Note from the President
Peter Auger, City Manager, Auburn Hills

If it was easy anyone could do it.

To me, that sums up life as a city manager. How many times in your career do you make the job look so easy that any city council member thinks he or she can do the job? I think about this when I see managers in transition, as the elected boards turn over and people who don’t know about anything we do during the day, react before thinking. Sometimes it feels like some elected folks think we just sit all week waiting for the next board meeting.

Well, we know differently. Ours is an honorable career choice. This is one of the reasons we need a strong MLGMA, a place where you are not alone in your joys and accomplishments.

Remember at our Winter Institute when Larry Nielsen was honored with the MLGMA “Excellence Award”? What a great moment for Larry and our association.

We should celebrate those accomplishments more often. There are good people doing great things in management. Let us celebrate those together. Find out about a manager doing something neat and let the MLGMA Experience Committee know.

If we don't highlight the great things managers are doing, who will?

Continued on Page 2
The opposite is true as well. Hit a bump in the road, frustrated with someone or something? Reach out. I see it on the MLGMA Listserv once in a while, but hey, pick up the phone and go old school. I recently had lunch with a manager I hadn’t spoken to in a while and it was refreshing to touch base again.

We are off to a great start on MLGMA’s Summer Workshop. The Summer Workshop Committee has wrapped up a whirlwind adventure getting ready for us in Bay City, July 22nd through July 25. I look forward to educational and inspiring sessions.

We will also be doing a MLGMA member survey this year. It’s important you participate so that your board can plan the future of the organization appropriately.

Speaking of your board, what a great mix of experience, community makeup, regions and, yes, personalities. In the two meetings this year, we have had great passionate discussions on all things MLGMA. The new committee set ups are in place and chairs have been working to launch the combined committees into active and engaged working units that lay a great foundation for future committees to build upon. We are working towards getting recording secretaries on each committee, so that we can post minutes of these meetings on the MLGMA website. Everyone can be a part of it and see what our organization is doing.

Speaking of the website, we have a committee meeting on that as well. They will be looking at making it more useful for us in the field.

As a representative of your MLGMA Board of Directors, I am looking forward to a positive and engaging year.

Sincerely,

Peter Auger
MLGMA President
“Excellence Award” Winner Larry Nielsen Says Sharing Is Key

“I’ve never met a manager who didn’t offer help to another manager when asked,” says Larry Nielsen, Paw Paw Village Manager and MLGMA’s 2014 “Excellence in Local Government Award” recipient.

Nielsen thinks access to networking opportunities and peer support are crucial.

“Locally, I’m President of our Southwest Michigan Manager’s Association, one of the regional groups that are kind of like chapters of MLGMA. Many times managers get together and tell war stories, but we try to do our round-robins based on good news, successful adventures, and also spend time allowing managers to pose questions. It’s all part of being a sharing and supportive organization,” Nielsen says.

“MLGMA is a sharing professional organization in that way. A manager might be reading up on trials and tribulations happening in another community, and they may give that manager a call to just lend them an ear. Or you put a question on MLGMA’s Listserv and people share what works and things to consider,” he says.

An “old dog,” as he calls himself -- in the profession for 30 years and MLGMA for the last 15 years --Nielsen is a source of advice for the next generation of local government managers.

“In our neck of the woods, we get a lot of new managers. And what I generally tell them is simply that this is a great profession to be in. It’s grassroots, because city, village, township, and county managers are on the front lines of many people’s lives,” Nielsen says.

He appreciates what MLGMA NextGen does to “entice people into this great profession,” he says. “You want to create that environment where they feel free to ask a question without all the old dogs like us thinking they’re lame for not knowing something.”

In the spirit of sharing, Nielsen offers a piece of advice to everyone -- never underestimate the power of “community engagement,” he says.

“An engaged community will tell you what they like and don’t like. If a community does not participate, it’s probably the manager’s or council’s fault, because although people want to get engaged, they don’t always know how. And you have to be creative with it,” he says.

In Paw Paw, encouraging people to host meetings-in-a-box resulted in a lot of community input regarding the village’s master plan. And public feedback is useful as they tackle downtown streetscape redesign.

