the first page of the monthly newsletter.

STORY TIME

Story time at Los Lunas Library: the library has a virtual story hour for preschoolers on its Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/lunaslibrary/>.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Help businesses stay alive in Los Lunas. Shop locally.

Here's a few businesses you can try. There's many more!

Leftovers ETC

604 Main St NE 505 865-3300
The most unique shop for antiques and collectibles in Valencia County!

Performance Computers

544 Main St NW 505 866-1175
Full range of services: Desktop Computers, Web Development, Laptops, Game Consoles, Recycling, & Remote Services.

TBE CrossFit

2210 Sun Ranch Village Loop #2A
505 417-1099
Start with a free intro! TBE.CrossFit educates, supports and inspires our community to pursue lifelong improvement of physical function and mental fortitude.

Su Casa Décor

127 Hwy 314 NW 505 301-7637
Home Décor & Area Rugs

Heavenly Nails

1920 Main St NE 505 865-2020
Let the stress melt away with a manicure and pedicure combo!

DO NOT WATER 10 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

Village Public Works Director Michael Jaramillo reminds Village water customers that outside trees, plants, and turf should NOT be watered between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Watering should be done between 4 a.m. and 10 a.m. and / or 4 p.m. to 11 p.m. when the water treatment plant is more efficient using the water received.

Village ordinance 8.24.040 (Water Restrictions) states that starting April 30 and ending September 30, plants, trees or turf should not be watered during the hours of 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Watering during the heat of the day increases water loss.

VILLAGE WINS GIS AWARD

The Village of Los Lunas is honored to receive Esri's Special Achievement in GIS (Graphic Information System) Award this year at the annual Esri User Conference.

The SAG Awards are intended to demonstrate an appreciation for organizations using GIS to understand complex data and meet challenges around the world.

The Village is committed to using technology to best manage our resources and facilitate communication with our residents!

One great example of the Village's GIS work is the Community Map - take a look today!

<https://voll.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html.#EsriUC#Esri>.

VILLAGE LIBRARY CELEBRATES 55 YEARS

In 1959 the Belen Women's Club created a branch of the Eastern Valencia County Library System in Los Lunas with a donation of over 300 books housed in the Valencia County Courthouse on the northwest corner of Luna Avenue and Main Street.

It was then moved to the teacher's apartment complex on Luna Avenue where the Los Lunas Middle School Gym is presently located.

In 1965, the Village Council granted the library the entire west side of the Village's community building located on the southwest corner of Main Street and Luna Avenue that was built in the 1930's as a Works Progress Administration project at the request of librarian Ruth Tondre and community members.

At that time, Mayor Howard. C. Simpson and Councilmen Felix C. Marquez, Telesfor T. Archuleta, William L. Place and Reuben Sais recognized the community's need for a free public library.

The Council approved Ordinance No. 63 to establish and maintain the Los Lunas Community Public Library effective August 17, 1966.

With these modest beginnings, the Library's collections grew, along with the community, to the point that another building at 460 Main Street, NE (formerly known as the Bernie Gonzales Health Clinic) was purchased in 1987 when NM Hwy 6 was widened.

In 1988, under the direction of Carmen M Jaramillo-Campos, the property was renovated, and the library moved to its present location.

Since that move, the library has added four additions. First was a reading room and program room on the northwest side in 1992. Second was the southwest computer lab in 1997.

Then a magazine room (now the teen room) on the northeast was added on with a fourth addition completed in 2003 on the west that expanded the parking lot as well.

With the resignation of Ruth Tondre in 1971, Lisa Mitchell was appointed Librarian.

There have been several Librarians: Sylvia Aragon; Katherine Gallegos and Carmen M. Jaramillo-Campos. Mrs. Jaramillo-Campos was the library director for 27 years when she retired in June 2004. Cynthia J. Shetter is the current Library Director.

On February 29, 2008, the Los Lunas Public Library held the grand opening of its first branch library, the Museum of Heritage & Arts, located under the downtown water tower at the corner of Main Street / NM Hwy 6 and Luna Avenue.

The museum came about after a series of events that catapulted the library staff into a new realm of history, preservation, technology, culture and more.

This is the story of the rise of a small branch library that is striving to be a premier digital research library and cultural outlet for its community.

Watch for the history of the Village Museum of Heritage & Arts in the September 2021 Village News.

Village Administration Office: 505 839-3840

LOCAL EVENTS

Farmers Market

Tuesdays 4 –7 p.m.
Intersection NM Hwy 6 / Main Street
and NM Hwy 6

August 7, 2021

Village Transportation Center
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Eternal Patrol: America's Lost
Submarines
John Taylor briefly discusses
52 Subs lost during WWII.

August 14, 2021

Village Transportation Center
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
WWII New Mexico

Monday, Sept 6, 2021

LABOR DAY
Village Offices Closed
Monday, Sept 6, 2021
Garbage Pick Up
Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2021

Attend a Village Council Meeting

6 p.m. Thursday, August 26, 2021
6 p.m. Thursday, September 9, 2021
660 Main St NW
Main Street and Don Pasqual
Meetings will be virtual and in person.
Check Village website for agenda
loslunasnm.gov.

PANCAKES FOR A CAUSE

The Los Lunas Rotary Club has kicked off its planning for the annual 'Pancakes for a Cause' fundraiser benefitting the 'Clothes for Kids' program.

The pancake breakfast fundraising event will take place on Saturday, September 25, 2021, from 8 a.m – 11 a.m at Ribs Restaurant in Los Lunas.

The Village of Los Lunas will help sponsor the event again this year. If anyone is interested in tickets, they are \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids age 10 and under.