

City & Town

JULY 2013 VOL. 69, NO. 07

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE



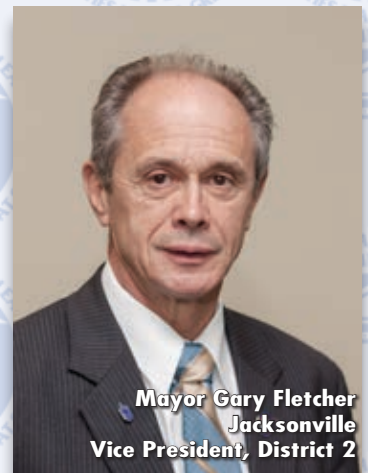
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Pea Ridge
President



Mayor Mark Stodola
Little Rock
First Vice President



Mayor Gerald Morris Piggott
Vice President, District 1



Mayor Gary Fletcher
Jacksonville
Vice President, District 2



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New leaders named during 79th Convention

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FEATURES

6 League wraps successful 79th Convention

A record-breaking number of municipal officials from across the state set the League's agenda for the year, elected new officers, and shared ideas on mutual challenges at the League's 79th Convention, June 19-21 in Hot Springs.

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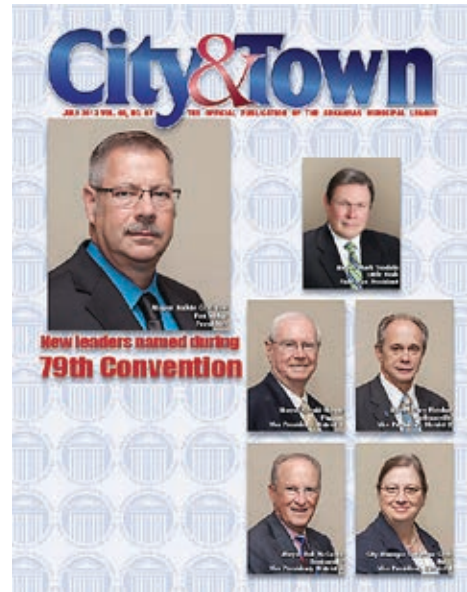
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45 Sales tax changes take effect

Several changes in state sales taxes and exemptions that affect municipalities take effect over the next year.

50 Engineering column premier

The League is partnering with McClelland Engineers to provide consultation with members, and one of their services includes a monthly column in *City & Town*, which premier this issue.



ON THE COVER—The League welcomes its new slate of officers for 2013-2014. They were elected and began their terms June 21, the final day of our successful and record-breaking 79th Convention, held June 19-21 in Hot Springs. New League President Jackie Crabtree, mayor of Pea Ridge, will appoint a new Executive Committee, the members of which, along with advisory council members, will appear in the August issue of *City & Town*. Revisit the 79th Convention inside beginning on page 6.—atm

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Cover photos by Mark Potter

City & Town

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Greetings:

I consider serving this year as president an honor and a privilege. I am looking forward to the opportunities and challenges ahead for us.

I hope everyone had a great time at our 79th Convention. Our attendance was over 1,500 and the League staff did a wonderful job organizing and keeping it running smoothly. They are an amazing group of people. I particularly enjoyed two sessions. First, Ken Wasson and Mark Hayes on "Is it legal? Who's the mayor?" It was a comical yet serious look at ourselves and what happens in the day-to-day operations of a city. The second was the social media breakout session. With today's technology we have the ability to promote our cities like never before. It is up to us to take advantage of these opportunities. One opportunity is utilizing the League's Facebook page. I would like to see over 1,500 "likes" on the page by the end of July. This is an easy way to follow happenings at the League. Let's spread the word and make this happen.



I would like to again thank Camden Mayor Chris Claybaker for his leadership this past year. Also, I want to thank those who have served as district vice presidents and on the many committees and advisory councils. These positions are crucial to the operation and direction of the League.

As I prepared to serve as your president, so many things were running through my mind. I thought about the foundation that has been put in place by the League staff, past presidents, and officers. I thought about the different advisory councils and committees, why we have them and the important role they play. The one word that came ringing back to me over and over as I thought about this was "commitment." As those who served before us with dedication and commitment, we must now be willing to do the same. We have opportunities ahead of us because of their hard work and dedication. Just as individuals in your community have worked before you, it is up to you to keep moving forward.

My goals for this year include:

- Continue the Economic Development Advisory Council and possibly extend the scope of membership to this council.
- Work on ways to allow more communities to participate in the sister city program.
- Develop tool kits for better communication among local, state, and federal offices and officials.
- Implement "cheerleading camps" or "cheerleader training." If our economic development is going to work, we have to be cheerleaders for our communities. I want to develop the tools to allow our cities to promote themselves. Included in this is volunteerism. We need to promote volunteerism and recruit volunteers.

As I developed the goals for this year, I kept recalling the sense of frustration expressed this year among mayors, council members, members of the Legislature, county judges, and citizens. I understand we are not going to agree all the time, but I do believe our job as elected officials is to work for the best interest of our cities, counties, and state. I believe there are areas where communication between the different offices can be improved. This will take commitment—commitment to ask questions, to understand the issues or opportunities, and to be willing to work together. We sometimes think an issue or opportunity is not important to me or does not affect me so why get involved. Every issue is important. So at least become familiar enough with the issue to form an opinion and speak for or against it.

At the time of this writing, it is just before Independence Day, a time set aside for all of us to celebrate our freedom. In that celebration, we must remember all who have served our great nation and those who serve today, to remember the sacrifices they have made and the sacrifices made by their families. To all veterans, past and present, "Thank you for my Freedom."

Let's all work together to make our cities great and in so doing, our great cities will make a great state.

Jackie Crabtree
Mayor, Pea Ridge
President, Arkansas Municipal League

Arkansas Municipal League Officers

Mayor Jackie Crabtree, Pea Ridge	President
Mayor Mark Stodola, Little Rock	First Vice President
Mayor Gerald Morris, Piggott	Vice President, District 1
Mayor Gary Fletcher, Jacksonville	Vice President, District 2
Mayor Bob McCaslin, Bentonville	Vice President, District 3
City Manager Catherine Cook, Hope	Vice President, District 4
Don A. Zimmerman	Executive Director

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LARGE FIRST CLASS CITIES ADVISORY COUNCIL: TBA

FIRST CLASS CITIES ADVISORY COUNCIL:TBA

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INCORPORATED TOWNS ADVISORY COUNCIL: TBA

PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COUNCIL: TBA

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL: TBA

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79th Convention sets attendance records, agenda for year

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

HOT SPRINGS—Municipal leaders from across Arkansas discussed new legislation affecting cities and towns, shared issues of mutual interest, elected new officers, and set the agenda for the year at the Arkansas Municipal League’s 79th Annual Convention, held June 19-21 at the Hot Springs Convention Center.



Anthony

The 79th Convention broke all previous attendance records. The number of delegates was 791, overall attendance was at 1,505, and the number of participating cities was 230, all records for the League. The Convention also broke our previous record for the number of exhibitors, with 114 participating vendors and agencies sharing their services and expertise with city and town leaders.

The League was honored to host the new executive director of the National League of Cities, Clarence Anthony, at the Convention’s Opening General Session, Thursday, June 20. Anthony, a former mayor of South Bay, Fla., and a former president of the Florida League of Cities and the NLC, acknowledged that municipal leaders sometimes need to remind themselves why they do what they do.

“People need leaders now,” he said. “They need leaders that are truly committed and are in it to do what is right for the cities they represent.”

The federal government’s sequestration program is adversely affecting programs on the local level, Anthony said.

“Right now, city issues are the issues that are being attacked,” he said.

The NLC is committed more than ever, he said, to protect CDBG funding, transportation improvement, and jobs programs. Anthony praised the efforts of Arkansas’s Rep. Steve Womack for sponsoring the Marketplace Fairness Act, which the League and the NLC support.



Hutchinson

Former Arkansas U.S. Sen. Tim Hutchinson also spoke during the Opening General Session about the bipartisan Campaign to Fix the Debt. Both parties understand the severity of the debt issue, he said, and the goal of the campaign is to help bring them together to find a workable solution. If we can do that, there is hope, Hutchinson said. He urged municipal leaders to visit the website, fixthedebt.org, to see what the drivers of our debt are and the potential for a way forward.

At the Convention’s Opening Night Banquet on June 19, the League premiered a new promotional video, which will be part of a larger campaign to help spread the word across the state about the role cities and towns play in all of our lives, including providing clean water, public safety, parks and recreational opportunities, and much more.

“We hope that by showing the importance of city government services that we highlight the vital role that our municipalities play every day in allowing our residents to have a better quality of life,” Camden Mayor and outgoing League President Chris Claybaker said.

The League will soon be spreading the word to members about how they can participate in this important campaign.

New legislation impacts cities

Despite some contentiousness during this year's legislative session, particularly between city and county interests, the League's package of bills fared well during the session and the League was able to fight off or help amend most of the troublesome legislation, League Executive Director Don Zimmerman said during the Convention's June 20 General Session. He provided an overview of new legislation passed by the 89th General Assembly that will affect cities and towns.



Zimmerman

One of the bills passed that the League did not support became Act 1053, which limits municipalities' planning jurisdiction. Since 1957, Zimmerman said, cities' planning jurisdiction has been five miles or, where applicable, equidistant to a neighboring municipality. The new legislation reduces that to a three, two, or one-mile area, depending on population. Most cities and towns will see their planning ability reduced to one mile, since most are fewer than 60,000 in population.

Both legislative sponsors, Sen. Jake Files and Rep. Bruce Cozart, have expressed willingness to revisit the legislation in two years if the cities run into problems, Zimmerman said.

"In the meantime, it's the law," Zimmerman said. "If you are planning outside your city beyond that one, two or three miles—whichever one applies to you—you'll have to bring those plans in. The counties are going to have to step up and assume more responsibility for things that may occur in those areas that now would be under their jurisdiction. I think this puts more burden on counties to assume that responsibility, but they asked for it and they pushed hard to get it."

Womack League's Person of the Year

The League at the Convention named U.S. Rep. Steve Womack its Person of the Year for his sponsorship of the Marketplace Fairness Act, a measure the League supports that would level the playing field among online retailers and our brick-and-mortar businesses. Womack, who is a former mayor of Rogers, told municipal leaders on the 79th Convention's final day that his experience in local office influenced his decision to sponsor the federal legislation in the House. As a mayor he learned how essential local sales taxes are and how important it is to broaden your tax base to be able to continue funding essential services and to grow.



Womack

"Retail follows rooftops," Womack said.

If Main Street can't remain competitive, our cities' essential services suffer, he said.

As a self-proclaimed "free market guy," Womack said he doesn't believe government tax policy should favor one marketplace over another, which the current policy does. Mirror legislation has already passed the Senate, and he believes the Marketplace Fairness Act has a chance to pass the House as well, he said. He urged municipal leaders to study the issue and discuss the legislation with their local retailers.

Continuing education, workshops keep officials up-to-date

The 79th Convention featured two sessions of the League's Voluntary Certified Continuing Education Program for municipal officials. Michele Halsell, who is managing director of the University of Arkansas's

Applied Sustainability Center, on Wednesday covered how sustainable development can be an economic driver in cities. League Assistant Director Ken Wasson and General Counsel Mark Hayes on Friday shared some of the most frequently asked legal questions city and town leaders ask the League.



