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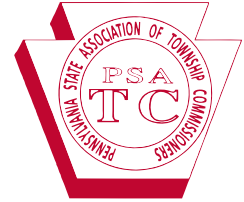
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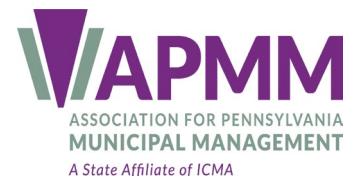
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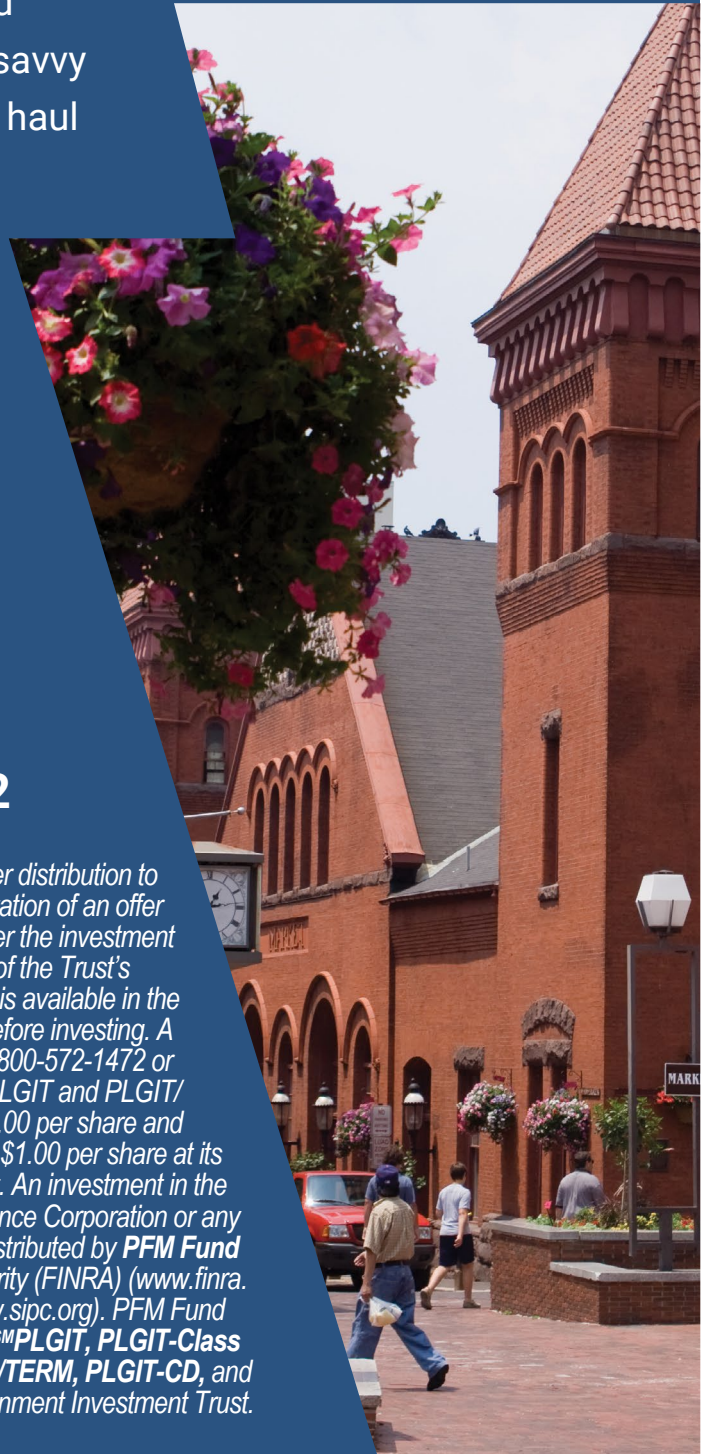
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The Pennsylvania Municipal League strengthens and empowers effective local government through advocacy, education, and support for our members.

The League is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization established in 1900 as an advocate for Pennsylvania's 3rd class cities. Today, The League represents participating Pennsylvania cities, boroughs, townships and home rule communities that all share The League's municipal policy interests. Our Board of Directors oversees the administration of a wide array of municipal services including legislative advocacy (on both the state and federal levels), publications designed to educate and inform, education and training certification programs, membership research and inquiries, programs, and group insurance trusts.

We are continually monitoring the needs of our members and are committed to providing the commonwealth's municipalities with cost-effective programs and services required to meet the distinct needs of their communities.

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Original articles on subjects of interest to municipal officials are welcome, but subject to review by editorial staff. The publisher has the right to reject unsuitable advertising.

All inquiries should be addressed to Debbie Bitting, Director of Communications, at:

717-236-9469, x *223, dbitting@pml.org, Fax 717-724-1663
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The League President's Message



DOUGLAS BAKER
MAYOR
CITY OF FRANKLIN



Today marked a first for me. I decided to have a conversation with the artificial intelligence available on my smartphone and desktop computer. The idea of AI has always seemed a little silly and unnecessary to me and I am not promoting it here, but I have to admit the experience was useful and surprisingly pleasant, because in this instance it re-affirmed a lot of the ideas I've had about livable communities for many years.

A livable community is defined as a place where people can thrive and enjoy a high quality of life and one that prioritizes safety, choice and equity for all residents. It typically offers a combination of quality community services and opportunities for people of all ages to be physically active and socially engaged with a strong sense of belonging.

Safe, walkable neighborhoods are a vital aspect of livable communities and our residents frequently remind us of that fact by asking for:

- Well-maintained sidewalks
- Adequate street lighting
- Police, fire and emergency medical services
- Limited vehicular traffic and slow speed limits
- Green space, including playgrounds and multi-generational parks

The demand for livable neighborhoods can have a broad impact on the entire community by enhancing property values and promoting economic/housing development.

Focusing on the safety aspect of a livable community often includes conversations about vehicle speeds and aggressive driving behaviors in our communities. Our response to those concerns can include engineering, education and enforcement.

The engineering aspect includes traffic calming things like bike lanes, crosswalks, street trees, speed bumps and the education component can include public service announcements, press releases and visible street signs.

The enforcement component is straight forward but complicated by the limited availability of approved speed timing equipment. Many of the approved devices available to municipal police officers require an operator and one or more officers as chase cars. This is an impediment to many police agencies who are struggling with staffing issues and basically leaves them without a realistic option for consistent speed enforcement. A lack of consistent enforcement makes it nearly impossible to create an effective speed deterrent.

I know we have been asking the state legislature to approve radar for municipal police for many years and that most of us support the measure as the public safety issue that it is. In addition to that, it could be a tool that helps create the safe, livable neighborhoods and communities that our citizens demand. Our residents have told us time after time to prioritize living in their neighborhood over driving through it. It's time to get it done!

Sincerely,

Douglas A. Baker
Mayor, City of Franklin

The League Executive Director's Message

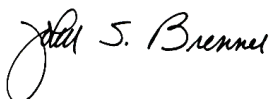
In their November 2020 report, [Livable Communities: Innovative, Inclusive and Equitable Cities - National League of Cities \(nlc.org\)](#), the National League of Cities highlights a framework to help local leaders track their progress in building safe, secure communities for all residents and visitors. Policies and practices in health, housing, transportation, public spaces, climate resilience, wealth building and community engagement are as important today as they were when the report was released nearly four years ago.

Today, your state league continues to offer you and your fellow local officials the opportunity to connect, learn from one another, and engage in building a better community. A primary example is our FREE [Sustainable Pennsylvania](#) voluntary performance recognition tracking and certification program, available to all municipalities in our state.

This issue of the Municipal Reporter focuses on livability and efforts within our commonwealth to strengthen our communities. This topic is so important, we are making our theme for the 2024 Municipal Leadership Summit: "Building Safe and Resilient Communities." Scranton and northeastern Pennsylvania offer solid examples of neighborhoods and communities that are safe and resilient. Make plans now to register for the Summit and enjoy all that Scranton and the Lackawanna County region have to offer. [Watch Visit Lackawanna County, PA Video](#).

We hope to see you and multiple officials from your municipality in Scranton as we celebrate safe, resilient communities this October.

Sincerely,



John S. Brenner



[JOHN BRENNER](#)



Executive Director's Video Report





Mark Your Calendar



League Playground Build

August 1 - 3

Hoberman Park, Lock Haven

Municipal Leadership Summit

October 10 - 13

Hilton Scranton & Conference Center Hotel and the
Radisson Lackawanna Station Scranton

PELRAS Fall Hybrid Workshop

October 24

Hilton Harrisburg

PELRAS Fall Regional Workshop (West)

November 7

RLA Learning and Conference Center, Cranberry Township

2024 Sustainable PA Annual Conference

November 20 - 22

Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center, State College



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Inside The League

Elected and appointed officials want to know that their municipalities have what it takes to make their constituents happy. They want to ensure that those they serve feel as if their communities are “livable.”

