



# VILLAGE NEWS



Small Community • Big Possibilities

Volume 26 - Number 1 - January 2022

## BEST OFS IN LOS LUNAS

Daniel D. Fernandez Memorial Park was voted "Best Park" in the "Best Of" Valencia County 2021 sponsored by the Valencia County News-Bulletin.

The News-Bulletin pointed out that "for more than 40 years the park has been a go-to spot for many local events. It contains numerous sports and outdoor facilities such as tennis courts, soccer and baseball fields, horseshoe pits, and a new splash pad which opened to the public for the first time this past summer."

The park is located at 1103 NM Hwy 314, phone 505 839-3845.

For the second year in a row, Los Lunas Fire Chief John Gabaldon was voted Best Firefighter in Valencia County.

Gabaldon was first hired as a career firefighter with the department in 1988. He became chief in 2016.

Other 2021 "Best ofs" associated with Los Lunas include:

Teofilo's Restaurant won for Best Sopaipilla, Best Green Chile and Best Salsa. The restaurant, located at 144 Main St. NE, phone 505 865-5511, was opened in 1985 by Pete and Hortencia Torres. Their daughters, Johnnah Torres and Joell Himeur, now operate the business.

This is the fourth year in a row that Teofilo's has won Best Green Chile.

Nancy Montoya won Best Real Estate Agent. She works for Century 21, 2601 Main St. SW, phone 505 866-4721.

Montoya was recently awarded the 2020 Grand Centurion™ Award, a prestigious award given to Century 21 agents.

Manny's Fine Pastries. 515 Main St. SE, phone 505 865-7082, won for Best Bakery.

Manny's has been family-owned and operated for 25 years.

Mario's Barbershop won for Best Barbershop for the second year in a row. It is located at 2210 Sun Ranch Loop, Suite C, phone 505 550-9473.

Planet Fitness won for Best Gym, a first-time honor for the facility located at 1950 Ken Haynes Road, phone 505 565-5506.

Best Place to Get a Sweet Treat was awarded to Teri's Sweet Garden, 120 Main St. SW, phone 505 865-5834, for the third year in a row.

The Los Lunas branch of the Nusenda Credit Union won for Best Financial Institution. Located at 320 Main St. NE, phone 505 889-7755, Nusenda is the state's largest credit union in membership and staff.

RAKS Building Supply, 108 Carson Drive, phone 505 865-1100, won for Best Hardware / Lumber Store. A fifth time winner, RAKS has been in business since 1986 and has expanded to five locations ranging from Edgewood to Socorro.

Rutilo's Restaurant, 2350 Main St., phone 505 565-2055, won Best Restaurant of Valencia County. The restaurant has won in other food categories, but this is the first for Best Restaurant.

## JARAMILLO PRESENTED PLAQUE

At the final 2021 Village Council meeting, Los Lunas Mayor Charles Griego presented outgoing Village Councilor Phillip Jaramillo with a plaque commemorating his time serving the citizens of Council District Four and the citizens of Los Lunas.

Jaramillo was appointed to the Council District Four seat in May 2018 following the death of Councilwoman Paulette Sanchez-Montoya in April 2018. He served on the council until Dec. 31, 2021.

## EMPLOYEE NOW CERTIFIED

Village Water Superintendent Scott White has met the requirements for utility operator certification adopted by the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission pursuant to the Utility Operator Certification Act.

White is now certified as a Utility Operator authorized to operate and maintain Water Supply Level 4 by the New Mexico Environment Department.

In addition, White will be the first certified Water Supply Level 4 operator within the Village of Los Lunas.

A level 4 operator ensures water quality is produced and delivered to the community by experts in their field of expertise.

