



Small Community • Big Possibilities

# ***VILLAGE of LOS LUNAS*** ***2024*** ***ANNUAL REPORT***

*Published February 14, 2025*

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR

I am pleased to present the 2024 Annual Report for the Village of Los Lunas. This document is designed as a communication tool demonstrating our commitment to transparency and accountability in the use of public funds to provide world-class municipal services.

2024 has been another notable year in terms of growth and progress for the Village of Los Lunas. As our population continues to grow, we continue our status as the second fastest-growing municipality in New Mexico. Los Lunas has emerged as a prime location for a growing technology and logistics industry, with companies like Meta expanding its Los Lunas Data Center, and Amazon beginning operations of its new ABQ2 Fulfillment Center, which has helped spur other industrial, manufacturing, commercial, and residential growth as well. In order to keep up with the demand for current and future services, the Village continues to plan and construct several key infrastructure and

facility projects, including extending water and sewer lines to the Central New Mexico Rail Park and other local neighborhoods, improving several local roads and pedestrian pathways along major transportation corridors, and completing several studies and preliminary designs for a new indoor aquatics center and new public library. We are now in search of funding to make these highly-desired and needed facilities a reality.

Of course, the most anticipated transportation infrastructure project in the region is the I-25 Second Interchange and Los Lunas Boulevard Corridor Project. This critical new roadway connection will extend from I-25 on the west to Hwy 47 on the east, relieving congestion on Main Street and providing faster and safer routes in and around Los Lunas and Valencia County. Phase one includes a new full interchange off I-25 near the Central New Mexico Correctional Facility, a new four-lane river bridge across the Rio Grande, and one new travel lane in each direction from I-25 to Hwy 47. Phase two, once funded, will add a second travel lane in each direction. The full project will be a limited access road and will include the longest river bridge in New Mexico. I am pleased to report that in 2024 we reached several important milestones for this project: (1) obtained all required environmental clearance and needed certifications, (2) secured funding to move forward with bidding phase one, and (3) advertised for bids for phase one. We anticipate awarding a bid and beginning construction in spring 2025.

In conclusion, 2024 has been another year of extraordinary growth and success! Thanks to stable leadership, a progressive and visionary governing body, and a dedicated team of exceptional employees, the Village of Los Lunas is poised and prepared for another productive and successful year in 2025!

Gregory D. Martin

Village Administrator



## ADMINISTRATION

*The Administration Department includes the functions of the Village Administrator, Municipal Clerk, and Economic Development. The Department provides strategic oversight for Village operations, interfaces with the business community for economic development, coordinates Village Council meetings, and manages public records and information.*



- Coordinated all Village Council meetings, which included 23 regular meetings and 10 special workshops.
- Provided regular updates to the Council through Monthly Department Highlights and Project Status Reports and mid-week emails, as needed.
- Produced and distributed inaugural Village of Los Lunas Annual Report on February 8, 2024.
- Overhauled and relaunched Village web site, [www.loslunasnm.gov](http://www.loslunasnm.gov).
- Oversaw the Village's main government Facebook page, which saw an increased reach of 1,800%, an increase in visits by 198%, and a 117% increase in new follows.
- Responded to well over 500 Inspection of Public Records Act (IPRA) requests.
- Supported new and future businesses through the Economic Development Division, welcoming 195 new businesses to join 1,596 already registered businesses in the Village, and responding to 35 Potential Recruitment Opportunities (PROs).
- Coordinated a Job Fair and Career Expo through the Economic Development Division, which attracted over 50 employers and 300 job seekers.

**The Village Administrator provides strategic leadership and oversight of all Village departments, guiding day-to-day operations and communicating regularly with the Governing Body.** A key function of the Administration Department is to track progress on Village Council Strategic Priorities, which are updated every four years. In 2024, the Village made notable progress on current Council Strategic Priorities, which include the I-25 Second Interchange and Los Lunas Boulevard Project, Quality of Life Improvements, Infrastructure Improvements, and Economic Development.

The Village obtained all required environmental clearances and certifications and secured funding to move forward with bidding and advertising Phase I of the Los Lunas Blvd project, for which a bid award and construction is expected to begin in spring 2025.

To advance two specific needed and desired quality of life improvement projects, the Village completed a Needs Analysis for a future Indoor Aquatic Center, including a cost analysis and conceptual design, with extensive public input and participation, and completed a preliminary design of a new Public Library. The Village is currently seeking funding for both the proposed Indoor Aquatic Center and new Public Library in order to make these facilities a reality.

In terms of Village infrastructure, in 2024, the Village made significant progress towards creating multi-modal transportation opportunities throughout the community by completing two bicycle and pedestrian pathway improvement projects: NM 314 from Romeroville Road to Griego Road and South Los Lentos from Aspen Road to Morris Road.

Finally, the Village continued its efforts to support economic development throughout the Village by including a Main Street Overlay in the zoning code

## ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT (cont'd)

update to support a thriving business district on Main Street, and by presenting tools to support affordable housing development, including downpayment assistance programs and direct investment in qualified projects.

