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Cover photo Courtesy of Los Lunas
# NM MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
## DISTRICT DIRECTORS & ALTERNATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>DIRECTOR:</th>
<th>ALTERNATE:</th>
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| District #1 – (‘19) | Jackie McKinney, Mayor  
City of Gallup  
(505) 863-1254  
mayor@gallupnm.gov | Sherri Sipe, Mayor Pro Tem  
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(575) 754-2277  
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mayorgarcia1@gmail.com |
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sharon@yucca.net | Ruth Litchfield, Mayor  
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JoeEby@ruidosonm.gov | Ray Cordova, Mayor  
Village of Tularosa  
(575) 585-2771  
mono@tularosa.net |
| District #7 – (‘19) | Nora Barraza, Mayor  
Town of Mesilla  
(575) 524-3262  
norabarraza@comcast.net | Benny Jasso, Mayor  
City of Deming  
(575) 546-8848  
bjasso@cityofdeming.org |
| District #8 – (‘18) | Jack Torres, Mayor  
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(505) 867-7108  
mayortorres@townofbernalillo.org | Gregory Hull, Mayor  
City of Rio Rancho  
(505) 891-5000  
ghull@rrm.gov |
The 2017 Legislative Session was to be the year municipalities would keep the number of priorities to a short list. The League Board met in early October, the 7th to be exact, and rolled up their sleeves to begin the difficult task of translating over 40 resolutions and our Municipal Policy Statement into an action plan for the 2017 Legislative Session. It wasn't easy. The needs were many, but faced a 60-day session with an actual deficit for FY 17 and a projected deficit for FY 18 state budget. With municipal budgets also facing difficult times, the Board pared the priority list to the absolute minimum.

"Maintain Municipal Revenues and Taxing Authority" for the third straight year

At the top of the list was the goal "Maintain Municipal Revenues and Taxing Authority" for the third straight year. Acutely aware of the state budget woes, the Board feared additional attempts to take the Hold Harmless Distributions from municipalities, adding serious pressure to already fragile municipal budgets.

Infrastructure always at the top of the list, made the priority list in the form of funding for streets, roads and bridges. Just like the two previous years, road funding became even more acute. With $1.2 billion in projects already identified in the State ICIP and no increase in fuels taxes in almost 30 years, it was no wonder that the Board placed street, road and bridge funding high up on the priority list.

Main Street business fairness or “taxing the internet” as it become known, made the list. This “oldie but goodie” was getting the attention it deserved. With the economy still struggling and our local businesses trying to keep their doors open, it is essential to close the tax loophole that gives remote sellers up to an 8 1/2% advantage.

Tax distributions and their takebacks became the most heated discussion. With many municipalities experiencing distributions that were far less than they normally receive and with no notices from TRD or opportunity for repayment agreements, frustration levels were extremely high. The problem centered on a difference in the interpretation of “average distribution.” The trigger for notice and repayment agreements was an annual average according to TRD. We maintain that the average distribution was a monthly average. Clearly a huge difference. Take Eunice as an example: In TRD’s interpretation, the City of Eunice would not be entitled to any relief until their negative distributions reached over $900,000. But in our interpretation that would be $44,000. With losses like that the city could not plan to operate without

COULD’A BEEN, SHOULD’A BEEN, MIGHT STILL BE
serious reductions in personnel.

With these priorities in mind, let’s take a look how our priorities fared in the 2017 legislative session.

Legislation funding streets, roads, and bridges did very well. The Senate included 5 cents for local government in CS/HB 202, originally SB 95, Senator Sanchez and SB 131, Senator John Arthur Smith. The House authorized a 5-cent local fuels tax by referendum in House Bill 63, sponsored by Representatives Gonzales and Crowder. Both bills passed the Legislature only to be vetoed by Governor Martinez. Could’a Been.

Senate Bill 236, sponsored by Senator Leavell, corrected the difference in interpretation of “average distribution” to insure that it was a “monthly average” rather than an annual average, passed without any negative votes in the House and Senate. Again, Governor Martinez vetoed SB 236 that would have given notice to municipalities of impending loss of GRT. Could’a Been.

Equity for our Main Street businesses by closing the loophole of collecting GRT (both city and state) on remote sellers, included in CS/HB 202, Representative Carl Trujillo. Vetoed! Another Could’a Been.

Fuel Taxes increases – Should’a Been. With only two cents gasoline tax distribution, municipalities had to turn to their only other major source of funds – GRT. Use of gross receipts taxes to build and maintain roads pushes the GRT rate higher, creating a difficult business environment for economic development. Gasoline and Special Fuels taxes more appropriately tax the users of roads, taking pressure off GRT rates.

Giving municipalities notice of negative distributions and an opportunity to set up a repayment plan is only a matter of fairness. After all, these takebacks of GRT were not the fault of municipalities, but generated by taxpayers incorrectly reporting their business location or claiming a deduction after the fact. Definitely a Should’a Been.

Closing the loophole on collecting GRT on remote sellers is long overdue. Our Main Street businesses have been at a tax disadvantage for too long. Having the state and local rates of GRT apply to remote sellers will restore some equity in the tax system. Another Should’a Been.

Certainly, the 2017 Legislative Session was a Could’a Been session and just as certainly Should’a Been. With the Special Session on the horizon, some of our priorities Might be. There are indications that some of our priorities might be acceptable. The Governor has expressed some interest in closing the loophole on remote sales. Maybe if the Legislature called itself into extraordinary session, there Might Be hope for some of our other priorities. So as we prepare for the Special Session it Could Be, Should Be, Might Still Be!!

