INSIDE THIS ISSUE
Our Town: Peralta
Legal Lessons: Personnel Primer
Using Brand Influencers to Build Your Brand
TABLE OF CONTENTS

NM MEETINGS
PROFESSIONALS RECEIVE
MPI CHAPTER TOP
PERFORMING AWARD . . . . . . . 7

Legal Issues: Personnel
Primer—Part One . . . . . . . . . 8

City of Las Cruces Receives
Largest Grant Award in its
History . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 10

Our Town:
BIENVENIDOS a PERALTA . . 12

Complete Count Committee—a
Major 2020 Census Outreach
Strategy for New Mexico
Cities . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 17

WESST’s Online Courses Help
Women Entrepreneurs Build
Dreams . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 18

Using Brand Influencers to
Build Your Brand . . . . . . . . 20

Enhancing America’s ‘Rural
Lifestyle’. . . . . . . . . . . . . . 22

National League of Cities
Unveils Definitive Guide to
Piloting Autonomous
Vehicles . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 25

NMML Classifieds . . . . . . . . 29

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The Board of Directors of the New Mexico Municipal League met for the first time October 6th at the League offices in Santa Fe. In this meeting we reviewed the resolutions approved at the conference and discussed prioritizing among them for the upcoming state legislative session, which will run from January 21, 2019 through March 16th. Since this is a 60-day session, any item of interest may be introduced and discussed.

Several members of the Board had specific resolutions that they wished to consider for prioritization. Four general priorities were identified, and in addition, several resolutions were identified to be of municipal importance. The four priority areas are:

- **State and Local Tax Reform** (Resolution 2018-20). Pertaining to Tax Reform that will provide adequate resources for local governments.

- **Taxation of Internet Sales** (Resolution 2018-25). Regarding the distribution of the State Shared Gross Receipts Tax and Imposition of Local Option Gross Receipts Taxes on Remote Sales.

- **Funding of Streets, Roads and Bridge** (Resolution 2018-27). Addressing increases in gasoline tax and motor vehicle excise tax to fund local transportation needs.

- **Enhancing Safety in Public Schools** (Resolution 2018-37). Including making it easier for retired law enforcement officers to be employed by public schools, funding technology to enhance school safety, limiting firearms access to high-risk individuals, new bullying legislation and training on active shooter scenarios.

Resolutions of special municipal importance addressed sale/transfer/issuance of liquor licenses, library state grants and broadband infrastructure, increases to certain municipal court fees, DWI enforcement on publicly accessible private property, moving the Fire Marshalls’ Office out of the PRC, and supporting responsible and affordable energy transition policies. More information about these resolutions and priorities are available by contacting the League offices.

As you can tell, this was a full meeting, with lively discussion on a variety of topics. I appreciated the knowledge and real-life examples shared around the (big) table, with judges, city managers, clerks, as well as elected officials lending their insights. We have a good Board, and we are here to represent the interests of all the cities, towns and villages in New Mexico. Give us a call and add your voice on these or other topics. The better a case we can make on our areas of interest, the more likely we are to make our key legislation to the Governor’s signature and beyond.
Council Chair David Izraelevitz was first selected by the Los Alamos County Council to fill the unexpired term of Councilor James Hall, who left his position to be State House District 43 Representative. David was then elected for a full term in the November 2014 elections.

David is a first generation American, immigrating to the US at the age of eleven from Uruguay, South America. He moved to Los Alamos in 1995 from Boston with his wife Terry, and his three children Joseph, Jacob and Adam.

David has been involved in many community organizations in Los Alamos, including Big Brothers/Big Sisters and several local scholarship committees for our high school graduates. He has also been very active in the Los Alamos Jewish Center, and is a founding Board...
Earlier this month Council Chair Izraelevitz sat down and spoke to TMR about his experiences in local government and his vision for TMR.

What influenced you to enter politics?

Council Chair Izraelevitz

I did not have a single major issue that motivated me to apply to fill a vacancy on our Council. I started being involved in minor citizen committees many years prior, and as I got experience and exposure to local government, I realized how important it was to have people involved who were willing to study issues objectively, listen to the public and come to common sense solutions and approaches.

What is your favorite aspect of being the Council/Chair for the City/County of Los Alamos?

Council Chair Izraelevitz

The Los Alamos Council Chair has few additional formal powers than any other councilor. However, I really enjoy being able to represent the Council at different events and activities. I just wrote a letter on behalf of my fellow councilors thanking a sole Boy Scout who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. It was a small thing, but I think it was important to let him know that I appreciated his courage!

What qualities and characteristics do you feel are essential for someone pursuing public office?

Council Chair Izraelevitz

Integrity of course comes to mind but that concept itself encompasses many things. I would break this down into three areas: first, a sense of responsibility, meaning that as public officials we have signed up for a job, and we should do it to the best of our abilities. A sense of justice and fairness, in that we are stewards of the public treasure and trust, and should act accordingly. Third, a sense of humility, meaning that we should not be so certain that we personally have the right answer all the time, that we should be listening to the public for their views and ideas, as well as seek professional advice from staff and others so we can come to informed decisions.

What has been the toughest lesson you have learned during your career in municipal politics?

Council Chair Izraelevitz

Integrity of course comes to mind but that concept itself encompasses many things. I would break this down into three areas: first, a sense of responsibility, meaning that as public officials we have signed up for a job, and we should do it to the best of our abilities. A sense of justice and fairness, in that we are stewards of the public treasure and trust, and should act accordingly. Third, a sense of humility, meaning that we should not be so certain that we personally have the right answer all the time, that we should be listening to the public for their views and ideas, as well as seek professional advice from staff and others so we can come to informed decisions.
Continued from page 5

Council Chair Izrailevitz
In any decision-making responsibility, one will make choices that will not be acceptable to some, or maybe most people. However, you have to forge ahead with what you think is the right path. Doing this in a public arena, where you are subject to public, and sometimes personal, criticism was something that I have come to learn is part of the job of a public official.

TMR
Tell me about a project or accomplishment that you consider to be the most significant in your role as Council Chair.

Council Chair Izrailevitz
We have had a very active and well managed set of Senior Centers, but I felt that we were in sore need of a correspondingly functional Teen Center, one that would be a focus not only for after-school activities for teens, but also a place to identify and reach out to those in need, again analogous to the role of our senior centers. I am proud that we were finally able to build and fund an attractive and well-run center to reach out to these young people, and let them know that we care about them.

TMR
How would you describe your community to someone who had never been there?