Halsell

Halsell stressed that sustainable development is not about “the environment at the expense of the economy,” and municipal leaders may have to fight to fix that misconception. Rather, sustainable development is the perfect framework for economic development and that’s the Center’s focus, she said.

Sustainable development allows cities to thrive over time instead of merely survive, Halsell said. The focus is on what she called the triple bottom line: equity, ecology, and economy. The economic benefits are numerous, she said, including saving money, better usage of taxpayer dollars, attracting investment, enhancing energy security, increasing energy independence, and much more. Cities

play a vital, grassroots role in sustainable development, Halsell said, through forward-thinking policy, budgeting decisions, municipal programs like recycling, and green infrastructure decisions.

Wasson and Hayes, reprising their roles as the ever-confused mayor and legal guru, respectively, covered an array of familiar inquiries that often end with the question, “Is it legal?” The two covered issues from budgeting, hiring and firing, filling vacancies, mayoral veto power, and more with humor and expertise.

The Convention also featured 20 concurrent workshops on Thursday, June 20, covering a variety of topics of municipal interest. One of the most well attended workshops covered important land use topics resulting from new laws passed in this year’s legislative session. It was a difficult session, League planning consultant Jim von Tungeln said, but with hard work we avoided some of the worst legislation. Some of the new laws may prove valuable, such as Act 1072, which aims to limit the formation of enclaves within city limits, and several laws that alter the way annexations come about. He echoed Executive Director Don Zimmerman on the troublesome nature of Act 1053, which limits cities’ ability to plan for the future.

In a workshop covering emergencies and disasters, Mayflower Mayor Randy Holland shared how his city has coped with the recent Exxon pipeline disaster. He worked closely with the County Judge to both deal with the spill directly and to set up a command center. Holland said that within the first four days he met with over 100 people from Exxon, the EPA, the Health Department, state and federal officials, and on and on. He used frequent updates on the city’s website to help keep his citizens informed. Holland strongly encouraged all city leaders to know where all utilities are in their communities.



Hayes

Wasson

Resolutions for 2013-2014 adopted

The Resolutions Committee, which is made up of one delegate from each member city, met twice during the 79th Convention to discuss and vote upon the resolutions that will guide League policy for the coming year. The Committee voted at the Annual Business Meeting on Friday, June 21, to accept all five new resolutions that came before the body and voted to keep one resolution that was part of last year's package. The resolutions will become part of the League's *Policies and Goals 2013-2014*.

Resolutions for 2013-2014 include:

- A resolution supporting the Marketplace Fairness Act;
- A resolution urging Congress to support the Community Access Preservation Act, which addresses critical and immediate threats to local, public, educational, and government access television channels;
- A resolution to support HR 1076 of the 113th Congress, which amends the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to allow benefit pools like the League's Municipal Health Benefit Fund to apply for pass-through funding to provide healthcare benefits;
- A resolution to support a more equitable funding system for district court costs;
- A resolution to amend ACA 26-79-104 to apportion 100 percent of county road tax monies that have been collected within city limits to be distributed in that city or town; and
- A resolution seeking legislative support for increased state funding for the training of municipal water and wastewater personnel.

New officers elected



New League 2013-2014 President, Pea Ridge Mayor Jackie Crabtree, brings the 79th Convention to a close.

Outgoing League President Chris Claybaker, mayor of Camden, introduced the League's new slate of officers for 2013-2014 at the 79th Convention's closing new officers and awards luncheon on June 21.

The new officers are: Pea Ridge Mayor Jackie Crabtree, President; Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola, First Vice President; Piggott Mayor Gerald Morris, District 1 Vice President; Jacksonville Mayor Gary Fletcher, District 2 Vice President; Bentonville Mayor Bob McCaslin, District 3 Vice President; and Hope City Manager Catherine Cook, District 4 Vice President.

ACCRTA, ACAA elect officers for 2013-2014

Fayetteville City Clerk/Treasurer Sondra Smith, seated, is the new president of the Arkansas City Clerks, Recorders and Treasurers Association. Other new officers are Lake City City Clerk/Treasurer Linda Simpson, vice president, left; Bella Vista City Clerk Jane Wilms, secretary, right; and Stuttgart City Clerk/Treasurer Mitri Greenhill, treasurer, not pictured.



The Arkansas City Attorneys Association elected its new officers at the 79th Convention. They are, from left, Jacksonville City Attorney Robert Bamburg, president; League General Counsel Mark Hayes, secretary/treasurer; Morrilton City Attorney Paul Dumas, second vice president; and Bethel Heights City Attorney Joe Summerford, first vice president.

League had success in tough year, Executive Director reports

HOT SPRINGS—It has been a good year for the League despite a sometimes-contentious legislative session, Executive Director Don Zimmerman reported at the League’s Annual Business Meeting, held Friday, June 21, the final day of the 79th Convention in Hot Springs. Overall, laws passed in the 89th General Session affecting municipal government were more good than bad, he said. Act 1053, which reduces cities’ planning jurisdiction, is one we’ll have to watch closely, Zimmerman said.



Zimmerman

He thanked outgoing League president Chris Claybaker, mayor of Camden, for his hard work this past year, which included a tough legislative session. He also thanked Claybaker for his leadership in kick starting an economic development collaboration with UALR, which has resulted in a new League advisory council.

“There’s a process in place now to develop an economic development plan for the state of Arkansas from the ground up,” Zimmerman said, “and the timing on that is such that it’s supposed to be completed about next spring, which would be ideal from a political standpoint with a new governor headed into office the following January.”

It would be great to be able to hand a completed economic development plan that directly reflects our cities’ needs to the new governor, he said.

Zimmerman also thanked the other officers and members of the Executive Committee, boards, and advisory councils, and the staff for being part of the League’s team this year.

For the ninth straight year, the League is at 100 percent membership, Zimmerman said. All 500 cities and towns in Arkansas are League members.

All the optional programs are strong and had clean audits this year. The Municipal Legal Defense Program stays busy with about 150 lawsuits going at any time, Zimmerman said. It has 427 of the League’s 500 member cities participating, two more than last year.

The Municipal Health Benefit Fund has 208 participating municipalities, three more than last year. The Municipal Vehicle Program has 398 participants, up two from last year. The Municipal League Workers’ Compensation Trust has 489 participants, one less than 2012. The Municipal Property Program has 284 members, one more than last year.

The Accidental Death and Dismemberment Program has 191 members, five more than 2012. The Volunteer Firefighter Supplemental Income Program has 229 members, down 47. The Cash Management, Pension Management and Municipal Other Post Employment Benefits Trust has 35 participants, five less than last year. The Ordinance Codification Service has 128 members, up six from 2012.

Three cities—Heber Springs, Lake Village, and Marked Tree—participate in all 10 of the League’s optional programs. Forty-seven cities and towns participate in nine of the 10 programs. They are Arkadelphia, Ashdown, Bay, Beebe, Benton, Brinkley, Bryant, Cabot, Camden, Carlisle, Cave City, Centerton, Clarendon, Clarksville, Corning, Damascus, Des Arc, Elkins, England, Eureka Springs, Forrest City, Gassville, Greers Ferry, Hamburg, Harrisburg, Helena-West Helena, Highfill, Highland, Huntsville, Lamar, Malvern, Marianna, Marvell, Monticello, Morrilton, Mulberry, Ozark, Paris, Pottsville, Rector, Sherwood, Smackover, Stamps, Star City, Ward, White Hall, and Wynne.

The optional programs save cities money and are designed specifically for Arkansas municipalities, Zimmerman said. They also help support the League’s

overall service program, he said, and he encouraged city officials to take a good look at what they offer.

Zimmerman and the League at the business meeting honored longtime League employee Brenda Gilmore, who is retiring this year. She's been with the League since 1988, and anyone who has called the League is probably familiar with her friendly voice.

"She directs traffic in the front of the office, greets people and has always been very friendly," Zimmerman said. "She's just been terrific, dedicated, loyal, and dependable. You just couldn't ask for a better employee for 25 years."



The League at its Annual Business Meeting honored staff member Brenda Gilmore, who is retiring after 25 years of service. "I've enjoyed working with and for all of you," Gilmore told municipal leaders.

Economic growth starts in cities, Fisher tells local leaders

When it comes to economic development, cities are the places to start, President and CEO Lee Fisher of the organization CEOs for Cities told a crowd of about 300 city government and business leaders at the Argenta Downtown Council's annual luncheon June 12 in North Little Rock.

It's the mayors in the room that will change the world, he said.

"We all want to do our part in changing the world," Fischer said, "but we know we're only a little patch of the world. It's a daunting task. If you want to change the world, you start in one place."

The pace of change is so quick these days, he said, that we can't wait on Washington.

"You have to start with your city."

Fisher is a former Ohio state legislator, Ohio Attorney General, and Ohio Lt. Governor. CEOs for Cities is a national network of urban leaders working to help cities improve livability and become more economically competitive. To learn more about the organization, visit ceosforcities.org.



Fisher

Volunteer Community of the Year nominations open now

It's time to consider nominating your city or town for the annual Arkansas Volunteer Community of the Year Awards. The awards, co-sponsored by the Arkansas Municipal League, the Governor's Office and the DHS Division of Community Service and Nonprofit Support, honor 12 communities each year for outstanding citizen volunteerism. For nomination details and to download an entry form online, visit www.humanservices.arkansas.gov/dcsns and click the Volunteer Community of the Year Award link.

Nominations were accepted beginning in July. The nomination deadline is Sept. 30. If you have any questions about the nomination process, please call Dekritra Ross-Larry at 501-682-7540, or email dekritra.ross-larry@arkansas.gov.

79th Convention Snapshots





Photos by Sherman Banks, Laney Harris, Andrew Morgan and Mark Potter

League honors city and town leaders for service

HOT SPRINGS—The Arkansas Municipal League honored municipal leaders and cities and towns for their outstanding service at the League’s 79th Convention, June 19-21 in Hot Springs.

The League named Congressman Steve Womack its Person of the Year for his sponsorship of the Marketplace Fairness Act in the U.S. House of Representatives. The League is a strong supporter of the bipartisan measure.

The League named retiring North Little Rock Finance Director Bob Sisson its John Woodruff City Above Self Award winner. Sisson has served his city for 34 years, working with five mayors, three city clerks, and 50 aldermen during his tenure. The award is named for the League’s former communications coordinator and editor of *City & Town* John Woodruff. Before his death in 2007, Woodruff worked tirelessly for Arkansas’s cities and towns.



Diane Woodruff, right, presents the John Woodruff City Above Self Award to North Little Rock Finance Director Bob Sisson. Sisson is retiring after serving his city for 34 years.

The Arkansas City Clerks, Records and Treasurers Association named De Queen City Clerk/Treasurer Donna Jones its Municipal Clerk of the Year for her contributions to the profession and dedication to her community.

Twenty officials this year received the Adrian L. White Municipal Leadership Award. The award is presented to city officials who have served with distinction and dedication to their cities and the League’s boards, councils, or committees for six years. The award is named in honor of White, who was mayor of Pocahontas from 1967-1974 and a former League president and vice president. The recipients are Mayor Rick Elumbaugh, Batesville; City Clerk/Treasurer Carol Crump-Westergren, Beebe; Mayor Kenneth Jones,



De Queen City Clerk/Treasurer Donna Jones, left, is this year’s ACCRTA Clerk of the Year. Lake City City Clerk/Treasurer Linda Simpson presents her with the award.