What exactly does “making a community livable” mean?

Professional community planners can point to several things including physical design and structure. Others can point to expanding their communities through growth while others are content managing that growth, instead. Some point to the sustainability efforts that they prioritized to preserve the integrity of their communities. These go together as livability is eventually intertwined with sustainability.

Livability can also focus on physical amenities such as parks and green space. It can also include cultural opportunities and economic vitality with the creation and nurturing of small businesses and strong public safety measures in place. In many places, livability and sustainability preserve current systems that allow for greater preservation rather than growth. Leaders are charged with taking the pulse of their constituencies to find out what they mean by “livability” through open and transparent dialogue. This can also include formal surveys and data collection.

Some cities and municipalities have already held sessions with leaders and constituents about a strong livability agenda. Others have also begun to compete vigorously with surrounding suburban areas that offer more services and amenities that keep residents within their municipalities. A community’s comprehensive approach to wellbeing is tied to livability and can also focus on artistic, aesthetic and even spiritual values that bring people together. Such agendas and plans must also come with rigorous measurements on how well a community is doing in this regard. While leaders eventually change, the community’s soul changes at a much slower rate.

Studies have shown an emphasis on social space, talent attraction and retention along with the local government’s ability to develop a progressive economy that provides opportunities for everyone to grow regardless of where they fall on the economic spectrum. Sustainability seems to significantly impact livability within communities. Other factors include protecting the environment, land use, housing, an emphasis on diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging, and citizen involvement. Today, livability is valued more by younger generations who value interaction and engagement more than previous generations.

Measuring success is subjective and includes constant surveying and open communication with residents. From these discussions, there exists an opportunity to identify other leaders who would relish an opportunity to lead, run for public office or – at a minimum – serve in a volunteer role as a member of a board or commission that addresses livability.

As we are constantly challenged with the needs of changing demographics, leaders must become more innovative and strategic in how they define livability as it is a constant struggle to keep residents happy in their neighborhoods and communities. The good news is that there is no shortage of talent. However, the task of bringing those folks together remains. Good luck!

From Inside The League,

Abe Amorós

Abe Amorós



ABE AMORÓS
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR -
OPERATIONS

Q&A with League Leader

Paige Cagnetti
Mayor
City of Scranton
Scranton Representative



This Q&A feature section of the Municipal Reporter highlights an individual local leader who has been involved and engaged with their community and The League.



Pennsylvania Municipal
League

Q: Mayor, thank you for your service as Mayor of the City of Scranton. How did you get involved in local government?

I first came to Pennsylvania in 2005 for a political campaign and have worked in politics, government and finance since.

Prior to becoming mayor, I advised the Pennsylvania Auditor General on oversight of public-school finances, care for older adults criminal justice reform and student debt.

I served in the Obama administration from 2009-2012 as a senior advisor to the Under Secretary for International Affairs at the U.S. Treasury Department.

When I moved to Scranton permanently in 2016, I began reading about local government and learned about problems with procurement, transparency and fiscal responsibility. I applied for an appointment with the Scranton School Board and began navigating the district's dual crises of financial distress and public mistrust.

Q: What leadership advice do you have for other local leaders?

Recently a friend reached out during a challenging situation in the city and said, "Keep doing the next right thing."

Municipal leadership requires not just a good moral compass, but the stamina to stay on that right path no matter what comes your way. As local elected officials, we make decisions that impact the lives of residents every day, and we are held accountable every time we step out our door. The pressure can be intense, but you must lean into it and let it keep you sharp.

Q: What has been your most rewarding experience as a municipal official?

One of the most rewarding experiences has been our work to remove the “distressed municipality” label that plagued Scranton for too long. In January 2022, we officially exited Act 47 in Pennsylvania, better known as the Financially Distressed Municipalities Act. Since shedding that unflattering label, our team has worked diligently to continue to improve Scranton’s financial status. We have increased our credit rating three notches in the last year and are now investment-grade BBB+. Improving our credit rating has already allowed us to save nearly \$1 million in debt service. Financial stability was a major pillar of what I set out to do in 2020 and we are farther along than I even hoped for.

Q: What has been the greatest challenge in your position?

Time management is always a challenge, no matter what your career looks like. Being mayor adds a 24/7 element to your life that you must accept. “Work-life integration” speaks to me more than “work-life balance;” as mayor, you’re never off, just prioritizing differently given a particular day/hour/minute.

Q: Thank you for serving on The League Board as the Scranton Representative. How has your involvement with The League helped you and your community?

The Pennsylvania Municipal League offers invaluable connections and access to legislative advocacy that helps us here at home.

Q: What advice do you have for people considering municipal government as a career?

We need more folks to step up at the local level. It’s where the decisions are made that most impact our lives and our families. If you have strong convictions and ideas on how to improve your community, you should

→

pursue a local board or commission or run for office. Get in the arena!

Q: As a proud Mayor, what would you say are some of Scranton's greatest attributes?

Scranton is just two and a half hours from New York and Philadelphia, five hours from Boston, and four hours from Washington D.C. We sit within eight hours of 25 percent of the U.S. population. We are a fantastic location for logistics, manufacturing and entrepreneurship, and a great place to raise a family or retire. Family ties run deep here, and we take care of each other. There's a community feel you don't get just anywhere.

The Scranton Police Department is by far one of the city's greatest assets. We have experienced an unfortunate rise in high-profile violent crimes this year, many perpetrated by juveniles, and our police have made arrests in nearly 100 percent of those cases. While we have work to do to address those root causes of violence and gang behavior, there is comfort in knowing

how incredible our police department is and that we continue to invest in their growth and development.

My administration has also invested heavily in recreational spaces. We've made exciting investments using the influx of federal dollars from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) and other grant funding to reclaim and transform some long-forgotten parks in the city. We have 31 parks in 26 square miles, so creating and maintaining inviting spaces in every neighborhood is vital to showing that we care about our residents and especially our youth.

We cannot grow in separate tiers that exacerbate economic inequality. We are focused on solving the root causes of community problems: housing, healthcare, food insecurity, access to education, transportation barriers, and much more. Leading a "livable community" means investing in programs and advocacy that help all residents, allowing us to cultivate a city that thrives together. □



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AT&T

David Kerr
dkerr@att.com
717-269-5872

AT&T

351 Stanley Drive
Palmyra, PA 17078



Steven Fernstrom
steve@bethpark.org
610-419-1484

Bethlehem Parking Authority

85 W. North Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018



Brown Plus
ACCOUNTANTS + ADVISORS

Brian Marchuck
BrianMarchuck@brownplus.com
717-761-7171

Brown Plus

210 Grandview Ave.
Camp Hill, PA 17011



CAMPBELL DURRANT, P.C.
PUBLIC SECTOR, LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW

Mike Palombo, Esq.
mpalombo@cdblaw.com
412-395-1280

Campbell Durrant, P.C.

535 Smithfield St., Ste 700
Pittsburgh, PA 15222



COMCAST

Marcie Callan
marcie_callan@comcast.com
878-999-5636

Comcast Keystone Region

15 Summit Park Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15275



Constellation

Matthew Shortall
matthew.shortall@constellation.com
443-602-5755

Constellation

1310 Point Street, 9th Floor
Baltimore, MD 21231



Cornerstone
WEALTH & INSURANCE

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pgeary@cwais.net
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Jennifer CruverKibi, CPA
jcruverkibi@md-cpas.com
717-232-1230 x204

Michael Boyd
michael.boyd@mbgbenefits.com
412-246-2520

Ashley Shiwarski
Ashley.Shiwarski@homeserveusa.com
724-749-1097

Zachary Peirson
zpeirson@benecon.com
717-723-4600

Freddy Lutz
freddy@pennbid.net
610-693-4769

Elizabeth Henry
ehenry@pml.org
717-236-9469 *250

John Molloy
molloyj@pfmam.com
717-232-2723

Ken Porter
kporter@portercurtis.com
610-891-9856

William W. Warren, Jr., Esq.
William.warren@saul.com
717-238-7698

Elizabeth Henry
ehenry@pml.org
Deb Gross (Consultant)
dgross@pml.org

Bill Carnahan
william.b.carnahan@verizon.com
412-633-3248

Neil Fredrickson
neil.fredrickson@verkada.com
650-514-2686

Maher Duessel
1800 Linglestown Rd, Ste 306
Harrisburg PA, 17110

Municipal Benefits Services
301 Grant Street, Suite 270
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

NLC Service Line Warranty Program
4000 Town Center Boulevard
Suite 400
Canonsburg, PA 15317

PA Municipal Health Insurance Cooperative
201 E. Oregon Rd., Ste 100
Lititz, PA 17543

PennBid
PO Box 221
Robesonia, PA 19551

PennPRIME
414 North Second Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

PFM Asset Management
213 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Porter & Curtis, LLC
225 State Road
Media, PA 19063

Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr
2 North Second St., 7th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

U-COMP
414 North Second Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101
717-236-9469

Verizon
15 Montgomery Pl
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Verkada
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Navigating the Intersection of Education, Community Engagement, and Sustainability: Harrisburg's Path to Environmental Empowerment

BY DANIELLE LEWIS, SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR, CITY OF HARRISBURG



The City of Harrisburg has embarked on a transformative journey toward environmental empowerment in recent years. This journey, characterized by robust sustainability initiatives, has placed community engagement at its core, recognizing that true progress stems from the active involvement and empowerment of our citizens. The intersection of education, community engagement, and sustainability is where Harrisburg's path to a more livable community begins.

