

City & Town

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE



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**Also: See The Natural
Gas Severance Tax
Act of 2012 summary
on page 17**

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14 **Global Peace and Reconciliation spreads peace through student art**
 World peace is the lofty goal of Park Central Little Rock's GLO-PAR initiative, and the organization is looking to Arkansas's cities and towns to help spread the goodwill.



ON THE COVER—On November 8 Arkansas voters will have the chance to *Move Arkansas Forward* by voting “yes” at the polls to re-up the GARVEE Bonds program and modernize hundreds of miles of our Interstate highway system. Join the League in supporting this important measure and spread the word in your communities. Arkansas Speaker of the House Robert Moore writes beginning on page 6 how the GARVEE Bonds will fund improvements across the state, all without raising taxes. The League also encourages volunteers to collect signatures on November 8 to put the Natural Gas Severance Tax Act on the ballot in 2012. This Act will provide millions of dollars for state, county and city roadways by raising the severance tax on natural gas. See the summary of the Act on page 17. Read also inside about your 2011-2012 District 2 Vice President, Little Rock's Healthy Foods and Active Living Summit and more.—atm

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Dear Friends:

On August 29, Gov. Mike Beebe announced a special election to be held on November 8 to seek voter approval to issue GARVEE bonds. These bonds, if approved, will provide nearly \$575 million of improvements to our Interstate highway system without an increase in taxes. It should be noted that by approving these bonds, funds that would have been otherwise used for maintenance of the Interstate system would be available for use on state highways. This proposal is very similar to the successful program that was overwhelmingly approved by the voters in 1999. That program improved over 350 miles of the Arkansas Interstate system. The GARVEE bonds referendum is an important subject that you should learn about, support, encourage your citizens to vote for and support. So vote early and often to support the GARVEE bonds.



The GARVEE bond election on November 8 will also be a great time for volunteers to collect signatures on petitions to support placing the severance tax issue on the November 2012 ballot. This is an important issue for our state as some of the funds derived from this tax will go to our city street accounts. After lengthy discussion at the 77th Convention, during both the Resolutions Committee and the Annual Business Meeting, League membership voted to support this issue. Jack Critcher and Steve Napper can help you with information and give instruction on how the petitions should be completed. Contact Jack at 501-374-3484 Ext. 103 or email Steve at snapper@aristotle.net with any questions you may have concerning this subject.

The League in September completed a budgeting seminar, the first course in the new year of its Voluntary Certified Continuing Education program for mayors and aldermen. Over 270 people attended the two sessions offered. Did you catch the change in the law concerning signatures on city checks? City checks now must have two signatures on the checks to be in compliance with state law. Many of us have already been compliant, but if you have not, please note this recent change. You don't want the auditors to "write you up" for such an avoidable oversight. Contact the League for questions concerning other recent changes in city government accounting laws.

The next continuing education course is scheduled for October 12 and 13 and will cover human resources and personnel matters. If you haven't registered, please do so now. This will be the last training session prior to Winter Conference.

Speaking of which, you may now register for the Winter Conference, to be held Jan. 11-13, 2012, at the Statehouse Convention Center and Peabody Hotel in Little Rock. Also, as a reminder, the League's Health/Wellness seminar will be November 16, and NLC's Congress of Cities is November 9-12 in Phoenix. All dates are fast approaching. If you plan to attend any of these and have not registered, please do so now.

Frank Fogleman
Mayor, Marion
President, Arkansas Municipal League.

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The Road Forward: Modernize Interstates Now

By Rep. Robert S. Moore Jr., Arkansas Speaker of the House



On Tuesday, November 8, Arkansans will have an opportunity to vote for the modernization of our state's Interstate system. The special election called by Governor Beebe will put in place the same funding mechanism we used in 1999 to update over 350 miles of Interstates. Now that the 1999 program has come to an end, it's time to re-up the bond program—called GARVEE Bonds—and address 300 more miles of Interstates in critical need of reconstruction, all without raising taxes.

The new 2011 Interstate Rehabilitation Program is supported by Democrats and Republicans alike. It is also supported by the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce, the Arkansas Municipal League and the Association of Arkansas Counties. This is a statewide program, which will help create jobs and improve economic development.

Arkansans from the mountains of the Ozarks, to the flatlands of the Delta all deserve access to safe, well-kept roads. As Speaker of the Arkansas House of Representatives, I have maintained that finding funding

for our roads is one of the most pressing issues we face, and it's one that impacts every Arkansan. In addition to being a matter of safety, the condition of our roads, particularly our state highway network, impacts economic development and our ability to create jobs by attracting new industries to Arkansas, industries that will be able to move their goods swiftly and efficiently. It also affects tourism and our ability to provide visitors with safe and convenient access to all of the natural beauty our state offers. Consequently it's important to remember that our Interstates are the backbone of our state highway network.

While addressing legislators on the opening day of the Regular Session in January, I urged my colleagues to recognize the alarming inadequacy of current highway funding in our state, and to come together to do something about it. The General Assembly rose to that challenge. With support of a bi-partisan majority, we passed a broad funding plan that would refer to Arkansas voters a five-cent diesel tax along with a temporary half-cent sales tax to generate additional funding for construction

and improvement of roads. By approving the plan to refer these issues to the voters, legislators sent a clear message that they believe there is a pressing need to address this problem. While the decision has been made not to refer a diesel tax increase to voters at this time, we do have the opportunity to pass a significant bond-related funding program to modernize our Interstates. That proposal will not require any new tax and will not raise any existing tax.

This is not the total overhaul of the highway funding formula that we eventually need in order to secure a permanent solution. However, the 2011 Interstate Rehabilitation Program will offer significant funding to meet our needs on a system of Interstates that help connect Arkansas. As the father of our national highway system, Charles Henry Davis said when building roads a century ago, "Nothing was ever accomplished without a beginning somewhere." The 2011 Interstate Rehabilitation Program provides a solid beginning to ensure we have the kind of roads that will carry Arkansas into the future.

Join with me and vote for the 2011 Interstate Rehabilitation Program on Tuesday, November 8. With your help Arkansas can modernize Interstates, create jobs, and improve economic development, all without raising taxes.

**MODERNIZE
INTERSTATES.**

CREATE JOBS.

**IMPROVE
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT.**

**WITHOUT
RAISING TAXES.**



**MOVE
ARKANSAS
FORWARD**

*Vote FOR the
2011 Interstate
Rehabilitation Program
Special Election:
Tuesday, November 8, 2011*

For more information, go to the Move Arkansas Forward website at: MoveArkansasForward.com

League District 2 VP strives for hometown feel in Sherwood

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

It's appropriate that Sherwood began essentially as a quiet, wooded neighborhood just a few miles north of bustling Little Rock and North Little Rock. When in 1948 the community decided to incorporate, a census count listed the population at just 714. Fast-forward a little over 50 years and Sherwood is now Arkansas's 14th most populous city, just behind Texarkana and just ahead of neighboring Jacksonville.

The 2010 Census put the city's population at 29,523. That's a gain of more than 8,000 in the last decade. Mayor Virginia Hillman, the League's 2011-2012 District 2 Vice President, credits several decades of successful annexations while maintaining that original hometown neighborhood feel with the city's remarkable growth.

"It's like a Mayberry day, isn't it?"

Hillman asks as we tour the city. When you leave the main commercial drags of Hwy. 107 and Kiehl Avenue, Sherwood is one rolling neighborhood connected to another. As the city has absorbed communities over the years, it's been very important to maintain the identities of those varied communities, Hillman says.



Consistency is the key for Sherwood Mayor Virginia Hillman, the League's 2011-2012 District 2 Vice President.

"We don't want to feel like Gravel Ridge [the city's most recent addition] is a separate area, but it is a community," Hillman says. "Just like Sylvan Hills is part of Sherwood, but it's a separate community. It has its own identity within the city, and Gravel Ridge is no different. And it'll always be called Gravel Ridge."

Hillman grew up just north of the city on a dairy farm.

"I didn't get too far from home. Maybe 12, 15 miles."

Her father served on the Pulaski County Quorum Court for several years, but she never envisioned herself with a career in local government, even when in 1986 she took a job with Sherwood in the accounts payable department. She worked there for 12 years before working for three years in the planning and engineering department. She continued her education as she worked, eventually earning a Master's Degree in Public Administration and Human Resources Development.

When the city's clerk/treasurer retired early, the city council in 2001 appointed Hillman to fill that position. She held the clerk/treasurer position until her successful run for mayor in 2007.



Formerly the private North Hills Country Club, which opened in 1926, this historic course is now the city-owned Greens at North Hills and is open to the public.

“I never would have thought—never—that I would’ve stayed this long. I never dreamed of being the mayor.”

Growth in the city has marched on, despite a struggling economy, and with the people has come new home construction, subdivisions, restaurants, gas stations and more. People here work across the greater Little Rock metro area, but Sherwood isn’t merely a bedroom community. It has several large employers, including Walmart, St. Vincent Medical Center North, the school system, and the city itself. Sherwood also is home to a Fortune 500 company, Cardinal Health.

Hillman recalls that when she came on board in the mid-80s, the city had millions of dollars in reserve. Those days are certainly over, and, as in most cities, finances are much tighter these days. But the growing city has been able to offer many amenities to add to its hometown feel. The Greens at North Hills—a former country club, now city-owned golf course—is a destination for active citizens, as are the Henson Tennis Center and the many ball fields at the city’s sports complex. The city boasts 17 parks and four pools. The Jack Evans Senior Citizens Center and the Bill Harmon Recreation Center are “very active, very well-attended and very well-run” facilities, Hillman says. Sherwood Forest event center offers space for meetings and celebrations on a 40-acre site. It hosts the city’s annual Sherwood Fest, its 4th of July celebration and fireworks and more.

It’s these kinds of things that keep the people coming to Sherwood, Hillman believes. The city also has a great school system. The new Sylvan Hills Middle School, which opened for this school year, is its newest gem.

“It’s a beautiful facility,” she says. “We’re very proud of that.”

As we tour, she points out things that she’d like to see improved when the time is right and the money is



available—new neighborhood-connecting sidewalks, a new library to replace the one the city has outgrown. She’d like to find the money to fix city streets. Hillman would also like the city to revive its economic development department, which was cut shortly after she was elected mayor.

One improvement is coming soon. The city council at its September 26 meeting voted unanimously to implement curbside recycling. Sherwood was the only city in Pulaski County to not offer the service.

One of the reasons people continue to make Sherwood their home is the city’s excellent code enforcement. It’s been a real selling point for the city when annexing communities, Hillman says, and it fits in perfectly with her philosophy of good local governance.

“We can’t go wrong if we follow our own rules and regulations and if we’re consistent,” Hillman says. “There’s a time to be flexible, but there are things you can’t compromise on. If you start compromising, if you deviate, people will know that and before you know it, you’ve strayed a long ways.”



The new Sylvan Hills Middle School serves more than 850 sixth, seventh and eighth graders.

PHOTOS BY ANDREW MORGAN

Get the flu shot facts

By Daniel Knight, M.D.

With the influenza virus responsible for more than 225,000 people hospitalized and 36,000 dead nationally every year, the cooler temperatures and transition into fall should be an annual reminder of the importance of vaccinations.

As common as the flu may be—with as many as 50 million cases reported each year in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—there are still some people who choose not to take preventive action, increasing the likelihood of spreading the virus.

And though receiving an annual vaccination will not guarantee a flu-free season, it is the best chance at prevention you can give yourself.

When's flu season?

Annual flu vaccination should begin in September or as soon as vaccine is available and continue throughout the influenza season, into January and beyond.

Influenza outbreaks can begin as early as October, but the flu season typically peaks in January or February, sometimes later. So if you don't get vaccinated early in the fall it's still beneficial to get one even if you've missed the initial offering. Once you've received the vaccination, it's good for one year.

Children six months to nine years of age who are getting a flu vaccine for the first time will need two doses. If possible, the first dose should be given in September or as soon as vaccine becomes available, while the second dose should be given 28 or more days later. The first dose "primes" the immune system; the second dose provides immune protection.

Is it worth the trouble?

The flu vaccines don't come with a guarantee, because there is more than one virus strain and the vaccine

can't protect against all of them. But in most seasons the success of preventing the flu for those who receive the vaccine far outweighs the number of people those who get sick from other strains.

In years when the vaccine and virus strains are "well matched," the chance of getting the flu is reduced in healthy adults by as much as 90 percent.

A well-matched vaccine means that scientists have chosen a serum that mimics the strains or types of viruses that are prominently circulating. But even a well-matched flu vaccine will not provide protection against non-flu viruses that cause colds and other sicknesses that mimic the flu.

Since the vaccine takes nearly two weeks to begin working, it won't knock out the cold or flu viruses that may already be in your body when you get the shot, sometimes falsely giving the impression that it was the shot that made you sick.

Many health care providers, including pharmacies and the state Health Department provide flu shots, and some employers are contracting with providers to administer the vaccine to employees on the job. More businesses are seeing this as a cost-effective way to prevent lost time due to illness.

The standard vaccination uses an inactivated flu virus injected into the muscle of the upper arm. However, a nasal spray using a weakened flu virus is approved for the prevention of flu in healthy children, adolescents and adults ages two to 49. Speak to your primary care physician to see which option is best for you.



Daniel Knight, M.D., is chairman, Department of Family and Preventative Medicine, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

People recommended for flu vaccination

- Children ages six months to 19 years
- Pregnant women
- People 50 years of age and older
- People of any age with certain chronic medical conditions
- People who live in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities
- People who live with or care for those at high risk for complications from the flu

Source: National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Clinton Park Bridge debuts



PHOTO BY ANDREW MORGAN

The bridge and wetlands connect our past, present and future, former President Bill Clinton said at the Sept. 30 dedication.

