Activating the space in and around the George R. Brown Convention Center in downtown Houston.

Reconstructing and widening of 38 miles of US 290 to support the immediate need for improvement and congestion relief.

Saving a bridge project under construction project using local resources after Hurricane Harvey destroyed the area.

ACEC Texas member firms – engineering cities, counties and communities.
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**ABOUT THE COVER**

Meet Eddie Daffern, Staples Mayor and TML 2019-2020 President
The Texas Municipal League exists solely to provide services to Texas cities. Since its formation in 1913, the League’s mission has remained the same: to serve the needs and advocate the interests of its members. Membership in the League is voluntary and is open to any city in Texas. From the original 14 members, TML’s membership has grown to more than 1,150 cities. Over 16,000 mayors, councilmembers, city managers, city attorneys, and department heads are member officials of the League by virtue of their cities’ participation.

The League provides a variety of services to its member cities. One of the principal purposes of the League is to advocate municipal interests at the state and federal levels. Among the thousands of bills introduced during each session of the Texas Legislature are hundreds of bills that would affect cities. The League, working through its Legislative Services Department, attempts to defeat detrimental city-related bills and to facilitate the passage of legislation designed to improve the ability of municipal governments to operate effectively.

The League employs full-time attorneys who are available to provide member cities with information on municipal legal matters. On a daily basis, the legal staff responds to member cities’ written and oral questions on a wide variety of legal matters. The League annually conducts a variety of conferences and training seminars to enhance the knowledge and skills of municipal officials in the state. In addition, the League also publishes a variety of printed materials to assist member cities in performing their duties. The best known of these is the League’s monthly magazine, Texas Town & City. Each issue focuses on a variety of contemporary municipal issues, including survey results to respond to member inquiries.

For additional information on any of these services, contact the Texas Municipal League at 512-231-7400 or visit our website, www.tml.org.

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TML Health Benefits Pool
Eddie Edwards, City Manager, Borger
TML Intergovernmental Risk Pool
Mary Gauer, Harker Heights

TML Texas City Attorneys Association
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Texas City Official,

If you attended the TML Annual Conference last month, I hope you’ll agree that was one of the best TML annual conferences ever. We had record attendance in San Antonio with over 500 more city officials registering than our previous high number. I really enjoyed introducing myself to you at the brunch on Friday, and meeting so many of you in the halls and sessions all through the week. I think this will be a great year of working together to move the League to new heights. Can we set a new record next year in Grapevine? Who knows, but let’s try to make it happen!

This issue of Texas Town & City contains a look back at some key conference highlights, and lots of great pictures of city officials in action learning how to better serve their communities. You’ll also get to know our great new 2019-2020 TML Board of Directors. I met a few of the new board members on Friday morning of the conference, and I can tell you we’ll have some great new leadership moving forward.

Speaking of leadership, there’s a role for each one of you should you want to serve the League in some capacity. I’ll be appointing numerous officials to committees and task forces this coming year. When I see you at a TML event don’t hesitate to give me your card or call me at any time to volunteer. Just beware—there are so many opportunities available that once you let us know you want to serve, you’ll probably hear from us numerous times. That’s what happened to me as I worked my way up to my present role. Of course, that’s just what we do as public servants. Who knows, maybe someday I’ll be in the audience listening to you spell out your vision for stronger Texas cities!

Eddie Daffern, CMO
Mayor
City of Staples
TML President
DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Jeff Williams  
Mayor  
Arlington

Steve Adler  
Mayor  
Austin

Joe McComb  
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Corpus Christi

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Doyle Robinson  
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Mayor  
Rockport

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Texas Municipal Library Directors Association

Beth Ann Unger  
Information Services Manager  
Frisco  
Texas Association of Governmental Information Technology Managers

Kelly Kuenstler  
City Manager  
Leon Valley  
Texas City Management Association

April Christiansen  
Court Administrator  
Cedar Park  
Texas Court Clerks Association

Jimmy Chew  
Fire Chief  
Stephenville  
Texas Fire Chiefs Association

Aimee Nemec  
City Secretary  
Richardson  
Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc.

Tadd Phillips  
Human Resources Director  
Georgetown  
Texas Municipal Human Resources Association

Maria Redburn  
Library Director  
Bedford  
Texas Municipal Library Directors Association
Resolutions Passed at the TML Annual Conference

The Texas Municipal League held its annual business meeting on October 10, 2019, in conjunction with the TML Annual Conference and Exhibition in San Antonio. At the meeting, the League’s membership passed four resolutions. City officials may view the resolutions at www.tml.org/DocumentCenter/View/1353/Resolutions-packet-as-approved-by-membership.

Mark Your Calendar for Future TML Annual Conferences

The TML Annual Conference and Exhibition dates and locations are set several years in advance. Add these future conference dates to your city calendar and make plans to join us!

October 14-16, 2020
Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center, Grapevine

October 6-8, 2021
George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston

October 5-7, 2022
Henry B. González Convention Center, San Antonio

October 4-6, 2023
Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center, Dallas

Jumpstart Your Term as a Newly Elected Official

Start 2020 off right with the Newly Elected City Officials’ Workshop on January 10 at the classic Historic Menger Hotel in San Antonio. This one-day workshop will cover need-to-know information on parliamentary procedure, media relations, city regulations, the Texas Open Meetings Act, financial oversight, staff-council relations, and ethics. Plus, the League’s legal and other staff will be onsite to answer the questions you have about your governance role. Learn more and register at www.tmlnewlyelected.org.

A Must-Have Resource: Handbook for Mayors and Councilmembers

The Handbook for Mayors and Councilmembers (2019 edition) presents an overview of the functions, powers, and responsibilities of mayors and councilmembers. Topics include policy development, goal-setting, council meetings, conflicts of interest, standards of official conduct, budgeting, personal liability, and media relations. Download your copy at www.tml.org/183/Publications.

Empower Young Leaders at the YAC Summit

The 20th Annual Youth Advisory Commission (YAC) Summit is a two-day statewide event taking place in Kyle on February 1-2, 2020. The Summit, hosted by the City of Kyle and sponsored by the Texas Municipal League, is an opportunity for cities, schools, and community youth groups to share the experiences of their programs and the positive impact the programs have had locally. This year’s theme “Envision 2020: Focus on Your Future” will give future leaders useful, timely, and practical information to help them in their journeys and future plans. Visit www.yacsummit.org for more information, or contact Jacqueline Redin at jredin@tml.org.
January 10
TML Newly Elected City Officials’ Workshop
San Antonio

January 30-31
Texas City Management Association William
“King” Cole Session 1
Austin

February 1-2
Texas Youth Advisory Commission Summit
Kyle

February 27-28
TCMA Texas City Management Clinic
Granbury

March 4-6
TML-TAMCC Elected Officials’ Conference
Frisco

March 26-27
Texas City Management Association William
“King” Cole Session 2
Bryan
It's Only Workers' Compensation: How Complicated Could It Be?