Council Chair Izrailevitz
We are little like a mining town on top of a mountain, except that instead of miners, we have scientists and engineers. We have the same small town, everyone-knows-each-other feeling, the same reliance on a single employer, the Los Alamos National Laboratory, the same issues about keeping our local downtown going. We have a sense of our place in the history of our country, with the legacy of the Manhattan Project, but also many outdoor amenities like other mountain towns, hiking, skiing, biking, all in a beautiful setting.

TMR
In your opinion, what are the most important issues facing local governments in New Mexico?

Council Chair Izrailevitz
Each city and town is different and has different critical issues facing them. However, I think there are some common themes. Economic issues, whether managing growth, or retaining local businesses, are issues that each community has to face in its own way. Related to this is how to retain a workforce that can keep or start some economic progress. Impress on the state and feds that decision-making is often best at the local level is a constant battle. This issue of pre-emption and local vs. external control applies to tax code, law enforcement and many other areas.

TMR
How do you feel NMML can better equip city leaders to face these issues?

Council Chair Izrailevitz
I believe our state lobbying role is critical. We are much louder when we speak as one voice, and we find common areas to push on. I am also a recent Municipal Officers Leadership Institute (MOLI) graduate, and I have come to appreciate on a personal level, all the valuable training we provide, especially to those who are new to a municipal responsibility.

TMR
What is your most important goal as this year’s NMML President?

Council Chair Izrailevitz
Given the proximity of Los Alamos to Santa Fe, I hope that I can be helpful to the League staff in advocating for the needs of our municipalities, and provide examples to our legislators of the pros- and cons- of the many ideas floating around in the Roundhouse. I also have a pet project of beginning a history of the League, working with faculty at UNM. We have a lot of corporate memory in our organization that will be invaluable for future generations of leaders in our state.
NEW MEXICO MEETINGS PROFESSIONALS RECEIVE MPI CHAPTER TOP PERFORMING AWARD

Meeting Professionals International (MPI) is the largest meeting and event industry association worldwide. Founded in 1972, MPI provides innovative and relevant education, certification programs, networking opportunities as well as business exchanges to planners and suppliers alike, and acts as a prominent voice for the promotion and growth of the industry. MPI has a global community of 60,000 meeting and event professionals with more than 90 chapters and clubs in 19 countries. With so many meetings and conferences here at the League, it is great to have a professional association that keeps you current and on top of your game.

The small but mighty MPI New Mexico Chapter was just recognized with a hard-to-get Global Award, quite a feat when you consider that we only have 55-60 paid members at any one time (plus non-members who occasionally attend our events) and compete with 90 other chapters worldwide, most of which are much, MUCH larger than ours. It was my honor to be the Chapter President during the 2017-2018 year considered for this award, and I was lucky to have a spectacular team and many outstanding members engaging and volunteering quite a bit of their time and expertise to achieve our goal of providing top education and networking events for New Mexico meetings professionals. Here is the 2017-2018 team of MPI-NM volunteer board members who made it all happen!

Colette Schobbens, CMP, CMM
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*Mentors Coordinator
NM Municipal League

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*Sales Director
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Emily Rabel
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Shawn Kristoff
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Catering Sales Manager
Albuquerque Doubletree Hotel

Tisha Aldredge, CMP
VP-Administration*
Event Planner
UNM School of Medicine, Continuing Medical Education & Professional Development

If you or anyone you know organize(s) events, meetings or conferences or provide(s) services for the same, check out MPI-NM and join us for one of our events, or call me to find out more (505-992-3515). Over the years I certainly have found my involvement with MPI to be very rewarding and beneficial to my career as a meeting planner!

Colette Schobbens, CMP, CMM
LEGAL ISSUES

PERSONNEL PRIMER—PART ONE
HIRING MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES

By Randy Van Vleck, League General Counsel

The issue concerning the process for hiring people to become municipal employees has been an almost constant subject of discussion and disagreements among elected officials. It shouldn’t. Actually the processes set forth by the legislature are remarkably clear. Although the procedures are different depending on your form of government, the procedures are almost universal within each form of government. In other words, there are really no exceptions with which municipal governments must contend. One of the major areas of contention is whether the Mayor has the authority to appoint all employees, including the city manager or administrator. Stated another way, is there any role for the members of the council to play in the appointment process or does it all begin with the mayor. I think the answer is clear.

This distinction comes about because NMSA 1978 Section 3-12-4 requires the governing body to provide for certain appointive offices including clerk, treasurer and police officer. Additionally Section 3-13-3 states that the governing body may provide for a manager. It seems as though the legislature may be trying to distinguish municipal officials for municipal employees.

In Mayor-Council forms of government, the hiring process is set forth in NMSA 1978 Section 3-11-6. That section states categorically: (emphasis supplied)

Subject to the approval of a majority of all members of the governing body, the mayor shall:

1. Appoint all officers and employees except those holding elective office; and
2. Designate an employee to perform any service authorized by the governing body.

Thus, like it or not, the legal role of the governing body in statutory Mayor-Council forms of government is to simply approve or reject an appointment made by the mayor. Stated another way, the hiring process in Mayor-Council forms of government begins with the mayor making an appointment or recommendation for hire, followed by a vote of the entire governing body. A majority of all members of the body is required for confirmation. The process in getting to this point can vary, and municipalities may set up personnel committees or subcommittees that interview and screen applicants for selection by the mayor, but this process has its limitations. While it may be a more transparent process (getting from application to appointment) it is ultimately up to the mayor to make an appointment, and if the mayor is not satisfied with the selection process, the mayor could reject the recommendations of the subcommittee and either make an appointment or send the matter back to the committee to try again. The final word: the hiring process begins with the mayor making an appointment. It does not matter whether the position to be filled is that of a custodian, or that of a city manager. There is no distinction between appointive
official and regular employee.

In Commission-Manager forms of government, the situation is quite different. Let’s start with the manager. NMSA 1978 Section 3-14-12 states in very specific terms: (emphasis supplied)

A. All powers of the municipality are vested in the commission. The commission shall:

(1) Pass all ordinances and other measures conducive to the welfare of the municipality;

(2) Perform all acts required for the general welfare of the municipality; and

(3) In addition to the office of manager, create all offices necessary for the proper carrying on of the work of the municipality.

B. The commission shall appoint a manager and shall hold him responsible for the proper and efficient administration of the municipal government.