Former President Bill Clinton led the dedication ceremony Friday, Sept. 30 in Little Rock for the Clinton Presidential Park Bridge. The long decommissioned Rock Island Bridge was built in 1899. It now has a new life as a more than 2,600-foot pedestrian and bicycle pathway across the Arkansas River.

The \$10.5 million, nearly decade-long project connects Little Rock and North Little Rock and completes the loop at the eastern end of the 17-mile Arkansas River Trail system. The Clinton Presidential Park Bridge, which is next to the Clinton Presidential Center, joins the Big Dam Bridge, the Junction Bridge and the Two Rivers Bridge in connecting the trail system.

The ceremony served also to dedicate the Bill Clark Wetlands. The \$2 million project allows visitors to explore the urban wetlands below and to the west of the bridge.

The bridge, at more than 110 years old, “connects our past and present,” Clinton told the hundreds gathered

to celebrate its opening. “It connects—because of the preserve here—our reverence for nature with our support for the advancement of civilization.”

“So we’re connecting people to nature, and our past to our present,” Clinton said.

Clinton was joined at the dedication by his wife, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, their daughter Chelsea, Gov. Mike Beebe, Pulaski County Judge Buddy Villines, Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola, North Little Rock Mayor Pat Hays, and the U.S. Economic Development Administration’s Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development John Fernandez. The EDA contributed \$2 million to the project, which also received \$2.5 million in federal stimulus dollars. Little Rock contributed \$1 million. North Little Rock contributed \$750,000. The Clinton Foundation and private donations covered the remainder of the bridge’s cost.

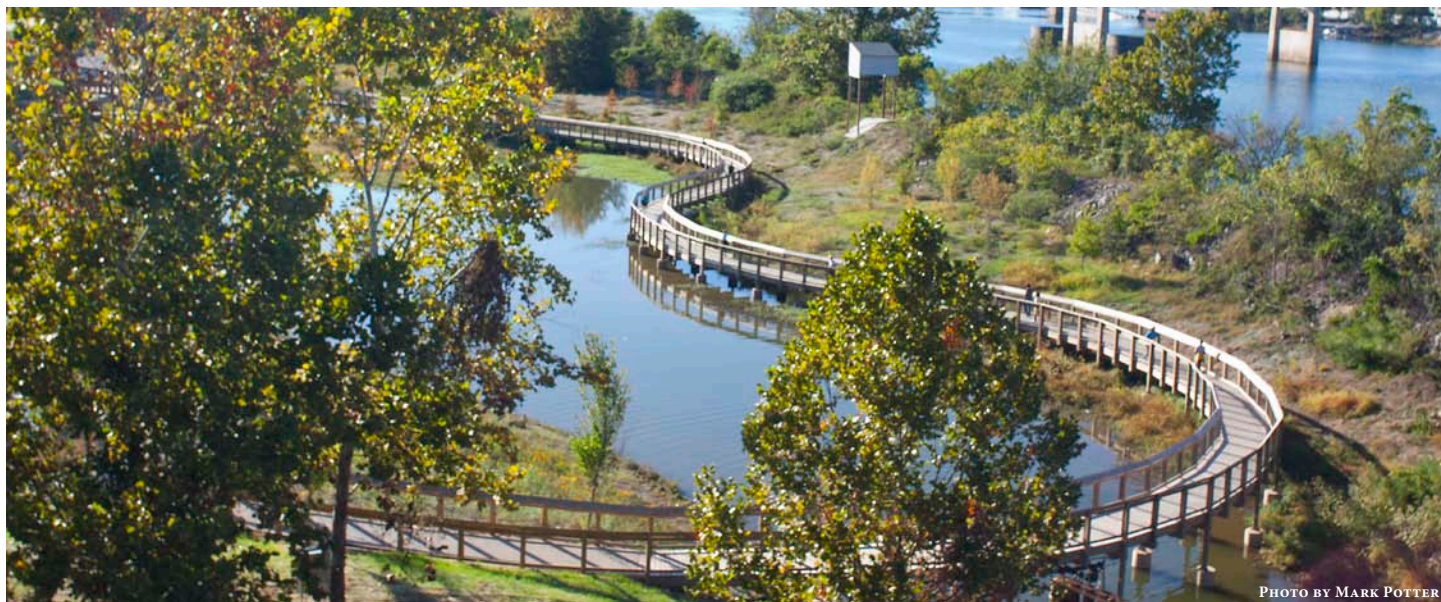


PHOTO BY MARK POTTER

The wetlands, built in a formerly trash-filled backwater, are named for William E. Clark, the Little Rock contractor whose company, CDI, built the Clinton Presidential Center. Clark died in 2007.

Little Rock hosts Healthy Foods and Active Living Summit

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

Finding sustainable solutions to hunger and battling unhealthy lifestyles and the epidemic of childhood obesity were the goals of the 2011 Little Rock Healthy Food and Active Living Summit, held Sept. 28-29 at Philander Smith College in Little Rock. The free event builds on Little Rock's Love Your School initiative, a partnership between the city and local schools to address food insecurity among our children.

The goal of the event was to “take policy and turn it into action,” Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola said. To that end, the mayor announced that the city had just moved to replace vending machines in municipal buildings with those containing healthier snack choices. He also announced a “mayor’s challenge,” in which citizens are encouraged to go a week without using personal automobiles.

More than 35 local organizations and speakers from across the nation participated in the Summit, including U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius.

Government can't fight for a healthier America alone, Secretary Sebelius said. Forming partnerships across a spectrum of organizations that serve the public—private, government and nonprofits—is the key, she said. What good government policy can do, she said, is make “the healthy choice the easy choice.”

Arkansas, she said, is one of 12 states where over 30 percent of adults are obese. The trend covers the entire nation, she said. The nationwide healthcare costs per year related to obesity total \$150 billion. In comparison,



American prosperity depends on making healthier choices, U.S. DHHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius told participants during Little Rock's Healthy Food and Active Living Summit in September.

all cancers combined cost the nation \$100 billion, Sebelius said.

One goal of DHHS is to find communities with programs that work and connect them with other cities and towns. She praised North Little Rock's Fit to Live initiative, which seeks to use public policy to encourage physical activity and promote access to healthier foods across the community.

“We can turn this tide around,” Sebelius said.



The National League of Cities' Leon Andrews Jr., center, moderates a panel discussion on increasing access to healthy, economically and environmentally sustainable foods, especially in poor and underserved communities.

The childhood obesity epidemic is affecting nearly every aspect of our culture, Arkansas Attorney General Dr. Joseph Thompson said.



Dr. Joseph Thompson, Arkansas's Surgeon General, has been a leader in the fight against childhood obesity, both here in Arkansas and nationwide. Obesity rivals tobacco use in its negative effects on society, Thompson said. It affects nearly every aspect of our national life, from our personal well being to our economy to our military readiness, he said.

In Arkansas 25 percent of children are at risk for hunger, and 38 percent are obese. Studies show a strong correlation between early childhood hunger and obesity, Thompson said. Arkansas has done some things right in recent years, he said, and the rates have plateaued. The challenge now is to reverse the trend, he said. He encouraged Summit participants to never feel un-empowered. With every choice we make, "we're all policy makers," he said.

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Be sure to register today to get the best available rates and your first-choice hotel. Online registration is open now. Visit the conference page at www.nlccongressofcities.org for more information.

Interested in membership in NLC? Call 202-626-3100 or email memberservices@nlc.org.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
of CITIES



Park Central peace initiative seeks municipal partners

The goal of Park Central Little Rock's GLO-PAR (Global Peace and Reconciliation) initiative is exactly what the name suggests: to create a wave of peace that begins at the local level and ripples across the entire globe. It may be the loftiest possible goal, in fact, and Park Central Director Grace Blagdon is working to forge partnerships to promote the initiative from the ground up.

Taking inspiration from Peace Day, which was first celebrated in Chicago in 1978, Park Central Little Rock has worked with Little Rock and the state of Arkansas to name January 1 an annual day of Global Peace and Reconciliation. The Arkansas Municipal League at its 77th Convention in June passed a resolution supporting Park Central Little Rock's efforts.

Turning the proclamation into action is the next step for Park Central Little Rock.

To broaden awareness of the initiative, Park Central Little Rock has held two poster contests in 2009 and 2010 for high school students in Little Rock and throughout Pulaski County. The response was good and students

created art depicting their visions of peace, which included representations of personal peace, icons of historical promoters of peace like Mohandas Ghandi and Martin Luther King Jr., cross-cultural understanding and more.

Park Central Little Rock is again this year holding a poster contest and is extending the call for entries to school districts across the state. Entries will be accepted now through Friday, Jan. 6, 2012.

Several of the winning poster artists met with Gov. Mike Beebe Sept. 12 at the state capitol during what Park Central Little Rock hopes to be the first stop in a travelling exhibit of the GLO-PAR artwork. Park Central Little Rock is looking to build upon its relationship with the League and bring the students' visions of peace to cities and towns across the state. To express interest in participating in the travelling exhibit, or for official guidelines for the 2012 student poster contest, contact Park Central Little Rock Director Grace Blagdon at 501-372-3554, or email info@parkcentral.com.



PHOTO BY ANDREW MORGAN

Gov. Mike Beebe, center, meets Sept. 12 with student artists and community partners supporting Park Central Little Rock's Global Peace and Reconciliation initiative.

League Continuing Education program covers budget basics

Mayors and aldermen covered the financial side of city and town leadership at the Municipal Finance and Budgeting Seminar, the first in the League's Voluntary Certified

Continuing Education course for 2011-2012, held Sept. 13 and 14 at the League's North Little Rock headquarters.

League staff and financial experts guided participants through the budgeting basics, including the various sources of municipal revenue, state statutes governing municipal budget-making, the responsibilities of city department heads, preparing for legislative audits, working with the IRS, and much more.

A total of 272 mayors and aldermen attended the seminar.

The next seminar in the certification program for mayors and aldermen will cover HR and personnel matters, Oct. 12 or 13 at League headquarters. For more information on the program, contact Ken Wasson at 501-374-3484 Ext. 211, or email kwasson@arml.org.



Announcing...

The 2011-2012 Voluntary Certified Continuing Education Program

The League's new Voluntary Certified Continuing Education Program continues in 2011 and 2012 with a series of seminars covering topics helpful to municipal leaders. The first round of seminars were a great success and drew capacity crowds to cover issues such as municipal finance and budgeting, personnel matters and municipal operations.

Who? For Arkansas mayors, city managers, city directors and aldermen.

What? The certification plan is voluntary, approved by the Executive Committee, and consists of 21 hours of core topics.

Why? To increase the knowledge of local officials on how cities and towns function and equip them with the leadership skills needed to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.

When? The next seminar is focused on HR and Personnel Matters. The seminar will be held October 12 or 13, 2011, at League headquarters in North Little Rock.

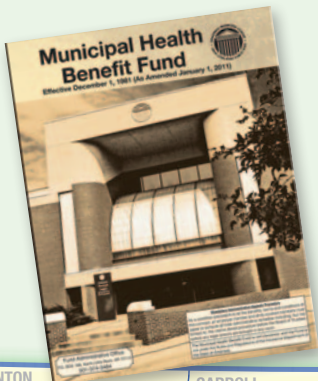
Where? Arkansas Municipal League headquarters in North Little Rock.

Schedule and topics to be covered:

- HR & Personnel Matters—October 12 or 13, 2011
- Procedural Rules/Conducting Council Meetings/Who Does What at City Hall—April 4 or 5, 2012

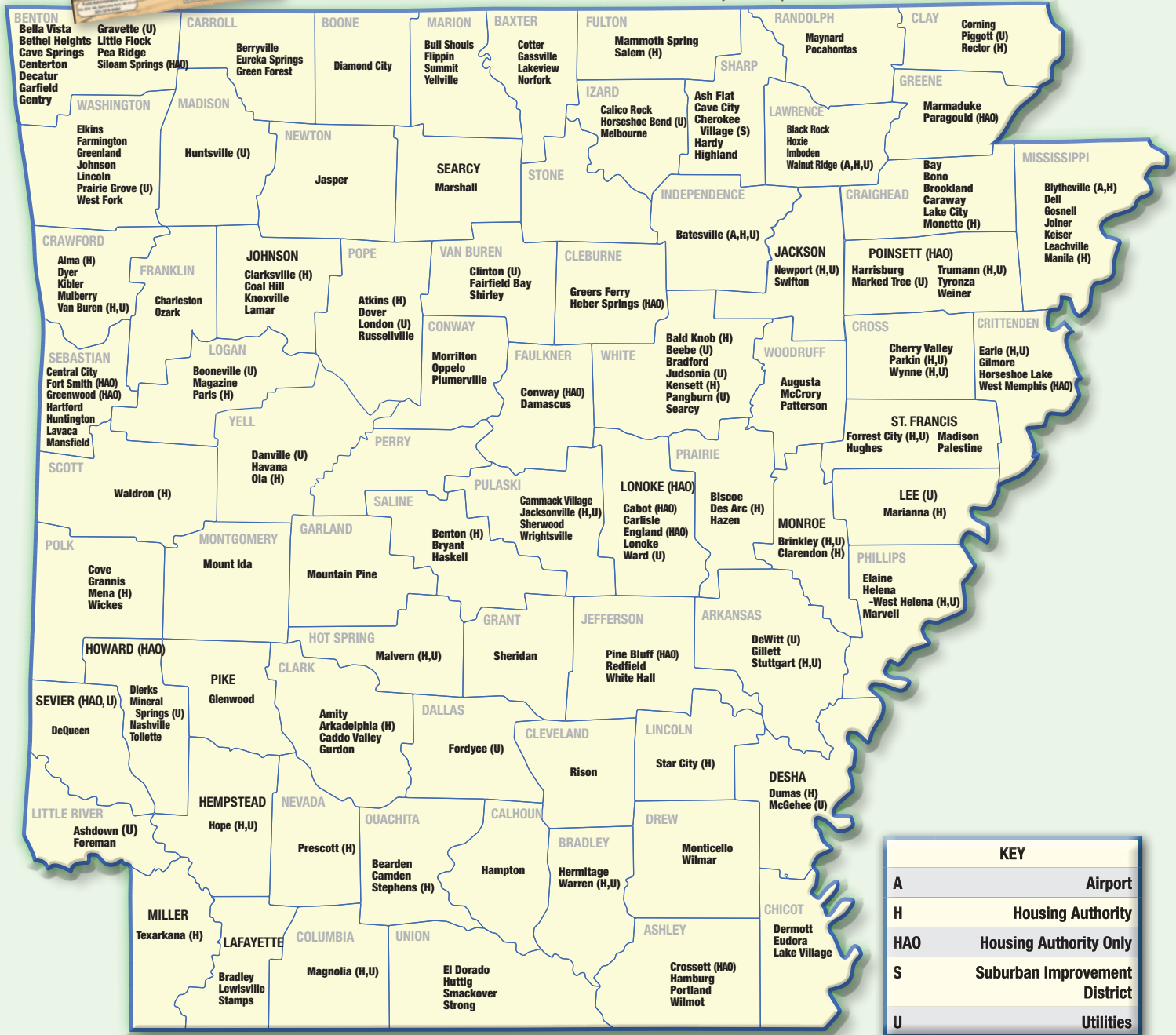
*For those city officials who have completed the 21 hours of core curriculum, you must obtain 6 hours of continuing education to maintain your certification status. The required 6 hours may be gained by attending any combination of certification seminars offered at League headquarters, or the Annual Convention and Winter Conference through the 2011-2012 year.

