



Los Lunas Public Library is More Than Just Books...

Los Lunas, New Mexico

2025



MISSION STATEMENT

“Bringing information, ideas, and people together to build a stronger community.”

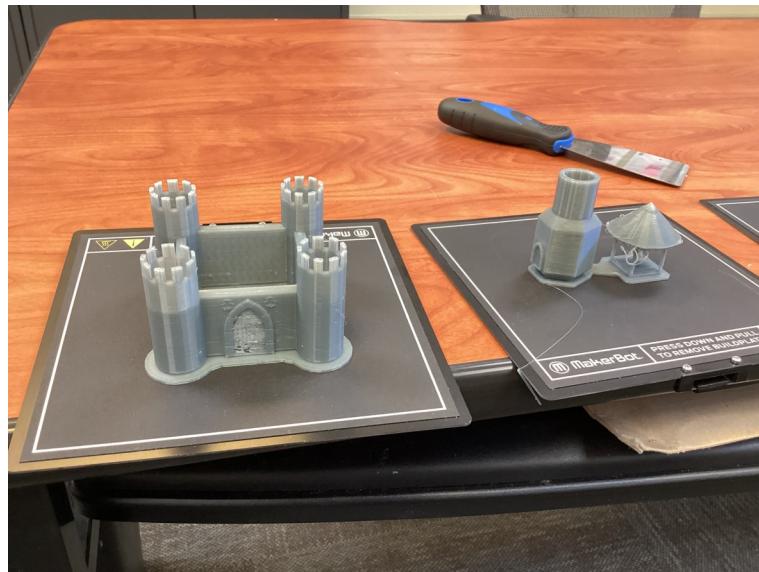


Photo Credit: Ronda Sanchez| Whitney Mendoza

3D Models created and printed during our teen STEAM classes. Participants learned how using 3D pens, 3D design and modeling, and structural integrity.

DESCRIPTION

The Los Lunas Public Library will be the driving force behind a powerful culture of learning that will inspire patrons from all walks of life to continually learn, share, and seek out new knowledge in ways that are beneficial to themselves, their community, and the world.

PRIORITIES

- ◆ **Customer Service** People are our top priority. We offer welcoming personalized service to everyone who visits us in person, online, and by telephone.
- ◆ **Education & Discovery** Providing residents with educational and recreational experiences needed to succeed as citizens, students, and parents.
- ◆ **Innovation** Embracing technology and understanding our communities. We seize opportunities to contribute toward a healthier and more vibrant Valencia County.
- ◆ **Community Engagement** Bringing people, organizations, and ideas together through our cultural heritage and art.

*On our cover: Elena Radulescu, Gilberto Mello, and Mary Hahn on a Salinas Pueblo Mission Tour at Gran Quivira.
Photo Credit: Cynthia Shetter.*

PUBLIC LIBRARY

- 3. Table of Contents
- 4. Message from the Director
- 6. Village of Los Lunas General Information
- 7. Membership Policy
- 8. Library Services
- 9. Mobile Print Services
- 10. Digital Media Services
- 12. Digital Information Services
- 12. Social Media
- 13. Digital Language Services
- 13. Access to Technology & STEAM Lab
- 15. Museum of Heritage & Arts
- 16. Southwest Research Library & Digital Genealogy Resources
- 17. Exhibits & Presentations
- 18. Tours
- 19. History—Route 66 Pre-1937

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- ◆ We provide equal access to a vast range of information and resources.
- ◆ We actively embrace new ways to adapt the Library to the changing needs of the people we serve.
- ◆ We offer collections that are of interest to our users in ways that are most convenient for them.
- ◆ We are passionate about providing library service to our community.
- ◆ We conduct all interactions with respect and can be counted on to do the right thing in a fair and equitable manner.

PHONE: (505) 839-3850

FAX: (505) 352-3582

EMAIL:

LLlibrary@loslunasnm.library.libanswers.com

ADDRESS

460 Main St NE
Los Lunas, NM 87031

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday — Saturday
9 AM — 6 PM
Sunday Closed

WEBSITE

loslunasnm.gov/library

SOCIAL MEDIA

facebook.com/loslunaslibrary
Instagram: @ll_publiclibrary
Tik Tok: @lllibrary505

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Your Library Director Welcomes You

As Director of the Los Lunas Public Library, I would like to extend to you all an invitation to utilize our library and branch library the Museum of Heritage & Arts, your gateways to a world of information, history, and resources.

