THE HOMETOWN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ISSUE
We Have Maryland Covered.

Thank You LGIT Members

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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION of MARYLAND MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
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The President’s Perspective: A Message from MML’s Ryan Spiegel

Welcome to the July/August 2019 issue of Municipal Maryland Magazine. This issue focuses on the work of our Hometown Emergency Preparedness Ad Hoc Committee (HEPAC). This is timely as our municipalities face many evolving challenges from the effects of weather events, aging infrastructure, health epidemics and violence. Municipal officials first priority is public safety – an ongoing effort on many fronts. In truth, it’s high time we drop the “ad hoc” label from this critical committee. By sharing resources and best practices, communicating and helping fellow jurisdictions and being as prepared as we can be, we increase our resiliency. HEPAC helps Maryland cities and towns do just that.

In fact, several new workshops at this year’s MML Summer Conference in June centered on how to respond to new threats in our communities, including presentations on opioid response and training on how to administer Narcan, as well as how to deal with active shooter situations. It is both unfortunate and encouraging that these sessions were completely packed. While none of us ever wants to see these scourges in our own cities and towns, we all understand the need to be prepared in order to prevent tragedy whenever possible and respond decisively.

From Cecil to Caroline Counties, fatal fentanyl overdoses have spiked. From Aberdeen to Annapolis, we have watched with horror as mass shootings took innocent lives. In low-lying communities, flooding has wreaked devastation. These perils among others have forced us to confront harsh 21st Century realities for municipal governments.

The scale and type of threats we face are similar throughout the United States. While we have the same problems, we also enjoy an advantage over communities in other states. Our League benefits from the organization, resources, relationships with state leaders and the expertise, and wisdom of MML members -- providing an opportunity to be a national leader in hometown emergency preparedness.

According to Maryland’s Opioid Operational Command Center, fentanyl deaths are slowing for the first time. A one-year anniversary Summit on the Capital Gazette shooting provided new insights on prevention of gun violence. New approaches to stormwater management and infrastructure investment offer promising improvements in resiliency to weather events. These signs of progress on seemingly intractable issues are a testament to the work that Maryland’s cities and towns are doing every day, in partnership with the state, counties and the private sector, to ensure safety and continuity of operations. Current and former municipal officials’ daily work and service on committees and task forces is instrumental in finding and implementing these solutions.

Ultimately, I remain optimistic that Maryland’s cities and towns will lead the way in tackling emergencies and improving the lives of the 1.5 million people who call our communities home. We are the level of government closest to the people. With innovation, commitment and education, MML members will continue to be leaders who best understand how to keep our people safe. Together, let’s Reimagine Tomorrow in which opioid epidemics, mass shootings and neighborhoods unprepared to withstand flooding are relics of the past.

Make sure to attend future MML conferences and workshops on these issues. Take advantage of the information on the Emergency Management page of the MML website, which includes free written preparedness guides, sample ordinances and plans, opioid response materials and other valuable resources. I encourage each of you to reach out to MML’s leadership and staff if you have ideas or questions about how to keep our municipalities safe.
Two years ago, the Maryland Municipal League began following the Department of Homeland Security’s lead in promoting National Preparedness Month. Now, every September we encourage Maryland’s city and town leaders to remind your residents about the importance of being prepared for potential emergencies regardless of the time of year.

Fortunately, there are a variety of fantastic resources out there, several of which I will highlight later in this article. But a central and necessary focus of the National Preparedness Month initiative involves educating the public about the importance of disaster preparedness.

As we like to say, “municipalities are the government closest to the people,” and, as a result, you as city and town officials are best positioned to help your residents overcome complacency and start preparing for a crisis, rather than just reacting. One way your residents can be prepared is to assemble a 72-hour kit, details for which you’ll find on page 10 of this issue. Encourage your residents to make that kit, to be informed, and to have a plan in place for themselves and their families. Your municipality can enhance this effort through your municipal website and newsletters and by incorporating emergency preparedness messaging into town events like National Night Out.

Perhaps the best resource for your municipality’s planning and coordination around National Preparedness Month comes from the Department of Homeland Security’s www.ready.gov site. Here you’ll find an array of social media preparedness toolkits specific to both disaster type – floods, hurricanes, extreme heat, winter storms – and directed at vulnerable elements of our communities such as youth and pets (www.ready.gov/toolkits).

In addition, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has created a page emphasizing that emergencies unfold quickly and we, as individuals, are necessarily first responders until trained emergency responders arrive. Accordingly, you’ll find information on five simple steps that may save a life, as well as an interactive video and web-based training program suitable for every member of your

Finally, use FEMA’s Prepareathon tool to help motivate constituents to take an active role in the protection of their families and the community at large: www.ready.gov/prepareathon. Prepareathon events and resources are “designed to address specific hazards and give people the opportunity to practice what to do during an emergency.”

There are other excellent resources closer to home of course. The Maryland Emergency Management Agency (mema.maryland.gov), offers a variety of materials to help residents prepare for emergencies including “10 Things You Can Do” to take action today and a “Maryland Prepares” mobile app. We also encourage you to check out the Maryland Municipal League’s very own emergency management page at www.mdmunicipal.org/133/Emergency-Management, where you’ll find information and resources of specific relevance to Maryland cities and towns.

So, go ahead and use any, or all, of these resources to take that first step toward better informing and motivating your residents to plan, prepare, and get involved. We encourage you to start this September with National Preparedness Month and then extend that awareness throughout every month of the year.
Congratulations to “Top Cop”
Cumberland Police Department
PFC Michael Allen Brown, Jr.

