



COLORADO
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE

Newsletter

Vol. 46, No. 18, September 11, 2020

Colorado Springs Mayor Suthers named inaugural recipient of Sam Mamet Good Governance Award



The Colorado Municipal League announced Aug. 26 that Colorado Springs Mayor John Suthers has been named the inaugural recipient of

the Sam Mamet Good Governance Award. The award, named in honor of retired CML Executive Director Sam Mamet, honors an individual who exemplifies and seeks to expand the application of principles of good governance.

"Last year when this award was named in my honor, I was so deeply humbled and now, knowing who the first recipient is, I'm even more so," said Mamet. "Mayor Suthers is a true public servant, not only of his own community, but of the state as well."

"To be the recipient of this inaugural Sam Mamet Good Governance Award is truly an honor," said Mayor Suthers. "I would like to

thank the incredible team of employees at the City of Colorado Springs who work hard each day to make our community better and make me look good. Especially in the midst of this unprecedented time, it's evident that true leadership involves collaboration and choosing a path that best protects the physical and economic health of our citizens."

"Looking closer at his achievements here in Colorado Springs you begin to understand why Mayor Suthers is a textbook example of effective and successful leadership in government," said Colorado Springs City Attorney Wynetta Massey. "John Suthers has the unique ability to create a vision for the future of the city and to articulate that vision to the citizens in a way that lights a creative fire and leads them to achieve that vision together. It was my pleasure to nominate Mayor Suthers."

Award nominations were submitted by CML membership and voted on by members of the CML Executive Board. CML received 19 nominations for this year's award.

Other nominees were:

- Montezuma Mayor Lesley Davis

- Former Montrose Councilmember and Mayor Judy Ann Files
- Gunnison Mayor Jim Gelwicks
- Pueblo Mayor Nick Gradisar
- Superior Town Clerk Phyllis Hardin
- Grand Junction Police Department Advocacy Coordinator Mary Harmeling
- Alamosa Finance Director Judy Kelloff
- Snowmass Village Town Manager Clint Kinney
- Former Woodland Park Mayor Neil Levy
- Center Town Manager Brian Lujan
- Basalt Town Manager Ryan Mahoney
- Hayden Town Manager Mathew Mendisco
- Lone Tree Mayor Jacqueline Millet
- Windsor Resident Debra Rojas
- Former Ward Mayor Karelle Scharff
- Retired City Manager Gary Sears
- Denver Legislative Director Skye Stuart
- Brush City Administrator Monty Torres

For more information about Mayor Suthers, see the video posted at bit.ly/2F0zjdh.

CML seeking speakers for 2021 annual conference in Snowmass Village

It's already time to start thinking about the **2021 Annual Conference in Snowmass Village!**

Is your municipality or organization doing something that you think Colorado municipalities could learn from? We have a great opportunity to share your knowledge and experience!

CML is now accepting session proposals for the 2021 Annual Conference. Sessions will be determined through a conference planning process that will take place later this year. CML will notify individuals whose proposals are selected in November 2020.

Please note that educational sessions at the annual conference are learning experiences

and are noncommercial. Under no circumstances should a presentation be used for direct promotion of a speaker's product, service, or other self-interest.

To submit a proposal, fill out the form at bit.ly/2Ey9SQ4 by Sept. 18.

CML hires new legislative and policy advocate



CML is pleased to announce that Beauclarine Thomas is joining CML as a legislative and policy advocate on Sept. 21. She is thrilled to learn more about

municipal governance and advance municipal interests at the Legislature. Previously, Beauclarine was a budget and policy analyst for the Governor's Office of State Planning and Budgeting. There, she worked on criminal justice policy and developed budget and policy proposals for the Department of Corrections, Division of Youth Services in the Department of Human Services, and the Division of Criminal Justice in the Department of Public Safety. Prior to this role, Beauclarine was the fiscal policy analyst for the House Majority Office and worked with Joint Budget Committee members to develop the state budget. In addition to her work experience, she has also advocated on substance abuse issues with the Harm Reduction Action Center. CML is excited to bring her aboard!