The Los Lunas Public Library is empowering the future of our community by allowing all of its patrons — regardless of age, race, or economic status — access to sources of knowledge that change lives. Our library is open six days a week and guarantees that everyone in our community is given the advantages that a public library offers. Free access to computers, the Internet, and free wireless service at both locations make it easy for all to tap into the wealth of online information available. A collection of over 44,000 items — books, DVDs, and audio books, as well as eBooks and eResources — is our legacy to the community we serve.

Our library is a crucial member of this community. Knowledge truly is power, and by providing the keys to information — whether in the form of books, online resources, or programming — the Los Lunas Public Library is opening worlds for so many in our community in various ways. In the past fiscal year, approximately 168 people visited our library and museum each day to access vital information, check out materials, attend programs, or just hang out. In addition, patrons accessed our website to check on their account, renew items, and place items on hold.

We bring the strength of cultural and community unity in the form of our Library and Museum programs that allow us to explore the past and a world outside of our own. Visitors can meet a bestselling author, view an exhibit, or attend a history presentation. For those of you who are parents, our library offers free STEAM events for kids after school and during the summer break. We offer Story Time for all the little non-readers — which includes a story, craft, and preschool activities. Our summer reading program will help not only your child but your whole family to get into the spirit of our library. We offer a variety of programs during the summer — and the opportunity to read for prizes! And we haven't forgotten about all the adults — we have a program for you too!

So, welcome to the Los Lunas Public Library, a world of knowledge and information found nowhere else.

Cynthia J. Shetter

Library Director



Family craft project on display in the library.

Los Lunas Public Library offers a variety of programs for the public to enjoy including community crafts, tea time, story time, STEAM activities, and much more.



VILLAGE OF LOS LUNAS PHONE NUMBERS

Administration

(505) 839-3840

Animal Control

(505) 839-3842

Community Development

(505) 839-3842

Daniel Fernandez Recreation Center

(505) 352-7661

Fire Department (non-emergency)

(505) 866-2116

Fred Luna Multigenerational Center

(505) 839-3853

Municipal Court

(505) 839-3844

Museum of Heritage and Arts

(505) 352-7720

Parks and Recreation Department

(505) 352-3845

Police Department (non-emergency)

(505) 839-3855

Public Library

(505) 839-3850

Public Works

(505) 839-3857

Open Space

(505) 352-7716

Recycling Information

(505) 839-5658

Rio Metro/Transportation

(505) 352-3595

Solid Waste Division

(505) 839-3843

Utility Billing Office

(505) 839-3841

Water Division

(505) 852-7668

LIBRARY STAFF

Cynthia J. Shetter

Library Director

Andrea Chavez

Asst. Library Director

Catherine Best

Children's Librarian

Shawna Lamb

Cataloging Specialist

Ronda Sanchez

STEM Specialist

Manuel Mora

Adult Services

Sebastian Baca

Library Technician

Tommy Madrid, III

Library Technician

Whitney Mendoza

Library Aide

LIBRARY BOARD

Kristi Whistler

Chair

Laura Burr

Vice Chair

Jean Davies

Board Member

Michelle Osowski

Board Member

Jim Rickey

Board Member

GOVERNING BODY OF THE VILLAGE OF LOS LUNAS

Charles Griego

Mayor

Christopher Ortiz

Councilman District 1

Gino Romero

Councilman District 2

Cruz Munoz

Councilman District 3

James Runyon

Councilman District 4

MEMBERSHIP POLICY

Patrons of the Los Lunas Public Library can borrow a wide variety of books, audiobooks and movies. They can also download eBooks and eAudiobooks as well as learn a language, research their family tree and more from our mobile platforms with their library cards.

Applying for a Library Card

Library cards are available free of charge. Applicants must present photo identification and proof of mailing address for verification purposes.