Participants enjoyed MML and NLC’s first Young Municipal Leaders’ Summit, held May 4, in Rockville, MD

Senator Jason Gallion and Delegate Andrew Casilly receive Legislative Awards at the Cecil-Harford Chapter Meeting

Chair Kumar Brave and Delegates Julie Palakovich Carr and Al Carr receive Legislative Awards at the Montgomery County Chapter meeting
Scenes from Memorial Day in North Brentwood and their Produce for Seniors Program.

Team Ridgely, MML Golf Tournament at Summer Conference 2019
While you are reading this article, somewhere in the United States a local disaster is possibly occurring, has recently occurred or has a high probability of occurring in the near future. Unfortunately, it has also become easy to watch the broadcast news, read in local newspapers or view on social media, in particular, and see homes destroyed by fire, water, wind, earthquakes or terrorism and think that it will not happen to you. Behaviorists define that as Normalcy Bias - “In spite of what I see going on everywhere else, nothing happened to me personally yesterday, nothing has happened to me personally today, and nothing is likely to happen to me personally tomorrow!”

Statistically, however, across the entire United States it truly is - to coin the phrase, not a matter of “if” but “when”. Obviously, with all of the natural and man-made disasters the world is experiencing by the time disaster strikes you personally, the time to prepare has ceased, so making sure you, your family, your neighborhood community and your municipality are prepared for any worst-case scenario is essential. Preparedness should be on everyone’s mind, particularly with municipal Officials. But, where do you begin? Many church organizations appropriately suggest at least a “three-month food supply” be stored in your home. Some organizations suggest starting with at least a “two-week food supply”. Those valid recommendations themselves can be overwhelming and discouraging for anyone attempting to begin the exercise of creating an emergency supplies or disaster supply kit.

Every effort, regardless of the subject, begins with a single action. So rather than initially attempt to create a three month or two week or any other measured number of days of emergency essentials, let’s make sure you, your family, your neighborhood community and your municipality are at least prepared for the first three days or 72 hours of any type of emergency or disaster, as recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). While you could very well need more than 72 hours of supplies if something were to happen, often, help is deployed during or immediately after the first 72 hours of an event. Having a “72 Hour Kit” can really give you and others peace of mind and make a difference in individual’s lives.

You can make your own kit or certainly buy a pre-stocked kit from any number on Internet vendors. FEMA suggests building your kit as you can more easily customize it to your personal preferences and also ensure quality components, where necessary.

Let’s get right to it and as FEMA recommends, build a kit from a list or checklist that is specific to your needs and can be modified to accommodate your family, or even a larger community of individuals.

So, here is a list, not necessarily ‘the’ list of what you should have in a 72-hour emergency kit. One item to note, the kit can be designed and stored to meet your first 72 hours of need whether you are sheltering in place (staying in your home because it is recommended and safe to do so by authorities), or taking your 72 Hour Kit with you because you are evacuating your place of residence (at the advice and strong recommendation of authorities). So, the size, the

family, your neighborhood community and your municipality are prepared for any worst-case scenario is essential.
weight and other considerations need to be made if you may be required to take your 72 Hour Kit with you, so think easily transportable.

Let's build our 72 Hour Kit: Download Now

First, you will want a good, solid backpack or portable container to put your items in. Ideally, you'll fit everything you need into this backpack or container (though if you have some of the larger items listed at the end, you may need to store those separately).

**FOOD AND WATER**

- **Food** - A three-day supply. Focus on non-perishable goods that require little to no preparation such as:
  - Protein bars
  - MREs (Meals Ready to Eat) - Do an Internet search for more details.
  - Crackers
  - Hard Candies (that don’t melt)
  - Cereal
  - Powdered milk
  - Dehydrated fruits and vegetables (Beef Jerky)
  - Canned beans
  - Canned meat

- **Water** – 3 Gallons per person for drinking (1 Gallon per person per day); 2 gallons for sanitation (bathing, bathroom, etc.).

**EQUIPMENT**

- Portable Cell Phone Charger – a solar powered one is even better.
- Radio (battery or crank)
- Pocket knife
- Nylon rope
- Plastic sheet or tarp
- Duct tape
- Manual can opener
- Whistle
- Dust masks

**MEDICAL AND PERSONAL ITEMS**

- Generic medications (Tylenol, Advil, Dramamine, etc.)
- Three-day supply of prescription medications (this is a critical component, if applicable)
- First Aid Kit
- Soap (bar of soap, hand soap)
- Hand sanitizer
- Feminine supplies (cloth pads are something to consider, as well as something like a menstrual cup).
- Prepaid phone card
- Wipes (Clorox wipes, baby wipes, etc.)
- Sunscreen
- Bug repellent
- If you have children in diapers, have a three-day supply of disposable diapers and wipes.
## BEDDING AND CLOTHING

- Clean clothes and underwear – change out depending on size and season. Three day preferred, one day minimum
- Poncho and/or Rain Jacket
- Sleeping Bag and or Cloth Sheet, Fleece Blanket, etc.

## FUEL/LIGHT

- Waterproof Matches
- Long Burning Candles
- Flashlights or Camping Lights (battery or crank operated)
- Batteries

## PERSONAL DOCUMENTS

- Insurance information (Medical, Home, Auto, etc.)
- Copies of Driver’s Licenses, Passports, Marriage License, etc.
- Vaccine Records
- Cash (ATM Machines do not operate without electricity)

## LARGE ITEMS FOR A FAMILY

These are items that not everyone has to have in their kit, but they will be helpful to have.