Brookland; Mayor Barry Riley, Caraway; City Clerk/Treasurer Donna Jones, De Queen; Mayor Laura Hamilton, Garfield; Mayor Jackie McPherson, Heber Springs; Finance Director Dorethea Yates, Hot Springs; City Clerk/Treasurer Linda Simpson, Lake City; Mayor Michael Watson, Maumelle; City Clerk Joshua Clausen, Maumelle; Mayor Jim Reeves, Norfolk; City Clerk/Treasurer Peggy Woody, Siloam Springs; Mayor Bobby Neal, Smackover; Mayor Ian Ouei, Stamps; Mayor Bob Freeman, Van Buren; Alderman Dale English, Searcy; Mayor Marianne Maynard, Stuttgart; and City Clerk Patti Scott Grey, Texarkana.

The Marvin L. Vinson Commitment to Excellence Award, named for the Clarksville mayor who served from 1983 until his death in 2001 and was League president in 1992-1993, went this year to four municipal leaders who have served their cities and the League for 12 years. The recipients are Mayor Larry Bryant, Forrest City; Alderman Rose Marie Wilkinson, Haskell; City Clerk/Treasurer Barbie Curtis, Van Buren; and Alderman Dorothy Henderson, Warren.

Two city officials this year received the Jack R. Rhodes Distinguished Service Award for 25 years of service to their municipalities. The recipients are City Clerk/Treasurer Marion “Lynn” Camp, Sheridan, and Mayor Joe Wise, Jr., Sheridan.

Fourteen cities and towns received the Four Star Municipality Award for demonstration of excellence in loss control and employee safety, wellness, vehicle safety, and prevention of liability: Arkadelphia, Calico Rock, Caraway, Charleston, Foreman, Goshen, Highland, Imboden, Jasper, Keiser, Oppelo, Pea Ridge, Portland, and Wickes.

Certificates of Appreciation

The League each year awards Certificates of Appreciation to those who have served on various boards or commissions in the past year. Recipients were recognized at the Opening Night Banquet of the 79th Convention.

Mayor Larry Stacy, **Altus**, Advisory Council

Alderman Jodi Breedlove, **Bull Shoals**, Advisory Council

Alderman Ann Gilliam, **Cabot**, Advisory Council

Assistant to the Mayor Kathy Lee, **Camden**, Advisory Council

Alderman Lucan Hargraves, Sr., **Dermott**, Advisory Council

Mayor Shari Marshall, **Diamond City**, Advisory Council

Mayor James Berry, **Dumas**, Advisory Council

Mayor Frank Hash, **El Dorado**, Advisory Council

Mayor Paul Wellenberger, **Fairfield Bay**, Advisory Council

Mayor Lioneld Jordan, **Fayetteville**, Advisory Council

Mayor Michael Lester, **Gum Springs**, Advisory Council

Recorder/Treasurer Carolyn Groves, **Hardy**, Advisory Council

Mayor Ruth Carney, **Hot Springs**, Advisory Council

Assistant City Manager Lance Spicer, **Hot Springs**, Advisory Council

City Manager David Watkins, **Hot Springs**, Advisory Council

Recorder/Treasurer Birdia Thompson, **Jennette**, Advisory Council

Alderman Chris Gibson, **Jonesboro**, Advisory Council

Mayor Buddy Blue, **Little Flock**, Advisory Council

Captain Alice Fulk, **Little Rock Police Department**, Advisory Council

Alderman Dean Bitner, **Lowell**, Advisory Council

Alderman Jennifer Baker, **Mountain Home**, Advisory Council

Mayor Gary Baxter, **Mulberry**, CMT-PMT-MOPEBT

City Clerk/Treasurer Liz McDaniel, **Nashville**, Advisory Council

Mayor Joe Smith, **North Little Rock**, Advisory Council

Mayor Carol Sneath, **Ozark**, Advisory Council

Mayor Daniel Rogers, **Paris**, Advisory Council

Mayor Debe Hollingsworth, **Pine Bluff**, Advisory Council

Alderman Doug Bartholomew, **Prairie Grove**, Advisory Council

Mayor Greg Hines, **Rogers**, Advisory Council

Alderman Kenneth Keplinger, **Sherwood**, Advisory Council

City Clerk/Treasurer Angela Nicholson, **Sherwood**, CMT-PMT-MOPEBT, Board of Trustees

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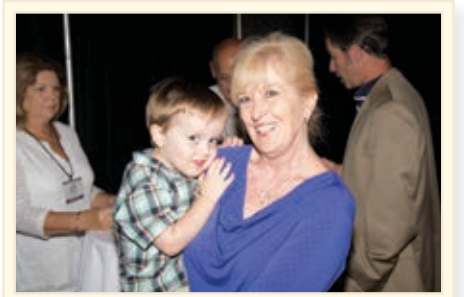
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Animal abuse, domestic violence linked

By Sgt. Larry Rogers

Domestic violence and animal abuse are problems that are often related. Where one occurs the other is often present, which is why all law enforcement agencies should train officers to look for the telltale signs. The Jonesboro Police Department trains in recognizing domestic violence and animal abuse and has programs offering help. If animals are involved, animal control officers will assist them in any way, including finding sanctuary and care for the animal at the Animal Control Shelter while the human victim is being taken care of.

In this column I'll share with you some disturbing facts about the connection between animal abuse and domestic violence. All excerpts and data are taken from FBI crime statistics, forensic investigation of animal cruelty and domestic abuse statistics, the ASPCA, AVMA, and other law enforcement agencies.

Abusers use animals to influence or harm people. By abusing an animal the abuser can:

- Demonstrate dominance or control—By inflicting violence on companion animals, abusers can demonstrate their power over a partner, elderly parent, or child. When an adult or child sees what an abusive person can do to a pet, they realize they are vulnerable to similar abuse, and in this way are taught submission.
- Inflict punishment or retaliation—Abusers may harm animals to punish their partners for leaving or attempting to leave. Animal abuse may also be used as a punishment for disobedience or some other action of which the abuser did not approve. It is a way to “get even” or “teach you a lesson.” Many abused people have reported that the mental anguish of having a loved animal abused is worse than some of the physical punishment they had received themselves. In a different tactic, a perpetrator may use an animal as an excuse for violence against a human. For instance, if an animal misbehaves, the child or partner may be the recipient of the violence rather than the pet.
- Silence, isolate, and threaten—By threatening to abuse an animal, a person can often prevent an abused adult or child from revealing their abuse to others and getting help. Abusive spouses or children may threaten to kill or harm an elderly

person's pet if they do not sign over assets or property to the abuser.

- Eliminate competition for attention—Jealousy over the amount of attention a companion animal receives may prompt an abuser to get rid of the pet.

Abused children may become animal abusers

Multiple studies have shown that children who grow up in an environment of animal abuse are more likely to be involved in animal abuse and human violence as they grow up. Young children growing up in an environment of abuse may become desensitized, and come to see violence as the norm. They may also learn that one way to demonstrate you have power or control is to abuse a creature that is weaker than you. Children in households with emotional or physical abuse between partners may vent or “act out” their resulting emotions, often through cruelty to animals.

Animal abuse may predict adult violence

People who abused pets as children are far more likely to commit murder or other violent crimes as they become adults. In fact, one of the most reliable predictors of adult violence is committing animal abuse as a child.

Animal abuse and domestic violence can occur anywhere. There are no social or economic boundaries. Animal cruelty needs to be taken seriously. It is not only a crime in itself, but an indication of other violence past, present, and future.

So, why the concern about animal abuse as it relates to violence in the home? These facts help illustrate why it matters:

- 71 percent of pet-owning women entering women's shelters reported that their batterer had injured, maimed, killed, or threatened family pets for revenge or to psychologically control victims; 32 percent reported their children had hurt or killed animals.
- 68 percent of battered women reported violence towards their animals. 87 percent of these incidents occurred in the presence of the women,

Hope celebrates Amtrak, clinic dedications

The Amtrak station and platform at Hope opened for service on the morning of April 4, and more than 150 passengers boarded the train for its first run to Texarkana. The city formally dedicated the station on May 18, when local residents, city leaders, and representatives of the Texas Eagle Marketing and Performance Organization celebrated the return of Amtrak service to Hope, a project that took nearly 20 years and more than \$250,000 to complete.



Hope's historic Martindale Clinic, before and after renovation.

The city cut the ribbon and dedicated a new clinic in the historic Martindale Clinic Building March 4. The building project began in 2007 as a Brownfields Cleanup funded in part by ADEQ. The \$425,000 renovation was completed in December 2012 funded by Arkansas Capital Improvement funds and other grants through the Arkansas Department of Economic Development. The downtown building, unoccupied since the 1970s, will be the home of the Charitable Christian Medical Clinic, a nonprofit corporation providing charitable medical services to Hope, Hempstead County, and the surrounding area.

and 75 percent in the presence of the children, to psychologically control and coerce them.

- 13 percent of intentional animal abuse cases involve domestic violence.
- Between 25 and 40 percent of battered women are unable to escape abusive situations because they worry about what will happen to their pets or livestock should they leave.
- Pets may suffer unexplained injuries, health problems, or permanent disabilities at the hands of abusers, or disappear from home.
- Abusers kill, harm, or threaten children's pets to coerce them into sexual abuse or to force them to remain silent about abuse. Disturbed children kill or harm animals to emulate their parents' conduct, to prevent the abuser from killing the pet, or to take out their aggressions on another victim.
- In one study, 70 percent of animal abusers also had records for other crimes. Domestic violence victims whose animals were abused saw the animal cruelty as one more violent episode in a long history of indiscriminate violence aimed at them and their vulnerability.
- Investigation of animal abuse is often the first point of social services intervention for a family in trouble.
- For many battered women, pets are sources of comfort providing strong emotional support: 98 percent of Americans consider pets to be companions or members of the family.
- Animal cruelty problems are people problems. When animals are abused, people are at risk.

Mahatma Gandhi said, "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." If this is the case, as I believe it is, we, as a society are in trouble. As you know, animals feel pain and fear—just like humans.



Sgt. Larry Rogers is Supervisor, Jonesboro Police Department Animal Control Division.

The evils of volcano mulching

By Patti Erwin

Mulch is a tree's friend until it is piled high around the trunk in the shape of a volcano. I'm not really sure where this practice began, but it needs to be stopped. Undue stress is being placed on our trees and healthy trees are being killed unnecessarily.

Problems caused by volcano mulching include:

- Keeping the trunk moist and breaking down the bark structure as well providing opportunities for pests to attack;
- Supporting the growth of adventitious roots that use the tree's energy and then are killed by either dry conditions in the summer or freezing temperatures in the winter;
- Promoting girdling roots that can eventually cut off the circulation of the trunk;
- Reducing the amount of air and water that reaches the roots;
- Restricting the release of carbon in the soil and having the potential to kill the roots; and
- Providing a hide out for varmints who enjoy munching on the bark.

You can still use the same amount of mulch for each tree, but pull it back from the trunk so it remains dry and spread it out flat over the root system two to three inches deep.

The benefits to properly mulching trees include:

- Reducing weed competition and keeping weed eaters and lawnmowers away so they won't damage the bark;
- Maintaining moisture in the soil;
- Improving the soil as it breaks down;
- Decreasing the amount of maintenance required;
- Moderating the soil temperature;
- Reducing the amount of potential compaction that can occur from humans and vehicles; and
- Extending the life of the tree.