Empowering Through Education and Community Involvement

Central to Harrisburg's strategy is the belief that community empowerment is essential for sustainable development. Our initiatives are designed not only to implement green practices but also to educate and involve the community in meaningful ways. This approach fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility among residents, making sustainability a collective effort rather than a top-down mandate.

One of our most successful engagement methods has been through partnerships with key organizations. Collaborations with non-profits like the Appalachian Audubon Society, Bluebird Society, Capital Region Water, Capital Area Greenbelt Association, PA Solar Center, Tri-County Community Action, and Wildheart Ministries; government entities like Dauphin County, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and U.S. Department of Energy; and institutes of higher learning like Penn State Extension, John Hopkins University, and Harrisburg University, have been instrumental in driving our programs forward. These partnerships bring diverse expertise and resources to the table, enabling us to reach wider audiences and create more impactful initiatives.

Building Collaborative Networks

Collaboration has been a cornerstone of our success. By working closely with various organizations and individuals throughout the city, we've been able to launch and sustain numerous programs. For instance, our partnership with the Audubon Society has facilitated bird walks and educational workshops, fostering a deeper connection between residents and their local environment. Similarly,

working with Capital Region Water has allowed us to address water sustainability issues more effectively.

In addition to external partnerships, internal collaboration among city departments has been crucial. Sustainability works with every department within the city, ensuring that all sectors are aligned with our environmental goals. This internal synergy helps create a cohesive strategy that integrates sustainability into every facet of city operations, from waste management to urban planning.

Community Programming and Internal Work

Our commitment to sustainability extends beyond community



A snapshot of a community workshop/education



A snapshot of a community workshop/ education



A group photo from our recent bird walk event with the Audubon Society

programming to include significant internal work. One of our key projects has been the greenhouse gas inventory, which provides a comprehensive understanding of our emissions and helps us plan for the future. This data-driven approach underpins our Climate Action Plan, guiding us toward measurable and achievable goals.

Educating the public about these efforts is equally important. We strive to keep the community informed and involved through regular updates and public consultations. Transparency and communication ensure that residents are aware of the progress being made and understand the importance of their role in these initiatives.

Looking Ahead

As we continue to advance our sustainability goals, community involvement remains a vital component. By maintaining open lines of communication and fostering collaborative relationships, we are building a strong foundation for a sustainable future. Every department within

the city, along with our community partners, has a stake in this mission, ensuring that our plan of action is comprehensive and inclusive.

In conclusion, Harrisburg's journey toward environmental empowerment is a testament to the power of education, community engagement, and collaboration. By

working together, we can create a more livable community for all. Our progress so far is just the beginning, and with continued dedication and involvement, we can achieve even greater heights. □



For more information and to get involved, visit - [City of Harrisburg \(harrisburgpa.gov\)](https://www.harrisburgpa.gov) and follow us on [Parks and Recreation, City of Harrisburg](#) | [Harrisburg PA](#) | [Facebook](#)



Live, Love, Lock Haven: The City of Lock Haven's Approach to Livability

COLLABORATIVELY WRITTEN BY ABIGAIL ROBERTS, PLANNER & DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR, AND KASEY CAMPBELL, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY LIFE. BOTH WORK FOR THE CITY OF LOCK HAVEN

Introduction

A small city along the West Branch of the Susquehanna River, the City of Lock Haven boasts spectacular views, a walkable community and events for all ages. Over the past five years, local government and their partners have placed an emphasis on initiatives that increase the quality of life for residents and visitors. This has led to new and growing programs, projects and events throughout the city.

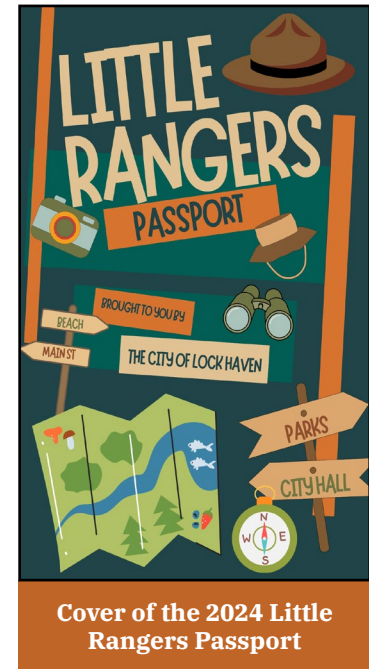
Parks & Recreation

The City of Lock Haven is conducting substantial improvements to their public parks to promote safe and equitable play for all ages and abilities. Utilizing funding from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and PA Department of Community and

Economic Development (DCED), the city has been able to complete improvements to two parks while another is under construction this summer. Before each park is addressed, city staff conducts a period of community engagement to learn what type of improvements parks users would like to see. The feedback is then used to shape the design, leading to a community centered recreation resource.

One instance of the public's feedback coming to life will be transformed this summer at Hoberman Park when extensive construction occurs. While a new skatepark was already installed last fall to kick off the construction project, more improvements are slated for this summer and fall. Amenities like a basketball court, multipurpose court, pavilions, walking path, restroom, ball fields, community garden and more will give new life to Hoberman

Park. Although each of these amenities will be a tremendous addition to the park, the highlight of the summer will be the community [playground build](#) hosted by KABOOM! and the Pennsylvania Municipal League. The build will occur on August 3 and a new



Cover of the 2024 Little Rangers Passport

playground will be constructed in one day! We are excited to partner with KABOOM!, The League, and the Lock Haven community to bring a new playground to life at Hoberman Park.

Another recreation-focused initiative in the city is the Summer Recreation Program. Conducted by Keystone Central School District in partnership with the City of Lock Haven, the youth program is held in public parks throughout the summer. Every weekday, the free program is hosted at three parks in the city to encourage youth to continue learning throughout the summer. Educational and fun activities occur each day and free meals are provided to all attendees. This program is a unique addition to the city and keeps local youth



The recently completed playground



involved in recreation throughout the year. Partnering with Keystone Central School District ensures an educational connection to the program while boosting the usership at city parks.

Lock Haven Rangers

Oftentimes, residents and visitors are not aware of projects or programs that may benefit them, leading to confusion or indifference toward city initiatives. In an effort to increase transparency and outreach in the City of Lock Haven, the Lock Haven Rangers began creating videos focused on various projects, events or opportunities in the community. In addition to their monthly videos, the Rangers offer a Little Rangers Passport Program. A program in its third year of implementation, aims to get youth involved in the community through various activities. Running the bases, high fiving a lifeguard and attending the KABOOM! playground build are just a few of the activities compiled in a passport available for free at City Hall. If a child completes a majority of tasks over the summer, they can bring

their passport in to receive a special prize and are dubbed a “Little Ranger.” The program has recognized 10 Little Rangers throughout its lifetime and looks to name more this summer!

Lock Haven Summer Concert Series

The Lock Haven Summer Concert Series is celebrating its 26th year in 2024. These concerts offer free entertainment for residents and visitors to the area, and the Susquehanna River offers a perfect backdrop to the Floating Stage at the J. Doyle Corman Amphitheater. This year the concerts will take place on Friday and Sunday evenings, with Friday night concerts taking place in Triangle Park, and on Main Street in Downtown Lock Haven. The Sunday evening concerts are held at the amphitheater, and feature bands from all over the country.



A photo of Lock Haven

initiatives, Downtown Lock Haven, Inc. presents “Final Fridays” over the summer months. The monthly event closes a section of Main Street and welcomes restaurants and businesses onto the street. This community-wide festival includes music and activities and is a great opportunity for everyone to come together and celebrate the community.

Conclusion

Choosing a place to live can be a difficult decision based on a variety of factors. While some factors may be beyond the control of local government, the City of Lock Haven is focused on the ones that can be changed. Things like free programming, events, culture and music and education, are just some of the factors Lock Haven is improving to boost livability and raise the quality of life in the city. Through partnerships, new initiatives, and continued community engagement, the City of Lock Haven can grow into a place where people not only choose to live but choose to love. □



The recently renovated Fallon Alley, a project that dramatically improved a heavily trafficked alley in the downtown. The alley is used for outdoor dining and includes a kiosk with a merchant directory and a solar charging station for cell phones.

Downtown Lock Haven, Inc.

