

City & Town

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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE



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FEATURES

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CORRECTION

The description on page three in the January issue of the more detailed report now available from the Department of Finance and Administration on local sales tax collections is incorrect. The new report is the result of an administrative action by DFA, not the result of new legislation.



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 Don Zimmerman

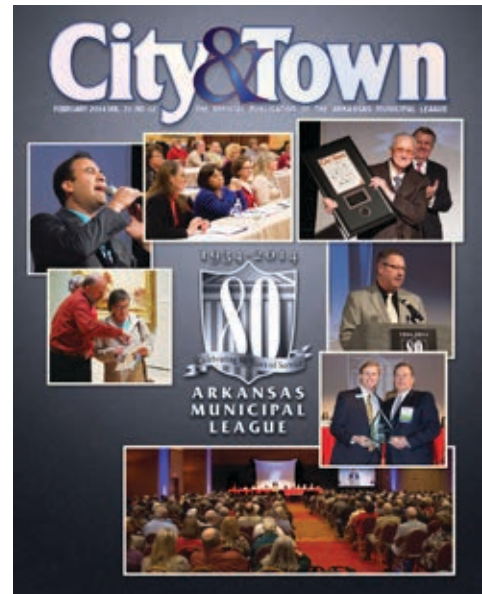
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ON THE COVER—The League held a successful 2014 Winter Conference Jan. 29-31 at the John Q. Hammons Center in Rogers that included visits with state and national leaders, and educational sessions about municipal challenges. Read coverage of the Conference inside beginning on page 6. Read also in this issue about the restoration of Johnny Cash's boyhood home at Dyess, Hot Springs' new website, as well as our usual slate of informative columnists.—atm

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PHOTOS BY ANDREW MORGAN

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Greetings,

We have just wrapped up the Winter Conference and I hope you enjoyed your time in Northwest Arkansas and received useful information that you've brought back to your city. We want to thank the League's staff, who made the conference a success.



I want to share some of the takeaways for me personally from the conference:

- "Communications in a Crisis" presented by Steve Trainor—His experience while flying a helicopter and having mechanical failures showed the importance of training, not just to fly the aircraft but how to communicate in a difficult situation. Will your communications stand the test of a crisis?
- Andy Core's question: "What is the first thing you think of when the alarm goes off?"—Your answer sets the tone for your day. Take control of your day by taking control of your reactions.
- John Robert Smith shared how our vision of communities is changing. In the past we looked for a job and then a place to live; now we look for a place to live and find a job. Are we planning for our future and taking this into consideration?
- Former Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt—He is a true public servant. He made this comment to Don Zimmerman and me as we visited: "When I was elected to office, the letter behind my name disappeared." This is apparent when you look at his record of service.
- Cooperation among our local chamber leaders—Raymond Burns, Rogers/Lowell Chamber; Steve Clark, Fayetteville Chamber; and Todd Wood, Springdale Chamber all spoke about working together.

I want to express our appreciation to Sen. Mark Pryor and Reps. Steve Womack and Tom Cotton for taking time from their busy schedules to speak to us. We also appreciate the time of the several Arkansas Senators and Representatives who attended. We appreciate Rogers Mayor Greg Hines and the city for their kind hospitality along with Bentonville Mayor Bob McCaslin.

At any event there is often one thing that stands out and has everyone talking. At this conference I have to say that would be the vocal performance of Julio Arriola. His performance of the National Anthem was fantastic. Without a doubt it came from deep within his heart. After singing "America the Beautiful," Julio shared his personal story of coming to the United States 11 years ago and not speaking the language. His dream had been to become a U.S. citizen, to live in a land where people are free and have opportunities like no other place in the world. His dream was to be able to sing the song "Proud to be an American" as a citizen. Just a short time ago Julio accomplished that dream and became an American citizen. When he began singing the song, the feeling he expressed in the words could not be mistaken, and across the room people rose to their feet. By the time he finished I am not sure there was a dry eye in the room. He taught us all a lesson in patriotism and pride.

The National League of Cities Congressional City Conference is March 8-12th and registration is now open. This is a great time to meet with your congressman and senators.

In June we'll celebrate the League's 80th Convention. This is quite a milestone for our organization. Over the years our League has matured and grown to be one of the most respected in the nation. I feel that is in part due to the League's leadership and staff, who have served in many capacities throughout the years. We continue to reach new heights and achievements standing on the shoulders of those who have served before us.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you.

Sincerely,

Jackie Crabtree
Mayor, Pea Ridge
President, Arkansas Municipal League

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League preps for year at 2014 Winter Conference

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

With a new year underway, municipal leaders from across Arkansas gathered to discuss mutual challenges at the League's 2014 Winter Conference, held Jan. 29-31 at the John Q. Hammons Center in Rogers. The biennial fiscal session of the Arkansas Legislature convened Feb. 10, and the League welcomed several legislators at the Conference, where they discussed legislation affecting municipalities passed last General Session. Conferees also heard from three of the state's congressional leaders on national issues that impact cities and towns. The Conference had a strong educational component as well, featuring sessions on the Affordable Care Act (ACA), crisis management, economic development, and more.



Hammerschmidt

The Conference also gave the League a chance to honor individuals and cities for their service. During the opening night banquet on Wednesday, Jan. 29, the League presented a plaque to former Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt, a longtime supporter of Arkansas's cities and towns. At the banquet the League also recognized the 2013 Main Street award winners, and all the city and town leaders who achieved or maintained their status as Certified Municipal Officials by participating in the Voluntary Certification Program.

During the Thursday, Jan. 30 Opening General Session, Arkansas Business Publishing Group presented its annual City of Distinction Awards, and at Thursday's luncheon, the League hosted the 2013 Volunteer Community of the Year Awards. At the luncheon the

Conference welcomed Joplin, Mo., Mayor and National League of Cities Second Vice President Melodee Colbert-Kean. She discussed the importance of volunteer efforts, particularly in the aftermath of a catastrophic event like the tornado that decimated Joplin in 2011.



Colbert-Kean

It was Rogers' first time to host a major League event and attendance was strong, with 671 registered delegates and an overall attendance of 969.

While state legislators declined to speculate on what to expect from this year's fiscal session, now underway, they did offer insight on several pieces of key legislation from last year's 89th General Assembly when they addressed the Conference on Thursday, Jan. 30.



Bledsoe

Sen. Cecile Bledsoe said the Senate's Insurance and Commerce Committee listened to the concerns of mayors when crafting SB101, now Act 276, the Arkansas Video Services Act. Mayors feared the bill in its original form would affect the franchise fees cities count on and threaten local government access channels on cable providers.

“Because of the hard work of the Municipal League, this statewide cable franchising bill became something that was acceptable and in most cases helpful to municipalities,” Bledsoe said.

Sen. Missy Irvin encouraged city and town leaders to continue working with their legislators to create good legislation, such as Act 1502 of 2013, the Annexation and Detachment Transparency Act. The law provides for clear communication between cities and residents in annexed areas regarding services, and for petition of detachment if services aren’t provided in a timely manner.



Irvin

“That’s what we are hired and elected to do, to listen to our mayors and listen to our constituents and to create solutions that we can all live with and move forward,” she said.

Act 1074 is known as PACE, or Property Assessed Clean Energy legislation. It offers cities and counties a great economic development opportunity, Sen. David Johnson said. It authorizes counties and municipalities to create energy improvement districts to finance efficiency improvements, renewable energy projects, water conservation, and more. Businesses and their real estate will especially benefit from making improvements within these districts, he said.



Johnson

“It wasn’t the environmentalists or energy advocates who were behind this legislation,” Johnson said. “It was

industry, because industry knows that if people have more money to finance these kinds of projects, the more likely they are to hire people to do them.”

SB825, even with 40 sponsors from both sides of the aisle, didn’t even make it out of committee, Rep. Uvalde Lindsey said, but its failure there opened the door for an administrative solution that gives cities valuable information on local sales tax collections. The concern in the business community was that, despite protections in the legislation, a new report from the Department of Finance and Administration featuring more detailed information on the sources of local sales taxes would



Lindsey

hurt competitiveness. Lindsey approached DFA with the issue, and they agreed to produce a more detailed report that maintains individual businesses’ confidentiality.

The new report is “everything that we could ask for,” Lindsey said.

For a detailed look at the DFA’s new reporting on local sales taxes, see League Finance Director Paul Young’s article in the January 2014 issue of *City & Town*.

The League was honored to hear from three members of the state’s congressional delegation at the Winter Conference. Sen. Mark Pryor and Reps. Tom Cotton and Steve Womack shared their thoughts on some of the challenges facing the nation, including the struggle in Washington to work in a bipartisan manner, the Affordable Care Act, the so-called fiscal cliff, and the farm bill.

Rep. Cotton, who is running against Pryor for a seat in the U.S. Senate, presented a lengthy list of what he considers the negative impacts of the federal government on cities when he addressed the Conference on the afternoon of Thursday, Jan. 30.

Regulations from an “out-of-control bureaucracy” drive up the cost of living, he said. The EPA is a prime example, he said, calling it a “regulatory juggernaut.” Cotton said the rules imposed by the Clean Water Act are an undue burden, calling them a “militant environmentalist wish list” rather than good public policy. He

also cited HUD's new initiative, Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing, which promotes racial integration across several of HUD's major housing programs.

"The real purpose is social engineering," Cotton said, "and wealth redistribution dressed up as housing regulations. In short, the President and his allies want to take money from rural America and suburbs and send it to big cities, and, I would hasten to add, none of you qualify as big."



Cotton

Obamacare is already making healthcare coverage more expensive for employers and should be rejected, Cotton said.

"People are no longer allowed to make choices that fit their medical needs and fit their family budgets," he said. "Small businesses, which is essentially what a lot of you are in economic effect, are facing spiraling premium increases as well."

Prompted by a question from the audience, he defended his recent vote against the farm bill, which passed the House with bipartisan support. He objects to the inclusion of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, in the bill, which he called "the food stamp bill." SNAP is rife with fraud, he claimed.

"Millionaires can get food stamps," Cotton said.

Sen. Pryor stressed the importance of working across the aisle to end the gridlock Congress has seen in recent years. He praised the sensible, bipartisan work Rep. Womack has done in the House, particularly with the Marketplace Fairness Act. Among recent good economic news is a recent uptick in the GDP, which Pryor said is growing at its fastest pace in two years, and small businesses have posted their best employment numbers since 2006. That makes this a great time to pass the Marketplace Fairness Act, he said. The best way to attack the deficit is to boost the economy, he said.

"The deficit's too big," Pryor said, "but last year we had a deficit of \$680 billion. Again, that's way too much, but the good news there is that's \$293 billion less than it was projected to be."



Pryor

The deficit last year was less than half what it was five years before that, he added.

Pryor praised the House for its passage of the farm bill, calling it "the right thing to do." The Senate has now also passed the bill.

"Agriculture, as many of you all know, is 25 percent of the state's economy," Pryor said. "One in six jobs in this state are tied either directly or indirectly to agriculture."

In addition to keeping our food supply safe and affordable and helping fight hunger, the farm bill also supports conservation programs, stabilizes rural electricity rates, provides rural broadband service, and more, Pryor said.

Pryor took Cotton to task for voting against the bill.

"I understood when I went to Washington that I would have to explain why a farm bill would be so important to a lot of people, and I have to explain that to a lot of folks inside the beltway," Pryor said. "I never thought I'd have to explain that to someone on our own delegation."

Rep. Womack marveled at the phenomenal growth in Northwest Arkansas in the last decade or two and praised local leaders in the region for their work and cooperative efforts.



Womack

“The single biggest thing that you can do is to get everybody—all your stakeholders—on the rope, pulling in the same direction,” he said.

He defended his vote to avoid the fiscal cliff last year and praised the bipartisan effort to pass the recent omnibus spending bill, which avoids the brinksmanship we’ve seen.

“Is it everything I want,” he asked? “Of course not. Is it everything Senator Pryor and the majority party wants? Of course not. But at some point in time this Congress had to finally come to grips with the fact that brinksmanship, gridlock in Washington had to stop and governing had to take place.”

That contrasts with the ACA, he said, which passed without any Republican support. Womack has voted to repeal the law numerous times.

“I don’t think that this particular healthcare law was healthy for our country,” he said. “In fact I think that it is doing great harm to our country, hence the fact I have voted with our majority party in the House a number of times to repeal this law so that it doesn’t have the devastating impact on our economy that we think, in fact I believe we know that it will have.”

The Marketplace Fairness Act will give cities the ability to collect the sales taxes that are already due and payable but, because of a loophole, have been unavailable, Womack said. Without the sales tax from Internet sales, which are increasing rapidly, municipal revenue will shrink, he said.

“We’re not talking about a few thousand dollars anymore,” he said. “We’re talking about billions and billions of dollars.”

He cited the results of the recent holiday shopping season, contrasting “Black Friday,” when shoppers hit stores the day after Thanksgiving, with “Cyber Monday,” which drew shoppers online with sales and special offers.

“Black Friday was flat. Cyber Monday was up double digits.”

Without the ability to collect those sales taxes, cities are losing money, he said.

Educational sessions cover ACA, economic development, and more



Zimmerman

The League’s annual Winter Conferences emphasize education and training for municipal leaders, and this year numerous sessions covered an array of topics, including how the implementation of the ACA will affect cities, economic development strategies, crisis management, the importance of utilizing social media, and more.

The League and its Municipal Health Benefit Fund (MHBF) has been working hard to implement the ACA and help our cities and towns understand what the law means for them. League Executive Director Don Zimmerman, Assistant Director Pat Planek, and HIPAA Officer Chris Bradley explained the ACA basics, including the goals of the law, the plan levels, and how the law affects large and small cities.

Cities and towns that participate in the MHBF are fine, Zimmerman said, but municipalities that are not will have some decisions to make. Large cities must “play or pay” by meeting minimum plan requirements or pay penalties. Cities and towns with fewer than 50 employees have the option to offer coverage or not.



Sanders

The push is on to increase water traffic on the Arkansas River by expanding the channel to a 12-foot navigation depth, and mayors and other state economic leaders were on hand to promote the effort. At the river’s current certified depth of nine feet, Fort Smith Mayor Sandy Sanders said, a single barge can carry the equivalent of 15 railcars and 60 tractor-trailers. A 12-foot channel would increase the payload by 40 percent, he said, and shipping by water is more economical than by other modes.



Jordan

“Water traffic is the wave of the future,” Fayetteville Mayor Lioneld Jordan added. Fayetteville and Fort Smith have partnered to increase the opportunities for multi-modal transportation in the region and the entire state. Cheaper shipping means lower costs for businesses and, ultimately, lowers consumers’ costs. It also cuts down on the environmental impact of high-volume shipping, Jordan said.

Jim Youngquist, executive director of the Institute for Economic Advancement at UALR, which is also involved in the project, praised the kind of regional cooperation seen among Northwest Arkansas cities and towns and the businesses there.

“You show me a region where things are happening and I’ll show you a region where public and private sector leaders are working together,” Youngquist said.



Youngquist

The Arkansas River, he said, is the fourth largest in the country and features 445 miles of navigable waters. It also features the furthest inland river port in the United States at Port Catoosa near Tulsa, Okla. A regional report on the river should be forthcoming later this year, he said.

The project to widen the channel has some challenges ahead, said Gene Higginbotham, executive director of the Arkansas Waterways Commission. The Arkansas River is the fourth longest and ranks third in navigable miles, but it ranks 32nd in shipping volume.