Workers' compensation coverage appears to be one of the simplest policies to understand. An employee gets injured, and as long as it is an on-the-job injury, the employee gets all of his or her medical bills paid and receives payments for lost wages if the employee is unable to work due to that injury. While the concept is straightforward, there are many nuances made more difficult by case law, appeals panels' decisions, and legislation. This article provides a basic outline of the workers' compensation process, including key terms and details that anyone responsible for managing the workers' compensation benefits should be aware of.

Workers' compensation requirements differ from state to state. Workers' compensation legislation in Texas passed in 1913. In 1973, the legislature amended the statute to require all political subdivisions to provide workers' compensation coverage to employees. The law allowed cities to meet the requirements by creating a self-insurance program under the Interlocal Cooperation Act. The members, working through TML, created the Risk Pool in 1974. While workers' compensation is not mandatory for private employers, a governmental entity that enters into a building or construction contract shall require the contractor to certify in writing that the contractor provides workers' compensation insurance coverage for each employee of the contractor employed on the public project.

It is important to know and understand the claims process, since there are many deadlines and procedures. Once a claim is filed, there is an investigation of the facts to determine compensability. A **compensable injury** is an injury that arises out of and in the course and scope of employment for which compensation is payable under the statute. **Course and scope** is defined as an activity of any kind or character that has to do with and originates in the work, business, trade, or profession of the employer and that is performed by the employee while engaged in or about the furtherance of the affairs of business of the employer. Once this determination is made, either timely payments begin, or the claim is disputed. Aside from payments for medical bills, an employee may also qualify for several different **indemnity benefits**. These include temporary income benefits, impairment income benefits, supplemental income benefits, and death benefits.

It is important to note that entities are not required to have coverage for volunteers, but it is available and highly recommended. If a city covers its volunteers, then the volunteer’s medical bills are covered in the event the volunteer is injured while performing volunteer work on behalf of that city. Volunteers who can be covered include: inside volunteers, outside volunteers, police reserves, volunteer ambulance/EMS, volunteer firefighters, and elected and appointed officials (council as well as all boards and commissions). If a volunteer is injured, the process is the same for filing and handling the claim. When injured volunteers or employees (although less common for employees) have other full-time employment and cannot perform the duties of their regular jobs due to the injury sustained while volunteering, benefits are paid for the income lost from the full-time job.

Presumption claims have garnered a lot of attention over the past few years. These claims affect firefighters, peace officers, and EMTs. Medical and indemnity benefits can be paid for certain types of cancers (for firefighters and EMTs only), strokes, heart attacks, and other types of respiratory illnesses, to employees performing these job functions. Note that there are exclusions to these types of claims that will be reviewed during the compensability investigation. This may include tobacco use by either the employee or spouse, as well as prior physical exams indicating the disease was pre-existing.

Lastly, entities should be aware of changing legislation related to PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder) claims for first responders. While single events have historically been compensable, effective September 1, 2019, multiple events are now considered compensable based on their cumulative effect. PTSD claims are compensable only for first responders.

This article serves as only a summary of workers’ compensation. For a more comprehensive review of the process and its functionality, please contact your provider. TMLIRP’s loss prevention representatives and member service managers are also readily available to answer any questions you have.
BETTER CANDIDATES FOR BETTER HIRES.

With decades of experience in recruitment and selection, CPS HR is ready to help you hire the best talent. Working on behalf of your agency, we’ll build an aggressive marketing and outreach campaign that will produce a pool of qualified candidates you otherwise wouldn’t see.

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- Take the guesswork out of posting a position.
- Simplify the process for you.
- Expand the reach of your agency to produce larger, higher-quality candidate pools.
- Offer a cost-effective alternative to a full recruitment effort.

For more information, contact Principal HR Consultant Joshua Smith at jsmith@cpshr.us.
Tyler Is Feeling Rosy

After a nearly two-year application process, the Tyler Municipal Rose Garden has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

“As the nation’s official list of historically significant properties, National Register listing denotes that this property is especially worthy of preservation,” Mark Wolfe, State Historic Preservation Office, said in a letter to Mayor Martin Heines.

Work began on the property in 1912; however construction didn’t really take off until the project was awarded a federal grant by the Works Project Administration (WPA) in 1938. The garden was officially opened to the public in 1952, with nearly 3,000 rose bushes donated from local nurseries in the first planting.

Today, the Rose Garden features more than 32,000 bushes and 600 cultivars. It is the largest public collection of roses in the United States and one of the reasons Tyler is known as the “Rose Capital of America.” The Rose Garden retains its formal landscape design from the WPA period (1938-1941).

“It is such an honor for the rose garden to be recognized on the National Register of Historic Places,” Shari Lee, Visit Tyler president said. “Everyone knows about the Tyler roses, and we’re happy to continue that legacy and share the Rose Garden’s history.”

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the country’s historic buildings, districts, sites, structures, and objects worthy of preservation. It was established as part of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and is overseen by the National Park Service. The National Register recognizes more than 90,000 properties for their significance in American history, architecture, art, archeology, engineering, and culture.

Lewisville Connecting and Improving Neighborhoods

The City of Lewisville Neighborhood Services is providing free Home Repair Grants Workshops to residents. The purpose of these workshops is for Lewisville residents to learn more about home repair resources and grant opportunities. City staff members will describe the process for applying for the Property Enhancement Program (PEP), Love Your Block (LYB) Grants, and other programs available through the City of Lewisville.

The PEP is a financial grant-rebate program for Lewisville residents to assist with exterior home repairs. Eligible applicants and projects may be approved for a 50 percent matching grant-rebate, up to $5,000. It’s designed to improve community vitality.

The LYB Grant is a reimbursable mini-grant of $500. It encourages neighborhoods to organize events and complete small projects that build stronger relationships and improve neighborhoods.
Coppell Residents Have a New Way to Commute

The Work Hard, Get A Lyft program is a partnership between the City of Coppell, Denton County Transportation Authority, and Lyft. The year-long test program launched October 1, and features heavily discounted Lyft rides to and from local businesses and designated public transit stops around Coppell.

To participate in the program, local businesses simply need to contact the City to sign up and receive a unique Lyft promotional code to share with employees. Average rides will cost $12-$15 with the rider covering the first $2 and the City paying for the rest, up to $15. Along with its low-cost, the program is also flexible, allowing employees to share rides and use Lyft from 4 a.m.-Midnight, seven days a week, excluding major holidays.

