



COLORADO  
MUNICIPAL  
LEAGUE

# Newsletter

Vol. 45, No. 12, June 7, 2019

## 25 Outreach Meetings, Nearly 3000 Miles

By Kevin Bommer, CML executive director

From May 6 through May 23, I had the distinct pleasure of crisscrossing this great state conducting a listening tour and outreach meetings.

From Craig to Lamar, Julesburg to Durango, and all points in between, I had the pleasure of meeting dozens of CML members and some special guests to hear their thoughts and ideas on the CML of the future and how I can best serve municipal needs as executive director. As with each year's outreach meetings, we also spent some time talking about the 2019 legislative session and how municipal interests fared in the statehouse.

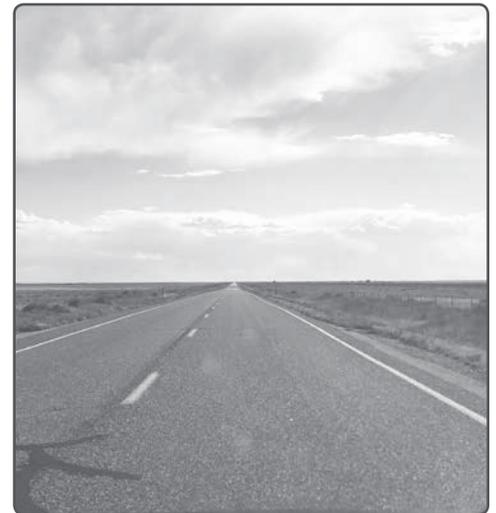
The feedback I received will be invaluable in working with CML's amazing staff and the CML Executive Board to design new training, implement new ideas, revamp some existing programs, and discard some of the things CML does that have exceeded their shelf life. There were excellent ideas for new or improved training, as well as suggestions for greater inclusion in policy development and tracking rapidly changing legislative and policy issues. Finally, I appreciated the constructive criticism on the timing of positions on difficult legislation and process improvements on communication.

However, what I heard most of all out on the road was "thanks." We are grateful that our members know that CML has the



back of our member municipalities statewide, no matter how big or how small. We think about all 270 municipalities daily as we contemplate how to design and improve training, how we advocate on legislation, the information we gather for our members, and when to stick up for you in both the courts of public and legal opinion.

So it is appropriate that I say "thank you" back to all our members, both for myself and on behalf of my entire staff. CML does not just exist for our members. CML exists because of our members, and we will continue to work to meet and exceed your expectations. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time at [kbommer@cml.org](mailto:kbommer@cml.org).



## Census 2020 New Construction Program

Housing units are the foundation for the Census 2020 count. The New Construction Program is the final opportunity to make sure the U.S. Census Bureau's address list is as complete and accurate as possible by Census Day, April 1, 2020.

This program asks you to submit city-style mailing addresses for new units where

construction began during or after March 1, 2018, and will be complete by April 1, 2020, and the address was not submitted to the Census Bureau as part of another geographic partnership program. Highest elected officials for cities and counties were mailed invitation material from the Census Bureau in April and May. Registration closes **June 14**.

Visit [census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/about/new-construction.html](https://census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/about/new-construction.html) for more information about the program as well as a link to register. For more information or if you need assistance participating in the program, please contact Todd Bleess at [todd.bleess@state.co.us](mailto:todd.bleess@state.co.us).

Empowered cities and towns, united for a strong Colorado

## Classified Corner

### For Sale

The Town of Garden City has for sale **two RU2-350 radar signs**. Both signs are on 15 ft. pedestals and include a data package to track and count traffic, an 80-watt solar package, and red/blue slow down alerts. Signs are programmable to control warning speed, which then triggers a "Slow Down" message or red and blue warning lights. One radar sign was purchased in July 2012 and the other in January 2015. Both were retired from use in May 2018 due to new road construction. Submit offers in writing to [slewchuk@townofgardencity.com](mailto:slewchuk@townofgardencity.com).