Higginbotham

“My job is to close that gap,” Higginbotham said.

Declining resources at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has forced them to cut back, including restricting use at existing locks and dams, he said, so new projects are difficult to fund. Perhaps more pressing, Higginbotham said, is the danger of losing access to the navigation channel at the confluence of the Mississippi, White, and Arkansas rivers. Another major flood event



Bullerwell

like the state saw in 2011 could shut down access for many months, he said.

League Communications Director Whitnee Bullerwell encouraged municipal leaders to take advantage of various forms of social media to reach out to citizens and create a vibrant social community. Social media's no fad, she said.

"It's here to stay," Bullerwell said. "It has dug its heels in and isn't going anywhere."

Citizens expect their cities to reach out to them and make information readily available. Developing a social media strategy that takes advantage of popular platforms like Facebook and Twitter can help cities do this more effectively, she said.

Winter Conference also featured educational and inspirational sessions with two dynamic speakers. Steve Trainor, a former Navy pilot and current executive in residence/director of research at the Soderquist Center, discussed the importance of communicating in times of crisis. He encouraged city and town leaders to not simply survive a crisis, but to use it as a chance to



Trainor

transform the community, to come out better on the other side. A crisis presents leaders with two obligations, he said.

"You need to meet the challenges of the here and now," Trainor said. "And you need to have another obligation to the future. Your communities must not only survive, but they need to continue to thrive."



Core

Andy Core, a Northwest Arkansas-based work-life and performance expert, shared the importance of balancing our physical and psychological lives in order to better manage stress, improve performance, and reach our goals. He encouraged city leaders to make daily improvements in their routines and minds, even if they're small improvements.

"Physiology affects psychology much more than we think it does," Core said.

State Aid Street Committee gives update

The State Aid Street Committee has had a busy first year, and Paragould Mayor Mike Gaskill, committee chairman, shared an update on the State Aid Street Program and the rules established by the committee. Act 1032 of 2011 established the program, which received a boost when voters in 2012 approved a temporary state sales tax increase and permanently dedicated one cent per gallon of the existing motor fuel tax to the State Aid Street Fund. The committee met in January and approved 97 projects for 2014, a total of about \$21 million.



Gaskill

The legislative rules committee has now approved the rules for the program, and they are available in the new publication, *Procedures for Development of State Aid Construction Projects for Cities*. For a copy of the free booklet, call the League at 501-374-3484, or order a copy from the publications page on the League website, www.arml.org.

"We tried to make the rules as simple as possible because we wanted to be able to award grant money as quickly as we possibly could," Gaskill said.

The committee is now accepting project proposals for 2015. Gaskill encouraged interested cities to familiarize themselves with the rules, contact the committee, and submit proposals as soon as possible.

Volunteer Communities of the Year honored at Winter Conference



The Department of Human Services Division of Community Services and Nonprofit Support each year honors 12 cities and towns that make volunteerism a priority, giving their time, energy, and resources to improve the quality of life in their communities. The winning Volunteer Communities of the Year for 2013 are Bentonville, Blytheville, Clarendon, Clarkridge, Fayetteville, Fort Smith, Heber Springs, Murfreesboro, Norfolk, Redfield, Van Buren, and Vilonia. Their accomplishments are listed below. The DHS Division of Community Services and Nonprofit Support and the League honored the recipients at a Jan. 30 luncheon during the League's 2014 Winter Conference.

Bentonville

Volunteers in Bentonville work to help close gaps in services to ensure community needs are met, contributing more than 388,959 hours. Logging more than 23,000 volunteer hours, the Northwest Medical Center volunteers provide support through fundraising efforts and delivering moral support to patients, their families, and hospital staff. To illustrate the importance of volunteer recognition, Mayor Bob McCaslin initiated the "Outstanding Citizen Award." The award recipients included a teen volunteer who volunteers at local elementary schools, the animal shelter, and the Samaritan Center, an adult volunteer who is dedicated and devoted to helping others and a community group that partners with Feed the Children to distribute food to over 400 families.

Blytheville

In Blytheville, more than 4,300 volunteers recorded nearly 4,000 hours last year. Volunteer activities include working at the free health clinic, helping at the public museum, and stocking food at local food pantries. A community-wide effort, Cleaner Safer Blytheville, has

been very successful in cleaning up neglected areas throughout the city. Over 1,700 volunteers have worked to clean up the city. Blytheville's children have also benefited from volunteer efforts in the community. Volunteers spent numerous hours providing Blytheville kids with opportunities to participate in activities ranging from junior league baseball to scholarship pageants.

Clarendon

Over 500 volunteer hours were committed to the Monroe County Summer Reading program. In conjunction with National Autism Month, Clarendon's mayor and Monroe County Judge signed a proclamation declaring April 2013 as Monroe County Autism Awareness Month. Approximately 350 hours were dedicated to the coordination and organization of numerous events designed to educate and help children and adults to better understand autism.

Clarkridge

With no industry for tax support or financial assistance, yearly fundraising for the Volunteer Fire Department includes book sales, fish fries, aluminum can recycling, and a gun show breakfast and lunch. Three volunteers donated 550 hours providing veterans necessary transportation to appointments and shopping. Over 2,000 hours given by 11 volunteers assisted with the town's "Christmas Wish" to bring holiday cheer to children in need. Volunteerism in Clarkridge also means delivering care packages to veterans who are in the hospital, collecting soup labels for a fundraiser for the Literacy Council, and entertaining residents in the nursing home where a bit of cheer is needed. In all, 371 households contributed over 22,000 hours of volunteer service.

Fayetteville

Over 21,000 volunteers from the University of Arkansas provided a contribution of almost \$4 million dollars in labor to area agencies. The Fayetteville Public School district continues to support their community by giving over 74,000 hours of service with students learning the life lesson of lending a hand. Over 200,000 volunteer hours focused on diversity, inclusion, justice, and education. The city recently launched the Community Link, an innovative, online resource for community-wide engagement, collaboration, and volunteer management and offered it free to organizations and the public. In all, volunteers contributed more than 600,000 hours of service last year.

Fort Smith

Unique volunteer programs in Fort Smith include free medical and dental clinics; Project Compassion, Inc., which is a one-on-one visitation program in nursing homes; a children's emergency shelter; and Hannah House, a home for unwed mothers. Partners-in-Education, the Boys & Girls Club Lean-On-Me Program, and several local churches partner to reduce the youth-at-risk numbers in the community. Volunteers deliver nutritious meals to AIDS patients and the elderly, they befriend families at risk for child abuse and neglect, they are troop leaders for scouts, and camp leaders for blind children and those with muscular dystrophy. The Mayor's Good Neighbor Award has been presented 592 times in an effort to both thank those good neighbor citizens and encourage everyone to volunteer their time to help others.

Heber Springs

In Heber Springs 7,143 volunteers contributed more than 288,000 hours of service last year. The Arkansas Dream Center offers free lunches to Adopt a Block children, elderly and disabled, an after-school program with computer lab, a community food pantry for families with emergency food needs, Christmas gifts, and other resources as needed. This organization documented 461 volunteers with 2829 volunteer hours.

Murfreesboro

Volunteers logged over 571,000 hours in Murfreesboro. The First Christian Church has a volunteer staff that works tirelessly to provide backpacks for children through the "Backpack To Go" program. Members of the congregation also serve approximately 20 families each month from donated food items. The Pike County Archives is a volunteer organization that strives to preserve the history of Pike County.

Norfolk

More than 60 percent of Norfolk's residents volunteered last year, putting in more than 36,000 hours. The local volunteer fire department contributed over 17,000 hours

responding to emergency calls, training for potential hazards, and building a state-of-the-art fire station. Norfolk is the location of the North Central Arkansas Food Bank, which serves as the central warehouse for 67 hunger relief agencies in nine counties. Volunteers collect, warehouse, deliver, and distribute over one million pounds of food per year. Norfolk Elementary has enjoyed the help of about 60 volunteers who provided over 900 hours tutoring students and assisting teachers. Twelve volunteers contributed over 400 hours to the school by organizing garage sales and bake sales to fund a Christmas shopping event for students.

Redfield

The Redfield Park Commission has provided the city with 500 hours in volunteer service. This commission consists of five members who are responsible for the operation and maintenance of the city park. By securing grants for funding, they have ensured that the needs of the park are met. The Redfield Athletic Association plays a major role in keeping the youth active in this small city. About 75 volunteers logged a total of 3,500 volunteer hours coordinating youth programs such as softball, basketball, and cheerleading.

Van Buren

Some 16,000 volunteers donated over 260,000 hours of service in Van Buren. Last year, Van Buren hosted the Everyday Superhero 5K where volunteers dressed as superheroes and raised funds for the Morgan Nick Foundation and CASA of Crawford County. Residents also committed time to the group "Keep Van Buren Beautiful" by volunteering at an array of beautification projects around the community. The General Federation of Women's League of Van Buren and the Smart Girls Program of the Van Buren Boys and Girls Club partnered to teach young women from ages 8-17 life skills. Twenty-five women volunteered over 300 hours in sessions that focused on the importance of volunteering, building self-esteem, and community awareness.

Vilonia

Vilonia residents volunteered over 8,000 hours to help with the opening of a military museum. The museum is a community project established by volunteers, working hand in hand, and ranging from youth to the elderly. The Museum of Veteran and Military History is housed in a historic house built in the early 1900s that was destroyed in 2011 by a tornado. Volunteers worked week after week to ready this old house to open as a museum. The doors were officially opened on Veteran's Day in 2012. The volunteering did not stop with this project. There are many other organizations in Vilonia that give of their time to other projects.

Winter Conference Snapshots





Winter Conference Snapshots





PHOTOS BY ANDREW MORGAN, STEWART NELSON, AND LANEY HARRIS.

Lifestyle changes key to preventing heart disease

By Satish Kenchaiah, M.D., M.P.H.

A sad reality in the United States today is that one in four Americans is dying from a disease, with more than 22,000 annually in Arkansas alone. The risk for this disease can be lowered and in some cases even prevented through lifestyle changes, yet it takes about 600,000 lives every year nationally. So what is this disease and how can it be prevented?

Heart disease, the leading cause of death for both men and women, refers to several types of heart conditions. The most common type is coronary heart disease or coronary artery disease that occurs when plaque builds up in the arteries that supply blood to the heart. This can cause a heart attack, chest pain, heart failure, or arrhythmias.

But Arkansans can protect themselves by simply talking to their doctor about their risks, and by making a few lifestyle changes that could mean the difference between life or death.

Risk factors for heart disease

While age and having family members who have heart disease or have had a heart attack can affect a person's risk, most of the risk factors can be controlled. These include:

- Smoking tobacco
- Being overweight
- Having high blood sugar
- Having high blood pressure
- Being physically inactive
- Having unhealthy body fat and blood cholesterol levels

Just because someone may have one or more of these risk factors doesn't mean they are doomed to become another statistic. Don't become overwhelmed with the possibilities of heart disease, but become proactive and work toward prevention.

Steps to prevention

Kick the habit. Smokers have twice the risk of having a heart attack than nonsmokers. Nicotine can cause the blood vessels to narrow, making it more difficult for blood to reach the heart muscle. Nicotine also raises blood pressure and the carbon monoxide in cigarette smoke deprives the heart of oxygen. The good news is that after quitting smoking the risk of heart disease drops dramatically just within one year.

Get moving. Exercise gets your heart pumping and helps your body use oxygen better and makes your heart stronger. Exercise also has proven to decrease your blood pressure and the amount of fat in your blood. Start slowly, but it's recommended that adults should work out on average 40 minutes a day, three or four times a week. Physical activity helps control weight and can reduce changes of developing other conditions that can put a strain on the heart. Exercise is also shown to reduce stress. Even activities such as housekeeping, walking the dog, or taking the stairs can count toward physical activity.

Watch your diet. Eating fatty foods can lead to the buildup of fat deposits in your arteries, which can block the arteries and cause a heart attack. Limit foods that are high in animal fats, which include fatty meats, whole-milk products, egg yolks, and fried foods. Try to eat two cups of fruit and two and a half cups of vegetables each day. Lowering salt intake can also help your heart, because sodium can raise your blood pressure.

Reduce stress. Long periods of elevated stress have been linked to higher risk for heart disease and even cardiac death. Also, common methods of dealing with stress such as overeating and smoking can hurt your heart. Beat stress by making quiet time for yourself each day. Exercise also has been shown to combat stress.

It's also important to have a primary care provider. With regular checkups, you will be more aware of the risks you may have for heart disease and how it can be prevented.



Satish Kenchaiah, M.D., M.P.H., is Director, Preventive Cardiology, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2014

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

Celebrations over—now back to work

I don't know about you, but I really did enjoy the holidays while celebrating with family and friends. Actually, the thoughts of going back to work were not foremost in my mind until January 1st! You and your workers may have been the same way while off work and having such a good time.

Well, now the harsh reality is here—you and your employees must return to work, and no one is in "work mode" yet. So, how can you get everyone back to their jobs and focused on workplace needs easily and quickly? Some suggestions are: (1) Realize the employees will want to talk to their coworkers about their holiday trips, gifts, etc., so be prepared for more chatter than usual; (2) offer a new wellness program to encourage them to start the new year healthy; and (3) begin your drug testing program early in the month so that you may correct any new substance abuse issues.

Holidays can be stressful, and substance abuse issues often get out of control during this time. Let's hope your employees are doing well and ready to get to work with no holiday blues or bad habits left over.

Scheduling random testing

When scheduling random testing for employees under DOT regulations, certain considerations need to be implemented. With employers being so busy and scheduling employee off work being an imposition for some, it becomes difficult to find a good time for testing. The DOT regulations are clear on how this task must be done.

First, once the selection of employees is made, these tests must be completed within a three-month window. Names may not be carried over from quarter to quarter. Secondly, when an employer notifies a donor that they are selected, the donor must proceed immediately to the collection site, not hours later, or the next day. Thirdly, DOT requires employers to test employees at irregular intervals. That means you should not send all employees selected to the testing site the first week you get your random list. You are to test at different times of the day,

different days, etc. Testing should be ongoing and carefully monitored for randomness and compliance.

Please use caution when scheduling your employee random testing. Thank you for your cooperation.

Hours of services

The a'TEST Offices have adopted the following office schedules for 2014. It is our goal to have all offices open unless it is impossible to physically get to our facilities. We use school closings or late openings as a point of reference for limited office access.

Standard office hours are:

- North Little Rock, 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Open through the lunch hour.
- Conway, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Closed for lunch, 12 p.m.-1 p.m.
- Searcy, 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday. Closed for lunch, 12 p.m.-1 p.m.
- Emergency Response is available on a 24-7 basis (even on holidays) by calling 1-800-837-8648 and following the instructions on the prompt. Always leave a telephone number where you can be contacted.
- Standard federal holidays are followed, plus Christmas Eve and the day after Thanksgiving.

If you have questions, please call our office for assistance at 501-376-9776.



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.

Dyess has high hopes for Johnny Cash boyhood home

By Sherman Banks

The Dyess Colony was established in 1934 as an agricultural resettlement community under the Works Progress Administration and the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. The federal government acquired 16,000 acres of land in Mississippi County and laid out the colony in a wagon-wheel design, with a town center at the hub and farmsteads for 500 colonists stretching out from the middle. Among the colonists recruited to take part in this cooperative experiment were Ray and Carrie Cash, who moved from nearby Kingsland in 1936 with their children, including three-year-old J.R. Cash, later known as Johnny. The country music legend grew up in Dyess, graduating from Dyess High School in 1950. His experiences there influenced much of his music and career.