“A lot of people have ideas and thoughts, but they won’t go to a public meeting. People can be intimidated to stand up and comment, so you have to find other ways to engage people. With meetings-in-a-box, people talk about it in their own setting and bring it back,” Nielsen says.
Nielsen has been Village Manager in Paw Paw since 2007. Before that has was city manager in Bangor and village manager in Berrien Springs. His entry point into the profession was in Benton Charter Township, where he was township supervisor from 1984 to 1991.

He served a term on the Michigan Municipal League’s Board of Trustees. He currently serves on the Workers Compensation Fund Board of Directors.

He is also proud of his long-term involvement in environmental stewardship.

Another gold star on his resume is his service as a State Advisory Board Member and County Leadership Committee Member of Welcoming Michigan, which promotes immigrants and diversity.

“It came as a surprise,” Nielsen says of his “Excellence in Local Government Award,” which he received this January at MLGMA’s 2014 Winter Institute in Battle Creek

“Anytime you get recognized by your peers, it’s emotional. I was very touched. I think this award (and also the John Patriarche Award) is really something, because you are being recognized for your time and effort by your colleagues,” he says.

Nielsen’s biggest goal, as he looks forward to the later part of his long career, is “to retire without regrets,” he says.

Congratulations on your award, Larry! MLGMA thanks you for your committed service to Michigan communities.

**Larry Nielsen Interview Continued**

**ICMA Turns 100**

Did you know that a group of managers founded the City Managers’ Association (later called the International City/County Management Association) back in 1914?

A hundred years ago, it started with a $105 budget and an ideal “to promote the efficiency of city managers and municipal work in general.”

To celebrate its 100th birthday, ICMA created an interactive timeline that charts the history of the organization and city management in general. It is a great history lesson for anyone in the field.

ICMA’s Municipal Year Book 2014 is something special this year.

“The Municipal Year Book 2014 celebrates ICMA’s 100th anniversary with articles on the legacy of local government professionalism, 100 years of tackling social policy issues, the relevance of “reinventing government” today, ICMA’s evolution as an international organization, the role of civic engagement and performance measurement in advancing sustainable communities, the requisites for spreading innovative ideas, the state of the profession, the role of inter-municipal cooperation in alternative service delivery, CAO salaries and compensation, and salaries and expenditures for police and fire personnel. Finally, it provides eight short directories and a directory of professional, special assistance, and educational organizations serving local governments,” as stated in ICMA’s book description.

“The 2014 edition represents thousands of hours of research and expert interpretations of survey data from ICMA, all packed into a single comprehensive resource,” according to ICMA.

The 100th ICMA Annual Conference will be an occasion to celebrate a century of accomplishments and then dig right into current issues. It will be held this **September 14th through September 17th**, in Charlotte/Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.
Three Managers Bound for Gettysburg Institute on 2014 MLGMA Scholarships

By Nate Geinzer, Chair
MLGMA Professional Development Committee
Assistant to the City Manager, Farmington Hills

“Each April or May, a small group of no more than 30 senior local government managers will meet to study the leadership lessons of Gettysburg. This is a unique opportunity to join colleagues in an exploration of personal leadership, organizational effectiveness, and the lessons of history” -- ICMA.org

MLGMA Professional Development Committee has made its first round of 2014 MLGMA Scholarships. The Committee awarded $1,300 in scholarships to three managers who are attending the ICMA Gettysburg Leadership Institute.

Congratulations to our 2014 Round 1 Awardees, Patrick Waterman, Keith Van Beek and Adam Brown!

Have you thought about attending the Senior Executive Institute, Leadership ICMA, the ICMA Annual Conference, or maybe even MPELRA, but did not have the resources? Then don’t miss out on this great program. Many other trainings and conferences can be supported by the MLGMA Scholarship Program.

The next round of applications are due June 30th for training and conferences occurring in late Summer to Fall 2014. For events in late Fall 2014 to Winter 2015, apply now until October 31st.

