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Member SIPC/FINRA
The votes are in, and every one of the policy committees urged us to make another attempt at getting you the “penny for infrastructure.” Because of that unanimous support, we will be asking the legislature to consider the bill that was HB 1198 in 2010. It would allow a capital improvement only, project specific, time limited local option penny, ONLY with a local vote of your citizens. Because it answers all the reasonable arguments, we call it The Perfect Bill.

You’ve often heard me say that you are the most effective lobbyists we have, and this bill will be a great opportunity to prove that. We have cities that are in dire need of additional funding, but being the people you are, you don’t whine about it; you don’t go to the state with your hand out asking them to give you money, and you don’t ask for the state to solve your problems for you. Instead, you do what you asked us to do this year: Put together a tool that will work for cities, and present the state with a solution. You need their approval in order to move forward, and sadly, it is a terribly hard sell.

It has been so interesting to watch the city officials as we’ve met with their legislators in the various legislative districts. Those of us who do this all the time have become used to people talking about local control but unwilling to actually allow any, but it has come as a bit of a surprise to some of our members as they’ve listened to arguments put forward against a bill that would simply allow a local option funding tool, with a MANDATORY LOCAL ELECTION, no less. Several times we’ve heard amazed versions of the thought: “What could the arguments against this be?”

So here are the arguments against this bill.

First, there are the anti-tax, anti-government types. There are good reasons to debate our tax system, and programs being supported by those taxes, but simply being against anything that looks like a tax isn’t reasonable, it is a cheap and easy excuse to say no based on ulterior political motives. The Perfect Bill can’t answer unreasonable arguments.

Another argument against it is based on our sales tax itself, and generally all tied to the thought that the sales tax is regressive. Whether it’s because we include the sale of food in our tax base, or just a general philosophy, this is at least a reasoned argument. On the food tax, there are those who will never be convinced, and I’m one of them. The argument is that it is immoral to tax food. I would argue that it isn’t immoral to tax those of us who can afford it, and our taxes largely go to help pay for programs for the less fortunate and for education. Nearly 70% of the population agreed with us when they were given the chance to vote on the food tax, so it doesn’t seem like there will be major change on this any time soon. Nevertheless, The Perfect Bill allows cities to address these concerns with some kind of rebate – with the option to provide this at the local level, and the determination of HOW to do this at the local level.

Others simply feel we should move away from our sales tax based system and introduce a state income tax. That is continued on page 5
a great discussion, but does anyone really think that is going to happen? We have to work within the system we have, and if we wait for a complete overhaul of the SD tax system before we take any action, the legislature might as well quit meeting.

Another argument is that there are so many unfunded needs in South Dakota, how can we allow a local solution at the cost of all the other needs? A legitimate concern, and one the Legislature and Governor have the complete control over. They can cut budgets, increase taxes, and direct money wherever they choose.

We represent cities. We are not responsible for all the problems in the state, and we do not have the power to provide any answers on those issues. We simply ask the legislature to give us the same ability they have – the ability to manage our own budgets, and work with our citizens in a very direct way to solve our own problems.

The legislators with whom we have met have been unfailingly polite, interested, and concerned with city issues. They have taken time, driven distances, and met with us and our members, and we sincerely appreciate those we’ve had the opportunity to meet with. Along with some amazement with arguments against local control, I believe we’ve also found our members with a new level of respect for the breadth of issues our legislators are concerned with.

It will soon be completely up to you, and your legislators, to determine how they will vote on this bill. PLEASE make the effort to contact them regularly, express the needs your city has, and urge them to vote in favor of the local option sales tax bill.

We get so wrapped up in this kind of issue that sometimes we tend to forget things that are really important: So please have a wonderful holiday season, may you all enjoy family, peace, health, and all the blessings of the season.

Yvonne Taylor
Executive Director
December…the start of winter, right? As I write this; we are bracing ourselves for the “first touch of winter.” Meaning?? Snow plows are ready; propane tanks are filled; winter coats and boot sit by the door. To many cities December means a boost in retail sales and sales tax.

I have been pondering the thoughts of council meetings. And how difficult it is sometimes to get everything done in a once-a-month meeting. For the majority of the cities that are an aldermanic form of government we find ourselves making sure everything is on the agenda that needs action because it will be a month before we meet again. As I sit and listen to our council make decisions and discuss many different topics; I wonder how we manage to get it all done! Sometimes, councils are accused of it being a “slow process and nothing ever gets done.” But you all want to arrive at those decisions in a proper manner that may entail some due diligence. And how do you do that? By listening to your staff – whether it be your staff or even a concerned citizen. You take that information with sincere concern and make the best decision you know how. Is it always popular? Probably not. But you as a council are the ones that have all the facts and know what is in the best interest of everyone. Sometimes that can be a challenge and yet oh so rewarding.

Another item that comes to mind this time of the year—is how we look at our spending for the year. Or do we look at how we receive our revenue? Do we do everything we can to maintain good revenue sources in order to validate the spending of money in order for our citizens to receive the services they so desire? In many cases it is a quandary. And often times not an easy one for the elected officials to deal with. I admire you all for those hard fought decisions.

I give thanks to the many people that have touched my life over the year. Good or bad. It is always a positive outcome to my life as I see each day a blessing. December also means warms thoughts of family and friends gathering for holiday cheer and delicious food!

I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Joyous, Happy and Prosperous New Year!

Jeanne Duchscher
President
2015 Annual Report Workshops

The South Dakota Municipal League and the South Dakota Department of Legislative Audit are co-sponsoring one-day workshops on preparing this year’s annual report. Remember, annual reports are required to be filed by ALL municipalities.

The filing status of annual reports has had a renewed focus in recent years. The federal government has recently promulgated a sense of transparency and timeliness of financial data. This seminar will move you a giant step closer to meeting those goals.

These workshops are brought to you without cost by the South Dakota Municipal League and the Auditor General’s office. They will be conducted by the staff of the Department of Legislative Audit. Finance officers, clerks, auditors and treasurers should plan to attend.

This year we are providing a limited offering of annual report workshops for all sizes of cities. If you have questions on which workshop you should attend please call Rod Fortin with Legislative Audit at 605-367-5810.

Small Cities: those with less than $600,000 in revenue. This class is targeted for all cities of this size range. Please bring your Municipal Accounting Manual and previous year’s annual report to use as reference material. Also, bring a copy of your 2015 published budget ordinance to assist in participating in a discussion in this area as well as copies of several receipt/voucher transactions so that we can work together on coding solutions.

- Mitchell: Wednesday, January 21, 2015, Noon-3:00 pm, Blarney’s, 2100 Highland Way (995-5095), *11:30 meet for lunch at Blarney’s if your schedule permits. Reservation is under MUNICIPAL LEAGUE. Meeting will begin at noon.
- Aberdeen: Thursday, January 22, 2015, Noon-3:00 pm, County Court House, Community Room, Basement Annex, 25 Market Street, *lunch on your own.

Large Cities (cash basis): those with $600,000 or more in revenue. This class is targeted for only those personnel that have approximately two years or less of annual report preparation experience. Please bring your previous year’s annual report to use as reference material. Also, for further discussion bring a copy of your general ledger containing equity accounts for each fund (GASB 54).

- Huron: Wednesday, January 14, 2015, 11:00 am-3:00 pm, Campus Center, Pyle Room, 333 9th St. SW *working lunch by ordering pizza in.
- Huron: Thursday, January 15, 2015, 10:00 am-3:00 pm, Campus Center, Pyle Room, 333 9th St. SW *working lunch by ordering pizza in.

Large Cities (GAAP basis): those with $600,000 or more in revenue. This annual report is targeted for only those personnel that have approximately two years or less of annual report preparation experience. Please bring your previous year’s annual report to use as reference material. Also, for further discussion bring a copy of your general ledger containing equity accounts for each fund (GASB 54).

- Huron: Thursday, January 15, 2015, 10:00 am-3:00 pm, Campus Center, Pyle Room, 333 9th St. SW *working lunch by ordering pizza in.

DEADLINE for Registration is a WEEK PRIOR to each meeting.

Notes: If the weather looks bad, call 605-367-5810 or 800-658-3633 to determine if the seminar has been postponed. Please do not take any driving risks. Dress is business casual. Individuals needing assistance, pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, should contact the League office in advance of the meeting to make any necessary arrangements.

Annual Report Workshops Registration

Municipality________________________________________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
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</table>

Check One:  [ ] Mitchell January 21  [ ] Aberdeen January 22  [ ] Huron January 14  [ ] Huron January 15

Please return to: South Dakota Municipal League, 208 Island Drive, Fort Pierre, SD 57532, Fax: 605-224-8655, email: info@www.sdmunicipalleague.org, website: www.sdmunicipalleague.org
Rib Dinner with Your Legislators

Mayors, councilmembers, finance officers and all municipal employees, please join us Tuesday, February 3, 2015 for an informal rib dinner with your state legislators. The dinner will be held at the Kings Inn Conference Center beginning at 6:00 p.m. Prior to dinner, a legislative briefing will be held to update you on discussion topics and on the committee meetings for Wednesday, February 4, 2015.

Municipal Government Day at the Legislature

Wednesday, February 4, 2015 will be Municipal Government Day at the Legislature. This is the day all municipal officials are invited to Pierre to watch the Legislature in action.

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

5 to 6:00 p.m.  Registration  
Kings Inn Conference Center

5:30 p.m.  Legislative Briefing  
Kings Inn Conference Center

6:00 p.m.  Rib Dinner  
Kings Inn Conference Center

Please return the registration form with payment by Tuesday, January 20, 2015. We need to know how many will be attending so that we may plan for the meal accordingly. No refunds will be given after January 20, 2015.

Rib Dinner and Municipal Government Day Registration Form

Please TYPE OR PRINT your information as you would like it to appear on the name tag.

Municipality: _____________________________________________  

PRINT Name & Title

Total Amount Enclosed $_________

Please return your registration form and payment by January 20, 2015 to  
South Dakota Municipal League  •  208 Island Drive  •  Fort Pierre, SD 57532  •  800-658-3633  •  www.sdmunicipalleague.org

Individuals needing assistance, pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, should contact the League office in advance of the meeting to make any necessary arrangements.
# 2015 Municipal Election Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Second Tuesday in April</th>
<th>First Tuesday after the first Monday in June</th>
<th>Combine with school on third Tuesday in June</th>
<th>To Newspaper by:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The governing board must establish the election date no later than January 14th of the election year, if they choose a different election date other than the 2nd Tuesday in April.* (9-13-1)</td>
<td>April 14</td>
<td>June 2</td>
<td>June 16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The person in charge of the election must notify the Secretary of State when the election will take place by e-mail, letter, fax, or telephone. (12-2-7) <a href="mailto:elections@state.sd.us">elections@state.sd.us</a></td>
<td>Immediately</td>
<td>Immediately</td>
<td>Immediately</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publish notice of vacancies and time and place for filing petitions each week for two consecutive weeks. (9-13-6 or 9-13-40 &amp; 05:02:04:06; 13-7-5)</td>
<td>Jan 15 - 30</td>
<td>Feb 15 - March 1</td>
<td>March 15 - 30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earliest date to begin petition circulation and earliest date to file nominating petition. (9-13-9, 9-13-40 &amp; 13-7-6)</td>
<td>January 30</td>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>April 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline for filing nominating petition. Office must be open until 5pm. (9-13-7, 9-13-40 &amp; 13-7-6)</td>
<td>Feb 27 5:00 pm</td>
<td>March 31 5:00 pm</td>
<td>May 8 5:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline for submission of written request to withdraw candidate’s name from nomination. (9-13-7.1, 13-7-7)</td>
<td>Feb 27 5:00 pm</td>
<td>March 31 5:00 pm</td>
<td>May 8 5:00 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the event of an election being canceled due to the death of a candidate, withdrawal of a candidate, or absence of contest, publication of notice of cancellation of municipal election is required.* (9-13-7.1 &amp; 05:02:04:21)</td>
<td>After Feb 27 5:00 pm</td>
<td>After March 31 5:00 pm</td>
<td>After May 8 5:00 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publish first deadline of voter registration notice that needs to be published each week for two consecutive weeks. (12-4-5.2 &amp; 05:02:04:04)</td>
<td>March 9 - 13</td>
<td>April 27 - May 1</td>
<td>May 11 - 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publish last deadline of voter registration notice that needs to be publish each week for two consecutive weeks. (12-4-5.2 &amp; 5:02:04:04)</td>
<td>March 16 - 20</td>
<td>May 4 - 8</td>
<td>May 18 - 22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline for voter registration. (12-4-5)</td>
<td>March 30</td>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>June 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Absentee ballots must be made available no later than 15 days prior to the election. (9-13-21)</td>
<td>March 30</td>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>June 1</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publish notice of election that needs to be published each week for two consecutive weeks. First publication must be at least 10 days before election. (9-13-13 &amp; 05:02:04:08 or 13-7-8 &amp; 5:02:04:15)</td>
<td>March 30 - April 10</td>
<td>May 18 - 29</td>
<td>June 1 - 12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publish facsimile ballot in the calendar week before the election. The calendar week falls from the Monday to the Saturday of the week prior to the Tuesday of Election Day. (9-13-13)</td>
<td>April 6 - 11</td>
<td>May 25 - 30</td>
<td>June 8 - 13</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automatic tabulating systems only. Conduct a public test of the system. <em>Must publish notice 48 hours before test.</em> (12-17B-5 &amp; 5:02:09:01:01)</td>
<td>April 4 - 13</td>
<td>May 23 - June 1</td>
<td>June 6 - 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Election Day. Polls open 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (9-13-1)</strong></td>
<td>April 14</td>
<td>June 2</td>
<td>June 16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline for official canvass. (9-13-24)</td>
<td>April 21</td>
<td>June 9</td>
<td>June 23</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Contact Elections@state.sd.us to notify the SOS office of your election date and in the event of your city not having an election.
SDML Affiliate Membership Options

Eleven affiliate organizations enjoy the advantage of being members of the South Dakota Municipal League. These organizations receive SDML staff support and hold their meetings at the League’s Annual Conference and many of the affiliate groups meet at other times during the year. Visit www.sdmunicipalleague.org/sdmlevents for a listing of all the events.

Dues notices for the Affiliates were recently sent to each city office and can be found under the Affiliate Organizations tab at www.sdmunicipalleague.org or by calling the League office at 800-658-3633.

Affiliate membership options include:

SD Airport Management Association
- The purpose of this association shall be to foster the planning, development, use and operation of public airports in the State of South Dakota;
- To assist its membership in resolving problems though mutual experiences in airport operations; and
- In cooperation with the South Dakota Municipal League, to take an active part in legislation that may affect public airports in the State of South Dakota.

