

City & Town

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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE



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FEATURES

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ON THE COVER—The Grand Prairie Center in Stuttgart is a state-of-the-art performance and meeting space and a real jewel in the region. It was the perfect location for the League's Annual Planning Meeting, Aug. 14-16, at which our leadership implemented this year's agenda. Read about the meeting inside on page 6. Read also about the League's 2013-2014 District 1 Vice President, Piggott Mayor Gerald Morris and his busy city's efforts to grow, Russellville's new on-line communication tool, and much more.—atm

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City & Town

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Greetings,

We had a very successful planning meeting Aug. 14-16 at Stuttgart. We want to thank Mayor Maynard and staff for hosting us. Our meetings were held at the Grand Prairie Center, a beautiful facility that is on the cover of this month's issue. This is another example of what can be accomplished when we all work together. If you have a chance you need to attend one of the many concerts and performances presented there. Again, thank you, Mayor Maynard, staff, and community for your warm hospitality.

It's time for Winter Conference registration. Can you believe it? Room blocks will open for all hotels at 8 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 16. The meeting has changed from Little Rock to the John Q. Hammons Center in Rogers, Jan. 29-31. More details to follow and we look forward to seeing you there. We have several seminars and meetings coming up for September and October, all at the League's North Little Rock headquarters:

- Municipal Finance and Budgeting Seminar—9 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 12 or Friday Sept. 13
- State Aid Street Committee meeting—10:30 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 19
- Incorporated Towns and Second Class Cities Advisory Councils—Noon Wednesday, Oct. 2
- First Class Cities Advisory Council—Noon Thursday, Oct. 3
- Public Safety Advisory Council—Noon Tuesday, Oct. 8
- Large First Class Cities Advisory Council—Noon Wednesday, Oct. 9
- Economic Development Advisory Council—Noon Thursday, Oct. 10
- HR and Personnel Matters Seminar—9 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 15 or Wednesday, Oct. 16

Have you taken time to check out the League's Facebook page? Have you "liked" the Facebook page yet? If the answer is no, why not? It's a great ways to keep up with the League. Go to facebook.com/Arkansas.Municipal.League.

The Great Cities Great State Educational Initiative is well underway. The micro-site, GreatCitiesGreatState.com is complete and members are able to download the videos, posters, and more to use in your area. I plan to use the material for presentations to civic and social clubs and events in our area. I also plan on putting the available posters in our different city offices. Please give us feedback on your usage of the material also.

Last week I attended the Southern Municipal Conference in Nashville, Tenn., with Don Zimmerman, SMC Chairman Mayor Mike Gaskill, and Mayor Chris Claybaker. The take away for me was how we are coming almost full circle with our planning, from cities with community grocery and retail to the subdivisions with a destination shopping center back to the local neighborhood stores. I think we have to understand we need to take into consideration our local communities and their personality when we plan. Within that consideration are regional implications also. Different generations of citizens also expect different things from planning. One of the speakers made the statement, "Baby boomers chose their job and then decided where they were going to live; the millennial generation decides where they want to live and then chooses a job."

We have new registration/event management software called Cvent for the League seminars and events. The software allows you to see the agenda, a description of the class or event, and add the dates to your calendar. See the ad on page 27 in this issue to learn how to register.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you.

Sincerely,



Jackie Crabtree
Mayor, Pea Ridge
President, Arkansas Municipal League



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League leaders prep for year at Annual Planning Meeting

By Whitnee V. Bullerwell, League staff

STUTT GART—Named after a city in Germany, Stuttgart is home of the Ricebird. At the beginning of the twentieth century, rice was introduced in this prairie region and forever changed this quaint, charming city in Arkansas. Today, it's known as the "Rice and Duck Capital of the World." And while farming and hunting are prevalent in Stuttgart, one can't deny the city possesses a jewel of a meeting destination known as the Grand Prairie Center, which hosted the League's Annual Planning Meeting, Aug. 14-16.

Known for its hospitality, the officials of Stuttgart did not disappoint. The meeting was kicked off with a reception at the Museum of the Arkansas Grand Prairie. The museum depicts the history of agriculture and Grand Prairie pioneers of the 1880s. More information on the museum can be viewed on their website, www.grandpraiemuseum.org.

Welcoming the city officials at the start of the Executive Committee meeting was Stuttgart Mayor Marianne Maynard. Maynard thanked officials for

attending and assured them their stay in Stuttgart would be a friendly one. In closing, Maynard strongly encouraged all meeting attendees to leave a nice amount of money with the local businesses.

A series of meetings by the League's governing boards, held at the Grand Prairie Center, set into motion plans and policies for the coming year. Pea Ridge Mayor and League President Jackie Crabtree presided over the meetings. According to Crabtree, "I am humbled to be chosen as League President and I look forward to working with a great group of city officials over the course of this next year."

Once President Crabtree called the meeting to order, the Executive Committee members reviewed and approved the annual audit report, renewed the National League of Cities membership agreement, and conducted a variety of business ranging from the debut of the League's educational initiative micro-site, greatcitiesgreatstate.com, to the renewal of grants services, to the discussion of the statewide Comprehensive



Stuttgart's Grand Prairie Center, which opened in 2011, hosted the Annual Planning Meeting. The 63,000-square-foot multi-purpose complex features a 750-seat auditorium with state-of-the-art lighting and sound, meeting rooms, a catering kitchen, outdoor pavilion, and more. It regularly hosts world-class entertainment. Restless Heart performed on Aug. 16. Upcoming performers include BJ Thomas, the Houston Ballet II, and the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra. Visit www.pccua.edu/gpc for the full schedule.

The Museum of the Arkansas Prairie, which features more than 1,000 artifacts that help depict the history of the region and its pioneers, hosted a reception for the League members participating in the meeting. At right is a Nichols & Shepard steam traction engine manufactured in the early 20th century.



Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) program. *Policies and Goals 2013-2014* was reviewed as approved by the body of the 79th Convention. The Committee voted to maintain the League's service charge formula at the current rate for 2014. Also, the League's membership arrangement with the National League of Cities (NLC) will continue, making each municipality in Arkansas a direct member of NLC.

League Director Don Zimmerman and staff members gave reports on the status of various League programs, all of which are in good standing. There are no League program pricing changes for 2014, with the exception of the Municipal League Workers' Compensation Trust (MLWCT). A portion of the MLWCT formula has changed in that no credits will be issued. The experience MOD and the discount for timely filing your information still do apply.

The board of the Municipal Health Benefit Fund (MHBF) met Aug. 16 and voted to incorporate the changes necessary to comply with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act for the 2014 plan year. The MHBF 2014 Summary of Benefits and Coverage (SBC) will be sent out to participating groups, along with the Certificate of Notice, on or before Oct. 1. The 2014 Fund Booklet will also be available as a downloadable PDF from the League's website, www.arml.org.

Much discussion centered on the League's educational initiative, Great Cities Great State. Members of the Committee were shown and briefed on the various deliverables of the initiative and how best to use them in their hometown. Recall, the League featured the micro-site in the August issue of *City & Town*. The site is complete and filled with information that members can

share featuring the great, "behind the scenes" work done by cities on behalf of your citizens.

As for the League's grants consultants, Arkansas Grant Book Company and Legacy Consulting, members' usage of the services continues to increase. The League will continue the relationship with the Arkansas Grant Book Company, who now offers a grant search engine function that is built into their site, www.thegrantbook.com. For user i.d. and password, contact the Grant Book at kevin@thegrantbook.com. An expanded contract with Legacy Consulting was approved and the company will continue to provide grants services to League members. Over the last year, Legacy has visited 21 cities and just over 100 cities signed up to receive additional services from them during the League's 79th Convention.

Jim Youngquist of UALR's Institute for Economic Advancement (IEA) spoke to Committee members on the status of the CEDS program. The program, created to increase and retain jobs in Arkansas, will release the statewide plan in early 2014. "The framework of CEDS will produce a workforce with the right education, hard skills and soft skills for jobs created and retained," Youngquist said. The League, working in conjunction with IEA, will bring about the important goal of fostering vibrant communities as good places to live, to work, and to do business.

Mentioned at the Executive Committee meeting was the Attorney General's latest opinion on whether municipal officials and employees, including those of municipal boards and commissions, may be covered under the Arkansas Self-Insured Fidelity Bond Program. The program, established by Act 728 of 1987, insures local governmental bodies and the state itself against

employee-fraud losses. Questions were raised as to what factors were to be used in determining entity coverage by the program. The Attorney General's office now opines that, with the exception of several specific exclusions, employees in these positions are covered.



Stuttgart Mayor and Executive Committee member Marianne Maynard welcomes the League to her city.

The League's voluntary certified continuing education program, now in its fourth year, continues to grow in popularity. Since inception, 62 percent of Arkansas's cities and towns have participated in this program. For the 2014 Winter Conference, approximately 180 city officials will achieve certification status. By and large, this program continues to grow at a good pace. Overall, more than 1,000 city officials have attended at least one certification class.

And with the demand to increase the seating capacity of the League's Assembly Room, construction work will begin in mid to late December on the 2003 annex of League headquarters. A large hallway will be reconfigured to increase the meeting space in the Assembly Room. Also, included in the construction project is the reconfiguration of the Municipal Health Benefit Fund and Worker's Comp areas. The work is scheduled to be complete by the first of April.



Jim Youngquist of UALR's Institute for Economic Advancement updated the League on the statewide Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) program, in which the League is a participant.

The 2013-2014 meeting schedule was approved. Two of the biggest changes involving next year's meetings are the relocations of the 2014 Winter Conference (Jan. 29-31) to the John Q. Hammons Convention Center in Rogers and the 80th Convention (June 18-20) to the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock (tentative). The future meeting schedule also includes four seminars in the coming year. The seminars will cover topics on municipal finance and budgeting issues (Sept. 12 or 13), personnel matters (Oct. 15 or 16), health and wellness (Nov. 7) and procedural rules (Apr. 2 or 3). All seminars will be held at League headquarters in North Little Rock. Information will be distributed at a later date or you can access our Municipal Training/Meetings Calendar on the League's website, www.arml.org.



Two big changes for the year involve the location of our two largest meetings. The 2014 Winter Conference will be held in Rogers, and the 80th Convention will be in Little Rock.

Thursday 6:47 pm

Visit GreatCitiesGreatState.com to access the deliverables created for the League's Great Cities Great State Educational Initiative. We urge you to take advantage of the materials to highlight the great, behind-the-scenes work our cities and towns do to improve the quality of life for your citizens.

THIS MOMENT BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOUR HOMETOWN. Today was just another day. A day filled with work, errands, and little league baseball. And we helped make it that way. Whether it's providing police protection or building the ball park for your son's game-winning double. A better life starts in the city limits. From small towns to big cities, Arkansas's municipal communities improve our quality of life, every day. *Great Cities Make a Great State.*



greatcitiesgreatstate.com

Piggott mayor keeps city bustling

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

For a city of its size, Piggott has a lot going on, Mayor and League 2013-2014 District 1 Vice President Gerald Morris says.

“I’m gonna brag on it because this is my home.”

The current official population of the Clay County city just a few miles from Missouri in Northeast Arkansas is 3,849. The number is down a bit from the 2000 Census, but Morris thinks that, unofficially, they’re back to where they were.



Mayor Morris is proud of the improvements the city's made to Heritage Park over the years. The park sits on what was once the Clay County Home, the area "poor farm." A small cemetery in the park featuring unmarked graves is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Morris was born and raised on a farm about 20 miles away from where we enjoyed a lunch of fried catfish at downtown's Piggott Diner. His father was a bi-vocational farmer and Baptist minister.

Morris has lost two wives. He and his first wife, Mitzi, who died when she was 39, had three sons. His second wife, June, had a daughter who Morris considers his own. June died three and a half years ago.

Morris spent the first 10 years or so of his professional career in Michigan working in the credit business before returning to his hometown, where he worked for a local grocery. When he left the grocery business, Morris went into farm supply.

“Fertilizer, feed, seed, chemicals. At one of our places we had a cotton gin. So, anything that a farmer needed or wanted to sell, that’s what I did.”

At one time they were possibly the largest independent farm supply company in the state, he says, and his three sons were in business with him. Morris retired in 1995, and about 10 years ago they sold the business to a larger corporation that had been pushing to buy them out.

Retirement gave Morris more time to do one of his favorite things—travelling. And he’s a true world traveler. Morris has visited every continent on the planet. He got the seventh one in a few years ago when he had the opportunity to visit Antarctica. He cherishes those experiences.

“I remember I was on the Amazon River. I had read about the Amazon in grade school, and here I was, a boy from the cotton fields on the Amazon. I just couldn’t believe it. I had that same feeling in Antarctica.”

After three or four years of retirement, he began to get bored, Morris says.

“My dad had done a good job teaching me work ethics, but he didn’t teach me very good play ethics. I didn’t really know what to do with myself.”

He decided a great way to conquer boredom while serving the community that had been so good to him and his family was to get involved in local government. The first thing he noticed was that so much needed to be attended to in Piggott, and it was really too much for a part-time mayor to do effectively. More accurately, Morris says, it’s a full-time job on part-time pay.

“If you needed to make a living, you couldn’t do it on part-time pay, and I understood that,” he says.

Being retired, Morris didn’t need to rely on the mayor’s pay to make a living, and with his lifetime of business experience, he felt he had the time and skills to help Piggott thrive. He ran for the office and won and is now in his 10th year as mayor.

He spent his first year devoting himself to becoming familiar with every aspect of the city’s operation, something his predecessors hadn’t really had the time to do.

“During that period of time, I went out with every department. In 70-degree weather. If they went in the water and it was cold, I stayed right out there with them. If there was snow on the ground, I went out with the electric boys—we have our own electric utility. I knew every facet. I even went out a couple of times on a drug bust with the police.”

It allowed Morris to see what the city’s strengths and weaknesses were. One of the first things he discovered was the poor financial shape the city was in, so he set

Piggott's downtown stays busy and has high occupation rates among its variety of shops. A new flooring supply business recently opened, and a new Casey's General Store, one of just a few in Arkansas, is nearing completion just off the square.



about tightening the budget. He felt like a hatchet man at first, he says, but the end result has been a much stronger Piggott and good working relationships with all the city's department heads and the city council.

