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Cover photo and all photos for the Our Town Corrales article by Visit Corrales
The New Mexico State Auditor has given the Village of Magdalena a clean bill of health, in other words, an audit with “no findings.” The benefit of a clean audit is that chances for state and government funding are vastly improved, according to Clerk Stephanie Finch.

“This is huge for the Village of Magdalena to receive an unmodified audit, which is the best opinion they give,” Finch said at the Village Board of Trustees meeting Monday night.

The audit was released Nov. 16.

An unmodified audit means that the State Auditor was able to audit the financial statements, books and records, without spotting any problems, and is confident that everything in the financial statements is a true reflection of the entity’s operations with no findings.

“To get an unmodified opinion and no findings rarely happens and I am very proud of our wonderful team on a job well done,” Finch said. “It takes a lot of hard work to accomplish what we have. Good things are happening in Magdalena and this is proof that we are doing a great job.”

But Finch was quick to not to take all the credit.

“It is not just because of the Clerk/Treasurer that we received this. It is all the employees, elected officials and the Village attorney,” she said. “The elected officials keep a close eye on financials and approve policies. The Village attorney writes those policies and ensures we are following the law. The mayor and management enforce those policies.”

When you hear the saying, “It takes a Village,” it rings true to this story.

“A lot of people may not think that having a good audit is a big deal, but it’s like your credit report,” Finch explains. “When applying for funding, whether it for loans or grants, this tells potential lenders that the Village of Magdalena has their affairs in order and there will be no issue with following the law and reporting on the funding received.

But it doesn’t stop there, she said. “State entities and the public have more confidence when they know their tax dollars are being handled properly.”

Finch complimented the Village Board and Mayor Richard Rumpf.

“We are all public servants to the Magdalena and our main goal is to be the best that we can be for our amazing little town,” she said. “We are extremely proud of our accomplishments and success.”
“It’s the most wonderful time of the year. With the kids jingle belling and everyone telling you ‘Be of good cheer.’ It’s the most wonderful time of the year”. Lyrics by Andy Williams

December is a month full of celebrations: Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, New Year’s Eve, and of course Christmas. With the holiday season comes the inescapable duty to attend the office holiday party. It is an annual event that is at the same time anticipated and dreaded. Why is this so? I believe it is because it is a confusing time for employers and employees. Attendance is often mandatory for employees, but employees are also expected to act in a more social manner. So, the pressure of being required to attend an office function, while at the same time being expected to act more informally, can sometimes result in mixed signals and boundaries being crossed. The holiday season is indeed a time for revelry and fun, but for events in the workplace or sponsored by the employer, there are certain lines that must not be crossed and certain expectations that must be met. Below are some suggestions on how to balance fun and celebration against workplace expectations.

1. Watch your intake. This means at the bar as well as the buffet. Remember, this is a business event.

2. Show up. Even though the invitation says “attendance is optional” it really isn’t. Your presence is expected and will be missed and it will be the topic of discussion at some time during the event (see number 5). Do the right thing and put in some “face time” even if it is for a short period of time.

3. Attend the party. Just showing up is not enough. This is an opportunity for you to get to know your co-workers on a more personal footing. (But beware of number 6). Having personal interactions with your co-works is not a bad thing. Personal interaction may boost trust and confidence levels and will certainly allow co-workers to see your less serious side. So relax and enjoy the opportunity to share personal histories and interests - you may find you have a lot in common with those with whom you work.

Whether there are clients/customers present or whether it is simply a staff gathering, this is no place for a drunk. And no one wants to see how many meatballs or wings you can pack in. If your hands and/or mouth are too full throughout the party to greet people and shake hands, it might come across as rude. Moderation in food and drink is a good mantra for everyday living, even more so at an office party.
4. Dress appropriately. This is a golden opportunity to experiment with your wardrobe. Wear something you wouldn’t otherwise wear to the office; your ugly sweater or little black dress. But remember, this is an office event, there will be pictures (everyone has a smartphone that takes pictures) and those pictures will appear as attachments to office e-mails or on someone’s Facebook page. Avoid provocative dress (that very short skirt or blouse that is very low cut) or that t-shirt with the off-color message.