This flexibility also lends itself well to the testing aspect of the program. The City will be able to gather 12 months of data to determine demand, usage, and the best long-term solution, while also using that data to adjust program elements throughout the year to best serve businesses and their employees.

“We started this discussion about workforce transit several years ago when numerous businesses came to us expressing concern about transportation for their employees,” said Mindi Hurley, Coppell’s Director of Community Development. “We’re excited to provide this program to help our local businesses and their employees.”

To learn more about the program, visit www.coppelltx.gov/workhard.
Resources for Small Cities

Whether you’re a town of 100 or 15,000, the Texas Municipal League (TML) has the tools, information, and training to help your community tackle priorities, so you can better serve your citizens.

Training

TML offers a variety of training including conferences, workshops, and webinars designed for member city officials.

The TML Annual Conference and Exhibition is one of the nation’s largest gatherings of city officials and provides an excellent background for small cities to network with similarly-sized cities. In addition to the networking opportunities, attendees can enjoy keynote sessions, training geared for small communities, and a vibrant exhibit hall.

The League also offers training opportunities tailored specifically for small cities. The TML Small Cities’ Problem-Solving Clinics provide a low-cost option with a high educational impact in a regional setting. Additionally, the TML Small Town Conference provides attendees with an overview of issues related to economic development, infrastructure, legal matters, and more.

Research and Publications

TML has information on the issues that affect Texas cities, and staff is ready to assist. The “Resources” and “Policy” sections of the League’s website (www.tml.org) is also a good place to explore best practices, laws related to cities, governance issues, and more.

In addition to Texas Town & City, the League offers other essential publications for small cities, including the Handbook for Mayors and Councilmembers, How Cities Work, Economic Development Handbook, Texas Revenue Manual for Texas Cities, and Key Legal Requirements for Texas City Officials. Download these and other publications for free at www.tml.org/183/publications.

TML also conducts annual surveys on water and wastewater rates, taxation and debt levels, general fiscal conditions, and salaries. Most of these surveys can be filtered by population size.

Scholarship Opportunities for Small Cities

The TML Small Cities Advisory Council has established a training scholarship program for small cities (15,000 or less population). TML awards up to three scholarships per select TML training. Each scholarship recipient receives a complimentary registration and reimbursement up to $100 in travel-related expenses.

For the TML Annual Conference, up to ten scholarships are awarded with each recipient receiving a complimentary registration and reimbursement up to $500 in travel-related expenses. For more information and to apply, visit www.tml.org/221/small-cities.

Other Helpful Information

TML Region Meetings: Attending TML region meetings are an effective way for small cities to stay engaged with the League. These meetings provide a way to share information and network with neighboring communities while helping the TML Board of Directors formulate policy that represents interests of the entire State. To view a list of upcoming meetings, visit www.tml.org/230/regions.

SolutionsNet Listserv: The SolutionsNet Listserv is an online forum used to exchange information with member city officials. This service offers a convenient way for small cities to share experiences and connect with others from across the state without the travel time and expense.

TML is dedicated to providing updated resources for small cities, in addition to all member cities, to ensure you can meet the ever-changing challenges of governance. If you can’t find what you need at www.tml.org, contact TML staff at 512-231-7400 for assistance.

Did You Know? The TML Small Cities Advisory Council (SCAC) is a committee of dedicated city officials from across Texas representing cities with populations of 15,000 or less. The SCAC plays an important role by advising the TML Board of Directors and staff on ways the League’s services to small cities can be expanded or modified, consistent with TML’s resources and the needs of the overall organization. The SCAC helps with programming and services including the TML Small Cities’ Problem-Solving Clinics, the small cities training scholarship, and small cities sessions offered at trainings. To learn more about the SCAC, and other small cities resources, visit www.tml.org/221/small-cities.
TCAP just wants to thank the 450 TML 2019 attendees who stopped by to enjoy our event at Ruth’s Chris at the River Walk—our biggest, best yet!

As Texas’ only non-profit, by-cities-for-cities aggregator of electricity governed by your peers, we appreciate the unique challenges you face as you seek to serve your communities. To you: Seasons Greetings and Happiest of Next Years!

'STIL NEXT YEAR!

SAVE THE DATE: SEE YOU AT TML, OCT. 2020

tcaptx.com 972 764-3136
GET TO KNOW YOUR TML PRESIDENT EDDIE DAFFERN

Interview by: Rachael Pitts, Deputy Executive Director for Affiliate and Member Services, Texas Municipal League

The City of Staples is a small community of less than 300 residents, located in the northeastern part of Guadalupe County, overlooking the San Marcos River valley to the east. Eddie Daffern is the first TML president from the City of Staples and its first mayor. Daffern helped lead the community’s successful incorporation efforts and won the office of its first (and only) mayor in 2008.

Rachael Pitts: Let’s start with some background information. I know that you and your wife Shari have been in Staples for about 20 years. Can you share a little about your life before Staples?

Eddie Daffern: I was born in Avery, Texas. My parents moved to Lubbock when I was about four years old and that is where I grew up. I had five sisters, and unfortunately, two have now passed away as have my mother and daddy.

My parents had limited education, but we always had food and plenty of love. My daddy started a janitorial service when I was in the third or fourth grade. That is when I started to work. I would help him most nights after my homework was done.

By the seventh grade, I started working at a grocery store to help the family and continued doing that until I left home to join the United States Marine Corps. I played drums and when I became 16 years old, I started playing with bands in the local nightclubs. I graduated from Lubbock High School in 1966 where I was the drum major my senior year.

In March 1968, I dropped out of Texas Tech University to join the Marine Corps. By September, I was on my way to Vietnam and returned stateside in October 1969.

My wife Shari and I met in junior high and dated in high school. We married on May 30, 1970. As my profession, I initially worked in a jewelry store and eventually began selling diamonds and jewelry wholesale to retail stores in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Colorado. After several years, I joined a sales team in a company that was introducing surgical staples. During this time, I also stayed in the United States Marine Corps Reserves for 22 years.

RP: What are some of the organizations you are involved with?

ED: I am a member and former potentate (president) of the Khiva Shrine in Amarillo, a member of the Ben Hur Shrine in Austin, and current commander of the International Association Legions of Honor whose members are Shriners and veterans. I am also a member of the Masons, Scottish Rite, York Rite, Order of the Eastern Star, and hold a commission of colonel in the Kentucky Colonels. I am a life member of the VFW, American Legion, Marine Corps Association, and the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation. Shari and I are also members of the Combat Vets Motorcycle Association.
**RP:** Why was incorporating Staples important?