"I think our morale in the city is altogether different," he says. "We've got better equipment now that we've had before. And I think the relationship between the people and mayor's office is much better than it used to be."

The mayor has also made time to participate in regional economic development efforts, which has resulted in some much needed grants and other types of funding in the city, most recently a \$300,000 grant for a new generator at the hospital. And Morris was just informed a day before our meeting that he'd been elected president of the East Arkansas Planning and Development District.

Morris has worked to recruit new business and to keep the businesses the city has. The hard work has paid off in Piggott. Downtown is bustling and several news businesses are open or are opening soon. The busy municipal airport has seen recent improvements thanks

to grant funding. Heritage Park is lovely and hosts many community events.

The city is also a tourism destination as home of the Hemingway-Pfeiffer Museum and Educational Center at home of writer Ernest Hemingway's second wife, Pauline Pfeiffer. The Arkansas State University Heritage Site also features the barn that was converted into a studio in which Hemingway wrote several short stories and portions of one of his most famous novels, *A Farewell to Arms*.

"For a small town, we've got a lot of activity going on," he says. "Had an old timer tell me the other day, 'We've got more activity going on here than I can ever remember at one time.'"



The parents of Ernest Hemingway's second wife, Pauline, were prominent Northeast Arkansas citizens and landowners. The family home is now the Hemingway-Pfeiffer Museum. The barn out back was converted to a studio to give Hemingway privacy for writing during his time there.



2014 Winter Conference

John Q. Hammons Center, Rogers, AR

January 29-31, 2014

REGISTRATION

Registration and payment must be received in League office by Friday, December 31, 2013, to qualify for advance registration.

Advance registration for municipal officials	\$150
Registration fee after December 31, 2013 , and on-site registration for municipal officials.	\$175
Spouse/guest registration	\$75
Child registration	\$75
Other registrants.	\$200

- Registration will be processed **ONLY** with accompanying payment in full. Make checks payable to the Arkansas Municipal League.
- Registration includes meals, activities and a copy of **Handbook for Arkansas Municipal Officials, 2013-2014 edition**.
- No daily registration is available.
- Registration must come through the League office. No telephone registrations will be accepted.
- **No refunds after December 31, 2013.**
- Cancellation letters must be postmarked by **December 31, 2013.**

HOTEL RESERVATION

Hotel Room Rates

Embassy Suites (headquarters hotel)		
Single/Double.	\$129	Check-in..... 3 p.m.
Holiday Inn & Suites		
Single/Double.	\$122/\$132	Check-in..... 3 p.m.
Staybridge Suites		
Single/Double.	\$122/\$132	Check-in..... 3 p.m.
Hyatt Place		
Single/Double.	\$129	Check-in..... 3 p.m.

- Cut-off date for hotel reservations is **December 31, 2013.**
- Rooms in Rogers are subject to an 13.5% percent tax. Check out time is 12 noon.
- Rooms will be held until 6 p.m. and then released unless guaranteed by credit card.
- Contact the hotel directly to make changes or cancellations in hotel accommodations.
- Hotel confirmation number will come directly from the hotel.
- Please check on cancellation policy for your hotel.

TWO WAYS TO REGISTER

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

OR

2

Complete the steps and **mail with payment** to:
ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
Attn: 2014 Winter Conference
P.O. Box 38
North Little Rock, AR 72115-0038

Step 1: Delegate Information

I am a newly elected official.

Name:

Title: City of:

Address: Email: (required)

City: State: Zip: Telephone:

Spouse/Guest will attend: Yes No Name:

Children will attend: Yes No Name(s):

Step 2: Payment Information

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

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

• **HOW ARE YOU PAYING?**

Check

Mail payment and form to:
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2014 Winter Conference
P.O. Box 38
North Little Rock, AR 72115

Credit Card Complete information below and send to address above.

Credit Card: Visa MasterCard

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: ____/____/20____

Card Holder Name (as it appears on card):

Billing address (as it appears on statement):

City: State: Zip: Telephone:

E-mail address (required for credit card payment)

Step 3: Hotel Reservations

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

Embassy Suites 3303 Pinnacle Hills Parkway, Rogers, AR 72758 Reservations: 479-254-8400

Holiday Inn & Suites 1803 South 52nd Street, Rogers, AR 72758 Reservations: 479-845-1300

Staybridge Suites 1801 South 52nd Street, Rogers, AR 72758 Reservations: 479-845-5701

Hyatt Place 610 W Walnut Street, Rogers, AR 72756 Reservations: 479-633-8555

Fairs & Festivals

Sept. 20-21, **WALNUT RIDGE**, 2nd Beatles at the Ridge Music Festival, 501-412-6497, www.BeatlesAtTheRidge.com

Sept. 21, **BATESVILLE**, 70th White River Carnival, 870-793-2378, www.whiterivercarnival.com; **BRYANT**, 26th Bryant Fall Fest, 501-847-4702, www.bryantchamber.com; **KENSETT**, Kensett Heritage Festival, 501-268-6805; **MARIANNA**, 19th Autumn on the Square, 870-295-2469, www.mariannaarkansas.org; **SHERWOOD**, 37th Sherwood Fest, 501-833-0476

Sept. 24-29, **DUMAS**, 34th Ding Dong Days, 870-382-5447, www.dumasar.net

Sept. 27-29, **STUTTGART**, 58th Grand Prairie Festival of the Arts, 870-673-1781, arts001@centurytel.net

Oct. 4-5, **MCGEHEE**, 7th Owlfest, 870-501-2450, www.mcgeheechamber.com; **SHERIDAN**, 30th Timberfest, 870-942-3021, www.grantcountychamber.com

Oct. 4-6, **LINCOLN**, 38th Arkansas Apple Festival, 479-824-3378, Arkansasapplefestival.org

Oct. 5, **BEEBE**, 17th Beebe Fall Fest, 501-882-8135, www.beebenow.com; **BRADFORD**, 30th Bradford Fun Fest, 870-208-7648; **BRINKLEY**, 30th Fall Fest, 870-734-2262, www.brinkleychamber.com; **KEO**, Keo Fall Days, 501-772-0259, www.keoar.com; **LEPANTO**, 83rd Terrapin Derby Festival, 870-475-2900, www.lepantoaralumni.com; **PARIS**, 34th Frontier Day Festival, 479-963-2244, www.ParisArOnline.com; **ROGERS**, 12th International Festival, 479-636-1240, rogerslowell.com

Oct. 10, **NASHVILLE**, 20th Golden Gathering, 870-845-7405, www.nashvillearkansas.org

Oct. 11-12, **DE QUEEN**, 24th Hoo-Rah Festival, 870-642-6642; **LESLIE**, 2nd Leslie Mountain Man Rendezvous, 501-941-4828, elkeagle@windstream.net; **WEINER**, 37th Arkansas Rice Festival, 870-919-0726, www.arkansasricefestival.com; **YELLVILLE**, 68th Turkey Trot Festival, 870-449-4676, yellvillechamber.com

Oct. 11-13, **VAN BUREN**, Fall Festival, 479-410-3026, www.vanburen.org

Oct. 12, **CABOT**, 35th CabotFest, 501-843-2136, www.cabotcc.org; **CRAWFORDSVILLE**, 7th Hometown Crawfordsville Harvest Festival, susanmarotti@att.net; **CROSSETT**, 35th Wiggins Cabin Festival, 870-364-3648, www.wigginscabinfestival.com; **LONDON**, 6th Fall Fest, 479-331-3483; **PALESTINE**, L'Anguille River Fest, 870-581-2179

Oct. 12-13, **WEST FORK**, West Fest Quilt, Antique and Arts Festival, 479-225-1611

Oct. 19, **HUMPHREY**, Humphrey Fall Festival, 870-873-4615

October is Act 833 funding deadline

The deadline to apply for 2013 State Fire Grant Act 833 funds through the office of Fire Protection Service is October 31. Applications must be postmarked by that date to qualify for the 2013 funding year. Applications and program guidance documents are available on the ADEM website, www.adem.arkansas.gov. For more information

on the grant program, contact Kendell Snyder, Fire and EMS Coordinator, at 501-683-6781, or email kendell.snyder@adem.arkansas.gov.

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

Prisoners may not be held out of state

Opinion: 2013-058

Requestor: Richey, Chris—State Representative

Does the Phillips County sheriff have authority to transport county prisoners to out-of-state jail facilities where they can be held until disposition of their respective criminal proceedings? Q2) If the answer to question one is “yes,” what issues should the appropriate Phillips County officials be aware of? **RESPONSE:** 1) No. See ACA 12-41-509(a)(1) (Repl. 2009). 2) N/A.

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

Time To Levy Property Taxes

City and town councils may levy general property taxes of up to five mills on the dollar (Ark. Const. art. 12 § 4; ACA 26-25-102 and 103). ACA 14-14-904(b) requires the Quorum Court to levy the county, municipal and school taxes at its regular meeting in November of each year. ACA 26-73-202 requires the city or town council on or before the time fixed by law for levying county taxes to certify to the county clerk the rate of taxation levied by the municipality. ACA 14-14-904(b) establishes the November meeting of the Quorum Court as the time to levy those taxes.

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

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

Join the It Can Wait movement

Your voice can save a life.

Drive 4 Pledges Day September 19



On September 19, AT&T will launch Drive 4 Pledges Day. We want cities that are committed to ending texting while driving to announce their adaptation of an It Can Wait campaign and recognize September 19 as Drive 4 Pledges Day.

For more information on how to host an event in your city, access to promotional materials, and more, visit the campaign online at www.itcanwait.com.



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Municipal Property Program



Your Municipal Property Program offers broad coverage for your municipal property. The limits of coverage are \$250 million per occurrence per member for damages from fire, windstorm and other incidents in excess of \$5,000.

Coverage is \$50 million for losses exceeding \$100,000 on earthquakes and flooding.

The Municipal Property Program's current rates are listed below.

A Municipal Property Program meeting will be held at League headquarters on December 4, 2013 at 10:30 am to consider rates for 2014

FIRE CLASS I	—	.0021	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS II	—	.0022	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS III	—	.0023	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS IV	—	.0024	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS V	—	.0025	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS VI	—	.0026	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS VII	—	.0027	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS VIII	—	.0028	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS IX	—	.0029	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS X	—	.003	X	covered value	=	Premium

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

Summit stresses benefits of sustainable communities

Leaders from across Arkansas will gather in North Little Rock on Oct. 16-17 to focus on the economic, social, and environmental benefits sustainability can bring to communities of all sizes.

This Sustainable Communities Leadership Summit is ideal for those curious about sustainability and those already committed to sustainability as a way to move their community forward, said Patrick Hays, former mayor of North Little Rock and a member of the summit steering committee.

“Some cities have been leveraging sustainability and reaping its benefits for some time,” he said. “They are committed to saving money through energy efficiency and promoting active transportation as a way to reduce obesity and improve air quality.”

Other cities have moved more cautiously toward adopting sustainable practices and policies.

“As a city leader, if you are curious about what other cities are doing, why they are doing it, and how they are building support among their constituents, this event is perfect for you,” Hays said.

Large or small cities can deploy a variety of solutions that save taxpayer dollars, promote job growth, strengthen the local economy, enhance the health of their citizens, and improve quality of life. The summit includes breakout sessions on topics of interest to city leaders, economic development professionals and others including energy efficiency, renewable energy, water, transportation, local food systems, and health. A number of mayors and former mayors will be speaking at the summit, sharing their experiences and addressing leadership challenges. The City Showcase will feature best practices throughout the state. Field trips and workshops provide more in-depth learning opportunities.

The summit coincides with professional development training offered by the Arkansas Municipal League on Oct. 15 and 16. Attendees at the League training on Oct. 15 may opt to attend the Sustainable Communities Leadership Summit on Oct. 16-17, while those who attend the League training on Oct. 16 have the option to participate in summit field trips and workshops Oct. 17.

To register, visit www.regonline.com/ascsummit.

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2nd Annual Sustainable Communities Leadership Summit
October 15-17
North Little Rock, Arkansas

Register today: regonline.com/ASCsummit
or see page 18 for more information



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ANGELS system celebrates decade of high-risk pregnancy care

By Curtis Lowery, M.D.

More than 10 years ago, a woman who had a high-risk pregnancy in rural Arkansas often had to drive for several hours during her pregnancy to receive the specialty treatment she needed.

Thankfully today, women with high-risk pregnancies have another option. The ANGELS (Antenatal and Neonatal Guidelines, Education and Learning System) at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) is celebrating 10 years answering the high-risk obstetrical needs of women throughout the state. This system is a groundbreaking service that benefits patients and their hometown health care providers through telemedicine consultations.

A woman can have a high-risk pregnancy due to a number of factors including an existing health condition, age, previous miscarriages or the baby having a genetic condition. The need for these women to see a high-risk obstetrician has long been recognized but was a difficult task in rural Arkansas before ANGELS. It's like I've always said, where you live should not determine whether you or your baby live or die, and this program has dramatically changed that paradigm.

ANGELS among us

ANGELS provides proven maternal-fetal and neonatal care with support from the Arkansas Department of Human Services (Arkansas Medicaid), the Arkansas Medical Society and myriad providers across Arkansas.

The ANGELS network gives patients around-the-clock support any day of the week, with a nurse-staffed call center to take questions or hear concerns. The call center is not only for patients, as it also assists and offers evidence-based guidance to local physicians to co-manage their high-risk patients with specialty support within their own local health care facilities. It also helps coordinate patient transports if necessary and consults between local health care providers and maternal-fetal specialists, members of ANGELS staff or UAMS faculty members. These services help save patients time and travel expenses.

Several other services are available through ANGELS even after the baby is born, including Angel Eye, a pioneering "baby cam" for hospitalized infants and

Following Baby Back Home (Kids First), which provides home visits and guidance for families of high-risk infants after they leave the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). A mental health consultation service also works with perinatal providers around Arkansas to ensure pregnant and postpartum women receive counseling and help if needed.