On Jan. 10, the Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas presented the Johnny Cash Boyhood Home restoration team the Award for Excellence in Preservation through Restoration. The project, which is also receiving funds from Arkansas State University and backing from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is expected to cost \$3.5 million, including the restoration of other town buildings.

Leaders of Dyess hope that the Johnny Cash home will revive the town. The population of Dyess has plummeted to 410 from approximately 3,000 when Johnny Cash lived there. While some residents are optimistic about the project, others are skeptical. Town leaders feel as if they have no choice, and see the home of the music icon as key to their survival. “Johnny Cash is what’s going to bring people to start things growing again,” Mayor Larry Sims said. “Due to the legendary Johnny Cash, tourism has increased and continues to increase each year. We have had visitors as far away as Vietnam and as close as the state of Mississippi.”

On Jan. 19, CBS News traveled with Rosanne Cash, Johnny Cash’s oldest daughter, to visit Dyess. She



PHOTO COURTESY ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND TOURISM

recalled first seeing the house as a child in 1968, when the Man in Black returned to Dyess, which he described as “a beautiful little place.”

“I sensed what this kind of a weight was about, sadness, but at age 12 I didn’t really assimilate what that was about,” she said. “I think it took me until now to understand—to understand how Johnny Cash’s strength grew out of the ‘gumbo soil’ of Dyess, and how his sadness took root there, too.”

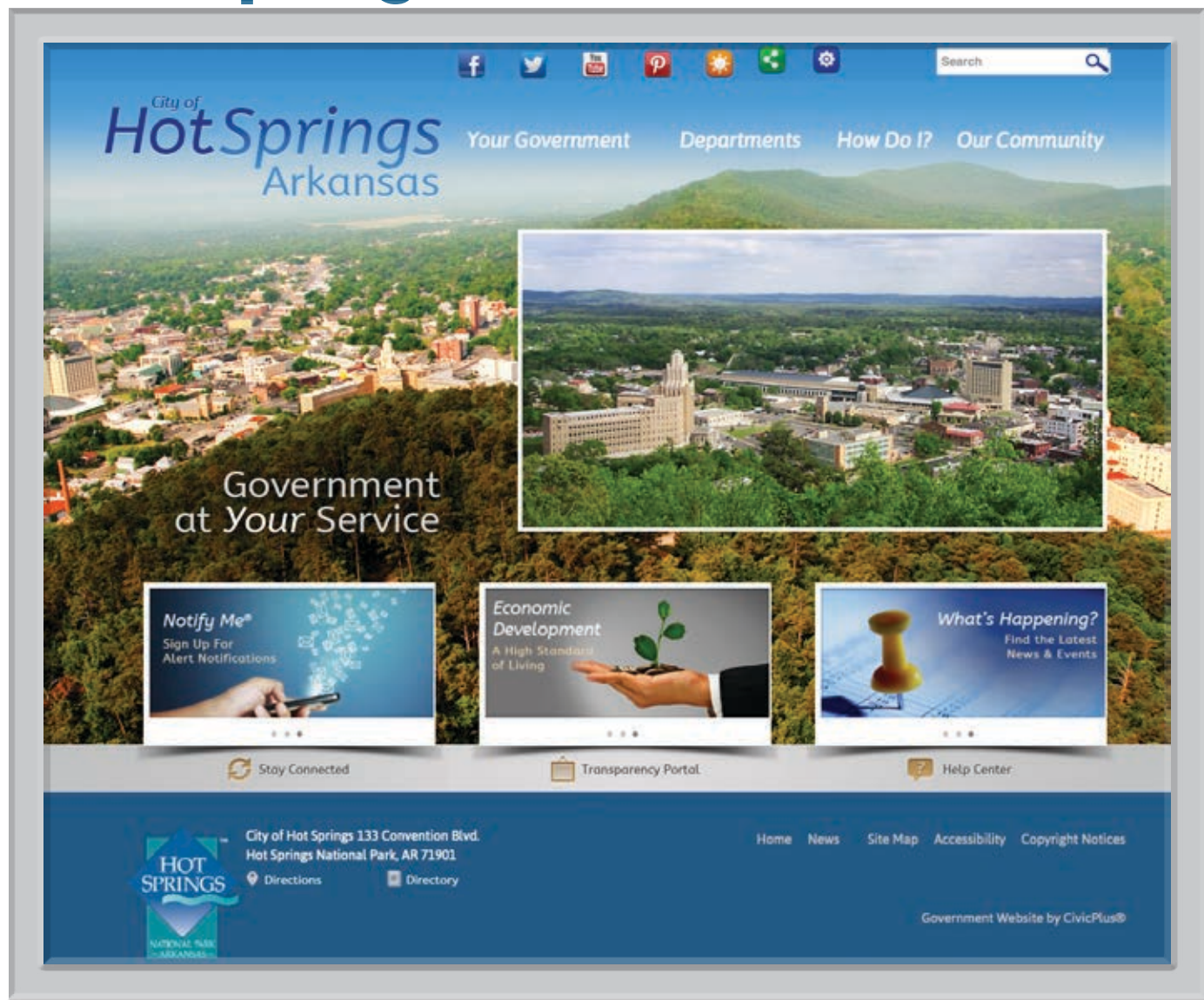
Since Dyess does not have a facility large enough to host the popular annual music festival honoring Johnny Cash, it is held in the convocation center on the campus of Arkansas State University in Jonesboro. The 2014 festival schedule and entertainment lineup has not been posted, but will be available online at the end of February.

Dyess also has partnered with Arkansas State University to have a “soft opening” on April 25 of the historic Administration Building that was dedicated by then First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt in 1936 and the Johnny Cash Boyhood Home. We will follow up on the openings in a future issue of *City & Town*.



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

Hot Springs debuts new website



The City of Hot Springs debuted its new website Jan. 28. The new site, www.cityhs.net, comes at no cost to its taxpayers, courtesy of Manhattan, Kansas-based website design firm CivicPlus.

In 2013, Hot Springs was one of 12 nationwide winners of CivicPlus' "Extreme Website Makeover Contest." Following acceptance of the award by the Hot Springs Board of Directors, work began last May to rebuild the site, which is decentralized and requires no knowledge of HTML for its upkeep.

The \$42,725 winning package included a custom-designed premium CivicPlus website, three days of onsite training, and the waiver of annual fees for the next two years. Beginning in year three, annual maintenance fees will be approximately \$6,000.

Hot Springs' website has several unique features, including citizen-contributed photos on its home page, information organized by service rather than by department, and citizen engagement modules where residents can register opinions and contribute ideas for community advancement. Members from each city department have been trained to customize their pages with targeted information that best serves their Web visitors.

CivicPlus has designed more than 1,300 local government websites serving 50 million citizens throughout North America with the goal of increasing functionality, efficiency, and community engagement. More details can be found at www.civicplus.com.

Revised Annual Statements

The suggested FORM A is for use by cities of the first class, second class, and incorporated towns to comply with 14-59-116.

Form A

City or Town of _____
(Cities of the first class, second class, and incorporated towns)
Financial Statement January 1, 2013-Dec. 31, 2013

GENERAL FUND

Balance January 1, 2013 \$ _____
Cash Receipts
State Revenues \$ _____
Property Taxes \$ _____
Sales Taxes \$ _____
Fines, Forfeitures, and Costs \$ _____
Franchise Fees \$ _____
Transfers In \$ _____
Other \$ _____
Total Receipts \$ _____
Total General Fund Available \$ _____

Expenditures
*Administrative Department:
Personal Services \$ _____
Supplies \$ _____
Other services and charges \$ _____
Capital Outlay \$ _____
Debt Service \$ _____
Transfers Out \$ _____
Total Expenditures \$ _____
Balance General Fund Dec. 31, 2013 \$ _____

STREET FUND

Balance January 1, 2013 \$ _____
Cash Receipts
State Revenues \$ _____
Property Taxes \$ _____
Sales Taxes \$ _____
Franchise Fees \$ _____
Transfers In \$ _____
Other \$ _____
Total Street Receipts \$ _____
Total Street Fund Available \$ _____

Expenditures
Personal Services \$ _____
Supplies \$ _____
Other services and charges \$ _____
Capital Outlay \$ _____
Debt service \$ _____
Transfers out \$ _____
Total Expenditures \$ _____
Balance Street Fund Dec. 31, 2013 \$ _____

The classification of expenditures shall be by department, i.e., administrative, police department, fire department, parks department, etc.

INDEBTEDNESS

Type of Debt	Amount	Date Last Payment Due
Property Tax Bonds	\$ _____	_____
Short term financing obligations	\$ _____	_____
Sales & Use Tax Bonds	\$ _____	_____
Revenue Bonds	\$ _____	_____
Lease Purchase Agreements	\$ _____	_____

Date Free of Debt _____

Total \$ _____

All financial records for the City of _____ are public records and are open for public inspection during regular business hours of ___ A.M. to ___ P.M., Monday through Friday, at City Hall in _____, Arkansas.

If the record is in active use or in storage and, therefore, not available at the time a citizen asks to examine it, the custodian shall certify this fact in writing to the applicant and set a date and hour within three (3) days at which time the record will be available for inspection and copying.

Municipalities must publish annual financial statement

The time is rapidly arriving for the annual reporting of each city and town's financial statement. Refer to the *Handbook for Arkansas Municipal Officials*, 2013-14 ed., section 14-59-116 and section 14-237-113. Although these statements were required semiannually in the past, Acts 620 § 11 and 621 § 10 of 2011 amended the law to provide for annual publication instead.

Ark. Code Ann. § 14-59-116 now provides that the governing body of each municipality shall publish annually in a newspaper published in the municipality a FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MUNICIPALITY by April 1 covering the previous calendar year (January through the end of December).

The financial statements should include the receipts and expenditures for the year. In addition, they should contain "a statement of the indebtedness and financial condition of the municipality."

Section 14-237-113 provides similar publication requirements for the operating authority of the WATER and SEWER DEPARTMENTS. Water and sewer departments administered by one or two commissions must comply with the law. If the water and sewer departments are administered by the city council, then it is the responsibility of the city council to comply with the statute.

What if no newspaper is published in the city or town? In that case, the statements may be posted in two public places in the municipality. Note that this is a change from the previous law, which only allowed incorporated towns to post and required that the postings appear in five public places.

Suggested Forms A and B appear on these facing pages. For additional information, call the League at 501-374-3484.

The suggested **FORM B** is for use by Water and Sewer Departments to comply with 14-237-113.

Form B		
City or Town of _____		
Financial Statement January 1, 2013-Dec. 31, 2013		
WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENTS		
Balance January 1, 2013	\$ _____	
Cash Receipts		
Water Payments	\$ _____	
Sewer Payments	\$ _____	
Sanitation Funds	\$ _____	
Other	\$ _____	
Total Receipts	\$ _____	
Total Funds Available	\$ _____	
Expenditures		
Personal Services	\$ _____	
Supplies	\$ _____	
Other services and charges	\$ _____	
Capital Outlay	\$ _____	
Debt Service	\$ _____	
Transfers Out	\$ _____	
Total Expenditures	\$ _____	
Balance Water and Sewer Fund Dec. 31, 2013	\$ _____	
INDEBTEDNESS		
Type of Debt	Amount	Date Last Payment Due
Short term financing obligations	\$ _____	_____
Water Revenue Bonds	\$ _____	
Sewer Revenue Bonds	\$ _____	
		Date Free of Debt
Total	\$ _____	
All financial records of the Water and Sewer Department of (City or Town) of _____ are public records and are open for public inspection during regular business hours of ___ A.M. to ___ P.M., Monday through Friday, at the Water Department in _____, Arkansas. If the record is in active use or in storage and, therefore, not available at the time a citizen asks to examine it, the custodian shall certify this fact in writing to the applicant and set a date and hour within three (3) days at which time the record will be available for inspection and copying.		

Re-zonings: Worth the effort?

By Jim von Tungeln

Planning commissions enjoy a broad mandate, both by legislation and by custom. They may serve as visionaries, regulators, administrators, and, sometimes, quasi-judges. In reality, some planning commissions spend most of their time in hearing re-zoning requests. Perhaps it would be useful to look more closely at this task.

Planning commissions should, first of all, plan for the orderly growth of their cities. This includes their duty to promote the stability and regeneration of existing neighborhoods and developed areas. They do this in a number of ways as we have discussed previously. Zoning is simply a tool designed, over nearly a century, to help achieve the provisions of a plan. It should not be viewed—as it often is—as a stand-alone power.

Although the cities of our state have statutory home rule, they are bound by existing state laws. The one pertaining to planning, ACA §14-56-415, states: “Following the adoption and filing of any plan, the planning commission may transmit to the legislative body, for enactment, recommended ordinances and regulations which will carry out or protect the various elements of the plan.” So, it is accepted dogma in planning circles that regulating (zoning) follows planning.

Plans are general in nature and set forth policies. As such, they should not be employed as legal documents. In the matter of land use, zoning codes provide the legal mechanism for achieving those plan policies. To repeat, we first plan and then we regulate.

Since the plan cannot foresee all future circumstances, property owners can and do request amendments. Sometimes, those amendments will lead to re-zoning requests. This accounts for the fact that many planning commissions deal almost exclusively with re-zoning.

Most planning commissioners would agree that dealing with these is not always fun. Since re-zones involve a change in municipal law, and since rejected applicants may seek appeal of planning commission decisions, the governing body of the city, too, must deal with re-zoning requests. Elected officials also report that they don’t always find them to be a lot of fun.

With this in mind, a standard procedure for dealing with re-zoning requests should be helpful. It might also serve to ward off costly litigation from disgruntled applicants or citizens who would seek to have the courts find fault with the city’s planning process.



PHOTO BY JIM VON TUNGELN

Conditions change and planning commissions must make decisions accordingly. This site previously housed an industry, but the area has trended to commercial and institutional development.

Following is a methodology consisting of a series of questions that seem appropriate, either by public officials or the general public. Answering these might help the city avoid some of the heat and confusion that so often accompany re-zoning processes.

1. What is the issue or problem we are trying to address? A request to have the land use plan amended, a move that opens the subsequent potential for re-zoning request, should address some community issue. Oddly enough, profit maximization is not generally listed as such an issue but is almost always the underlying motive. While planning, as we have discussed, should be associated with economic development, there are other community issues that should be considered as well.

For example, would a re-zoning that benefits the individual landowner create costs that must be paid by the entire community? These are called “externalities” and might include street improvements, drainage implications, or the need for additional public facilities. All issues should be considered.

2. What are the known facts associated with the issue? Larger cities that have professional staffs enjoy the luxury of having such facts provided. Smaller communities must do the best they can, but should make an attempt to develop real data as opposed to the opinions that so often determine zoning decisions. Such data will help a municipality withstand legal challenge as well as help it make good decisions.

3. What are the alternate ways to address the issue? This is a critical question that is rarely asked, even in the larger municipalities. In many cases, re-zoning is requested simply because a minor provision in the zoning code prohibits a use that is neither controversial nor disruptive. Since the same process governs a change in the code’s text as governs the zoning map, might a simple change of wording solve the problem?

4. What is the alternative that is least disruptive to the neighborhood? The previous question is closely associated with this one. Actually, this is a question that should be asked in all re-zoning processes. Good government should always be directed, in the opinion of some public administration experts, at the simplest solution possible.