Patrons age 12 to 17 must have signed parental permission to obtain a library card. Children 12 years of age and younger can be added to the family library card.

Lost or stolen library cards are replaced for a \$2.00 fee.

Loan Periods

- ◆ Books and audiobooks are loaned for 21 days.
- ◆ Videos are loaned for 7 days.

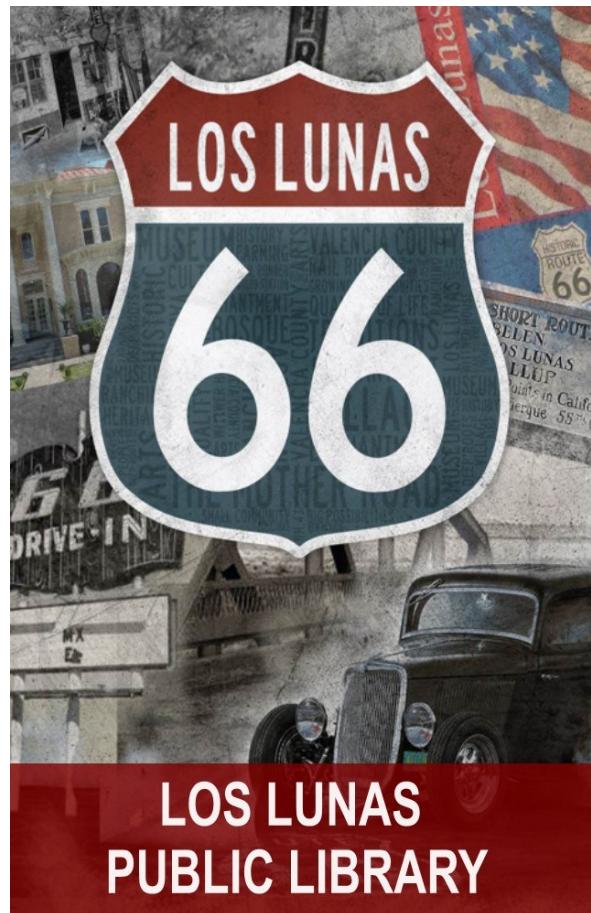
Loan Limits

- ◆ 20 items per family library card
- ◆ 10 items per adult card
- ◆ 4 items per author and 2 per subject
- ◆ 6 audiobooks per card
- ◆ 6 videos total or 5 videos and 1 TV series/Binge Box per card

Managing Account Online

Patrons can manage their account through the library's online card catalog. They will be able to review items checked out, renew items, and place holds.

To access go to <https://www.loslunaspubliclibrary.org> and click on "Log In" on the top right of the web page. Enter your library card number and PIN. Please contact the library if you need assistance with your PIN.



**LOS LUNAS
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

PHOTO POLICY

Participants in Los Lunas Public Library and Museum of Heritage & Arts programs, activities, and events permit the taking of photos and videos of themselves and their children for publication and use as the department chooses. Please let staff know if you do not wish to be photographed.

SPONSORSHIP

The Village of Los Lunas has many opportunities for sponsorship of our events and programs. If you are interested in a mutually beneficial sponsorship opportunity, please call Cynthia Shetter at (505) 352-7646.

FIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The Friends of the Los Lunas Public Library and the Museum of Heritage & Arts offers a variety of volunteer opportunities for individuals to help with our programming. For more information on these opportunities, email the Friends at j7057r@msn.com.

LIBRARY SERVICES

OFFICE SERVICES

The Library offers the following office services:

◆ Printing	\$0.15 per page		
◆ Copying	\$0.25 per page	◆ USB Flash drive	\$5.00
◆ Scanning	\$0.25 per scan		
◆ Faxing	\$1.00 per page to send or receive		
◆ Notary	Free (donations accepted)		

ADULT SERVICES

- ◆ Basic Computer Classes
- ◆ Guidance to eGovernment sites
- ◆ Basic Resume Building
- ◆ Reader Advisory - suggested titles and authors
- ◆ Reference Services
- ◆ Interlibrary Loan
- ◆ Book Clubs
- ◆ Craft Programming
- ◆ Mobile Reference Service via ***LibAnswers***