There are many choices available when selecting mulch. The location where the tree is growing plays a large part in using the right type of mulch. For instance, if the tree is in a sidewalk planter or on a slope, the better choice would be a shredded type such as cypress or cedar. These tend to hold together better and will remain where they were intended to be used. If you choose a large pine nugget mulch, most likely after the first rain it would wash away. In an urban setting where people are



So-called volcano mulching harms and can even kill healthy trees.

walking past regularly it would be knocked out onto the sidewalk.

Whether your tree prefers an acidic or more alkaline soil can also impact your choice of mulch. Pine needles are a great choice if you want to make the soil more acidic. For a more alkaline soil pea gravel might be a good choice, as it will slowly deliver minerals back into the soil. Another benefit to pea gravel is that it does not need replacing like organic mulch.

Be sure the mulch you use is pest and weed free. There are several funguses that can be spread through mulch. If you are using mulch from your recycling center, be sure to have someone inspect it regularly.

The Arkansas Forestry Commission Urban Forestry Program is available to provide free workshops on proper planting and maintenance and we have educational materials available as well.

Patti Erwin is Urban Forestry Coordinator, Arkansas Forestry Commission. Contact Patti at patti.erwin@arkansas.gov.



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Elected officials essential to workforce development

By Michael Gerfen

One of the main complaints of businesses today is the lack of skilled workers. All businesses depend on quality personnel for productivity and profitability. Increased global competition and technological change in services and manufacturing have resulted in a new mix of specialized workforce skill requirements. Workforce development programs seek to bridge the gap between demand for quality workers and what is actually available or in supply. This is done by enhancing skills of existing workers and/or improving the basic skills of entry-level workers who might not be able to maintain meaningful employment otherwise.

Bridging the gap between supply and demand is one of the primary roles of workforce development and a basic concern of all local elected officials. It entails examining skills of potential employees and the needs of existing employers in a community to assess how to best bring them together. Providing skills needed to obtain a job and addressing additional, often overlooked issues such as childcare, language training, transportation, and housing can increase the chances of a community's workforce obtaining and retaining good jobs. Meaningful employment yields a valuable service to the community as well as the worker. It contributes to the overall wealth of the community, both individually and collectively, keeping local earnings within the community and often attracting inward investment. This generates a positive economic impact on housing, commercial development, livability, and location desirability.

A skilled workforce can also be an important business retention and expansion tool for mayors and economic developers. A skilled workforce, combined with an effective infrastructure for providing training programs, can give a community a distinct competitive advantage. In order for communities to connect workforce and economic development issues they must:

- Combine and coordinate job creation and job placement activities.
- Create ways to involve the business sector in workforce development program design and decision-making.
- Make better use of labor market and other relevant economic development information gathering facilities such as databases, retention surveys, and regular interaction with business.

Arkansas's Planning and Development Districts, or PDDs, have been involved for years in workforce development, some partnering with professional workforce development specialists and educators to design programs that address the needs of individual as well and groups of industries. These partnerships (existing and potential) often include:

- Local business and industry associations
- Economic development organizations
- Mayors and local elected officials
- K-12 educators, community colleges, and other institutions of higher learning
- Training centers/small business development centers
- Vocational schools
- Community and faith based institutions

Most workforce development programs have been centered on the supply-side or education and training portion of the equation but have had insufficient engagement with the demand-side in determining what skills employers in a given region require. For example, there are cities experiencing decline in certain industries and the emergence of others. It is important to develop workers' skills so they can effectively transition between those declining and emerging industries. Workforce development activities should serve as an important link between employers and the local labor market, but frequently don't.

There are challenges to engaging businesses in needs and skills assessment. Different industries require different skills at various levels. In addition, these needs continually change over time due to a fluid economy. Regardless of the challenges, it is critical that industry representatives communicate their needs to educators at all levels and workforce development specialists to better aid in the preparation of the local workforce. Mayors can help facilitate this communication through creation of robust business and industry visitation programs. Regions where this has happened have proven just how effective this type collaboration can be to ensure the skills business and industry need today and into the future are resident in their workforce.

Cluster-based workforce development has become an effective strategy in some workforce development circles in the last couple of years. It has been effective in drawing business and industry together with educators

and workforce developers. A cluster is a geographically bounded concentration of industries engaged in similar, related, or complementary activities. These industries develop active methods of communication, and shared infrastructure, labor markets, and services that face similar threats and challenges. Some of the strengths of this type approach include:

- Allows a workforce program to specialize in and standardize its product for a specific industry.
- Brings a range of workforce and economic development actors representing industry sectors and clusters to a common table.
- Helps employers pursue high-road as opposed to low-road strategies through shared expertise and partnerships.
- Reaches out to disadvantaged workers, helping low-wage earners obtain and advance in good jobs by providing a wider scope of opportunities.
- Engages businesses in workforce training that targets sector leaders.
- Supports industry-focused strategies that support entrepreneurship efforts.

Workforce development in its simplest form is the dance between demand and supply. Developers can support that dance by identifying where their workers come from, quantifying their numbers, and then unifying that data in a meaningful way.

Quantifying could include the following:

- Number of jobs by NAICS (North American Industry Classification System) code, current and projected
- Number of jobs by SOC (Standard Occupational Classification) code, current and projected
- Number and type of CRCs
- Demographic data that includes breakdowns of age, ethnicity, gender, and education

Unifying could include the following:

- Providing data to relevant workforce development customers, e.g. Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs), One-Stop Career Centers, two- and four-year colleges, K-12 institutions, and workers.
- Helping organize business and industry alliances.
- Bringing alliances together with educators at all levels and other relevant workforce players to discuss needs and solutions.

We at the Institute for Economic Advancement frequently find ourselves being asked to assist organizations as well as local elected officials across the state to identify, quantify, and unify information regarding their workforces. Additionally, we are asked to help bring business and industry together with educators, workforce developers, and mayors to develop strategies that result in talented, well-trained workers. If we can assist your organization to address your workforce issues please contact the Community Workforce Analysis and Assistance Group by calling 501-569-8978 or emailing your request to mlgerfen@ualr.edu.



Michael Gerfen, MSED, is Director, Workforce Analysis and Assistance Group, Institute for Economic Advancement, University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

CALENDAR

**National League of Cities
2013 Congress of Cities & Exposition
Wednesday-Saturday
November 13-16, 2013
Washington State Convention Center
Seattle, WA**

**Arkansas Municipal League
Winter Conference
Wednesday-Friday
January 15-17, 2014
Little Rock, Arkansas**

Information more than scuttlebutt

By Jim von Tungeln

Once the flow of information within our municipal organization is working, the ability to judge the quality of information becomes vital. To be used in setting public policy, data should be both accurate and useful. Sometimes, it is neither but we use it anyway. The results can range from irritating to devastating.

An important criterion for judging information is the source. A horoscope, for example, can provide a huge amount of information, none of it accurate and none of it suitable for making serious decisions. A thermometer, on the other hand, provides only a small amount of data, but it can be extremely accurate as well as useful. We make useful decisions based on the data it provides daily.

Covering some negatives first, consider some troublesome sources of information. The first may be surprising since it involves studies. It isn't that studies provide poor information. Rather, the problem lies in our misunderstanding of their purpose. Serious studies don't claim to prove things. They set forth a hypothesis, or possible reason for a phenomenon. The thesis must be challenged, tested, found to be sound, and their methods duplicated before their results are useful. See the diagram of the Scientific Method.

"Studies prove beyond a shadow of a doubt ..." isn't a phrase we hear from the scientific or academic worlds. That sort of certainty is reserved for motivational speakers and single-issue advocates. Public policy, as those who deal with it daily know all too well, is much more complicated.

Perhaps the most common mistake in quoting data from studies is the confusion of correlation and causation. Correlation is a statistical technique that tells us if two variables are related. For example, there is a strong correlation between the consumption of ice cream and the number of murders committed in some locations. Does that mean that eating ice cream causes murder? No, it may indicate that both tend to occur more frequently in hot weather.

While we may laugh at this, we don't laugh when someone says that the fact that crime and high density are correlated in some areas means that high-density environments cause crime. The false assumptions in both the ice cream and density examples are the same.

For example, the Park Avenue area of New York City has one of the highest densities in the country and one of the lowest internal crime rates. At the same time, some rural areas of America with extremely low densities have been devastated by criminal activities associated with the production of methamphetamine.

For correlations to be meaningful, we subject them to the scientific process with often confusing results. We might find a positive correlation between happy workers and productivity. But wait. Are happy workers more productive, or are productive workers just happier?

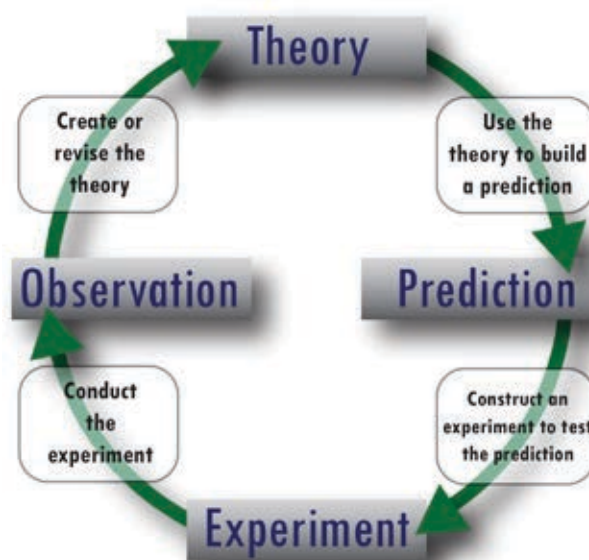
Other informational sources that can lead us on false trails involve inductive reasoning as opposed to deductive reasoning. Deductive reasoning happens when a researcher works from the more general information to the more specific. This is the type most frequently occurring in scientific analysis. Inductive reasoning works the opposite way, moving from specific observations to broader generalizations and theories.

We know inductive reasoning sometimes as "anecdotal evidence" or declaring that something must be true because someone saw it work once somewhere. While inductive reasoning might be used in science, it is not always logically valid because it is not always accurate to assume that a general principle is correct.

So, stating that Moneyville, Tenn., has a 100-page landscape ordinance and is a growing city, therefore our city would grow if it only had a 100-page landscape ordinance can lead us into murky waters at best.

While we are on the topic of anecdotal evidence, we can all, if we try, remember instances in which it was produced (or treated) as scientific fact. I once saw a city council override the opinion of its city engineer

The Scientific Method



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PLANNING
Prepared by Matt Moore

(P.E. registration and all) on a drainage problem when a used-car salesman testified that he had lived in the city his entire life and could assure the council that the area wouldn't flood. Oh, yes it did eventually. The emergency services teams traversed the area for a time while on jet skis.

Finally, there is what we commonly call "scuttlebutt." Most know that means "gossip" but few know its origin—the navy. Old-time sailors had little contact with those of different watches, so information, accurate or not, was shared at a water barrel—called a scuttlebutt—lashed to a mast. Sailors meeting there to drink would quickly pass rumors, tales, and gossip. In the U.S. Navy, a drinking fountain still carries the title.

Modern organizational theory still acknowledges a limited value for informal lines of communication. Scuttlebutt, in fact, might have value in alerting us to potential problems. It has, however, no useful role in policy making.

So, where are good sources of information? As indicated, city engineers, city attorneys, code enforcement personnel, and yes, even city planners can provide useful information. The planners' professional organization, the American Planning Association, along with its companion organization the American Institute of Certified Planners, maintains a wealth of information.