Bill
BACK TO THE BASICS: 
THE DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE MAYOR

The duties and powers of the mayor are largely set forth in state statutes. While there are some differences based upon the form of government the municipality operates under, there are some duties and powers in common to all forms of government. Let’s first examine the similarities, and then look briefly into the differences.

Presiding Officer, NMSA section 3-11-3: The mayor is the presiding officer of the governing body. As such it is the mayor’s responsibility to see that the meeting of the governing body is managed so that it runs smoothly. This responsibility requires a thorough knowledge of Parliamentary Procedure to ensure that the meeting is run effectively, yet fairly. As the presiding officer of the governing body, the mayor might have in preparing the agenda for the meeting. A local rule that establishes a procedure for placing items on the governing body agenda is certainly in order due to the limited time available to debate and take actions. Only those actions that truly warrant a full governing body discussion and review should be considered. This decision can sometimes be very political, but it should always be fair.

Chief Executive Officer NMSA section 3-11-4: The mayor is the chief executive officer and has the ultimate responsibility to cause the ordinances and regulations of the municipality to be obeyed. This is a power that is in most cases delegated to others. For example, the mayor delegates to the city clerk the responsibilities to insure that businesses are properly licensed and registered. The mayor delegates to code enforcement personnel the responsibility to enforce the zoning and land use codes adopted by the governing body.

Law Enforcement: As Chief Executive Officer, the mayor also has the power to exercise, within the municipality, powers conferred upon sheriffs of counties to suppress disorders and keep the peace. This is also largely a power that is delegated to city law enforcement personnel. Of course, it is not recommended that the mayor personally undertake actual law enforcement activities, those activities should be left to those who have been specifically trained in law enforcement tactics, theories and responsibilities.

Other duties as assigned: The mayor may also perform other duties, compatible with his (or her) office, which the governing body may require. This may be different from municipality to municipality, but such functions might include negotiating and signing contracts that have been authorized by the governing body. Such as, performing ceremonial functions on behalf of the municipality, being the principal spokesman for the municipality. Such additional responsibilities should be included in a written resolution or some other document so that it is clear that this is a delegated duty from the governing body to the mayor.

Personnel: In all forms of government, the mayor has some personnel responsibilities, but in some, the
mayor’s role might be very limited. Let’s take a quick look at the various forms of government and the mayor’s responsibilities.

Mayor-Council: In Mayor-Council forms of government, the mayor has the most duties and responsibilities in the personnel arena.

New Employees: At the organizational meeting of the governing body, held pursuant to NMSA section 3-11-5, the mayor is required to submit, for confirmation by the governing body, the names of persons who shall fill the appointive offices of the municipality and the names of persons who shall be employed by the municipality. This is an archaic provision, but it requires that the mayor submit the names of all employees, including department directors for confirmation by the governing body. Over time, this has been interpreted to include only those employees that are “at will” employees because of case law limitations on the right of government to summarily dismiss a person from employment.

More importantly, under NMSA section 3-11-6, it is the mayor that initiates the final stages of the hiring process. Potential employees may be vetted by the use of resumes and interviews, but the final stage of the employment process requires the mayor to make a recommendation for employment to the governing body, which appointment is either approved or rejected by the governing body. If rejected, the mayor must then make another appointment to fill that position. The mayor may appoint temporary employees as required for the proper administration of municipal affairs. The employee shall serve only until the next regular meeting of the governing body at which a quorum is present. The temporary employment shall cease and the employee shall not be reappointed unless his (or her) appointment is confirmed by the governing body.

Existing Employees: State statutes give the responsibility to supervise the employees of the municipality; examine the grounds of reasonable complaint made against any employee; and to cause any violations or neglect of the employees’ duties to be corrected promptly or reported to the proper authority for correction and punishment to the mayor. In other words, the mayor is the direct supervisor of all employees unless that duty is delegated to a department director or to some other person. Similarly, the mayor has the authority to investigate complaints against employees and to impose appropriate corrective action on employees without having to seek the consent or approval of the governing body.

When the decision is to impose more severe forms of discipline such as suspension or dismissal from employment, the statutes require that the mayor initiate such measures subject to the approval of the governing body of the municipality.

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The origins of the Village of Los Lunas begin in the Eighteenth Century, during the Spanish Colonial era, and one of the earliest references appears on the *Plano de la Provincia interna de el Nuevo Mexico*, a map of New Mexico drawn by Bernardo de Miera y Pacheco in 1779. On that map, the church of San Clemente, located west of the Rio Grande and south of Isleta, indicates the location where the village gradually emerged. Located near the eastern edge of the San Clemente Land Grant, the future Los Lunas was initially populated by more sheep than people, as the first families who settled near the church were herders. Settlers in the Rio Abajo region received many of their imported goods from trade caravans along El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, the Royal Road to the Interior Lands, a 1,600-mile-long public road stretching from Mexico City to north of Santa Fe.

From its quiet origin through the mid-Nineteenth Century, the small settlement became known for the many members of the Luna family who continued the long tradition of sheep herding in the region. Following the war between Mexico and the United States, the War Department established the Post at Los Lunas, which remained in service from 1852 to 1860; many of the U.S. Army’s outposts in the Territory of New Mexico were, in large part, located along the old camino real, and for much of the 1850s the local inhabitants in Los Lunas enjoyed the protection afforded by the presence of dragoons. In the second half of the century, the small population in Los Lunas witnessed the transition from stagecoach line transportation prior to the Civil War to the arrival of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad in 1880, a landmark event that connected the village far beyond central New Mexico.