ANNUAL DUES of the association are $25 per city; Associate membership is $50/person.

SD Municipal Attorneys’ Association
- The purpose of this association is to establish a forum by which municipalities may promote matters of mutual interest and provide a closer working relationship in municipal government and administration by the following means:
  - Holding meetings for the discussion of legal and other questions affecting municipal governments;
  - The furnishing of information to municipal law officers and departments in order to enable them to better to perform their functions; and

- Studying legislation, court decisions and administrative rulings relating to the public interest of municipalities.

- ANNUAL DUES of the association are $35 for each city represented that is over 5,000 population and $20 for each city that is under 5,000 population.

SD Building Officials’ Association
- The purpose of the association shall be the consideration of principles and practices underlying the laws and ordinances relative to the construction, maintenance and occupancy of buildings, use of land, and methods of uniform administration; and
- To develop requirements and regulations pertaining to training of building officials and administration officers.

- ANNUAL DUES of the association are as follows:
  - Governmental Membership (GM) is $50.00; each additional Governmental Individual (GI) membership is $5.00.
    - Governmental Members shall be a designated individual, usually the building official, of a government agency (state, county or municipal), which is responsible for the enforcement or administration of laws and ordinances relating to building construction.
    - Governmental Individual Members shall be additional employees of governmental agencies which are responsible for the enforcement, or administration of laws and ordinances relating to building construction.
  - Professional Membership (PM) is $50.00; each additional Professional Individual (PI) membership is $10.00.
    - Professional Member shall be a designated individual of a firm, incorporated or unincorporated, engaged in the practice of architecture, engineering, inspection, research, testing or related activities.
- Full Members: Any person who is a City Manager or Administrator, or an assistant to City Manager or Administrator of a South Dakota City shall be eligible for full membership in the Association.
- Associate Membership is $75 per person.
- Associate Members: Persons holding responsible administrative positions in South Dakota cities and other persons who are interested in the objectives of the Association shall be eligible for associate membership.
- Student membership is $15 per person.
- Student Members: Any person currently enrolled full or part-time in a graduate or undergraduate program with an interest in local government.

SD City Management Association
- The purpose of this association shall be to increase the proficiency of Managers and Administrators of local governments;
- To strengthen the quality of local government through professional management;
- To encourage and support the precepts of the Council/Manager plan;
- To maintain the high ethical standards of the profession of City Management; and
- To provide opportunities to enhance the professional development of its members.
- **ANNUAL DUES** of the association are as follows:
  - Full membership is $150 per person.

SD Association of Code Enforcement
- The purpose of this association is to operate, without profit to the Association, or its members, as a state association to advance, educate and improve efforts of state, county, city and other political subdivision employees who are actively involved with and responsible for the enforcement of housing, municipal, county, state or federal codes without regard to race, creed, color, national origin, or sex;
- Professional Individual Member shall be additional employees of professional firms that practice architecture, engineering, inspection, research, testing or related activities.
- Annual Associate Membership (AM) is $25.00.
- Associate Member shall be a representative of firms or corporations of commercial and industrial concerns engaged in the sale, manufacture or processing of materials and assemblies.

**A New Year**

is just around the corner
filled with new and exciting possibilities

**Thank You**

for your business in 2014, we look forward to being your hotel of choice in 2015 for business and leisure.

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• To encourage professionalism with regard to the standardization of enforcement of environmental and housing codes; and
• To supply and advance the science and practice of code enforcement through certification and to provide training workshops, seminars and conferences facilitating and advancing the administration of the various codes with which the Association is concerned.
• ANNUAL DUES of the association are $40 per city.

SD Municipal Electric Association
The South Dakota Municipal Electric Association, formed in 1950, serves member municipalities that provide electricity to approximately 100,000 South Dakotans.

The Annual Meeting is held each October during the Municipal League Annual Conference.

The Electric Superintendent-Foreman Conference is held each March in Watertown.

SD Governmental Finance Officers’ Association
• The purpose of this association is to establish a forum by which cities and towns may promote matters of mutual interest and provide a closer working relationship that there may be improvement in municipal government and administration;
• To promote the improvement of methods of governmental finance in South Dakota including the development of mutually understandable procedures of accounting, budgeting, and financial reporting; and the encouragement of the use of common terminology, classification, and principles in regard to those subjects; and
• To take an active part in legislation that may affect municipalities of the state through the South Dakota Municipal League.
• ANNUAL DUES of the association are $40 for the first person and $30 for each additional person of the same city.

SD Governmental Human Resource Association
• The purpose of this association is to advance the profession of human resource management in governmental entities by promoting matters of mutual interest and providing a closer working relationship so that there may be improvement in government and administration; and
• To promote the improvement of all aspects dealing with Human Resources in South Dakota through information sharing and consolidated training with a special emphasis on assisting smaller communities and to take an active part in legislation that may affect the governmental entities of the state through the South Dakota Municipal League.
• ANNUAL DUES of the association are $25 per person.

SD Municipal Liquor Control Association
• The purpose of this association is to promote the efficient management of all municipal liquor stores in the State of South Dakota;
• To foster, among managers and employees of municipal liquor stores and municipal council, a high sense of moral responsibility for the maintenance of strict standards in conformity with the law;
• To supply members with authentic information on Federal and State liquor laws and municipal ordinances, quality, price, market conditions, and all other aspects of municipal liquor store establishment and operation; and
• To promote legislation in the field of municipal liquor store establishments, management, and operation which is beneficial to the municipalities of the state and its citizens and to oppose legislation which is injurious thereto.
• ANNUAL DUES of the association are $25 per city.

SD Police Chiefs’ Association
• The purpose of this association shall be of an educational, scientific, benevolent, fraternal and charitable nature and to develop a closer official and personal relationship between the various law enforcement officials of the State of South Dakota.
• To maintain a steadfast resolution to guard the rights, liberties, and welfare of all citizens;
• To foster any project which will help bring law enforcement officials recognition as professionals, to increase the efficiency of the member of aiding in the improvement of the laws of the State of South Dakota and demanding the enforcement of the same; and
• To encourage the members to attain a high degree of skill and efficiency in law enforcement work, thereby advancing the standards of all enforcement officers.
• ANNUAL DUES of the association, for Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs, are determined by a formula that takes into account population in addition to a base of $95. Please call the League office for the actual dues amount for your city. Command Staff and Associate membership is $25 per person.

SD Municipal Street Maintenance Association
• The purpose of this association is to provide education and instruction for municipal street maintenance workers and to assist in meeting their goals through encouragement and friendly exchange of knowledge and experience among its members.
• ANNUAL DUES of the association are $35 per city.

For more information visit the Affiliate Organizations tab at www.sdmunicipalleague.org.
Urban & Community Forestry Comprehensive Challenge Sub-grant

Through the Urban & Community Forestry Program, the SD Department of Agriculture Resource Conservation and Forestry Division has provided financial assistance to our communities each year since 1991. A portion of the division’s annual allocation of Urban and Community Forestry Assistance funds from the US Forest Service is awarded to communities in the form of Challenge grants.

These grants are used to fund community forestry projects that solve a specific community forestry problem or demonstrate the importance of trees in our communities.

The community or service organization must match challenge grants.

The Division has developed the challenge grant program to require increased commitment and effort from a community. The criteria for the challenge grants are outlined below in highest to lowest priority:

1. Professional Services — ($5,000)
2. Tree Inventory/Assessment — ($5,000)
3. Existing Tree Care & Maintenance — ($1,000)
   (An applicant may receive a maximum of $1,000 per year for existing tree care and maintenance.)
4. Education/Training — ($5,000)
5. New Tree Planting — ($1,000)
   (An applicant may receive a maximum of $1,000 per year for new tree plantings.)
6. Other Activities — ($5,000)

Grants have a maximum limit of $5,000. The required match may be met through volunteer labor, donated and/or purchased supplies, or actual cash expenditures.

Grant applications will be accepted at any time during the year. For the application forms and more information visit sdda.sd.gov/conservation-forestry/grants-loans/community-forestry-challenge-grants/ or contact the SDDA Resource Conservation and Forestry Division.

Contact Information:
Division of Resource Conservation & Forestry
South Dakota Department of Agriculture
523 E Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-3182
Phone: 605-773-3623, Toll-Free: 800-228-5254
Email: SDRCF@state.sd.us
Inhaling secondhand smoke (SHS) can cause chronic disease and lead to death. Exposure to SHS places infants and children at particular risk for asthma, ear infections, and sudden infant death syndrome.\(^1\) For adult non-smokers, exposure to SHS can lead to stroke, lung cancer and coronary heart disease.\(^2\) In recent years, South Dakota (SD) has enacted codified laws to protect people from SHS exposure in workplaces, restaurants, and bars through smoke-free policy implementation. However, Multi-unit housing (MUH) settings are not covered by South Dakota’s smoke-free laws.

Sixteen percent of the SD population, or roughly 132,000 people, reside in MUH settings.\(^2\) SHS exposure is especially problematic in MUH. Objective research data has demonstrated that smoke can travel, or infiltrate, throughout buildings in shared heating vents, electrical outlets, open windows, or even small cracks in drywall.\(^3,4\)

The SD Department of Health has established goals to reduce exposure to SHS in MUH through the promotion of smoke-free policies, and recently supported a project with the Office of Nursing Research at South Dakota State University to assess the number of smoke-free MUH policies in the state as well as to identify barriers to implementing smoke-free policies.

## Rates of Smoke-Free Policy in MUH

A survey was conducted with 324 MUH owners in 27 counties throughout the state of SD. Over half (54%) reported a written smoke-free policy for their properties. Written policy was defined as including the policy within the lease agreement for the property. An additional 10% of property owners reported having a smoke-free policy, but the policy was either not included in the lease agreement or no lease agreement existed for the property. About one-third (32%) of owners surveyed reported no smoke-free policy.

Smoke-free policies were less common among property owners who smoked. Property owners with one or more units subsidized by Housing and Urban Development were also less likely to have a smoke-free policy for the property.

## Barriers to Implementing a Smoke-Free Policy

Among owners without a smoke-free policy, nearly half (48%) had considered implementing one. These owners expressed three main concerns that have prevented them from developing a smoke-free policy, including: 1) perception that turnover and vacancy rates would increase, 2) potential objection from existing tenants, and 3) potential enforcement problems. However, owners who had implemented a smoke-free policy for their MUH properties reported no adverse effects related to turnover.

---

**Cash Management and Investment Services**

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- Fixed Rate Investments
- Bond Proceeds Management
- Cash Flow Management

800-658-3633 • 208 Island Drive, Ft. Pierre, SD 57532 • www.sdfit.org

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\(^1\) Source: [American Lung Association](https://www.lung.org).

\(^2\) Source: [American Heart Association](https://www.americanheart.org).

\(^3\) Source: [National Cancer Institute](https://www.cancer.gov).

\(^4\) Source: [National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences](https://www.niehs.nih.gov).
rates, rental fees, vacancy rates, management time, or insurance rates. In fact, most owners with a smoke-free policy indicated that going smoke-free saved them money, with a reported decrease in overall maintenance costs. These owners also reported little difficulty in enforcing the policy after implementation.

What you can do
To decrease exposure to SHS in MUH settings, comprehensive smoke-free policies are needed. These policies need to include common areas, enclosed public areas, and protection from smoke entering through windows, air conditioners, elevator shafts, and ventilation systems. Based on the results of this study, about half of MUH properties in SD are not covered by a smoke-free policy. Owner concerns about the financial impact and enforcement issues in implementing policy were not supported. Results of this project demonstrate that implementation of a smoke-free policy seems to have little impact on vacancy rates, turnover rates, or management time, and appears to have benefits in relation to maintenance costs.

If you are interested in making your property smoke-free, or promoting an existing smoke-free policy, the SD Department of Health, Tobacco Control Program would like to assist you. Metal signs and window clings are available free of charge to MUH properties that have implemented a policy. An Apartment Manager’s Guide booklet is also available for owners who are uncertain if a smoke-free policy is right for their property. For more information on these resources or questions about making your property smoke-free, please contact Sarah Quail at s.quail@voa-dakotas.org or visit BeFreeSD.com.

Full results of this project have been published in Nicotine and Tobacco Research.


References
Midwest Assistance Program, Inc. (MAP) has been helping communities and tribal nations find solutions to their infrastructure and development needs through information, resource management, expertise, and technical assistance since 1979. MAP is governed by a nine member board of directors: six members from MAP’s participating states and three at large.

MAP is a member of the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) network. RCAP works to revitalize communities through its six regional partners and nearly 200 rural development specialists at the state and local levels in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. The majority of these communities, which are typically economically disadvantages, have fewer than 2,500 residents.

MAP provides solutions to more than 400 communities and tribal nations each year in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming. Through individualized support from staff, residents find the solutions that will help revitalize their communities. MAP’s staff lives in the communities served by the organization and have a deep commitment to the strength, future, and vitality of rural America.

MAP provides support in order to accomplish the following with your community:

**Facilities Development:** Assistance to communities to secure new facilities, or for substantial expansion or renovation of existing facilities.

- Securing an engineer
- Site issues
- Liaising with regulatory and funding agencies
- Preparing funding applications
- Facilitating community information meetings
- Funding administration
- Construction monitoring

**Management and Finance:** Assistance to meet managerial and financial capacity guidelines, usually directed at managers and directors of existing systems.

### South Dakota MAP Staff

**Jan Kittay, Regional Field Manager**

PO Box 771

Pierre, SD 57501

jkittay@map-inc.org/605-280-6057

**RJ Inskeep, Technical Assistance Provider**

PO Box 588

Hill City, SD 57745

rinskeep@map-inc.org/605-391-3279

**LeAnn Kerzman, Technical Assistance Provider**

PO Box 23

Dell Rapids, SD 57022

lkerzman@map-inc.org/605-690-5085

**Jim Jones, Technical Assistance Provider**

PO Box 66

Black Hawk, SD 57718

jjones@map-inc.org/605-214-6231
• Help set up management systems, bookkeeping, budgeting, rate setting, financial reporting, etc.
• Bookkeeping spreadsheet accepted by USDA RD for annual reports
• Owner’s Manuals for Water and Waste Water systems

Compliance and Environmental Health: Assistance to help communities understand regulations and standards and best management practices to meet basic health standards.

Capacity Building: Focused on leadership development, outreach, community organizing, or other activities designed to improve community residents’ abilities to make informed decisions.

Planning and Development: Assistance provided to a community to resolve a specific short-term problem or meet a particular need related to a facility or the planning necessary for a future facility.

Disaster Management: Assistance related solely to emergency management issues, including vulnerability assessments and emergency response plans.

Operations and Maintenance: Assistance in improving the day-to-day operation of a system, including diagnosis of operational problems/processes and operator training.