**ED:** It became important when the citizens began hearing rumors of the toll road, Highway 130, being built. The highway was going to come into, or near, Staples. The route changed a couple of times and is now two miles from our city center. The community was also concerned about encroachment from other, larger cities. Staples was established around 1852, and the citizens didn’t want it to change.

**RP:** What do you most enjoy about being mayor?

**ED:** It was rewarding being the first mayor and helping to set up a new government. Being able to lead the councilmembers in charting a new course for Staples as an incorporated city and seeing what the future of Staples is very exciting.

**RP:** What’s happening in Staples?

**ED:** Over time we have managed to start a city cleanup. We bring in a large commercial dumpster twice a year for the citizens. Once a year, we now have a garage sale in the park, which is growing. This will be our fourth year for the Christmas in the Park and it has definitely expanded. Our biggest project now is to remodel our meeting space. It is the old Staples School cafeteria, which we now call Staples Center. We appointed a building committee several months ago and the new septic system and foundation of the building is now completed. The renovation is slow because of funding, but we are working together towards completion.

**RP:** How would you describe Staples to someone who has never visited?

**ED:** It is quiet, serene, and beautiful!

**RP:** What inspired you to run for the TML Board and then president-elect and president?

**ED:** When I became mayor and attended my first TML meeting, a Small Cities’ Problem-Solving Clinic, I knew I wanted to go to as many TML meetings as possible, for my education and to help my city. After a couple of years, I was appointed to the Small Cities Advisory Council and eventually became chairman. I also attended all of the Texas Association of Mayors, Councilmembers and Commissioners meetings. After meeting so many people and TML staff, it seemed natural to run for the TML Board and eventually president.
RP: What do you look forward to during your time as president?

ED: We have to start preparing now for the next legislative session in Austin. That has to be our number one priority. With the attitude of some of our state legislators, we all have to be more proactive, even before the session begins. I’m looking forward to meeting with the TML legislative staff, Board members, and other city officials to help design a strategy which will enhance our relationship with our legislators and benefit all Texas cities.

RP: What are your goals as TML president?

ED: I think the most important issues cities are facing are preemption bills by the state and federal governments. This is born out of what happened at the last legislative session and by the comments recently made by the governor, lieutenant governor, and house speaker. The League has to continue providing legislative support to the cities by reading all the bills and alerting cities about bills that will affect them, good or bad. Smaller cities rely heavily on this information. During the next legislative session, the cities may have to take a more proactive stance on bills by using a phone tree. During the last session, the phone tree approach was used effectively on at least one bill. It’s important that TML maintain a good relationship with the legislature.

RP: Do you have any leadership advice to share?

ED: Instead of giving advice, I will share some traits I believe are important which I try to live by: honor, courage, and commitment. Honor exemplifies the ultimate in ethical and moral behavior to never lie, cheat, or steal; to respect human dignity; be accountable for your actions; and fulfill your obligations. Courage can see you through the mastery of fear, to do what is right, lead by example, and adhere to a higher standard of personal conduct. Commitment is the spirit of determination and dedication that leads to professionalism and mastery of your profession. Always keep in mind that the health and safety of our citizens should come first, not special interest groups. And remember, your pet project may not be what the citizens need.

RP: What is one of the most important lessons you have learned about public service?

ED: Be honest! I think that is one of the most important lessons one could learn about public service. Be honest with yourself and what you know. Don’t try to sell the sizzle if no one wants a steak! Be honest with your constituents. It makes life easier.

RP: What do you see as the most important issues facing Texas cities, and what should be the League’s role in addressing these issues?

ED: I enjoy a lot of different books such as W.E.B. Griffin’s series of fiction books, *Who Moved my Cheese?*, by Spencer Johnson, and positive thinking books such as *Think and Grow Rich* by Napoleon Hill. My favorite song is “Santa Baby” by Eartha Kitt.

RP: Do you have a favorite quote?

ED: My favorite quote is by Marine General “Mad Dog” Mattis, who when sending his Marines into Iraq said, “Be polite, be professional, but have a plan to kill everybody you meet.” I like it, because I changed it a little to be, “Be polite, be professional, and have a plan to inspire everybody you meet.”

RP: What is some of the best advice you have been given?

ED: A great friend of mind in Amarillo, Haskell Beaver, as I was about to be elected potentate (president) of Khiva Shrine, said, “Don’t worry about making everyone happy, because it can’t be done. If you can make 51 percent of the people happy, you will have done a good job. Also, remember, there has only been one perfect person in the world and they crucified him.”

RP: How do you like to spend your time outside city service?

ED: I think the most important issues cities are facing are preemption bills by the state and federal governments. This is born out of what happened at the last legislative session and by the comments recently made by the governor, lieutenant governor, and house speaker.

RP: What is your favorite book and song?

ED: My favorite quote is by Marine General “Mad Dog” Mattis, who when sending his Marines into Iraq said, “Be polite, be professional, but have a plan to kill everybody you meet.” I like it, because I changed it a little to be, “Be polite, be professional, and have a plan to inspire everybody you meet.”

RP: Is there anything else you’d like to share with our city officials?

ED: Yes! It is my distinct honor and pleasure to serve this year as TML President. If you think I may be able to help you, in any way, please contact me.”
CONGRATULATIONS
William “Mick” McKamie
IMLA Charles S. Rhyne Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient

TOASE
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ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS

TOASE congratulates Partner William “Mick” McKamie, recipient of the Charles S. Rhyne Lifetime Achievement in Municipal Law Award from the International Municipal Lawyers Association (IMLA).

This is the highest award the IMLA confers. Mick is only the second Texan of the organization’s 31 honorees.

Mick’s practice focuses on municipal law, land use, constitutional law, civil rights, and civil litigation. Over the course of a career spanning four decades, he has been instrumental in making his firm’s municipal law practice one of the most respected groups of attorneys in Texas.

“More so than other areas of the law, municipal law is a public service and a calling,” Mick says. “Firms such as ours work closely with our local government clients, and our mission is to help these entities be responsible stewards of the public trust.”

Taylor, Olson, Adkins, Sralla & Elam, LLP is a full-service law firm committed to practice in Municipal Law, Governmental Defense Litigation, and all related fields. The firm serves clients in all state and federal courts in Texas, the U.S. Court of Appeals Fifth and Third Circuits, and the United States Supreme Court.

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Q What was the Texas Residential Construction Commission, what happened to it, and what was its relationship to cities?

