Employees should continue to practice good hygiene by adhering to the following guidelines:

• Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer, especially after touching frequently used items or surfaces.
• Avoid touching your face.
• Sneeze or cough into a tissue, or the inside of your elbow.
• Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.
• Employees are asked to inform themselves on the current Public Health Order.

Word of the Day by G. David Myers:

clow·der

/ˈklou̇der/

noun
1. a group of cats.
2. two cats are a pair. Three or more are a clowder.

“It is not wise to bring a clowder of cats to the dog park”
Remember When:

Scheduled for this Week:

**MONDAY – January 24th**

8:00 AM – Monday Mornings w/ the Mayor (Tim & Ron will also join) – 1490 AM

10:00 AM – Team Tourism Meeting – Executive Conference Room

11:00 – Internal Finance Committee Meeting – Council Chambers
1:30 PM – Emergency Response Plan – Council Chambers
5:00 PM – Parks and Recreation Commission – Council Chambers
6:00 PM – State of the Village – Council Chambers

**TUESDAY – January 25th**
9:00 AM – Strategic Planning Workshop – Council Chambers

**WEDNESDAY – January 26th**
9:00 AM – Strategic Planning Workshop – Council Chambers

**THURSDAY – January 27th**
8:00 AM – Mayor’s Agenda Review – Council Chambers
8:00 AM – Special Council Meeting – Council Chambers
9:00 AM – Strategic Planning Workshop – Council Chambers
10:00 AM – Ruidoso Hazard Mitigation – Zoom
1:00 PM – DR 1783 Village of Ruidoso – Conference Call
2:00 PM – RJU Shop Building – Microsoft Teams

**FRIDAY – January 28th**
9:00 AM – Personnel Policy Meeting – Council Chambers

**SATURDAY – January 29th**

**SUNDAY – January 30th**

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**Human Resources**

If you haven’t yet been vaccinated register for your vaccine here: [cvvaccine.nmhealth.org](http://cvvaccine.nmhealth.org).
Please submit your vaccination cards to HR.
If you need assistance HR can help!
January Quarterly Evals are due!

Current Posted Positions

**Police Department:**
- Patrol Officer Certified (until filled)
- Patrol Officer Non-certified (until filled)
- Telecommunications Officer (until filled)

**Street:**
- Street Supervisor
- Heavy Equipment Operator

**Water Distribution:**
- Water/Wastewater Foreman
- Water/Wastewater Maintenance Worker

**Fire Department**
- Heavy Equipment Mechanic II
- Firefighter

**Parks and Recreation**
- Temporary Rec Leader (Ice Rink)

**Human Resources**
- Safety Officer

### New Employee and Promotion Highlights

### Parks and Recreation

Upcoming January Events

a. Smart Start Basketball (6 Sundays starting Jan 23rd 2-3)
   i. We have had more interest than expected so there will be a second session. These will be the same days just at 3:30 pm-4:30 pm

b. Youth Basketball Registration Extended
   i. Registration extended to Jan 26th (Team tryout and draft January 29th, First Game Feb 12th)

c. Ice Rink will be extended to Fed 6th 11 am-8 pm weather permitting
   i. Wednesday Early out Ice Rink Days 1 pm-6 pm
   ii. We will be leaving most of the lights up at Wingfield until the ice rink is gone
Ruidoso Convention Center Event Schedule
The Ruidoso Community Center’s RSVP Program is having a Martin Luther King Coat Drive until January 17, 2022. There are drop off bins located at Albertsons, Walgreens, Club Gas, Horton Gymnasium, and the Community Center. The drive will be accepting gently used, jackets, warm coats, gloves, scarves, and any other warm clothing. For more information you can call us at (575)257-4565.

Here is the link for the radio station request form!!
https://forms.office.com/r/8Ejt4ZSA8u
Ruidoso Community Center
Activities

Home of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

Monday-Thursday 8:00am-4:00pm
Fridays 7:00am-3:00pm

Enhanced Fitness
Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays @ 9:00am

Yarn Club
Mondays 1:00pm – 4:00pm

Clogging for Beginners
Mondays & Wednesdays @ 6:00pm *Starts Jan 5th*

Constitution Class
Wednesdays @ 5:30pm

Coffee & Snacks
Tuesday Mornings 8:30am – 10:30am

People Works Counseling
Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:00am-12:00pm

Gentle Fitness Class
Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:00am-10:00am