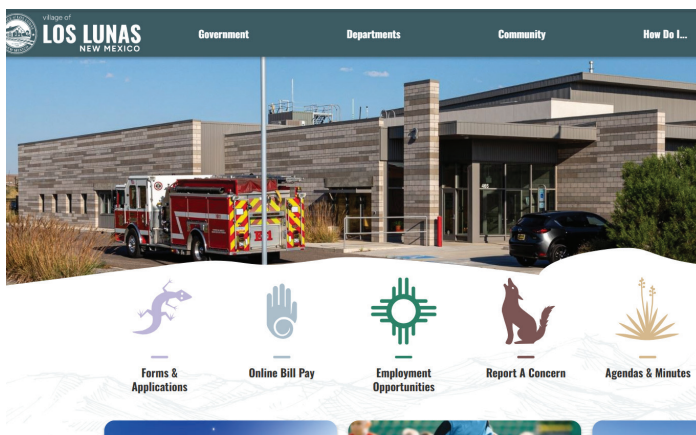
In 2024, the Administration Department took on a number of critical projects to improve communications between the Village and the public, effectively manage public records, and plan for future needs. In May, after a six-month effort, the Village website was completely redesigned and relaunched, providing a modern and easy-to-navigate avenue for public information and community events. Following the relaunch of the website, the department overhauled the public records inspection (IPRA) process by creating an online submission form for records requests and establishing a central point of contact for responses. Finally, at the end of the year, the Village engaged with Wilson & Company to complete a Strategic Facilities Plan, looking at current and projected future staffing and facility needs in our Village Hall and the Transportation Center.

The Administration Department was also restructured this year to include the Economic Development Division, facilitating a streamlined process for supporting the Village's economic development goals. In 2024, Los Lunas saw continued growth while still supporting local businesses. The New Business Luncheon Initiative, in partnership with the Small Business Development Center, provided quarterly



opportunities for local entrepreneurs to connect with resources and agencies, and a new partnership with the Greater Valencia County Chamber of Commerce provides additional support for ribbon-cuttings and other events. The division also worked to bring in new investment to the Village by responding to nearly a dozen leads on industrial property and submitting sites as Potential Recruitment Opportunities (PROs) through statewide and regional economic development agencies.

The Village's Economic Development Division also coordinated a number of new events in 2024, including a Job Fair & Career Expo and an Oktoberfest Celebration. The Job Fair & Career Expo, which was a resounding success, attracting over 50 employers and 300 job seekers, with numerous on-the-spot interviews and job offers, and the Oktoberfest celebration brought the community together to enjoy local food and entertainment in a family-friendly event.



## ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT (cont'd)

### LOCAL DWI PROGRAM

*The Village of Los Lunas/Valencia County LDWI Program is a county-wide program with the Village of Los Lunas serving as fiscal agent, overseen through the Administration Department.*

- *Total offenders screened: 125*
- *Average age of offenders: 37*
- *Three compliance officers monitored and tracked 128 total clients, 121 of which were successfully closed once the clients completed their probation requirements.*
- *Funded thirteen operations through the VLL/VC Underage Drinking Taskforce.*
- *Conducted 259 prevention-based activities throughout the community reaching 2,648 participants.*
- *Referred 88 offenders to treatment, resulting in 64 successful completions.*

**In FY2024 (July 2023-June 2024), the program funded Compliance, Coordination, Planning & Evaluation, Enforcement, Prevention, and Treatment services.** The LDWI Program coordinates the DWI Planning Council, and is fortunate to have an active and supportive DWI Planning Council that advocates for community collaboration.

The LDWI program partners with community organizations to fulfill its mission and maintains an active role in the Valencia County Community Wellness Council. The program also coordinated the Youth Success Core, which is largely focused on partnering with Teen Court, Juvenile Probation, Reception and Assessment Center (RAC) and Restorative Justice for referrals. The curriculum used is Envision Your Future and it is coupled with community service/civic projects and mentoring. In FY2024, the LDWI program conducted 47 1-hour Envision Your Future sessions and 6 2-hour Alcohol Literacy Challenge classes.