Reaching all areas of Arkansas

ANGELS started with only six telemedicine sites, but has now grown to 30 that cover every area of the state. With the addition of Arkansas e-Link, the state's telemedicine network, the program's outreach extends even more. Arkansas e-Link is a broadband highway that connects patients and providers in every county in Arkansas, allowing transmission of video, images and data to be used in patient care and continuing education.

The program ensures that patients get the health care they need and helps build relationships with local physicians across the state to see that future patients also will have access to the specialists they need.

The first decade and beyond

Despite all of ANGELS' accomplishments and recognition in its first 10 years, it is still only the beginning in realizing this program's potential.

ANGELS serves as a national model for telemedicine, which has been replicated in other states and other medical disciplines, distance education programs, and research endeavors. The outreach of ANGELS will only improve and will continue to be an example for high-risk obstetrical telemedicine and help maximize ever-shrinking health care dollars.

The 10-year anniversary of ANGELS not only gives our staff and UAMS a chance to reflect and reason to celebrate, but also shares this with all of Arkansas with its ability to better serve patients in all areas of our state.



Curtis Lowery, M.D., is Director, UAMS Center for Distance Health Chair, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, College of Medicine, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.



Support a family on \$20 a week?

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

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

What they get: Weekly temporary total disability benefits payable up to a MAXIMUM of \$575 allowed under Arkansas Workers' Compensation Law; weekly benefits go for 52 weeks; \$10,000 death benefit.

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

Call: 501-978-6127

Ken Martin can be reached at ext. 232,

or Andrea Sayre at ext. 237.

The fax number is 501-537-7253

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CALENDAR

Municipal Finance & Budgeting

Voluntary Certified Continuing
Education Program

September 12 or 13, 2013

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North Little Rock

HR and Personnel Matters

Voluntary Certified Continuing
Education Program

October 15 or 16, 2013

301 W. Second Street

North Little Rock

Health and Wellness Seminar

November 7, 2013

301 W. Second Street

North Little Rock

National League of Cities

2013 Congress of Cities & Exposition

Wednesday-Saturday

November 13-16, 2013

Washington State Convention Center

Seattle, WA

Arkansas Municipal League

2014 Winter Conference

Wednesday-Friday

January 29-31, 2014

John Q. Hammons Convention Center

Rogers, AR

National League of Cities

2014 Congressional City Conference

Saturday-Wednesday

March 8-12, 2014

Washington, D.C.

Trees play vital role in stormwater management

By Alison Litchy

An often overlooked benefit to trees and green space is their ability to reduce the amount of stormwater runoff during and after a storm. Fayetteville has realized this benefit and incorporated low impact development into their designs.

Stormwater runoff is water that flows over the ground surface. Runoff is created when rainfall is prevented from soaking into the ground by impervious structures such as pavement or rooftops. This is the number one cause of stream impairment in urban areas. When trees, shrubs and other plants cover a stream's floodplain they slow the rush of high water. Sediments are dropped in the riparian zone rather than downstream, thus reducing soil erosion. When rain isn't absorbed by trees and other green space, large volumes of water are quickly carried to local watersheds causing erosion that removes wildlife habitat. Runoff also transports pollutants that are found on impermeable surfaces. In most populated areas, the runoff quickly becomes a slurry of oil, gas, trash, bacteria, sediment, pesticides, and toxic cleaning agents. At initial rainfall, the water can even be considered more contaminated than sewage.

Fayetteville has several good examples of low impact development for stormwater management. According to the city's Alison Jumper, "Utilizing low impact development for stormwater management has proven to be an effective and efficient way to deal with runoff." Low impact development is an ecologically based stormwater management approach using more natural engineering. You can go anywhere in the city and see the benefits of this exceptional landscape ordinance. They have some

great examples of rain gardens in their parks as well as proper bio retention practices.

Stormwater management is the use of specific practices, constructed or natural, to reduce, temporarily detain, slow down, and remove pollutants from stormwater runoff. The most cost effective means is to leave vegetative cover intact during land development. Gully Park in Fayetteville has utilized various methods to assist with stormwater. Prior to parking lot construction they decided to keep as many trees in the area as possible. Trees were carefully fenced off during construction to limit damage.

Some practices to reduce stormwater runoff include the creation of gentle slopes in a lawn or parking area that can guide water toward riparian woodland. This spreads runoff and reduces the need for expensive drainage systems. The idea is to disconnect from the drainage system of gutters and drains to encourage water to slowly soak into the ground. The lot was sloped in order for water to drain into a nearby pond. The lot is not surrounded with curbs in order to promote water flow. Parking lot bumpers are raised to not impair the movement of water. Creation of a bio-swales in the median and on two sides of the lot, as well as carefully selected plant species for the entire project, have vastly reduced their stormwater runoff.

"Projects in Wilson Park and Gulley Park have prevented silt and pollutants from entering our streams and have served as educational tools for park users," Jumper said. This example can hopefully inspire other cities to

Fayetteville used a variety of low impact development methods to control runoff from this parking lot, which helps control erosion, lessens groundwater pollution, and keeps the city park beautiful.



incorporate some low impact development into their future projects.

According to the Arbor Day Foundation, an urban forest can reduce annual runoff by two to seven percent. Mixed with other natural landscaping, studies have shown as much as 65 percent of runoff can be reduced in residential developments. A single medium sized tree can intercept as much as 2,380 gallons of rainfall a year.

How do trees reduce and remove the impact of stormwater runoff? They decrease the amount of stormwater runoff and pollutants that reach our local waters. Trees also use their canopy to capture and store rainfall and release water into the atmosphere through evapotranspiration. Their roots and leaf litter create soil conditions that promote the infiltration of rainwater into the soil, replenishing the groundwater supply. Careful thought went into each species that was utilized in the Gully Park project. Most species selected were native or naturalized, including ginkgo, sassafras, blackgum, paw paw, sea oats, creeping honeysuckle, coneflower, creeping juniper, catmint, and horsetail. These were chosen for their hardiness, high water absorption rate, and increased surface area.

There are two things that are often overlooked to reduce runoff and stormwater management. First, simply

reducing or limiting the amount of impermeable surfaces can serve as the quickest way to limit the impacts created during development. Second, increasing the amount of tree canopy over paved surfaces will slow rain down. Incorporating more natural or “soft” engineering is aesthetically more pleasing as well.

New concepts and designs are always emerging to improve low impact development. To learn more, visit the University of Arkansas Community Design Center online at uacdc.uark.edu/books.php and order their *Low Impact Development: A Design Manual for Urban Areas*, which is a great introduction to designing landscapes for urban stormwater runoff.

The Arkansas Urban Forestry Council offers workshops that provide information on various avenues for dealing with stormwater runoff and other benefits provided by green space. For more information go to www.arkansastrees.org.



Alison Litchy is urban forestry partnership coordinator with the Arkansas Forestry Commission. Call Alison at 501-984-5867 or email alison.litchy@arkansas.gov.

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.

You can't have one without the other

By Terre McLendon

I doubt that Frank Sinatra was thinking about the relationship between economic development and community development when in “Love and Marriage” he sang, “Try, try, try to separate them, it’s an illusion/Try, try, try and you will only come to this conclusion/You can’t have one without the other!” However, these lyrics splendidly illustrate the connection between economic and community development. Today’s developers know that community development is so essential to economic development that it becomes difficult to separate one from the other.

Economic development does not occur in a vacuum; businesses do not start up or locate in a place that has no physical infrastructure, an educated workforce, or suitable, desirable options for their workforce to live, shop, and spend leisure time. Creating and sustaining all these characteristics of a place are the functions of community developers, many of whom are part of local government. Community development creates or enhances what is known as quality of place. In other words, while economic development aims to increase wealth in a particular area, community development sets the stage that allows it to happen. At the same time, community development is at least partially dependent upon economic development to provide funding for many of the improvements to the area.

Simply put, community development is a process of building up a specified geographic area so it can reach its maximum potential by using problem solving, capacity building, and systems interaction. Like economic development, community development activities are performed by people in the private and nonprofit sectors as well as the public sector. To be successful in community development, partnerships are essential.

Private sector partners with local governments might include real estate and housing developers, banks, or utility companies. Or partnerships might be set up with local retail businesses seeking development solutions to flat or declining sales in different parts of the city. Nonprofit partners may come from the business community (e.g., the chamber of commerce or local economic development organization), the faith-based community, health care providers, charities, educators or parent-teacher organizations, neighborhood groups, or other organizations. Some partnerships may be established with individuals in the community who are especially interested in a particular issue.

Local government partnerships are crucial to the community development process, and becoming more important by the day. Today, and in the coming decade, local governments will find themselves increasingly involved, as the federal and state governments are forced to cut back spending and, subsequently, their domestic development programs. Local governments will become the primary provider of funding and financing programs or projects, as well as creating and maintaining programs and projects that lead to achievement of community goals.

What kinds of projects might be undertaken? At a basic level, governments can provide “hard” infrastructure for the community, such as water and wastewater systems, or roads. These are often considered traditional economic development activities as well. But there are many other opportunities for involvement. For example, what role could a local government play in the community’s health care system? What about recreation—is there an opportunity or desire for interaction there? Could jogging or biking paths have an impact upon public health? How might those paths be impacted by public safety issues? Local government plays a significant role in these activities.

What other individuals or organizations should be participating? This answer can change with the circumstances. However, local governments that are successful in community development understand and participate in leadership development activities with local residents, to maintain connections with those likely to be involved in community development issues.

Ultimately, it is community residents who should be at the center of the development process, because government is in place to serve these residents, and it is the residents themselves who will determine the success of the community as a whole.

There are many ways in which the community development process can take place. One simple way, described in the 2012 issue of *CD Practice*, a web-based publication of the Community Development Society (www.comm-dev.org), is known as YGWYM or “You Get What You Measure.” With this approach, the development effort begins by collaborating with relevant community leaders to identify problems and define goals. Goals should be based upon the future condition the community wishes to attain; only then can the appropriate strategies to achieve these goals be created.

For example, a community might want to be a “safe and healthy place to raise children.” What kind of strategies flow from that goal? They may include traffic and other public safety issues, domestic violence assistance or training, the aforementioned bike paths, after school programs, or other strategies.

The next step is to identify indicators used to measure progress toward the goal. In the case of the “safe and healthy place” goal, indicators might include the number of child abuse complaints, auto accidents involving children, percent of children whose weight is within a healthy range, and so on. When those indicators reach the desired levels, the community can celebrate its success in achieving the goal.

Where do the strategies come from? Ultimately, they come from the creative input of the people involved in the process. Familiarity with how other communities with similar problems have resolved their issues is helpful at this stage. One way to find out about best practices is to seek out community development professionals in other communities.

How do you know which indicators best measure the progress being made toward the goal, and how do you find and gather this information for your community? That is a more difficult question to answer, and will be covered in more detail next month, when we discuss community assessment.

In October, you will also have an opportunity to meet with community developers from all over Arkansas, hear about best practices, and learn about community analysis and assessment in detail. Attend the Arkansas Community Development Society annual conference on Oct. 24 in Conway, preceded by a day-long workshop on community analysis on Oct. 23. You can find more information about these events at www.arcds.org.



Terre McLendon is the Director of Community and Industry Studies at the UALR Institute for Economic Advancement and the current president of the Arkansas Community Development Society.

Involve Russellville links city to City Hall

By Sherman Banks



In this age of globalization where you can push a button and connect to the other side of the world in a matter of seconds, the city of Russellville, working with an organization called Mind Mixers, developed a system to reach the whole community.

Michael Oakes, the city's Public Works director, initially approached Mayor Bill Eaton on how they could better implement his idea of the best way to engage the community. They recruited Mind Mixers, an organization designed to assist communities through social media to better engage the local community. Mind Mixers conveyed to the city that there are members of their community with informed ideas, but those ideas never come to the attention of city hall. They are often drowned out by those who attend council meetings to vent their personal agendas. The city recognized the importance of leveraging the power of the Internet and social media to connect with the citizens of Russellville who may not otherwise be heard or get involved.

Russellville reached out to other cities that have set up similar community involvement programs to see how it was working. They reached out to San Francisco and Phoenix in particular. According to Mind Mixer the size of a city is not a factor to determine the success of a program. The program can work for cities of any size. You design the program to fit your community.

In order to devise such a program a city or organization must first become a member of Mind Mixer. The

annual membership/buy-in fee is based on population, and for Russellville, with a population of nearly 28,000, the annual fee is \$3,600. In order for the members of the community to participate they must also sign up via email, Facebook, LinkedIn, or Google. This offers the opportunity to those who traditionally do not come to city council meetings to share their ideas. It provides a platform to answer the questions presented by the city, or to respond to suggestions made by other members of the community.

Called Involve Russellville, the city launched the project in May at involverussellville.org. This program not only gives the city of Russellville the opportunity to present its programs and ideas to the greater community, it opens the avenue for more members of the community to present their thoughts to city hall. Through Involve Russellville the city can post a challenge and let the community help to find solutions, conduct polls and surveys to determine the community's interests and concerns, and gain important insights and analyze data about their community.



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



ANNOUNCING...

The 2013-2014 Voluntary Certified Continuing Education Program

The League's Voluntary Certified Continuing Education Program continues in 2013 with a series of workshops covering topics helpful to municipal leaders. The first 3 years of workshops were a great success and drew capacity crowds to cover issues such as municipal finance and budgeting, personnel matters and municipal operations.

Who? For Arkansas mayors, aldermen, city directors, city managers, city clerks, clerk/treasurers, city recorders and recorder/treasurers.

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

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

When? This workshop is focused on Municipal Finance & Budgeting. The workshop will be held September 12 or 13, 2013, from 9AM to 3PM.

Where? Arkansas Municipal League headquarters, 301 W. Second Street, North Little Rock.

Schedule and topics to be covered:

- Understanding the Basics of Building Your Budget, Budgeting Laws, Major Sources of Revenue, Information on the New Street Aid Program, Chart of Accounts and Bidding and Professional Services.