Full details can be found at www.mlgma.org. Email Nate Geinzer, Chair, MLGMA Professional Development Committee at ngeinzer@fhgov.com

Patrick Waterman
City Manager, Hudsonville

Keith Van Beek
Assistant County Administrator, Ottawa County

Adam Brown
Deputy Administrator/Controller, Jackson County
Legislative Update

By Samantha Harkins
Director of State Affairs,
Michigan Municipal League

The hottest legislative topics are (in no particular order): the budget and EVIP, personal property tax, and transportation funding.

The legislature is currently in negotiations for the Fiscal Year 2015 budget. We expect it to be finalized by June 1 as it has been in the past few years. The Governor, House and Senate are all recommending a 15 percent increase in funding to locals; the problem is they all disagree on how to distribute it. The Governor is seeking to reward communities who are “doing well” and help struggling cities. The House wants to add in 1,000 new communities who are not receiving EVIP and new EVIP criteria to mandate how you spend your increase. The Senate wants to get rid of the EVIP criteria altogether (obviously this is our preferred solution). Please stay tuned to the League’s “Inside 208” blog for the latest on the budget as it evolves.

While the legislature did include $215 million in transportation funding in the recently passed supplemental budget, we’re still looking for a comprehensive solution. A new plan from House Speaker Jase Bolger (R-Marshall) would increase the state’s annual investment in its roadways by at least $500 million annually. The plan would do that, in part, by converting the state’s flat gas tax to a tax based on a percentage of the wholesale price and by dedicating some current sales tax and use tax revenue to transportation needs.

The plan focused on four specific subject areas: increasing efficiencies, improving quality, improving fairness and investing current resources. That’s different from other plans that have focused on tax increases to improve the state’s roads. The proposal includes ending the 19 cents per gallon tax on gasoline and 15 cents per gallon tax on diesel fuel and replacing them with a 6 percent tax on the price of fuel at the wholesale level. This would be a revenue neutral change for gasoline and raise $47 million in new revenue from those buying diesel fuel.

The proposal also includes efficiency measures such as more competitive bidding for local road agencies and the Department of Transportation and requiring all projects more than $5 million to have a minimum five-year warranty. The plan would also increase fees on permits for overweight and oversize trucks, a move that would raise $4.5 million. While we appreciate the conversation, this remains far short of the needed transportation funding.

The Governor signed the personal property tax legislation at the end of March. The proposal will reimburse local units for 100 percent of PPT funding they received as of December 31, 2012. The small parcel exemption for those taxpayers that have less than $80,000 true cash value in the taxing unit begins to phase in starting in 2016. The League will be having webinars and educational programs to answer members’ questions regarding the new legislation.
By Scott Adkins  
Chair, MLGMA Advocacy Committee  
City Manager, Roseville

Fellow Managers,

I hope that as you read this we can finally begin to feel that spring is actually in the air after this long winter. With that in mind, the MLGMA Advocacy Committee continues to move forward with a fresh boost of energy, as well.

Our primary charge is to support and defend the council-manager plan and to promote the accomplishment of our members through Community Education, Recruitment, Members in Transition and Policy Committee based upon our organization’s Strategic Plan.

The MLGMA Advocacy Committee met in March to set the agenda for this year’s priorities.

The committee consists of managers Matthew Baumgarten, Victor Cardenas, Mark Heydlauff, Pat McGinnis, Adam Smith, Greg Sundin, Ben Swayze, Erik Tungate, Chris Wilson, and Eric Zuzga.

One of the largest programs that the committee is responsible for is the MLGMA Fellowship Program. This program rotates among six state universities (Central Michigan, Eastern Michigan, Grand Valley, Northern Michigan, Oakland University and Wayne State), providing opportunities for the placement of two graduate students into traditional twelve-week internship programs annually. MLGMA contributes $3,000 for each fellowship and this is matched by the participating university for a total of $6,000 per fellowship.

MLGMA’s fellowship program has proven to be a very successful one in the past, and continued interest this year will allow for placement of fellows from Wayne State and Northern Michigan.

Fellowships are great opportunities to reinforce the importance of the council-manager plan and bring new prospective managers into our communities and organization.

MLGMA Advocacy Committee is also looking into resurrecting the video promotion program in order to educate city and village councils and the public on the importance of the council-manager form of government. We are looking to partner with ICMA and MML in our efforts. The committee is also looking to extend this working project to MLGMA NextGen Committee in order to encourage more young professionals to join our ranks.