## Renewable/Clean Energy Grant Program

The Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) has launched a \$12 million Renewable/Clean Energy Challenge grant program to spark efforts with local governments in reaching Colorado's 100 percent renewable energy goal. \$2 million of this funding has been set aside for planning efforts and the remaining \$10 million will be allocated for implementation projects. Projects funded by this initiative will be designed to support renewable energy adoption, energy efficiency and conservation efforts, and innovations in renewable energy.

For more information, please contact a DOLA Regional Manager ([www.colorado.gov/pacific/dola/regional-managers](http://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dola/regional-managers)).

## CDOT Unveils New Transportation Initiative: Your Transportation Plan

This month, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) launched a new statewide planning effort called Your Transportation Plan. This process builds on Colorado's tradition of grassroots engagement to take a fresh look at our transportation investment priorities and ask people across the state what matters to their lives and what infrastructure can do to get them there.

This change in approach means CDOT will be reassessing how Colorado's transportation funds are prioritized for maximum impact

throughout the state. In order to make sure the department's priorities are aligned with the everyday needs of Colorado taxpayers, CDOT Executive Director Shoshana Lew will be hosting a series of discussions at countywide meetings and telephone town halls and through online engagement.

For more information about when the department will be visiting your part of the state or to provide feedback on infrastructure priorities in your city or town, visit [www.yourtransportationplan.com](http://www.yourtransportationplan.com).

## Assistance to High Energy Cost Communities

The Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), has available up to \$10 million in competitive grants to assist communities with extremely high energy costs. The grant funds may be used to acquire, construct, or improve energy generation, transmission, or distribution facilities serving communities where the average annual residential expenditure for home energy exceeds 275 percent of the national average. Eligible projects also include on-grid and

off-grid renewable energy projects and the implementation of energy efficiency and energy conservation projects for eligible communities. Projects cannot be for the primary benefit of a single household or business. Grant funds may not be used for the preparation of the grant application, operating costs, or for the purchase of any equipment, structures, or real estate not directly associated with the provision of community energy services.

For more information, visit [bit.ly/2Z6nhmR](http://bit.ly/2Z6nhmR).

## \$55 Million in New Markets Tax Credits Awarded to Support Community Development

The Colorado Growth and Revitalization Fund (CGR Fund), administered by Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA), announced that it has been awarded \$55 million in New Markets Tax Credits (NMTC). The U.S. Department of the Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI Fund) awarded \$3.5 billion in NMTC to 73 entities throughout the U.S., with the CGR Fund being the only awardee in Colorado. NMTC are designed to generate private-sector investment in underserved communities by supporting local businesses or nonprofits that directly benefit current residents, by either hiring from within the community and/or providing community services.

"These funds will strengthen Colorado by supporting community facilities, mixed-use developments, and businesses that

pay living wages. Some examples may be organizations that provide access to fresh food and infrastructure, such as healthcare and broadband in rural areas," said Cris White, CHFA executive director and CEO.

The CGR Fund was awarded with NMTC in both 2005 and 2008, and deployed a combined \$75 million to support 1,260 permanent jobs and 1,039 construction jobs.

Public-private partnerships are essential to the success of the NMTC program. According to the CDFI Fund, for every \$1 in federal investment, \$8 in private-sector investment is leveraged. The CGR Fund leverages the community partnerships established with CHFA's commercial and infrastructure lending programs to accomplish its mission of investing in Low-Income Communities (LICs) with maximum impact.

To learn more, visit [chfainfo.com](http://chfainfo.com).



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Subscription to CML Newsletter is offered as a portion of member dues. Cost to nonmembers is \$300 a year.