In this case it is the commission as a whole that appoints the manager, thus recommendations and suggestions for appointment to the office of manager can come from the mayor or any member or group of members of the city commission. These recommendations are of course subject to a majority vote of the commission, although it is interesting to note that it does not require majority of All members of the commission, so a simple majority that appears and votes at any given meeting and effectuate the confirmation of a candidate for city manager.

As to the other employees of the municipality, the state’s guidance on this is less clear. NMSA 1978 Section 3-14-14 provides: (emphasis supplied)

A. The manager shall:

(1) Enforce and carry out all ordinances, rules and regulations enacted by the commission;

(2) Employ and discharge all persons engaged in the administrative service of the municipality;

(3) Prepare and submit an annual budget; and

(4) Make recommendations to the commission on all matters concerning the welfare of the municipality.

The manager is empowered to employ and discharge all persons engaged in the administrative service of the municipality. Just who these people are may be the subject of debate, but what is clear is that employees in the administrative service can be hired and discharged by the manager without seeking or obtaining the approval of the commission. In most Commission-Manager forms of government, this distinction is made simple: All employees are considered to be in the administrative service and therefore the manager is responsible for hiring and dismissing All of the employees of the municipality, without seeking or

Continued on page 28
The Federal Transit Administration has awarded the City of Las Cruces (City) $11 million to construct a new transit maintenance and operations center through its competitive 5339B Bus and Bus Infrastructure Grant program. “It is the largest grant award in the City’s history,” said City Manager Stuart C. Ed. “The City is actively working to construct a new Transit Operations and Maintenance Center (Transit Center) for its public bus service, RoadRUNNER Transit. The new facility will improve efficiencies, streamline operations and help increase participation in public transportation,” Ed said. The current Transit Center is outdated and has outlived its usefulness due to unsatisfactory working conditions, and age-related issues (it is estimated that the facility has five useful years remaining.)

The plan calls for co-locating the new Transit Center with the Las Cruces Utilities facility on a 27-acre parcel of land on the city’s west side. Approximately two, five-acre parcels will be used for the new site of the Transit Center. The land was purchased in 1993 for this expressed purpose and will ultimately include facilities for a number of other City operations and maintenance facilities.

The project is shovel ready with design documents at 90% completion. It supports a national movement away from a conventional diesel fleet, to an electric fixed-route bus system to help diminish the negative environmental impact of traditional public transportation systems. Las Cruces, with a 35% growth in population since 2000 (American Community Survey, 2014), is aggressively moving to join the ranks of metropolitan hubs such as Los Angeles, New York, Nashville, and many other transit fleets in the transition to zero-emission vehicles.

The project will ensure a safer facility and provide the momentum necessary to achieve the City’s strategic
goal of a higher quality of life for community residents and City staff, specifically with regard to two of the City’s four 2017 - 2022 Strategic Plan themes; capital improvement and infrastructure - as well as economic and community development.

The Las Cruces City Council conducted work sessions to solicit strategic planning feedback for transportation efforts. The following goals were determined: (1) Expand routes to build connectivity among downtown, New Mexico State University and the Las Cruces Convention Center, and (2) bolster bus service to align with long-term intermodal passenger transport plans in the region. Moreover, the project is in line with the City’s Short-Range Transit Plan to support proactive planned land use, infrastructure, connectivity, and transportation.

The City ensures alignment with strategic planning goals of the region’s Metropolitan Planning Organization, the New Mexico Department of Transportation 2040 Transit Plan, and the U.S. Department of Transportation FY 2018 - 2022 Strategic Plan goals of investment in infrastructure and innovation.

Relocating the Transit Center will place administration and operations/maintenance in one area, allow for staff growth due to increased operation times on routes and Dial-a-Ride demand, and provide proper accommodations for bays, cutaways, buses, fueling stations (electric and traditional) and an on-site washing center.

RoadRUNNER Transit provides two types of transportation for the citizens of Las Cruces. One transportation mode is the fixed-route system consisting of a fleet of 30-foot transit buses that transport individuals from a specific bus stop or transfer point to another within the City. The other transportation mode available is Dial-a-Ride paratransit. The RoadRUNNER Transit service area lies within the City limits, the Village of Mesilla, and New Mexico State University. The fleet of fixed-route, paratransit, and staff vehicles has increased over the years to a total of 47 vehicles.
DON PEDRO DE PERALTA WAS THE THIRD GOVERNOR OF NEW MEXICO.
THIRD SPANISH GOVERNOR 1610-1614

By Grace Meredith
Field Worker
Office of the State Historian

Don Pedro de Peralta was the third governor of New Mexico. Information concerning his parentage, dates of his birth and death, and whether or not he was married, do not seem to be now available; nothing of importance, in fact, concerning the man himself, save that which hereafter follows. His appointment as Adelantado in 1609, however, marked a unique step in the development and fate of New Mexico.

At this time, Don Luis de Velasco, who had been so kindly disposed toward the first and second governors of the province, was again viceroy in Mexico City. He had informed the King of Spain that a governor with a suitable salary would have to be provided for New Mexico, and he went on to add that he was diligently searching for a capable man.

By early March of 1609 he had chosen Don Pedro de Peralta and issued instructions to Peralta to leave Mexico City in the shortest time possible and not to delay his march en route, as it was considered momentous importance that he reach New Mexico quickly. By the end of the same month, formal instructions were given him. The viceroy particularly impressed him with the urgent necessity of favoring in every way he could the conversion of the Indians, and of avoiding expeditions against those who had not yet been pacified nor converted. Peralta was informed that only the friars were to be permitted to visit such tribes; and, furthermore, he was urged to establish a new capital speedily (as had been previously discussed and advocated by Velasco), so that all the colonists in New Mexico might live in greater security and confidence, and the province be placed on a sounder basis economically.

However once arrived in the new land, Don Pedro was personally to acquaint himself, as soon as humanly possible with conditions there and according to Dr. Hammond in Don Juan de Oñate the Founding of New Mexico, as well as earlier historians, “before everything else carry out the founding and establishing of the villa contemplated.” (Instruccion a Don Pedro de Peralta, governor and captain-general de la Nueva Mexico en lugar de Don Juan de Oñate, March 30th, 1609—Instructions to Don Pedro de Peralta, governor and captain-general of New Mexico in place of Don Juan de Oñate, March 30th, 1609.)

The date when Don Pedro left Mexico City is not now available, but he had left there, though the place he had reached is not named, when in September 1609, the viceroy again instructed him to proceed with his journey to New Mexico.