Upcoming Voluntary Certification Workshop: HR and Personnel Matters – October 15 or 16, 2013

*For those city officials who have completed the 21 hours of core curriculum, you must obtain 6 hours of continuing education to maintain your certification status. The required 6 hours must be gained by attending 3 hours of Continuing Education offered at the Winter Conference and Annual Convention.

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



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REGISTER ONLINE

Funding opportunities boost cities' parks

By Ryan Gill

Parks and recreation facilities have many positive effects on our communities. A nationwide study by Pennsylvania State University showed that even 71 percent of park non-users received some benefit from parks and recreation services. A few benefits for parks users listed as part of this study include increased community awareness, keeping kids off the street, and just “feeling good.”

Parks and recreation facilities are a beneficial investment of community funds, and not just in terms of community health and well-being. They also offer positive impact in terms of economic development. Companies seeking to develop or expand their businesses often look for communities with park amenities that are accessible to their employees. Parks improve quality of life, which in turn, can reduce costly employee turnover. Large parks facilities, such as sports complexes, can also increase local hotel and restaurant revenues by hosting tournaments and other events that draw visitors into the community.

Despite the benefits of parks and recreation projects, the difficult truth is they are not an inexpensive investment. And unfortunately, parks often fall low on municipal budget priority lists in comparison to critical infrastructure improvements. This circumstance leaves most municipalities with the task of finding alternative funding sources for parks and recreation improvements and new developments. Luckily, there are funding avenues that can provide between 50 percent and 100 percent funding participation. Communities can acquire this funding through municipal bonds, private donations, and state and federal grants.

One source of funding is commonly referred to as a “hamburger tax,” a tax on sales from hotels and restaurants. This tax is often utilized by cities because the local community bears less of the tax burden, as out-of-towners are more likely use hotels and restaurants at a greater frequency than locals. The percentage is discretionary, but one percent is most commonly used. The city of Alma has used this revenue stream to partially



Alma has funded many parks improvement projects including aquatic park additions using hamburger tax revenues.



The Garfield FUN Park was funded by the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism's Outdoor Recreation Grants program and was designed to include a play area, a covered gathering area, a half-court basketball pad, and accessible parking, as required by grant guidelines.

fund their many park expansions, such as aquatic park additions, on a pay-as-you-go basis. If a city prefers to leverage such tax revenues toward a larger project, the revenue can be used to fund the sale of municipal bonds, which allows for larger sums of money to be available at a faster rate.

Another popular route for parks and recreation funding is grants, and there are many different grants available, funded by both state and federal agencies. One available state grant source is the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism's Outdoor Recreation Grants Program. This agency provides three separate grants for trails, playgrounds, and a 50/50 matching grant that allows for a variety of projects types. The 50/50 grant can provide up to \$250,000 of a \$500,000 project. All of these grant types are competitive, with many different criteria to be met. An active parks committee is strongly recommended for successfully navigating the grant process.

I find the connection to designing parks and recreation projects to be personal. The first parks project I worked on was an aquatic center addition for Alma, which involved the addition of a new "zero-entry" swimming pool and a large water slide. This was the beginning

of a long relationship with the city, as well as an inspired passion for parks and recreation work.

Civil engineers work on many different types of projects, from sidewalks to sewer lines. While these projects are rewarding and necessary, they are hard to describe or experience with your friends and family. Conversely, a park or pool is something that you can show your family and enjoy it together and with the community.

It is well documented that parks and recreation facilities benefit citizens. They make our busy lives better by providing green space connecting us to nature, and offering opportunities for exercise and fun for all ages. Recreation not only improves our well-being as individuals and families, but also makes our communities more attractive and desirable places to call home.



Ryan Gill is a Licensed Professional Engineer at McClelland Consulting Engineers, Inc. Contact Ryan at 479-443-2377 or email him at rgill@mcclelland-engrs.com.

Choosing well: Deciding is hard work.

By Jim von Tungeln

Elected officials deal with one human trait that makes their job much harder, a trait that will likely be with us always. We love simplicity. We want the road to making a decision to be straight and unambiguous. Governing should be easy. Choices should be sharply defined. If things could only work that way, our job would be a breeze.

But, as we all know, they don't. The planning function in particular falls prey to this trait, partly because of complexity and partly because so often there is simply no "right" answer. Anyone who has dealt with planning has heard the adage, it is an area in which reasonable people can and do differ. So much for simplicity.

For those of us from older generations, the trials involving choices prove particularly frustrating. Things seemed so much easier back in the day. One was a Gene Autry man or a Roy Rogers man, a Ford man or a Chevy man, or it was Sandra Dee or Annette Funicello whose thoughts occupied a young boy's mind. Choices weren't always simple, but they were clear and straightforward.

Times and perspectives change, as does the complexity of issues. In the America emerging from World

War II, one couldn't have imagined that controversy could arise from a proposal to place a veterans' medical facility on a busy commercial corridor. That, however, is exactly what happened recently in one of our state's major cities when the proponents and existing business owners couldn't agree on the long-term impacts upon the neighborhood.

These complexities flow from a phenomenon described in public administration literature as "Miles Law." Rufus E. Miles Jr. (1910-1996) was an assistant secretary under Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson and six H.E.W. secretaries. He is perhaps best remembered for stating the maxim that "where you stand depends on where you sit."

When planners or elected officials deal with a contentious zoning or development case, they hear from any number of those with a vested interest in the outcome. These include the applicant, the neighbors, or those with a special interest in the case. There is nothing wrong with anyone speaking in support of what they feel are their best interests. Most of us have done so.



The Veterans Day Treatment Center on South Main Street in Little Rock created an unexpected level of controversy when the location was announced. Such are the complexities facing modern decision-makers.

What Miles Law suggests, however, is that we should make the attempt to see issues from another's point of view. This is particularly true of professionals and of decision makers. To employ a term from filmmaking, as we "pan out" from the scene we begin to see that the entire city or region may be affected by our decisions. Ultimately, the taxpayer base will pay for the cost of bad ones.

In my role as the Arkansas Municipal League's planning consultant, I often want to respond to a mayor's inquiry with "How do you want it resolved?" It reminds me of the Lyndon Johnson story about the depression-era teacher applicant facing a West Texas school board equally divided on whether the earth was round or flat. Needing the job, he planned ahead and was ready when the question came up in the interview. "I can teach it both ways," he assured them.

Perhaps that answer is a bit facile, but in truth, alternate solutions are sometimes equally beneficial to the community, though perhaps not so for the individual parties that oppose or support the case in question. For example, consider the case of the new supermarket proposed for a city that has an abundance of them already. Elected officials hesitate to become involved in the free market. And new construction would certainly benefit the community.

On the other hand, future sales tax revenues may not increase due to the fact that the new facility will simply take business away from existing ones. In economics we call that a "zero-sum game." The total sum of revenue may remain constant while the number of sources increases.

In terms of traffic, denial of the supermarket may not prevent commercial development at the location. It may simply change the type of commercial. New proposals may result in worse traffic conditions. It is often the case that the entire community would be best served if the site involved remained vacant. That, of course, is not going to happen.

As for new construction, the denial of a new supermarket may allow existing ones to become more profitable, resulting in expansions. So, additional construction may occur anyway. Some may even argue that the reuse

and expansion of existing buildings will prove easier on the planet in the long run.

What about the impact on existing commercial districts? We have reached an age in which one measure of a community's worth lies in the size and development of its big box outlets. Smaller businesses tend to follow them, and, as every planner knows, this can result in the abandonment of older commercial developments along existing corridors. This, in turn, causes the market to abandon the supporting infrastructure development that the taxpayers have helped put in place. And so it goes.

Are there ways to cope with such complexity? Yes, but the answers are complex in themselves. The development of communities today requires careful policy analysis, creation of sound policies, and adherence to those policies. In fact, we may see a day when policy structure will even replace the tired old future land-use maps that we have promoted for years.

A second step involves training, not only for staff, but for volunteer commissioners and elected officials as well. The League has recognized this need with its Volunteer Certification Program for Arkansas municipal officials, of which I am proud to be a part.

Finally, let us all remember the film analogy and mentally pan out as we consider decisions, so that the final scene encompasses all of the community. The charette process is a good way to encourage this mindset in our decision makers. Working with a map of the entire planning area, alongside a group with disparate backgrounds, provides excellent motivation for broader thinking.

Remember: If your job was easy, anybody could do it.



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.

Why proposals fail

By Chad Gallagher

Grant writing is both an art and a science. Every grant proposal is submitted with hope and expectation. When writing a grant the writer eats, sleeps, and breathes the proposal. To write the proposal well the writer should believe in the proposal and expect it to be funded. Even on proposals where the funding odds are lower than others there is still a genuine hope to see it funded. Inevitably in grant writing you will face many of those days. Finding out that a proposal has not been funded is always disappointing. When it happens what you do next can be as important as writing the proposal itself.

I am often asked, “Why do proposals fail?” Sometimes a proposal’s failure isn’t because it wasn’t well written. The application may have met the necessary scores but competing applications scored higher. The demand for the funds could have significantly outpaced the funding availability or a variety of other issues—regional, political, etc.—could have arisen. However, there are some common mistakes that hurt proposals. After sitting on multiple grant review panels and reviewing the score sheets of hundreds of applications, I’ve seen some reoccurring mistakes that doom grant applications.

Why proposals fail:

- **Not following directions.** Not following the guidelines provided for grant applicants or leaving out a required document will almost always automatically disqualify your application from even being considered. It seems so simple but it’s true. Many grants fail for not carefully observing all the rules of the application.
- **Poor or sloppy appearance.** If you are proposing to achieve something great with the funding agency’s funds, your application should be well organized. Presentation matters.
- **Poor spelling and/or grammar.** This only hurts your effort.
- **Failure to demonstrate experience** in similar projects or a reasonable ability to administer and implement the program. It is important to build confidence with the funding agency for your organization. A great idea is useless in the hands of someone incapable of bringing it to reality. You must give the funder faith.
- **Project outcomes are unclear or immeasurable.** They must easily be able to tell if the funding achieved success.
- **Method of implementation is off.** If it doesn’t seem to achieve the anticipated goal then it is an ineffective method. Your process should match the destination.

- **A weak evaluation strategy.**
- **Math errors in the budget section.** Your teacher was right: Math is important.
- **Failure to appropriately justify budget request.** Agencies don’t like to see greedy applicants.
- **Lack of appropriate experience among key personnel.**
- **A failure to clearly identify the need** or problem to be addressed by the project. The idea may be great but what is it solving or addressing in your community. Do you really need it?
- **Lack of an appropriate commitment** in matching funds, resources, or manpower. Funding agencies like to see demonstrated commitment to projects.
- **Failure to demonstrate project sustainability** beyond the funding cycle of the requested grant.
- **Failure to sign a required form.** Yes, this happens.
- **Lack of clear and appropriate verifiable data** for the need and the selected method of addressing the need. Every grant application declares a need. It is important that you support these statements with verifiable and dependable data that demonstrates the need. Likewise it is important to provide strong support for why the solution you propose is best and will work.

This isn’t an exhaustive list, but it certainly covers some of the most common pitfalls I’ve seen over the years.

As the old saying goes, when life hands you lemons make lemonade. When you receive the unfortunate news that your grant application was not funded you must somehow turn it into a good day. The best way to do that is to start asking, “Why?” When an application I’ve written isn’t funded I want to know why so I can improve for the next time and avoid an unnecessary mistake in other applications. Ask your contact at the agency to explain to you why your application didn’t make it. Ask for the score sheets from the review process. Ask for constructive criticism. Request copies of successful applications. All of these steps will aide you in becoming a better grant writer.



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.

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Batesville parks and rec director helps city have fun

By Lisa Burnett

Jeff Owens of Batesville has a passion for sports. His job as director of parks and recreation for the city of Batesville has allowed him to get paid for doing something he loves.



He grew up in Sikeston, Mo., but made his way to Arkansas when he went to college. He began at Harding University in Searcy and later transferred to Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, where he got his start in the field of parks and recreation.

“I started out as the youth sports coordinator and worked my way up,” Owens said.

After working as the youth sports coordinator for the city of Jonesboro for about two years, he then moved up to assistant director of parks and recreation, then made his way into the director’s spot, where he stayed for 11 years. Though he’s been in the Batesville Parks and

Recreation director’s position for just two years, he said he is thoroughly enjoying his time in the city.

“This job came open, and I liked this area,” Owens said. “It’s a gorgeous part of the country, and I knew the potential was there.”

The diversity of working in parks and recreation is one thing that drives Owens to come to work every day.

“My job changes every day,” Owens said. “My job is to find and create ways for people to spend leisure time and have fun. It never gets boring.”

Owens is in charge of the Batesville Golf Course; Riverside, Kennedy and West parks; the North Complex; baseball and softball fields; city pools; the youth soccer program; the adult softball program; and swimming lessons for the city’s residents. Other than supervising the operation of the parks in the city, he is also overseeing construction of the new soccer and baseball complex and a new community center.

“Our new baseball complex will consolidate all youth diamond sports,” Owens said. The new community center will offer a place for the people of Batesville to come together.

“Batesville never had a community center,” Owens said. “[The center] will have an inside, heated therapy pool, a kids play area and an Olympic-size swimming pool.”

Not only will the center include a place for city residents to cool off when the weather gets warm, it will also feature meeting and board rooms and a fitness center. The community center is set to open to the public by the end of 2014, Owens said.

“People are incredibly excited about it,” Owens said. “I’m as excited as everyone else.”

The new baseball complex has opened up opportunities for Owens to be creative.

“We’re making this [center] unique to bring tourism to Batesville,” Owens said.

One part of the complex that Owens said he’s excited about is the baseball fields that will be available to children who play the sport. The fields are modeled after major league baseball fields, such as Wrigley Field.

“It’ll make the kids feel special. It’s not like a normal baseball field,” Owens said. “The extra effort drives the love of the game more.”

As the weather warms up, Owens’ schedule will get busier, he said.