Solid Waste: (Dependent on staff qualifications and availability). Projects whose sole purpose is to address solid waste issues.

Source Water Protection: Projects whose sole purpose is to protect drinking water supply.

Training: Training can be customized to your needs or we have numerous trainings developed for common requirements. We have training programs specifically for board members, city clerks, and operators, as well as presentations for specific topics.
• Customized to community specific needs
• Regional events in conjunction with other organizations (USDA RD, COGs, etc…)
• Common Topics
  - Rate Adjustments
  - Financial Reporting
  - Emergency Response Plans (ERP) / Vulnerability Assessments (VA)
  - Hiring an Engineer
  - Water and Waste Water Owners Manuals
  - Operation Procedures
  - Conducting Legal Meetings
  - Board/Council Responsibilities

Emergency Tank Repair Prevention and Preparation

By Erika Henderson, Director of Research, Pittsburg Tank & Tower, Inc.

Drinking water tanks are surrounded by threats daily, but most problems associated with emergency tank repairs can be prevented. Extra time and maintenance may be needed to ensure the tank is protected, and water operators should have an effective plan to restore water services if a tank emergency does occur.

Most problems that lead to emergency tank repairs can be prevented with proper maintenance and regular inspections. Obtaining accurate information and saving the documentation of every inspection and repair can enable a deeper level of understanding about the tank’s history. The knowledge gained from its history can then be used to help create a more effective strategy in preventing and limiting future tank repairs.

Harsh winter weather often increases the risk for tank damage and emergency repairs. Last winter, several drinking water tanks nationwide experienced damage, leaks, and failures as a result. A Minnesota tank froze twice over the winter because of the prolonged deep freeze.1 And, according to The Old Farmer’s Almanac’s for 2014-2015, “this winter will be another arctic blast with above-normal snowfall throughout much of the nation.” Therefore, measures should be taken now to protect the tanks and help prevent damage that could be caused by snow, ice and freezing temperatures.

Drinking water tanks are more susceptible to freeze during nighttime hours when water demand and turnover rate is low. Moving water is less prone to freezing, so keeping the turnover rate high or adding a mixing system can help. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends maintaining the water temperature at or above 42°F to prevent tank freezing, and the water temperature can be monitored by installing a low-water temperature alarm.2 But, to maintain appropriate temperature, heating may be necessary. Insulation and standby electric heaters can be used for systems not already setup for steam or hot water.

All heater pipes, heating elements and temperature alarms should be tested, inspected and replaced as needed before the heating season begins and monthly thereafter or malfunctions are likely to occur. For example, the heater in a wooden Chicago water tank malfunctioned in March and the water inside froze solid. The tank’s structural integrity was compromised and the tank had to be dismantled later that month.3

Changes in temperature can cause pipes to expand and contract making them vulnerable to breaks and leaks. Therefore, all pipes subjected to freezing or temperature change should be protected with insulation and heat tracing. The pipes inside small dry risers of elevated water tanks should also be insulated to prevent the inlet and outlet pipes from freezing. In January, a water pipe broke underneath the foundation of a Minnesota water tower and nearly 500,000 gallons of water was drained from the tank in a mere thirty minutes.4

Pipe connections and expansion joint connections should be monitored closely for leaks. Leaks hidden behind insulation can be difficult to locate, and insulation should be inspected and replaced as needed to reveal any defects hidden behind it and to remain effective. The American Water Works Association (AWWA), NFPA and Occupational Safety & Health Association (OSHA) have devised a system of codes and standards that contain several recommendations on pipe inspections and a suggested timetable for inspecting each type of pipe.
Pumps, altitude valves, and overflow pipes should be checked before winter to prevent malfunctions. An overflow to grade may freeze solid if screens are plugged or flap valves are stuck, and vents can become clogged with ice and snow if they are not vacuum pressured and frost proof. Pumps or altitude valves that fail to shut off during tank filling can cause the tank to overflow. AWWA states, “A properly operated tank should not overflow during normal operation. An overflowing tank is considered an emergency condition and the malfunction causing the overflow should be determined and corrected as soon as possible.” AWWA does not recommend the use of an internal overflow, because if an overflow failure occurs it could go unnoticed and empty the tank. This past winter, five water distribution pumps in Arkansas froze overnight, leaving the city’s above-ground storage tanks empty. Without water, the city’s fire hydrants became useless and firefighters were left with nothing but the water on their trucks.

All valves, pipes, controls, alarms, and liquid level indicators must be in proper working order for adequate water to be available. Failure of any component could have dire consequences, and all components may need to be inspected daily during extreme weather for signs of frozen, cracked or damaged areas. Sometimes despite all measures taken emergency repairs may still be needed. Therefore, effective strategies must be devised for a quick response and recovery. An established relationship with a dependable and experienced tank professional, already familiar with the tank, can be extremely useful. The selected full-service tank company should be educated, certified and have received the proper safety training necessary to perform tank inspections, repairs and modifications. They should be available 365 days a year to answer questions, address concerns, and be flexible enough in their scheduling to make emergency repairs when needed. Please do not attempt to thaw or drain the tank without professional help if water freezing does occur; further damage or a tank rupture could result. Please contact the author at ehenderson@watertank.com or Don Johnston at djohnston@watertank.com or 270-826-9000 for more information on emergency tank repairs.

Resources
Let’s Move! Cities, Towns and Counties has gone Nationwide!

By Tracy Wiedt, Let’s Move! Cities, Towns and Counties Project Manager, National League of Cities

Thirty nine percent of children ages 2 to 19 are either overweight or obese and more than one-in-ten children becomes obese as early as ages 2 to 5. These health conditions not only impact a child’s growth, development, and self-esteem, but often being overweight or obese at a young age places adults at a greater risk for developing serious chronic diseases that impact them over the course of a lifetime.

The poor health of children and adults across the country has significant implications beyond an individual’s immediate family, affecting the vitality of entire communities, their local economies, and overall quality of life.

Local elected officials increasingly recognize that there’s too much at stake to stay on the sidelines while the poor health of their residents continues to impact their communities.

Through engagement of a range of city agencies, partners and constituents, Let’s Move! Cities, Towns and Counties (LMCTC) has been critical in catalyzing this local leadership, working with cities and counties across the country to promote sustainable strategies that will improve the health of their constituents. As part of the comprehensive Let’s Move! initiative, LMCTC provides a framework for local elected officials, such as mayors, county commissioners, and city councilmembers to take action to prevent childhood obesity, unifying the efforts of cities, towns and counties across the country in creating healthier places to live.

With the City of Barre, Vermont joining, more than 450 cities, towns and counties are now participating in the initiative, including all fifty states, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Local government leaders are uniquely positioned to promote environments that support healthy eating and physical activity, which can lower these risks. In collaboration with health and human services agencies, parks and recreation departments, community- and faith-based organizations, and parents and educational providers, local elected officials can take a lead role in fostering a healthy start for children; improving access to healthy foods; and increasing physical activity.

Local elected officials across the country have implemented over 2,000 promising practices that include supporting the development of healthy behaviors among young children through early education and care programs, providing access to healthy food and beverages using local government purchasing policies and practices, offering nutritional foods to students through participation in school and summer meal programs, and enhancing opportunities for increasing physical activity.

Almost 70 million Americans currently live in a Let’s Move! City, Town or County. With national participation in LMCTC, sustainable strategies are being implemented in every state, and as Let’s Move! expands to more cities, towns, and counties across the country, we ensure healthy communities and healthy futures for all of America. To learn more about LMCTC, please visit: http://www.healthycommunitieshealthyfuture.org/.

Governor Daugaard Awards Block Grants

Gov. Dennis Daugaard awarded nearly $1.5 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to three South Dakota communities. The money, awarded to Eagle Butte, Wagner and Yankton, will assist with projects totaling more than $8.8 million.

“South Dakota’s CDBG program continues to assist community projects focused on improving the quality of life for our residents,” said Gov. Daugaard. “This year alone, the CDBG program has helped 13 communities with projects totaling almost $28 million. Our community leaders are taking important steps to improve the health and quality of life for their residents. I’m pleased to award these funds to projects that are doing just that.”

The CDBG awards include the following:
- Eagle Butte will utilize a $515,000 grant to improve wastewater and storm sewer systems in the community.
- Wagner will utilize a $515,000 grant to upgrade water and wastewater utilities.
- Yankton will use a $412,000 grant towards the construction of the local Boys & Girls Club.

The CDBG program provides local governments with funding to complete projects that improve living conditions. The CDBG program is funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and administered by the Governor’s Office of Economic Development.

South Dakota separates their annual allocation into three separate accounts:
1. The Community Projects Account is for a wide range of community development needs. Typical projects include water and wastewater infrastructure, community centers, workforce training, medical centers, and senior centers.
2. The Special Projects Account is to help communities provide industrial infrastructure to assist businesses to create new job opportunities for LMI persons.
3. The Imminent Threat account is available to help communities address an urgent need of recent origin which poses a risk to the health and safety of its residents.

Eligible projects must be consistent with at least one of the State’s program objectives:
1. Promote more rational land use.
2. Provide increased economic opportunities for low and moderate income persons.
3. Correct deficiencies in public facilities that affect the public health, safety or welfare, especially of low and moderate income persons.

For more information visit www.sdreadytowork.com.
Like their private counterparts, municipalities are subject to, and must be in compliance with, a myriad of federal, state, and local employment laws. Municipalities must ensure that they are in compliance with such laws when making hiring, termination, or promotional decisions involving their employees or be prepared to face the consequences. Recently, the city of McPherson, Kansas (“McPherson”) found out the hard way that failure to comply with employment laws can be costly. On October 14, 2014, a federal jury awarded $921,657 to a former police officer who successfully alleged that the city terminated his employment in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”), the Family and Medical Leave Act (“FMLA”), the Civil Rights Act of 1871 (42 U.S.C. § 1983), the 14th Amendment (Due Process), and state wage laws. (See Michaels v. City of McPherson, D. Kan., No. 6:13-cv-01128, jury verdict 10/14/14).

The Facts
McPherson employed Officer Mathew Michaels (“Plaintiff”) for approximately nine years until his termination on July 16, 2012. During a period from April 2006 to July 2007, Plaintiff was responsible for three at-fault motor vehicle accidents prompting the former police chief to place him on a one year evaluation. In August 2010 Plaintiff was suspended without pay for repeated violations of sleeping while working the third shift. Subsequently, he was again suspended without pay and placed on six months’ probation for sleeping in his patrol car. After the last incident, Plaintiff sought treatment and was diagnosed with obstructive sleep apnea. Plaintiff received medical treatment that prevented further incidents. Never during his employment did Plaintiff ever file a grievance with the city regarding any of these incidents.

Also relevant, Plaintiff’s stepdaughter was diagnosed with a serious health condition in 2009. Plaintiff requested FMLA leave for two days in May 2012 so that he may accompany his stepdaughter to Kansas City, Missouri for a sleep-deprived electroencephalogram (“EEG”). The current police chief denied Plaintiff’s request for FMLA leave because of a mandatory departmental training to be held on the first day of the requested leave; the same day Plaintiff planned to travel with his stepdaughter in order to adhere to a strict sleep protocol instructed by the doctor. Plaintiff attended the training and complained to the police chief that he should have been allowed FMLA leave when the training ran long. After returning from the doctor’s appointment in Kansas City, Plaintiff was suspended for two days without pay for “insubordination” and “conduct unbecoming an officer.” Plaintiff did not file a grievance for either the FMLA denial or suspension.

The incident that ultimately led to Plaintiff’s termination involved Plaintiff’s failure to obtain a surveillance tape of a shoplifting incident. Plaintiff admitted that he told his supervisor that the request was “stupid” because he had never previously been asked to obtain surveillance tapes under similar circumstances. Plaintiff was again suspended for insubordination, and the police chief recommended to the city that Plaintiff be terminated. The city acted upon the recommendation and terminated Plaintiff’s employment. The police chief cited numerous reasons for his recommendation including argumentativeness, sleeping on duty, and “numerous other circumstances and situations where [Plaintiff] was no longer viable to be a police officer.” Upon termination, Plaintiff requested that he be
given a post-termination hearing so that he may attempt to “clear his name,” but the city denied this request. In April 2013, Plaintiff filed suit in federal court.

The Jury Verdict
McPherson was successful in getting Plaintiff’s defamation claim dismissed at the summary judgment hearing, but the Plaintiff was allowed to move forward with the rest of his claims. All of the remaining claims eventually reached trial. The jury found that the city deprived Plaintiff of his constitutional right to due process under the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution because Plaintiff was not given a post-termination hearing to clear his name. Such a hearing was necessary in this case because the court found Plaintiff had a protected liberty interest in his name. Further, the jury found that the city discriminated against Plaintiff on account of his sleep apnea, which was considered a disability under the ADA. At the time of Plaintiff’s termination, his sleep apnea was under control and did not affect Plaintiff’s ability to perform his job. The city should not have considered the disability as a basis for his termination. The jury also found Plaintiff’s right to FMLA leave was interfered with but awarded no damages for this finding. Finally, the jury found that the city owed Plaintiff unpaid wages under the Kansas Wage Payment Act.

Conclusion
This case highlights the difficult task that municipalities face when reinforcing the municipality’s interests in maintaining an effective and efficient workforce through hiring or firing decisions. In a litigious world and legal climate with many employment laws, municipalities should ensure that employment decisions are being made solely for legitimate, job-related reasons. If legal questions arise concerning employment matters or compliance with the law, consult with a human resource professional or your legal counsel. Let this case be a reminder of the consequences for failure to act in accordance with the law as determined by a jury.

Editor’s Note: This article is not intended to provide legal advice to our readers. Rather, this article is intended to alert our readers to new and developing issues and to provide some common sense answers to complex legal questions. Readers are urged to consult their own legal counsel or the author of this article if the reader wishes to obtain a specific legal opinion regarding how these legal standards may apply to their particular circumstances. The authors of this article can be contacted at Harding & Shultz, P.C., L.L.O. by phone 402-434-3000 or by e-mail atjpigsley@hslegalfirm.com or wgoranson@hslegalfirm.com.
South Dakota Magazine writers embarked on an all-out effort to find one thing in each community that might surprise or entertain readers. Who better to ask than the mayors?

Maybe it was a mistake asking the mayors of South Dakota’s 311 towns and cities to give us a travel tip for their town. All we wanted was a little-known eatery with amazing burgers, or perhaps a historic site once visited by George Custer or Lawrence Welk. Even a quaint hiking path or an ancient tree. We weren’t asking for much.

But you’d have thought we were from the EPA. Some mayors avoided us. Others stone-walled, and a few dazzled us with sweet nothings. A few ignored us. This was the most challenging project we’ve done in years.

