

# City & Town

FEBRUARY 2015 VOL. 71, NO. 02

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE





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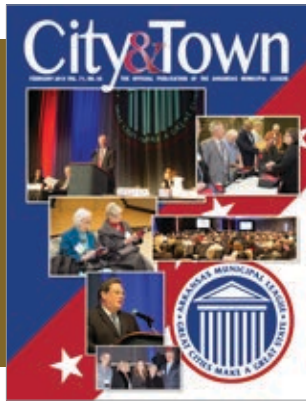
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Cover photos by Andrew Morgan and Mark Potter

**ON THE COVER**—It was wonderful to visit with everyone at our well-attended 2015 Winter Conference in January, where we heard from the governor and numerous legislators on what we can expect from the 90th General Session now underway, and prepped for the New Year in our cities and towns. Read coverage of the conference inside beginning on page 6. Read also inside helpful tips for new officials from some of our veteran municipal leaders. —atm

## Features

- 6 Winter Conference wraps**  
City and town leaders, many of them newly elected to office, convened in January for the 2015 Winter Conference, which included visits with the governor and legislators about the 90th General Assembly of the Arkansas Legislature and numerous educational sessions to help municipal officials prepare for the rest of the year and beyond.
- 16 Volunteer Communities of the Year honored**  
Volunteers are invaluable assets to our cities and towns, and the 2014 Volunteer Communities of the Year were recognized at a luncheon during the League’s Winter Conference.
- 22 Veteran officials offer tips**  
One of the main functions of the Arkansas Municipal League is to provide a forum for municipalities to learn from one another, and many of our veteran city and town leaders have great advice, whether you’re a newly elected official or an old hand.
- 30 Japanese firefighter visits Hot Springs**  
Hot Springs is very active in its sister city relationship with Hanamaki, Japan, and recently hosted Capt. Yoichiro Sato from that city’s fire department in an exchange to learn about how each city provides public safety services and discuss best practices.

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Dear Colleagues,

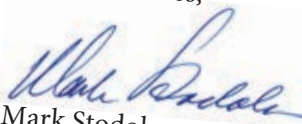
It was a pleasure to see so many of you at the recent Arkansas Municipal League Winter Conference. I am proud to report that the conference nearly set an attendance record, and this is truly a testimony that our members see a great value in engaging their colleagues and learning more about leading their municipalities. I enjoyed seeing so many new faces with 237 newly elected officials in attendance.

During this year's 90th Arkansas General Assembly, I encourage you to contact your legislators and remind them of the importance of cities and towns to their district. If you have any questions about contacting your legislator, you can view the *Communicating with your Legislator* publication at [www.arml.org](http://www.arml.org), or you can call the League to receive a copy by mail. I also recommend you visit the website to learn more about bills important to cities as well as sign up for the text messaging service to receive immediate information about urgent legislative matters. We will also be distributing a 2015 Legislative Directory to members, and it will be available upon request by calling League headquarters. As always, you can contact Don Zimmerman or Mark Hayes at 501-374-3484 if you have any questions during the legislative session.

I invite you to join me in registering for the National League of Cities' Congressional City Conference, March 7-11 in Washington, D.C. The NLC hosts this annual legislative conference for city leaders who really want to make a difference for their own city and for cities around the country. This will be a great opportunity for us to learn more about federal issues that impact cities, like transportation funding, municipal bonds, and juvenile justice reform. Chuck Todd, moderator of NBC's *Meet the Press*, will provide opening remarks at the conference, and numerous workshops will cover the NLC's federal action priorities. You can register for the conference by visiting [ccc.NLC.org](http://ccc.NLC.org).

I would also like to mention with pride that Little Rock was recently named one of the top three travel-worthy state capitals in the country by *USA Today*. After being named the No. 1 Great Place to Live by *Kiplinger's* in 2013, this is certainly an exciting time for Little Rock. I hope you will join me in congratulating everyone in Little Rock who has made this achievement possible.

All Best Wishes,



Mark Stodola  
Mayor, Little Rock  
President, Arkansas Municipal League



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# League preps for 90th General Assembly and New Year at 2015 Winter Conference

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

Municipal leaders from across the state gathered to discuss mutual challenges, learn what to expect from the 90th General Assembly of the Arkansas Legislature, and prep for a successful year at the League's 2015 Winter Conference, held Jan. 14-16 at the Statehouse Convention Center and Marriott Hotel in Little Rock. Attendance was strong, with 1,155 registered participants overall. We had a great response from our newly elected municipal officials this year, with 237 delegates at the conference.



Hutchinson

The League was honored to host new Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson's first public appearance of the year when he addressed a packed house at the Thursday, Jan. 15 Volunteer Community of the Year Awards luncheon in the Statehouse Convention Center. Hutchinson had celebrated his inauguration in that same room two nights before.

Hutchinson's father had been mayor of the small Benton County city of Sulphur Springs, he said, and, having grown up in that environment, the governor said he understands the challenges our city and town officials face.

"I understand how Arkansas is made up of a community of small towns, cities that really form the vibrancy of this state, both economically and also in terms of our spirit, our sense of community, family—you bring Arkansas together."

Hutchinson said it is no time for the state to sit on its laurels, and he cited two executive actions he took in his first few days in office, one putting a hiring freeze

in place at state agencies, and another requiring all new business regulations to clear his office before going to the Legislature. Both moves are meant to streamline government and make the state more business-friendly, he said. Hutchinson, a Republican, has also provided leadership in the first weeks of the legislative session, where Republicans now hold majorities in both houses. As of this writing, the Legislature is poised to go along with the governor's recommendations and pass a budget, reduce the income tax rate for the middle class, and re-appropriate funds for the so-called private option Medicaid expansion through 2016.

Making the state more attractive to new business is a priority for Hutchinson, and he said he wants Arkansas to be a leader rather than coming in on the "tail end" when competing for business.

"The governor has to be engaged to be competitive with our surrounding states on job creation and recruitment."

The \$100 million middle-class tax cut is also part of that plan, he said.

"This will send the signal that Arkansas will be competitive."

Hutchinson said this cut is "not everything."

"It is a start, and hopefully we'll expand it to other income groups, but this is a start and it's the right place to start."

He asked municipal leaders to support his legislative agenda.

"The end result will be that you will have more tools and more revenue so that you can do the work in your city and provide the services that are so desperately needed."

At several different Winter Conference sessions, members of the General Assembly visited with municipal officials and shared their views on what to expect from the legislative session. At Thursday's Opening General Session, majority and minority party leaders from both chambers shared their perspectives. Republican State Sen. Jim Hendren, Senate majority leader, predicted the first part of the session would deal "fairly swiftly" with issues on the governor's agenda, such as the income tax cut for the middle class. Hendren said the tax cut is "reasonable" and shouldn't cause "draconian cuts in any of the programs that we've come to expect." Hendren said that, despite the fact Republicans now hold majorities in both

chambers of the Legislature, it won't mean a 180-degree shift in how the state does business. The session probably won't drag out, he said.



Hendren

"There's going to be a lot of pressure for Republicans not to screw it up," he said.

Rep. Ken Bragg, House majority leader, a former Sheridan alderman, said he understands some of the issues cities and counties face. He said he has looked at the League's legislative package and doesn't see any "big issues" with it. He said he and House minority leader, Rep. Eddie Armstrong, are committed to working together.



Bragg

"What's good for cities is bipartisan," Bragg said.

Sen. Keith Ingram, Senate minority leader, who served eight years as mayor of West Memphis, said that experience "served as a great primer, and that's what I've tried to take to the Legislature." He agreed with Hendren that we can expect to see a continuation of our legislators working across the aisle with each other to accomplish what's best for the state. Ingram admitted having

concerns about the proposed income tax cut, especially since outgoing Governor Mike Beebe had already suggested delaying some existing cuts passed in the previous session.



Ingram

"I would dare say that there's not a city here that, in their budget process, makes their tax cut first before they know what their budget requirements are going to be," Ingram said.

House minority leader, Sen. Eddie Armstrong, expressed concern that many working people in our cities and towns who make less than \$21,000 a year won't get relief from the tax cut aimed at the middle class. He said he's also concerned that it's being rushed.



Armstrong

"We respect Governor Hutchinson's efforts," he said, "and we just want to make certain that if this income tax plan does come out, as Senator Ingram said, that we make certain that we're not looking at lay-offs, that we make certain that if it needs to be phased in that it's

phased in, and that we do the responsible thing for the people that elected us to come to the Capitol and serve.”

Several key legislators spoke to conferees at the opening night banquet, Wednesday Jan. 14. Speaker of the House Jeremy Gillam said that in the House there are 10 former city aldermen.



Gillam

“They make sure that we are very well aware of the needs that you have,” he said.

Gillam said he’s pleased to see that the State Aid Street Fund is working well.

“We realize that a good infrastructure makes for a good economy,” he said.



Overbey

Gillam praised the experience present in the House City, County and Local Affairs Committee and encouraged municipal leaders to work with them. Rep. Betty Overbey, who has a long relationship with the League, chairs the committee.

“I’m looking forward to working with everyone,” she said. “I expect you to call me, to come see me, and give me what you need and want me to do, and I’ll be glad to try to do anything I can to help you.”

On the Senate side, Sen. Missy Irvin chairs the City, County and Local Affairs Committee, said it was a blessing to work with municipal leaders.

“Great cities really do make a great state,” Irvin said, evoking the League’s motto.



Irvin

## Republicans’ “New Day” and Amendment 3

On Thursday, Jan. 14 the League welcomed former Arkansas Congressman Ed Bethune, who shared his views on the new Republican majority in state government. He traced the current party’s roots back to Winthrop Rockefeller, who he said “busted up the old guard” and helped build a true two-party system in the state. The number of Republicans serving in local and national positions has steadily grown in the last several decades, he said. He compared it to a wave moving across the entire south.



Bethune

“It’s been coming and coming,” Bethune said.

The Republicans’ “New Day,” as Governor Hutchinson has called it, simply reflects the will of the people of Arkansas, Bethune said.



Bethune, who after his service in Congress became a prominent Washington, D.C. ethics lawyer, praised Arkansas voters for passing Amendment 3 in November 2014, which attempts to strengthen ethics rules for state lawmakers and lobbyists.

“Don’t expect perfection,” Bethune said. “This is going to be a work in process, and it’ll all depend in the end on the people involved because no amount of law or regulation is going to change human nature.”

Public officials and lobbyists need to follow the spirit as well as the letter of the law, he said.



Woods

On the subject of Amendment 3, the League invited authors Sen. Jon Woods and Rep. Warwick Sabin, and Arkansas Ethics Commission Director Graham Sloan to discuss the measure’s impact. The amendment managed to combine three major initiatives into one ethics overhaul, Woods said. It alters the term limits structure for Senate and House service (one can now serve a total of 16 years in either chamber or a mix of both), establishes a salary commission to help make state positions more competitive, and effects lobbying and gifts rules. It was a tough sell, Woods said, but he believes it was the right thing to do.



Sabin

Amendment 3 was the result of bipartisan compromise, Sabin said, and that’s “exactly what the American people and the people of Arkansas generally say what they want to see out of their elected officials.”

It’s not perfect, but it’s progress, he said. The new law will help the state avoid some of the partisan and ideological dysfunction seen at the federal level, Sabin said.



Sloan

Sloan said that, at the municipal level, one part of the amendment that deserves attention is the ban on corporate campaign contributions. The ban on gifts from lobbyists—including gifts from someone acting on behalf of a lobbyist or employed or contracted by a lobbyist—is also broad, he said, and the list of exceptions is narrow. That could affect municipal officials on the giving side. The so-called “cooling off period” for legislators turning around and becoming lobbyists has been increased from one to two years.

Overall, Amendment 3 “is a game changer,” Sloan said.



## Legislative engagement, Marketplace Fairness, local government basics among topics covered at Winter Conference



Zimmerman

The League has a very strong team advocating for cities and presenting our legislative package before the Legislature, but it is critical that all municipal leaders be engaged in the legislative process, League staff members said in a general session focused on communicating with your legislator. League Executive Director Don Zimmerman said he is very confident we will have a good relationship with the Legislature this session, particularly with friends like Rep. Betty Overbey chairing the House City, County and Local Affairs Committee, through which most of the League’s legislative package passes.

“She is one of us,” Zimmerman said. “We’re delighted to see her being appointed to lead that committee.”

League Director of Legal Services Mark Hayes will be the League’s chief liaison to that key committee. The League’s Jack Critcher, Little Rock Mayor and League President Mark Stodola, and other League leaders will also be strong advocates for cities this session, Zimmerman said.



Hayes

“We’ve got a good staff at the Capitol on behalf of the League,” Zimmerman said, “but there is nobody that’s more important to represent you all and your wishes to the Legislature than you directly. When they get calls from you back home and talk official to official, there’s nothing more effective than that.”

Zimmerman also took the opportunity to encourage local support for the Marketplace Fairness Act, a national issue that was passed in the U.S. Senate in 2014 with 69 votes and is a major priority for the National League of Cities in 2015. The intent of the legislation is to even the playing field for retailers by requiring online sellers to collect and remit sales taxes the same way brick and mortar shops do. It has been worked on for nearly 20 years now, Zimmerman said, and it needs a final push to finally get through Congress. Arkansas Rep. Steve Womack is the lead sponsor of the bill in the House. He hopes to get it out of committee at some point during the first quarter of the year.

“There is no real opposition,” Zimmerman said, adding that big online retailers like Amazon, which previously opposed the idea, have even come around and supported Marketplace Fairness. The only opposition, he said, is a feeling that some in Congress have that they can’t vote for it because it’s like a tax increase.

“It’s not a tax increase,” Zimmerman stressed. “It’s just a means of collecting what’s already due.”

Zimmerman said that it is estimated that passage would mean an eight to 10 percent increase in local sales taxes in cities and counties in Arkansas, but more importantly it would level the playing field to give our local merchants a fair marketplace.

The annual Winter Conference has a strong emphasis on education for municipal leaders, and this year featured sessions covering a range of topics, many of them designed to be especially helpful to our many newly elected officials this year. The conference included eight hours of the League’s voluntary certified municipal official education program. Topics included “City Government 101,” understanding the role of each elected official in municipal government, an overview of Arkansas’s Freedom of Information Act, developing good relations with your local media, the importance of local wellness initiatives, and more. 🏛️

# ACCTRA, city attorneys meet at Winter Conference



The Arkansas City Clerks, Records and Treasurers Association (ACCRTA) held a meeting at the League's 2015 Winter Conference to take care of several items of business, including filling vacant offices following the November 2014 General Election. Fort Smith City Clerk and ACCRTA Vice President Sheri Gard will act as secretary, and Clarksville Clerk/Treasurer Barbara Blackard will act as treasurer. The ACCRTA will elect its 2015-2016 officers at the League's Annual Convention in June.