Most associations, in fact, publish monthly magazines containing well-researched and fact-based articles. For policy wonks, some professional organizations, in addition to publishing magazines for general consumption, also publish academic journals. Associations also provide workshops at their conferences that can be of use to public officials.

Modern GIS technology can be very useful in connecting factual data to spatial locations. Properly used, it can lead us to any number of testable theories. We must always remember, however, that there is more to scientific analysis, as well as policy making, than simply preparing a map.

A final challenge with information lies in sifting through the vast amount of it available to us now. We can cover that in a future column. In the meantime, fasten your intellectual seat belt the next time someone says, "Studies prove conclusively"



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.

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Memorial to fallen road workers honors and educates

By Sherman Banks

During our 79th Convention I had the opportunity to meet one of our exhibitors representing “The National Work Zone Memorial—Respect and Remembrance: Reflections of Life on the Road.” It was unveiled in 2002 by the American Traffic Safety Services Foundation (ATSSA). Founded in 1988 and headquartered in Fredericksburg, Va., the nonprofit ATSSA is a charitable and educational organization that promotes roadway safety. This is a concept that I thought our membership might have an interest in, since Arkansas has between 500 and 700 fatalities annually on our roadways in motor vehicles and work zones.

The ATSSA has motivated decision-makers across the country to advance the cause. Families of fallen workers are supported financially in remembrance of their loved ones, and are given hope for the future through improved roadway safety and declining work zone deaths. The foundation works to keep the public aware that behind the orange and yellow cones and barrels is someone’s father, son, uncle, or daughter working to keep our roadways safe.

Families who have lost a loved one in a work zone fatality may submit their name to be included on the National Work Zone Memorial. In order to have the fallen worker’s name included on the memorial exhibition in 2014, the name must be submitted before



December 13. Most importantly, the fatality must have occurred in a roadway work zone.

To obtain an application for the memorial, visit the ATSSA online at www.atssa.com, contact Lori Diaz at 540-368-1717, or email lori.diaz@atssa.com.

The National Work Zone Memorial is a traveling memorial, visiting cities and towns across the country to raise public awareness for the need to respect and stay safe in work zones. In 2011, the Memorial was hosted by 11 organizations in 10 states, where it was viewed by more than 144,000 people. The memorial is generally hosted at state Department of Transportation events and work zone events nationwide. At the end of 2011 the Memorial displayed 1,389 names.

If you have had roadway work zone fatalities in your municipality, or if you would like to educate your citizens on work zone safety, contact the ATSSA and the Highway Department to arrange for the memorial to visit your city.



Contact Sherman Banks at 501-374-8493, email sbanks@aristotle.net, or write to P.O. Box 165920, Little Rock, AR 72216.

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Grant helps Bryant extend multi-use trail

The Bryant Parks and Recreation Department is pleased to announce it has received approval for an \$11,000 grant by the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department for a perimeter trail at Bishop Park.



Bryant hopes the new 1.7-mile trail at Bishop Park will one day connect to other trails in the city as part of their Master Trails Plan.

Comprised of a fine chat-rock, the trail will extend the current Bryant Parks Nature Trail by an additional 1.7 miles of trail space throughout Bishop Park. The 10-foot wide trail will encourage multiple uses as well as connect the multipurpose fields and future fishing pier to the rest of the park.

The project will receive up to \$11,000 in federal project construction funds with the city providing \$2,200 in matching funds. These funds will include not only the construction of the trail, but also the supplies including the tread and bordering.

Currently, Bishop Park has a wood-chip trail loop that is .8 miles long and encompasses a 1/3-acre, 50-plot community garden maintained by the city. The trail space is chiefly used for local 5K races including the Bryant Hornet Invitational as well as the Imagination Library Reindeer Run.

The Bryant Parks Nature Trail is not the only trail way in the city. Mills Park contains a paved .5-mile perimeter trail utilized mainly for running and walking. It is hoped that one day the two parks' trails can be



The new trail builds on the work the city has already done at Bishop Park, which includes a 50-plot community garden area.

connected through a city trail, maximizing accessibility and fulfilling a Master Trails Plan.

“The additional trail space is essential inside Bishop Park,” says Recreation Superintendent Brandon Griffin. “With the local schools using the park for Cross Country meets, as well as local runners and walkers in the community, it’s important for us to provide a safe and adequate amount of recreational space.”

While Bryant Parks Department has been officially recognized as receiving the grant, actual construction of the trail will not take place until the end of the year. All construction of the project will be done internally by Bryant Parks Department staff.

For more information regarding the Multi-use Trails Grant, contact Brandon Griffin at 501-943-0444.

Changes to 2013 Directory, Arkansas Municipal Officials

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



Barling

Delete DR Ron Wingfield
 Add DR (Vacant)
 Delete ADM Raymond Caruthers
 Add ADM Mike Tanner
 Delete T Mike Tanner
 Add T (Vacant)

Benton

Delete AL Joe Lee Richards
 Add AL (Vacant)

Conway

Delete FC Bart Castleberry
 Add FC (Vacant)

Damascus

Delete PC Randy Spencer
 Add PC (Vacant)

Garner

Delete R/T Carla Johnson
 Add R/T Rebecca Addington

Greenbrier

Delete CA William Velek
 Add CA Dustin Chapman

Greenwood

Delete C/T Sharla Spoon
 Add C/T Sharla Derry

Hampton

Delete PC Jeff Jackson
 Add PC Carroll Newton

Hughes

Delete PC James Hammer
 Add PC Dennis Mills

Jericho

Delete MA P.O. Box 10, Crawfordsville, AR
 72327
 Add MA P.O. Box 130, Clarkedale, AR
 72325

Lake Village

Delete SS Clarence Smith
 Add SS Ronnie Wilson

Marion

Delete AL (Vacant)
 Add AL David Bigger

Monette

Delete AL Joyce Read
 Add AL Bob Hurst

Mulberry

Delete FC Tim Oldham
 Add FC Jeffrey Marvin

North Little Rock

Delete /A/PC Mike Davis
 Add PC Mike Davis
 Delete FO Bob Sisson
 Add FO Karen Scott

Yellville

Delete DPW Gayle Stude
 Add DPW (Vacant)

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Arkansas hospitals take steps to protect tiny hearts

By W. Robert Morrow, M.D.

When your baby is born, the last thing you want to think about is a possible heart defect. But critical congenital heart disease occurs on average in eight of 1,000 live births. This disease also accounts for up to 10 percent of infant deaths.

Critical congenital heart disease (CCHD) represents a group of heart defects that can cause serious, life-threatening symptoms. A newborn has to have medical intervention with this disease within the first days or first year of its life. Some babies with the disease can look and act healthy at first, but within the first hours or days after birth, they have serious complications. CCHD can involve holes in the heart, abnormal connections in the heart, or abnormal or absent chambers. These abnormalities can cause the blood to flow incorrectly through the heart and lungs, which leads to a decreased oxygen level in the blood.

In Arkansas, while physicians at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) have already made screenings standard after delivery not only in Little Rock, but also at other sites across the state, the Legislature recently created a bill that was signed into law making screening mandatory statewide.

Screening for CCHD

In some cases, congenital heart diseases can be detected before birth or through a physical examination after delivery. Yet approximately 30 percent of newborns with a critical congenital heart defect can leave the hospital undiagnosed.

Many hospitals, including UAMS, have already started screening its well-baby population for CCHD. Screening uses a pulse oximeter, which is a device that can detect the first sign of the most serious heart problems.

The screening is painless and noninvasive for the newborn. A nurse or physician uses a small cuff about the size of a Band-Aid that is attached to the pulse oximeter. The readings from the cuff measure the baby's blood oxygen levels. The screening is completed at the baby's bedside and takes place when the baby is 24 to 48 hours old.

A reading of 95 percent or above in both an arm and a leg is an indication of good blood oxygenation and no signs of CCHD. While a reading of 90-94 means that the baby needs further assessment, a reading of below 90 percent indicates that the newborn is at risk for critical congenital heart disease.

If the results of the screen are not in the acceptable range, more testing is needed. Just because a baby tested with low levels of oxygen in the blood does not always mean that the newborn has CCHD. After evaluation by a medical team, if there is no other explanation for the low oxygen level, an echocardiogram is performed. This may require transfer to a higher level of care, such as a neonatal intensive care unit.

Case for widespread screening

The goal of the screening is so CCHD will be detected before the infants leave the hospital. If babies with CCHD are sent home from the nursery without diagnosis, they are likely to die or become very sick before the heart defect is recognized. It is expected that 10-20 babies will be saved each year by detection of critical congenital heart disease before discharge after delivery.

While UAMS has been providing the screening to all babies at no additional cost to patients, its faculty members and the staff at Arkansas Children's Hospital also are helping hospitals across the state with screenings. Using interactive video communication and live video streaming online, UAMS faculty members are able to partner with physicians and healthcare providers across the state to teach them the screening protocol. Arkansas Children's Hospital is providing additional training and support.

Around 50 Arkansas hospitals with labor and delivery units have been assisted so far, and with the new legislation, there are strides being made in implementing the now-mandated screening for all newborns delivered in Arkansas.



W. Robert Morrow, M.D. is Professor of Pediatrics, Associate Dean for Children, College of Medicine, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

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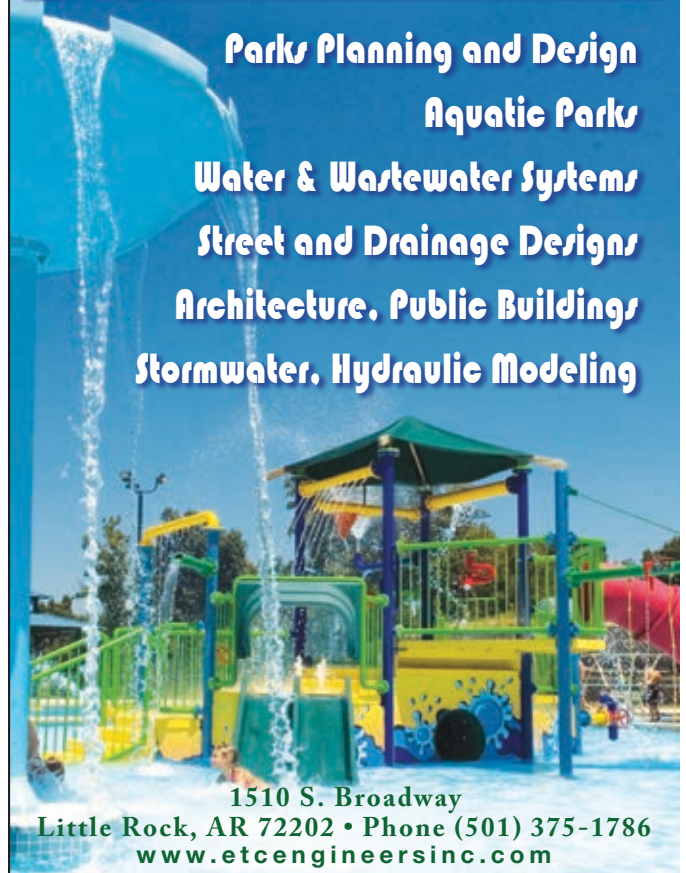
Aquatic Parks