## HUMAN RESOURCES

*Human Resources focuses on attracting well-qualified, diverse candidates who are committed to providing outstanding customer service and exceptional work.*



- *Village Council approved the continuation of the three-year progressive pay plan that was recommended by the 2023 Compensation and Classification Study, allowing the Village of Los Lunas to remain a leader among our peers for employee compensation.*
- *Processed 1,081 job applications for Village job opportunities, a 45% increase from 2023. Our job postings were viewed 32,417 times on our website, creating a conversion rate (views vs applications) of 3.3% which is well above the industry average of 1%.*
- *Continued phase 2 of the implementation of NEOGOV, a Human Resources Information System (HRIS) software which connects the Village to Governmentjobs.com, a nationwide job search resource. This software has streamlined the HR processes, better serving our external applicants as well as our internal systems, creating a higher, more efficient level of service from HR.*
- *Completed the first full scale rewrite of the Village of Los Lunas Personnel Ordinance since 2007. The new Personnel Ordinance clarified and updated our personnel policies in line with the current work environment. The new ordinance was approved by Village Council on February 23, 2024.*

**The Human Resources Department works to recruit and retain a skilled workforce so that Los Lunas remains an outstanding place to live, work and play.** Every year, HR focuses on employee retention, ensuring that the Village is truly one of the best places to work. In 2024, our turnover rate was 13.1%, a slight increase from 2023 but still well under the industry average of 16-20%. In addition, our vacancy rate has shown only a marginal increase from 3.2% in 2023 to 3.7% this year.

HR managed 50 recruitments for full and part-time positions across all Village departments. Each summer, HR hires approximately 60 seasonal youth employees to work in our Summer Recreation and our Summer Youth Employment programs, providing valuable work experience to our local youth.

Employee wellbeing is a major component of the Human Resources Department. HR works to ensure that our employees are well taken care of inside and outside the workplace. The Village offers a robust benefits package which is a leader among our peers.

This year the HR Department took part in 13 job fairs throughout the region. HR Staff also participated in several outreach events with Los Lunas Schools, performing mock interviews with students to prepare them for college entrance interviews and for entering the workforce.

HR also coordinates the Appreciating YOU program, which promotes employee enrichment and engagement, holding quarterly events for Village employees and their families.



## FINANCE

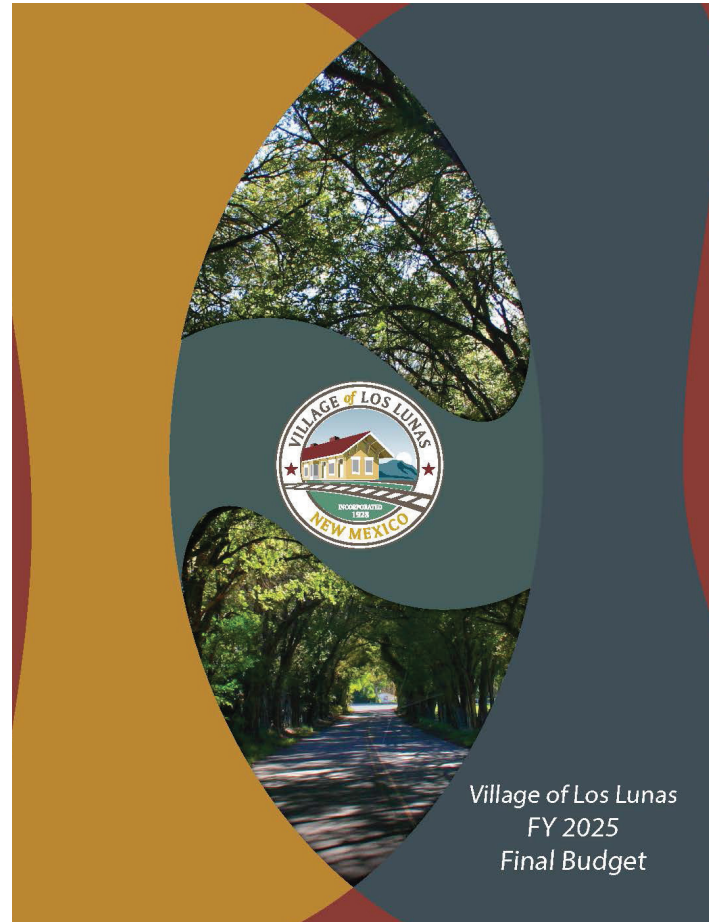
*The Finance Department works to support Village staff and internal operations by providing oversight of revenue received by the Village.*

- *Obtained an unmodified or “clean” audit opinion from an external audit firm.*
- *Received the Government Finance Officers Association’s (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the FY 2025 budget. This award is granted to entities who show “commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of government budgeting.”*
- *Provided oversight for 35 individual funds, to include budgeting, monitoring expenditures, and fulfillment of related reporting requirements.*
- *Processed over \$46.8 million of vendor invoices.*

**In 2024, the Finance Department made significant advancements to enhance efficiency, accountability, and operational effectiveness.** One of the most impactful changes has been the research of a new banking system, streamlining financial transactions and improving security measures. This transition will continue through 2025 and the modernized system will allow for faster processing, enhanced tracking capabilities, and better integration with financial reporting tools, ultimately contributing to a more transparent and accurate financial management process as the Village grows.

To further strengthen leadership and oversight within the department, an Assistant Finance Director position has been added. This role provides crucial support in financial planning, budgeting, and auditing functions, ensuring that key financial strategies are executed effectively. The addition of this position enhances the department’s ability to manage complex financial operations while maintaining compliance with policies and regulations.

