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June 2019

WATER & ENERGY

INSIDE:

Dude Solutions

Iowa grapples with water concerns

Communities turn to microgrids



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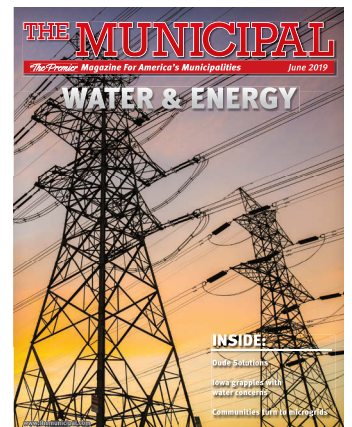
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ON THE COVER

Having reliable energy management software as part of your operations management suite can be a game changer, especially with energy being a top budget line item for local governments. The use of software modules like Dude Solutions Interval Data Recording™ empowers municipalities to monitor their energy usage and take impactful actions that reduce the amount of money spent on energy. Learn more about energy management and how Dude Solutions can help you with this task on page 10.





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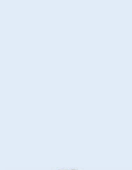
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Meet The Feature Writers

Denise Fedorow has been a freelance journalist, feature writer and columnist for 18 years, writing regularly for a number of Indiana publications. She's been writing for The Municipal since 2015.

A native New Yorker, she's lived in the Midwest for over 30 years. She has two grown sons, five grandchildren and recently adopted

two shelter cats. She studied creative writing in high school and college and her first love is fiction. She's an aspiring children's book author and has been published in Scholastic and other national magazines.

She loves the variety her writing career offers and all the experiences she's had as a result, including being a member of a team covering President Barack Obama's visit to Indiana. She believes everybody—and every city—has a story to tell and is honored to share it.



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Renewable energy sees growth



Sarah Wright | Editor

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.; SAN DIEGO, Calif.; Phoenix, Ariz.; Honolulu, Hawaii; San Jose, Calif.; New York, N.Y.; San Antonio, Texas; Indianapolis, Ind.; Las Vegas, Nev.; Denver, Colo. — what do these cities have in common? They lead Environment America Research & Policy Center's "Top 20 Shining Cities by Total Installed Solar PV Capacity," as of 2018s end. They were ranked by the total per capita solar PV installed.

Within its report, the nonprofit noted, "Our sixth annual survey of solar energy in America's biggest cities finds that the amount of solar power installed in just 20 U.S. cities exceeds the amount installed in the entire United States at the end of 2010. Of the 57 cities surveyed in all six editions of this report, 79 percent more than doubled their total installed solar PV capacity between 2013 and 2018."

Renewable energy is catching on, and this last April, renewable energy—hydro,

biomass, wind, solar and geothermal — was set to surpass coal for the first month ever; this trend was anticipated to continue to a lesser degree through May, according to the Energy Information Administration's short-term energy outlook.

More cities are committing to cleaner energy sources not only for their financial benefits, but also to match citizens' growing desires for green energy. In April, Chicago became the largest U.S. city to set an official goal of achieving 100 percent renewable energy by 2040 — with all of its buildings being powered by renewable energy by 2035. Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel signed the resolution into law April 10.

On a much smaller scale from Chicago, the town of Babcock Ranch, Fla., is building sustainability into its infrastructure as it develops. Writer Catey Traylor highlights this unique community and its efforts to maintain its natural beauty and reduce its environmental footprint using solar energy and energy-efficient building standards. Babcock Ranch definitely

makes an interesting case study since it is starting from scratch.

Saving energy as a whole is another major goal for municipalities of all sizes. Writer Elisa Walker will be profiling Montgomery, Ala., which has seen massive savings simply through educating its employees on how certain behaviors, such as shutting off lights, can reduce energy usage. We will also be looking at microgrids, which many cities are turning to for resiliency efforts, especially in areas more prone to severe weather or wildfires.

Water also plays a role in this issue, with Denise Fedorow spotlighting the state of Iowa's efforts to reduce the amount of nutrients entering its water sources and ultimately the Gulf of Mexico.

Here's hoping for a relatively dry June, especially after all the heavy rains in April and May, which affected many cities within our readership. **M**





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Upcoming Editorial Calendar

<p>JULY 2019 Public Works Deadline Monday, June 3</p>	<p>AUGUST 2019 Waste & Recycling Deadline Friday, June 28* <small>*early deadline</small></p>	<p>SEPTEMBER 2019 Storm Management Deadline Monday, Aug. 5</p>
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Why your municipality should place more focus on energy management

By JESSICA WIMMER, Government Marketing Writer, Dude Solutions

Energy is a top budget line item for local governments, and according to ENERGY STAR, 30 percent of it is wasted. Energy management is an essential operation for any municipality, but when it's not properly managed, the consequences are costly. But what does it mean to properly manage energy? It largely means being in control. Instead of letting your energy usage control you — and then later seeing the result when the bill is due — it means having the right information to make strategic decisions. When you're properly managing your municipality's energy, you can see your usage, gather reliable data and use that insight to transform your community — and your bills.

Despite energy being a huge expense for local governments, it's commonly mismanaged. Paying the bill every month is not the same thing as managing energy. Having a true energy management program means you're not only aware of how much you've spent, but where you've spent it, patterns in spending and how you can leverage this insight into smartly planning for the future. Energy is a tremendous area for cost savings, and there's a valuable opportunity to more responsibly steward resources and model sustainability. When you create a culture of sustainability with your citizen community, you build credibility, trust and engagement. So the benefits to proper energy management are both economical and environmentally sound.

That's why it's necessary to have reliable energy management software as part of your operations management suite. With the right software, spikes in energy consumption can be correlated to facility

usage, assets or equipment running inefficiently that may no longer be safe and needs to be replaced, or the community being irresponsible by leaving lights on, etc. Local governments need this level of visibility to make the most of their budgets.

Good energy management begins with good data

Good data is key to effective energy management. Without it, you can't measure your usage or spending month over month, year over year. You can't report to stakeholders on progress, you won't notice when there's a mistake on your utility bill and you can't make a business case for retrofitting projects or new equipment because you have nothing reliable to point to. Data combined with analytics — the ability to manipulate and interpret that data in meaningful ways — is the foundation of an energy program. It's how your municipality can

LEFT: Software can track spikes in energy consumption, correlating them to facility usage, assets or equipment running inefficiently that may no longer be safe and need to be replaced. (Shutterstock.com)



Gain insight into your energy consumption by utility with the Dude Solutions Energy Manager web-based dashboard. (Photo provided)

get from bleeding your budget to reporting impressive savings to stakeholders and citizens.

But without the numbers, energy management is just a guessing game. With energy management software, however, local governments have the ability to measure and validate. Many energy efficiency gains come as a result of efforts like lighting retrofits or capital projects. Being able to first justify the need for these investments and then tie results back to dollars saved is hugely validating for energy managers and valuable in budget planning and prioritization.

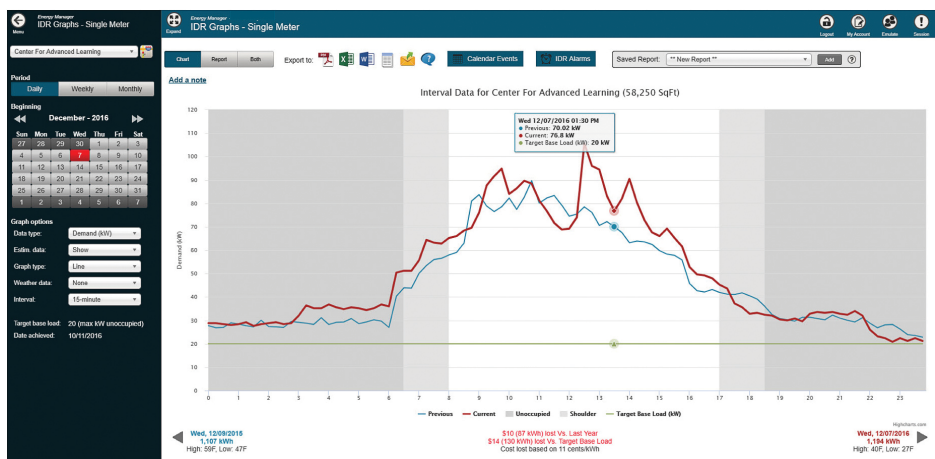
Energy software offers more than you may think

There's innovation happening in the area of smarter energy management, including software modules like Dude Solutions Interval Data Recording™. With this software, instead of waiting to get your next bill to see how much energy your municipality used, you can see it the very next day, empowering you to take meaningful action. With smart meters, energy use is captured in near real-time intervals. Once collected, data is organized and presented in your system's database with reports designed for different audiences.

With accurate numbers in front of you, you can promptly identify problem areas and make impactful decisions for your community.

That means no more energy drainers flying under the radar, only to be found when the bill needs to be paid. It also means less money wasted for your municipality and more money spent where it's truly needed.

The return your local government can have when investing in energy management is inevitable. While making smarter choices for the environment, your municipality can see tremendous cost savings and see them quicker than you may think. With these savings, you're not only being a better steward of resources, you're creating funds that can be better spent in areas your community can benefit from. But it all begins with data, and data begins with the right software that can give you the visibility into your energy spending's past and present so you can make smarter decisions for your municipality's future. **M**



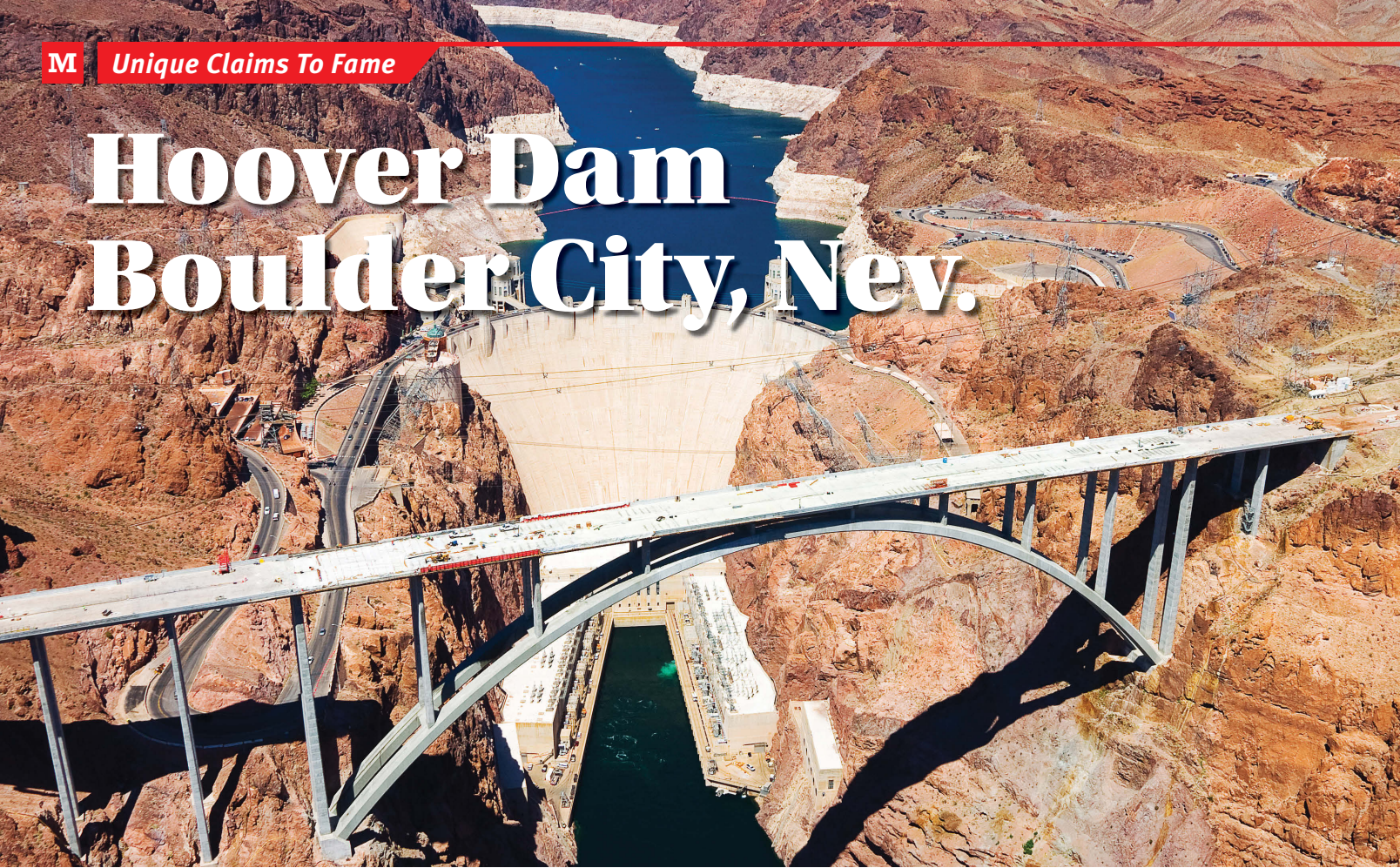
Capitalize on immediate opportunities to save with near real-time energy tracking instead of waiting for next month's bill. (Photo provided)

To learn more, visit dudesolutions.com/gov-energy.

About Dude Solutions

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Hoover Dam Boulder City, Nev.



