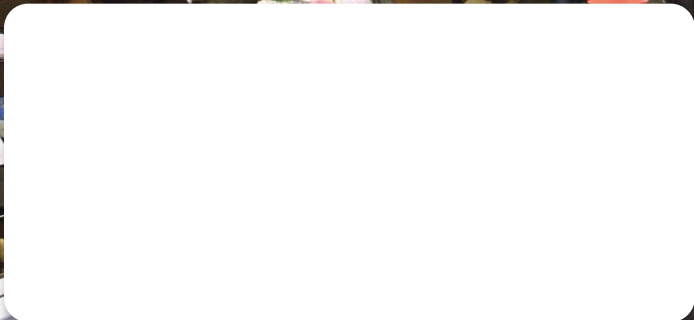


City & Town

FEBRUARY 2009 VOL. 65, NO. 2

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE





Edmond Hurst

Paul Phillips

Bob Wright

**Senior Managing Directors
Capital Markets Group**

The strength you need with the stability you can trust.

For 30 years, families and businesses throughout Arkansas and across the United States have trusted the financial professionals at Crews & Associates to manage and grow their assets during the best and worst of economic times. Our Capital Markets Group continues to provide the very best in financing, underwriting and advisory services to clients in the public, private and nonprofit sectors, and we stand ready to work for you.

- Tax-Exempt and Taxable Bonds
- Governmental Infrastructure
- Economic Development
- Education
- Housing
- Leases
- Utilities
- Healthcare
- Water and Sewer
- Nonprofit Projects



Celebrating **30** Years

800.766.2000 • crewsfs.com

MEMBER FINRA/SIPC

FEATURES

7 Legislature, economy top Winter Conference agenda

The League started its 75th year off with a successful Winter Conference focusing on legislative issues affecting cities and towns and the struggling economy.

10 Community volunteers honored

The Department of Human Services Division of Volunteerism recognized the Arkansas Volunteer Communities of the Year for their invaluable work in 2008.

16 ADA amendments affect cities

Recent changes to the Americans with Disabilities Act will alter cities' approach to dealing with employees with disabilities.

18 NLC sets agenda for '09

With a focus on economic recovery, poverty reduction and public safety, the National League of Cities has set its agenda for 2009.

Correction

The phone number of League Loss Control Specialist Ed Piker was listed incorrectly on page 9 in January's *City & Town*. Piker's number is 501-374-3484 Ext. 103.



Publisher
Don Zimmerman

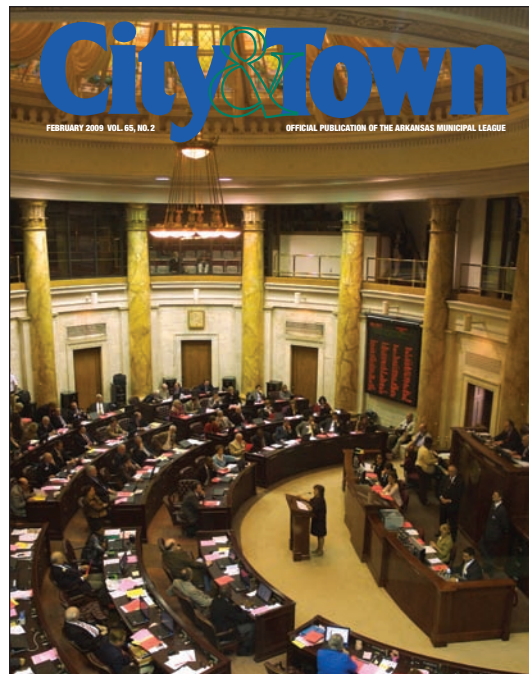
Editor
Ken Wasson

Communications Coordinator
Whitnee V. Bullerwell

Publishing Assistant
Debby Wilkins

Managing Editor
Andrew Morgan

Here's where to reach us:
501-374-3484 • FAX 501-374-0541
citytown@arml.org • www.arml.org



ON THE COVER—The 87th General Assembly of the Arkansas Legislature convened Jan. 12, and as we prepare to go to press our state's lawmakers are busy hashing out issues that will directly affect our municipalities. At the League's 2009 Winter Conference, held Jan. 14-16 in Little Rock, city and town leaders gathered from across the state to discuss how legislation will affect their communities and to tell legislators their concerns. Read *City & Town's* coverage of the Conference and more inside. Enjoy!—atm

DEPARTMENTS

<i>Animal Corner</i>	36
<i>Attorney General Opinions</i>	32
<i>President's Letter</i>	6
<i>Calendar</i>	30
<i>Grant Money Matters</i>	42
<i>League Officers, Advisory Councils</i>	5
<i>Municipal Mart</i>	54
<i>Municipal Notes</i>	26
<i>Obituary</i>	27
<i>Parks and Recreation</i>	44
<i>Planning to Succeed</i>	34
<i>Professional Directory</i>	52
<i>Sales Tax Map</i>	49
<i>Sales Tax Receipts</i>	50-51
<i>Urban Forestry</i>	38
<i>Your Health</i>	40

Cover Photo by Andrew Morgan, League staff

City & Town (ISSN 0193-8371 and Publication No. 031-620) is published monthly for \$20 per year (\$1.67 per single copy) by the Arkansas Municipal League, 301 W. Second St., North Little Rock, AR 72114. Periodicals postage paid at North Little Rock, Ark. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *City & Town*, P.O. Box 38, North Little Rock, AR 72115.



WHERE INNOVATION COMES TO LIFE

Evos™, our unique playsystem for kids 5 to 12+ years old, now has a companion for kids ages 2 to 5 called Weevos™. Evos and Weevos together offer age-appropriate challenges that flex kids' muscles and stretch their imaginations. What's more, we build each with environmentally preferable materials and practices. **To learn more about how Evos and Weevos enhance children's lives while honoring the environment, visit playlsi.com.**

BETTER PLAYGROUNDS. BETTER WORLD.™

ARKOMA
PLAYGROUNDS & SUPPLY

(888) 340-7529 • info@arkoma.net
www.arkomaplaygrounds.com

Arkansas Municipal League Officers

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Mayor Rick Holland, **Benton**; Mayor Tim McKinney, **Berryville**; Mayor Chris Claybaker, **Camden**; Alderman Candace Jeffers, **Crossett**; City Clerk Donna Jones, **DeQueen**; Mayor Laura Hamilton, **Garfield**; Mayor James Valley, **Helena-West Helena**; Mayor Jerome Norwood, **Highland**; Alderman Kenny Elliott, **Jacksonville**; Mayor Mark Stodola, **Little Rock**; Mayor Steve Northcutt, **Malvern**; Mayor Robert Taylor, **Marianna**; Mayor Frank Fogleman, **Marion**; Mayor David Osmon, **Mountain Home**; Mayor Betty Feller, **Mulberry**; Mayor Jackie Crabtree, **Pea Ridge**; Mayor Gerald Morris, **Piggott**; Mayor Carl Redus, **Pine Bluff**; Mayor Howard Taylor, **Prescott**; Mayor Belinda LaForce, **Searcy**; Mayor Marianne Maynard, **Stuttgart**; Mayor Horace Shipp, **Texarkana**; Mayor James Morgan, **White Hall**; Mayor Paul Nichols, **Wynne**.

ADVISORY COUNCILS

PAST PRESIDENTS: Mayor Tab Townsell, **Conway**; Councilmember Larry Combs, **El Dorado**; Mayor Tommy Swaim, **Jacksonville**; Mayor Patrick Henry Hays, **North Little Rock**; Mayor Mike Gaskill, **Paragould**; Mayor Robert Patrick, **St. Charles**; Mayor Gene Yarbrough, **Star City**.

LARGE FIRST CLASS CITIES: Mayor Bob Freeman, **Van Buren**, Chair; Mayor Chuck Hollingshead, City Manager Jimmy Bolt and City Director James Calhoun, **Arkadelphia**; Mayor Rick Elumbaugh, **Batesville**; Clerk/Treasurer Jane Wilms, **Bella Vista**; Mayor Bob McCaslin, **Bentonville**; Mayor Eddie J. Williams, **Cabot**; Aldermen Irene Galbert and Phillip Gordon, **Camden**; Alderman Dianne Hammond, **El Dorado**; Clerk/Treasurer Sondra Smith, **Fayetteville**; Aldermen Louise Fields, Mary Jeffers and Chris Oswald, **Forrest City**; Mayor Pat Moles, Aldermen Mark Steven Fowler and Danny Timbrook, **Harrison**; Alderman Trece Shepherd-Williams, **Helena-West Helena**; City Manager Catherine Cook, **Hope**; Human Resources Director Charlotte Bradley, **Hope Water & Light**; Aldermen Bill Howard, Reedie Ray and Bob Stroud, **Jacksonville**; Mayor Harold Perrin, **Jonesboro**; Alderman James Moore, **Magnolia**; Mayor Michael Watson and City Clerk Joshua Clausen, **Maumelle**; Mayor Joe Rogers, **Monticello**; City Clerk Diane Whitbey, Treasurer Mary Ruth Morgan, Aldermen Charlie Hight and Murry Witcher, **North Little Rock**; Mayor Tyrone Williamson, Aldermen Bill Eaton and Randal Crouch, **Russellville**; Alderman Dale English, **Searcy**; Mayor Virginia Hillman, Aldermen Marina Brooks and Lex "Butch" Davis, **Sherwood**; City Clerk Peggy Woody, **Siloam Springs**; Clerk/Treasurer Mitri Greenhill, Finance Officer Jane Jackson and Alderman Donald Stephens, **Stuttgart**; City Clerk Patti Scott Grey, **Texarkana**.

FIRST CLASS CITIES: Mayor Jack May, **McGehee**, Chair; Alderman Shirley Jackson, **Ashdown**; Clerk/Treasurer Carol Crump-Westergren, **Beebe**; Clerk/Treasurer Jean Lee, **Bono**; Mayor Barbara Skouras, **Brinkley**; Mayor Lloyd Hefley, **Cherokee Village**; Mayor Billy Helms, Clerk/Treasurer Barbara Blackard, and Alderman J.G. "Dutch" Houston, **Clarksville**; Mayor Dewayne Phelan and Alderman Steve Weston, **Corning**; Alderman C.T. Foster, **Crossett**; Mayor Floyd Gray and Alderman Gwendolyn Stephenson, **Dermott**; Mayor Aubrey McGehee, **Dewitt**; Mayor Marion Gill and Alderman T. C. Pickett, **Dumas**; Alderman Jimmie Barham, **Earle**; Mayor Danny Maynard Sr., **England**; Mayor William Stanton, **Eudora**; Mayor Ernie L. Penn, **Farmington**; Mayor Wes Hogue, **Gentry**; Mayor Kenneth Edwards, **Greenwood**; Mayor Jackie McPherson, **Heber Springs**; Mayor Donald Roberts, **Hoxie**; Clerk/Treasurer Linda Simpson, **Lake City**; Alderman Jerald Williamson, **Lake Village**; City Clerk Billie Uzzell, **Lonoke**; Parks Commissioner Terry Bracy, **Malvern**; Mayor Dixon Chandler, **Marked Tree**; Alderman James Turner, **Mena**; Aldermen Jackie Harwell and Vivian Wright, **Nashville**; Clerk/Treasurer Linda Treadway, **Newport**; Mayor Vernon McDaniel, **Ozark**; Mayor Bill Elsen, **Paris**; Mayor Charles Patterson, **Parkin**; Mayor Sonny Hudson, **Prairie Grove**; Mayor Sheila Walters, **Trumann**; Mayor Randy Butler, **Waldron**; Mayor Michelle Rogers and Alderman Jonathan Sanders, **Walnut Ridge**; Mayor Art Brooke, City Clerk John Barclay, and Alderman Ginger Tarno, **Ward**; Mayor Bryan Martin, **Warren**; Alderman Juanita Pruitt, **Wynne**.

SECOND CLASS CITIES: Alderman Rose Marie Wilkinson, **Haskell**, Chair; Mayor Veronica Post and Alderman Mary Lynn Darter, **Altus**; Mayor Carolynne Blissett, **Arkansas City**; Recorder/Treasurer Charlotte Goodwin, **Ash Flat**; Mayor Darrell Kirby, **Bay**; Mayor Fred Jack, **Bethel Heights**; Mayor J.C. Williams, **Bradley**; Mayor Kenneth Jones, **Brookland**; Mayor Ronald Richter and Alderman Bruce Powell, **Bull Shoals**; Recorder/Treasurer Sarah Roberts, **Caddo Valley**; Mayor Barry Riley, **Caraway**; Mayor Danny Armstrong, Aldermen Richard Harris and Alderman Wayne Bentley, **Cedarville**; Mayor Bobby Box, **Chidester**; Mayor Roger Rorie,

Mayor JoAnne Bush, **Lake Village** President
 Vice Mayor Gary Campbell, **Fort Smith** First Vice President
 Alderman Joe Gies, **Lakeview** Vice President, District No. 1
 Mayor Larry Mitchell, **Bryant** Vice President, District No. 2
 Mayor Bobbie Bailey, **Alpena** Vice President, District No. 3
 Alderman Dorothy Henderson, **Warren** Vice President, District No. 4
 Don A. Zimmerman Executive Director

Clinton; Mayor Jack Ladyman, **Elkins**; Mayor Tom Schueren, **Fairfield Bay**; Mayor Terry Purvis, **Fouke**; Mayor Danny Smith and Alderman Jeff Braim, **Gassville**; Mayor Ron Martin and Alderman Verlin Price, **Greenwood**; Mayor Ed C. Hardin III, **Grady**; Planning Commissioner Brenda Reynolds, **Greenland**; Mayor Lionel Johnson, **Hampton**; Mayor Nina Thornton, **Hardy**; Mayor James Busbee, **Marshall**; Mayor Winston Foster, **Marvell**; Mayor Randy Holland, **Mayflower**; Recorder/Treasurer Bobby Brown, **McDougal**; Mayor Robert Sullivan, **McRae**; Mayor Mike Cone and Alderman Shannon Womack, **Melbourne**; Mayor Larry Coulter, **Montrose**; Mayor Frank Babb, **Mountain Pine**; Mayor Jim Reeves, **Norfork**; Mayor Becky Dunn, **Palestine**; Planning Commissioner Dan Long, **Rockport**; Mayor Bobby Neal, **Smackover**; Mayor Ian Ouei, **Stamps**; Mayor Rodney Williams, **Waldo**; Mayor Curly Jackson, **Wilmar**; Mayor Lorraine Smith, Aldermen Karen Coleman and Allan Loring, **Wrightsville**; Mayor Shawn Lane, **Yellville**.

INCORPORATED TOWNS: Mayor Stanley Morris, **Menifee**, Chair; Mayor Leroy C. Wright Sr., **Anthonyville**; Alderman George Hallman, **Ben Lomond**; Mayor Norman Williams and Alderman Peggy Williams, **Black Oak**; Mayor Larry Myrick, **Delaplaine**; Mayor Tim Stockdale and Alderman John Pfenenger, **Fountain Lake**; Mayor Randall Homsley, **Higginson**; Mayor Helen Adams, **Jericho**; Mayor Don Sikes, **Maynard**; Alderman Margarette Oliver, **Menifee**; Mayor Anneliese Armstrong, **Mount Vernon**; Recorder/Treasurer Naomi Mitchell, **St. Charles**; Alderman Paul Lemke, **Springtown**; Mayor Charles Miller, **Tollette**.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Mayor Scott McCormick, **Crossett**, Chair; Alderman Larry Hall, **Bay**; Mayor Frank Anderson, **Bella Vista**; Fire Chief Ben Blankenship, **Benton**; Alderman Michael Bishop, **Brookland**; Clerk/Treasurer Marva Verkler, **Cabot**; Mayor Allan Dillavou, **Caddo Valley**; Fire Chief Reginald Wilson, **Helena-West Helena**; Alderman Marshall Smith and Police Chief Gary Sipes, **Jacksonville**; Alderman Sammy Angel, **Lake Village**; Clerk/Treasurer Janette Lasater, **Lowell**; Clerk/Treasurer Regina Walker and Fire Chief John Puckett, **Mena**; Mayor Gary Crocker, **Pocahontas**; Mayor Jerry Duvall and Police Chief Blake Herren, **Pottsville**; Alderman Robert Wiley, **Russellville**; Alderman Sheila Sulcer, **Sherwood**; Recorder/Treasurer Carolyn Willett, **Smackover**; Alderman David McCoy, **Star City**; Fire Chief Alan Haskins, **Walnut Ridge**.

MUNICIPAL HEALTH BENEFIT FUND BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Mayor Barrett Harrison, **Blytheville**, District 1; Mayor Virginia Hillman, **Sherwood**, District 2; Clerk/Treasurer Barbie Curtis, **Van Buren**, District 3; Mayor Chuck Hollingshead, **Arkadelphia**, District 4; Mayor Gordon McCoy, **Forrest City**, At-Large Member.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION TRUST BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Mayor William Johnson, **West Memphis**, District 1; Councilmember Murry Witcher, **North Little Rock**, District 2; City Attorney Howard Cain, **Huntsville**, District 3; Group Manager Mayor Lane Jean, **Magnolia**, District 4; Mayor Barbara Skouras, **Brinkley**, At-Large Member.

CASH/PENSION MANAGEMENT TRUST BOARD OF TRUSTEES/OPEB TRUST BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Finance Director Bob Sisson, **North Little Rock**, Chair; Finance Director John Walden, **Benton**, Vice Chair; Finance Director Paul Young, **Arkansas Municipal League**; Mayor Gordon Hennington, **Hamburg**; Recorder/Treasurer Mary Ruth Wiles, **Highland**; Finance Director Dorethea Yates, **Hot Springs**; Police Sgt. (Ret.) Lee Harrod, **Little Rock**; Mayor Virginia Hillman, **Sherwood**; Finance Officer Jane Jackson, **Stuttgart**.

Dear Friends,

The Arkansas Municipal League's Winter Conference was a great success with a record-breaking 1,075 in attendance. The League staff once again provided a conference filled with helpful and educational sessions geared toward effective leadership of municipal officials.

Wednesday night's opening banquet, featuring guest speaker Dave Horsager, proved to be a hit with the capacity crowd. It was wonderful to have our state legislators in attendance also. Thursday's luncheon honored our Volunteer Communities of the Year with guest speaker Gov. Mike Beebe. Congratulations to all of those communities who were recognized for the volunteer efforts of their citizens. Volunteer service is vital in successful communities, and those services often fill the gaps where there is a lack of funding for specific programs in our cities and towns.

Throughout the conference attendees were given the opportunity to learn about many issues, each equally important in municipal government. I want to commend the League staff on a job well done, and as former League president Rep. George Overbey said, "The only two reasons why you should not be at the 75th Summer Convention in Hot Springs in June is either you're dead or in the hospital."

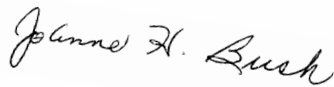
One of the greatest benefits of being involved in the League is the networking opportunities and the great friendships you make with other city officials. Tuesday evening I received a text message from a dear friend to many of us. It read, "We have lost power to the entire city. It is a total blackout."

Like Mike Gaskill, mayor of Paragould, many of you are going through difficult times with the effects of the ice storm that covered much of the state Tuesday afternoon and night. We were fortunate in the southeastern part of the state to miss the brunt of the storm. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you as you begin to recover from the damages and losses due to the ice storm.