Duplicate Bridge Games
Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:00pm

Quilters & Stitchers
1st & 3rd Tuesday of Each Month 1:00pm-4:00pm

Art Lessons
Tuesdays @ 1:00pm

Needle Crafting Group
Tuesdays 9:30 – 11:30 am. For more info call 575-987-5248

Clogging Lessons
Tuesdays & Thursdays 4:00pm-5:30pm

Table Tennis
Wednesdays & Fridays 10:30am-12:30am

$1 Luncheon
Wednesdays 11:45am

Humana Bingo & Seminar
3rd Wednesday of Each Month 1:30pm *Prizes for Winners*

Party Bridge Games
Wednesdays & Fridays @ 1:00pm

Hear on Earth Hearing Care
Last Wednesday of each month 10:00 am – 1 pm

Book Club
4th Wednesday of the Month @ 1:30pm

$2 Breakfast
Thursdays & Fridays 8:00am to 9:30am

Dance Lessons
Thursdays: Beginners @ 6:30 pm & Intermediate @ 7:00 pm

Mahjong
Fridays @ 1:00pm

DWI School
Sundays 10:00 am-2:00pm

- Free Fitness Equipment Usage
- Pool and Ping-Pong Tables
- Blood Pressure Checks
- Coffee Available Everyday

For more information, please contact Anthony or Amber at:
AnthonyMontes@ruidoso-nm.gov or AmberWord@ruidoso-nm.gov

Transportation Services are Available: Call Z-Trans @ (575) 439-4971
FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIREPLACE SAFETY TIPS TO KEEP IN MIND THIS WINTER

There's nothing quite as cozy as a crackling fire in the fireplace, but if you don't take some simple safety precautions, that fire could turn deadly.

Every year, more than 6,000 people end up in emergency rooms for injuries associated with fireplaces. Most of the injuries involve children under five years old.

Keep your family safe and warm by following these fireplace safety tips:

- Have chimneys inspected annually, and cleaned as necessary, by a Certified Chimney Sweep. This reduces the risk of chimney fires and provides an opportunity to find any cracks or breaks in your chimney pipe.
- Keep the top of chimneys clear of tree limbs or debris.
- Make sure all dry pine needles are swept off your roof.
- Always open the damper before lighting the fire and keep it open until the ashes are cool.
- Never use gasoline, charcoal lighter or other fuel to light or relight a fire.
- Do not overload the fireplace. Large fires can lead to overheating of wall or roof materials and often are the cause of chimney fires.
- Warn children about the danger of fire. Do not let them play with fire or near the fireplace.
- Do not dispose of ashes in dumpsters until they are completely cold.
• Have a fire extinguisher nearby and be sure everyone in your house knows where it is.
• And finally, please check to make sure all your smoke detectors are working as we go into winter. Please remember to follow The Ruidoso Fire Department on Facebook for this and other safety messages.

LIBRARY
The Youth Services program Appreciate a Dragon Day was successful and the children each created a piece of the dragon that we are displaying at the library. We hope you join us Wednesday, January 26, 2022, at 10:30 for a penguin story and the kids will make snow dough! The new mobile printing is being utilized often and our print software is running smoothly.

LOOKING AHEAD...

January 31st – Monday Mornings w/ the Mayor (Tim & Ron will also join) @8:00 AM – 1490 AM

January 31st – Lodgers’ Tax Meeting – Council Chambers

January 31st – Mayors’ Council @11:00 AM – WebEx

February 1st – Council Workshop @8:00 AM – Council Chambers

February 1st – Planning Commission Meeting @2:00 PM – Council Chambers
February 1st – Mayor’s Caucus @2:00 PM – Zoom

February 2nd – Personnel Policy Meeting @9:00 AM – Council Chambers

February 3rd – Ruidoso Hazard Mitigation Easement @10:00 AM – Zoom

February 3rd – Horton Complex Project Update@1:30 PM – On Site

February 4th – Personnel Policy Meeting @9:00 AM – Council Chambers

February 7th – Monday Mornings w/ the Mayor (Tim & Ron will also join) @8:00 AM – 1490 AM

February 7th – Utilities Committee Meeting @3:00 PM – Council Chambers

February 8th – Council Meeting @1:00 PM – Council Chambers

February 9th – Personnel Policy Meeting @9:00 AM – Council Chambers

February 9th – JUB Chair Review @10:00 AM – Council Chambers

February 9th – RJU Shop Building Construction Meeting @2:00 PM – Microsoft Teams

February 9th – Workforce Housing Advisory Board Meeting @3:00 PM – Council Chambers