City attorneys from across Arkansas gathered at the 2015 Winter Conference for seven and a half hours of continuing legal education, both at the League's North Little Rock headquarters and at the Marriott Hotel and Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock. CLE covered topics including Arkansas's new Amendment 3, FOIA, workplace issues, and cell tower issues.

# 2015 Winter Conference Snapshots





# 2015 Winter Conference Snapshots





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# Volunteer Communities of the Year honored at Winter Conference



**T**he 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 municipalities. The winning Volunteer Communities of the Year for 2014 are Bay, Benton, Bentonville, Booneville, Blytheville, Clarkridge, Fayetteville, Fort Smith, Heber Springs, Maumelle, Mountain Home, and Warren. Their accomplishments are listed below. The DHS Division of Community Services and Nonprofit Support and the League honored the recipients at a Jan. 15 luncheon during the League's 2015 Winter Conference.

## **Bay**

Bay residents completed over 13,000 hours of volunteer work last year in many different activities and events. The Bay Harvest Festival, which began in 1976, is organized by volunteers each year and promotes the community in a fun and exciting event. Through the Bay Youth Association, volunteers take time to make sure each child and young adult in the community has a place to play and a team to play on. The after school program at the community center in Bay is a special program run by volunteers for students to have a place to go after school to eat snacks and play in a positive environment until their parents can pick them up after work. Bay residents are also active volunteers with Make A Wish, senior center, community library, community garden, and the Bay Area Memorial Park.

## **Benton**

Benton citizens contributed more than 315,000 hours of volunteer work last year. Volunteers served at the Benton Senior Wellness and Activity Center and assisted with educational activities, health screenings, nutrition services, and more for senior adults. The Ralph Bunche Community Development Corporation volunteers logged over 450 hours of service through fundraisers, luncheons, and an annual Martin Luther King Jr. essay contest. Over 166 Benton Civitan Club volunteers helped to provide a place of care, support, encouragement, learning, and love for people with developmental disabilities in their city. Over 500 volunteers, donors and sponsors provided safe, decent, affordable housing for families through Habitat for Humanity with an incredible 13,723 hours of service. The hard work and support of a 155 volunteers made it possible for Saline Memorial Hospital to continue providing personalized, quality healthcare. The Saline County Master Gardeners have 59 members who donated over 3,000 volunteer hours to help design and maintain horticulture projects throughout their city. The Mayor's Youth Advisory Council, comprised of students in grades 10-12, contributed over 2,700 volunteer hours last year.



## **Bentonville**

This past year, over 19,000 Bentonville volunteers have contributed more than 380,000 volunteer hours. To address a continual increase in population, volunteers have continued to assist local nonprofits, private and public institutions to meet community needs. The Samaritan Community Center's "Snack Pack for Kids" program is one way that Bentonville volunteers have given back to their community. This program started in 2005 and has delivered over 105,000 snack packs to Bentonville children in a school district considered to be at risk for hunger. Bentonville also initiated the "Outstanding Citizen Award" in 2011 and continues to recognize local volunteer contributions and promote volunteerism throughout their community.

## **Booneville**

Booneville has over 30 service and volunteer organizations. The Boys and Girls Club, 4-H, and youth sport leagues provide afterschool activities year round that encourage education, sportsmanship, good citizenship, and healthy lifestyles. The Senior Activity Center provides community and volunteer opportunities for senior adults. Volunteers for the Historic Preservation Society work to save the history of the community through buildings, stories, and events. Booneville also has a strong faith-based community that operates a resource center for low-income families. Even though a 2008 fire at the city's largest employer left 800 people without a job, the citizens of Booneville have come together and stabilized their economy through the efforts of many volunteers and community leaders. Exemplifying the dedication of Booneville volunteers is Valerie Jeremiah, who despite being deaf and having muscle weakness from a car crash, volunteers to pick up trash around the city, rain or shine.

## **Blytheville**

More than 4,000 volunteers contributed over 126,000 hours to community service this past year in Blytheville. With over 55 volunteer organizations in Blytheville, the citizens are dedicated to a variety of volunteer activities that improve their community. From youth sports leagues to youth development groups, civic organizations, and business and community volunteer opportunities, Blytheville citizens go above and beyond in reaching the people in their community and helping out wherever they can. Many of these volunteer efforts are focused on helping shape their youth into productive citizens, alleviating poverty, improving job readiness, and/or preventing domestic violence.

## **Clarkridge**

This past year, over 900 households contributed over 17,000 hours of volunteer service. The Volunteer Fire Department of Clarkridge is described as the "linchpin of the community" and it relies on volunteer efforts to function. Yearly volunteer and fundraising efforts include an appreciation dinner, recycling, concession sales, fish fries, and craft sales. Other volunteer activities in Clarkridge include Neighbor Helping Neighbors, Literacy Council, and many lunches, dinners, and food baskets delivered to those in need. In addition, 100 volunteers spent 960 hours working to upgrade the Clarkridge Community Center. An innovative project that Clarkridge volunteers have started this past year is establishing a community webpage to showcase the town information, activities, events, and a special page that is solely devoted to volunteer communications.

## **Fayetteville**

In the past year, over 36,000 volunteers have provided more than 685,000 hours of service. Volunteers in Fayetteville have found ways to connect residents who are food insecure with assistance through nonprofit farms and community gardens where volunteers plant, nurture, and harvest the produce to help hungry families. Volunteers also come from students through the University of Arkansas, and over 21,000 students gave over 200,000 hours of service last year and experienced more of their community. The Fayetteville Public Library is one of the most important assets of the community, and daily operations could not occur without the thousands of volunteer hours donated to the library.

## **Fort Smith**

In the past year, over 25,000 volunteers provided over 702,000 hours of service in Fort Smith. Unique volunteer programs include Step Up, Speak Out, a local program that creates community awareness about child sexual abuse and has been adopted by a dozen other communities; as well as the Good Samaritan Clinic, which helps low income people without insurance receive the medical care, prescriptions, and advice they need when they cannot afford treatment. Volunteers in Fort Smith also serve at the Fountain of Youth Adult Day Care Center where they focus on excellent care, fun and stimulating activities, nutritious meals, and a family environment for senior citizens. Volunteers also provide for the needs of families and individuals in the area who are facing emergency situations through the Community Services Clearing House, which also partners with schools, churches, civic and community groups.

## Heber Springs

In the past year, over 9,000 volunteers contributed over 226,000 hours of service to the community of Heber Springs. Whether it's a group of volunteers who maintains the Greers Ferry Lake Trails, the mentoring and organization of volunteers through the Heber Springs School System, the development of a walkway at Bridal Veil Falls, the renovation and hard work done to the Cleburne County Library, and many more volunteer efforts, Heber Springs has the volunteers who will rise to the occasion. Volunteers are impacting their community through Opal's House which serves the homeless through 100 percent volunteer support, through the Arkansas Dream Center of Heber Springs which provides a place for children to go after school, and through the Cleburne County Cares which is run completely by volunteers to provide affordable clothing and household items to low-income families.

## Maumelle

Last year, over 15,000 volunteers donated over 403,000 hours of volunteer service in Maumelle. Whether it is through the senior program called Counting on Each Other, the Maumelle Performing Arts, the Maumelle Chamber of Commerce, the Hometown Thanksgiving, the Youth Sports Leagues, or the Maumelle Friends of the Animals, residents are eager to volunteer and give back to their community. A special volunteer effort given by the Maumelle citizens this past year is through their help with the April 2014 tornado in nearby Mayflower. Maumelle residents immediately gathered resources and helped with cleanup efforts in Mayflower, Little Rock, and Vilonia totaling at least 18,000 hours.

## Mountain Home

Last year, over 5,600 Mountain Home residents volunteered more than 243,000 hours of their time. Baxter Regional Medical Center volunteers raised over \$288,000 for scholarships, the local hospital, and area projects. The Mountain Home Police Department assisted in an area food drive and rapid response training. The Elks Lodge contributed 8,000 volunteer hours and awarded several grants and donations to local women's shelters, such as Serenity, which are also primarily run by volunteers. The Donald W. Reynolds Library had at least 85 volunteers this past year, of which the library volunteer coordinator said, "The library simply cannot provide the level of services our patrons expect and deserve without volunteers. We are grateful for them every day."

## Warren

Almost 1,500 volunteers contributing over 85,000 hours in Warren this past year. Many of the volunteer activities in Warren, such as the museums, YMCA, Warren Forward Downtown Network, and Pink Tomato Festival, are year-round, large commitments that require dedicated volunteers to make a reality. Other volunteer contributions in Warren are less intensive but still vital to the quality of life in the town, such as the Chamber of Commerce, Bradley County Fair and Livestock Show, Bradley County Medical Center, and Warren School District. 🏛️

## MLK Jr. Commission honors Stodola

**T**he Martin Luther King Jr. Commission presented Little Rock Mayor and League President Mark Stodola with its Dreamkeepers Award at the 2015 MLK Interfaith Prayer Breakfast, held Jan. 19 at Saint Mark Baptist Church in Little Rock. The breakfast brought together a standing-room-only crowd of legislators, dignitaries, city officials, and interfaith clergy to reflect upon and celebrate King's legacy. 🏛️





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# Great urban forestry projects underway in Arkansas

By Alison Litchy

**W**onderful things in the realm of urban forestry are happening all across Arkansas. It is important to celebrate the successes of different cities throughout the state.

Locals of Fayetteville will soon be biting into fresh, crisp apples, a delightful pleasure they'll enjoy because a city orchard will be planted to provide fruit to the community this February.

Little Rock, in partnership with Entergy, will soon be promoting the Right Tree for the Right Place practice, which promotes good urban forestry development. Fort Smith is planning on relocating seven trees to maintain their tree canopy while new city growth takes place. Bentonville Parks and Recreation Department created the Legacy Orchards, which contain 180 sugar maples in a formal orchard setting. These trees will not only add beauty to Orchards Park but many environmental benefits as well. These are just a few examples of how cities are ever changing and improving our urban spaces.



PHOTO COURTESY FORT SMITH PARKS AND RECREATION

Fort Smith is moving seven trees from downtown's Compass Park to a new home in Spradling Park.

PHOTO BY CRANT OSBORNE.



Bentonville's Orchards Park now features 180 sugar maples.

Fort Smith Parks and Recreation has plans for a new splash pad downtown. It will be in Compass Park, right next to the Ferris wheel and the heart of downtown Fort Smith. Currently the park consists of a concrete area, the compass, and two rows of maple trees. Fort Smith, wanting to maintain their tree canopy, has hired a company to move seven of these trees. This is no small task as the trees have been in place for nearly a decade. The trees will be moved to a new location in an established neighborhood park where they will be able to live out the rest of their lives, enhancing the city.

For Valentine's Day the Arkansas Forestry Commission and the Arbor Day Foundation will be partnering to hold a seedling giveaway for the victims of last year's devastating tornado. Understanding that not all the residents of those communities are ready to plant trees yet, this event will occur again next year. We will be giving away 5,000 seedlings each to Vilonia and Mayflower. A memorial tree will also be planted at each city for those who lost their lives in the tornado.

Fayetteville's new community orchard is the kickoff event of a new program called Fruit Rootin'! Twelve trees will be planted February 20. The trees will be planted by volunteers, and an educational workshop will be presented afterward by horticulturist Guy Ames.

Little Rock is working with Entergy to remove 35 Hackberry trees that are growing under a transmission line. These trees are too tall for the site and require a great amount of maintenance at the expense of the tree's health. Entergy has agreed to remove the trees and the city will plant 74 Chinese pistaches in their place. The Chinese pistache is a smaller tree that will require very little maintenance in the location. This saves both Entergy and the city money while enjoying the benefits of the trees.

Great things are always happening here in the Natural State. If your city is doing something great we would love to hear about it. Contact Alison Litchy at 501-580-9609 or Patti Erwin at 479-442-4963. If your city needs assistance with any urban forestry issues we are here to serve you and are always glad to help.



*Alison Litchy is urban forestry partnership coordinator with the Arkansas Forestry Commission. Call Alison at 501-984-5867 or email [alison.litchy@arkansas.gov](mailto:alison.litchy@arkansas.gov).*



# Veteran municipal leaders share their insights

One of the great benefits of participating in the Arkansas Municipal League is the opportunity to learn from our state's many experienced municipal leaders. We asked several of our veteran officials to share some words of wisdom for the benefit of 2015's newly elected local leaders. These pieces of advice can help you better perform your duties and avoid unnecessary pitfalls.



“Always remember that it’s not about you. We serve at the will of the people and must always do what’s best for the people.”

—Mayor James Sanders, Blytheville

“Cities are where the action is. As cities have become more influential and important, it is critical that all elected officials support the action, innovation, collaboration, and results that are unique to their respective municipal government.”

—Alderman Dorothy Henderson, Warren

“New elected officials should spend some time with the *Handbook for Arkansas Municipal Officials* to learn firsthand their powers and responsibilities. No one of the three branches of government has all of the power. If everyone learns their role and stays within it, it will minimize conflict.”

—Mayor Billy Ray McKelvy, De Queen

“The advice I would give any newly elected official would be to contact the Arkansas Municipal League. There is so much information available and the staff is always courteous and more than willing to help in any way they can. The Arkansas Municipal League offers educational opportunities for all officials, and certification classes each year for all officials if you choose to participate in the Voluntary Certification Program.”

—City Clerk/Treasurer Linda Simpson, Lake City

“You are elected by citizens of the city you live in; you work for them and represent them. It is important to treat all citizens as if they voted for you and realize that when they have a problem, it is important to them, or they would not request your help. Place yourself in their shoes to fully understand the issue. Respond as quickly as possible, even if it’s not what they want, and share with them information on the response.”

—Mayor Mike Gaskill, Paragould

“I would advise a newly elected clerk/recorder/treasurer to purchase the *ACCRTA Handbook* and also to join the League’s list serv. ACCRTA has meetings for newly elected clerks/recorders/treasurers to outline the most important items pertaining to their job duties. If they cannot attend the League Winter Conference or Summer Convention, we have district meetings which are set up to obtain credits for certification. The list serv is a wonderful tool and you don’t have to ‘reinvent the wheel’ if you have a question. Be sure to subscribe.”

—*City Clerk Mitri Greenhill, Stuttgart*

“As elected officials, we are sometimes used as a ‘sounding board’ to allow people to vent. I think that, as an elected official, we should make an effort to listen to what is being said and, when appropriate, reply to what is said. You don’t always have to agree with the constituent. It is OK to disagree with them but do so in a manner in which your mother would approve.”