5. What are the possible long-term consequences? The “Law of Unintended Consequences” may be the most devilish enemy of all forms of government. In zoning, this “law” portends that a re-zoning of one property will almost always be followed by requests to re-zone other properties with similar characteristics. The overall question may then become: Is this “chain reaction” an acceptable consequence?

Another common example of this law is the case in which the original benign use for which the re-zoning is granted fails and is succeeded by a wildly unpopular one. I call this the “Tea Shop to Tavern Transition.”

6. How does the proposed zoning measure up in light of the above? It is important to remember in any re-zoning what the commission is really saying in its decision. It is saying that, based on an analysis such as the one outlined above, the most appropriate use for this property is represented by the requested re-zoning. This should never be confused with “highest and best use.” That is a real estate term that does not take into account the overall public good.

Final thoughts include this: One of the traditional purposes of zoning has been to protect a community from disruptive forces. These forces have changed as our society has changed. Once we sought protection from industrial encroachment that brought huge smokestacks belching noxious fumes. Now some wish to use zoning to shield them from the encroachment of disparate socio-economic groups. Planning commissions can find themselves in highly uncomfortable positions when they attempt to provide such protection through regulations.

And this: In modern planning approaches, there is a much tighter connection between planning and regulating. Those interested in new approaches can find a wealth of information about this under headings such as “neo-traditional planning” or “form-based zoning.”

At any rate, perhaps we can now see that the re-zoning of property involves much more than simply holding a public hearing.



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.

ACCRTA scholarships available

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

A scholarship honoring the memory of Bill S. Bonner will be awarded to a first-year attendee in the certification program at the Municipal Clerks' Institute in September 2014. This scholarship covers the registration fee.

Scholarships include: four local \$400 scholarships to attend the Municipal Clerks' Institute, Sept. 14-18, 2014, in Fayetteville; one \$400 scholarship for the Academy for Advanced Education, Sept. 17-18, 2014, in Fayetteville; and one \$400 scholarship to attend the International Institute of

Municipal Clerks (IIMC) annual conference, May 18-22, 2014, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

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

Fill out the scholarship application below and return it to:

Donna Stewart, City Clerk
City of Camden
PO Box 278
Camden, AR. 71711

For more information, contact:
Scholarship Chairman Donna Stewart at **(870) 836-6436**
or email **payroll.camden@cablelynx.com**.

2014 APPLICATION FOR SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE

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

Name _____ Title _____
Street Address or P.O. Box _____
City, State, Zip _____
Telephone _____ Date assumed present position _____
Other related experience: Title _____ Municipality _____ Years _____

Education: H.S. ___ Graduate College (years) ___ Degree _____
Check one: This application is for a ___First___ Second ___ Third year Institute
What are the approximate costs of the institute you plan to attend? _____
Travel/Transportation _____ Registration Fee/Tuition _____
Lodging and Meal _____ Total Amount _____
How much does your municipality budget your department yearly for education? _____
What is your reason(s) for applying for this scholarship? _____

I understand that if a scholarship is awarded to me, it must be used between Jan. 1, 2014, and Dec. 31, 2014, and that I must attend all sessions.

Please attach written evidence that your Chief Executive or legislative body supports your attendance at the institute and that in the event that a scholarship is awarded, you will be given the time to attend the institute.

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____

CHECK THE SCHOLARSHIP FOR WHICH YOU ARE APPLYING:

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Arbor Day celebrates hope for future

By Alison Litchy

Withstanding decades of flood, drought, ice, and storms, trees are a symbol of strength, endurance, and longevity. Celebrating trees is an act of hopefulness that brings people and communities together. Arbor Day is for the future, representing what can be changed rather than the past, which cannot. Trees provide us with countless benefits ranging from clean air, energy conservation, aesthetics, healing, and more. Trees do so many things for us and at times we need to give back. Arbor Day is an opportunity for cities to make a positive impact by taking the first step to becoming a Tree City USA and make their local environment a better place to live.

Arbor Day is an annual celebration that promotes and encourages the life of trees. Arbor Day was first celebrated in 1854 in Nebraska City, Neb. J. Sterling Morton, a journalist who moved to Nebraska, quickly realized the lack of trees in the state. He encouraged everyone to set aside a day for planting trees. The state board of agriculture accepted a resolution and April 10 was the first Arbor Day. Prizes were offered to counties and individuals who planted the most trees. Over one million trees were planted in Nebraska that day. Morton became known as the “Founder of Arbor Day.”

Arbor Day is now celebrated in all 50 states as well as in different forms across the globe. In Arkansas, the official Arbor Day is the third Monday in March, but it can be celebrated any time of the year. Some communities prefer to celebrate in the fall because that is the preferred time of year for planting trees. It allows the tree roots time to become established before the dry summer months.

An Arbor Day celebration can be as big as an entire state to as small as a neighborhood backyard. There are many ways to celebrate, limited only by the imagination. Planting a tree on Arbor Day is a great celebration at any event of any size and helps promote the benefits of trees.

Communities can be recognized for their efforts in urban forestry through different programs such as Tree City USA, Trees for America, Tree Line USA, Tree Campus USA, and Celebrate Arbor Day. Tree City USA is a program that gives recognition to communities for the work they do to improve their cities with trees. The Trees for America program focuses on the idea that each of us has a responsibility for wise environmental stewardship. Tree Line USA is for recognizing the best practices in utility arboriculture. Tree Campus USA recognizes individual campuses that have a healthy urban



Conway, a proud Tree City USA, celebrated 2013 Arbor Day with plantings, art, music, and food.

forest and meet the requirements each year to maintain this status. Celebrate Arbor Day has many resources and information on how to celebrate Arbor Day. For more information on these programs visit www.arborday.org.

Conway is proudly a Tree City USA. They first earned this status in 2006 and continue to hold the title. Each year they hold an Arbor Day celebration to honor their urban trees and help educate the community. Conway's 2013 Arbor Day celebration had a tremendous turnout. They estimated between 500-700 people attended the event. Even with 100-150 volunteers there was still plenty to do. They kicked off the formal event with a student choir, awards ceremony for student artists, a display of the Tree City USA flag, reading of Arbor Day history, a proclamation by the mayor, and of course a visit from Smokey the Bear. After the formal event, volunteers handed out free hot dogs, cotton candy, and popcorn to the attendees. There was also a tree giveaway, informational booths, T-shirt sales, art contest, and more.

"Arbor Day is a chance for the tree board to make a big impact," Kami Marsh, a tree board member said. "The tree board is establishing its place in the community. We are able to replant areas that are bare only with the help of volunteers in the community. We can't do any of this without volunteers."

The Arbor Day Foundation has set up a website that allows posting for finding volunteers as well as for people that want to find a place to volunteer. This website is great for any natural resource based volunteer scenario. Check it out at arbordaynow.org/volunteer.cfm.

One of wildlife management's founding fathers, Aldo Leopold, put it best: "Acts of creation are ordinarily reserved for gods and poets. To plant a pine, one only needs a shovel."



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

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Successful cities support economic development

Dr. Ron Swager, CEcD, FM

Wealth creation is at the heart of both the process and the practice of economic development. According to a 1991 report by the former American Economic Development Council, economic development may be defined as a “...process of creating wealth...to generate marketable goods and services.” This definition still holds up well today. It recognizes that value must be added to grow the existing base of wealth flowing in a community. The factors that combine to produce a good or service—land, labor, and capital—each has a value, but when combined, the total value is greater than the sum of the parts. Thus, wealth is created.

Another view is to recognize that wealth is created only when a producer and a consumer reach an agreeable transaction that both parties value. The producer creates a good or service that is of such value that the consumer is willing to exchange his money to purchase it. The producer is rewarded for his or her efforts, and the consumer is rewarded with something he or she considers useful. If neither holds up their end of the bargain, the transaction does not take place. This is called the free enterprise system, which has served as the basis for the vast wealth created in the United States for two and a half centuries.

So wealth creation, economic development, and value-added enterprise go hand-in-hand, and successful communities work to maximize them. Without them, a community’s economy is not advancing, and chances are it is declining. This means the economy cannot fully support the other dimensions of progress in the community, such as infrastructure, healthcare, social programs, education, housing, etc. A downward spiral can begin if wealth creation is inadequate. Every dollar not devoted to the free enterprise economic development process reduces the amount of new wealth to be created.

The American Economic Development Council’s definition goes on to state, “The economic developer’s role is to influence the process for the benefit of the

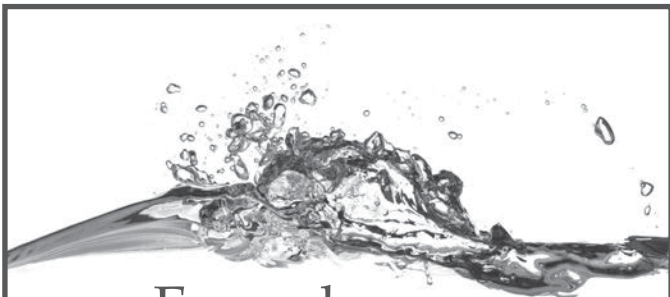
community....” In short, in a successful community, a variety of practices are employed to make the process of economic development work better. They involve existing business retention and expansion, new business creation, and new business recruitment. These four are the only practices that can achieve wealth creation—there is no other way marketable goods and services can be produced.

The practice of economic development may be viewed as a specialized form of marketing. In the marketing framework, the product is the community, and the market consists of business location decision-makers. To be sure, economic developers must employ additional practices designed to improve the product, such as community, infrastructure, environmental, and workforce development. Government can play an important role here because these tactics have the added benefit of improving the quality of life for all the residents. For economic development, however, all strategies ultimately must be designed to improve the ability of businesses to do their wealth-creation job.

Given recent trends, economic development practices increasingly must be highly efficient and focused on wealth-creating results. The role of local government, in turn, should be to provide as much support as possible without adversely impacting the free enterprise, wealth creation process. In times of fiscal pressure from all directions, it is a delicate balance to achieve, but therein lies the successful community of the future.



Dr. Ron Swager is a Senior Research Professor and Director of the Mid-South Basic Economic Development Course in the Institute for Economic Advancement at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He may be reached at rjswager@ualr.edu or 501-569-8519.



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Summaries of attorney general opinions

Recent opinions that affect municipal government in Arkansas

From the Office of Attorney General Dustin McDaniel

Protections of federal DPPA may apply to some driver info

Opinion: 2013-090

Requestor: Gillam, Jeremy—State Representative

Does a motor vehicle accident report created by an Arkansas law enforcement agency constitute a “registration record” covered by Ark. Admin. Code 006.05.102? Q2) May a municipality or law enforcement agency lawfully redact personal information from motor vehicle accident reports under authority granted by Ark. Admin. Code 006.05.102, ACA 27-14-412(a)(1), the federal Driver’s Privacy Act (18 U.S.C. sec. 2721), or any other applicable state law or regulation?

RESPONSE: Q1) No. Q2) Traffic accident reports made by Arkansas law enforcement officers are open to public inspection under ACA 27-53-209 and 27-53-305. The laws cited in your question do not expressly require or provide for the redaction of any information from these reports. Nor am I aware of any other general law to that effect. But the federal Driver’s Privacy Protection Act (DPPA, 18 U.S.C. sections 2721 through 2725) must be considered if a report contains personal information (as defined by the DPPA) that was obtained from the Arkansas Office of Motor Vehicles. I believe it is debatable, given the protections of the DPPA, whether ACA 27-53-209 and -503 invariably require public disclosure of unredacted accident reports. I cannot definitively opine, however, on the application of this federal law.

LOPFI interprets “participating municipalities” broadly

Opinion: 2013-098

Requestor: Clark, David B.—Exec. Dir., Ark. Local Police and Fire Retirement System

What is the definition of a “participating municipality” under ACA 24-11-434(c) and 24-11-830(c)(2)(A)? Q2) If the definition of “participating municipality” includes municipalities which do not participate in DROP, what is the definition of “participating municipality”? Q3) Is a member permitted to continue or to begin volunteer service as a police officer or firefighter following participation in DROP under 24-11-434 and 24-11-830? **RESPONSE:** The law is not entirely clear and legislative clarification is warranted. In

my opinion, however, it is more likely than not that a court addressing the question in the absence of any administrative interpretation of the term would construe the term “participating municipality” to include only municipalities with local funds offering DROP. As noted, however, the law is not entirely clear, and it may be subject to more than one reasonable interpretation. A court will defer to an administrative agency’s interpretation of law it is responsible for administering and will not overrule that interpretation unless it is clearly wrong. Given that rule and the statute’s lack of clarity, I believe a court addressing the question might well defer to and affirm LOPFI’s interpretation that the term “participating municipalities” includes more than just municipalities with local funds offering DROP.

Act 1183 of 2013 gives law enforcement agencies discretion in setting policy

Opinion: 2013-126

Requestor: Stone, Van—Pros. Att’y, 19th Judicial District West

Do you interpret Act 1183 of 2013 as pertaining solely to “ride-alongs,” that is, as requiring law enforcement agencies to enact a policy that prohibits civilians from going on “ride-alongs” with officers, unless specific written approval for that civilian is obtained from the chief law enforcement officer or his or her designee? Q2) Do you interpret Act 1183 as requiring a policy that prohibits something more than “ride-alongs,” such as the transport of witnesses to court or the transport of abuse victims to shelters or victim advocacy centers, without specific written approval for that particular witness or that particular victim? Q3) Could an agency reasonably interpret the phrase “patrol vehicle,” as it is used in Act 1183, as limiting the act’s purview only to those situations where a police unit is being used by an officer who is actively “on patrol,” that is, who is prepared to make traffic stops, answer calls, and so forth, in a given area at a given time, as opposed to situations where a police unit is being used by an officer to do something other than patrol work at that particular time, such as helping a witness get to court or taking a victim to a shelter or a victim advocacy center? Q4) If a civilian passenger in a patrol vehicle is

injured or otherwise harmed, does the failure to comply with any part of Act 1183 of 2013 create new causes of action against, or liabilities on the part of a law enforcement agency or officer that otherwise would not have existed before enactment of the act? **RESPONSE:** 1) and 2): No. I do not interpret Act 1183 to necessarily apply solely to “ride-alongs” or to require a policy that prohibits more than “ride-alongs.” Rather, as explained in the opinion, I interpret it to give each law enforcement agency some discretion to determine the scope and application of its own policy, essentially by defining the term “civilian passengers.” But, in my opinion, an agency’s policy that reached only “ride-alongs” would not clearly contravene Act 1183. 3) and 4): No. See opinion for rationale.