For more information on the Certification Program, contact Ken Wasson at 501-374-3484 Ext. 211, or email kwasson@arml.org.



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Other Municipal Entities Covered by MHBF

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 Barton-Lexa Water..... Phillips County
 Central Arkansas Planning & Development District..... Lonoke
 Eighth Judicial Drug Task Force DeQueen
 Fifth Judicial District Prosecuting Attorney Russellville
 Fifth Judicial District Russellville
 Grand Prairie/Bayou Two Water.....Lonoke and Prairie Counties
 Holiday Island Suburban Improvement District.....Carroll County

Ladd Water Users Association Pine Bluff
 Lakeview Midway Public Water..... Lakeview
 Lee County Water Association..... Marianna
 Local Police & Fire Retirement System..... Little Rock
 Montgomery County Nursing Home Mount Ida
 NE AR Region Solid Waste Management District Paragould
 North Little Rock - Library..... North Little Rock
 North Little Rock - Sewer/Waste Water North Little Rock
 Northwest AR Conservation Authority.....Rogers

Northwest AR Economic Development District..... Harrison
 Ozark Regional TransitOzark
 SE AR Economic Development District.....Pine Bluff
 Sevier County Water Association DeQueen
 Thirteenth Judicial District Drug Task Force.....Camden
 Upper SW Regional Solid Waste Management District..Nashville
 Western AR Planning & Development District.....Fort Smith
 Yorktown Water Association Star City

The Natural Gas Severance Tax Act of 2012

- ◆ The proposed initiated act increases the severance tax on natural gas extracted from within the State of Arkansas to 7 percent of the market value of the gas at the time it is extracted from the ground.
- ◆ It changes the definition of “Market value” to: “Market value,” when used in reference to the rate of severance tax, means the producer’s actual cash receipts from the sale of natural gas to the first purchasers. The definition in the current law that will be repealed is: “Market value,” when used in reference to the rate of severance tax on natural gas, means the producer’s actual cash receipts from the sale of natural gas to the first purchaser less the actual costs to the producer of dehydrating, treating, compressing, and delivering the gas to the purchaser.
- ◆ It eliminates the four categories of natural gas provided in the current law.
- ◆ It eliminates various severance tax rates varying from 1.25 percent to 5 percent, replacing them with the 7 percent rate.
- ◆ It eliminates all cost recovery periods for various categories of natural gas. There will be no recovery of monies spent on natural gas wells, if this Act passes.
- ◆ It proposes to bring the severance tax rate on natural gas in Arkansas more in line with rates charged in our neighboring natural-gas-producing states of Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana, with the tax proceeds to be used in the construction and repair of Arkansas highways and roads.
- ◆ The tax funds collected by the Director of the Department of Finance and Administration will ultimately be distributed in a manner that will result in 5 percent being deposited into the state treasury as general revenues. The remaining 95 percent shall be deposited as special revenues and distributed with \$20,000,000 going to the State Aid Street Fund, annually, and the remainder being distributed as currently provided by the Arkansas State Highway Distribution Law, with 70 percent to the State Highway and Transportation Department Fund, 15 percent to the County Aid Fund and 15 percent to the Municipal Aid Fund.
- ◆ Severance tax revenues in Arkansas for the period November 2009 through October 2010 were \$54.6 million. If this proposed Natural Gas Severance Tax Act had been in effect the total severance tax revenues would have been \$250 million.



Time To Levy Property Taxes

City and town councils may levy general property taxes of up to five mills on the dollar (ACA 12 § 4; ACA 26-25-102 and 103). ACA 14-14-904(b) requires the Quorum Court to levy the county, municipal and school taxes at its regular meeting in November of each year.

ACA 26-73-202 requires the city or town council on or before the time fixed by law for levying county taxes to certify to the county clerk the rate of taxation levied by the municipality (ACA 26-73-202). ACA 14-14-904(b) establishes the November meeting of the Quorum Court as the time to levy those taxes.

In other words, the governing body of the city or town must levy and certify its property tax to the county court every year prior to the November meeting of the Quorum Court. As the Attorney General has explained, the “millage is an annual levy, and failure to levy by the required date results in a millage of zero for the following year.” (Ark. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 91-044; citing Ark. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 85-5.)

The bottom line: If your city or town wishes to collect property taxes for the following year, make sure that council approval and certification to the county clerk occur prior to the November meeting of the Quorum Court. It would be advisable to have this done at the council’s October meeting at the latest.

Federal grants continue

By Chad Gallagher

In the current economic environment and budget crisis in Washington, one of the most frequent questions we hear is, “Will federal grants continue?” For now it appears that they will continue. While there has been much debate about what is appropriate federal spending, there seems to be consensus that there are some things that states and local government do well and there is certainly consensus in Washington about the merits of sending funds home to your own district. Federal grant programs should be reviewed to ensure success, and some programs should likely be eliminated, but in large part federal grants to state and municipalities are a great way to get the job done well.

This year federal grants have continued to be released and new opportunities announced. There is no reason to believe these will be scaled back. However, because of the financial pressure local governments are facing across the nation it is expected that these funding opportunities will become more competitive. Just recently the federal government closed its application period for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant administered through FEMA. These are key federal funds for the nation’s fire departments. This year saw a small uptick in applications with 16,494 applications submitted, including 12,010 by rural departments, 3,119 by suburban departments and 1,365 by urban departments. The number of applicants is expected to climb again in 2012.

Last month the Department of Transportation announced the opening of its funding cycle for the popular TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grants. This year DOT is authorized to award \$526.944 million in TIGER discretionary grants. There has been so much interest in this program that the National League of Cities hosted a webinar on the subject for members interested in applying. The funds can be used for a variety of major transportation projects and are funded through a very competitive grant process. You can learn more at www.dot.gov/tiger.

Just recently the EPA released guidelines for its fiscal year 2012 Brownfield Assessment, Revolving Loan and Cleanup grant. The deadline for submitting proposals is Nov. 28, 2011. Currently the agency is hosting a variety of webinars and seminars for potential applicants. The funding can be used for various cleanup projects, including sites contaminated by petroleum, controlled substances such as meth labs, asbestos and other contaminants that hinder the development of a property. It is a great funding opportunity for communities to see an abandoned or unusable piece of property cleaned up

and put back into the community’s inventory. Don’t neglect this opportunity out of fear of potential regulatory problems with the agency. Having participated in applications for this grant fund, I’ve seen firsthand how the agency works hard to partner with communities to mitigate the identified problem. The goal is to solve a problem, not play the “got you” game with communities or landowners. This funding round is expected to be the program’s most competitive funding cycle to date. For more information visit www.epa.gov/brownfields/applicat.htm.

When applying for federal funds it is important to remember what happens after your application is submitted. Most of the time your application will face several phases after submission. Keeping these phases in mind will help you write a better application:

- Pre-scoring—Agency staff will score applications on program guidelines, ensuring all criteria and requirements are met.
- Peer review—After making it past agency staff the remaining applications normally face some sort of peer review. Here applications are scored by specific elements in the application such as clarity of the need, budget, benefits, how it will be sustained, and more.
- Technical review—If an application has specific subject matter that needs to be vetted out or verified, this phase allows such technical questions to be addressed.
- Management and evaluation review—Staff will often review applications that have been successful through the process in order to identify any question on how the project will be managed or evaluated. This allows final concerns to be mitigated or management processes to be refined.
- Determination and award—Local governments are then notified of funding.

Keeping this post-application process in mind will help you write a better application for your next federal grant opportunity. With competition increasing, every improvement to your application makes a major difference.



Chad Gallagher is principal of Legacy Consulting and a former mayor of DeQueen. Contact him in DeQueen at 870-642-8937, 501-246-8842 in Little Rock, or e-mail chad.gallagher@legacyincorporated.com.

Fairs & Festivals

Oct. 15, **BEEBE**, 15th Beebe Fall Festival, 501-827-0353, www.beebeark.org; **OZARK**, 39th Old Fashioned Square Gathering, 479-667-5337, mainstreetozark@centurytel.net

Oct. 15-16, **HARRISBURG**, 20th Homestead Festival, 870-578-2699, info@parkerhomestead.com

Oct. 22, **CORNING**, 25th Corning Harvest Festival, 870-926-1188, jrsollis@hughes.net; **HUMPHREY**, Humphrey Fall Festival, 870-873-4615

Oct. 27-29, **MOUNTAIN VIEW**, 29th Bean Fest & Great Arkansas Championship Outhouse Races, 870-269-8068, www.YourPlaceintheMountains.com

Oct. 29, **CARAWAY**, Fall Fest, 870-482-3431; **GURDON**, 31st Gurdon Forest Festival, 870-252-2514; **HAZEN**, 35th Grand Prairie Rice Festival, 870-255-3042, skee@mebanking.com; **WALNUT RIDGE**, 7th Iron Mountain Festival, 870-886-3232, lawrencecofc@suddenlinkmail.com

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2011

The Newsletter, provided by a[®]TEST consultants, is included in City & Town as a service of the Arkansas Municipal League Legal Defense Program.

Football, food and booze—Go Hogs!

We are quickly moving into the fall season and schools are in full swing. During the academic year, we turn our lives towards participation in sports, sporting events and lots of great parties. Soccer (called football in Europe) for the children begins, and parents are running from these games to high school football games, and then to the ultimate games and tailgating parties for the Razorbacks. It is a busy and exciting time for all; however, it can be a bad time for alcoholics and substance abusers.

Tailgate parties can be very simple or very extravagant. All are fun, but to an alcoholic, the temptation of consuming a substantial amount of alcohol before, during and after the big game, can be an issue. After all, it's just friends relaxing and having fun. Right or wrong, it is a time to be watchful and cautious.

The policing of games or tailgate parties is taken seriously, and those observers do identify people that are impaired. Their responsibility is to keep these individuals from hurting themselves or others, and that is a huge job during a major event. Who monitors guests in homes that abuse alcohol during a game?

Once an individual is identified as under the influence, an arrest may occur. This then may result in fines and tarnishing one's reputation—all over a football

game. Even worse, an individual may leave the game drunk and have a vehicular accident with injuries or death. No one wants this to happen.

Home game parties are great to attend; however, the host must not let impaired guests leave to drive. If need be, have the guest remain at your home or call someone to come for them. Be aware and know that friends don't let their friends drive drunk or under the influence of drugs.

So, have fun, use good common sense, avoid overindulgence in alcoholic beverages and be safe. Sounds good to me! I'm looking forward to the parties.

Training programs available

Jeff Sims has completed the Designated Employer Representative (DER) Training Course, and you may schedule a session by calling 501-376-9776 and asking for Jeff Sims or Marty Ensminger. The course is also available online. Other training courses available are: Breath Alcohol Technician (BAT), Supervisory Training, Medical Review Officer Assistant, Reasonable Cause Training, Alternative Testing Methods, Specimen Collection and more.



a[®]TEST CONSULTANTS, Inc., provides drug and alcohol testing as a service of the Arkansas Municipal League Legal Defense Program.

The program helps cities and towns comply with the U. S. Department of Transportation required drug testing for all holders of commercial drivers' licenses.

Annexing substandard streets: The Good the Bad and the Ugly

By Jim von Tungeln

Any city annexing territory likely finds itself the recipient of substandard streets. This is true whether the annexation occurs by election, petition, or by eliminating unincorporated islands. It is not an easy issue to address.

The ability for municipalities to annex land in an orderly fashion represents one of the greatest safeguards to stability in our state. Without this prerogative, the buffers surrounding cities could become areas of substandard and illogical development that, in turn, could confound efforts to provide jobs, goods, services, emergency services, and health care to a large percentage of the state's population.

As of the last census, 67.2 percent of our state's population lived within the boundaries of a city. Although some just outside these boundaries profess a preference to "rural life," statistics suggest otherwise. Over 80 percent of our residents live in a city or within a mile of a city. It seems we prefer the benefits offered by cities in overwhelming proportions and should not be surprised when annexation occurs.

