

# CITY CONNECT

## SEPTEMBER 2026



## Why Some Taps Kept Running During the City-Wide Shutoff

Many residents observed that not all homes and businesses lost water or pressure during the city-wide shut-off on Monday, August 31, and this is an important part of how a municipal water system functions. When the source is turned off, the system does not empty instantly – large mains, service lines, and elevated areas hold substantial volumes of water, and pressure declines gradually as those lines drain. Properties at higher elevations or farther from the tanks may lose pressure sooner, while others continue to see flow for several hours. This can create confusion for those expecting an immediate, uniform outage, but it is a normal and predictable part of water distribution mechanics. In the upper zone, two storage tanks – one approximately 45 feet tall and the other 30 feet – operate in unison, filling and depleting together. When the pump at Well #6 failed over the weekend, the system could no longer replenish those tanks, causing levels to drop sharply and reducing the buffer that normally maintains consistent pressure across the zone. These factors combined to produce the uneven pressure loss residents experienced.

## Recycling Helps Control Community Cost

Recycling is more than an environmental practice; it also makes financial sense. Every ton of material diverted from the landfill helps extend the life of local disposal facilities and reduces waste management costs. During this year's Free Dump Days, the City spent approximately \$20,000 providing that service to residents. By recycling properly and reducing the amount of waste sent to the landfill, community members can help manage long-term disposal expenses while preserving valuable landfill space.

## Lighting the Way, Preserving the Night

A well-lit neighborhood is a safer and more welcoming neighborhood. Porch lights, entryway lighting, and other exterior fixtures can help improve visibility for neighbors taking an evening walk, walking their pets, or traveling through the community after dark. Exterior lighting helps illuminate sidewalks, steps, driveways, and other potential hazards while contributing to a greater sense of safety and awareness throughout residential areas. Research has shown that improved lighting can support public safety by increasing visibility and encouraging natural surveillance in neighborhoods.

At the same time, many residents value Sierra County's exceptional night skies. Fortunately, effective lighting and dark-sky preservation can go hand in hand. Warm-colored, downward-facing fixtures help direct light where it is needed while reducing glare and limiting light pollution. Modern LED porch lights are also highly energy efficient. Based on the City of Truth or Consequences' current residential electric rate, a typical 10-watt LED porch light operating approximately 12 hours each night costs about 52 cents per month. Thoughtful lighting choices can enhance safety around homes while helping preserve the star-filled skies that make our community unique.

## OUR CITY WORKS

### STATS FOR AUGUST

#### ELECTRIC

- 7 Poles Replaced
- 4 New Services

#### WATER SERVICES

- 41 Leaks Repaired
- 20 Active Leaks
- 2 Lines Replaced/Installed

#### Gallons:

- Reuse water produced  
21,760,000
- Reuse water sold  
6,465,250
- Reuse water to golf course  
5,887,600
- Reuse water to ball fields  
466,000
- Reuse water to truck fill  
111,650
- Reuse water to river  
15,294,750

#### SANITATION & RECYCLING

In August, the refuse hauled out and sent to SCSWA was:

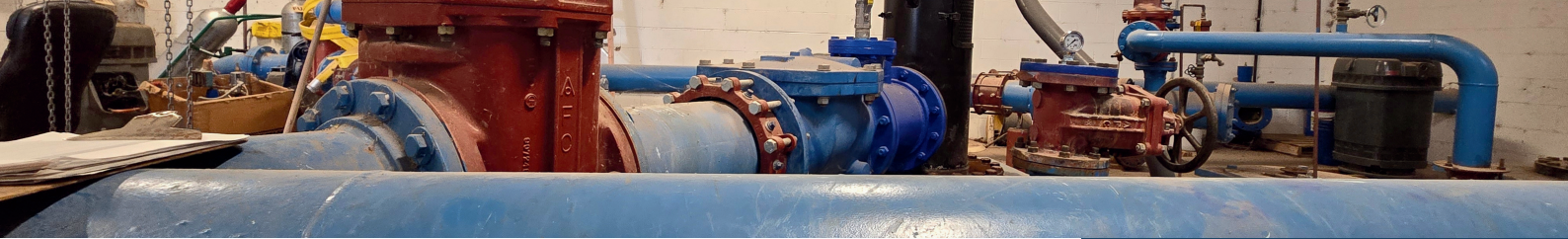
- 15,464.20 net weight
- 773.21 tons

#### ANIMAL SHELTER

- 47 intakes
  - 12 adoptions
  - 8 return to owner
  - 1 transfers
  - 4 return to field
- 93.94 % save rate

Interested in other city stats?  
Email [cgaston@torcnm.gov](mailto:cgaston@torcnm.gov)





## Jornada RC&D and City to Enhance Turtleback Trails Network

The Jornada Resource Conservation and Development Council delivered an update on the Turtleback Trails Network during the August 28 City Commission meeting, outlining a trail plan six years in the making. The multi-use route follows the Rio Grande along County and City Road A005 and will include interpretive panels placed every mile, along with new and replacement trailhead signage expected to be installed in December. The group is also working with the Bureau of Land Management to adjust a section of the trail near the wastewater treatment plant, creating a more elevated and scenic experience. The network currently features seven color-coded turtle-logo signs, each tied to themes such as agriculture or local history. In related business, Public Service Director O.J. Hechler presented a Memorandum of Understanding between the City and Sierra County supporting a proposed Rio Grande Riverwalk Trail at Ralph Edwards Park, strengthening the City's grant application for trail connections, wildlife viewing areas, educational signage, and improved access to the river.

## Levitt AMP Truth or Consequences Music Series



The free Levitt music series begins on September 10. Concerts will take place every Thursday from 6–9 p.m. in Ralph Edwards Park, running through October 22. Each week brings a new artist and a different style of music, offering something for everyone who enjoys gathering outdoors with friends, family, and neighbors. Residents can explore the full lineup, learn about each performer, and listen to sample tracks by visiting [www.torcmainstreet.org/levitt-torc](http://www.torcmainstreet.org/levitt-torc)

## City Advances Street Improvements

The City is preparing to rework several residential streets, beginning with Arrowhead Lane, where the waterline has been replaced and the roadway will be repaved, and Cherry Lane, which will receive a mix of new overlay and reshaping to a 28-foot width with a three-inch concave surface designed to shed water. Approximately \$1.8 million has been allocated for the Marie Street project, which will begin once the engineering contract is finalized, and Bartoo Sand & Gravel has been selected to supply road materials. These efforts reflect a continued shift toward neighborhood street improvements, following recent progress such as the opening of Foch Street and the additional block completed on Daniels between Broadway and McAdoo.

**Front Header** - Ralph Edwards Park; **Back Header** - Pump #2 at Cook Street

## Upholding Trust

The City provides annual training on the New Mexico Governmental Conduct Act to ensure employees understand the ethical standards required in public service. This review covers topics such as transparency, responsible use of public resources, conflicts of interest, and fair treatment of residents. By revisiting these requirements each year, staff stay aligned with state law and maintain consistent expectations across departments. The goal is to support a workplace where employees are informed, aware of their responsibilities, and equipped to make sound decisions on behalf of the community. If members of the public ever have concerns about conduct or compliance, they are encouraged to contact Human Resources or the City Manager's Office.



**FLETCHER** — Meet Fletcher, an 8-year-old gentleman who's had a rough patch after losing his owner and needing some care. He's now healed, feeling good, and ready for a quiet, loving home. Fletcher is still putting on weight, but he's improving every day and soaking up all the affection he's offered.