The placement of railroad tracks on the west edge of the village was logical as only four years earlier the
county seat of Valencia was removed from Tomé to Los Lunas. From 1876 until 1912, when New Mexico was admitted into the Union, the Valencia County Courthouse was located on the site of the present-day Los Lunas Public Library. In the December 22, 1876, edition of the Daily New Mexican, William D. Dawson described Los Lunas: “On the plaza we found a new court house, built the present year, two stories in height, and 75 by 25 in dimensions; in the lower story is the jail and county offices, while the court meets in the upper story. Beyond this is the public school…. In the plaza there are several very fine residences of modern build, and the fine store of the Luna Brothers, an old, substantial firm, dealing largely in Santa Fe. Opposite the hotel is the large store and warerooms of L. & H. Huning, extensive merchants and dealers in flour and grain.” In September 1913, the residents of Los Lunas and Valencia County inaugurated a new, modern courthouse on the western edge of town near the railroad tracks and the San Clemente Church, while nearby stood the stately residence of the Luna and Otero families. The vestiges of modernity were beginning to appear in sleepy Los Lunas.

In the opening three decades of the Twentieth Century, the advent of the automobile reshaped America in decisive ways, with one of the outcomes being the Federal government’s long-term plan to create a nationwide network of automobile trails. These early efforts resulted in the first interstate highways, including the designation of U.S. Route 66 in 1926. John Steinbeck sketched out the “Mother Road’s” route across New Mexico in The Grapes of Wrath (1939): “Tucumcari and Santa Rosa and into the New Mexican mountains to Albuquerque, where the road comes down from Santa Fe. Then down the gorged Rio Grande to Los Lunas.

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and west again on 66 to Gallup, and there’s the border of New Mexico.” During the late 1920s and much of the 1930s, wayfarers drove through Los Lunas en route to California or back east to the Midwest. Although Los Lunas became an incorporated Village in 1928 and envisioned prosperity from Route 66 travelers, in 1937 the highway was redirected through Albuquerque, and consequently Los Lunas remained a small town in the Rio Abajo for many more years.

As an incorporated village, Los Lunas officially is only eighty-nine years old, although its heritage reaches back to the Spanish Colonial era. For much of its three centuries of existence, Los Lunas has been on a crossroad for travelers moving north and south, as well as east and west. In the opening years of this new century, the once sleepy little town is awakening with a renewed vigor, as evidenced by its growing population and economic development. The once hoped for prosperity derived from Route 66 was merely delayed a few decades, and in the immediate future Los Lunas will continue to find itself on a crossroad—but this time on an information crossroad with the construction of the Facebook data center in the village. With its rich history and bright future, Los Lunas truly offers big possibilities!
A generous donation from a resident in the 1930’s started the Hobbs Public Library, which has continued to receive community support since its existence. In 1936, the Clinton family donated a plot of land on Shipp Street to be used for a park and library. The generosity of this family has rewarded the community with a flourishing public library and park for the community to enjoy, just as the Clintons desired.

Construction of the library began in December 1938 and was completed in March 1939 for a total cost of $6,941.80 with no furniture or fixtures included. Since then, renovations to the facility have been made. The most recent renovation of the Hobbs Public Library was completed in 2013 for a total project cost of $3,372,180. These renovations included upgrades to both the internal and external features of the facility. They were greatly supported by the Hobbs City Commission and staff. City of Hobbs Mayor Sam D. Cobb stated, “Libraries hold a special place in our community. They are a gathering place for all our residents in search of knowledge and inspiration. With these renovations, we expect this resource to grow.” Due to this project, the Hobbs Public Library now has over thirty public computers, two public meeting rooms where programs and meetings are held, and lighting and cosmetic upgrades to provide a pleasant, welcoming place for all to enjoy. The library provides free Wi-Fi to patrons. This facility is now a central point for residents to work on their resumes, homework, job applications, research, as well as the plethora of other opportunities a computer and Wi-Fi can allow a person to explore.

Not only has the Hobbs Public Library received support for renovation upgrades to the facility and surrounding area in the last five years, but its art collection has also been upgraded. The City of Hobbs Commission and Public Arts Committee researched possible artistic pieces that would be a good addition to the facility, deciding on two unique and distinct pieces. When a visitor first approaches the building, they walk under a large arch that curves over the walkway. This arch is also visible from the Shipp St. and Alston St. intersection. It is a 32 by 32 by 13 foot arch made of bronze books, which at the top sits a young boy sitting cross-legged and immersed in a great read. The name of this piece is The Learning Curve and was created by Gary Lee Price. When a patron enters through the main doors of the library, a 13.25 by 4.5-foot painting glows from behind the circulation desk. The painting
LIBRARY SYSTEMS & SERVICES JOINS ICMA STRATEGIC PARTNER PROGRAM

The International City/County Management Association, welcomes Library Systems & Services (LS&S), an operator of public libraries, to the ICMA Strategic Partners Program at the executive partner level.

For more than 30 years, Library Systems & Services has helped governments improve the quality of life for their residents. Through smarter operations, the company expands libraries’ capabilities, even when funding is tight, by engaging cities and counties in partnerships that simplify library administration, improve literacy, and strengthen economic and workforce development.

“In this digital age, it’s easy to forget that public libraries remain a core community resource,” says ICMA Executive Director Marc A. Ott. “In many cities, towns, and counties across the United States, public libraries have become much more than a place to borrow books. Increasingly, libraries serve as hubs of information and community resources—a place for people to learn, create, access services, and engage with one another. As the third largest library system in the nation, Library Systems & Services embodies the concept of the modern library, and we look forward to helping ICMA members and their residents understand its importance.”