2020 off-system bridge program – solicitation for applications

The Special Highway Committee is now accepting grant applications from municipalities with off-system bridges that are eligible for rehabilitation or replacement. Approximately \$4.4 million will be available for allocation to municipalities and counties between 2021 and 2023. **The deadline for applications is 5 p.m., Friday, Oct. 23.** Additional information has already been sent

out to city and town managers and public works directors across the state outlining the eligibility status and application process for municipalities wishing to submit a grant application. All inquiries regarding these resources or general questions surrounding the program or application process should be directed to Morgan Cullen (303) 217-6858/ mcullen@cml.org.

Upcoming DCI events

DOWNTOWN COLORADO inc. Commercial District Resources + Solutions Thursday Call

The Colorado Road to Recovery: Rural Finance + The Dynamic Downtown Sept. 10, 8:30 a.m.

Developer Versus Urban Renewal: A Mock Negotiation | Paul Benedetti v. Carolynne White Sept. 17, 4 p.m.

Big Talks About The Future of Equity + You With Dr. Nita Mosby Tyler Sept. 8, 4 p.m.

In memory



CML extends our condolences to the friends and family of Vi June

Former Westminster mayor and member of the Colorado House of Representatives Vi June died on Aug. 15.

Vi was elected to the Westminster City Council in 1965 and served until 1981. She served as Westminster's first female mayor from 1975-1981. She was elected to the Colorado House in 1990 and served as the minority whip in 1994. According to *Colorado Politics*, among her legislative accomplishments, June sponsored bills

that became law on motor vehicles and on elections to the Regional Transportation District board. As a member of the Westminster City Council, she played a major role in negotiating an agreement to provide water from Standley Lake to the city, according to the *Arvada Press*.

Former Colorado Municipal League Executive Director Sam Mamet told *Colorado Politics* that "Vi was a terrific public servant...She was dedicated and even more so, she was a pistol. I always enjoyed being with her and always knew I would be in for some fun in the process. May Vi's memory be a blessing."

"Randy was a giant in the community and an excellent mayor," said Kevin Bommer, CML executive director. "He was as caring and gentle as they come, but he got things done. Our hearts go out to the Penn family, Randy's extended family in the community, and to all the young people whose lives he touched."

A memorial will be planned for the spring. In the meantime, the family is asking that gifts in his honor, which will be used to establish scholarships in Penn's name for Englewood students, be made at bit.ly/35dcjCe.



Former Englewood mayor (2011-2015) and longtime educator and coach Randy Penn passed away on Sept. 3, after a sudden, unexpected illness. Mayor Penn had taught in Englewood

Schools since 1981 and coached several sports through 2008. Most recently, Penn retired as executive director of the Chamber of Commerce.



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

Department of Local Affairs granted \$6.5 million from HUD, allocates \$4.82 million for affordable housing in August for Colorado



The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in August announced the award of \$6.5 million to the Colorado Department of Local Affairs for Section 811 supportive housing for extremely low income persons with disabilities, and DOLA's Division of Housing (DOH) awarded \$4.82 million through the Colorado State Housing Board (SHB) for affordable housing.

DOH granted Colorado Coalition for the Homeless \$3.1 million for the nine-story Renaissance Legacy Lofts and Stout Street Recuperative Care Facility in downtown Denver. The first three floors will consist of a 75-bed assisted living and medical respite facility. The remaining seven floors will have 98 units of supportive housing. The facility will provide recuperative care for homeless individuals previously hospitalized with acute medical or behavioral health conditions who

cannot be safely discharged from medical care to the streets or shelters.

SHB granted Northwest Real Estate Capital Corporation \$1million for the construction of Iron Horse Lofts in Alamosa. The project will consist of 40 one-, two-and three-bedroom apartments in five buildings across three acres, available to those under 60% of the Area Median

Income (AMI), with nearly a quarter of the units for those with less than 30% of the AMI.

The Board awarded the City of Salida a loan of \$720,000 for the development of 48-unit Salida Ridge apartments. One-, two- and three-bedroom units will be available to people with incomes between 30 and 50% of the Area Median Income. This will be the first affordable housing project in Salida in 23 years.

DOLA Executive Director Rick M. Garcia appointed members to new the Strategic Housing Working Group created to help meet Colorado's diverse affordable housing needs following the 2019 statewide stakeholder engagement process. The municipal member is Ty Coleman, mayor of Alamosa and director of corporate relations and lending solutions Colorado Rural Housing Development Corporation. The State Housing Board and DOLA's Division of Housing continue to support the creation of affordable housing that is accessible, safe and secure for all Coloradans. For complete information on Housing Board grant approvals, visit bit.ly/3iaUZl3.