# Member News

## Main Street Accreditation

Only one year after being accepted into the Colorado Main Street program, Main Street **La Junta** has received national accreditation from the Main Street America program after meeting the required ten standards of performance, including broad-based community support, a sustainable operating budget with varied revenue sources and appropriate processes for financial oversight, the ability to track and report relevant statistics about the effort's progress, and a program of ongoing training for staff and volunteers. In 2018, Main Street America programs generated \$4.93 billion in local reinvestment, helped open 5,310 net new businesses, generated 25,301 net new jobs, catalyzed the rehabilitation of 8,146 historic buildings, and clocked 2.2 million volunteer hours.

## Clerk News

**Wheat Ridge City Clerk Robin Eaton, Grand Junction Deputy City Clerk Janet Harrell, Boulder Deputy City Clerk Heidi J.N. Leatherwood, and Westminster City Clerk Michelle Parker** have been designated Certified Municipal Clerks by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. To earn this designation, a clerk must attend extensive education programs and have pertinent experience in a municipality. **Bennett Town Clerk Lynette F. White** has earned the next level of recognition, Master Municipal Clerk, reflecting additional education and professional achievement.

## Congratulations

The League salutes **Gary Carsten**, who recently retired after 42 years as Eaton town administrator. "This ranks Gary as one of the longest serving town administrators in the state. He has been a go-to guy on many issues," stated recently retired CML Executive Director Sam Mamet. CML also congratulates longtime Avon Finance Manager **Valerie Barry**, after 36-plus years with the town finance department.

## Innovative Fitness Tool

National Fitness Campaign (NFC) has awarded \$30,000 to the **City of Lakewood** as part of its annual grant program through the 2019 Healthy Cities Campaign. The NFC grant program is designed to activate public spaces by connecting trails, well-placed pedestrian infrastructure, and community meeting points with a central outdoor fitness facility – The Fitness Court® – that brings free, world-class fitness to everyone.

## Funds for Infrastructure

The **City of Steamboat Springs** has been awarded a grant from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs for \$800,000 from the state's Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Fund. The money will go toward construction of floodplain and pedestrian improvements along the popular Butcherknife Creek within the old town district. The new infrastructure enhancements, expected to last 30 to 50 years, focus on safety improvements.

## Green Business Recognition

The **City of Lafayette** announced the launch of the ninth annual Green Business Recognition Program. Through an online questionnaire, local businesses and commercial property owners report practices and measures taken to improve energy efficiency, reduce landfill waste, conserve water, and support alternative transportation. Each application is reviewed and awards are issued for bronze, silver, and gold level achievement.

## Equitable Collections

The **City of Aurora** has been selected by the National League Cities as one of six cities to take part in Cities Addressing Fines and Fees Equitably (CAFFE) technical assistance consort to help cities assess the negative impacts of municipal fines and fees on residents' financial health and implement equitable collections strategies that help reduce debt.

## Housing Affordability

The **City of Cortez** announced the "2019–2020 Cortez Housing Affordability and Mitigation Plan (CHAMP)" incentive program. In February, the Cortez City Council approved a resolution authorizing a 75 percent discount of permit and use tax fees for new residential construction. The resolution also authorizes a 100 percent discount for permit and use tax fees for any brand new HUD or Colorado IRC approved Manufactured Home that is installed.

## Employee of the Year

The **City of Pueblo** named Joy Morauski, traffic engineering analyst, as employee of the year. Morauski has worked for the city for 18 years, primarily in her current role. In the past several years, she has taken on added duties associated with the city's solid waste program that go above and beyond her job description.

## River Improvements

The **City of Montrose** has been selected to receive \$400,000 from the Colorado Water

Conservation Board through the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program for improvements on the Uncompahgre River. The project will include reestablishing a resilient channel, connecting the river to its floodplain, creating a stable riparian zone, improving fish and other aquatic habitats, stabilizing the river banks, and providing river access to the public.

## Happy Anniversary

The **City of Lakewood** is celebrating 50 years of incorporation this year, with a series of activities and giveaways. Visit [lakewood.org/50](http://lakewood.org/50) to learn more.