So cities annex and then must figure out how to deal with streets of varying quality. If the annexation is by petition, some cities have actually refused to allow annexation into the city until the streets meet city standards. While understandable, this has discouraged annexation, creating irregular corporate boundaries and unincorporated islands.

When the city annexes by election, the argument for not accepting sub-standard streets loses its justification. Most cities simply accept the fact that they will inherit these streets and make the best of it.

If the city annexes unincorporated islands by ordinance, there is always the possibility that it has been maintaining the streets anyway. If it hasn't, then probably no one has.

There are several levels of sub-standard streets. There are streets in platted subdivisions that do not meet current city standards. These probably have right-of-way but the width may be short of city requirements. They probably are deficient in construction. Cities can head this problem off by establishing a planning area and requiring streets in that planning area to meet city standards. When they are annexed, there should be few problems.

In some cases, the streets meet some sort of minimum standards set by the county. Some county

governments in Arkansas do not have formal standards and, in other cases, these are minimal.

Some older county roads are not in platted subdivisions but do have recorded rights-of-ways.

There are streets and roads that exist only by prescriptive easements. In these cases, the public has access only to the roadbed and a reasonable additional width to permit maintenance.

The decision determining the city's treatment of these streets once annexed is a complex one. The city could probably disavow itself of any responsibility and label them "private streets," but this would create some significant political problems. I have never witnessed a "private street" that stayed private. They almost always become city streets at some point.

The city might, if supported by legal advice, require that property owners improve the streets to city standards before accepting them for maintenance. There would be more justification for this approach in the case of annexation by petition than with the other forms.

This is particularly true of the election method since the property owners would simply argue that they didn't want to be a part of the city in the first place.

Another difficulty, probably an insurmountable one, is that of dealing with a number of property owners and trying to get all of them to agree on funding the improvements.

A variation of this approach would be to, at least, require dedication of street right-of-way as a condition of accepting the street for maintenance. Again, the problem of dealing with multiple property owners would make this approach difficult.

A final approach would be simply to accept the streets in whatever condition they happen to be in at the time of annexation. In addition, local officials have other options:

1. Continue to head this problem off by requiring subdivisions in the planning area boundary to meet city standards.
2. Visit with the County Judge about the possibility of adopting some minimum standards for county maintenance that would coordinate, at least partially, with the standards of the cities in the county.
3. Accept the streets with the understanding that they will only be maintained to the condition in which they existed at the time of annexation. At the same time, create a long-term maintenance plan that

would address the worst conditions first as the city budget would permit.

4. Encourage the use of improvement districts for identifiable neighborhoods. The city cannot mandate this but might, if supported by a legal opinion, provide minimal guidance.
5. In any new development along existing streets, require right-of-way dedication and half-street improvements as a condition of approval. This would require careful development of regulations governing half-street improvements.

These approaches would not solve the problems immediately, but they are the most practical. The decision will depend upon what kind of relationship the city wants with newly annexed residents. It also rests on whether annexation is in the city's best interest from a

long-range standpoint. Annexations almost always represent an immediate cost to the city, so the cost-benefit analysis must weigh intangible benefits very heavily. To avoid annexation due to current costs may create much more expense in the long-term.

A final observation: Pardon me if I chuckle when I hear someone offer a simple solution to an urban problem.



Jim von Tungeln is staff planning consultant and available for consultation as a service of the Arkansas Municipal League. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. Contact him at 501-944-3649. His website is www.planyourcity.com.



PHOTO BY JIM VON TUNGELN

Cities often inherit streets through annexation that have no platted right-of-way and don't meet adopted city standards.

Getting social with parks and rec

By The Belford Group

Just about everyone these days uses social media in some form, be it Facebook, Twitter, photo-sharing sites like Flickr, or blogs. It's a great way to keep up with family and friends, or to find the best deals on your favorite brands, right? But what can social media do for parks and recreation?

The four "E's"

Engagement—People are finding more reasons to use social media, not less. A January 2010 report from The Nielsen Company showed a huge increase (82 percent) in time spent on social networking sites. Multiple studies show that usage is up within all age groups, from teenagers to grandparents. By utilizing social media as a tool, parks and recreation departments can take their message to the masses in a format with which most people are most comfortable communicating. Social media provides a ready audience for your message, and it gives people the chance to interact with your department. People find their overall experience to be enhanced when they can interact with the department and each other.

Economics—Using social media will ultimately save parks and recreation departments money by reducing printing costs and allowing for more focused awareness campaigns. The tools themselves are free, but they do cost in manpower to properly manage. There's good news about that. The need for manpower means that social media creates the opportunity for job generation. Whereas most printing and other advertising jobs are outsourced, someone can be hired by the department to focus on managing social media networks. Through using analytics (looking at the numbers involved with the sites, including how many people use them and how), parks and recreation departments will be able to determine a direct return on investment for the grant and tax dollars spent funding the position.

Environment—By reducing the need for printed materials, using social media means departments can have less of a negative impact on the environment. Less paper being produced also means less trash to clutter the pretty parks and other recreation facilities.

Education—Social media offers growing opportunities to tell your story. Parks can educate audiences on many subjects including what the parks and recreation department offers, new programs, how to rent the parks and recreation facilities, and tips on how to get the best experience out of using the department's services, to name a few. Announcements can also be easily made and shared by users on social media. This lets your message be spread rapidly and effectively.

Best practices for using social media

Parks and recreation department managers may realize they need to use social media, but aren't sure where to start or how to get the most out of each site. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

Take ownership—Place using social media among your department's priorities, not as an afterthought. Have an established group of people who are in charge of making sure information is updated regularly and accurately. These people would also be responsible for replying to comments in an efficient way. Never let comments or questions go unacknowledged. It's also important to have people who are able to update at the last minute, when necessary. For example, if games have to be rescheduled on a weekend because of bad weather, this needs to be broadcast immediately on social media channels.

Make time—Make sure to allow employees enough time to manage social media sites as part of their regular duties. Ever feel like you need more than 24 hours in a day? One way you can "make" time is to use scheduling

CALENDAR

**Congress of Cities
and Exposition 2011**
Tuesday-Saturday
November 8-12, 2011
Phoenix, Arizona

**Arkansas Municipal League
Winter Conference**
Wednesday-Friday
January 11-13, 2012
Little Rock, AR

programs such as Hootsuite or Tweetdeck, which let users schedule content for multiple social media sites. This is useful when you know what information will need to be shared and when, such as deadlines for signing up for teams, programs, etc. Creating scheduled updates in one sitting will save having to remember to do it later.

Link everything—An important aspect of being social is to link all your online resources together. This means having links on the department website to all social media sites like Facebook and Twitter, and using these platforms to link back to the department's site or blog for more information.

Encourage involvement—There are many ways to foster involvement with the department. Offer photo contests; ask for input on naming new facilities (make it a contest); post pictures of events, locations and the people involved with your department. Social media is about being...social.

Two sites are better than one—Or how about three? Don't put all your social media eggs in one basket. There's Facebook, Twitter, media sharing sites like YouTube and Flickr and, of course, blogs. We suggest using a hybrid, because each has a unique purpose and audience.

The Belford Group (www.TheBelfordGroup.com) is a Fayetteville-based, full service marketing agency offering services to clients in all industries including government agencies in the areas of website development, marketing, social media setup and management, online registration services, membership management software and volunteer scheduling software.

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Hot Springs' 20-year sister city success spreads

By Sherman Banks

Hot Springs Sister City Coordinator Mary Neilson and the Hot Springs Convention & Visitors Bureau's Charlie Moore in September led a delegation of seven students and 11 Hot Springs' citizens on an eight-day trip to Hanamaki, Japan, Hot Springs' sister city. As a result of Hot Springs 20-year relationship with Hanamaki, Neilson and Moore made a side trip to Tokyo to meet with travel planners and travel writers to promote the city of Hot Springs.

I asked Neilson if she would present an idea to the Japanese leadership that I have been discussing with League Executive Director Don Zimmerman and Assistant Director Ken Wasson about the League establishing international relationships with foreign municipalities. The purpose of such a relationship would follow the lead of the National League of Cities in exploring international economic development to make municipalities globally competitive. Such a relationship would also offer the opportunity to exchange thoughts on how our municipalities can work toward better government.

After the delegation's return from Japan, I received an email from Ichiro Fudai, a city representative of Hanamaki. Fudai stated that he and his colleagues were grateful to the League for publishing a very positive article highlighting the importance of the relationship between Hanamaki and Hot Springs. They were particularly appreciative that we mentioned the economic development that has resulted from the sister city relationship. Fudai expressed his city's excitement about an upcoming trip in mid-October in which a delegation of firefighters, city planners and other city employees from Hanamaki will visit Hot Springs to shadow their counterparts and assess job similarities. Fudai also mentioned that he and the city of Hanamaki were very pleased at the efforts of Hot Springs to continue to enhance the sister city relationship through exchanges and economic development.

In addition to the visit in October, Fudai and the former mayor of Hanamaki will bring a

Hanamaki Mayor Mitsuo Oishi holds stained glass artwork presented to Hanamaki by a member of the Hot Springs delegation that visited Japan in 2010.



From left, Ichiro Fudai, who is on the Hot Springs National Park Sister City Foundation Board of Directors, was guide for the day for Pollye Tharp Lincoln, Clif Coleman, Mikal Tidwell and Ben Lincoln, all of Hot Springs' recent delegation to Japan.

delegation to Hot Springs in November for a reciprocal visit. Zimmerman, Wasson and I plan to meet with them during their visit to further discuss the historic possibility of our first international League relationship.

After that meeting a presentation will be made to the League Executive Committee for approval to proceed with not only this historic effort to develop a sister League relationship with a prefecture in Japan, but with other international regions as well.

According to Neilson, the sister city relationship with Hanamaki enables the city of Hot Springs to promote the Hot Springs area to the Japanese market. In addition to tours for travel planners and travel writers, special opportunities often arise. For example a Japanese television team in 2010 visited Mount Ida to film the area. The film was shown in Japan and was viewed by a group from Osaka who fund educational trips for students to the United States. The U.S. East Coast has always been their traditional educational destination, but as a result of the Hot Springs' efforts, the group has chosen to include Hot Springs and surrounding areas in their itineraries. In 2012 the first delegation of students from Osaka will tour Hot Springs and Arkansas. Visits such as this continue to expose Hot Springs and Arkansas to international tourism and economic development.

As community leaders, it is important to explore ways to keep your communities economically viable. The National League of Cities recognizes the importance of international economic and tourism development by assisting our cities in developing strategies for globally competitive cities. Hot Springs' 20-year relationship with Hanamaki continues to demonstrate how a sister city can enrich your community and enhance economic development.



For more information on building a sister city relationship, contact Sherman Banks at 501-376-8193, email sbanks@aristotle.net, or write to P.O. Box 165920, Little Rock, AR 72216.

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REGISTRATION

Registration and payment must be received in League office by Friday, December 9, 2011, to qualify for advance registration.

Advance registration for municipal officials	\$150
Registration fee after December 9, 2011 , and on-site registration for municipal officials	\$175
Spouse/guest registration	\$75
Child registration	\$75
Other registrants.	\$200

- Registration will be processed **ONLY** with accompanying payment in full. Make checks payable to the Arkansas Municipal League.
- Registration includes meals, activities and a copy of **Handbook for Arkansas Municipal Officials, 2011-2012 edition**.
- No daily registration is available.
- Registration must come through the League office. No telephone registrations will be accepted.
- **No refunds after December 9, 2011.**
- Cancellation letters must be postmarked by **December 9, 2011.**

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Capital Hotel		
Single/Double	\$155	Check-in 3 p.m.
Doubletree Hotel		
Single/Double	\$134	Check-in 3 p.m.
Wyndham Hotel		
Single/Double	\$94	Check-in 3 p.m.

- Cut-off date for hotel reservations is **December 9, 2011**.
- Rooms in Little Rock are subject to an 11.5 percent tax.
- Rooms will be held until 6 p.m. and then released unless guaranteed by credit card.
- Contact the hotel directly to make changes or cancellations in hotel accommodations.
- Hotel confirmation number will come directly from the hotel.
- Please check on cancellation policy for your hotel.

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2

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1 Register online at www.arml.org
 and pay by credit card.

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Name:

Title: City of:

Address:

City: State: Zip: Telephone:

Spouse/Guest will attend: Yes No Name:

Children will attend: Yes No Name(s):

Step 2: Payment Information

• **WHAT IS YOUR TOTAL?** (see opposite page for fees)

<input type="checkbox"/> Advance Registration	<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Registration	<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest	<input type="checkbox"/> Child	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Registrants	Total
\$150	\$175	\$75	\$75	\$200	\$ _____

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Credit Card: Visa MasterCard

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City: State: Zip: Telephone:

E-mail address (**required for credit card payment**):

Step 3: Hotel Reservations

To obtain hotel reservations, registered delegates must directly contact participating hotels listed below. Please mention that you are with the Arkansas Municipal League to get the negotiated hotel rate.

Peabody Hotel	Reservations _____	501-906-4000 (Monica Gowie, lead reservationist)
Capital Hotel	Reservations _____	877-637-0037 or 501-374-7474
Doubletree Hotel	Reservations _____	800-937-2789 or 501-372-4371
Wyndham Hotel	Reservations _____	800-996-3426 or 501-371-9000

Step 4: Hotel Payment

Payment Options: Credit Card or Direct Bill (Note: only two payment options.) To obtain direct billing as a payment option, registered delegates must directly contact hotel accounting offices listed below:

Capital Hotel	Accounting _____	501-370-7062
Doubletree Hotel	Accounting _____	501-372-4371
Wyndham Hotel	Accounting _____	501-371-9000

Nature sells

By John Slater

Breathing easy as we stroll along the tree-lined streets, my wife and I like to linger in downtown Hot Springs, enjoying the atmosphere and the natural beauty of the National Park. Every time we go downtown, we spend money somewhere, at restaurants, downtown shops or art galleries. We might see a play, attend an event like the jazz festival, or go dancing at one of the hotels. We call those days our mini-vacations. We know we're not the only ones who like to visit the green downtown area, because we often run into our friends doing the same thing. Scientific research shows that when people go into a downtown area with urban trees, they stay awhile, spend money, and return every chance they get.