Clerk may participate in both APERS and non-uniformed employees’ pension

Opinion: 2013-127

Requestor: Rapert, Jason—State Senator

A deputy court clerk for the Conway Municipal/District Court accepts a position as District Court Clerk for a division of the Ninth District Court and has worked in excess of 20 years as a deputy court clerk and participated in the non-uniformed employees’ pension fund for the city pursuant to ACA 24-12-101 et seq. Can that employee now begin participation in the APERS retirement system as a court clerk and make application for retirement benefits pursuant to ACA 24-12-115 for prior service as a deputy court clerk? Q2) In order to receive non-uniformed retirement benefits, as discussed above, would the deputy clerk have to “retire” first and separate employment as a deputy court clerk before being hired as a “new” employee, i.e., division clerk of the court or, chronologically, can the employee accept the “new” position as court clerk, begin participation in APERS, then make application for non-uniform pension benefits? Q3) When the employee ceases contributing to the non-uniformed pension, begins contributing to APERS, do benefits, such as seniority for purposes of calculating sick leave and vacation benefits, remain the same and “carry forward” to the employee’s new court clerk position or must they be paid out or otherwise resolved upon separation of employment as a deputy court clerk? Q4) Regarding non-court personnel, is there any prohibition pursuant to the non-uniformed pension fund, ACA 24-12-101 et seq., or some other state law that would prohibit a city employee who retires pursuant to ACA 24-12-115 from being considered for being rehired into the same position from which they retired, as

long as they did not subsequently participate in the non-uniformed pension fund? **RESPONSE:** Q1) In my opinion, the district court clerk’s participation in APERS, standing alone, does not make her ineligible for non-uniformed pension benefits under ACA §§ 24-12-101—118. Q2 It is my opinion that the deputy clerk in all likelihood may accept the court clerk position, begin participating in APERS, and then apply for the non-uniformed benefits. Indeed, it seems the Board approved the former deputy clerk’s retirement application in this case. In my opinion, that decision would likely be upheld if challenged. Q3 This will depend upon the leave policies adopted by the city council. Q4) No.

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Windows XP support winds down in April

By Brian Ocfemia

Thirty-one percent of desktops still use Windows XP, so chances are you may be one of those organizations with people still using it. While it's understandable to stick with a familiar operating system out of habit, it's important to understand how much your already high security and cyber liability risks will increase after Microsoft stops supporting Windows XP on April 8.

At Sophicity, we want to make sure that cities are not exposing sensitive data and critical information to hackers and data thieves. By staying on Windows XP, it's like you're leaving the front door open for criminals to steal your data.

Here are some important security points about the dangers of keeping Windows XP:

1. Microsoft XP support ends on April 8, 2014. That means:
 - You no longer receive patches and security updates from Microsoft.
 - You no longer receive important hardware and driver updates to maintain the overall reliability and stability of Windows XP.
2. The current Windows XP malware and virus infection rate is already bad. Microsoft conducted research on a variety of computers that use Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7, and Windows 8. While all of the computers encountered roughly the same number of viruses and malware, the infection rate of Windows XP computers was 9.1 percent (compared with 1.6 percent for Windows 8 computers).
3. The Windows XP malware and virus infection rate will drastically increase after April 8. Microsoft has also conducted research on how infection rates rise with unsupported operating systems. It's not good. For example, computers using an unsupported version of Windows XP with service pack 2 saw malware and virus infection rates as high as 25 percent in Q4-2011.

4. Continuing to use Windows XP increases your risk of cyber liability and opens you up to viruses and hacking attempts. It's understandable when a city keeps using hardware a bit too long or suffers with an old database on a server that keeps on trucking. But knowingly using unsupported operating system software when it's well known that support is ending borders on negligence, especially considering the known cyber liability risks.

If cities are using Windows XP, we advise them to immediately make plans to switch from Windows XP to a newer operating system.

Windows XP Q&A: What to do next

Windows XP was an expensive investment. Why are there such security risks in software from such a well-known vendor like Microsoft?

Windows XP came out in 2001. If you bought a new car in 2001, you might still be using it today. But no matter how good it was, today it's outdated and lacks important modern safety features that have evolved over the last 12 years. Software works the same way but becomes even more obsolete, quicker, because of the fast pace of technology. So many security threats and responses to those threats have occurred since 2001. The way Windows XP was fundamentally built means that it lacks critical security features that are now built into modern operating systems. Such an old piece of software cannot be "fixed" by Microsoft. That's why they just build new operating systems every few years.

What are the specific security risks?

When support ends on April 8, Windows Updates will stop. As you may know from using your individual computer, Windows Updates often include important security patches and malicious software removal tools to preventatively address security threats. When those updates stop coming, Windows XP simply cannot respond to the plethora of modern security attacks and to criminals exposing holes in this old software. As a result, you will be more vulnerable to attacks.



Continuing to use Windows XP increases your risk of cyber liability and opens you up to viruses and hacking attempts.

Why can't I just use antivirus software?

Antivirus software alone does not protect any computer, including Windows XP computers. A computer needs a combination of well-built modern software with security protection built in, updates and patches from the software vendor (such as Windows Updates), and antivirus software all working together to provide a strong security foundation. Only relying on antivirus software for an unsupported Windows XP is like installing an alarm system in a building with no locks and that no one ever visits in person.

If you want to take next steps to decommission Windows XP, we recommend that you:

1. Assess what operating system you need. This may be Windows 7 or 8, but you should look at the requirements of your city software to assess the most suitable version you need.
2. Budget for an upgrade. Look at operating expense options in the cloud instead of expensive capital expense models to help you reduce costs and create a predictable budget.

3. Use a city-experienced IT vendor to help you through the transition. Cities have particular needs that differ from businesses. It helps to have a vendor that has guided cities through the operating system upgrading process while not disrupting day-to-day operations. An experienced vendor will also be sensitive to the interoperability of a new operating system with existing city software (such as public safety, court, accounting, etc.).

If your city is facing cyber liability risks from continuing to use Windows XP after April 8, contact us at Sophicity.com, or call 770-670-6940. We will be more than happy to answer any questions you may have.

This article appeared originally in the Dec. 10, 2013, edition of the CitySmart Blog at Sophicity.com and is reprinted with permission. Brian Ocfemia is Technical Account Manager at Sophicity.

Roundabouts are safe, cost-effective intersection alternatives

By Kevin Beaumont, C. Eng. MICE

Roundabouts are beginning to gain favor in Arkansas as municipal officials, city staff, and the public become aware of their benefits as alternatives to signalized intersections. Numerous roundabouts have already been constructed, and many more are in the design phase in the Little Rock, Conway, Russellville, and Northwest Arkansas areas.

As compared to signalized and stop-controlled intersections, roundabouts are typically safer and process traffic more efficiently. A study by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety found that fatality and incapacitating injury crashes were reduced by 90 percent and injury crashes were reduced by 76 percent at intersections where roundabouts had been installed to replace traffic signals or stop signs. Further, pedestrian related crashes were reduced by 30 to 40 percent with overall crash reduction at 39 percent.

Roundabouts are not a new concept, and differ from similarly shaped rotary intersections, traffic circles, and neighborhood circles. Modern roundabouts are compact, one-way, circular intersections. Traffic flows counterclockwise around a center island and speeds stay low due to the size, which also helps keep drivers oriented. Entering traffic yields to circulating traffic and

approaches are channelized to deflect traffic into the flow, which also lowers vehicular speeds.

Although the public is still adapting to the use of roundabouts, no new driving skills are necessary to safely navigate a roundabout. As roundabouts are planned and constructed, education of the public is important to the success of such a project. Proper signage also serves to instruct drivers who are less familiar with proper roundabout use.

In addition to safety improvements, the efficiency of the intersection can also be increased with a roundabout design. Roundabouts reduce the length of delay for all users because they eliminate the time lost when vehicles at all approaches must come to a complete stop. Traffic continually enters a roundabout at suitable gaps, and full stops are uncommon, which means that more traffic can be processed in a given time frame with less delay than at signalized intersections. Also, during off-peak traffic hours, there is no time lost waiting for a green light. Use of a roundabout at an intersection nearly eliminates vehicles stopping, so engine idling is reduced. This then translates to less fuel being wasted and thereby lower carbon emissions.

Roundabouts are also less expensive to maintain because there are not any traffic signals requiring electricity



Bentonville's Memorial Park area features an aesthetically pleasing, traffic calming roundabout. A concrete and paver apron allows for large truck traffic to navigate the intersection when necessary.



The North Little Rock roundabout at Pike Avenue, Broadway, and Riverview Drive eased traffic at one of the city's most severely congested intersections. The project was named the Large Project of the Year in 2011 by the American Public Works Association-Arkansas, and it received the Engineering Excellence Award for Transportation in 2012 from the American Association of Engineering Companies of Arkansas.

to power them. Maintenance costs are essentially eliminated, the exception being if landscaping is incorporated within the center island. A typical modern roundabout has a life span of 25 years or more as compared to 10 years for traffic signals, so over the life of the project, roundabouts are often more cost-effective to install.

Central Arkansas was the first area of the state to see roundabouts installed. Conway was an early adopter of roundabouts and continues to successfully install this type of intersection where appropriate. In December 2010, the North Little Rock opened a major two-lane roundabout at the intersection of Pike Avenue, West Riverfront Drive, and West Broadway Avenue. The roundabout design includes a bypass lane from West Broadway Avenue to Pike Avenue that allows the free flow of traffic during peak hours.

Roundabouts also provide the opportunity to enhance area aesthetics and to provide a gateway either into a city or an area of specific interest. A roundabout can incorporate many different features on the center island, including landscaping, public art, and monument installation. Bentonville installed a single lane roundabout at Moberly Lane as part of the John DeShields Boulevard extension project. Aesthetics were important in the design of the roundabout. As well as serving as a traffic calming measure for Memorial Park, direct access is provided to internationally acclaimed Crystal

Bridges Museum of American Art. Rogers is installing a roundabout at the intersection of Laurel Avenue and South Dixieland Road as part of the Laurel Avenue widening project. The two-lane roundabout will feature an art installation at the center island designed by Ralph Irwin. Rogers will also install roundabouts on several other street projects over the course of the next few years. Springdale also plans to incorporate roundabouts on some its street projects that are currently in the design phase. The roundabout trend is clearly gaining momentum.

Studies have shown that while many drivers may initially oppose the construction of roundabouts due to unfamiliarity, after experiencing the benefits, public approval of roundabout projects notably increases. With their ability to improve safety, reduce traffic congestion and pollution, save money, and improve area aesthetics, modern roundabouts are an excellent traffic management solution that should be considered by all communities as they plan for growth.



Kevin Beaumont, C. Eng. MICE, is a partner and project manager for McClelland Consulting Engineers, Inc.-Fayetteville. Contact Kevin at 479-443-2377 or email him at kbeaumont@mccllelland-engrs.com.



Municipal Notes

Little Rock's Main Street "Creative Corridor" plan wins national award

A plan to transform four neglected blocks of Main Street in downtown Little Rock into an arts district has earned a national design award for the University of Arkansas Fay Jones School of Architecture and a Fayetteville firm, *Arkansas Business* reported Jan. 23.

The UA's Community Design Center, which includes faculty and staff members from the school, won a 2014 Honor Award from the American Institute of Architects for its work on the Creative Corridor, on which it collaborated with Marlon Blackwell Architect of Fayetteville. The award is one of just six such awards bestowed nationally.

The Creative Corridor plan will retrofit a four-block segment of Main Street between Third and Seventh streets by using economic development focused on cultural arts rather than a traditional retail base. Its goal is to create a mixed-use, work-live environment that is sensitive to the historical context of Main Street, according to the UA.

An increasing number of public, private, and nonprofit groups have invested in Main Street, including Orbea, a Spanish bicycle manufacturer that relocated its North American headquarters to the 100 block of Main Street; the Arkansas Venture Center, scheduled to open on the same block along with the Little Rock arm of the ARK Challenge startup accelerator; and the Little Rock Technology Park Authority Board recently voted to build the park downtown along Main Street. Plus, the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, Ballet Arkansas, and the Arkansas Repertory Theatre plan to occupy rehearsal and creative space along Main.

Planning and design for the Creative Corridor was funded by a 2011 Our Town grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency committed \$1.2 million to implement the plan's low-impact development streetscapes, according to the UA. Construction is scheduled to begin early this year

with \$60 million in renovations including more than 200 residential units already underway.

"Little Rock's Main Street renaissance is the kind of exciting, sustainable revitalization that public-private investment can produce," Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola said. "We are proud that Main Street is becoming a leading example for other communities to follow, and we will continue to encourage more sustainable development in downtown Little Rock."

Little Rock and Changchun win 2014 U.S.-China Sister Cities Community Involvement Award

Little Rock and Changchun have won Sister Cities International's 2014 U.S.-China Sister Cities Award in the "Community Involvement" category, the organization has announced. The U.S.-China Sister Cities Awards recognize the accomplishments of outstanding U.S.-China sister city programs and their contribution in building strong people-to-people ties between the two countries.

Little Rock and Changchun are celebrating the 20th anniversary of their sister city partnership in 2014. Over the years, the two cities have conducted a range of citizen exchanges and programs in the fields of economy and trade, culture, education, and sports.

"The City of Little Rock is so honored to have developed such a well-established Sister City relationship with our friends in Changchun, China," said Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola. "This award is a testament to our two communities. While we may come from different cultures, we are united through a shared commitment of service and a love for both our cities and our citizens."

The U.S.-China Sister Cities Awards are awarded in several categories including Best Overall, Longest Relationship, Community Involvement, Youth, Arts and Culture, Economic Development and Trade, Most Innovative, and Outstanding Individuals. Award winners will be honored at a special Awards Ceremony on March 27 during the 2014 U.S.-China Sister Cities Conference, in Washington, D.C. For more information on the conference, please visit: www.sister-cities.org/USChina.

Walmart to launch \$10M innovation fund for U.S. manufacturing

Walmart Stores Inc. of Bentonville and its Walmart Foundation has pledged \$10 million toward funding innovation in American manufacturing, *Arkansas Business* reported Jan. 23. The announcement of the innovation fund's creation was made by Walmart president and CEO Bill Simon at the U.S. Conference of Mayors winter meeting in Washington, D.C.

The five-year program will work with the U.S. Conference of Mayors and launch in March. The fund will provide grants to innovators in the manufacturing sector and seek to "create new processes, ideas and jobs that support America's growing manufacturing footprint," according to a news release.

"If we want to grow manufacturing and help rebuild America's middle class, we need the brightest minds in our universities, in our think tanks, and in our towns to tackle obstacles to U.S. manufacturing," Simon said. "The \$10 million fund

will identify and award leaders in manufacturing innovation and help us all work together to create opportunity."

Last year, Walmart pledged to buy an additional \$50 billion in American products each year for the next 10 years.

Obituaries

DONNA CHEEVERS, 67, recorder/treasurer of Greenland for nearly 38 years, died Feb. 5.

ROBERT WAYNE SCHERM, 59, mayor of Roe for the last 15 years, died Jan. 14.

RICK WINKLES, 53, Trumann fire chief, died Jan. 28. Winkles worked for the fire department for 28 years and became chief in 2004.



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Downtown grants are available

By Chad Gallagher

There are many reasons cities and towns should revive their downtowns and preserve their historic buildings, which serve as catalysts for renewal. Downtowns with historic buildings showcase craftsmanship that is rarely duplicated today. In a time when buildings are built from supplies from a big home improvement store by a lowest bidder, we find a lot of newer buildings simply are not that impressive. True craftsman, however, built historic buildings. In towns across Arkansas you can find beautiful, unique buildings, and cities from Arkadelphia to Van Buren have made strong efforts to revive and restore their downtowns.

Arkansas Business recently recognized McCrory, an Arkansas Delta jewel, with a Main Street Arkansas award. McCrory isn't done with their efforts downtown by any means and what they've accomplished hasn't occurred overnight. Instead, leaders who own local businesses, serve on the city council, and care about the city have worked with Mayor Doyle Fowler and his vision for the downtown to be a shining example of a beautiful, bustling, restored Main Street. If you haven't been to McCrory, you should visit. This town of 1,700 is a short drive from Little Rock and has a true "at home" feeling. Mayberry and Aunt Bea would be envious.