Because of the storm, the annual Arkansas Delta Byways Award Banquet, which was scheduled to be held in Paragould Friday, Jan. 30, had to be postponed to a later date. But I would like to recognize and congratulate two of our elected officials who have been nominated for awards. Robert Patrick, mayor of St. Charles, has been nominated as Tourism Person of the Year, and Lynette Graham, city clerk for Lake Village, has been nominated as Outstanding Board Member of the Year.

In closing, let me ask you to never forget that we are placed in our elective positions to serve those who have entrusted us with running the cities and towns that make up our great state. If we can end each day by helping or enriching the life of just one of those individuals whom we have publicly declared to serve, then we have accomplished that which we set out to do.

Warmest regards,



JoAnne H. Bush
Mayor of Lake Village
President, Arkansas Municipal League



New legislation and the economy top agenda at 2009 Winter Conference

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

2009 marks the Arkansas Municipal League's 75th anniversary, and the League has kicked off the year in fine fashion. A record-breaking 1,075 municipal officials from across the state came together to prepare for the 87th General Assembly, meet with state and federal agencies and discuss strategies for combating a struggling economy at the League's Winter Conference, held Jan. 14-16 in Little Rock.

Representing Arkansas's cities and towns and protecting their interests before the state's lawmakers has

been a League priority since its formation in 1934, and in 2009 doing so remains as important as ever. Showing a united front for the 57 legislators who accepted the open invitation to attend the Conference's opening night banquet, city and town leaders packed the Statehouse Convention Center's Wally Allen ballroom.

Business strategist and speaker Dave Horsager set the tone for the evening by using insight, humor and even a few magic tricks to remind the crowd that establishing an environment of trust is the key to success in our communities, businesses and even in our per-

sonal relationships.

Banquet attendees were also treated to a first glimpse at a short film promoting and celebrating the League's 75th year serving Arkansas's cities and towns. The film was commissioned by the League and gives an overview of its history and goals. League staff, city leaders and state legislators all make appearances in the film. The League will screen the film again at its 75th Annual Convention, June 17-19 in Hot Springs.

New amendments, trauma and the economy atop legislative agenda

Arkansas voters in November passed several constitutional amendments that will affect municipalities, including the establishment of a lottery in the state and adding a fiscal legislative session in even-numbered years, and the Legislature now must work to implement the measures.



Halter

During the 2008 League Winter Conference, Lt. Gov. Bill Halter urged municipal leaders to support his initiative to establish a lottery, the proceeds from which would fund college scholarships for Arkansas students. Many supported the idea, but it inspired spirited debate.

Last year, Halter asked how many in the crowd had purchased out-of-state lottery tickets. About half raised their hands. By this time next year, Halter said, he hopes that the lottery will be in place and we will be able to say we bought Arkansas lottery tickets. It's up to the Legislature now, he said.

"I am now just like you in this process. I don't have a vote and I don't have a veto."

His advice for the lawmakers was to use the profits to provide a scholarship to a state institution of higher education for students with high school grade point averages of at least 2.5.



"I think it should be that simple," Halter said.

He also supported the idea of providing money for non-traditional students.

Halter said the lottery could be expected to add \$100 million to the \$49 million the state now spends on scholarships.

"Let's do everything we can to make it work out the right way," Halter said.

Beginning in 2010, the Arkansas Legislature will meet in even-numbered years for a 30-day session to focus on the state budget. The League had misgivings about the initiative, but voters passed the measure by a large margin.



Pritchard

"That leaves us with the chore of making sure it works," State Sen. Bill Pritchard told the Conference.

Those of us who were for the amendment, Pritchard added, have the additional challenge of doing what we said we'd do. The goal

was not to create a "full-time" Legislature, as some critics feared, nor will legislators waste time in Little Rock while drawing their per diems.

"Trust me: No one wants to do that," Pritchard said and added that most of the state's lawmakers have businesses and families back home.

Forty-five days is the maximum amount of time lawmakers will meet during the fiscal sessions. It will require a two-thirds vote in both houses to consider non-budget issues, he said.

While he's not sure just how it will pan out, Pritchard said that with 70 percent of the state's voters behind the amendment they deserve the chance to make it work.



Steele

All other issues in the state rely on improving health care, State Sen. Tracy Steele told Conference attendees, and as the only state without a trauma system in place, we're lacking in our ability to respond to emergencies such as traffic accidents.

"With an organized

trauma system, we can save 2-300 lives a year," Steele said.

Lawmakers have long agreed on the need for such a system. Funding the trauma system has been the difficult part.

The Governor has introduced a plan that includes not only funding for the trauma system, but also funding for community health centers across the state among other improvements. As of press time, the Legislature was preparing to vote on the plan, which includes a 56-cent hike in the tax on cigarettes to pay for the improvements.



Wills

Speaker of the House Robbie Wills spoke out in support of the cigarette tax increase.

"Smokers, I can look you in the eye and say, 'I'm sorry.' If we have our way your cigarettes are going to cost more."

Wills said that 66 people died from trauma in his home county last year. Statistics show that 10 percent of them could have been saved with an organized trauma system.

The establishment of an independent commission to organize the state's new lottery is also on the agenda. The commission must have a high degree of transparency, Wills said.

All Arkansans should have the opportunity to go to college, he said.

"If the lottery's a little successful, they'll get a little help. If it's wildly successful, they'll get a lot of help."

Education, health and the economy are the big three issues facing the Legislature this year, Wills said.

"The budget is very tight, and we're going to do our best to fund the services we need."

Wills also said that through working with city and town leaders, he understands the needs of municipal governments in Arkansas and vowed to follow the League's "no unfunded mandates" policy.

Arkansas is in better financial shape than many states, but this will still be a difficult legislative session, said State Rep. Gregg Reep, former Warren mayor and a past League president. He cited good fiscal management over the years and cautious budgeting.

Reep urged city leaders to keep legislators informed.

"You cannot assume that any of us know your issues, even those of us who were municipal officials."

State Rep. Tommy Baker, a former Osceola alderman and also a past League president, said that cooperation among state, county and local governments is essential.

"You have the influence, and that's more important now than ever before," Baker said.



Overbey

State Rep. George Overbey Jr., former mayor of Lamar, agreed with Baker that counties and cities must pull together.

"It's still the right way to go," he said.

Overbey also urged municipal leaders to make personal contact with their legislators. Call them; see

them in person, he said. It's far better than "robo calls" and chain e-mails.

League Executive Director Don Zimmerman feels confident about League's legislative package, especially with support from lawmakers such as Speaker Wills.



Zimmerman

"Rep. Wills will be a great Speaker, in my opinion," Zimmerman said.

"He's a young man with a great future in Arkansas."

The League's package includes legislation that merely corrects or clarifies portions of current law, such as a bill to correct a typographical error in the state code, and legislation calling for more substantial changes, such as eliminating the need for a special election to fill an aldermanic vacancy and a bill to remove interest caps on municipal bonds from the constitution.

There are no watershed bills in the League's package this session, Zimmerman said, for which he credits the Legislature for doing such a great job working with cities and towns in the past.

"A lot of our effort is making sure bad laws don't pass," Zimmerman said. "Defeating bad bills can be just as valuable to you, if not better."

The League's complete legislative package and updates on the 87th General Assembly are available

through the League Legislative Action Center online at www.arml.org/lac.html.

Brock talks business

"We'll see" seems to be the prevailing attitude about an Arkansas economy that, like much of the nation, continued to dip in 2008, with more than 3,000 job losses and numerous manufacturing cuts.



Brock

"I think it sets up what we can expect in 2009," Roby Brock, one of Arkansas's leading business analysts told the Conference as he summed up the economic atmosphere in the state as we start the new year and a new session of the Legislature.

Arkansas's "three biggies," Wal-Mart, Tyson Foods and Murphy Oil, all experienced some upheaval in 2008, and all three are operating with new CEOs. But the news wasn't all bad. Wal-Mart regained strength that should continue in 2009, Brock said. Tyson made a return to profitability and extended its international business and alternative energy investments.

"Dillard's has been under siege this last year," Brock said. With stock prices down, closings and layoffs, investors want to see change in the department store's operations. Even so, the company opened 10 new stores in 2008.

"To me that's not a sign of a company about to close," Brock said.

Keeping a close eye on the trucking freight industry, gas prices, the real estate market, and banks will continue to be the barometer by which we view this recession and plan for a turnaround, Brock said.

On the national level, the stimulus package Congress is currently hashing out, which includes funding for a broad range of projects in cities, towns and rural areas, could have a huge local impact, Brock said.

Brock encouraged municipal leaders to keep him informed about what's going on in local economies.

"I never get enough info from our communities," he said.

Turnback safe, Beebe assures cities

As the current recession grows in severity, municipal leaders have expressed concern that the state

might cut its turnback to cities and towns, money they desperately need each year to provide basic services to citizens.

"Don't worry," Gov. Mike Beebe told Conferencegoers at the Volunteer Community of the Year luncheon on Jan. 15. "It's not going away."

Turnback comes from a different pot, he said.

"We've budgeted conservatively for this year," Beebe said. "Don't expect more, but it won't be less."



Beebe

Beebe has a "half full" outlook on the state's economy, he said. Despite some business and job losses, Arkansas is doing better than many across the nation, he said. California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has even recently praised Arkansas for its law that requires lawmakers to balance the budget. California has a deficit of \$400 billion while Arkansas has a surplus of \$300 million. That surplus is there for a rainy day, Beebe said.

We're competing with 49 other states and the globe to draw new business to Arkansas, and we work hard to show them we have what they need, Beebe said.

"It's leadership on the local level that separates some winners from losers," Beebe said and stressed the importance of expanding on the regional cooperation across the state that many communities have already begun.

Beebe's administration has a good relationship with the current Legislature, he said, and that will help when it comes to passing bills such as his plan to fund the statewide trauma system with an increased cigarette tax. The tax will raise \$70 to \$80 million, he said. Add the federal match to that and the total funding will approach \$180 million.

Some in the Legislature have suggested paying for the trauma system by collecting traffic violation fines from cities and towns. It's a terrible idea, the governor said.

"Y'all collect all your DWI fines now?" Beebe asked the gathered municipal officials, who responded with a resounding "No!"

"No? Really?" Beebe asked with mock surprise.

We won't always agree on the issues, Beebe said, but reminded city officials that it's our obligation to try to improve the quality of life in our state, which begins

with developing trust at the local government level.

"As you go back home," Beebe said, "remember that we here on the state level are your partners and your friends."

Volunteer Communities of the Year honored



The Department of Human Services Division of Volunteerism each year honors cities and towns that go above and beyond to volunteer their time, energy and resources to improve the quality of life in their communities. The winning Volunteer Communities of the Year for 2008 are Bay, Bella Vista, Bryant, Clarkridge, Clarksville, Crossett, El Dorado, Fort Smith, Heber Springs, Marked Tree, Maumelle and Van Buren. Their accomplishments are named below. The DHS Division of Volunteerism and the League honored the winning communities at a Jan. 15 luncheon during the League's Winter Conference.

Bay

The city of Bay, in Craighead County, may be a community of just 1,800, but its citizens not only believe in volunteering, they come together to turn ideas into reality. Volunteer activities, groups and projects such as the annual Harvest Festival, Fire Department and First Responders, the City Cemetery, Make a Wish, Booster Club and the compilation of two books regarding the history of Bay are some of the endeavors made possible by more than 160 volunteers. The community library is managed by 10 volunteers who contributed 1,300 hours of service this year. With this important addition, the city is able to help students with homework and provide access to the computers and Internet services to those who do not have it. Bay continues to thrive and prosper through the volunteer services of its citizens. Bay's mayor is Darrell Kirby.

(see **WINTER CONFERENCE**, page 14)

Again in 2008, our firm led the state in successfully managing the largest percentage of tax-exempt issues. During this same period, we also completed a majority of the financial advisory transactions for local school districts*. And while 2008 was a good year, we understand it was possible because of the trust and confidence shown by our fellow Arkansans.

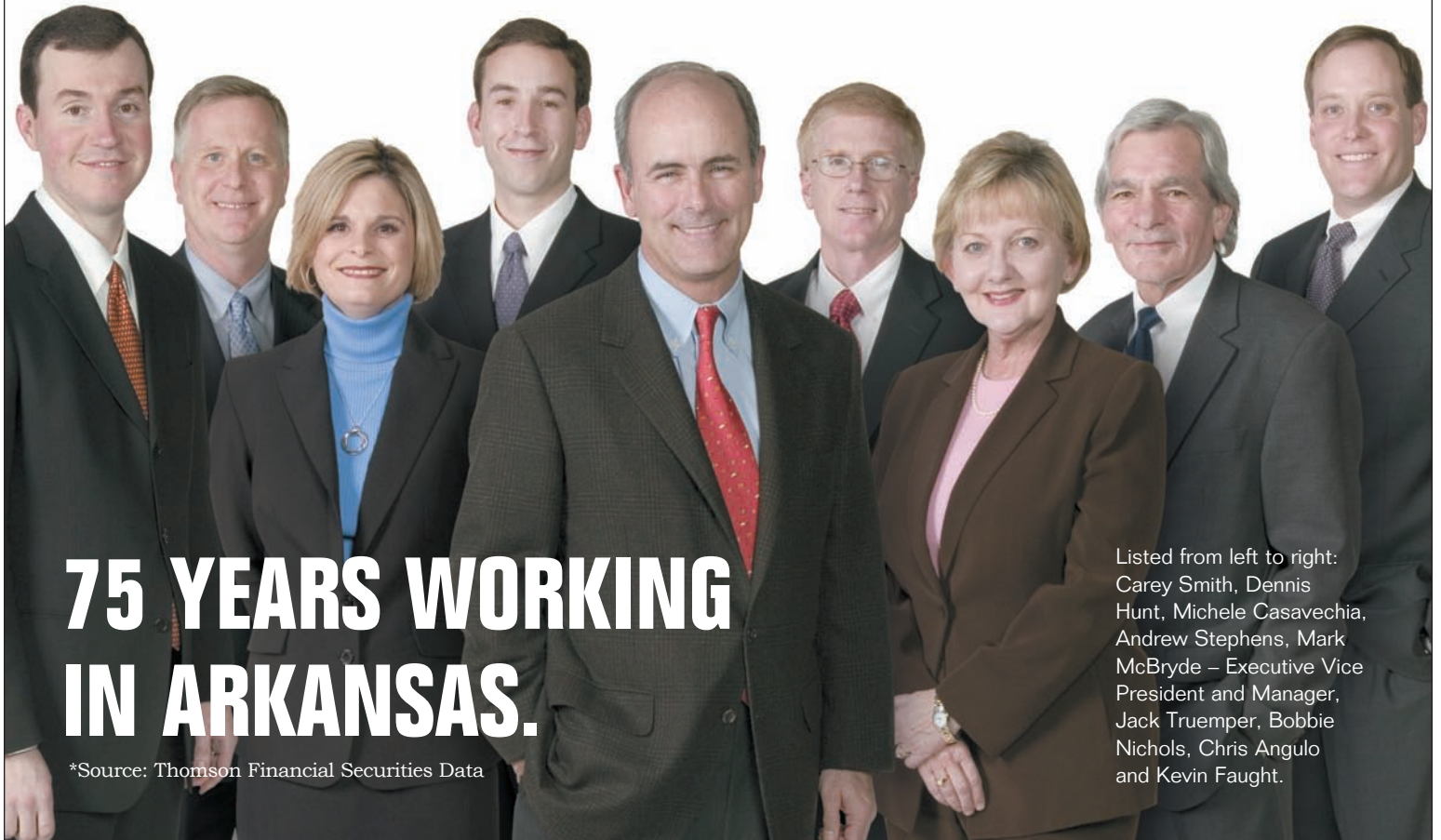
At Stephens, we are continually impressed with the talent, dedication and loyalty of the men and women who manage and operate Arkansas' municipalities, school districts, hospitals, colleges and universities, state agencies, counties, utility systems and other governmental and community organizations.

Over the past 75 years, Stephens Inc. has been the market leader in this state. Thank you, Arkansas, for your continued confidence in our capabilities. For more information, visit our website at stephens.com.

Little Rock 501-377-2000
Fayetteville 479-718-7400

Stephens Public Finance
A Division of Stephens Inc.

LITTLE ROCK ATLANTA BATON ROUGE CHARLOTTE FAYETTEVILLE JACKSON NASHVILLE OKLAHOMA CITY ST. PETERSBURG MEMBER NYSE, SIPC



**75 YEARS WORKING
IN ARKANSAS.**

Listed from left to right:
Carey Smith, Dennis
Hunt, Michele Casavechia,
Andrew Stephens, Mark
McBryde – Executive Vice
President and Manager,
Jack Truemper, Bobbie
Nichols, Chris Angulo
and Kevin Faight.

*Source: Thomson Financial Securities Data



eDocAr
Onlin
Boar
Ph

There is a Docu
in the b

www.eDocAr

ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
GREAT LEADERS MAKE A GREAT DIFFERENCE
1934 • 2009

Conference snapshots



WINTER CONFERENCE continued from page 10

Bella Vista

Volunteering in the scenic Benton County city of Bella Vista is a way of life. Community members unselfishly donate their time, energy, expertise and service to help others every year. For instance, the Evergreen 4-H Club, a group of young people ages nine to 17, help with activities at the library, a retirement center and a clean-up project in the city. Introducing a new elementary school to the community could have been a challenge, but volunteers immediately began meeting vital needs of students, staff and teachers from assisting in the classrooms to working on construction projects. Skilled volunteers interact with seniors needing health information and referrals at the newly formed Schmieding Center for Senior Education. The variety and scope of volunteer activities are truly vital to the quality of life in Bella Vista. Frank Anderson is Bella Vista's mayor.

Bryant

The city of Bryant believes that children need activities outside of school to help teach them discipline and teamwork and so offers stability and positive role-models. That philosophy is demonstrated by the nearly 32,500 hours given by volunteers in the Bryant Athletic Association, Bryant Softball Association, Boys & Girls Club, and Bryant Soccer Club. Although the Saline County community has numerous other long-term activities and projects, there comes a time when volunteerism must be harnessed quickly. Operation Flood Relief was created to assist victims of the April 2008 tornadoes that ripped through the area, and relief efforts are on-going with some 32 volunteers giving over a thousand hours every month. It is obvious that volunteers in Bryant step up to the plate! Larry Mitchell is mayor of Bryant and a League district vice president.

Clarkridge

A community of 2,317 residents, Clarkridge is big on volunteerism. The Volunteer Fire Department gave over 3,200 hours assisting community residents, maintaining equipment and building and offering mutual aid to other fire departments. The Auxiliary of 198 members raised over \$6,200 to assist the needs of the fire department. Other examples of volunteer pride include teen mentoring; neighbor helping neighbor; lend-

a-book library; wildlife and environment programs; hospital, senior centers and nursing home visitations; neighborhood watch; and the county fair. The Baxter County community of 827 households donated 31,525 volunteer hours this year. Clarkridge is "a very small community with a very big heart." Gary Arwood is honorary mayor of the community.

Clarksville

From aiding victims of domestic violence to delivering food baskets to reading to children to conducting fire safety programs to coaching athletic activities, Clarksville volunteers are committed to improving their community. Employees of the local Wal-Mart distribution center unofficially adopted U.S. Highway 109 with a volunteer labor investment of 723 volunteer hours. The Clarksville High School's East Lab students spent over 700 hours in projects that supported the animal shelter, county detention center, community outreach center, as well as setting up recycling centers in various locations and industries. Volunteers of the Clarksville-Johnson County Chamber of Commerce contributed over 7,300 hours. Every day, volunteers prove that challenges can be overcome through community service. Billy Helms is mayor.