**CHARLES GRIEGO**

MAYOR

[griegoc@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:griegoc@loslunasnm.gov)

**GINO M. ROMERO**

COUNCILMAN

[romerog@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:romerog@loslunasnm.gov)

**NAITHAN GURULE**

POLICE CHIEF

[ngurule@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:ngurule@loslunasnm.gov)

**DR. JAMES RUNYON**

COUNCILMAN

[runyonj@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:runyonj@loslunasnm.gov)

**CRUZ MUÑOZ**

COUNCILMAN

[munozc@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:munozc@loslunasnm.gov)

**JOHN GABALDON**

FIRE CHIEF

[jgabaldon@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:jgabaldon@loslunasnm.gov)

**CHRISTOPHER S. ORTIZ**

COUNCILMAN

[ortizc@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:ortizc@loslunasnm.gov)

**AVILIO CHAVEZ**

MUNICIPAL JUDGE

[avchavez@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:avchavez@loslunasnm.gov)

**GREGORY D. MARTIN**

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR

[marting@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:marting@loslunasnm.gov)

## LOCAL DWI PROGRAM

*This is the first part of a series about the local DWI program.*

The Village of Los Lunas / Valencia County Local DWI (VLL / VC LDWI) program is administered through the Village of Los Lunas as the fiscal agent and serves all of Valencia County. DWI stands for Driving While Intoxicated.

The program funded the following components in Fiscal Year 2019: Compliance, Coordination, Planning and Evaluation, Enforcement, Prevention, and Treatment.

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

The VLL / VC LDWI program partners with the Rocky Mountain Offenders Management Systems (RMOMS) to oversee alternative sentence services and Valencia Shelter Services for the Domestic Violence services.

### LDWI Funding:

- \$437,881.00 = Distribution Grant
- \$86,000 = Grant
- \$119,096 = Administrative In-kind
- \$13,125.00 = Collected Fees

### Village of Los Lunas / Valencia County LDWI Data Between 2014 and 2019 --

- In 2019 Valencia County was responsible for 5.3% (388 of 7,214) total DWI arrests in New Mexico.
- Alcohol-related motor vehicle traffic crash deaths decreased from a rate of 6.8 in 2013-2017 to 3.9 in 2014-2018. This rate is lower than the state rate of 5.3.
- The number of alcohol-related crashes in Valencia County reduced between 2017 and 2018 by 12 crashes (53 to 41) with DWI-alcohol-involved crashes decreasing steadily in Valencia County since 2015 with 58 crashes to 41 crashes in 2018.
- Alcohol-involved teen fatalities have remained at zero since 2015.
- In 2019, the District Court had 35 cases with a 45.7% conviction rate.
- In 2019, the Magistrate Courts had 353 cases with a 43.6% conviction rate.

## DWI PLANNING COUNCIL

The VLL / VC LDWI Program has a very active and supportive DWI Planning Council which advocates for community collaboration to increase conviction rates, successful outcomes in probation / compliance, access to effective treatment, and the implementation of evidence-based prevention activities, programs, and policies community wide.

The Planning Council has twelve members representing more than six categories including courts, law enforcement, health council, the Department of Health, clergy, and the Juvenile Justice Board.

General Board membership has active representation from Magistrate Courts, St. Matthew's Church, law enforcement, the Community Wellness Council, the Department of Health, Youth Development Inc., DWI Drug Court, Valencia Shelter Services, Office of Substance Abuse Prevention.

Also, Full Circle Recovery, NM Veterans Administration, Juvenile Justice Board, TNT Boxing and Youth Mentoring, VLL / VC Police Athletic League, NM Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and community members.

## KING OF THE HILL MARCH 5

King of the Hill 2022 has been scheduled for Saturday, March 5, 2022.

King of the Hill offers 100% trail running at 5k, 10k, and half marathon distances.

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

The course features beautiful views and large elevation changes on the 10k and half marathon courses. The event has grown every year, and this the 6th annual so it could be the biggest and best yet!

Entry prices vary with type of race, distance, and day of entry. Check the Village website, [loslunasnm.gov](http://loslunasnm.gov), for specific prices. Entry is also possible on that website.

Interested in sponsorship opportunities? Contact Marcos Castillo at 505 352-7662

## LIGHT PARADE WINNERS

Nearly 1,000 votes were cast to decide the winners of the Village of Los Lunas Light Parade held the beginning of December.