McCrory teaches us an important lesson: You have to make community development, especially downtown revitalization, a priority. You have to be willing to weather ups and downs and keep moving forward and you must be resourceful. They've used grants, volunteers, local business people, and hard work to make progress.

Historic buildings are unique and once they are gone they are gone forever. Restoring your historic buildings and encouraging downtown renewal is beneficial in many ways. Beyond preserving unique architecture and character, restoring downtown also preserves and protects a community's heritage. Downtown is typically the place where it all began, where town founders served as envisioned and built the place you now call home. Restoring these buildings honors the beginnings of the great cities that make Arkansas, well, Arkansas!

In addition, these restorations are the ultimate form of recycling. The infrastructure is there, the utilities are there, the streets are paved—it's just a matter of being green and renewing and reusing what already exists.

How your downtown looks matters. I've worked on countless economic development projects with cities across the state. Prospective businesses, potential investors, and residents all take note of how the town looks and downtown makes a big impact. It can either be a

dilapidating eyesore or a renewed, active jewel. I've seen both and both leave an impression.

Decisions to restore and renew often come down to finances. There are some common myths repeated by the uninformed:

1. It's always cost prohibitive to restore an old building;
2. If you put it on the historic register you lose control; or
3. There is no real grant money to help.

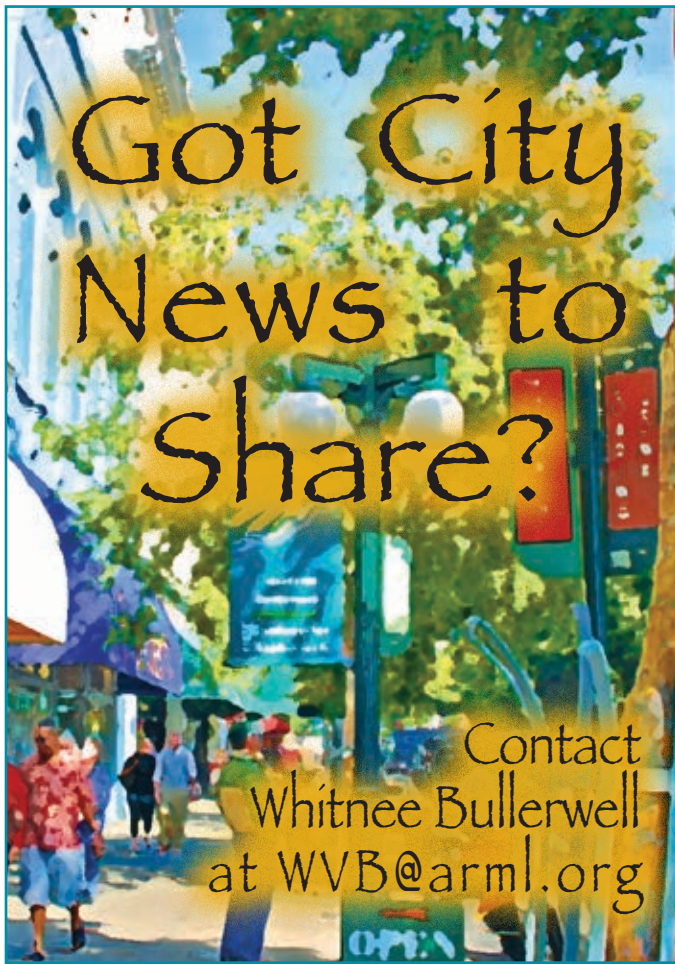
Remodel projects can be expensive, as can new construction. Both depend on the scope of the project. However, when planned wisely and managed well, restoring a historic building can be much cheaper than attempting to build something brand new of similar size and features. Typically the purchase price per square foot is cheaper than new buildings. Secondly, placing your home (as mine is) or a commercial building on the state or national register of historic places does not take away control or rights from a property owner.

Fortunately, there are many great programs that can help fund these projects. The Arkansas Department of Heritage has a grant program for renewing nonprofit and government-owned buildings. This grant has a minimum request of \$10,000 with no maximum request. The same agency also has a certified local government grant program to assist cities in these efforts. Other municipalities have garnered hundreds of thousands of dollars for single renewal projects from the Arkansas Energy Office, the Arkansas Natural Resources and Cultural Council, EPA Brownfields grants, USDA Community Facility funds and business enterprise grants, transportation enhancement funds, CBDGs and HUD grants, along with others.

This spring, as the flowers begin to bloom and we leave this extended winter in our rear view mirror, take a drive across Arkansas. Be sure you always take the "B" highway when you come to a town and drive through historic Arkansas. Enjoy the beauty, admire the efforts, and get inspired for your own town.



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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Softball a hit in Rogers



PHOTO COURTESY ROGERS PARKS DEPARTMENT.

Rogers' adult softball program features leagues that cater to all skill levels, from highly competitive to just-for-fun.

Rogers' adult softball league represents the purest form of public recreation. It spans ages 16 and up. It includes both men and women. It embraces people of all races, creeds, religions, and national origins. It includes players and teams who may travel and play over 100 games a year, but also includes players who just want to play a handful of local games with friends. The program is structured so that players with less ability—or less passion—can still enjoy softball as a recreational sport.

Adult softball is offered in both Fall and Summer seasons. Seasons run for about 10 weeks, including rainout make-ups. Registration is open to all teams in the area, not just “Rogers” teams. There are separate leagues for “men open,” “men church,” “men industrial,” “coed open,” and “coed church.” Within each league, there are often multiple divisions, with teams separated according to skill level. Rogers is, at present, the only program in the area that offers true industrial and church leagues. All teams are coached by volunteers.

In Summer 2013, the Rogers adult softball league had 105 teams. In Fall 2013, the league had 87 teams. Operating budget for that program, Summer and Fall combined, was approximately \$85,000. The league is run by a full-time director through the Recreation Department. City parks maintenance staff prepare and maintain the fields.

Administration of the program is handled by the nonprofit Rogers Community-School Recreation Association. This organization sets general policies, collects fees, pays umpires and scorekeepers, and buys awards.

The Rogers adult softball league grew from humble origins. As late as 1984, there were only 18 adult teams playing in summer city softball leagues. By 2007, the league boasted 148 teams, by far the largest summer league in the state of Arkansas. As best as can be determined, Rogers has had the largest summer adult softball league in the state for at least the last 20 years.

In this day and age, such programs represent a method by which the maximum number of adults can participate in and enjoy the benefits of the sport of softball while expanding interest in parks and recreation in general. But the program also serves the needs of those who desire a more serious softball experience, and who intend to participate heavily in tournament play on weekends. By serving a broad spectrum of the population and accommodating multiple skill levels, this league is the epitome of public recreation.

For more information about Rogers' adult softball league, contact the Rogers Parks Department at 479-631-3350, or email parks@rogersarkansas.com.

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2013 State Turnback Funds

Actual Totals Per Capita						
	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
MONTH	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
January	\$3.2369	\$5.1428	\$0.3020	\$0.3163	\$3.1338	\$1.9533
February	\$3.4064		\$0.3873		\$1.0094	
March	\$3.0946		\$0.3953		\$1.0055	
April	\$3.2024		\$0.3438		\$1.0056	
May	\$3.5348		\$0.3138		\$1.0028	
June	\$3.6607		\$0.3573		\$1.0055	
July	\$3.5917		\$0.4276		\$2.8863	
August	\$4.0882		\$0.4603		\$1.3763	
September	\$5.0401		\$0.4348		\$1.0055	
October	\$5.0134		\$0.3953		\$1.0055	
November	\$4.3811		\$0.3652		\$1.0053	
December	\$4.4869		\$0.3649		\$1.0055	
Total Year	\$46.7372	\$5.1428	\$4.5476	\$0.3163	\$16.4470	\$1.9533

Actual Totals Per Month						
	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
MONTH	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
January	\$6,083,989.12	\$9,666,249.40	\$567,571.55	\$594,574.44	*\$5,890,046.27	\$3,671,282.93
February	\$6,402,534.31		\$728,037.16		\$1,897,309.37	
March	\$5,816,498.28		\$742,998.16		\$1,889,913.31	
April	\$6,019,069.40		\$646,153.53		\$1,890,083.64	
May	\$6,643,763.23		\$589,734.49		\$1,884,771.73	
June	\$6,880,560.47		\$671,509.25		\$1,889,910.83	
July	\$6,750,810.43		\$803,621.40		** \$5,424,973.20	
August	\$7,684,015.71		\$865,190.21		\$2,586,803.92	
September	\$9,473,119.80		\$817,319.05		\$1,889,909.64	
October	\$9,422,855.56		\$742,984.39		\$1,889,909.64	
November	\$8,234,597.41		\$686,466.96		\$1,889,429.45	
December	\$8,433,440.86		\$685,869.13		\$1,889,909.64	
Total Year	\$87,845,254.58	\$9,666,249.40	\$8,547,455.28	\$594,574.44	\$30,912,970.64	\$3,671,282.93

* Includes \$2 million appropriation from the Property Tax Relief Fund

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

Local Option Sales and Use Tax in Arkansas



KEY: Counties not collecting sales tax

Source: Debbie Rogers, Office of State Treasurer

See also: www.dfa.arkansas.gov

Sales and Use Tax Year-to-Date 2014 with 2013 Comparison (shaded gray)

Month	Municipal Tax		County Tax		Total Tax		Interest	
January	\$44,899,051	\$43,764,256	\$41,135,484	\$39,379,372	\$86,034,535	\$83,143,628	\$4,805	\$12,329
Total	\$44,899,051	\$43,764,256	\$41,135,484	\$39,379,372	\$86,034,535	\$83,143,628	\$4,805	\$12,329

January 2014 Municipal Levy Receipts and January 2014 Municipal/County Levy Receipts with 2013 Comparison (shaded gray)