By RAY BALOGH | The Municipal

Meet the city named after a dam named after a canyon.

Boulder City, Nev., population 15,971, owes its very existence to one of the world's most incredible feats of engineering and construction, Hoover Dam, 8 miles to the northeast.

Boulder City was established by the federal government to accommodate workers involved in constructing the edifice originally called Boulder Dam. The project site, originally set for Boulder Canyon, was moved to Black Canyon because the same result of harnessing the power of the mighty Colorado River could be achieved with a shorter structure.

Prospective laborers had set up a ramshackle tent camp in the desert surrounding the site, hoping to be selected for construction jobs on the project, which commenced in 1931, two years into the Great Depression.

When the workforce was chosen — eventually more than 10,000 people would contribute their labor to the dam and related construction — the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation contracted for construction of the town, a rare example of a municipality fully planned under government supervision.

Because the dam represented optimism amid the nation's economic woes, the town was designed to further manifest that positivity. Commodious green space and copious landscaping were etched into the blueprints, earning Boulder City the moniker, "Nevada's Garden City."

Gambling was — and still is — prohibited within the city limits, making Boulder City one of only two gambling-free locations in the state. Alcohol was prohibited until 1969.

Commercial development was strictly regulated, with the number of stores limited and business applicants screened for character and financial viability. No schools or hospitals were provided for in the original plans.

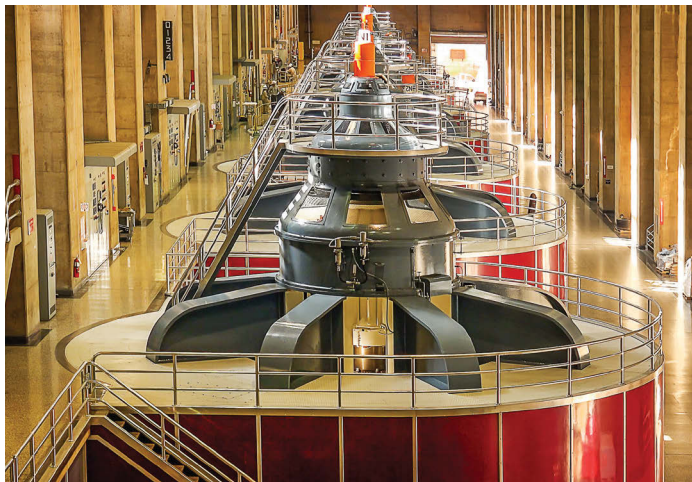
Visitors were admitted only by permit through a gatehouse constructed in 1932. The iconic Boulder City Hotel has hosted several U.S. presidents and notable celebrities such as Bette Davis, Shirley Temple and Howard Hughes.

The government relinquished control of the municipality when Boulder City was incorporated in 1959. City leaders have worked to scrupulously preserve the standard of living. Though Boulder City, at 208 square miles, is Nevada's largest city by land area, growth is strictly controlled to maintain the spacious residency of 72 people per square mile.

The city code limits residential construction to 120 single- or multi-family building permits a year. Hotels may have no more than 35 rooms.

Herbert Hoover was instrumental as commerce secretary in securing interstate agreements in the 1920s to commence the project. Construction began during his Republican presidency.

LEFT: Many of Hoover Dam's associated structures pasted to the canyon walls can be seen from the 1,900-foot-long Mike O'Callaghan - Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge.



The turbines inside Hoover Dam are capable of producing enough electricity to power 1.3 million homes.

The dam was completed in 1936, two years ahead of schedule, during the administration of Democrat Franklin Roosevelt. Partisan politics ensued and Roosevelt and his successor, Harry Truman, referred to the structure, dubbed Hoover Dam at its groundbreaking, as Boulder Dam.

In 1947 Congress passed a resolution finally giving Hoover his due and Truman signed the document, granting the structure its official name as Hoover Dam.

The dam is 660 feet thick at its base and rises 725 feet above the Colorado River, impounding the subsequently formed Lake Mead, a 247-square-mile, 110-mile-long body of water that now serves as a mecca for boating, water skiing, fishing and other water sports. The lake, the largest manmade reservoir in the United States, took six and a half years to fill once the dam was activated.

The site's 17 generators produce more than 4 billion kilowatt hours a year, enough to power 1.3 million homes, with California receiving 56 percent of the power; Nevada, 25 percent; and Arizona, the remaining 19 percent.

Water plummets 500 feet down the canyon through four pipes 30 feet in diameter at the rate of 90,000 gallons per second to power the hydroelectric generators.



The four penstock towers of Hoover Dam contain 30-foot-diameter pipes that send 90,000 gallons of water per second to the hydroelectric generators.

The 3.25 million cubic yards of concrete comprising the dam could pave a two-lane highway from San Francisco to New York City.


The city markets itself to the more than 1 million yearly visitors to Hoover Dam. The chamber of commerce employs the slogan, "Best City by a Dam Site," and the community hosts annual events such as the "Best Dam Barbecue" cook-off, "Get Off My Dam Lawn" gardening festival and "The Dam Short Film Festival"

The "Damboree Celebration" is in its 71st year. The one-day festival, held every July 4, features a parade with a designated block-long water play area along the route, food vendors, games and contests, live music and fireworks.

Other tourist activities include:

- Gold mine tours
- Railway museum with a 35-minute train ride
- A park featuring dozens of bighorn sheep
- Four ziplines covering 1 1/2 miles over Bootleg Canyon
- Antique shopping and a wide range of dining options
- Mountain biking trails

The Hoover Dam Visitors Center is open year-round from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Thanksgiving and Christmas. Tours inside the dam commence every 15 minutes. The dam is accessible daily from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The Boulder City/Hoover Dam Museum, free to the public, is open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. 365 days a year. On display are photographs, artifacts and personal accounts of those involved in the construction of the dam and establishment of the city. 

For more information, visit www.usbr.gov/lc/hooverdam, www.visitbouldercity.com or www.bcnv.org.

Boating is the main attraction on Lake Mead, the 247-square-mile reservoir formed by the Hoover Dam.

Circleville, Ohio



Circleville, Ohio, is named for its original shape, which was in turn crafted around a Hopewell earthwork erected between 100 B.C. and A.D. 500.

Earthworks are manmade geometric elevations in land level and can memorialize the burial place of ancestors or mark the movements of celestial bodies or the rising and setting points of the sun.

The 1,100-foot-diameter earthwork 25 miles south of Columbus, Ohio, provided the template for the layout of the town created in 1810. When surrounding Pickaway County was established that year, Circleville was selected as the county seat with the intent to preserve and maintain the Hopewell mounds. The county courthouse was built in the center of the innermost of the concentric circles of streets and parceled lots.

Circleville was founded by European-American settlers migrating westward after the American Revolutionary War. The first sale of property in town was celebrated with a barbecue and a wheel of cheese weighing several hundred pounds transported to the barbecue by sled.

The town was incorporated in 1814 and by 1827 boasted 725 residents, along with a private school, public school, one church, nine stores, three pharmacies, three groceries and a market house.

Within the following decade, however, citizens became dissatisfied with Circleville's layout, claiming the lots were too irregular and inconvenient, the circular plan wasted space and the area around the courthouse was unrepresentable.

In March 1837 town leaders petitioned the Ohio general assembly for authorization to alter the town's structure. The legislature granted authorization to change any quarter of the circle upon consent of the landowners in that quarter.

By 1856 all four quarters were altered to a grid pattern. The work involved demolishing, moving and constructing buildings and grading and repaving streets. In the process all vestiges of the earthworks were destroyed.

By at least one historical account, Circleville's citizens regretted changing the original layout.

Circleville, with its current population of 13,930, relies largely on manufacturing to sustain its local economy. The city is home to DuPont's largest chemical plant in Ohio. The plant produces Mylar polyester film. A General Electrical lighting plant produces energy-efficient compact fluorescent lamps. Georgia-Pacific maintains a paper plant just south of town.

Since 1903 Circleville has hosted an annual pumpkin show billed as "The Greatest Free Show on Earth." The four-day event is ranked the sixth largest festival in the United States and draws more than 300,000 visitors a year. This year's festival will take place Wednesday-Sunday, Oct. 16-19.

For more information, visit www.ci.circleville.oh.us.



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Focus on: Water & Energy

45 percent

The Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy aims to reduce the amount of nutrients getting into the Gulf of Mexico by 45 percent by 2035.



Read more on page 18.

16,000 acres

As a new town, Babcock Ranch, Fla., is meticulously planning its community, including creating the largest solar-plus storage system that is operating in the U.S. The town consists of 16,000 acres.



Learn more about Babcock Ranch on page 22.

\$300,000



Portland, Ore.'s, \$300,000 pilot "PrepHub" project will build 40-50 microgrid statues, which will become common landmarks, in parks.

Learn how cities are becoming more resilient with microgrids on page 26.

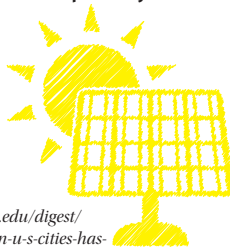
\$2 million



Montgomery, Ala., has saved over \$2 million — \$1.2 million of which goes into its pocket — by educating its employees on energy saving techniques.

Read more on page 30.

Solar power capacity has more than doubled in 45 of America's 57 largest cities over the past six years, according to a recent report by the nonprofit Environment America Research & Policy Center.



Source: e360.yale.edu/digest/solar-energy-capacity-in-u-s-cities-has-doubled-in-the-last-6-years

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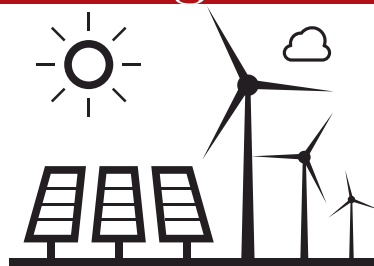
16

The number of smart sewer complexes the Buffalo Sewer Authority aims to create across Buffalo, N.Y.



Source: news.wbfo.org/post/smart-sewers-key-400m-city-plan-end-water-overflows

2.271 million megawatt-hours



Renewables are predicted to generate this many megawatt-hours per day in May compared to coal's 2.239 million megawatt-hours.

Source: www.usnews.com/news/national-news/articles/2019-04-29/report-us-renewable-energy-production-set-to-outpace-coal-in-april



Improving Iowa's water quality is a focus for many

By DENISE FEDOROW | The Municipal

As may be the case in many agriculture-heavy states, the water quality across the state of Iowa is being affected by agricultural runoff, releasing nitrates and phosphates in lakes, river, streams and groundwater.

Although it is a statewide problem, it's definitely more of an issue in some areas rather than others. It's worse in the Des Moines area and not as bad in the southern part of the state, according to Dan McIntosh, general manager of Southern Iowa Rural Water Association.

McIntosh said SIRWA is a rural water district serving 14 counties — seven full counties and parts of the other seven. He said a drinking water “ban” that was reported last fall was actually “an advisory, not a ban, and an isolated incident” due to a malfunctioning membrane on a tank and not related to the nitrate/phosphate issues.

There are 33 small communities that now purchase their water through SIRWA, and

they get the bulk of their water — 85 percent — from the city of Creston. McIntosh said they've put in all new sewer systems in the last 15-20 years.

Iowa State University

The subject of Iowa's water quality has been studied by several departments at Iowa State University — looking at the economic, health and environmental issues.

Matt Helmers, director of Iowa Nutrient Resource Center and a professor in the Department of Agricultural and BioSystems Engineering, spoke about the state's water quality, “We do certainly have issues with large nitrate levels in lakes and rivers and shallow groundwater. There's been some

ABOVE: Water quality across the state of Iowa is impacted by agricultural runoff. To lessen this impact, new farming practices are being implemented, such as cover crops and grass buffers. (Shutterstock.com)

sediment, too, but the big focus is on nitrates and phosphates.”

He confirmed the problem is primarily from agricultural runoff and added there are more nitrates moving through the soil from agricultural systems and delivered through groundwater or tile drainage.

Helmers said the problem is “certainly not new, but there's been an increased emphasis on reducing the levels with the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy released in 2013.”

The Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy came to being when Iowa, along with 12 other states whose waterways lead into the Mississippi River and Northern Gulf of Mexico, were required to assemble and implement a nutrient reduction strategy to reduce nitrate drainage into the gulf, which was creating hypoxia or dead zone. The Iowa NRS is a collaborative plan developed by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land

Stewardship, Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the Iowa State University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

The goal is to reduce the amount getting into the gulf by 45 percent by 2035. The Iowa NRS is publicly and privately funded.

Helmers said these nitrates and phosphates are getting into the drinking water system in a couple of ways — one way is directly into the water sources like streams or the shallow flow under the streams. Des Moines Water Works gets much of its water from the Raccoon River, which is high in nitrates and because of that the water has to be treated before being sent out.

Reportedly the Raccoon River is a source of drinking water for 500,000 central Iowa residents. In 2015 the Des Moines Water Works brought a lawsuit against drainage districts for funneling high levels of nitrates into drainage tiles, short-circuiting more natural methods. A judge dismissed the lawsuit in 2017.

Another source for drinking water is shallow groundwater, which is susceptible to having high levels of nitrates and phosphates.

Helmers explained that while most cities and towns do treat potable water before it reaches consumers most don't have or need the nitrate removal technology necessary to remove the nitrates because they are within the acceptable standards of 10 parts nitrogen per million.