Colorado Resiliency office seeking input on Colorado Resiliency Framework

The Colorado Resiliency Office is currently in the process of updating the Colorado Resiliency Framework. As part of this process, the CRO has created two surveys to garner feedback from our communities.

The individual survey asks you, as a Coloradan, to provide feedback on what is important to you with the current direction of the framework as we work to support a more resilient future for Colorado.

The organizational survey has a similar goal but is aimed at organizations. The organizational survey asks for feedback on the current direction of the framework and is also looking to build networks of organizations willing to support the actions in the framework.

If you haven't had a chance to participate in any of the Framework update processes so far, this survey is an opportunity to make sure your

voice is included in the process to finalize key priorities and strategies.

Individual survey: bit.ly/3k7BNFF.

Organization survey: bit.ly/3jSISJU.

The surveys will close on Sept. 22, 2020.

Contact Rob Pressly at rob.pressly@state.co.us for more information.

Ridgway Mayor John Clark appointed to broadband deployment board

Town of Ridgway Mayor John Clark was recently appointed by KC Becker, speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives, to serve on the Broadband Deployment Board.

The Broadband Deployment Board was established through HB 14-1328 and was created to implement and administer the deployment of broadband service in unserved

areas of the state by awarding grants from the Broadband Fund. The Broadband Fund exists to connect communities and fuel economic growth in unserved areas across Colorado. The Board seeks public comment on applications before reviewing and selecting which projects to fund. The Board awards money from the Broadband Fund according to statutory requirements and Board policy.

"I am honored to serve as a member of this team and excited for the opportunity to help improve broadband access in communities around the state of Colorado," said Mayor Clark. "In the 21st century, broadband is essential to economic development. I believe that everyone deserves reliable, sustainable, and affordable internet service, especially people in rural areas of our state."

Town of Frisco takes creative steps to help aid COVID-19 economic recovery



Photo by Todd Powell



Photo by Todd Powell

By Vanessa Agee, marketing and communications director, Town of Frisco

On March 5, when the first positive COVID-19 test was announced in Frisco and the State of Colorado, most folks would likely have snorted in disbelief that mask comfort, Zoom fatigue, disinfectant wipe shortages, and hybrid learning would all be "things" by September. Disbelief and the inevitable missteps aside (no one is perfect), Frisco rapidly formulated a strategy to act decisively and have an overwhelmingly positive impact during this pandemic. Let's get to some of the highlights.

Business strategy meetings – In March, the Town of Frisco started twice weekly virtual business meetings, which anyone could attend. These were initially about public health orders and figuring out how to morph business operations, but soon evolved into

recovery planning and how to make sure that town government supported innovation. These meetings were successful because they were based on the shared understanding between Town Council and staff that government is not successful if businesses are not successful. Also, Town Council and leadership staff intentionally made space for listening. Many initiatives and suggestions were born out of these meetings, including a sanitizer and mask giveaway program that the town funded and organized so businesses could have the supplies they needed to reopen and a policy to loosen permitting requirements on temporary tents, outdoor merchandise displays, and banners.

Strategic Economic Response Team (SERT)

In March, SERT was formed with four staff who volunteered to be re-assigned. Each staff member focused on a different specialty to support businesses or individuals so there would be a knowledgeable resource for everything from unemployment to federal programs; think of them as Frisco's COVID navigators and personal assistants. Today, this staff continues to assist those in need and update the webpages dedicated to their mission at ChooseFrisco.com.

Business Grant Program – On April 7, Frisco Town Council voted to approve \$500,000 in grants to Frisco businesses based on their rent or mortgage to help as they waited for federal assistance. The first checks were put into the hands of business owners less than seven days after the program was approved by council.

Residential Rental Assistance Program – On April 7, Frisco Town Council also dedicated \$250,000 to a residential rental assistance program to help individuals working or living in Frisco. The program was administered by the Family and Intercultural Resource Center (FIRC), which already had expertise around guiding individuals through the process of accessing resources and assistance.

Frisco Pedestrian Promenade – The Promenade idea grew out of the business meetings with the name "Promenade" coined by a local restaurateur. On June 12, the Promenade opened on three blocks of Main Street, creating a hub of open air dining and shopping with pedestrian and bike access only. Public Works turned up the charm with wine barrel lighting, which they imagined and constructed. Due to popular demand, this lighting will likely stick around through the winter, and Public Works is now using a \$50,000 Colorado Department of Transportation grant to build parklets (basically decks that fit into parking spaces) which can be deployed once the snow flies and Main Street needs to accommodate vehicular (and plow) traffic.