5. Don’t gossip. This is a time for revelry and fun, it is not the time (never is) for backbiting and scandalous discussion about co-workers, clients or customers. Keep the conversation light and off the job.

6. Don’t flirt. The Holiday Party is NOT an opportunity for “hookups.” Despite the more relaxed atmosphere and party mood, office gatherings are never an excuse for flirting. This is not the time to hit on your boss, or the boss’ spouse or your co-worker, or customer or service staff, or anyone for that matter. So just don’t do it.

7. Prepare your significant other. If spouses or guests are invited, make them aware of attire expectations. Advise them of appropriate topics to discuss, or more importantly, those topics to be avoided. Consider steering away from topics such as sex, politics and religion. Make sure your guest follows your suggestions; their behavior will reflect on you.

8. Nothing you do is private. Today, almost everyone has a smartphone that is capable of recording voice as well as video. Do not assume that you can hide. In addition to smartphones, many companies have video security cameras in place. Do not think you can skip out for a “quickie” or worse without being noticed.

9. Secret Santas are tricky business. You may not know the woman who occupies the office down the hall very well except that she is a Broncos fan. As a life long Chiefs fan, you cannot bring yourself to buy anything orange in color. If the option of a joke sex gift pops into your head, banish it immediately. It will be funny, right? Wrong. The room will go from boisterous to utterly silent. Don’t risk it. Be safe. Buy a gift card instead.

10. Have fun! It is a party after all.
Welcome to the Village of Corrales! We are a great get-away where you can enjoy a tranquil semi-rural oasis that works hard to maintain its pastoral character and preserve its old world heritage. Visitors are invited to come for a day of exploring or perhaps a spirit-renewing weekend at one of our bed and breakfast establishments.

Entrepreneurial spirit thrives in this village and “shop local” is a mantra of community-spirited Corralesanos. Because of the one-of-a-kind offerings in galleries and shops, gift buying is easy. From hand-formed pottery made from New Mexico clay, to hand-made silver jewelry, to award-winning painted landscapes and sculptures, to antiques and collectibles, small shops provide excellent choice and the opportunity to learn about items directly from merchants and artisans.

Art and nature exist in reciprocal harmony here. Hundreds of artists find inspiration in this compact setting of mountains, river, big sky, bosque (woods), and farmland. Their works are on display all around the Village, including at five local galleries that present various media such as paintings, photography, jewelry, pottery, fabric design and metal sculpture. Once a year the Corrales Society of Artists sponsors an art studio tour with 60-plus open studios as well as shows throughout the year. The Old Church has art shows that provides an unbelievable venue for outstanding artwork. With so many sunny, temperate days, and gorgeous subjects to capture, plein air painting is a favorite pastime. Visitors can expect to encounter artists down by the Rio Grande who are pleased to chat and share their vision. A visit to the river at sunset is often rewarded with a view of the rosy-hued Sandia Mountains, the name derived from the Spanish word for watermelon.

Corrales farms benefit from the ever-present sun as well. The ancient irrigation systems called acequias are narrow waterways that pull their water from the Rio Grande through a carefully monitored water-sharing system. Visitors can walk for miles along the waterways and experience the lifestyle of “hidden Corrales,” which reveals small ranches and fields, each of which is flood-ed for several hours when it is their time. Farmers bring their goods to sell each week to the energetic, music-infused Grower’s Market on Sunday mornings from 9 to noon from April to November. Various booths offer these farm products as well as specialty items such as Native American horno-baked bread, raspberry jams from Corrales-grown fruit (some made with chile and ginger), French pastries, fresh duck and chicken eggs, and a popular rent-a-chicken option. Made-to-order
breakfast burritos are always available. Once bellies are full, a stroll through the Makers’ Market three Sundays a month next to the Grower’s Market is a pleasant way to learn about other talented local artisans.