Cash prizes were awarded to the top five vote getters from the parade.

Top five are:

1st place – Dance with Me which received 46 percent of the votes cast and received \$500.

2nd place – Valencia High School Varsity Cheerleaders who received \$400.

3rd place – Alliance Fast Pitch who received \$300.

4th place – University of New Mexico Valencia Campus Student Nursing Association received \$200.

5th place -- Los Lunas High School football team received \$100.

## LIGHT UP THE VILLAGE WINNERS

Winners of the annual Light Up the Village contest were:

### Business owners

Edward Jones with 314 Facebook likes

Jubilee Home Owners Association with 270 Facebook likes.

### Homeowners

Viola Luna with 112 Facebook likes

Ryan Martin, Nicole Lucero, and family with 111 Facebook likes.

All businesses and homeowners within the Village limits along the Electric Light Parade route were encouraged to register, participate, and compete to be recognized for their community spirit for the contest.

The event was coordinated by the Community Development Department staff.

# SENIOR OLYMPICS FUN DAY

Valencia County Senior Olympics Fun Day will be Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2022, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Daniel Fernandez Recreation Center, 1103 NM Hwy 314.

Seniors can play cornhole, line dance, throw basketballs and do a variety of other things. There will be door prizes and snacks.

Registration will be available for the 2022 Senior Olympics.

Anyone with questions can contact the Village Sports Coordinator at 505 639-6805.

A senior adage -- "We don't stop playing because we grow old. We grow old because we stop playing."

# FITNESS CENTER

Start the New Year off with a visit to the Fitness Center at the Daniel Fernandez Recreation Center which has a variety of exercise equipment and staff to help learn how to use it.

Fitness Cards are offered and can be used for all activities. More information is available at the front desk at the recreation center, 1103 NM Hwy 314.

No one under the age of 14 is allowed in the Fitness Center at any time.

Athletic apparel must be worn. No street apparel, such as boots, jeans (pants or shorts), sandals, or flip flops will be allowed.

For more information call 505 352-7661.

# NEW ADDRESS

Effective Jan. 31, 2022, the mailing address for the Village of Los Lunas will be 660 Main Street NW Los Lunas, NM 87031.

Please update your records with this change of address.

The mailing address had been P.O. Box 1209, Los Lunas NM 87031.



NEW VILLAGE POLICE CHIEF

Frank Lucero (right) has been named the new Los Lunas Police Chief, effective upon the retirement of current Chief Naithan Gurule (middle). Pictured with Deputy Chief Vince Torres (left) shortly after Los Lunas Village Council approved Lucero for the position. News-Bulletin photo.

# ADULT READING CHALLENGE

Escape the Chill Adult Reading Challenge at the Los Lunas Public Library.

Read at least two books from staff-curated lists during the months of February and March and be entered into a prize drawing.

Find new books to enjoy in a genre you love or branch out and try reading something you normally wouldn't.

Book lists have 25 titles each to choose from and themes include: Space and Time, Romantic Reads, Cozy Mystery, Debut Novels, Not Just for Kids (Graphic Novels), M is for Magic, and Black History Month Selections.

View the book lists, register, and log your reading online at <https://loslunaspl.beanstack.org/> or stop by the library for a paper reading log.

For more information call 505 839-3850.

# CHECK OUT RECREATION

The Village Recreation Division has live weekly video updates on Tuesdays on Facebook.

Go to this link to see Brittany and Marcos on-line: <https://tinyurl.com/558c7hfw>.

Topics vary depending on the season and sports / recreation activities.

# AT THE LOS LUNAS LIBRARY

The Los Lunas Public Library will be handing out a group of crafts / activities every week during January 2022.

A new set of activities will be available every Monday (except Jan. 17 when the library is closed for Martin Luther King Day).

The Family Fun Kits will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The library is located at 460 Main St. NE.

For more information about the crafts, call 505 839-3850 or contact [birrs@loslunasnm.gov](mailto:birrs@loslunasnm.gov).

Information is also available on Facebook.