He said Des Moines was not meeting that standard despite blending so the Des Moines Water Works purchased nitrate removal equipment, which is a separate process from normal water treatment.

Greenfield, Iowa

On July 17, 2018, Danielle Gehr wrote in her Des Moines Register article, "Greenfield under tap water drinking ban following detection potential toxin," that residents were under a bottled water advisory — pending testing — due to algae in the water system.

Officials determined the water in town was not safe for drinking, cooking or brushing teeth. It was found that the source of the town's water — Lake Greenfield — was experiencing an algae bloom. Officials warned that boiling the water would not destroy the algae and might, in fact, make it more concentrated.



ABOVE and BELOW: Pictured are wetlands in central and north central Iowa, which are considered an effective means of nitrate removal. Wetlands are considered an “edge of field” method of removing nitrates and stopping them from getting into lakes, rivers and streams and drinking water sources. (Photos provided by Iowa State University)



Additional testing showed that the levels were not unsafe for drinking water levels, but at that point, town officials suggested boiling the water for a few days.

Greenfield's situation was just one more instance of threats to Iowa's water system last year.

Corrective steps

To correct the issue, Helmers said one step is to reduce the amount of nitrates and phosphates that are being put down and the span

of time they are being applied — whether the source is manure or commercial fertilizer. Having more crops on the land for more parts of the year, such as ground cover crops like rye grass, oats, crimson clover, oil-seed radish and cereal rye, also helps reduction efforts.

Wetlands have been a “most effective practice” as they intercept the water. Bioreactor wood chips and saturated buffers are also being used to trap the nitrates. ▶

According to the Illinois Council on Best Management Practices, saturated buffers removes nitrates from the subsurface. Instead of the water flowing through the tile to an outflow point, it's directed to a lateral tile that runs parallel to a ditch. A grass buffer is created at the edge of the field above the lateral tile, and it takes up the water and nutrients before they leave the field.

Land management use like planting perennial crops is also part of the plan.

"We're looking from field to stream at every level to minimize nutrient losses," he said.

Helmers didn't want to speak to health risks because it wasn't his area of study, but he did say that one concern with water that has higher than recommended standards specifically relates young children and infants. Nitrates can reduce oxygen levels, causing in children what is being called "blue baby syndrome."

There's been a lot of focus in the last decade on reducing sediment and helping control phosphates, but he said, "We still have a long, long way to go."

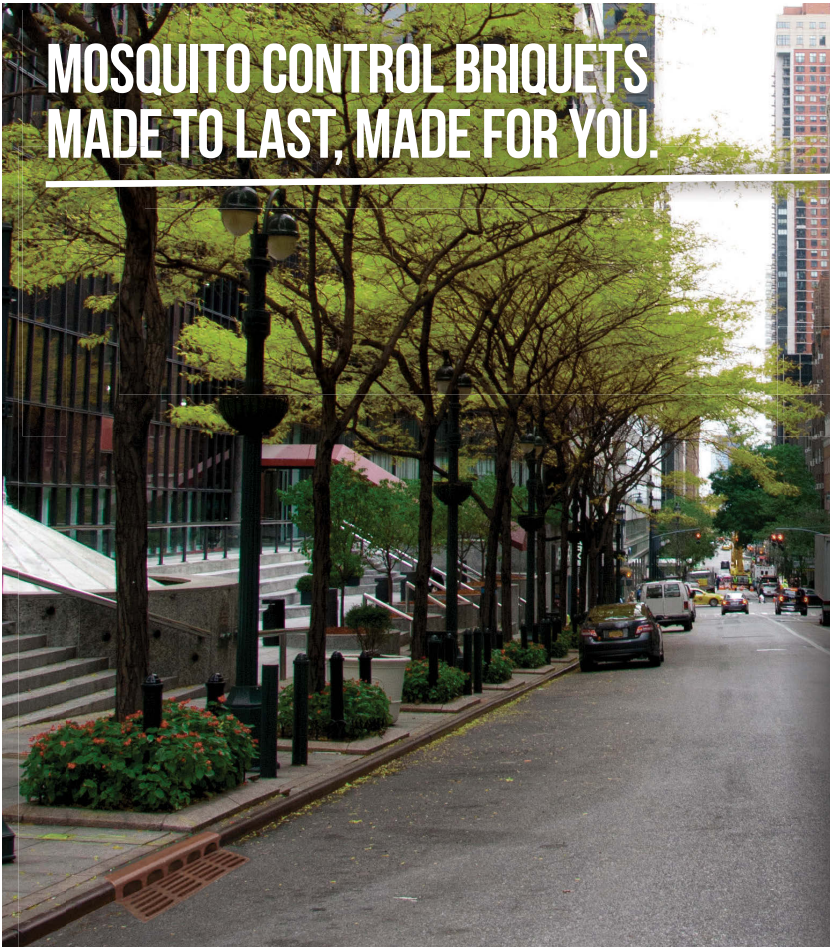
Although water quality has been a focus for the last 10-15 years, Helmers said nitrate reduction efforts have really ramped up the past five years with a more concentrated effort. He's seeing more acres of ground cover crops, wetlands and saturated buffers being used.

"These efforts are encouraging, but we need to exponentially increase the level of action. We need the level of adoption to accelerate dramatically," Helmers said. 



Iowa was one of the states required to assemble and implement a nutrient reduction strategy to reduce nitrate drainage into the Mississippi River and ultimately the Gulf of Mexico. It formulated the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. (Shutterstock.com)

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Babcock Ranch embraces new standard for sustainable growth

By CATEY TRAYLOR | The Municipal

Babcock Ranch is a small community making a big impact. Located in southwest Florida just north of Fort Myers, the community dubs itself as an innovative new town that sets a whole new standard for sustainable, responsible growth.

The town boasts the largest solar-plus storage system operating in the United States today — combined with fiber optic connectivity in every home, free Wi-Fi everywhere and technological advances so futuristic that it's the first to attempt building a community in this way. In the same breath, Babcock Ranch also has vast, sprawling green spaces, a massive public trail system and family-friendly parks, all to encourage residents to

step outside and reconnect with nature and one another.

The Babcock Ranch Preserve was a 90,000-plus-acre historic ranch that topped Florida's conservation list for many years. Serving as the missing link to an environmental corridor, rich in high-quality wetlands and home to a number of endangered species, the Babcock Ranch Foundation was created when the land went up for sale with the intent to support, enhance and implement

ABOVE: Babcock Ranch, Fla., offers numerous natural spaces that connect residents with nature. (Photo provided)

projects that positively impact the state. The plan was hatched to use the land to build an eco-friendly community while educating residents and future Floridians.

"From the beginning, we wanted to focus on preserving this land appropriately," said Babcock Ranch Media Relations Representative Lisa Hall, who has been on board with the town from its creation. "We made a commitment to be a sustainable community, and we took it a step farther in committing to being the most sustainable community ever built."

When Babcock Ranch first hatched as an idea in the early 2000s, "sustainability" and "renewable resources" weren't household



A brand-new town, Babcock Ranch has strove to use sustainable, responsible practices during its founding. As part of that effort, the town boasts the largest solar-plus storage system operating in the United States today. (Photo provided)



Pictured are some of the housing options available in Babcock Ranch. (Photo provided)

“From the beginning, we wanted to focus on preserving this land appropriately.”

words like they are today. As the foundation set out to build a town from the ground up with the latest and greatest advancements in green power, challenges were faced but the vision was strong.

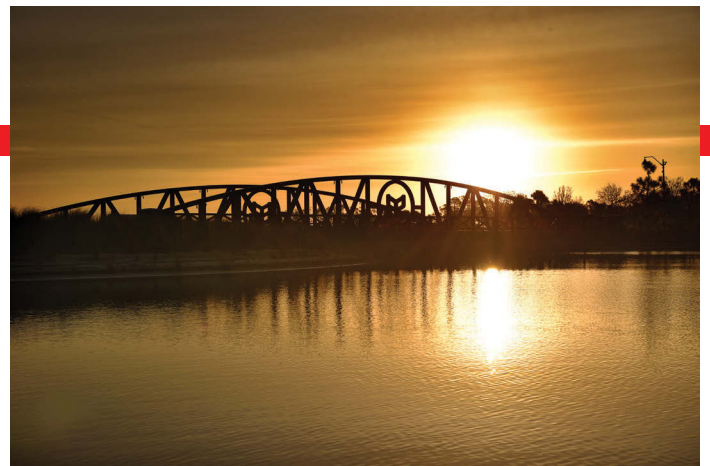
“Being we live in sunny Florida, being solar powered just made sense,” Hall said. “We had a lot of work to do to explain the logistics of the town to people — helping them realize this isn’t just a new neighborhood. This is a from-the-ground-up, brand-new town.”

Babcock Ranch is 16,000 acres, but only 7,000 of those are going to be used for commercial construction. The rest is dedicated to conservation of the wetlands and species living there. With that type of commitment, the ability to build from the ground up was an advantage.

“When you’re working from a clean slate, you’re literally able to do everything the right way — all the infrastructure, building our founders’ center, building schools, everything,” said Town Developer Syd Kitson. “I believe we’ve done that in an environmentally responsible and technologically savvy way that sets us up well for the future.”

While building a town from nothing has its advantages, it certainly comes with its fair share of challenges, as well.

“This town is massively complex — things are not simple. So we’re dealing with a multitude of issues on a daily basis, everything from working with government to continuing to create the place that is a new town,” Kitson explained. “One of the big issues we’ve had is



Recreation plays an important part in Babcock Ranch’s overall design, and it offers a massive public trail system. (Photo provided)

reminding everybody that we deal with that this is a town and not a gated subdivision that is somewhat typical of Florida. This is an entirely new town, so it has a very different feel. Along with that comes all of the issues, but therein lies all the opportunity.”

Babcock Ranch has been a massive undertaking from the beginning, but the town founders’ commitment to bringing sustainability to Florida in a way never done before supersedes the challenges on a daily basis.

“It took nearly eight years to get this project off the ground,” Kitson said. “Innovation is hard — a lot of people are nervous about innovation and change. We face that every day. It’s rewarding and exciting, but challenging. The challenges are worth it, though.”

And the challenges are far from over. Hall said the town has a master plan divided into phases based on how the build out will happen. Residents and education were of paramount importance, so ▶

those landed in phase one. There are currently more than 500 residents in the town with an expanding school system. Up next? Economic opportunity.

“The next stage is businesses and jobs,” Kitson said. “We are really working closely with potential companies moving to Babcock Ranch. Creating the right kind of jobs here is really important to us. We have a major grocer moving in and other shopping popping up, too. That’ll be expanding over the course of the next year.”

Additional future plans include developing a variety of housing options to encourage diversity in residents, Kitson said.

“It’s important to us to make certain the town is diverse in every way possible,” he explained. “Different housing types, price points and jobs that can make that a reality. We want to make certain that everyone feels welcome here, regardless of gender, religion or culture. We want to take as many families as we can comfortably and offer them opportunity to live and grow here.”

While Kitson faces the ebb and flow of challenges and successes at Babcock Ranch every day, he believes he has a responsibility to see this project through.

“Millennials especially care about what their future is going to be like,” he said. “They want to be part of a movement that’s going to protect the environment for themselves and their kids. Those of us who have the ability to make decisions now need to take responsibility for



By offering different housing types, price points and jobs, Babcock Ranch hopes to attract a diverse population. (Photo provided)

the environmental impact we’re having every time we break ground on a new project.” **M**

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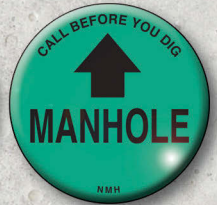
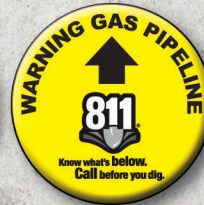
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Community microgrids save lives, money and time

By **BARB SIEMINSKI** | The Municipal

Natural disasters — hurricanes, mud slides, monster winds, heavy rainstorms, blizzards, tornadoes, wildfires and the resulting utility power shutdowns — are just a few of the calamities that have upended lives, rendered people homeless, bankrupted or sent victims to the emergency rooms or worse.

Such catastrophes have sparked interest in innovative microgrids.

The microgrid is a small network of electricity consumers with a community source of supply that is usually hooked up to a centralized countrywide grid but is able to operate independently.

Borrego Springs, Calif., a remote jewel of a town in the desert, boasts 3,400 residents and is an International Dark Sky community about 90 miles east of San Diego. It also

gets extremely hot — often more than 100 degrees — and suffers from strong winds, lightning strikes, forest fires and flash floods, all of which contribute to frequent electricity outages.

Having power at such life-threatening times is critical, especially since in unforgivable heat, senior citizens and other frail people will die from lack of air conditioning.

Borrego Springs microgrid in 2017 was connected to a solar farm and rooftop solar PV

systems, which made it the largest microgrid in the U.S. that could operate totally on renewable energy.

According to Wes Jones, communications manager of San Diego Gas & Electric, the Borrego Springs microgrid received grant funding from the Department of Energy and the California Energy Commission; SDG&E will then deploy technologies that will meet the service needs of the customers to ensure safe, reliable and efficient operation of the electric grid.