From a pizza all-you-can-eat buffet, to breakfast burritos, to coffee shops, and fine dining under the cottonwoods, Corrales delights. If you hunger for authentic New Mexican food in an equally authentic setting, Perea’s Tijuana Bar and Restaurant will suit. Housed in one of the oldest buildings in Corrales, a 200-plus year-old structure constructed of “terrones” or thick slabs of earth rather than adobes, this historic building is locally renowned for outstanding home-cooked New Mexican food. Sit at the bar and have an informative chat with John Perea, the latest descendant to run the place. (He’ll educate you about red and green if you don’t already know the difference). For a more upscale (but reasonably priced) New Mexican food experience, try Las Ristras just up the road at the Plaza de Corrales – named the best new Albuquerque restaurant concept in 2016. While there, check out the Corrales Art Center Gallery and a very complete pharmacy – should you be in need of either advice, meds, or sundries.

Drinking delicious wines in romantic settings is a well-established activity here. Four wineries produce award-winning reds and whites, and owners are on hand to explain the labor-intensive (but made with love) process.

Leave your car at any one of several parking areas, then hike, bike, jog, or ride a horse with the locals. Bicycles and horses are available for short-term hire, or bring your own. Exploring trails and waterways with the backdrop of the Sandia Mountains and Rio Grande will provide long-lasting memories. As in the past, a common sight is to see horses tied up outside restaurants while riders imbibe or have a snack.

Sandhill cranes inhabit Corrales, squawking loudly overhead in another popular multi-sensory experience. Every morning from early October through December, they swarm in the skies, landing in spent fields to feast on the remains of the summer harvest. Look for them

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along the Rio Grande, in empty fields and overhead and have a camera ready.

The senses are also treated to many musical performances that are found all around the Village – from hip-swaying salsa and traditional mariachi to contemporary jazz to classical. The Grower’s Market on Sundays (April through mid-November) is a regular venue to enjoy local talent, as are several of the restaurants and pubs. A formal Music in Corrales program, with concerts held at the Historic Old San Ysidro Church always includes a wide variety of musical genres. The all-volunteer Corrales Cultural Arts Council (CCAC) created the Music in Corrales series in 1986 as a musical offering to the Corrales community. The series was conceived as a way of preserving New Mexico’s vast musical and cultural heritage, and a way to create a new heritage as well. Word of the quality programming here has spread, so the audience is no longer just neighbors. Local residents and guests from the middle Rio Grande Valley share the evening with visitors from other states and abroad. This past summer Corrales resident Bobby Shew and his trio performed a jazz concert to a packed and appreciative audience.

Hospitality is the Corrales way to share this unique heritage and special beauty. Major events each year attract thousands to the Fourth of July parade (truly old-fashioned with kazoos and painted ponies, trac-
tors, antique cars, kids pulling festively decorated red wagons), the Corrales Harvest Festival with tractor hayrides to transport visitors to various activities, the December Starlight Parade with St. Nick and a huge bonfire with green chile stew provided by our Corrales Fire Department featuring antique tractors and fire trucks decked out with holiday lights, and special shopping events with raffles and grand prizes worth real money. In the spring, lovely private gardens are on view during the annual Garden Tour fundraiser.

True community spirit also marks Village culture and blends with the passion for growing fresh food. The all volunteer Seed2Need program grows thousands of pounds of organic vegetables to distribute to various food banks. Approximately two acres and water is donated by local property owners to help solve the food insecurity problem in New Mexico. The richness of the soil near the Rio Grande means spectacular harvests. In 2015, 70,000 pounds of produce were donated to 17 food pantries and soup kitchens in Bernalillo and Sandoval counties.