- Camp Stove
- Portable Pot and Pans

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So, this is just one list of considerations to building a 72 Hour Kit. Let this checklist just be a start, but don’t get too overwhelmed or discouraged. Start small and I would suggest you ensure you have the food and water included first. Then, take time to think through what you perhaps already have on hand to include in your kit, or to consider adding and let your creativity lead you.

This is and can be a somber subject, but take a positive outlook and make the act of building your 72 Hour Kit a fun exercise and adventure. As you begin your kit, progress through and eventually complete, it’s very likely you will experience a sense of accomplishment and less anxiety and stress with the knowledge you’ve taken the right steps to prepare for any and all kinds of disasters. Now, go out and encourage others to do the same, particularly your municipal peers and associates.

For more information and other excellent recommendations on the importance of and how to build a 72 Hour Kit, please visit the following Internet sites:

- [https://www.ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) (FEMA’s Ready Program)
- [https://www.redcross.org/store/preparedness?scode=PS-Goo0000E017&gclid=EAIaIQobChMI4q7HqYrT4gIVCR6GCh-2F6AiDEAAYASABEgLEYPD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds](https://www.redcross.org/store/preparedness?scode=PS-Goo0000E017&gclid=EAIaIQobChMI4q7HqYrT4gIVCR6GCh-2F6AiDEAAYASABEgLEYPD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds) (American Red Cross Emergency Supplies)

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The City of Cambridge will have a memorable experience planned for you this October when we have the privilege of hosting the 2019 MML Fall Conference.

Cambridge is steeped in rich tradition and you will find us to be a gracious host. Walk along our brick-lined street replete with breathtaking architecture. Visit the homes and neighborhoods of past Governors and historic figures such as Annie Oakley. Take some time to travel down to the “world renowned” Visitors Center at the Harriet Tubman National Byway or simply meander over and take in the beauty of the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge to experience a nature lover’s paradise.

While staying at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay, you will be pampered with a wide variety of amenities such as a state-of-the-art European health spa, an 18-hole championship golf course, Olympic-size indoor heated pool, wildlife observation opportunities, 150-slip marina, 42,000 square feet of meeting and event space as well as a full-time business center along with ample restaurants and lounges.

Located on the banks of the beautiful Choptank River, Cambridge has historic streetscapes, friendly neighborhoods, unique downtown shopping, boutique restaurants and lounges, boat and marina facilities including a full-size replica of a lighthouse, and 10 city parks.

Our waterfront views in this renaissance city will astound you, the heritage and history of Cambridge will delight you and our wonderful people will enchant you.

Take Care Until We Meet in October.

Victoria Jackson-Stanley, Mayor, The City of Cambridge
Don’t Miss the 2019 MML Fall Conference October 13-15, 2019 Cambridge, MD

The last time MML’s annual fall conference was held in Cambridge at the Hyatt Chesapeake was 2015. If you were there, you’ll definitely want to go back. If you missed it then, you won’t want to miss it this time.

At this enchanting venue, you will be an important part of planning for the future of municipal government in Maryland as you participate in Tuesday’s annual business meeting. You won’t want to miss your opportunity to be there when the membership discusses and adopts the League’s legislative agenda, as recommended by the MML Legislative Committee.

The MML fall conference gives you the opportunity to participate in workshops, meetings and networking in this focused and intimate event. Come to Cambridge and renew old friendships and make new connections.

Fall Conference Tabletops and Sponsorships are now OPEN and GOING FAST! For more information and to sign up, call Kevin Connors at MML (410) 295-9100
**CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS AND SPECIAL SESSIONS**

This year, you will have the opportunity to attend at least 14 different workshops, forums and discussion sessions, including three Academy core classes and several elective classes. Academy elective workshops will address a variety of issues, all of which are relevant whether you represent a large city or a small town. On Monday, choose between the Large City and Small Town Forums where you can meet and discuss issues pertinent to cities and towns large and small. If you are new to your job, you’ll want to attend the Orientation for Municipal Officials Monday, October 14 where you’ll learn more about how MML can help you as you move forward in your role.

The MML Board of Directors, District Vice Presidents/Chapter Officers and Legislative Committee will meet Sunday, October 13. The Maryland Mayors Association will hold its meeting on Monday, October 14. Please refer to the preliminary agenda for specific times.

**IMPORTANT REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

You can register in two convenient ways:

- Online at [www.mdmunicipal.org/registration](http://www.mdmunicipal.org/registration). Online registration fees reflect a $50 discount (or)

- By mail (does not qualify for online $50 discount).

Complete the registration form in this issue and mail it with payment to MML, 1212 West Street, Annapolis, MD 21401 no later than September 27.

To protect your personal and credit card information, MML cannot accept registrations by fax.

You can choose your registration package:

**Full registration includes**: workshops, forums, conference materials, refreshment breaks, boxed lunch, Monday reception, Tuesday breakfast, general session/legislative issues presentation and the Tuesday lunch.