—*Mayor Frank Fogleman Marion*

“The information you gain by attending League events will not only make you a productive city official, it will make your job more enjoyable and will be an invaluable asset to your city. Remember, no matter the problems you face or the size of your city, the Municipal League can be a valuable partner and helpmate to you and your city. Check out the programs offered by the League. You won’t find more competitively priced services and you will be amazed at the League’s rates. And join the Municipal Legal Defense Program; you will sleep better at night.”

—*Mayor Robert Patrick, St. Charles*

“For clerks, recorders, and treasurers I would encourage them to join the Arkansas City Clerks, Recorders and Treasurers Association (ACCRTA). Our workshops and Institute provide training specific to our role within the city or town. For all officials, I would also suggest finding a mentor. It can be a mayor or alderman from a similar sized city or town. ACCRTA members are provided mentors from within our membership who have been in office for several years. And finally, I would tell everyone, ‘Don’t be afraid to ask questions.’”

—*City Clerk/Collector Diane Whitbey, North Little Rock*

“Always remember we are elected to SERVE the people of our community. Become an ACTIVE member of the Arkansas Municipal League. There is no better way to learn all aspects of municipal government. The Arkansas Municipal League is one of the strongest state leagues in the country. Their programs, services, and staff CANNOT be matched!”

—*Mayor JoAnne Bush, Lake Village*

“Communication is important. Get to know your media and use them to your advantage to communicate your message. When responding to media about any ‘hot-button’ or controversial issue, ask the reporting individual to read back or reply what they understood that you said so that you may correct any misinterpreted comments. Or, if a reporter sticks a microphone in your face, never reply if you are angry. You may, on occasion, have to say no to someone’s idea or request. To gain their favor ask the party ‘work with me on how to get to where I can say yes.’”

—*Alderman Bill Eaton, Russellville*

“I would advise mayors across our state to see the potential in the neglected parts of their cities. In Little Rock, Main Street struggled for decades without a significant investment from the community or stakeholders. It languished without an identity and without the necessary commercial development that all Main Streets need. After several years of targeted focus on this area, I’m proud to say Little Rock’s Main Street is alive with new businesses, exciting cultural amenities and a renewed spirit of growth. That potential exists in all our cities and, as mayors, we must lead the effort to identify those areas and make that potential a reality.”

—*Mayor Mark Stodola, Little Rock*

“As a Mayor, I would encourage you to set goals for yourself and for your city. Be transparent in your business and be involved with the business community of your area. A good working relationship with your business community is a great asset. If you are willing to help in their endeavors they, in return, will be more willing to help you when the need arises. It is also advantageous to seek high quality supervisors and department heads. These people are responsible for the day-to-day operations that keep your city alive. A good supervisor will usually seek to find good employees who will make your city run smoothly and more efficiently.”

—*Mayor Rick Elumbaugh, Batesville*





# Municipal Notes

## Transportation woes will worsen without funding boost, report finds

Deficient roadways cost Arkansas motorists \$2 billion annually due to higher vehicle operating costs, crashes, and congestion-related delays, states a new report released in January by TRIP, a Washington, D.C.-based transportation research organization. The findings in the report, "Arkansas Transportation by the Numbers: Meeting the State's Need for Safe and Efficient Mobility," conclude that nearly a third of major locally and state-maintained urban roads and highways and nearly a quarter of major rural roads are in poor condition, nearly a quarter of bridges are structurally deficient or obsolete, urban roads are increasingly congested causing drivers to waste fuel, and Arkansas's traffic fatality rate is the fifth highest in the nation.

"Safe and well-maintained highways are critical to Arkansas's economic development," said Commissioner Robert Moore of the Arkansas Highway Commission. "Poor roads and highways cost Arkansans money and, in some cases, lives. While, on the other hand, adequate funding to improve Arkansas highways creates private-sector jobs, improves our business climate, attracts new business and industry, and keeps motorists safe."

From 2008 to 2012, the federal government provided \$1.42 for road improvements in Arkansas for every dollar the state paid in federal motor fees. In July 2014 Congress approved an eight-month extension of the federal surface transportation program, which will now run through May 31. The legislation also transfers nearly \$11 billion into the Highway Trust Fund to preserve existing levels of investment through the end of May. Without a more secure, long term funding solution for the trust fund, the state will see fewer improvements to its already struggling transportation infrastructure, the Highway Commission and the Arkansas State Highway Department warn.

Read the full report online at [tripnet.org](http://tripnet.org).

## Little Rock makes 10 best capitals list

Readers of *USA Today* have named Little Rock number three on its list of 10 best state capital cities to visit, the paper has reported. Readers ranked Carson City, Nev., and Juneau, Alaska, one and two. Other capital cities rounding out the top 10 are Boise, Idaho; Sacramento, Calif.; Santa Fe, N.M.; Indianapolis, Ind.; Springfield, Ill.; Madison, Wis.; and Helena, Mont.

## Jonesboro mayor selected for NLC committee

Jonesboro Mayor Harold Perrin has been appointed a member of the 2015 Steering Committee of the National League of Cities (NLC) University Communities Council, *Talk Business* reported Jan. 12. The University Communities Council is made up of local leaders from cities where a university is a dominant factor, and provides input and guidance to ensure that the needs and interests of municipal officials from university communities are included in NLC programs and services.

"The University Communities Council provides an important voice for the nation's cities and towns where colleges and universities are central to the community," NLC Executive Director Clarence Anthony said.

As a member of the University Communities Council, Perrin will play a role in informing NLC's policy positions and advocating on behalf of America's cities and towns before Congress, with the Administration and at home. Issues covered by the council include economic development, transportation and infrastructure, sustainability, noise and other nuisances, housing and neighborhood concerns and partnerships between the university and the city or town.

"I am excited to be a member of this committee that will be reviewing best practices concerning the partnership between cities and universities. I'm extremely proud that the City of Jonesboro and Arkansas State University has a great 'Town and Gown' relationship," Perrin said.

## Tyson Foods gives \$1 million to Downtown Springdale Alliance

Tyson Foods has donated \$1 million to the Downtown Springdale Alliance, the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* reported Jan. 23. The gift will help the nonprofit develop infrastructure and green space in its mission to revitalize the city center.

Tyson also announced that it will move its Northwest Arkansas employment center and company store to a building at 516 E. Emma Ave., according to a news release.

"My grandfather started Tyson Foods 80 years ago on Emma Avenue," John Tyson, chairman of the company, said in the release. "We're proud of our heritage here. We look forward to the regeneration of downtown Springdale, and the positive impact it will have on this great city's economy and its future."

Tyson owns other property downtown, including its original headquarters at 319 E. Emma Ave. The company has an internal group studying reviewing potential uses for those properties, according to the news release. 🏢



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# Small actions can produce great results and great cities.

By Jim von Tungeln

February is short, sort of a “mini-month” among its larger brothers and sisters. It is, therefore, a good time to take a look at how smaller efforts can produce great cities by their cumulative effect. It is the urban planning equivalent of the adage “save your pennies and watch the dollars grow.” It can allow us to make progress by taking small steps that don’t require the money or resources of the more dramatic efforts.

Speaking of dramatic efforts, this column originated on the 82nd anniversary of the beginning of construction of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. In January 1935, work began on the monumental project, the result of a \$35 million bond issue local citizens assumed in the midst of the Great Depression. To say that the decision was a good one is like saying Frank Sinatra chose his profession well.

We rarely see such bold decisions on the part of our cities these days, except to aid the owners of national sport franchises. Most cities in our state must rely on incremental efforts. Let us look at how that might work.

First, we could heed the words of unknown origin that used to float around the Fayetteville campus back when I was an undergraduate. It advised, “If you can’t build something beautiful, at least tear down something

ugly.” I remembered that once when I took a Sunday drive to a town in the Arkansas Delta that was in distress, having been ravaged by the changes in agricultural economics of modern times. The population base had disappeared, and with it the local economy. The town was isolated and forgotten, one of the real tragedies of our era.

As I drove into town, the first sight that greeted me was a wood-frame commercial building that had collapsed and lay in ruins at a main intersection. Now the local folks couldn’t do much about the economy, but a good Saturday afternoon’s work by dedicated volunteers could have removed that eyesore that seemed to shout, “Welcome to our community. Our best days are behind us.”

On the other hand, a delightful morning once spent with Forrest City Mayor Larry Bryant consisted of nothing more than a tour of such previously derelict lots that the city had cleared. A similar effort is taking place in the Grand Prairie town of Lonoke. In both cases, the cities look better than they did years ago, a remarkable accomplishment on a limited budget.

Also, I often recall the stories of my late father-in-law, who stayed in Germany almost a year after the end of World War II, awaiting discharge from the First



Debbie Cook of the DeValls Bluff Museum demonstrates how buttons were cut from mussel shells.

Infantry Division. He told how, in the small towns, the entire populace would turn out with brooms and other tools on Saturday afternoon to clean the town center. A simple “Adopt a Street” program might provide a modern mini-example, of this.

Next, we might try the simple biblical admonition that the second greatest commandment is to love your neighbor as yourself. Are we tempted at times to ignore the power of nurturing all of those who grow up in our cities? Who knows what returns that simple act may produce? Take, for example, the case of DeValls Bluff. It was a key site during the American Civil War. Many of the troops moving east or west across our state crossed the White River there. At one time, 32,000 federal troops encamped there in three separate forts.

Something about the city stuck with Bill and Sharon Arnold. They have returned and spent part of their private fortune on their hometown, creating an annual festival, a theater that shows weekend movies to a packed house, and one of our state’s numerous “mini-treasures,” the DeValls Bluff Museum.

What the museum lacks in grandeur is made up for by the love of its curator, Debbie Cook. She proudly provides the “Cook’s Tour,” or more precisely the “Cook Tour,” to anyone able to stand up to her enthusiasm. The Civil War section is fascinating, but then one is treated to a unique piece of history. DeValls Bluff was, along with other sites on the White River, a location for the pearl button industry of years ago. The museum houses one of two known remaining machines that punched buttons from mussel shells. Braver souls than I harvested the shells from the bottom of the White River. The machine still works and is proudly put into action for school groups.

Then one learns of a favorite son from the town, RCA recording artist Jim Minor. He performed with many of the greats and was inducted into Michigan’s Country Music Hall of Fame before returning to spend his last years in DeValls Bluff. It makes one wonder how many treasures lie hidden in the small towns of our state.

Visit [www.fortlincolnfreesedfest.com](http://www.fortlincolnfreesedfest.com) to learn more about the work of the Bill and Sharon Arnold foundation.

Finally, elected officials, volunteers, and community leaders might observe the old saying, “Lead, follow, or get out of the way.” There are simple things in planning that some cities have done to produce great results. One is the creation of a landscape ordinance. These don’t have to be “big city” in scale. A simple relief from the miles of bare corridors or acres of hot asphalt parking lots can produce wonders. My advice to smaller cities is to wait until a private business owner or developer installs a modest but effective landscape plan and then work on regulations that would result in the replication of what was done voluntarily. One caution is, for smaller



PHOTOS BY JIM VON TUNGELN

Brave souls wore diving helmets like this one to harvest shells from the White River.

cities, to avoid the obsession with “numbers” that can make landscape requirements unintelligible, create ill will, and produce results that lack any degree of originality. Come to think about it, that advice would hold for larger cities as well.

If a city is really bold, it might consider design standards that protect its primary corridors and areas from a proliferation of all-metal buildings. It might also consider historic preservation guidelines to prolong the viability of its downtown and other key areas.

All of these ideas require effort and will. Some require money, but not as much money as building, in 1935, what was then the longest suspension bridge in the world. It is a simple matter of the degree of vision. These are our cities and we must decide how much effort they are worth.



*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](http://www.planyourcity.com).*

# 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, 2014-Dec. 31, 2014

### GENERAL FUND

|                                    |          |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Balance January 1, 2014            | \$ _____ |
| 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, 2014 | \$ _____ |

### STREET FUND

|                                   |          |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Balance January 1, 2014           | \$ _____ |
| 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, 2014 | \$ _____ |

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     |
|                                  |          | _____                 |
| <b>Total</b>                     | \$ _____ |                       |

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.

| <b>Form B</b>   |               |                              |
|---|---------------|------------------------------|
| City or Town of _____   |               |                              |
| Financial Statement January 1, 2014-Dec. 31, 2014   |               |                              |
| <b>WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENTS</b>  |               |                              |
| Balance January 1, 2014   | \$ _____      |                              |
| 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<br>Dec. 31, 2014   | \$ _____      |                              |
| <b>INDEBTEDNESS</b>   |               |                              |
| <b>Type of Debt</b>   | <b>Amount</b> | <b>Date Last Payment Due</b> |
| Short term financing obligations  | \$ _____      | _____                        |
| Water Revenue Bonds   | \$ _____      |                              |
| Sewer Revenue Bonds   | \$ _____      |                              |
|   |               | Date Free of Debt            |
|   |               | _____                        |
| <b>Total</b>  | \$ _____      |                              |
| 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. |               |                              |

# Japanese firefighter visits peers in Hot Springs

By Sherman Banks

**H**ot Springs Mayor Ruth Carney welcomed Captain Yoichiro Sato of Hanamaki, Japan City Fire Department at the Central Fire Station in Hot Springs on Jan. 21. Sato spent a week in the city learning area firefighting practices as part of a city staff exchange through the Hot Springs Sister City Program.

The city of Hot Springs has taken the lead in Arkansas through its relationship with their sister city in Hanamaki, Japan. The two cities have regularly held exchanges of municipal officials, business leaders, students, and other citizens to learn from each other.

Sato had a busy schedule during his week here. He visited different fire stations, attended U.S. Forest Service fire training, and went on fire calls. He stayed at the fire station and was hosted by one of the firefighters during a home stay.



Mayor Ruth Carney, left, welcomes Captain Yoichiro Sato of the Hanamaki, Japan Fire Department to Hot Springs.

Learning how the municipal services, businesses, and culture differs between cities is one of the major pillars of citizen diplomacy. By opening your city to these kinds of exchanges, you may learn how to better administer local government, support secondary and higher education, promote tourism, and support business, agriculture, and more.

“This type of exchange is very valuable to our sister city relationship,” Mary Neilson, coordinator of Hot Springs Sister Cities Program, said. “They not only learn about the technical similarities and differences in how their jobs are done, they learn that even though they speak different languages and may have different ways to accomplish their tasks, they are public servants and particularly like our firefighters and law enforcement officers are brothers and sisters of the same fraternity. They all share a bond, they work diligently to make their respective communities better and risk their lives to protect others.”



Hot Springs Fire Chief Ed Davis, left, and Sato discussed the similarities and differences in providing public services in their cities.




