

THE MUNICIPAL REPORTER

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Municipal League Expands Efforts to Jump-Start Private Sector Job Creation



The New Mexico Municipal League's Grow It! project — part of the League's mission to support its member municipalities and foster economic development in New Mexico — now has its own website — growitnm.org.

With this stand-alone platform, your city has a customized page that helps local entrepreneurs and business owners stay informed about and connected with the free and low-cost resources that can help them succeed. They also stay abreast of rules and requirements that pertain to running a business, such as registering with the city and securing necessary licenses and permits.

By having “all things business” under one roof, your city's page on growitnm.org should make it easier for you to get this information directly into the hands of the people who need it — and anything that simplifies that process promotes private sector job growth.

Among the most notable improvements:

- Your municipal website no longer needs to maintain a list of business resources, because Grow It! does it for you. Your city's page is continually updated when new resources become available.
- The packet of information you give to local businesses when they register or reregister their enterprises is condensed to a one-page flier that directs people to your Grow It! page. This reduces photocopy costs. The business plan guide and startup instructions that were part of this packet have been moved online under the “How-to Guide” heading, where changes can be quickly incorporated by the Grow It! team.
- Your Grow It! page is designed as an extension of your city's website, and visitors may not even realize they have opened a new window. This is an upgrade from the original Grow It! platform that debuted in 2013 as part of the website of Finance New Mexico, the league's Grow It! partner and a statewide clearinghouse for free and low-cost business resources since 2007. When you use the new link, visitors will be taken to your city's page on growitnm.org.

But these aren't the only changes.

Visitors to your Grow It! page will find a business resource list they can personalize by changing the map's zoom level, and they can filter resources by type to find the nearest Small Business Development Center, business incubator, chamber of commerce or other business-service organization.

Grow It! now also has a Twitter feed that informs businesses of deadlines and opportunities in real time, and your city can use it to announce business happenings in your area by “tagging” @growitnm in your own tweets. Grow It! supplements that by including a list of networking events and workshops taking place in your region.

All these upgrades are part of the League's ongoing efforts to help its members — the state's 106 cities, towns and villages — increase awareness in the business community of federal, state and local business-assistance programs that might help entrepreneurs start ventures that provide jobs and tax revenue.

Add Grow It! to your website by including your custom link using this format: www.growitnm.org/your-city

Here are a few examples:

www.growitnm.org/farmington

www.growitnm.org/santa-rosa

Municipal information on the Finance New Mexico website remains unchanged during a transition period, but in the meantime, please visit growitnm.org and find your city's page.

League Executive Director William Fulginiti
 Re-Appointed to Judicial Compensation Commission



League Executive Director William Fulginiti has been re-appointed to a three-year term on the New Mexico Judicial Compensation Commission. He was an original member of the Commission since its creation in 2004 and has served continuously

since then. The new term will end in 2018.

Since its inception, the Commission has repeatedly found that judicial salaries in New Mexico are among the very lowest in the region. Based on national data, they are also among the lowest in the United States. The comparisons suffer further when the cost of living is considered because costs in New Mexico are slightly higher than the national average, while judges with comparable salaries are generally found in states with a lower cost of living.

The New Mexico Judicial Compensation Commission must “report to the Legislative Finance Committee and the Department of Finance and Administration its findings and recommendations on salaries for judges and justices” on or before December 1 annually. (§34-1-10(G) NMSA 1978). Judicial compensation in New Mexico is set through a statutory formula based on the salary the legislature sets for Justices of the Supreme Court (§34-1-9 NMSA 1978).

**State Auditor to Offer Financial Assistance
 To Small Political Subdivisions**

As a result of an appropriation from Legislature, the New Mexico Office of the State Auditor (OSA) is offering financial assistance to “small political subdivisions” for the specific purpose of assisting agencies in completing their financial reporting requirements under the Audit Act for fiscal year 2015 and prior years. Depending on the specific circumstances that apply to each agency, financial assistance may be awarded to cover the cost of completing an audit or agreed-upon procedures report.

If you know of any entities that may be eligible to apply for the funding you may want to let them know about this opportunity. For further details regarding this program and the application process click on the following link:

http://osanm.org/media/news_pdf/OSA_Application_Cover_Page_Form_-_Funding_for_Small_Political_Subdivisions-Final.pdf.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office at (505) 476-3800.

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Getting to Know You

This feature focuses on learning more about the League Executive Committee, Board of Directors and other elected officials. This month is League Past President Matt White, Mayor of Eunice.



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

A large company was moving into our community, and the City leaders approached me to run as they wanted to have an educated and motivated individual to lead the City in a new direction. My main motivation was to build the City into a place where our children and grandchildren would want to live and work.