“Energy storage, microgrid and control system technology is still evolving and emerging, and it is very important to deploy the appropriate technology for the use case,” said Jones. “It is also very important to commit time and resources to perform

LEFT: In 2017, Borrego Springs microgrid was connected to a solar farm and rooftop solar PV systems. It is the largest microgrid in the U.S. that could operate totally on renewable energy. Pictured is a solar project near the Borrego Springs microgrid. (Photo provided by SDG&E)

RIGHT: Pictured is a close-up of Borrego Springs' microgrid. (Photo provided by SDG&E)



dynamic power system modeling of the new microgrid, to effectively deploy technologies and systems that will operate safely with the electric grid and provide safe and reliable operation in an island condition.”

In the event of an emergency, the operating practice requires a full visual field assessment to ensure the conditions are safe to operate the microgrid. Once the conditions are safe or the fault/problem has been safely isolated, the Borrego Springs microgrid can be operated remotely from the distribution control center. Once repairs have been addressed to the electric grid, the system operator can flawlessly transfer the customers from the microgrid to the electric utility.

“During a planned outage, the system is designed to seamlessly transfer from grid to microgrid and vice versa, and the customers will not experience an outage or interruption,” said Jones.

As for potential problems with the Borrego Springs microgrid, Jones said, “There is a surplus of renewable generation in the Borrego Springs community, and additional energy storage is required to leverage the surplus of renewable (when it is available) and dispatch it during peak or emergency conditions.”

One reason the microgrid industry is booming is resiliency; another is that these renewable energy islands can ease access into the contemporary, larger grid. Saving money is yet another reason microgrids come into play — the need for building new transmission lines is negligible.

According to Conrad Eustis, engineer and director of retail technology for Portland Gas

& Electric, microgrids were a much hotter topic following Hurricane Sandy.

“They’re still important but not as exciting news as they were in the beginning,” said Eustis. “Connecticut was one of those hot beds. The state was offering substantial grant money, and if you Google it, you’ll see that there were eight projects proposed a year ago, all of them desiring a microgrid to operate behind the utility meter and to possess black start and load-shedding capabilities.”

Hartford, Conn., was the first microgrid program of its kind in the nation. It was also the first to pass a microgrid law in 2012, and since then, New York, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Washington, D.C., have all introduced microgrid incentives.

After Hurricane Irene and a major snowstorm damaged the East Coast in 2011, Hartford built a fuel cell-powered microgrid that began operating in March 2017.

Co-op City, a community of 50,000 residents in the Bronx, is one of the largest residential end-use customer microgrids in the world. It operates a combined heat and power — or CHP — microgrid, with 40.8 MW total capacity and capital costs of \$68 million.

These mini-grids can be confusing in what they can and cannot do, said Eustis.

“Many people look at microgrids to meet their electric needs when the main grid goes down, whether it is for two to six hours or at least a day or even for weeks. Then we need to ask if the microgrid is designed to serve one customer or many customers. Does the microgrid need to provide just critical needs or mostly the same amounts of electricity?

The last important characteristic is at what cost — much higher than the utility price; comparable to the utility price; or hoping it is less costly than utility rates?”

With just these four characteristics there are 36 combinations. The cheapest way to get backup power for a week to meet most of the facility needs is with a diesel generator with on-site storage of diesel fuel; however, even this cheapest solution is more costly than electricity from the utility, which is why most customers do not have backup power, according to Eustis.

The Department of Energy’s definition of a microgrid requires that it be connected to the main grid most of the time and able to deliver energy to the grid or take energy from the grid. When the grid goes down, the microgrid disconnects from the main grid to supply backup power to one or more customers.


“The only realistic microgrids have at least a battery to provide backup power to critical loads for a few hours when the grid goes down,” said Eustis. “When the grid is up, the battery provides services to grid operators, for example, to store excess solar energy by day so as to provide power by night. By adding a solar panel to the microgrid, there is a reasonable chance the system can provide emergency communication services for several weeks in most parts of the year.”

Last fall the city of Portland with three partners — Portland General Electric, PSU and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology — launched a \$300,000 pilot “PrepHub” project that desires to build 40-50 microgrid statues in Portland parks that will become common landmarks. ▶

“We have finished the design of the first PrepHub unit and expect to place it online at the end of the summer,” said Eustis. “The cost for this prototype is expensive. At scale (not just devices for the city of Portland) we would hope the cost to be less than \$75,000 each. Citizens who charge their phones on such a unit will not have to pay for it; the electricity to fully charge a phone is less than one cent.”

California’s microgrid was borne of wildfires, lightning strikes, flash floods and forest fires. What was Portland’s catalyst for microgrids?

“The impetus was the means to provide emergency communication services via its BEECN (Basic Earthquake Emergency Communication Node) nodes for its citizens in the event of a major earthquake, which disrupts most services for water, gas, electricity and communication (both mobile and internet),” said Eustis.

“The initial 50 or so, central gathering nodes were not expected to have any electricity except batteries. The city learned about the MIT PrepHub concept and thought it could be a useful way to provide more robust and longer term services. PGE’s interest is that the model of battery storage used for emergency could go beyond emergency to create value every day to store excess wind and solar energy. Further, the energy storage model could go beyond 50 city sites to be an option in thousands of residential premises. For PSU there were numerous educational aspects that could demonstrate PSU’s strengths and roles as a metro university.” 



Resiliency is a major draw to microgrids. When the grid goes down, the microgrid disconnects from the main grid to supply backup power to one or more customers. Pictured is an aerial shot of the Borrego Springs microgrid. (Photo provided by SDG&E)

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All about attitude — the mindset of saving energy and cutting costs

By ELISA WALKER | The Municipal

When it comes to being a green, energy conservative city, success is split down the middle between choosing the right company to partner with and changing the behavior of city employees.

Thankfully Montgomery, Ala., has figured out a way to overcome those obstacles and come out on the high end of success.

A partnership with aligned priorities

In 2016, Montgomery partnered with Cenergistic to reduce the city's annual utility spending, which had been totaling around \$6 million. The energy conservation consulting company had been working with the school system, which led the school superintendent to suggest the idea to Mayor Todd Strange.

Montgomery had been approached by companies in the past, offering to implement new technology, but they could never explain their wares in a way that resonated with city leaders. Witnessing the positive impact Cenergistic had on the school system is what made the city consider the company on a larger level along with an educational approach.

To get the ball rolling, city hall completed a six-month trial that saved \$52,000.

"The company wasn't trying to get us to buy anything or sell anything other than their expertise. Cenergistic really went the

educational route, and if there were no savings, there were no shares," explained Strange. "We tried it to see what would happen and it worked. We've saved over \$2 million, which put \$1.2 million in our pocket, which could pay for more police officers, firefighters and public works employees. It's been a win-win all around."

Montgomery, known as a green and environmentally friendly city, has received awards for being a smart city. The partnership with Cenergistic is simply another part of the equation. Out of the hundreds of facilities, four have been given awards and are ENERGY STAR certified.

Strange continued, "The big issue is that this speaks to millennials, who really care about the environment, and obviously having \$1.2 million impacts our citizens positively. The fact that our city hall, where most of the power of government is, led the charge was important. It set a good example for others in our city to follow."

After doing the math Strange added that \$1.2 million in savings could mean the city could hire 24 additional employees at



Due to discipline and supportive leadership, Montgomery saved more than expected — so much so that the original contract with Cenergistic was renegotiated for an extension on top of splitting the savings 60/40 rather than 50/50. (Photo provided)

\$50,000 salaries without raising department budgets.

Charlotte Prestridge, energy specialist at Cenergistic, acts as Montgomery's "conscientious," according to Strange. She can be found personally checking facilities and reminding everyone to turn the lights off so all the energy that can be saved, will be saved.

"I evaluate the bills and usage. I'm focused on usage," commented Prestridge. "Even if take-out prices have gone up with



LEFT: While there are hundreds of facilities, Montgomery focused specifically on 75 buildings that made up \$3 million of the \$6 million annual utility cost. (Photo provided)

something like water, you can still track the usage to see if there are any leaks. We also have interval data in some buildings, which lets me see what time something came on when it shouldn't have."

Conveniently, Prestridge can monitor and set a variety of controls from a remote location. The system in place comes in handy for buildings that host events, allowing her to ensure everything is shut down when it needs to be.

"Do homework on the company you're looking to do business with," advised Tom Pierce, city director of general services. "The good thing about Cenergistic is they're on the forefront of technology and savvy on getting those savings. In our agreement, we can do things like install LED lights or motion lighting to automatically save money and we're not punished for upgrading to energy saving equipment."

Mind over matter

"Bringing in a third party into the city and giving them access to our buildings and controls was one obstacle we had to overcome," stated Pierce. "It's about becoming familiar and comfortable with the third party."

Changing the behavioral habits of 2,700 city employees is no easy task

To make the program appealing, each department was given an incentive to participate. Whatever money the department

saves, it keeps. Some departments allow their savings to rollback into general city funding.

Rather than having project budgets approved by the city leaders, the funds could be used for those projects, new equipment and other departmental necessities and improvements.

The idea of departments keeping their savings is what Strange considers to be the smartest action the city has taken. It also saves taxpayers money and overall perpetuates Montgomery's initiative in being a smart city.

"It's changing the behavior that's been ingrained for years. They're thinking, 'How dare a third-party outsider come in and tell me I can't turn the heat up to 72' or 'Who says I can't have a space heater at my feet?'" said Strange. "You have to have the discipline to say that this is the way it's going to be, and the departments know they're going to get some savings."

The partnership also provided employees with knowledge that could be carried into their own homes. Pierce added that he'd personally applied what he'd learned to his home, addressing small things he wouldn't have thought about beforehand and believes other employees are doing the same.

"I think people got on board pretty well," said Prestridge. "When Mayor Strange got



With building renovations, individual thermostats are placed in each room to control the temperature, which will lead to saving energy. (Photo provided)

on board, everyone knew he supported this program. Tom shared emails to others I had sent to him about reports and cabinet members addressing issues. It wasn't just me going around, but everyone teaming up."

While there was skepticism that 24-hour buildings like fire and police stations could save money, those buildings accounted for 14-17 percent of savings. Even after the contract expires with Cenergistic, Montgomery hopes the educational understanding and energy-saving habits remain instilled in employees.

"We were one of the first governmental entities to do this kind of partnership," Strange concluded. "You'll always have risks in being the first to do something. My advice would be to try it. If you do and you're serious about it, it's not a losing scenario." **M**

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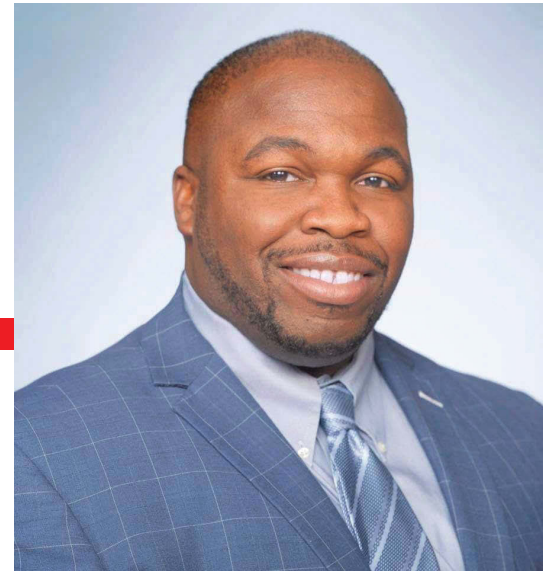
THE BEST RUN



From lawbreaker to policymaker

By JULIE YOUNG | The Municipal

Jermaine Wilson of Leavenworth, Kan., knows there is no such thing as a perfect politician. However, rather than hide his mistakes from the voters, he parlayed them into a story of redemption and a life of public service that culminated in a successful mayoral campaign last year.



Mayor Jermaine Wilson of Leavenworth, Kan.

“I never thought about going into politics before, but then I prayed on it. I entered the race and I got the most votes,” he said.

An auspicious beginning

Although he was raised in a two-parent, faith-filled household, Wilson rebelled against his folks, the church, his teachers and anyone else who got in his way. At the age of 11, he followed his older brother down a path that led to drug use, fights and criminal acts. By 15, he had broken into a house, ran away from home and committed a robbery, which landed Wilson in a juvenile detention center. His two-year sentence was extended when he tried to escape from the facility. When he was finally released at the age of 19, he quickly made up for lost time.

“I joined a gang, sold drugs and got caught up in a lifestyle I didn’t know how to quit,” he said.

Only 18 months after his release, Wilson was arrested for possession and sent to prison for three years. Separated from his son, his girlfriend and everything else he cared about, he called out to God and asked him to turn his life around. He joined a Christian prison program, took classes on self-improvement and decided that he was going to do something productive when he was released.

“I got married. I became a youth minister. I even went back to the prisons that I’d been in to help others make a change for the better. I also spent \$700 to get my record expunged in hopes it would lead to a good job.”



Wilson, center, takes his seat as mayor on the Leavenworth City Commission. As mayor, he receives one vote. (Photo provided)

Wilson also started a nonprofit called Unity in the Community, an organization dedicated to helping other entities come together in order to work on common goals. Together, they promote peace, stop the violence, mentor the youth in both Leavenworth and Kansas City, feed the homeless, provide job opportunities and bridge the gap between law enforcement officers and the community they serve. As a community activist, Wilson grew accustomed to stepping outside of his comfort zone, listening to others and responding to their needs and it wasn’t long before a friend said if he kept it up, he could eventually run for mayor.