Peralta was to have a salary of two thousand pesos. Sixteen soldiers were to accompany him, and these were paid four hundred and fifty pesos each. Some of these men had been in New Mexico before; indeed on of the reasons that Peralta received additional advices and instructions to proceed, was due to the report brought to the viceroy from New Mexico by Fray Josepe Tavera and Ensign Juan de la Torre.

It was not until after Peralta became governor of New Mexico that the villa of Santa Fe was permanently established. The new governor’s instructions had been so very definite that it is probable that this transfer was actually accomplished soon after his arrival in the spring of the year, 1610. It is probable that he founded La Villa Real de Santa Fe de San Francisco de Assisi, (The Royal City of the Holy Faith of St. Francis of Assisi) in the summer of 1610.

The date of the founding of Santa Fe has long been the subject of controversy among historians. It is related by many historians that Don Juan de Oñate moved from San Gabriel to the site of the present city of Santa Fe, pitching camp on what is now the present plaza. It is doubtful that he attempted to establish a town at this time. This transfer from San Gabriel to Santa Fe may have been in 1609.

Peralta, when he established himself on the same site, did so with the definite objective of establishing a new capital. As stated above, Peralta presumably founded the city in 1610, although this date is still very much open to question.

Peralta was apprised that a plaza

Continued on page 16
As we take a step back in time to the late 1400s, we can only imagine the unspoiled beauty of what we now call the Middle Rio Grande Valley.

Long before the Europeans arrived, the various indigenous tribes and kingdoms that had arisen throughout the northern central steppe of Mexico had established the route that would later become the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro as a major hunting and trade route. The route connected the peoples of the valley of Mexico with those of the north through the exchange of products and goods.

Once the great Tenochtitlan was subdued, the conquistadors began a series of expeditions with the purpose of expanding their domains and obtaining greater wealth for the Spanish Crown. Their initial efforts led them to follow the established trails, Camino Real, of the natives who exchanged goods between the north and the south.

Peralta is a Township located in Valencia County, NM on the eastern banks of the Rio Grande. People have been living in this region for more than 10,000 years. And during the 1300s, the Tiwa people settled in the valley of the Rio Grande.

The Spaniards reached the area in their search for more “Cities of Gold” in 1540: Francisco Vásquez de Coronado was the first European in the area. He named the natives “Pueblo” after the Spanish word for “village”. But only half a century later did the Spanish settle the area.

The natives were oppressed and exploited by the conquerors and they rose in rebellion in 1680, razing the towns and pueblos. The Spanish fled but returned in 1692, defeated the natives subduing them and re-established their colony.

Albuquerque was founded in 1706 as a key stopover on the Camino Real (Royal Road) that ran south into Mexico, and passed by what today is Peralta.

Origin of the name Peralta

Peralta is a Spanish surname, and was the name of Pedro de Peralta, governor of the territory who founded Santa Fe in 1610. It derives from the Latin “petra alta” or “high stone - high cliff”. “Pera Alta”, known also as, “High Pear” because of the pear orchards that grew in this valley.

Peralta is located on the Lo de Padilla Land Grant which was granted by the King of Spain prior to the

Continued on page 14
1690 Pueblo Revolt and reclaimed in 1718. Peralta, itself as a community, is first mentioned in Catholic Church records in 1835. Peralta has a rich and colorful history having been the Valencia County Seat for a brief period from 1848-1852.

After Mexico won its independence from Spain, it gained Nueva Mexico but had to cede it to the U.S. after its defeat in the Mexican - American War (1846-48).

“Battle of Peralta” 1862

It was the site of the American Civil War skirmish known as the “Battle of Peralta” during the campaign of Confederate General Henry Hopkins Sibley in 1862.

Retreating after the Battle of Glorieta Pass, Confederate troops of the 5th Texas Mounted Volunteers under Colonel Thomas Green camped in the town of Peralta, New Mexico Territory and planned to cross a series of irrigation canals the next day. The rest of the Confederate army was encamped on the other side of the Rio Grande in the town of Los Lunas.

On April 14 1862 the pursuing Union Army forces under Colonel Edward Canby caught up with Green. At dawn, Union cavalry attacked and captured the Confederate wagon train, killing and capturing the guard. The Confederates used the low adobe houses in the town as natural fortifications. Canby captured a Confederate supply train which was then approaching Peralta, and then sent John Chivington and Gabriel R. Paul to surround the Confederates to prevent any forces from reaching Green. The adobe walls and irrigation ditches surrounding the town were stronger than Canby was willing to risk and an all out assault was on.

Learning of the fighting, Sibley led the 4th and 7th Texas Mounted Rifles across the river. The rival armies battered each other in an artillery duel, until a dust storm blew in and allowed the Confederates to withdraw to the west bank of the Rio Grande, leaving behind a town which had been reduced to rubble. The Confederates reached Los Lunas at 4 a.m., where they rested for a few hours before continuing their retreat. Canby followed with the Union army, harasing the Confederate column with cavalry. As he attempted to help Colonel Green, General Sibley came directly under fire and retreated across the Rio Grande with bullets splashing behind his horse’s heels; it was the only time during the campaign that Sibley was in any personal danger.

Route 66

Route 66 was aligned through the town in 1926, but in 1931 the highway moved out, to the western bank of the Rio Grande, bypassing Peralta.

Entering into the 20th century Peralta joined Los Lunas and Belen as one of the three economic centers of the county. However, unlike the other two communities and being by-passed by the railroad, Peralta settled into being a small farming community for nearly the next 100 years.

Peralta incorporates in 2007

With the pressures of growth and facing inevitable change the residents of the community overwhelmingly voted to incorporate Peralta as a municipality in 2007. On July 1, 2007 the Town of Peralta became New Mexico’s 103 municipality. Peralta shares common borders with the Village of Bosque Farms, the Village of Los Lunas, and Isleta Pueblo. It is located in the North East
Rio Grande Valley of Valencia County and encompasses the entire width of the valley from the river on the west to the escarpment, sand hills, (La Ladera) on the east.

Peralta is bisected by NM Highway 47, the primary thoroughfare in east Valencia County, which defines the commercial district that the new Town Council is eager to promote for development.

The Town of Peralta consists of a Mayor/Council form of government. Council meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the Month.

Judge Tracey Aragon presides as Peralta Municipal Judge. Courts are held on first and second Tuesday at 8:30AM and Third and Forth Wednesday at 6:00PM.

Peralta contract with the Village of Bosque Farms to provide police protection and public safety.

