



DPU Scoop



IN THIS EDITION

- Prep now for winter
- Bears vs. mountain lions: encounters
- What's next for Community Broadband?
- Information everywhere
- House of Horrors: grease!

PREP NOW FOR WINTER

Now is a great time to start preparing for winter, before the cold and the lack of motivation set in. Whether you own or rent, there is something for everyone on this list.

- Identify and repair gaps in window and door seals by adding weather stripping, caulks, under-door draft stoppers, etc.
- Install foam backers around outlets and light switches to reduce drafts from these points. Adding safety plug covers will help too!
- Don't forget to seal gaps around plumbing penetrations, chimneys and recessed lights. These can let even more air through than windows and doors.
- Order window treatments—or make them if you're crafty—to keep the cold from seeping in.
- Get the water out of your irrigation lines and rain barrels to prevent them from rupturing in case it gets cold enough for water to freeze.
- Clean out gutters.
- Leave old stems and stalks in your landscaping to provide an overwinter spot for bugs and other critters.
- Perform or schedule a maintenance checkup on your heating system and its components.
- Clean dust and debris from heating fixtures (radiators, vents, etc.).
- Add insulation tubes to your hot water pipes.



CONSERVATION

Bears vs. Mountain Lions: Encounter Differences

When encountering a bear vs. a mountain lion, remember **bears** are typically curious omnivores who are attracted to human food, while **mountain lions** are elusive ambush predators, uninterested in human food, and may see smaller individuals as prey.

If you meet a BEAR, stay calm...

- NEVER RUN. Running can make a bear chase you.
- Keep your distance. Back slowly away facing the bear. Avoid direct eye contact.
- Slowly and calmly leave the area. Talk aloud so the bear will become aware of you.
- Be extra careful around a female with cubs. Never approach a cub.
- Never throw food to distract a bear. This teaches a bear to approach people for food.
- Fight back if attacked. Black bears have been driven away when people fight with rocks, sticks, binoculars, or even bare hands.
- Don't litter. Use bear-proof trash cans when in bear country. Take it away if trash cans are full. Your consideration could save a bear's life!
- Report Sightings.

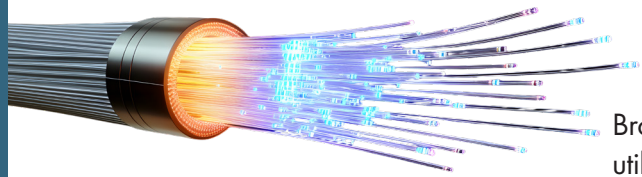


What to do if you meet a MOUNTAIN LION...

- Report it.
- Do not approach mountain lions. Most avoid confrontation.
- Give the lion a way to escape.
- Stay calm. Talk to it in a firm voice to demonstrate that you are human and not its regular prey.
- Back away slowly. Running may trigger its instinct to chase and attack.
- Face the lion and try to appear as large as possible. Open your jacket or lift objects above your head.
- Pick up your children.
- If the lion behaves aggressively, throw rocks, sticks, etc., without turning your back to it or bending down.
- If the lion happens to attack, fight back. Lions have been driven away by prey that fights back.
- Remain standing and keep attempting to get back up if you are brought to the ground.

To learn more about black bears and mountain lions in Los Alamos County, visit the County website at www.lacnm.com/wildlife.

What's next under the Community Broadband Project?



Did you spy utility pole assessments this summer and fall? Boots hit the ground for the initial stages of work under the Los Alamos Community Broadband Network project when field workers scoped out and assessed utility poles to support the network's design. Assessments were done by Hexad, a subcontractor to Bonfire, the County's contractor for this project.

What's next?

- A low-level design is planned for Los Alamos County Council review and approval in the spring.
- Upon approval, construction is expected to begin in June 2026.
- The total timeline for construction is expected to last 3-4 years, however, network access will potentially be available neighborhood-by-neighborhood as work concludes.

Project in a nutshell

To improve internet access, reliability, and affordability for the community, Los Alamos County will build an open-access network, designed to enable fiber-to-the-premise (FTTP) service to more than 10,000 homes and businesses in Los Alamos and White Rock, expanding high-speed internet subscription options at competitive prices for local residents and business owners. Once in operation, community members will be able to choose from among 4-to-6 Internet Service Providers on this Los Alamos County-owned network.

In 2023, the County Council adopted high-speed community broadband as a priority to improve local economic vitality. This priority remained when strategic goals were reviewed in 2024 and 2025.



Los Alamos
Community
Broadband
Network

More information: visit <https://losalamosnm.us/CBN>

INFORMATION EVERYWHERE!

Loving the DPU Scoop?

Did you know you can get it by email when you sign up for E-Billing at ladpu.com/ebill? If you don't want to give up your paper bill, you can still sign up for the email version of this bill insert at the link to Los Alamos County's newsletters below. Here are some other e-newsletters you might enjoy reading wherever you like to soak up information!

Los Alamos County online newsletters

- County Line: county-wide news and information (weekly)
- Sustainability News: sustainability news and more (monthly)
- The Bottom Line: economic development news (monthly)
- Off the Shelf: public library information (monthly)

Sign up online at lacnm.com/subscribe

Affiliate online newsletter

- The Buzz: Bee City Los Alamos news (monthly)

Sign up online at peecnature.org/bee-city

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO



WITH ALL THAT GREASE?

Don't let your home become a HAUNTED HOUSE!

This Halloween, take proactive steps to prevent sewer backups. Proper disposal of waste in the kitchen and bathroom can save you from a frightful situation. No more cheesy, oily leftovers down the drain! No more "flushable" wipes and feminine products down the toilet! Make sure your home is ready for trick-or-treaters, and don't be tricked by plumbing horrors!

AVOID SEWER BACKUPS
#HOUSEOFHORRORS

FIND DPU ONLINE!

Connect through our Linktree at <https://ladpu.com/Links>