CITY SALES AND USE	AMOUNT	LAST YEAR									
Alexander	46,694.24	53,487.07	Gilbert	.84.86	92.31	Oppelo	1,804.52	1,788.53	Norfolk	5,925.92	5,787.95
Alma	183,532.93	176,727.75	Gillett	7,873.33	9,739.19	Osceola	93,477.49	76,687.27	Salesville	5,218.51	5,097.02
Almyra	2,043.03	743.26	Gillham	1,816.58	1,216.82	Oxford	1,589.87	1,551.86	Benton County	579,840.74	540,832.25
Alpena	3,734.51	3,707.76	Gilmore	227.08	333.36	Ozark	73,345.49	68,533.49	Avoca	6,372.74	5,944.01
Alzheimer	2,760.72	2,691.35	Glenwood	55,778.82	48,895.87	Palestine	15,479.59	20,595.76	Bella Vista	345,551.23	322,304.45
Altus	5,210.99	7,343.81	Gosnell	14,813.12	13,561.30	Pangburn	6,750.33	NA	Bentonville	460,991.80	429,978.82
Amity	7,423.86	9,528.70	Gould	3,391.88	2,838.18	Paragould	274,344.40	261,726.67	Bethel Heights	30,975.68	28,891.81
Anthonyville	259.23	209.50	Grady	2,858.97	2,741.14	Paris	24,924.48	23,713.75	Cave Springs	22,578.82	21,059.84
Arkadelphia	152,809.23	156,272.86	Gravette	67,027.85	51,505.72	Pattmos	50.45	97.99	Centerton	124,255.32	115,896.11
Ash Flat	89,487.81	84,577.64	Green Forest	54,332.66	21,031.24	Patterson	1,187.67	976.09	Decatur	22,187.05	20,694.43
Ashdown	108,992.81	101,510.21	Greenbrier	126,809.07	128,098.69	Pea Ridge	27,063.58	24,240.42	Elm Springs	496.24	462.85
Atkins	45,948.54	42,467.18	Greenland	16,719.91	15,634.93	Perla	2,215.84	2,117.88	Garfield	6,555.56	6,114.54
Augusta	25,929.48	23,915.17	Greenwood	159,949.84	153,922.61	Perryville	17,712.85	15,101.45	Gateway	5,288.85	4,933.04
Austin	16,471.54	10,832.10	Guion	5,523.72	5,286.65	Piggott	62,285.70	55,817.68	Gentry	41,239.97	38,465.57
Avoca	2,175.75	2,260.30	Gum Springs	322.22	NA	Pine Bluff	927,402.67	880,977.40	Gravette	30,361.91	28,319.33
Bald Knob	49,005.95	49,668.10	Gurdon	18,511.00	15,476.21	Pineville	1,651.56	1,228.09	Highfill	7,613.33	7,101.15
Barling	19,916.26	15,611.49	Guy	4,950.78	5,914.02	Plainview	2,422.73	2,480.76	Little Flock	33,757.23	31,486.23
Batesville	562,061.81	551,581.65	Hackett	4,773.49	4,499.73	Plumerville	9,578.04	9,351.82	Lowell	95,682.47	89,245.48
Bauxite	14,738.57	12,608.31	Hamburg	26,797.87	28,390.78	Pocahontas	235,755.95	108,456.01	Pea Ridge	62,604.31	58,392.64
Bay	5,792.24	6,674.75	Hardy	16,304.76	17,973.51	Portia	2,583.94	2,346.81	Rogers	730,827.60	681,661.50
Bearden	10,869.80	7,190.03	Harrisburg	22,598.56	22,516.74	Pottsville	28,487.33	20,849.12	Siloam Springs	196,392.62	183,180.54
Beebe	113,933.25	77,101.60	Harrison	245,557.82	243,011.88	Prairie Grove	82,576.35	66,928.42	Springdale	79,058.51	73,739.89
Beedeville	126.40	84.93	Hartford	1,653.03	2,367.14	Prescott	45,633.77	45,153.50	Springtown	1,136.12	1,059.69
Bella Vista	103,188.26	103,915.02	Haskell	17,609.86	19,770.10	Pyatt	541.25	625.40	Sulphur Springs	6,673.09	6,224.17
Bellefonte	2,015.09	1,782.42	Hatfield	2,385.33	2,490.69	Quitman	25,242.96	23,066.16	Boone County	339,403.23	328,574.24
Benton	654,270.04	620,732.36	Havana	2,810.46	2,868.57	Ravenden	2,320.82	2,320.82	Alpena	3,581.44	3,467.17
Bentonville	1,360,157.78	1,552,513.76	Hazen	48,945.48	48,632.22	Reactor	24,433.94	22,752.40	Bellefonte	5,097.10	4,934.47
Berryville	212,434.08	208,440.24	Heber Springs	135,443.81	128,427.05	Redfield	14,700.06	13,308.32	Bergerman	4,928.69	4,771.44
Bethel Heights	52,387.34	47,802.22	Helena-West Helena	245,552.42	232,177.22	Rison	11,863.54	11,882.90	Diamond City	8,779.58	8,499.46
Black Rock	7,043.37	3,713.81	Hermitage	4,856.24	5,075.49	Rockport	15,568.72	10,853.32	Everton	1,493.20	1,445.56
Blevins	1,622.62	1,158.02	Highfill	58,080.28	61,769.97	Roe	479.41	505.25	Harrison	145,312.17	140,675.85
Blue Mountain	165.07	159.25	Highland	23,583.62	24,753.93	Rogers	2,490,554.52	2,186,274.95	Lead Hill	3,042.54	2,945.47
Blytheville	305,274.05	502,441.88	Holly Grove	6,871.95	6,555.24	Rose Bud	15,168.55	12,501.78	Omaha	1,897.38	1,836.84
Bonanza	1,499.43	1,437.56	Hope	165,771.19	157,858.80	Russellville	925,470.39	872,040.16	South Lead Hill	1,145.16	1,108.63
Bono	11,187.75	8,520.55	Horsehoe Bend	18,501.53	17,527.58	Salem	18,873.03	18,560.32	Valley Springs	2,054.56	1,989.00
Booneville	84,800.65	83,966.02	Hot Springs	1,364,252.31	1,346,534.79	Salesville	3,621.70	3,451.17	Zinc	1,156.39	1,119.48
Bradley	2,609.55	2,378.99	Hoxie	12,225.14	14,854.10	Searcy	274,169.33	808,419.19	Bradley County	119,481.67	109,232.48
Branch	1,204.41	1,357.23	Hughes	10,510.33	9,451.44	Shannon Hills	10,545.81	8,653.05	Banks	922.58	843.44
Briarcliff	1,458.42	1,217.66	Humphrey	2,700.13	1,880.60	Sheridan	189,385.51	176,569.94	Hermitage	6,175.34	5,645.62
Brinkley	93,564.99	87,715.75	Huntington	2,523.23	2,247.93	Sherrill	892.02	602.10	Warren	44,663.34	40,832.09
Brookland	11,860.23	13,946.41	Huntsville	52,326.08	46,665.75	Sherwood	397,751.91	391,730.86	Calhoun County	55,816.90	41,311.66
Bryant	963,050.52	930,471.27	Imboden	7,966.56	7,578.26	Shirley	2,834.43	2,791.43	Hampton	12,290.30	9,096.40
Bull Shoals	11,325.68	11,699.87	Jacksonville	580,135.72	588,109.42	Siloam Springs	495,201.90	450,008.78	Harrell	2,357.81	1,745.08
Cabot	656,248.44	627,296.12	Jasper	23,880.42	23,909.47	Sparkman	3,484.43	2,917.84	Thornton	3,778.06	2,796.25
Caddo Valley	39,028.94	32,709.61	Jennette	115.46	112.56	Springdale	1,616,510.71	1,680,921.65	Tinsman	501.27	371.00
Calico Rock	20,960.81	27,004.53	Johnson	39,913.94	49,844.30	Springtown	210.07	36.69	Carroll County	138,608.84	134,389.47
Camden	294,466.27	267,553.64	Joiner	1,647.25	2,049.78	St. Charles	2,067.87	2,996.65	Beaver	507.43	491.98
Caraway	3,924.82	4,712.79	Jonesboro	1,902,964.61	1,948,752.66	Stamps	14,022.65	13,197.22	Blue Eye	152.23	147.59
Carlisle	48,331.05	44,007.07	Junction City	3,469.36	NA	Star City	71,471.35	72,732.79	Chicot County	232,747.91	193,321.09
Cave Springs	14,770.37	13,284.02	Keiser	0.57	2,277.66	Stephens	6,957.58	6,227.54	Dermott	24,303.64	20,186.67
Centerton	88,148.02	70,058.37	Keo	2,112.00	1,937.94	Strong	5,018.15	NA	Eudora	19,087.90	15,854.47
Charleston	22,946.03	22,596.83	Kibler	1,716.18	1,571.00	Stuttgart	443,713.47	400,206.58	Lake Village	21,662.12	17,992.62
Cherokee Village	12,248.99	10,565.58	Kingsland	1,901.05	1,065.26	Sulphur Springs	1,025.62	1,215.57	Clark County	357,577.72	354,191.64
Cherry Valley	5,004.93	5,463.21	Lake City	10,210.01	10,250.74	Summit	3,933.66	3,292.16	Clay County	50,490.88	45,759.74
Chidester	2,242.88	2,226.07	Lake Village	81,161.53	61,868.13	Sunset	1,467.95	1,601.90	Datto	348.79	316.11
Clarendon	58,529.44	26,884.58	Lakeview	3,448.16	3,340.55	Swifton	2,853.56	2,397.19	Greenway	728.97	660.66
Clarksville	340,938.03	332,007.17	Lamar	8,559.43	8,343.91	Taylor	5,873.46	6,065.32	Knob	1,001.03	907.23
Clinton	83,065.96	87,749.82	Lepanto	20,550.21	18,405.24	Texarkana	356,452.57	390,970.09	McDougal	648.75	587.96
Coal Hill	1,522.03	NA	Leslie	4,552.10	3,869.61	Texarkana Special	177,600.87	194,094.81	Nimmons	240.67	218.11
Conway	1,807,296.86	1,797,824.73	Lewisville	8,488.29	9,616.40	Thornton	1,197.66	953.39	Peach Orchard	470.87	426.75
Corning	72,661.69	69,052.29	Lincoln	35,837.85	28,153.90	Tontitown	85,578.12	93,539.65	Pollard	774.31	701.76
Cotter	8,155.25	7,633.66	Little Flock	6,142.88	5,967.13	Trumann	70,271.44	67,515.91	St. Francis	871.98	790.27
Cotton Plant	1,653.73	1,244.00	Little Rock	5,778,557.37	5,445,349.38	Tuckerman	12,198.85	12,516.02	Success	519.69	471.00
Cove	10,051.48	8,305.10	Lonoke	140,075.81	130,162.10	Turrell	5,929.17	5,146.82	Cleburne County	347,949.33	340,792.24
Crossett	169,114.14	284,512.22	Lowell	234,316.52	188,325.06	Twin Groves	0.58	0.34	Concord	2,583.19	2,530.05
Damascus	15,623.38	9,484.23	Luxora	2,863.76	3,560.20	Tyronza	2,336.59	2,784.93	Fairfield Bay	1,937.39	1,897.54
Danville	40,679.49	36,690.84	Madison	1,414.34	1,007.90	Van Buren	562,454.96	281,004.35	Greers Ferry	9,432.86	9,238.84
Dardanelle	151,591.42	156,738.50	Magazine	10,458.86	6,528.78	Vandervoort	383.22	2,140.90	Heber Springs	75,854.62	74,294.34
Decatur	16,262.80	12,973.14	Magnolia	452,174.34	390,302.65	Vilonia	70,309.13	70,814.06	Higden	1,270.42	1,244.29
Delight	3,876.85	3,900.72	Malvern	147,772.18	146,667.53	Viola	2,103.69	2,217.56	Quitman	7,749.56	7,590.15
De Queen	92,059.49	88,148.71	Mammoth Spring	7,391.45	6,054.70	Wabbaseka	718.43	557.83	Cleveland County	36,337.27	33,971.77
Dermott	33,260.22	24,238.24	Manila	39,368.94	37,098.57	Waldenburg	6,538.68	6,793.14	Kingsland	1,790.77	1,674.20
Des Arc	16,215.66	14,357.16	Mansfield	29,279.71	26,944.15	Waldron	47,035.02	43,324.68	Rison	5,384.34	5,033.82
DeValls Bluff	10,462.92	6,640.48	Marianna	71,893.44	69,742.65	Walnut Ridge	65,766.43	61,180.81	Columbia County	361,327.29	361,254.22
DeWitt	156,853.12	157,482.36	Marion	166,676.79	200,663.21	Ward	16,402.64	17,870.27	Emerson	643.70	643.57
Diamond City	2,129.09	1,795.01	Marked Tree	47,575.54	43,972.09	Warren	66,816.14	59,160.78	Magnolia	20,250.29	20,246.19
Diaz	2,969.23	2,373.70	Marmaduke	16,621.13	16,623.33	Washington	1,911.32	1,591.86	McNeil	902.58	902.40
Dierks	13,180.26	13,748.72	Marshall	13,197.72	13,711.89	Weiner	7,663.55	6,799.24	Taylor	990.04	989.84
Dover	17,574.44	20,358.24	Marvell	20,000.17	21,634.01	West Fork	30,757.46	27,220.20	Waldo	2,399.87	2,399.39
Dumas	122,119.67	118,859.16	Maumelle	158,595.58	163,422.53	West Memphis	544,257.18	525,224.53	Conway County	374,196.17	358,924.97
Dyer	878.76	917.92	Mayflower	55,957.32	51,212.11	Wheatley	3,195.86	3,117.41	Menifee	3,957.98	3,796.45
Earle	21,578.29	21,449.06	Maynard	4,898.15	4,262.65	White Hall	69,187.03	63,522.72	Morrilton	88,687.57	85,068.18
East Camden	4,376.22	2,081.54	McCrary	18,335.99	17,379.97	Wickes	3,115.67	2,302.01	Oppelo	10,235.70	9,817.98
El Dorado	519,719.56	457,772.60	McGehee	166,367.03	157,238.72	Widener	3,098.52	1,558.96	Plumerville	10,825.47	10,383.67
Elkins	45,031.18	19,929.78	McRae	3,052.02	NA	Wiederkehr Village	2,446.43	2,315.04	Craighead County	264,720.62	269,442.05
Elm Springs	4,117.02	3,721.76	Melbourne	64,927.69	73,491.05	Wilton	1,311.78	977.53	Bay	26,445.63	26,917.30
England											

