



## U.S. Communities Can Help Cities Prepare for Winter

By Marc Shapiro, NLC Staff



As winter approaches and cities and towns look to ensure that they are prepared to respond to weather related conditions and emergencies, U.S. Communities, National League of Cities' national nonprofit government purchasing cooperative, can provide timely and affordable products and solutions to help get ready for seasonal cold, ice and snow.

Through competitively bid contracts with lead public agencies, U.S. Communities offers thousands of products and solutions from national and local suppliers offering their best government pricing.

"When it comes to preparing for winter, I encourage cities to look to U.S. Communities for a wide range of products and solutions from national companies at great government pricing," said Stephanie Osborn, NLC Director of Strategic Partnerships.

Cold weather solutions available from U.S. Communities include everything from heavy equipment rental for snow removal and portable power equipment from Hertz Equipment Rental to cold weather clothing for city employees working outdoors from Cintas and protective clothing from Safeware-Mallory.

The Home Depot and HD Supplies Facility Maintenance provide a wide variety of cold weather products and solutions including ice melt, pipe insulation, snow blowers and shovels, space heaters and carbon monoxide alarms.

CARQUEST Auto Parts can help maintain the city vehicle fleet through the cold winter months with ice melt and ice scrapers, windshield de-icer, antifreeze and diesel anti-gel, group 31 batteries, and more. Other U.S. Communities supply partners provide roofing supplies and services, industrial supplies, and other seasonal products.

Sponsored by NLC and four other national associations, along with 29 state municipal leagues, U.S. Communities reduces the cost of goods and services by aggregating the purchasing power of public agencies nationwide.

Today more than 55,000 registered public agencies, education institutions and nonprofit organizations utilize U.S. Communities contracts to purchase more than 1.5 billion dollars in products and services annually. Collectively, cities have saved millions of dollars through their participation in U.S. Communities.

U.S. Communities has no minimum purchase requirements and meets all state procurement requirements through competitively bid contracts by a lead public agency. Registration for U.S. Communities is fast, easy and free.

For additional information, contact Marc Shapiro at NLC, [shapiro@nlc.org](mailto:shapiro@nlc.org) or your U.S. Communities Regional Manager at [www.uscommunities.org](http://www.uscommunities.org).

## While the FCC Requires Local Governments to Act Quickly On Wireless Matters, Local Governments Still Retain Significant Authority

By Bob Duchon, Vice President  
River Oaks Communications Corporation

In October, the FCC issued a new Order (14-153) requiring local governments to work faster and more efficiently to approve modification Applications for Cellular Facilities (for example, placing new antennas on existing structures). However, there are numerous procedural steps that local governments can take to protect their interests and constituents. Additionally, when a local government acts in its proprietary capacity as a landowner, it can still negotiate favorable leases and establish its own timeframes to do so.

This Order updates the FCC's "Shot Clock" Order which required local governments to approve Cellular Applications in 90 or 150 days. This new Order requires even faster municipal approval (in some cases, 60 days) for basic changes or upgrades involving collocation, removal or replacement of transmission equipment. If your local government fails to timely act and if this is a Section 6409(a) Application, the provider's Application will be deemed granted upon notification from the provider.

*(Continued on page 6)*

# Upcoming Events

## Clovis

Christmas Light Parade, 6:00 p.m., Saturday, December 6  
 A Christmas Carol  
 7:00 p.m., December 11, 12 & 13  
 2:00 p.m., December 14  
 Clovis Community College Town Hall

## Española

The Downtown Action Team of Española sponsors the Annual Electric Light Parade, Saturday, December 13th.

## Jemez Springs

Tree Lighting Ceremony and caroling party, Father Fitzgerald Park, Saturday, December 13

## Red River

Christmas Eve Fireworks & Torchlight Parade, 5:30 p.m., December 24  
 Christmas Luminaria Tour, Enchanted Forest Cross Country Ski Area, December 25  
 Christmas Eve Torch Light Parade: Wednesday December 24  
 New Year's Eve Torch Light Parade: Wednesday December 31

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## Getting to Know You

This is a new feature that focuses on learning more about League Executive Committee members, Board members and other elected officials. The second person interviewed is League President-Elect David Venable, Mayor of Cloudcroft.