Town of Peralta is protected by an outstanding Volunteer Fire Department. Each member of the Fire Department is very committed to our Town and neighboring communities.

The Town of Peralta also has a five-member Planning and Zoning Commission who meet the third Tuesday of the month.

There are approximately 26 miles of public roadways that the Town of Peralta Public Works Department, Steve Aragon and crew members maintain.

Two Animal Control Officers, William Hammock and George Garcia, address all animal calls for service.

Kori Taylor address all Code Enforcement issues that come before the Town.

Mrs. Taylor also manages the new Sanitary Sewer system infrastructure which began in 2015 with approximal 200 residents utilizing the system to date. Construction continues with placing another 41,000 foot of pipe along designated roads.

Fiestas de Peralta y Valencia

Come join us for the Fiestas de Peralta y Valencia in celebrating our independence on the last Saturday of September. Starting off with a parade, car show, music, arts and crafts, local food vendors and ending with one of New Mexico greatest fireworks display.
was to be selected where public buildings were to be erected, and very detailed and specific orders regarding the organization of the new city were outlined to him. The governor was to permit the inhabitants to select four regidores (magistrates), and they in turn were annually to choose two alcaldes-ordinarios (judges or justices with lesser authority than the Alcalde Mayor). Moderation was urged in collecting tribute; and serious, strenuous efforts were to be made to teach the Indians the Spanish language, in order to overcome the grave handicap of the many native tongues. At this time, incidentally, Padre Alonso Feinado was comisario or custodio in the Franciscan order (guard or keeper) and it is related that over eight thousand natives had been converted to the Holy Catholic Faith.

Before Peralta’s appointment as governor, it is likewise interesting to note that the abandonment of New Mexico had frequently been discussed. The cost of supporting the isolated communities was enormous. During Don Juan de Oñate’s period, the two viceroys, Monterey and later Montesclaross, had been unsympathetic toward the colony, and it was due mainly to the different influence of Luis de Velasco who returned as viceroy for a second term, that matters concerning New Mexico took a better turn. The King had left the problem of determining the fate of this province entirely in the hands of the viceroy for solving. Velasco’s good attempts to strengthen the settlements by sending soldiers and some supplies with the new governor (Peralta) were approved by the Council of the Indies in September, 1609, and. Orders were likewise issued at about the same time for a continuation of exploration northward from New Mexico with it as a base. The Spanish population during this trying period was somewhere between one and two thousand, so that it may readily be seen that there were no large and prosperous communities.

Perhaps the worthy Velasco remembered Don Juan de Oñate’s laborious and persistent efforts and his huge expenditures of money, as well as that of his friends, and perhaps the viceroy thought of the protection New Mexico afforded against Indian raids for the mining states farther south, in what is now the north central part of Mexico. At any rate, Velasco was insistent that New Mexico be retained, and thus its future was more or less guaranteed at this time by the appointment of Don Pedro de Peralta as governor.

Almost from his very arrival serious difficulties arose, and the nature may well be traced to what might be termed four different factions: first, the missionaries; second, the secular ruling class, which of course, included the governor and soldiers, etc.; third, the civilians, meaning the colonists themselves; and lastly, the natives. It seems that all the varied emotions known to humanity ran through these different groups. Courage and cowardice walked side by side. High spirituality and moral baseness were neighbors. Petty as well as atrocious oppression stalked unselfish service and devotion. Looking back more than three hundred years, though would be dull indeed did it not picture drama, and sometimes melodrama! The whole period was rich in romance and blithe with adventure, and yet more dominant than these was the strident, tragic note of in harmony. Rivalry, contention, and dissension among the Spaniards themselves!

Commenting upon this, Bandelier in his Final Report says: “Dissentions between the clergy and the governors of New Mexico began at an early day, and very soon after the installation of Pedro de Peralta as successor to Juan de Oñate…” and he then adds this further note: “The violence of the strife was such that the custodians, Fray Bernardino de Aguirre and chiefly Fray Cristobal de Quiros, were so jealous of every, prerogative of their Order, that the King had to interfere.”

Such was the state of affairs during Peralta’s term, and, sometime in the autumn of 1612, came an unusually dramatic and terrifying event.

With the caravan from Mexico a Franciscan named Ordonez returned to Santa Fe, and almost immediately upon arrival he claimed to represent the Inquisition (tribunal for examination and punishment of heretics). It was perhaps only natural for Governor Peralta to request that the Franciscan show his credentials, but the friar very flatly refused. The governor then interfered, with the activities of Ordonez, . end very shortly afterwards Don Pedro was excommunicated!

Standing upon his own authority as Adelantado of New Mexico, Peralta was impenitent and unyielding: and so, with the aid of some of the soldiers and colonists antagonistic to the governor, he was forthwith arrested and sent to Sandia Pueblo for fear other citizens and soldiers in sympathy with him

Continued on page 26
It is not too soon to begin your city’s 2020 Census Outreach Campaign. As in the last decade, 2010 Census, Complete Count Committees (CCC) will play a major role in promoting the Census in cities in NM.

The Complete Count Committee is a major vehicle for planning and implementing local, targeted efforts that will uniquely address the special characteristics of your community. The role of the CCC is to plan and implement local outreach efforts to publicize the importance of the 2020 Census. The work of this committee will be innovative, exciting, and rewarding.

Local campaigns are designed to reach undercounted populations by stressing the importance of an accurate census count. These committees also help alleviate fear in the community by providing facts about how data is collected and used with the highest level of privacy and confidentiality.

The mayor appoints the members of the CCC. They key elements of a successful Complete Count Committee are:

- **Outreach** - People who can communicate to hard-to-count groups
- **Resourceful** - People who can bring resources to the table
- **Decision-Makers** - People who can approve initiatives
- **Credible** - People of influence and respect
- **Committed** - People willing to doing the work
- **Bipartisan**
- **Representative**: Representation of all major races and ethnicities within the community/emerging population
- **Coalition**: Creation of a coalition of businesses, community groups, health organizations, faith based communities, government officials and large university representatives.