**One-day registration includes**:

- **Monday**: conference materials, refreshment breaks, workshops, forums, boxed lunch, Monday Welcome Reception

- **Tuesday**: conference materials, refreshment breaks, workshops, breakfast, general session/legislative issues presentation, luncheon

Additional Options: are separate purchases in addition to registration fees. Use the registration form to add the following to your registration choice. Options include**:

- Monday Boxed Lunch Tickets (spouse/companion)
- Monday Welcome Reception Tickets (spouse/companion)
- Monday Dinner Tickets – NOT INCLUDED IN REGISTRATION – must be purchased as an extra option to attend!
- Additional Tuesday Breakfast Tickets (spouse/companion).
- Additional Tuesday Lunch Tickets (spouse/companion)
There is no registration fee for your spouse/companion to attend, but this registration type is restricted to persons who are:

- not municipal or public officials
- not affiliated with any exhibitor
- have no professional reason to attend

Spouse/companions must be registered by October 4 to purchase meal tickets for any meals they wish to attend.

**Options cannot be added on site because meal guarantees have already been given to the hotel and can't be changed.** No meal tickets will be sold on site during the conference.

You are eligible for the early registration discount if you register by Friday, September 13 (postmark).

Registration fees and meal tickets will increase in price on September 14.

Pre-registration closes on Friday, September 27. After September 27, you must register on site.

**First Time Attendee Discount**

If you are a Maryland municipal official who has never been to MML’s Fall Conference, you are eligible for a special $50 registration discount. The first-time discount is only valid during online registration and not for mail-in registrations.

Prior to beginning the online registration process, you must
verify the registrant’s first-time eligibility and get the discount code. Please contact the MML Registrar at 800-492-7121 or at registration@mdmunicipal.org for verification and code.

**Registration Changes/Cancellations**

All registration changes and cancellations must be made in writing. No telephone changes or cancellations will be accepted. You can submit registration changes or cancellations via e-mail to the conference registrar at registration@mdmunicipal.org. The cancellation fee is $75; the cancellation deadline is October 4, after which no refunds will be issued.

**NOTE: Higher Onsite Registration Fees Apply After September 27**

Onsite Note: *Onsite registrations do not include meals and are not eligible for discounts. No meal tickets are sold onsite.*

**Important Deadlines**

- Hotel Reservations September 20 by Midnight
- Discounted Pre-registration September 14
- Pre-registration September 27
- Registration Changes/Cancellations – October 4

**Family Activities**

Get ideas for things to do in Cambridge on the website [www.visitcambridge.org](http://www.visitcambridge.org).

Don’t miss this key Maryland Municipal League event. Mark your calendar and make your reservation now and don’t miss the chance to have your voice heard!

**Disabilities, Special Needs and Dietary Requirements**

**Important Information**

If you have special needs — including dietary, please provide MML with any necessary food accommodations.

Please let the hotel know when you make your reservation if you need special accommodations.

MML’s special negotiated room rate is $144 single/double plus 6% state, 5% county and 2.5% local taxes (for run of house). The MML rates can be used for two days before and after the Fall Conference to extend your stay. You can pay to upgrade to guarantee a balcony or water view. MML also has a reduced daily resort fee of $10 (versus $25) which includes complimentary parking, internet, in-room safe, coffee and two bottled waters daily and mini-golf, tennis and other recreational activities and equipment (not golf or spa).

**The deadline for reservations is Friday, September 20!**

After that, reservations will be accepted based on availability and MML's discounted rates may not apply. The link will no longer be available, so please call the hotel directly with any changes or new reservations.

To make your reservations, click on the special dedicated MML Reservation Link: [https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/CHESA/G-MMGU](https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/CHESA/G-MMGU). Follow the instructions to reserve your room. If you need additional assistance, please contact Hyatt Reservations at (877) 803-7534 or (888) 321-1442 or click here to find contact information by region. Use MML’s group code G-MMGU when you call. For questions about the hotel, call the Hyatt Chesapeake directly at (410) 901-1234.

When making your reservation, you must use a credit card to guarantee your room or the hotel may cancel it. The hotel will honor a state sales tax exemption if a municipal guest qualifies, provide that proper documentation required by the applicable jurisdiction is provided in a timely fashion to substantiate the exemption. All attendees must pay the 5% hotel occupancy and local taxes. Total tax is 13.5% if you are not tax exempt from the state tax.

If you must cancel your reservation, do so no less than 72 hours before your arrival date and no later than 6 pm to avoid being charged a penalty. Please also be aware that there is an early check-out fee of one night’s room and tax.

**Hotel Check-in time: 4 pm**

**Hotel Check-out time: 11 am**
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MML Fall Conference Registration Form  •  October 13-15, 2019

Please print or type; use a separate form for each person.

Name __________________________________________   Name on Badge (if different) ______________________________________

Title __________________________________________

Municipality/Agency/Company __________________________________________

Mailing Address __________________________________________

City ___________________________ State _______ Zip ___________ Phone (________) __________________

Email __________________________________________   Spouse or Companion (if attending) __________________________________________

Save $50 on registration fees by registering on-line at www.mdmunicipal.org/fallconference

FULL REGISTRATION PACKAGE
Includes registration for entire conference: workshops, forums, refreshment breaks and includes (1) ticket for Monday boxed lunch, Monday Reception, Tuesday breakfast and lunch. Does NOT include dinner or Academy Graduate Class** Spouse/Companion registrants must purchase meal tickets for all functions.