Crossett

Crossett is located in the heart of 850,000 acres of timberland in Ashley County. The number of pine trees surrounding it is only surpassed by the countless hours spent volunteering in the community. Over 250 volunteers of the Crossland Zoo constructed a new bear cage and a playground area, fed and tended to animals and coordinated special events. The 60th Rodeo Celebration was a success through the efforts of 550 volunteers. Vision 2020 provides six weeks of leadership training for high school juniors. Volunteers with the annual Wiggins Cabin Festival spent all night cooking hams over a hand-made pit for the festival's prized barbecue sandwiches. Crossett volunteers generously give of their time to better themselves and their community. Scott McCormick is the mayor of Crossett and chairs the League's Public Safety Advisory Council.

El Dorado

El Dorado's citizens continue to show their support for the many organizations and programs in their Union County community. In fact, more than 5,000 volunteers gave more than 172,000 hours of their time and energy this year. For example, the Celebration of Caring is an annual opportunity for local businesses and corporations to lend a helping hand by perform-

ing chores, projects and more on site at United Way agencies and contributed toward the record \$919,000 in the annual campaign. Thanks to more than 300 volunteers and 25,000 hours, the South Arkansas Arts Center is the center of the community. The programs and services of the SHARE Foundation included a fundraising event for the Interfaith Clinic, Life Touch Hospice, PRIDE Youth Programs and Chaplaincy Services and Education. Volunteering is truly a priority to the citizens of El Dorado. Mike Dumas is mayor.

Fort Smith

It is easy to see the impact of volunteerism in Fort Smith. Through Partners-in-Education, Boys & Girls Club Lean-On-Me program and several local churches, Fort Smith's youth-at-risk numbers are lower than most cities of comparable size. The Multi-Cultural Commission reaches out to new arrivals to foster the unique cultural diversity in the Sebastian County city. Project Compassion volunteers provide one-on-one visitation in the nursing home. A group of mentally and physically challenged citizens in assisted living apartments took on projects from yard work to home cleaning to cleaning up city parks. Mayor Ray Baker recognizes the many successes of community volunteers with the Mayor's Good Neighbor Award, which thanks those citizens and encourages others to volunteer his or her time for one another.

Heber Springs

Heber Springs has a wealth of volunteers who rise to the occasion every day. There have been more than 143,000 documented hours committed to the community. The annual World Championship Cardboard Boat Races draws thousands of visitors to the city and the Lake and River Clean Up recruits hundreds of volunteers each year. Cleburne County Cares operates two transitional housing units, a food pantry and a thrift store run solely by a volunteer workforce. A long-time vision came true in August 2008 with the groundbreaking celebration of the Community Center and Indoor Aquatic Facility. Whether it is 4-H members reading to toddlers, shelter workers caring for animals, veterans delivering meals to the elderly or advocates aiding victims of domestic violence, Heber Springs is a community with "Big Hearts and Helping Hands." Jackie McPherson is mayor.

Marked Tree


The volunteer spirit can be seen in so many different aspects of life in Marked Tree, such as the

food bank, playgrounds, schools, the museum and library. The valuable programs by youth sports volunteers over the years has resulted in the town now developing a 22-acre park with lighted and irrigated fields, playgrounds, a walking trail, basketball court, water park, concession building, picnic areas and pavilions. The town hosted the traveling Vietnam Veteran memorial "The Wall That Heals," which attracted visitors from all over the region and required thousands of hours of volunteer support from guarding the monument 24 hours a day to coordinating special activities. Because of the wall, Marked Tree was also the host city for a reunion of 263 Vietnam veterans from 41 states. The volunteer spirit is at its best in Marked Tree, where Dixon Chandler is mayor.

Maumelle

Maumelle is a growing Pulaski County community that is held together by the glue of volunteerism. With the motto "Go Green," the Girl Scouts built bat houses to help control the mosquito population caused by excessive rain and flooding. A "Western Round-Up" raised funds for dental needs of low-income senior citizens. The Maumelle Chapter of AARP and the Maumelle Mommy and Me organization gave back by honoring the city's firefighters and police officers in memory of "9/11." When a resident who gave countless hours to local programs over the years was diagnosed with a life-threatening disease, Neighbor Helping Neighbor volunteers painted her home, cooked meals and assisted with the children. Over 6,000 volunteers and 225,000 documented hours prove that no act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted. Mike Watson is Maumelle's mayor.

Van Buren

Like the Olympic tradition, volunteerism in Van Buren means teamwork, goodwill and incredible results. Keep Van Buren Beautiful required 585 volunteers cleaning up around the lakes, parks and downtown. Over 300 volunteers and 1,200 hours were needed to host the Arkansas Southern Baptist Convention. The 15-year-old Babe Ruth World Series involved more than 300 volunteers giving almost 23,000 hours of time to insure its success. Students at Northridge Middle School collected 4,700 non-perishable items for the River Valley Regional Food Bank. Whenever the need arises, Van Buren volunteers are definitely there to "Light the Way." Bob Freeman is mayor of the Crawford County city and chairs the League's Large First Class Cities Advisory Council. 

New ADA amendments broaden coverage

By John Wilkerson, League staff

Congress recently made significant changes to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and those changes, which went into effect Jan. 1, will alter your approach in dealing with employees with disabilities. The ADA remains largely unchanged, yet the changes made fundamentally alter the meaning of “disabled” and, as a result, increase the pool of those considered “disabled.” As an employer, your outlook on the ADA will change, and below is a guide to help understand these changes.

First, it is helpful to understand why Congress changed the ADA. According to Congress, the purpose of the new amendments “is to carry out the ADA’s objectives ... by reinstating a broad scope of protection to be available under the ADA.” Prior to these new amendments, the scope of protection was very narrow; only three percent of plaintiffs making ADA claims were able to present their facts to a judge. These new amendments are intended to ensure that more ADA claims are heard by the courts.

To that end the biggest change in the ADA is addressing what is considered a “disability.” The stated definition of a disability remains the same: “an individual with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of such individual.” While the language is left unchanged, Congress has changed the meaning of two key phrases in that definition: “substantially limits” and “major life activity.”

Congress changed the meaning of the phrase “substantially limits” by rejecting the Supreme Court’s holding that the phrase needs to be “interpreted strictly to create a demanding standard for qualifying as disabled.” This “demanding standard” acted as an “inappropriately high level of limitation.” Now, the standard is much more relaxed. Although Congress fails to define the new relaxed standard, it is clear that what once would not be considered substantially limiting, could now be considered as such.

Congress also rejected the Supreme Court’s strict

interpretation of “major life activity,” because, again, it created an “inappropriately high level of limitation.” But, unlike Congress’ failure to define substantial limits, Congress specifically lists what is considered a major life activity. The list includes, but is not limited to, “caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, and working.” In large part, the new list mimics the old, but the specific activities outlined above are new to the ADA. A substantial limit on any one of these major life activities means an employee is “disabled” under the ADA.

In addition to the new list above, Congress added something completely new to the definition of major life activity: the operation of a major bodily function. Now, any impairment that substantially limits one of the following major bodily functions constitutes a disability under the ADA: “functions of the immune system, normal cell growth, digestive, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, endocrine, and reproductive functions.” The addition of major bodily functions along with the expansion of major life activities greatly increases the number of those considered “disabled.”

The changes already mentioned above are of great significance to your approach to the ADA, but the most substantial change to the ADA is in regards to mitigating measures taken by an employee and how those measures affect the determination of whether a disability exists. Prior to the new amendments, the Supreme Court held that if an employee takes mitigating measures (measures taken to correct an impairment), “the effect of those measures—both positive and negative—must be taken into account when judging whether a person is substantially limited in a major life activity.” For example, an employee with ADHD was previously not disabled if his inability to concentrate was controlled with Ritalin, a mitigating measure. Thus, because the employee could prevent the impairment (ADHD) from substan-



Visit the NLC website at www.nlc.org for regular updates on key issues and advocacy priorities.

tially limiting a major life activity (concentrating) through the use of Ritalin, the employee was not considered disabled under the ADA. Now however, the question of whether ADHD substantially limits a major life activity is determined without taking into consideration the mitigating effects of Ritalin. Without Ritalin, ADHD substantially limits a major life activity (concentrating), and a “disability” exists. With the changes to the ADA, the question that must be answered is whether an employee has a disability when the employee does not take a mitigating measure.

There are also changes to what it means to be “regarded as” being disabled. If an employee is “regarded as” being disabled, he is protected by the ADA. While the old definition created a difficult burden to overcome for the employee, the new amendments require only that the employee show that he “has been subjected to an action prohibited under the Act because of an actual or perceived physical or mental impairment whether or not the impairment limits or is perceived to limit a major life activity.” This means that if the employer perceives

that the employee has any impairment, the employee is “regarded as” being disabled. However, it is important to note that there is no need to reasonably accommodate an employee if he or she is only “regarded as” being disabled.

While it is unclear how courts will interpret these new changes, there are several things you can do as an employer to ensure compliance with the new amendments. For instance, review handbooks and policies to incorporate the changes; inform and train HR directors and managers about the changes; create protocol for dealing with accommodation requests; inject flexibility in policies and practices; document all accommodation requests; consider present adverse employment actions that may fall within the new amendments; and consider the interaction of the new ADA and the Family Medical Leave Act.

This list of recommendations is not exhaustive, and if you need more help in dealing with the new amendments feel free to contact me at 501-978-6136 or by e-mail at jwilkerson@arml.org.



An agenda for the nation

America's future is taking shape—right now—in the nation's cities and towns. To make it a better future for all Americans, we need to work together at all levels of government to find solutions to the critical challenges we face, from the economy and housing to health care and public safety.

To this end, the National League of Cities has released its Agenda For the Nation. To read the full agenda with in depth coverage of each of the issues outlined here, go to www.nlc.org.

At Issue: Economic Recovery—A Call To Action

As Congress and the Administration prepare to take action on a new economic recovery package, we call for a hometown stimulus package that would include funding for ready-to-go infrastructure projects, support to individuals and adequate access to the financial markets for cities and towns. This would help create jobs and restore economic stability to America's hometowns and the nation.

Housing

The challenge for the federal government, working in partnership with state and local governments, is to resolve the crucial questions raised by the collapse in America's housing market.

Infrastructure

America's infrastructure should ensure the long-term vitality of our local, regional and national economies, while strengthening the nation's competitive position in world trade.

Health Care Reform

America's local governments face fundamental challenges to protect and improve the health of city employees and other residents. America must reform its health care system to expand access to affordable coverage for all, with a special focus on the 46 million Americans who are uninsured.

Sustainability

Cities and towns are actively pursuing initiatives to conserve energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect the environment in other ways. The federal government can and should be a full partner in these efforts, providing national leadership when appropriate, and supporting the many creative efforts that can only happen at the community level.

Poverty Reduction and Economic Opportunity

At a time when Americans are facing the difficult realities of a weakened economy, all levels of government must join together to make certain that children and families at all income levels can meet their basic needs to achieve success.

Public Safety and Homeland Security

The security of the United States and its citizens is one of the defining issues of the decade and will likely remain a top concern for the foreseeable future. National top-down plans are not sufficient. America needs collaborative strategies that emphasize partnerships, innovations and "all-hazard" approaches to public safety.

Immigration

The inability of government at all levels to reach consensus on a solution to immigration has created financial, cultural and political strains in communities across America. It's time for the federal government to adopt a comprehensive immigration policy that reflects the economic and social realities of our nation today.

Governments Working Together

The intergovernmental partnership that has defined American governance for most of the nation's history is unraveling. It is time for serious dialogue that engages local, state, regional, and federal leaders in "national" rather than federal policymaking.

Reprinted with permission.






REPORT LITTERING
866-811-1222

Do your part to make Arkansas shine. Report littering to help keep Arkansas clean and green – and healthy – for our future.

When you do, it's good for the environment, it's good for business, and it's good for you.

KeepArkansasBeautiful.com | 888-742-8701

A Certified State Affiliate of  KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL INC.

Panel covers water, orderly growth

Water issues and orderly growth were the subjects of a Winter Conference panel discussion Thursday, Jan. 15. Fresh off a late 2008 agreement



Young

to work with the League to help protect cities' five-mile planning areas, Randy Young, executive director of the Natural Resources Commission, reiterated his commitment to cooperate. Rural water districts will have to certify that if they are building within a city planning zone and want to receive funding through the NRC, they must build to city water stan-



Smith

dards. The NRC is now in the process of creating a formal policy to that end.

The State Fire Code, despite being the law, remains difficult to enforce, State Fire Marshal Lindsey Smith said, but the safety of our citizens and even our ability to compete economically depend on safe building practices.

"It's a very important tool that you can use to make your community a safer place," Smith said.

The Fire Marshal's office has hired a staff architect to help cities review building projects and meet Code requirements.

When the Arkansas Attorney General opined that the State Fire Code applied statewide and did not require adoption by cities and towns, it was tough going at first, League Planning Consultant Jim von Tungeln said.



von Tungeln

"But it's made Arkansas a safer place," he said.

The new spirit of cooperation with the NRC is a step forward, von Tungeln said, and will make orderly planning and growth more positive and profitable for cities and citizens. And that spirit carries over into cities' relationships with each other, he said.

"I think we're going to see an era coming where every city does not have to furnish every service. We're going to have to combine our resources."



Help is available, agencies tell cities and towns

State and federal agencies have a broad range of assistance programs and funding sources available to Arkansas's cities and towns, and representatives were on hand at the Winter Conference to offer help and share information.

Since 1991, the **Department of Rural Services** has been serving Arkansas communities with populations under 20,000 through its grant programs and acting as a clearing house of information for cities and towns looking for aid. "We won't say 'we don't do that,'" the agency's Butch Calhoun said. "We'll put you in touch with someone who does."
www.arkansas.gov/drs

The **Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department** (AHTD) offers funding help in a variety of areas, including its recreational trails program, the Safe Routes to School program, mass transit funding, a low income job access program and a program that provides vans for transporting the elderly and the sick. Its Technology Transfer Program offers free training for cities and towns for transportation jobs.
www.arkansashighways.com

The **Arkansas Forestry Commission** has a rural fire protection program that can get fire trucks for cities and towns with populations under 15,000, generally at no cost to the community. They also have grant and loan programs to help fire departments. And of course the agency's focus on community forestry offers numerous ways to help protect and develop our state's urban forests.
www.forestry.state.ar.us

The **Arkansas Department of Aeronautics** is charged with helping the state's 91 public airports.

Those airports bring an estimated \$2.5 billion in economic benefits to Arkansas each year, and through the agency local airports have access to state and federal funds.
richard.mills@mail.state.ar.us

Need cars, trucks or big equipment at a great price? Try **Federal Surplus Property** first. Sign up for their newsletter to keep up with the latest arrivals.
jim.smith@ark.gov

From street signs to embroidered work shirts to paper products, **Arkansas Correctional Industries** is there to help cities and towns spend their money wisely, Sales Manager Steve Edwards said. In addition to offering competitive prices on products and services, ACI provides hundreds of inmates with work skills and experience, which reduces recidivism rates. www.acicatalog.com

Started by former Helena Mayor JoAnne Smith and her son Kevin Smith, **The Grant Book Company** compiles the many grants and gifts available to cities and towns from many sources. The company is also a League partner with services available to members. www.thegrantbook.com

When you've found the perfect grant, **Legacy Consulting** can help you get it. Led by former DeQueen Mayor Chad Gallagher, Legacy can help you organize and write your proposal and work the system to your advantage. Legacy is also a League partner. Members are entitled to one free on-site consultation per year.
www.legacyincorporated.com



Learn your statutes, League advises new officials

Many elected city leaders across the state took office Jan. 1, some for the first time, and the Winter Conference was an opportunity for them to learn from the League and from each other.

Donna Jones, city clerk/treasurer in DeQueen and this year's president of the Arkansas City Clerks, Treasurers and Records Association, has served with four mayors and had some very practical advice for new officials.



Jones

"You've got to be flexible, and you've got to be able to find your niche," she said.

Jones has worked through natural disasters, a hospital crisis and personal tragedies. She has also been a part of creating a local cultural center, a senior adult center, a skate park and more in her city. Both the good and bad are learning experiences, Jones said, and it's all learning on the job.

Jones advised new clerks to take advantage of the learning opportunities offered by both the League and the ACCTRA.

When it comes to understanding the role and responsibilities of the city council, the *Handbook*

for Arkansas Municipal Officials is your best friend, League Staff Attorney Chris Bradley told new officials. The *Handbook* is a compilation of all state laws that affect municipal governance. It is updated to reflect changes in the law after each legislative session and is available from the League.



Bradley

Getting to know your city's statutes is also imperative.

"When things are decided, it's the council that gets it done," Bradley said. "Not the mayor, not the clerk."

League Executive Director Don Zimmerman advised new mayors to also make themselves familiar with the *Handbook*, which outlines the day-to-day duties of mayors in Arkansas. Some of the state's statutes date back to 1875.

"They have stood the test of time," Zimmerman said.

The mayor's role in city council organization, mayoral powers, appointment and removal of department heads, the annual budget and more are all covered in the *Handbook*.



The inauguration: A personal account

Former president of Sister Cities International and regular *City & Town* contributor Sherman Banks attended the inauguration of President Barack Obama on Jan. 20 and shares his experience of that historic day.

By Sherman Banks



WASHINGTON, D.C.—The inauguration of President Barack Obama was more than just an historic event. It was a leap forward that places the United States back at the forefront as a world leader of peace, equality and justice. The inauguration was an especially emotional experience for me as an African-American. I doubted I would see in my lifetime an African-American elected President of the United States.

When I was elected president of Sister Cities International, I was the first African-American to hold the position in the organization's 50-year history. The time had come for change, and the time for change had come in the U.S. for President Obama. In all of his speeches he repeatedly exclaimed, "Yes we can." Now we can say, "Yes we did."

I saw people in wheelchairs, on walking canes, on crutches, young, old, white, black, people from other countries who came just to be in the crowd and to experience an event that could have only happened in the United States.

It was my privilege to host Prince Kwame Kludjesson from Ghana; The Honorable John Stoke-Walker, councilman from Newcastle upon Tyne, England;

and my good friend Rafael Bravo from Venezuela, who now lives in Arkansas and is the president of the Arkansas Hispanic Chamber. Each had a different reaction to the inauguration. Prince Kwame's reaction was much like mine. It was emotional. Councilman Stoke-Walker felt immense pride, and Bravo—a newly naturalized U.S. citizen—experienced democracy in its finest hour. The entire experience was somewhat surreal. I have been to Washington, D.C., many, many times, but never have I ever felt such camaraderie. I haven't felt that spirit among the people since the 1960s, when it seemed that everyone was in lock-step for change and equality for all.

Thanks to today's technology and the entrepreneurial ingenuity of our resourceful citizens, the inaugural speech was pressed into a CD within hours of the inauguration and was being sold on every street corner near Capitol Hill. Obama family dolls wearing copies of the outfits worn during the inauguration were even available.

Contact Sherman Banks at sbanks@aristotle.net.