\*\*\*\*\*

Free notary service is available during normal business hours Monday through Friday at the Los Lunas Library, when the library is open. Check with the library on when it is open at 505 839-3850.

\*\*\*\*\*

Tune in Friday, Jan. 14, 2022, at 10:30 a.m. on Facebook Live to hear Storytime with Stephanie: The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats.

Then tune in Friday, Jan. 28, 2022, on Facebook to hear Cathy's Corner with Nerdy Bird Tweets written by Aaron Reynolds and illustrated by Matt Davies.

\*\*\*\*\*

Los Lunas Library Instagram page. Visit this web page for more info: [https://www.instagram.com/ll\\_publiclibrary/](https://www.instagram.com/ll_publiclibrary/).

## GRAFFITI IN THE VILLAGE

Removing graffiti and repairing the damage it causes costs the Village of Los Lunas precious tax dollars.

Area properties can be devalued and business owners can lose customers from the negative image that graffiti generates. Graffiti can send the message that a community is having problems which is not good for that community.

You can help reduce graffiti by immediately reporting all graffiti sightings. The faster graffiti is cleaned up, the less graffiti that appears.

Village graffiti removal paint crews are on the job five days a week to eradicate graffiti on public and private property. The crews either remove graffiti through water blasting or use paint matching for graffiti paint-overs.

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

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

Village Public Works Director Michael Jaramillo said handling graffiti removal service this way improves response times for that removal.

## ONE STOP PRESSURE & SOFT WASHING

It's cold outside many days, but that doesn't prevent One Stop Pressure & Soft Washing from cleaning up in the greater Los Lunas area.

During the cold months One Stop Pressure & Soft Washing performs a variety of cleaning jobs.

Licensed and insured, One Stop Pressure & Soft Washing deals with residential and commercial and gives free estimates.

Phone number is 505 507-1793, [onestoppw@gmail.com](mailto:onestoppw@gmail.com).

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Congratulations to Andrew Spears, Financial Advisor with the Edward Jones, for winning the 2021 Village of Los Lunas 'Light Up the Village' Christmas light decoration award!  
Edward Jones  
3459C Highway 47  
Los Lunas 505 865-0303

Thank you for the delicious food and good memories Benny's III! You will greatly be missed by all Los Lunas residents.

### NEW BUSINESSES:

#### No Mercy Freestyle

205 NM Hwy 314 SW Suite B  
505 681-1200

Now open! Start the new year right with classes or personalized training.

#### Starr Grooming

1910 Main St NE Suite F  
505 589-0677

Village Administration Office: 505 839-3840

### ESTABLISHED BUSINESSES:

#### Journey to Wellness Counseling LLC

1050 Maxfield Ave. NE  
505 944-6626

Through a combination of therapeutic techniques, Journey to Wellness will help you identify limiting beliefs and outmoded coping mechanisms that may be standing in your way. All communications with your counselor are kept strictly confidential.

#### Peralta Concrete Redi Mix LLC

3567 NM Hwy 47  
Peralta 87042  
505 866-0605

Established in 2015 it is a locally owned and operated redi mix supplier for Los Lunas, Albuquerque, and the surrounding areas.

## LOCAL EVENTS

**Monday, Jan. 17, 2022**

*Martin Luther King Day*

*Village Offices Closed*

*Monday, Jan. 17, 2022 garbage collected*

**Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2022**

**Attend a Village Council Meeting**

6 p.m. Thursday, January 13 & 27, 2022

6 p.m. Thursday, February 10 & 24, 2022

660 Main St NW

Main Street and Don Pasqual

Meetings will be virtual and in-person.

Check Village website for agenda

[loslunasnm.gov](http://loslunasnm.gov).

## VILLAGE BUSINESS REGISTRATION RENEWAL

Remember to pay your Village of Los Lunas business registration renewal using Express Bill Pay.

Create an account or use an existing account at [www.expressbillpay.com](http://www.expressbillpay.com). All you need is your business registration.

## CHECK OUT VILLAGE OF LOS LUNAS ON FACEBOOK