City/Town Official/Employee  $480  $525  _______________
Other – Non-City/Town Official/Employee $525  $570  _______________

1-DAY REGISTRATION
City/Town Official/Employee – Choose One:
   _____Monday (includes workshops, breaks, box lunch & reception) $340  $385  _______________
   _____Tuesday (includes breakfast, workshops, breaks & lunch) $395  $440  _______________
Other: Non-City/Town Official/Employee - Choose One:
   _____Monday (includes workshops, breaks, box lunch & reception) $370  $400  _______________
   _____Tuesday (includes breakfast, workshops, breaks & lunch) $435  $465  _______________

**MONDAY NIGHT DINNER TICKET(S) – NOT INCLUDED IN DAILY OR FULL REGISTRATION
Number of tickets _____ $72  $75  _______________

OPTIONAL ITEMS:
ADDITIONAL MONDAY BOXED LUNCH TICKET(S)
Number of tickets _____ $28  $31  _______________

ADDITIONAL MONDAY NIGHT RECEPTION TICKET(S)
Number of tickets _____ $55  $60  _______________

ADDITIONAL TUESDAY BREAKFAST TICKET(S)
Number of tickets _____ $30  $35  _______________

ADDITIONAL TUESDAY LUNCH TICKET(S)
Number of tickets _____ $46  $50  _______________

**ACADEMY GRADUATE TRAINING (Wednesday) – GRADUATES ONLY!
   _____ Conference Registrant $50  $65  _______________
   _____ Non-Registrant (Graduation Class Attendee Only) $85  $100  _______________

TOTAL: _______________

Method of Payment:  □ Check enclosed payable to Maryland Municipal League  □ MasterCard/Visa/Discover/ AmEx

Card Number ____________________________ Exp. Date ____________________________

Print Name as it Appears on Card ____________________________________________________________ 3 digit code _______________

Card Holder’s Signature ____________________________

Card Holder’s Telephone Number (________) __________________

If you have special needs, including dietary, please attach a separate sheet describing your requirements.

Effective September 28, higher on-site registration fees will apply.

Return to: Maryland Municipal League, 1212 West Street, Annapolis, MD 21401. No faxes.

Changes & cancellation deadline (for refunds) October 4, 2019. Cancellation fee $75.00. After October 4, 2019 no money will be refunded.
All Emergencies are Local

By Clay Stamp, Director of Emergency Services and Assistant County Manager for Talbot County, Maryland

As a long-serving emergency manager in Maryland, I have had the privilege to serve in a number of emergency services capacities which include federal, state, county and municipal governments.

There is an old adage that states “all emergencies are local.” Over my years of involvement in disaster situations, I have found this to be true. As a matter of fact, if you were to fill a room with Mayors and other elected and appointed officials who have been through disaster situations, I am certain they would testify to the importance of ensuring your community is prepared.

Like other states, Maryland has its list of reasons to be prepared. These include, but are not limited to, risks of flooding, power outages, transportation emergencies, extreme heat and cold, drought, and epidemics. To be prepared is about a strong leadership commitment from the chief elected and appointed officials in our cities and towns. This strong leadership will drive a better understanding of community risk and how best to address it before it becomes a problem. This, coupled with a commitment to integrate with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) is key to effectively addressing identified hazards through mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. These efforts make for a more resilient community.

In the United States, NIMS exists to provide for the continuity of government, effective planning, communication, decision-making and resource coordination. This is outlined in the National Response Framework, which provides a wealth of important information and can be obtained from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

We are fortunate in Maryland for strong emergency...
management leadership in our state, our counties, and our cities and towns. In addition to statewide and individual jurisdictional efforts, we have seen leadership develop through both the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) with their Emergency Managers Affiliate and through the Maryland Municipal League (MML) Hometown Emergency Preparedness Committee (HEPAC).

Here are a couple of strategies that I have found to assure success in local emergency preparedness:

The first strategy, as part of a strong leadership commitment, emphasizes building and maintaining relationships between those engaged in supporting emergency management activities. This can be accomplished by participating in local and regional meetings, training events and conferences. A great deal can be learned by engaging others. Frankly, when the proverbial “chips are down,” it is through these relationships that you will see amazing responses to your needs. Special efforts should be made to establish good working relationships with county emergency managers. They are committed to supporting the needs of cities and towns as are the federal and state emergency managers. Working together will serve as a welcomed “force multiplier” in your efforts to create a prepared and resilient community.

The second strategy involves utilizing special events such as festivals, parades and other events to conduct test exercises for communications, decision-making, traffic patterns, crowd control and other response elements important to being prepared as a community.

The bottom line is that all of our communities are vulnerable, and hazards do occur. The key is to address them in advance in order to reduce threats and ensure plans are in place, creating awareness, managing public expectations, and effectively responding and recovering from adverse events.

It’s not about if your community will be impacted by an emergency. It’s about when it will be impacted. Continue to build on the good work already done to become more resilient as a community. It’s all about saving lives and protecting property!

Clay B. Stamp is the Director of Emergency Services and Assistant County Manager for Talbot County, Maryland. He has served previously as the Executive Director of Maryland’s Opioid Operational Command Center and the Executive Director of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency. Mr. Stamp was Emergency Manager/Emergency Services Director for the Town of Ocean City from 1976-2004.
The going theory on the Supreme Court’s docket for the 2018-2019 term was that the Court tried to stay out of controversial cases after Justice Kavanaugh’s contentious confirmation process. If that was in fact the Court’s goal, it was mostly able to accomplish it except for the census and partisan gerrymandering cases. As always the Supreme Court decided numerous cases affecting local governments—big and small. This article summarizes the four most significant cases for local governments. At the time of publication, it remains unclear whether the 2020 census will contain the citizenship question.

In *Department of Commerce v. New York* five Justices held that the reasons Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross gave for adding the citizenship question to the 2020 census were pretextual in violation of the Administrative Procedures Act (APA).