Consortium helps newly elected officials prepare for the worst

By Whitnee Bullerwell, League staff

To better prepare rural America for natural disasters and other emergencies, Congress, through the Department of Homeland Security, established the Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium (RDPC). A 2007 RDPC needs assessment prioritized development of an effective disaster preparedness course for newly elected or appointed officials in rural communities, and a grant was awarded to East Tennessee State University to develop the course.

In order to target the learning objectives for such a course, to weigh the potentials of different teaching and learning methods, and to focus on unique preparedness issues faced by newly elected rural officials, participants were solicited in Arkansas, Ohio and Virginia. Ten members of the Arkansas Municipal League participated in a discussion group led by Bruce Behringer, assistant vice president in the Division of Health Sciences at East Tennessee State University, on Dec. 2 at League headquarters. The University has released an executive summary of the meetings held in the various states.

The goal of the discussion group was to engage rural elected officials and other general emergency management experts in dialogue centered on effective and appropriate emergency management training targeted to newly elected, rural officials. The specific objectives were to identify potential gaps within proposed curriculum content, to determine what curriculum format is best suited to information retention and application by elected officials in rural areas and to identify additional rural-focused prevention and mitigation considerations.

Participants were asked to reflect on vital principles for emergency management that all newly elected officials should learn about when they assume office. One participant said, "What we need to prepare for is the one thing we least expect to happen. Because whatever you prepare for, it's always going to be something else that's the emergency."

Participants were presented a case study regarding an earthquake incident in a small, rural town and asked what their initial response as rural administrators would be.

The group's goal was to draft a participant-generated template of a "best scenario" rural disaster response practice. Based on experience, participants discussed three aspects of response that were most critical. The use of a centralized command framework emerged as one critical

aspect. Participants agreed that any disaster requires an organized and unified response strategy. Participants noted that a newly elected official, particularly mayors, may not know how a given chain of command was put into place, especially if there is no city emergency manual. Role clarification is therefore another critical aspect.

"The mayor must walk a fine line of being visible and knowing what's going on while not making technical decisions," a participant said. "Sometimes mayors need to step back and let the trained people take care of the situation."

Cooperation as a way of life is another important aspect, participants agreed. Because many rural cities and towns have no emergency plan, many have formal or informal disaster plans with neighboring cities or counties, or both.

"In our area of the state, we collaborate together," one participant noted. "It's not just elected officials; it's all agencies coming together as a team. We put what we have to offer on the table."

Three key items emerged from the discussion group as best practices in emergency management:

1. Know what emergency management systems and disaster preparedness plans are in place and who is in charge. Does your city or town have its own plan? Who are the key players of the plan?
2. Communicate. Elected officials should stay in touch with police, fire and county officials, as well as the public. This can be difficult to implement, especially in cities and towns where Broadband Internet is not readily available and in instances where communication modes, such as tornado warning sirens, are not readily used.
3. Identify and engage community and faith-based organizations that may be the first line of response in an emergency. For example, as a result of Hurricane Katrina, Arkansas received 75,000 evacuees in need of assistance. It was largely faith-based organizations, such as ministerial alliances, that met the evacuees' needs. Newly elected officials should recognize the value of organizing such non-governmental community resources in disaster scenarios, especially in resource-restricted environments.

Participants were asked how newly elected and appointed officials learn best. The consensus was that a

2009 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

AWARDS *for* MUNICIPAL EXCELLENCE

20th *Co-sponsored by:*
The National League of Cities and
CH2M HILL in recognition of James C. Howland
Anniversary

Recognizing outstanding programs that improve the quality of life in America's communities.

- Nominations open in **February 2009**.
- For more information, go to www.nlc.org, email awards@nlc.org, or call (202) 626-3130.
Nominated cities must be members of NLC.
- Nominations must be postmarked by **May 1, 2009**.



National League of Cities



course in general disaster preparedness may be valuable not just for newly elected officials but for current officials as well. While opinions on teaching approaches varied among the participants, they did agree that class size should be kept low and that the use of simulation-based, active learning would be beneficial. Participants also noted that online teaching methods would exclude some rural communities from participating. Deciding on a single approach for all rural cities and towns proved difficult. However, one participant offered a resolution: "You come up with a product and you use different options to get it out there."

General conclusions:

- There is enhanced importance of communication, coordination and chain-of-command in rural areas because of population dispersion and reliance on volunteer personnel.
- Cooperative agreements become increasingly important as city-county interrelationships complicate disaster planning scenarios.

- Not all elected officials need or desire intensely specific instruction in the mechanics of emergency response. General information regarding roles, role articulation and resource acquisition will be most crucial to establishing the importance of command and control.

Course recommendations:

- Emphasize roles, role articulation and resource acquisition in rural environments.
- Develop a portable resource to supplement the training course.
- Fit training into preexisting requirements or programs in order to maximize coverage.

Behringer has announced that a course has been developed and sent to the Department of Homeland Security for approval. He hopes to offer the one-day course through the League in about six months. For more information about the course or the consortium's findings, please contact Behringer at behringer@etsu.edu.



Municipal Notes

NLC calls for nominations for Awards of Municipal Excellence

The National League of Cities (NLC) is celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Awards for Municipal Excellence in 2009. Since 1989 this prestigious award has honored outstanding programs across the country that improve the quality of life in America's communities.

You are invited to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Awards for Municipal Excellence by nominating an innovative program in your city that has improved the quality of life for residents, by forming successful and productive partnerships or collaborations, effectively managing resources, creating innovative government policies, or implementing projects with tangible positive results.

Cities and towns of all sizes are welcome to submit nominations beginning in February, and two winners will be selected in each of four population categories. **The deadline for all submissions is May 1.**

The eight winning programs will receive awards of \$1,000 or \$2,000 and have the honor of being publicly recognized for their outstanding achievements at a ceremony at the NLC's Congress of Cities Conference and Expo, Nov. 10-14, in San Antonio.

To learn more about the awards and to obtain a copy of the 2009 nomination packet, e-mail awards@nlc.org, or visit the NLC Web site at www.nlc.org.

Visit Us.
www.arml.org

Main Street Arkansas calls for grant applications

The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage, will accept applications for its Main Street Arkansas Downtown Revitalization and "Slipcover" Removal Grant programs through March 13, the agency has announced.

Downtown Revitalization Grants are available to certified Main Street programs for building rehabilitation, parks, streetscape improvements and other design-related projects that will have major long-term impacts on local Main Street areas.

Grants must be matched on a 1-2 basis (for instance, a \$10,000 match is required to receive a \$20,000 grant). Up to 50 percent of the match may be in-kind services.

The slipcover grants help finance removal of false facades from historic Main Street buildings. The grants are available to certified Main Street programs to assist in returning downtown buildings to their historic appearance. Grant requests must not exceed \$15,000. Each grant will require a 25 percent match. In-kind services must not exceed 50 percent of the match.

For guidelines and applications for the Main Street grant programs, write the agency at AHPP Grants, 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street, Little Rock, AR 72201; fax 501-324-9184; e-mail joia@arkansasheritage.org; or contact your local Main Street Arkansas director.

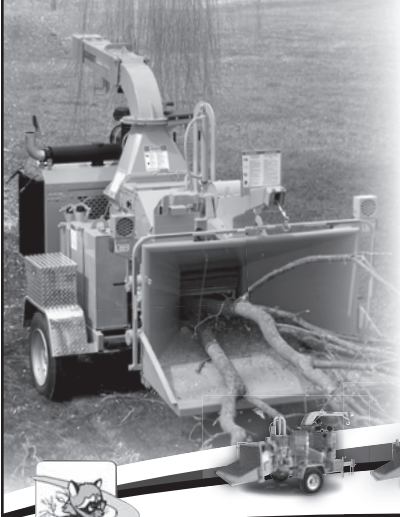
Police fatalities decline nationwide in 2008

Police fatalities have declined over the past year, the Associated Press has reported. More widespread use of bullet-resistant vests and the use of stun guns helped reduce police deaths, a study by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF) and Concerns of Police Survivors found.

Gunfire deaths dropped to 41 officers last year compared with 68 in 2007. The 2008 number represents the lowest total since 1956—where there were 35—and was far below the peak of 156 officers killed by gunfire in 1973.

(see **BRIEFS**, page 43)

BANDIT & HENARD UTILITY PRODUCTS... Committed people, exceptional value!



When quality and performance count, you can count on Bandit and Henard Utility Products, Inc.

Stop by and check out their inventory of high-production, reliable Bandit hand-fed chippers and stump grinders. You won't be disappointed!



Bandit Industries, Inc.

1.800.952.0178 • WWW.BANDITCHIPPERS.COM • 1.989.561.2270

YOUR AUTHORIZED BANDIT DEALER

LOGON TODAY! [HTTP://WWW.HENARDUTILITY.COM](http://WWW.HENARDUTILITY.COM)

Henard Utility Products, Inc.
1920 South Main Street
Searcy, AR 72145

CONTACT US TODAY! CALL 1-800-776-5990

Visit Us.
www.arml.org

Obituary

Wayne Tritch, 55, mayor of Lafe, died Jan. 9. Tritch had served as the town's mayor for 13 years.



Support a family on \$20 a week?

Volunteer firefighters who are injured in their firefighter duties receive only \$20 a week for a compensable injury.

Solution: The Arkansas Municipal League's Volunteer Firefighters Supplemental Income Program protects the earnings of volunteer firefighters who are injured in their duties.

What they get: Weekly temporary total disability benefits payable up to a MAXIMUM of \$550 allowed under Arkansas Workers' Compensation Law; weekly benefits go for 52 weeks; \$10,000 death benefit.

How? Cost is only \$20 a firefighter a year. All volunteer and part-paid firefighters in the department must be covered. The minimum premium for each city or town is \$240.

Call: Sheryll Lipscomb
at 501-374-3484, ext. 234,
or Andrea Ross, ext. 237.

Protect your loved ones' financial security.

Arkansas Municipal League's Volunteer
Firefighters Supplemental Income Program

Want the latest information?

Are you a member of the Arkansas Municipal League?

Subscribe to our list servs and be automatically notified of pertinent municipal information.

How do I subscribe?

Step 1:

Choose the lists from which you would like to receive information.

Discussion lists:

Mayors/City Managers Clerks/Recorders/Treasurers City Attorneys

Aldermen/City Directors

Announcement lists (choose all that apply):

General Arkansas City Management Association Fire Chiefs Police Chiefs

Legislative Advocacy Loss Control Meetings Technology

Municipal Health Benefit Fund Municipal League Workers' Compensation Trust

Municipal Vehicle Program/Municipal Property Program

Step 2:

Subscribe to the list servs by using one of the following options:

Option A: Visit www.arml.org and click on the Discussion List and Announcement List links.

Option B: Complete Step 3 and fax to 501-374-0541, attn: Whitnee Bullerwell.

Option C: Complete Step 3 and mail to Arkansas Municipal League, attn: Whitnee Bullerwell, P.O. Box 38, North Little Rock, AR 72115.

Step 3:

Complete the following information:

Name

Title

Member City

E-mail Address

Daytime Phone Number

**JUST
ARRIVED!**

2009 Directory of Arkansas Municipal Officials

Price: **\$20 each**

Orders must be pre-paid

To get your copy of this valuable resource, fill out form below,
and send it to the Arkansas Municipal League at the address below.

Please send me _____ copies of the **2009 Directory of Arkansas Municipal Officials** at: \$20 each.

My check of \$_____ is enclosed, payable to:

The Arkansas Municipal League.

Send **Directory** to:

Name _____

Title _____

Mailing Address:

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Clip and mail to: **Arkansas Municipal League**
2009 Directory
P.O. Box 38
North Little Rock, AR 72115-0038



Fund Accounting & Payroll Software

- **Print The Arkansas Semi-Annual Financial In Seconds**
- **Print Income Statements With Budgets**
- **Print Payroll Tax Reports - 941, W-2, 1099-R, 1099-Misc, SUTA**
- **Receive On-Site Installation And Training**
- **Receive Unlimited Toll-Free Telephone And Remote Internet Support**
- **Create Data Exports In Excel Format For Auditors**
- **Consult With Over 100 Other Perception Users in Arkansas**

Call today for an information packet:

Computer Systems of Arkansas

800-264-4465

info@comsysar.com

arkansas municipal league **Codification Service**

Having your city ordinances codified
to a single book is like carrying a
miniature city hall with you!

Contact Cathy Moran at
501-374-3484, Ext. 214.

Catch a Rising Star in RF Technology.

Badger® ORION® Radio Frequency System



See your local distributor for details.

HENARD UTILITY PRODUCTS

Phone: 800-776-5990 • www.henardutility.com

damage prevention is no accident



Sure it's the law...but that's not
the best reason to call us. It's
simply the right thing to do.

We're proud to be your damage
prevention partner.

Arkansas One-Call
800-482-8998

CALENDAR

**NLC Congressional
City Conference**
March 14-18, 2009
Washington, D.C.

**Arkansas Municipal League
75th Annual Convention**
June 17-19, 2009
Hot Springs Convention Center



Utility Service Co.
INCORPORATED

America's Tank Maintenance Company!

Utility Service Co., Inc. (USCI),
whose origins date back to 1963, is the premier provider of professional
water tank services. USCI maintains thousands of potable water tanks
under full service asset management programs coast to coast.

USCI provides tank funding and procurement services for new tanks
and site management services for antennas on both existing
and new tanks.

Now Utility Service Co., Inc. introduces...



Improve your water quality by minimizing organics,
stabilizing disinfectant residuals, eliminating thermal water stratification
and maximizing filter media efficiency.

Call Your Local USCI Sales Representatives:

Arkansas:

David Woodring
501.231.3606

dwoodring@utilityservice.com

Sherwood, AR.

www.utilityservice.com

ACCRTA scholarships available

The executive board of the Arkansas City Clerks, Recorders and Treasurers Association (ACCRTA) awards scholarships for tuition to attend the Municipal Clerks' Training Institute, the Academy for Advanced Education and the International Institute of Municipal Clerks' annual conference, all of which will enable Arkansas clerks to further educational training.

A scholarship honoring the memory of Bill S. Bonner will be awarded to a first-year attendee in the certification program at the Municipal Clerks' Institute in September 2009.

Scholarships include: four local \$400 scholarships to attend the Municipal Clerks' Institute, Sept. 13-18, 2009, in Fayetteville; one \$400 scholarship for the Academy for

Advanced Education, Sept. 16-17, 2009, in Fayetteville; and one \$400 scholarship to attend the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) annual conference, May 19-23, 2009, in Chicago.

These scholarships are in addition to the 11 regional scholarships awarded by the IIMC.

Fill out the scholarship application below and return it to:

Judy Reddick, CMC
City Clerk
City of Paragould
P.O. Box 1175
Paragould, AR 72451.

For more information, contact Scholarship Chairman Judy Reddick at 870-239-7500.

2009 APPLICATION FOR SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE

I, _____, am a member of the Arkansas City Clerks, Recorders and Treasurers Association and the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, and do hereby apply for assistance from ACCRTA. (Applicant must be a City Clerk, Deputy City Clerk, Recorder, Treasurer or related title at the time of application.)

Name _____ Title _____

Street Address or P.O. Box _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____ Date assumed present position _____

Other related experience:

Title	Municipality	Years
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Education: H.S. ___ Graduate College (years) ___ Degree _____

Check one: This application is for a ___ First ___ Second ___ Third year Institute

What are the approximate costs of the institute you plan to attend?

Travel/Transportation _____ Registration Fee/Tuition _____

Lodging and Meal _____ Total Amount _____

How much does your municipality budget your department yearly for education? _____

What is your reason(s) for applying for this scholarship? _____

I understand that if a scholarship is awarded to me, it must be used between Jan. 1, 2009, and Dec. 31, 2009, and that I must attend all sessions. Yes. _____

Have you attached written evidence that your Chief Executive or legislative body supports your attendance at the institute and that in the event that a scholarship is awarded, you will be given the time to attend the institute? Yes ___ No ___

I do hereby attest that the information submitted with this application is true and correct to my best knowledge.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

CHECK THE SCHOLARSHIP FOR WHICH YOU ARE APPLYING:

___ Municipal Clerks' Institute, Fayetteville—Sept. 13-18 **DEADLINE: April 2, 2009**

___ Academy for Advanced Education, Fayetteville—Sept. 16-17 **DEADLINE: April 2, 2009**

___ IIMC Conference, Chicago, Illinois—May 19-23 **DEADLINE: March 2, 2009**

DISCLAIMER: ACCRTA will not be responsible for applications that do not reach the chairman by the deadline. Please feel free to call after a few days to be sure your application was received.

Summaries of attorney general opinions

Recent opinions that affect municipal government in Arkansas

From the Office of Attorney General Dustin McDaniel

“De facto” commissioner may stand until challenged

Opinion: 2008-187

Requestor: Adcock, Pam—State Representative

Although provisions of ACA 14-359-105(b)(2) seem clear, please confirm that the mayor is required to take action immediately upon the expiration of the term of an airport commissioner. Q2) In the event that a mayor takes no action after such expiration, may the airport commissioner lawfully occupy the position? Q3) In the event that a mayor takes no action and the airport commissioner continues to occupy the position, are votes cast by that airport commissioner during meeting of the commission valid? Q4) In the event that a mayor takes no action and the airport commissioner becomes chairman of the commission, are actions taken by the commission valid? Q5) In the event that a mayor takes no action over a lengthy period of time and terms have expired for five/sevenths of the membership of the entire commission and those five commissioners continue to occupy their positions and cast votes on matters before the commission, are unanimous decisions made by the commission valid? **RESPONSE:** Q1) Yes, based upon the discussion set forth in the text of my opinion. See opinion Q2-5.) Yes, although any commissioners serving beyond the dates of their expired terms would be doing so in a “de facto” capacity. However, any such de facto commissioner would be subject to removal if the State or a “de jure” challenger for the office successfully brings a legal action, or if the “de facto” officer is legally established as having attempted to build up some right or to claim some privilege by virtue of his “de facto” position. In my opinion, aside from statutorily authorized recall elections, there are three possible causes of action that may be brought to remove an individual who is ineligible to hold office—a writ of quo warranto, a usurpation action, and a taxpayer lawsuit under the provisions of Article 16, Sec. 13 of the Arkansas Constitution. See discussion in Op. Att’y Gen. No. 2008-012 (discussing these alternatives). However, given the limited scope of your questions, the focus of my discussion centers on the validity of the actions taken by airport commissioners prior to the time their positions as officials are successfully challenged.