Anthonyville	933.64	934.81	Grubbs	3,843.33	3,471.70	Manila	39,067.29	36,009.21	Sebastian County	733,971.97	715,917.87
Clarkedale	2,151.43	2,154.12	Jacksonport	2,110.85	1,906.74	Marie	981.94	905.08	Barling	67,081.52	65,431.46
Crawfordsville	2,777.72	2,781.20	Newport	78,449.82	70,864.05	Osceola	90,677.73	83,579.73	Bonanza	8,296.81	8,092.73
Earle	13,998.77	14,016.30	Swifton	7,945.55	7,177.24	Victoria	432.52	398.67	Central City	7,243.48	7,065.30
Edmondson	2,476.17	2,479.27	Tuckerman	18,539.61	16,746.90	Wilson	10,555.88	9,729.59	Fort Smith	1,243,930.05	1,213,332.10
Gilmore	1,372.63	1,374.34	Tupelo	1,792.23	1,618.93	Monroe County	NA	NA	Greenwood	129,170.52	125,993.21
Horseshoe Lake	1,693.31	1,695.43	Weldon	746.75	674.55	Montgomery County	34,621.51	35,560.27	Hackett	11,716.54	11,428.34
Jennette	600.19	600.95	Jefferson County	655,324.40	647,055.01	Black Springs	447.46	459.59	Hartford	9,263.57	9,035.71
Jericho	690.08	690.94	Altheimer	9,441.99	9,322.84	Glenwood	189.83	194.98	Huntington	9,162.57	8,937.19
Marion	71,588.58	71,678.20	Humphrey	2,955.42	2,918.12	Mount Ida	4,863.28	4,995.15	Lavaca	33,028.52	32,216.09
Sunset	1,033.38	1,034.68	Pine Bluff	470,976.60	465,033.45	Norman	1,708.48	1,754.80	Mansfield	10,432.34	10,175.73
Turrell	3,209.74	3,213.77	Redfield	12,445.38	12,288.34	Oden	1,048.59	1,077.02	Midland	4,689.50	4,574.15
West Memphis	152,194.58	152,385.12	Sherrill	806.02	795.85	Nevada County	30,450.33	30,843.48	Sevier County	235,596.90	243,261.65
Cross County	244,493.97	236,513.64	Wabbaseka	2,446.86	2,415.98	Bluff City	844.33	855.23	Ben Lomond	1,073.22	1,108.14
Cherry Valley	6,279.96	6,074.98	White Hall	53,024.80	52,355.70	Bodcaw	939.66	951.79	DeQueen	48,805.82	50,393.64
Hickory Ridge	2,623.88	2,538.24	Johnson County	107,474.16	104,347.65	Cale	537.92	544.86	Gilham	1,184.25	1,222.78
Parkin	10,659.53	10,311.60	Clarksville	78,943.40	76,646.88	Emmet	3,234.33	3,276.09	Horatio	7,727.22	7,978.61
Wynne	80,713.40	78,078.91	Coal Hill	8,704.59	8,451.37	Prescott	22,442.82	22,732.59	Lockettsburg	5,469.75	5,647.69
Dallas County	147,515.89	137,761.07	Hartman	4,464.11	4,334.25	Rosston	1,777.18	1,800.12	Sharp County	69,389.57	67,058.82
Desha County	107,085.36	95,849.70	Knoxville	6,287.60	6,104.69	Willisville	1,034.98	1,048.35	Ash Flat	8,299.99	8,021.19
Arkansas City	4,144.36	3,709.53	Lamar	13,805.21	13,403.60	Newtown County	43,090.08	43,658.88	Cave City	14,753.65	14,258.08
Dumas	53,287.90	47,696.80	Lafayette County	72,009.78	73,372.31	Jasper	1,724.34	1,747.11	Cherokee Village	32,844.23	31,741.01
McGehee	47,773.41	42,760.90	Bradley	3,393.72	3,457.93	Western Grove	1,420.92	1,439.67	Evening Shade	3,658.77	3,535.87
Mitchellville	4,076.42	3,648.71	Buckner	1,486.10	1,514.22	Ouachita County	332,926.09	311,616.10	Heryford	6,182.64	5,974.97
Reed	1,947.62	1,743.27	Lewisville	6,917.13	7,048.01	Bearden	8,735.04	8,175.92	Highland	8,850.49	8,553.21
Tillar	237.79	212.84	Stamps	9,148.99	9,322.10	Camden	110,164.56	103,113.12	Horseshoe Bend	67.75	65.48
Watson	2,389.25	2,138.57	Lawrence County	111,814.12	124,359.35	Chidester	2,613.28	2,446.01	Sidney	1,532.96	1,481.47
Drew County	413,002.85	392,327.56	Alicia	603.03	670.69	East Camden	8,418.55	7,879.69	Williford	635.20	613.87
Jerome	448.86	426.39	Black Rock	3,219.42	3,580.63	Louann	1,482.97	1,388.04	St. Francis County	134,605.58	129,324.18
Monticello	108,957.85	103,503.33	College City	2,212.75	2,461.01	Stephens	8,056.84	7,541.16	Caldwell	8,856.68	8,509.18
Tillar	2,347.88	2,230.35	Hoxie	13,519.63	15,036.49	Perry	87,395.44	80,027.73	Colt	6,032.12	5,795.44
Wilmar	5,881.21	5,586.80	Imboden	3,292.37	3,661.76	Adona	778.84	713.18	Forrest City	245,290.14	235,665.91
Winchester	1,922.05	1,825.81	Lynn	1,400.59	1,557.74	Bigelow	1,173.84	1,074.88	Hughes	22,995.46	22,093.20
Faulkner County	653,927.56	628,461.21	Minturn	530.09	589.56	Casa	637.23	583.51	Madison	12,271.68	11,790.20
Enola	1,991.20	1,913.66	Portia	2,125.21	2,363.65	Fourche	231.04	211.56	Palestine	10,867.38	10,441.00
Holland	3,281.36	3,153.57	Powhatan	350.15	389.43	Houston	644.68	590.33	Wheatley	5,665.08	5,442.80
Mount Vernon	854.21	820.95	Ravenden	2,285.69	2,542.14	Perry	1,006.15	921.33	Widener	4,356.52	4,185.58
Twin Groves	1,973.53	1,896.67	Sedgwick	739.20	822.14	Perryville	5,440.68	4,982.01	Stone County	75,529.39	78,419.89
Wooster	5,066.38	4,869.07	Smithville	379.33	421.89	Phillips County	110,116.02	95,943.27	Fifty Six	1,379.35	1,432.14
Franklin County	147,810.96	142,503.47	Strawberry	1,468.68	1,633.46	Elaine	12,326.60	10,740.06	Mountain View	21,910.14	22,748.64
Altus	5,790.97	5,583.03	Walnut Ridge	23,780.93	26,449.09	Helena-West Helena	195,327.15	170,187.07	Union County	523,408.14	495,677.40
Branch	2,803.81	2,703.13	Lee County	29,094.49	30,504.52	Lake View	8,585.98	7,480.89	Calion	15,259.04	14,450.60
Charleston	19,267.57	18,575.72	Aubrey	901.58	945.27	Lexa	5,543.09	4,829.66	El Dorado	649,711.95	615,289.46
Denning	3,598.35	3,498.14	Haynes	795.51	834.06	Marvell	22,986.38	20,027.86	Felsenthal	3,738.96	3,540.86
Ozark	28,145.01	27,134.40	LaGrange	472.00	494.88	Pike County	120,630.35	103,446.66	Huttig	20,914.23	19,806.16
Wiederkehr Village	290.30	279.89	Marianna	21,823.52	22,881.17	Antoine	773.61	663.41	Junction City	18,655.63	17,667.23
Fulton County	84,234.43	83,906.11	Moro	1,145.54	1,201.05	Daisy	760.39	652.07	Norphlet	23,538.35	22,291.26
Ash Flat	333.25	331.96	Rondo	1,050.07	1,100.97	Delight	1,844.76	1,581.98	Smackover	61,926.60	58,645.65
Cherokee Village	2,590.89	2,580.79	Lincoln County	49,970.83	48,063.40	Glenwood	14,453.95	12,395.00	Strong	17,919.60	16,686.09
Hardy	137.22	136.69	Gould	3,955.51	3,804.53	Murfreesboro	10,850.38	9,304.76	Van Buren County	250,605.28	263,961.50
Horseshoe Bend	55.54	55.33	Grady	2,121.89	2,040.90	Poinsett County	109,878.50	104,109.38	Clinton	22,261.20	23,447.63
Mammoth Spring	3,192.05	3,179.61	Star City	10,746.52	10,336.31	Fisher	1,643.41	1,557.13	Damascus	2,138.85	2,138.85
Salem	5,341.87	5,321.05	Little River County	135,857.60	182,383.66	Harrisburg	16,964.76	16,074.03	Fairfield Bay	18,436.92	19,419.54
Viola	1,101.06	1,096.75	Ashdown	27,711.61	37,201.78	Lepanto	13,950.60	13,218.13	Shirley	2,489.63	2,622.31
Garland County	1,739,400.31	1,388,739.04	Foreman	5,931.92	7,963.37	Marked Tree	18,910.33	17,917.45	Washington County	1,126,583.72	1,123,636.81
Fountain Lake	5,905.11	3,253.74	Ogden	1,056.13	1,417.81	Trumann	53,768.41	50,945.32	Elkins	33,553.62	33,465.85
Hot Springs	177,067.85	NA	Wilton	2,194.40	2,945.90	Tyrona	5,615.62	5,320.77	Elm Springs	18,968.95	18,919.33
Lonsdale	1,103.54	608.05	Winthrop	1,126.53	1,512.34	Waldenburg	449.54	425.94	Farmington	75,698.39	75,500.38
Mountain Pine	9,039.63	4,980.88	Logan County	90,971.25	76,290.35	Weiner	5,276.62	4,999.57	Fayetteville	932,354.76	929,915.91
Grant County	169,867.53	159,526.56	Blue Mountain	896.34	751.69	Polk County	219,927.22	219,334.86	Goshen	13,570.97	13,535.47
Greene County	459,953.74	425,646.34	Booneville	28,841.90	24,187.41	Cove	6,596.96	6,579.18	Greenland	15,953.18	15,911.45
Delaplaine	1,186.44	1,097.94	Caulksville	1,539.68	1,291.21	Grannis	9,567.30	9,541.54	Johnson	42,499.56	42,388.39
Lafe	4,684.38	4,334.98	Magazine	6,122.58	5,134.52	Hatfield	7,132.30	7,113.10	Lincoln	28,497.77	28,423.22
Marmaduke	11,363.20	10,515.63	Morrison Bluff	462.63	387.97	Mena	99,075.18	98,808.33	Prairie Grove	55,500.32	55,355.15
Oak Grove Heights	9,092.60	8,414.40	Paris	25,531.22	21,411.01	Vandervoort	1,502.44	1,498.40	Springdale	807,707.12	805,594.32
Paragould	267,081.12	247,159.89	Ratcliff	1,460.17	1,224.53	Wickes	13,021.22	12,986.14	Tontitown	31,171.42	31,089.88
Hempstead County	330,562.25	624,768.08	Scranton	1,619.19	1,357.89	Pope County	313,502.07	295,537.18	West Fork	29,359.42	29,282.62
Blevins	3,086.53	3,882.25	Subiaco	4,134.73	3,467.45	Atkins	37,650.71	35,493.18	Winslow	4,954.47	4,941.52
Emmet	421.34	529.96	Lonoke County	237,080.15	229,210.91	Dover	17,202.48	16,216.71	White County	863,012.74	861,137.96
Fulton	1,969.50	2,477.25	Allport	958.66	926.84	Hector	5,617.65	5,295.73	Bald Knob	33,584.73	33,511.77
Hope	98,915.87	124,416.88	Austin	16,989.08	16,425.17	London	12,970.52	12,227.26	Beebe	84,802.31	84,619.09
McCaskill	940.66	1,183.16	Cabot	198,200.34	191,621.61	Pottsville	35,428.62	33,398.42	Bradford	8,799.04	8,779.92
McNab	666.30	838.07	Carlisle	18,456.24	17,843.63	Russellville	348,543.69	328,570.78	Garner	3,292.39	3,285.24
Oakhaven	617.31	776.45	Coy	800.27	773.71	Prairie County	27,953.80	31,598.85	Georgetown	1,437.52	1,434.40
Ozan	832.87	1,047.59	England	23,549.63	22,767.96	Biscoe	2,317.78	2,620.01	Griffithville	2,608.41	2,602.74
Patmos	627.10	788.77	Humnoke	2,288.89	2,288.89	Des Arc	10,963.15	12,392.70	Higginson	7,199.21	7,183.57
Perrytown	2,665.19	3,352.29	Keo	2,134.05	2,063.22	DeValls Bluff	3,952.35	4,467.72	Judsonia	23,406.13	23,355.29
Washington	2,763.72	2,218.43	Lonoke	35,386.96	34,212.39	Hazen	9,373.27	10,595.50	Kensett	19,105.15	19,063.65
Hot Spring County	267,072.26	260,681.48	Ward	33,903.13	32,777.80	Ulm	1,085.47	1,227.00	Letona	2,956.20	2,949.78
Donaldson	2,160.73	2,109.02	Madison County	172,907.75	150,502.60	Pulaski County	810,501.16	778,193.51	McRae	7,906.38	7,889.29
Friendship	1,263.41	1,233.18	Hindsville	364.78	317.52	Alexander	3,923.50	3,767.10	Pangburn	6,967.35	6,952.22
Malvern	74,067.70	72,295.33	Huntsville	14,029.25	12,211.35	Cammack Village	12,767.99	12,259.04	Rose Bud	5,587.79	5,575.66
Midway	2,792.43	2,725.61	St. Paul	675.75	588.19	Jacksonville	471,551.01	452,754.37	Russell	2,504.07	2,498.63
Perla	1,730.02	1,688.62	Marion County	75,527.83	74,903.46	Little Rock	3,217,333.17	3,089,086.02	Searcy	264,991.27	264,415.61
Rockport	5,419.76	5,290.08	Bull Shoals	13,011.69	12,904.12	Maumelle	285,334.58	273,960.77	West Point	2,144.69	2,140.03
Howard County	298,575.87	300,987.47	Flippin	9,041.45	8,966.71	North Little Rock	1,035,802.93	994,514.45	Woodruff County	17,023.36	16,476.45
Dierks	14,626.84	14,744.97	Pyatt	1,474.66	1,462.47	Sherwood	490,819.37	471,254.66	Augusta	17,607.90	17,042.21
Mineral Springs	15,595.07	15,721.03	Summit	4,030.29	3,996.97	Wrightsville	35,145.21	33,744.27	Cotton Plant	5,196.69	5,029.74

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

CITY MANAGER—Kingsland, Ga., is seeking an experienced and qualified candidate for the position of City Manager. The City has 171 full-time employees and has an annual operating budget of \$21 million. Kingsland is located on the South Georgia Coast within close proximity to Cumberland Island National Seashore, Brunswick and the Golden Isles, and Jacksonville, Fla. Kingsland has a resident population of approximately 16,000 and hosts tens of thousands of travelers and tourists daily. The position requires a Bachelor's Degree in Public or Business Administration or related fields (Master's Degree preferred), with at least 10 years of progressively responsible experience in public administration, finance, budgeting, and the operation of municipal or county government. Qualified candidates must possess strong background in budget preparation/control, economic development, laws and regulations related to municipal government, grant writing, organizational analysis, team building, problem solving, and leadership. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills and a high degree of integrity are required. For more information, visit www.kingslandgeorgia.com. Open until filled. Submit resume to Human Resources, P.O. Box 250, Kingsland, Georgia 31548. EOE.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT—Berryville is accepting applications for the position of Executive Director of Economic Development. Job duties include promotion of local businesses, business recruitment, management of the Berryville Chamber of Commerce, grant writing, website development and management, and volunteer coordination. Applicants should possess excellent communication and organizational skills. Previous experience and/or an accredited college degree in a related field are preferred. Benefits include vacation, sick leave, 10 paid holidays per year, retirement program, paid employee health insurance (including dental, vision, prescription drugs and life). Applications and job descriptions may be received at the Berryville City Hall located at 305 E Madison Avenue, or by contacting Mayor Tim McKinney at 870-423-4414 or via email at mayortim@berryville.com. A resume must accompany the application. Applicants may submit their resume to the Mayor's Office, City of Berryville, PO Box 227, Berryville, AR 72616. Deadline is Friday, Feb. 28, 2014. EOE.

GENERAL MANAGER—Hope Water & Light Commission seeks a General Manager. Starting Salary in the \$150K to \$160K with highly competitive benefits. The General Manager serves as the chief executive of HWL and is a direct report to the Commission. With a staff of 45 and \$25 million in revenues, this is a well-governed and well-managed agency and wholesale power customer of AEP/Southwestern Electric Power Company since January 1982. Its present wholesale contract runs through 2032. This position reports to the Hope Water & Light (HWL) Commission. The staff is strong, competent, and well trained. Applicant should have proven senior management experience in the electric and water industries and experience/knowledge of the areas of strategic planning, contract development and management, finance, rate design, accounting and finance, and human resources as well as water and electronics operations. Government leadership experience is preferred. For a complete description and to apply, go to www.watersconsulting.com/recruitment. This position is open until filled; however, interested applicants are encouraged to apply by Feb. 7, 2014. Recruitment Contact: Andrea Sims, asims@watersconsulting.com or call 216-695-4776. **IT DIRECTOR**—Bryant is seeking qualified candidates for the position of IT Director. Under the direction of the Mayor, this position is responsible for the overall direction of the Information Technology department by planning, organizing, staffing, directing and controlling all activities of the department. The IT Director will also manage all aspects of the city's electronic network and computer systems. Requires an equivalent to four years of college, plus 8 years related experience and/or training, and 6 years related management experience, or equivalent combination of education and experience. Starting annual salary \$60,830 DOE. Benefits include vacation, sick leave, paid holidays, APERS retirement, health insurance as well as dental, vision, and life insurance. Full job description available at www.cityofbryant.com. Apply online or in person at the City of Bryant, Human Resources Department, 210 SW 3rd St., Bryant, AR 72202. For additional information, please contact the Human Resources Department at 501-943-0999.

JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN—The City of Cushing, Okla., is looking for a Journeyman Lineman and Apprentice Lineman. The Journeyman Lineman needs to have at least 5 years of experience in the electric line construction and maintenance field. Applicant must be skilled in the construction and maintenance of high voltage and secondary electric line, overhead and underground to include installing and removal of electric poles, transformers, insulators and associated equipment. Must be willing to relocate to Cushing and live within a 20 minute or less response time of the electric department. Competitive salaries and benefits. For more information call 918-225-1659 or email your resume to the human resources at citytreasurer@cityofcushing.org.

OPERATIONS SCHEDULING MANAGER—Ozark Regional Transit in Springdale is accepting applications for an operations scheduling manager. This position has the overall responsibility for all operational, call center and scheduling functions. Route Match knowledge, and increasing levels of effective management or supervisory experience a must. Open until filled. For more information contact Human Resources, 479-756-5901 ext. 8752.

OPERATIONS TRAINING MANAGER—Ozark Regional Transit in Springdale is accepting applications for an operations training manager. This position has the overall responsibility for all operational and safety training functions. Increasing levels of effective management or supervisory experience a must. Open until filled. For more information contact Human Resources, 479-756-5901 ext. 8752.

STREET DEPT. MANAGER—Hot Springs seeks applicants for the position of Street Department Manager. This position performs managerial duties relative to construction, repair and maintenance of the city street and storm drainage systems, right-of-way maintenance and land property maintenance, including urban forestry; must possess HS diploma, plus night, trade extension, or voc. school courses in specialized training, equal to two years of college, plus 10 years related experience and/or training, and 5 years related management experience, or equivalent combination of education and experience; must possess valid DL and a clean driving record. Submit application and resume to City of Hot Springs HR, 133 Convention Blvd., Hot Springs, Arkansas 71901; or online at www.cityhs.net by March 28, 2014. EEO.

NOTICE: Cities and Towns Must Report on Annexations by March 1

Act 1502 of 2013 enacted a new reporting requirement concerning municipal annexations. The Act established ACA 14-40-2201, which states:

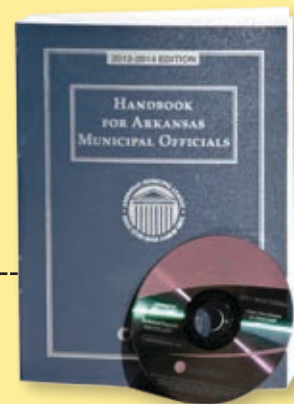
- (a)(1) Beginning March 1, 2014, and each successive year thereafter, the mayor or city manager of a city or incorporated town shall file annually with the city clerk or recorder, town recorder, and county clerk a written notice describing any annexation elections that have become final in the previous eight (8) years.
- (2) The written notice shall include:
 - (A) The schedule of services to be provided to the inhabitants of the annexed portion of the city; and
 - (B) A statement as to whether the scheduled services have been provided to the inhabitants of the annexed portions of the city.
- (b) If the scheduled services have not been provided to the new inhabitants within three (3) years after the date the annexation becomes final, the written notice reporting the status of the extension of scheduled services shall include a statement of the rights of inhabitants to seek detachment.
- (c) A city or incorporated town shall not proceed with annexation elections if there are pending scheduled services that have not been provided in three (3) years as prescribed by law.

A form for the required report is included in the League publication "Municipal Annexation, Incorporation, & Boundary Changes" (revised June 2013) on page 19. This publication may be downloaded or ordered from www.arml.org/arml_products/products/product_list/publications_products.php.

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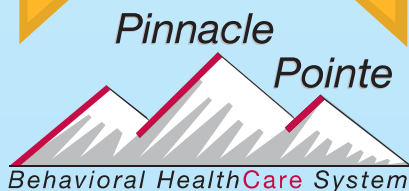
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