“Cities and counties face a continual stream of operational and funding challenges, and our research and best practices that we deploy in libraries helps local governments handle their enormous responsibility,” said LS&S President Paul Colangelo. “Through our presence at ICMA, we will encourage city and county leaders to take a creative approach to library operations that can meet objectives on literacy, and economic and workforce development.”

About ICMA
ICMA, the International City/County Management Association advances professional local government management worldwide through leadership, management, innovation, and ethics.

About Library System Services
Library Systems & Services (LS&S) operates more than 80 public and special libraries around the country through public-private partnerships. For more information, visit http://www.lsslibraries.com/home.
to book clubs, to yoga classes are given at no charge to the attendees. Staff work diligently to prepare the most successful programs possible while giving the public the best experience and helping our youth to not only grow but flourish. City Commissioner for District 4 and a long-standing member of the Hobbs Municipal Schools Board, Joe Calderon, described his support for the public library, “During my time in the schools, I have seen a lot of children from different walks of life. Not everyone always starts out the same, but the public library is one of those places with an unlimited number of resources for everyone. It’s a safe place for kids to meet, study, or just hang out.”

Every year, the staff recommends a member or members of the Hobbs Public Library for the Library Board to approve to receive the Library Family/Patron of the Year award. This is a long-standing tradition since 1960 that Hobbs Public Library supports to recognize and show appreciation to its members’ loyalty and support. This year’s honorees are two sisters, Sidney Bishop and Necia Asbill, who have been patrons for many years. Without patrons like these women, the Hobbs Public Library most likely would have not grown nor become the great resource and collection of 150,000 items.

Having overseen the renovation and expansion of the Hobbs Public Library, the selection of the first public art pieces for the community, and the dedicated staff, City Manager J.J. Murphy has watched as this library became a true center of community activity. Mr. Murphy stated, “I always appreciated the quote from Thomas Jefferson, ‘I cannot live without books.’ We live in a world where a child’s future can be impacted right at their fingertips. This facility and staff serve as a great example of what dedication and hard work can do for an entire community.” When presented with her award, Ms. Asbill stated, “Getting a library card is like signing up for your utilities, you can’t get by without them.”
The Difference

We have all the bells and whistles that a municipality would ever need or want in professional engineering and architectural services. And then there is the Molzen Corbin edge that, for close to six decades, repeatedly makes us the “engineer of choice” for municipal clients spread throughout our remarkable State. So, what sets us apart?

Our Corporate Culture that “Started with a Handshake”

Molzen Corbin’s rich legacy began in 1950 with our company’s founder shaking hands to seal the deal for our first municipal project. We have never looked back and our core values today still reflect the ideology of a handshake—trust, honesty, integrity, and respect. We have built our core business around a culture of service and responsiveness. The Molzen Corbin experience will spoil you. The majority of our clients—including the one whose handshake launched the firm—remain repeat clients.

Our People

We are New Mexico-based and employ 70 staff members in our Albuquerque headquarters, Las Cruces, and Carlsbad branch offices, who believe that New Mexico is a great place to live and work. They represent national-level technical talent who chose to stay in New Mexico and focus on serving New Mexico municipalities. Our governing leadership boasts homegrown, hometown professionals hailing from Clayton, Kirtland, Albuquerque, Las Cruces, Hurley, Los Lunas, and Artesia—each of whom is inherently invested in uncompromised, successful project outcomes in their native State.

Collectively, our employees’ strong work ethic and contributions to our organization are the reason we are able to maintain lasting relationships with our municipal clients for close to 60 years.

Our Commitment to NM Municipalities

Viewed as more of a partner than as just an “engineering/architectural firm,” Molzen Corbin has proudly set deep roots within our State in order to help us reach for, and attain, individual community and collective regional visions. Our community-focused approach has us looking beyond the task at hand to consider the community’s larger needs and challenges, and how engineering and architecture projects can provide solutions that enhance the quality of life. We apply close to six decades of technical expertise and project experience to develop solutions specifically tailored to a municipality’s needs, and serve as a trusted extension of its staff.

MolzenCorbin

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It’s that time again to get students thinking creatively about aviation! Each year the New Mexico Aviation Division sponsors the state level competition of the International Aviation Art Contest hosted by National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO).

The theme selected for 2017 is “Beyond the Clouds” and the artwork is judged for its creative use of this year’s theme in relation to the aviation world. The Division sends out the contest pamphlet to schools throughout the state. The contest consists of three separate age groups, which each group receives first, second and third place winners. After the winners are selected, they are invited to participate in an awards luncheon and a tour of a selected aviation related facility. The winners go on to participate in the national level of the competition. The winners from the national level then go on to participate at the international level.

The awards ceremony was held April 8, 2017 at the Sheraton Albuquerque Airport Hotel by the New Mexico Aviation Division where the winners were recognized with a trophy and certificate of excellence followed by lunch for the winners, their families and guests. The winners and their families went the Albuquerque Sunport Airport facility on a private tour hosted by Doug Lutz. The participants were able to sit in the cockpit of a cargo aircraft that was donated to the airport. The tour also consisted of visiting the Communications Center inside the airport. The highlight of the tour was the service dogs that greeted the participants in the Sunport common area. I would like to thank all that made this event possible, and again, congratulations to all the winners!