We have frequently asked questions posted on our website or you can chat live with a staff member during library hours for assistance:

<https://loslunasnm.library.libanswers.com/>

You can also text us: 505-376-4008



Ask Us

YOUTH SERVICES

- ◆ Registered Preschool Story Hour
- ◆ Summer Reading and Performance Programs
- ◆ Borrow a Playaway Launchpad Tablet
- ◆ STEAM After-School Program
- ◆ Outreach Programs and Tours
- ◆ Borrow an iExplora! Pass—Free admission for 4 to access 250 interactive exhibits and activities.
- ◆ Borrow a New Mexico FamilyPass—Free admission for 6 to 16 state museums and historic sites.

TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

- ◆ 24 public access computers
- ◆ WiFi access on premises
- ◆ Borrow an iPad
- ◆ Borrow an Internet Hotspot
- ◆ eResource access

MOBILE PRINT SERVICES



Print documents at the library from anywhere!

\$0.15 per page to print

***Stays in print queue 24 hours.**

How to use Princh from a PC:

1. Begin by going to <https://print.princh.com/?pid=108076>
2. Browse your computer to find and select the file you wish to print. Wait for your file to be processed.
3. Underneath Color, choose the colorful circles option (\$0.15 per page).
4. Click on the box next to “Accept Terms and Conditions”.
5. Press the green “Continue” button.
6. Enter your email address and press the green “OK” button. Wait until file says “Ready”.
7. Within 24 hours, come to the Library circulation desk.
8. Provide your email address, pay for the prints, and staff will release for printing.

How to Use the Princh from a mobile phone or tablet:

1. Scan QR code on the right with your device’s camera or go to print.princh.com and enter the number beneath the QR.
2. Open the PrinterOn App.
3. Upload your document(s) and wait for the document(s) to be processed.
4. Click on the gear icon underneath “Settings” and select Color under “Color”.
5. Click on the box next to “Accept Terms and Conditions”.
6. Press the green “Continue” button.
7. Enter your email address and press the green “OK” button. Wait until document says “Ready”.
8. Within 24 hours, come to the Library circulation desk, provide your email address, pay for the prints, and staff will release for printing.

Princh Mobile Print Service enables patrons to print at the library and remotely from smartphones, tablets and computers and then pick-up their printouts at the library circulation desk.*

Patrons can choose to print with one of the following two methods:

- ◆ Uploading documents to a customized web printing portal.
- ◆ Scanning the QR code provided.
- ◆ Downloading the Princh app from the Apple Store or Google Play Store.



***Note: The library staff will not be able to edit your document.**

DIGITAL MEDIA SERVICES: *Books, Audios,*



New Mexico Library to Go is a free online consortia service provided by the Los Lunas Public Library and other New Mexico Public Libraries that allows our patrons to download digital content such as eBooks and eAudio-books anytime from anywhere onto your mobile device.

Scan  to download the Libby app today!

<https://nm.overdrive.com/>

Reach out to the library for PIN assistance at (505) 839-3850.



Tumble Book Library has over 1,100 curated titles for grades K-6, and includes our unique animated, talking picture books, read-along chapter books, National Geographic videos, non-fiction books, playlists, as well as books in Spanish and French. Plus, the collection features Graphic Novels – a student favorite!

Scan  to go to <https://www.loslunasnm.gov/library>. On the left menu click on “Online Services”, click “EBooks, Audiobooks”, then click “Tumblebooks” on the menu.



Teen Book Cloud is a curated database of e-books and other digital content for Middle Schools and High Schools, as well as Public Libraries. The growing collection features over 1,000 titles, including student-favorite Graphic Novels, enhanced e-books with full audio narration and highlighted text, classic literature, National Geographic videos, and more!

Scan  to go to <https://www.loslunasnm.gov/library>. On the left menu click on “Online Services”, click “EBooks, Audiobooks”, then click on the menu.

Videos, News, & Magazines...



Instant access to the magazines you know and love in an easy-to-read digital format.