Villagers also benefit from this same sense of community. Fundraising and donations to various causes are frequent activities. The Corrales Police collect backpacks and school supplies each summer for distribution at the local elementary school. Older

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LIBRARIES ACROSS THE STATE

CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY

By Zachary McNellis
Interim Library Director

Carnegie Public Library was built in 1904 in Las Vegas, New Mexico, with a $10,000 grant from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation. An original Rupp & Rupp, Carnegie Public Library is the last remaining functioning Carnegie Library in the state of New Mexico.

Doing a quick search of Carnegie Public Library, you will find that many people have many positive things to say about this little library in Las Vegas. "In a town full of beautiful houses and other structures, the Carnegie Library stands out as the most-beautiful. Based upon the architecture of Jefferson’s Monticello, it stands out. The library and its grounds occupy one full block and the grounds are lovely with trees and squirrels and birds and a few picnic tables," said Nancy Laird.

As most librarians can tell you, it is harder and harder to get people in the door of the library each year. With the popularity of E-books, paperback and hard cover books have almost become a thing of the past. At Carnegie Public Library we have been working to bring the latest and greatest E-books, and services to the citizens of Las Vegas and the surrounding areas.

Carnegie Public Library recently underwent a renovation to the dome thanks in part to MainStreet de Las Vegas, DNC Painting and Jordan Grimm. Pictures of the old building and the current building can be seen on the Friends of the Carnegie Public Library Facebook page.

We have a subscription to Junior Library Guild that
gives us 24 books a month to keep our children’s area stocked with new arrivals. We’ve had about 400 people show up for our weekly story time events from January through May, and August through December. From having story time in the library, we have branched out to offer a story time on Monday’s at the local Recreation Center at 3:30 p.m. At each Story Time, children are read a story and then instructed on how to do the craft that Zachary McNellis, or another librarian have created for the week.

During the year, the Friends of the Carnegie Public Library do tours of the Carnegie Public Library as part of different city events. One such event is the Peoples Faire that happens every August, and the other event is the December Historic Tour by the CCHP. During both tours, the friends will dress out in historical clothing to give an authentic tour of the library.

We started working with the local schools to get all children library cards. We have completed grades 4-5 last year and are currently working on grades 2-4 this year. We hope to have between 1,000 and 1,500 children’s cards issued to all local school district children. During the time of working on getting children’s cards to all area children, we started a reading contest for all children for grades 3-5. We held essentially two separate contests so that one child from East Las Vegas and one child from West Las Vegas would get a chance at winning the grand prizes of Amazon Kindles. This year (2018) we are opening up the reading contest to all children in grades 1 through 6 with prizes going to the top reader in each grade level.

The Summer Reading Program at Carnegie Public Library was a huge success this year. We had just over 1,400 patrons throughout the five weeks we had the program running. Our biggest crowd was for the Exotics of the Rainforest with a close second going to Zoo to You. Children age’s 2 through 12 are able to register with permission from their parents. Every child that is registered received an incentive pack that included a backpack, water bottle, painting sheet, coloring sheets, pencils, magnetic bookmarks, paper bookmarks, a reading log folder, and of course a book.

Zachary McNellis can be reached via email at zach@ci.las-vegas.nm.us or (505) 426-3302 if you have any questions about Carnegie Public Library or any of the services provided.
Municipal leaders: Please consider sharing this with your local businesses, including those on Main Street and farmer’s market participants.

The holidays have come and gone, but persuading budget-conscious consumers to shop locally is not just a seasonal effort. If they hope to compete with national chains and internet-based rivals, small businesses need a year-round strategy that highlights how their products or services are superior to what a national or multinational corporation can deliver.

Small businesses, for example, give a community its homegrown character. They reflect the needs and interests of local residents and provide jobs and economic opportunities close to home. A dollar spent at a local store contributes to the tax revenue that pays for public services and amenities that benefit the entire community. Some benefits are intangible, but their absence is not: A town without a strong local business base looks and feels empty.