February 10th – Capital Projects Update @7:00 AM – Council Chambers

February 10th – Director’s Meeting @9:00 AM – Council Chambers

February 10th – Ruidoso Hazard Mitigation @10:00 AM – Zoom

February 10th – DR 1783 Village of Ruidoso Bi-Weekly Call @1:00 PM – Conference Call

February 11th – Personnel Policy Meeting @9:00 AM – Council Chambers

Employee January Birthdays
Municipalities See Great Wins in Final Rule Thanks to National League of Cities Efforts

By: Michael Gleeson
Michael Wallace
Carolyn Berndt
Angelina Panettieri

America Rescue Act Plan

The Final Rule for the Coronavirus State and Local Relief Funds (SLFRF) represents a major win for cities, towns and villages across America largely due to the National League of Cities’ (NLC) advocacy. In response to the interim final rule issued in May 2021, municipal leaders and state leagues conveyed their concerns, questions and solutions to NLC’s advocacy team. Informed by this feedback, NLC crafted and delivered a comment letter to the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Many of the positions addressed in the comment letter were either addressed in comments or enacted in the final rule – a true testament to the hard work and expertise of NLC’s advocacy, but more importantly, to the valuable input of its members. There were many places where NLC’s comments were reflected in this definitive document, and here are the top five biggest wins NLC’s advocacy achieved in the final rule.

1. Standard Allowance of $10 Million for Lost Revenue
The biggest win for NLC is the Treasury’s reconsideration of how to calculate lost revenue. In its letter, NLC discussed reconsideration of revenue losses for municipalities. In the interim final rule, local governments had to perform a four-part test to determine their lost revenue. For small jurisdictions with limited staff resources, this calculation could be difficult. As a result, these smaller cities might forgo the lost revenue category and use their grants in other ways.

To simplify this calculation, the final rule provides a standard allowance of $10 million that can be used for government services, which includes any service traditionally provided by local governments. The simplification of calculating lost revenue and the ability to apply it to government services will critically help Non-Entitlement Units of Local Government, those generally with a population of less than 50,000. According to NLC data, more than 26,000 local governments have an SLFRF award of less than $10 million, an illustration of how many local governments could be impacted by this change.

2. Inclusion of Utility Revenue in General Revenue for Determining Lost Revenue

In its comment letter, NLC argued that municipally-owned utility revenue should be included as part of general revenue for calculating lost revenue. The interim final rule relied on a census definition of revenue that excluded utility revenue.

NLC’s letter states: “The overwhelming feedback of local governments on this issue is the opposite – municipal utility revenue subsidizes municipal budget general funds in states where this is not otherwise prohibited. Conversely, in states where there is a legal restriction on using utility revenue to provide for the general fund, the moratorium on service disconnection during the pandemic created a shortfall in utility revenues for many cities. This shortfall was often covered from the city’s general fund.”

In the final rule, Treasury acknowledges NLC’s argument and agrees with it, writing: “This change responds to comments from recipients indicating that revenue from utilities is used to fund other government services and that utility revenues have declined on aggregate.” Now, municipalities can choose to include the lost revenue from their utilities as they determine lost revenue.

3. Clarifying Affordable Housing is an Eligible Use

Following the release of the interim final rule, NLC heard from local leaders who wanted to use SLFRF grants to increase the availability of affordable housing in response to pandemic-related declines. However, many cities did not think the interim final rule provided clear and sufficient authorization for them to proceed. In our comments, NLC said the final rule should provide additional direction to local governments for property acquisition for purposes including the development of affordable housing, facilitating the relocation of residents and properties impacted by frequent natural disasters, and construction of affordable housing near public transit or resources that contribute to economic mobility. NLC also said the final rule should add specific activities for affordable housing, such as construction, rehabilitation, or demolition, to the list of enumerated eligible expenditures.