- Better Homes & Gardens
- Cosmopolitan
- Girl's Life
- Good Housekeeping
- HGTV
- Highlights
- ¡Hola!
- Men's Health
- Motor Trend
- Pioneer Woman Magazine
- Popular Mechanics
- Rolling Stone
- Travel & Leisure
- True West
- Us Weekly
- Women's Health

Scan



or go to <https://search.ebscohost.com>

User name: s9152873
Pin: Lo5luna\$



New Mexico Newspapers and America's News Magazines with unmatched U.S. news content from local, regional and national sources.

- Albuquerque Journal 1995—Current
- Albuquerque Journal: Blogs 2006—2023
- Roswell Daily Record 2002—Current
- Santa Fe New Mexican 1994—Current

Scan



or go to <https://www.elportalnm.org> then scroll and click on NewsBank



hoopla is a digital service that provides patrons with an enormous selection of movies, music, audiobooks, and ebooks that can be viewed on a phone, tablet, or smart TV.

Scan



or go to <https://www.loslunasnm.gov/library>. On the left menu click on "Online Services", click "EBooks, Audiobooks", click Hoopla, then click "Get Started".

Must have a Los Lunas Public Library card to access.

DIGITAL INFORMATION SERVICES



New Mexico's doorway to a world of information

Provided to New Mexico public libraries by the New Mexico State Library through Federal Library Services and Technology Act funding, El Portal offers free access to a variety of information sources for all ages.

- **Gale eBooks** - Reference books.
- **Gale General OneFile** - Periodicals
- **Gale In Context: Elementary**
- **Gale In Context: Middle School**
- **Gale OneFile: High School Edition**
- **Gale Academic OneFile**
- **Gale In Context: Opposing Viewpoints**
- **Gale OneFile: Health and Medicine** - Information on fitness, pregnancy, nutrition and more.
- **Business Insights: Essentials** - Industry news, stats and reports.
- **ChiltonLibrary.com** - Automotive repair manuals
- **Brainfuse Help Now** - Live online tutoring and homework help in English and Spanish
- **LearningExpress** - Practice tests and resources for college and career exploration.
- **Informe Adadémico** - Una colección de revistas hispánicas con textos completos.
- **New Mexico Reads** - eBooks for New Mexicans of all ages on Southwest History & Culture, New Mexico Fiction, Information Science, and more.

Scan



or go to <https://www.elportalnm.org>

SOCIAL MEDIA



DIGITAL LANGUAGE SERVICES

With
from,
Lan-
cal
learn-
tion, culture, comprehension, and retention.



MANGO LANGUAGES

over 70 language courses to choose
Mango Languages uses Intuitive
language Construction to build the 6 criti-
skills necessary for true language
ing: vocabulary, grammar, pronuncia-
tion, culture, comprehension, and retention.

Spanish, French, Japanese, English, German, Pirate, & more...

Scan



or go to <http://connect.mangolanguages.com/los-lunas/start>

Must have a Los Lunas Public Library card to access.

ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY



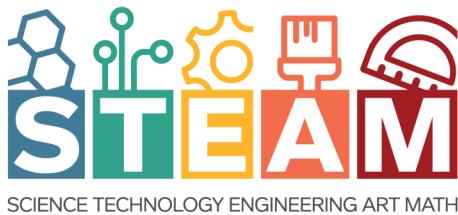
Public Computers & Internet Access - The library features public desktop computers in the front of the library, the STEAM Lab, and in the children's room. These computers have internet access, full access to Microsoft applications, and functional web camera.

Wireless Internet - Free access is available in the library and in our parking lot afterhours. Simply select "VLL- Public" or "Project Connect by ITDRC.org" from the wireless options. Please remember this is an unsecure, public access, wireless channel.

Wireless Internet Hotspots - The library has wireless internet hotspots available for a 14-day checkout.

iPads - The library has several devices available for a 21-day checkout.

STEAM LAB



Located off the Fiction room, the STEAM Lab is equipped for the following programs and more:

Summer and After-school STEAM Program - Staff organize programming that teaches students about science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics by utilizing computers, iPads, robotics, video equipment, 3D printers, and other fun learning activities.