To attract local shoppers every day of the year, small businesses can try these ideas:

1. They can mimic national retailers by enticing customers with in-store discounts. With a purchase, for example, the customer gets another discount on a future transaction that’s made before the discounts expire; this creates a sense of urgency to buy again. To increase local interest, offers can be customized to reflect the local environment. For example, a 10 percent discount might be called the Sandia Discount, while a 25 percent discount might be called the Taos Hum.

2. Price isn’t the only aspect of a product or service that matters to customers. People often will pay more for a product made or sold by a neighbor or fellow resident. A business can connect with locals by donating a portion of profits to local charities or causes that matter to residents.

3. Expertise can be hard to come by at the big box stores where workers know where to find a product but
may not know how it works or how one brand differs from another. Small businesses can thrive alongside big retailers by offering specialized knowledge or niche products and advertising themselves as sources of reliable information with interactive blogs and original web content.

4. Businesses can raise money for local charities and highlight local ties in various ways. For example, if the business supports a high school or extracurricular athletic team, it could feature local athletes in promotions by having them model clothing or merchandise. Or they could feature local leaders in a calendar that sports the business’s name.

5. A local company can invite loyal customers to help the business test new products. A restaurant could invite regulars to a private party to sample prospective house wines, while a pet store could invite repeat customers and their animal companions to a toy- or food-testing event. A music store could invite local musicians to a jam session and offer an instrument or music lesson as a door prize. A video of such events posted to the business’s social media site might entertain and attract new customers.

By collaborating with other businesses and showing appreciation for local customers, retailers can draw people back “downtown,” to the vibrant core of many New Mexican communities.

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 and www.GrowItNM.org.
Seasons Greetings!

This month’s article will be different in that we will cover one topic suggested by the NMML staff, the “Ask Las Cruces” mobile app.

The mobile app is quite user friendly and functional. They told me, “We have a 311 email portal on our website called Ask the City. You can access it at http://www.las-cruces.org/ask-the-city” that also provides a link to the app. I used the app to inquire about how Las Cruces made it. I had an answer that afternoon! They have an in-house person that created the app and then posted it to Android and Apple stores.

I was impressed when checking out the app and their web portal and a few questions came to mind. I asked, “Who in your organization currently monitors and routes the issues from the 311 app and website?” The answer was twofold. First, when a citizen uses the app or website they said, “Depending on the category, the email is automatically routed to the specific employees, or group of employees who handle the issue.” The second part of this answer has to do with the entry into the work order system and they stated, “At the back end, both Ask the City and Ask Las Cruces reports from residents have to be entered into the primary work order system by someone.”

They plan on using a 311 Integration standard called “Open311 GeoReport” (http://wiki.open311.org/GeoReport_v2) which will integrate the requests into their current work order system. There will be some coding for the app and website but there will be no cost for the integration.

I consider their app and website as a model for our municipalities and plan to ask them for assistance when we are ready to move forward with our current...
work order system. These are great examples of new channels using technology such as an app or responsive website to get information from our constituents easily and accountably. Phones and standard forms will continue to be an important part of the equation but with current workforce limitations getting the job done by knowing what and where it is faster will help them serve their citizens better without adding more staff.

Using e-mail to communicate with others has become an ingrained part of our everyday lives. It is easy, quick and affordable. However, it becomes useless when addresses are not maintained.

The New Mexico Municipal League tries to keep our e-mail databases updated so that we are able to communicate in this format. It is VERY important to us to have the correct addresses for those in our databases. If you change your e-mail address, please let us know as soon as possible so that we have the correct address.