Downtown Lock Haven, Inc. is a non-profit organization focused on bettering the downtown district through events, merchant support, grant programs, and more. Among many other



Sustainable Pennsylvania is a Pathway Toward Building Livable Communities

BY LESLIE RHOADS, LEAGUE SUSTAINABILITY CONSULTANT

In the quest for progress and prosperity, municipalities across Pennsylvania are increasingly recognizing the importance of fostering livable communities. But what does “livable” truly entail? It’s a term that encapsulates a spectrum of initiatives, from enhancing green spaces to reimagining transportation systems. As our society evolves, so must our understanding of what constitutes a livable community.

At its essence, a livable community is one where every individual can thrive. It’s about more than just physical infrastructure; it’s about cultivating a sense of belonging, fostering leadership at all levels, and promoting social equity. As we delve deeper into this concept, it becomes clear that livability is intricately linked to sustainability.

Enter the [Sustainable Pennsylvania](#) certification program. Sponsored by The League and Sustainable Pittsburgh, this initiative serves as a guiding light for municipalities striving to create

communities that are not only livable but also environmentally responsible and economically vibrant. By aligning with the principles of sustainability, communities can lay the foundation for a future that is both prosperous and equitable.

So, how does the concept of livability intersect with the Sustainable Pennsylvania program? Let’s explore:

1. **Environmental Stewardship:**

Livable communities recognize their duty to uphold the Pennsylvania Environmental Rights amendment, and prioritize environmental sustainability by safeguarding natural resources, reducing pollution, and mitigating the impacts of climate change. Initiatives such as tree planting, green infrastructure development, and energy-efficient practices are integral to both livability and sustainability.

2. **Social Cohesion:** A sense of community is at the heart of livability. Sustainable

communities foster social cohesion by promoting inclusive spaces, facilitating meaningful interactions, and embracing diversity. By prioritizing social equity and inclusion, municipalities can strengthen their social fabric and enhance quality of life for all residents.

3. **Economic Vitality:**

Sustainable development goes hand in hand with economic vitality. Livable communities create economic opportunities for residents while ensuring long-term prosperity for future generations. Through initiatives such as local economic development strategies, affordable housing programs, and support for small businesses, municipalities can build resilient economies that benefit everyone.

4. **Policy Innovation:** Livability requires innovative policymaking that addresses the complex challenges facing communities

today. The Sustainable Pennsylvania program provides municipalities with the tools and resources needed to develop forward-thinking policies that promote sustainability, resilience, and equity.

By embracing the principles of livability and sustainability, municipalities can chart a course towards a brighter future for Pennsylvania. Through

collaboration, innovation, and a shared commitment to progress, we can create communities where every individual can thrive.

As we continue to navigate the ever-changing landscape of community development, let us remember that the journey towards sustainability begins with the pursuit of livability. Together, we can build a more sustainable Pennsylvania for generations to come.

For further information on how your municipality can participate in the Sustainable Pennsylvania certification program and contribute to the creation of livable communities, please visit <https://sustainablepa.org/>. Together, we will shape a future that is vibrant, equitable, and sustainable for all. □

Early Bird Registration Special Ending Soon!
Don't delay! Register today to take advantage of early bird pricing.
Say goodbye to early bird registration fees and
group discounts on July 1.

Municipal Leadership Summit

SCRANTON  OCTOBER 10-13, 2024



Keynote Speaker

Charlie Dent, Former U.S. Congressman

Charlie Dent leads bipartisan, bicameral policy education programs for sitting members of Congress. In addition to his role at the Aspen Institute, he is a regular Political Commentator for CNN, MSNBC, and other media outlets. He is also a Senior Policy Advisor to the global law firm, DLA Piper and serves on the boards of nonprofit organizations including CARE USA and The National Archives Foundation.

[Click Here to Register Now](#)



Using Carbon Accounting to Drive Actionable Sustainability Strategies

SUBMITTED BY CONSTELLATION

As municipalities target climate action and sustainability as part of their overall energy goals, it can be challenging to understand and calculate your community's carbon footprint due to the evolving complexity of the process and lack of the right tools and resources. To achieve meaningful sustainability progress, it is essential to have accurate and comprehensive carbon accounting systems in place.

Carbon accounting, also known as greenhouse gas (GHG) accounting, is the process of measuring, reporting, and verifying the amount of GHGs emitted or removed from the atmosphere by a municipality's activity. Greenhouse gases are emitted from [a range of sources](#), including transportation, electricity generation, agriculture, and industrial processes.

Why Use Carbon Accounting?

Carbon accounting is necessary for several reasons. Firstly, it helps to identify the main sources of GHG emissions, allowing municipalities to target their mitigation efforts effectively. Secondly, it provides a basis for tracking progress towards emission reduction targets. Finally, it allows municipalities to report their emissions, either voluntarily or as required by federal or state reporting laws.

How does Carbon Accounting Work?

The greenhouse gas accounting process typically involves the following steps:

Identifying the sources of GHG

emissions: This involves identifying the activities that generate GHG emissions, such as the use of fossil fuels for transportation or the use of electricity in buildings.

Collecting data on the activity: This involves collecting data on the physical activity that generates emissions, such as the amount of fuel consumed by a vehicle, or the amount of electricity consumed by a building.

Calculating the emissions: This involves using emission factors or other calculation methods to estimate the amount of GHG emissions generated by the activity.

Verifying the emissions: This involves verifying the reported emissions through independent auditing or other verification methods to ensure their accuracy and completeness.

Reporting the emissions: This involves reporting the calculated emissions.

The Constellation Navigator Solution

The major challenge of greenhouse gas accounting is the availability of quality data. Collecting accurate data on activities that generate GHG emissions can be difficult, particularly for municipalities with multiple properties. Additionally, the accuracy of emission factors and other calculation methods can be affected by a range of factors, including the age and condition of equipment, the quality of fuel used,

and the weather conditions at the time of measurement.

Constellation Navigator's carbon accounting platform allows municipalities to seamlessly develop a baseline of their carbon emissions, report it across multiple frameworks, and identify and prioritize carbon reduction or mitigation strategies for implementation. Our solution will help you track your climate targets, projects, and budgets in one place.

Carbon accounting is a helpful tool for addressing the climate crisis. Accurate and comprehensive carbon accounting systems provide a basis for effective climate policies and strategic sustainability efforts and can help to drive the transition to a low-carbon economy. As such, it is important for municipalities to invest in the development and implementation of [robust carbon accounting](#).

Contact Matthew Shortall at matthew.shortall@constellation.com or 443-602-5755 to learn more. □





Residential Infrastructure Day Celebrated by HomeServe

BY ASHLEY SHIWARSKI, SENIOR DIRECTOR, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES SERVICE LINE WARRANTY PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY HOMESERVE

Residential Infrastructure Day on May 20 was a day to highlight infrastructure's "last mile." It's the electric, sewer, water, and cable lines that connect homes to utility systems, and household heating, cooling, and water heating equipment critical to everyday life. At HomeServe, residential infrastructure is our singular focus. It's our DNA. In partnership with over 1,300 municipalities, utilities and cooperatives, we help over 4.8 million households to keep the water running, the lights on, the temperatures comfortable and the crucial systems running safely and efficiently.

The HomeServe protection plan solution educates homeowners about their responsibility for residential infrastructure and offers optional repair plans for a range of residential lines and systems. Through our award-winning contact center, which answers 3.7 million calls per year, and our network of over 2,600 local licensed contractors across North America, we perform a job for one of our customers every 34 seconds. In the last five years, this has translated into significant residential infrastructure support including:

- Replacement of over 2,400 residential lead water lines – at an average of 30 feet, that's over 14 miles of pipe.

- Repair or replacement of over 27,000 exterior electric cables which, at an average of 25 feet, translates into over 131 miles of cable.
- 229,000 exterior water lines repaired or replaced, saving over 3.4 billion gallons of water.
- Additionally, since our founding in 2003, we have saved our customers over \$2 billion in repair costs.

Equity is an important focus of [Residential Infrastructure Day](#), as disadvantaged communities



across the United States face disproportionately higher utility burdens, and it's also an important focus for HomeServe. Our solutions help low- and moderate-income homeowners to maintain safety and comfort in their homes, as affordable protection plans that represent a predictable component of their monthly budget can protect against major unexpected repair expenses.

Additionally, our partners can choose to dedicate a portion of the revenue generated by the plans to either offset the cost-of-service plans for low-income homeowners or create a fund to assist with repairs. HomeServe partners and the communities they serve also gain immediate access to the HomeServe Cares Foundation, which provides pro-bono repairs for low-income homeowners. In the last five years we have contributed over \$580,000 in pro bono jobs to disadvantaged homeowners.

We want to thank our partners for allowing us to support your customers in their homes and invite utilities, municipalities, and service providers to tell your story and celebrate your role in delivering and supporting residential infrastructure. □

[Learn more about #ResidentialInfrastructureDay.](#)



NLC Service Line
Warranty Program

by




Local Government 101



Newly Elected Local Officials in Pennsylvania

BY GREGORY A. PRIMM, CITY MANAGER, CITY OF LOWER BURRELL, WESTMORELAND COUNTY

If you missed The League's Newly Elected Officials Training in January, you missed some useful information to help you kick off your term in office. Participants were able to get introductory information related to the ABCs of local government as well as guidance on effective meeting management tips and public engagement. Here are some highlights from that training you may find useful.