Touring the aviation facilities is a great opportunity for the students to gain exposure into the aviation world and observe related careers. Our mission is to encourage as many students as we can to get involved with aviation so that we might inspire these students to choose a career in aviation. The contest is a great way to get the youth of New Mexico thinking about aviation. For more information on this contest, please contact me at Angela.Archibeque@state.nm.us or 505-244-1788 extension 9-113.
THE 2017 NEW MEXICO STATE WIDE AVIATION ART CONTEST WINNERS

Senior Category

First Place:
Derek Gonzales, Portales High School

Intermediate Category

First Place:
Kamila Mendoza, Albuquerque School of Excellence

Second Place:
Max Klingshirn, Penasco Elementary School

Second Place:
Breanna Aeschleman, Mosaic Elementary

Third Place:
Kurt Klingshirn, Penasco Elementary School

Junior Category

First Place:
Getzemeni Lozano, Mosaic Academy

Second Place:
Sophia Raether, Mosaic Academy

Third Place:
Beatrice Castillo, Albuquerque School of Excellence
Louis Hyman’s recent piece in The New York Times Sunday Review, The Myth of Main Street, presents a bleak choice for rural and rust-belt America: persist in hopeless efforts to rebuild your downtown or graciously accept a future of telecommuting for a distant corporation. The former he decries as nostalgia; the latter as the only economically viable option. But this offer is a false choice: there is another way for smaller communities to compete in today’s economy and we believe a strong main street strategy is at the heart of it.

It is true that main streets have been battered in recent decades. Big-box and internet retail paired with the globalization of production have exposed communities to unprecedented competition. Sprawling development and migration have emptied out many small downtowns. Yet far from a myth, some main streets are thriving. These communities leverage the density of older and historic buildings, educational institutions and community and cultural facilities in their town centers to attract investment and bring renewed vitality to once hollowed-out downtowns.

Decades-old prognostications about how the internet would make location obsolete have failed to come true; place matters more than ever. That’s as true in rural and midsized towns as it is in the largest of cities, all of which are competing to attract talented workers and global capital. One company town learning that lesson is Bentonville, Arkansas, (pop 40,000) home to Wal-Mart, one of the very companies implicated in main street’s demise, and which is now investing in revitalization of the historic downtown as a talent attraction strategy. In 2009 Dubuque, Iowa, (pop. 58,000) successfully attracted an IBM service center to a historic downtown building, bringing 1300 quality jobs, in part because of that community’s investment in downtown and quality of life for residents.

Creating thriving small and mid-sized towns is, of course, no small task. It requires local leaders, business owners, and community residents to come together to identify their assets, strategically situate themselves in their regional economy, and develop a shared vision and identity to sell to the world. Communities make this vision a reality by creating quality public spaces, prioritizing local entrepreneurship, emphasizing production, and supporting downtown housing.

Activating public space creates a sense of excitement and provides the momentum to sustain long-term revitalization efforts. Affordable and easily implementable projects range from the installation of crosswalk art, to community movie nights, to the addition of movable seating along sidewalks. All of these endeavors encourage folks to get out, linger in, and support their downtown.

Thriving main streets also foster entrepreneurship by identifying and supporting existing or would-be business owners. Local revitalization efforts clear the path for entrepreneurs, connecting them with financing, space, training, and other resources. Emporia, Kansas (pop. 25,000) is just one such example, having launched or expanded its 70th small business in the last 15 years thanks to an innovative revolving fund and hands-on education for business owners.
The most successful towns understand they cannot build a sustainable economy solely based on consumption; communities must nurture production and innovation. In Erie, Pennsylvania, (pop. 101,000) the downtown expansion of Erie Insurance anchors a planned cluster of data science and cyber-security activity. Roanoke, Virginia (pop. 98,000) has become an Appalachian success story by turning old railroad yards into a biomedical research campus near its growing downtown.

And while not every town can cultivate such advanced industries, smaller-scale manufacturers can bolster local economies and enliven main streets. In Leadville, Colorado (pop. 2600), Melanzana Outdoor Clothing is booming as a small manufacturer of specialty clothing. In Water Valley, Mississippi (pop. 3300), the Yalobusha Brewing Company produces ale out of an old building on main street, and sells their products regionally. These businesses—and thousands of others—benefit from a growing consumer preference for American-made and artisanal goods, and contribute directly to the health of their downtowns.

Finally, downtown housing is essential. The same factors that motivate Millennials and Boomers to live in walkable, mixed use neighborhoods in big cities are driving these populations to locate downtown in smaller towns. Investing in housing helps to retain, and in some cases attract, the old and the young, and it creates more pedestrian traffic to support retail, dining and service storefronts. Towns like Mt. Vernon, Iowa (pop. 4600) have revitalized their downtowns in part by converting upper-stories along Main Street into housing.

Hyman is right to encourage local leaders to identify and value the existing skills of their workforce; it is likely that these skills are undervalued and underleveraged. But he wrongfully dismisses the broader economic and place-based assets that exist in main streets. With many federal programs that support struggling places, such as Community Development Block Grants or the Appalachian Regional Commission, threatened in the President's budget, now is the time for communities to act locally and maximize the value of their places.

Patrice Frey is President and CEO of the National Main Street Center, where she oversees the Center's work, offering technical assistance, research, advocacy, and education and training opportunities for Main Street's network of approximately 1,100 communities. Based in Chicago, Illinois, the National Main Street Center is a subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and has participated in the renewal of more than 2,000 older commercial districts during its 30-year history. Before joining the National Main Street Center in May 2013, Patrice served as the Director of Sustainability at the National Trust for Historic Preservation, where she oversaw the National Trust’s efforts to promote the reuse and greening of older and historic buildings, including research and policy development work through the Seattle-based Preservation Green Lab.

