

Valencia County Growth

by Staff Writer

Finding balance as Valencia County grows is challenging and facing our area more than ever. Recent project starts like the data center facility west of Los Lunas and a new plastics manufacturer in the Belen area have impacted Valencia County in positive ways. These projects are bringing much needed jobs and economic stimulation to Valencia County. They also contribute to more vehicles on the road and an increased volume of people in our businesses. Clearly there is a need for large infrastructure projects that can help sustain this desired economic boom and new found prosperity.

Belen has seen a surge in commercial building projects along Main Street which is a breath of fresh air. The renovation of the F & E Building at the corner of Main and Didier along with new buildings that are home to banks and restaurants have

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begun to transform our beloved Main Street corridor. Belen has also welcomed a new subdivision under construction at the north end of town.

All the while Belen has been battling flash flood storms that have become a dreaded reality for the residents as irrigation canals swell passed capacity and dump millions of gallons of water on our city streets. This has led to a well coordinated effort to invest dollars in our flood prevention measures.

Los Lunas continues to see restaurants and other businesses fill the once vacant lots along NM 6. From fast food to locally owned full

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Representative Alonzo Baldonado with 'Iron Man'!

Capital Expenditure Dollars: How do they get to our local projects?

by Representative Alonzo Baldonado

Lately many of our District 8 constituents have been starting a conversation with me by asking "where are we going to spend all that extra money in the state's budget?". I answer by saying that we would be wise to spend those dollars on infrastructure instead of programs. Bridges, roads, and sewer projects are the basis to any well functioning and attractive place to live.

Any one of you that drives NM 6 to cross east or west through Los Lunas knows the troubles we face by only having one I-25 interchange and one river bridge. The crucial need to add an additional east/west corridor to the north side of the county is reaching a boiling point. This is an ideal project to fund when we see a bump in our revenue. Currently New Mexico is experiencing tremendous

fortune because of the increase in oil production from the Permian Basin in the SE part of our beautiful state. This increase in production leads to dramatic and obviously welcome revenues from severance taxes. These are dollars that are a direct impact on our everyday life even though Valencia County does not produce oil and gas.

These 'extra' dollars will not be steady and consistent in coming budget years. That is why I continue to say that it is critical that we spend those dollars on one time big ticket improvements to our infrastructure. Expanding government will only commit future budgets to money that

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service establishments the choices we have are becoming many. The opportunities for shopping for clothing, hardware, and services are indeed many.

Los Lunas is also seeing growth in new housing starts and new subdivision developments. This growth contributes to strain on village roads and intersections. Your local delegation of representatives and senators have been working to keep Los Lunas' priorities at the forefront of the conversation in Santa Fe. As the area continues to experience growth the needs will continue to increase as well.



Our citizens should be able to enjoy safe streets and neighborhoods. It is critical that our citizens are able to enjoy the things this area has to offer, from horseback riding to cycling.

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Rep Baldonado continues to support Law Enforcement

by Staff Writer



Alonzo Baldonado at Coffee with a Cop event.

The multiple police departments and rescue response entities in Valencia county now enjoy a new dispatch operations center. Through a loan from the New Mexico Finance Authority and property offered by the Village of Los Lunas a new building for the Valencia Regional Emergency Communications Center was placed into service in 2018. This is a critical step in ensuring that law enforcement and emergency services are efficiently and easily dispatched throughout Valencia County.

As Valencia County grows these types of facilities are critical. The City of Belen is putting the final touches on a new fire station that was long needed. Belen's fire and rescue response will be able to work from a larger and more efficient space as the new station

comes on line. With continued growth on the west side of Los Lunas a second fire station was also constructed for the Village's first responders.

"Providing funding and the necessary tools for our first responders is critical," said Representative Baldonado, "I will always work to make sure that our county has the resources it needs to keep our streets safe." Currently the Bosque Farms Police department provides

services to the residents of the relatively newly incorporated Town of Peralta. These municipalities have partnered to make areas of our county safer. The Valencia County Sheriff's office is also tasked with providing services to one of the county's newly incorporated areas in Rio Communities. Going forward the New Mexico legislature is likely to consider legislation that would allow retired police officers to return to work in an attempt to solve the police officer shortage problem.



Representative Baldonado continues to support return to work for retired police officers and incentives to keep our streets safe.

Baldonado Passes Law Making Trophy Poaching a Felony

by Staff Writer



Representative Alonzo Baldonado and Representative Bill Rehms on a dove hunt near Roswell, New Mexico.

The many opportunities that New Mexico offers to big game hunters is a tradition to families in this great state. Maybe your passion is getting up on a cold December morning to set up your decoys and bag a few ducks. Possibly you seek the pristine

waters of the San Juan River for a bit of fly fishing. Regardless of what type of animal you chase in New Mexico's great outdoors, it is worth protecting.