Educational Presentations, Movies and Gaming - The STEAM lab is equipped with a large-screen television for viewing presentations, watching movies, and playing video games on the library's video game consoles.



“Los Lunas Peak” by Bob Christensen
El Cerro de Los Lunas, 1975

MUSEUM

MISSION STATEMENT

"Provide cultural collections, exhibitions, and programs that enable the museum's patrons to understand and learn from the past in ways that enrich their present lives and help them shape a better future."

DESCRIPTION

As a branch of the Los Lunas Public Library, the Los Lunas Museum of Heritage & Arts connects the present generation to the cultural arts and history of Los Lunas, surrounding communities, and the State of New Mexico, inspiring a deeper appreciation and understanding of the area's rich heritage.

PRIORITIES

- ◆ **Customer Service** People are our top priority. We offer welcoming personalized service to everyone who visits us in person, online, and by telephone.
- ◆ **Education & Discovery** Providing and developing educational resources, presentations, history exhibits, and art shows that celebrate the history and culture of the community.
- ◆ **Preserving History** Embracing technology to collect the community's diverse human experiences.
- ◆ **Community Engagement** Bringing people, organizations, and ideas together through our cultural heritage and art.

PHONE: (505) 352-7720

FAX: (505) 352-3582

EMAIL:

LLmuseum@loslunasnm.library.libanswers.com

ADDRESS

251 Main St SE
Los Lunas, NM 87031
Under the Water Tower

HOURS OF OPERATION

Tuesday — Saturday
10 AM — 5 PM

WEBSITE

loslunasnm.gov/museum

SOCIAL MEDIA

facebook.com/loslunasmuseum
Instagram: @llmuseumha

MUSEUM STAFF

Cynthia J. Shetter
Library Director

Andrea Chavez
Asst. Library Director

Louis F. Huning Jr.
Museum Manager

Owen Baca
Museum Technician

Monica Kemsley
Museum Technician

Martha Jaramillo
Part-Time Museum Technician

SOUTHWEST RESEARCH LIBRARY



SOUTHWEST HISTORY COLLECTION

The museum has a library dedicated to the history of the area and the history of New Mexico to aid in research.

NEW MEXICO MARRIAGE & BAPTISMAL RECORDS

The Museum carries a wide variety of transcribed church records from local parishes to aid in the search for information.

LOCAL ORAL HISTORIES & GENEALOGY

Museum staff have created an extensive genealogy database linking historic residents and have recorded a variety of oral histories that can be drawn upon to fulfill your genealogy research needs.

COMPUTER LAB

The Museum has a computer lab to access genealogy resources.

DIGITAL GENEALOGY RESOURCES

HERITAGEQUEST



A comprehensive online source of information for conducting genealogical and local history research, providing access to over 10 billion historical records from the comfort of your home.

How to Access

Available on computers and mobile devices.

Scan or go to <https://www.heritagequestonline.com/ipbarcode?aid=56156>
Must have a Los Lunas Public Library card to access.

ANCESTRY.COM, LIBRARY EDITION

Ancestry Library Edition provides access to billions of historical documents, millions of historical photos, plus local narratives, oral histories, indexes and other resources in over 30,000 databases that span from the 1500s to the 2000s.

Available on the Museum and Library public access computers.

EVENT PAVILION AVAILABLE FOR RENTAL



MUSEUM OF HERITAGE & ARTS PAVILION

Constructed during the COVID-19 Pandemic, the southwestern style pavilion complete with stage and lighted patio, can accommodate 130 guests. To rent the pavilion for a non-alcoholic event please contact the Museum at 505-352-7720 for more information.

EXHIBITS & PRESENTATIONS

HISTORY EXHIBITS & PRESENTATIONS

The Los Lunas Museum of Heritage & Arts strives to interpret the rich, multi-cultural history of the Village of Los Lunas and Valencia County through recurring exhibits and presentations on the people and events that have shaped our community.