Bruce J. Katz is the inaugural Centennial Scholar at the Brookings Institution, where he focuses on the challenges and opportunities of global urbanization. Katz assumed this cross-institution role in January 2016 after 20 years as the vice president and co-director of the Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program, which he founded in 1996. He is also co-author of The Metropolitan Revolution (Brookings Press, 2013), which argues that cities have become the vanguard of policy innovation and problem-solving in the United States and the world.

As Brookings's only centennial scholar, Katz and his team collaborate with experts throughout Brookings and beyond to develop new models of finance, growth, and governance in cities and nations. He regularly advises cross-sector metropolitan, national, and global leaders on public reforms and private innovations that advance the well-being of metropolitan areas and their countries.
IN THE NEWS

RENEE CANTIN NAMED “CLERK OF THE YEAR”

Renee Cantin, Clerk-Treasurer for the City of Truth or Consequences, has been named “Clerk of the Year” by the New Mexico Clerks and Finance Officers Association.

Her selection was announced April 20 during the Association’s Spring Meeting in Las Cruces. She was nominated by Truth or Consequences Mayor Steve Green, Commissioner Kathy Clark and City Manager Juan Fuentes.

Cantin became Clerk-Treasurer for Truth or Consequences in 2015. Prior to that, she served as Clerk in Alamogordo and Clerk-Treasurer in Columbus. She received her Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) designation and is currently participating in the Master Municipal Clerk (MMC) program.

She has been a member or is a member of: the Truth or Consequences Rotary and is Membership Chair; the White Sands Rotary Club, where she served as President and Secretary; Elephant Butte American Legion Auxiliary Post 44; Truth or Consequences Centennial Committee; Alamogordo Mayor’s Youth Advisory Council; Gusmacker Basketball Tournament; and the Tularosa Basin Wine & Music Festival.

Truth or Consequences Mayor Steve Green said, “I continue to be impressed by Renee’s unflappable demeanor in dealing with the public that at times can be very, very trying. She does it with style and class. Loyalty to the job, to the community and a commitment to excellence, it doesn’t get any better than that.”

Commissioner Kathy Clark said, “She brings professionalism and dedication to her job without complaint for extra work.”

City Manager Juan Fuentes said, “My first impression of Renee was a wonderful individual, approachable, intelligent and eager to learn the job of a municipal clerk.”

Other nominees were Karla Sayer, CMC, Clerk/HR Director for the City of Aztec and Sheila Hudman, Clerk-Treasurer for the City of Santa Rosa.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Read recent blogs by IT government professionals concerning fraud, preventing ransomware attacks and the importance of data back-up. Click here to read.

Professional local government management—through which elected officials hire a highly trained, nonpolitical chief executive to oversee the day-to-day operations of a community—makes a significant difference...click here to read more

Professional Management Drives Local Government Efficiency and Effectiveness

Regardless of the level at which you manage, your schedule includes challenges and opportunities to speak in public. Click here to read more

Top 10 Tips for Planners to Engage the Community

Matthew Crozier, Bang the Table CEO, has seen some great practice in online engagement by planners in the 10 years of the company’s existence. Click here to learn more

Steps to Become "Un-Bored"

Recent research has found that a majority of employees in the U.S. report being bored at work. And this appears to be a significantly more frequent issue for millennials, who report being bored at twice the rate of other workers. Click here to read more.

How Digitization Empowers Government

Digitization can deliver security and collaboration to ensure future mission success. Click here to read more.
Santa Clara once again have members of the Santa Clara Youth Conservation Corp helping us out this summer. We will have 15 young men and women between the ages of 14-25, working at different projects in Santa Clara and Ft Bayard. The YCC members will be painting a mural on the front of Santa Clara City Hall, cleaning and revitalizing Central Park on North East St., and helping the AmeriCorps members at Fort Bayard.

Every year the Santa Clara Action Committee awards prizes and a recognition sign to the residents with the best kept yards. We call it ”Beautiful Yard of the Month.” We have had a sign declaring certain yards as winners made up, and the resident keeps the sign for one month, posted so everyone knows they won. We also hand out small prizes, for their yard at the same time. The contest starts May 1st and runs through the end of August.
Even in the age of the Internet and videoconferencing, a lot of business must be done face-to-face. In Northern New Mexico, that just got a whole lot easier. In December, direct flights between Phoenix and Santa Fe were inaugurated, making it fast and effortless for residents of the Valley of the Sun to reach New Mexico and vice-versa.

The flights open up the entire West Coast to Northern New Mexicans, including Seattle and Hawaii, through American’s regional hub in Phoenix. “Now we’re just a short trip from Hollywood. That should definitely help the local film industry,” said Simon Brackley, President and CEO of the Santa Fe Chamber of Commerce and the head of the local alliance that is backing the flights.

Helping local business such as the film industry was the driving force behind the initiative for the flights, Brackley said. Not only will they improve access to state and local governments, but they will open up the real estate market to Phoenix and Scottsdale, Ariz., residents, bring Los Alamos National Laboratory closer to technology entrepreneurs, and help the tourism industry recruit new visitors.

To induce American Airlines to start the flights, an alliance of local businesses guaranteed the airline a minimum amount of revenue. If it doesn’t come from passengers, the alliance will make up the difference. Members of the alliance include the city and county of Santa Fe as well as hotels, restaurants, real estate agents and banks. Taos Ski Valley, which is undergoing a major redevelopment, was one of the prime movers.

Northern New Mexico may want to look south to see how the deal might work. In March 2016, American started flights between Roswell and Phoenix. As with the flights to Santa Fe, the airline was guaranteed that the flights would generate a certain amount of revenue. Carlsbad, Roswell, Ruidoso and surrounding municipalities would make up any shortfalls.