Cities interested in organizing a committee should email or call the New Mexico Partnership Specialist: Veronica Arzate de Reyes, New Mexico, 972.979.1632 veronica.m.arzate.de.reyes@census.gov

**ABOUT THE 2020 CENSUS**

The 2020 Census is a count of everyone living in the United States and is mandated by the U.S. Constitution. Census data is used to distribute Congressional seats to states, to distribute more than $650 billion in federal funds to local, state and tribal governments each year and to make decisions about what community services to provide. With three ways to respond: online, by phone and via a paper questionnaire, the 2020 Census questionnaire will be easy to complete. Strict confidentiality laws protect the confidentiality of respondents and the information they provide.
Not everyone has the resources to go to college for an MBA, but anyone with an internet connection and some self-discipline can learn business basics through the DreamBuilder program offered by the nonprofit small-business development and training organization WESST. DreamBuilder targets women who want to start their own businesses or need additional support to increase profitability. It’s one of a growing number of massive open online courses (MOOCs) that offer busy people a way to explore subjects that interest them — and often to earn credit for their efforts.

“learn at their own pace and also connect with other entrepreneurs in the classroom sessions”

The intensive eight-week program combines interactive online modules and classroom workshops every two weeks so women can “learn at their own pace and also connect with other entrepreneurs in the classroom sessions,” said Julianna Silva, managing director of Albuquerque’s WESST Enterprise Center. “This encourages attendees to maintain a reasonable pace and not drop the curriculum midstream.”

Sticking with the program is one weakness of MOOCs in general, but DreamBuilder attempts to overcome that. Besides offering classes in Spanish and English, the program incorporates in-house classroom sessions that allow learners to interact with instructors, guest speakers and one another and to review information specific to New Mexico businesses.

At the first session, participants receive log-in credentials and orientation to the cloud platform. Between classroom sessions, they complete required modules so everyone reaches learning milestones together. “The course is built as a lock-step curriculum; each module must be completed before the next module is unlocked,” Silva said. “Women love the flexibility to learn at their own pace and also connect with other entrepreneurs in class sessions.”

Participants who don’t have a computer or internet access can use a laptop provided by WESST during classroom sessions and receive technical support from the WESST trainer. This face time makes
DreamBuilder a bit of a hybrid MOOC, as most of these distance-learning classes — including from elite universities like Stanford, Princeton, Columbia and Duke — rely entirely on interactive videos and web-based user forums.

After completing the DreamBuilder course, which costs $39, graduates typically print a certificate that shows they’ve completed the course. And they are offered two hours of free individual consulting with WESST, a perk that normally costs $30, Silva said. “We often continue working one-on-one with clients, and some may participate in other programs we offer, like the microloan program or incubation program in Albuquerque.”

Graduates also leave the program with a first draft of a business plan that they create using business plan generator software that prompts them to apply course concepts to their own business or business idea and stores the answers in a business plan template.

To find out more about DreamBuilder, aspiring women entrepreneurs can contact their local WESST office or visit https://www.wesst.org/training/.

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.
USING BRAND INFLUENCERS TO BUILD YOUR BRAND

By Justin Huffmon Director of Tourism, Adventure Enthusiast
Village of Ruidoso

It’s 2018! If you aren’t doing so already you absolutely need to start using social media influencers/bloggers. According to a Forbes study, “47% of millennials say their purchase decisions are influenced by social media” and “consumers who include social media as part of their shopping process are four times more likely to spend more money on purchases.” Developing a relationship with social influencers will provide you third party credibility and extend your marketing reach into your influencer’s markets. To their followers, influencers are trusted advisors and are more likely to take their advice on where to spend their money, including where to travel for leisure. Social Media Influencers have monetized their popularity. We can tap into them, gain access to their audiences and subtly place our product in front of them. Leverage these relationships. Find influencers that are willing to come to your area and utilize them to highlight the assets in your community.

I cannot over stress the importance of developing relationships with your community partners. The success of a influencers campaign is dependent upon the reception they get when in your community. As guests of our community we need to ensure that every step of their travel is well executed and thoughtfully planned with the assistance of our community partners. These community partners will benefit from the marketing exposure and are typically willing to
contribute, their time and resources to ensure your influencer showcases their property in the best possible light.

As an organizer, you need to be adequately prepared; make it easy on yourself. Put together an activity checklist of the assets in your community. Break it down by category; History and Culture, Outdoor Active, Tours, Dining, Entertainment etc. Create hyperlinks so the asset can be easily searched by the influencer. Request the influencer select a few of the items on the list they think would be of interest to their audience and create a well-planned itinerary that serves their needs.

So where do you find the influencers? There are a number of third-party resources available to you. You can find a company that will custom fit brand influencers based on your budget and needs. These third-party resources can get quite expensive. If you are operating on a lean budget and still want to attract influencers you will need to do the foot work yourself. Start with your tourism based social platforms. Look for potential influencers that already follow you. You want to find influencers that have a large audience (20,000-50,000) with recent and relevant information and high post engagement. Reach out and invite them to your community. Some influencers are just looking for money and some are looking for a unique experience. Determine what fits best within your budget. The best practice is to offer the latter and leverage your community partners to help cover the cost.

Once content is created use the content in your branding and messaging. Repost the content across your social channels. Include links to the content in your eblast campaigns. Place the content on your tourism sites. The use of influencers helps to alleviate the burden of daily content creation, while at the same time creating relevant, thoughtful and credible content.

Check out some of the links below for ideas of how bloggers are working for us:

This Little Wandering

“A lot of times I look back on a trip and remember

Continued on page 28
ENHANCING AMERICA’S ‘RURAL LIFESTYLE’

**USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES CRUCIAL ASSISTANCE**

By Ernie Watson, USDA Rural Development New Mexico

“What’s going on?” Passersby ask as they see streets blocked around the Healing Waters Plaza in downtown Truth or Consequences, N.M.

Ambulances, police cars and heavy equipment shut off traffic to the plaza and a large number of police are nearby. A large crowd for this city of 6000 has formed and mills around the perimeter.--Something serious is going on. Something seriously good for Truth or Consequences, its people and their future.

The USDA Rural Development is conducting a ceremonial transfer the keys to the two ambulances, four police cruisers and massive front end loader to the city. All vehicles are brand new and bought with funding from three different USDA Grants through the Community Facility and Economic Impact Initiative Grant programs. The police cars are equipped for regular patrol duty, but they also double as a mobile command post. The ambulances have the latest medical equipment needed to transport patients to other hospitals. And, the front end loader replaced a 1993 Cat Loader that was in the shop more than it was on the job.

As he presented the keys to city officials Eric Vigil of USDA noted that vehicle funding for Truth or Consequences is a good example how USDA Rural Development contributes to a better quality of life in rural America.