Remember, all we wanted was one thing that would surprise us from each town. Several mayors boasted about their curb and gutter. A few mentioned their new sewer systems. At the opposite end of the spectrum, the Hot Springs mayor cited his hot springs and the Wall mayor chose Wall Drug; even our most far-flung readers know about the chocolate doughnuts and five cent coffee at the international headquarters of the jackalope.

Just east of Wall, Mayor J.C. Heath of Cottonwood made it clear that he would prefer no one stopped there. But stay on the dirt streets and off private property if you do drive through. Cottonwood looks like a ghost town from Highway 14, thanks to the hulking silhouettes of a bank and a church that were built a century ago. But a dozen people still live there and let’s face it — nobody likes snoopers, whether you live in Deadwood or Cottonwood.

Diane Redinger, the mayor of Fruitdale (east of Belle Fourche), was also apparently not elected on a slogan of boosting tourism. “Fruitdale is a wonderful place but there’s nothing to see here,” she insisted. However, did you know that the town got its name from the fruit trees planted in the valley by pioneers?

Geddes Mayor Dan Schulte’s travel tip was to “drive damn careful because we’re busy out here.” He and his fellow citizens will come to your assistance if you have a calamity.
on nearby Highway 50, but they’d rather not for your sake and theirs.

Visitors are encouraged at Akaska, a little fishing village in Walworth County. But Akaska doesn’t really have a mayor. The finance officer handles inquiries like ours. “Of course, we had the big pot plane land here but I think everyone probably knows about that,” she said. Apparently, a DC-7 cargo plane full of Columbian marijuana landed in a nearby pasture on Super Bowl Sunday in 1980. The smugglers were foiled by local fishermen who let the air out of the plane’s tires and then parked a pickup in front of it. But Akaskans, like most mayors in South Dakota, are averse to bragging.

Rockham’s mayor, John Komraus, was similarly modest. He said nothing has happened in Rockham, a tiny burg southwest of Aberdeen. “It’s sad to say, but that’s about the size of it.”

Still, we didn’t quit. When phone calls and emails failed, we took to the highways to find mayors. But the Pringle mayor was working outside town on the day we stopped, and New Underwood’s leader was in Rapid City. The Martin mayor was planting on his family farm, and Colome’s city leader was in Winner.

What have we already learned from this story? That mayors are the busiest people in South Dakota. Most are paid so little that they could hardly afford Wall Drug coffee on their mayoral salaries, so along with providing visionary leadership for the future of their town, they are farming or selling insurance or running a business.

It’s understandable, then, that some have trouble separating their work from their civic duties. Deb Wiik, the mayor of Big Stone City, quipped that the most interesting thing in her town is “my antique shop.” She laughed and said she’d find us a better answer, but she must have gotten busy with civic tasks and vintage flasks because she hasn’t called back.

Mostly, we learned from this story that there is one characteristic shared by all the mayors — big cities and small towns, east and west and everywhere: each one loves his or her town. They know its history, its quirks, its shortcomings and its strengths. Like a good mom or dad, mayors might have a clue now and then that their town isn’t perfect but they’ll never allow that thought to exist in their heart or mind.

Amiel Redfish has been mayor of Arlington for 14 years. When he has time, he takes motorcycle road trips around the USA to visit other Arlingtons. He thinks there are 36 of them in the United States, and he has already been to 25. He says they’re all good towns, but none quite as nice as Arlington, South Dakota.

We also learned from working on this story that mayors are always on duty. A magazine writer can confront them stone cold with a question and they’ll take a stab at an answer. It may not be the answer you’re wanting — which possibly also happens when you approach them about potholes and barking dogs — but they do their best to please you before shifting their attentions back to curb and gutter.

South Dakota Magazine Note — We tried to include all of South Dakota’s 311 towns but we didn’t reach them all. Don’t blame your mayor if your favorite town is missing. We’ve never met a busier bunch of public servants. Our thanks to the staff of the South Dakota Municipal League for helping with our mayoral searches. (SDML Note — Some municipal officials cited in this article have changed since original publication in South Dakota Magazine.)

Aberdeen, Pop. 26,791
Wylie Park has a swimming beach and zoo, but Mayor Mike Levsen says the best part is Storybook Land, “acres” of trails and sculptures based on nursery rhymes and tales, like the Land of Oz (inspired by Aberdeen resident L. Frank Baum, author of The Wizard of Oz) where you’ll find a yellow brick road and interactive displays.

Akaska, Pop. 42
Finance Officer Marie Stark says fishing at Lake Oahe keeps her town alive. “Akaska Bait Shop and Bar & Grill is the place people stop on the way back from the river,” Stark says.

Alexandria, Pop. 623
Mayor Tim Wenande recommends visitors celebrate Mass with the Carmelite nuns or visit the small gift shop at The Monastery of Our Mother of Mercy and St. Joseph.
learned the trade at Brookings’ popular Ram Pub — came in 2007. Today the 1481 Grille is the landmark restaurant that was a dream of the original builders, says Redfish. It was named Restaurant of the Year in 2014 by the South Dakota Pork Producers.

**Armour, Pop. 690**
Visitors will find a hidden gem on the northeast edge of town. Lake Alcazar, tucked behind Lions Park campground, provides fishing, hiking and bird watching. “A walking path even includes a footbridge connecting two peninsulas that bisect the water in the middle of the lake,” says Mayor Susan Hoffman-Lout.

**Badger, Pop. 108**
When Great Northern Railroad abandoned its depot, the town purchased it for a city and water office. “We bought it for a dollar in 1969 and moved it to Main Street,” says Myron Anderson, Badger’s mayor for the past 51 years. “It’s in about the same condition as when it was built in 1907.” Call Anderson at 605-203-0075 for a brief tour.

**Baltic, Pop. 1,129**
The Retreat at Pointer’s Ridge, four miles south of Baltic along the Big Sioux, is a retreat for artists, says Mayor Mike Wendland. The mission is to provide a place for artists to create in a natural, serene environment.

**Bancroft, Pop. 19**
Bancroft visitors can see the town’s original jailhouse. “We’ve preserved it and it has the wooden 4-by-4-foot cells,” says Mayor Delbert Jennings. Bancroft has its original wood water tower, too, high and dry.

**Belle Fourche, Pop. 5,658**
Belle Fourche, French for “beautiful fork,” was named for the point where the Belle Fourche and Redwater rivers converge. A 5-mile paved pedestrian and bike path called River Walk leads to the confluence. “Its trailhead is at the Belle Fourche Chamber and Visitors Center near the Center of the Nation Monument,” says Mayor Gary Hendrickson. Sections of River Walk wind through town along Redwater River and Hay Creek.

**Beresford, Pop. 2,040**
Six thousand cars a day zip by Beresford on Interstate 29, so it’s understandable that some businesses have moved out of the downtown to be closer to the highway. Still, Mayor Jim Fedderson is determined not to let downtown fall apart, so he formed a committee to restore empty storefronts. Already, the group has recruited a clothing store, furniture store and two antique shops.

**Bonesteel, Pop. 275**
Mayor John Divine believes you should know about the Battle of Bonesteel. In 1904, Theodore Roosevelt opened Gregory County for settlement. Bonesteel boomed from a few hundred people to over 15,000 eager land seekers, many of them crooks, gamblers and highwaymen. The police chief retired rather than be killed and thugs stormed police and beat them. Citizens rebelled against the thugs. No one was killed and Bonesteel soon settled down. A marker on Highway 18 commemorates the skirmish.

**Bowdle, Pop. 494**
Bowdle’s water tower is South Dakota’s tallest. “It came here by mistake. It was actually supposed to be delivered to Timber Lake,” says Mayor Rick Boschee. “No one seems to know how tall it actually is.” Even so, the town celebrates the error the last weekend each June with Tower Days.
Box Elder, Pop. 8,753
Box Elder is one of South Dakota’s newest cities, and certainly one of the fastest-growing small towns in America. Mayor William Griffiths Sr. says his town also has one of the region’s unique attractions, the South Dakota Air and Space Museum. Indoors, the museum has many specialized exhibits, including tributes to pioneer South Dakota aviators like Clyde Ice, Nellie Willhite and Joe Foss. Griffiths, a 27-year Air Force veteran, is a good museum guide.

Brandt, Pop. 107
“We just about lost the Brandt Cafe and Lounge,” says Mayor Greg Anderson. “Someone was going to buy it for storage but the city bought it so we could keep it open. If it breaks even we’re tickled,” Anderson says. “And they have some very good steaks on Friday and Saturday.”

Bristol, Pop. 332
Bristol’s old school now houses Fritz’s Furniture and Antiques. “They’ve filled the whole school with new and used furniture and stuff from estate sales,” says Town Board President Josh Atherton.

Brookings, Pop. 22,591
Brookings turned trash into treasure by converting an old landfill on 22nd Avenue into the 135-acre Dakota Nature Park. “It’s an outdoor enthusiast’s dream,” says Mayor Tim Reed, who hikes there with his dog, Ace. There’s also kayaking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing and the state stocks four ponds with fish. Reed recommends grabbing a beer at Wooden Legs Brewing Company after a day outdoors. The first and only brewpub in Brookings is named for Judge Wilmot Brookings, the town’s namesake. “He was a judge for the Dakota Territory and had two wooden legs,” Reed says.

Bruce, Pop. 205
“We’ve always been a honey of a place because of Adee Honey Farms,” says Bruce Mayor Jeff Anderson. Richard Adee was 22 when he bought a small bee farm in Bruce in
1957. Today his wife and three children run the business, now the world’s largest honey producer.

**Bryant, Pop. 452**
Bryant, in western Hamlin County, features the only movie theater for 50 miles. “We just upgraded to digital, so we can offer all the newest movies,” says Mayor Al Yalowizer. “It’s run by volunteers, so you can still go to the movies for $4. It cost over $30,000 to upgrade. We did it just by asking for donations.”

**Buffalo, Pop. 346**
Centennial Park is worth a stop, says Town Board President Tim Glines. The park, built by donated labor to celebrate the centennial of Buffalo and Harding County, features statues of the famous bucking horse Tipperary, a wolf representing Old Three Toes, a buffalo from the Custer roundup, a rattlesnake and an eagle, representing the predatory birds of northwest S.D.

**Burke, Pop. 604**
When Mayor Tom Glover was living in Nebraska, he often heard chatter about the miniature Black Hills. “I didn’t know what they were talking about, but it was Burke Lake,” Glover says. The State Recreation Area two miles east of town has 16 campsites and a 25-acre lake popular with kayakers. Glover says a lot of people fish there, too. Northern pike, largemouth bass, perch, bluegill and bullheads are most common catches.

**Bushnell, Pop. 65**
Mayor Dave Huebner can usually be found in his pottery shop on Main Street, or, as he calls it, “the metro loop.” Bushnell is an artist enclave, also home to painter JoAnne Bird and her daughter Jackie, an internationally performing Native American dancer and singer. Eric Winger has a part-time blacksmith shop where he creates sculptures. After a visit to the pottery shop, Huebner recommends tasting wine from Wide Sky Winery at the town bar, the Bushnell Garage. His favorite is the Bushnell Blush.

**Camp Crook, Pop. 67**
The great bucking bronc, Tipperary, was born nearby in 1905, says Town Council President Yvonne Yoder. Tipperary had roamed free for years when Ed Marty tried to ride him in 1915. The bronc promptly bucked Marty, and the legend began. A painting of the ride hangs in the Corner Bar & Cafe. Enjoy the old cherry wood back bar. It was floated down from Montana on the Little Missouri in 1907.

**Canistota, Pop. 653**
The 26-room Ortman Hotel was built in 1929 and still welcomes boarders. “It is located next to the world famous...
Ortman Clinic,” notes Mayor Don Kom, “which will be celebrating 100 years in business in 2015.”

**Canova, Pop. 101**
When its school closed, the town converted vacant buildings into the Canova Alumni Recreational Establishment or CARE. Mayor Ron Miller says the gym is still used. They’ve added a 9-hole miniature golf course inside the former library, a racquetball court, batting cage and fitness center. A day pass costs just $5.

**Centerville, Pop. 886**
Mayor Brad Preheim recommends Sherree Schmiedt’s downtown museum. It has business memorabilia, a player piano, fossils, chairs from the old Broadway Theater and Centerville Gymnasium, photos, a doll collection and much more. “My grandmother just passed away at 95 and I gave the museum her Centerville cheerleading outfit from the 1920s,” Preheim says.

**Chamberlain, Pop. 2,403**
Mayor Doug Nelson loves the view of the Missouri River as you drive into town, but he also hopes travelers see Akta Lakota Museum & Cultural Center at St. Joseph’s Indian School. Akta Lakota means “to honor the people” and the center’s collection features art, artifacts and educational displays to preserve the Lakota Sioux culture. Local art is for sale in the Collector’s Gallery.

**Chancellor, Pop. 263**
Citizens have attached a museum to the fire hall. Town Board President Dennis Wieker urges you to see the 1905 vintage fire engine, which has the original pumper still in working order. The horse-drawn firefighter cost $5,000 from the Waterous Engine Co. of St. Paul.

**Claire City, Pop. 77**
“People come from the tri-state area to eat at Deano’s Steakhouse and Supper Club,” says Mayor Lyle Carl. Josh Stickland is the current owner. His Grandpa Deano opened the restaurant in 1985. Deano’s is known for steaks generously cut on-site and its weekend soup and salad bar.

**Clark, Pop. 1,068**
Clark is home to Dakota Style Potato Chips, and they taste great with beef sticks from Dakota Butcher according to Mayor Larry Dreher. Randy and Karen Gruenwald own the unique butcher shop and city liquor store combo. Prime meats and jerky are especially popular.

**Colome, Pop. 286**
The Sign Inn isn’t just a hotel — it’s a living museum, says Colome Mayor Todd Haufl. Owner Richard Papousek delved into his extensive antiques collection to decorate the main street inn with commercial signs and other Rosebud country memorabilia.

**Conde, Pop. 147**
Conde got creative when the school closed in 2009, says Mayor Cindy Smith. Rather than let the building sit empty, citizens welcomed a variety of businesses. The school houses a beauty shop, fitness center, city hall and the Artisans Gift Shop, which has jewelry, cards and other crafts by local artists.

**Cottonwood, Pop. 12**
Mayor J.C. Heath knows Cottonwood looks like a ghost town from Highway 14, but he says people live there. Twelve people, to be exact. “We get every tourist coming through Jackson County to the Hills,” says Heath. “We don’t mind people stopping to look at the old buildings but they should keep off our private property. Everything belongs to somebody.”