The skies have not been without a few bumps. Mayor Dennis Kintigh of Roswell, referring to the revenue shortfall, said the southern alliance took a “significant hit” in the fiscal quarter after service started. Kintigh is optimistic, however, that the municipalities’ share will drop, noting that the shortfall decreased in the next quarter and that the amount of the guarantee will drop in the coming months.

Roswell’s initiative figured tourism into the picture, but it was primarily aimed at business travelers. Kintigh said the flights have helped them recruit new doctors and nurses to Roswell’s two hospitals, and they hope to attract more businesses like Leprino Foods, which has a manufacturing plant in Roswell. Leprino, the world’s largest maker of mozzarella cheese, has several plants in California, and company executives can now jet easily among the different locations.

Kintigh’s advice for the north: “Once you’ve got it, don’t assume you’re going to keep it.” He said that marketing is key to generating traffic.

Backers of Santa Fe’s new service have embarked on a marketing campaign in Arizona, but they also know they must educate locals about the convenience, time-savings and cost benefits of flying out of Santa Fe. As one community member said, “Where else can you find airport parking for $3 a day and be in the air within an hour of leaving your office?”

Finance New Mexico partners with the New Mexico Municipal League on the Grow It! project and other economic development initiatives. To learn more, go to www.FinanceNewMexico.org.
TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF BEST PRACTICES FOR ISSUING MUNICIPAL BONDS

To support the educational needs of municipal government professionals who finance public projects with municipal bonds, the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB) now provides a complimentary online course specifically designed for these professionals. "Being an Informed Municipal Bond Issuer" provides engaging lessons to highlight best practices and potential pitfalls in the municipal bond issuance process.

"Being an Informed Municipal Bond Issuer" was created with input from senior government finance professionals and highlights best practices and potential pitfalls to consider when issuing bonds. Throughout the course learners are presented with real-world scenarios that communities financing public projects may encounter. At the end of this course, the learner will be able to:

- Identify factors for selecting key professionals hired by a municipal bond issuer;
- Describe key considerations when issuing municipal bonds; and
- Understand an issuer’s obligations related to municipal bonds.

Log into MuniEdPro today to take advantage of the newest MuniEdPro course at no cost.

The new course is part of a growing library of educational content designed to strengthen understanding of municipal market rules and activities. The course provides an opportunity to earn 2.0 continuing professional education credits.

For more information about MuniEdPro or to inquire about subscription options, contact Ritta McLaughlin at rmclaughlin@msrb.org or 202-838-1306.

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LEARN AND EARN: COMPLIMENTARY ONLINE COURSE PROVIDES EDUCATION AND CPE

By Lynnette Kelly, Executive Director, Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board

Whether your community issues municipal bonds once a year or once every 10 years, it pays to be an informed issuer. A free online course developed specifically for municipal government professionals provides engaging lessons to highlight best practices and potential pitfalls of the bond issuance process.

Created with input from senior government finance professionals, the course allows participants to assume the role of an official responsible for issuing municipal bonds. Pick a financing team, practice financing projects using real-world scenarios and earn continuing professional education credit at no cost.

Most municipal government professionals can benefit from strengthening their understanding of the municipal securities market. The Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB) created this resource to address a need for continuing education in the municipal market.

The course, Being an Informed Municipal Bond Issuer, is a useful learning tool for elected officials as well as any government professional involved in a bond transaction. Among the topics covered in the course are the roles and responsibilities of key members of the financing team and the disclosure obligations of an issuer.

“This course provides a unique and engaging way to help issuers understand the basics of the bond market,” said Kenton Tsoodle, Assistant Finance Director for Oklahoma City and a member of the debt committee of the Government Finance Officers Association. “It is a great educational tool and an exciting development for the municipal government community.”

Being an Informed Municipal Bond Issuer is part of the MSRB’s MuniEdPro, a suite of interactive, online courses designed specifically for municipal market participants. Register for MuniEdProSM to take the free, 45-minute course. For any organization that wants to provide the course to a broad audience, it can be integrated into in-house learning management systems.

In addition to the new course for municipal government professionals, the MSRB offers an extensive library of free, educational resources for municipal bond issuers available in the MSRB’s online Education Center and on-demand webinar portal. State and local public finance professionals can get tips for using the MSRB’s Electronic Municipal Market Access (EMMA®) website to monitor their outstanding debt, and learn how to comply with their ongoing responsibility to disclose financial information to investors throughout the life of their bonds, among other educational material about the municipal market.

As the self-regulatory organization for the municipal securities market, the MSRB makes educational resources available in support of its mission to promote a fair and efficient market. The MSRB’s free, objective educational materials help ensure all market participants understand applicable regulations and current market practices. For more information on the MSRB’s resources for municipal bond issuers, visit MSRB.org.

Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board is registered with the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) as a sponsor of continuing professional education on the National Registry of CPE Sponsors. State boards of accountancy have final authority on the acceptance of individual courses for CPE credit. Complaints regarding registered sponsors may be submitted to the National Registry of CPE Sponsors through its website: www.learningmarket.org.
Friday morning, Las Cruces Utilities held its ribbon cutting ceremony for the East Mesa Water Reclamation Facility (EMWRF) Solar Photovoltaic Project, which is the City’s largest solar photovoltaic (PV) project to-date. Watch video of ceremony.