Another goal, in this regard, is to again look at the establishment of a public education component aimed at a K-12 levels and to also encourage our membership to take a more active role in promoting our profession as a potential career path to high school students.

MLGMA Advocacy Committee will also continue to address our core responsibilities as outlined in our organization’s Strategic Plan.

I am excited and honored to serve as chair for this committee and invite each of you to share your thoughts and ideas with me or any member of the committee. It is our job to serve this entire organization and to secure and ensure strong leaders in our communities today and in the future.

Sincerely,

Scott Adkins  
sadkins@roseville-mi.gov
NextGen to Host Public Safety Day, May 9

Contributed by Derrick Kozicki
Vice Chair, MLGMA NextGen Committee
Assistant City Manager, Grosse Pointe Farms

Join the MLGMA NextGen Committee for “Public Safety, Police, Fire, EMS and Emergency Management: What you need to know, what you should know, and what you hope you will never know.”

This information filled event will be held on May 9th, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Michigan Municipal Lansing Office (208 N. Capital Avenue).

Experts from both big and small police, fire, and EMS agencies will discuss the public safety model; contracting for police services vs. your own police department; fire department models; recruiting; emergency management 101; and the manager’s role in emergency management. You will not want to miss this important event.

Space is limited, so register before May 2nd. See the agenda - attached to this newsletter on the next page - for topics, speakers and registration information.

NextGen holds two professional development seminars per calendar year. This Fall, MLGMA NextGen will hold a Professional Development Seminar on Labor Relations.

2014 Winter Institute Resources Are Online

If you need a refresher course or weren’t able to attend MLGMA’s 2014 Winter Institute, which was held in January, you can view links to presentations and the Winter Institute Program online. This recap of important topics discussed in Battle Creek is now posted on MLGMA’s website.

The nuts and bolts of community management are at the heart of MLGMA’s main training workshop.

The next MLGMA Winter Institute will be hosted by Novi, on January 27 through January 30, 2015.

Listserv Surveys

The MLGMA Listserv is a members-only email forum, a communication tool that local government management professionals use to share information with each other. It is like a private network just for the membership, if you will.

Often a member will pose a question to everyone in the group, in search of cross-community input or data that sheds light on some aspect of the profession.

Some take it a step further by compiling answers in survey documents. Now there is a static place on MLGMA’s website to share such survey documents on the web.

For example, a “Defined Contribution Plan Survey,” posted in February, includes data from 26 different communities in Michigan.
Public Safety, Police, Fire, EMS and Emergency Management
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW, WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW, AND WHAT YOU HOPE YOU WILL NEVER KNOW

8:30 am - 9:00 am  Breakfast and Networking
9:00 am - 9:10 am  Welcome
   Rebecca Fleury, Village Manager, Village of Middleville
   Ben Swayze, Township Manager, Cascade Township
9:10 am - 10:10 am  Public Safety Model Panel
   Dan Weston, Retired Chief, Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety
   Karianne Thomas, Deputy Chief, Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety
   Jeff Lewis, Director of Public Safety, City of Muskegon
   Bob North, Deputy Public Safety Director, City of Berkley
10:10 am - 11:00 am  Contracting for Police Services vs. Your Own Police Department Panel
   Ben Swayze, Township Manager, Cascade Township
   Rebecca Fleury, Village Manager, Village of Middleville
   Eric Zuzga, Village Manager, Village of Quincy
11:00 am - 11:15 am  Break
12:15 pm - 1:00 pm  Lunch
1:00 pm - 1:50 pm  Recruiting Police & Fire Chiefs -  Thomas Wieczorek, Director, ICMA, Presenter
1:50 pm - 2:40 pm  Recruiting for Police & Fire
   Lt. Dave Feichtner, Farmington Hills Fire Department
   Julie Yunker, Director, Grand Valley State University Police Academy
   TBD
2:40 pm - 2:55 pm  Break
2:55 pm - 3:45 pm  Emergency Management 101—Lt. Dave Feichtner, Farmington Hills FD
3:45 pm - 4:30 pm  Manager’s Role in Emergency Management Panel
   John Shay, City Manager, City of Ludington,
   Courtney Nicholls, Assistant Village Manager, Village of Dexter
   TBD
4:45 pm  Networking at Edmund’s Pastime