A In 2003, the legislature enacted H.B. 730, the Texas Residential Construction Commission Act (Act). The Act, which was in Title 16 of the Texas Property Code until it was later repealed, created a dispute resolution process for homebuyer complaints against builders. The Act used the IRC as the standard for those complaints. Section 430.001(d) of the Property Code expressly provided that the version of the IRC that applied for purposes of the limited statutory warranties and building and performance standards for residential construction in a city or its extraterritorial jurisdiction was “the version of the International Residential Code applicable to...residential construction in the municipality under Section 214.212, Local Government Code.”

Nothing in the Act affected the police-power authority of a city to choose how to enforce the IRC or to amend the IRC as it saw fit. The Act was enacted solely to provide a process by which homeowners and builders could resolve complaints out of court. Except for the now-repealed requirement in Local Government Code Section 214.906 that a city had to verify a homebuilder’s TRCC registration prior to issuing a building permit, the Act did not grant the Texas Residential Construction Commission any authority over cities.

The TRCC was abolished in 2009 because legislation to continue it failed to pass.

Q Since the dissolution of the Texas Residential Construction Commission, what has taken its place?

A When the TRCC was abolished in 2009, H.B. 2833 was enacted as a compromise related to that process. H.B. 2833 enacted Subchapter F of Local Government Code Chapter 233 and authorizes any county (except Loving County) to adopt the International Residential Code to apply to construction in the unincorporated area of the county. The bill protects municipal authority in the extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) by providing that, if a city has adopted a building code in its ETJ, the building code adopted by the city controls. That’s odd because the Texas Supreme Courts subsequently concluded that a city may not generally enforce its building codes in the ETJ. Collin Cty. v. City of McKinney, 553 S.W.3d 79 (Tex. App. 2018), reh’g denied (June 8, 2018); Town of Lakewood Vill. v. Bizios, 493 S.W.3d 527 (Tex. 2016).
The statute gives counties little in the way of enforcement authority, but it does provide that “[n]ew residential construction of a single-family house or duplex in the unincorporated area of a county to which this subchapter applies shall conform to the version of the International Residential Code published as of May 1, 2008, or the version of the International Residential Code that is applicable in the county seat of that county.”

Similarly, the plumbing license law provides that most plumbing installed outside of a city by a licensed plumber must be installed according to one of the plumbing codes adopted by the Texas Board of Plumbing Examiners. Tex. Occ. Code § 1301.255(c).

**Q** Has the legislature imposed additional requirements on cities that enforce building codes and issues building permits?

**A** Yes. Three examples include: (1) asbestos abatement; (2) architectural barriers; and (3) plumber and electrician limitations.

**Asbestos Abatement**

State law requires a city to obtain evidence that a person has performed an asbestos survey prior to issuing a permit for renovation or demolition of a public or commercial building. The Texas Asbestos Health Protection Act (TAHPA) provides (in Texas Occupations Code Section 1954.259(b)) that:

(b) A municipality that requires a person to obtain a permit before renovating or demolishing a public or commercial building may not issue the permit unless the applicant provides:

(1) evidence acceptable to the municipality that an asbestos survey, as required by this chapter, of all parts of the building affected by the planned renovation or demolition has been completed by a person licensed under this chapter to perform a survey; or

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(2) a certification from a licensed engineer or registered architect, stating that:

(A) the engineer or architect has reviewed the material safety data sheets for the materials used in the original construction, the subsequent renovations or alterations of all parts of the building affected by the planned renovation or demolition, and any asbestos surveys of the building previously conducted in accordance with this chapter; and

(B) in the engineer’s or architect’s professional opinion, all parts of the building affected by the planned renovation or demolition do not contain asbestos.

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) requested an attorney general opinion (RQ-0775-GA) as to whether it may pursue enforcement action under the TAHPA (which could include a civil penalty) against a city that fails to verify that the survey was performed. TML and the Building Officials Association of Texas filed comments on the request, and asked DSHS to withdraw it. DSHS declined to do so, but offered its assistance in educating city officials on the issue. For more information please contact DSHS at www.dshs.state.tx.us/asbestos.

The attorney general later released Op. Tex. Att’y Gen. No GA-0729 (2009). The opinion concluded that there is no “clear and unambiguous waiver of immunity from suit for a violation of” the TAHPA. Thus, successful enforcement against a city by the DSHS is unlikely, although it has been attempted since.

Architectural Barriers
The Texas Architectural Barriers Act (TABA) is a state law that is intended to encourage and promote the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities and eliminate unnecessary barriers encountered by persons with disabilities. It came on the heels of a similar federal law, the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968.

TABA is complex, and includes many administrative provisions. Essentially, certain projects that will be used by those with disabilities (e.g., most public facilities and many commercial facilities) must provide plans to be approved by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR). TDLR outsources plan review to private companies.

TABA provides that “[a] public official of a political subdivision who is legally authorized to issue building construction permits may not accept an application for a building construction permit for a building or facility subject...[TABA]...unless the official verifies that the building or facility has been registered with the department as provided by rule.” Tex. Gov’t Code 469.102(d). However, current administrative rules appear to place the burden on the person responsible for the building – typically the owner or architect/engineer – to submit plans for approval to TDLR. 16 T.A.C. 68.50.

As for electricians, state law provides that: (1) a city or region may not collect a permit fee, registration fee, administrative fee, or any other fee from an electrician who holds a license issued by the state for work performed in the city or region; but (2) the law does not prohibit a city or region from collecting a building permit fee. Tex. Occ. Code § 1305.201(f).

Q How does the Texas Engineering Practices Act affect the building permit process?

A Several years ago, the Texas Board of Professional Engineers (TBPE) sought enforcement action against at least one Texas city. A city employee issued a building permit to an applicant for plans that required the seal of a licensed engineer. Thus, successful enforcement against a city by the DSHS is unlikely, although it has been attempted since.

The plumbing license law provides that in a city that has adopted a plumbing code, a person must obtain a permit before the person performs plumbing. Tex. Occ. Code § 1301.551(c) (the repairing of leaks, the replacement of lavatory or kitchen faucets, the replacement of ballcocks or water control valves, the replacement of garbage disposals, or the replacement of water closets are excepted from the permit requirement).

The law also mandates – among other things – that cities accept permit applications by telephone, fax, or email, and provides that a city that requires a permit may not charge a plumber a registration fee. Tex. Occ. Code § 1301.551(g). Finally, a city that requires a plumber to obtain a permit must verify through the Texas Board of Plumbing Examiners’ website, or by contacting the board by telephone, that the plumber has on file with the board a certificate of insurance. Tex. Occ. Code § 1301.552.
TBPE informed the city that it had violated the Engineering Practices Act by accepting the plans and issuing the permit. An agreement was ultimately reached on the issue.