Project Facts:
- Cost: $1,553,653.
- Construction Duration: 75 working days, project substantially completed within 41 working days.
- System Size: 328kw (DC), 352 PV Modules.
- Annual Power Generation: 543,081kWH.
- Offset Energy of Plant: 62% of annual energy consumption.
- Payback Period: 18 years (According to the CLC Sustainability Officer.)
- Cumulative 25-year savings: $2,239,887.
- The EMWRF PV System is roughly equivalent to energy use of 70 residential homes. (*based on avg. Las Cruces residential single family home.)
- EMWRF is the largest City-owned PV System to date.
- EMWRF PV System added 20% to the CLC renewable energy portfolio.
Continued from page 7

Differences in forms of government: In a Mayor-Council with Manager form of government and the Commission-Manager form of government, the duties of the mayor are the same except where personnel issues are concerned. In these forms of government the mayor’s responsibilities are transferred to the city manager. It is the city manager that hires, supervises, investigates complaints and takes corrective or disciplinary action with respect to city employees. The authority of the city manager concerning personnel in Mayor-Council with Manager and Commission-Manager forms of government is exercised without the requirement of obtaining the approval of either the mayor nor the governing body; such authority is exercised independently.

Voting: The mayor also has the duty to vote on matters that come before the governing body. In Mayor-Council and Mayor-Council with Manager forms of government, the mayor only votes in the event of a tie vote on the matter. In Commission Manager forms of government, the mayor is entitled to vote on all issues, as the mayor is a commission first, and then appointed to act as mayor.

Home Rule Forms of Government: Any or all of these duties and responsibilities may be modified or removed in any home rule charter. The duties and responsibilities of the mayor should be specifically enumerated in any home rule charter that is adopted.

Next Month: Duties and Responsibilities of the Governing Body.
WEEKLY
ARTS/CRAFTS & FARMERS MARKET
Friday’s - 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Sunday’s - Noon to 4:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY
Feb. 4th - Race for CARE 5K
Feb. 11th - For the Love of Art Show
Feb. 11th - Cupid’s Chase 5K

April
Apr. 1st - Mesilla Elementary 5K
Apr. 29th - British Car Show

May
May 6th & 7th - CINCO DE MAYO FIESTA
May 17th - Ride of Silence

June
Jun. 4th - Race for CARE 5K
Jun. 9th, 16th, 24th & 30th - Summer Music Series in the plaza
Jun. 17th - Raft the Rio Race

July & August
Jul. 4th - Fireworks Display
Jul. 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th - Summer Music Series

September
Sept. 16th & 17th - DIEZ Y SEIS DE SEPTIEMBRE FIESTA
Sept. 24th, Oct. 1st, 15th,
Nov. 5th, 12th & 19th - Mariachi Sunday’s

October
Oct. 7th & 8th - Jazz Happening
Oct. TBA - NEW MEXICO PECAN FESTIVAL
Oct. 14th - Los Leones Car Show
Oct. 28th - Halloween Carnival
Oct. 27th - 29TH(procession on Nov. 2nd) DIA DE LOS MUERTOS CELEBRATION

November
Nov. 11th - Veteran’s Day Ceremony
Nov. 18th - El Tratado de La Mesilla
Nov. 18th - Soroptimist 5K

December
Dec. 8th - Christmas Tree Lighting
Dec. 24th - CHRISTMAS EVE on the Plaza

For more information go to:
www.mesillann.gov
SILVER CITY
CALENDAR OF EVENTS
MAY - JUNE

May 4 / Dr. Felipe de Ortego y Gasca (Tochtli), Ph.D. – As part of the WNMU Lecture Series, Dr. Felipe de Ortego y Gasca will give a lecture titled “The Mystery of Memory in Shakespeare’s Hamlet.”

May 5 / Birds of Chicago – Break out your picnic blanket or favorite lawn chair to bring to this performance by the Birds of Chicago in the Gardens at WNMU. Melanie Zipin & the Sugar Leafs will open.

May 6 / Give Grandly! – This special day brings together over twenty-five non-profits from the Silver City area for a single day of philanthropy.

May 13 / Hurley Pride Festival & Car Show – This annual event, taking place in Hurley, features a car contest, live music, and food and various vendors.

May 13 / Spring Fiber Arts Sale – Browse unique weavings, knits, hand painted silks, quilts, fiber jewelry and more – and don’t forget to pick up something for mom for Mother’s Day!

May 13 / Bucky Allred Band – Bring your best moves for this country dance in the historic Buckhorn Opera House, featuring the Bucky Allred Band.

May 19 / 50 Years Ago in Silver City – Stop by for the opening reception for this exhibit, which will celebrate the museum’s 50th anniversary, and will feature light refreshments, local music of the era, and a contest for best circa 1967 attire!

May 20 / Twist and Shout: The Beatles Tribute Band – This one-of-a-kind performance, by New Mexico’s only Beatles tribute band, will be at the WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre.

May 26-28 / Silver City Blues Festival – The 22nd annual Blues Festival takes place during Memorial Day weekend. This year’s festival offers something for everyone – vendors, activities, and – of course – the blues!

May 31-June 3 / Wild, Wild West Pro Rodeo – Featuring everything from bull riding to roping, this rodeo has some of the toughest cowboys and cowgirls (and wildest bulls and broncs!) in the nation.
NMMS FACILITATION SKILLS & TOOLS FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPERS

NMMS is offering an in-depth Institute to help local organizations plan and conduct meetings that strengthen partnerships and support community needs. Community and stakeholder engagement is a cornerstone of the asset-based economic development approach that comprises MainStreet revitalization and redevelopment goals.

The institute will be presented in Grants, Las Cruces, Las Vegas, and Roswell. Please see the dates and registration links for more details.

May 23, 2017 – Grants, Register.
May 25, 2017 – Las Vegas, Register.
June 6, 2017 – Las Cruces, Register.
June 8, 2017 – Roswell, Register.