“No way,” he said at the time. “Politics is the devil’s playground.”

A public servant

Two years later, he had a change of heart. The people of Leavenworth were ready for something new and so was Wilson. It didn’t matter that he had a less-than-stellar record or zero experience in politics; he knew how to serve people and it was that skill that put him over the top.

“You know, you can teach people all of that political stuff, but you can’t teach people how to serve,” he said. “They either know how to do that or they don’t.”



LEFT: Leavenworth, Kan., Mayor Jermaine Wilson makes an effort to listen to the concerns of his constituency and works to solve those problems that fall into his purview. (Photo provided)



ABOVE: Wilson started a nonprofit called Unity in the Community, which promotes peace, stopping the violence, mentoring the youth in both Leavenworth and Kansas City, feeding the homeless, providing job opportunities and bridging the gap between law enforcement officers and the community they serve. (Photo provided)



LEFT: Wilson visits a local classroom. He has a keen interest in mentoring youth not only in Leavenworth but in Kansas City, too. (Photo provided)

Wilson took office in January, and as the mayor of Leavenworth, he said his primary job is to listen to the concerns of his constituency and work to solve those problems that fall into his purview. While it is impossible to make everyone happy at all times, he has found that taking the time to listen goes a long way with the public.

"Sometimes people need to know that they have been heard even if you can't solve their problems right then and there. They thank me for returning their call, taking the time to listen and doing what I can," he said.

But even Wilson is limited in terms of what he can and cannot do and that is the biggest challenge that he faces as mayor. Although he

has goals and he can set the agenda in hopes of moving those initiatives forward, at the end of the day, he is only one vote on the commission. It takes three votes to progress, and on some days that is easier said than done.

"Some people are forward thinkers and other are set in their ways. You win some, you lose some and, sometimes, everyone gets on board and is willing to try something new," he said. "There's a lot of compromise involved."

Wilson's incredible story of going from lawbreaker to policymaker has been picked up and retold in numerous media outlets throughout the country, and he's an inspiration to others who are ready to turn their lives around, make the most of their second

chance and become a productive member of society. He said he prays for those who are trying to follow in his footsteps and hopes that they are able to stay focused on the end goal while keeping the faith. It's not an easy journey, but it is one that can be accomplished with a lot of hard work and a positive attitude.

"I still work for a nonprofit and visit prisons to share my story and inspire others," he said. "I consider this my life's purpose and I am willing to fulfill it any way that God sees fit. I want people to know that there is hope if they want to make a change for the better and that there is encouragement if they come out to serve." **M**

Departments examine K-9 programs as marijuana laws change

By LAUREN CAGGIANO | The Municipal



As a growing number of states have legalized recreational marijuana or decriminalized it, some police departments are having to ask themselves some tough questions in the face of an uncertain legislative climate.

That's because the highly trained dogs some police departments use to sniff out narcotics can't always be counted on to smell the right thing. They can't discern cocaine from marijuana per se. And that's a problem for departments that want to pursue the detection of illegal drugs but maybe don't have the funds to invest in new, specially trained canines.

According to the National Police Dog Foundation, "Many police agencies do not have a budget for police dogs, so they are purchased by public and/or corporate donations. Agencies may also need donations to pay for the dog's training as well as veterinary bills, daily food and training equipment."

Kevin Sheldahl, operator of K-9 Services, which is based in New Mexico, believes a more cautious approach should be taken when it comes to narcotic K-9 programs rather than going with a "get rid of the dog" approach. (Photo provided)



The expenses of a K-9 program can add up fast, and new legislation regarding marijuana is shaping how law enforcement agencies proceed with them; in some cases, departments have opted to end their programs. (Photo provided)

Those expenses can add up fast. Kevin Sheldahl has seen this firsthand. He's based in New Mexico and operates K-9 Services, which specializes in training law enforcement officers, corrections officers and military handlers and their service dogs. The consultant has been in the business for 37 years and has observed one consistent trend in particular. In his experience in the past two decades, he said there's been a growing demand for narcotic detector dogs.

But with changing legislation, that can muddy the waters and put financial strain on departments in more ways than one.

"This does create a financial issue for them in some respects," he said. "And with it, the other thing is that the laws are different in each state, and we don't have the feds leading the way. So, each state is creating its own playing field, essentially."

In the meantime, he said it can be a waiting game, because stakeholders are looking to how the courts in that particular state are going to address this issue, if at all. In his words, "There's been legal marijuana in (New Mexico) for a long time. It hasn't made any effect whatsoever on the way we deal with dogs, though."

However, it is states that have become more marijuana friendly in recent years that are dealing with the uncharted territory that comes with adoption.

"So many states are moving into the legal end of the medical marijuana/medical cannabis arena," he said. "More and more are also moving into the recreational stuff, which I think is where everybody's mostly concerned."

Sometimes those concerns are so pressing that departments have to make some tough decisions.

"We see departments doing everything from ending their programs, saying they're done (with narcotics detection)," he said. "I think that's one answer — is just not to do it. And so we see some departments saying: 'We're going to continue to use our dogs, but we cannot use them exclusively for generating probable cause to issue a warrant or warrantless search.'"

In his opinion, the latter option should be the more popular one, because the speed of legislative change is so slow. It can be years for cases to get to appellate courts, or ultimately the Supreme Court, in



More research is required to determine if certain odors can be extinguished from a detector dog's repertoire. (Photo provided)

each individual state. There's no sense taking a hard-lined approach when matters are open for consideration.

"There's no reason to throw your hands up and take the 'get rid of the dog' approach or just stop doing the work. So, my thoughts are: Why not try not to use the dog exclusively for probable cause? And so, in other words, you're going to make more of a case out of whatever you're investigating."

He said he's observed a "middle of the road" approach employed by some departments. They're replacing their dogs as soon as they can and aren't training them on detecting marijuana. Sheldahl is somewhat skeptical of this strategy, because of the lack of research backing it and the unpredictable nature of legislation.

"I'm not exactly sure how well that's gonna work in the long run," he said. "One of the things that we do know about dogs is they're pretty good gamblers. If a dog has done years of marijuana (detection) and then all of a sudden it's not being rewarded for it, it's not going to be incentivized to work. That's just my gut feeling."

The verdict is still out on the science behind that approach. In his words, "I don't know that anybody has really studied the long-term results of attempting to extinguish this odor on a detector dog after a long period of time that the dog's been reinforced on it." **M**

Giant hogweed is on watch lists nationwide

By BARB SIEMINSKI | The Municipal

There is a real monster out there, growing to heights perfect to brush against passers-by. It can grow to 15 feet tall and its arm spread is an envious 2-3 feet wide. It sports innocently disguised white “flowers” on its head.

This invasive weed is better known as giant hogweed — scientifically known as *Heracleum mantegazzianum* — and is said to be a native of Eurasia that was probably introduced to North America as an ornamental garden plant. Once introduced, it escaped into natural habitat where it became wild and unruly, popping up on trails, roadsides and the edges of fields and streams. It can also be found in various backyards. When it overtakes some municipalities, it calls for heavy artillery from environmentalists to be effectively banished.

Giant hogweed, for those unfamiliar with it, can cause great discomfort to humans, thanks to its noxious watery sap that results in severe blistering, burns, possible scarring and hypersensitivity to sunlight. It can also cause blindness. Growing occasionally to 15 feet tall with a hollow stem, 2-4 inches in diameter, with reddish-purple blotches and bristles, giant hogweed leaves are acutely incised and may grow to a width of up to 5 feet. Their white flowers are tightly clustered into an umbrella shape of up to 2 1/2 feet wide.

The large perennial herb is in the carrot and parsnip family and is similar in appearance to Queen Anne’s lace, angelica, wild carrot and cow parsnip. Other species that may be mistaken for giant hogweed include the common elderberry and poison hemlock. Knowing the difference between the plants is mandatory and could save your life one day.

Care must be taken in eradicating giant hogweed. No one should mow or use a weed trimmer without wearing protective clothing, taking care to cover any exposed skin. It should also be reported immediately to the county extension, allowing for a positive identification.

According to Mitch Bixby, botanic specialist of the city of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services in Oregon, the biggest challenge in eradicating giant hogweed is probably finding it.

“This is always a problem for early detection, both in urban and in rural areas,” said Bixby. “For us, ‘getting the word out’ so folks know that it is a problem is probably our best tool.



A man uses a GPS to mark the location of a giant hogweed. In Oregon, locations that have been affected by giant hogweed are monitored regularly to make sure the plant doesn’t return. (Photo provided by Beth Myers-Shenai)

“Managing it is fairly straightforward. If there are a small number of plants, we’ll actually dig them out. If they’re flowering, we cut them into pieces. Either way, we bag that up and put it in the trash (not compost). For larger plants or groups of plants, we use a herbicide, which also helps minimize the risk to ourselves. We also try to follow up every year or every other year on most known infestations within Portland; (about 90 properties) are now completely without plants. We hope these are ‘eradicated’ patches, but sometimes a long-lived seed surprises us.”

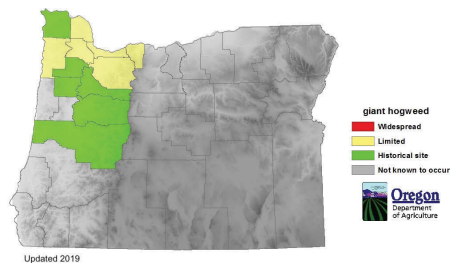
One of the key collaborations for Portland’s Early Detection Rapid Response program has been with the state. Oregon Department of Agriculture keeps track of all infestations statewide; it is the default organization on hogweed.

“ODA began targeting hogweed in the late ’90s or early 2000s; we teamed up with them in 2009 and have been co-managing hogweed ever since,” concluded Bixby, adding that he knew that King County, Wash., had also been very active over the years.

In 2001, the hazardous plant was first identified in Connecticut, which, as of last June, had confirmed giant hogweed in all eight counties. Many of these sites are under control, but educational



Giant hogweed grows in Polk County, Ore. An invasive plant, giant hogweed also poses a public health hazard, with its watery sap causing severe blistering, burns, possible scarring and hypersensitivity to sunlight. (Photo provided by Beth Myers-Shenai)



This map shows areas in Oregon where giant hogweed has been reported. (Photo provided by Beth Myers-Shenai)

outreach is on the way to further warn the public about giant hogweed. This outreach will address the plant's critical health risks and offer control alternatives.

Last year Virginia Tech had discovered the dangerous weed in three Virginia counties — Clarke, Rockingham and Fauquier — but fortunately no evidence of spread was found at these sites.

Michael Flessner, PhD, extension weed science specialist and assistant professor at Virginia Tech School of Plant and Environmental Sciences in Blacksburg, Va.,

surmised that they were planted by unwitting homeowners.

“One person thought he was planting angelica, a look-alike plant in the same family as a giant hogweed, but it ended up being giant hogweed,” said Flessner. “The individual realized it wasn’t angelica but liked it enough to keep it and never had any problems with it. The other plantings were also certainly intentionally planted as ornamentals.”

Each summer Flessner fields calls about a suspected giant hogweed, but those plants always ended up being a close relative — cow parsnip. Until last June, that is.

“The photos I received from Mark Sutphin looked like giant hogweed to me, but since this would be the first reporting in Virginia, I coordinated with Virginia Tech’s Massey Herbarium and the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (the noxious plant regulator in Virginia) to send samples to Blacksburg for expert identification by the herbarium curator, Dr. Jordan Metzgar,” said Flessner. “He tweeted confirmation on Friday, June 8, and by Monday, the internet had run away with the story. I regret the public fear that ensued, but the media attention was certainly the reason for

the other three reports (two in Rockingham County).”

According to Flessner, there are officially four reports, which were confirmed as giant hogweed. But there were two additional locations that got press attention, but the plants were destroyed before VDACS could get there to verify.

“Of the four confirmed, VDACS removed flowers and seedheads within days of confirmation to limit seed production and potential spread,” said Flessner. “VDACS returned to treat plants with herbicides or physically dig and remove the plants, according to the landowner’s preference. There are plans for VDACS to visit the sites again this season. To the best of my knowledge, the four confirmed cases are all contained.”

Wild populations of giant hogweed are also found in the Pacific Northwest, Maine, New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Pennsylvania. North Carolina has also reported one in one county. Many states have adopted the mandatory rule that if a citizen spots a possible giant hogweed, they must report it immediately since it is a Tier 1 federal noxious weed, which is the most critical classification.

According to Beth Myers-Shenai, integrated weed management coordinator ▶

in the Oregon Department of Agriculture, there have been large populations in western Washington, and the state of New York has had very large populations.

"I believe it is fairly common on the upper East Coast and upper Midwest states of the U.S.," said Myers-Shenai, an invasive plant specialist who has been controlling giant hogweed since 2004.

"Giant hogweed excludes native plants because it grows so quickly and densely, and it causes permanent skin injury to people who get it on skin exposed to sunlight."

Myers-Shenai said most of the populations have been very small and easy to control and have been eradicated within three to five years. They have all been found in northwest Oregon, west of the Cascade Range. They are nearly all from ornamental plantings that have escaped, sometimes to neighboring yards or natural areas. In two instances, they were planted near stream banks and local flooding carried seed further down the stream system and created more intensive infestations.