Love Frisco, Shop/Stay Frisco – The Love Frisco program was all about encouraging folks to shop and stay local, and e-card sales and bonuses resulted in \$245,000 worth of e-gift cards being issued from June 12-Aug. 31. Town Council committed \$100,000 to this program to incentivize spending: spend \$30, \$10 bonus; spend \$75, \$25 bonus; and spend \$120, \$40 bonus. The cards are only good at local stores and are processed as a MasterCard. The town's technology partner was Yiftee, and the program used LoveFriscoCO.com to make e-gift card purchases easy. Council has decided that they may use some of the leftover funds to re-launch as a holiday shop local program.

Most profound lessons learned? We are all in the same storm, but we are not all in the same boat. So town council did a lot of listening, did not hesitate to have special meetings to make quick and bold decisions to rescue boats in peril, and supported staff in getting to yes when innovative ideas were presented. Also, virtual meetings are a lot better attended than in person meetings so they are likely here to stay in some form, as we seek the community's ideas to succeed during this next chapter.

Town of Frisco wins "Team of the Year" in the business excellence awards



The Town of Frisco won the "Best Team of the Year" category in the Summit County Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards – the inaugural award in this new category. The Business Excellence Awards competition is open to all businesses operating in Summit

County (both public and private), and was created to recognize and reward creativity, innovation, and achievements of business owners, operators and their employees across various industries of multiple sizes. The Best Team of the Year category was newly-created

for 2020, as a way for businesses to recognize their best asset – their employees.

"We are really proud that the Town of Frisco has received this award. Our employees have exemplified what it means to work together to say yes to solutions and take risks, while being flexible, nimble, and innovative during the response to this pandemic," stated Mayor Hunter Mortensen.

"The employees serving the Frisco community are outstanding. The employees are highly service-oriented and have demonstrated a commitment to the community and each other as we've navigated this crisis together and we look for opportunities to have some fun too," stated Town Manager Nancy Kerry. "The true test of a team is when you call upon each team member in unexpected times of difficulty and without hesitation; they step into the gap, fill the need, and row together in one direction. #TeamFrisco is that team and they deserve this recognition. I'm so proud to stand alongside them and to be one member of a mighty team."

American Planning Association Colorado chapter names award recipients

The American Planning Association Colorado Chapter named its 2020 Chapter Award recipients on Aug. 21. Chapter Awards recognize outstanding projects, plans, and people of the planning profession. Planning projects were honored on the basis of their innovation, ability to provide transferable

lessons to other Colorado communities, excellent quality, promotion of community progress and the public good, effectiveness of implementation, and other unique factors that make these projects exemplary.

Municipal recipients were:

- City of Gunnison - Honor Award for Engaging for Community Solutions in Parks and Housing
- City of Greeley - Honor Award for GO Greeley (bit.ly/31iWO9D)
- City and County of Denver - Honor Award for Denveright (bit.ly/317V4YA)

Applications available for Colorado's newly-formed redistricting commissions

The State of Colorado is encouraging interested individuals to apply for the newly-formed Colorado Independent Redistricting Commissions. Colorado is among 14 states that have Redistricting Commissions to assist in the development of boundary maps for congressional and state legislative districts.

In 2018, more than 70% of voters approved the formation of these independent panels to approve boundary maps. Previously, the state legislature drew the political boundaries for Colorado's members of Congress. One outcome of the 2020 Census is the need to review existing district boundaries resulting from the fluctuation of population numbers

since the previous Census in 2010. This is the first recruitment for these Redistricting Commissions and the members will review the district boundaries along with updated census population numbers.

For additional information and to apply visit bit.ly/333SRFz. Applications are due **Nov. 10**.

CML's first
**Virtual
 Conference!**
Recap



CML holds first Virtual Conference

The Colorado Municipal League held its first Virtual Conference Aug. 25-27. The 522 registered attendees had access to three half-days of presentations, including general sessions on cyber security and the National League of Cities Race, Equity And Leadership program.

For those registered to attend the conference, presentations from the conference are available on the conference portal through Sept. 27. Check out the portal

to see full video recordings of all conference sessions, as well as other materials provided by the presenters. To access the conference portal, please use the same link you used to access the portal during the conference.