Newly elected local officials in Pennsylvania assume critical roles in shaping the governance and administration of their municipalities. Their responsibilities span a wide range of duties essential to maintaining and improving community services, ensuring public safety, and fostering economic development. Here is a detailed look at their core responsibilities:

Understanding Local Government Structure

Local officials must familiarize themselves with the structure of their municipality's government, which could be a borough, city, township or county. Each type of municipality has distinct governing frameworks and statutes as defined by Pennsylvania law in the various municipal codes.

Legislative Responsibilities

Newly elected officials, such as council members or commissioners, are primarily responsible for creating and passing local ordinances, resolutions, and policies. This legislative function includes:

- Reviewing and amending the municipal budget to ensure financial stability and resource allocation.
- Enacting zoning laws and land use regulations to guide development and preserve community character.
- Establishing local tax rates and other revenue measures to fund public services.

Administrative Oversight

Officials are tasked with overseeing the execution of laws and policies. This involves:

- Appointing and supervising municipal staff and department heads.
- Ensuring compliance with state and federal regulations.
- Monitoring the performance of municipal services such as public safety, public works, and recreational programs.

Public Safety and Welfare

Ensuring the safety and well-being of residents is a paramount responsibility. This includes:

- Supporting local police, fire, and emergency medical services (EMS).

Community and Economic Development

Officials play a vital role in fostering economic growth and enhancing quality of life. This includes:

- Facilitating business development through incentives and support programs.
- Investing in infrastructure projects such as roads, bridges, and public facilities.

Transparency and Accountability

Maintaining transparency and accountability is crucial for building public trust. Officials must:

- Ensure open access to public records and meetings.
- Conduct audits and financial reviews to maintain fiscal integrity.

- Respond to constituent concerns and grievances promptly and efficiently.

Conducting Effective Meetings

Effective meetings are central to the success of local governance. Here are key strategies for conducting productive meetings:

Preparation

- **Agenda Setting:** Prepare a clear and concise agenda outlining topics for discussion and decision-making. Distribute the agenda in advance to allow participants to prepare.
- **Information Dissemination:** Ensure all relevant documents and reports are provided to participants beforehand.

Conducting the Meeting

- **Start on Time:** Respect participants' time by starting and ending the meeting as scheduled.
- **Follow the Agenda:** Stick to the agenda to maintain focus and ensure all important topics are covered.
- **Facilitate Constructive Discussion:** Encourage open dialogue, allowing all participants to voice their opinions per the requirements of the law while maintaining order and respect.

Decision-Making

- **Clarify Proposals:** Ensure all proposals are clearly stated and understood before a vote.
- **Voting Procedures:** Follow established voting procedures to ensure fairness and transparency in decision-making.
- **Record Decisions:** Document all decisions and actions taken during the meeting in the minutes for future reference and accountability per the law.

Post-Meeting Follow-Up

- **Minutes Preparation:** Prepare and distribute minutes promptly, summarizing key points and decisions.
- **Action Items:** Assign and track action items to ensure follow-through on meeting outcomes.

Public Engagement

Engaging with the public is essential for responsive and inclusive governance. Here are some effective strategies for public engagement:

Communication Channels

- **Utilize Multiple Platforms:** Use various communication channels, including social media, newsletters, public notices, and the municipal website, to reach a broader audience.
- **Regular Updates:** Provide regular updates on municipal activities, decisions, and upcoming events.

Public Meetings and Hearings

- **Accessibility:** Schedule meetings at convenient times and locations, ensuring they are accessible to all community members.
- **Encourage Participation:** Promote public attendance and participation in meetings through effective outreach and communication.

Public Feedback

- **Surveys and Polls:** Conduct surveys and polls to gather public opinion on key issues and initiatives.
- **Public Comment Periods:** Allocate time for public comments during meetings to allow residents to voice their concerns and suggestions.

Community Outreach

- **Town Hall Meetings:** Hold town hall meetings to facilitate direct interaction between officials and residents.
- **Community Events:** Participate in community events to build relationships and foster trust.

Transparency and Accountability

- **Open Records:** Implement and follow the Right to Know Law to provide public access to municipal data and information.
- **Respond to Inquiries:** Promptly respond to public inquiries and feedback to demonstrate responsiveness and commitment to community needs.

Newly elected local officials in Pennsylvania have a profound responsibility to govern effectively and foster public trust. By understanding their roles, conducting effective meetings, and engaging with the public, they can create a transparent, accountable, and responsive government that serves the best interests of their communities. Through diligent effort and proactive engagement, these officials can drive positive change and contribute to the overall well-being and prosperity of their municipalities. □



Summer is Here, Stay Hydrated

SUBMITTED BY ELIZABETH HENRY, TRUSTS MEMBER SERVICES MANAGER

We have heard the phrase, "drink eight glasses of water a day." This is great advice, but how much is that exactly? Is it enough when considering everyone's individual needs based on the duties performed in your position at your entity? Proper hydration is essential in preventing heat illness.

Here are some tips for staying hydrated.

When working in the heat, drink 1 cup (8 ounces) of water or fluid every 15-20 minutes. This is about 32 ounces per hour, roughly 1 quart or 1 liter. When water gets boring, try adding a calorie-free flavoring. Infuse your water with fruit or vegetables overnight in the refrigerator for a refreshing change. Consider electrolyte beverages such as sports drinks.

As the summer heats up, employers should provide cool water or fluids for workers to drink. A cooler should be in a location that is familiar to the workers, near the work, easy to access, and enough for the work duration to keep all the workers hydrated. Employers should allow their employees to take rest breaks. These breaks should last long enough for the workers to recover from the heat. Resting in a cooler location will allow the workers to resume work more quickly. Find shade from a tree, a building, rest in an air-conditioned car, or even an area with fans. Always take your scheduled meal breaks, as this adds hydration to your body and gives the employee a chance to cool off. In hot conditions, skipping hydration breaks and rest breaks is not safe.

Different products play into hydration.

Alcohol can increase your risk of heat illness as it is a diuretic. Diuretics lead to dehydration. Medications can lead to an increase in urination or perspiration. Not keeping up with fluid intake may cause dehydration. Caffeine and energy drinks may cause strain on your heart during hot temperatures and workload.

Know the warning signs of dehydration.

Increased thirst, flushed skin, fatigue, and concentrated urine. More severe signs are dizziness, weakness, and labored breathing. If you notice these signs, hydrate immediately.

Share with your co-workers.

Hydrate before work, drink a glass of water first thing in the morning, hydrate during work, even if you do not feel thirsty, and hydrate after work, replacing the fluids lost while working.

Have a wonderful summer!

For further information on PennPRIME, contact:

Elizabeth Henry
Trusts Member Services Manager
ehenry@pml.org
717-236-9469, ext. *250

Help Us Build A Playground!

2024 Playground Build

Hoberman Park Playground | August 1-3, 2024
Prospect Street, Lock Haven, PA 17745



Once again, the Pennsylvania Municipal League has teamed up with the national non-profit group, KABOOM!, to coordinate volunteers, design, and build a new playground, designed with the help of neighborhood children.

[Click Here to Volunteer](#)

[Click Here to Sponsor](#)

Playground Builder – \$20,000

- Name on permanent sign in park
- Year-round benefits as a League Business Leaders Network member (highlights include: direct access to the League Board of Directors, League policy and research, and the League membership directory, as well as myriad advertising opportunities)
- Link on League website
- Logo on Build Day T-shirts
- Event coverage in statewide magazine, the *Municipal Reporter*
- Full-page ad in a post-playground build issue of the *Municipal Reporter*
- Logo/link on all event news releases
- Opportunity for recognition and remarks at Design Day and Build Day events
- Social Media coverage before and during the event

Playground Partner – \$10,000

- Link on League website
- Logo on Build Day T-shirts
- Event coverage in statewide magazine, the *Municipal Reporter*
- Half-page ad in a post-playground build issue of the *Municipal Reporter*
- Logo/link on all event news releases
- Opportunity for recognition at Build Day events
- Social Media coverage before and during the event

Playground Promoter – \$5,000

- Link on League website
- Logo on Build Day T-shirts
- Event coverage in statewide magazine, the *Municipal Reporter*
- Half-page ad in a post-playground build issue of the *Municipal Reporter*
- Logo/link on all event news releases
- Opportunity for recognition at Build Day events
- Social Media coverage before and during the event

To sponsor the playground build, contact Amanda Lane, Deputy Executive Director - Membership,
at 717-585-2702 (cell), 800-922-8063, or via email at alane@pml.org.