**Cresbard, Pop. 105**
Faulk County’s oldest (and only) hotel is also a restaurant — Burger’s Saloon and Steakhouse. “They serve some mighty good home cooked meals, particularly at noon,” says town council member Judy Toennies. While in town, stop by the Devoe Methodist Church, built in 1886, which has been moved three times in its 128-year history, finally resting behind the community center, where it serves as a repository of local memorabilia — including the trophy from Cresbard’s victory at the 1957 state B basketball tournament.

**Crooks, Pop. 1,988**
Mayor Kelly Finke says Crooks’ unique asset is its name. Early settler D.O. Crooks acted as depot agent, bank president, waterworks and lighting plant owner, township board member, postmaster and school treasurer. The town, originally called New Hope, changed its name in 1904 to honor his family. Residents have suffered good-natured ribbing ever since. “Once a gentleman from Missouri just had to stop in after seeing the Crooks Gun Club sign along I-29,” says town Finance Officer Linda Hutner. “He couldn’t believe there was actually a city of Crooks and wanted a memento.”
Custer, Pop. 1,307
Mayor Gary Lipp says Custer was the first South Dakota city to fly a city flag. Royal Peterson came up with the motto “Buffalo Capital of the World” in 1980. Then Will Roberts designed the flag, using a black “C” with a white buffalo head. It was flown for the first time 20 years ago. Now it hangs at city hall and the 1881 Courthouse Museum.

Dallas, Pop. 121
The Dallas water tower, twice recognized by Ripley’s Believe It or Not as the only water tower in the middle of a federal highway, once stood in the middle of Highway 18. Dallas became the only U.S. town with a water tower in the middle of its Main Street when the highway moved, says Brad Kahler, chairman of the Town Board. The nearby Carnegie Library, now 100 years old, is still loaning books.

Dante, Pop. 85
Dante Hall, built by the Public Works Administration in 1937, has hosted many wedding dances, dart tournaments, sales and benefits. “It’s been kept up very well,” says Mayor Ann Rysavy, who manages the hall with her husband Richard. They work the bar and lunch stand at every event, slinging hot dogs, chili dogs, taverns and nachos.

De Smet, Pop. 1,110
Many know De Smet as the home of Laura Ingalls Wilder, but the “Little Town on the Prairie” is also popular with fishermen, boaters, campers and sportsmen, says Mayor Gary Wolkow. Lake Thompson, the largest natural lake in South Dakota at 12,000 acres, is 8 miles southeast of town.

Deadwood, Pop. 1,262
Mayor Chuck Turbiville says his town hosts more events than most cities 50 times its size. He points to galas like Deadweird, Kool Deadwood Nites, Deadwood Jam, Oktoberfest, the Songwriters’ Festival and Mardi Gras as examples. “We probably have 70 events a year, and some of them are really big deals. We love to show people a good time in Deadwood.”

Dell Rapids, Pop. 3,689
Downtown Dell Rapids has beautiful architecture thanks to a winter fire in 1888. A malfunctioning lantern ignited a blaze that consumed 11 buildings. “The fire department showed up three different times to put it out,” says Mayor Scott Fiegen. “By the third time all the equipment had frozen and there was nothing they could do.” Luckily the finest building material on Earth, Sioux quartzite, was readily available from local quarries. The town was rebuilt to last and today Fourth Street is an historic district.

Delmont, Pop. 232
Delmont Mayor Mae Gunnare recommends a cruise down Main Street to see the “Onion House,” named for its onion-shaped dome. Built as a private residence in 1902, it has served as a clinic and hospital, beauty shop, women’s clothing store and duplex. It’s a private residence today.

Dimock, Pop. 122
Dimock Dairy makes cheese in a white building on the edge of town. Opened in 1931, it’s the oldest cheese co-op in South Dakota. “I like the chipotle and habanero flavored cheeses but they might be too spicy for some,” warns Mayor Rick Herrold. “Their cheddar and Colby jack are really good, too. It’s all milk from around the area and still made right there.”
Eden, Pop. 89
Club Eden was in disarray until 20 young investors reopened the bar and cafe on Main Street. They serve wings on Wednesdays and Mayor Mary Dunn says the chicken is so tasty that people come to town by the busloads. The population nearly quadruples on Wednesday nights.

Egan, Pop. 275
The Big Sioux River borders the south side of town, close to where businessman and town councilman John Steinhauer grew up. “We have a nice little city park there on the river,” says Steinhauer, filling in for Mayor Lori Keith. “To get there you cross a bridge that’s on the National Register of Historic Places.” Camping is free, in the shade of giant cottonwoods and near gurgling rapids created from the remains of an old mill. The park, rich with rockwork, is a popular launching pad for canoeists who often paddle 12 miles downriver to Trent.

Elk Point, Pop. 1,992
Isabel Trobaugh has been mayor of Elk Point for 18 years. This summer she was happy to see the town’s Union County Historical Society Museum relocate to the historic Charles Murtha house. The house is a two-story home. Its walls, built with locally made brick are three layers thick. The museum’s exhibits will be displayed in the house and out buildings. “The beautiful property also has a pond, gazebo and walking paths,” says Trobaugh.

Elkton, Pop. 738
An elephant, abused by his intoxicated trainer, went on a rampage in Elkton 98 years ago so local townspeople grabbed rifles and shotguns to defend themselves. Two guns used to stop the elephant named Hero hang in the town’s little museum in the community center, according to Mayor David Landsman. The Hero exhibit includes a medical bag made from the hide and other memorabilia. Every third Thursday, the town hosts a community dinner ($5 donations accepted) to support the museum and community center, which was built entirely with local contributions in 2000.

Emery, Pop. 455
Chuck Norris once owned a home in Emery. “He would come to town for some great hunting,” says Mayor Joshua Kayser. “You should stop by Sandy’s Bar, taste their specialty drink (the Chuck Norris) and try some chislic, a local favorite. Roundhouse kicks not included,” he quipped. While at the bar you can get directions to see the karate star’s former abode.

Faulkton, Pop. 740
Australian Dave Hedt came to Faulkton to drive a combine for a local farmer. Hedt hails from Dimboola, where his family farms 8,000 acres. Faulkton reminds him of home,
“with a lot less rain and a few more trees,” he says. Hedt made friends and now returns every summer. While making plans to open a hardware store, Hedt decided he wanted to do even more. “An aging business district and nowhere to rent didn’t allow for new businesses to start up. So I decided to try for something a little bigger,” he says. Seven years later his dream developed into a small shopping mall that includes the new hardware store, bar, salon, insurance agency and an embroidery shop.

Faulkton Mayor Slade Roseland says it’s worth a visit. “It is hard for people to understand why someone would just move to a different country and put an investment of this size in a small community, but it just shows how passionate he is about Faulkton. And we are glad to have him,” says Roseland.

**Flandreau, Pop. 2,318**
The Flandreau City Band reunited in 2003, but needed a good venue. Five years of fundraising, including a lot of bake sales and local generosity, paved the way for the city’s bandshell, finished in 2007. Situated on a grassy hillside in the city’s park, the bandshell is home for the City Band, featuring over 40 musicians from Flandreau and surrounding towns. The band plays Thursday nights in summer. Mayor Mark Bonrud suggests bringing a blanket or lawn chair. Concerts are free of charge. Feel like snacking while enjoying the music? Bonrud recommends the glazed doughnuts at the Flandreau Bakery. “When my grandparents come from Iowa, that’s the first place they stop. They don’t stop at my house,” Bonrud says.

**Florence, Pop. 378**
Local seamstress Pam Ratigan uses her own patterns to create adorable hand-made dresses for little girls and their dolls at her dress shop, Kiddin’ Around, says Mayor Pat Callan.

**Fort Pierre, Pop. 2,111**
A hilltop above town marks the site of a major episode in history, says Mayor Gloria Hanson. In 1743, the Verendrye expedition buried a lead tablet to claim the region for France. Three children discovered the plate in 1913. The original plate is at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. The hilltop is marked by a granite monument.

**Freeman, Pop. 1,271**
Heritage Hall Museum and Archives is an untapped service according to Mayor Sam Sorensen. “It’s a complex of 24,000 square feet featuring transportation, tools, farm equipment, antiques and household items reflecting the community’s German-from-Russia heritage.”

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Fruitdale, Pop. 64
Aply-named Fruitdale is two blocks of paradise in Butte County. “This valley is full of fruit trees — chokecherries, apples, pears, plums and buffalo berries,” says Mayor Diane Redinger. Tiny buffalo berries aren’t easy to harvest, but Redinger knows a trick. “You have to lay a sheet on the ground and shake the tree because buffalo berries have horrible thorns.”

Fulton, Pop. 92
Mayor Kay Miller is proud of her town, which she says is “one of the cleanest, neatest and friendliest towns in South Dakota.” Fulton has a bank, post office, and a small city park with one swing set and a basketball hoop. “We’d love to have you drive through or stop and take a walk around our town,” says Miller.

Gayville, Pop. 406
The Hay Capital of the World is known for its alfalfa as well as its Hay Country Jamborees. Mayor Jay Jorgenson says on many Saturday nights, Gayville Hall hosts family-friendly celebrations of old-time music in the old grocery store.

Geddes, Pop. 211
Mayor Dan Schulte says historians are raising money to renovate the childhood home of politician Peter Norbeck, which sits in Geddes’ Historic Village along with an historic trading post and a replica of a keelboat. Though repairs are not complete, Norbeck’s home is open to the public.

Gettysburg, Pop. 1,177
Dakota Sunset Museum is home to the sacred Medicine Rock — a 40-ton stone embedded with human footprints, says Mayor Bill Wuttke. Once located on a hill west of Gettysburg, the landmark was moved to town when Oahe Dam flooded the river valley.

Goodwin, Pop. 147
On the west edge of Goodwin, a cow pasture has become a nine-hole golf course. Prairie Dunes is a par-3 course created in 1989. “We have a dairy farm inside the city limits,” says Mayor Michael Fieber. “My dad got the idea for the course after a fishing trip to Roy Lake. He saw a similar course near Lake City and thought it would be a good idea.”

Gregory, Pop. 1,284
For a perspective on West River, visit the Gregory Buttes Observation Park. “It overlooks the city and the whole area of Gregory County,” says Mayor Maurice Schlaht. “You can see for miles.” If your hike around the park works up a thirst, Schlaht recommends Mary Bob’s Bar where happy hour beers are just $1.25.

Harrisburg, Pop. 4,653
Harrisburg quadrupled from 954 people in 2000 to 4,059 in 2010, creating a situation of “Old Harrisburg and New Harrisburg,” says Mayor Julie Burke-Bowen. “One place where everybody comes together is Country Apple Orchard, which was planted 30 years ago and is now run by the Bernhard family northwest of town.” The orchard’s 6,000 trees produce 14 varieties of apples. The orchard hosts an applefest in September and a harvest festival and pumpkin festival in October. “The festivals help to unite us and really promote the essence of a family town that we want Harrisburg to be for everybody.”

Hermosa, Pop. 397
Drive-in movies are a memory in most places, but Town Board President Linda Kramer says you can still spend a summer night watching a double feature under the stars in Hermosa, thanks to Roy’s Black Hills Twin Drive-in Theatre.

Highmore, Pop. 804
Hyde County is the pintail duck capital of the United States, in part because of the June Harter Waterfowl Production Area near Highmore. “In an era of native prairie being plowed and razed, we have a unique area that is devoted to not only saving native prairie and grasses, but the waterfowl and bird habitat,” says Mayor Vikki Day.

Hill City, Pop. 966
It may not be the biggest museum in South Dakota, but Mayor Dave Gray says Hill City’s CCC Museum preserves a valuable chapter in rural life. CCC is an acronym for the Civilian Conservation Corps, started by FDR in 1933 to provide employment through projects that protected natural resources. The museum, which opened in the Visitor Information Center in 2009, has a database of all CCC workers from South Dakota.

Hitchcock, Pop. 92
Ray Waldner is a collector of Western memorabilia, which explains how the Hitchcock museum acquired several belongings of rodeo legend Casey Tibbs. “We’ve got a pair of his spurs and one of his trophy saddles,” says Waldner, who also serves as Hitchcock’s mayor. Another prized possession is a carved leather picture of Chief Joseph by Bob Brown, a costume designer who worked on several Hollywood films. “He did holster riggs and chaps for Hopalong Cassidy and gun rigs for Rex Allen,” Waldner says. “I met him at an auction in California, and he agreed to carve the picture for our museum. I got a note from him that said it took two weeks. Three months later his family sent me a copy of his obituary. He was 95.”

Hosmer, Pop. 205
Visit Hosmer’s Noodle Company and Heier’s Meat Market for a taste of South Dakota’s German-Russian culture. “They make just about anything at the meat market, including sausage in the old German style,” says Mayor Michael Schwingler.
Hot Springs, Pop. 3,570
Artesian water of the Fall River is a steamy 87 degrees, and it supplies the town’s famous Evans Plunge. Mayor Don Devries recommends walking the trail that follows the river through town. “The path is currently one-and-three-fourths miles long, and our plans are to continue its length,” says Devries. “We walk by cottonwoods at one end, through ponderosa pine, juniper and other shrubs, and by a park full of apple trees. Throughout the entire length there are various grasses, cattails, and other riverside plants in abundance.”

Hudson, Pop. 308
Hudson’s old gravel pit got a makeover from the State of South Dakota, transforming it into a favorite fishing hole — the Rollings Conservation Area. “They stock it with trout and it’s a nice place for families to go fishing,” says Mayor Steve Wickre.

Humboldt, Pop. 591
Humboldt Museum is located on Main Street, next to the city office in an old grocery store, says Mayor Ritchy Griepp. Among the exhibits is a collection of models of local buildings made of walnut shells.

Huron, Pop. 12,867
“Splash Central Waterpark, which opened last year, features America’s most popular water slide, the Master Blaster Water Coaster and there’s nothing like it within 500 miles of Huron,” says Mayor Paul Aylward. The water park also has fun diversions such as a 310-foot Funtastic Body Slide, a Sea Creature Water Walk, floating obstacle course and a Lazy River.

Interior, Pop. 67
Badlands National Park surrounds Interior, and white sandstone spires frame the town’s north side. Mayor Allen

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*SOUTH DAKOTA MUNICIPALITIES*
Grimes says thousands of tourists pass by without taking full advantage. “They should know that there’s a whole network of hiking trails that give you a much closer look,” he says. The state now hopes to convert an old railroad bed from Kadoka to Interior and Rapid City into a 100-mile hiking and biking trail.

Ipswich, Pop. 954
Highway 12, also known as the Yellowstone Trail, was billed as “a good road from Plymouth Rock to Puget Sound.” Ipswich booster J.W. Parmley hoped to spur local development with a good road to Aberdeen. Mayor LeRoy Kilber says Parmley also pushed for Ipswich’s memorial arch, a tribute to local men who died in World War I. The arch, which once spanned Highway 12, is made of stones from around the world. It still stands in the town park.