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

My role as an elected official is to serve the people and be a representation of their ideas and needs. My ideas and leadership should be a reflection of the community needs and provide a vision for the future.

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

The primary role of municipal government is be responsible to the people and facilitate their needs through infrastructure uses and improvements to provide for everyone's wellbeing and quality of life. The municipal government must provide a means to ensure law and order but protect the individual

rights of all citizens.

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

The primary role of the NMML is to provide an organization where all cities are represented and they can voice their opinions. The NMML can then be the voice of a united group that will be heard at all levels of government.

What is your favorite "after work" pastime?

My favorite "after work" pastime is being with my family (kids and grandkids), gardening, and not the least is hunting.



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Belen Alexander Municipal Airport Set to Begin Work on New Runway

By Robert Uecker, Belen Alexander Municipal Airport Manager

The Belen Alexander Municipal Airport was opened in 1979 and named after the mayor at the time, Neil Alexander. Belen has a 6,000 foot-long SW-NE runway and is capable of handling small to medium business jets or similar aircraft.

Over the past 10 years or so there have been plans to build a cross runway to provide increased safety when the winds come from the west and northwest. Finally the day is here and work will soon start on a NW-SE runway which will be 5,280 feet by 75 feet wide. This runway will be perpendicular to the existing one and will provide a much safer environment for air traffic.

Additionally, having a choice of runways for safety will help in promoting the airport to businesses both on the airport location and in the City of Belen. We are also located geographically favorably for cross country traffic and have enjoyed the various people who drop in for gas, food, and overnight accommodations. Our nice crew car is a big asset for us and a great convenience for pilots.

Future plans call for a self-serve 24/7 fuel station located where the old Fixed Base Operation (FBO) was, a helipad for large helicopters, and possibly a new FBO building.



Belen's Alexander Municipal Airport.



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International Institute of Municipal Clerks Awards MMC, CMC to Two New Mexico Clerks

Ruidoso Village Clerk Irma Devine has been awarded the Master Municipal Clerk designation (MMC) from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC). In addition, Alamogordo Deputy Clerk Nancy Jacobs has been awarded the Certified Municipal Clerk designation (CMC) from the Institute.

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.

The Master Municipal Clerks Academy is an advanced continuing education program that prepares participants to perform more complex municipal duties. The program has an extensive and rigorous educational component, a professional and social contributions component, and a commitment to lifelong learning. The Academy members must demonstrate that they have actively pursued educational and professional activities and have remained informed of current socio-political, cultural, and economic issues that affect local governments and municipalities.

DOT, Broadcasters Association to Sponsor Media Relations Workshop Aug. 12 and 13

A Media Relations and Public Information Officer training workshop, sponsored by the New Mexico Department of Transportation, will be August 12 and 13, 2015 at the New Mexico Broadcasters Association Office at 2333 Wisconsin St., NE in Albuquerque. The workshops will be from 9 am to 4 pm and will be conducted by the New Mexico Broadcaster Association.

The training is free and a lunch will be provided.

Day One is basic Media Relations and Public Information Officer training. Participants will learn how to write a press release, public service announcements and set up a news conference. Day Two is Spokesperson training that includes how to work with media and participate in an interview.

Law enforcement officers will earn 14 hours of NMLEA credits.

Melanie Majors of the New Mexico Broadcasters Association and Santa Fe Police Chief Eric Garcia are the instructors.

Register online at www.nmba.org/training, email to Melaniemajors @nmba.org or call (800) 622-24214.

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POSITIONS AVAILABLE

To check the municipal job opportunities click on
<http://nmml.org/classifieds/positions-available/>

Declared Candidates for League Officers and Directors

The election process adopted by the League states that any official of a member municipality in good standing may nominate any elected official, or any elected official may declare his or her candidacy for any office or directorship to be filled. All declared candidates will be placed on the ballot for election at the Business Meeting held at the Annual Convention. Eligible officials may still run for office from the floor at the Business Meeting.

For your information, the following is the list of 2015-2016 Declared Candidates for League Officers and Directors:

President-Elect:

Richard Cordova, Mayor – Village of Eagle Nest

Vice-President:

Sally Burbridge, Mayor – City of Aztec

Treasurer:

Greggory D. Hull, Mayor – City of Rio Rancho
David Izraelevitz, Council Vice Chair – City/County of Los Alamos

***Directors-At-Large:
(Three 2-year terms)***

Cynthia Ann Bettison, Mayor Pro Tem – Town of Silver City
Jake Bruton, Councilor – Village of Tijeras
Tom Martin, Commissioner – City of Clovis
Mike Miller, Mayor Pro Tem – City of Portales



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