FRIDAY, May 9, 2014
8:30AM - 4:30PM
MML Lansing Office
208 N. Capital Avenue
 REGISTER HERE BY MAY 2

Questions about this FREE NextGen event?
Contact:
Rebecca Fleury  Nate Geinzer
(269) 795-3385  248-871-2507
fleuryr@  ngeinzer@fhgov.com
villageofmiddleville.org
A major “Green Infrastructure Conference” is coming to Lansing Center (333 E. Michigan Ave.), on May 8th and 9th, 2014.

This conference is a natural outgrowth of the Governor’s 2012 Special Message on Energy and the Environment. The Governor identified green infrastructure (GI) as a way to improve water quality in Michigan and create recreational space at the same time. The conference expands on this theme to highlight a broad range of benefits and opportunities provided by green infrastructure planning and preservation at local and regional scales. “How-to” presentations and case studies will be highlighted.

Many experts will be available at this two-day conference to discuss what’s being done to advance GI at the federal and state levels. The regional and local levels will focus on codes and ordinances, funding, cost/benefits, and partnerships. The site-specific level will feature presentations on preparation, design, placement, sizing, and maintenance of structural and vegetative controls.

What is Green Infrastructure? A broad term that includes interconnected natural systems and ecological processes that provide clean water, clean air, and wildlife habitat. It includes natural areas such as grasslands, forests, wetlands and riparian areas. It also includes manmade features such as rain gardens, green roofs, porous pavement, and parks.

Who should attend this unique conference? This conference is intended for local government decision makers and engineers, planners, consultants and landscape architects, developers and builders, drain commissioners, road agencies, business and industry, conservation organizations, foundations and environmental non-profits groups, students, and anyone in government, business, industry, or education with duties related to land use and storm water management.

View a Preliminary Conference Agenda for a tentative schedule of keynotes, speakers, break-out sessions and other program details, and Register.
Calendar of Upcoming Events

Green Infrastructure Conference, May 8 & 9

Michigan’s first state-wide “Green Infrastructure Conference” will be held May 8th and 9th, at the Lansing Center (333 E. Michigan Ave.).

Read Michigan DEQ’s full announcement on Page 10

NextGen Public Safety Day, May 9

See the inserted flyer for details on “Public Safety, Police, Fire, EMS and Emergency Management.” It will be held on May 9th, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30, at the Michigan Municipal League Lansing Office (208 N. Capital Avenue). Register before May 2nd.

Read more on Pages 8 & 9

Round 2 Scholarships, Deadline June 30

MLGMA’s Professional Development Committee is accepting applications for scholarships to attend conferences and trainings.

Apply by June 30th for Round 2. Round 3 applications are due October 31st for events in late Fall 2014 to Winter 2015.

Read more on Page 5

ICMA Voluntary Credentialing Program, Apply by July 1st

The ICMA Voluntary Credentialing Program is accepting a round of applications, until July 1st. The next application deadline will be October 1st.

Save The Date:
MLGMA Summer Workshop
July 22 - 25
Bay City, MI

100th ICMA Annual Conference
September 14 - September 17
Charlotte/Mecklenburg, NC
Save The Date:

MEDA’s “Economic Development Basic Course,” Register by August 25

Contributed by Michigan Economic Developers Association

Michigan Economic Developers Association (MEDA) has partnered with the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) and Western Michigan University to offer the “Economic Development Basic Course,” on September 9th through September 12th, at the Michigan Dental Association Headquarters, Okemos, MI (3657 Okemos Rd.)

Register by August 25th, for...

... comprehensive E.D. training by experienced instructors...

... your first step in becoming a Certified Economic Developer (CEcD)...

... ideal for those with 5 years or less of experience in E.D...

... also great for tying up loose ends on E.D. knowledge.

This week-long course is a comprehensive educational opportunity with focus on the critical areas of economic development.