One of those areas has been eradicated — about 13 acres of scattered plants when first found — and one is scattered over about 150 acres in an urban area near Portland, which is still under the control process after 10-plus years; however, densities of plants have dropped by at least 90 percent in that time. Another population was found growing next to a road, likely from dumped yard debris.

"After first finding giant hogweed in Oregon in 2001 and getting word to the public via media outlets, a large number of individual populations were initially found," said Myers-Shenai. "Now there are a number of potential sightings reported to us each spring, starting around May, but those are nearly all cow parsnip, a native cousin of giant hogweed. We've averaged one to two confirmed reports of giant hogweed in the last five years or so. All known populations of giant hogweed in Oregon are under control or have been eradicated. It is a federally listed noxious weed and is on our state's 'A' list, which is the highest priority for detection and eradication." M



Giant hogweed earns its name as it can grow 15 feet tall; its leaves can also grow to a width of up to 5 feet. (Photo provided by Beth Myers-Shenai)



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Nestled along the east shore of Lake Washington, Kirkland is a vibrant and thriving community of more than 80,000 people. (Photo provided)



Kirkland tackles health care challenges with innovative solution

By SARAH WRIGHT | The Municipal

AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE remains at the forefront of our national discourse, serving as a daunting challenge for employers who want to provide employees with cost-effective options that don't reduce the care aspect. Employers with 100 employees can expect to pay anywhere from \$1 million to \$1.5 million for health insurance — a figure that can vary based on location. Factor in the cost of qualified family members and the figure can rise anywhere from \$25,000-\$60,000. Like all employers, cities are faced with that fine line. Kirkland, Wash., embraced the challenge, ultimately navigating its way to a solution that has saved hundreds of thousands of dollars against projected cost trends.

"In 2013, the city manager asked me to figure out how to bend the cost of care trend, which was rising with our existing plan, without diminishing care for our employees," Jim Lopez, Kirkland assistant city manager,

said, noting he was given the resources to do the change. "We did not cut the budget as we wanted to keep investing in our employees."

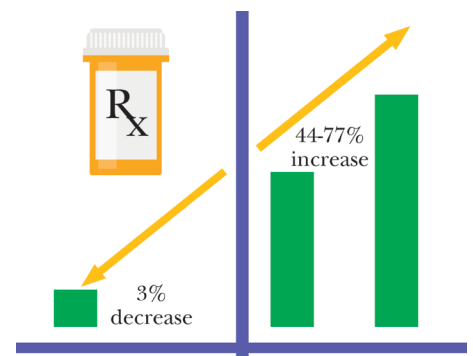
As part of this effort, Lopez grabbed Keith Robertson of Alliant Employee Benefits to hash out potential options for the city. While also talking with other experts in the field, Lopez said, "We researched ideas in place around the country to find what was working while piecing together our plan."

To flatten the cost of care trend, most city employees were given the option to move to a hybrid high-deductible plan with an individual HRA-VEBA program, which receives yearly employer contributions for each worker. This is all built around the cornerstone of the new plan: an independently operated nearby clinic.

"There is no cost at the clinic for employees and qualified family members," Robertson said. "No money exchanges hands there."

For diabetics, asthmatics and those who have other chronic diseases, having this

type of access is life changing. The clinic also offers a free health coach who works with employees and family members to empower them to make changes in their



Municipalities that have taken no steps to reduce health care and prescription costs have seen RX costs increase 44 to 77 percent. Kirkland's new approach has seen RX costs decrease by 3 percent.



To address the rising costs of health care, the city of Kirkland utilizes a nearby clinic to provide employees and their qualified family members with easy access to health care. No money exchanges hands at this clinic. (Photo provided)

lives by setting goals concerning issues such as stress, diet, relationships and job satisfaction.

“The clinic only dispenses generic medicine, though if they are not happy with the result, then they will be given a script for a prescription,” Robertson said, noting this ensures clinicians are not being influenced by pharmaceutical companies to prescribe certain prescriptions.

“RX costs have gone down 3 percent,” Robertson said. “Since 2014, the total RX has gone down whereas other municipalities that have done nothing have experienced increases between 44 to 77 percent. People are spending less on their medications with the clinic.”

In addition to prescribing generic medication, patients are asked to bring all their current medications with them. This allows redundancies and contradictions to be eliminated.

For the city, Lopez noted, “Utilization went up as the (cost) trend went down.” He added, “When we moved to the less expensive high-deductible plan, we invested the cost savings into the HRA-VEBA.”

Employees receive up to \$600 for a wellness incentive through participating in annual checkups and free health risk assessments. This creates a positive loop that saves money. By going to the clinic, employees and their families stay healthier, with health concerns being addressed before they develop into something more serious.

One aspect of the health care plan, according to Lopez, is “getting people to become more like consumers.” By giving employees the tools, including access to a health concierge, to navigate health care and remove some of the opaqueness that mires the health care industry, employees can better choose options that work for them while also positioning themselves well for retirement, with Lopez stating, “With the HRA-VEBA contributions, they aren’t coming from a position of scarcity.”



Kirkland, Wash., is striving to improve its employees’ well-beings, and the clinic offers a free health coach who works with employees and family members to empower them to make changes in their lives. Pictured is a pavilion at Kirkland’s Marina Park. (Photo provided)

Since the new plan went in place, it has been a largely positive experience.

“We’ve never done an overall survey,” Lopez said of employees’ reactions to the new health plan. “With the clinic, the quality of care rating has come back very high. For many it’s very convenient, and for some, it has been life changing.”


Since the plan is still new, Kirkland has a health council that meets periodically to iron out any issues while also going over feedback on the clinic and plan in general. “There have been several system improvements, though not many have been needed lately,” Lopez said. “We’ve had some issues. At the beginning, there was more demand for the clinic than there was time available. Back in 2015 we worked that out.” ▶

Related to this challenge was clinic crunch, which saw procrastinators waiting until the last minute to go to the clinic to receive their \$600 wellness incentive. To address this, Lopez said, “We started a No Frantic November campaign.” Employees are also encouraged to satisfy the wellness incentive on their birthdays.

For municipalities looking to shake up their own health care, Lopez suggested, “I would say you can’t communicate enough about what you are trying to achieve. Communicate early and communicate often — really model the projected impact of your ideas. Communicate why you are proposing change and what you hope to accomplish so (employees) become invested in the new model.”

By showcasing proposed plan models, cities are providing their employees with transparency and helping them see what the impact to them will be on a personal level. Scenarios from the old plan to the new plan are also beneficial to give employees a full picture and reduce fears that often accompany any change.

“Leadership has to be invested (in the change),” Lopez said, adding that, in Kirkland, both the city manager and city council deserve so much credit, as they fully invested in the new plan and gave plenty of time for its development.

Because of this support and the time spent adequately researching potential solutions, Lopez commented, “We’re optimistic that our emphasis on proactive primary care will produce positive health outcomes for years to come.” 



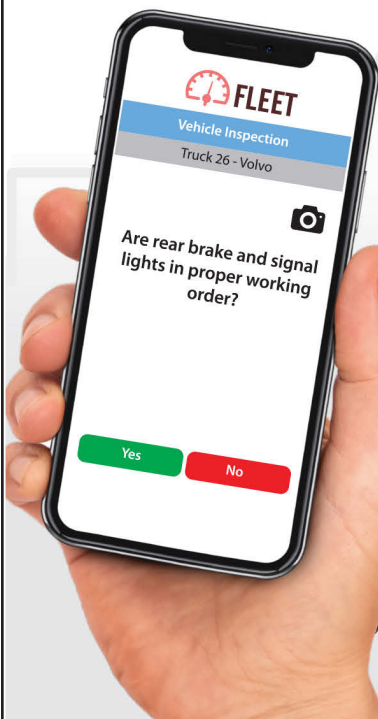
Kirkland’s approach to health care has saved hundreds of thousands of dollars against projected cost trends while not decreasing the care aspect for employees and their qualified family members. Access to a nearby clinic has been life changing for many of them, especially those with chronic conditions. (Photo provided)

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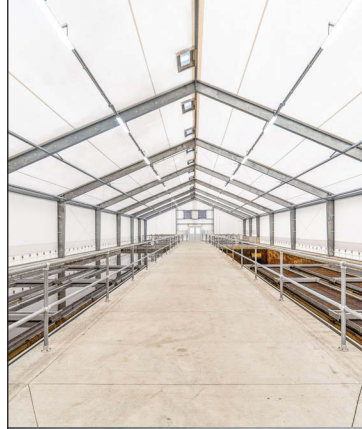
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Cities amend laws to support self-sustainability with backyard chickens

By NICHOLETTE CARLSON | The Municipal

With the growing trend of greener, healthier living and self-sustainability, backyard mini farms are becoming much more popular.

While those living in urban settings are finding new, creative ways to grow fruit, vegetables and greens, the popularity of backyard chickens is also on the rise. This is forcing municipalities to look at old ordinances regarding keeping chickens in smaller, urban spaces. In response to the popularity and public interest, many cities are choosing to modify or amend previous ordinances to support those wanting to raise backyard chickens.

Nebraska City, Neb.

The idea for backyard chickens in Nebraska City came from a student researching ordinances for a school project. “The idea for changing the ordinance pertaining to chickens was presented to the city council by an ambitious 10-year-old girl who wanted to raise chickens for a school project,” Randy Dunster, the city’s clerk-treasurer, stated. “But realized as she began her research that

she didn’t have the required 100 feet of property to keep chickens in her backyard as required by the existing ordinance.”

In her research Tiger Lily Weaver, the ambitious 10-year-old in question, studied other city ordinances and presented the city council with suggestions for modifications to the existing ordinance, which would allow residents to raise chickens in a smaller space. As the original ordinance only allowed the resident to keep chickens if the enclosure was a minimum of 100 feet from any dwelling, the city council organized a committee to explore their options and draft a possible revision to the ordinance.

“Initially the requested number of hens allowed was six or seven to follow Ashland, Neb.’s, ordinance, but Commissioner (Vic) Johns thought that would be too many to start with and suggested a maximum of two hens,” Dunster explained. However, another citizen informed the council of the pecking

order in flocks of chickens and warned them of potential dangers to introducing a young chicken to a flock. Dunster continued, “With that consideration, Commissioner Johns amended his motion to allow a maximum of four hens and made the statement that, if there was enough demand for the limit to be increased, the council would entertain amending the ordinance in the future.”

The required three readings were completed for the modified ordinance on backyard chickens and was passed on Jan. 7.

“The new ordinance maintains the prior requirements but makes an exception with restrictions for families to raise a maximum of four hens, no roosters, as long as the hens are enclosed in a backyard coop with specified dimensions and can be kept a minimum of 40 feet from the neighbor’s dwellings and 10 feet from the property line,” Dunster described. “They must also obtain a backyard chicken license from city hall for \$10 a year and abide by the requirements of the ordinance.”

LEFT: *The urban chicken ordinance in Nebraska City, Neb., was reconsidered after Tiger Lily Weaver was assigned a Genius Hour Project to learn more about something long-term that she was interested in. She chose chickens but, after researching the city ordinances, discovered it would not be legal. This led her to make a presentation to the city council on how the law could be changed. (Photo provided)*





Tiger Lily was presented with the very first backyard chicken license. While this license does not require inspections, code enforcement will investigate any complaints. If the owner is not following the ordinance requirements, they can be cited for code violations. Dunster reported, "Since the passage of the ordinance, we have sold three licenses and haven't had any issues or complaints to date."

New Braunfels, Texas

The previous ordinance in New Braunfels required a minimum of 40,000 square feet in order to keep fowl. However, Bryan Ruiz, planning and community development environmental services manager, explained how the city chose to review the original ordinance. "The (new) ordinance came about in response to direction from the council at the end of 2012 due to citizens requesting to have chickens within the city in small residential lots."

City staff members began to review ordinances from other jurisdictions in response to the requests from residents. Throughout this research, the city also noticed the positive effects of the growing nationwide trend toward local, sustainable food production. This trend helps create a greater sense of community while providing education, particularly for children, on food production and origins. It also endeavors to diminish some environmental concerns, such as energy and transportation costs, associated with modern farming practices.

The city's amended urban chicken ordinance was adopted in 2013. "The ordinance allows citizens residing on a single family and/or dual family residential lot the ability to care for and keep, once registered and properly confined to an enclosure, which is located at least 30 feet from a neighboring residential, with that enclosure located a minimum of 10 feet from the adjacent property line, no more than four chicken hens on lots encompassing less than 40,000 square feet in area," Ruiz stated.

In line with the positive effects for the city, the amended ordinance allows residents to collect eggs from their backyard and supports those who are choosing to live a greener, healthier lifestyle by keeping their own chickens. This new ordinance is also in line with setback practices in other area municipalities.



One of the greatest benefits of keeping backyard chickens is the ability for owners to collect their own eggs. This promotes a greener, healthier lifestyle as well as self-sustainability. (Photo by Nicholette Carlson)



Once the Nebraska City city council voted to amend the backyard chicken ordinance, Tiger Lily Weaver received the very first permit. Homes that wish to keep chickens in an urban environment are required to have a permit. (Photo provided)

In case of potential chickens at large, or straying from the owner's yard, chicken owners must register with the city either via phone or email. If a chicken does stray, animal control officers are able to conduct field redemptions to registered owners.

Health concerns were another potential worry. Ruiz expounded on this, "Animal welfare concerns involving the raising of chickens in an urban setting include mites and lice, salmonella, enteric bacteria, fowl pox, avian influenza, avian tuberculosis and coccidiosis, a protozoan infection." However, no issues have been reported thus far.