Additionally, the Finance Office has also implemented a new vendor application process. This system ensures that all vendors meet the necessary qualifications and compliance standards before conducting business with the organization. The



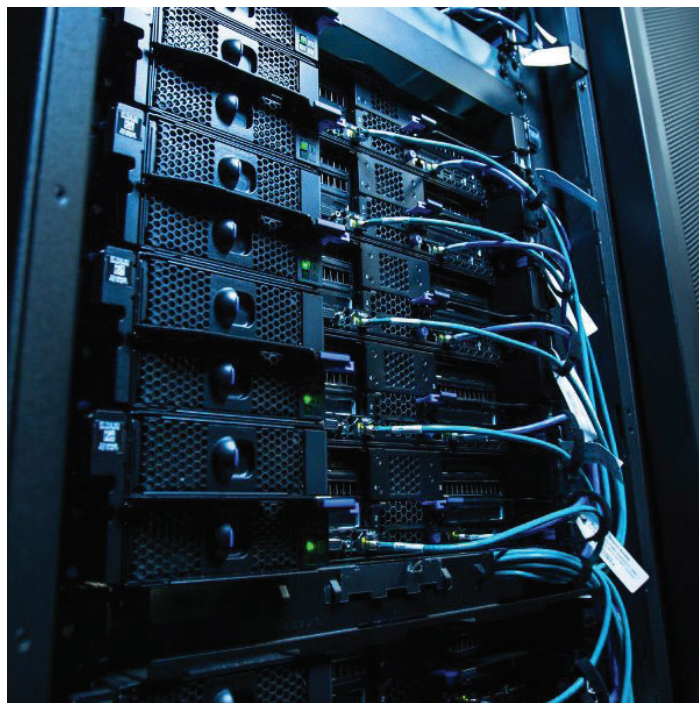
Village of Los Lunas  
FY 2025  
Final Budget

application includes thorough documentation requirements, verification steps, and approval workflows to enhance transparency and reduce risks. By streamlining vendor onboarding, the new process improves efficiency, minimizes potential fraud, and strengthens relationships with trusted vendors, ultimately contributing to a more secure and well-managed financial operation. These improvements collectively contribute to a more robust and responsive Finance Office, positioning it for continued success and growth.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT)

*The IT Department oversees technology, equipment and software for the Village, coordinating regular service and compliance with cybersecurity.*

- *Processed 1177 Internal Service Requests representing a 36% increase from 2023, 111 of which were high priority.*
- *Supported 607 End-User devices representing a 13% increase over 2023: 351 Windows, 232 iOS, and 24 Android.*
- *Supported 37 software systems representing a 3% reduction over 2023, 71 of which are managed in the cloud representing in a 29% increase over 2023 in cloud-based systems resulting in significant decreases in on premises systems thereby reducing administrative overhead.*
- *Provided cybersecurity awareness training to reduce the number of phish-prone employees. The Village had an impressive 4.5% of phish-prone employees compared to the government industry benchmark of 17%. This has remained relatively stable during 2024.*



**Information Technology has grown minimally over the past year in order to serve the technology needs of a growing community and the increased cybersecurity risks worldwide.** In 2024, IT focused on three primary objectives; improving network and datacenter infrastructure for resilience and security, migrating systems to the cloud while upgrading and maintaining local server software upgrades, and building a more compliant and robust cybersecurity operation to prevent catastrophic cyber attacks on the Village IT infrastructure.

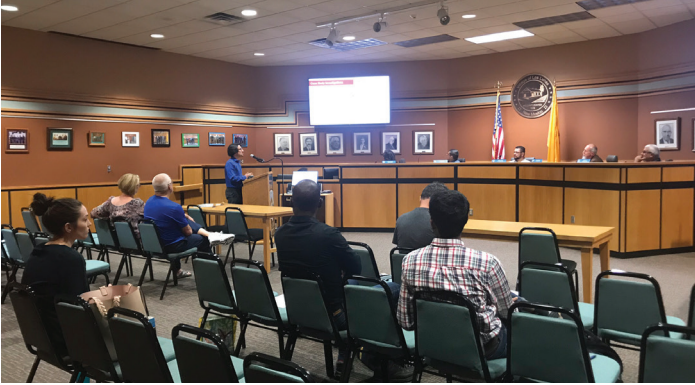
By partnering with private industry and implementing redundant fiber network links between critical Village sites, we have been able to quietly increase the resilience of the Village network, substantially reducing the number and duration of network outages. This allows the Village to maintain governmental functions in the event of fiber cable damage, equipment failure or adverse weather events.

By upgrading local server software that was beyond its service life and continuing to transition software and services to a cloud-based environment when strategically warranted, we have increased reliability and security across our systems environment. This allowed us to solidify our backup and business continuity capability in the event of systems failure or Cyber Attack.