Since 1950 the decennial census has not asked all households a question about citizenship. In a March 2018 memo, Secretary Ross announced he would reinstate the question at the request of the Department of Justice (DOJ), “which sought improved data about citizen voting-age population for purposes of enforcing the Voting Rights Act (VRA).”

According to the Court additional discovery revealed the following: “that the Secretary was determined to reinstate a citizenship question from the time he entered office; instructed his staff to make it happen; waited while Commerce officials explored whether another agency would request census-based citizenship data; subsequently contacted the Attorney General himself to ask if DOJ would make the request; and adopted the Voting Rights Act rationale late in the process.”

The Court agreed “to a point” with the federal government that there was “nothing objectionable or even surprising in this.” But, the APA requires that federal agencies don’t act arbitrarily and capriciously. Here, “viewing the evidence as a whole,” Ross’s decision to include the citizenship question “cannot be adequately explained in terms of DOJ’s request for improved citizenship data to better enforce the VRA.”

The Bladensburg Peace Cross may stay the Supreme Court ruled in a 7-2 decision in *American Legion v. American Humanist Association.* In 1918, residents of Prince George’s County, Maryland, decided to erect a memorial to honor soldiers from the county who died in World War I. The monument, completed in 1925, is a 32-foot tall Latin cross that sits on a large pedestal. Among other things, it contains a plaque listing the names of 49 local men who died in the war. Over the years, memorials honoring the veterans of other conflicts have been added to the
surrounding area. In 1961, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission acquired the cross and the land it is on in order to preserve it and address traffic-safety concerns. The American Humanist Association sued the Commission claiming the cross’s presence on public land and the Commission’s maintenance of it violates the Establishment Clause.

The Supreme Court disagreed. Significantly, the Court stated that “retaining established, religiously expressive monuments, symbols, and practices is quite different from erecting or adopting new ones. The passage of time gives rise to a strong presumption of constitutionality.”

According to the Court, the Bladensburg Cross doesn’t violate the constitution first because it “carries special significance in commemorating World War I.” Second, “with the passage of time” the cross “has acquired historical importance.” Third, the monument didn’t “deliberately disrespect[] area soldiers who perished in World War I” as no evidence indicates Jewish soldiers were excluded. Finally, according to the majority, “it is surely relevant that the monument commemorates the death of particular individuals.”

While the Court acknowledged that the cross “is undoubtedly a Christian symbol,” it opined “that fact should not blind us to everything else that the Bladensburg Cross has come to represent.”

In Nieves v. Bartlett* the Supreme Court held 6-3 that the existence of probable cause generally defeats a First Amendment retaliatory arrest case.

While police officer Luis Nieves and Russell Bartlett have different versions of what happened at Arctic Man, a weeklong winter sports festival in Alaska, even the Ninth Circuit agreed that Sergeant Nieves had probable cause to arrest Bartlett. Sergeant Nieves knew Bartlett had been drinking and talking loudly when he saw Bartlett stand close to another officer and the officer pushed Bartlett away. But Bartlett claimed Sergeant Nieves really arrested him in violation of his First Amendment free speech rights because he had refused to speak to Sergeant Nieves previously, which Bartlett reminded Sergeant Nieves of when he was being arrested.

The Supreme Court held that probable cause generally defeats a retaliatory arrest claim. The Court relied primarily on Hartman v. Moore (2006), where it held that probable cause defeats retaliatory prosecution claims.

In Hartman, the Court noted that proving causation is difficult in retaliatory prosecution cases because “the official with the malicious motive does not carry out the retaliatory action himself—the decision to bring charges is instead made by a prosecutor, who is generally immune from suit and whose decisions receive a presumption of regularity.” Similarly, it is difficult to determine if protected speech is the cause of an arrest because “protected speech is often a ‘wholly legitimate consideration’ for officers when deciding whether to make an arrest.” The Court’s caveat is the “no-probable cause requirement should not apply when a plaintiff presents objective evidence that he was arrested when otherwise similarly situated individuals not engaged in the same sort of protected speech had not been.”

In a 5-4 opinion in Knick v. Township of Scott* the Supreme Court held that a property owner may proceed directly to federal court with a takings claim. In Knick the Court overturned Williamson County Regional Planning Commission v. Hamilton Bank of Johnson City (1985), which held that before a takings claim may be brought in federal court, a property owner must first seek just compensation under state law in state court.

The Township of Scott adopted an ordinance requiring cemeteries, whether located on public or private land, to be open and accessible to the public during the day. Code enforcement could enter any property to determine the “existence and
location” of a cemetery. The Constitution’s Takings Clause states that “private property [shall not] be taken for public use, without just compensation.”

Rose Mary Knick sued the county in federal (rather than state) court claiming the ordinance was invalid per the Takings Clause after code enforcement went onto her property without a warrant looking for (and finding) a cemetery not open to the public during the day.

The Court overruled the state-litigation requirement of Williamson County reasoning the Takings Clause doesn’t say: “Nor shall private property be taken for public use, without an available procedure that will result in compensation.”

Conclusion

Perhaps the most interesting fact about the 2018-2019 term is that Justice Kavanaugh was the Justice most in the majority. Whether this is a sign that he will join Chief Justice Roberts to form a center right coalition on the Court is unclear. Notably, Justice Kavanaugh joined his more conservative colleagues in both of the big cases of the term (census and partisan gerrymandering) while Chief Justice Roberts joined his more liberal colleagues in the portion of the census opinion ruling Ross’s reasons for adding the citizenship question were pretextual. Only time will tell how the addition of Justice Kavanaugh will impact local governments in big and small cases.