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

# Certain municipal officials in first class cities may opt out of APERS

The Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System (APERS) provides cities with the opportunity to cover its employees and officials (Ark. Code Ann. § 24-4-303). The law states generally that the mayor and clerk "shall become participating employees upon taking office." On the other hand, the statute permits mayors and clerks of first class cities to opt out of APERS in order to participate in the local retirement plans provided for in Ark. Code Ann. §§ 24-12-121 and 24-12-123. In order to make this election, the mayor or clerk must provide written notice to APERS within 90 calendar days of the date the official assumed office. Once made, this choice is irrevocable. Any employer contributions previously made on behalf of an official who elects not to participate will be refunded to the city and the official will forfeit service credit in the system.

Newly elected city attorneys or city treasurers in cities of the first class who are otherwise covered by a local pension fund may also take advantage of these provisions.

To contact APERS, call 501-682-7800 or visit [www.apers.org](http://www.apers.org). 

## CALENDAR

**National League of Cities**  
Congressional City Conference  
Saturday-Wednesday  
March 7-11, 2015  
Washington, D.C.


**Arkansas Municipal League**  
81st Convention  
Wednesday-Friday  
June 24-26, 2015  
Statehouse Convention Center  
Little Rock, AR

# Smackover R/T Carolyn Willett retires



Retiring Smackover Recorder/Treasurer Carolyn Willett, center, is presented an engraved clock at a reception in December 2014 for her 36 years of service to the city. Presenting are, from left, Police Chief Michael Fife, Mayor and Mrs. Bobby Neal, and, at right, Public Works Director Benjy Hildebrand.

Smackover's longtime Recorder/Treasurer Carolyn Willett retired at the end of 2014 after 36 years of service to her city. Willett began her career with the city in 1978 as administrative assistant. She was elected city treasurer in 1980, and then became Smackover's recorder/treasurer in 1985 when the city council combined the positions. Willett has been an active member of the Arkansas City Clerks, Recorders and Treasurers Association and has served in each of the organizations leadership positions, including being elected its president in 1997-1998. In 2000 she was named Arkansas Clerk of the Year.

Willett has also been very active in the Arkansas Municipal League. She has served on the Executive Committee and the Second Class Cities Advisory Council, and she has received the League's Marvin Vinson Commitment to Excellence Award and the Jack R. Rhodes Sr. Distinguished Service Award. At January's 2015 Winter Conference, the League presented Willett with a Lifetime Member designation. 

# Rogers park balances nature, design

By Dave Roberts, ASLA

The City of Rogers is the proud owner of a new 59-acre sports park off of Highway 62 and Dixieland Road. The park is home to pavilions, four softball fields, and two championship softball fields, both with accompanying concessions, all of which connect to the Rogers trail system. Originally the design included multiple soccer fields to the west of the park, however those will now be located at Veterans Park across town.

The Rogers Sports Park, funded by a 2011 bond issue, was a top priority project to the residents of Rogers. The bond was also used to fund additional community development projects.

“Nature of the Ozarks” was adopted as the theme for the park as a way to highlight the wetland mitigation ponds and streams surrounded by native vegetation. In addition to the theme’s application in the architectural and recreational elements, the natural elements were integrated into the design of the complex due to the 59 acres located within a flood zone with wetland areas. Many of the challenges in designing the park stemmed from it being quite literally located in the “Nature of the Ozarks.”

Crafton Tull worked closely with the Rogers Planning and Parks Departments to evaluate the property in an effort to identify solutions that would allow for the gain of usable land without sacrificing valuable natural resources. To reduce flooding, the native stream that previously flowed through the site had been relocated at some point over the past 20 years. Over time the movement of the native stream channel caused the site to become flat and, in some instances, created new wetland areas. Protecting our natural water resources, such as wetlands and streams, is vital in conserving an area’s

natural ecosystem. After initial property assessment, the team decided that the implementation of more sustainable development solutions would work in tandem with the nature of the Ozarks.

In order to produce a successful finished project, it was essential to find the balance between floodplain development, wetland mitigation, construction budget, and park necessities. One obstacle was how to best use design as a way to control the flooding and stormwater runoff. In lieu of traditional inlet and underground storm sewer piping, Crafton Tull worked with the city to pursue a more sustainable approach to handling stormwater through the use of flumes and bio-retention swales around the site. Bio-retention swales are beneficial in their ability to naturally capture and slow water runoff. In addition, they are able to filter pollutants and increase rainwater infiltration. Furthermore, the use of swales improves the user experience by creating a natural habitat and buffer around the ball fields, which in turn serves to better integrate the park seamlessly with the existing natural landscape.

Crafton Tull performed a comprehensive analysis of the existing floodplains on the site and obtained a Letter of Map Revision from FEMA. The solution was to isolate the floodplain along the park’s southern boundary in a series of ponds that are surrounded by new, protected wetlands. This allowed the ball fields to be constructed as needed, while also protecting adjacent properties from flooding and creating wetland habitats on site for flora and fauna to develop.

While the use of bio-retention swales and created wetlands are not necessarily new design techniques, the combination of ball field use and benefit of swales and wetlands at the Rogers Sports Park made this project unique. The use of sustainable practices proved to be the most effective solution when designing a sports park within a floodplain. The design benefits the environment, as well as the quality of life for all in the city that will use the park for years to come. Furthermore, the design brought significant savings on construction cost when compared to the traditional inlet and underground storm sewer piping. What better way to use the money saved than to further develop the city using the same successful design techniques modeled in the Rogers Sports Park?

*Dave Roberts is Vice President, Planning, Crafton Tull.*

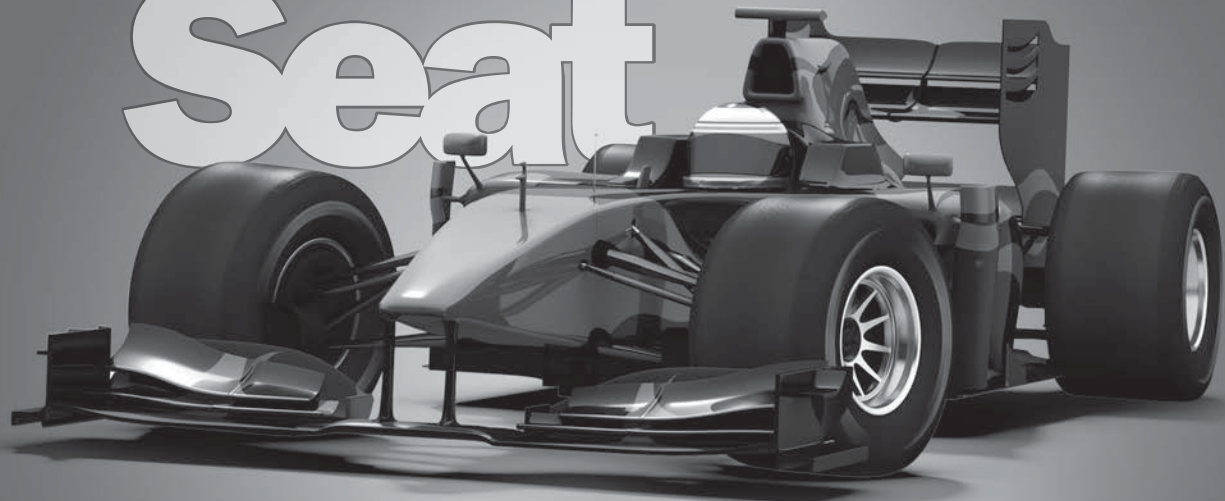
PHOTO COURTESY CRAFTON TULL.



Rogers’ new sports park utilizes the site’s natural wetlands in its design.



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# Palliative care focuses on quality of life

By Sarah Beth Harrington, M.D.

**T**here's more to treating an illness than finding the cure. For patients dealing with serious illnesses, there is specialized medical care focused on relief from symptoms, pain, and the stress that comes with having to deal with it all.

Palliative (pronounced pal-lee-uh-tiv) care, tries to improve quality of life for both the patient and the family. It includes end-of-life issues, but it doesn't stop there. It focuses on relieving suffering and pain for chronic illness as well.

While hospice deals with planning and comfort for patient in their last six months of life, palliative care focuses on improving a patient's quality of life and can be offered at any stage of any illness, no matter how long a patient is expected to live.

Patients can benefit most from palliative care when suffering from hard-to-treat symptoms like pain, fatigue, depression, anxiety, and nausea.

In the last 50 years, palliative care programs in Arkansas, as well as the nation, have doubled, and it has had a positive effect on quality of care. UAMS began its palliative care program several years ago and has been instrumental in producing future palliative care professionals. It has the only fellowship program in the state for doctors and is the only hospital with Joint Commission certification for palliative care.

## Support for families

Dealing with a loved one's illness can put a lot of stress on family members. The supportive service also helps family members and caregivers who work closely with the patient. For example, one 90-year-old patient at UAMS was diagnosed with squamous cell carcinoma, a form of skin cancer. His son helps care for him. Here's what the son had to say:

"We didn't use palliative care for my mother when she was fighting cancer. With my father, I feel I have a lot more support. There are people to help answer questions, listen to our goals, and give advice. I think, without a doubt, my father's quality of life has improved."

## Patient centered

The care is very centered on the patient. It's about presenting options to patients, respecting the choices they make, and trying to facilitate what their preferences are.

The swiftly expanding palliative care program at UAMS, like in many hospitals, works closely with patients' doctors and treatment teams in all phases of the disease. By aggressively treating symptoms, patients are better able to function and tolerate their cancer treatments.

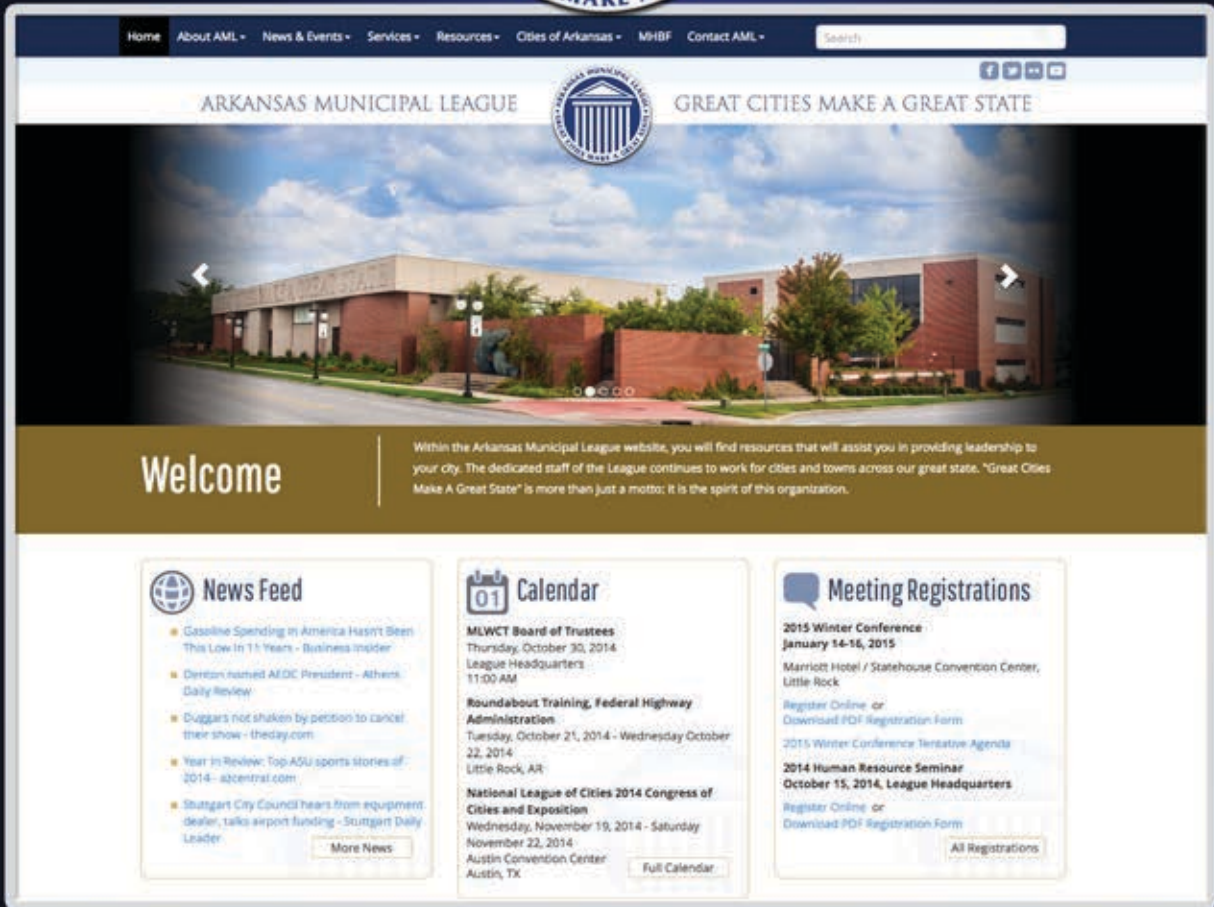
For instance, a breast cancer patient who has undergone a mastectomy and is dealing with pain related to radiation or chemotherapy can go to a palliative care specialist and can explore pain management options.

Though it's still a relatively new and emerging subspecialty and research is limited, the few studies that have been completed have shown positive results. One in particular deals with advanced lung cancer patients given less than one year to live. The 2010 study caught many oncologists by surprise. Some of the patients were given palliative care treatments, which included the usual oncologic care plus pain and symptom management and advanced care planning with a palliative specialist. The palliative care group lived almost three months longer and quality of life was much stronger. The theory is that if pain and symptoms are better controlled, patients will be more functional, may tolerate chemotherapy and other treatments better, and might live longer. And those who discuss goals of care early may choose not to pursue particularly aggressive treatments in the last months of life so they can focus on quality of life and comfort. Such patients just might live longer and better.

To learn more about palliative care, visit [www.uamshealth.com/palliative-care](http://www.uamshealth.com/palliative-care).



*Sarah Beth Harrington, M.D., is Medical Director of Palliative Care, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS).*



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**Great Cities Make a Great State!**

# State Aid Street Committee approves 80 new projects

The State Aid Street Committee met Jan. 14 during the League's 2015 Winter Conference and approved 80 projects for a total of \$18,614,500. Since March of 2013, the Arkansas State Aid City Street Program has approved 252 projects for the cities and towns of Arkansas. In less than two years, more than half the municipalities in Arkansas have been or will be improved by this program. The 252 projects approved total \$56,449,410.