Cybersecurity has also been a major focus. A new Risk Assessment strategy with software was implemented along with increased email security and visibility, as well as Managed Detection and Response further increasing our ability to detect and respond to Cybersecurity Incidents. We also began the implementation of cybersecurity solutions provided by the State of New Mexico under federal grants with full implementation to be completed in 2025.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

*Community Development includes the Planning and Code Enforcement/Animal Control Divisions, handling both new growth and code compliance.*



- *Planning processed a total of 295 residential permits, 262 of which were for new construction. In addition, Planning processed a total of 18 commercial permits, 2 of which were for new construction.*
- *Planning also coordinated applications and public hearings for 17 land use/zoning cases and 10 subdivisions.*
- *Code Enforcement opened a total of 2,332 cases, of which 2,269 have been closed. This included the issuance of 604 second notices, 310 third Notices of Violation, and 131 Citations.*
- *Animal Control opened a total of 1,109 cases, of which 1,042 have been closed. This included the issuance of 589 second notices, 401 third Notices of Violation, and 285 Citations.*

**Los Lunas is one of the fastest growing communities in New Mexico, and the Community Development Department worked this year to to support the community, ensure regulations, and procedures are up to date with today's development trends and issues.**

The Village of Los Lunas has not comprehensively updated the Municipal Zoning Code since 2001. Over time, amendments were made to address specific issues, ensure compliance with federal and state statutes, and promote best practices. However, these piecemeal changes have resulted in a document that is challenging for

residents, staff, and developers to read, administer, and enforce.

Beginning in 2023, the Village along with Consensus Planning began to develop a revised code, and in 2024, the Planning Division continued refining the code and focused on community outreach to gather feedback. This effort included attending community events such as the Easter Egg Hunt, the 4th of July Parade, and other smaller events. Staff also engaged residents directly by tabling at local establishments during lunch and dinner hours. Additionally, Consensus Planning and Village staff held ten (10) Council Workshops open to the public to present revisions and obtain input and direction from the Village Council.

As of December 2024, the proposed final draft of the Municipal Zoning Code is on track for a final decision by the Village Council in January 2025.

An ongoing effort within Community Development, across all divisions, is file management and digitizing records. Our Permit Technicians and Planning Intern worked diligently to scan and archive permanent property records to establish order and facilitate ease of research.

In addition, the Department has initiated contact with industry-leading permitting, land use, code enforcement, and animal control software companies to streamline our operations and maintain transparency with residents and developers.

Finally, Community Development has worked to support large projects within the Village, such as the right-of-way acquisition and planning for the Los Lunas Boulevard project, Valencia County Hospital, Amazon, Meta, and several others. The Department prides itself on assisting residents and small business owners in constructing new homes, establishing businesses, and using their property to support economic growth and community resilience.



## LIBRARY

*The Library Department works to bring information, ideas and people together, and includes the Los Lunas Public Library and the Los Lunas Museum of Heritage and Arts.*



- Welcomed 54,974 visitors to the Public Library, and 8,101 to the Los Lunas Museum of Heritage and Arts.
- 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.

The Public Library benefits from the FCC's E-Rate program, which makes telecommunications and information services more affordable for schools and libraries. The funding from the Universal Service Fund E-Rate provided \$2,766.91 in discounts for telecommunications, Internet access, and internal connections for the library this year.

The Los Lunas Public Library and its branch library the Los Lunas Museum of Heritage & Arts received \$15,528.57 through New Mexico State Grants in Aid and \$24,513.98 from New Mexico General Obligation Grant funds. These funds were utilized for library collections, professional development, and equipment.

The highest circulated item from the library's collection was the New Mexico FamilyPass. The FamilyPass is a partnership between New Mexico State Library with local libraries made possible by the Department of Cultural Affairs. The Family Pass provides free admission (up to 6 people) to 16 state museums and historic sites.

The library also offers an Explora! Science Center & Children's Museum pass. Each pass allows up to 4 visitors admission to Explora! The pass grants access to over 250 interactive exhibits and activities in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics).

With the help of a Community Action Grant from Meta, the Explora Science Center & Children's Museum provided STEAM programming to children, teens and families afterschool and during the summer. The library was also able to offer a STEAM outreach program for students in the Los Lunas Schools with Meta's help. Tina Collister, a teacher at Katherine Gallegos Elementary School, stated when asked how she would improve the program, "The library staff was absolutely wonderful, they kept students engaged and excited about the activities. Entertaining 6th grade can be very challenging, and the staff left



## LIBRARY (cont'd)



In addition, the museum offered several tours to historic sites in the area. One example was an engaging tour to the Salinas Pueblo Missions, that provided a deeper look into the fascinating history of the region. Led by knowledgeable guides, the tour took visitors to the historic ruins of the Abó, Quarai, and Gran Quivira missions, where they explored the remnants of ancient Puebloan villages and the Spanish churches that were part of early colonial efforts. Through this experience, participants learned about the cultural interactions between the Puebloan people and Spanish missionaries, the challenges they faced, and the lasting impact on the region's heritage. The museum's tour offers a rich narrative that combines history, architecture, and the natural beauty of the Salinas Pueblo Missions, making it an unforgettable educational experience.



with the students wanting more. I don't think you need to do anything different." Based on additional feedback, library staff plan on sending reminders to the teachers as well as schedules of happenings in the STEAM Lab at the library after school.