Since the chicken ordinance went into effect six years ago, 48 residents have registered as chicken owners. The state as a whole is also moving toward more sustainable living. There is a proposed state bill that would allow up to six chickens on small residential lots.

Beaverton, Ore.

"The conversation around urban chickens hit its peak in the city of Beaverton in 2010," Dianna Ballash, public information coordinator, revealed.

"And there were comments both for and against the code change during the public process." Volunteer boards were consulted, a community open house was held, an online survey was posted to gauge the public's reaction and a public hearing was held before adopting any ordinance changes.

The original ordinance prohibiting the keeping of livestock was approved in 1959. The new ordinance was approved in 2010. Since its adoption, discussion on the matter has remained quiet.

In order to keep backyard chickens in Beaverton, the property must be a single family home with 5,000 square feet or greater. Coops and enclosures must be kept a minimum of 20 feet away from all neighboring dwellings. Chicks, 12 weeks old and younger, are able to be kept indoors. Only four hens are allowed and no roosters.

To ensure that chickens do not roam into a neighbor's yard or other adjoining properties, they must be kept in a secure enclosure. However, the hens may free range during the day if they are kept inside a fenced yard and under supervision. Owners cannot slaughter chickens on their residential property, either.

"The ordinance is part of the municipal code," Ballash explained. "So at times we get inquiries through our code compliance office from residents and neighbors who have general questions about the number of chickens allowed, enclosures, noise and the like. But it's rare."

She believes the popularity of backyard chickens may be seen on a much smaller scale in Beaverton since the city itself is small compared to other neighboring cities.

"Now, a decade since the code changes, the urban chicken ordinance still makes sense for Beaverton," Ballash continued. "But, as with any policy, we will continue to monitor public sentiment and address future changes as needed for the benefit of our community members." M



Municipalities debate merits of red light cameras

By CATEY TRAYLOR | The Municipal

According to data from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, as of April 2019, 388 communities across the U.S. and the District of Columbia use red light cameras for traffic enforcement, but that doesn't mean the practice is spreading nationwide anytime soon.

Running red lights is a dangerous yet common traffic violation, and lawmakers across the nation have been working to get a handle on the more than 170,000 motorists who break this law in any given year. More than 800 people died in crashes involving red light running in 2016, an increase of 17 percent since 2012; an IIHS analysis shows the increase comes as fewer

U.S. communities are using red light cameras to enforce the law and reduce crashes.

Studies from IIHS show that red light cameras reduce fatal red light crashes by about 21 percent. In fact, a 2016 IIHS report showed that removing red light cameras from intersections actually cost lives.

“Red light cameras can play a role in improving traffic safety for all road users

and should be placed where they can benefit a community, like at intersections with high numbers of fatalities,” Jill Ingrassia, AAA’s managing director of Government Relations and Traffic Safety Advocacy, said in an article published on the IIHS website.

Running red lights is one of the most common factors in urban crashes, and more than half the people killed in those incidents aren’t even in the vehicles in violation — they’re pedestrians, bicyclists and fellow motorists.

In an effort to encourage the use of red light camera technology, a group of national safety organizations launched a checklist providing instructions for



LEFT: A sign warns motorists of a red light camera's presence and the fine they will face if they run through the red light. (Photo provided)



ABOVE: There are 388 communities across the U.S. and the District of Columbia using red light cameras; however, many states are debating whether or not they should be used. (Photo provided)

planning, implementation and evaluation of red light camera programs.

"Red light cameras are proven lifesavers," Cathy Chase, president of Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety said in the IIHS article. "As states and cities consider ways to reduce motor vehicle crash deaths and injuries, the new red light camera checklist will be a vital tool to reinvigorate waning programs, restart discontinued programs and revolutionize new successful programs."

Ingrassia understands the general public might be leery of the purpose of red light cameras other than to issue tickets. That's why the checklist, distributed nationally in July 2018, includes steps to help communities gain public support and is meant for local policymakers, law enforcement agencies and transportation officials to implement.

"This new set of guidelines is an excellent starting point in ensuring adequate safeguards are put in place to maintain the public's trust," she said.

While some states require or encourage red light cameras, others prohibit them. Still others are stuck in a back-and-forth battle of support and opposition.

A main point of contention among those opposed to red light camera programs is the finicky nature of a piece of technology enforcing the rules of the road, which can call for a human eye due to the situational nature of many traffic violations.

A Florida politician expanded on this point in a January meeting of the Florida House Transportation and Infrastructure

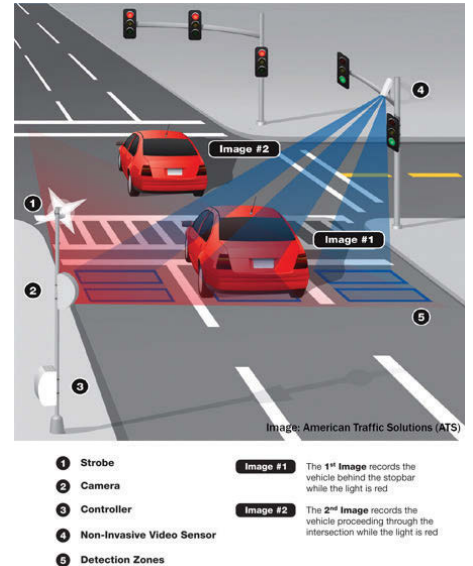
Subcommittee, during which a 2010-era law allowing red light cameras across the state was called into question.

"The law isn't altering bad driving behavior," Rep. Anthony Sabatini said, as reported by the Tampa Bay Times. "(It) punishes working class people with \$158 tickets for taking a right on red, failing to stop or just barely crossing the line when a camera is at an intersection."

In Ohio, the economic impact of tickets issued due to red light camera violations is a point of contention among House members. In March, lawmakers went toe-to-toe, presenting a bill making it more difficult for cities to use traffic cameras, as reported by the Dayton Daily News.

Ohio isn't the only state fighting back against red light cameras. As of January 2018, seven states are at various points in considering legislation to prohibit red light and speed camera use. They say the programs are corrupt and even unconstitutional due to the involvement of third-party companies that contract with law enforcement agencies to implement the cameras, some even issuing the tickets.

"I think everyone in the country should be concerned about this type of law enforcement action, especially when it's so ripe with corruption," said Arizona State Rep. Travis Grantham in a Fox News report. "The practice of privatizing law enforcement actions is just wrong," Grantham said. "Every aspect of it is wrong. When you add the equation of for-profit into the mix, it presents a lot of opportunity for fraud, for abuse."



ABOVE: This illustration shows how red light cameras work, with the first image recording a vehicle behind the stop bar while the light is red. The second image records the vehicle proceeding through the intersection while the light is red. (Photo provided)

Ingrassia, an avid supporter of the cameras, said the point of the programs isn't to generate revenue or create a scandal — it's simply to save lives.

"When properly implemented, red light cameras can help save lives and can serve to supplement law enforcement efforts, rather than generate revenue for governments," she said. **M**



Santa Clarita comes up with award-winning transportation solutions

By **ANDREW MENTOCK** | The Municipal

As the city of Santa Clarita, Calif., looks toward its future, the department of public works knows that transportation needs to be at the forefront. Last year, the city finished several different award-winning projects, all related to a different type of transportation.

Santa Clarita won five public works awards from the two different divisions of the American Public Works Association for 2018 projects. The highlight of these projects was its Old Town Newhall parking structure, pictured above, which it won the Project of the Year award for.

The Old Town Newhall parking structure is in Santa Clarita's downtown, which the city has been working hard to turn into an entertainment hub. This increased traffic in the area had created the need for the parking garage.

"We've had a fair amount of growth in town," said Robert Newman, public works director. "So that brings with it the funding and the challenges of growth in the community. So we're always looking for something innovative. We're always looking to try to maintain our infrastructure longer and we're always trying to deliver new projects. So it gives us a lot of opportunities to work in various things."

The 152,000-square-foot parking garage is seven levels tall and has 372 parking spaces. The top level can also be turned into an entertainment space for community events, allowing the city to have an extra venue that utilizes southern California's nice weather. The project was finished on time and under budget.

Another way the city's public works department has helped residents enjoy being outside is by developing plans and constructing the Heritage Trail, which connects two designed open spaces in town. By utilizing senior and high school volunteers, the public works department was able to complete the project in three weeks. In total, it cost \$9,000. According to city officials, the Heritage Trail would have cost more than \$200,000 to complete had it been done through private construction.



Santa Clarita, Calif., is experiencing quite a bit of growth, with its scenic beauty being a major draw. The city has worked hard to give residents and visitors more opportunities to enjoy the outdoors with the construction of trails. (Photo provided)

“This one was done with a particular high school group that we were able to work with in unison, and they, in turn, received credit for the work that they did,” said Araz Valijan, an administrative analyst with the city of Santa Clarita. “They were interested in this field of the design aspect — and the construction aspects — of the trail. So it was a great partnership.”

The city also partnered with Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy on the project.

In 2018, Santa Clarita continued its effort to improve bike and pedestrian safety.

“Like most communities, you look at your accident history and you tried to address where you see patterns,” Newman said. “We’re fortunate enough that we’re kind of under the national average on traffic safety, but we still focus on particular areas of concern. One of the things that we had identified was pedestrians (incidents), and we have high volume streets and high speeds.”

This was done in two ways.

First the city added electronic blank-out signs at several major crosswalks and intersections. These signs are designed to make motor vehicle drivers aware of where bicyclists and pedestrians are likely to cross. According to Newman, the signs are only active when one of the buttons are pushed.

“They’re a good warning device for drivers when there’s a pedestrian in the crosswalk and an added level of safety enhancement,” Newman said.

Secondly, the Santa Clarita Public Works Department also widened the Newhall Ranch Road Bridge, which runs over San Francisquito Creek. This added an additional lane in each direction and barriers in the middle of the road, as well as to the sides for pedestrians. There’s also a bike trail and trail connection below the bridge.



Santa Clarita has employed blank-out signs at several major crosswalks and intersections to alert drivers of pedestrians and cyclists. (Photo provided)



Santa Clarita Public Works Department widened the Newhall Ranch Road Bridge to include an additional lane in each direction and barriers in the middle of the road and to the sides for pedestrians. During this work, a bike trail and trail connection were added below the bridge. (Photo provided)

“On one side there was already an existing under crossing, so somebody that wanted to get from one side of the trail across the eight-lane roadway could go underneath the road along the river and come up on the other side,” Newman said. On one side, we didn’t have that connection when it was originally built. That connection wasn’t there.”

So in the process of widening the bridge, they were able to add the second connection.

The goal of this project is to keep pedestrians and cyclist safe in such a highly trafficked area.

With so many different successful projects going on, Newman said a key for the Santa Clarita Public Works Department has been planning ahead.

“We coordinate that or work with each other as we’re developing the plans early on,” Newman said. “Each individual doesn’t work in a little silo here. So it’s about communication and sharing information and spending the time making sure that the planning effort (is solid) going into it.” **M**

Flying high:

Enid Woodring Regional Airport gets new terminal

By JULIE YOUNG | The Municipal

When a plane lands at the Enid Woodring Regional Airport in Enid, Okla., director Dan Ohnesorge wants passengers to know that they have arrived.

“The airport terminal is the first thing people see when they get here and the last thing they see when they leave, so it is important that it makes a good impression,” he said.

Dedicated in 1928, Enid was the first city in Oklahoma to have a municipally funded airport. The facility was made possible with a \$50,000 bond as well as 80 acres of land donated by a private citizen and backed by the American Legion. It was named for Lt. Irvin A. (Bert) Woodring, one of the U.S. Army Air Corps’ “Three Musketeers of Aviation” in 1933 and is located 4 miles from downtown Enid. Its services include the Barnstormers Restaurant, numerous hangar facilities, maintenance facilities, Federal Aviation Administration repair stations, a flight school, air taxi and aircraft rental.

Over the past several years, the airport has made approximately \$13 million in infrastructure repairs and upgrades, but last year the city approved the airport’s most ambitious project to date: the construction of a new terminal that is scheduled to be finished in mid-June with a ribbon cutting soon to follow.

The \$1.8 million terminal was made possible in part by a \$500,000 donation from the estate of WWII veteran and former prisoner-of-war Milford L. Becker; \$500,000 from the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission; \$500,000 from the airport fund; and \$300,000 from the Oklahoma Strategic Military Planning Commission, which will also make use of the space.

“The Air Force uses our airport for several of their missions and a portion of the new terminal will include a meeting room



This rendering shows the entrance from the parking lot. (Photo provided)

where they can plan their flights, brief and debrief their personnel,” Ohnesorge said.

A bit of turbulence

Despite a generous donation and a healthy budget with which to complete the development, the journey to the new terminal was not without a bit of turbulence. When the project was first advertised in early 2018, the bids they received were higher than anticipated. CEC Engineers and GH2 Architects went back to the drawing board — so to speak — and reexamined the plans then

ABOVE: Pictured is a rendering of the new terminal, which will have a larger pilot’s lounge with 24-hour access, a separate passenger lounge and a conference room, which will be shared with the Air Force. (Photo provided)



Enid was the first city in Oklahoma to have a municipally funded airport. The city continues to make improvements, including the construction of a new terminal that is designed to make a good impression on travelers. Pictured is the old terminal in 2010; it will be demolished once the new one is completed. (Public domain photo)



Ground was broken for the new terminal in September of last year, and work is expected to be concluded in mid-June. (Photo provided)

made some adjustments that would cut costs while still giving the city the new terminal it needed. RSM Development in Edmond, Okla., was eventually awarded the contract and ground broke on the new terminal in September of last year.