Arkansas Holiday Lighting

“Spring is very busy,” Owens said. “We’ve got soccer and baseball going on, and we’re getting the pools ready for summer.”

Although originally from Missouri, Owens said he loves the Batesville area.

“I have great friends here, and the people are great,” Owens said. “When I moved here, I couldn’t believe the welcome I got.”

He has experienced the support of the Batesville community through some of the programs he’s proposed.

“We have a program in the summer called Movies in the Park,” Owens said. “I started looking for sponsors [for the program], and no one told me no.”

The people of Batesville want to see the city grow, Owens said.

“I’ve got so much support for what I’m doing with my job,” Owens said. “I couldn’t ask for more.”

Owens’ love for sports also carries over into the fact that he loves to work on a team.

“I’ve found in Batesville that everyone works together,” Owens said. “I’ve never heard, ‘That’s not my job’ from anyone, and that makes working with people a lot easier.”

Working in parks and recreation also allows Owens to serve as a positive role model for children in the Batesville area.

“So many parents don’t spend a lot of time with their kids,” Owens said. “I enjoy being able to give the kids a place to come out and have fun.”

Owens said his parents presented him with extensive opportunities to pursue his dreams, and he wants to offer the same opportunities to the children of Batesville.

“I owe it to [my parents],” Owens said.

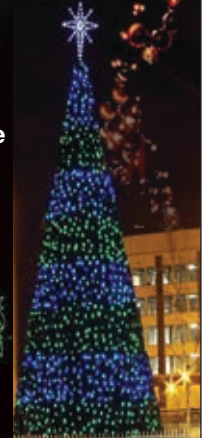
Coming up on 13 years of working in the field of parks and recreation, one might expect Owens to be tiring of his profession. On the contrary, Owens said, “I get paid to help people have fun. What more could you ask for?”

This article appeared originally in the May 5 Three Rivers Edition of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette and is reprinted with permission.

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“Formula” helps track caloric expenditure needed for weight loss

We occasionally receive messages from eDoc clients expressing frustration with not being able to lose weight, despite eating a low-calorie diet and getting regular exercise. Once issues such as hypothyroidism are ruled out, the cruel reality is that weight loss occurs only when the number of calories that we burn exceeds the number that we consume.

We burn calories through our basal metabolism, activities of daily living, and exercise. Basal metabolism or basal metabolic rate (BMR) refers to the number of calories that we consume in order to maintain our current weight and to support certain “basal” functions, such as brain activity, breathing, and pumping blood throughout the body. The BMR varies from individual to individual because of differences in body weight, height, gender, and age. By knowing our basal metabolic rate, we can come closer to being able to estimate the maximum number of calories that we can eat and still lose weight.

One way of estimating the daily caloric intake is by applying the Harris-Benedict Principle. This equation takes into consideration those factors (age, height, weight, etc.) that affect basal metabolism, as well as factoring in the person’s activity level. This equation will be fairly accurate in all but the very muscular (under-estimates calorie needs) and the very fat (over-estimates calorie needs).

Here’s how the equation works:

- As mentioned, the BMR varies depending on whether you are a man or a woman:
 - For men, the BMR equals $66 + (6.23 \text{ times your weight in pounds}) + (12.7 \text{ times your height in inches}) - (6.8 \text{ times age in years})$.
 - For women, the BMR equals $655 + (4.35 \text{ times your weight in pounds}) + (4.7 \text{ times your height in inches}) - (4.7 \text{ times your age in years})$.
 - As an example, if you are a 48 year old woman whose weight is 168 pounds and height is 5 ft. 6 inches, the calculations would go as follows:
 - $BMR = 655 + (4.35 \times 168) + (4.7 \times 66) - (4.7 \times 48)$
 - $BMR = 655 + 730.8 + 310.2 - 225.6$
 - $BMR = 1,470.4 \text{ calories per day}$. This is the number of calories that you could eat if you were completely sedentary and that would support your current weight and basal metabolism. In other words, you would neither gain nor lose weight.

- Since almost everyone is active to some degree, the next step is to factor in your estimated activity level. This is done by multiplying your BMR by an activity factor (these are the same for men and women). They are as follows:

- Sedentary = $BMR \times 1.2$ (office Job, not very active)
- Lightly Active = $BMR \times 1.375$ (light exercise 1-3 days/wk.)
- Moderately Active = $BMR \times 1.55$ (moderate exercise 3-5 days/wk.)
- Very Active = $BMR \times 1.725$ (intense exercise 5-7 days/wk.)
- Athletic = $BMR \times 1.9$ (hard exercise daily, active job, training for sports contest/competition)

So, keeping with the previous example, in a moderately active woman whose BMR is 1,470 calories, she would burn approximately 2,279 ($1,470 \times 1.55$) calories in a day.

Now comes the weight loss part. In order to lose weight, this individual would have to consume fewer than 2,279 calories per day or would have to increase her exercise level so that she was burning more than 2,279 calories per day. In order to lose a pound of weight a week, our subject would need to create a calorie deficit of 500 calories per day or approximately 3,500 calories per week. She could do this by burning an extra 250 calories and cutting back by 250 calories from her diet or any other combination that will result in 500 fewer calories.

Obviously, one day’s worth of dieting or a particularly vigorous exercise session will not make much difference. Weight loss typically requires that you create a caloric deficit for a longer period of time to be successful.

The Harris-Benedict Principle is not exact, but it does provide a more accurate estimate of daily caloric expenditure than many other methods. It is best applied with the use of diet and exercise diary to keep track of the number of calories that are being consumed as well as the number of calories expended through exercising.

This article appeared originally on eDocAmerica’s blog, weeklyhealthtip.blogspot.com, and is reprinted with permission.



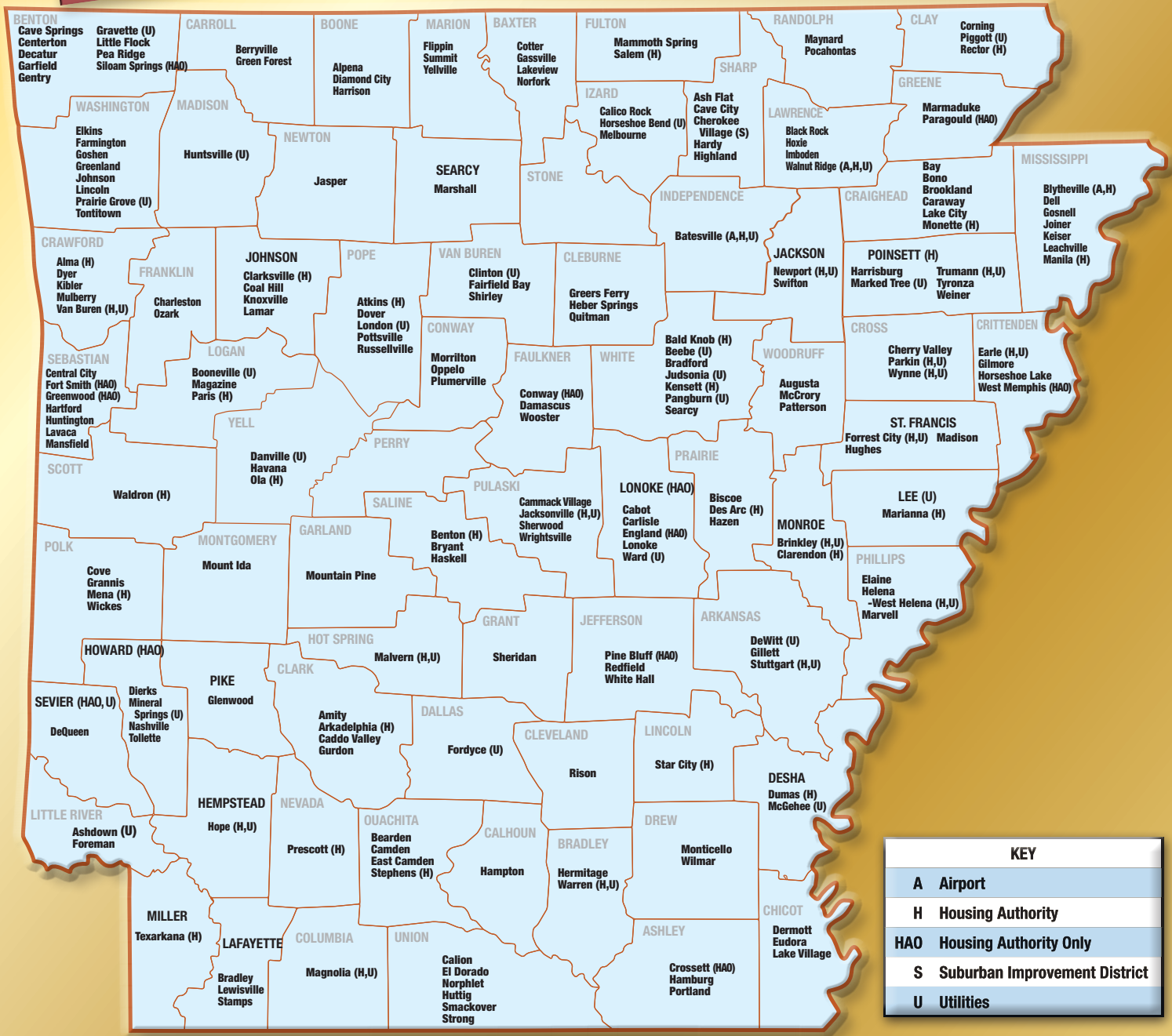
David Baxter is the League Health and Safety Coordinator. Contact David at 501-374-3484 Ext. 110, or email dbaxter@arml.org.



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

Changes to 2013 Directory of Arkansas Municipal Officials

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



Alexander

Delete CA (Vacant)
Add CA Carla Miller

Barling

Delete T (Vacant)
Add T April Robertson

Bearden

Delete M Hugh Walthall
Add M William Farmer
Add AL Rebecca Arnold

Benton

Delete FO Karen Scott
Add FO Bill Wilson

Berryville

Delete FC Doug Johnson
Add FC Shannon Chester

Humnoke

Delete FC Hutson Way
Add FC (Vacant)

Imboden

Delete AL Doug Swink
Add AL Amanda Haynes
Delete MTG First Monday
Add MTG Second Monday

Jacksonville

Delete PRD Kristen Kennon
Add PRD Kevin House
Jasper
Delete AL Pat Brasel
Add AL George Bailey

Mansfield

Delete AL Roger Ball
Add AL Christie Salmaron

Newport

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Add CEO Derrick Ratliffe
Delete DPW Burt Willard
Add DPW Roger Faust

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NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2013

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

Violence against government workers

In an article I found recently, there was a lengthy discussion concerning violence in the workplace—private sector and the government. The article was interesting, and I thought it worthy of forwarding the information to you.

The average annual rate of workplace violence against local, county, state, and federal government employees in 2011 was three times greater than that of private sector workers. U.S. Bureau of Justice statistician Erika Harrell compiled the data.

Government employees made up 41 percent of victims of non-fatal workplace violence. The data further indicated that these workers experienced violence at a rate of 18.0 non-fatal violent crimes per 1,000 employees age 16 or older. Interestingly, the statistics were 5.2 non-fatal violent crimes per 1,000 for private sector employees. So, how did this happen?

Male government employees were at greater risk than female employees. Government employees at state, county, and local levels suffered 96 percent of workplace violence against government employees. Employees in law enforcement and security experienced a higher rate of violence.

The study is a reminder that any employee, at any place and at any time, is potentially at risk for workplace violence. Substance abuse is often a contributor to such acts.



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.

Database tracking helps thwart theft

The Federal Trade Commission has received complaints concerning the tracking of employee thefts that could prevent workers accused of theft in the past from finding employment. The Commission is examining the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) to determine if they are following a federal law that protects consumers from inaccurate information while giving them more control over personal data.

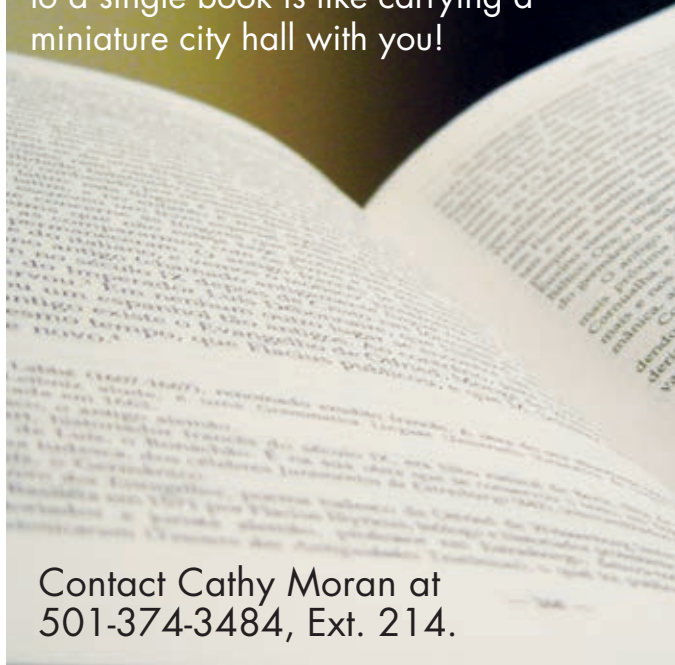
The employee theft databases contain "scant details" about suspected thefts and generally do not involve criminal charges; however, the data can still interfere with a job candidate's chances. On many occasions, when confronted with the background screening information concerning a possible theft situation, the applicants will write a statement after being questioned by the employer, and this information becomes part of their file.

Workplace theft is often overlooked by employers. Employees who suffer addictions must support a habit, and some drugs are very expensive. The employer often finds their company supporting the employee's drug addiction. Thefts at work are generally subtle—data being taken to sell to a competitor, account number on company credit cards copied. Your supplies and equipment parts are often potential sources for money. Other costs to employers are in medical costs for addicts and their families, workers' compensation increases due to accidents caused by an abusing employee, and the damage to the company's reputation due to the employee's poor performance.