PSATC President's Message



JOHN J. JABLOWSKI, JR.
COUNCILMEMBER
WILKES-BARRE TOWNSHIP



firstclasstownship.org

Livable Communities: Building A Sense of Place

Dear Commissioners,

Pennsylvania is blessed by having a rich array of culturally and historically unique communities. One of the hallmarks of a livable community is its own sense of pride and place.

A livable community certainly means many things to many people but a fundamental part of our culture here in Pennsylvania is that our communities are a place where neighbors care for neighbors, where we promote a strong sense of civic engagement and have an uncommon pride of place.

Over 1.6 million Pennsylvanian's reside in First Class Townships. The social fabric of our municipalities is a mosaic of neighborhoods and communities from all regions of the commonwealth, many being incorporated hundreds of years ago.

A century ago, First Class Townships were home to the core "neighborhoods" that characterized the Industrial Revolution. Most of our townships were home to the industries that fueled the Industrial Revolution including steel, rail, coal and iron.

Forward to today in the post-COVID-19 era. The Global Pandemic accelerated changes that were happening in our society. From telehealth, telework and even remote learning, the characteristics of our world have been permanently and forever changed. For those folks who long for the way it was... well, this is now the way it is.

Today it seems that the very core of our communities is being shaken by a rapidly changing world. As leaders in our communities, we understand how we got here but now where do we go?

By fostering a sense of engagement of our community members, we can collectively harness our commonality while celebrating our differing backgrounds.

In addition to the thousands of small and medium sized businesses to international corporations, First Class Township leadership collectively manages in excess of \$1.6 billion of budgets on an annual basis.

Collectively, millions of taxpayer dollars are annually reinvested into Pennsylvania's First Class Townships to continually enhance and build upon the livability of our communities in these ever-changing times.

The Pennsylvania Association of Township Commissioners (PSATC) is proud to have successfully launched a new website at www.firstclasstownship.org that is serving as a forum to help empower first class leadership in the communities we serve.

As local governments, we must provide opportunities to build healthy thriving communities by driving innovation in the way we approach our strategy, our municipal operations and the ecosystem that we operate.

According to AARP, “nearly 8 of 10 people over age 45 want to ‘age in place’ by continuing to live in their own homes and a full 80% believe their current community is where they will reside.”

Throughout our communities, PSATC members are building vibrant livable communities across Pennsylvania through enhancing recreational opportunities, improving park and rail to trail systems, investing in public infrastructure and municipal services.

PSATC will be highlighting a First Class Township and its efforts to build livable communities on our recently launched Facebook page [@First Class Township PA](#). Check it out and follow us here.

A community is a collective of many striving for a common purpose. PSATC encourages our members and our local government partners to continue collaborating in our regions to build upon the rich quality of life that makes us unique.

Finally, on behalf of PSATC, we want to express our appreciation to the thousands of community leaders across Pennsylvania who work tirelessly to create and build livable places!

Kind regards,

John J. Jablowski, Jr.

John J. Jablowski, Jr.

Early Bird Registration Special Ending Soon!
Don't delay! Register today to take advantage of early bird pricing.
Say goodbye to early bird registration fees and group discounts on July 1.

Municipal Leadership Summit

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Keynote Speaker

Charlie Dent, Former U.S. Congressman

Charlie Dent leads bipartisan, bicameral policy education programs for sitting members of Congress. In addition to his role at the Aspen Institute, he is a regular Political Commentator for CNN, MSNBC, and other media outlets. He is also a Senior Policy Advisor to the global law firm, DLA Piper and serves on the boards of nonprofit organizations including CARE USA and The National Archives Foundation.

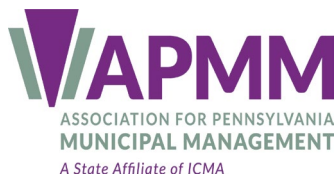
Click Here to Register Now



APMM President's Message



DAVID PRIBULKA
MANAGER
SUSQUEHANNA TOWNSHIP



APMM.net

Greetings Managers and Elected Officials!

I am truly honored to have been recently elected to serve as President of the Association of Pennsylvania Municipal Management for the upcoming year. I want to sincerely thank Amanda Serock of Concord Township for her steadfast leadership and guidance of this great association – we are all truly in a better position for her service and I hope to continue to move ahead with the initiatives she began.

The old expression, “May you live in interesting times,” seems to be both a blessing and a curse in local government these days. There is a crisis of competence and confidence in local leadership that can only be solved through steady and unwavering dedication to the principles of transparent, accountable governance. It is times like these we must lean on our professional consortiums like The League, APMM and PSATC to help position us to give our residents the assurance they need to know their government officials are working selflessly in the best interests of the communities we serve.

APMM is ready to give our members the resources to tackle these challenges head-on. This year, we will focus on three main areas: growing membership, professional ethics, and training.

Growing membership – The APMM Executive Committee, Membership Committee and Promotions Committee are implementing a marketing strategy to increase our enrollment with a goal of getting every professional municipal manager to join the Association. We will be present at conferences and events around the state, and leaning heavily into our [new LinkedIn page](#) and proactively reaching out to ICMA members who are not members of APMM.

Professional ethics – APMM members have always been committed to the highest standards of professional ethics. Our bylaws hold our members accountable to the ethical tenets of the International City/County Managers Association (ICMA) regardless of whether a manager is an ICMA member. This year, the Association plans to establish a committee for the purposes of investigation and adjudication of alleged ethics violations.

In times of low confidence in government, our members are recommitting to ethical administration to show that public office is public trust.

Training – APMM has always been committed to providing training for our members for the unique challenges we face each day in local government. Now more than ever, our training must emphasize the foundational principles of professional management, while also focusing on present and future trends in the disciplines of technology, sustainability, inclusivity, and more. These include preparing our infrastructure to adapt to changing climate; incorporating artificial intelligence into our management strategies; and building communities that ensure all are welcome.

I look forward to serving you all in the year ahead as APMM President. I want to thank the Committee Chairs and members, as well as 1st Vice President Dan Santoro of Cranberry Township and 2nd Vice President Crandall Jones of Upper Darby Township for their support and dedication to this Association and the profession of municipal management. Now, let's get to work!

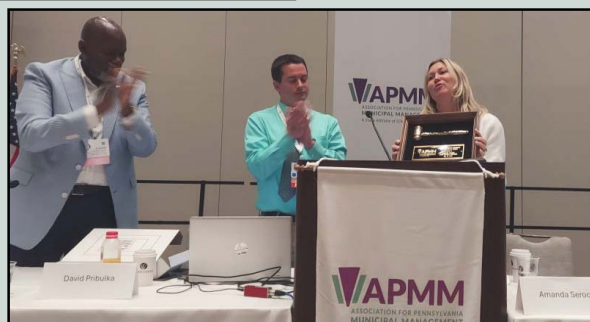
Sincerely,

David Pribulka

2024 APMM Annual Conference was a great success!



From May 20 - 22, the Association for Pennsylvania Municipal Management (APMM) held its annual conference at Wind Creek in Bethlehem, PA. This year's event was extremely successful, with nearly 150 municipal managers from across the Commonwealth participating in educational sessions covering various aspects of municipal management. Topics ranged from Becoming Coachable to Succession Planning, providing managers with tools to govern more effectively. The opportunity to learn and network with fellow managers was invaluable. Managers, mark your calendars: the 2025 conference is set for May 19 - 25 at the Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square.





Pennsylvania Municipal
League

Business Programs



PELRAS
Public Employer Labor Relations
Advisory Service

PELRAS provides specialized training through the Annual Training Conference, legal counsel, and a bi-monthly newsletter addressing all areas of personnel management and labor relations.



MUA
Municipal Utility Alliance
Electricity Procurement Program

The **MUA** was created in 1997 to sponsor utility related initiatives that provide budgetary and administrative savings to participating municipalities. The MUA is a separate entity within PML, and the PML Board of Directors also acts as the Board for the MUA. The MUA Electricity Procurement Program utilizes cooperative purchasing to lower the impact of any increases in the cost of electricity. Through an RFP process, the MUA selected Constellation Energy as the supplier for electricity services.



GrantFinder powered by EfficientGov is a real-time, online searchable database of more than 7,400 eligible grants for which local governments may apply. This searchable database tracks federal, state, foundation and corporate grants available to municipalities and local non-profits.



L3P
Local Public
Procurement Program

Local Public Procurement Program: This service simplifies the purchasing process via assistance with commonwealth contracts, a quarterly contracts checklist, and information on a variety of statewide cooperative purchasing opportunities.



Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust: This member-owned and operated investment trust, established exclusively for local governments, offers eight distinct investment options, cash management services, and a procurement card rebate program. A representative from PML serves on the PLGIT Board of Trustees.



U-COMP
Unemployment Compensation Trust

U-COMP was founded in 1985 as a trust to provide group unemployment compensation coverage for public entities in Pennsylvania. Program membership is open to all classes of municipalities and authorities. The program was developed to assist public entities in lowering their unemployment and to provide affordable rates for Members. Members have the opportunity to receive annual dividends. U-COMP has a third-party administrator, Experian Employer Services, who provides unemployment education, representation at hearings, and assistance with the completion of forms from Labor and Industry.