“Providing this funding shows USDA Rural Development is committed to creating a better life style for those living in rural communities like Truth or Consequences,” said Vigil who has seen many projects funded during his 29 years with USDA RD. “The citizens of our country can rest assured USDA Rural Development is committed to make sure your tax dollars are spent wisely with these types of projects.”

The USDA Economic Impact Initiative Grant provided $72,000 to purchase the four new SUV police
vehicles. Two of the new vehicles are equipped with a “Command Console” which includes radio equipment for communication with local, state & federal agencies. They will be assigned to supervisors who can use the equipment to establish a mobile command post to oversee the management of critical incidents including natural disasters and crime scenes and crimes in progress.

The T or C Police Chief Lee Alirez reports it didn’t take long after delivery before one the new police cars was put into action.

“Right after we got the new police units we had a SWAT standoff. We had a man who was upset and armed with a rifle in front of his house,” described Alirez. “We took control of the situation when we used one of the new vehicles as a mobile command post. Because we had the enhanced radio equipment and the ability to command the situation from one vehicle, we resolved the situation quickly without anyone getting hurt.”

During the key presentation ceremony two new transfer ambulances and equipment were also dedicated. The ambulances were purchased with an $116,230 Community Facility (CF) Grant. The new ambulances were needed because the existing ambulances had high mileage and have had major mechanical problems. One old ambulance was retired because of mechanical problems and another was rebuilt but still does not function properly because of its mechanical problems.

Because the City of Truth or Consequences is 75 miles from Sierra Vista Hospital in Las Cruces, NM there is a need to continually transport patients to that hospital and other medical facilities. Those hospitals offer acute critical medical care that is not available in T or C.

Javier Marco the paramedic service director of Sierra Vista Hospital reports the new ambulances are able to provide the best possible medical care when transporting a patient to another hospital.

“Right after we took delivery of the new ambulances we had an 82-year old man suffer a really bad heart attack.” Marco said, “We had 90 minutes to save his life. He was immediately stabilized and transported in one of the new ambulances to a hospital in Las Cruces --with 30 minutes to spare.” The patient survived because paramedics were better able to do their lifesaving work. Marco added, “The new ambulance did what it was designed to do --that is it provided a lifesaving solution.”

Although a front end loader is not used as a lifesav-
Enhancing America’s ‘Rural Lifestyle’
Continued from page 23

Continuing to the next page:

ing piece of equipment it’s still one of the most important vehicles in the entire fleet operated by the City of Truth or Consequences.

The new piece of equipment was also bought with a Rural Development Community Facility Grant in the amount of $88,810.

The new vehicle replaced an old 1993 Cat Loader which spent most of its time under repair in the garage. When the Cat Loader was out of commission city workers used a backhoe which not as well equipped. The new front end loader is better suited to clearing brush, filling washouts, and removing asphalt, curbs and gutters. The new front loader helps the City Street Department employees complete their work in a more timely and cost effective manner.

After the ceremonial key presentation T or C Mayor Steve Green noted that USDA Rural Development programs fund the health safety and future of the city. “Funding assistance from USDA Rural Development has enabled the City of Truth or Consequences to purchase equipment we would otherwise been unable to do,” said Green. “This equipment is vital to maintaining the infrastructure of our city. The equipment also allows us to take steps toward building a stronger and more diverse economy in our community.”

Mayor Green added, “I advise other rural communities to reach out to USDA Rural Development for their funding programs. With the support of USDA Rural Development’s amazing staff, the entire process was straightforward and attainable.”

Community Facility Program and Economic Impact Initiative Grant Program

USDA Rural Development provides these funding programs to public bodies located in communities with less than 20,000 people. They can apply for the funding to finance:

- Health care facilities including; hospitals, medical clinics, dental clinics, nursing homes, assisted-living facilities
- Public Facilities including; city/town/village halls, courthouses, airport hangers, street improvements and child care centers
- Public safety projects
- Libraries
- Other essential community buildings and equipment
- More information can be found by going to: https://www.rd.usda.gov
- Or in New Mexico call: 505-761-4950 or send an E-Mail to: CPAssist@nm.usda.gov to get more information
October 17, 2018 — Today, the National League of Cities (NLC) released its newest report, “Autonomous Vehicle Pilots Across America,” which offers an analysis of current regulations surrounding autonomous vehicles (AVs) as well as an overview of successful pilot programs and best practices from cities around the country.

“Autonomous vehicles are set to radically shift how people move through cities,” said Clarence E. Anthony, CEO and executive director of NLC. “AVs have the potential to improve equity in transportation and create opportunities for vulnerable populations. By engaging with this new technology, cities are supporting the needs of their residents and meeting them where they are, both literally and figuratively.”

Autonomous vehicle technology is an emerging issue that will be incredibly impactful for America’s cities, and policy surrounding it is rapidly moving forward. Our latest research shows that more than 50 percent of America’s largest cities are preparing for AVs — up from less than 10 percent three years ago — and many cities are already successfully piloting the technology on their streets.

The interplay between state, local and the federal government is critical to the rollout of AVs. Between 2011 and 2017, 22 states passed 46 bills related to AV usage while five governors signed executive orders encouraging their development. Most of the legislative action expressly permitted AV pilots. And this year, another boon in state action on AV policy is underway, with 28 states introducing, debating and/or passing 98 bills in this arena.

Cities throughout the country have embraced different types of AV pilots, ranging from informal agreements to structured contracts between cities and companies. Many city leaders have taken an active role in AV deployment where possible by introducing executive orders and resolutions, issuing requests for proposals, forming partnerships with companies, hosting conferences and engaging the public.

The guide profiles six U.S. cities – Arlington, Texas; Boston; Portland, Oregon; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; San Jose, California; and Chandler, Arizona – and their diverse approaches to piloting AVs.

“We are fast approaching the time where we can take our hands off the wheel, and just sit back and enjoy the ride,” said Brooks Rainwater, senior executive and director of NLC’s Center for City Solutions. “Many people are wondering when we will truly see robots rolling down our streets, but in many cities this is already a reality. By piloting autonomous vehicle technology now, cities are able to ensure that any new policies and processes are city-centered and can be molded to the needs of people first and foremost.”

Recommendations for city leaders include:

- Determining local goals;
- Building a consortium by partnering with think tanks, advocacy groups, technology companies, consulting firms, developers and research universities;
- Engaging the private sector;
- Looking to join or create a regional alliance;
- Scaling the pilot appropriately, taking financial, temporal, geographical and technical factors into the account;
- Working with the state; and
- Pursuing a “phased” plan that introduces AVs into the community gradually.
- You can read our full report here.