If you have misplaced your link, email cml@cml.org.

Conference materials, with the exception of session recordings, are also available on the CML website at bit.ly/31HgZhx.

We would love to hear your feedback on the Virtual Conference. Your feedback helps us to plan future events and informs the sessions we offer. To submit feedback, visit surveymonkey.com/r/CMLVirtual2020.

We look forward to seeing you at the 2021 CML Annual Conference in Snowmass Village on June 22-25, 2021!

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VISIONARY



Elected officials receive leadership training awards

During the Colorado Municipal League's recent Virtual Conference, CML recognized municipal elected officials statewide who reached milestone levels in its MUNiversity program – a leadership program for Colorado's municipal elected officials. This program was started in January 1991 by the League's Executive Board to recognize the efforts of officials who go the extra mile to increase their knowledge of municipal government and their capacity to lead.

To reach the Leadership level of the program, officials must complete 60 credit hours. Officials who reached this level were:

- Alamosa Mayor Ty Coleman
- Alamosa Councilmember Kristina Daniel
- Alamosa Councilmember Liz Hensley

- Arvada Councilmember John Marriott
- Bennett Mayor Royce Pindell
- Centennial Councilmember Kathy Turley
- Crestone Mayor Kairina Danforth
- Dacono Mayor Joe Baker
- Delta Former Mayor Pro Tem Christopher Ryan
- Englewood Mayor Linda Olson
- Fort Morgan Mayor Ron Shaver
- Garden City Mayor Filbert Archuleta
- Hot Sulphur Springs Mayor Robert McVay
- La Junta Councilmember Edward Vela
- Leadville Mayor Greg Labbe
- Lone Tree Councilmember Wynne Shaw

- Mancos Mayor Ellen Barz
- Pueblo Council Vice President Larry Atencio
- Rocky Ford Mayor Susan Jung
- Severance Mayor Donald McLeod
- Sheridan Councilmember David Black

To reach the Graduate level of the program, officials must complete 100 credit hours.

Officials who reached this elite level were:

- Brush Mayor Rick Bain
- Frisco Former Mayor Gary Wilkinson
- Lone Tree Mayor Jacqueline Millet
- Windsor Former Mayor Kristie Melendez

Research corner: ELGL releases "Local Government's Next Normal" report

ELGL, in conjunction with The Atlas and SeeClickFix, recently released the "Local Government's Next Normal" report, summarizing findings from a survey conducted in June and July 2020. Seventy-six percent of the 386 local government officials who responded represented municipalities, with county employees, state officials, utility and special district staff, and tribal nation representatives constituting the remainder. Half of all respondents represented jurisdictions with a population below 50,000.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS REPORTED SHIFTING PRIORITIES.

The highest priorities for respondents six months ago included:



In the midst of the pandemic, however, priorities shifted in unsurprising ways:



The biggest swings of focus were in policing & system racism, with almost 4 times as many respondents naming it a high priority now as compared to six months ago (8% to 31%), and public health, with an increase of almost 3 times (22% to 60%).

Looking ahead to one year from now, officials expect many of the current priorities to remain:



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS REPORTED REVENUE CONCERNS.

94% of respondents believe that their local government budget will be significantly impacted by revenue shortfalls caused by COVID-19 economic impacts. Over 50% of respondents reported reductions to **capital projects, personnel, and travel**.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS REPORTED IMPACTS ON MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES AND THE WORK THAT THEY DO.

Jurisdictions of all sizes reported a negative impact on morale as staff navigated an uncertain and ever-changing environment.

IN JURISDICTIONS WITH A POPULATION GREATER THAN 100,000:

60% reported that the pandemic has assisted their organization in uncovering new leaders.
58% reported that the pandemic has led to increased data-driven decision making.

IN JURISDICTIONS WITH A POPULATION LESS THAN 100,000:

46% reported that the pandemic has assisted their organization in uncovering new leaders.
49% reported that the pandemic has led to increased data-driven decision making.

In addition to new software adopted during the pandemic to maintain service levels, **76% of respondents** stated their organizations plan to continue to adopt new technologies in the next twelve months, including software to enable **working from home and flexible schedules (48%), online revenue capture and payment (46%), and community engagement and communications (45%)**.

To view the full report, please visit bit.ly/3k0FIEb



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