PennPRIME
INSURANCE TRUSTS | A Service Program of The League

PennPRIME Insurance Trust was founded by municipal managers for Pennsylvania municipal entities. Whether your entity seeks property insurance, liability coverage, workers' compensation coverage or a full slate of risk management services, PennPRIME offers custom-tailored solutions designed specifically for you. We give our members the best benefits, tools, resources, training and services they need to make their municipal entity succeed. We are specialists in your corner.



Amazon Business: The Amazon Business Associated Accounts Program is now available to all League members, offering a robust platform to consolidate and optimize your purchasing processes while maintaining control over individual buying needs. By joining this program, you will gain access to a suite of benefits designed to simplify your procurement tasks and reduce costs significantly. We encourage all members to take advantage of this valuable program designed to support your operational needs and financial strategies.

Legislative Status Report STATE



PREPARED BY AMY STURGES, LEAGUE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – ADVOCACY – asturges@pml.org
KAITLIN ERRICKSON, GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS MANAGER – kerrickson@pml.org

All legislation can be found on the General Assembly's website:

legis.state.pa.us

Legislative Update

Enacted Legislation

Senate Bill 37

Signed: June 5, 2024

Effective: Immediately and 18 months (data collection)

[Act 18](#) prohibits a driver from using a cellphone or other mobile device while driving. There is a 12-month warning period before any penalties may be issued, and after that, any offending driver commits a summary offense with a fine of \$50. The Department of Transportation, in consultation with the State Police, must develop and distribute educational materials for the appropriate and effective detection of distracted driving. This Act preempts all local ordinances regarding this issue.

In addition to the cellphone ban, Act 18 requires state and local police officers to collect data from any self-initiated traffic stops. Data includes the reason for the stop,

perceived race and ethnicity of the driver, gender, age and whether the stop led to a search of the vehicle, its driver or passengers. Officers must also report the results of the stop – a warning, citation, arrest or other action. The failure of an officer to collect this data will not affect the validity of the traffic stop. The State Police are charged with developing procedures for data collection.

Each local police department must submit the data collected to the State Police, or a third party designated by the State Police, on an annual basis to be included in a report. Once completed, the report will be made available to the House and Senate Transportation Committee Chairs, the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency and the PA Human Relations Commission.

A department that is already collecting this data, submitting the data for third party analysis, and making the data available to the public, does not have to adhere to the provisions of this legislation.



A “local police department” is defined as a single or regional department serving a population of more than 5,000. The data collection portion of the Act takes effect 18 months after enactment.

Legislation Affecting Local Government

Private Water and Sewer Laterals

Passed the House; Senate Local Government Committee, April 22, 2024

[**House Bill 1903 \(PN 2942\)**](#), introduced by Representative Melissa Cerrato, would amend Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) giving municipalities authority to replace or remediate private water or sewer laterals if they decide such action would benefit the public water supply, the public sewer system or public health.

If a municipality makes this determination, it would be allowed to use public money and employees to replace or remediate the laterals. However, before using public funds or employees, it must consider the availability of resources and the competing demands in the municipality that require public funds, employees, equipment and facilities. A municipality would not be considered the owner of any repaired or replaced laterals and would not have to perform any additional duties related to those laterals. The bill would also give authority to build and maintain water or sanitary sewer pump stations, public sewer collection systems, public water distribution systems and similar services within their boundaries.

An amendment to the bill added the requirement that a municipality prioritize the use of American-made supplies in the replacement or remediation of laterals. If American-made supplies cannot be used because of supply issues, a municipality is required to publish a notice in a newspaper of general circulation. An appeal process is outlined in the bill if a business or individual objects to the municipal determination of a lack of supply.

Multi-Unit Dwellings and Mixed-Use Development in Commercial Zones

First Consideration in the House, House Rules Committee, June 5, 2024

[**House Bill 1976 \(PN 3275\)**](#), introduced by Representative Siegel, was amended in the House Local Government Committee on June 5 by adding a new Chapter 6 to Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) entitled Special Provisions Relating to Ordinances.

The bill would preempt local zoning by mandating that a municipal zoning ordinance allow, as a permitted use by

right, multi-unit dwellings or mixed-use development in a commercial zone that has a will-serve letter from both a municipal water and sewer system. Additionally, for such developments, a zoning ordinance may not require more than one parking space for each unit or an equivalent number of spaces through a shared parking agreement. A municipality can ask its county planning agency to review the proposed development and determine if the existing infrastructure is sufficient. The county planning agency can require the developer to make necessary infrastructure improvement upgrades to accommodate the development.

The applicability of House Bill 1976 is limited to municipalities with a population of over 5,000 situated in a county that had an increase in population in the most recent census.

Municipality is defined as a city, including a city with a home rule charter, township, borough or incorporated town.

Permitted Uses in Single-Family Zones

First Consideration in the House, House Rules Committee, June 5, 2024

[**House Bill 2045 \(PN 3259\)**](#), introduced by Representative Joshua Siegel, was amended in the House Local Government Committee on June 5 by adding a new Chapter 6 to Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) entitled Special Provisions Relating to Ordinances.

The bill would still preempt local zoning by mandating that a municipal zoning ordinance allow, as a permitted use by right, multi-family housing where a single-family residence is permitted. A municipality can ask its county planning agency to review the proposed development and determine if the existing infrastructure is sufficient. The county planning agency can require the developer to make necessary infrastructure improvement upgrades.

The applicability of House Bill 2045 is limited to municipalities with a population of over 5,000 situated in a county that had an increase in population in the most recent census.

Fire and EMS Grant Programs

House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, June 11, 2024

[**House Bill 2407 \(PN 3294\)**](#), introduced by Representative Jared Solomon would reauthorize the Fire and EMS Grant Programs to 2029 and make various updates to the grant programs. Additionally, the legislation would create a supplemental annual grant program of \$30 million

funded through the Property Tax Relief Fund to support fire and EMS services and encourage modernization and regionalization through a county-level competitive grant program.

Municipal Police Pension Credit Buy Back

Passed the Senate, House Local Government Committee, June 13, 2024

[Senate Bill 464](#) (PN 1685), introduced by Senator Mike Regan, would amend Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) authorizing municipalities to provide full-time vested police officers the option to purchase up to five years of their previous part-time or full-time employment for pension benefit purposes.

The bill provides a calculation to determine the cost to an officer. An officer would not be eligible to receive this benefit if they receive or are entitled to receive a pension benefit from another fund, or if their military service credits, when combined with past police service credits, exceed five years.

Lastly, the legislation would not impact the portability and transfer of credits between pension plans within the PA Municipal Retirement System.

Fire and EMS Grant Programs and Fire and EMS Loan Fund

Passed the Senate, House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, June 13, 2024

[Senate Bill 1099](#) (PN 1724), introduced by Senator Doug Mastriano, would reauthorize the Fire and EMS Grant Program until December 31, 2029. The bill would also extend the Fire and EMS Loan Fund to paid departments.

Fire and EMS Special Purpose Taxes

Senate Local Government Committee, June 7, 2024

[Senate Bills 1218](#), [1219](#) and [1220](#) (PNs 1694, 1695 and 1696), introduced by Senator Frank Farry, would amend the Second Class Township, Borough and First Class Township Codes removing all limitations on the levy of a fire and EMS tax in the listed codes, including the millage caps and caps on how much revenue may go to fire and EMS personnel salaries and other compensation. □



New Grassroots Tool Makes Local Advocacy Effortless

The League and PSATC are introducing a new advocacy tool to make it easier for our municipal officials to participate in local advocacy.

When you receive a Legislative Take Action email, simply click on the Take Action button, fill in your information and hit send!





How Local Leaders Can Make Community Events More Sustainable

BY MONICA ROWAND, SENIOR MANAGER, WM ADVISORY SERVICES, NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES

Summer is here, and your community may have a list of events on the calendar, from concerts to sports events to graduation ceremonies and more. But have you thought of how to make those events more sustainable? Sports and entertainment venues can host up to millions of guests every year – making it imperative to manage and reduce waste in these types of dynamic environments.

[Waste Management \(WM\) Advisory Services](#), North America's leading provider of comprehensive environmental and sustainability solutions, has a team that does just that and has more than a 30-year history of providing sustainability solutions for a variety of customers of all sizes and industries, including local governments. Some of these you may recognize, like the WM Phoenix Open, and more recently, WM was named the first Official Sustainability Partner of Major League Baseball. WM is currently supporting sustainability programs for six sports leagues, ten venues, 12 golf tournaments, multiple large events, and a variety of non-sports customers.

Here are some lessons learned that we hope you will share with your residents to help make the events in your community more sustainable. Local leaders can take the first step of ensuring adequate recycling bins and proper signage at the event.