Laws work in harmony to fill vacancies

Opinion: 2008-189

Requestor: Sample, Bill—State Representative

Has the part of ACA 14-47-113, that states that the board of directors shall, by majority vote, elect a person to fill a vacancy, been repealed by Act 541 of 1993 which has been codified as ACA 14-47-110(a)(1)(B)(i)? Q2) In the event of a vacancy in the position of City Director or Mayor what is the proper procedure to fill the position? Is the replacement selected by the remaining board members, or by a special election? Q3) If a director is erroneously selected by the remaining board members when a special election is required, what would that director’s legal status be? What procedure would be required to remove that director? Would legislation passed by a board that included votes by a director who was ineligible to serve be affected by that director’s ineligibility? Q4) In regard to the removal of a director unrelated to the previous questions, has ACA 14-47-112(a)(1)(A)(i) been repealed by Act 49 of 1991, which has been codified as ACA 14-61-119(b)(1)? Q5) In computing the number of signatures needed to remove a city director, is the computation based on the total number of votes cast for all of the candidates for that ward position at the last election, including votes placed in that ward that did not vote for any candidate but simply left the selection for that race blank? Q6) In computing the number of signatures needed to remove a city director who was unopposed in his last election, is the computation based on the total number of votes cast for unopposed the candidates that were cast in that ward at the last election, including votes placed in that ward that did not vote for the unopposed candidates but simply left the selection for that unopposed candidate blank? **RESPONSE:** The answer to your first question is “no,” in my opinion. Any ambiguity created by the language of the two statutes cited in your question can be resolved, in my opinion, by examining the legislative history of those provisions. It is my opinion, based on the relevant legislative history, that ACA 14-47-113 has not been repealed by ACA 14-47-110(a)(1)(B)(i) and that the two statutes can be read in harmony, as set forth in greater detail in the opinion. In response to your second question, it is my opinion that a vacancy in the position of Mayor or City Director should be filled by a majority vote of the board of directors pursuant to ACA 14-47-113. Your third question is rendered moot by my response to your second question. In re-

recommend

guidelines for accident prevention to employees, vehicles and loss of property.

provide

on-site workplace, vehicle, property and equipment inspections.

conduct

on-site PowerPoint seminars and training for employee safety.



FREE!

SMALL TOWN OR BIG CITY, LEAGUE LOSS CONTROL EXPERT HELPS YOU FIND HAZARDOUS PLACES OR CONDITIONS. CALL 501-374-3484, EXT. 103.

Visit Us.

www.arml.org

sponse to your fourth question, it is my opinion that ACA 14-47-112(b)(1)(A)(i) has been repealed by ACA 14-61-119(b)(1) to the extent of any inconsistency. In response to your fifth question, it is my opinion that the computation for the number of signatures needed to remove a city director should be based on the total number of votes cast for all candidates for the position in question. It is my further opinion that this number does not include any ballots for that ward that did not include a vote in the particular race in question. In response to your sixth question, it is my opinion that the computa-

tion in question is not materially affected if the director whose removal is sought ran unopposed in the last election. Because the relevant statute requires the computation in question to be based on the number of votes cast for candidates for the position, it is my opinion that ballots which left the unopposed races blank should not count when making the relevant calculation.

For full Attorney General opinions online, go to www.ag.arkansas.gov/opinions.

The state has a plan. Do you?

The state is poised to make planning a priority as we move toward a sustainable, knowledge-based economy, and cities and towns must step up to be a part of the process.

By Jim von Tungeln

In early 2009, the Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AEDC) published Gov. Mike Beebe's Strategic Plan for Economic Development. It is available on line at www.arkansasedc.com.

The plan, as described in the director's opening letter, centers on Beebe's five goals for economic development:

1. Increase the incomes of Arkansans at a growth pace greater than the national average;
2. Expand entrepreneurship, focusing on knowledge-based enterprises;
3. Compete more effectively in the global marketplace for new business and jobs, and create a business retention strategy to reduce closures;

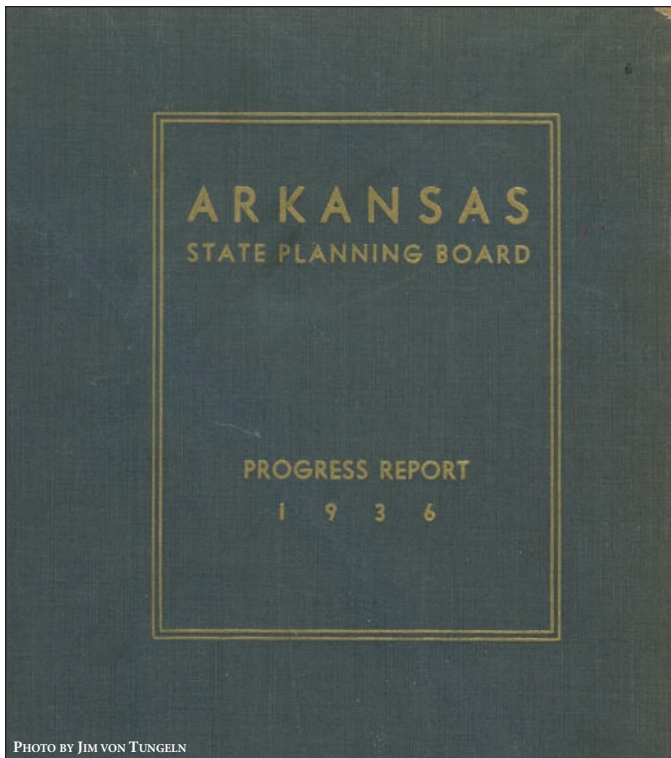


PHOTO BY JIM VON TUNGELN


The 1936 plan: In the darkest of times, our state was planning ahead.

4. Economic development will meet the special needs and take advantage of the extraordinary assets of various areas of the state. It will not be one size fits all; and
5. Increase the number of workers with post-sec-




ondary training so they are prepared when they enter the workforce and equipped for new jobs in the future.


I have three reasons for discussing the plan this month. First: to express the satisfaction of knowing that our state has developed such a document. Second: to state that all municipal officials, whether elected, appointed or employed, must read it. And third: to recommend that you get your city ready to participate in the plan's strategies.

As I have mentioned on numerous occasions, I find it remarkable that in 1936, in the midst of the Great Depression, Arkansas had a state plan. In fact, when I first came back to the state to work, we still had a state office of planning. The office's budget has long-since disap-



Governor
Mike Beebe's
Strategic Plan
for Economic
Development



Arkansas Economic Development Commission
2009

The new plan: The Governor's plan aims for sustainable growth.

peared into the hungry innards of state government. But still, it's a good sign that we are, under the present administration, returning to the practice of thinking ahead. In doing so, the plan lists five principles for guiding the state's economic development efforts:

1. To generate wealth for Arkansans, the AEDC requires a systematic plan causing a transition to an economy supported by knowledge-based jobs;
2. All internal and external AEDC business practices and processes must be evaluated to guarantee efficiencies of operation and mission focus. Inefficient processes should be corrected immediately, while others must be evaluated over a period of time to determine if they are properly focused;
3. Scarce and diffused economic resources mandate a coordination of efforts led by the AEDC to transition the Arkansas economy to an economy supported by knowledge-based jobs;
4. The AEDC must help provide the needed tools to allow regions to control their own economic development; and
5. A new approach to state and regional economic development funding must be employed to ensure resources are predictable and flexible. This approach will allow funds to be committed efficiently and equitably.

It is this last principle that will be of vital interest to our municipalities. Regionalism is a concept with a spotted history in our state. While rational in concept, it has sometimes been limited in results. In some instances, it has only served to create additional layers of politics and

bureaucracy. In others, it has primarily served to make sure there were enough freeway lanes and utilities to support urban sprawl. Sometimes, it has worked extremely well in such efforts as solid waste collection and treatment.

I recommend that cities become actively involved to see that regionalism always works in their best interest. This will mean cooperation in programs designed to fulfill the five principles guiding the plan. Regionalism by design means that programs first be planned for broad results. Then, participants should be selected on the basis of how they fit into making the program successful.

Regionalism by design thus means that programs will be based on common support and shared strengths, not simply on proximity. For example, municipalities along the Arkansas River Valley share the common strengths of multiple educational centers, river traffic, rail traffic, air traffic and access to I-40, the National Highway. They provide a strong set of supportive strengths for state programs despite the fact that many of the cities are not close to one another.

In summary, look the plan over and support it. Then decide how your city can be a part of it. Our state needs the help of all its communities. Then, if we could just get our state planning office back in operation ...



Jim von Tungen is staff planning consultant available for consultation as a service of the Arkansas Municipal League and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. Persons having comments or questions may reach him at 501-372-3232. His Web site is www.planyourcity.com.

Visit Us.
www.arml.org

A sad day in Jacksonville

After a distemper outbreak in the shelter, Jacksonville animal control officers were forced to euthanize all their remaining dogs. It was a painful reminder of the importance of vaccinations.

By Hedy Limke

Being an animal control officer is one of the best jobs you can ever have. At least that's how we feel about it. You get to work all day with animals. You take care of them and give them plenty of "TLC." Of course, animal control has its difficult moments, but I think that's true of any job.

We try to keep a healthy environment in our shelter, and that is why vaccinations are so important. I was reminded of their importance this past November.

We received several complaints from people who had adopted puppies from our shelter. The puppies were diagnosed with distemper and had to be put to sleep by a veterinarian.

Several days after those calls, I took a dog to the vet to be sterilized, and I noticed that he had kennel cough. I told the vet that because of the illness the dog could not be sterilized. The woman who adopted him still wanted to keep the dog, and we decided to medicate it at the shelter. Two days later, we found the dog shaking. We knew right away that he had distemper.

After doing some research, we discovered that this was the dog that had brought the distemper into our shelter. The pups had been infected by him.

After talking with several veterinarians, we made the decision to put to sleep every dog we had in our shelter.

I can tell you that it was one of the worst days in our lives.

The shelter remained empty for three days, and we cleaned whatever we could clean repeatedly. After the three days, we put some new dogs inside, and, yes, it was great to hear some barking again.

Things are now getting back to normal around here. During this wintry weather we try to teach pet owners how to take proper care of their outside animals. According to our city ordinance, any outside animal needs proper shelter, and during the coldest months, we recommend that people put some kind of bedding in the shelter as well, so that the animal will be comfortable and warm.

If the doghouse is standing in a wet or muddy area, we recommended putting a pallet under the doghouse.

The water in their bowls can freeze when the temperature drops. We recommended putting fresh water out several times a day. Some pet supply stores even sell heated water bowls that make it impossible for the water to freeze.

Remember, we are the only ones responsible for taking care of man's best friend.

Limke is supervisor of Jacksonville Animal Control.



HUSTLER® TURF EQUIPMENT



**Your Arkansas Dealers—
Call for a demo!**

Ash Flat	Forschler Home Center	870-994-2290
Beebe	Beebe Lawn & Power Equipment	501-882-3433
Berryville	Williams Tractor, Inc.	870-423-4226
Bryant	Twin City Tractor and Equipment	501-847-3310
Clinton	Crowell's Saw & Supply	501-745-6194
Conway	All Seasons Outdoor	501-329-2008
Crossett	Crossett Marine	870-364-4888
Fayetteville	Williams Tractor, Inc.	479-442-8284
Ft. Smith	Putman Truck and R.V. Center	479-646-2930
Gravel Ridge	C & S Tractor & Equipment Co.	501-834-7751
Harrison	Central Rental & Supply	870-365-0401
Heber Springs	Economy Rentals, LLC	501-362-3070
Hope	Collins Outdoor Power Equipment	870-777-3778
Hot Springs	Garland County Farmers Assoc.	501-623-6696
Jonesboro	J T Motorsports	870-932-9001
Magnolia	Smith's Lawn Care	870-234-5069
Mena	Rice Furniture & Appliance	479-394-2200
Mountain Home	Moranz Lawn & Garden	870-492-4727
Newport	Small Engine Sales	870-523-2914
Ozark	Warden, Inc.	479-667-2826
Rogers	Bobcat of N.W. Arkansas	479-621-6001
Russellville	Pro Motors, Inc.	479-890-4848
Searcy	B & R Small Engine	501-268-4704
Sherwood	Twin City Tractor and Equipment	501-834-9999
Siloam Springs	Seller's Equipment	479-524-6457
Stuttgart	White River Powersports	870-672-9999
Texarkana	Trucks Plus	870-772-5559
Warren	Loggers Supply	870-226-6236
Waldron	Rice Furniture & Appliance	479-637-3109
AR Sales Rep	Jeff Kelley	501-514-3214
Distributor	Sooner Distributors	800-324-3246

Dare to Compare—Call for an on-site demonstration!

GSA Contract Number: GSO7F-8756D

New tree management tool on its way

What if your community had a tool where you could sit down and prepare a management plan overnight?

By John Slater

We have been discussing in previous issues the four standards to receive your Tree City USA designation:

1. Organize a tree board and/or department responsible for the community's trees.
2. Establish public tree care ordinance.
3. Plan Annual Arbor Day celebration.
4. Meet your \$2 per capita.

The next step: You need to have a plan. Planning is essential for every community; you do not have to be a Tree City USA to manage your trees. "If you fail to plan, you plan to fail."

What is a tree management plan? What is its purpose? A tree management plan gives a community focus and direction. It's a step-by-step process directing what to do and when to do it. It also provides a consistent decision-making tool to keep you on track. The plan also helps establish budgetary needs.

Planning occurs at various levels. The broadest level is the strategic or comprehensive plan. This long-range, master plan helps to establish the goals of the community's urban forestry program. With input from a wide variety of citizens, civic organizations, businesses and government, this blueprint lays out the program's administration, and management can fit it in with other comprehensive community plans.

Urban forest management plans are the nuts and bolts of the community's tree program field operations and are usually tied to detailed tree inventory data. The plan identifies tree maintenance and stocking needs within the community. (Christina Fowler, the Arkansas Forestry Commissions Education Conservation Manager, will go into more detail next month about tree inventories.)

We highly recommended that communities seek the advice and assistance of a reputable arborist during the pre-planning and planning stages.

Depending on your town, this can be a comprehensive plan or you can get your feet wet with a plan on one of your parks.

Help is on the way!

We have help on the way from The Southern Research

Station, USDA Forest Service in the form of an interactive tree management writing tool. Urban Forestry South is the Urban and Community Forest Center for the southern region. Eric Kuehler, who is the Technology Transfer Specialist for the center, has been working with me on two projects: pre-storm assessment and inventory, and a method for gathering data on environmental services provided by trees for communities. He and other urban forestry specialists have been working to develop an interactive tree management plan writing tool. It will assist urban forest professionals and community leaders in the development of a tree management plan they can customize by just filling in the questionnaire blanks or clicking on a box. Hopefully, the tool will be out in the next couple of months.

The Interactive Tree Management Plan Writing Tool: How it works

Just answer the questions, and it will write your vision statement for you.

There are six questions about your vision statement, with 10 possible responses to each question, and you rank them according to your community's needs, one through 10.

Sample question: "What are the things you want your community forest to do?"

To that question, a community might choose this response as their number one priority: "help increase property values and improve business traffic."

This will show up in your vision statement as an attractive venue to improve business traffic and increase property value. To the same question, you might choose as your number two priority: "provide social, psychological, physical health and recreational benefits." This will show up in your vision statement as recreational opportunities for your community's citizens to socialize and/or improve health. The tool also allows you to add your own ideas to the list. When completed, the tool will write your vision statement for you, and you can add to it or change it to suit your community's personality.

The next step in using the tool is assessing the needs of your community, such as:



If you're not ready to tackle the entire city, start with a tree management plan that focuses on a historical district, like Fayetteville's square, left, or a park, such as Morrilton's municipal park, below.



PHOTOS BY JOHN SLATER

- Tree Inventory—inventory of publicly owned trees
- Tree Ordinance—landscape ordinance that includes trees
- Tree maintenance policy—tree-planting policy
- Community forest management policy—pruning cycle, tree hazards
- Community education and volunteerism—citizens knowledgeable about benefits of trees
- Funding—funding to achieve your vision

The tool again asks several questions, the answers to which will help create your plan. The tool will place them in order of importance, and they can be changed as the tree board sees fit. This will help the tree board to decide what they can reasonably accomplish over the next five years. It will write an annual work plan into which you insert the goals to be accomplished, specific tasks and who is responsible for each task, and when tasks will be accomplished. It will also help you calculate the cost of your plan.

What a great tool for a community. You can literally sit down and prepare a management plan overnight. It provides flexibility, is easily modified and it allows for independent thought.

Reminder: The Arkansas Urban and Community Forestry Council Annual Conference will be May 13-14 at the Hilton Little Rock Metro Center. For information contact Cathy Slater, Executive Secretary, Arkansas Urban Forestry Council, at 800-958-5865 or 501-625-3710, or e-mail info@arkansasastrees.org.

Jim von Tungeln, League planning consultant, will be a guest speaker at the Conference. We are very happy Jim could join us, and I look forward to his presentation.

Make a Memory ... Plant a Tree



John Slater is urban forestry partnership coordinator with the Arkansas Forestry Commission. Contact him at 501-984-5867, or at john.slater@arkansas.gov.

Mental battle continues for returning vets

With war being waged on several fronts across the globe, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder continues to be a concern for veterans and doctors.

By John Spollen, M.D.

With the number of veterans returning from conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan, Arkansas has seen its share of cases of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) grow over the last few years.

The trend is not expected to slow anytime soon.

As much as 20 percent of all veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan will experience PTSD, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

In Arkansas, the Central Arkansas Veterans Health-care System has already seen a significant increase in PTSD cases among returning members of the Arkansas National Guard's 39th Brigade.

The classic case of PTSD shows three main types of symptoms: signs of re-experiencing the event with flashbacks, including nightmares; an avoidance of reminders of the event; and some hyper arousal, often with interruptions of sleep and bad temper.

A typical person with the disorder might rarely watch television or read the news because "it's all bad." They avoid friends or family, saying they'd rather just be left alone. They might wake up several times a night from a nightmare of close calls with Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), ambushes and accidents. Thoughts of their time in Iraq or Afghanistan leave them shaky and nervous.

PTSD is the nation's fifth most common psychiatric disorder. Symptoms usually must last at least a month while causing significant stress or impairment to be diagnosed.

Recognize It

One positive trend, however, is that more veterans are recognizing their problem and seeking help at a higher rate than those did in the 1970s after the Vietnam War.

Still, some may be holding back from seeking treatment because they can't get over the negative stigma associated with having a mental health problem.

They might think seeking counsel could have a negative effect with their careers, their daily lives in their

community or their private employers.

The fact is none of that is necessarily true. Mental health professionals are finding that the stigma usually doesn't exist in the community or with family members or within the military ranks. The support systems within those arenas are largely in place; but what it ultimately comes down to is getting over the stigma they have within themselves.

Treat It

Researchers have found that today's soldiers serving in Afghanistan and Iraq may be more vulnerable than in past conflicts for several reasons.

Because of the lack of a battle front, there is constant combat uncertainty and threat. Tours of duty are long and frequently include direct combat exposure, and many face several redeployments.

Some of the most common symptoms reflect the type of daily work the Guard performed there while driving convoys on patrol. Back in the United States, the simple task of driving seems to be a difficult thing for a number of patients, since a lot of incidents occurred near or on overpasses.

Treatment should be sought early and usually relies on patient education, social support and anxiety management through psychotherapy and some medications.

The future for treatment and prevention is bright, as several tests have shown positive results for medications that could someday be used to reduce the risk of developing PTSD. Research has shown that blocking certain chemicals in the brain with medication seems to decrease symptoms. Prevention and treatment options are expanding and the stigma will decrease as more men and women return from Iraq and Afghanistan.



John Spollen, M.D., is Vice Chairman of Education, Department of Psychiatry, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.



Municipal Property Program

Your Municipal Property Program offers broad coverage for your municipal property. The limits of coverage are \$50 million per occurrence per member for damages from fire, windstorm and other incidents in excess of \$5,000.

Coverage is \$15 million per occurrence per member for losses exceeding \$100,000 on earthquakes and flooding.

The Municipal Property Program's 2008 annual meeting in November adopted rates according to the following scale for 2009. See the new reduced rates below.