“Since then, it has moved along pretty well,” Ohnesorge said.

The new terminal will be a 7,300-square-foot space and will have a better layout than the previous one. As engineers studied the existing terminal, it was determined that there was a lot of wasted space that could be better utilized. In addition to the new conference space that will be shared with the Air Force, the new terminal will have a larger and more comfortable pilot’s lounge with 24-hour access as well as a separate passenger lounge for those waiting on flights.

“At the current moment, they have to sit in the restaurant and that’s really not the best solution, so we thought a lounge was necessary. There will also be 24-hour access to the lobby as well as restrooms for those who have airport business as well as upgrades to the kitchen in the restaurant to modernize it,” Ohnesorge said.

Worth the wait

The new terminal has been built behind the old one utilizing part of the parking area. When the new building is finished, the old terminal will be demolished approximately four to five weeks later and replaced by sod. The remaining furnishings and equipment will be sold through an online auction. Naturally, during the nine-month period of construction, there were a few hiccups ranging from weather delays, minor issues that are part of any project and confusion among travelers who had to find a new place to park.

“We carved out a little part of the parking apron and put up signs to alert people where they could park, but as you can imagine, that can be a little confusing. Some people weren’t seeing the signs so



Pictured is construction work on the new terminal. (Photo provided)

we had to make them more visible, but for the most part, people followed the car in front of them hoping that they knew where they were going. Luckily, most of our passengers are regulars so there weren’t too many issues,” Ohnesorge said. “When all is said and done, the new terminal will be a great update to the airport and wonderful addition to the Enid community.” **M**

Enid Woodring Regional Airport

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JUNE

June 2-5 EUFMC 2019

Williamsburg Lodge and Conference Center, Williamsburg, Va.
www.eufmc.com

June 5-7 Fire-Rescue Med 2019

M Resort, Henderson, Nev.
www.iafc.org/events/frm

June 9-12 International Parking & Mobility Institute Conference and Expo

Anaheim, Calif.
www.parking-mobility.org

June 9-12 PRIMA 19 Conference

Orlando, Fla.
conference.primacentral.org

June 9-12 Safety 2019

Ernest N. Morial New Orleans Convention Center, New Orleans, La.
safety.assp.org

June 12-14 Wyoming Association of Municipalities Summer Conference

Sheridan, Wyo.
<https://wyomuni.org/events>

June 12-14 Arkansas Municipal League 85th Annual Convention

Little Rock, Ark.
www.arml.org

June 12-15 NYSAFC 113th Annual Conference & Fire 2019 Expo

The Oncenter, Syracuse, N.Y.
www.nysfirechiefs.com/fire2019

June 13-16 International Hazardous Materials Response Teams Conference

Hilton Baltimore, Baltimore, Md.
www.iafc.org/events/hazmat-conf

June 17-20 NFPA Conference and Expo

San Antonio, Texas
www.nfpa.org

June 17-20 Government Fleet Expo and Conference (GFX)

Ernest N. Morial New Orleans Convention Center, New Orleans, La.
www.governmentfleetexpo.com

June 18-21 Colorado Municipal League Annual Conference

Breckenridge, Colo.
www.cml.org

June 21-25 Georgia Municipal Association Annual Convention

Savannah Convention Center, Savannah, Ga.
www.gmanet.com/Training-Events/Annual-Convention.aspx

June 23-26 The Maryland Municipal League Summer Conference

Roland E. Powell Convention Center, Ocean City, Md.
www.mdmunicipal.org/375/Summer-Conference

June 24-26 AAMVA Region 2 Conference

Houston, Texas
www.aamva.org

June 25-26 Thirty-third Annual Police Security Expo 2019

Atlantic City Convention Center, Atlantic City, N.J.
www.police-security.com

June 25-28 Association of Washington Cities Annual Conference

Spokane, Wash.
wacities.org/events-education/conferences

June 25-28 SIMA 22nd Annual Snow & Ice Symposium

Grand Rapids, Mich.
www.sima.org

June 26-28 League of Minnesota Cities Annual Conference

Duluth, Minn.
www.lmc.org

JULY

July 12-15 NACo Annual Conference & Exposition

Clark County, Las Vegas, Nev.
www.naco.org

July 12-16 Florida Fire Chiefs Association Executive Development Conference

Boca Raton Resort & Club, Boca Raton, Fla.
www.ffca.org

July 14-18 CADCA Mid-Year Training Institute

Gaylord Texan Hotel, Dallas, Texas
www.cadca.org/mytizo19

July 15-17 AAMVA Region 4 Conference

Denver, Colo.
www.aamva.org

JULY

July 18-21 Municipal Association of South Carolina Annual Meeting

Hyatt Regency Greenville, Greenville, S.C.
www.masc.sc

July 21-24 ITE 2019 Annual Meeting and Exhibit

Hilton Austin and Hilton Garden Inn, Austin, Texas
www.ite.org

AUGUST

Aug. 6-10 NAPO's 41st Annual Convention

Skamania Lodge, Stevenson, Wash.
www.napo.org

Aug. 7-10 Fire-Rescue International

Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, Ga.
www.iafc.org/events/fri

Aug. 13-14 Midwest Security & Police Conference/Expo

Tinley Park Convention Center, Tinley Park, Ill.
mspce.com

Aug. 15-17 Florida League of Cities Annual Conference

World Center Marriott, Orlando, Fla.
www.floridaleagueofcities.com

Aug. 18-22 IMSA Forum and Expo

Hyatt Regency, New Orleans, La.
www.imsasafety.org

Aug. 18-22 StormCon

Hyatt Regency Atlanta, Atlanta, Ga.
www.stormcon.com



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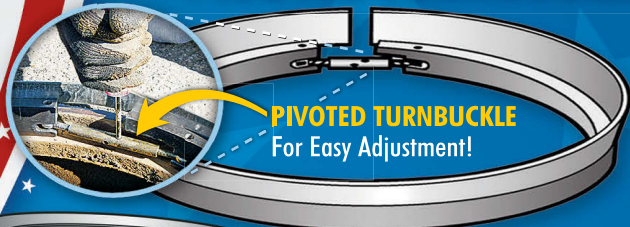
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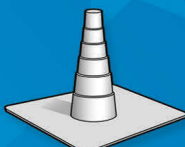
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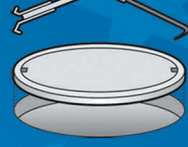
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Sourcewell moves to e-procurement model

STAPLES, MINN. — More than 50,000 members of Sourcewell will benefit from enhancements to the competitive contracting process as the cooperative purchasing organization officially launches an e-procurement platform.

The Sourcewell Procurement Portal is an online RFP-response system that provides vendors in the marketplace a more efficient and responsive opportunity to submit proposals for Sourcewell contract solicitations. According to Sourcewell Procurement Manager Chris Robinson, Sourcewell is launching the Sourcewell Procurement Portal to enhance its competitive process. It will also improve communication of opportunities to prospective vendors and create a more efficient process for vendor responses.

“The portal will eliminate the burdensome and time-consuming process of physically delivering RFP and IFB responses by mail or courier,” Robinson noted. “The first posting of a solicitation on the Sourcewell Procurement Portal occurred on April 1, with the posting of a solicitation for indefinite quantity construction services in the state of Colorado.”

Robinson said while the benefit is great for current and potential vendors, members should have an even greater sense of confidence in Sourcewell’s mission of providing better competition, pricing and efficiency.

To learn more, visit www.sourcewell-mn.gov.

Stertil-Koni honors seven distributor companies for rapid sales growth with Aspire Program Award

STEVENSVILLE, MD. — Heavy-duty bus lift and truck lift leader Stertil-Koni today announced that seven distributor companies in its North American network have earned its coveted Aspire Program Award, based on their accelerated pace of sales growth.

Recipients of the Stertil-Koni Aspire Program Awards are:

- Alan Tye & Associates, headquartered in Fairfax, Va.
- Westvac Industrial, based in Alberta, Canada
- Reeder Distributors, located in Fort Worth, Texas
- Municipal Maintenance Equipment, headquartered in Sacramento, Calif.
- Safetylane (USA LIFT), located in Bloomington, Ind.
- Power Washer Sales, headquartered in Littleton, Maine
- Midwest Lift Works, based in Jordan, Minn.



In making today’s announcement, Stertil-Koni President, Dr. Jean DellAmore noted, “It is my great honor to recognize these top performers. What is particularly special and gratifying is that a number of these companies are first-time winners. To me, that underscores how dynamic and driven our distributor network is in terms of bringing the very best in heavy duty vehicle lifting systems and service support to the entire North American marketplace.”

New grant funding supports training resources focused on opioid misuse prevention among youth

ASHBURN, VA. — The National Recreation and Park Association, the Afterschool Alliance and the Alliance for a Healthier Generation are proud to collaborate on a new initiative to provide out-of-school time providers with professional development training resources to prevent opioid misuse among youth. Funding for the training resources is provided by the AmerisourceBergen Foundation.



Through this collaboration, NRPA, the Afterschool Alliance and Healthier Generation will develop a suite of professional development training resources to equip OST providers with the skills and knowledge to reduce risk factors, boost protective factors and prevent opioid misuse among youth. Specifically, the three groups will:

- Develop a quarterly online learning series focused on prevention of opioid misuse and identification and reduction of risk factors
- Develop and disseminate an issue brief on the role of OST in prevention
- Present an education session at the 2019 NRPA Annual Conference, and two to three other conferences, to demonstrate the connection between OST, protective factors and prevention
- Host on-demand virtual training for thousands of schools and OST sites

“NRPA is proud to help lead the field with this critical training to address children who are victims of the opioid epidemic,” said Kellie May, NRPA vice president of programs. “We look forward to working closely with the Afterschool Alliance and Healthier Generation to better equip OST providers with the tools they need to help youth who are at risk or are currently experiencing trauma due to opioid abuse.”

Learn more at www.nrpa.org.

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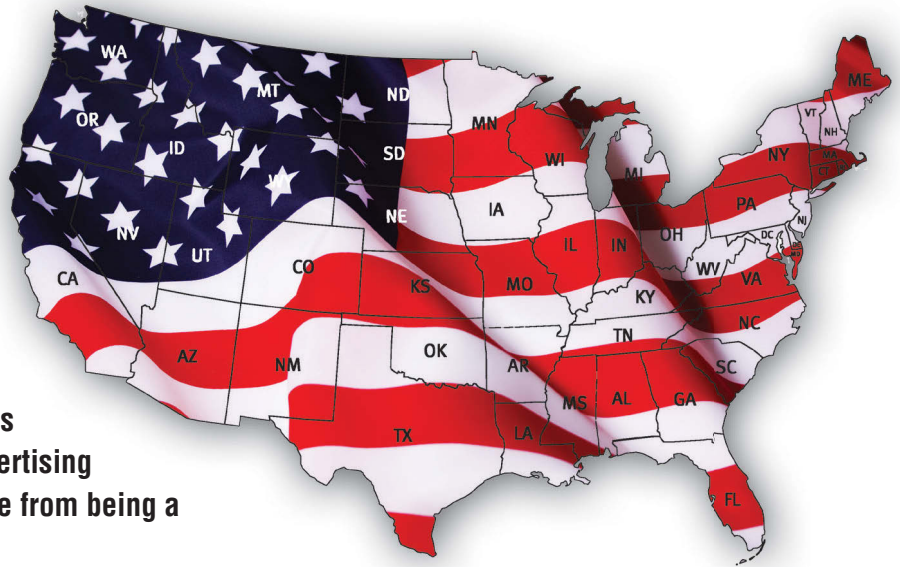
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Ten states people are moving to

United Van Lines released the results of its 42nd annual National Movers Study at the beginning of 2019, showing that Americans were on the move throughout 2018, relocating to the western and southern portions of the U.S.

The National Movers Study reveals the business data of inbound and outbound moves from 2018. In addition to this study, United Van Lines also conducts a survey to find out more about the reasons behind these moves. A leading motivation behind these migration patterns across all regions is a career change, as the survey showed approximately one out of every two people who moved in the past year moved for a new job or company transfer.

Other reasons for the high percentage of moves to the Mountain West in 2018 include retirement (28.1 percent), proximity to family (20.8 percent) and lifestyle change (19.4 percent). Compared to all other states, Idaho saw the largest influx of new residents desiring a lifestyle change (25.95 percent), and more people flocked to New Mexico for retirement than any other state (42.74 percent).

The top 10 inbound states of 2018 were:

- 1. Vermont ~ 72.6%**
- 2. Oregon ~ 63.85%**
- 3. Idaho ~ 62.4%**
- 4. Nevada ~ 61.8%**
- 5. Arizona ~ 60.2%**
- 6. South Carolina ~ 59.9%**
- 7. Washington ~ 58.8%**
- 8. North Carolina ~ 57.0%**
- 9. South Dakota ~ 57.0%**
- 10. District of Columbia ~ 56.7%**

Source: www.unitedvanlines.com/contact-united/news/movers-study-2018



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