Cities and towns receiving approval on Jan. 14 are:

- |                      |                    |                          |                     |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Alexander</b>     | <b>Conway</b>      | <b>Jonesboro</b>         | <b>Perry</b>        |
| <b>Alicia</b>        | <b>Cove</b>        | <b>Keo</b>               | <b>Pottsville</b>   |
| <b>Alpena</b>        | <b>Dardanelle</b>  | <b>Kingsland</b>         | <b>Ratcliff</b>     |
| <b>Altus</b>         | <b>Dyess</b>       | <b>Lake View</b>         | <b>Reyno</b>        |
| <b>Augusta</b>       | <b>Edmondson</b>   | <b>Lavaca</b>            | <b>Russellville</b> |
| <b>Bald Knob</b>     | <b>El Dorado</b>   | <b>Lead Hill</b>         | <b>Searcy</b>       |
| <b>Bauxite</b>       | <b>Elm Springs</b> | <b>Lewisville</b>        | <b>Sheridan</b>     |
| <b>Beedeville</b>    | <b>Everton</b>     | <b>Lowell</b>            | <b>Sherwood</b>     |
| <b>Benton</b>        | <b>Felsenthal</b>  | <b>Magazine</b>          | <b>St. Joe</b>      |
| <b>Berryville</b>    | <b>Garfield</b>    | <b>Mansfield</b>         | <b>St. Paul</b>     |
| <b>Bodcaw</b>        | <b>Gateway</b>     | <b>McRae</b>             | <b>Strawberry</b>   |
| <b>Booneville</b>    | <b>Gentry</b>      | <b>Mineral Springs</b>   | <b>Strong</b>       |
| <b>Bradford</b>      | <b>Gillett</b>     | <b>Minturn</b>           | <b>Sulphur Rock</b> |
| <b>Branch</b>        | <b>Grubbs</b>      | <b>Montrose</b>          | <b>Summit</b>       |
| <b>Brinkley</b>      | <b>Hardy</b>       | <b>Nashville</b>         | <b>Trumann</b>      |
| <b>Burdette</b>      | <b>Havana</b>      | <b>Newport</b>           | <b>Tupelo</b>       |
| <b>Caulksville</b>   | <b>Hazen</b>       | <b>Oak Grove Heights</b> | <b>Ulm</b>          |
| <b>Cherry Valley</b> | <b>Highfill</b>    | <b>Ogden</b>             | <b>Ward</b>         |
| <b>Chester</b>       | <b>Hunter</b>      | <b>Oil Trough</b>        | <b>Weiner</b>       |
| <b>Clinton</b>       | <b>Joiner</b>      |                          | <b>White Hall</b>   |

For more information, visit [www.citystreet.arkansas.gov](http://www.citystreet.arkansas.gov) or call 501-569-2346.

# MLK Jr. organization honors Stamps mayor



PHOTO BY BARBARA PITTS RILEY.


Stamps Mayor David Bright, left, with his wife, Debbie, was recognized for his efforts to honor Maya Angelou in the city.



Stamps Mayor David Bright was presented with the Global Freedom Award at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Acts of Kindness Awards Gala, held Jan. 19 in Texarkana. More than 280 elected officials and community leaders attended the event presented by the Ozan-Inghram Iron Mountain Neighborhood Development Corporation's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend Committee. Bright was recognized for his work to honor writer Maya Angelou in Stamps, her childhood hometown. In 2014 Stamps dedicated a city park and a lake to Angelou. 🏛️

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# Benton Process Washwater Pump Station saves water, money

By Matthew Vineyard, PE

In 2010 Benton Utilities began to realize their use of potable water was an issue that needed to be addressed and changed. It was estimated they were using in excess of 10 million gallons of potable water in various applications at the wastewater plant each month. Another way to look at it was they were using approximately 460,000 gallons of potable water a day as process water in dewatering and sludge handling facilities as well as sprayers and yard hydrants throughout the plant.

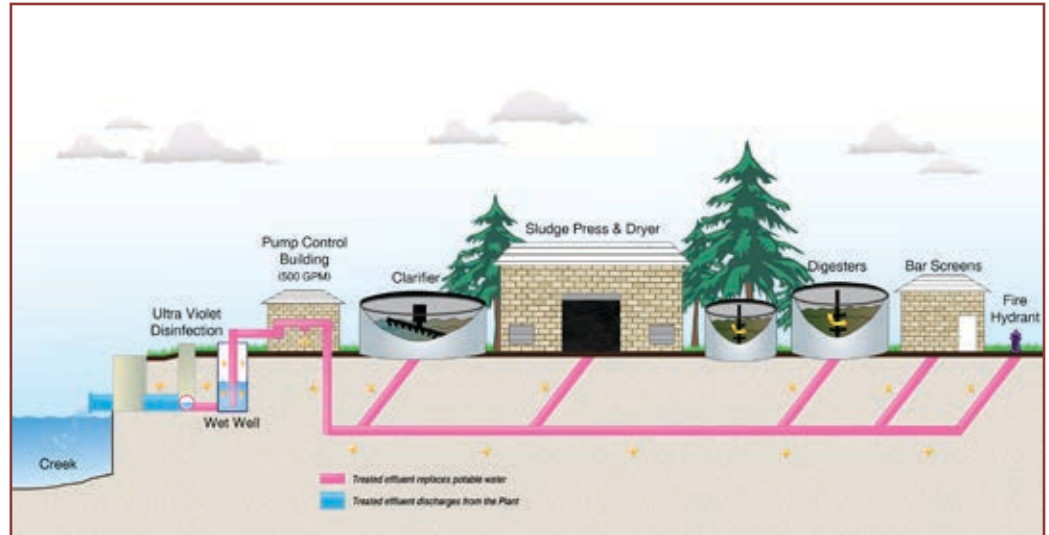
Benton needed a design that would use non-potable water rather than potable water during treatment phases and curb the large amount of potable water usage. What started out as a collaborative engineering effort to save Benton Utilities money and potable water resulted in a savings of both and a sustainable project of which Benton can be proud. This plan would benefit the city and be a positive contribution to water and its conservation.

## How it works

Simply put, the process begins when water is drawn from an existing 36-inch DIP downstream of the UV system and before the parshall flume where the effluent exits the plant. A 12-inch tapping saddle and gate valve was installed on the existing 36-inch DIP and connected to an eight-foot diameter wetwell. Water is drawn from the wetwell by two 500 GPM progressive cavity pumps then strained and pumped to the dryer and sludge press building, screens, digesters, and clarifiers. Existing piping to the dryer and press was used for non-potable water, and sections of piping were removed as required to ensure that a cross connection was not made between potable and non-potable water lines.

The non-potable water is used to clean the sludge from the belts and cool the dryer during operation. Non-potable water was connected to the outside of each screen building and the existing waterlines were cut and capped. The non-potable water is used for the sprayers on the screens. Separate yard hydrants labeled "non-potable water" were installed at the clarifiers and digesters for wash down purposes. A fire hydrant was

also installed for various situations where large volumes of non-potable water are needed, such as when the street department may need water for maintenance. The illustration below shows a simplified schematic view of the process washwater pump station.



This project has saved Benton Utilities and the City of Benton in water production costs and it comes at a time when water conservation was especially needed since the existing water plant was reaching capacities during peak demands. This gave the utility an opportunity to save potable water, conserve power, and save money. The return on their investment has nearly come to fruition—the project will be paid off by June 2015.

The washwater system cost \$414,717 to construct in 2011. The project was fully online beginning January 2012 and has been in operation for three years. A total of 222,451 million gallons (MG) of potable water have been saved since the system was in operation. Actual numbers show an annual savings of 62.643 MG in 2012, 72.612 MG in 2013, and 86.19 in 2014. Wholesale cost of potable water is \$1.64 per thousand gallons. Based on this, the savings in water production cost per year is approximately \$121,000. Therefore, the payback return on investment is projected to be summer 2015.



*Matthew Vineyard, PE, is a Project Manager in McClelland Consulting Engineers, Inc.'s Little Rock office. Contact Matthew at 501-371-0272 or email [mvineyard@mcclelland-engrs.com](mailto:mvineyard@mcclelland-engrs.com).*



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**NOTICE:**

**Annexation Reports Due March 1**

**Arkansas Code Ann. section 14-40-2201 provides:**

(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. ☹

# NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2015

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

## New "edibles" regulations in Colorado

Just about the time you think you have heard it all, here comes another interesting tidbit to consider. In Colorado, the pot shops have had to clear their inventory of edible pot by Feb. 1. It seems a looming regulatory deadline has brought about a huge "fire sale" on many marijuana edibles in the state. The regulatory changes involve new packaging and labeling mandates for edible pot products. Many people, and especially children, have consumed edible marijuana products that resulted in bad outcomes (i.e. emergency room visits, serious medical consequences, and even death possibly linked to the drug). The labeling and packaging changes are intended to eliminate some of these issues. Of course, the best way to eliminate the possible negative outcomes would be to not consume these products at all.

## Apple denies pot-related iPhone apps

The Apple App Store has restrictions related to applications allowed on their products, including applications related to marijuana. In fact, the restrictions may make the marketplace a very heated tech battleground for marijuana applications and users. Developers have complained about being denied the right to have their applications available to the public. Once an application is sent to Apple for acceptance, a comprehensive review is conducted to check for certain words or feature sets. The application rejections continue without Apple releasing the reason why the app is unacceptable. You can be sure that this matter will continue to be challenged. There are, however, slot games already available at online sites that are referencing pot "for your pleasure."

## On the road? Don't take that call!

No matter how many times you might remind your employees not to take cell phone calls while driving, they continue to do so. During our Christmas travels, I amused myself while riding as a passenger in the car by checking out the drivers on the road with us to see if they were talking on their phones while at the wheel. Guess what. It was amazing how many were chatting away while driving. They were driving 18-wheelers, cars, trucks, and vehicles pulling trailers.

There are federal and state regulations that impact the use of a cell phone while driving, and, unfortunately, the regulations seem to be ignored by many drivers. For a commercial driver's license (CDL) holder, the fine for using a hand-held mobile phone while driving can result in a driver disqualification. Penalties can be up to \$2,750 for drivers and up to \$11,000 for employers who allow or require drivers to use a hand-held communications device while driving. This violation is serious and can be very costly to all concerned.

Mobile communication devices can be a blessing and fun when used appropriately. Using them at the wrong time and wrong place may ruin your life, or worse, end it. Think about it.

**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.**





# Bentonville's Baggett retires



Bentonville Alderman Mary Baggett, left, and Mayor Bob McCaslin hold a framed copy of the resolution the city council passed to honor her longtime service to her city.

**L**ongtime Bentonville public servant Mary Baggett has retired after many years serving her city and county in numerous positions for a total of 24 years. She was the first woman elected to the city council in 1972. Baggett then worked at the Bentonville Public Library for a decade, and she was re-elected to the council in 2000 and served another 14 years there. She was also the first woman elected to the Benton County Quorum Court in 1982, and she was re-elected to that position in 1994 and 1996. 🏛️

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# Public-private partnerships help cities thrive

By Chad Gallagher

It's no secret that community development cannot be done by local governments alone. In fact, the best community development is a result of strong collaboration between the private sector and local government. Much can be debated as to what role government should play in regards to the local economy. Local government leaders should offer strong leadership on projects that significantly impact the future of the city. Municipal leadership is more than ensuring basic municipal services are provided. This, of course, is of utmost importance, but there is a dimension of municipal leadership that requires visionary thinking for the future, inspiration, and a call to action. It is this kind of effort that leads to landmark projects, new jobs, city renewal, and viability.

It is both appropriate and important for the public to make investments in long-term community development. While taxpayers shouldn't be responsible for subsidizing members of the private sector, the reality is that certain levels of infrastructure make a difference in recruiting new businesses and expanding the local economy. Certainly cities must make the appropriate investments in municipal infrastructure such as streets, water, waste management, and other public works. Cities should also consider making public investments in historic preservation, economic incentives for attracting new companies, as well the expenditure of funds on one-time projects that help a company get set up in the city.

This same debate is had about tax dollars at the state level. The debate focuses on how much money should the state spend to gain or keep a company that will provide jobs to Arkansans. Ultimately it comes down to the return on investment, although I understand that such is debatable, even among friends. Arkansas as a state and our cities must work hard to create an environment that is job friendly and business friendly.

A good return of investment for cities would mean new or retained jobs, more local tax dollars, and improved quality of life. Municipal leaders must understand the environment in which they labor. When pursuing a new business, competing for grant funds for a new project, and even competing for new citizens, you must remember that you are competing. People and businesses do have choices. How attractive is your city? Is the town proactive and progressive? Are your municipal services up to snuff and your rates reasonable? Are your parks pristine and your downtown thriving? Does your city provide relocation incentives, special breaks on services, or even help with acquiring a facility for new businesses? You must consider all of these things, because your competitors do.

One way a city might address some of these needs is through the creation of a private organization committed to public causes. Many cities across the state have done this successfully. This organization should be a nonprofit organization that at times may be a better vehicle for certain grants and funds to help with some aspects of community development efforts. These vehicles aren't subject to the same frustrations or requirements that can on occasion stymie a project that could benefit many. In some cities these entities make significant investments in the recruitment of new businesses or in matching funds for major grant programs. These organizations can be the perfect place for marrying private efforts and public good.

Ultimately, whether you are in the private sector or the public, we all desire to see our cities thrive. We want to see good jobs, great services, beautiful infrastructure, and a promising future. Creative partnerships—sometimes through the creation of these nonprofit organizations—can help ensure a bright future becomes a reality.



*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](mailto:chad.gallagher@legacyincorporated.com).*

# Arkadelphia's Hollingshead retires

Arkadelphia Mayor C.T. Hollingshead retired in January after 16 years as the city's mayor. He was elected to the Arkadelphia City Board as a director in 1998. At that time the board selected the mayor and he was appointed. After the city implemented the ward system, he was elected to the city board for three more terms. 🏛️

PHOTO BY TIFFANY McNEAL.



From left, Hollingshead and League Director of Operations Ken Wasson, who is a former Arkadelphia city manager.

## Stamps Volunteer Fire Department has new home



The Stamps Volunteer Fire Department moved into its new station in late 2014 after the completion of this five-year project. Stamps Fire Chief Brady Gore says it was built with the help of a Department of Rural Services grant, the City of Stamps, the Stamps Rural Fire District, and several generous donors who helped them build one of the best, state-of-the-art volunteer fire stations in the state. 🏛️

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# What is economic impact analysis?

Identifying the economic impact of prospective and existing businesses helps municipal leaders understand and communicate the value of business and assists cities in business recruitment and retention, planning, and budgeting.

By Mark S. Goodman, CEcD

**I**n economic development, we focus much attention on “business development,” which covers everything from new startups to business attraction (recruitment), and from the retention of existing businesses to business expansion. Analyzing what a business (whether existing, future, or potentially lost) means to the city and region in terms of jobs, income, and revenues is critical to successful business development. This kind of evaluation is known as economic impact analysis.