Similarly, a 2005 attorney general opinion request asked “whether a city building official may rely on a professional engineer’s seal and certification that a plat or plan complies with the city’s building codes.” That opinion resulted in the issuance of attorney general opinion GA-0439 (2006), which failed to provide definitive answers on the question. In any case, city officials should be aware of the statutory provision at issue. Texas Occupations Code Section 1001.402, entitled “Enforcement by Certain Public Officials,” provides that:

A public official of the state or of a political subdivision of the state who is responsible for enforcing laws that affect the practice of engineering may accept a plan, specification, or other related document only if the plan, specification, or other document was prepared by an engineer, as evidenced by the engineer’s seal.

The TBPE created the Government Advisory Committee, which includes municipal officials, to provide a forum for various issues related to the practice of engineering for governmental entities.

Nevertheless, the issue arose again in 2009. The TBPE sought to enforce its rules against a city, resulting in a state legislator requesting an attorney general opinion on the issue. That request, RQ-0832-GA, was later withdrawn after the city and the TBPE entered into an agreed order to close the case. Finally, in 2015, TML joined the City of Venus to litigate against the TBPE when it filed an administrative enforcement action against the city. The case was ultimately settled.

Q  If a city does enforce building codes, and issues building permits, are there any other statutory limitations on that process?

A  Yes. In the past, cities have always had broad local control to administer building codes and to decide when, if, and how a building permit will be issued. H.B. 265, passed in 2005 and now codified as Local Government Code Section 214.904, requires a city to either grant, deny, or provide written notice to an applicant stating the reasons that the city has been unable to act on a building permit within 45 days after an application is submitted. A city that chooses to provide the written notice must either: (1) grant or deny the permit not later than the 30th day after the date the notice is received; or (2) either not collect or refund any fees associated with the permit. While the TML was opposed to this legislation, an informal survey of building officials revealed that most cities issue permits well within the time frame provided by the bill.

The 2009 session brought a bill that, as filed, would have been detrimental to all cities. The bill, S.B. 820, ultimately became a negotiated compromise that all parties could live with. It applies
only to a city with a population of more than 100,000, and it provides that on or before the 21st day before the date the governing body takes action to consider, review, and recommend the adoption of or amendment to a national model code governing the construction, renovation, use, or maintenance of buildings and building systems, the governing body: (1) shall publish notice of the proposed action conspicuously on the city’s Internet Web site; (2) shall make a reasonable effort to encourage public comment from persons affected by the proposed adoption or amendment; and (3) on the written request of five or more persons, shall hold a public hearing open to public comment on the proposed adoption or amendment on or before the 14th day before the date the governing body adopts the ordinance. The bill also provides that if the governing body has established an advisory board or substantially similar entity for the purpose of obtaining public comment on the proposed adoption of or amendment to a national model code, the requirements described above do not apply. In addition, the bill provides that the governing body of a city with a population of more than 100,000 that adopts an ordinance or national model code provision that is intended to govern the construction, renovation, use, or maintenance of buildings and building systems in the city shall delay implementing and enforcing the ordinance for at least 30 days after final adoption, unless a delay in implementing or enforcing the ordinance would cause imminent harm to the health or safety of the public.

In 2019, H.B. 852 passed and provides that: (1) in determining the amount of a building permit or inspection fee required in connection with the construction or improvement of a residential dwelling, a city may not consider: (a) the value of the dwelling; or (b) the cost of constructing or improving the dwelling; and (2) a city may not require the disclosure of information related to the value of or cost of constructing or improving a residential dwelling as a condition of obtaining a building permit except as required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program.

H.B. 2439, one of the most detrimental building-related bills cities have seen, also passed in 2019 and provides: (1) that a governmental entity, including a city, may not adopt or enforce a rule, charter provision, ordinance, order, building code, or other regulation that: (a) prohibits or limits, directly or indirectly, the use or installation of a building product or material in the construction, renovation, maintenance, or other alteration of a residential or commercial building if the building product or material is approved for use by a national model code published within the last three code cycles that applies to the construction, renovation, maintenance, or other alteration of the building; or (b) establishes a standard for a building product, material, or aesthetic method in construction, renovation, maintenance, or other alteration of a residential or commercial building if the standard is more stringent than a standard for the product, material, or aesthetic method under a national model code published within the last three code cycles that applies to the construction, renovation, maintenance, or other alteration of the building; and (2) for certain narrow exceptions to the prohibitions above.

In 2011, H.B. 1168 was the only-building permit-related bill that passed. The bill modifies the law relating to a landlord’s duty to install smoke alarms in a rental unit. Of particular interest to cities, the bill provides that, if a dwelling unit was occupied as a residence before September 1, 2011, or a certificate of occupancy was issued for the dwelling unit before that date, a smoke alarm installed in accordance with law may be powered by battery and is not required to be interconnected with other smoke alarms, except that a smoke alarm that is installed to replace a smoke alarm that was in place on the date the dwelling unit was first occupied as a residence must comply with residential building code standards that applied to the dwelling unit on that date.
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The 23rd annual Texas Municipal League Municipal Excellence Awards Program was a tremendous success with 140 entries for the 10 awards (five in each of two population categories).

Texas cities of all sizes—from the smallest to the largest—participated, and the entries reflected the highest standards of professionalism and innovation. We applaud all applicants for their exceptional entries.

The 2019 award-winners in the under 25,000 population category are:

City Spirit – Boerne
Communication Programs – Denison
Management Innovations – Manor
Public Safety – Celina
Public Works – Paris

The winning cities in the over 25,000 population category are:

City Spirit – Colleyville
Communication Programs – Plano
Management Innovations – Mission
Public Safety – Burleson
Public Works – Round Rock

The winners were recognized and received their awards at the Opening General Session of the 2019 TML Annual Conference and Exhibition in San Antonio. The award-winning programs are highlighted on the pages that follow.

The 2020 Texas Municipal League Municipal Excellence Awards Program is announced on page 33 of this magazine, or you can find the information at www.tml.org/210/Municipal-Excellence-Awards. It’s never too early to start thinking about the projects your city would like to enter in this highly respected competition.

Congratulations to all of our winning cities!