In addition, when municipalities make changes to their operating systems or install new software, many times the new software contains enhanced e-mail filters that many times detect some e-mails as spam. We ask you to check with whoever in your municipality manages you Information Technology (IT) to make sure the League’s domain is on what is called a “White List,” or those domains that are not considered “spam.” Since the League does use large e-mail distribution lists, please make sure that @nmml.org is on that list so you will receive those e-mails. Thanks for your cooperation.
9 PRECAUTIONS TO PREVENT FIRE SPRINKLER FREEZE-UPS

By Jay Gnadt, Lockton Companies

With winter in the northern hemisphere beginning in just a few weeks, it’s time to start taking steps to keep automatic fire sprinkler systems from freezing. Freezing temperatures present the possibility of impaired fire protection due to water freezing in sprinkler pipes and other parts of the fire sprinkler system. Frozen fire protection systems can result in not only fire losses due to disabled detection or extinguishing systems, but also extensive water damage to the building and contents as a result of bursting pipes.

Frozen and broken valves, and the resulting water damage, usually happen when temperatures warm above freezing after a cold weather outbreak and the ice in the system begins to thaw. Automatic sprinkler freeze-ups occur when insufficient heat is provided to a building either by the heating system shutting down or from cold air infiltration via openings—even small ones—in building walls, ceilings, and floors, or from insufficient building insulation. Losses caused by frozen fire sprinkler piping occur more frequently when climates that are not normally associated with cold weather experience cold fronts.

General Precautions

The following steps, taken before and during cold weather, will help reduce the potential for loss from frozen fire sprinkler pipes and other components:

- Make sure that employees keep alert for, and report, potential or existing cold weather problems.
- Check fire protection systems more frequently than normal during cold weather.
- Do not attempt do-it-yourself repairs on fire safety equipment. The services of trained, competent service personnel should be obtained.
- Do not use torches or other open-flame devices to thaw pipes or other equipment.
- The use of temporary heating equipment, such as salamanders and other unvented portable fuel-burning heaters is not recommended. These heaters introduce fire and health hazards and present unnecessary fire and health risk. Rather, existing heating systems should be extended or upgraded where feasible.
- Do not store excessive quantities of fuel or flammable liquids in areas not designed for that purpose.
- During the annual servicing of your fire sprinkler systems by your contractor, have them demonstrate the operation of all valves. Have appropriate personnel rehearse closing the valves so they can shut down the systems in the event of a burst pipe.
• Water supplies and fire pumps should be protected from freezing.
• Plan to remove snow from fire hydrants, post indicator valves, and fire department pumper connections.

Wet-Pipe Systems

Freezing of wet-pipe fire sprinkler systems (which normally have water in the piping at all times) occurs most often due to lack of adequate heat. Open doors, windows, vents, broken windows, wall cracks, loose shingles and siding, and other defects in building maintenance can cause system freeze-ups.

The following precautions will help protect wet pipe systems from freezing:

• Keep doors, windows, and vents closed when not in use or when resulting drafts will allow freezing air to contact sprinkler piping. Repair broken windows, doors, and other items in need of fixing. Remember that high winds may accompany periods of low temperatures.
• Where sprinkler piping may be exposed to outside temperatures, the pipe should be heated or adequately insulated.
• Provide heating of adequate capacity to maintain the temperature at no less than 40 degrees Fahrenheit near sprinkler piping during cold weather. Pay particular attention to piping in attics, entries, penthouses, stairways, under floor areas, above ceilings, shipping, and other out-of-the-way areas where low temperatures may be found. Where drop ceilings are used, remove a few strategically placed ceiling tiles to allow warm air to reach pipes during cold weather.
• If a building’s fire protection system will be exposed to cold weather, such as when a building or building section’s heating system is planned to be shut down, or if heating is interrupted for more than a few hours, precautionary measures must be taken. The system’s water may have to be drained and a fire watch established or temporary heating provided.
• For loading docks or other parts of the system that may have an antifreeze loop system, the specific gravity of the antifreeze must be checked prior to the cold weather season to ensure it has the proper proportions of antifreeze and water. Make sure the valve is open.
• Be sure to notify your property insurance carrier, if required by your insurance policy, if sprinklers will be shut down or other impairment occurs.