The Village of Los Lunas traces its origins to the eighteenth century, although incorporation occurred in 1928. For nearly two-and-a-half centuries, Los Lunas has stood at a crossroads in North America. Centuries before its settlement, native peoples inhabited sites along the Rio Grande and Rio Puerco, and they engaged in hunting and gathering throughout the region. Their trails extended far afield in all directions, and when Spaniards began exploring present-day New Mexico in the sixteenth century, they followed existing trails. Don Juan de Oñate's *entrada* in 1598 established a public road maintained by the Spanish Crown, and during the Colonial Era, settlements such as Los Lunas remained connected to Mexico over the Camino Real. Later, in the twentieth century, Los Lunas was included in 1926 in the first, circuitous route of U.S. Highway 66, a distinction enjoyed until 1937 when the auto trail was rerouted.

In addition to the Village's location at the crossroads of the Camino Real and Route 66, Los Lunas figures into many other historical episodes. During the Spanish Colonial Era, the establishment of the San Clemente Land Grant in July 1716 spurred settlement in the Rio Abajo, including the future site of Los Lunas. By 1778, a mission church had been established south of Isleta and north of Los Chaves, and in the following year it first appeared on a map as "S. Clemente." In the early Nineteenth Century, families such as the Lunas and Oteros moved large herds of sheep into the region. As the principal landowners, the settlement that emerged near the mission church soon became associated with the Luna family or *Los Lunas*.

By mid-century, when the United States acquired much of northern Mexico, the War Department established posts throughout New Mexico. From 1852 to 1860, dragoons stationed at the Post at Los Lunas protected settlers and travelers along the Camino Real. On April 15, 1862, Confederate and Union forces fought a skirmish in the neighboring community of Peralta as the Confederate Army retreated southward from their loss at the Battle of Glorieta east of Santa Fe. In the post-Civil War era, the population of Los Lunas slowly grew with the influx of immigrants from the United States and Europe. Agriculture, livestock raising, and mercantilism served as the community's economic foundation until the tracks of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad arrived in 1880, becoming yet another route connecting Los Lunas to the world beyond.

ART EXHIBITS

The Museum of Heritage & Arts serves as a conduit for area artists to display and sell their pieces in a professional setting through an annual juried art show and an annual student art show. The Museum has hosted the Pastel Society of New Mexico, the New Mexico Watercolor Society and *Ayer, Hoy, y Mañana -Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow*, an exhibition of traditional and contemporary Hispanic artists from this area and northern New Mexico.



Jesus Gallegos' Acoma Station located west of the Luna Mansion on Main Street

TOURS

The Museum of Heritage & Arts plans a variety of low cost tours throughout the year to educate people on New Mexico's unique history. Here is a sampling of the past tours:

Saints & Sinners Tour - There are five unique Catholic churches in the area - San Agustin de Isleta, San Antonio de Los Lentes, Our Lady of Guadalupe in Peralta, Sangre de Cristo in Valencia, and Immaculate Conception in Tomé. In the fall we choose three of the churches to visit, have lunch at the Museum and end at the Camino Real Winery for a history on wine making and wine tasting. \$30

Los Lunas Mystery Stone - About 17 miles west of Los Lunas off Highway 6 is a large stone with the Ten Commandments written in Paleo-Hebrew chiseled on it. The mystery is - no one knows who wrote it or when. \$5

Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument - The Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument consist of Abó, Quarai, and Gran Quivira. These sites stand as reminders of the early encounters of the Spanish and Pueblo peoples — a time entrenched with cultural borrowing, conflict and struggles. \$5 and a sack lunch.

Civil War in New Mexico - We travel south of Socorro to the ruins of Fort Craig where the Battle of Valverde took place nearby in February of 1862 between Confederate Texans and Union soldiers. On occasion Socorro historians do a reenactment of the bloody battle and we will plan the tour to coincide. \$5 and a sack lunch.

Trinity Site - In October each year, White Sands Missile Range opens to the public to visit the test site of the first atomic bomb and learn about the Manhattan Project. \$5 and a sack lunch.

Historic Los Lunas - Tour of historic buildings in Los Lunas such as Huning Mercantile, Teri's Sweet Garden, the Luna Mansion, and Teofilo's Restaurante. Lunch is included \$30.

Please check with the Museum at 505-352-7720 about upcoming tours.