Boerne (City Spirit)

The historic section of Boerne’s Main Street was named the Hill Country Mile as part of an initiative to foster economic growth and tourism, preserve historical and cultural identity, and promote quality of life. Today, the Hill Country Mile is home to cafes, shops, galleries, and offices. Underpinning the success of the corridor are public spaces that host events such as Art Al Fresco, the Texas Corvette Show, Key to the Hills Rod Run, Movies in the Park, and the Christmas experience titled Dickens on Main.
Denison (Communication Programs)

In an effort to remove neighborhood trash, ensure employee safety, encourage recycling, and improve the trash pick up process, the City of Denison started providing automated trash collection and alternating monthly brush and bulk curbside pick up. To prepare residents for the new service, the City developed and implemented a detailed marketing and communications plan. The effort included television and news articles, a letter from the mayor to all households, a utility bill insert, numerous social media posts, public meetings, and a website.

Manor (Management Innovations)

When rapid growth began straining Manor’s Development Department, staff researched ways to streamline its permit application process. The result was a successful transition from an outdated and time-consuming paper process to a user-friendly and sophisticated online system that improved efficiency, reduced storage needs, and enhanced the overall customer experience. Due to the software’s success with managing building permits online, the City of Manor now successfully processes code violations through the online system and has inspired several other departments to look for online solutions.
Colleyville (City Spirit)

In 2017, the Texas Department of Transportation began a major reconstruction and expansion of State Highway 26, which is the main commercial corridor of the City of Colleyville. While seen as a much-needed transformation, Colleyville businesses along the corridor were negatively affected by the project—many seeing double-digit declines in sales. In response, the City implemented successful quarterly promotional programs that were created to encourage residents to support local businesses. The campaigns included a receipt collection contest by local schools, gift cards to all residents, and advertising assistance.

Paris (Public Works)

The City of Paris staff developed an inexpensive and easy-to-implement strategy to address deteriorating drainage infrastructure that was putting homes at risk for flooding. After evaluating different materials, the City worked with local concrete providers to use low-quality, leftover concrete to create building blocks. These blocks were then placed along major earthen drainage channels to stabilize the channels and prevent erosion. The result is a low-cost and easy to install solution that has significantly decreased flooding and erosion.

Celina (Public Safety)

To address an increase in thefts of building materials at construction sites, the City of Celina Police Department met with builders and other stakeholders to identify effective strategies to deter theft. As a result of this collaboration, the problem-solving initiative identified 28 best practices, and the City developed a resource guide to help builders implement the strategies. The result was a resounding success—a 63 percent reduction in construction-related thefts—which benefits the builders and the entire community.
Plano (Communication Program)

Ask Plano is a fun, memorable, and fast-paced way to answer frequently asked questions from the City’s social media and email accounts. Each Ask Plano video interjects humor and an engaging animation-style format to examine issues that residents are most concerned and curious about. Episodes covered so far include city zoning, severe weather, traffic, property taxes, and bobcats. The program has sent a powerful message to the City’s constituents that the City of Plano is listening and is committed to transparency and openness.

Mission (Management Innovations)

Ruby Red Ventures is a small business fund that was created by the Mission Economic Development Corporation in collaboration with the City of Mission. The Venture aims to nurture the entrepreneurial spirit and promote the creation of innovative businesses. Venture participants take three business courses facilitated by The University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley, and then they pitch their business ideas to a panel of judges in hopes of securing funding. Since its formation, Ruby Red Ventures has funded 47 small businesses in the City, totaling more than $625,000 in grants.
**Burleson (Public Safety)**

Inspired to prevent childhood drownings, the City of Burleson Fire Department and marketing team created a public service video to raise awareness and encourage parents to safeguard their children. Wanting to do more, the Drowning Prevention Coalition, which consists of multiple community partners, formed and began collaborating on ways to end childhood drowning deaths. The result was a successful effort to provide swimming lessons, free of charge, to Burleson youth. To date, the Coalition is responsible for providing 1,500 children with swim lessons.

**Round Rock (Public Works)**

The City of Round Rock developed an innovative technique to repair corrugated metal pipe culver liner while keeping the entrances to neighborhoods open throughout the construction. Instead of the traditional method of removing the metal liners and replacing them with concrete, the City left the liners in place and sprayed concrete onto the existing metal pipe. Not only was the technique effective, but the project was completed with minimal design time, reduced installation expenses, no road closures, and lower maintenance costs.
2020 TML Municipal Excellence Awards Program

The 2020 Texas Municipal League Municipal Excellence Awards recognize and encourage the achievements of Texas cities in meeting the challenges of municipal government. Innovative problem-solving, excellence in management, increasing citizen participation, and reaching toward higher service levels are all daily occurrences in Texas cities, and they deserve recognition.

The TML Municipal Excellence Awards program seeks out the best of these programs to honor. It is through the recognition of the best of the best that all Texas cities share and learn from these achievements.

**CATEGORY #1: POPULATION**  
The competition is divided into two population categories to allow cities to compete with other cities of comparable size. The population categories are: cities under 25,000 and cities over 25,000.

**CATEGORY #2: SUBJECT**  
Within each of the two population categories, there are five subject categories:

- city spirit
- communication programs
- management innovations
- public safety
- public works

**QUALIFICATIONS**  
The awards program is open to all Texas Municipal League member cities. Each city can submit one award application in each subject category, for a total of five applications.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE**  
Friday, June 5, 2020

**WINNER RECOGNITION**  
The winners will be featured in a future issue of Texas Town & City magazine. In addition, the winners will be recognized at the TML Annual Conference to be held on October 14-16, 2020, in Grapevine.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE TML MUNICIPAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS PROGRAM AND APPLY ONLINE**  
www.tml.org/210/Municipal-Excellence-Awards
The City of San Antonio welcomed the League in their gorgeous new addition in the Henry B. González Convention Center.

Outgoing TML President John B. Love III welcomed city officials to San Antonio.

The Opening General Session and Keynote opened with a beautiful rendition of The Star-Spangled Banner.

John B. Love III and Eddie Daffern welcomed the three TML Legislators of the Year who accepted their awards at conference. From left to right: Representative Harold Dutton, Jr., John B. Love III, Representative Trent Ashby, Eddie Daffern, and Representative Travis Clardy. Not pictured: Representative Eddie Lucio, III.
Opening General Session speaker Brian Solis started the conference off with a thought-provoking presentation on escaping distractions to live a better life.

The event was the highest attended conference in League history with 3,249 attendees and 1,950 exhibitors.

Attendees found opportunity to network with friends over a cup of coffee during one of the conference refreshment breaks.

The Exhibit Hall Grand Opening was a highly anticipated event on Wednesday.
Olympic medalist Bonnie St. John provided city officials with tips and tools to be resilient leaders in her luncheon keynote.

City Shirt Day was a great success!

New in the Exhibit Hall this year, the TML Greenhouse presentations delivered useful information in a casual and friendly setting.
Attendees enjoyed the ride during Bonnie St. John’s session.