Water & Wastewater Systems

Street and Drainage Designs

Architecture, Public Buildings

Stormwater, Hydraulic Modeling

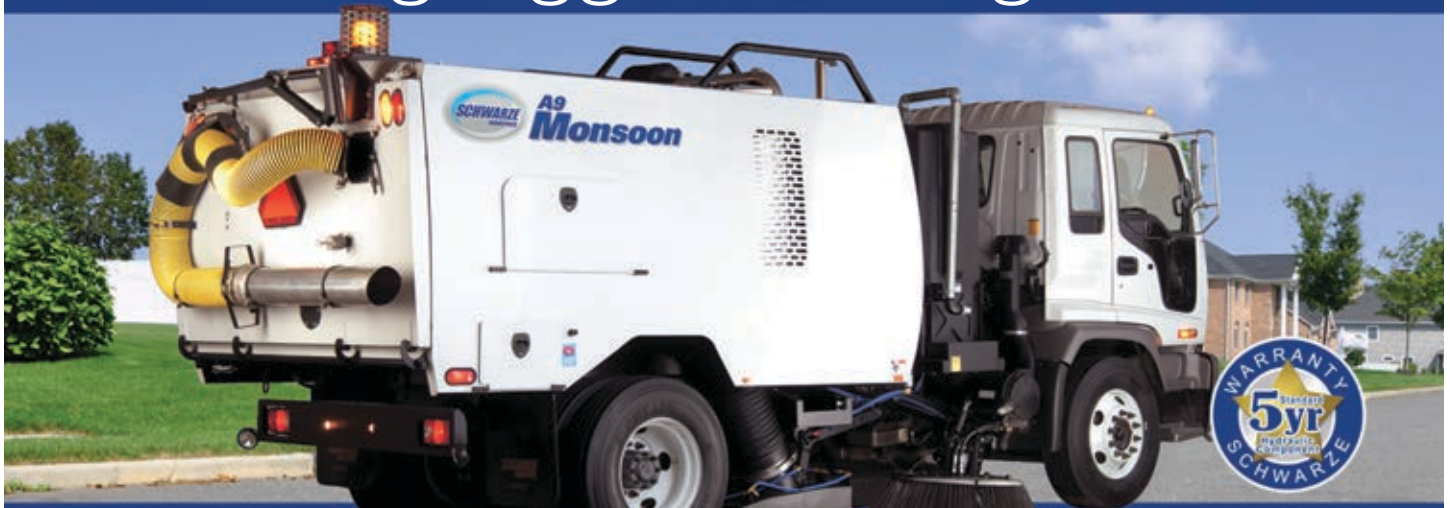


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Strong applications feature well-developed budgets

By Chad Gallagher

Competition for grant funds is stiff, but fantastic grants designed to help you achieve your community development goals are still available and within reach. You should do everything within your power to present an application with the best chance for success. There are a lot of things that can give your application an edge over others. Good relationships with the funding agency, political support, a well-developed strategic plan for your city, a solid concept in the grant, and a well-written application are all crucial.

If you properly identify your need and propose a solid solution that is supported by reliable data then you are off to a good start. However, in this competitive environment granting agencies are scrutinizing the budgets of applications more than ever. In today's grant world your application budget must be accurate and make sense. If the funders don't feel good about the numbers, your application is likely to fail.

In many ways an application's budget tells of your project priorities more than your narrative does. Ultimately, every grant application is about money, and your budget matters. Here are a few tips to improve your grant application budget:

1. Follow all budget guidelines. Pay close attention to what the grant calls allowable or non-allowable expenses and write your budget accordingly. In addition, note any budget hints the guidelines offer that suggest what the grant normally does or does not fund.
2. Review budgets of previously successful applications and emulate them.
3. Clearly link the budget to the proposal's goals and objectives. Every piece of the budget must be aligned with producing the proposed outcomes. The purpose of the budget is to fund your implementation plan. Kill anything that doesn't fit. If it isn't easy to explain, it may not belong.
4. Review each section of the implementation plan and be sure the budget addresses them all.
5. Be reasonable in scope. You won't eliminate world hunger with \$10,000. Be sure that your budget can achieve what you propose to do.
6. Include expenditure timeframes.
7. Be sensitive to cost-benefit ratio. It is important that your justification link all budget expenditures to benefits.
8. Avoid including normal operating expenses. Grant reviewers look for budget items that are necessary for the proposal, not normal organizational expenses.
9. Do not include a "miscellaneous" line item.
10. Be thoughtful regarding equipment expenses. They are closely reviewed. Be certain that any request for equipment, furniture, or fixtures is truly necessary and related to the program.
11. Explain how vendors and contractors will be selected if the budget calls for contractual expenses.
12. Don't guess costs. Take the time and effort necessary to research and develop budget numbers that are as close to exact as possible.
13. Use actual costs to compute fringe benefits for personnel.
14. Use industry norms to determine personnel salaries and stay under the allowable personnel cost.
15. Double-check all of your figures. You are unlikely to convince a funding agency or organization to hand over funds if your budget is full of errors. Check that math.
16. Don't be greedy. Keep the budget clean, fair, and justifiable. If reviewers think you are padding it too much then you will lose their trust and your credibility.

Use your budget justification page to simply answer each question that would arise from reading through the budget. If the budget calls for a laptop, explain why. If it includes personnel costs, explain why personnel are needed and how you will select the candidates. The budget justification form should eliminate lingering questions and unknowns.

The budget is important and you can't afford not to get it right. Let us review your next budget for a grant application and give you tips and guidance.

Rural development, FEMA grants available

The Arkansas Department of Rural Services is accepting applications for its Rural Community Development Grant Program. The next deadline is August 16. Learn more at www.arkansas.gov/drs/drsgrants.html.

FEMA's SAFER Grant (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) has unveiled new planning tools to help you prepare for the next round of funding.

The tools were developed specifically to help you prepare your 2013 application in advance. Learn more at www.fema.gov/staffing-adequate-fire-emergency-response-grants.



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

Reminder: Sales tax changes taking effect over the next year

1. Sales tax changes effective July 1:

- Increase of state sales tax to 6.5%.
- Increase of manufacturing utilities reduced rate to 3.25%.
- Increase of electricity manufacturing reduced rate to 4.75%.
- No change in the reduced rate for food of 1.5%.

2. Annual back-to-school sales tax holiday is scheduled for the weekend of Aug. 3-4, 2013.

Exempts back-to-school items, such as clothing, school supplies, and instructional materials.

3. Sales tax exemptions effective Oct. 1, 2013:

- Exempts repair parts and labor for pollution control machinery and equipment from state sales tax.
- Exempts commercial farmers from sales tax on baling twine, net wrap, silage wrap, and similar products.
- Exempts nonprofit blood donation organizations from state and local sales and use taxes.

4. New laws in effect as of Aug. 16, 2013, affecting those in tax and auditing:

- Dept. of Finance & Administration will be allowed to disclose tax records to a joint

auditor employed by two or more cities for purposes of auditing the Advertising and Promotion taxes collected by a city. Records must remain confidential and are not subject to public disclosure.

- Dept. of Finance & Administration will be required to notify state Medicaid officials if a provider fails to file a state income tax return, state withholding return, a pass through entity tax return, or pay taxes due for the previous calendar year. Otherwise, the provider will be considered non-compliant and their Medicaid enrollment will be terminated.
- Civil and criminal penalties are now in effect for activities related to software and devices used to modify or falsify e-records to evade tax payments.
- 5. **Sales tax exemptions effective Jan. 1, 2014:** Exempts utilities used by qualifying agricultural structures, qualifying aquaculture and horticulture equipment.
- 6. **Sales tax exemptions effective July 1, 2014:**
 - Exempts utilities used by a graining drying and storage facility.
 - Exempts dental appliances sold by or to dentists or certain other professionals.

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2013

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

Inhalant abuse

Inhalants are volatile substances that produce chemical vapors that can be inhaled to induce a psychoactive or mind-altering effect. Other abused substances can be inhaled; the term “inhalant” is used to describe a variety of substances whose main common characteristic is that they are rarely taken by any route other than inhalation. Precise categorization of inhalants—volatile substances—is very difficult to do. Some suggest that inhalants might fit into four categories: volatile solvents, aerosols, gases, and nitrites (based on the forms in which they are found in household, industrial, and medical products). In fact, inhalants—particularly volatile solvents (gases and aerosols)—are often the easiest and first option for abuse among young teens as they begin to experiment with drugs.

Inhalants defined

Volatile solvents are liquids that vaporize at room temperature. They are found in many inexpensive, easily available products used for common household and industrial purposes. These include paint thinners and removers, cleaning fluids, degreasers, gasoline, glues, correction fluids, and felt-tip markers.

Aerosols are sprays that contain propellants and solvents. They include spray paints, deodorant and hair sprays, vegetable oil sprays for cooking, and fabric protector sprays. Gases include medical anesthetics as well as gases used in household or commercial products. Medical anesthetics include ether, chloroform, halothane, and nitrous oxide.

The most commonly abused of these gases is and can be found in whipped cream dispensers and products

that boost octane levels in racing cars. Other household or commercial products containing gases include butane lighters, propane tanks, and refrigerants.

Another word for inhaling is huffing. Nitrites, unlike most other inhalants, act directly on the central nervous system. Nitrites dilate the blood vessels and relax the muscles. While other inhalants are used to alter mood, nitrites are generally used as sexual enhancers. Nitrites include cyclobexyl nitrite, amyl nitrite and isobutyl nitrite and are commonly known as “poppers” or “snappers.” It is noted that amyl nitrite is used to treat certain heart conditions. Nitrites are now prohibited by the Consumer Product Safety Commission, but can be found still sold in small bottles labeled as “video head cleaners,” “room odorizer,” “leather cleaner,” or “liquid aroma.” Inhalant abusers will abuse any available substance.

More information on inhalants

To learn more about inhalants you may check out the following sites.

National Institute on Drug Abuse sites:

- drugabuse.gov
- inhalants.drugabuse.gov
- steroidabuse.gov
- clubdrugs.gov
- backtoschool.drugabuse.gov
- teens.drugabuse.gov

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

- cdc.gov

National Inhalant Prevention Coalition:

- inhalants.org

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's required drug testing for all holders of commercial drivers' licenses.



Municipal Notes

National Night Out celebrates 30th anniversary

National Night Out, the annual event promoting law enforcement and community partnerships to deter neighborhood crime, will take place on Aug. 6, and this year the event celebrates 30 years. A nonprofit organization, the National Night Out program holds the annual event each year on the first Tuesday in August.

In 1984, when the first National Night Out was held, about 400 communities representing 2.5 million people in 23 states participated. Currently, more than 37 million people across the United States participate.

To register your municipality or agency, visit the National Night Out website at www.natw.org.

Booneville downtown makes historic register

The Booneville Commercial Historic District has been named to the National Register of Historic Places, the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has announced. The district features buildings dating to 1906. "Through the years as railroads, institutions, manufacturers, and businesses came and went, the Booneville community continued to look forward while maintaining a sense of its past," according to the National Register nomination. "Booneville's downtown commercial district remains an integral and everyday element for the citizens of Booneville as well as an accessible and cohesive display of early 1900s architecture for all visitors and those just passing by."

For more information on the National Register of Historic Places program, write the AHPP at 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center St., Little Rock, AR 72201; call 501-324-9880; visit www.arkansaspreservation.org.