The urban forest is an outdoor feature that creates “a sense of place” in business districts and retail communities. Microeconomics is the study of how individuals and

households make decisions about purchases of goods and services. Traditional economic models have overlooked the potential value of environment on consumer behavior. Are green places also good shopping places?

I learned that “green sells” while attending a business course years ago. The instructor talked about how businesses had discovered the calming effect of nature on customers, especially in grocery stores. When you go into a grocery store, where is the first place you are directed? It's the produce section; without your realizing it, the freshness of the produce and the different shapes and colors start to influence your behavior. Maybe you were originally in a hurry, but now you're starting to relax a little. Now they gotcha, you're slowing down, starting to unwind, and there's a good chance you might stay longer and spend more money. Fast-forward 30-plus years and there's more research on the subject.



PHOTOS BY JOHN SLATER

A University of Washington study showed that larger trees resulted in more repeat customers at local businesses.



This treeless stretch of businesses in downtown Hot Springs was left bare after a severe storm. The trees have since been replanted.

Kathleen L. Wolf, Ph.D., of the College of Forest Services, University of Washington, has researched how nature (trees) in business districts affects visitors and shoppers. Simply stated, the questions were based on people's response to shopping on streets with no trees, small trees or large trees in Athens, Ga. Dr. Wolf discovered from their shopping behavior that nature sells. Her research shows that in business districts with tree-lined streets, people will stay longer, spend more money and return more often. She states that trees create a sense of place. Tree and landscape ordinances are one way to address this issue to insure that land use changes are adapted to the site while protecting and enhancing green space. For more on Dr. Wolf's research, visit www.cfr.washington.edu/research.envmind.

I have come across the term "a sense of place" before. What does that mean? While I did not find a definition, I found that the opposite of a sense of place is "placelessness." Places that lack a sense of place are sometimes referred to as "placeless" or "inauthentic." A placeless landscape has no special relationship to its location; it could be anywhere. When I travel, I long to see neat "Mom and Pop" shops, cozy family-owned

restaurants, and well-kept historic sites in the landscape. What I see are the same strip malls, gas stations, convenience stores, fast food chains, and department stores as the last city I was in. This can be cited as an example of placeless landscape. As Gertrude Stein wrote, "There is no there there."

Here is my own definition of a sense of place: inviting, comforting, relaxing, in the moment, luring you to staying awhile and making you feel like you belong.

We seek out green areas, yet we surround ourselves with brick, concrete and asphalt, not realizing how important nature is to who we are. It's also good for business. I don't mind spending my money in areas with a sense of place, do you?

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.

Hot Springs stormwater utility fee upheld by Arkansas Supreme Court

By Walter G. Wright Jr.

Funding Clean Water Act requirements imposed on municipalities is a constant challenge. The requirements imposed by the federal Clean Water Act stormwater requirements are no exception. Municipal stormwater requirements have arguably transitioned from flood control to an environmental protection focus.

Many municipalities utilize fees to fund stormwater requirements. The imposition of these fees is sometimes subject to challenge. In *Morningstar v. Bush*, the Supreme Court of Arkansas affirmed a Garland County Circuit Court ruling that a city ordinance establishing a Stormwater Utility Fund and imposing a fee was not contrary to Arkansas statutory law or the *Arkansas Constitution*.

In January 2008, Hot Springs adopted Ordinance No. 5629 (“Ordinance”), which established a Stormwater Utility Fund (“Fund”) and imposed a Stormwater Utility Fee (“Fee”). The Fee applied to municipal utility accounts within city limits and was fixed at a per month amount of \$6 for commercial and industrial accounts and \$3 for residential accounts.

Section 208 of the Clean Water Act charged municipal corporations, among other public entities, with unfunded federal and state mandates through the EPA and the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). Municipalities were required “to obtain a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit (“NPDES Permit”) for discharges from municipal storm systems.” The EPA also “established a comprehensive Stormwater Management Program to manage the quality of stormwater passing through municipal separate stormwater systems (“MS-4”).”

Hot Springs applied for an NPDES Permit and, on May 28, 2004, was issued a regulated, small MS-4 general

permit. Hot Springs established a Stormwater Utility to comply with the EPA and ADEQ regulations and funded it with its general fund. In 2007, Hot Springs determined it lacked the general funds to comply with additional EPA mandates required by May 2009.

Therefore, Hot Springs enacted the Ordinance and established the Fee to fund the operation and to meet the requirements of the additional mandates. The intent of the Board of Directors in Hot Springs, in establishing this stormwater program, was to protect the public’s drinking supply coming out of Lake Hamilton and also to preserve the lake as a major tourist attraction.

Hot Springs “provides water, wastewater and/or sanitation services for certain municipal utility-account customers” and “also provides water and wastewater-utility systems for customers outside the city limits.” Customers outside city limits—around 40 percent of the municipal utility accounts receiving water services and 50 percent of the municipal utility accounts receiving wastewater services—are not required to pay the Fee. Hot Springs also did not charge the Fee to residents using wells and septic tanks exclusively and “owners of undeveloped property and stand-alone public parking lots in the downtown area.”

“All revenue generated by or on behalf of the Fee is deposited into the Fund, to be used exclusively for the operation of the stormwater utility and storm-related equipment, construction, material, supplies, or services, including storm-related disaster, recovery, and emergency preparedness.” Though in both 2008 and 2009 the revenue from the Fee exceeded the costs of services, an expert testified, among other things, that the amount of the Fee was consistent with a model he prepared for Hot Springs and was lower than 47 of 70 cities surveyed in 2007.

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Morningstar argued that the Fee violated Ark. Code Ann. § 14-235-233(a)(1), that it was an illegal exaction, and that it was a tax that required voter approval. Morningstar argued that, according to the statute, the Fee had to be paid by all beneficiaries of the Stormwater Utility system, including those outside of city limits. However, Hot Springs argued that the MS-4 Permit limited the city to charging only those within city limits. The circuit court found that the Fee was not an illegal exaction and was not in violation of Arkansas statutes. The Supreme Court held that based on those facts it could not say the circuit court was clearly erroneous.

The Court also rejected Morningstar's argument that the Fee was actually a tax. The circuit court held that the Fee was a result of the mandates of the Clean Water Act and NPDES permit and that Hot Springs established the Stormwater Utility and the Fee as an exercise of its police powers, which distinguished the Fee from a tax. The Court concluded that this finding was also not clearly erroneous. The Court also held that, though the Fee created an excess of funds, it was not enough to overcome the presumption of the Ordinance's constitutionality.

Walter G. Wright Jr. practices environmental law with Little Rock's Mitchell Williams Law Firm, 425 West Capitol Ave., Suite 1800, Little Rock, AR 72201-3525; 501-688-8839; wwright@mwlaw.com.

This article was posted originally on Sept. 27 on the Mitchell Williams Environmental, Energy, and Water Law Blog and is reprinted with permission.

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Changes to 2011 Directory, Arkansas Municipal Officials

Submit changes to *Whitnee Bullerwell*, wvb@arml.org.

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Add CA Billy Scott

Cedarville

Delete M (Vacant)
Add M Glenanna O'Mara
Delete AL Glenanna O'Mara
Add AL (Vacant)

Centerton

Delete MA P.O. Box 108
Add MA P.O. Box 208

Central City

Add CA Mike Hamby

College City

Delete AL Lana Rhoads
Add AL (Vacant)

Elm Springs

Delete E-Mail cityofelmsprings@centurytel.net
Add E-Mail cityclerk@elmsprings.net

Haskell

Delete CLASS 1st
Add CLASS 2nd

Hermitage

Delete CLASS Inc.
Add CLASS 2nd

Horseshoe Bend

Delete AL John Hohman
Add AL Lee Mears

Little Flock

Delete MA1500 Little Flock Dr., Rogers, AR
Add MA1500 Little Flock Dr., Little Flock, AR

London

Delete AL Richard Fromdahl
Add AL (Vacant)

Manila

Delete CA (Vacant)
Add CA Wes Wagner

North Little Rock

Add AM Eddie Armstrong

Ola

Delete FAX 479-489-5170
Add FAX 479-489-5140

Pindall

Delete AL Rosa Herron
Add AL (Vacant)

Pocahontas

Delete PC (Vacant)
Add PC Cecil Tackett

Quitman

Delete AL Lonnie Rowlett
Add AL (Vacant)

Salesville

Delete AM Shelly McFall
Delete CA (Vacant)
Add CA Roger Morgan
Delete SS (Vacant)
Add SS Jai Wescoat
Delete FC Jennifer Inskeep
Add FC Harry Wright
Delete AL Duane Moren
Add AL Ronald Garcia

Siloam Springs

Delete FO Paul Callaway
Add FO (Vacant)

Strawberry

Add AL Stanley Mayland
Delete AL (Vacant)
Add AL Dan Allen
Delete AL (Vacant)
Add AL Willa Allen

October is Act 833 funding deadline

The deadline to apply for 2011 State Fire Grant Act 833 funds through the office of Fire Protection Service is October 31. Applications must be postmarked by that date to qualify for the 2011 funding year. Applications and program guidance documents are available on the ADEM website, www.adem.arkansas.gov. For more information on the grant program, contact Kendell Snyder, Fire and EMS Coordinator, at 501-683-6781, or email kendell.snyder@adem.arkansas.gov.

Mail completed applications to Office of Fire Protection Services c/o Arkansas Department of Emergency Management, Bldg. #9501 Camp Joseph T. Robinson, North Little Rock, AR 72199-9600.

Narrowbanding deadlines near for public safety, business, industrial licensees

Time is of the essence for public safety and business/industrial licensees operating land mobile radio systems in the high band VHF and UHF frequency bands, from 150 MHz to 512 MHz, to comply with a mandate by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to reduce the bandwidth to create space for additional systems in the same amount of spectrum.

There are several dates where the availability of equipment capabilities is mandated as well as deadlines for the actual reduction in bandwidth.

Key deadlines

Licensees should be aware of the following deadlines:

- ◆ As of Jan. 1, 2011, the FCC no longer accepts applications for:
 - New wideband 25 kHz (i.e., operating with only one voice path per 25 kHz of spectrum) operations.
 - Modification of existing wideband 25 kHz stations that expand the authorized interference contour (19 dBu VHF, 21 dBu UHF).

Licensees who plan on modifying their wideband system must submit the required contour analysis (footprint study) along with their application.

Equipment manufacturers should be aware that:

- ◆ As of Jan. 1, 2011, the FCC no longer certifies 150-174 MHz or 421-512 MHz band equipment capable of operating with only one voice path per 25 kHz of spectrum.

By Jan. 1, 2013, Industrial/Business and Public Safety Radio Pool licensees must:

- ◆ Operate on 12.5 kHz (11.25 kHz occupied bandwidth) or narrower channels, or
- ◆ Employ a technology that achieves the narrowband equivalent of one channel per 12.5 kHz of channel bandwidth for voice and transmission rates of at least 4800 bits per second per 6.25 kHz for data systems operating with bandwidths greater than 12.5 kHz.

The impact of the mandate means that older radios, certified before Feb. 14, 1997, may not have the capability of narrowbanding while those certified after Feb. 14, 1997, were required to meet this narrowbanding mandate. This affects transmitters and mobile radios alike.

Some things that you need to know if you are affected by this mandate:

- In 2011, the FCC will no longer accept new or modified applications that exceed the narrowbanding guidelines.
- The narrowbanding mandate is not optional. Increasing interference on older equipment may occur as new adjacent narrow band transmissions occur.
- Understanding the situation and planning appropriately may allow for migration to be done in a gradual way.
- Narrowbanding is not the same as the 800 MHz rebanding. Rebanding is focused on eliminating present and future interference in that spectrum band that occurred because of interference between commercial and public safety frequencies. This interference created very dangerous and unpredictable communications problems for public safety.
- Be cautious when purchasing older radio equipment to insure that you are not buying more equipment that will have to be replaced as part of the mandate.

For more information on narrowbanding and direct link to FCC's newly created narrowbanding website, please visit www.apcoafc.org, or contact Janet Wilson of the Arkansas Wireless Information Network (AWIN) at 501-683-1791.

NWA gets \$2.1 million tech grant boost

The U.S. Economic Administration has awarded a \$2.1 million grant to "Launching the ARK," an initiative to help grow new businesses in Northwest Arkansas, *Arkansas News* has reported. Winrock International, the University of Arkansas and Northwest Arkansas Community College applied for the competitive grant to help develop and expand new technology startup companies in Washington, Benton and Madison counties.

"This project will spur innovation and promote the next generation of private sector jobs," Sen. John Boozman said about the announcement.

Launching the ARK plans to hold an annual technology "boot camp" for entrepreneurs, and Northwest Arkansas Community College plans to expand its programs in information technology.

"In the IT world, a smart idea combined with the right combination of technical assistance and money can launch the next Google or other multi-billion company. I look forward to this program's success," Sen. Mark Pryor said.

Rep. Steve Womack said that Northwest Arkansas is proving to be "an incredible incubator of business and technology."

Rogers to host downtown revitalization conference

Rogers will host 2012's Destination Downtown, the annual tri-state conference on downtown revitalization, Main Street Arkansas has announced. The conference will be held Sept. 17-19, 2012, and will host downtown revitalization professionals from across the region.