Work always calls . . . even when you’re trying out equipment in the exhibit hall!

Work hard, play hard in the Exhibit Hall!

Outgoing President John B. Love III and President Eddie Daffern in a postcard setting.
Some attendees relaxed with a train ride in the Exhibit Hall. Attendees were all smiles in the concurrent sessions, gathering valuable information and tools to take back to their cities.

And others enjoyed unwinding and meeting new friends at the large coloring display.

The Linebarger Plaza was a great spot to relax, mingle, and reconnect.

Attendees were all smiles in the concurrent sessions, gathering valuable information and tools to take back to their cities.
So surprised! At the Friday closing brunch, new TML President Eddie Daffern honored outgoing President John B. Love III for his service.

Closing Brunch and Keynote with El Paso Mayor Dee Margo talking about community and resilience.

And that’s a wrap – high five! See you next year at the TML 2020 Annual Conference, October 14-16, in Grapevine!
FOUR WAYS YOUR CITY CAN USE INSTAGRAM

By Jennifer Stamps, TML Creative Manager

With more than one billion active users on Instagram, it’s likely that you either use or have heard of this popular social media platform. Instagram is a place for people to share images online with their friends and followers.

But should cities use Instagram differently than individual users? The short answer is no. Your city can use Instagram the same way that individuals do to connect with your employees, residents, businesses, and visitors.

Here are four ways that your city can use Instagram.

Behind the Scenes Photos

People love to feel like they are a part of something and behind the scenes photos are a great way to invite them in. You can introduce city staff, share the day-to-day activities of certain department or positions, or post a sneak peak of something to come. It’s a fun and simple way to involve your community.

Videos Get More Interaction

Did you know that video posts receive more interaction than photo posts? If you have a particularly important or fun announcement to share, try posting a video instead of a photo. When posting the video, keep it shorter than one minute and include a caption.

Ask Your Followers to Engage

Engagement on social media is key. After all, it’s called social media. Your goal is to interact with your followers (citizens and visitors). An easy way to do this is to literally ask them a question. Here are two creative examples:

Caption This: Post a photo and ask your audience to caption the photo. The comments are usually pretty funny and can be a fun way to interact with your citizens.

What’s Your Favorite?: Post a photo of your favorite anything (park, place in the city, spot in the library – anything related to your account) and then ask your audience what their favorite is. You’ll learn more about your citizens and what they love, plus it works as a mini-promo for all of the wonderful things in your city.

Follow Prompts

Still feeling stuck? Just follow a prompt!

National Day: There is a national day for just about everything. (You can find a complete list of national days at www.nationaldaycalendar.com.) Some national days are city related, but many are not. For example: January 4 is National Trivia Day – you can post photos throughout your city and ask specific questions, prompting your audience to share trivia about the city. June 5 is National Donut Day – post videos and photos of your mayor and council delivering donuts to city staff or citizens.

TML Prompt: Follow the TML prompt. This month, we are encouraging cities and city-related accounts to use the prompt: cities provide.

For example, you can post a photo of something that your city provides to residents. Here are some ideas to get your creative juices flowing: libraries, road work, well-lit neighborhoods, parks, and city-sponsored events to name a few.

Theme Days and Hashtags: Sometimes a little theme is all you need. You may have heard of #ThrowbackThursday, but have you heard of #ThankfulThursday? Or how about #TipTuesday, or #WednesdayWisdom?

A creative way to use a theme day: Instead of posting an image with text over the image reminding citizens they can’t use street parking during an event this weekend, try posting a photo of a meter with tape over it and a hashtag #TipTuesday with the information on where they can park in the caption.

Have fun with it! Instagram is a great tool to get your citizens, businesses, and visitors better connected with your city and everything it has to offer. Test these ideas out and see how your audience reacts. Some ideas will likely work better than others, so don’t be afraid to tweak, adapt, and experiment along the way.

When posting, be sure to tag us (@TML_Texas) and use the hashtags (#mytexascity and #citiesprovide) to be featured on the TML Instagram account.
20th Annual Texas Youth Advisory Commission Summit

February 1-2, 2020 • Kyle, Texas

WHAT IS IT?

The 20th Annual Texas Youth Advisory Commission (YAC) Summit is a two-day, statewide event hosted by the City of Kyle and sponsored by the Texas Municipal League. Taking place at the Hays CISD Performing Arts Center, the YAC Summit is a great way to inspire future leaders by allowing them to participate in creative, educational, and social activities. Attendees will interact with professional speakers and peers in a fun and safe environment. The goal is to create experiences that will impact and inspire everyone for years to come.

IS IT FOR ME?

The YAC Summit is an opportunity for cities, schools, and community youth groups to share their experiences of their programs and positive impacts that their programs have had locally. The event is organized to promote a fun environment for youth and city leaders to learn from and work with each other. Adults and youth will leave with a greater appreciation of their own ideas and programs moving forward. If your community does not have a YAC, you are invited to attend the summit and learn how one can help your community.

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

For more details and to register, visit www.yacsummit.org
INSTAGRAM HIGHLIGHTS  ★ CELEBRATING CITIES

@planolibrary
What a view! Do you know which location this photo was taken from? Hint: this library is not a JUNIOR as its name would suggest! #planolibrary

@kilgoremainstreet
Let’s go back to the 1940’s where we can see Downtown Kilgore all aglow for Christmas! #historicdowntownkilgore #throwbackthursday

@visitcctexas
Corpus Christi has coastlines for miles and miles! Come see where the water meets the land! #SeeCC

Photo by: @tikicamproductions
For over 100 years, our culture has been one of inclusion, inspiration and innovation. Our contributions to diverse educational organizations advance our Partners, Customers and Communities.

For more information on diversity at H-E-B, visit www.heb.com
Bureau Veritas is here for you in the relief and rebuild efforts from Hurricane Harvey.

Honesty, Integrity and Professionalism are our guiding principles. We’ve provided services throughout Texas since 1998 and our highly qualified team is ready to help assess and rebuild affected regions.

We offer these professional services:

- Disaster Recovery
- Plan Review
- Construction/C.O. Inspections
- Building Inspections
- Facility Condition Assessments
- Industrial Hygiene
- Air Quality Monitoring
- Asbestos Assessments
- Permit Expediating
- Power Facility Inspections
- Fire and Life Safety Inspections
- Environmental Site Assessments
- Food Complaint Investigations
- Food Handler/Manager Classes
- Food Establishment Inspections
- Temporary/Special Event/Seasonal Inspections
- Public Swimming Pool Inspections
- And More