Background screenings are very important, and so are phone calls to previous employers. Whenever you need these services, call our company and we will help you. We are governed by the Fair Credit Reporting Act and our staff will help you interpret a report. Sometimes the reports are hard to read, so don't just guess what they say. We are here to help you.

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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	\$3.5917	\$0.1996	\$0.4276	\$3.1087	\$2.8863
August	\$3.5350	\$4.0882	\$0.1567	\$0.4603	\$1.0052	\$1.3763
September	\$3.6430	\$5.0401	\$0.1899	\$0.4348	\$1.0056	\$1.0055
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	\$32.8559	\$3.0077	\$3.4222	\$16.1978	\$13.4307

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	\$6,750,810.43	\$375,173.84	\$803,621.40	** \$5,842,460.26	** \$5,424,973.20
August	\$6,643,716.19	\$7,684,015.71	\$294,503.90	\$865,190.21	\$1,889,164.55	\$2,586,803.92
September	\$6,846,853.12	\$9,473,119.80	\$356,918.13	\$817,319.05	\$1,890,041.23	\$1,889,909.64
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	\$61,754,360.75	\$5,652,935.08	\$6,432,134.80	\$30,434,802.60	\$25,243,721.91

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

** Includes \$3,516,786.65 supplemental in July 2012 and \$3,516,799.83 in July 2013

August 2013 Municipal Levy Receipts and August 2013 Municipal/County Levy Receipts with 2012 Comparison (shaded gray)

CITY SALES AND USE	AMOUNT	LAST YEAR	Gentry	39,543.19	32,223.17	Ola	21,808.34	8,199.75	Mountain Home	163,275.10	157,542.16
Alexander	45,988.74	50,388.04	Gilbert	1,135.18	1,165.55	Oppelo	1,697.36	1,967.74	Norfolk	6,702.57	6,467.23
Alma	199,916.55	193,121.42	Gillett	7,816.20	8,397.72	Osceola	95,349.28	96,341.89	Salesville	5,902.45	5,695.21
Almyra	2,327.29	2,398.24	Gillham	1,695.89	1,763.89	Oxford	1,848.10	1,715.19	Benton County	656,853.41	540,262.67
Alpena	3,531.21	3,337.14	Gilmore	212.13	442.00	Ozark	79,403.14	75,423.24	Avoca	7,219.14	5,937.75
Alzheimer	2,489.46	2,533.64	Glenwood	62,007.01	61,213.89	Palestine	17,474.18	10,178.61	Bella Vista	391,446.29	321,965.02
Altus	6,880.77	8,454.95	Gosnell	14,184.18	14,751.64	Paragould	269,770.18	290,160.65	Bentonville	522,219.32	429,525.98
Amity	9,294.84	7,671.89	Gould	3,179.66	2,983.72	Paris	25,535.04	26,018.77	Bethel Heights	35,089.78	28,861.38
Anthonyville	521.20	2,609.00	Grady	7,768.08	3,632.52	Patmos	59.25	101.02	Cave Springs	25,577.67	21,037.66
Arkadelphia	155,896.07	160,627.95	Gravette	126,931.13	73,317.81	Patterson	2,001.80	1,952.51	Centerton	140,758.53	115,774.05
Ash Flat	88,605.06	78,701.56	Green Forest	25,240.17	23,416.20	Pea Ridge	28,979.47	26,047.73	Decatur	25,133.87	20,672.63
Ashdown	108,875.15	121,764.61	Greenbrier	142,755.80	130,401.92	Perla	2,322.64	1,960.44	Elm Springs	562.15	462.37
Atkins	47,613.49	48,535.66	Greenland	16,792.03	16,464.50	Perryville	16,420.78	19,857.67	Garfield	7,426.25	6,108.10
Augusta	28,042.19	35,434.16	Greenwood	162,387.65	150,395.80	Piggott	78,133.97	62,057.04	Gateway	5,991.30	4,927.85
Austin	22,301.46	10,444.19	Guion	5,674.02	6,744.93	Pine Bluff	969,168.20	911,612.91	Gentry	46,717.33	38,425.06
Avoca	2,809.68	2,600.91	Gum Springs	201.06	NA	Pineville	1,658.57	949.86	Gravette	34,394.49	28,289.51
Bald Knob	60,533.59	56,322.15	Gurdon	18,969.91	18,196.42	Plainville	3,235.36	3,231.78	Highfill	8,624.51	7,093.67
Barling	23,374.91	18,615.92	Guy	4,235.28	5,300.08	Plumerville	10,556.57	4,739.24	Little Flock	38,240.76	31,453.07
Batesville	544,507.19	271,481.67	Hackett	5,650.28	5,092.97	Pocahontas	107,165.62	111,974.87	Lowell	108,390.72	89,151.49
Bauxite	18,718.06	15,023.86	Hamburg	25,741.56	29,055.16	Portia	2,912.85	3,897.69	Pea Ridge	70,919.22	58,331.14
Bay	6,570.43	7,212.65	Hardy	23,913.11	21,566.83	Pottsville	25,121.66	27,911.45	Rogers	827,893.88	680,943.66
Bearden	11,441.75	9,389.72	Harrisburg	25,551.66	23,881.03	Prairie Grove	91,350.33	77,804.54	Siloam Springs	222,476.88	182,987.49
Beebe	93,053.07	74,428.18	Harrison	244,386.79	214,022.04	Prescott	49,142.05	49,636.22	Springdale	89,558.82	73,662.23
Beedeville	167.03	78.98	Hartford	1,991.92	1,689.46	Pyatt	543.46	718.67	Springtown	1,287.02	1,058.58
Bella Vista	116,829.47	105,947.31	Haskell	19,694.90	16,343.52	Quitman	26,000.73	23,684.04	Sulphur Springs	7,559.38	6,217.60
Belleville	2,068.28	2,110.63	Hatfield	2,703.07	2,998.29	Ravenden	2,925.95	3,056.93	Boone County	346,932.84	338,797.07
Benton	681,166.72	656,812.93	Havana	2,187.47	2,832.68	Rector	23,818.31	21,965.73	Alpena	3,660.89	3,575.04
Bentonville	1,936,194.12	1,313,238.05	Hazen	55,454.29	53,106.26	Redfield	20,648.33	14,223.04	Bellefonte	5,210.18	5,087.99
Berryville	228,321.66	224,379.92	Heber Springs	148,604.16	154,651.61	Rison	11,324.94	13,280.80	Bergman	5,038.03	4,919.89
Bethel Heights	52,481.85	45,233.33	Helena-West Helena	236,134.00	252,373.93	Rockport	11,706.84	36,339.12	Diamond City	8,974.35	8,763.90
Black Rock	6,333.48	6,212.64	Hermitage	5,399.15	5,780.61	Roe	510.85	500.38	Everton	1,526.33	1,490.54
Blevins	2,072.72	2,397.06	Highfill	74,932.27	72,894.19	Rogers	2,447,783.27	2,259,510.60	Harrison	148,535.90	145,052.65
Blue Mountain	107.92	124.20	Highland	28,266.64	28,180.50	Rose Bud	16,450.15	16,249.63	Lead Hill	3,110.04	3,037.11
Bluthville	512,650.17	351,778.74	Holly Grove	7,660.14	8,343.57	Russellville	999,014.11	937,258.82	Omaha	1,939.47	1,893.99
Bonanza	1,438.60	1,815.58	Hope	170,760.55	170,516.83	Salem	20,458.25	21,759.38	South Lead Hill	1,170.57	1,143.12
Bono	12,393.24	10,080.49	Horseshoe Bend	23,190.32	22,193.01	Salesville	4,220.06	NA	Valley Springs	2,100.14	2,050.89
Booneville	106,988.55	90,986.57	Hot Springs	1,596,537.36	1,488,819.55	Searcy	795,489.47	826,779.80	Zinc	1,182.04	1,154.32
Bradley	2,800.25	3,524.32	Hoxie	17,448.62	16,389.26	Shannon Hills	10,095.39	12,927.44	Bradley County	119,499.36	118,858.72
Branch	1,607.89	1,530.46	Hughes	10,989.95	10,388.10	Sheridan	176,868.57	182,526.60	Banks	922.72	917.77
Briarcliff	1,047.71	824.55	Humphrey	2,518.53	2,052.63	Sherrill	792.95	554.78	Hermitage	6,176.25	6,143.14
Brinkley	107,506.54	106,662.20	Huntington	2,028.87	2,315.51	Sherwood	393,025.68	390,980.06	Warren	44,669.95	44,430.48
Brookland	14,261.85	763.73	Huntsville	52,223.89	47,837.41	Shirley	3,230.51	3,376.72	Calhoun County	55,051.26	57,029.23
Bryant	985,949.34	970,080.86	Imboden	7,227.75	7,805.09	Siloam Springs	512,001.71	456,227.30	Hampton	12,121.71	12,557.24
Bull Shoals	15,816.43	13,278.99	Jacksonville	612,380.72	641,087.80	Sparkman	3,232.84	3,595.51	Harrell	2,325.46	2,409.02
Cabot	676,634.40	610,883.16	Jasper	25,836.01	26,134.13	Springdale	1,809,305.76	1,763,092.14	Thornton	3,726.24	3,860.12
Caddo Valley	60,261.86	48,318.01	Jennette	88.38	131.14	Springtown	151.97	8.20	Tinsman	494.39	512.16
Calico Rock	11,725.34	21,321.35	Johnson	55,776.64	53,763.66	St. Charles	1,658.72	2,042.09	Carroll County	159,953.81	157,729.05
Camden	248,015.62	281,350.97	Joiner	2,390.74	2,003.68	Stamps	13,739.68	10,724.47	Beaver	585.57	577.42
Caraway	5,578.84	4,584.78	Jonesboro	1,956,713.63	1,884,727.43	Star City	69,035.04	73,093.27	Blue Eye	175.67	173.23
Carlisle	49,140.96	53,768.47	Junction City	3,177.16	NA	Stephens	5,139.74	6,885.31	Chicot County	236,477.33	242,095.21
Cave Springs	20,054.81	12,825.65	Keiser	2,982.01	3,215.43	Strong	10,304.78	NA	Dermott	24,693.06	25,279.69
Centerton	90,790.14	70,515.43	Keo	1,690.54	1,574.33	Stuttgart	343,997.59	352,642.37	Eudora	19,393.76	19,854.48
Charleston	26,098.85	25,710.84	Kibler	1,211.99	1,462.91	Sulphur Springs	1,366.46	1,106.25	Lake Village	22,009.22	22,532.08
Cherokee Village	13,730.80	12,246.00	Kingsland	1,839.47	954.23	Summit	3,514.14	2,698.18	Clark County	386,013.44	381,691.77
Cherry Valley	5,466.12	5,150.15	Lake City	11,209.64	11,680.83	Sunset	2,046.27	1,918.34	Clay County	53,944.36	47,885.68
Chidester	2,279.01	2,405.78	Lake Village	83,155.96	77,800.41	Swifton	2,787.01	3,368.69	Datto	372.65	330.79
Clarendon	48,185.86	47,159.34	Lakeview	3,198.96	3,639.57	Taylor	5,179.99	5,340.78	Greenway	778.83	691.36
Clarksville	352,458.22	323,675.89	Lamar	8,509.64	8,564.05	Texarkana	371,938.36	392,642.48	Knobel	1,069.50	949.38
Clinton	81,468.48	87,508.69	Lepanto	22,568.42	22,166.62	Texarkana Special	184,850.50	195,047.28	McDougal	693.12	615.28
Coal Hill	1,590.41	NA	Leslie	4,364.51	5,296.50	Thornton	1,567.85	951.15	Nimmons	257.13	228.25
Conway	1,951,162.21	1,904,231.54	Lewisville	9,231.51	12,167.32	Tontitown	96,645.45	103,411.95	Peach Orchard	503.07	446.57
Corning	75,948.22	73,902.87	Lincoln	34,845.08	28,458.50	Trumann	69,943.66	82,577.03	Pollard	827.28	734.36
Cotter	10,133.70	9,055.93	Little Flock	NA	6,462.86	Tuckerman	14,193.20	14,140.18	St. Francis	931.62	826.98
Cotton Plant	932.02	1,900.28	Little Rock	5,858,077.26	5,992,668.59	Turrell	9,533.25	7,595.75	Success	555.24	492.88
Cove	10,754.63	11,268.23	Lonoke	145,273.84	139,451.84	Twin Groves	0.33	799.35	Cleburne County	414,531.73	390,367.26
Crossett	163,052.95	325,504.83	Lowell	277,825.84	250,872.32	Tyronza	2,444.77	3,172.55	Concord	3,077.50	2,898.10
Damascus	7,296.23	NA	Luxora	2,123.20	3,591.62	Van Buren	601,677.09	292,041.91	Fairfield Bay	2,308.12	2,173.57
Danville	42,450.30	46,651.23	Madison	1,323.25	1,278.16	Vandervoort	230.53	4,481.37	Greers Ferry	11,237.90	10,582.81
Dardanelle	144,209.99	161,056.80	Magazine	11,113.25	8,632.12	Vilonia	68,760.36	86,383.02	Heber Springs	90,369.90	85,101.93
Decatur	15,865.11	16,550.20	Magnolia	427,911.40	418,037.98	Viola	2,015.50	2,280.50	Higden	1,513.52	1,425.29
Delight	3,678.36	3,902.84	Malvern	147,194.78	143,770.95	Wabbaseka	697.74	574.14	Quitman	9,232.49	8,694.30
De Queen	95,764.24	99,259.69	Mammoth Spring	8,031.97	8,982.61	Waldenburn	8,016.61	7,911.69	Cleveland County	36,233.77	35,052.87
Dermott	28,015.63	27,371.03	Manila	39,693.04	43,448.69	Waldron	45,999.07	44,709.84	Kingsland	1,785.67	1,727.48
Des Arc	18,753.13	19,258.68	Mansfield	31,948.25	27,240.31	Walnut Ridge	66,814.85	63,908.99	Rison	5,369.01	5,194.02
DeValls Bluff	11,926.84	9,230.29	Marionna	81,399.21	85,140.82	Ward	20,306.49	18,439.48	Columbia County	395,459.60	336,189.90
DeWitt	155,007.57	168,925.96	Marion	175,397.66	204,243.91	Warren	64,660.05	68,530.58	Emerson	704.51	598.92
Diamond City	2,539.52	2,740.19	Marked Tree	55,922.07	47,456.05	Washington	2,171.97	1,224.25	Magnolia	22,163.20	18,841.48
Diaz	4,733.82	3,206.57	Marmaduke	16,529.64	14,246.16	Weiner	8,481.61	9,499.60	McNeil	987.84	839.79
Dierks	13,453.12	13,960.32	Marshall	14,481.38	16,510.94	West Fork	36,387.28	32,010.32			