"The Main Street Rogers Board of Directors and staff are thrilled at the opportunity to welcome other Main Street cities to our revitalized downtown area for Destination Downtown 2012," Main Street Rogers Executive Director Kerry Jensen said. "We are excited to showcase our thriving businesses, inviting parks and vibrant historic district nestled in the beautiful Ozark Mountains. We hope everyone will stay an extra day and enjoy all that Northwest Arkansas has to offer."

Schoolchildren get \$10 million museum ticket

Up to 14,000 schoolchildren will be able to visit Bentonville's Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art for free during the museum's first year thanks to a \$10 million endowment gift from the Willard and Pat Walker Charitable Foundation, the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* has reported.

Endowment proceeds will be available to all K-12 public and private schools in the region on a first-come-first-serve basis. Crystal Bridges will begin taking applications for the Walker school program in spring 2012. The program will pay for a complete museum visit, covering transportation, a guided tour, lunches for students and teachers, and educational materials. Information about the Walker school program will be available on the museum's website, crystalbridges.org.

The museum was funded and backed primarily by Walmart heir Alice Walton. It is scheduled to open Nov. 11.

Grants fund Berryville trail projects

Two grants totaling more than \$170,000 will go toward Berryville trail projects, the *Carroll County News* reported Sept. 13. A grant of about \$100,000 from the state highway department's Arkansas Recreation Trails Program will fund trail extensions and improvements at the Pension Mountain Trails Park. A \$71,000 grant from the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission will pay for a Mill Creek pathway with wildlife observation platforms along a recently restored streambed that runs alongside the Berryville Community Center.

Obituaries

RICHARD "DICK" FROMDAHL, 79, a London alderman, died Aug. 29.

MARIA HALEY, 70, executive director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission since 2006, died Sept. 13.

JIM PICKENS, 74, former director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, died Sept. 13.

WAYLAND GENE RASMUSSEN, 98, who served as mayor of Gassville for more than 14 years, died Sept. 16.

Little Rock earns budget award

Little Rock has been awarded the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its 2011 Budget Document, the city announced Sept. 8. This is the 17th year in a row that Little Rock has been recognized by the GFOA for its commitment to meet the highest principles of governmental budgeting.

To receive the award, the city had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. The guidelines assess how well a city's budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide and a communications device.

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving more than 17,000 government finance professionals throughout North America. The GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program is the only national awards program in governmental budgeting.

Preparedness checklist gets update

The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and the Homeland Security Committee has released its expanded Terrorism Response: A Checklist and Guide for Fire Chiefs and Community Preparedness Leaders, 3rd. Edition, the IAFC has announced. The expanded guide gives a clear framework for all emergency responders and community preparedness leaders to better prepare for, prevent, respond to and recover from all hazardous risks and events.

The free checklist provides detailed steps that departments and communities can adapt to their own needs while strengthening their preparedness and response capabilities. Download a pdf of the Checklist and Guide at www.iafc.org/hschecklist.

AACP names Chief, Officer of the Year

The Arkansas Association of Chiefs of Police (AACP) named Chief Gary Kelley of the Marion Police Department its 2011 Chief of the Year and Officer Daniel "Frog" Oller of the Hope Police Department its Officer of the Year at the group's 44th Convention, held Aug. 29 through Sept. 1 at the Hot Springs Convention Center. At left, from left to right,

Clarksville PD Chief (Ret.) Kyn Wilson, Arkansas Attorney General Dustin McDaniel, Marion PD Chief Gary Kelley, Clarksville PD Chief and AACP President Greg Donaldson, and Dardanelle PD Chief and AACP 2nd Vice President Montie Sims. At right, from left to right, Hope PD Chief J.R. Wilson, Hope Officer Daniel Oller, and McDaniel.



Sales tax revenue and economic activity

By Dr. Michael Pakko

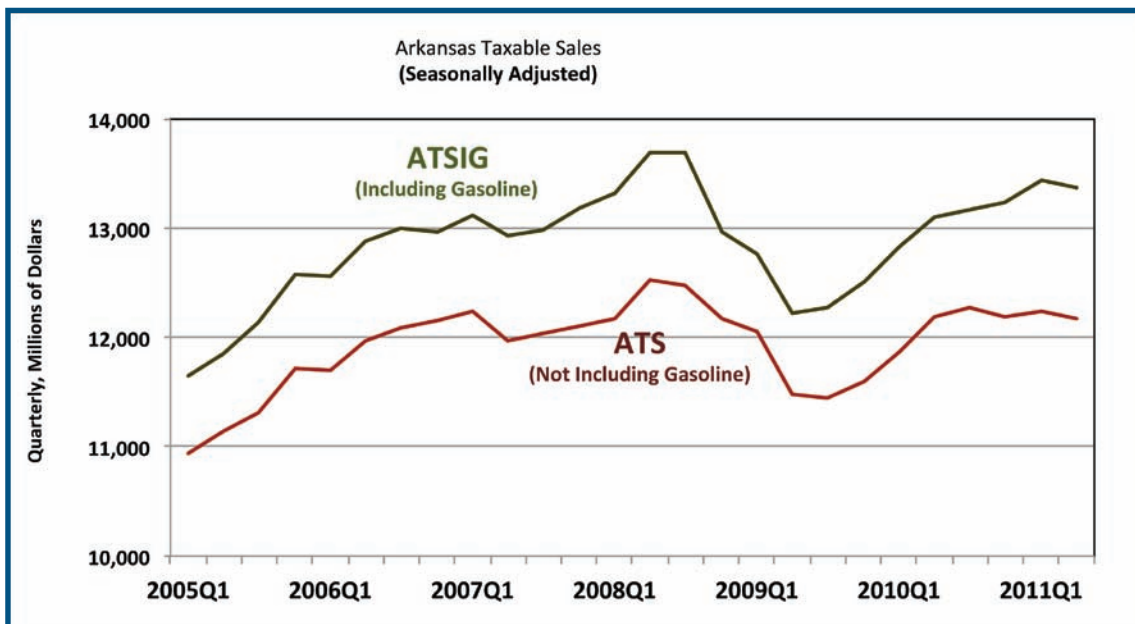
Sales taxes are an important revenue source for Arkansas, comprising more than one-third of the state’s gross general revenue. They are even more important for many of Arkansas’s counties and municipalities. When it comes to understanding and forecasting sales tax revenue, several factors need to be considered.

First and foremost, sales tax collections depend on the overall level of consumer spending. Although sales taxes in Arkansas apply to some business-to-business transactions, they largely represent retail sales. That’s why I analyze and report on a series of statistics derived from state sales tax data: Arkansas Taxable Sales (ATS). After adjusting for the relative timing of tax collections and underlying sales, changes in tax laws, and seasonal patterns in the data, the ATS series is designed to provide a timely measure of overall sales activity in the state.

As shown in the accompanying chart, ATS tracks the recessionary downturn in 2008 and early 2009, then shows a substantial recovery through mid-2010. But data through the second quarter of 2011 suggest that sales growth slowed dramatically thereafter. In fact, as of the second quarter of 2011, ATS was down slightly (-0.1 percent) from the previous year. This seems to indicate that the momentum of the economic recovery stalled toward the end of 2010.

But another factor comes into play: Some important sources of retail spending are not included in ATS. Gasoline, in particular, represents an important component of consumer spending that is not subject to sales tax. Gasoline prices rose dramatically toward the end of 2010 and into 2011. When households are credit constrained, the increase in the price of a necessity-good like gasoline can increase as a share of overall expenditures, lowering the share of spending on goods and services that are subject to sales tax. Under these circumstances we might expect sales tax revenue to decline, while overall spending was actually increasing.

To investigate this effect, I have constructed an enhanced version of ATS: Arkansas Taxable Sales Including Gasoline (ATSIG). ATSIG uses collections data on the state’s motor fuels tax along with price data from the Oil Price Information Service to introduce a gasoline-spending component to the analysis. With gasoline prices rising sharply in the first quarter of 2011, households did appear to divert spending away from other goods in favor of gasoline. The more inclusive measure, ATSIG, shows an overall quarterly increase of 1.5 percent, compared to only a 0.4 percent increase in ATS (compared to the previous quarter). Spending was continuing to increase, but little was showing up in sales tax revenue.



Sources: ATS data derived from sales and use tax data, Directors Office, Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration. Gasoline sales data from Motor Fuels Tax Section, Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration. Gasoline price data from the Oil Price Information Service.

The second quarter of 2011 tells a different story, however. Both ATS and ATSIG declined. Although gasoline prices have recently been on a downward trend, they were higher (on average) in the second quarter than the first. Yet total spending on gasoline was essentially unchanged. Meanwhile, the non-gasoline ATS measure declined. This does seem to suggest a cutback in overall consumer spending, beginning in the second quarter of this year. Combined with weak labor market data, this evidence has led me to revise my forecasts downward slightly into 2012 and beyond. The strength of the economic recovery in Arkansas appears to have diminished in mid-2011.

For county and municipal governments, some additional factors are also relevant for forming expectations about sales tax collections:

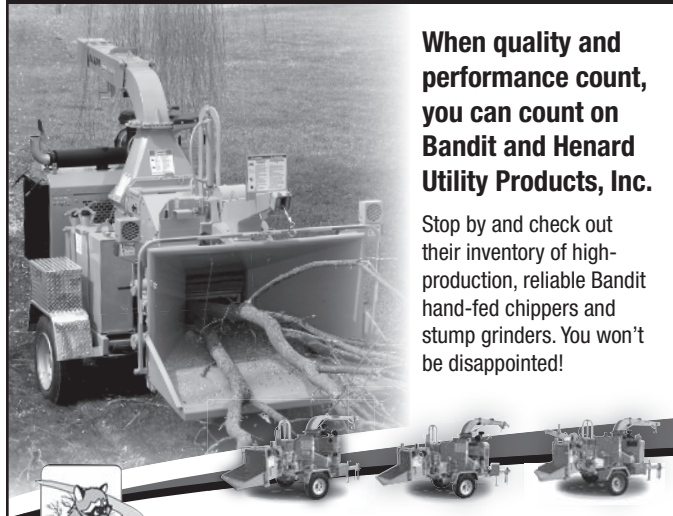
- Delayed collections—The timing of the ATS statistics is adjusted for a one-month delay in sales tax collections. Local option sales and use taxes are subject to an additional lag in the disbursement of funds to county and municipal governments.
- The cap on total tax liability for some big-ticket items like automobiles, boats and mobile homes—These types of durable-goods purchases tend to be highly cyclical. Consequently, state tax revenues experience larger swings over the business cycle than do local tax revenues.
- Differing conditions—Local economic conditions can differ substantially from the statewide average. When specific events or factors are present, growth in local tax collections can vary substantially from statewide averages.

For state and local officials, sales taxes are an important source of revenue, with expectations for future flows dependent on the economic outlook. But because they reflect underlying sales activity, the measurement of sales tax revenues also serves as an important source of information about the state of the economy itself.



Dr. Michael Pakko is chief economist and state economic forecaster at UALR's Institute for Economic Advancement. He will present his forecasts for 2012 at the Arkansas Economic Forecast Conference, Nov. 2 in Little Rock. For information visit www.arkansaseconomist.com.

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Let's Move! Fayetteville hits the trail

By Lindsley Smith

In 2010, First Lady Michelle Obama announced the *Let's Move!* program, and Fayetteville was one of the first cities in the nation to register to be a *Let's Move! City*. The goal of *Let's Move!* is to combat childhood obesity and put children on the path to a healthy future. As part of its initiatives Fayetteville started the *Let's Move! Fayetteville Trail Tour* with Mayor Lioneld Jordan. This is a dual-education program—to educate about healthy lifestyles for children and highlight and educate about the benefits of the city's expansive trail system.

“Nothing is more important for our future than the health of our children, because they are our future.” Mayor Jordan said. “We must do everything we can to give them a healthy start, a healthy community, and a healthy future.”

Fayetteville held its first *Let's Move! Fayetteville Trail Tour* with Mayor Lioneld Jordan in March, with quarterly tours scheduled throughout the year. The most recent tour, held September 24, coincided with



National Public Lands Day. Despite rain, about 50 people showed up ready for fun. They participated in a 2.8-mile walk from the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks to the Lake Fayetteville Park. After a tour of the new Butterfly House, participants received a bicycle safety presentation by Trail Trekker Dave Bowman, and Mayor Jordan welcomed everyone and spoke about the importance of healthy living, the importance of curbing childhood obesity, and proclaimed, “Let’s hit the trail.” As with each of the *Let's Move!* Trail Tours, Mayor Jordan led attendees along the trail route.



Arkansas Audubon provided water bottles to each attendee, and participants learned of the importance of hydration during exercise. The trail walk was filled with vibrant colors, vibrant conversation and vibrant personalities. When they arrived at Lake Fayetteville Park, the children, their parents, and others who came along for the exercise and fun were greeted by volunteers offering healthy snacks and by local entertainer and community leader Jules Taylor. Taylor led the group in several popular American sing-alongs at Lake Fayetteville Pavilion.

Combining comprehensive strategies with common sense, *Let's Move!* is about putting children on the path



to a healthy future, giving parents helpful information and fostering environments that support healthy choices. *Let's Move!* is about providing healthier foods in our schools, ensuring that every family has access to healthy, affordable food, and helping kids become more physically active. The next *Let's Move! Fayetteville Trail Tour* with Mayor Lioneld Jordan is scheduled for October 22.

Lindsley Smith is Fayetteville's communications director. For more information on Let's Move! Fayetteville, contact Julie McQuade at 479-575-8302 or email jmcquade@ci.fayetteville.ar.us.