FIRE CLASS I	—	.0012	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS II	—	.00135	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS III	—	.0015	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS IV	—	.00165	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS V	—	.0018	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS VI	—	.002	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS VII	—	.0022	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS VIII	—	.0024	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS IX	—	.0027	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS X	—	.003	X	covered value	=	Premium

For more information, call Linda Montgomery at League headquarters, 501-978-6123 or 501-374-3484, Ext. 233.

Grant specialists ready to work with you

Whether you're looking for the perfect grant or need help writing the perfect application, the League has partners who can help.

By Chad Gallagher

When attending any National League of Cities meeting or visiting with long-time elected municipal officials from around the country, one thing becomes clear: Arkansas ranks first when it comes to municipal leagues. Our Arkansas Municipal League is unmatched when it comes to its prestige and reputation for serving its members. The League is continually on the cutting edge of serving its members through innovative programs and is the envy of others for the successful management of these services. In addition, wise stewardship has allowed the League to continue to expand member services while keeping membership dues low. It is an honor for us to be a part of the Arkansas Municipal League team.

The League understands that municipal resources are limited and rarely ever enough! Mayors and city councils constantly face rising demands on every front while learning to achieve success with limited human and financial resources. Municipalities juggle infrastructure development, emergency services, animal control, economic development and much more. These challenges make it important for municipalities to strengthen their strategic development efforts, plan well, implement well, think creatively and utilize the grant acquisition process in order to maximize resources. The Arkansas Municipal League has partnered with The Arkansas Grant Book and with Legacy Consulting to help with these areas.

It was as a candidate for mayor that I attended my very first League conference. The remarks of Mayor Joanne Smith of Helena (League president, 1995-96) stood out to me above all the others. She shared with the audience about her city's success in applying for grants. She encouraged her colleagues to hunt for grants, seek them out and apply, apply, apply. I was fascinated and inspired. It was just the kind of thing I knew could make the difference for our small town, and it was exactly the path I went down.

I also remember the mayor saying she wished there was a "Sears Roebuck catalog for grants, but there's not. You just have to look under every rock and get on every list." Only a few years later, the former mayor and her

son, former State Senator Kevin Smith, launched The Arkansas Grant Book. League members have access to the grant material free of charge through a portal on the League's Web site or can order the book in hard copy or CD version. It is an invaluable resource.

The Arkansas Grant Book is a unique tool provided exclusively for Arkansas municipalities. This book compiles every available grant for which Arkansas municipalities are eligible to apply. The database is searchable and will help you find the grant that is right for your community. Because of the fast-paced nature of grant writing, with grants constantly becoming outdated or updated, it is imperative that municipalities have a tool keeping them up-to-date on the latest available grants. The Arkansas Grant Book is a unique service in that it is up-to-date, contains all available grants and is available to you at no charge.

Identifying the grant is just the beginning. It takes a lot of work to maximize the likelihood of your success in grant writing. Serious community planning and some simple up-front leg work will better position you for success. In addition, research, writing and presenting the grant properly can make all the difference in making the transition from one who applies to one who receives funding.

The League has partnered with Legacy Consulting to help with these efforts. Legacy Consulting provides consultation services to municipalities for strategic planning and development, as well as grant acquisition. Our approach helps you prepare for a grant, troubleshoot community challenges, provide best practices and assist you in developing a winning application. Each Arkansas community is entitled to an annual site visit in your community and a summary review of development recommendations at no charge. In addition, each community has access to unlimited online and phone support.

These two services combined—The Arkansas Grant Book and Legacy Consulting—create a winning formula for Arkansas municipalities. Each company is Arkansas based and the principal players have municipal experi-

BRIEFS continued from page 26

Traffic-related deaths also declined in 2008 with 71 officers killed compared with 83 in 2007. It was the 11th consecutive year in which more officers were killed in traffic accidents than from any other cause.

The study found that 61 percent of last year's fatalities resulted from accidents and 39 percent resulted from criminal acts.

In Arkansas two police officers were killed in the line of duty in 2008, compared to one in 2007. As of Feb. 9, one officer has been killed in Arkansas in 2009.

Environmental and public safety grants available for local governments

Federal agencies begin a new cycle of Congressional spending bills for 2009 with a new round of grant opportunities for local governments. Local governments may want to consider applying for the following public safety and environmental grants during the first quarter of 2009.

Second Chance Act grants—New federal funding will soon be available for communities to help former prisoners find a new path in life. The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) at the Department of Justice will be issuing Requests for Proposals for the Second Chance Act grant programs on March 23. The Act helps prisoners who are returning to society break cycles of crime and start new lives through providing housing, job training and placement, mentoring,

ence as well as a long relationship with the Arkansas Municipal League. As you start a new year let us know how we can help you achieve success in your community.

To contact Kevin Smith with the Arkansas Grant Book, e-mail him at kasmith@suddenlinkmail.net.



Chad Gallagher is principal of Legacy Consulting and a former mayor of DeQueen. Contact him at 501-580-6358 or by e-mail at chad.gallagher@legacyincorporated.com.

substance abuse treatment and other transitional services. Fact sheets for the grants are available at www.reentrypolicy.org.

DHS Emergency Operations Centers grants—More than \$12 million is available to state, local and tribal governments through the Department of Homeland Security's 2009 Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) Grants Program. EOCs are physical locations for coordinating response and recovery actions and resources. The grants will provide up to \$1 million for construction projects or up to \$250,000 for renovation projects to create or improve crisis command centers. The program requires a local cost-share or in-kind match and will be administered through the state. For grant information, visit www.grants.gov and search for Funding Opportunity Number DHS-09-GDP-052-1970.

EPA CARE Program grants—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is offering nearly \$3 million in grants to local governments to reduce pollution through the Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) program. The EPA will award CARE grants in two levels. Level I awards, ranging from \$75,000 to \$100,000, will help establish community-based partnerships to develop local environmental priorities. Level II awards, ranging from \$150,000 to \$300,000, will support communities with established broad-based partnerships, have identified priority toxic risks in the community, and are prepared to measure results, implement risk-reduction activities and become self-sustaining.

Applications for CARE grants are due by March 16. For information visit www.epa.gov/care.

Visit Us.

www.arml.org

Renovation keeps Clarksville creek flowing

Thanks to local partnerships and help from the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's Stream Team, Clarksville has a new park on Spadra Creek.

By Jim Ahlert and Tom Cogan

Spadra Creek flows south through Clarksville and forms the east border of the downtown Central Business District. The creek is a gateway to downtown and an integral part of our history. Representatives from Clarksville met with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's Stream Team in 2002 and requested assistance in improving the section of Spadra Creek directly below the Highway 64/Main Street Bridge.

The creek channel below the bridge was approximately 150 feet wide as compared to 70 feet wide above the bridge. The area above the bridge had a good riparian zone on each bank that helped contain the water within the channel during high flows. The water's energy was sufficient in this section to carry sediment and cobble suspended in the water downstream. However, when the water flow reached the wider channel below the bridge it spread out, losing its ability to carry sediment and began depositing the material within the channel. Larger pieces fell out first with the smaller pieces depositing further downstream.

Over the years a large gravel bar eventually formed below the bridge. The water flow through the gravel bar had been restricted to several small braided streams. The area above the gravel bar and the area directly below the bar were still confined by a good riparian zone and were in good shape. A pool had formed above the bridge due to the blocking action of the gravel bar. The area below the bar consisted of runs, riffles and small pools.

The city wanted to create a pool area in this section and even considered constructing a small dam to achieve this. The Stream Team explained how a dam would create the same situation that we currently had over time and could cause major maintenance problems. Instead of a dam, they suggested building two Newbury riffles that would create the pool but would still allow the sediment to pass downstream.

Construction on the project finally got under way in

January 2006 after all the necessary permits were obtained and funding was secured. The large gravel bar was removed and the materials placed on the west bank. The gravel and sediment was contained by the construction of a retaining wall. The large rocks used in the wall construction were hauled to the site on a flat bed trailer. Two Newbury Riffles were constructed approximately 300 feet below the bridge. During normal flow a pool is created above the upper riffle that is approximately three feet deep and 600 feet long. The pool above the lower riffle is approximately 70 feet long and one foot deep. The lower pool buffers the outflow from the upper pool and redirects the flow down the center of the creek. Fish structures were added to the pools by the addition of large rocks. Placing the larger rock on smaller rock created voids, which serve as hiding and ambush places for fish.

The stream renovation project on Spadra Creek was completed in February 2006 for a cost of \$93,000, which includes a \$7,000 grant from the Stream Team.

In June 2006 the Soil Conservation District, Arkansas Game and Fish and the Clarksville Parks Department sponsored the first annual fishing derby for the fifth grade class of the Clarksville Schools.

Projects like this are possible when we work together with the interested groups in our community, such as we did with our Chamber of Commerce Central Business District Committee. We were able to get to know first hand how the Arkansas Stream Team can partner with your community. We have learned that there are many people to help empower us to accomplish wonderful things for our communities.

Jim Ahlert is the Region 4 Coordinator, Arkansas Game and Fish Stream Team.

Tom Cogan is the director of Parks and Recreation for the city of Clarksville.



As an alternative to a dam, a creek-spanning riffle of rocks, known as a Newbury riffle, seen here on Clarksville's Spadra

Creek, can create a pool while still keeping sediment moving downstream.



With creek improvements complete, the city held its first annual fishing derby for fifth graders in 2006.



Maximize Your Benefit.

Join the Municipal Health Benefit Fund

Approximately 90 percent of the municipalities across Arkansas that offer employees and officials medical benefits have joined the Municipal Health Benefit Fund and receive \$2,000,000 major medical coverage with stop-loss, employee life, accidental death and dismemberment, dependent life, dental and vision coverages.

For 2009, new additions to the Municipal Health Benefit Fund are:

- Wellness benefits for all covered adults
- Well baby care
- Increases or eliminations of caps on organ transplants, pharmaceuticals, newborn babies and annual benefits
- Additional dental and orthodontic benefits

The Municipal Health Benefit Fund provides quality health protection for your officials and employees at a reasonable rate.

For further information, please call 501-374-3484, ext. 111.

Check us out.

www.arml.org



ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE - GREAT CITIES MAKE A GREAT STATE

Arkansas Municipal League

Search

- About the League
- Staff Directory
- Calendar of Events
- Publications
- Legislative Action Center
- League Programs
- Benefit Programs
- Legal FAQs
- Related Resources
- Classifieds
- Cities of Arkansas

Welcome to the Arkansas Municipal League website. We are an instrumentality of municipal governments from throughout Arkansas. Our website includes information [about the League](#), how to [contact League staff](#), a [calendar](#) of League events, an online version of [City & Town magazine](#) and information about other publications. We are proud to present a [legislative action center](#), where visitors have the opportunity to receive information about the General Assembly. Our [League Programs](#) section outlines the various municipal programs that we sponsor. [Related Resources](#) will give the visitor a listing of other websites of interest.

Arkansas.gov eNewsRoom

- [Voter turnout at polls expected to be dismal; runoff issues varied - Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#)
- [FORT SMITH : Administrator's job attracts 38 hopefuls - Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#)
- [The Fallout Of Small Towns, Big Fights - Fort Smith Times Record](#)
- [Tax proposals on ballot for voters - Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#)
- [Hightower making money for over 40 years - Malvern Daily Record](#)

**74th Arkansas Municipal League Convention--
Hot Springs, AR, June 18-20, 2008**
[Pay by Check](#)
[Pay by Credit Card](#)
****Tentative Convention Agenda****
****Tentative CLE Agenda****

AML List Serv Subscription--Member Sign-Up!
Subscribe to Available Discussion/Announcement Lists:

- [Mayors/City Managers](#)
- [Clerk/Recorder/Treasurers](#)
- [City Attorneys](#)
- [Announcements](#)

[Press Release: DF&A Sales Tax Information](#)

AML Cash Management Trust
Daily Market Rate= 1.81%
(as of 06/06/08)

Photo Gallery

Submit photos of your city or town for display on the League's homepage to wvb@arml.org.

[Site Map](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Accessibility Policy](#) | [Security Policy](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [Info Request](#) | [Feedback](#)

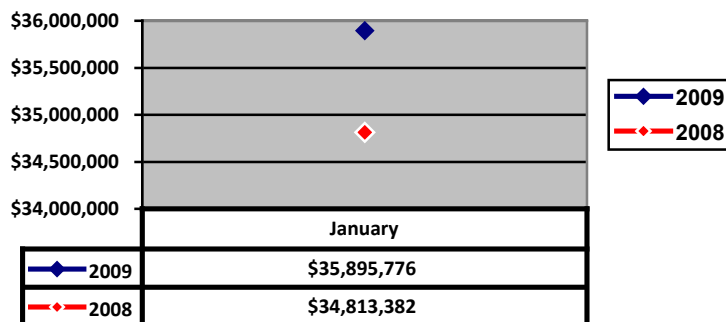
- eNewsRoom offers online news articles from Arkansas's municipalities' dailies.
- *City & Town* is available to download in its entirety in PDF from the *Publications* page.
- *Cities of Arkansas* local government portal page gives visitors a sneak peek at the quality of life in the municipalities across Arkansas.
- Flyout menus provide easier navigation and cut down on search time.
- A search engine makes it easy to locate topics, based on specific words.
- *Legislative Action Center* is now home to legislative matters, including a new *Legislative Bulletin*.
- eCart, order and pay for publications and mailing lists online.
- *Legal Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page*

Sales tax watch

The new Streamline Sales Tax has many cities and towns concerned about its effect on local sales tax revenues. Keeping in mind that the new tax system is one of many factors that affect local tax revenues,

the League each month will provide a comparison of 2008 and 2009 revenues.

2008-2009 Municipal Sales and Use Tax Comparison



LECC battles identity theft

Identity theft is the focus of the next training opportunity offered by the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee, March in North Little Rock.

Representatives from the Federal Trade Commission, the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators and Citibank will lead the one-day conference and cover topics to help local administrators and law enforcement officers recognize and prevent identity theft.

Conference check-in and breakfast begins at 8 a.m., March 10 in the Campus Center at Pulaski Technical College, 3000 West Scenic Drive, North Little Rock. There is no registration fee for the conference, but please register early to reserve a seat. To register, complete and mail the registration form below. For more information, call Mandy Warford at 501-340-2648.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s): _____

Agency/Department: _____

Office Address: _____

Phone: _____ Ext.: _____

Complete form and return to:
Mandy Warford, LECC Coordinator
U.S. Attorney's Office Eastern District
of Arkansas
P.O. Box 1229, Little Rock, AR 72203

Local Option Sales and Use Tax in Arkansas



Source: Debbie Rogers, Office of State Treasurer
 See also: www.arkansas.gov/dfa

2009 Elections

BLYTHEVILLE, Jan. 10
 Passed. 0.25% for police, fire
 For: 674 Against: 175

PYATT, Jan. 10
 Passed. 0.5%
 For: 44 Against: 4

Sales and Use Tax Year-to-Date 2009 with 2008 Comparison (shaded gray)

Month	Municipal Tax		County Tax		Total Tax		Interest	
Jan.	\$35,895,776	\$34,813,382	\$38,497,274	\$35,667,309	\$74,393,050	\$70,480,691	\$92,482	\$100,697
Total	\$35,895,776	\$34,813,382	\$38,497,274	\$35,667,309	\$74,393,050	\$70,480,691	\$92,482	\$100,697

January 2009 Municipal Levy Receipts and January 2008 Municipal/County Levy Receipts with 2007 Comparison (shaded gray)