Conway, Fayetteville among 10 cheapest cities

Kiplinger's, the personal finance magazine, has named Conway and Fayetteville among its top 10 cheapest U.S. cities to live in, KATV has reported. The magazine based its rankings on the Council for Community and Economic Research calculations of living expenses in 307 urban areas. The other eight cities to make the list are Harlingen, Texas; McAllen, Texas; Norman, Okla.; Memphis, Tenn.; Wichita Falls, Texas; Pueblo, Colo.; Springfield, Ill.; and Idaho Falls, Idaho.

State Aid Street Committee funds 64 new projects

Holding its fourth meeting on June 13, the State Aid Street Committee awarded the largest amount of money yet, funding 64 projects throughout the state. In total, the Committee awarded \$13,098,100 of State Aid Street funds. Awarded projects ranged from \$66,000 to \$250,000. To date, all funded projects have required no significant design work. Projects requiring significant design work will be reviewed and considered in January 2014.

The Committee voted to change the process for project submittals. As of now, cities and towns will submit all projects to the State Aid Street Committee, C/O Arkansas Municipal League, P.O. Box 38, North Little Rock, AR, 72115. The Committee will review the municipality's request for a project and will forward to the State Aid Engineer to begin the scoping of the project when deemed appropriate. The State Aid Engineer, District Engineer, and the requesting city official or their designated representative will conduct an on-site inspection to determine the scope of the project.

Also, when submitting projects to the Committee, be sure to provide the following: street name(s) proposed for improvement, length of street(s) to be improved, priority of requested improvements, and a description of type of improvement. Changes will be included in the next edition of *Procedures for Development of State Aid Construction Projects for Cities*.

The State Aid Street Committee will hold its next meeting at 10 a.m., July 24 at League Headquarters to discuss establishing criteria for selecting projects for funding.

Arkansas Municipal League
P.O. Box 38
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County equalization boards to meet in August

County equalization boards will meet Aug. 1 through Oct. 1 to equalize the assessed value for all acreage lands, city and town lots, other real property and personal property. "Equalization" means to adjust the valuation of property in order to bring about a uniform tax rate (ACA § 26-27-315; *Black's Law Dictionary*). The boards will meet as often as necessary during this time to complete their work (ACA § 26-27-309). If a county's ratio of assessed-to-market value is out of compliance, the equalization board may meet after Oct. 1, but no later than the third Monday in November (ACA § 26-27-311).

County equalization boards have two responsibilities: (1) to review and equalize overall county assessments as assessed by the assessor, and (2) to hear assessment appeals by property owners. The board begins the review of assessments on Aug. 1, when the county assessor delivers the completed assessment records to the county clerk, who serves as the secretary for the board. Assessment appeals from landowners begin no later than the second Monday in August (ACA § 26-27-317).

Cities and towns have a part to play in deciding who sits as a member of the county equalization board. Cities and towns select one member of a five-member board

(counties with a population less than 79,000) and two members of a nine-member board (counties with a population greater than 79,000) (ACA § 26-27-303 and 304).

To select county equalization board members, city and town representatives within the county shall hold a meeting during the month of May of each year in which the terms of any of the members of the county equalization board shall expire (ACA § 26-27-304(b)(2)(A)). The mayor of the city or town or his or her designee shall serve as the representative of his or her city or town (*Id.*). The mayor of the county seat shall be the chair of the meeting, and if there are dual county seats, the mayor of the larger of the two seats shall be the chair of the meeting (*Id.*). Those at the meeting shall select the member of the board via majority vote, and each city or town shall be entitled to one vote (*Id.*). No action shall be taken unless a quorum is present. A majority of all of the representatives of all cities and incorporated towns in the county shall constitute a quorum (*Id.*).

Information for this article comes from "Arkansas Property Tax Equalization and Appeal System," a publication of the Assessment Coordination Department. For more information, contact the Department at 501-324-9240, or visit www.arkansas.gov/acd.

Release of pension info inconsistent with FOIA

Opinion: 2013-057

Requestor: Helen Williams c/o Jennifer Johansen, Asst. HR

In response to a Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”) request, is the decision of the custodian of records to release the amount of annual retirement pension for individuals who currently draw a pension and paycheck from the City of North Little Rock consistent with provisions of the FOIA? **RESPONSE:** In my opinion, the custodian’s decision to release the amount of your individual pension benefit information is likely inconsistent with the FOIA. See opinion for discussion.

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

Fairs & Festivals

July 12, **GUY**, 2nd Guy Peachfest, 501-679-4585, guypeachfest.com

July 25-28, **DUMAS**, 34th Ding Dong Days Festival, 870-382-5447, www.dumasar.net

July 26-27, **ALTUS**, 30th Altus Grape Fest, 479-468-4684, altusgrapefest.com

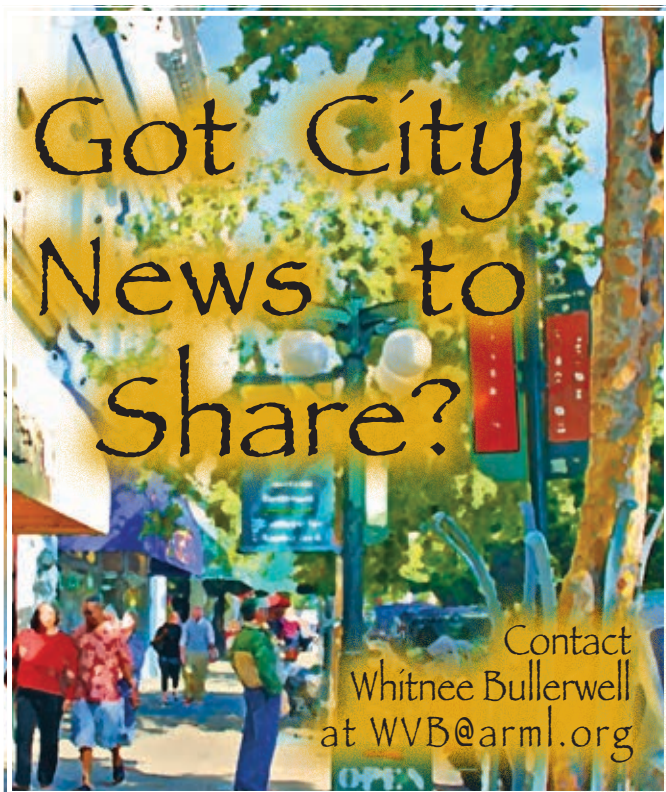
July 27, **HEBER SPRINGS**, 27th World Championship Cardboard Boat Race, 501-362-2444, www.heber-springs.com

Aug. 2-3, **DIERKS**, 42nd Pine Tree Festival, 870-286-2019, dierkschamberofcommerce.com

Aug. 6-10, **TONTITOWN**, 115th Tontitown Grape Festival, 479-927-2295, tontitowngrapefestival.com

Aug. 8-10, **CAVE CITY**, 34th Cave City Watermelon Festival, 870-283-5959, casalan65@gmail.com; **HOPE**, 37th Hope Watermelon Festival, 870-777-3640, www.hopemelonfest.com

Aug. 9-10, **GRAVETTE**, Gravette Days, 479-787-5757, www.cityofgravette-ar.gov



Obituaries

JOSEPH L. LENOX SR., 73, a Ward planning commissioner, died June 12.

JOHN T. “JACK” MERIWETHER, 79, former Little Rock city manager from 1969-1973 and Texarkana city manager from 1964-1969, died June 27.

ROBERT “SWIFTY” REYNOLDS, 69, a former Fayetteville alderman and planning commissioner, died July 1.

JOE LEE RICHARDS SR., 78, a Benton alderman and former police officer, Arkansas state policeman, and Saline County sheriff, died June 13.

Limit runoff damage with sustainable infrastructure

By Tim Brockway, P. E.

A growing trend in urban design is to change the way we build our streets and parking lots by designing them to be an extension of the natural drainage systems around us.

Sustainable infrastructure, low-impact development, and green streets are all different ways of labeling infrastructure improvements that protect the environment. These methods typically save money, look nicer, and help protect the environment.

Urban runoff, the water that comes off of the hard surfaces around us, is highly toxic. Every day the pavements and buildings in our communities are damaging the waters from where we drink, fish, and swim. The pavements and buildings contribute by speeding up and increasing the amount of the runoff, as well as heating and polluting the runoff with oils, metals, fertilizers, and animal wastes.

Fortunately, we can manage this storm runoff using aesthetically pleasing landscapes to reduce and treat these flows rather than building expensive mechanical

systems or taking up land for ponds. Not only is this method effective, it is cheaper and the landscapes provide habitats for birds and beneficial insects like bees and butterflies to flourish.

One of the easiest and least expensive techniques for sustainable infrastructure is the use of rain gardens. These low-lying areas hold, cool, and filter runoff, then slowly release it downstream. They are landscape planter areas that fill like a large puddle when it rains. These replace the typical grassed planter strips and islands along streets and in parking lots, and reduce the amount of costly underground drainage systems. Landscape maintenance costs are also lower, as once established, they require little irrigation and expensive fertilizers. Other methods for sustainable infrastructure include building narrower streets and using pervious pavements, along with planting more trees, which cleans the air while shading pavements and catching the rain.

Cities across Arkansas are beginning to build sustainable infrastructure. Fayetteville has many rain



New developments at Little Rock's MacArthur Park include rain gardens, shade trees, and pervious concrete pavements, which add beauty while mitigating runoff.



Sustainable infrastructure, such as these green streets and rain gardens in Portland, Ore., can fit any location and add value beyond just managing storm drainage.

gardens along downtown streets and recently adopted a low-impact design manual. Little Rock is implementing a green streets project along Main Street with the help of a federal grant. Pulaski County incorporated a green street design on the street improvements at MacArthur Park using rain gardens, heavy tree planting, and pervious concrete pavement installation. Pervious concrete pavement generally lasts longer and is cooler than asphalt, does not require re-sealing every few years, and prevents damaging, intense urban runoff from occurring in the first place.

Morrilton, Bryant, and Monticello have all had developments in the last few years that incorporate rain gardens in parking lots at commercial sites. In Little Rock, the UAMS Ray Winder Field project filters and slows its runoff in rain gardens located throughout the parking lot. New elementary schools being built in North Little Rock are also using these as educational tools.

As my grandfather used to say, it all flows downstream, and the truth is that we are all living downstream. By working together in our communities we can reduce damage to our precious waterways and make Arkansas's cities and towns even better places to live.



Tim Brockway is a Licensed Professional Engineer and LEED-Accredited Professional at McClelland Consulting Engineers. Contact Tim at 501-371-0272 or email tbrockway@mccllelland-engrs.com.