Dry-Pipe Systems

Dry-pipe sprinkler systems normally do not contain water in their piping and are less likely to freeze during cold weather than wet-pipe systems. Still, certain precautions should be taken to ensure that freezing does not occur in dry-pipe systems:

• Drain any water or condensate from auxiliary drains and all other low points. Don’t forget about drains beneath stairs or platforms.
• Make sure the dry-pipe valve and riser on the water supply are adequately protected against freezing. Heat the valve enclosure using electrical heater strips under thermostatic control so that a minimum of 50 degrees Fahrenheit can be maintained.
• Ensure that sufficient air is in the dry-pipe system to allow for a drop in pressure that occurs during low temperatures. The air pressure should be checked daily during cold weather (preferably at night when temperatures are often coldest). Inadequate pressure can result in the dry-pipe valve tripping and subsequent freezing of the water that enters the piping.
• A compressor usually supplies air to the dry-pipe systems. The air intakes to the compressor should be located in a cold, dry atmosphere. Avoid warm, damp areas as moisture introduced when the air compresses in the piping and collects at low points in the system may freeze. Air dryers should be installed in the air intakes.
• Repair or replace broken, missing, or lost sprinkler pipe hangers to make sure the system has the proper pitch of sprinkler piping and to provide good drainage.
• A temperature-signaling device monitored by a central station alarm service can be installed in the valve room or enclosure.

Taking proactive steps to ensure that automatic fire sprinkler systems are functioning properly and adequately heated before cold weather hits can help prevent water damage to buildings and contents. Keeping sprinkler systems functioning in cold weather also prevents impairments that can leave a property with inadequate protection from fire and business interruption losses. For additional assistance, contact your Lockton representative.
Exploring Corrales Continued from page 9

residents in Corrales have piece of mind as they age in their homes thanks to a vibrant Village in Village chapter that provides services such as transportation and friendly, non-medical home visits. The beloved quaint Corrales Library is worth a visit, just to see the goldfish pond inside and have a look around at what a country library can offer with community support.

Corralenos are passionate about their Village and have worked diligently to preserve the rural and historical traditions of this community. The Corrales Historical Society periodically offers programs where this legacy is on display. Sometimes it’s a speaker talking about the earliest settlements of prehistoric Native Americans, the ancestors of the still vibrant Rio Grande pueblos, or it could be at our annual Heritage Day where descendants of the Spanish, who founded the Village of Corrales circa 1750, can view old photos of the families who farmed the valley in its earliest days, joined later by Italian and French immigrants.

On special occasions, at Casa San Ysidro, a 19th century home and now a museum, artisans demonstrate traditional drafts such as blacksmithing, wool spinning and tin punching.

We welcome you to shed the concerns of the world about you, slow down, and soak up this rejuvenating landscape and friendship of this Village that has endured for centuries on the banks of the Rio Grande.
CORRALES FIRE HELPS CALIFORNIA FIREFIGHTERS EFFORTS

Members of the Corrales Fire Department deployed to the California Fires on December 7, 2017 as part of a wildland task force made up of personnel and apparatus from five New Mexico fire departments. The other departments are Albuquerque Fire, Bernalillo County Fire, Los Alamos Fire and Sandoval County Fire. The New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management is the agency working with California Emergency Management officials to secure resources from New Mexico to assist with the fires in California. At the current time, the Wildland Task Force is expected to be in California for 15 days and is currently assigned to the Lilac Fire in near San Diego.

Corrales Fire Department sent a brush truck to California with three personnel. The staff includes Engineer Nick Molinari who is a full-time department employee and is also a certificated as a Wildland Engine Boss. The other two members who deployed to the fire are Khalen Howard and Ethan Lattin-Montano who are both volunteers with the department and are both Wildland Firefighter Type II.

The deployment to assist California has not impacted the department’s ability to cover emergency calls within Corrales. Before becoming part of the Task Force, Chief Martinez insured that the Village emergency response would not be impacted and career staff and volunteers are insuring staffing levels are at normal operational status.