Alexander	26,235.66	23,980.16	Greenland	15,465.73	18,190.75	Plumerville	4,360.96	4,821.25	Lowell	84,962.22	83,484.66
Alma	194,131.19	163,363.60	Greenwood	157,021.80	138,951.47	Pocahontas	107,399.40	103,197.82	Pea Ridge	37,034.81	36,390.75
Almyra	1,374.04	1,034.81	Guion	1,842.21	2,152.66	Portia	4,171.20	2,657.52	Rogers	625,076.94	614,206.38
Alpena	2,049.57	2,019.93	Guordon	25,121.31	39,782.17	Pottsville	9,259.38	13,004.82	Siloam Springs	171,171.56	168,194.76
Altheimer	1,641.51	1,995.57	Guy	6,951.99	2,919.61	Prairie Grove	60,109.10	48,239.37	Springdale	31,746.38	31,194.29
Altus	5,662.29	5,503.53	Hackett	3,366.43	2,559.25	Prescott	96,188.05	93,479.00	Springtown	1,799.65	1,799.65
Amity	7,594.76	6,457.62	Hamburg	25,577.08	23,521.72	Quitman	25,695.45	15,885.63	Sulphur Springs	10,592.67	10,408.44
Arkadelphia	154,128.25	139,143.86	Hardy	24,403.69	14,163.82	Ravenden	2,871.83	2,551.29	Benton County		
Ash Flat	87,849.24	77,166.93	Harrisburg	23,445.19	19,823.64	Rector	24,205.22	21,971.00	Special Aviation	11,148.43	18,867.39
Ashdown	105,582.91	96,885.95	Harrison	235,114.36	227,574.74	Redfield	15,769.02	12,660.13	Boone County	311,334.27	310,044.41
Atkins	43,591.39	30,382.58	Hatfield	3,287.03	3,303.67	Rison	11,940.09	8,629.34	Alpena	3,259.93	3,246.42
Augusta	24,817.17	21,565.17	Havana	2,648.20	1,908.17	Rockport	2,755.04	3,297.45	Bellefonte	4,527.68	4,508.92
Austin	3,950.36		Hazen	30,953.12	26,316.93	Roe	304.12	342.08	Bergman	4,606.91	4,587.82
Avoca	6,020.00	2,800.55	Heber Springs	141,201.26	124,071.88	Rogers	2,058,545.91	1,913,870.89	Diamond City	8,263.01	8,228.77
Bald Knob	111,469.40	50,111.67	Helena-West Helena	215,448.09	201,270.58	Rose Bud	10,326.31	6,139.88	Everton	1,924.26	1,916.30
Barling	19,518.07	16,935.75	Hermitage	3,534.15	2,406.61	Russellville	943,422.20	881,149.25	Harrison	137,550.77	136,980.90
Batesville	33,621.74	33,100.86	Highfill	59,181.16	59,788.02	Salem	16,987.13	16,007.11	Lead Hill	3,248.61	3,235.15
Bauxite	11,983.07	6,072.73	Highfill			Searcy	284,562.23	226,618.10	Omaha	1,867.67	1,859.93
Bearden	8,842.76	7,086.81	Special Aviation	22,313.36	36,811.94	Shannon Hills	7,400.39	7,664.99	South Lead Hill	996.09	991.96
Beebe	76,795.14	57,350.43	Highland	29,661.05	28,723.46	Sherrill	772.51	684.56	Valley Springs	1,890.30	1,882.47
Beedeville	124.05	103.46	Holly Grove	7,370.94	3,804.05	Sherwood	173,406.88	145,180.12	Zinc	860.25	856.69
Belleville	2,034.18	1,709.95	Hope	146,263.15	141,620.39	Shirley	364,262.23	314,285.82	Bradley County	71,403.70	95,117.28
Benton	599,591.28	534,371.28	Horseshoe Bend	19,176.47	21,233.80	Siloam Springs	4,730.41	3,092.65	Banks	740.64	638.77
Bentonville	1,001,362.47	1,145,475.14	Hot Springs	1,351,231.00	1,247,840.20	Sparkman	465,601.48	453,463.26	Hermitage	4,746.26	4,093.41
Berryville	118,465.92	156,794.02	Hoxie	14,791.91	12,291.84	Springdale	2,773.61	2,369.13	Warren	39,759.93	34,290.98
Bethel Heights	39,111.43	70,532.72	Hughes	10,032.93	7,347.74	Springtown	1,378,712.47	1,727,941.54	Calhoun County	51,960.91	48,447.27
Black Rock	3,236.16	3,066.26	Humphrey	2,865.52	1,866.89	St. Charles	222.94	239.96	Hampton	13,336.52	12,434.69
Blue Mountain	194.25	191.38	Huntington	2,565.10	2,150.69	Stamps	4,062.83	2,019.85	Harrell	2,474.73	2,307.39
Blytheville	294,925.84	274,951.62	Huntsville	49,834.96	43,824.24	Star City	14,769.41	11,151.43	Thornton	4,366.68	4,071.40
Bonanza	1,215.76	1,996.03	Jacksonville	584,759.89	576,885.60	Stuttgart	62,975.45	57,607.02	Tinsman	633.46	590.63
Boneville	91,895.61	107,785.54	Jasper	22,701.97	11,328.06	Sulphur Springs	5,006.39	4,867.38	Carroll County	131,160.36	132,252.20
Bradley	4,638.90	4,318.01	Jennette	114.68	124.38	Summit	375,736.41	339,765.89	Beaver	493.94	498.05
Branch	1,977.31	1,340.45	Johnson	34,070.34	44,263.55	Sunset	1,319.97	1,190.74	Blue Eye	187.18	188.74
Briarcliff	909.91	1,865.40	Joiner	1,865.40	1,154,273.57	Swift	2,294.33	2,005.29	Chicot County	96,729.79	105,030.82
Brinkley	98,284.17	92,445.01	Jonesboro	1,177,251.81	1,672.15	Sunset	4,925.92	660.19	Dermott	19,146.95	20,790.08
Bryant	865,487.14	827,833.81	Keiser	2,146.69	955.03	Swift	2,851.77	2,868.79	Eudora	14,458.95	15,699.77
Bull Shoals	9,508.39	9,602.34	Keo	1,229.17	955.03	Taylor	6,674.36	4,937.58	Lake Village	14,479.46	15,722.04
Cabot	586,558.69	535,665.54	Kibler	660.48	1,770.23	Texarkana	332,857.66	299,558.92	Clark County	336,122.11	308,853.78
Caddo Valley	15,162.90	29,352.12	Kingsland	1,164.49	917.33	Texarkana Special	163,436.43	135,570.29	Clay County	44,665.98	46,364.01
Calico Rock	24,948.58	17,439.85	Lake City	4,369.03	3,832.00	Thornton	884.82	872.45	Datto	275.09	285.54
Camden	243,938.57	142,030.97	Lake Village	59,351.83	54,243.94	Tontitown	74,262.15	90,106.94	Greenway	691.97	718.27
Carlisle	32,364.50	25,162.28	Lakeview	4,323.17	3,035.63	Trumann	67,123.70	60,128.36	Knobel	1,015.26	1,053.86
Cave Springs	6,441.19	5,779.95	Lamar	5,323.34	5,345.30	Tuckerman	13,975.56	16,884.48	McDougal	553.01	574.03
Centerton	51,209.94	48,028.71	Lepanto	18,747.10	18,787.70	Turrell	6,169.85	5,436.82	Nimmons	283.59	294.37
Charleston	25,515.61	20,884.43	Leslie	3,870.80	4,088.78	Twin Groves	807.13	658.71	Peach Orchard	553.01	574.03
Cherry Valley	4,017.20	2,338.43	Lewisville	8,554.24	6,917.43	Tyronza	2,031.96	1,598.29	Pellard	680.62	706.50
Chidester	2,493.27	2,962.08	Lincoln	13,842.02	17,214.98	Van Buren	322,314.65	427,761.35	St. Francis	708.98	735.94
Clarendon	14,924.47	21,862.07	Little Flock	8,550.24	3,963.58	Vandervoort	228.24	150.60	Success	510.47	529.88
Clarksville	127,841.70	150,238.17	Little Rock	1,861,990.48	1,890,467.05	Vilonia	53,552.80	39,052.01	Cleburne County	408,084.58	289,046.14
Clinton	107,905.12	85,245.98	Lonoke	96,479.35	86,007.13	Viola	3,441.54	2,295.43	Concord	3,408.86	2,414.50
Conway	1,671,858.90	1,570,247.72	Lowell	226,595.39	223,470.19	Wabbaseka	904.42	534.54	Fairfield Bay	1,951.74	1,382.42
Corning	74,962.69	101,425.10	Luxora	3,456.21	2,369.63	Waldenburg	5,808.26	4,368.09	Greers Ferry	12,432.33	8,805.81
Cotter	7,737.88	9,361.90	Madison	1,178.40	1,161.96	Waldron	25,652.54	38,751.63	Heber Springs	85,983.61	60,902.15
Cotton Plant	1,819.19	1,523.01	Magazine	3,877.73	2,562.52	Walnut Ridge	58,352.13	54,977.14	Higden	1,350.18	956.34
Cove	3,360.93	4,425.82	Magnolia	382,872.70	354,375.10	Ward	12,231.84	10,349.32	Quitman	9,143.78	6,476.53
Crossett	391,627.76	373,320.56	Malvern	441,024.19	269,531.96	Warren	59,428.19	53,104.51	Cleveland County	32,674.09	26,226.00
Danville	41,409.60	33,845.90	Mammoth Spring	9,237.50	7,228.02	Washington	1,516.22	1,161.03	Kingsland	1,631.21	1,309.29
Dardanelle	114,203.38	134,473.29	Manila	22,088.11	18,175.48	Weiner	5,495.77	4,348.73	Rison	2,210.72	4,617.51
Decatur	19,461.66	12,135.94	Mansfield	28,830.19	25,780.62	West Fork	22,940.31	20,210.72	Columbia County	400,777.63	321,760.23
DeQueen	86,508.48	72,567.53	Marianna	63,888.60	61,920.12	West Memphis	532,603.63	523,685.35	Emerson	667.71	536.07
Dermott	29,149.56	41,910.28	Marion	161,387.70	163,891.18	Wheatley	3,835.79	3,329.51	Magnolia	21,883.91	17,569.27
Des Arc	17,843.04	13,197.00	Marked Tree	49,691.33	43,287.35	White Hall	53,693.03	38,116.33	McNeil	1,231.27	988.51
DeWalls Bluff	6,208.68	2,677.56	Marshall	11,288.52	11,464.86	Wickes	2,230.06	2,800.61	Taylor	1,052.72	845.16
DeWitt	132,705.66	134,282.76	Marvell	16,357.21	12,546.92	Wiederkehr Village	2,513.71	2,595.97	Waldo	2,964.73	2,380.21
Diamond City	1,321.89	1,226.61	Maumelle	142,296.02	201,546.92	Wilton	1,028.25	996.81	Conway County	338,355.19	286,776.88
Dierks	10,926.36	10,404.35	Mayflower	41,376.06	120,312.90	Wynne	21.37		Menifee	3,876.10	3,825.24
Dover	17,666.41	15,050.08	McCrory	15,845.18	14,229.40	Yellville	16,755.84	16,196.39	Morrilton	81,634.98	69,190.68
Dumas	116,747.30	121,581.61	McGehee	136,216.45	138,422.47	Total	35,895,776.09		Oppelo	9,035.93	7,658.51
Dyer	1,044.20	883.13	Melbourne	34,597.48	26,477.81	County Sales and Use Tax			Plumerville	10,643.72	9,021.19
Earle	22,843.68	21,592.10	Mena	124,955.19	119,373.75	Arkansas County	269,169.42	241,954.15	Craighead County	262,011.73	1,464,979.48
East Camden	4,569.57	2,895.32	Menifee	3,284.92	3,492.32	Ashley County	572,282.84	260,157.73	Bay	28,032.64	26,643.56
El Dorado	510,948.81	463,692.19	Mineral Springs	3,117.68	3,352.41	Crosssett	53,847.61	51,449.71	Black Oak	4,454.07	4,233.36
Elkins	16,600.52	13,343.86	Monticello	157,298.00	145,208.71	Fountain Hill	1,404.26	1,341.73	Bono	23,547.42	22,380.56
Elm Springs	3,036.12	3,356.59	Moro	2,121.66	2,104.87	Hamburg	26,839.90	25,644.69	Brookland	20,744.15	19,716.21
England	55,301.55	50,132.03	Morrilton	134,756.08	118,323.09	Montrose	4,645.54	4,438.67	Caraway	21,008.91	19,967.84
Etowah	579.61	470.21	Mount Ida	17,467.63	15,161.60	Parkdale	3,329.60	3,181.33	Cash	4,578.66	4,351.78
Eudora	25,426.63	27,814.56	Mountain Home	362,131.48	347,258.20	Portland	4,875.17	4,658.07	Egypt	1,572.94	1,495.00
Eureka Springs	150,914.90	154,050.38	Mountain View	157,099.43	157,011.53	Wilmot	6,941.80	6,632.67	Jonesboro	864,573.29	821,730.76
Fairfield Bay	20,759.59	23,987.46	Mountainburg	9,373.83	9,488.39	Baxter County	287,321.68	274,856.13	Lake City	30,462.13	28,952.63
Farmington	50,893.57	51,015.54	Mulberry	19,963.12	22,699.71	Big Flat	1,315.26	1,258.20	Monette	18,361.38	17,451.50
Fayetteville	2,613,224.81	2,622,038.73	Murreesboro	21,798.47	24,217.82	Briarcliff	3,035.22	2,903.53	Crawford County	249,813.90	225,949.49
Flippin	41,706.05	41,808.50	Nashville	89,887.08	84,440.23	Cotter	11,647.66	11,142.33	Alma	41,679.07	37,697.52
Fordyce	81,483.09	68,272.45	Newport	146,986.17	132,421.99	Gassville	21,575.37	20,639.31	Dyer	5,861.12	5,301.21
Foreman	11,575.91	7,108.26	Norfolk	5,258.06	4,146.21	Lakeview	9,649.48	9,230.83	Cedarville	11,351.53	10,267.14
Forrest City	159,397.19	152,400.07	Norman	1,060.06		Mountain Home	139,266.09	133,223.99	Chester	991.88	897.13
Fort Smith	3,305,254.30	3,130,098.31	North Little Rock	1,238,139.42	1,423,822.33	Norfolk	6,121.03	5,855.47	Kibler	9,708.42	8,

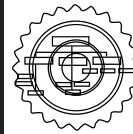
Turrell	4,947.59	4,824.97	Jefferson County	545,550.06	535,809.24	Victoria	585.74	508.49	St. Joe	690.99	606.22
West Memphis	158,922.51	154,984.08	Alzheimer	10,264.64	10,081.36	Wilson	9,322.28	8,092.68	Sebastian County	766,481.45	716,149.69
Cross County	218,035.25	196,884.89	Humphrey	3,435.90	3,374.55	Montgomery County	32,700.10	30,530.03	Barling	69,130.70	64,593.03
Cherry Valley	4,995.39	4,995.39	Pine Bluff	474,782.61	466,305.35	Black Springs	496.58	463.62	Bonanza	5,909.15	5,940.25
Hickory Ridge	3,017.46	2,724.76	Redfield	9,963.24	9,785.35	Mount Ida	4,273.19	3,989.60	Central City	8,790.58	8,213.34
Parkin	12,588.48	11,367.34	Sherill	1,085.02	1,065.65	Norman	1,842.57	1,720.29	Fort Smith	1,328,817.85	1,241,558.66
Wynne	67,696.46	61,129.60	Wabbaska	2,781.44	2,731.78	Oden	958.30	894.71	Greenwood	117,737.49	110,006.13
Dallas County	137,190.18	121,440.17	White Hall	40,748.56	40,020.98	Nevada County	52,939.87	24,607.19	Hackett	11,489.01	10,734.57
Desha County	93,530.18	84,937.89	Johnson County	92,838.87	95,806.06	Bluff City	1,690.14	785.60	Hartford	12,780.28	11,941.05
Arkansas City	4,781.43	4,342.18	Clarksville	62,104.45	64,089.35	Bodcaw	1,647.35	765.71	Huntington	11,389.68	10,641.76
Dumas	42,521.47	38,615.17	Coal Hill	8,053.71	8,311.11	Cale	802.28	372.91	Lavaca	30,212.45	28,228.51
McGehee	37,098.72	33,690.59	Hartman	4,795.21	4,948.47	Emmet	5,412.72	2,386.63	Mansfield	11,687.66	10,920.18
Mitchellville	4,034.59	3,663.94	Knoxville	4,111.33	4,242.73	Prescott	39,429.45	18,327.36	Midland	4,188.36	3,913.32
Reed	2,232.42	2,027.33	Lamar	11,384.61	11,748.47	Rosston	2,834.73	1,317.62	Sevier County	218,948.99	196,485.49
Tillar	267.89	243.28	Lafayette County	112,348.26	59,192.82	Willisville	2,011.05	934.78	Ben Lomond	930.88	826.66
Watson	2,337.95	2,123.17	Bradley	4,250.03	2,239.21	Newton County	24,988.52	19,840.76	DeQueen	42,591.66	37,823.00
Drew County	267,395.58	248,516.55	Buckner	2,989.36	1,575.00	Jasper	1,615.51	1,282.71	Gilham	1,388.94	1,233.43
Jerome	450.80	418.98	Lewisville	9,700.33	5,110.79	Western Grove	1,320.31	1,048.31	Horatio	7,365.81	6,541.12
Monticello	89,631.66	83,303.37	Stamps	16,086.68	8,475.58	Ouachita County	300,300.99	84,394.75	Lockesburg	5,252.85	4,664.73
Tillar	2,028.62	1,885.39	Lawrence County	114,407.80	109,485.92	Bearden	8,302.34	7,977.16	Sharp County	68,838.41	59,450.16
Wilmar	5,595.85	5,200.77	Alicia	721.39	690.36	Camden	97,074.59	93,272.44	Ash Flat	8,495.88	7,337.20
Winchester	1,871.83	1,739.66	Black Rock	3,567.16	3,413.70	Chidester	2,656.75	2,552.69	Cave City	16,416.65	14,177.73
Faulkner County	615,394.47	538,812.04	College City	1,338.31	1,280.73	East Camden	6,656.63	6,395.91	Cherokee Village	33,451.98	28,889.77
Damascus	859.66	752.68	Hoxie	14,014.91	13,411.98	Louann	1,439.07	1,382.71	Evening Shade	4,051.88	3,499.28
Enola	1,369.63	1,199.19	Imboden	3,402.98	3,256.58	Stephens	8,501.58	8,168.60	Hardy	6,334.88	5,470.92
Holland	4,203.60	3,680.49	Lynn	1,567.16	1,499.74	Perry County	85,352.37	61,990.78	Highland	8,591.73	7,419.98
Mount Vernon	1,049.08	918.53	Mintum	567.16	542.76	Adona	699.81	654.82	Horseshoe Bend	43.57	37.63
Wooster	3,759.21	3,291.39	Portia	2,402.98	2,299.60	Bigelow	1,231.21	1,152.06	Sidney	2,396.27	2,069.47
Franklin County	153,411.96	122,544.79	Powhatan	248.76	238.05	Casa	782.14	731.86	Williford	548.96	474.10
Altus	6,759.84	5,399.73	Ravenden	2,542.29	2,432.91	Fourche	220.80	206.60	St. Francis County	143,954.42	133,528.20
Branch	2,953.81	2,359.49	Sedgwick	557.21	533.24	Houston	598.02	556.77	Caldwell	7,106.02	6,591.36
Charleston	24,532.34	19,596.33	Smithville	363.18	347.56	Perry	1,175.08	1,099.54	Coit	5,623.70	5,216.38
Denning	3,350.96	2,676.73	Strawberry	1,407.96	1,347.39	Perryville	5,456.27	5,105.49	Forrest City	225,773.08	209,420.98
Ozark	29,165.77	23,297.49	Walnut Ridge	24,502.46	23,448.36	Phillips County	195,397.07	125,796.53	Hughes	28,531.10	26,464.66
Wiederkehr Village	380.61	304.01	Lee County	24,378.44	23,511.30	Elaine	15,024.76	9,672.93	Madison	15,083.12	13,990.70
Fulton County	82,587.23	71,393.43	Aubrey	846.58	816.47	Helena-West Helena	260,753.32	167,872.85	Palestine	11,323.80	10,503.66
Ash Flat	8.55	7.39	Haynes	819.77	790.61	Lake View	9,223.29	5,937.95	Wheatley	5,684.82	5,273.08
Cherokee Village	3,458.23	2,989.52	LaGrange	467.34	450.72	Lexa	5,749.36	3,701.43	Widener	5,119.40	4,748.63
Hardy	115.42	99.77	Marianna	19,846.74	19,140.80	Marvell	24,230.68	15,599.70	Stone County	80,030.20	1,394.96
Horseshoe Bend	29.92	25.87	Moro	923.19	890.34	Pike County	142,890.06	141,721.69	Fifty Six	1,541.95	24,612.89
Mammoth Spring	4,903.08	4,238.52	Rondo	907.87	875.58	Antoine	995.63	987.49	Mountain View	27,206.48	24,612.89
Salem	6,801.05	5,879.24	Lincoln County	43,605.95	38,760.49	Daisy	753.11	746.95	Union County	451,036.19	396,401.29
Viola	1,628.67	1,407.91	Gould	5,582.83	4,962.47	Delight	1,984.88	1,968.66	Callon	13,144.92	11,552.65
Garland County	610,500.98	560,421.81	Grady	2,237.41	1,988.78	Glenwood	13,447.42	13,337.47	El Dorado	584,428.18	513,635.27
Fountain Lake	2,877.70	2,641.64	Star City	10,571.00	9,396.37	Murfreesboro	11,258.31	11,166.25	Feisenthal	3,141.31	2,760.80
Lonsdale	830.24	762.14	Little River County	314,240.45	149,601.62	Poinsett County	107,334.99	95,551.93	Huttig	19,456.71	17,099.88
Mountain Pine	5,431.74	4,986.17	Ashdown	62,813.93	29,904.06	Fisher	1,779.91	1,584.51	Junction City	17,559.88	15,432.82
Grant County	116,870.61	108,251.19	Foreman	14,780.52	7,036.62	Harrisburg	14,722.84	13,106.59	Norphlet	19,453.37	17,096.95
Greene County	323,428.10	308,097.93	Ogden	2,811.58	1,338.52	Lepanto	14,326.56	12,753.81	Smackover	54,174.70	47,612.41
Delaplaine	1,300.57	1,238.93	Wilton	5,767.69	2,745.84	Marked Tree	18,806.54	16,741.99	Strong	16,066.70	14,120.51
Lafe	3,942.68	3,755.80	Winthrop	2,443.72	1,163.39	Trumann	46,270.82	41,191.28	Van Buren County	777,251.08	281,602.95
Marmaduke	11,858.77	11,296.68	Logan County	82,871.39	90,160.99	Tyronza	6,165.86	5,488.98	Clinton	65,089.29	23,582.26
Oak Grove Heights	7,445.02	7,092.13	Blue Mountain	878.21	955.46	Waldenburg	537.33	478.35	Damascus	5,359.96	1,941.95
Paragould	225,470.34	214,783.26	Booneville	27,390.94	29,800.32	Weiner	5,104.62	4,544.25	Fairfield Bay	65,973.11	23,902.47
Hempstead County	483,018.72	231,586.56	Caulksville	1,550.18	1,686.54	Polk County	213,663.57	206,617.47	Shirley	9,608.01	3,481.04
Blevins	3,335.62	2,888.18	Magazine	6,087.61	6,623.10	Cove	6,579.82	6,362.82	Washington County	1,116,880.99	1,165,899.20
Emmet	237.61	205.73	Morrison Bluff	492.33	535.64	Grannis	9,878.32	9,552.54	Elkins	18,233.36	19,033.60
Fulton	2,238.98	1,938.64	Paris	24,663.15	26,832.59	Hatfield	6,906.22	6,678.48	Elm Springs	15,026.86	15,686.36
Hope	97,016.36	84,002.53	Ratcliff	1,270.75	1,382.53	Mena	96,841.80	93,648.20	Farmington	52,542.99	54,849.02
McCaskill	767.65	664.68	Scranton	1,476.99	1,606.92	Vandervoort	2,061.56	1,993.59	Fayetteville	846,036.83	883,168.11
McNab	685.40	593.46	Subiaco	2,920.74	3,177.63	Wickes	11,596.28	11,213.87	Goshen	10,960.42	11,441.46
Oakhaven	493.49	427.29	Lonoke County	701,523.08	204,754.70	Pope County	358,443.81	312,639.61	Greenland	13,219.55	13,799.74
Ozan	740.23	640.94	Allport	1,159.39	1,082.73	Atkins	43,203.00	37,682.25	Johnson	33,799.50	35,282.91
Patmos	557.46	482.68	Austin	5,523.09	5,157.87	Dover	19,950.24	17,400.87	Lincoln	26,293.36	27,447.33
Perrytown	2,330.37	2,017.77	Cabot	139,318.68	130,106.24	Hector	7,595.80	6,625.16	Prairie Grove	37,020.58	38,645.36
Washington	1,352.52	1,171.10	Carlisle	21,033.37	19,642.54	London	13,885.61	12,111.22	Springdale	638,196.89	666,206.38
Hot Spring County	189,609.91	170,777.15	Coy	1,058.97	988.95	Pottsville	19,079.57	16,033.47	Tontitown	29,587.31	30,885.86
Donaldson	3,236.61	2,915.14	England	27,533.26	25,712.63	Russellville	355,501.57	310,073.34	West Fork	29,762.21	31,068.43
Friendship	2,045.22	1,842.09	Humnoke	2,556.14	2,387.11	Prairie County	24,722.45	19,329.54	Winstlow	5,815.44	6,070.66
Magnet Cove	4,497.50	4,050.79	Keo	2,145.33	2,003.47	Biscoe	2,612.18	2,042.37	White County	974,675.52	743,470.04
Malvern	89,562.83	80,667.12	Lonoke	39,136.31	36,548.42	Des Arc	10,607.88	8,293.90	Bald Knob	47,638.90	36,338.78
Midway	3,395.46	3,058.21	Ward	23,552.99	21,995.55	DeValls Bluff	4,296.93	3,359.61	Beebe	73,165.04	55,810.03
Perla	1,141.75	1,028.35	Madison County	148,113.58	130,177.17	Hazen	8,983.50	7,023.85	Bradford	11,872.62	9,056.39
Rockport	7,863.20	7,082.18	Hindsville	423.96	372.62	Helen	1,125.00	879.59	Garner	4,214.78	3,215.02
Howard County	205,105.17	257,994.39	Huntsville	11,565.54	10,164.97	Pulaski County	905,822.52	907,450.48	Georgetown	1,869.94	1,426.38
Dierks	10,042.24	12,775.98	St. Paul	921.40	809.81	Alexander	2,909.29	2,948.52	Griffithville	3,888.28	2,965.97
Mineral Springs	10,319.84	13,129.14	Marion County	65,486.02	63,150.78	Cammack Village	14,055.95	14,081.74	Higginson	5,609.81	4,279.15
Nashville	39,826.07	50,667.66	Bull Shoals	12,318.66	11,879.38	Jacksonville	506,014.35	506,942.70	Judsonia	29,414.42	22,437.22
Tollette	2,645.28	3,365.37	Flippin	8,358.21	8,060.16	Little Rock	3,097,604.15	3,103,287.14	Kensett	26,579.83	20,275.00
Independence County	361,167.66	343,065.06	Pyatt	1,558.31	1,502.74	Maumelle	178,566.44	178,894.04	Letona	2,983.00	2,275.42
Batesville	112,406.51	106,772.42	Summit	3,609.37	3,480.66	North Little Rock	1,022,194.31	1,024,069.67	McRae	9,809.75	7,482.85
Cave City	737.87	700.89	Yellville	8,081.05	7,792.87	Sherwood	363,847.93	364,515.46	Pangburn	9,705.87	7,403.60
Cushman	5,486.44	5,211.44	Miller County	389,001.86	303,751.12	Wrightsville	23,139.04	23,181.51	Rose Bud	6,366.69	4,856.49
Magness	2,273.12	2,159.19	Fouke	7,703.01	6,014.87	Pulaski County	Jail Tax	5.02	Russell	3,383.70	2,581.07
Moorefield	1,904.19	1,808.74	Garland	7,703.01	6,014.87	Pulaski County	River Project	1,056.38	Searcy	280,906.24	214,274.29
Newark	14,507.52	13,780.37	Texarkana	173,317.65	135,334.65	Randolph County	107,122.18	101,673.69	West Point	2,364.88	2,354.67
Oil Trough	2,594.45	2,464.41	Mississippi County	621,155.83	539,228.29	Biggers	2,592.65	2,460.78	Woodruff County	15,598.42	14,319.88
Pleasant Plains	3,177.61	3,018.34	Bassett	1,667.88	1,447.89	Maynard	2,782.54	2,641.01	Augusta	15,704.50	