## Water Conservation

The **City of Cortez** has convened a group of elected officials, citizens, and staff to promote the long-term, sustainable development and wise use of water through conserving water, protecting water quality and the watershed, and assuring regulatory and environmental compliance. The city is taking bold steps to model both small- and large-scale changes that must be made to reach the goal of per capita water usage of 180 gallons per day by 2020, a reduction of 20 gallons per day per person. Cortez officials and staff kicked off the program with two half-day workshops to identify current water concerns and facilitate the brainstorming of possible approaches to address those concerns. Future plans include encouraging tourists to practice water conservation through outreach in lodging establishments. To learn more, visit [www.cityofcortez.com/603/water-is-our-future](http://www.cityofcortez.com/603/water-is-our-future).

## New Associate Members

### Economic & Planning Systems Inc.

Brian Duffany, executive vice president  
730 17th St., Ste. 630  
Denver, CO 80202  
303-623-3557  
[bduffany@epsdenver.com](mailto:bduffany@epsdenver.com)  
[www.epsys.com](http://www.epsys.com)

Economic & Planning Systems (EPS) is excited to become a CML associate member. It is a real estate economics consulting firm founded in 1983 with 50 professional staff members located in offices in Denver and in Oakland and Sacramento, California. EPS's work encompasses the full range of local government services and policy areas including strategic planning, economic development, plan and strategy implementation, real estate market and feasibility studies, fee and nexus studies, workforce housing, and development negotiations and partnerships. The firm has

worked with several Colorado cities and towns and looks forward to engaging with them more.

**GEO.works International Inc.**

Clifford Meis, PE, project engineer  
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GEO.works™ International Inc. is a company created by senior public sector managers working with IT professionals, specializing in web-based right-of-way permitting and management of utility data. It has 48 long-term public sector customers in the U.S. and Europe who have been using its products for 10 years. GEO.works™ is a suite of software products for managing public right-of-way and simplifying customer experience and internal collaboration between departments. It offers product lines for utilities, encroachments, outdoor advertising, inspections, and traffic management. GEO.works™ is supported by an innovative 3D utility data repository, fully integrated with permitting. All products come GIS-ready and can interface with other systems.

**Plante Moran**

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**South Adams County Water and Sanitation District**

James M. Mock, general counsel  
6595 E. 70th Ave.

Commerce City, CO 80022  
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The South Adams County Water and Sanitation District was formed in 1953 under the State of Colorado Special District provisions to serve the area now known as Commerce City. Although the district serves the Commerce City population, it is a separate entity and is presently the largest combined water and sanitation district in the state of Colorado, covering more than 65 square miles and serving nearly 50,000 customers.

**Ulteig**

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www.ulteig.com

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**University of Colorado Denver School of Public Affairs**

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The School of Public Affairs is a vibrant community of students, faculty, staff, alumni, friends, community members, and partners. There is a reason *U.S. News & World Report* ranks the University of Colorado Denver School of Public Affairs as the top public affairs school in Colorado and among

the best in the nation. Its world-class faculty and its location in the heart of Colorado's capital create countless opportunities for experiential learning. Combine this with the school's rigorous programs and flexible class schedules, and the result is a student body united in its vision for a better world and equipped with the practical skills to make it happen.

**Wember Inc.**

Paul Wember, president  
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Wember has served as the owner's representative on 110 projects and counting that hold a cumulative construction value of over \$1 billion. Its reputable project managers serve as advisors on the many crucial decisions made during the process of design and construction. Wember employs proven management practices and effective technology applications to coordinate the myriad of details amongst the project team, managing every phase of design, construction, and post-occupancy. Its team has one focus – represent the owner and manage risks inherent to construction and development projects. Wember is experienced in managing hired consultants and leading the team while holding parties accountable in a fair but firm manner. It commits to listening, learning, and leading the team to successful project completion. Clients remain informed and engaged while Wember ensures their best interests are being met.