We travel to the sites on 11-and-12 passenger buses. The fees charged help offset the cost of gas and lunches. Prices are subject to change due to increased entry fees and gas prices.



Photo credits: Cynthia J. Shetter

HISTORY — ROUTE 66 PRE-1937

In 1925, a stretch of automobile highway was completed in Los Lunas. This road was part of a circuitous route that ran from Santa Rosa to Romeroville, southwest of Las Vegas, before turning south to Santa Fe and then down to Los Lunas. Fred D. Huning Sr. was instrumental in overseeing the paving of this portion of highway. As the highway construction work was ongoing, on Armistice Day in 1926 the establishment of the United State Route 66 was realized. Travelers were making the trek from the east to the west coast on this new national highway that became known as the Mother Road. California was the destination, drawing many for a variety of reasons. Oil, movies, manufacturing, military installations, Trans-Pacific trade, and agriculture were the key drivers of growth.

As his ancestors before him, Fred D. Huning Sr., Joseph F. Tondre, and many other residents of Los Lunas recognized the opportunity being presented. This induced them to incorporate on August 7, 1928.

On October 29, 1929, Black Tuesday, the nation was launched into the Great Depression. Gas stations and lodging were built along Main St. as the some 300 residents of Los Lunas witnessed a mass exodus to California seeking employment. Los Lunas became an integral stopping point on the road west... Route 66.



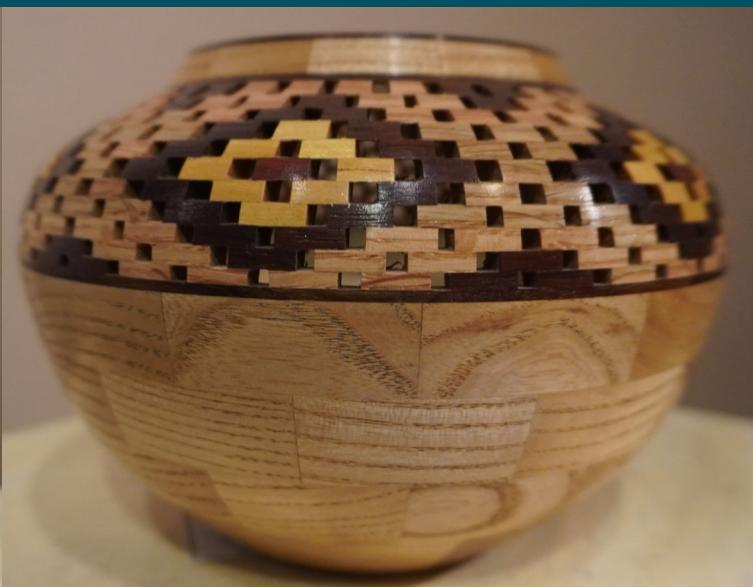
Mule trains were used to build Route 66, 1925 (Left). Climaco Aguirre gas station located on Main St. across from the Museum today (Right). (Photos: Museum of Heritage & Arts)

John Steinbeck described Route 66 in his iconic 1939 novel, *The Grapes of Wrath* as...

“...the path of a people in flight, refugees from dust and shrinking land, from thunder of tractors and shrinking ownership, from the desert’s slow northward invasion, from the twisting winds that howl up out of Texas, from floods that bring no richness to the land and steal what little richness is there. From all of these the people are in flight, and they come into [Route] 66 from tributary side roads, from the wagon tracks and the rutted country roads. [Route] 66 is the mother road, the road of flight.”

“...there’s an end to Texas. Tucumcari and Santa Rosa and into the New Mexican mountains to Albuquerque, where the road comes down from Santa Fe. Then down the gorged Rio Grande to Los Lunas and west again on 66 to Gallup, and then there’s the border of New Mexico.”

Today, only one of the era’s service stations remains on Main Street in Los Lunas on the northwest corner of the intersection of Highway 6 and Highway 314 as a testament to the glory age of the Mother Road.



Turning Point by
local artist
Irling Smith
“Enchanted New
Mexico”, the 11th
Annual Juried Art
Show Winner.



VILLAGE *of*
LOS LUNAS
NEW MEXICO