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

MCE McCLELLAND
CONSULTING
ENGINEERS, INC.
DESIGNED TO SERVE

Water & Wastewater Systems ♦ Streets & Drainage ♦ Airports & Parks
Surveying & Land Planning ♦ Environmental & Materials Testing Laboratories

900 W. Markham, Little Rock, AR 72201, Ph. 501-371-0272
1810 N. College, Fayetteville, AR 72703, Ph. 479-443-2377



EMTE
Engineering Management Corporation

AIR QUALITY ENVIRONMENTAL AUDITS
MOLD SURVEYS LEAD ANALYSIS
ASBESTOS PROJECTS SITE CLEANUP
STORMWATER MGT. PERMITS

1213 West Fourth Street, Little Rock, AR 72201

501-374-7492

Visit us at our Web site at www.emteconsulting.com



ETC Engineers, Inc.

• 1510 S. Broadway • Little Rock, AR 72202 • Phone (501) 375-1786 • FAX (501) 375-1277 •

- WATER & WASTEWATER SYSTEMS
- STREET & DRAINAGE DESIGN
- PARKS PLANNING & DESIGN
- AQUATIC PARKS
- GIS/MAPPING

"Building a Better World"



CONSULTING ENGINEERS

WATER • WASTEWATER • STREETS & DRAINAGE • ELECTRICAL
SOLID WASTE • AIRPORTS & PARKS • SURVEYING • STRUCTURAL

TEXARKANA, TX
(903) 831-3700

HOT SPRINGS, AR
(501) 623-4444

JONESBORO, AR
(870) 972-5316



**Miller-Newell
Engineers, Inc.**

Consulting Engineers and Surveyors

510 Third St.
Newport, Ark.
870-523-6531

LANDMARK

Engineering & Surveying

Water & Wastewater Systems • Street & Drainage Design
Downtown Enhancements • Land Surveys

300 South Rodney Parham, Suite #7
1-800-352-0928

"Formerly Jewell Engineers, Inc."

IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE!



CEI

479.273.9472

Transportation ■ Parks & Recreation
Surveying ■ Airports ■ Environmental

INVESTING in Arkansas

Garver Engineers is investing in the future and supporting the local economy through the creation of new jobs and by building a 46,500-square-foot corporate headquarters in North Little Rock.



GARVER ENGINEERS
www.garverengineers.com


1010 Battery Street
Little Rock, AR 72202
501-376-3633



water resources/environmental consultants

- Environmental Assessments
- Threatened/Endangered Species
- Stormwater - Management, Permitting & Modeling
- Floodplains - Management, Administration & Modeling
- Wetlands - Section 404 Delineation, Permitting & Mitigation

3 Innwood Circle • Suite 220 • Little Rock, AR 72211-2492
(501) 225-7779 • Fax (501) 225-6738 • ftn@ftn-assoc.com



Crafton Tull Sparks
engineering

Conway | Little Rock | Oklahoma City | Rogers
Russellville | Tulsa | Wichita

craftontullsparks.com

B&F ENGINEERING, INC.

Since 1972

Professional Engineering & Surveying Services

928 Airport Road	118 West 2 nd Street
Hot Springs, AR 71913	Malvern, AR 72104
Phone 501-767-2366	Phone 501-332-3107

www.bnfeng.com

AFFILIATED ENGINEERS, INC.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

P.O. Box 1299, HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS 71902
(501) 624-4691 FAX (501) 623-7277

MUNICIPAL MART

To place a classified ad in *City & Town*, please contact the League at 501-374-3484 or e-mail citytown@arml.org. Ads are FREE to members of the League and available at the low rate of \$.70 per word to non-members. For members, ads will run for two consecutive months from the date of receipt unless we are notified to continue or discontinue. For non-members, ads will run for one month only unless otherwise notified.

CITY MANAGER—Cape Girardeau, Mo., population 35,349, is seeking to replace our retiring City Manager. Ideally located on the Mississippi River and I-55, and home to Southeast Missouri State University, we are a regional education, retail and healthcare hub with a daytime population exceeding 100,000. A Council/Manager government with the Mayor elected at large and six Council members elected from wards, our city has a \$42.5 M operating budget with 384 F/T employees a \$6.5 M capital projects budget and an S&P bond rating of "A+." The ideal candidate will lead our full-service organization including public works, parks and recreation, fire, police, administrative services, airport and development services and will have demonstrated skills in leadership, strategic planning, problem-solving, finance, decision-making, public relations/communications, fostering active community involvement and downtown revitalization. An MPA/MBA and five-10 years' City Manager or Assistant City Manager or President/CEO experiences with a city/company of similar size, complexity and financial strength preferred. We offer a competitive compensation package commensurate with qualifications and experience. Submit resumé, cover letter with current compensation package and five professional references to Human Resources Manager, 401 Independence, Cape Girardeau, MO 63703, by March 20, 2009.

www.cityofcapegirardeau.org.

PATROL OFFICER—The Berryville Police Department is accepting applications for the position of patrol-level officer. Applicants must meet minimum standards and be capable of passing a physical and psychological exam. Applications and Job Descriptions are available at the Berryville Police Department. Applications must be received by Feb. 23, 2009, at the Berryville Police Department located at 303 E. Madison Berryville, AR. 72616. For more information, please call 870-423-3343 Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. or E-mail berryvillepd@hbeark.com.

POLICE CHIEF—The City of Grannis is now accepting applications for a certified Police Chief. Applicants must be of good legal and moral character, possess good people skills, a clean work and driver history and have a strong work ethic. All applicants must complete an application, and a resumé may be included. Salary dependant on qualifications. Interested applicants may pick up an application at Grannis City Hall, 132 Franchiseur Rd., Grannis, AR 71944. Grannis Police Department is also taking applications for full- and part-time patrol officers.

POLICE OFFICER—Cammack Village is accepting applications for Police Officer. Candidates must meet all requirements of law enforcement standards and training. *CERTIFIED OFFICERS PREFERRED.* Salaries start at \$29,500, DOE, plus benefits (health, dental, three weeks' paid vacation and LOPFI retirement). Applications can be picked up at City Hall, 2710 N. McKinley, Cammack Village, AR 72207, or call for more information, 501-663-4593. EOE.

FOR SALE—Brinkley is accepting bids for a 1984 Koehring Bomag smooth drum asphalt roller. For more information, contact Red Rollins, Brinkley Street Department, at 870-734-1950, or the Brinkley Mayor's office at 870-734-1382.

FOR SALE—Keo has for sale by sealed bid a 1966 American LaFrance 500-gallon tanker Fire Truck on an International chassis. For additional information or to arrange for an inspection, potential bidders may contact Fire Chief Fred Fowler at 501-590-0692. The minimum bid to be considered is \$1,500. Send bids in a sealed envelope marked Keo Fire Truck to Attorney Bill Reed, Box 327, England, AR 72046. Bids will be opened and read aloud on March 21, 2009, at Keo City Hall at 1:30 p.m. The town of Keo reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

FOR SALE—McCrory has for sale a 2002 Chevrolet Impala police car: 140,000 miles, lights, cage and switch box. Can be seen at McCrory City Hall. Bids accepted until March 5, 2009. Mail bids, noting on envelope that a car bid is enclosed, to McCrory City Hall, P.O. Box 897, McCrory, AR 72101.

Visit Us.
www.arml.org

ACCEPTING PATIENTS!

PINNACLE POINTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Is pleased to introduce the staff of

THE POINTE- AUTUMN ROAD OUTPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE CLINIC

David Streett, M.D., and the professional staff are now accepting children and adult patients

Autumn Office Park
1012 Autumn Rd, Ste. 3
Little Rock
(501) 223-8414

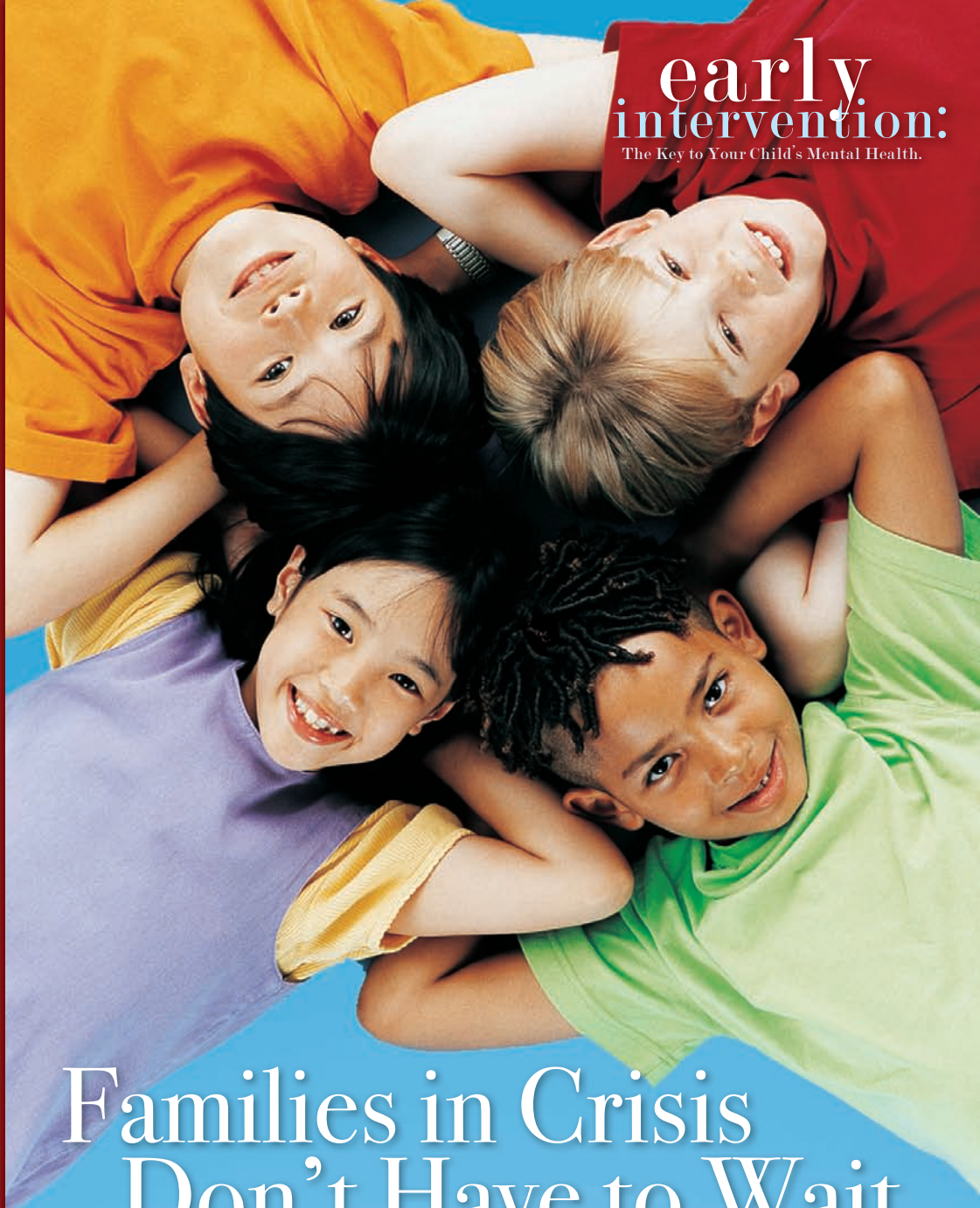
Expanded Services to include
Adults and Children
Extended hours for busy families



PINNACLE POINTE HOSPITAL HAS EARNED:

- Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval
- 2007 Residential Facility of the Year
- Honors for Outstanding Contributions Awarded by the Arkansas Psychological Associations

early intervention:
The Key to Your Child's Mental Health.



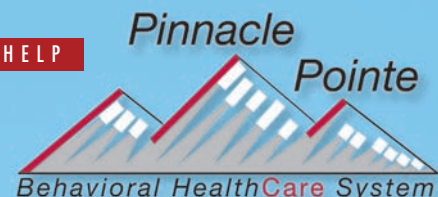
Families in Crisis Don't Have to Wait

Pinnacle Pointe offers Acute, Residential, and Outpatient services and free, confidential assessment and referral services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week as a community service. David Streett, M.D., Medical Director suggests that parents seek help if a child exhibits:

Aggression toward other children • An inability to cope with feelings • Frequent crying • Pleas for help • Fears of everyday things and/or possible disasters such as the deaths of family members • No interest in playing • Isolation • Discussions of death and dying; statements like "I wish I were dead." • Trouble sleeping • Sexually provocative behavior • Self-mutilation • Harm to animals • Unusual weight gain or loss • Drug or alcohol use

- Tricare approved and certified • Accept all other insurances as well as Medicaid
- Counseling for financial arrangements is provided as needed

WHERE TO GO FOR HELP



11501 Financial Centre Parkway • Little Rock, AR 72211 • (501) 223-8414 • Toll free 800-880-3322
www.pinnaclepointehospital.com

WHEN IT COMES TO MUNICIPAL BONDS, WE'RE THE NATURAL CHOICE.

In Arkansas. In the nation.

In the South Central United States, Morgan Keegan has been the top underwriter of municipal bonds for over a decade, and has become one of the leading underwriters in the country. We've done it by offering innovative ideas and building lasting relationships. After all, as part of the Regions family, we can pair deep local knowledge with very deep resources to achieve success for our clients.

You might say it comes naturally. Give us a call.



501-671-1339

Jim Alexander

Bob Snider

Jim Fowler

Charlie Roberts

Ron Pyle

479-684-5289

Michael Lindsey

REGIONS
BANK
Member FDIC



**Morgan
Keegan**

Morgan Keegan & Company, Inc.
Members New York Stock Exchange, SIPC

Securities offered through Morgan Keegan are not FDIC insured, may lose value, and are not bank guaranteed.