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PS Form 3526, September 2007 (Page 2 of 3)



Municipal Property Program



Your Municipal Property Program offers broad coverage for your municipal property. The limits of coverage are \$250 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 2010 annual meeting in November adopted rates according to the following scale for 2011. See the new rates below.

FIRE CLASS I	—	.0017	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS II	—	.0018	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS III	—	.0020	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS IV	—	.0021	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS V	—	.0022	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS VI	—	.0024	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS VII	—	.0026	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS VIII	—	.0028	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS IX	—	.0029	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.

Local Option Sales and Use Tax in Arkansas



2011 ELECTIONS

- CARLISLE**, Sept. 13
Passed 7/8%
- CHEROKEE VILLAGE**, Sept. 13
Passed 1%
- LITTLE ROCK**, Sept. 13
Passed 3/8%
- LITTLE ROCK**, Sept. 13
Passed 5/8%
- MARMADUKE**, Aug. 9
Passed. 1.25%
- NEWPORT**, July 12
Passed. 1/2% extension
- BERRYVILLE**, June 14
Passed. 1/2%
- PARAGOULD**, June 14
Passed. 1/4%
- BAY**, May 10
Passed. 1%
- BONO**, May 10
Passed. 1%
- BROOKLAND**, May 10
Passed. 1%
- CONWAY**, May 10
Failed. 1/4% continuation
- WYNNE**, May 10
Passed. 1%
- LAKE CITY**, April 1
Passed. 1%
- GREENLAND**, Mar. 8
Passed. 1%
- PINE BLUFF**, Feb. 8
Passed. 5/8%
- JEFFERSON CO.**, Feb. 8
Passed. 3/8%

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

Sales and Use Tax Year-to-Date 2011 with 2010 Comparison (shaded gray)

Month	Municipal Tax		County Tax		Total Tax		Interest	
January	\$35,123,247	\$34,674,109	\$35,666,555	\$35,450,558	\$70,789,802	\$70,124,667	\$27,640	\$60,271
February	\$42,235,810	\$41,006,941	\$42,753,266	\$42,937,896	\$84,989,076	\$83,944,837	\$34,351	\$59,485
March	\$33,606,662	\$33,818,100	\$34,174,199	\$34,971,579	\$67,780,861	\$68,789,679	\$35,321	\$76,714
April	\$35,244,719	\$34,427,642	\$35,257,864	\$36,042,561	\$70,502,583	\$70,470,203	\$23,355	\$78,790
May	\$39,976,322	\$38,636,249	\$40,107,935	\$38,049,255	\$80,084,257	\$76,685,474	\$9,286	\$49,923
June	\$37,765,150	\$37,512,337	\$37,056,613	\$38,602,771	\$74,821,762	\$76,115,108	\$25,409	\$63,686
July	\$37,831,729	\$36,860,261	\$36,634,846	\$37,359,158	\$74,466,575	\$74,219,419	\$14,470	\$52,871
August	\$40,620,093	\$37,616,032	\$40,946,986	\$39,562,409	\$81,567,078	\$77,178,441	\$22,415	\$58,934
September	\$39,596,088	\$36,434,296	\$39,895,996	\$38,376,562	\$79,492,083	\$74,810,859	\$14,702	\$51,022
Total	\$341,999,820	\$330,985,967	\$342,494,260	\$341,352,749	\$684,494,077	\$672,338,687	\$206,949	\$551,696
Averages	\$37,999,980	\$36,776,219	\$38,054,918	\$37,928,083	\$76,054,897	\$74,704,299	\$22,994	\$61,300

Horseshoe Lake	1,629.59	2,014.03	Swifton	7,169.64	7,509.40	Manila	38,287.66	29,368.10	Pindall	800.85	624.45
Jennette	577.61	700.21	Tuckerman	16,729.16	15,148.12	Marie	962.35	1,038.22	St. Joe	943.86	847.94
Jericho	664.11	1,154.46	Tupelo	1,617.21	1,526.02	Osceola	88,868.16	85,316.51	Sebastian County	770,894.97	709,740.90
Marion	68,894.92	55,847.00	Weldon	673.85	862.16	Victoria	423.89	567.17	Barling	70,456.10	64,014.99
Sunset	994.50	1,965.09	Jefferson County	655,902.53	364,178.52	Wilson	10,345.24	9,026.71	Bonanza	8,714.19	7,879.24
Turrell	3,088.97	5,404.01	Alzheimer	9,450.32	10,266.43	Montgomery County	54,244.36	50,245.27	Central City	7,607.87	8,139.84
West Memphis	146,467.97	173,583.07	Humphrey	2,958.03	2,436.50	Black Springs	701.07	763.02	Fort Smith	1,306,506.85	1,230,449.04
Cross County	258,436.91	243,180.63	Pine Bluff	471,392.09	474,865.68	Glennwood	297.42	NA	Greenwood	135,668.54	109,021.70
Cherry Valley	6,638.09	6,170.01	Redfield	12,456.36	9,964.99	Mount Ida	7,619.70	6,565.95	Hackett	12,305.95	10,638.51
Hickory Ridge	2,773.52	3,365.46	Sherrill	806.73	1,085.21	Norman	2,676.81	2,831.19	Hartford	9,729.58	11,834.19
Parkin	11,267.42	14,040.27	Wabbaska	2,449.01	2,781.93	Oden	1,642.92	1,472.49	Huntington	9,623.49	10,546.53
Wynne	85,316.31	75,503.69	White Hall	53,071.59	40,755.68	Nevada County	32,057.97	31,643.88	Lavaca	34,690.05	27,975.90
Dallas County	131,225.08	135,214.60	Johnson County	114,622.99	122,865.98	Bluff City	888.91	1,010.25	Mansfield	10,957.14	10,822.46
Desha County	102,002.32	105,237.46	Clarksville	84,194.46	82,191.05	Bodcaw	989.27	984.68	Midland	4,925.41	3,878.30
Arkansas City	3,934.74	5,379.93	Coal Hill	9,283.59	10,658.54	Cale	566.32	479.55	Sevier County	247,098.36	255,909.12
Dumas	50,592.63	47,843.93	Hartman	4,761.05	6,346.14	Emmet	3,405.08	3,069.12	Ben Lomond	1,125.62	1,088.02
McGehee	45,357.06	41,742.41	Knoxville	6,705.83	5,441.07	Prescott	23,627.70	23,568.26	DeQueen	51,188.45	49,781.42
Mitchellville	3,870.24	4,539.60	Lamar	14,723.48	15,066.76	Rosston	1,871.00	1,694.41	Gilham	1,242.06	1,623.40
Reed	1,515.84	2,511.85	Lafayette County	79,210.10	81,688.39	Willisville	1,089.63	1,202.06	Horatio	8,104.45	8,609.21
Tillar	225.76	301.42	Bradley	3,733.06	3,090.19	Newton County	50,685.93	47,313.07	Lockesburg	5,736.77	6,139.57
Watson	2,268.40	2,630.60	Buckner	1,634.70	2,173.56	Jasper	2,028.31	1,962.35	Sharp County	69,900.11	68,023.01
Drew County	386,523.79	292,745.96	Lewisville	7,608.78	7,053.10	Western Grove	1,671.39	1,603.76	Ash Flat	8,361.05	8,395.25
Jerome	420.08	493.54	Stamps	10,063.80	11,696.80	Ouachita County	324,510.36	323,493.27	Cave City	14,862.20	16,222.20
Monticello	101,972.18	98,129.17	Lawrence County	134,338.95	125,719.68	Bearden	8,514.23	8,943.53	Cherokee Village	33,085.88	33,055.74
Tillar	2,197.35	2,220.94	Alicia	724.51	792.72	Camden	107,379.81	104,571.67	Evening Shade	3,685.69	4,003.89
Wilmar	5,504.15	6,126.37	Black Rock	3,867.97	3,919.86	Chidester	2,529.59	2,861.93	Hardy	6,228.13	6,259.84
Winchester	1,798.82	2,049.28	College City	2,658.50	1,470.63	East Camden	8,205.75	7,170.72	Highland	8,915.61	8,489.96
Faulkner County	655,798.82	634,475.87	Hoxie	16,243.14	15,400.61	Louann	1,445.48	1,550.21	Horseshoe Bend	68.25	43.05
Damascus	778.43	886.32	Imboden	3,955.61	3,739.44	Stephens	7,853.18	9,158.17	Sidney	1,544.24	2,367.89
Enola	1,993.26	1,412.10	Lynn	1,682.74	1,722.11	Perry County	96,927.17	101,092.99	Williford	639.88	542.46
Holland	3,284.74	4,333.94	Minturn	636.87	623.24	Adona	863.78	828.87	St. Francis County	146,217.70	165,102.14
Mount Vernon	855.09	1,081.61	Portia	2,553.33	2,640.57	Bigelow	1,301.87	1,458.27	Caldwell	9,620.72	8,149.94
Wooster	5,071.60	3,875.76	Powhatan	420.89	273.35	Casa	706.73	926.38	Colt	6,552.50	6,449.84
Franklin County	154,032.14	157,441.26	Ravenden	2,746.14	2,793.65	Fourche	256.24	261.51	Forrest City	266,450.78	258,940.44
Altus	6,025.98	6,937.38	Sedgwick	888.11	612.31	Houston	714.99	704.76	Hughes	24,979.22	32,728.92
Branch	2,917.59	3,031.39	Smithville	455.74	399.09	Perry	1,115.89	1,391.79	Madison	13,330.34	13,292.48
Charleston	19,826.90	25,176.68	Strawberry	1,764.54	1,547.17	Perryville	6,034.05	6,462.51	Palestine	11,804.90	12,987.34
Denning	3,744.37	3,438.97	Walnut Ridge	28,571.59	26,925.10	Phillips County	112,979.09	128,026.20	Wheatley	6,153.80	6,519.96
Ozark	29,287.21	29,931.80	Lee County	33,634.06	30,139.31	Elaine	12,647.09	16,218.89	Widener	4,732.35	5,871.46
Wiederkehr Village	302.10	390.60	Aubrey	1,042.25	1,046.64	Helena-West Helena	200,405.73	231,251.24	Stone County	84,011.81	85,484.84
Fulton County	109,898.00	94,489.09	Haynes	919.63	1,013.48	Lake View	8,809.21	9,956.34	Fifty Six	1,534.26	1,647.05
Ash Flat	544.50	9.78	LaGrange	545.65	577.78	Lexa	5,687.21	6,206.30	Mountain View	24,370.78	29,060.80
Cherokee Village	4,233.21	3,956.61	Marianna	25,228.61	24,536.73	Marvell	23,584.03	26,156.47	Union County	489,320.98	444,610.58
Hardy	224.21	132.05	Moro	1,324.27	1,141.35	Pike County	199,567.96	178,937.00	Calion	14,265.29	12,957.65
Horseshoe Bend	90.75	34.24	Rondo	1,213.93	1,122.41	Antoine	1,038.76	1,246.80	El Dorado	607,399.19	576,102.54
Mammoth Spring	5,215.44	5,609.68	Lincoln County	51,306.11	42,100.72	Daisy	1,021.01	943.09	Felsenthal	3,495.45	3,096.56
Salem	8,727.99	7,787.17	Gould	4,061.21	5,390.11	Delight	2,477.05	2,485.61	Huttig	19,552.18	19,179.52
Viola	1,798.98	1,863.36	Grady	2,178.59	2,160.18	Glennwood	19,408.00	16,839.81	Junction City	17,440.67	17,309.72
Garland County	710,973.05	690,328.42	Star City	11,033.68	10,206.11	Murfreesboro	14,569.32	14,098.45	Norphet	22,005.41	19,176.24
Fountain Lake	3,778.06	3,253.98	Little River County	175,930.70	167,497.76	Poinsett County	113,229.75	113,710.38	Smackover	57,893.60	53,402.91
Lonsdale	706.04	938.80	Ashdown	35,885.54	33,481.34	Fisher	1,685.96	1,885.63	Strong	16,472.11	15,837.82
Mountain Pine	5,783.50	6,141.98	Foreman	7,681.62	7,878.37	Harrisburg	17,298.12	15,597.33	Van Buren County	282,393.80	315,212.67
Grant County	164,351.26	147,423.70	Ogden	1,367.65	1,498.64	Lepanto	14,311.78	15,177.51	Clinton	25,084.96	26,396.84
Greene County	131,393.35	322,569.52	Wilton	2,841.67	3,074.32	Marked Tree	19,399.91	19,923.60	Damascus	2,410.16	2,173.72
Delaplaine	1,137.18	1,297.12	Winthrop	1,458.82	1,302.56	Trumann	54,759.75	49,019.16	Fairfield Bay	20,775.59	26,755.27
Lafe	4,489.90	3,932.22	Logan County	93,421.25	90,638.99	Tyrnora	5,761.00	6,532.09	Shirley	2,805.43	3,896.51
Marmaduke	10,891.44	11,827.29	Blue Mountain	920.48	960.53	Waldenburg	461.18	569.25	Washington County	1,133,739.37	1,101,999.42
Oak Grove Heights	8,715.12	7,425.25	Booneville	29,618.66	29,958.31	Weiner	5,413.23	5,407.83	Elkins	33,766.74	37,970.74
Paragould	255,993.04	224,871.79	Caulksville	1,581.15	1,695.48	Polk County	241,837.30	231,368.30	Elm Springs	19,089.43	14,826.64
Hempstead County	561,332.76	551,624.19	Magazine	6,287.47	6,658.21	Cove	7,254.16	7,125.04	Farmington	76,179.20	51,842.91
Blevins	3,488.07	3,809.40	Morrison Bluff	475.09	538.48	Grannis	10,520.44	10,696.86	Fayetteville	938,276.74	834,764.28
Emmet	476.15	271.35	Paris	26,218.82	26,974.85	Hatfield	7,842.86	7,478.50	Goshen	13,657.17	10,814.39
Fulton	2,225.72	2,556.99	Ratcliff	1,499.49	1,389.86	Mena	108,945.48	104,866.38	Greenland	16,054.50	13,042.42
Hope	111,784.31	110,796.06	Scranton	1,662.80	1,615.43	Vandervoort	1,652.12	2,232.38	Johnson	42,769.51	33,349.15
McCaskill	1,063.03	876.68	Subiaco	4,246.07	3,194.49	Wickes	14,318.46	12,557.16	Lincoln	28,678.78	25,943.02
McNab	752.98	782.75	Lonoke County	243,942.77	259,258.59	Pope County	293,027.76	327,152.63	Prairie Grove	55,852.84	36,527.32
Oakhaven	697.61	563.58	Allport	986.41	1,370.94	Atkins	35,191.80	39,431.50	Springdale	812,837.38	629,693.59
Ozan	941.23	845.37	Austin	17,480.85	6,530.85	Dover	16,079.01	18,208.64	Tontitown	31,369.40	29,939.09
Patmos	708.69	636.64	Cabot	203,937.53	164,739.36	Hector	5,250.77	6,932.71	West Fork	29,545.90	29,365.66
Perrytown	3,011.92	2,661.36	Carlisle	18,990.48	24,871.21	London	12,123.44	12,673.43	Winslow	4,985.95	5,737.97
Washington	1,993.18	1,544.64	Coy	823.44	1,252.20	Pottsville	33,114.83	37,413.98	White County	916,251.23	971,713.81
Hot Spring County	281,329.08	268,984.56	England	24,231.31	32,557.10	Russellville	325,780.87	324,467.23	Bald Knob	35,656.54	47,494.14
Donaldson	2,276.38	2,558.43	Humnoke	2,436.00	3,022.54	Prairie County	31,310.04	33,046.88	Beebee	90,033.69	72,942.71
Friendship	1,331.04	1,616.68	Keo	2,195.83	2,536.78	Biscoe	2,596.06	3,491.75	Bradford	9,341.84	11,836.55
Magnet Cove	37.81	3,555.12	Lonoke	36,411.29	46,277.29	Des Arc	12,279.43	14,179.72	Garner	3,495.50	4,201.97
Malvern	78,032.06	70,796.36	Ward	34,884.49	27,850.56	DeValls Bluff	4,426.89	5,743.77	Georgetown	1,526.20	1,864.26
Midway	2,941.89	2,684.00	Madison County	153,600.40	144,476.14	Hazen	10,498.66	12,008.38	Griffithville	2,769.32	3,876.47
Perla	1,822.61	902.51	Hindsville	324.05	413.55	Ulm	1,215.78	1,503.79	Higginson	7,643.32	5,592.77
Rockport	5,709.85	6,215.57	Huntsville	12,462.70	11,281.51	Pulaski County	809,073.62	900,246.70	Judsonia	24,850.04	29,325.04
Howard County	306,052.36	296,363.21	St. Paul	600.29	898.77	Alexander	3,916.59	2,891.39	Kensett	20,283.73	26,499.07
Dierks	14,993.10	15,339.45	Marion County	83,499.56	79,063.62	Cammack Village	12,745.50	13,969.43	Letona	3,138.56	2,973.93
Mineral Springs	15,985.58	15,763.47	Bull Shoals	14,385.03	14,872.76	Jacksonville	470,720.47	502,899.56	McRae	8,394.12	9,779.95
Nashville	61,229.53	60,834.02	Floppin	9,995.75	10,091.17	Little Rock	3,211,666.47	3,078,536.76	Pangburn	7,397.16	9,676.38
Tollette	3,175.94	4,040.64	Pyatt	1,630.30	1,881.40	Maumelle	284,832.02	177,467.26	Rose Bud	5,932.50	6,347.35
Independence County	479,819.94	466,421.65	Summit	4,455.67	4,357.72	North Little Rock	1,033,978.56	1,015,902.17	Russell	2,658.55	3,373.42
Batesville	118,405.31	113,232.12	Yellville	8,881.84	9,756.54	Sherwood	489,954.88	361,608.25	Searcy	281,338.35	280,052.67
Cave City	1,871.75	743.29	Miller County	425,527.38	448,684.86	Wrightsville	35,083.31	22,996.62	West Point	2,277.00	3,077.50
Cushman	5,222.40	5,526.73	Fouke	8,426.28	8,884.85	Randolph County	112,441.59	12			