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2013 State Turnback Funds

Actual Totals Per Capita						
	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
MONTH	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013
January	\$3.4786	\$3.2369	\$0.2859	\$0.3020	\$3.1339	\$3.1338
February	\$3.7795	\$3.4064	\$0.2584	\$0.3873	\$1.0053	\$1.0094
March	\$3.2521	\$3.0946	\$0.4307	\$0.3953	\$1.0055	\$1.0055
April	\$3.4633	\$3.2024	\$0.2705	\$0.3438	\$1.0017	\$1.0056
May	\$3.6848	\$3.5348	\$0.1999	\$0.3138	\$1.0053	\$1.0028
June	\$3.8035	\$3.6607	\$0.2104	\$0.3573	\$1.0056	\$1.0055
July	\$3.7480		\$0.1996		\$3.1087	
August	\$3.5350		\$0.1567		\$1.0052	
September	\$3.6430		\$0.1899		\$1.0056	
October	\$3.4734		\$0.2654		\$1.0056	
November	\$3.4269		\$0.2902		\$1.0054	
December	\$3.4321		\$0.2501		\$0.91	
Total Year	\$42.7202	\$20.1359	\$3.0077	\$2.0994	\$16.1978	\$8.1626

Actual Totals Per Month						
	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
MONTH	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013
January	\$6,537,582.03	\$6,083,989.12	\$537,347.01	\$567,571.55	* \$5,889,623.14	*\$5,890,046.27
February	\$7,103,104.25	\$6,402,534.31	\$485,627.91	\$728,037.16	\$1,889,245.23	\$1,897,309.37
March	\$6,111,822.72	\$5,816,498.28	\$809,523.74	\$742,998.16	\$1,889,603.23	\$1,889,913.31
April	\$6,508,820.12	\$6,019,069.40	\$508,320.37	\$646,153.53	\$1,882,530.42	\$1,890,083.64
May	\$6,925,015.17	\$6,643,763.23	\$375,733.12	\$589,734.49	\$1,889,362.42	\$1,884,771.73
June	\$7,148,252.90	\$6,880,560.47	\$395,417.87	\$671,509.25	\$1,889,865.20	\$1,889,910.83
July	\$7,043,886.87		\$375,173.84		** \$5,842,460.26	
August	\$6,643,716.19		\$294,503.90		\$1,889,164.55	
September	\$6,846,853.12		\$356,918.13		\$1,890,041.23	
October	\$6,528,081.50		\$498,817.98		\$1,890,041.23	
November	\$6,440,629.62		\$545,491.57		\$1,889,559.03	
December	\$6,450,883.49		\$470,059.64		\$1,703,306.66	
Total Year	\$80,288,647.98	\$37,846,414.81	\$5,652,935.08	\$3,946,004.14	\$30,434,802.60	\$15,342,035.15

* Includes \$4 million appropriation from the Property Tax Relief Fund

** Includes \$3,517,657 supplemental in July

Local Option Sales and Use Tax in Arkansas



KEY: Counties not collecting sales tax

Source: Debbie Rogers, Office of State Treasurer

See also: www.dfa.arkansas.gov

Sales and Use Tax Year-to-Date 2013 with 2012 Comparison (shaded gray)								
Month	Municipal Tax		County Tax		Total Tax		Interest	
January	\$43,764,256	\$37,846,866	\$39,379,372	\$37,289,267	\$83,143,628	\$75,136,134	\$12,329	\$12,533
February	\$51,585,273	\$46,523,853	\$44,215,215	\$44,592,756	\$95,800,488	\$91,116,609	\$26,338	\$22,619
March	\$42,875,487	\$40,360,002	\$38,040,827	\$36,819,087	\$80,916,314	\$77,179,089	\$8,508	\$13,222
April	\$44,204,032	\$41,324,697	\$39,707,294	\$37,882,489	\$83,911,326	\$79,207,186	\$24,953	\$27,247
May	\$47,315,206	\$46,157,943	\$42,055,467	\$41,661,276	\$89,370,673	\$87,819,219	\$5,611	\$8,489
June	\$46,455,658	\$43,883,127	\$41,846,373	\$40,430,123	\$88,302,031	\$84,313,250	\$27,062	\$30,892
Total	\$276,199,912	\$256,096,488	\$245,244,548	\$238,674,998	\$521,444,460	\$494,771,487	\$104,801	\$115,002
Averages	\$46,033,319	\$42,682,748	\$40,874,091	\$39,779,166	\$86,907,410	\$82,461,915	\$17,467	\$19,167

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

CHIEF OF POLICE—Pine Bluff is accepting applications for the Chief of Police.

The Chief of Police is responsible for planning, organizing and directing the activities of the Pine Bluff Police Department to ensure effective enforcement of Laws and Ordinances, protection of lives and property, and initiation of crime prevention endeavors within the community. The Chief of Police develops and directs the implementation of goals, objectives, policies, procedures and work standards for the department; prepares and administers the department's budget and provides for the selection, training, professional development and work evaluation of department staff; authorizes discipline as required; provides policy guidance and interpretation to staff; ensures that laws, ordinances and policies are consistently enforced. The Chief of Police develops and conducts a sound public relations program to attain maximum public confidence, and interpret departmental policies and objectives for department personnel, the press and the public. Bachelor's degree (B.A. or B.S.) from a four-year college or university and 11-15 years of related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience and a minimum of 5 years of management experience. Applications can be submitted online at www.cityofpinebluff.com; Resumes may be faxed to 870-730-2157 or emailed to vickiec@cityofpinebluff.com. Open until filled.

CITY MANAGER—Texarkana, Ark., is accepting applications for the position of City Manager. The City Manager's objective is to plan and manage all operations of the city in accordance with policies set by the City Board of Directors. In collaboration with the Mayor and Board of Directors, the City Manager will be responsible for creating and leading the implementation of goals and objectives for the City. Applicant must have Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Public Administration, or related field, along with at least 5 years experience of progressively responsible executive municipal work or as a private executive officer in an organization of comparable complexity. Salary is DOE. Applicants may submit applications and resumes to the Texarkana, Arkansas City Hall, 216 Walnut Street, Texarkana, AR 71854. Applications may also be emailed to kristen.cowan@txkusa.org or faxed to 870-772-8182 by 12 p.m., July 15.

DEPUTY CITY CLERK—Maumelle is accepting applications for the position of Deputy City Clerk. The Deputy City Clerk handles a wide range of administrative and executive support related duties. The Deputy City Clerk works under general supervision. Qualifications include HS diploma or GED plus 2 years of experience in an office environment preferably in a government setting. Starting Salary: \$10.65 per hour. Open until filled. A City of Maumelle Employment Application must be completed. For full job description and application visit the Human Resources Department page at www.maumelle.org. Mail completed applications to City of Maumelle, Human Resources Department, 550 Edgewood Drive, Suite 555, Maumelle, AR 72113. For questions, contact the Human Resources office at 501-851-2784 Ext. 242 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. EOE. Minority, Women, and Disabled individuals are 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 at vernon@maumelle.org.

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR—The National League of Cities seeks applicants for the position of Deputy Executive Director. Serves as second in command of the nation's oldest and largest membership organization for cities and towns. Functions as chief operating officer and a strategic thought partner to the Executive Director. Manages organizational accountability for results, facilitating internal collaboration to ensure that all parts of the organization work together effectively to achieve NLC's overall goals. Supervises directors of key cross-cutting functions, including the chief financial officer and human resources director, and works closely with all senior leadership. Cultivates strong relationships/partnerships with key stakeholders including: NLC Officers, Board of Directors, Advisory Council, and state municipal leagues (SMLs). Reports to the Executive Director.

Required Education and Experience: Bachelor's degree in relevant field;

Master's degree preferred. 15+ distinguished years in a senior management position in a nonprofit organization, foundation, or local government, financial management experience gained in a nonprofit/association environment preferred, or a combination of education and experience which provides the required knowledge, skills, and abilities.

For complete job description and further information contact: Human Resources, National League of Cities, 1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 2000; or email employment@nlc.org. EOE.

FOR SALE—Damascus is accepting sealed bids on a 2007 Chevy Impala, 4dr 79K miles, black. All bids must be turned in to the Damascus City Hall no later than 5 p.m. on August 26. For more information contact the Damascus City Hall at 501-335-7321 or P.O. Box 309 Damascus, AR 72039. The city reserves the right to reject all bids.

PARAMEDIC/FIREFIGHTER—West Memphis is seeking Paramedic/Firefighter. This is a full-time position with benefits. Paramedic will provide 911 and ambulance transportation services to the surrounding area. They work closely with the local community to increase their level of fire safety awareness in order to help prevent fires and accidents. Requires HS diploma or GED, valid DL and clean record. Must be 18 and pass drug screen, background check, physical/psychological evaluation, and agility test. Must have current paramedic license or be able to obtain license in Arkansas. Salary: non-exempt \$ 45,336 annually. Applications available at the City of West Memphis Human Resources Department, 604 E. Cooper, West Memphis; or online at www.westmemphisutilities.com. Deadline is 4:30 p.m., August 30. Mail application to P.O. Box 1868, West Memphis, AR 72303.

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER—The Arkansas Municipal League is implementing an Engineering Assistance program and will be hiring a Professional Engineer. Job will include field consultation, training and crafting of engineering articles for our monthly magazine. Minimum qualifications include Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering, license with P.E. designation. Position open until filled. Salary is DOQ and experience. Applicants should submit resumes to: Executive Director, AML, P.O. Box 38, NLR, AR 72115 or email daz@arml.org.

STREET DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR—Stuttgart is seeking qualified candidates for the position of Director in the Street Department. Under the direction of the Mayor, the Director is responsible for managing and directing the day to day operations of the street employees to include recycling, minor repairs of vehicles, cleaning ditches and streets and the operation and maintenance of the streets and drainage. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, departmental operations, coordinating departmental activities and schedules, budget preparation and management, planning and completion of capital improvement projects, overseeing of contract engineers, consultants and independent contractors, developing bid specifications for projects, personnel administrations of employees and attending and participating in City Council meetings. Previous experience in this field and three years managerial experience is preferred. Salary DOE. Benefits include vacation, sick leave, paid holidays, APERS retirement, health insurance as well as dental, vision and life insurance. Contact the Personnel Office, City of Stuttgart, 304 South Maple, Stuttgart AR 72160; phone 870-673-8817; or email personne@cebridge.net to request an application or full job description. Open until filled.

WATER TREATMENT OPERATOR—The City of Danville is accepting applications for a Water Treatment Operator. Applicants must have a minimum of a Class IV treatment license and a Class 11 distribution license. Salary depends on experience and qualifications. Benefits include health insurance package, paid vacation, sick leave and retirement. For more information contact Danville City Hall at 479-495-2013, e-mail resume to danville@arkwest.com or mail to Danville City Hall, P.O. Box 69, Danville, AR 72833.

WASTEWATER OPERATOR—The Town of Menifee is accepting applications for a Wastewater Operations and Maintenance Operator. Qualifications: HS Diploma or GED; Class I Operator's License with ability to obtain Class II License within one year. Must possess valid Ark. DL. Wastewater Treatment Facility duties: submit discharge monitoring reports; coordinate with commercial laboratory for all required testing; maintain daily operating reports; maintain facility grounds and facility operation. Sewer Collection System Duties: maintain daily pump station operating reports, provide inspection of all residential/commercial sewer service connections, maintain collection system operation; approx. 20 hrs. per wk. Send resume to: Town of Menifee Attn: Mayor Lee Smith, P.O. Box 38, Menifee, AR 72107; 501-354-0898. Open until filled.

WATER/WASTEWATER ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT—Osceola is seeking a qualified candidate for the position of Water/Wastewater Assistant. Candidate must have a minimum of a Class 2 Water treatment and Distribution license as well as a Class 2 Wastewater license. Applicant should have at least 2-3 years experience, preferably with a wastewater utility. Must have knowledge of lab testing procedures as well knowledge of state and federal reporting for water and wastewater. Salary DOE. Send resume and copy of certification to Human Resources Department, P.O. Box 443, Osceola, AR 72370. EOE.

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Seated from left: Michael McBryde, Carey Smith, Jason Holsclaw and Mark McBryde (Executive Vice President and Director of Public Finance)

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