## Course Notebook

### Watershed Summit

More than 200 water utility executives, business leaders, conservation experts, and other professionals will come together to share tested solutions at the Watershed Summit on **June 27** in Denver. Gain new insights and ideas to help position your organization for success. The event seeks to add new voices to the discussion, introduce innovative ideas, and break down silos. The goal is to bring local influence to global freshwater issues. To learn more and register, visit [bit.ly/2Fzmrxb](http://bit.ly/2Fzmrxb).

## CML Welcomes Back Bailey Epperson



CML is pleased to welcome back research intern Bailey Epperson. Hailing from Fairhope, Alabama, Bailey is a junior at the University of Colorado (CU) Boulder.

At CU Boulder, she studies international affairs and relations with a certificate in peace, conflict, and security studies. In addition, Bailey studies the German language and the political economy of the European Union. As the 2019 CML intern, she will build on the work she undertook during

her first internship over the summer of 2018, when she supported CML staff with publications and periodicals, data collection, and daily operations. Bailey is excited about the opportunity to observe the intricacies of municipal government and aid in the research for various topics. She believes understanding and collaborating with local governments and municipalities is one of the cornerstones of all governmental functions and purposes, so she is very enthusiastic about the chance to connect with officials from municipalities across Colorado.

## Research Corner: NLC's State of the Cities 2019

By Melissa Mata, CML municipal research analyst

The National League of Cities (NLC) released its sixth annual State of the Cities report, which analyzed 153 mayoral speeches delivered across the nation between January and April 2019. Over one-third of the speeches were given by mayors of municipalities with a population of less than 50,000; thirteen percent were given by mayors with a population of over 300,000; and the remaining 49 percent were relatively evenly split between the population groups of 50,000–99,999 and 100,000–299,999. The speeches were determined to significantly cover a topic if the word count for that topic comprised at least ten percent of the speech.

Analysis of the speeches found that, of the topics that were significantly covered:

- Economic development was the most-covered topic for the sixth year in a row, discussed by 74 percent of mayors. Much of this focus was on downtown development, including how to use downtowns to promote quality of

life for residents and ultimately drive economic development.

- Infrastructure came in as the second most-covered topic, featured in 57 percent of speeches. Specific focus was on roads, streets and signs, water, and sewer and wastewater, as well as on the question of funding sources.
- Two topics that saw increased coverage this year were health and human services (46 percent in 2019, compared to 34 percent in 2018) and energy and environment (41 percent in 2019, compared to 25 percent in 2018). The increased discussion in health and human services was driven mainly by a more than two-fold jump in discussion of parks and recreation services and programs, and a five-fold increase in discussion of mental health.

To view the full report, which includes a more detailed comparison of differences between population categories, as well as more detailed breakdowns of popular subtopics, please visit [bit.ly/2Kp69F1](http://bit.ly/2Kp69F1).

## Vision Accomplished

CML'S VISION IS "EMPOWERED CITIES and towns, united for a strong Colorado." This vision drives CML to work for our members so they may achieve their goals. When we assist city and town leaders across the state, it is important to us that we celebrate that achievement and share it with you.

Following is feedback we received after a recent Learn from the Pros webinar, presented by Dee Wisor, with CML Associate Member Butler Snow, LLP, covering SEC rule changes.



*This webinar was just exceptional. I appreciated the information and will utilize the process in the municipality! As a first-time elected official, it is difficult at times to comprehend current process without*

*knowledge of the prior circumstances that underlie the necessity of a new amendment structure. This webinar perfectly covered prior circumstance to tie into the current amendment processes and changes — giving me the clarity needed to understand the benefit of implementing those amendment changes for compliance and reduce risk in my municipality. The teacher was highly effective in his communications even though the concepts conveyed were complicated in nature. These webinars are just the tool I need to access education in a timely and convenient manner. Thank you for providing access to educational tools like these webinars.*

— Laurie Clark  
Monument trustee

CML will continue to develop new features to empower our members.



See you in Breckenridge for the 97th CML Annual Conference, June 18–21, 2019!



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