Irene, Pop. 419
When you travel into Irene, take the speed limit signs seriously. Motorists have been surprised to meet the local police lurking at the top of the hill. Since you’re slowing down anyway, Mayor Bryce Johnke recommends parking along Highway 46 at the Corner Tavern for broasted chicken and a picnic at the charming Lloyd Mork Memorial Park, just east of Irene-Wakonda school. Irene sits at the corners of Yankton, Clay and Turner counties.

Iroquois, Pop. 270
Mayor Jim Huilbert recommends stopping by The Farmers’ Daughter, a store/cafe/bar that offers travelers anything they may need. Ask for information on Iroquois’ haunted building, and directions to the homestead of artist Harvey Dunn at nearby Manchester.

Isabel, Pop. 141
“People come for miles to eat at Sparky’s Bar and Grill on Main Street,” says Mayor Bridget Russell. “I like their steak tips.”

Kimball, Pop. 707
Mayor Wayne Tupper recommends the South Dakota Tractor Museum, featuring five large buildings full of antique tractors, autos, farm machinery, horse-drawn equipment plus a one-room country school.

Kranzburg, Pop. 173
Jeffrey’s Supper Club on St. Mary’s Street serves delicious steak, fish and sandwiches. Mayor Kevin Kranz suggests the Kranzburger, a big hamburger with the works.

LaBolt, Pop. 67
Danny Berglund has been town board president since his wife quit the job in the late 90s. “The only way to get off the board is to die or move,” he says. “There are only three of us on the board. The other two make me president every year. I tease that I lose the election every year.” West of LaBolt is a 20-acre park with walking trails, a manmade lake and “the best nine-hole disc golf course in the state.”

Lake City, Pop. 51
The municipal bar is the best bar in Lake City — in fact, it’s the only one. “It’s kinda family oriented,” says Mayor Adrian Heitmann. “Parents can bring their kids in to have pizza.” Nearby Fort Sisseton and Roy Lake state parks are also open for family adventures.

Lake Norden, Pop. 468
Farmer Don Christman bought his first toy tractors in 1984 and kept adding to the collection. When his house was packed, he gave them to the city. Mayor Jason Aho recommends a visit to the Don Christman Toy Museum, in the city office on Main Street.

Lake Preston, Pop. 605
Glacial Lakes country is abundant with fine fishing holes, but for perch head to Lake Preston. The state record was caught there a few years ago. Mayor Benny Mogler missed the record by 1/2 an ounce. “I got the proud angler, but not the state record. I said ‘can’t you put your finger on the scale a little bit,’” laughs Mogler. He suggests stopping at the Bait Box on Highway 14 before a day of fishing to find the hot spots and then ending your day at J&M Cafe for the Friday fish fry.

Lead, Pop. 3,088
Mayor Jerry Apa says Lead is proud to be the site of the Sanford Underground Research Facility. This summer a new visitor center is being built that will represent Lead’s history, and showcase its scientific future.

Lennox, Pop. 2,201
Mayor Orville Wiebers believes Lennox has the oldest municipal band in South Dakota. “On Thursday nights in the summer at 8 p.m. we have a concert in the park under an old bandshell,” he says. “A church softball league plays across the street, and children are swimming in the pool, all to the sounds of classical music and patriotic songs.” Senior citizens may park on the grass right in front of the
band so they can listen from the car. “There are maybe 40 musicians now, and they range from 12-year-olds to people in their 80s,” says Wiebers, pictured with high school trumpet player Traeshaw West. “Three generations of the Klusmann family played together for awhile. Byron Youngquist is our band director. Every Fourth of July we have a concert and a full day of activities in the park finishing with fireworks.”

Lesterville, Pop. 127
Trev’s Corner was built as a bank in the 1870s. Mayor Muriel Pratt says today it’s a welcoming pub “where anyone can stop in, have a pizza and choice of beverage and view the original vault door that is still a functioning part of the building.”

Madison, Pop. 6,809
Oldham’s opera house was moved to Prairie Village decades ago, with help from Lawrence Welk who entertained there in the 1920s and 1930s. Mayor Roy Lindsay says the big gray hall is getting a facelift and will be as elegant as it was in Welk’s day when the annual Steam Threshing Jamboree kicks off in August. Visitors are always welcome at Prairie Village, which has more than 40 old buildings and one of the world’s only remaining steam carousels.

Marion, Pop. 775
Follow Broadway Avenue two miles north out of Marion and drop a line at Ken’s, a tiny fishing hole. Ken Tieszen dreamed of building a lake there for years. When he died about five years ago, Marlo Wieman bought the land and fulfilled Ken’s vision. Mayor Ron Globke says the lake has been a treat for families.

Marvin, Pop. 34
When Blue Cloud Abbey closed, Mayor Roberta Anderson wondered what would come of the monastery near her town. Then six couples reopened it as The Abbey Of The Hills, a retreat center and inn. Volunteers replanted 4,000 vines from Clinton, Minn., to make wine on the grounds.

McLaughlin, Pop. 667
Arnie Schott says, “I am the mayor, the coroner, auto repairman, I manage the elderly manor and I am the retired buffalo cook at the annual pow wow. I kind of hung that up. I’m 80 years old!” He suggests visiting McLaughlin on a Friday. That’s the day Jerry Petersen barbecues pork ribs by the Prairie Dog Cafe. The ribs come from Moser’s Market; the apple wood Petersen cuts himself and the sauce is a secret recipe. He’ll smoke ribs every Friday until Thanksgiving.

Menno, Pop. 592
“Menno is excited to have Mickey Harris, a world renowned airbrush artist, as a new resident,” says Mayor Darrell Mehlhaf. “He has painted many murals around Menno.” Harris welcomes visitors to his downtown studio.

Milbank, Pop. 3,303
Milbank became the birthplace of American Legion Baseball, thanks to a speech made by Major John L. Griffith at the 1925 Legion convention. “One of the greatest lessons, as I see it, of the war, is that we as a people were not physically fit for the last war, and we must cure that condition,” he said. Mayor Dale Aesoph says Milbank hosts the Division II Class B Regional National American Legion Baseball Tournament in August.

Mission, Pop. 1,219
Mayor Jack Herman believes baseball is the big news of 2014. “The coach for the high school baseball program approached the city council about fixing up the old ball diamond in Kimmel Park. It has been years since we’ve had a baseball field and an organized program. The diamond needs lights and lots of work, but this summer we’ll be hosting everything from T-ball to Little League and teen baseball.”

Mitchell, Pop. 15,484
Mayor Ken Tracy points visitors to the Prehistoric Indian Village, where the remains of about 75 lodges from an 1,100-year-old village are buried. The villagers were hunters and gatherers, growing corn, squash, sunflowers, tobacco
and amaranth. Visitors can view archeologists at work. Archeology Awareness Days are in July.

**Mobridge, Pop. 3,476**

“Visit Mobridge for an audio tour of the 10, 12-by-12-foot Oscar Howe murals that grace the town’s historic auditorium,” recommends Mayor Jamie Dietterle. “Come between July and September for a chance to see conservators at work preserving and restoring these precious works of art.”

**Montrose, Pop. 471**

Pioneer Campground lies between manmade and natural recreation areas, says Mayor Doris Sager. The Montrose swimming pool is just across State Street, and the east fork of the Vermillion River flows lazily along the east side of town between the campground and baseball field.

**Mound City, Pop. 67**

“In 1864 General Alfred Sully and soldiers passed through the present site of Mound City on their way north in search of a band of renegade Indians,” says Mayor James Kanable. Custer came through in 1873 on his way to Fort Lincoln and then to the Little Bighorn.

**Mount Vernon, Pop. 460**

Townspeople helped the school build an outdoor sports complex with a Heroes’ Field, says Mayor Tom Koch. Every year, one citizen is honored for his or her dedication to the community.

**New Underwood, Pop. 680**

The town’s oldest commercial building is owned by the Hall family and they call it The Hall. Mayor Jack Trillinger says the pool hall and gathering place opens on Thursday, Friday and Saturdays. The Hall serves steaks on Friday nights and a nice breakfast on Sunday mornings.

**New Witten, Pop. 77**

“This small town was moved, every board and brick, from two miles north of its present spot when the railroad was coming through in 1929,” says town board President Jean Harter Schutt. “The school house, which is still standing, was taken apart by brick and board and numbered and put back together.” Schutt invites everyone to the annual Pork and Beef Feed, held every July 3 to raise money for the fire department.

**Nunda, Pop. 45**

Nunda is a quiet, relaxing, neatly kept little town, a great place to live and raise a family, says Mayor Dan Hansen.

**Onida, Pop. 680**

Onida has a unique new business, says Mayor Gary Wickersham. Bad Jams (the name is a wordplay of family names) makes a Bloody Mary mix and markets it across South Dakota. The firm makes batches in an 80-gallon kettle, and purchases tomato juice by the truckload.

**Orient, Pop. 64**

Baseball and softball are enduring traditions for Orient, says John Hagen, chairman of the town board. That sports history gained a new chapter this summer when lights, installed by the Community Club, were switched on for the first ever night game.

**Parker, Pop. 1,014**

Parker is the proud host of the Turner County Fair, says Mayor Ron Nelson. First held in 1881, it’s South Dakota’s oldest county fair and one of the most charming. This event is held in August.

**Parkston, Pop. 1,482**

Kenneth Klauss grew up in Parkston and got his early music education there, but spent most of his career in California, according to Mayor Dave Hoffman. The Klauss Archive, his collection of musical scores, manuscripts, books and 2,500 classical CDs, is housed on the main floor of the old Porter Building on Main Street. Second floor is an art gallery, featuring the paintings of Bernard Albert James.

**Philip, Pop. 780**

The city has a Lasting Legacy Memorial recognizing settlers and ancestors who impacted the West. “It continues to honor those who strive to make a difference in the community,” says Mayor Mike Vetter.

**Pickstown, Pop. 210**

Mayor Craig Noteboom hopes you’ll stop by the new Pickstown Museum, which opened in June. It’s located next door to the Rainbow Room, the dance hall that was one of the town’s original buildings. Artifacts from Fort Randall and many photographs from the dam’s construction era are on exhibit.

**Piedmont, Pop. 222**

Piedmont’s main attraction was ages in the making. The Petrified Forest of the Black Hills museum features 120-million-year-old fossils, according to Mayor Phil Anderson, and provides a fascinating video history of the ancient Black Hills before you tour the petrified forest.

**Pierre, Pop. 13,984**

Mayor Laurie Gill invites South Dakotans to see the newly refurbished stained glass in the Capitol rotunda and enjoy a concert by the S.D. Symphony Orchestra in honor of the state’s 125th birthday on November 1. “The concert marks the first performance of the full symphony at the Capitol, and the first time any orchestra of 50 or more members has ever performed in the rotunda,” Gill says. The concert leads to the rededication and lighting of the stained glass.
Pollock, Pop. 228
John Newman was a member of the Lewis & Clark expedition. He was overheard grumbling about the two captains, according to Mayor Leanne Jakobsen, and he earned a whipping for insubordination. Gordon Schnabel, a local artist, depicted the event in an oil painting that hangs in the Pollock Visitor and Interpretive Center.

Presho, Pop. 502
Mayor Mike Sprenger says, “a must stop in Presho would be the Lyman County Pioneer Museum.” The museum details local history, including displays of early Native American history, the hardships of pioneer life and an early quilt and wedding dress display. Historic buildings include the Paige School, Sweeney Church, General Store and a pioneer log cabin.

Pringle, Pop. 114
David Morgan serves as mayor of Pringle, which was first known as Point of Rock. That changed when the Burlington Northern Railroad came through the area. Myrtle Pringle cooked for the crew, and they liked her so much they renamed the town in her honor. An historic marker on Highway 385 tells Myrtle’s story.

Pukwana, Pop. 287
Lawnmower races are held in Pukwana most weekends from May to October. There are four classes of mower: Stock, Modified, Super Modified and Outlaw. Some of the Outlaw class can get up to 40 mph. “They are loud and throw a lot of dirt!” says Mayor Larry McManus.

Quinn, Pop. 57
Ron Dyvig put up a 26-inch telescope on the roof of the old hospital building in Quinn to explore the heavens, says Mayor Kevin Wenzel. Dyvig soon discovered an asteroid and named it South Dakota.

Rapid City, Pop. 69,854
Mayor Sam Kooiker says visitors will enjoy stopping by Main Street Square, located at Sixth & Main. More than 150 special events are scheduled throughout the year — everything from band concerts to Shakespeare to Family Fun Movie Nights. Sprinkling fountains delight children, and funky shops border the busy square.

Raymond, Pop. 49
Baker American Legion Post 209 closed its doors last year, according to Robert Wegman, president of the three-man town board, but a unique set of murals on the building’s facade remain. When the windows were boarded up about 10 years ago, local artist Joan Putman painted figures in the openings, and decorated the front like an old-time store.

Redfield, Pop. 2,392
The Norbeck-Nicholson Carriage House, a structure more marvelous than many a home, has been restored to its original condition, says Mayor Jayme Akin, thanks to a Deadwood Historic Preservation Grant and its current owner, Mary Gillette.

Reville, Pop. 117
“For such a small town, we are lucky enough to have a brand new coffee shop on Main Street,” says Mayor Linda Loumsbery.

Sioux Falls, Pop. 159,908
“One of the unique features of Sioux Falls is our great bike and walking trails,” says Mayor Mike Huether. “Sioux Falls has nearly 28 miles of paved off-street trails perfect for enjoying a sunny day outside. Biking enthusiasts from across the country come here to ride all day, and local residents enjoy evening walks along the trails.”

Sisseton, Pop. 2,497
Mayor Terry Jaspers encourages visitors to attend an event in Sisseton’s Performing Arts Center. “It represents the entire community and is a wonderful venue we are very proud of,” he says. “It is building a very good reputation among professional entertainers for its excellent sound and performance qualities, and out-of-town guests are always impressed with comfortable seating and views of the stage.”

Stratford, Pop. 72
Only 72 people call Stratford home, but in February and March every one of them — plus a few people from surrounding towns — helps stage a community theater production. Mayor Vern Prickett says tickets go on sale in the fall and quickly sell out.

Sturgis, Pop. 6,644
Sturgis, renowned worldwide for its rumbling motorcycle rally, will soon be producing fine wines. Belle Joli Winery, headquartered in nearby Belle Fourche, is preparing its newest vineyard at the mouth of Vanocker Canyon. Mayor Mark Carstensen says the winery will open during the summer of 2014, hopefully before tens of thousands of bikers arrive in August.
Tabor, Pop. 412
Mayor Laverne Schieffer says Tabor was founded by Czech immigrants in 1872. Today in Vancura Park you can tour a replica pioneer Czech village, including a chapel, jail, store, log school and chalupa (log house).