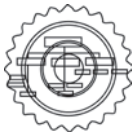
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FINANCE DIRECTOR—The City of Maumelle is accepting applications for the position of Finance Director. Essential Duties and Responsibilities: financial statement preparation, assure compliance with government accounting rules applicable to municipalities, facilitate the preparation of the city's annual budget, prepare federal payroll tax and state unemployment tax forms, coordinate with IT providers for the city, assist audit firm in preparation of audit, directly supervise four positions. Education and Experience: Applicants must have a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from a four-year college or university, and five years related experience and/or training or equivalent combination of education and experience, and four years of managerial experience-governmental accounting experience preferred. Starting salary \$49,212; exceptional candidates who possess education and experience that exceed the minimum qualifications may be considered for a higher starting salary. **NOTE:** Online applications and Resumes will not be accepted by themselves. A City of Maumelle Employment Application must be completed. Go to the City of Maumelle website (www.maumelle.org) and click on the Human Resources Department to print an application. Completed applications should be mailed to: City of Maumelle Human Resources Department, 550 Edgewood Drive, Suite 555, Maumelle, AR 72113. For questions, contact Human Resources at 501-851-2784 Ext. 242, 7a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. EOE. Minority, women and disabled individuals encouraged to apply. This ad is available from the Title VI Coordinator in large print, on audio, and in Braille at 501-851-2785 Ext. 233 or email vernon@maumelle.org.

FINANCE DIRECTOR—The City of Siloam Springs is accepting applications for a Finance Director. Under the direction of the City Administrator, this position is responsible for managing and directing the financial affairs of the city including the functions of Accounting, Payroll, Accounts Payable, Utility Billing and Collection, and Treasury Management. This position is further responsible for the preparation and administration of the municipal budget and annual audit process. This position requires a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree in Financial Management. Certification as a CPA or CGFO are preferred but not required. The successful candidate's background should include five years or more of financial management experience in a municipal entity with significant supervisory or management experience. Applicants must possess a valid driver's license and submit to a background check. The City of Siloam Springs respectfully requests that only qualified applicants meeting the above requirements apply for this position. The city requires a completed application be submitted for all positions. Applications are available at City Hall, 400 N. Broadway, Siloam Springs, AR, or can be accessed online at www.siloamsprings.com. Salary Range: \$65,289 - \$84,816. The city offers a generous benefit package including, but not limited to medical, dental, vision, LTD, 457 Deferred Compensation, vacation and sick leave. For further information, including a copy of the complete job description, please call 479-524-5136 or email humanresources@siloamsprings.com. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer. Closing Date: Open Until Filled.

FOR SALE—1990 E-One Ford Pumper with 3208 Cat Diesel Engine and Allison automatic transmission. Unit has a 1,000-gallon tank with a 1,250 GPM Hale pump. Truck has approximately 12,800 miles on it and is in superior condition. Equipped with insta-chains, a Hale 5,000 watt gas generator, a four-inch over-the-top fast fill and a booster line. Also includes three sections of six-inch flex lightweight suction hose, eight SCBA mounting brackets, axes, pike poles, ladders and fold-up wheel chocks. Asking \$60,000. For more information contact city of Lakeview, 870-431-8744.

FOR SALE—The city of Horseshoe Bend is accepting bids on the sale of three vehicles: 2000 Chevy Tracker/Utility, 4WD, approx. 107,878 miles; 2001 Chevy Impala, four-door, approx. 124,001 miles; and 2004 GMC 4WD extended cab 1/2 ton, approx. 153,432 miles. Sealed bids will be read aloud at 10 a.m., Oct. 3. Vehicles may be viewed at 704 W. Commerce, Horseshoe Bend, or call 870-670-5113. The city of Horseshoe Bend reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

FOR SALE—The town of Moro will accept bids beginning Oct. 15 on a 1959 Ford C-850 cab-over fire truck with 750 GPM pump, 750-gallon steel tank and PTO pump for redline. Item may be viewed at Moro Fire Department by appointment. Call 870-768-4600 for more information. Moro reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

CHIEF OF POLICE—The city of Little Flock is accepting applications for Chief of Police. Email resume to admin@cityoflittleflock.com to the attention of Grace Fielding, or mail to City of Little Flock, ATTN: Grace Fielding, 1500 Little Flock Drive, Little Flock, AR 72756. For more information call Little Flock City Hall at 479-636-2081.

WASTEWATER COLLECTION FOREMAN—El Dorado Water Utilities in El Dorado, Arkansas is accepting applications for a Wastewater Collection Foreman. Applicant must possess a minimum of an Arkansas Class 2 Wastewater Operator License. The successful applicant would also be required to obtain an Arkansas Class 2 Water Distribution License within eighteen months of employment. Applicant should have at least three years of supervisory experience preferably with a wastewater utility. Potential applicants should visit goeldorado.com for information on the El Dorado area. If the applicant has children, pay particular attention to the link to eldoradopromise.com. Please send a resume including salary requirements to Larry Waldrop, General Manager, P.O. Box 1587, El Dorado, AR 71731-1587. No phone calls please.

**Municipal
Property Program
Business Meeting
Thursday, October
20th @ 11:00am
AML headquarters.**

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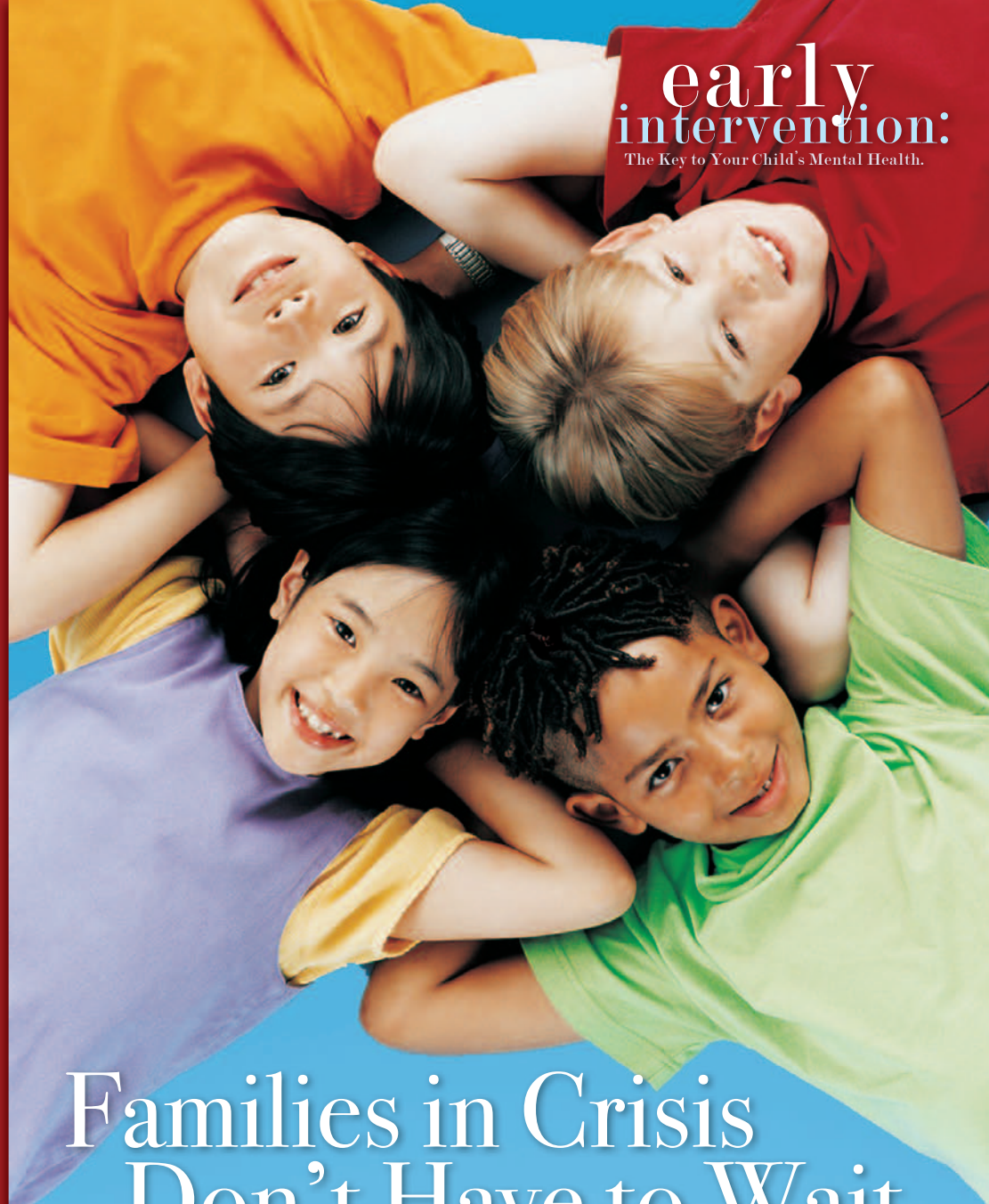


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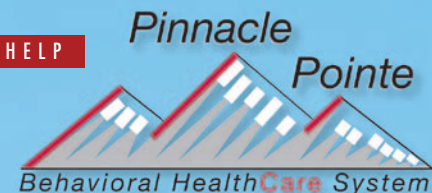
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Pinnacle Pointe offers Acute, Residential, and Outpatient services and free, confidential assessment and referral services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week as a community service. David Streett, M.D., Medical Director suggests that parents seek help if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

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