### **What was your primary motivation to run for political office in your community?**

My reasons for running for office way back in 1990 were: To bring openness and accessibility to our village government; to try and make a difference in improving the quality of life for our residents and visitors; to play an active role in shaping the future of our village; and finally to do everything possible to maintain the unique character and heritage of this beautiful mountain community.

### **How do you view your role in serving as an elected official in your community?**

Among all the things we have to do to serve our communities, one of the most important is to listen and respond to the concerns of our citizens. When someone comes into or calls my office with a problem or question they just want someone to focus on them, hear them out, and do what we can to resolve the issue. Additionally, when we have our council meetings or workshops we invite participation from the audience so they can have an active voice in our decision making process.

### **What do you think is the primary role of municipal government?**

Respect the past, work for the day, and plan for tomorrow.

### **What do you think is the primary role of the New Mexico Municipal League in municipal government?**

It is impossible to characterize the New Mexico Municipal League in one primary role. So, in no particular order: Advocacy, Assistance, Education, Advice, Insurance and most importantly, Friendship.

### **What is your favorite “after work” pass time?**

Visit my very extended family, read a good book, watch classic movies, and pet the cats.

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A black and white portrait of John Devine, a middle-aged man with a mustache, wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a patterned tie. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera.

## Alamogordo Clerk Renee Cantin Elected to Board of International Institute of Municipal Clerks



Renee Cantin, CMC, City Clerk for the City of Alamogordo, was elected to the Board of Directors of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) during the Institute's 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on May 22, 2014. Cantin's Region represents Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. She will serve a three-year term.

Cantin began her career in local government as Deputy Clerk for the Village of Columbus in October, 2000 and was appointed Clerk-Treasurer a month later. She became Alamogordo City Clerk in April, 2006. She has served in various leadership positions with the New Mexico Clerks and Finance Officers Association, including President.

She obtained her Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) designation in October, 2006 and is currently working toward her Master Municipal Clerk certification. She is active in the White Sands

Rotary Club of which she is currently President.

IIMC is a professional non-profit association with more than 9,500 members throughout North America and 15 other countries, representing municipalities with populations of 1,000 to 8 million.

## Two Receive Certified Municipal Clerk Designation From International Institute of Municipal Clerks

Samuel Blea, Deputy Clerk of the Town of Springer and Mandy Day, Deputy Clerk of the Town of Tatum, have received the Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC).

The CMC designation program is designed to enhance the job performance of the Clerk in small and large municipalities. To earn the CMC designation, a municipal clerk must attend extensive education programs. The designation also requires pertinent experience in a municipality. The program prepares the participants to meet the challenges of the complex role of the municipal clerks by providing them with quality education in partnership with 47 institutions of higher learning. The program has been in existence since 1970 and has helped thousands of clerks in various municipalities.

Founded in 1947, IIMC is a professional association with more than 9,500 members in the US, Canada and 15 other countries. IIMC's primary goal is to actively promote the continuing education and professional development of municipal clerks through extensive education programs, certification, recertification, publications, networking, annual conferences and research.

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## Our Communities – Town of Silver City

By Randy Van Vleck, League General Counsel

This feature is a monthly look at New Mexico's cities, towns and villages. A different community will be featured each month.



The Town of Silver City was officially incorporated in 1878, following the discovery of silver in and around the Town. Silver City quickly became a boom town, and its Wild West past includes the first arrest and (brief) incarceration of William Bonney, better known as Billy the Kid. Although Bonney moved on, the Kid's family lived in the area for many years, and his mother is buried in the Town's Memory Lane Cemetery. Silver City serves as the gateway to the Gila Wilderness, the nation's first designated wilderness area. The Gila is a world class outdoorsman's paradise. Hunting, fishing and hiking opportunities abound. Of particular interest are Lake Roberts (30 miles north of the Town) and the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument (45 miles north of the Town).