Tea, Pop. 4,300
Tea has existed since 1906, but in recent decades it has been changed by Sioux Falls. “In the last 20 years, we’ve gone from 700 people to about 4,000,” says Mayor John Lawler. But one constant has been the Tea Steakhouse. In 1965, owners Lloyd and Rickie Ihnen developed a unique process of aging steaks. Called Ihnen Aging, loins are hung in a 34-degree cooler for 14 days, six hours and 37 minutes. The Ihnens’ son Jim, who operates the steakhouse with his wife, Lisa, and son, Jesse, concedes that may just be a fancy way of saying “two weeks,” but it’s a process that few restaurants use today.

Timber Lake, Pop. 461
Clyde E. Pfeifle, mayor of Timber Lake, lauds the Timber Lake and Area Historical Society and Museum. He recommends the permanent exhibits, which display the area’s fossil and archeological items, early settlers’ experiences and Native American artifacts.

Tripp, Pop. 630
When Mayor Vic Olson gets a break from civic duties, he might be found at the Dugout, the local restaurant. “They are an established place that has a horseshoe bar from the ‘40s and a huge collection of signs and memorabilia,” says Olson. His favorite menu item is the “Shel Sandwich,” named after the owner’s son, who is in the Navy. It’s a fried chicken sandwich with melted cheeses and bacon on grilled sourdough bread.

Valley Springs, Pop. 768
A tiny log cabin contains artifacts that trace Valley Springs’ path from its earliest settlers in 1862 to today. Longtime merchant Larry Long bought the cabin several years ago. “When he sold his grocery store and moved out, he donated the log house to the city,” says Mayor Carl Moss. “He was sort of an historian and had a lot of memorabilia relating to Valley Springs. Then others started donating their items.” The cabin sits next to city hall.

Vermillion, Pop. 10,811
Vermillion may be famous for academics, but town citizens know how to throw a party. Mayor Jack Powell recommends the annual Ribs, Rods and Rock ‘n’ Roll festival, held every September. This year’s event (September 5-6) will have music by local favorites Mrs. Begley and the Boys. There is also a wing war, classic car show, poker run and wing and barbecue judging.

Volga, Pop. 1,780
City Park is the epicenter of town life during the summer. It has picnic shelters, a 9-hole disc golf course, volleyball court, horseshoe pits, playground equipment, a swimming pool and, as a little decoration, a giraffe. “There used to be an entire menagerie in the park, sculpted by Alfred Swenson in the late 1920s” says Mayor Mary Bjerke. Years of weather and neglect resulted in the sculptures being removed, leaving today’s lone giraffe.

Volin, Pop. 161
“We are a close, supportive community,” says Mayor Nancy Steffen of her Yankton County town. “Even though we are small, it shows in the success of our small town cafe, Kavern’s and W-Dee’s Pizza.”

Wagner, Pop. 1,683
Wagner’s Labor Day Celebration features parades, dances, a polka festival and poker run. Mayor Don Hosek says the population swells to 10,000 during the weekend.

Wall, Pop. 843
Mayor Dave Hahn says Wall has the only U.S. Forest Service Visitor’s Center in the U.S. “It’s extremely interesting for nature lovers,” he told us.

Watertown, Pop. 21,803
Dan Miller (right) has been director of Bramble Park Zoo for 26 years, so he knows the 500 animals and birds on a first name basis. But Steve Thorson (left), the city’s new mayor, is almost as familiar with the zoo and he recommends it as one of Watertown’s most surprising places. “You won’t find a zoo like this in many cities our size,” he promises, while showing a youngster how to feed the donkeys and goats. The zoo dates back to 1912 when Frank Bramble gave the city his pheasant and waterfowl collection. Bears, bison, monkeys, camels, big cats and other beasts and birds of prey are now housed in native environments.

Waubay, Pop. 567
Waubay Mayor Kevin Jens says that (due to flooding) the north shore of Bitter Lake is now located along the original Yellowstone Trail that runs through Waubay. The paved road has water on both sides, and people often fish off the rocks on the south side.
Wessington Springs, Pop. 946
Mayor Melissa Mebius is a town promoter, marketing the town’s many gatherings, including a rodeo, wagon train, car and tractor show and events at the Shakespeare Garden. The city park has free camping, free swimming, tennis and basketball courts, playground and hiking trail with nature stops and ancient oaks.

Whitewood, Pop. 934
Mayor Mitch Harmon says one of the Black Hills’ best kept secrets is a small canyon at the northwest edge of Whitewood that was designated as Oak Park in 1899. An impressive pavilion and gazebo were built in the early years of the 20th century. Both are gone; now the park is known for its natural state. Giant oaks grow there, although they were damaged in last October’s Atlas Blizzard. “In 2012, with the help of city employee Jackie Hoffman, we began a program to build walking trails,” said Harmon. “Oak Park is now used for running events, celebrations and 3-D archery shoots. There are horseshoe pits, a covered area and restrooms. And the park is home to many native denizens, whitetail does and their fawns, a flock of Merriman turkeys and maybe even a fleeting glimpse of puma concolor.”

Willow Lake, Pop. 247
Mayor Del Bratland says that when 1,000 former students returned for Willow Lake’s 100th all school reunion in 2012, they were in for a surprise — a new downtown. In July of 2011, the downtown burned in a fire. With the reunion one year away, townspeople were determined to rebuild. Sidewalks were poured and buildings untouched by the fire got facelifts to match the old west style of the new construction. New businesses sprouted during that busy year. The Home Town Hotel, built by Wayne and Sherrie Tellinghuisen, came in handy when alums returned. The Tellinghuisens had lost their offices in the fire. They purchased the rest of the block and created the hotel. Willow Lake didn’t have an eatery, so citizens pooled resources and built The Rusty Nail Steakhouse & Saloon.

Winner, Pop. 2,847
Construction on a new Youth Bass Fishing Pond concluded in June, says Mayor Jess Keesis. The pond, located between Eighth and Ninth Streets on Grant Street, will be stocked with bass and fishing is free. Kids must be with an adult. The pond is handicap accessible and there is a dock for small boats.

Yankton, Pop. 14,538
Pedaling the Mother City of the Dakotas is easy, says Mayor Dave Carda, who took office in June. “People might not look at Yankton as a biking community, but we’ve redone the Meridian Bridge, we have the Auld-Brokaw Trail through town and there’s a path out to Lewis and Clark Lake,” he says. “You can really get through the whole community, and there are plenty of restaurants along the way downtown to grab a bite to eat or a drink.” Work is also progressing on trails on the Nebraska side of the Missouri River that will create a scenic 10-mile loop to the lake and back. The mayor and his wife, Sarah, are pictured on the riverside trails with their daughter, Anna.

Sample Personnel Policies
The Sample Personnel Policies are available to SDML members. This manual is published to provide cities in South Dakota with a practical guide to managing their human resources.

Contact Christine Lehrkamp at the League at christine@sdmunicipalleague.org or 800-658-3633 for a User Name and Password to download the sample personnel polices from the SDML website, www.sdmunicipalleague.org.


Photos by Bernie Hunhoff.
Public-Private Partnerships: An Attractive Option

By Mary Scott Nabers

With burgeoning needs at all levels of government, elected officials throughout the country are seeking ways to fund large, and often critical, public projects. According to estimates by the American Society of Civil Engineers, an additional $1.6 trillion is needed just to cover costs of much-needed infrastructure projects during the next five years. There is, of course, no public funding available for many of those projects.

Public-private partnerships (PPPs or P3s) offer a very attractive funding option to public officials. These types of engagements have been common in most other countries for decades, but America has been slow to embrace the collaboration concept. The time to do so has come and the good news is that there is an abundance of information about what makes P3 projects successful.

A public-private partnership is a contractual agreement between one or more public entities and a private company willing to invest capital. P3s come in many varieties, sizes and types. In these engagements, almost all risk shifts to the private-sector partner and the public partner retains ownership.

Thirty-three states, numerous cities, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico have passed some form of P3 enabling legislation. In spite of the acceptance, however, it is difficult to measure the number of P3s because not every collaborative effort is called a public-private partnership.

The public sector’s reluctance to move quicker and lead these initiatives in the past is understandable. Public officials are typically risk averse and most are somewhat uncomfortable with big changes. Much of the reluctance from government executives comes from having to make critical, long-term decisions involving taxpayer dollars in a transparent world that is changing almost daily. It is difficult for them to predict what will be required next year – much less two decades from now. They often have limited resources and too few guidelines. For some, it may appear as dangerous as walking a tightrope without a net.

Public officials worry also about not having the right type of expertise on staff. For example, their financial teams are unaccustomed to structuring creative and, or innovative revenue models. Their legal teams are not enthusiastic about negotiating with seasoned P3 attorneys from private firms. There are other inhibitors, but it is the fear of failure that creates hesitancy for most public officials.

P3s in the U.S. have become rather common for transportation projects. P3s are now being used to build school facilities, student dorms and city parks. The concept of collaborating and accepting private capital remains almost foreign to most public officials.

In Virginia, P3s have been instrumental in the construction of more than 30 school buildings. California is home to the hemisphere’s largest seawater desalination plant which was built through a public-private partnership. Pennsylvania just finalized an agreement to repair over 500 crumbling bridges with a long-term P3 concession. The Port of Baltimore deepened its berth to accommodate larger ships coming from Panama. Denver is building a rail line to curb road congestion. San Antonio is redeveloping its Hemisfair Park.

The P3 trend is gaining speed and it is imperative for public officials to become acquainted with best practices, the value of money concept, availability payments and all the other aspects of these types of collaborations. There are many information sources available. There is no longer a reason to delay critical projects because of a lack of funding.

Mary Scott Nabers is the President/CEO of Strategic Partnerships, Inc. (SPI) and Co-Founder of the Gemini Global Group. SPI is a unique business development firm that specializes in procurement consulting and public-private partnerships. Mary is the author of Collaboration Nation: How Public-Private Ventures are Revolutionizing the Business of Government.


SDML Directory Changes

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Winter Safety Tips

Snow Shoveling Safety
Snow is fun for dogs and kids who don’t have to shovel the stuff. Shoveling is hard work, especially when the snow is wet and heavy. And if you don’t tackle this task in the same way you’d handle a hazardous job at work, you could injure your back, pull muscles, get frostbite and even suffer a heart attack. Here are 6 snow shoveling safety tips.

1. Warm Up Your Muscles Before You Shovel
As with any physically demanding exercise, consult with your doctor to ensure you’re fit before you consider shoveling. Cold, tight muscles are more prone to injury than warmed up, flexible muscles. Do your back a favor by warming up for five to ten minutes before shoveling or any strenuous activity.

2. Lighten the Load with the Right Snow Shovel
A snow shovel should be lightweight, a little over 3 lbs., and the blade shouldn’t be too large. Otherwise your load will be too heavy, putting too much stress on your heart and back. A shovel with a curved handle or an adjustable handle length will minimize painful bending, requiring you to bend your knees only slightly and arch your back very slightly while keeping the shovel blade on the ground. When you grip the shovel, make sure your hands are at least 12 inches apart. By creating distance between your hands, you increase your leverage and reduce strain on your body.

3. Pace – Don’t Race
Shoveling snow in heavy-duty clothing can be as strenuous as weightlifting. You may want to get the job over with as fast as you can, but it’s better to keep moving and work at a steady pace. Shoveling small amounts of snow frequently is less strenuous than shoveling a large pile at once. In deep snow, remove a few inches off the top at a time, rather than attempting to shovel the full depth at once. Shoveling is going to make you sweat, and, if you stop, you could get a chill. The trick is to shovel efficiently without becoming fatigued.

4. Push – Don’t Lift
Push the snow rather than lifting it. If you must throw it, take only as much snow as you can easily lift. And remember, the wetter the snow, the heavier it is. One full shovel load can weigh as much as 25 lbs. Consider using a snow scoop to push the snow. The scoop helps you to move snow with less effort by riding up over the snow to allow you to move it without ever having to lift it.

5. Proper Lifting
If you have to lift, protect your back from injury by lifting correctly. Stand with your feet about hip width for balance and keep the shovel close to your body. Bend from the knees (not the back) and tighten your stomach muscles as you lift the snow. Avoid twisting movements. Don’t throw snow over your shoulder or to the side. If you need to move the snow to one side, turn your feet to the direction the snow will be going. Again, remember that wet snow can be very heavy.

6. Rest and Recover
Take frequent breaks and drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration. Take a break for a minute or two every 10-15 minutes or if you feel overworked at any point. Use this opportunity to stretch your arms, shoulders, and back to keep them warm and flexible. In extreme conditions such as very cold and windy weather, 15 minutes of shoveling should be followed by 15 minutes of rest.

By following these tips, you are far less likely to be injured while shoveling snow. Better yet, use a snow blower if you can.

Preventing Slips and Falls
Another hazard this time of year is slips and falls. Contrary to many people’s perceptions, slips and falls can be serious. Because the body is usually in an awkward position, it is difficult to protect yourself if you slip or fall. Some injuries are minor, but others involve broken bones, serious back injuries, head trauma and even death. In fact, slips and falls are the second leading cause of accidental death.
Since slips and falls happen so frequently and can be caused by so many things, it is important that we know how to avoid them. Employees should be reminded of preventative measures that they can take to avoid becoming injured due to an accidental fall. Employees should take small steps when crossing a slippery area. This keeps the center of gravity steady. Employees should also be reminded to walk slowly and deliberately in slippery areas.

Wearing appropriate shoes can help avoid slipping on hazardous surfaces. The type of sole the shoe has is the key. Shoes with sufficient tread depth can help prevent slips and falls in winter conditions. Most shoes come with information about the conditions that they are best suited for. Depending on the types of work the employee does may necessitate them to consider using different shoes for different tasks. Some employees may need to wear one type of shoe when coming to work and then change shoes once inside the workplace. Shoes that are comfortable in the office may not be designed to offer the best traction when walking on snow or ice-covered sidewalks and parking lots. Some departments have reduced employee injuries by using add-on cleats to shoes during icy conditions. However, it is extremely important to remove these cleats before walking on smooth surfaces.

Employees need to be especially careful when getting out of vehicles. Remember to hold on to the vehicle and exit slowly. Employees who operate larger vehicles and equipment should also be reminded to check the condition of steps and/or ladders. Each year a number of employees are injured as they climb in and out of equipment. Because the steps/ladders on the equipment can be snow or ice covered employees should be reminded to use handholds when getting in and out. Remember the “3-Point Rule”; always maintain at least 3 points of contact while climbing up or down equipment. That means 2 hands and 1 foot or 2 feet and 1 hand. Employees should be discouraged from jumping from equipment to the slippery surface below, as they should always face their equipment when ascending or descending.