The National League of Cities (NLC) is dedicated to helping city leaders build better communities. NLC is a resource and advocate for 19,000 cities, towns and villages, representing more than 218 million Americans. www.nlc.org

Thousands of city leaders will gather November 7-10 in Los Angeles, California, for NLC’s annual City Summit conference. City Summit is the only national meeting that offers best practices and networking opportunities for both elected officials and city staff. Learn more at citysummit.nlc.org.
CONTINUED STORIES

Don Diego de Peralta
Continued from page 16
would attempt to release him.

Ordonez then spoke from the pulpit of the church in Santa Fe. With a crucifix in his hands, and in a strident voice, he placed the whole community under a prohibitive order, and proclaimed that he hoped to be rewarded, to be made a bishop, for imprisoning the governor.

Peralta’s imprisonment lasted almost a year, but for a few days he did escape and was able to return to Santa Fe. In some manner, during this time, he managed to dispatch a message to Mexico City, which in due time resulted in his release.
ICMA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: ADVERSE TIMES CALL FOR COURAGEOUS LEADERSHIP

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEADERS ARE ASKING THEMSELVES "WHAT CAN I DO" IN THE FACE OF HATE-FILLED VIOLENCE.

Given the events of these past few days, I think all of us in leadership roles are asking ourselves, “What can I do? What words can I offer my staff and my community that might reassure them or allay the fear, sadness, and even anger that so many are feeling?”

It can seem futile to speak out against the hate-filled violence that left 11 Jewish members of the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh dead; that led to the death of two senior African American citizens in a grocery store in Louisville, Kentucky; and more than a dozen political leaders and news outlets terrorized by pipe bombs.

None of us can promise that “it can’t happen here,” and as local government leaders, we are frustrated that we can’t pick out any one thing—gun laws, tighter controls on social media sites that pander to hate speech, stiffer punishments for acts of violence, or amped-up security—that would put an end to these cowardly acts. After all, we’re the “get-it-done” leaders that our elected officials and residents have come to depend on.

So, what can we do? This past year, I’ve traveled around the world talking with members, affiliates, and leaders of other local government-focused organizations, and inevitably the topic of courageous leadership comes up. Courageous leadership is what it will take for us to navigate during these adverse times. It’s focusing on the core values of our profession—building trust, engaging all members of our communities, and ensuring that our residents feel safe and that their point of view is invited, welcomed, and appreciated.

This is the time to make a space so that the voices dedicated to unity, tolerance, and our democratic ideals drown out those who spout hate, which is at the root of the violent acts this past week. We will continue to share leading practices in civility and civic engagement as well as those resources dedicated to keeping our residents safe. I encourage you to share your ideas with us as well. An ongoing exchange of ideas and programs that work will help answer the question, ‘What can I do?’

Sincerely,

Marc A. Ott
Executive Director, ICMA
obtaining the approval of the commission.

There are a few municipalities that afford certain appointive officers different consideration. For example, a municipality may designate certain appointive offices as in the executive service of the municipality. If the municipality chooses this route, it seems like the appointing authority would revert to the entire commission, thus making recommendations for approval from any member of the commission fair game.

Finally, we have Home Rule municipalities. The answer with respect to who has the appointing authority is—wait for it—It Depends. It depends on the language contained in the Charter. The Charter must be closely read to determine exactly who has the appointing authority and under what circumstances. Likewise, the approval authority should have been spelled out specifically.

Next month we shall continue this discussion and give further clarity.

Using Brand Influencers to Build Your Brand
Continued from page 21

an activity or restaurant but I think I will look back at Ruidoso and remember the people and how much the love their town and how dedicated they are to creating an place worth living in and visiting.”

Lone Star Looking Glass
“Our long weekend getaway to Ruidoso was more magical than words could describe! We were blown away by the vista, the food, the hospitality and everything this New Mexican village had to offer.”

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LiUNA! Local 16 BUILDS NEW MEXICO


LiUNA Local 16 partners with responsible contractors, public and private entities, elected officials, and community groups to build and maintain the infrastructure needs of communities throughout New Mexico while providing residents a career in the construction industry.

PEOPLE | PROJECTS | PARTNERSHIPS

THE MUNICIPAL REPORTER, NOVEMBER 2018
WASHINGTON, Oct. 4, 2018 – Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development Anne Hazlett today announced the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has launched an interactive data tool to help community leaders build grassroots strategies to address the opioid epidemic.

“Under the leadership of President Trump, USDA is committed to being a strong partner to rural America in addressing this monumental challenge,” Hazlett said. “Local leaders in small towns across our country need access to user-friendly and relevant data to help them build grassroots solutions for prevention, treatment and recovery.”

The opioid misuse Community Assessment Tool enables users to overlay substance misuse data against socio-economic, census and other public information. This data will help leaders, researchers and policymakers assess what actions will be most effective in addressing the opioid crisis at the local level.

The Community Assessment Tool is free and available to the public. It can be accessed on USDA’s Rural Opioid Misuse Webpage or at opioidmisusetool.norc.org/.

USDA’s launch of the Community Assessment Tool closely follows President Trump’s declaration of October as National Substance Abuse Prevention Month. Approximately 72,000 Americans died from drug overdoses in 2017; 49,000 of those deaths involved an opioid. Many of these deaths have been fueled by the misuse of prescription pain medications. The severity of the current opioid misuse crisis requires immediate action.

Rural Development partnered with the Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis at NORC at the University of Chicago to create the Community Assessment Tool. NORC at the University of Chicago is a non-partisan research institution that delivers reliable data and rigorous analysis to guide critical programmatic, business and policy decisions. Today, government, corporate and nonprofit organizations around the world partner with NORC to transform increasingly complex information into useful knowledge. The Walsh Center focuses on a wide array of issues affecting rural providers and residents, including health care quality and public health systems.

In April 2017, President Donald J. Trump established the Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity to identify legislative, regulatory and policy changes that could promote agriculture and prosperity in rural communities. In January 2018, Secretary Perdue presented the Task Force’s findings to President Trump. These findings included 31 recommendations to align the federal government with state, local and tribal governments to take advantage of opportunities that exist in rural America. Increasing investments in rural infrastructure is a key recommendation of the task force.

To view the report in its entirety, please view the Report to the President of the United States from the Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity (PDF, 5.4 MB). In addition, to view the categories of the recommendations, please view the Rural Prosperity infographic (PDF, 190 KB).

USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities and create jobs in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural areas. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.