Economic impact analysis is a method of calculating the economic effects associated with a change in economic activity, whether for a policy change (e.g. a tax change) or an employment and income change (e.g. the location of a new business). Those measuring economic impact use quantitative models (there are several available to choose from) to assist in calculating these effects. Each of the models relies on state and national data sets, and on what are known as input-output tables, which identify economic linkages between each and every business sector.

## Measuring economic impact

First of all, economic impact analysis is not an exact science. However, when properly performed, it will provide the best estimate of activity, whether it is the current activity of an existing industry or the potential of a prospective business. So what is a business’s contribution to your city and region? An existing industry employing 100 people, for example, with their employee benefits packages and the spending of their salaries, as well as the spending of the industry itself, generates other economic activity in the city and beyond. This is what we refer to as the multiplier effect. Those 100 jobs are really responsible for fostering a number of other jobs in the area, in everything from construction to manufacturing, retail/service, transportation, finance, government, and others. From a city’s perspective, this economic activity equates to city revenues and fees, etc.

## The multiplier effect

When it comes to multipliers and economic effects, all businesses are not the same. Companies that build a product locally and sell it outside of the area bring new money into the area as a result. Consequently, they generally have a larger multiplier effect on the region. Businesses such as retail and service industries typically have a smaller effect as they generally move money around the economy through local transactions. An exception to this is in the tourism industry, where retail and service activity is bringing new money into the area by attracting tourists whose spending contributes to the local economy.

Multipliers are calculated for employment, income, and output (which is the local equivalent of gross national product). Typically, the economic developer or city leader is interested in employment and income activity and multipliers. If a company employing 100 people is responsible for creating an additional 100 jobs in the area economy, they would have a multiplier of 2.0 (i.e. total employment of 200 divided by direct employment of 100). You will rarely see employment or income multipliers greater than 3.0. If you have a study conducted in support of a project and see a multiplier greater than 5.0, ask for a second opinion, especially if you are using the results to initiate public sector financial support.

It is also important not to confuse the multiplier with the turnover of dollars in your local economy. Multipliers can be innocently misrepresented as the number of transactions (rounds of spending) in the local economy the money from an initial business transaction goes through (which can be as high as 10 times) before it leaves the city altogether. This is not a multiplier of 10, but rather 10 rounds of spending turnover. There may or may not be any relationship between multipliers and turnover.

# Stuttgart coat drive helps keep children warm



When new Stuttgart Police Chief Keith Connell started work in January, he noticed several children walking in the city without proper coats on a cold winter day. Together with Officer Krysta Campbell, the school resource officer for the Stuttgart School District, he came up with a plan for a coat drive for the children of Stuttgart. The plan received support from numerous agencies, citizens, and businesses in the city, including the Stuttgart Fire Department, a motorcycle club, local churches, the newspaper, and radio stations, and on Jan. 24 the city collected 150 coats. The city also received gloves, caps, and other items. Stuttgart gave out about 100 coats on the day of the drive to children in need. Chief Connell hopes to make the coat drive an annual event in Stuttgart. 🏠



PHOTOS COURTESY STUTTGART POLICE DEPARTMENT.

## Regional impacts of business and industry

Economic impact is regional, and regional participation is critical to realize the maximum impact for all. After all, a company may locate in one city, but its employment comes from many. Measuring regional economic impact begins with understanding the region's workforce commuting patterns. The fact is that employees of a given company take their paychecks home every pay period to wherever they live before they spend it. Many employees will be local, but many will likely come from elsewhere. So, the business development successes of one city lift the economies nearby.

## Where do I get help?

Economic impact analysis is tedious and complicated, but it is arguably critical to successful business retention and development. A comprehensive impact analysis requires a model and specific data from the model vendor and/or Bureau of Economic Analysis, in addition to other data sources. For this reason, cities and economic developers generally rely on third party providers to do this work. Consultants and university or government research agencies often are used for impact analysis. However, models and data can be purchased (along with the training to use these models) for those interested in doing the analysis themselves. Your choice of external assistance will depend on how much you are able to spend, how quickly you need the results, and how often you want to conduct impact analysis. For further information on providers and impact studies in general, call us at 501-569-8519.



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# 2015 State Turnback Funds

| Actual Totals Per Capita |                  |                 |                 |                 |                  |                 |
|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
|                          | STREET           |                 | SEVERANCE TAX   |                 | GENERAL          |                 |
| MONTH                    | 2014             | 2015            | 2014            | 2015            | 2014             | 2015            |
| January                  | \$5.1428         | \$4.8662        | \$0.3163        | \$0.5728        | \$1.9533         | \$2.0995        |
| February                 | \$4.5811         |                 | \$0.4833        |                 | \$1.0052         |                 |
| March                    | \$4.7165         |                 | \$0.4463        |                 | \$1.0055         |                 |
| April                    | \$4.8363         |                 | \$0.5347        |                 | \$1.0055         |                 |
| May                      | \$5.1527         |                 | \$0.5897        |                 | \$1.0053         |                 |
| June                     | \$4.9881         |                 | \$0.6126        |                 | \$1.0050         |                 |
| July                     | \$5.5230         |                 | \$0.5581        |                 | \$3.9543         |                 |
| August                   | \$4.9486         |                 | \$0.6130        |                 | \$1.0932         |                 |
| September                | \$5.0410         |                 | \$0.5763        |                 | \$1.0910         |                 |
| October                  | \$5.1889         |                 | \$0.5542        |                 | \$1.0930         |                 |
| November                 | \$4.9326         |                 | \$0.4906        |                 | \$1.0928         |                 |
| December                 | \$4.8110         |                 | \$0.4013        |                 | \$1.0919         |                 |
| <b>Total Year</b>        | <b>\$59.8626</b> | <b>\$4.8662</b> | <b>\$6.1764</b> | <b>\$0.5728</b> | <b>\$16.3960</b> | <b>\$2.0995</b> |

| Actual Totals Per Month |                         |                       |                        |                       |                      |                       |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
|                         | STREET                  |                       | SEVERANCE TAX          |                       | GENERAL              |                       |
| MONTH                   | 2014                    | 2015                  | 2014                   | 2015                  | 2014                 | 2015                  |
| January                 | \$9,666,249.40          | \$9,159,751.23        | \$594,574.44           | \$1,078,253.79        | *\$3,671,282.93      | *\$3,951,880.56       |
| February                | \$8,610,432.52          |                       | \$908,313.92           |                       | \$1,889,234.55       |                       |
| March                   | \$8,864,931.29          |                       | \$838,837.95           |                       | \$1,889,913.97       |                       |
| April                   | \$9,090,103.48          |                       | \$1,005,050.29         |                       | \$1,889,913.97       |                       |
| May                     | \$9,684,675.50          |                       | \$1,108,429.75         |                       | \$1,889,592.55       |                       |
| June                    | \$9,380,093.69          |                       | \$1,151,947.00         |                       | \$1,889,914.20       |                       |
| July                    | \$10,386,236.87         |                       | \$1,049,503.01         |                       | ***\$7,436,192.77    |                       |
| August                  | \$9,310,016.61          |                       | \$1,153,167.19         |                       | \$2,056,570.50       |                       |
| September               | \$9,483,759.74          |                       | \$1,084,169.71         |                       | \$2,052,581.22       |                       |
| October                 | \$9,763,094.43          |                       | \$1,042,826.36         |                       | \$2,056,448.50       |                       |
| November                | \$9,282,963.15          |                       | \$923,263.56           |                       | \$2,056,540.00       |                       |
| December                | \$9,054,075.63          |                       | \$755,208.69           |                       | \$2,054,945.78       |                       |
| <b>Total Year</b>       | <b>\$112,576,632.31</b> | <b>\$9,159,751.23</b> | <b>\$11,615,291.87</b> | <b>\$1,078,253.79</b> | <b>30,833,130.94</b> | <b>\$3,951,880.56</b> |

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

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

\*\*\* Includes \$3,516,800.29 supplemental and \$2 million appropriation from Category B of Budget Stabilization for July 2014

# 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](http://www.dfa.arkansas.gov)

| Sales and Use Tax Year-to-Date 2015 with 2014 Comparison (shaded gray) |                     |                      |                     |                      |                     |                        |                 |                  |
|--|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Month  | Municipal Tax       |                      | County Tax          |                      | Total Tax           |                        | Interest        |                  |
| January  | \$48,260,965        | \$44,899,051         | \$42,805,543        | \$41,135,484         | \$91,066,508        | \$86,034,535           | \$12,222        | \$4,805          |
| February   |                     | \$51,556,660         |                     | \$46,326,186         |                     | \$97,882,846           |                 | \$5,765          |
| March  |                     | \$41,142,676         |                     | \$37,596,230         |                     | \$78,738,906           |                 | \$5,571          |
| April  |                     | \$44,819,678         |                     | \$41,824,879         |                     | \$86,644,557           |                 | \$6,185          |
| May  |                     | \$48,373,032         |                     | \$43,431,803         |                     | \$91,804,835           |                 | \$6,011          |
| June   |                     | \$45,121,494         |                     | \$40,770,568         |                     | \$85,892,061           |                 | \$7,080          |
| July   |                     | \$50,985,699         |                     | \$45,660,838         |                     | \$96,646,537           |                 | \$7,291          |
| August   |                     | \$48,591,520         |                     | \$44,364,160         |                     | \$92,955,680           |                 | \$7,038          |
| September  |                     | \$48,279,490         |                     | \$43,224,258         |                     | \$91,503,748           |                 | \$9,120          |
| October  |                     | \$50,649,942         |                     | \$45,482,360         |                     | \$96,132,302           |                 | \$8,604          |
| November   |                     | \$48,903,456         |                     | \$44,043,654         |                     | \$92,947,110           |                 | \$19,648         |
| December   |                     | \$49,348,276         |                     | \$44,623,076         |                     | \$93,971,352           |                 | \$14,221         |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$48,260,965</b> | <b>\$572,670,974</b> | <b>\$42,805,543</b> | <b>\$518,483,496</b> | <b>\$91,066,508</b> | <b>\$1,091,154,469</b> | <b>\$12,222</b> | <b>\$101,339</b> |
| Averages   | \$48,260,965        | \$47,722,581         | \$42,805,543        | \$43,206,958         | \$91,066,508        | \$90,929,539           | \$12,222        | \$8,445          |