We are proud to help and wish our men a safe trip!
CONTINUING STORIES

LAS CRUCES AMONG NATION’S SAFEST CITIES

Las Cruces ranks 32nd on the 2017 list of safest cities in America by the personal finance website WalletHub.com. El Paso, TX came in at number 38 and Albuquerque, NM at 112.

According to the Las Cruces Police Department’s 2016 annual crime statistics, violent crime and property crime were both down six-percent.

“Being the leading safe city in our region demonstrates our commitment to creating and maintaining a safe and comforting environment for our residents and guests,” said City Manager Stuart C. Ed. “But we are striving to do better. I compliment the women and men of the Las Cruces Police Department for their commitment to duty. Through their efforts and public partnership through the principles of community policing, we will continue to improve our service delivery.” Ed also extended his thanks to police chief Jaime Montoya who retires at the end of this month following 26 years of service. “Chief Montoya was instrumental in Las Cruces obtaining this ranking. His leadership resulted in many positive outcomes.” In addition, Ed thanked the families of law enforcement for the ongoing support they give those in uniform each and every day.

WalletHub reports that its analysts compared 182 cities - including the 150 most populated U.S. cities - across three key dimensions: 1) Home & Community Safety, 2) Financial Safety, and 3) Natural-Disaster Risk.

WalletHub states it evaluated those dimensions using 35 relevant metrics with their corresponding weights. Each metric was graded on a 100-point scale, with a score of 100 representing the highest level of safety.

They then determined each city’s weighted average across all metrics to calculate its total score and used the resulting scores to rank-order their sample. In determining their sample, WalletHub considered only the city proper in each case, excluding cities in the surrounding metro area.


ADVOCACY EFFORTS HELPED PROTECT MUNICIPAL BONDS, PRIVATE ACTIVITY BONDS AND KEY TAX CREDITS, BUT FALLS SHORT WITH SALT AND ADVANCE REFUNDING BONDS

WASHINGTON — Congress, on December 20, passed the final version of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (H.R. 1), the largest change to the U.S. tax code in more than 30 years. In response to the vote, National League of Cities (NLC) President Mark Stodola, mayor of Little Rock, Arkansas, released the following statement:

“Throughout the tax reform debate, more than 800 city leaders sent a strong message to Congress: protect the tools that cities use to support middle class families and grow local economies. Yesterday, at the end of this unconventional process, the House and Senate passed a bill that preserved the tax exemption for municipal and private activity bonds (PABs), and maintained key tax credits used for historic preservation and community development.

“Unfortunately, the bill falls short in preserving the full deductibility of state and local taxes (SALT), and completely eliminates the exemption for advance refunding bonds. The National League of Cities and our partners were successful in moving the needle on SALT, which was completely eliminated in the House version, to a $10,000 cap (including local property taxes and income/sales taxes) in the final bill.

“Cities will continue to fight to fully restore SALT and the exemption for advance refunding bonds. As we turn our focus toward 2018, we hope Congress will work with cities to accomplish our shared priorities, including an infrastructure package that invests in our communities and grows local economies.”

More than 800 city leaders signed onto an action letter outlining NLC’s topline priorities when it comes to tax reform and the federal budget. The letter and signatures are available atwww.nlc.org/StandWith-Cities, and NLC’s tax reform priorities can be found at www.nlc.org/TaxReform.
On Saturday, December 9th the Roswell Public Library held its 3rd annual Holiday Craft Extravaganza – a family-friendly holiday event for all ages. This year the Children’s department at the Roswell Public Library supplied five various holiday crafts for families and individuals to enjoy. They also had gingerbread cookie decorating and refreshments, which were provided by the Friends of the Roswell Public Library. During the event, Santa Claus and his elf helper made a special visit to the Children’s reading area where attendees could meet Santa to tell him what they would like for Christmas and get a photo taken together. It was a very fun and successful event and we cannot wait for more excitement next year!
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