Slips, trips and falls can happen to anyone. Employees should take their time, think about what they are doing and follow good safety practices. By adhering to these rules, they can avoid potentially dangerous problems for themselves and your entity.

Doug Kirkus
Loss Control Consultant
SDML Workers’ Compensation Fund
South Dakota Public Assurance Alliance
888-313-0839
dkirkus@safety-benefits.com
By Rep. Kristi Noem

I spoke with a young woman in the grocery store last March who had a hand full of coupons and a cart full of generic food. We had a long conversation about how tough it was to make ends meet when electricity costs were so high. Then again, the cost of almost everything was seemingly on the uptick. Even the cart of groceries each of us was pushing was going to cost more than it did a few years ago – and we weren’t alone.

More than half of people say they’re spending more on groceries this year than last. It’s one of the reasons I pushed so hard for the Farm Bill to be passed.

Growing up, my Dad always told me that you can have a decade of good years and lose it all after one bad year. The Farm Bill was designed to help control this risk and ensure disasters like Winter Storm Atlas wouldn’t wipe out a portion of our agriculture industry. Without this safety net, you and I would probably be paying a lot more for fruits, vegetables, cereal, milk, meat and more every week.

Even with the Farm Bill passed, there’s more to do. I’m constantly fighting back the EPA and other agencies to ensure producers, local businesses, and consumers aren’t paying more because of unnecessary regulations. We’ve already been able to stop the EPA’s talks of expanding dust regulations and OSHA’s attempt to regulate small family farms, but this administration keeps pushing new regulations – that means new costs for the average South Dakotan.

January 2014 represented the largest month-to-month increase in electricity costs in the last four years. Still, the administration is moving forward on new greenhouse gas regulations that could increase electricity costs by $17 billion nationwide. In South Dakota, families earning less than $50,000 per year already spend one-fifth of their after-tax income on energy, which is double the national average. It’s unacceptable to further increase these costs for families.

It doesn’t have to be this way. I filled up my tank in Watertown last week for less than $3.00 a gallon. It’s been a while since there’s been prices like that. We’re seeing these lower prices in large part because U.S. oil production is rising. Because many states have streamlined their regulatory processes, oil production on state lands increased 61 percent between 2009 and 2013. Meanwhile, production on federal lands fell 6 percent. Just think what gas prices might be if we eliminated some of the unnecessary federal regulations too?

Poor policies out of Washington have also pushed the cost of healthcare up for many South Dakota families I’ve spoken to. With healthcare costs expected to rise 6.8 percent in 2015, many South Dakotans are bracing for another round of premium increases. I’ve been working on a bill to replace the Affordable Care Act with a patient-centered model that targets the primary drivers of healthcare costs. Rather than costly mandates, my plan would infuse more competition into the marketplace, shift to an outcome-based reimbursement model, and limit frivolous lawsuits.

The fact of the matter is that our paychecks buy less today than they did a year ago – let alone five or 10 years ago. And still, this administration is working to implement policies that make it harder to stretch a dollar. I believe we ought to be eliminating costly regulations, not adding new ones. We should be restoring genuine accountability to government and making sure Washington is doing more with less – just like families are.
U.S. Communities Can Help Cities Prepare for Winter

By Marc Shapiro, National League of Cities

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

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

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

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

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

CARQUEST Auto Parts can help maintain the city vehicle fleet through the cold winter months with ice melt and ice scrapers, windshield de-icer, antifreeze and diesel anti-gel, group 31 batteries, and more.

Other U.S. Communities supply partners provide roofing supplies and services, industrial supplies, and other seasonal products.

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

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

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

For additional information, contact Marc Shapiro at NLC, shapiro@nlc.org or U.S. Communities Regional Manager, Jason Angel at jangel@uscommunities.org or 415-328-8109.
# JANUARY Community Events

| January 2 | Lights on the Ice Teen Night | Rapid City |
| January 3 | Annual Pigeon Show | Watertown |
| January 4 | Foreign Film Festival | Spearfish |
| January 8 - January 10 | Mobridge Ice Fishing Tournament | Mobridge |
| January 9 | Aberdeen Wings Hockey | Aberdeen |
| January 10 | Frosty Frolics: Family Snowshoeing 101 | Sioux Falls |
| January 10 - January 11 | Nice Ice Ice Carvers | Watertown |
| January 11 | Foreign Film Festival | Spearfish |
| January 16 | Morgan James | Sioux Falls |
| January 17 | Aberdeen Wings Hockey | Aberdeen |
| January 18 | Heroes Skate Party | Rapid City |
| January 19 | James Valley Model Railroad Open House | Aberdeen |
| January 20 | Foreign Film Festival | Spearfish |
| January 22 | Aberdeen Wings Hockey | Aberdeen |
| January 23 - January 24 | Country Throwback Tour | Deadwood |
| January 24 - January 25 | Sisseton Winter Show | Sisseton |
| January 24 | Glacial Lakes Beer Fest | Watertown |
| January 24 | Short Course Winter | Aberdeen |
| January 25 | ISOC SnoCross Shootout | Deadwood |
| January 27 | Public Opinion Prom & Bridal Show | Watertown |
| January 29 | Keigwin Dance Troupe | Aberdeen |
| January 30 - January 31 | A very special day for those interested in antique trains | Aberdeen |
| January 30 - February 8 | Rodeo Skate Party | Rapid City |
| January 31 | Living History Fair | Watertown |

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BUILDING INSPECTOR: City of Deadwood is accepting applications for the position of Building Inspector. Interested parties must have graduated from an accredited high school or GED equivalent and must have or be able to acquire and maintain Certification from the International Code Conference for Building Inspectors and Plans Examiner. Prefer two years’ experience in construction as a carpenter, electrician or plumber; knowledge of Building Code and related codes, ordinances and regulations, building and site construction and materials and accepted safety standards; principles and techniques of plan review and inspections. Job applications are available on the City website at www.cityofdeadwood.com or at City Hall, 102 Sherman St., Deadwood, SD. Wage is $20.14 per hr. plus benefits. Pre-employment drug testing is required. Mail resume to Deadwood Finance Office at 102 Sherman Street, Deadwood SD 57732. For questions call Public Works Director, Ron Green, at 605-578-3082. Position is open until filled. The City of Deadwood is an EOE.

POLICE CHIEF: The City of Menno (population 608) is taking applications for a full-time police chief. Responsibilities include management of the police department personnel and policies, enforcement of city ordinances, community relations, police patrol and other law enforcement duties. High School Diploma or GED required. Certified Officer preferred. Salary is dependent on qualifications and experience. Application and job description can be picked up at the finance office located at 236 S 5th Street, Menno, SD, or call 605-387-2427. Completed application can be sent to City Finance Officer, PO Box 432, Menno, SD 57045. Applications accepted until position is filled.

STREET SUPERINTENDENT: City of Brookings, SD (pop. 22,056). Responsibilities include management of street maintenance operations and services, hiring, supervising staff, delegating work, managing snow removal and coordinating public work projects. Will supervise maintenance of storm sewer system, weed management and mosquito control programs, prepare annual budget, and
assist with developing priorities for future street and traffic capital improvement projects. Bachelor’s degree in construction management, civil engineering or related field preferred. Two years of post-secondary training that includes engineering or a related field required. Five (5) or more years of relevant progressively responsible experience in street maintenance or highway/heavy construction field required, including three (3) years of experience in an administrative, managerial or supervisory capacity. Possession of or ability to obtain a valid South Dakota Commercial Driver’s License with acceptable driving record is required for position. Candidates must have ability to maintain courteous and positive relationships with public, city employees, construction crews and personnel from other agencies. Visit www.cityofbrookings.org for detailed position description. Salary range is $53,098 to $71,684 depending upon background and qualifications. Excellent benefit package. Position is open until filled. To Apply: Submit completed application with resume to: City of Brookings, Human Resources Department, PO Box 270, Brookings, SD 57006, Phone: 605.697.8668 Fax: 605.697.8661, dlangland@cityofbrookings.org. AA/EOE.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT SUPERINTENDENT: The City of Pierre is accepting qualified applications for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent position. Under direct supervision of the Operations Manager, the Superintendent is responsible for directing and supervising the operation, maintenance and repair of the wastewater treatment facilities and lift stations. Individual should have knowledge of plumbing, electrical, electronics, pumps and pump and motor controls and must have knowledge in the operation of Aerobic Digestion and SCADA systems. The Superintendent will: assist in developing the department budget; work with management in overseeing projects and personnel; and must possess strong administrative, oral and written communication skills. The Superintendent is responsible for the plant meeting South Dakota DENR and EPA rules and regulations and for compliance monitoring. It is very important that this person have a demonstrated record of success at bringing diverse individuals, groups and organizations together to accomplish projects. Must possess a valid Wastewater Treatment Class IV Certificate issued by South Dakota DENR or obtain certification within one year. Prefer candidates have a four year degree at a college or vocational school majoring in environmental engineering, environmental sciences, or related fields and four years of experience including at least two years of experience in a Municipal Class III or higher facility. Salary range: $49,000 - $62,000 and is FLSA Exempt. The capital city of Pierre is a premier destination for outdoor recreation and was recently highlighted as the Nation’s Second Best Capital City to live in and the best place to live in South Dakota. Job description and application available at: City of Pierre, Attn: Human Resources, 222 East Dakota, PO Box 1253, Pierre, South Dakota, 57501. E-mail: laurie.gronlund@ci.pierre.sd.us. Application and job description available online at www.pierre.sd.gov. Open until filled.

WATER TREATMENT PLANT FOREMAN: Watertown Municipal Utilities has a full-time opening for a Water Treatment Plant Foreman. Reporting to the Water Superintendent, this position is responsible for the technical and supervisory work in the direction of the municipal water treatment plant and related facilities. South Dakota Water Treatment Class III Certification and two years supervisory experience required. Salary commensurate with experience and qualifications. Wage range of $26.94 - $30.72. Excellent benefits package, including pension, health insurance, life insurance, 457 plan, paid sick leave and vacation. A completed application and resume, including salary history, references and a cover letter, are required. Job description and application are available at: Watertown Municipal Utilities, Attn: Human Resources, 901 – 4th Avenue SW, Watertown, SD 57201, E-mail: hr@watertownmu.com. Application and job description also available online at www.watertownmu.com. Position open until filled. EOE.

FOR LEASE LIQUOR STORE AND BAR: The Board of Trustees of the Town of Buffalo will be accepting applications for the lease of the Buffalo Municipal Liquor Store and Bar. The terms of the lease will be $800.00 per month. Please contact the Town Municipal Office, 107 1st Street, Buffalo, SD 57720; phone: 605-375-3130; fax: 605-375-3119; email: townofbuffalo@sdplains.com for more information. The Board of Trustees of the Town of Buffalo reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications. All applications shall be mailed or delivered to the Town of Buffalo Municipal Office, PO Box 82, Buffalo, SD, 57720. Applications must be to the Town Office by 7:00 p.m., December 8, 2014.

FOR SALE: 1991 Case 580K Tractor/Loader, 7900 Hours, 4 Wheel Drive, Needs Tires, No Backhoe Attachment, $9,000. As is. Contact the City of Valley Springs at 605-212-9368 or 605-757-6555.

FOR SALE: Elgin White Wing Street Sweeper 345 ci International truck engine, self-propelled with curb brush, $2,500. Rosco pull-behind 7 1/2' Street Sweeper new brushes in 2013, newer 4 cyl., air-cooled Wisconsin type motor (50 hrs), $2,000. Both are as is, where is. Contact the City of Wilmot at 605-938-4811.

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Boundary changes – Municipalities must notify the Department of Revenue of any resolution or amendment enacted which changes the boundaries of the municipality. Notification shall be in written form, shall contain a copy of the resolution or amendment, and may be sent by electronic means or registered mail. Municipalities shall also provide any changes and additions to streets and addresses. (SDCL 10-52-13; See Hdbk., sec. 14.172)

January

January 1 – New Year’s Day – State holiday (SDCL 1-5-1)

January 1 – The municipal fiscal year begins. (SDCL 9-21-1; See Hdbk., sec. 12.065)

January 1 – Special assessment installments which are payable under either the Plan One or Plan Two option are due. (SDCL 9-43-103; See Hdbk., sec. 12.160)

January 1 – The effective date of any new or amended municipal tax ordinance. The municipality must notify the Department of Revenue of the ordinance at least 90 days prior to the effective date. (SDCL 10-52-9; 10-52A-13; See Hdbk., sec. 12.260)

First meeting of the year – A complete list of all the salaries for all officers and employees of the municipal corporation shall be published with the minutes of the first meeting following the beginning of the fiscal year or within 30 days thereafter. Added salaries of new employees and increased salaries of the old employees should be shown in the month in which they occur. A total of payroll by department shall be published monthly in the minutes. (SDCL 6-1-10; See Hdbk., sec. 5.095)

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of payroll by department shall be published monthly in the minutes. (SDCL 6-1-10; See Hdbk., sec. 5.095)

By January 14 – If the governing body chooses an election day other than the second Tuesday of April, as provided in SDCL 9-13, that Election Day must be established by January 14 of the election year. (SDCL 9-13-1; See Hdbk., sec. 7.050)

Election notice – Is required to be given in writing or by phone or e-mail (elections@state.sd.us) to the office of the Secretary of State within 15 days of setting a date for an election. (SDCL 12-2-7)

By January 15 – The secretary of revenue shall apportion the money in the local government highway and bridge fund. (SDCL 32-11-35; See Hdbk., sec. 12.255(6))

Between January 15 and 30 – Publication of the notices of vacancies of the municipal election to be held in April is required to be published in the official newspaper once each week for two consecutive weeks between January 15th and 30th. This notice shall identify the vacancies to be filled and the time and place for filing nominating petitions. (SDCL 9-13-6; See Hdbk., sec. 7.650) Follow the Municipal Election Calendar for all election deadlines.

Third Monday of January – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – State holiday (SDCL 1-5-1)

Utility board – Is required to make an annual report of its operations upon thirty days notice at the end of the fiscal year. (SDCL 9-39-29; See Hdbk., sec. 12.080)

Newspaper designation – The official newspaper must be designated annually or for a period of time specified by the governing body, but not to be less than twelve months. (SDCL 9-12-6)

Boundary changes – Municipalities must notify the Department of Revenue of any resolution or amendment enacted which changes the boundaries of the municipality. Notification shall be in written form, shall contain a copy of the resolution or amendment, and may be sent by electronic means or registered mail. Municipalities shall also provide any changes and additions to streets and addresses. (SDCL 10-52-13; See Hdbk., sec. 14.172)

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