The museum hosted several notable events, including the Elections Past Exhibit, which explored the history of voting and democracy, and Veterans of Valencia County, a tribute to local servicemen and women. Additionally, the 11th Annual Juried Art Show showcased diverse artistic talent. Irling Smith emerged as the winner, earning a solo exhibit titled *Turning Points*, which featured his intricate wood bowl and vase designs, celebrated for their craftsmanship and creativity. One of the many attractions that earned the Los Lunas Museum of Heritage & Arts the "Best Tourist Spot" in the Valencia County News Bulletin's "2024 Best of Valencia County" edition.

Overall, the library and museum had a remarkably productive year, filled with engaging programs, captivating exhibits, and community-focused events that brought people of all ages together. From educational workshops and historical tours to art shows and cultural celebrations, the institutions fostered learning and creativity throughout the year. The festive season brought the perfect conclusion to our year, as Santa and Mrs. Claus paid a special visit, delighting children and families with holiday cheer. Their presence added a magical touch to a successful year, leaving the community and staff looking forward to more memorable moments in the year to come.



## POLICE

*The Police Department works to Build Relationships, Solve Problems, and Make a Difference by delivering continuous public safety-related services to the community.*



- Responded to 33,422 calls for service from VRECC, down almost 5,000 calls from 2023.
- Responded to over 10,000 traffic-related calls throughout the year, a significant increase from last year's 9,000. These included 8125 traffic stops, 975 crashes, 98 hit-and-runs, and 16 vehicle-vs-pedestrian crashes.
- Issued 2,487 e-citations for speeding through the automated speed enforcement program, which ran for its first full year in 2024.
- Onboarded 2 new Police Officers and 1 civilian employee.
- Promoted 2 current employees to various ranks within the Police Department.
- Participated in 10 community events.

**The Los Lunas Police Department continued efforts in 2024 to use new technologies to address community challenges.** Traffic related issues continue to be a priority for the Los Lunas Police Department (LLPD) in 2024, with these calls accounting for approximately one third of all calls for service. The automated speed enforcement program has continued to be an asset to our traffic unit as it supplements officer's abilities to monitor multiple areas at a time. We have observed drivers reducing speed in the deployment areas which adds to the safety of our community. This program was initiated in

2023, and we look forward to beginning our second full year of automated speed enforcement in 2025.

Also launched in late 2023, the LLPD drone program continues to be an invaluable asset to the department. Regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as a Small Unmanned Aircraft System (or sUAS), drones are able to show an overview of a crime scene or search an area within seconds, and with this technology, the department was able to apprehend multiple fleeing criminal offenders swiftly and safely. LLPD currently has 7 sUAS devices deployed to Patrol, Criminal Investigations, and the Tactical Team. Not only are all of the department's pilots certified with both LLPD and the FAA, we also offer accredited sUAS classes to other law enforcement agencies around NM. Given the success of the drone program, LLPD is on track to purchase more aircraft to assist in operations.

The Los Lunas Police Department actively seeks and is awarded outside funding every year, and 2024 was no exception. The department received nearly \$1.5 million from the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration for our law enforcement allotment, new police units, and recruiting and retention for police officers. The Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant 2024, Walmart Spark Good Grant, and Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program were also awarded in 2024.





## FIRE

*The Fire Department is responsible for the preservation of human life through fire protection and rescue services, public awareness of fire safety, and managing fire prevention.*

- Responded to a total of 4,015 calls, including 630 fire-related incidents and 3,385 EMS responses.
- Conducted 537 Fire & Life Safety Inspections, including 86 re-inspections and 21 mobile food trucks.
- Performed 24 plan reviews.
- Held 116 public relations events for the community.
- Completed nearly 4500 cumulative hours of firefighter training.
- Secured funding for an additional fire engine, further enhancing our ability to respond quickly to emergencies.

**The Los Lunas Fire Department continues to evolve in response to both the growing needs of our community and the expansion of our staff and equipment.** In 2024, we marked another significant year of growth, safety, and service. Our ongoing efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of the residents of Los Lunas are evident in our dedication to emergency response, public education, and continuous improvement.

In 2024, the Fire Department responded to more EMS calls and fewer fire-related incidents than 2023, although the overall call volume was virtually the same. Fire-related incidents dropped by nearly 200 calls, while EMS increased by over 250. These numbers demonstrate our commitment to being there when the community needs us the most, whether it's a fire emergency or a medical crisis.