For those seeking national certification, the Economic Development Basic Course is the first requirement in the process towards receiving your Certified Economic Developer (CEcD) certification.

This course qualifies as a professional development training requirement needed to sit for the CEcD examination. CEcD certification through the IEDC is a national recognition that denotes a mastery of principal skills in economic development, professional attainment, and a commitment to personal and professional growth.

Go directly to the Basic Course webpage, or contact Cassandra Jorae at (517)-241-0011 or by email at cjorae@medaweb.org

The course is accredited by the International Economic Development Council. For more information, see www.iedconline.org, or call 202-942-9466. The International Economic Development Council is a non-profit membership organization dedicated to helping economic developers do their job more effectively and to raising the profile of the profession.
Test your knowledge of the ICMA Code of Ethics and advice. (Answers and explanations are provided to the right.)

1. The county council has asked me to raise funds for the Arts in the Parks festival this summer. As the county manager, can I raise funds for this cause?

   A) Yes
   B) No

2. I’ve been asked to lend my name to various products and services. Which ones are ethical for me to support?

   A) A recycling partnership program that the city has with a private company.
   B) A book on leadership published by a friend.
   C) An ICMA University workshop.
   D) All of the above.
   E) None of the above

Answers:

1. Yes, but use good judgment. Tenet 12 of the ICMA Code of Ethics and its guideline on gifts remind members to avoid soliciting money if the individual or the individual’s organization might view the contribution as a favor and expect special treatment from the member in the future. Members should exercise good judgment and refrain from soliciting funds from a business if the business has a specific issue that may be coming before the local government in the near future for action or a decision.

   Members should not make direct requests of their subordinates to donate because that may create a situation in which employees feel uncomfortable or even coerced into making a donation. It is appropriate for members to provide employees with information about the cause and give them an opportunity to donate if they so choose.

   In raising funds for this local government project, members should be as open and transparent about who may be engaged in fund raising.

   - Obtain governing body approval for the fund-raising effort.
   - Provide clear guidance and direction to staff who may be engaged in fund raising.
   - Publicly announce that a fund-raising campaign is under way and outline in writing the parameters of the campaign.
   - Regularly report on the sources and amounts of donated funds and services.

2. D, all of the above. Tenet 12 of the ICMA Code of Ethics has a guideline on endorsements that reminds members not to endorse any commercial products or services. Members, however, may endorse the following as long as they do not receive any compensation: (1) books or other publications; (2) professional development or educational services provided by nonprofit membership organizations or recognized educational institutions; and (3) products or services, or both, in which the local government has a direct economic interest.
Rob Allard is the new village manager of Pentwater. He previously worked for the City of Ludington as the superintendent of wastewater treatment/utilities maintenance. Welcome to village management, Rob!

Ted Andrzejewski was recently hired as the new city manager of Menominee. He was the mayor of Eastlake, Ohio, for nine years. Welcome to Michigan, Ted!

Dennis Bow is retiring from the City of Flushing. Previously, he served in Keego Harbor and Pinckney. Enjoy your retirement, Dennis!

Maurice Evans retires from Portage this April, after eight years serving as city manager there. Before that post, he managed Marshall and Three Rivers. Thank you for your decades of service, Maurice!

Penny Hill is leaving Kalkaska as village manager and taking the assistant city manager job in Traverse City. Best wishes, Penny!

Martin Super resigned from Sparta after three years as village manager. He told MLIVE that he plans to manage his parents’ campground in southwest Michigan. May you find happiness there, Martin!

Not yet a member?
Register to enjoy the benefits of membership in Michigan’s premier association of local management professionals.
www.mlgma.org/membership.html
or email membership@mlgma.org

The Michigan Local Government Management Association is the professional association for local government managers from municipalities, counties, and townships throughout the state of Michigan. The non-profit organization is the Michigan section of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), and members follow ICMA’s code of ethics. MLGMA is affiliated with the Michigan Municipal League and in partnership with Alliance for Innovation. The Manager newsletter is edited for MLGMA by journalist Jennifer Eberbach.

To suggest a story idea or contribute to the newsletter, email JenniferEberbach@gmail.com