The final rule answers NLC’s recommendation by clearly stating under the public health and economic impacts category that assistance to impacted households include aid for rent, mortgages, utilities, and affordable housing development, among other things. It also clearly states that grant expenditures are permissible for permanent supportive housing, and to address vacant and abandoned properties by rehabilitation or maintenance, renovation, removal of environmental contaminants, or demolition. The final rule stipulates that demolition must not result in a net loss of a jurisdiction’s units of affordable housing, which would be a non-permissible outcome.
Further, the final rule expands the types of conditions that can make it easier to build affordable housing without additional analysis and documentation requirements by granting a presumption of eligibility for housing targeted to low-income residents, who the rule presumes are disproportionately impacted by the pandemic; and granting a presumption of eligibility for housing targeted to moderate-income residents, who are presumed to be impacted by the pandemic. The rule clearly defines thresholds for low-income households and moderate-income households. Local governments may look up qualifying low and moderate-income areas within their jurisdiction with the Department of the Treasury’s new online Tool for Determining Low and Moderate Income Households.

4. Broad Improvements to Water and Sewer Use Category

In NLC’s comment letter, we asked Treasury to expressly state a few particulars around the Clean Water and Drinking State Revolving Fund (SRF) eligibility alignment—namely that local governments are responsible for determining project eligibility, that project eligibility is based on the Federal project categories and definitions for the SRF programs, and not based on each State’s eligibility or definitions, and that local governments do not need to apply for funding from the applicable State Clean Water or Drinking Water SRF programs. We are pleased to see that Treasury addressed and clarified all three of these items in the final rule.

Additionally, NLC asked that the final rule expressly cite consumer incentive programs designed to implement water use efficiency, conservation, green infrastructure, reuse and other distributed Clean Water and Drinking Water SRF eligible projects as authorized uses of Fiscal Recovery Funds. Again, we are pleased to see this issue included in the final rule.

NLC is among the commenters that asked Treasury to broaden the eligibility for use of SLFRF funds beyond the SRFs, requesting inclusion of eligible projects under the Secure Water Act, which relates to water reliability in the West.

In response to this, Treasury agrees that additional flexibility for use of SLFRF funds is warranted and provides expanded eligibilities for water, wastewater and stormwater projects broadly. The final rule provides detailed information on expanded eligibilities for stormwater infrastructure, private wells and septic systems, remediating lead in water, dams and reservoirs, expansion of drinking water service infrastructure, floodplain management and flood mitigation projects, and irrigation. Treasury did not name specific federal statutes as eligible so that recipients would not have to cross-reference across multiple federal programs, which may exacerbate challenges to understanding eligibility under SLFRF.

5. Greater Flexibility for Broadband

In our comments on the interim final rule, NLC raised several concerns about the way the document defined “necessary investments in…broadband infrastructure.” The interim final rule defined “necessary investments” to be those “designed to provide services meeting adequate speeds and are provided to unserved and underserved households and businesses.” Treasury further defined “unserved and underserved” to encompass users that “lack access to a wireline connection capable of reliably delivering at least minimum speeds of 25 Mbps download and 3Mbps upload.”

NLC voiced concern that these definitions, particularly if communities were required to use flawed Federal Communications Commission broadband availability maps (which greatly overestimate the locations with broadband access), would result in the vast majority of local governments effectively being shut out of broadband infrastructure as an allowable use for their SLFRF funds. NLC also noted that the 25/3Mbps speed threshold was set far too low and did not reflect normal business or
household broadband needs. In addition, NLC argued that the interim final rule’s definition of “necessary investment” and “reliable broadband” did not address the serious broadband affordability challenges facing many communities that may technically have at least one internet service provider in their borders, but whose rates may be entirely out of reach for the residents and businesses located there.

The final rule removes nearly all of these restrictions from the broadband use category, making it much easier for communities to use SLFRF allocations on broadband infrastructure. The final rule eliminates the “unserved or underserved” requirement entirely, instead “requiring recipients to invest in projects designed to provide service to households and businesses with an identified need for additional broadband infrastructure investment, which would include but not be limited to a lack of broadband service reliably delivering certain speeds.”

This means that communities could identify needs based on a lack of infrastructure and service providing whatever speed benchmark they define as necessary for their community, or a lack of affordable access. This change eliminates the concerns over insufficient speed thresholds entirely, and addresses NLC’s concerns about the interim final rule’s failure to adequately address broadband affordability as a barrier to access. The final rule further notes that communities have a wide variety of ways to determine the need for broadband investment, including documentation of existing network performance, federal or state maps, speed tests, interviews with community members, community organization reports, and “any other information they deem relevant.”

“A vision without strategy remains an illusion.” — Lee Bolman

**Word of the Week**

**Busy**