- **Bring a reusable water bottle or make sure the cap is on plastic bottles before you recycle:** Big venues typically have water fountains throughout, so bringing a reusable water bottle is a good option. If you choose to buy bottled water or



another bottled beverage, don't fret – these are made of PET plastic, which is 100 percent recyclable (just be sure to screw the cap on before placing it in the bin).

- **Drink in a can? Yes, you can recycle it:** This one may be more obvious, but cans are recyclable! Cans are also one of the most important items to get in the recycle bin, as aluminum is a valuable material that is infinitely recyclable.
- **Pizza boxes can go in the recycling bin:** They are recyclable, and this great cardboard can be reused; just make sure the box is mostly clean and that last slice and anything else is removed!
- **Stadium reusables:** Sometimes, stadiums offer reusable cups, ice cream helmets – you name it. These can be great to reuse at home (and serve as a memorable souvenir).
- **Know what not to recycle:** Knowing what to recycle is just as important as knowing what not to place in the bin. Items like potato chip bags and utensils need to go in the trash so they don't contaminate recyclable materials.

Local leaders can also improve the sustainability of events in their community by encouraging attendees to carpool, take public transportation, walk, or bike.

If you're looking for more recycling resources and tips, visit [WM's Recycle Right® website](#). □



Municipal Reporter

We would love to feature your community in one of the three remaining editions of our *Municipal Reporter* magazine!

2024 Topics Include:

August
Leadership

October
Civility

December
**Emergency
Management**

For details on submitting articles, please contact Debbie Bitting,
League Director of Communications, at dbitting@pml.org.





Public Finance

THE RIGHT FIT

PLGIT HAS AN INVESTMENT OPTION TO MEET YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S NEEDS

BY MATT CONLIN, RELATIONSHIP MANAGER, PFM ASSET MANAGEMENT LLC, INVESTMENT ADVISOR AND ADMINISTRATOR TO PLGIT

Local government officials are responsible for the financial health of their municipalities, and they take that job seriously. There's a lot to know: managing cash flow, planning for ongoing expenditures (like maintenance) and one-time projects (like major infrastructure repair), understanding investment options, and earning solid yields — all while maintaining an overarching focus of seeking safety for public funds.

The Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust (PLGIT or the Trust) was formed over 40 years ago expressly to help municipalities manage those difficult tasks. Over the years, PLGIT has designed investment options exclusively to help achieve the goals of these specific investors and continues to improve and update products based on those investors' needs and feedback.

In this article, we'll take a look at PLGIT's investment options — leading with its PLGIT/TERMSM product — and you can consider how they might aid in your municipality's successful financial planning.

A Declaration of Trust

PLGIT operates under a Declaration of Trust (the Declaration) that states that PLGIT's primary purpose will be to offer Pennsylvania's entities a way

to pool temporary cash reserves to gain "greater advantage under the daily supervision of professional investment advisers." Moreover, the Declaration limits participation in the Trust to "municipal entities of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania." Unlike institutions with multiple customers and varied investment goals, PLGIT's had a singular focus on investing solely for member governments from the beginning.

With this Declaration as its bedrock, PLGIT has created a mix of investment products and services designed to help optimize local government's returns while maintaining a focus on key goals like preserving safety and liquidity.

PLGIT Investment Options — Products With A Purpose

By understanding each PLGIT investment option, local governments can better achieve specific goals. Here are details on several key investment options, and how investors may consider using them:

PLGIT/TERMSM is an investment option for local governments that want to realize a potentially higher yield than PLGIT's daily liquidity options, but also have a specific, targeted date and need

for invested funds. PLGIT/TERMSM locks in your rate for the entire term of the investment and maturity dates range from 60 days to one year. PLGIT/TERMSM requires a minimum initial investment of \$100,000, a minimum investment period of sixty (60) days and has a premature withdrawal penalty. An example of how this could benefit your municipality: if you know your municipality needs to make a payment for salt, fuel, insurance premium, or debt service payment on a specific date, it can invest those funds in PLGIT/TERM to mature near that date. That enables a municipality to earn a potentially higher yield in a targeted time than with savings-like accounts, like PLGIT-Class.

The PLGITSM Portfolio consists of two classes of shares that each stress safety of principal as their primary objective — a fact underscored by the portfolio's AAAM¹ rating from Standard & Poor's:

- **PLGIT-Class SharesSM** offer daily liquidity, no minimum balance requirements and unlimited checking with no out-of-pocket fees or service charges. Because of these features, municipal investors tend to use PLGIT-Class Shares like they would a standard

checking account. However, investors keeping more funds than necessary in a PLGIT-Class account may want to consider investment options like PLGIT/PRIME, where those funds have the potential to earn higher yields.

- **PLGIT/Reserve-Class SharesSM** is an option with a lower expense ratio than PLGIT-Class shares, offering liquidity but limited services enabling investors who have a limited investment policy with a way to potentially increase their earnings over PLGIT-Class. PLGIT/Reserve-Class Shares carry no waiting period prior to redemption, but redemptions are limited to two per month. The increased yield potential versus PLGIT-Class makes PLGIT/Reserve-Class Shares an attractive option for funds like short-term reserves. Again, investors may want to weigh this option against PLGIT/PRIME (see below), which offers the potential for a higher yield.

PLGIT/PRIMESM portfolio is the newest investment option available to local governments. Updated in May 2016 in response to the expansion of permitted investments for municipal entities and school districts statewide, the PLGIT/PRIME portfolio includes newly permitted investments like commercial paper and negotiable certificates of deposit, forms of short-term highly rated corporate debt that typically is offered at better yields than similar maturity US Government-backed instruments. The benefit: PLGIT/PRIME is a portfolio that invests in a broader array of permitted investments for local governments and all other public entities in Pennsylvania, including securities that historically outperform a more simplified portfolio of US Treasuries and Federal Agencies like the PLGIT Portfolio described in previous paragraphs. PLGIT/PRIME is a distinct investment portfolio, rated AAAM by Standard & Poor's¹. Investment requires no minimum balance and no minimum initial

investment, however this option limits redemptions or exchanges to two per calendar month, so it's more appropriate as a short-term option for idle funds.

PLGIT-CDSM Purchase Program enables PLGIT investors to purchase FDIC-insured CDs via a separate agreement with PLGIT's investment adviser, PFM Asset Management LLC (PFMAM). Individual CDs may be purchased in amounts such that the principal and interest will not exceed insured limits. Minimum investments for CDs are around \$100,000, and the maximum CD purchase would be in an amount such that the total value of the CD including interest would not exceed \$250,000. With the PLGIT-CD Purchase Program, municipalities can gain access to a range of competitive fixed-rate CDs, with flexible terms, from banks across the nation that may have higher yields than some Federal Agency discount notes. Investments in the PLGIT-CD Purchase Program are direct investments of the Investor, not assets of the Trust or under control of the Board of Trustees. For details, visit www.PLGIT.com, or call for a specific quote.

This is just a sample of the investment options offered by PLGIT. For more details, contact PLGIT today. We will be happy to help you with your review and help you chart a course for your particular situation.

Matt Conlin is a Relationship Manager for PFM Asset Management LLC, investment advisor and administrator to PLGIT. Matt works primarily with investors in the central part of the commonwealth. He can be reached at conlinm@pfmam.com. □



pfm asset management

Sources:

¹ Standard & Poor's fund ratings are based on analysis of credit quality, market price exposure and management. According to Standard & Poor's rating criteria, the AAAM rating signifies excellent safety of invested principal and a superior capacity to maintain a \$1.00 per share net asset value. However, it should be understood that the rating is not a "market" rating nor a recommendation to buy, hold or sell the securities. For a full description on rating methodology, visit Standard & Poor's website (http://www.standardandpoors.com/en_US/web/guest/home).

Important Disclosure Information

*This information is for institutional investor use only, not for further distribution to retail investors, and does not represent an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy or sell any fund or other security. Investors should consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing in any of the Trust's portfolios. This and other information about the Trust's portfolios is available in the current Information Statement, which should be read carefully before investing. A copy of the Information Statement may be obtained by calling 1-800-572-1472 or is available on the Trust's website at www.plgit.com. While the PLGIT and PLGIT/PRIME portfolios seek to maintain a stable net asset value of \$1.00 per share and the PLGIT/TERM portfolio seeks to achieve a net asset value of \$1.00 per share at its stated maturity, it is possible to lose money investing in the Trust. An investment in the Trust is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency. Shares of the Trust's portfolios are distributed by **PFM Fund Distributors, Inc.**, member Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) (www.finra.org) and Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC) (www.sipc.org). PFM Fund Distributors, Inc. is an affiliate of PFM Asset Management LLC.*



We **HELP YOU** **MANAGE RISK 24/7.**

So you can
FOCUS
on the 9-5.

With all the tasks that challenge you on a daily basis, we understand that risk management is only one of the many responsibilities on your “to do” list.

That’s why **PennPRIME** is here to help you manage the risk, even when you can’t.

Armed with our Trusts’ municipal entity-specific coverage, educational support, and other specialized services, we’re ready to be an extension of your team, whenever and however you need us.



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