The State and Local Legal Center (SLLC) files Supreme Court amicus curiae briefs on behalf of the Big Seven national organizations representing state and local governments. For more information, contact author, Lisa Soronen: lsoronen@sso.org

*Indicates a case where the SLLC has filed or will file an amicus brief.
Thank you

...to MML Hometown Emergency Preparedness Ad Hoc Committee Members

Chair: Wayne Creadick, Mayor, Myersville
Vice Chair: Perry Jones, Mayor, Union Bridge
Adrian Baker, Police Chief, Chestertown
Muir Boda, Council Vice President, Salisbury
Lee Cornwell, Emergency Manager, Bowie
Beryl Feinberg, Councilmember, Rockville
La-Shon Foster, Commissioner, Cambridge
Timothy George, City Administrative Officer, New Carrollton
Joanne Hall-Barr, Director of Parks and Recreation, Laurel
Tonya Harrison, Councilmember, Brentwood
Wanda Leonard, Mayor, Upper Marlboro
Jarrett Mahoney, Code Enforcement Officer, Garrett County Municipalities
Todd Nock, Councilmember, Pocomoke City
Petrella Robinson, Mayor, North Brentwood
Robert Ryan, Director of Public Services, College Park
Kyle Snyder, Chief of Staff, Upper Marlboro
Isaac Trouth, Councilmember, Bowie
Robert Wu, Councilmember, Gaithersburg
NOW AVAILABLE:
POST-65 HEALTH INSURANCE
FOR YOU AND YOUR SPOUSE

Maryland Municipal League has partnered with AmWINS Group Benefits to offer you and your spouse Post-65 retiree healthcare when you become eligible.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
The Post-65 Retiree Healthcare Insurance Program features the following comprehensive plans:

• Medicare Supplemental Insurance (Parts A & B)
• Prescription Drug Insurance
• Dental and Vision Plans

• No underwriting
• Access to Individual Exchange plans
• Nationwide Coverage

We realize that everyone’s healthcare needs are different. That’s why we’ve partnered with AmWINS. Their dedicated Benefit Specialists will help you and your spouse find the best coverage to fit your budget.

Enrollment Requirements
✓ You must be age 65 or older
✓ Enrolled in Medicare Parts A & B

CONTACT YOUR BENEFITS ADMINISTRATOR TO LEARN MORE!
What makes some communities better able than others to solve the tough social, political, economic or physical challenges they face? This was a question the National Civic League set out to answer over 30 years ago. On-the-ground research revealed a set of factors that we call civic capital — the formal and informal relationships, networks and capacities that communities use to make decisions collaboratively and solve problems.

Somewhat like social capital, but not to be confused with financial capital, civic capital can be found in all sorts of communities, not just the most affluent, educated or advantaged. While myriad other factors contribute to community progress, civic capital is the core factor identified by the National Civic League as the primary explanation for long-term community success.

At the National Civic League, we know of many communities with an abundant supply of civic capital. The All-America City program has recognized over 500 of these communities during the past 69 years. All have varying degrees of civic engagement, collaboration and leadership, and have been able to tackle tough issues in a sustainable manner—by bringing everyone to the table and creating equity.

Earlier this year the National Civic League released the fourth edition of the Civic Index, a self-assessment tool consisting of a set of questions that provide a framework for discussing and measuring a community’s civic capital. Since it was first developed in 1986, many communities have used the Civic Index to better understand their civic strengths and to identify gaps or areas in need of further attention, soliciting community input to create a baseline measure of their civic capital and monitor progress over time as they work to enhance their internal capacity.

The Seven Components of Civic Capital

The Civic Index describes the seven components of civic capital, provides examples of each, lists the 32 questions that are used to gauge each component and provides ideas on how to use the index. Here’s a synopsis of these seven components.

1. **Engaged Residents**: Residents play an active role in making decisions and civic affairs.

2. **Inclusive Community Leadership**: The community actively cultivates and supports leaders from diverse backgrounds and with diverse perspectives.

3. **Collaborative Institutions**: Communities with good civic capital have regular collaboration among the government, business, nonprofit and other sectors, as well as structures in place that facilitate such collaboration.

4. **Embracing Diversity and Equity**: Communities with healthy civic capital recognize and celebrate their diversity. They strive for equity in services, support and engagement.

5. **Authentic Communication**: Healthy communities need credible, civic-minded sources of information presented in a way that residents can use.

6. **Culture of Engagement**: Involvement by residents, businesses, nonprofits and other stakeholders in every aspect of civic affairs should be part of local culture—an expectation, not an afterthought.

7. **Shared Vision and Values**: Communities with shared values and civic pride have a common foundation for addressing public matters.
EXAMPLES FROM MARYLAND

While there are myriad examples of civic engagement success from all over the State of Maryland, the League has identified two examples of cities that have made special efforts to build on its civic capital to solve community problems.

- **Baltimore**: In 2009, the year B'more for Healthy Babies launched, Baltimore had one of the highest infant mortality rates (IMR) in the city’s history. The city created a “Community Solutions Action Plan” that included a broad cross-section of local partners, including schools, foundations, community service organizations, businesses and faith groups detailing how they would address this problem.

  Community champions visited barbershops, community centers and health institutions to educate mothers on the importance of safe sleeping. The City’s IMR has since fallen by 38%—from 13.5 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2009 to 8.4 in 2015. Sleep-related infant deaths in Baltimore City have decreased by more than 50% since 2009 (from 27 deaths in 2009 to 13 deaths in 2015).