|                    |              |              |                     |            |            |                    |             |            |                    |              |              |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|------------|------------|--------------------|-------------|------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Chester            | 1,264.62     | 1,458.60     | Pleasant Plains     | 4,147.36   | 3,942.73   | Dell               | 2,606.82    | 2,606.82   | Waldron            | 27,461.82    | 27,662.32    |
| Dyer               | 6,967.34     | 8,036.04     | Sulphur Rock        | 5,418.89   | 5,151.55   | Dyess              | 4,410.97    | 4,792.82   | Searcy County      | 36,187.92    | 34,673.79    |
| Kibler             | 7,643.39     | 8,815.80     | Izard County        | 43,065.57  | 40,860.58  | Etowah             | 3,776.22    | 4,103.12   | Big Flat           | 5.91         | 5.66         |
| Mountainburg       | 5,018.71     | 5,788.52     | Jackson County      | 249,970.08 | 272,052.80 | Gosnell            | 38,171.00   | 41,475.99  | Gilbert            | 165.40       | 158.48       |
| Mulberry           | 13,163.18    | 15,182.25    | Amagon              | 896.56     | 975.77     | Joiner             | 6,196.87    | 6,733.32   | Leslie             | 2,605.11     | 2,496.11     |
| Rudy               | 485.17       | 559.59       | Beehive             | 978.90     | 1,065.38   | Keiser             | 8,165.67    | 8,872.55   | Marshall           | 8,004.35     | 7,669.44     |
| Van Buren          | 181,270.07   | 209,074.78   | Campbell Station    | 2,332.90   | 2,538.99   | Leachville         | 21,441.60   | 23,297.76  | Pindall            | 661.61       | 633.93       |
| Crittenden County  | 688,890.59   | 639,217.86   | Diaz                | 12,057.87  | 13,123.09  | Luxora             | 12,673.46   | 13,770.58  | St. Joe            | 779.76       | 747.13       |
| Anthonyville       | 1,006.19     | 933.64       | Grubbs              | 3,531.37   | 3,843.33   | Manila             | 35,954.76   | 39,067.29  | Sebastian County   | 762,481.19   | 733,971.97   |
| Clarkedale         | 2,318.61     | 2,151.43     | Jacksonport         | 1,939.51   | 2,110.85   | Marie              | 903.71      | 981.94     | Barling            | 69,687.13    | 67,081.52    |
| Clarksville        | 2,993.57     | 2,777.72     | Newport             | 72,081.99  | 78,449.87  | Osceola            | 83,453.35   | 90,677.73  | Bonanza            | 8,619.08     | 8,296.81     |
| Earle              | 15,086.60    | 13,998.77    | Swifton             | 7,300.60   | 7,945.55   | Victoria           | 398.06      | 432.52     | Central City       | 7,524.83     | 7,243.48     |
| Edmondson          | 2,668.59     | 2,476.17     | Tuckerman           | 17,034.73  | 18,539.61  | Wilson             | 9,714.88    | 10,555.88  | Fort Smith         | 1,292,247.24 | 1,243,930.05 |
| Gilmore            | 1,479.29     | 1,372.63     | Tupelo              | 1,646.75   | 1,792.23   | Monroe County      | NA          | NA         | Greenwood          | 134,187.81   | 129,170.52   |
| Horseshoe Lake     | 1,824.89     | 1,693.31     | Weldon              | 686.15     | 746.75     | Montgomery County  | 34,869.30   | 34,621.51  | Hackett            | 12,171.64    | 11,716.54    |
| Jennette           | 646.84       | 600.19       | Jefferson County    | 645,275.11 | 655,324.40 | Black Springs      | 450.66      | 447.46     | Hartford           | 9,623.39     | 9,263.57     |
| Jericho            | 743.71       | 690.08       | Alzheimer           | 9,297.19   | 9,441.99   | Glennwood          | 191.19      | 189.83     | Huntington         | 9,518.46     | 9,162.57     |
| Marion             | 77,151.63    | 71,588.58    | Humphrey            | 2,910.10   | 2,955.42   | Mount Ida          | 4,989.09    | 4,863.28   | Lavaca             | 34,311.43    | 33,028.52    |
| Sunset             | 1,113.69     | 1,033.38     | Pine Bluff          | 463,754.25 | 470,976.60 | Norman             | 1,720.70    | 1,708.48   | Mansfield          | 10,837.55    | 10,432.34    |
| Turrell            | 3,459.17     | 3,209.74     | Redfield            | 12,254.53  | 12,445.38  | Oden               | 1,056.10    | 1,048.59   | Midland            | 4,871.65     | 4,689.50     |
| West Memphis       | 164,021.41   | 152,194.58   | Sherrill            | 793.66     | 806.02     | Nevada County      | 90,802.15   | 30,450.33  | Sevier County      | 248,320.19   | 235,596.90   |
| Cross County       | 233,785.68   | 244,493.97   | Wabbaseka           | 2,409.33   | 2,446.86   | Bluff City         | 835.95      | 844.33     | Ben Lomond         | 1,131.18     | 1,073.22     |
| Cherry Valley      | 6,004.91     | 6,279.96     | White Hall          | 52,211.69  | 53,024.80  | Bodcaw             | 930.34      | 939.66     | DeQueen            | 51,441.56    | 48,805.82    |
| Hickory Ridge      | 2,508.96     | 2,623.88     | Johnson County      | 103,672.89 | 107,474.16 | Cale               | 532.58      | 537.92     | Gillham            | 1,248.20     | 1,184.25     |
| Parkin             | 10,192.67    | 10,659.53    | Clarksville         | 76,151.25  | 78,943.40  | Emmet              | 3,202.24    | 3,234.33   | Horatio            | 8,144.52     | 7,727.22     |
| Wynne              | 77,178.34    | 80,713.40    | Coal Hill           | 8,396.72   | 8,704.59   | Prescott           | 22,220.20   | 22,442.82  | Lockesburg         | 5,765.14     | 5,469.75     |
| Dallas County      | 139,974.67   | 147,515.89   | Hartman             | 4,306.22   | 4,464.11   | Rosston            | 1,759.55    | 1,777.18   | Sharp County       | 72,775.50    | 69,389.57    |
| Desha County       | 93,690.34    | 107,085.36   | Knoxville           | 6,065.22   | 6,287.60   | Willisville        | 1,024.73    | 1,034.98   | Ash Flat           | 8,704.99     | 8,299.99     |
| Arkansas City      | 3,625.96     | 4,144.36     | Lamar               | 13,316.92  | 13,805.21  | Newton County      | 45,825.95   | 43,090.08  | Cave City          | 15,473.57    | 14,753.65    |
| Dumas              | 46,622.26    | 53,287.90    | Lafayette County    | 75,600.71  | 72,009.78  | Jasper             | 1,833.83    | 1,724.34   | Cherokee Village   | 34,446.89    | 32,844.23    |
| McGehee            | 41,797.56    | 47,773.41    | Bradley             | 3,562.93   | 3,393.72   | Western Grove      | 1,511.13    | 1,420.92   | Evering Shade      | 3,837.30     | 3,658.77     |
| Mitchellville      | 3,566.51     | 4,076.42     | Buckner             | 1,560.21   | 1,486.10   | Ouachita County    | 315,103.75  | 332,926.09 | Hardy              | 6,484.33     | 6,182.64     |
| Reed               | 1,704.00     | 1,947.62     | Lewisville          | 7,262.07   | 6,917.13   | Bearden            | 8,267.43    | 8,735.04   | Highland           | 9,282.36     | 8,850.49     |
| Tillar             | 208.05       | 237.79       | Stamps              | 9,605.23   | 9,148.99   | Camden             | 104,267.18  | 110,164.56 | Horseshoe Bend     | 71.06        | 67.75        |
| Watson             | 2,090.37     | 2,389.25     | Lawrence County     | 188,435.91 | 111,814.12 | Chidester          | 2,473.38    | 2,613.28   | Sidney             | 1,607.76     | 1,532.96     |
| Drew County        | 448,121.14   | 413,002.85   | Alicia              | 677.51     | 603.03     | East Camden        | 7,967.89    | 8,418.55   | Williford          | 666.21       | 635.20       |
| Jerome             | 487.03       | 448.86       | Black Rock          | 3,617.04   | 3,219.42   | Louann             | 1,403.58    | 1,482.97   | St. Francis County | 133,297.76   | 134,605.58   |
| Monticello         | 118,222.71   | 108,957.85   | College City        | 2,486.03   | 2,212.75   | Stephens           | 7,625.55    | 8,056.84   | Caldwell           | 8,770.62     | 8,856.68     |
| Tillar             | 2,347.53     | 2,547.83     | Hoxie               | 15,189.39  | 13,519.63  | Perry County       | 105,741.36  | 87,395.44  | Colt               | 5,973.50     | 6,032.12     |
| Wilmar             | 6,381.30     | 5,881.21     | Imboden             | 3,699.00   | 3,292.37   | Adona              | 942.33      | 778.84     | Forrest City       | 242,906.91   | 245,290.14   |
| Winchester         | 2,085.47     | 1,922.05     | Lynn                | 1,573.58   | 1,400.59   | Bigelow            | 1,420.25    | 1,173.84   | Hughes             | 22,772.02    | 22,995.46    |
| Faulkner County    | 675,328.38   | 653,927.56   | Minturn             | 595.56     | 530.09     | Casa               | 771.00      | 637.23     | Madison            | 12,152.46    | 12,271.68    |
| Enola              | 2,056.37     | 1,991.20     | Portia              | 2,387.69   | 2,125.21   | Fourche            | 279.54      | 231.04     | Palestine          | 10,761.80    | 10,867.38    |
| Holland            | 3,388.75     | 3,281.36     | Powhatan            | 393.39     | 350.15     | Houston            | 780.01      | 644.68     | Wheatley           | 5,610.04     | 5,665.08     |
| Mount Vernon       | 882.17       | 854.21       | Ravenden            | 2,567.99   | 2,285.69   | Perry              | 1,217.36    | 1,006.15   | Widener            | 4,314.22     | 4,356.52     |
| Twin Groves        | 2,038.12     | 1,973.53     | Sedgwick            | 830.50     | 739.20     | Perryville         | 6,582.77    | 5,440.68   | Stone County       | 84,230.45    | 75,529.39    |
| Woolster           | 5,232.17     | 5,066.38     | Smithville          | 426.18     | 379.33     | Phillips County    | 105,704.96  | 110,116.02 | Fifty Six          | 1,538.25     | 1,379.35     |
| Franklin County    | 135,526.34   | 147,810.96   | Strawberry          | 1,650.07   | 1,468.68   | Elaine             | 11,832.80   | 12,326.60  | Mountain View      | 24,434.21    | 21,910.14    |
| Altus              | 5,309.68     | 5,790.97     | Walnut Ridge        | 26,718.04  | 23,780.93  | Helena-West Helena | 187,502.64  | 195,327.15 | Union County       | 512,980.67   | 523,408.14   |
| Branch             | 2,570.78     | 2,803.81     | Lee County          | 28,561.39  | 29,094.49  | Lake View          | 8,242.03    | 8,585.98   | Calion             | 14,955.04    | 15,259.04    |
| Charleston         | 17,666.23    | 19,267.57    | Aubrey              | 885.06     | 901.58     | Lexa               | 5,321.05    | 5,543.09   | El Dorado          | 636,768.22   | 649,711.95   |
| Denning            | 3,299.28     | 3,598.35     | Haynes              | 780.93     | 795.51     | Marvell            | 22,065.58   | 22,986.38  | Felsenthal         | 3,664.47     | 3,738.96     |
| Ozark              | 25,805.87    | 28,145.01    | LaGrange            | 463.35     | 472.00     | Pike County        | 115,511.51  | 120,630.35 | Huttig             | 20,497.57    | 20,914.23    |
| Wiederkehr Village | 266.18       | 290.30       | Marianna            | 21,423.64  | 21,823.52  | Antoine            | 740.78      | 773.61     | Junction City      | 18,283.97    | 18,655.63    |
| Fulton County      | 92,939.89    | 84,234.43    | Moro                | 1,124.55   | 1,145.54   | Daisy              | 728.12      | 760.39     | Norphlet           | 23,069.42    | 23,538.35    |
| Ash Flat           | 367.70       | 333.25       | Rondo               | 1,030.84   | 1,050.07   | Delight            | 1,766.48    | 1,844.76   | Smackover          | 60,692.88    | 61,926.60    |
| Cherokee Village   | 2,858.65     | 2,590.89     | Lincoln County      | 46,889.55  | 49,970.83  | Glennwood          | 13,840.62   | 14,453.95  | Strong             | 17,268.58    | 17,619.60    |
| Hardy              | 151.40       | 137.22       | Gould               | 3,711.61   | 3,955.51   | Murfreesboro       | 10,389.96   | 10,850.38  | Van Buren County   | 305,672.07   | 250,605.28   |
| Horseshoe Bend     | 61.28        | 55.54        | Grady               | 1,991.05   | 2,121.89   | Pointsett County   | 104,718.22  | 109,878.50 | Clinton            | 27,152.76    | 22,261.20    |
| Mammoth Spring     | 3,521.95     | 3,192.05     | Star City           | 10,083.87  | 10,746.52  | Fisher             | 1,566.23    | 1,643.41   | Damascus           | 2,608.84     | 2,138.85     |
| Salem              | 5,893.94     | 5,341.87     | Little River County | 156,675.73 | 135,857.60 | Harrisburg         | 16,168.03   | 16,964.76  | Fairfield Bay      | 22,488.16    | 18,436.92    |
| Viola              | 1,214.84     | 1,101.06     | Ashdown             | 31,954.33  | 27,711.61  | Lepanto            | 13,295.43   | 13,950.60  | Shirley            | 3,036.68     | 2,489.63     |
| Garland County     | 1,747,083.01 | 1,739,400.31 | Foreman             | 6,840.11   | 5,931.92   | Marked Tree        | 18,022.23   | 18,910.33  | Washington County  | 1,228,732.97 | 1,126,583.72 |
| Fountain Lake      | 5,931.19     | 5,905.11     | Ogden               | 1,217.82   | 1,056.13   | Trumann            | 51,243.26   | 53,768.41  | Elkins             | 36,816.70    | 33,553.62    |
| Hot Springs        | 177,849.93   | 177,067.85   | Wilton              | 2,530.37   | 2,194.40   | Tyrone             | 5,351.89    | 5,615.62   | Elm Springs        | 20,813.67    | 18,968.95    |
| Lonsdale           | 1,108.41     | 1,103.54     | Winthrop            | 1,299.01   | 1,126.53   | Waldenburg         | 428.43      | 449.54     | Farmington         | 83,060.03    | 75,698.39    |
| Mountain Pine      | 9,079.58     | 9,039.63     | Logan County        | 93,994.44  | 90,971.25  | Weiner             | 5,028.82    | 5,276.62   | Fayetteville       | 1,023,025.93 | 932,354.76   |
| Grant County       | 168,635.56   | 169,867.53   | Blue Mountain       | 926.13     | 896.34     | Polk County        | 2,304,30.78 | 219,927.22 | Goshen             | 14,890.74    | 13,570.97    |
| Greene County      | 469,004.79   | 459,004.79   | Booneville          | 29,800.38  | 28,841.90  | Cove               | 6,912.02    | 6,596.96   | Greenland          | 17,991.24    | 15,953.18    |
| Delaplaine         | 1,209.78     | 1,186.44     | Caulksville         | 1,590.85   | 1,539.68   | Grannis            | 10,024.24   | 9,567.30   | Johnson            | 46,632.63    | 42,499.56    |
| Lafe               | 4,776.56     | 4,684.38     | Magazine            | 6,326.05   | 6,122.58   | Hatfield           | 7,472.94    | 7,132.30   | Lincoln            | 31,269.17    | 28,497.77    |
| Marmaduke          | 11,586.80    | 11,363.20    | Morrison Bluff      | 478.00     | 462.63     | Mena               | 103,806.94  | 99,075.18  | Prairie Grove      | 61,537.28    | 55,500.32    |
| Oak Grove Heights  | 9,271.53     | 9,092.60     | Paris               | 26,379.69  | 25,531.22  | Vandervoort        | 1,574.20    | 1,502.44   | Springdale         | 892,540.77   | 807,707.12   |
| Paragould          | 272,336.80   | 267,081.12   | Ratcliff            | 1,508.69   | 1,460.17   | Wickes             | 13,643.09   | 13,021.22  | Tontitown          | 34,202.82    | 31,171.42    |
| Hempstead County   | 354,259.68   | 330,562.25   | Scranton            | 1,673.00   | 1,619.19   | Pope County        | 320,606.86  | 313,502.07 | West Fork          | 32,214.61    | 29,359.42    |
| Blevins            | 3,307.80     | 3,086.53     | Subiaco             | 4,272.14   | 4,134.73   | Atkins             | 38,503.97   | 36,570.71  | Winslow            | 5,436.31     | 4,954.47     |
| Emmet              | 451.54       | 421.34       | Lonoke County       | 236,993.70 | 237,080.15 | Dover              | 17,592.33   | 17,202.48  | White County       | 846,056.74   | 863,012.74   |
| Fulton             | 2,110.69     | 1,969.50     | Allport             | 958.16     | 958.66     | Hector             | 5,744.96    | 5,617.65   | Bald Knob          | 32,924.87    | 33,584.73    |
| Hope               | 106,006.98   | 98,915.87    | Austin              | 16,982.88  | 16,989.08  | London             | 13,264.47   | 12,970.52  | Beebe              | 83,136.16    | 84,802.31    |
| McCaskill          | 1,008.09     | 940.66       | Cabot               | 198,128.07 | 198,200.34 | Pottsville         | 36,231.52   | 35,428.62  | Bradford           | 8,626.16     | 8,799.04     |
| McNab              | 714.06       | 666.30       | Carlisle            | 18,449.51  | 18,456.24  | Russellville       | 356,442.63  | 348,543.69 | Garner             | 3,227.71     | 3,292.39     |
| Oakhaven           | 661.56       | 617.31       | Coy                 | 799.98     | 800.27     | Prairie County     | 55,995.91   | 27,953.80  | Georgetown         | 1,409.28     | 1,437.52     |
| Ozan               | 892.58       | 832.87       | England             | 23,541.04  | 23,549.63  | Biscoe             | 2,326.89    | 2,317.78   | Griffithville      | 2,557.16     | 2,608.41     |
| Patmos             | 672.06       | 627.10       | Humnoke             | 2,366.60   | 2,367.47   | Des Arc            | 11,006.24   | 10,963.15  | Higginson          | 7,057.77     | 7,199.21     |
| Perrytown          | 2,856.26     | 2,665.19     | Keo                 | 2,133.28   | 2,134.05   | DeValls Bluff      | 3,967.89    | 3,952.35   | Judsonia           | 22,946.26    | 23,406.13    |
| Washington         | 1,890.17     | 1,763.72     | Lonoke              | 35,374.06  | 35,386.96  | Hazen              | 9,410.11    | 9,373.27   | Kensett            | 18,729.79    | 19,105.15    |
| Hot Spring County  | 257,628.37   | 267,072.26   | Ward                | 33,890.77  | 33,903.13  | Ulm                | 1,089.72    | 1,085.47   | Letona             | 2,898.12     | 2,956.20     |
| Donaldson          | 2,084.32     | 2,160.73     | Madison County      | 188,748.00 | 172,907.75 | Pulaski County     | 807,161.07  | 810,501.16 | McRae              | 7,751.04     | 7,906.38     |
| Friendship         | 1,218.74     | 1,263        |                     |            |            |                    |             |            |                    |              |              |

# MUNICIPAL MART

To place a classified ad in City & Town, please email the League at [citytown@arml.org](mailto:citytown@arml.org) or call 501-374-3484. Ads are FREE to League members 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.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**—Gravette is hiring an administrative assistant. Reporting, Grammatically correct writing, Microsoft Office, financial accounting and bookkeeping, organized, able to analyze contracts, professional, eager to problem solve, ability to multitask, exceptional verbal communication. Starting wage DOE. Full benefits included after trial period. Send your resume to [info@cityofgravette-ar.gov](mailto:info@cityofgravette-ar.gov) or mail to Mayor Kurt Maddox, 604 First Avenue SE, Gravette, AR 72736.