Van Buren	193,779.34	190,332.96	Jackson County	136,730.44	132,085.57	Etowah	3,859.48	4,549.86	Searcy County	40,826.68	37,726.43
Crittenden County	656,233.99	708,416.54	Amagon	969.19	936.27	Gosnell	39,012.65	45,991.15	Big Flat	6.66	6.16
Anthonyville	958.49	1,036.54	Beedeville	1,058.20	1,022.25	Joiner	6,333.51	7,466.43	Gilbert	186.61	172.44
Clarkedale	2,388.70	2,388.56	Campbell Station	2,521.88	2,436.21	Keiser	8,345.72	9,838.58	Leslie	2,939.04	2,715.86
Crawfordsville	2,851.66	3,083.88	Diaz	13,034.66	12,591.86	Leachville	21,914.38	25,834.37	Marshall	9,030.39	8,344.65
Earle	14,371.42	15,541.71	Grubbs	3,817.44	3,687.75	Luxora	12,952.90	15,269.89	Pindall	746.42	689.74
Edmondson	2,542.09	2,749.09	Jacksonport	2,096.62	2,025.40	Manila	36,747.54	43,320.86	St. Joe	879.71	812.91
Gilmore	1,409.16	1,089.33	Newport	77,921.91	75,274.12	Marie	923.64	1,088.85	Sebastian County	755,120.72	756,518.68
Horseshoe Lake	1,738.38	1,879.94	Swifton	7,892.00	7,623.90	Osceola	85,293.44	100,550.55	Barling	69,014.41	69,142.18
Jennette	616.18	666.35	Tuckerman	18,414.68	17,789.11	Victoria	406.84	479.61	Bonanza	8,535.88	8,551.68
Jericho	708.45	766.14	Tupelo	1,780.15	1,719.68	Wilson	9,929.10	11,705.20	Central City	7,452.19	7,465.99
Marion	73,494.28	79,479.02	Weldon	741.74	716.54	Monroe County	NA	NA	Fort Smith	1,279,772.79	1,282,142.05
Sunset	1,060.89	1,147.28	Jefferson County	714,476.34	539,447.12	Montgomery County	51,491.47	49,998.73	Greenwood	132,892.46	133,138.48
Turrell	3,295.19	3,563.52	Altheimer	10,294.25	7,772.41	Black Springs	665.49	646.20	Hackett	12,054.14	12,076.46
West Memphis	156,246.05	168,969.36	Humphrey	3,222.18	2,432.83	Glenwood	282.33	274.14	Hartford	9,530.49	9,548.14
Cross County	249,120.15	269,409.92	Pine Bluff	513,488.64	387,696.48	Mount Ida	7,233.01	7,023.32	Huntington	9,426.58	9,444.03
Cherry Valley	6,398.79	6,919.94	Redfield	13,568.75	10,244.74	Norman	2,540.96	2,467.30	Lavaca	33,980.21	34,043.12
Hickory Ridge	2,673.53	2,891.28	Sherrill	878.78	663.50	Oden	1,559.53	1,514.33	Mansfield	10,732.94	10,752.81
Parkin	10,861.23	11,745.83	Wabbaseka	2,667.72	2,014.19	Nebraska County	34,141.27	32,344.58	Midland	4,824.63	4,833.56
Wynne	82,240.61	88,938.76	White Hall	57,811.01	43,648.74	Buff City	946.67	896.85	Sevier County	251,185.84	258,230.50
Dallas County	134,674.02	139,174.36	Johnson County	113,425.01	106,960.38	Bodcaw	1,053.55	998.11	Ben Lomond	1,144.24	1,176.33
Desha County	121,003.01	110,133.56	Clarksville	83,314.50	78,566.02	Cale	603.12	571.38	DeQueen	52,035.20	53,494.56
Arkansas City	4,683.00	4,248.41	Coal Hill	9,186.56	8,662.98	Emmet	3,626.36	3,435.53	Gilham	2,262.61	1,298.02
Dumas	60,213.62	54,625.69	Hartman	4,711.29	4,442.77	Prescott	25,163.15	23,838.94	Horatio	8,238.51	8,469.57
McGehee	53,982.42	48,972.53	Knoxville	6,635.75	6,257.55	Rosston	1,992.59	1,887.73	Lockesburg	5,831.67	5,995.22
Mitchellville	4,606.23	4,178.76	Lamar	14,569.60	13,739.20	Willisville	1,160.45	1,099.37	Sharp County	77,328.88	71,525.43
Reed	2,200.75	1,636.68	Lafayette County	65,117.89	75,362.11	Newton County	51,913.96	45,194.69	Ash Flat	9,249.64	8,555.69
Tillar	268.70	243.76	Bradley	3,068.91	3,551.71	Jasper	2,077.45	1,808.56	Cave City	16,441.71	15,207.82
Watson	2,699.75	2,449.22	Buckner	1,343.87	1,555.29	Western Grove	1,711.89	1,490.32	Cherokee Village	36,602.15	33,855.29
Drew County	415,522.91	397,363.24	Lewisville	6,255.11	7,239.15	Ouachita County	297,435.71	326,083.38	Evening Shade	4,077.39	3,771.40
Jerome	451.60	431.86	Stamps	8,273.36	9,574.90	Bearden	7,803.87	8,555.50	Hardy	6,890.04	6,372.97
Monticello	109,622.69	104,831.83	Lawrence County	132,741.80	138,070.11	Camden	98,420.87	107,900.32	Highland	9,863.14	9,122.94
Tillar	2,362.21	2,165.50	Alicia	715.90	744.64	Chidester	2,334.70	2,559.57	Horseshoe Bend	75.51	69.84
Wilmar	5,917.10	5,658.50	Black Rock	3,821.98	3,975.40	East Camden	7,521.12	8,245.52	Sidney	1,708.35	1,580.15
Winchester	1,933.77	1,849.27	College City	2,626.89	2,732.34	Louann	1,324.88	1,452.49	Williford	707.87	654.74
Faulkner County	692,776.19	664,163.77	Hoxie	16,050.03	16,694.28	Stephens	7,197.98	7,891.25	St. Francis County	141,411.02	154,166.51
Damascus	NA	788.36	Imboden	3,908.59	4,065.48	Perry County	91,600.36	91,523.61	Caldwell	9,304.46	10,143.74
Enola	2,109.50	2,018.68	Lynn	1,662.74	1,729.48	Adona	816.31	815.62	Coit	6,337.10	6,908.70
Holland	3,476.30	3,326.64	Minturn	629.30	654.56	Bigelow	1,230.32	1,229.29	Forrest City	257,691.62	280,935.79
Mount Vernon	904.96	866.00	Portia	2,522.97	2,624.25	Casa	667.89	667.33	Hughes	24,158.06	26,337.16
Twin Groves	2,090.77	NA	Powhatan	415.68	432.37	Fourche	242.16	241.96	Madison	12,892.12	14,055.02
Wooster	5,367.36	5,136.29	Ravenden	2,713.49	2,822.41	Houston	675.70	675.13	Palestine	11,416.82	12,446.64
Franklin County	165,286.92	163,668.85	Sedgwick	877.56	912.78	Perry	1,054.56	1,053.68	Whately	5,951.50	6,488.34
Altus	6,475.64	6,412.25	Smithville	450.32	468.40	Perryville	5,702.44	5,697.67	Widener	4,576.80	4,989.61
Branch	3,135.30	3,104.61	Strawberry	1,743.56	1,813.55	Phillips County	111,425.07	103,051.88	Stone County	80,668.75	80,077.72
Charleston	21,545.61	21,334.69	Walnut Ridge	28,231.89	29,365.12	Elaine	12,473.13	11,535.82	Fifty Six	1,473.21	1,462.41
Denning	4,023.78	3,984.39	Lee County	35,457.51	37,102.62	Helena-West Helena	197,649.15	182,796.54	Mountain View	23,401.01	23,229.55
Ozark	31,472.64	31,164.54	Aubrey	1,098.76	1,149.73	Lake View	8,688.05	8,035.17	Union County	503,280.82	565,855.92
Wiederkehr Village	324.64	321.46	Haynes	969.49	1,014.47	Lexa	5,608.98	5,187.49	Calion	14,670.17	16,496.53
Fulton County	116,139.71	103,000.94	LaGrange	575.23	601.92	Marvell	23,259.63	21,511.76	El Dorado	624,638.32	702,400.82
Ash Flat	459.48	407.50	Marianna	26,596.36	27,830.35	Pike County	148,771.97	174,704.41	Felsenthal	3,594.66	4,042.18
Cherokee Village	3,572.23	3,168.11	Moro	1,396.07	1,460.84	Antoine	954.08	909.35	Huttig	20,107.11	22,610.35
Hardy	189.20	167.79	Rondo	1,279.72	1,339.11	Daisy	937.78	893.80	Junction City	17,935.67	20,168.58
Horseshoe Bend	76.58	67.92	Lincoln County	50,677.59	61,075.32	Delight	2,275.13	2,168.44	Norphlet	22,629.96	25,447.29
Mammoth Spring	4,401.10	3,903.21	Gould	4,011.46	4,834.50	Greenwood	17,825.89	16,990.02	Smackover	59,536.74	66,948.77
Salem	7,365.20	6,531.98	Grady	2,151.90	2,593.42	Murreesboro	13,381.65	12,754.17	Strong	16,939.63	19,048.53
Viola	1,518.09	1,346.35	Star City	10,898.51	13,134.61	Poinsett County	120,045.99	121,950.70	Van Buren County	277,615.14	237,462.30
Garland County	2,021,425.94	1,603,579.16	Little River County	161,315.80	208,369.03	Fisher	1,795.49	1,822.26	Clinton	24,660.47	21,093.71
Fountain Lake	6,862.57	3,757.10	Ashdown	32,904.46	42,502.16	Harrisburg	18,534.58	18,696.59	Damascus	2,369.38	2,026.68
Hot Springs	205,777.55	NA	Foreman	7,043.49	9,097.96	Lepanto	15,241.51	15,468.81	Fairfield Bay	20,424.03	17,470.00
Lonsdale	1,282.47	702.12	Ogden	1,254.03	1,619.82	Marked Tree	20,660.17	20,968.29	Shirley	2,757.95	2,359.06
Mountain Pine	10,505.31	5,751.43	Wilton	2,605.60	3,365.62	Trumann	58,743.81	59,619.89	Washington County	1,206,162.06	1,146,500.67
Grant County	159,263.68	172,875.04	Winthrop	1,337.64	1,727.80	Tyrnza	6,135.25	6,226.75	Elkins	35,923.74	34,146.82
Greene County	459,412.34	480,832.69	Logan County	107,910.63	85,785.94	Waldenburg	491.14	498.47	Elm Springs	20,308.85	19,304.30
Delaplaine	1,185.04	1,240.29	Blue Mountain	1,063.24	845.25	Weiner	5,764.88	5,850.86	Farmington	81,045.48	77,036.66
Lafe	4,678.86	4,897.02	Booneville	34,212.43	27,197.93	Polk County	241,648.24	239,435.28	Fayetteville	998,213.38	948,837.92
Marmaduke	11,349.82	11,879.01	Caulksville	1,826.38	1,451.92	Cove	7,248.50	7,182.12	Goshen	14,529.58	13,810.89
Oak Grove Heights	9,081.90	9,505.35	Magazine	7,262.64	5,773.60	Granis	10,512.22	10,415.96	Greenland	17,080.06	16,235.21
Paragould	266,766.76	279,204.91	Morrison Bluff	548.77	436.26	Hatfield	7,836.72	7,764.96	Johnson	45,501.60	43,250.92
Hempstead County	549,576.62	578,805.67	Paris	30,285.29	24,075.96	Mena	108,860.30	107,863.38	Lincoln	30,510.76	29,001.58
Belevins	3,415.02	3,596.64	Ratcliff	1,732.06	1,376.94	Vandervoort	1,650.84	1,635.72	Prairie Grove	59,420.69	56,481.52
Emmet	466.18	490.97	Scranton	1,920.70	1,526.90	Wickes	14,307.24	14,176.20	Springdale	864,761.01	821,986.50
Fulton	2,179.11	2,295.00	Subiaco	4,904.63	3,899.04	Pope County	336,480.79	319,674.11	Tontitown	33,373.27	31,722.50
Hope	109,443.18	115,263.88	Lonoke County	256,744.59	220,236.34	Atkins	40,410.39	38,391.95	West Fork	31,433.28	29,878.47
McCaskill	1,040.77	1,096.12	Allport	1,038.17	890.55	Dover	18,463.37	17,541.15	Winslow	5,304.46	5,042.07
McNab	737.21	776.42	Austin	18,398.22	15,782.06	Hector	6,029.40	5,728.24	White County	898,562.17	819,122.11
Oakhaven	683.00	719.33	Cabot	214,639.92	184,118.82	London	13,921.22	13,225.88	Bald Knob	34,968.16	31,876.69
Ozan	921.51	970.5									

Municipal Notes

NWA ranks high on health, wealth list

Northwest Arkansas ranks third in the nation behind Austin, Texas, and Fargo, N.D., in RealtyTrac's "Best Housing Markets for Health and Wealth Report," *NWAonline* has reported.

"In most categories [Northwest Arkansas] outperformed the rest of the country," said Daren Blomquist, vice president of RealtyTrac, an online marketplace for foreclosure properties.