In addition to our emergency responses, our department plays a crucial role in ensuring that buildings within the Village adhere to fire safety codes and standards. Through the office of the Division Chief of Fire Prevention and Emergency Management, the Fire Department completes required plan review for incoming development plans and performs

acceptance testing for fire prevention equipment. Fire & Life Safety inspections for local businesses are a critical component of the department's work, with over 500 inspections conducted in 2024. The Fire Department also participates in community events, which include presentations to Homeowner's Associations, first aid classes at local schools, and community outreach at public events like National Night Out.



In 2024, the Fire Department made several significant investments in equipment and personnel, which enhance our department's capacity and readiness. The acquisition of a new fire engine and continued investment in state-of-the-art self-contained breathing apparatus have improved our firefighters' safety and operational effectiveness. In order to plan ahead for our growing community, funding for our next fire engine has already been secured.

With 35 dedicated firefighters now on staff, we continue to build a well-trained, well-equipped team capable of handling all types of emergencies. Together, we move forward to create a safer and more resilient community for all.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

*The Parks and Recreation Department provides high-quality recreational programming for residents of all ages, maintains all Village facilities, and enriches quality of life for the community through safe and well-maintained parks, facilities, and open spaces.*

- *Provided ongoing maintenance for 37 facilities and 17 parks.*
- *Assisted in groundskeeping for 24 USSSA softball and baseball tournaments.*
- *Over 3,500 youth and adults participated in indoor and outdoor recreation activities, a slight increase from 2023's 3,300 participants.*
- *Welcomed 76,000 visitors to Daniel Fernandez Recreation Center, up slightly from last year's 75,000.*
- *Largest ever King of the Hill Half Marathon/10K/5K run with 415 runners.*
- *Over 12,000 attendees at special events throughout the year.*
- *Open Space Division held outdoor programs for over 360 adult and youth participants locally and around the state.*
- *Strong presence on social media, with 62,300 visits, 127K reach and 940 new likes.*

**The Parks and Recreation Department's endeavors stand as testament to their commitment to community enhancement.** Through the Facilities Maintenance Division, we have made significant improvements to our community facilities, enhancing comfort, efficiency, and accessibility for residents and visitors. Key projects included the remodeling of the restrooms at Daniel Fernandez Recreation Center, the installation of a new HVAC system and furnace, and upgraded HVAC units at the Police Department. Energy efficiency was also a priority, with LED lighting installed at the Los Lunas Public Library, Wellness Center, and Daniel Fernandez Recreation Center. Infrastructure improvements continued with the addition of crusher fines at Bosque River Park trail and upgrades to the parking lot at Daniel Fernandez Memorial Park and Sports Complex. A

major milestone was the \$285,000 renovation of the IT Building, ensuring modernized and functional space for operations. Additionally, enhancements to the San Antonio Walking Trail further support our commitment to outdoor recreation and community well-being. These projects reflect our ongoing investment in creating a safe, sustainable, and thriving environment for all. As stewards of public well-being, the Parks and Recreation Department remains dedicated to fostering an environment that enhances the overall quality of life for residents of the Village of Los Lunas.



As the Village grows and as we expand our facilities, participation in recreation activities and special events also increases every year. For the second year in a row, the King of the Hill Race was the largest ever, increasing last year's participation by over 100 runners. Special events – which include an Easter Egg Hunt, parades and festivals for Independence Day and Christmas, and a Halloween Bash – also saw a significant increase in participation this year. In 2024, the Village hosted the 2nd Annual Western



## PARKS AND RECREATION (cont'd)



New Mexico University NCAA Division II Women's Softball Tournament, drawing 8 teams from around New Mexico, Colorado, Texas and Canada. This major event drew around 2,500 attendees. The Parks and Recreation Department partners with a diverse array of organizations in addition to Western New Mexico University (WNMU), including United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA), Los Lunas Consolidated Schools, Youth Sports Organizations, and non-profits throughout the county, with the shared goal of enriching community life through recreational activities. In 2024, our non-profit partnerships included Young American Football League, Enchantment Little League, Pop Warner Football, Zia Sports Academy, and The Grind. These partnerships exemplify our commitment to providing diverse and accessible recreational opportunities for all residents.

Open spaces in Los Lunas, including El Cerro de Los Lunas and River Park, serve as versatile venues for outdoor programming, offering a wide range of recreational activities, from hiking, archery, skiing, rafting, snowboarding, fishing, tubing. The Open Space Division is vital for the Parks and Recreation Department, serving as a dynamic platform for education, maintenance, and outdoor programming.