That is precisely why Representative Alonzo Baldonado has fought so hard the last 5 years to pass into law a felony penalty for trophy poachers. A trophy poacher is not interested in harvesting an elk or deer for the freezer, rather they are seeking only to steal a wall decoration from the people of New Mexico. Over the last few decades New Mexicans have seen the amount of trophy quality big game increase, thus the opportunities to bag the big one are better. However, it is troubling to see how many of these majestic animals are poached for their antlers while the meat is left to waste.

Previously New Mexico law only provided a misdemeanor charge for a poacher regardless if they harvested

an illegally taken animal or only took the desirable antlers or head. Now that HB 92 from the 2017 Regular Legislative Session is law, New Mexico's Conservation officers have some real ability to pursue and convict those that steal from you.

"I was happy to work along with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish to increase penalties for poachers. It was a long hard fought journey over 5 years, but we did not give up." said Representative Alonzo Baldonado.



How do local infrastructure projects get funded?



Capital continued from page 1 will not always be at the levels we are seeing currently.

The capital outlay process in this state is difficult to track and cumbersome to navigate. Things get started at the local level either your county or municipality must have planning in place in order to make requests for dollars from the state. This planning is not always conducted in the order

necessary to make a justified request.

The Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) is the tool that local governments use to rank and classify projects that are needed in an area. These projects can range from tens of thousands of dollars to multimillion dollar allocations. It is critical for the local government to have a solid plan in place with a variety of projects that can be funded.

Often times projects will be too large for a one time allocation which makes them harder to fund like the proposed I-25 interchange at mile marker 201 in Los Lunas which is estimated at about 80 million dollars. However, for example, a few years ago the Village of Bosque

Farms requested under \$100,000.00 to resurface the tennis courts near the village hall which was a manageable figure and the need was easily met.

Unfortunately, the process is not always the most intuitive, but it does allow for allocation of funds to local projects. The key is for local leaders to interact and keep legislators well informed on upcoming needs and requests.

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Town Hall Meetings Inform our Communities

by Staff Writer

Representative Alonzo Baldonado makes it a point to be accessible to the community he represents. From publishing his personal cell phone number and email address, to making time to sit down and listen to constituent issues, he is available.

Serving in New Mexico's Legislature is a volunteer unpaid position. Some that serve are wealthy, and others are on retirement incomes. Yet there are those that still provide for a family and must continue a full time job or run a business. Baldonado has served in the legislature since 2011 and all the while has continued to run his small business in Los Lunas. "Balancing my business, family, and the legislature at



Bosque Farms Library is often a location for Representative Baldonado's Town Hall Meetings.

times can be tricky, but the opportunity to make a difference in this community makes it worth while," said Baldonado.

Representative Baldonado likes to host town hall style meetings in the district usually after the legislature adjourns for the year. Typically constituents have many concerns

and questions as a session wraps up. However, there are many instances that constituents will have a need to reach out at other times. You are welcome to contact Alonzo directly at 505-363-6214 either voice or text. Or email at zobaldonado@gmail.com. Face Book and Twitter messaging as well.

ELECTION INFORMATION CENTER

Early Voting:

October 20th- November 3rd
Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-6 pm
Bosque Farms Public Library
1455 W. Bosque Loop, BF
Valencia County Court House
444 Luna, Los Lunas
Belen Community Center
305 Eagle Ln, Belen

ELECTION DAY 2018 is:

Tuesday, November 6th, 2018

ALL POLLING LOCATIONS OPEN:

7 am - 7 pm

For more information
Contact
Valencia County Clerk
Bureau of Elections

505-866-2080

Did you know you can vote at any location throughout the county?

Voting Convenience Center Locations:

- Ann Parish Elementary School 112 Meadow Lake Rd., Los Lunas, NM 87031
- Belen Community Center 305 Eagle Ln., Belen, NM 87002
- Belen Public Library 333 Becker Ave., Belen, NM 87002
- Bosque Farms Public Library 1455 W. Bosque Loop, Bosque Farms, NM 87068
- Daniel Fernandez Campus-Century School 32 Sun Valley Rd., Los Lunas, NM 87031
- Del Rio Senior Center 351 Rio Communities Blvd., Belen, NM 87002
- Don Jose Dolores Cordova Cultural Center 426 Jarales Rd., Jarales, NM 87023
- El Cerro Mission Community Center 309 El Cerro Mission Rd., Los Lunas, NM 87031
- Fred Luna Senior Center 197 Don Pasqual Los Lunas, NM 87031
- Logsdon Hall 19676 Hwy 314, NM 87002
- Los Lunas School Administration 119 Luna St., Los Lunas, NM 87031
- Peralta Elementary School 3645 State Hwy 47 Peralta, NM 87042
- Pueblo of Isleta Veterans Center 4001 Hwy 314 Los Lunas, NM 87031
- Tome Dominquez de Mendoza Community Center 2933 Hwy 47 Los Lunas, NM 87031
- UNM-Valencia Campus 280 La Entrada Rd., Los Lunas, NM 87031



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