The report partnered RealtyTrac with Local Market Monitor, a real estate information service, and compared various health parameters, such as obesity and smoking rates, in Metropolitan Statistical Areas with the highest potential for home price appreciation. The local Metropolitan Statistical Area contains Washington, Benton and Madison counties in Arkansas and McDonald County, Mo.

Benton and Washington counties ranked at the top of the County Health Rankings published by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute for the past four years. That report measures many of the same things found in RealtyTrac's Health and Wealth report. However, Northwest Arkansas residents lag behind the national average in physical activity. According to a report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 74 percent of the local population participated in physical activities in the past month. The national rate is 76 percent.

RealtyTrac's top 12 Metropolitan Statistical Areas in its report are:

1. Austin, Texas
2. Fargo, N.D.
3. Northwest Arkansas
4. Provo, Utah
5. Des Moines, Iowa
6. Durham, N.C.
7. San Diego
8. Salt Lake City
9. Nashville, Tenn.
10. Billings, Mont.
11. Cheyenne, Wyo.
12. Sioux Falls, S.D.

Fayetteville hosts 41st Municipal Clerks Institute

Now in its 41st year, the Municipal Clerks Institute will hold its Certification Program Sept. 22-26 and Advanced Academy Sept. 25-26 at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

The Certification Program focuses on public administration, professional development, and electives, enabling candidates to complete the educational requirements for Certified Municipal Clerk. The Advanced Academy is open to anyone who has completed the Certification Program and/or has earned Certified Municipal Clerk status. The two-day program allows participants to refresh and expand their knowledge and to earn points toward Master Municipal Clerk status.

For more information on registration, accommodations, and transportation, contact Kim Jones at kimj@uark.edu or visit www.accrta.org.

Lamar receives health center grant

The Arkansas departments of Education, Health and Human Services awarded the Lamar School District a \$540,000 grant to open a School-Based Health Center on its campus, the *Courier News* reported on Aug. 21. Michele Brown, SBHC coordinator, said the district applied for the grant with the students' well-being in mind.

"We were concerned about our students' health," she said. "The healthier children are, the better they learn."

The grant will be paid out over five years, with decreasing amounts each year. Lamar received \$150,000 this year and will receive \$120,000 next year. The district will be responsible for renewing the grant annually. The goal is to open the clinic to the public eventually, but it is currently open only to the school, Brown said.

The clinic will offer well-child checks, preventative care, primary care for illness and injuries, sports physicals, prescription medications, mental health services and health promotion programs.

Google names Bella Vista Arkansas's "eCity"

Bella Vista has been named the 2013 eCity for Arkansas by Google, *Arkansas Business* has reported. Google's eCity awards recognize the strongest online business community in each state. Winners are determined on the online strength of local small businesses. Google calls its winners the "new digital capitals of America." It credits winners with using the Internet to find new customers, connect with existing ones, and fuel their local economies.

Russellville enters friendship agreement with Chinese city

Russellville has a new sister city after entering into a friendship agreement with Shuangliu County, China on Aug. 21 at Russellville City Hall, the *Courier News* reported. Mayor Bill Eaton told the Chinese delegates he was honored to sign the agreement.

"We are very pleased and very much excited about having the opportunity to develop this relationship throughout the coming years," he said. "This will serve as the beginning of a long-lasting relationship between your county and our city."

Shuangliu County Vice Secretary Wang Huaqiang said the purpose of the agreement is to promote mutual understanding and that he has enjoyed his time in Russellville's culture.

"We are honored to be in Russellville," Huaqiang said, through an interpreter. "There are beautiful landscapes here. It's such a delight to have friends coming from afar."

Shuangliu County is a key area of southwest China, with a population of more than 930,000 and the fourth largest airport in China, he said. The men signed three copies of the friendship agreement: one to be displayed in Russellville, one to be displayed in Shuangliu County and one to be kept in the Foreign Affairs Office in China. After signing the three agreements, Eaton and Huaqiang exchanged gifts, which is customary after entering such an agreement. Eaton presented Huaqiang with a vase-like piece the city commissioned local artist Winston Taylor to create for the event. Huaqiang gave Eaton a silk brocade made of bamboo with two pandas embroidered on the fabric. Huaqiang said the pandas signify the friendship of Shuangliu County and Russellville.

Dell celebrates new fire station

The city of Dell has cut the ribbon on the city's new fire station, a state-of-the-art, \$750,000 facility, the *Blytheville Courier News* has reported. The new facility for the 20-member volunteer fire crew has been in the plans for a decade-and-a-half, according to Dell Mayor Kenneth Jackson, who said a new fire station has been a goal of his since the day he took office.

Although the town only has around 250 people, Jackson said it's the department's propensity to go out to the surrounding cities to help fight fires that make the new station an invaluable asset to the city, as well as the rest of the county.

"This facility is dedicated to the people of Dell, who all deserve a new facility," Jackson said.

The city broke ground on the project in April 2012. Construction took just over a year to complete.

Red, White & Blue Ball honors first responders



The FBI Little Rock Citizens Academy Alumni Association and its many partners will host its annual Arkansas Red, White & Blue Ball Saturday, Oct. 26 at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock. Reception begins at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. and the ball from 8:30-10 p.m. The event honors and supports fire service, EMS, law enforcement, and other first responder members and organizations in Arkansas. The event also honors fallen heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

To reserve a ticket, register a fallen hero to be added to the Arkansas memorial board, and for sponsorship information, go to www.arrwball.com.

Obituaries

ROGER L. BALL, 52, a Mansfield alderman, died March 14.

RANDY STEWART BIRCHFIELD, 60, street superintendent for the city of Johnson, died Aug. 16.

NATHAN HUTSON WAY, 74, longtime Humnoke volunteer fireman and fire chief for 29 years, died July 14.

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.

AUTO FLEET MECHANIC II—Maumelle is currently taking applications for the position of Auto Fleet Mechanic II in the Public Works Department. Auto Fleet Mechanic II supervises and participates in shop repair service and maintenance of a variety of gasoline and diesel-powered automobiles, trucks, tractors, and light and heavy duties equipment. Qualifications include HS diploma or GED and 5 years related experience and/or training or equivalent combination of education and experience; and one year managerial experience. Salary DOE. Open until filled. A job description and an application may be found at www.maumelle.org Human Resources Department page. Completed applications should be mailed to: City of Maumelle Human Resources Department, 550 Edgewood Drive, Suite 590, 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.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR—Hiawatha, Kan., seeks a motivated new administrator. For more information visit www.cityofhiawatha.org. Bachelor's degree and at least two years of management experience required. Accountability, strong work ethic, budgeting experience, and good communication skills required. Salary \$60K-\$70K DOQ. Send cover letter, resume, and 3 professional references to LEAPS-Hiawatha@lkm.org or LEAPS-Hiawatha, 300 SW 8th, Topeka, KS, 66603. EOE. Open until filled. Application review begins October 7.

CITY ENGINEER—Siloam Springs is seeking qualified candidates for the position of City Engineer. Under the direction of the City Administrator, the City Engineer oversees engineering design, provides technical engineering support, reviews private development proposals and is responsible for the administration of capitol improvement projects. Duties also include resolving public technical questions and developing engineering solutions for road, building and utility maintenance projects, and supervision of personnel. Requirements: B.S. in Civil Engineering, two years experience as a professional engineer in a government setting is preferred. Licenses and special requirements: valid Arkansas DL or have the ability to obtain one, Arkansas registration as a P.E. in Civil Engineering or ability to obtain within three months. The city offers a generous benefit package including, but not limited to medical, dental, vision, LTD, 457 Deferred Compensation, vacation and sick leave. Applications are available at City Hall, 400 N. Broadway, Siloam Springs, or online at www.siloamsprings.com. For more info call 479-524-5136 or email humanresources@siloamsprings.com. Open until filled. EOE.

DIVISION CHIEF FOR TRAINING—Maumelle Fire Department seeks a Division Chief for Training (DCT). Plans, directs and reviews the training operations of the Maumelle Fire Department including evaluating and implementing various programs and policies. Plans and supervises the work of Captains in daily activities and at emergency scenes. The DCT participates as an active member of the departmental management team, responsible for developing and implementing departmental goals, objectives, policies and procedures in support of the City's vision, mission, goals and objectives. A City of Maumelle Employment Application must be completed. A job description and an application may be found at www.maumelle.org Human Resources Department page. Completed applications should be mailed to: City of Maumelle Human Resources Department, 550 Edgewood

Drive, Suite 590, 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.

ELECTRICAL LINEMAN—Perry, Okla., seeks applicants for an electrical lineman. Outstanding benefits include insurance, longevity pay, paid vacation, sick and holidays, and generous retirement plan. Requirements include: Class B CDL, HS graduate/GED, and ability to work in physically demanding conditions and unfavorable weather conditions while handling dangerous equipment. Successful applicant must be able to work nights, holidays, weekends, and emergencies, and must be able to complete necessary requirements of a 4-year apprenticeship or equivalent program. Applications available at www.cityofperryok.com. Mail to: P.O. Drawer 798, Perry, OK 73077; email hr@cityofperryok.com; or fax 580-336-4111. Open until filled. EOE.

FINANCE DIRECTOR—Bryant is seeking qualified candidates for the position of Finance Director. Under the direction of the mayor, position plans and directs the development, implementation, and monitoring of city's financial planning and accounting operations for all city funds; provides information and guidance to mayor, council members, city departments, and state agencies. Requires Bachelor's degree in finance or accounting with minimum of 5 years related experience and/or training or CPA. Requires valid DL. Salary range: \$58,839 to \$88,258 DOE. Benefits include vacation, sick leave, paid holidays, APERS retirement, health insurance, dental, vision, and life insurance. Full description at www.cityofbryant.com. Apply in person at the City of Bryant, Human Resources Department, 210 SW 3rd St., Bryant, AR 72202; or on the website. For more information, contact the Human Resources Department at 501-943-0999.

FOR SALE—1980 International Airport Crash Fire Truck, 4,557 miles, 4-W drive, 4-speed Automatic Allison trans, 500-gal. water tank, 60-gal. foam or AFFF tank, 500-lb. dry chemical tank, nitrogen cylinder, and more. Asking \$10,000. For more information contact Wheatley Mayor Larry Nash, 870-457-3411.

FOR SALE—Bryant Fire Department has for sale a 1988 Pierce Arrow Pumper, 33,352 miles, 1,500 GPM Waterous 2-stage pump, 475 HP Detroit Diesel Engine, Automatic Allison transmission, 1,500 gal. booster tank, and more. Asking \$30,500 OBO. Also for sale are seven 4,500 PSI cascade cylinders. Asking \$1,500 for set or \$250 each. If interested call 501-943-0390 or email jjordan@cityofbryant.com.

HR DIRECTOR—Siloam Springs is accepting applications for a Human Resources Director. Requires Bachelor's degree, major in Human Resources Mgmt. or closely related field preferred, or at least 4 year's experience directly related to HR admin. and HR certification such as SHRM/PHR. Experience in benefits admin. a plus. Salary: \$51,500-\$72,120. Generous benefit package. For more information and a full job description call 479-524-5136 or email humanresources@siloamsprings.com. Applications available at City Hall, 400 N. Broadway, Siloam Springs, or online at www.siloamsprings.com. Open until filled. EOE.

HR SPECIALIST—Maumelle is accepting applications for an HR specialist. Minimum requirements: two-year degree from college or technical school and three years

of HR related experience and/or training or equivalent combination of education and experience; Must possess above average computer skills with exceptional knowledge and command of Excel and Microsoft Word. Salary Range: \$23,000 to \$25,000. Open until filled. A job description and an application may be found at www.maumelle.org Human Resources Department page. Completed applications should be mailed to: City of Maumelle Human Resources Department, 550 Edgewood Drive, Suite 590, 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.

OPERATOR 1—Maumelle is accepting applications for the position of Operator I in the Maumelle Parks & Recreation Dept. Position maintains the grounds, buildings, and structures in the Parks and Recreation system. Successful candidate must be able to operate deck mowers, reel mowers, mule, weed eaters, tools used to maintain ball fields, tractor/frontend loader, sprayers, trowels, hammers, hand saws, drills, hand tools, etc. Requires HS diploma or a GED and two years related experience and/or training or equivalent combination of education and experience. Beginning salary is \$22,154. Open until filled. A City of Maumelle Employment Application must be completed. A job description and an application may be found at www.maumelle.org Human Resources Department page. Completed applications should be mailed to: City of Maumelle Human Resources Department, 550 Edgewood Drive, Suite 590, 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.

POLICE CHIEF—Bethel Heights is accepting applications for Chief of Police. Applicant(s) must meet certification requirements. Responsibilities include planning, organizing and directing the activities of the Police Department to ensure effective enforcement of laws and ordinances for protection of lives and property in the community. The Chief of Police will direct the implementation of the goals and policies of the Police Department as well as be responsible for implementing a yearly budget. The Chief of Police develops a sound public relations program to provide the confidence within the Department as well as the community. Applications may be picked up at Bethel Heights City Hall. Mail or deliver to 530 Sunrise Drive, Bethel Heights, AR 72764; fax 479-750-1698; or email afenton@bethelheightsark.org.

WATER/WASTEWATER DIRECTOR—Siloam Springs is accepting applications for a Water/Wastewater Director. Requires degree in Civil Engineering, Public Admin., or related field; minimum of 5 years previous experience in Public Works with increasing supervisory experience, or equivalent combination of education and experience. Must possess valid DL, submit to a background check, and be willing to relocate, and possess or have the ability to obtain an Arkansas Class IV Water/Wastewater License within one year. The city requires a completed application be submitted for all positions. Applications are available at City Hall, 400 N. Broadway, Siloam Springs, or online at www.siloamsprings.com. Salary range: \$70,215-\$82,002. The city offers a generous benefit package including, but not limited to medical, dental, vision, LTD, 457 Deferred Compensation, vacation and sick leave. For more info call 479-524-5136 or email humanresources@siloamsprings.com. Open until filled. EOE.

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