- *Conducted educational Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) training for 80 youth and adults and conducted over 320 hours of OHV patrols.*
- *Participated in local school programs and special events to review the safety of rock climbing, park rules and OHV laws, interacting with over 1500 youth.*
- *Performed maintenance on over 800 check dams and 50 pit tanks, which work together to manage storm drainage in El Cerro open space.*
- *Maintained the OHV training site, 14 miles of trails, 255 Village-wide security cameras and 375 cyber locks throughout the year.*
- *Issued 176 warnings/citations for illegal parking and overnight camping.*
- *Partnered with the Santa Fe Police Department to assist their officers in rope rescue training and open space patrolling.*

The Open Space Division regularly seeks outside funding for programming, marketing and education, and 2024 was no exception. This year, the division secured \$10,000 in grant funding from the New Mexico Game and Fish Department for OHV Patrols, and \$5,000 for OHV safety gear for Park Rangers. In addition, Open Space secured a \$12,000 Outdoor Marketing Grant through the NM Outdoor Recreation Department to support outdoor recreation programs in Los Lunas. By prioritizing the preservation and utilization of open spaces, the Parks and Recreation Department ensures that residents have access to enriching educational experiences and sustainable recreational opportunities in their natural surroundings.

## PUBLIC WORKS

*The Public Works Department supports all major infrastructure in the Village through several Divisions: Water, Wastewater, Streets, Solid Waste, and Fleet Maintenance.*

- Completed 4 miles of roadway and sidewalk improvements, including ADA pedestrian and bike improvements throughout the Village, the NM 6 Jubilee Trail Project, North Los Lentes Rd Phase I, South Los Lentes Rd Phases I and II, and Gensen Rd, for a total cost of \$3.8 million.
- Completed the 60kW solar facility installation at the new Water Division Office and new Water Well #7. The entire water production and treatment facility operates on 100% renewable energy production.
- Completed Phase I of the construction of the NM 6 18" Waterline Project to the Central NM Rail Park.
- Completed the construction of the NM 6 Sewer Transmission Line Project. Installed a 4 mile 18" sewer line from Sand Sage Rd to the Central NM Rail Park.
- Completed the NM 6 Intersection Traffic Signal Improvement Project from Carson Dr. to Los Morros Rd.
- Completed 842 work orders for Village vehicles and equipment in Fleet Maintenance.
- Processed household waste for recycling at the Recycling Center, including 747 tons of cardboard, 75 tons of mixed paper, 10.36 tons of aluminum, 16 tons of plastic, and 645.76 tons of green waste.
- Removed/replaced and installed 1 mile of water and sewer service lines.

**The Public Works Department completed several large-scale projects in 2024, improving our utility service, road conditions and waste management Village-wide.** Phase I of the NM 6 Waterline to the Central NM Rail Park was completed and placed into service, and we anticipate completion of Phase II by July 2025. This waterline supported the new Amazon Fulfillment Center and removed the water well at the Los Lunas Transfer Station, which could not be used for potable drinking water. Phase II will extend water services to the Central NM Rail Park and support future economic development projects. This project was funded through multiple sources, including a US Department of Commerce EDA Grant of \$1.3 million, a local grant match of \$1.3 million, and Local Economic Development Act (LEDA) funds of \$6.5 million, for a total cost of \$9.1 million for both phases.

The NM 6 Sewer Transmission Line Project was completed from Sand Sage to the Central NM Rail Park. This project has taken three (3) years and was completed with \$3.9 million in funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Previously, in 2021 the Village of Los Lunas was awarded \$1.5 million in funds from the NM Legislature, bringing the total cost of this sewer line extension to \$5.4 million. This new sewer line supports the Amazon Fulfillment Center, the Los Lunas Transfer Station and future wastewater





## PUBLIC WORKS (cont'd)



needs of the Huning Ranch Business and Technology Park and Central NM Rail Park.

The New Mexico 6 Traffic Signal Improvement Project was completed through a partnership between Meta, the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT), and the Village of Los Lunas. Meta commissioned and paid for a traffic study and all traffic signal equipment upgrades from Los Morros Rd to Carson Dr. NMDOT installed all monitoring equipment, including the automated traffic signal performance measures system (ATSPM). As the community continues to grow, traffic continues to create congestion at peak times. The Traffic Study provided data to understand how traffic flowed through various NM 6 (Main Street) intersections, including during peak times. All current traffic signal equipment is required to be removed and replaced with remote monitoring systems that would consist of cellular modems and CCTV cameras (advanced radar detectors). This remote monitoring could be programmed into one traffic management software and will adjust signal timing and offsets based on traffic movement, traffic patterns, and public complaints.

The new solar facilities at the Water Division Office and Well #7 pump and treatment facility are the third and fourth solar facilities installed in Public Works. It is designed to produce 60kW of solar electricity. This can save \$200,000 per year in operation costs and can produce enough power to offset the carbon emissions of hundreds of trees each year. The total cost of the project is \$195,000.

The Public Works Department continues to utilize the Los Lunas Bicycle Master Plan. It is a tool used to display the Village of Los Lunas commitment to providing alternative modes of transportation, including offering healthy recreational opportunities in the community. The South Los Lentes Improvement Project Phase II is completed and was funded by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) at \$1.8 million with a Village match of \$1.0 million. The project consisted of a new roadway, roadway striping, curb and gutter, stormwater drainage, ADA sidewalks on the full length of the roadway, and a new 10' bicycle and pedestrian path with trail lighting.