The town had originally been designed with the streets running north to south. The town was also built in the path of normal water runoff. Businesses sprang up, and people learned to deal with the inconveniences of the summer rain. Silver City was built with high sidewalks in the downtown area to accommodate high flood waters. Meanwhile, uncontrolled cattle grazing thinned down plant life on hills surrounding the town, as did deforestation. During the night of July 21, 1895, a heavy wall of water rushed through the downtown business district, leaving a trail of destruction. A ditch 55 feet (17 m) lower than the original street level was created in what was once known as Main Street. Businesses on Main Street began using their back doors on Bullard Street as main entrances and eventually, were permanently used as the new front entrances. What was once Main Street was repurposed as open space, coming to be known as the Big Ditch Park, where it remains to this date a vibrant area for walkers and joggers.

A conversation with Mayor Michael Morones:

**RVV: Why did you decide to enter politics?**

MM: A sense of civic duty and obligation to give back to the community that I was born and reared in. I went to school here at Silver High and at Western NM University and started my business here and have done very well here and thought it was time to give back to my community.

**RVV: What makes Silver City home to you?**

MM: Other than being here for several generations. I was born and reared here, so were my parents. I just love this small town and the mountains and the Gila forest. I've lived all but two years here, the two years I lived in Tucson and living in urban American just make me want to run back to Silver City as soon as possible.

**RVV: Is there anything special you'd like to tell us about Silver City?**

MM: Silver City's just the most diverse, eclectic, broad community at least that I have ever found. You'll find almost every person imaginable; they are all happy and excited to be here. It's the one area where you will see somebody in leather chaps get off a motorcycle and talk with somebody in a business suit who's also talking with somebody right off the ranch wearing a cowboy hat and Wranglers.® You might actually find them in one of our local establishments drinking beer and having a conversation about economics. It's something you just don't find everywhere.

**RVV: What is the Big Ditch and how did it come about?**

MM: The Big Ditch is actually our old Main Street. What we call Main Street now is Bullard Street. A number of our establishments had to re-orient their buildings and convert their back doors to front doors. The old Main Street flooded out in the late 1800's. Several floods created a ditch right down the middle of our establishments, tore down a number of buildings. Instead of just leaving it as a spillway, we created a park out of it. It's really comparable to a river walk, that you might find in San Antonio. It's just a beautiful park

**RVV: What would you like to do to improve life in Silver City?**

MM: In many ways, continue the path that we've grown on; being very inclusive, being very diverse and working with the attributes that make us different. Capitalizing on the natural resources, our natural pathways and parks and the national forest and just make us second to none in quality of life.



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## FCC Rules . . . continued from page 1

The Order is designed to "... further facilitate the delivery of more wireless capacity in more locations to consumers throughout the United States." The Order, though, does not ensure fair and thorough coverage. In several instances, the Order allows cellular providers to move quickly and with a great deal of flexibility. However, local governments can still require an Application and information regarding Building and Safety Codes, Stealth Facilities, Changes in Size to Towers or Base Stations and other pertinent matters. Additionally, the Order implements new rules with respect to Distributed Antenna Systems ("DAS") and Small Cell Sites.

Efficient cellular approval processes may be a good thing; however, making local governments react in a very short amount of time is not (60 days to approve an eligible facilities request if the modification meets the federal criteria of not substantially changing the physical dimensions of the existing tower or base station). Make sure you require an Application from the cellular provider to ensure that it is actually entitled to expedited handling since not all Applications qualify for expedited treatment.

The 155-page Order is lengthy and complicated. We recommend studying this new Order to determine what changes to your Codes, Regulations, Applications and other Forms are needed to achieve compliance with the upcoming new mandatory federal requirements. Further, a local government should review its existing leases to determine under what circumstances providers would need further local government approval to add other antennas or facilities or to sublease space.

If your municipality needs help and guidance, the New Mexico Municipal League and River Oaks Communications Corporation ("River Oaks") are here to assist. River Oaks ([www.rivoaks.com](http://www.rivoaks.com)), which is based in Colorado, is a long-time telecommunications consultant to local governments in the West and throughout the country. River Oaks can help you understand the FCC Order and work with you to handle and review cellular providers' Applications and timely update your Codes, Regulations, Forms, Application Processes and Leases.

Do not be confused by cellular companies' Application requests. Make sure that they actually meet the new federal criteria as you carefully consider their Applications to deploy more Towers, Antennas, Base Stations and equipment in your community.

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