  In recognition of this success, Baltimore was a winning community at the National Civic League’s All-America City Awards.

  Baltimore Video: You can watch Baltimore’s 2012 All-America City Award presentation here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVhHnlAzoA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVhHnlAzoA).

- **Town of Berlin**: More recently, in March of 2019, the Town of Berlin conducted its first Resilience Element for a Comprehensive Plan by hosting three community meetings to ask citizens what they want to be considered and included in that document.

  “Our community has a strong environmental ethic. It’s one of the values that came out strongly in our strategic planning meetings,” Mayor Gee Williams said. “The ‘Making Berlin Resilient’ meetings are a great opportunity for the community to share their concerns about climate change, growth and financial sustainability,” he added.

  “The thoughts and ideas that come from the Making Berlin Resilient meetings will form the basis of the Resilience Element,” stated Town Administrator Laura Allen. “We expect to post the draft document to the Town’s website for additional public review and comment by June.”

  “Our goal is to have the draft Resilience Element to the Planning Commission before the end of summer and to the Mayor and Council before the end of the year,” she added.

SUMMARY

Nearly a hundred years ago, Justice Louis Brandeis, a one-time member of the League’s executive committee, called states “laboratories of democracy.” That mantle has now been passed to the local level, as cities, counties, towns and other local communities create innovations and regional or national networks to tackle such issues as climate change, health, education and economic prosperity.

At the same time, local governments cannot solve problems on their own. As Bruce Katz points out in The New Localism, community problem-solving depends on “multi-sectoral relationships,” with government often serving as a convener or catalyst. What happens next depends on the civic capacity of the particular locality. It is the communities with civic capital — the full engagement and collaboration of its residents, businesses, nonprofits and other stakeholders— that have the resources and persistence to successfully address difficult issues and build a sustainable future.

For a free copy of the National Civic League’s Civic Index, please visit [www.nationalcivicleague.org/resource-center](http://www.nationalcivicleague.org/resource-center).

ENGAGEMENT EXAMPLES FROM OTHER STATES:


- **Longmont, CO Advisory Board**: [http://www.nationalcivicleague.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/AdvisoryBoard2.jpg](http://www.nationalcivicleague.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/AdvisoryBoard2.jpg) (Longmont, CO has invested in civic capital by creating a comprehensive engagement plan, engaging Spanish-speaking residents, supporting residents to take action in their own neighborhoods, and developing inclusive leadership opportunities. Beginning with a neighborhood leadership program, the city revamped its outreach efforts to ensure neighborhood input on all city actions.)

- **Las Vegas, NV Community Garden**: [http://www.nationalcivicleague.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/LasVegasGarden.jpg](http://www.nationalcivicleague.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/LasVegasGarden.jpg) (Las Vegas, NV residents come together to tend a community garden. Communities are more likely to thrive when residents, businesses, and other stakeholders play active roles in shaping decisions and taking action. Activities to address issues are more likely to be sustainable when community members are involved.)

- **San Antonio, TX All-America City 2018 Presentation**: [http://www.nationalcivicleague.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/San-AntonioAAC2018_1.jpg](http://www.nationalcivicleague.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/San-AntonioAAC2018_1.jpg) (San Antonio, TX was a winning community at the National Civic League’s All-America City Awards for their work on reducing infant mortality, cuts to teen pregnancy, and other initiatives. Other cities: [http://www.nationalcivicleague.org/resource-center](http://www.nationalcivicleague.org/resource-center).)

For further engagement examples, see the National Civic League’s Civic Index at [www.nationalcivicleague.org/resource-center](http://www.nationalcivicleague.org/resource-center).

Visit www.nationalcivicleague.org for more information and resources.
MEETINGS

July 2019
12 Code Enforcement and Zoning Officials Association, North Beach
18 Cecil-Harford Chapter, Chesapeake City
22 Washington Chapter, Williamsport

August 2019
21 Allegany/Garrett Chapter, Accident
22 Frederick Chapter, Middletown
28 Executive Committee, Annapolis

September 2019
11 Montgomery Chapter, Rockville
11 Southern Maryland Chapter, La Plata
12 Municipal Public Works Department, North Beach
14 Board of Directors, Gaithersburg
19 Carroll Chapter
19 Prince George’s Chapter
19 Municipal Clerks Department, Seat Pleasant
23 Washington Chapter
25 Municipal Parks and Recreation Department, Baltimore

MARYLAND MUNICIPAL LEAGUE • (410) 295-9100
SUMMER CONFERENCE
June 28 - July 1, 2020 • Ocean City Convention Center

FALL CONFERENCE
October 13-15, 2019 • Cambridge

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES • (202) 626-3105
CITY SUMMIT
November 20-23, 2019 • San Antonio, Texas

CONGRESSIONAL CITIES CONFERENCE
March 8-11, 2020 • Washington, DC

INTERNATIONAL CITY/COUNTY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION • (202) 962-3540
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
October 20-23, 2019 • Nashville, Tennessee
September 27-30, 2020 • Toronto, Ontario, Canada
October 3-6, 2021 • Portland, Oregon

MARYLAND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (MEMA)
As Maryland’s “designated source of official risk reduction and consequence management information,” MEMA provides Maryland’s communities and local leaders with a wide array of information and programs to minimize risk and maximize recovery from natural and man-made emergencies. From training opportunities to preparedness guides to local emergency manager contacts, you will find it here: www.mema.maryland.gov

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

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