**ALL PD POSITIONS**—The Batesville Police Department is a newly formed department and is accepting applications for all positions. The city offers a generous benefits package, including but not limited to, health insurance package, retirement with LOPFI and vacation and sick leave. Salary will be based on experience and training. Certification through CLEST is preferred but not required. Applications are available at 500 E. Main Street, Batesville, AR 72501; or call Chief Cockrill at 870-698-2425. EOE.

**AIRPORT MANAGER**—The City of Searcy and the Searcy Airport Commission are accepting applications for the position of Airport Manager for the Searcy Municipal Airport. Applications for this position may be picked up at Searcy City Hall, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. M-F, or printed from the Human Resources page at [www.SEARCY.com](http://www.SEARCY.com). EOE. Please submit your resume and completed application to: City of Searcy Attn: Mayor David Morris, 401 West Arch, Searcy, AR 72143. For more information you may call 501-268-2483.

**AR NSC CENTER COURSES AVAIL.**—National Safety Council is a nonprofit organization founded in 1913 and chartered by congress, and is dedicated to assisting the various industries, business, corporations, counties and/or municipalities with their health and safety training requirements. Courses offered, but not limited to, are: adult and pediatric first aid, CPR and AED. Our courses are very reasonable in cost and each student received a workbook, DVD, and is issued written certification for two years immediately after course completion. All NSC courses are conducted on-site at your convenience. Our mission is to save lives. If we can be of assistance, please contact us at Arkansas training center at [www.traingarkansascp.com](http://www.traingarkansascp.com) or 501-358-9968.

**CITY ADMIN.**—Girard, Kan., seeks an administrator to lead its local government. Bachelor's degree in Public Admin. or a related field and at least 4 years of local government experience required. Leadership and budgeting skills required. Salary \$57,500-\$72,500 DOQ. Send cover letter, resume, and 3 professional references to LEAPS-Girard at [LEAPS-Girard@lkm.org](mailto:LEAPS-Girard@lkm.org), 300 SW 8th, Topeka, KS, 66603. EOE. Open until filled. Application review begins Feb. 16.

**FIREFIGHTER/EMT**—Holiday Island Fire Department is accepting applications for a F/T Firefighter/EMT. Must have a current Arkansas EMT license and would prefer Firefighter I & II. Salary DOE and training. Any questions contact Chief Deaton at 479-253-8397. Mail resumes to 251 Holiday Island Drive, Holiday Island, AR 72631.

**FIREFIGHTER/EMT**—Siloam Springs is accepting applications for the position of Firefighter/EMT. This position responds to emergency calls, performs firefighting duties, rescue, extrication, public education, and provides emergency medical care. Persons with approved applications on file will be eligible to take the department's entrance written and physical agility tests, 8 a.m. March 28 at Fire station 1, 1450 Cheri Whitlock. Candidates who score 70 percent or higher on the written test and successfully complete the physical agilities test will be scheduled for an interview for positions on the current hiring list. Applicants must possess and submit valid DL and NREMT-B certification with their application and display these items on test date. The city offers a generous benefit package including, but not limited to medical, dental, vision, LTD, 457 Deferred Compensation, L.O.P.F.I., vacation and sick leave. Salary range \$32K-35K. The city requires a completed application be submitted for all positions. Applications are available at City Hall, 400 N. Broadway, Siloam Springs, AR; or online

at [www.siloamsprings.com](http://www.siloamsprings.com). For further information please visit the city website, call 479-524-5136; or email [humanresources@siloamsprings.com](mailto:humanresources@siloamsprings.com). Closing date: 12 p.m. March 27. EOE.

**HR DIRECTOR**—The City of Searcy is accepting applications for the position of Human Resources Director. Applications for this position may be picked up at Searcy City Hall, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. M-F, or printed from the Human Resources page at [www.SEARCY.com](http://www.SEARCY.com). EOE. Please submit your resume and completed application to: City of Searcy Attn: Mayor David Morris, 401 West Arch, Searcy, AR 72143. For more information you may call 501-268-2483.

**PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR**—Springdale is accepting applications for the position of Director of Parks and Recreation. The director will plan and implement programs and activities for the citizens of Springdale; plan and develop new park areas; ensure the maintenance of parklands; and develop rules, policies, and procedures for parks and programs that meet the needs and desires of the public. Bachelor's degree (B.A. or B.S.) and 8 years of related experience and/or training; and a minimum of 2 years of management experience. Certified Parks and Recreation Professional (CPRP) and a Certified Pool Operator (CPO), preferred. Paid vacation, holidays, health insurance, and annual sick days. Pay Grade ranges from \$62,020 – 91,091. Submit application and resume online at [www.springdalear.gov](http://www.springdalear.gov).

**POLICE CHIEF**—Centerton is accepting applications for a F/T Police Chief. Must be certified and meet all requirements for law enforcement standards and training with at least 5 years of supervisory/management experience. Applications may be found online at [www.centertonar.us](http://www.centertonar.us) or by call 479-795-2750. Applications will be accepted at City Hall, 290 Main Street, Centerton, AR 72719; email Mayor Edwards at [bedwards@centertonar.us](mailto:bedwards@centertonar.us); or fax 479-795-2545 until 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 20. Please contact Mayor Edwards at 479-795-2750 Ext. 26 or by email with any questions.

**POLICE CHIEF**—Pea Ridge is seeking qualified applicants for the position of full-time Police Chief. Must be certified and meet all requirements for law enforcement standards and training. Send resume with cover letter to City of Pea Ridge, Attn: Mayor Crabtree, P.O. Box 10, Pea Ridge, AR 72751

**POLICE OFFICERS**—Eudora is currently accepting applications for 3 F/T police officers. Must be certified and meet all requirements of law enforcement standards and training. Will consider noncertified applications. Please send resume to Eudora Police Department, 111 North Archer Street, Eudora, AR 71640; or email to [epd71640@yahoo.com](mailto:epd71640@yahoo.com). Office hours 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday. EOE.

**POLICE OFFICER**—Hartford is accepting applications for a police officer. Certifications required. Applications will be accepted at the Hartford City Hall, 26 S. Broadway, Monday thru Friday, or mail your resume to The City of Hartford, P.O. Box 519, Hartford AR, 72938. Any questions call 479-639-2219.

**POLICE OFFICER**—Russellville is seeking certified and non-certified applicants for entry-level police officer. The application deadline is 4 p.m., Feb. 6. Applicants must be at least 21 years old, U.S. citizen, HS Graduate or GED, and possess valid DL. Applications can be picked up at the Russellville Police Department, 115 West H Street between January 5, and February 6, between the hours 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Out of town applicants may contact the Police Department at 479-968-3232 to request an application by mail. EOE.

**PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR**—Blytheville is soliciting resumes for the position of Public Works Director. The Director performs a variety of complex supervisory, professional and administrative work in planning, organizing, directing and supervising the Public Works Department. This position includes general operational duties in the Streets, Sanitation, Signs and Signals departments as well as other assigned duties. It requires strong in-

terpersonal skills, organizational skills as well as supervisory and management skills. A bachelor's degree in civil engineering, public administration or a related field is preferred. A complete job description is available online at the city's website at [www.blytheville.co](http://www.blytheville.co). Salary is negotiable. Benefits include vacation, sick leave, paid holidays, health insurance including dental and vision coverage and life insurance. Resumes will be accepted until the position is filled and should be faxed to the Human Resource Office at 870-763-0443 or mailed to City of Blytheville, 124 W. Walnut St., Blytheville, AR 72315.

**FOR SALE**—1994 GMC Garbage truck. \$7500.00. Also 3 military generators—1 3kw, 1 5kw-60hz, and 1 5kw on trailer. Call City of Norman at 870-334-2400.

**FOR SALE**—2010 Dodge Charger, approx. 100,000 miles. White in color. It is equipped with blue lights and a prisoner partition. It has a jotto desk console with siren speaker and light control. Asking \$10,000. Please contact Chief Aaron Collier at 870-246-6357 to inquire about vehicle.

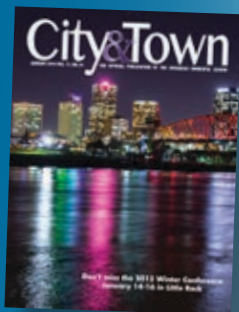
**FOR SALE**—Tupelo is taking bids on a 1050 John Deere Tractor 3. Hitch, power steering, used to pull a finishing mower. The tractor is in good condition. We are accepting bids until March 13. Bids will be opened at the council meeting March 16. The city reserves the right to accept or deny any or all bids. For more information contact Carl Rouse at 870-217-9059. Town of Tupelo, P.O. Box 124, Tupelo, AR. 72169.



## Missed us?

You can download last month's issue or older issues of *City & Town* that you might have missed.

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[www.arml.org/services/publications/](http://www.arml.org/services/publications/)

## Obituaries

**JAMES ALLEN**, 60, who served as Rogers police chief since 2011 and spent 22 years with the Bentonville Police Department, died Jan. 22.

**JIMMY LYNN BEST**, 72, former Caulksville recorder/treasurer, died Sept. 12, 2014.

**JAMES "JIMMY" JACKSON**, 77, a former Beebe police chief and fireman, died Feb. 3.

**KEN LAMASTUS**, 73, a former mayor and city director of Maumelle, died Dec. 9, 2014.

**BONNIE L. WYATT**, 68, a Paragould alderman from 2001 to 2012, died Jan. 3.

**DAVID WYATT**, 65, former state senator of Batesville and a former Independence County judge, died Jan. 12.

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# 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 2015. This scholarship covers the registration fee.

Additional scholarships include: four local \$400 scholarships to attend the Municipal Clerks' Institute, Sept. 13-17, 2015, in Fayetteville; one \$400 scholarship for the Academy for Advanced Education, Sept. 14-15,

2015, in Fayetteville; and one \$400 scholarship to attend the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) annual conference, May 17—20, 2015, in Hartford, Connecticut.

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**.

## 2015 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, 2015, and Dec. 31, 2015, 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:

|  |  |                       |                                 |
|--|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
|  | Municipal Clerks' Institute, Fayetteville    | September 13-17, 2015 | <b>Deadline: May 28, 2015</b>   |
|  | Academy for Advanced Education, Fayetteville | September 14-15, 2015 | <b>Deadline: May 28, 2015</b>   |
|  | IIMC Conference, Hartford, Connecticut       | May 17-20, 2015       | <b>Deadline: April 10, 2015</b> |

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

# ACCRTA seeks nominations for Clerk of the Year

The Municipal Clerk of the Year Award recognizes a member of the Arkansas City Clerks, Recorders, Treasurers Association (ACCRTA) who has made significant contributions to the objectives of the municipal clerks profession and to the improvement of municipal government in Arkansas and the clerks own community.

Qualities are length of service, good relationship with other clerks, interest in education, attendance at national and regional conferences, community volunteer, advancing and supporting the municipal clerks association.

Any municipal official or ACCRTA member may nominate a candidate for Municipal Clerk of the Year for 2015. The finalist will be honored at the 81st Annual Arkansas Municipal League Convention, June 24-26, 2015 in Little Rock.

**The deadline for nominations is April 15, 2015.**

## Requirements for nominees:

- Has been an active ACCRTA member for at least five years
- Holds a city clerk/recorder/treasurer or deputy position
- Is a Certified Municipal Clerk or Certified Arkansas Municipal Clerk
- Provides service to other municipal clerks in the state as the opportunity exists
- Exhibits leadership

**Complete the nomination information below and send to:**

**Sherri Gard, ACCRTA Vice President  
City of Fort Smith, City Clerk  
P.O. Box 1908  
Fort Smith, AR 72902  
479-784-2207  
sgard@fortsmithar.gov**

## Municipal Clerk of the Year 2015 Please Submit the Following Information

NOMINEE'S FULL NAME AND TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS, CITY, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

BUSINESS PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF THE CITY THE MUNICIPAL CLERK REPRESENTS \_\_\_\_\_

YEARS SERVED AS CLERK, RECORDER, TREASURER OR DEPUTY CLERK AND YEAR APPOINTED OR ELECTED \_\_\_\_\_

ARKANSAS CITY CLERKS, RECORDERS, TREASURERS ASSOCIATION (ACCRTA) MEMBER YEARS SERVED AND DATE OF MEMBERSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

ACCRTA OFFICES HELD \_\_\_\_\_

ACCRTA MEETINGS ATTENDED \_\_\_\_\_

ACCRTA, IIMC, OR ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE COMMITTEE SERVICE, COMMITTEES SERVED ON AND NUMBER OF YEARS SERVED \_\_\_\_\_

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE MUNICIPAL CLERK (IIMC) PARTICIPATION AT ANNUAL AND REGIONAL MEETINGS \_\_\_\_\_

IIMC WORKSHOPS (DISTRICT MEETINGS) ATTENDED \_\_\_\_\_

MUNICIPAL CLERKS INSTITUTE ATTENDANCE (NUMBER OF YEARS AND CLASSES ATTENDED) \_\_\_\_\_

CERTIFICATION RECEIVED:

IIMC CERTIFIED MUNICIPAL CLERK,  IIMC MASTER MUNICIPAL CLERK OR  CERTIFIED ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL CLERK

DATE OF CERTIFICATION \_\_\_\_\_

ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE CONFERENCES ATTENDED \_\_\_\_\_

EDUCATION PROGRAM PARTICIPATION (INSTRUCTOR, PANEL MEMBER, MODERATOR) \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT \_\_\_\_\_

LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER ACTIVITIES \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL SUBMITTING NOMINATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NOMINATOR: PLEASE BRIEFLY SUMMARIZE THE REASONS WHY YOU BELIEVE YOUR NOMINEE SHOULD BE SELECTED AS THE 2015 MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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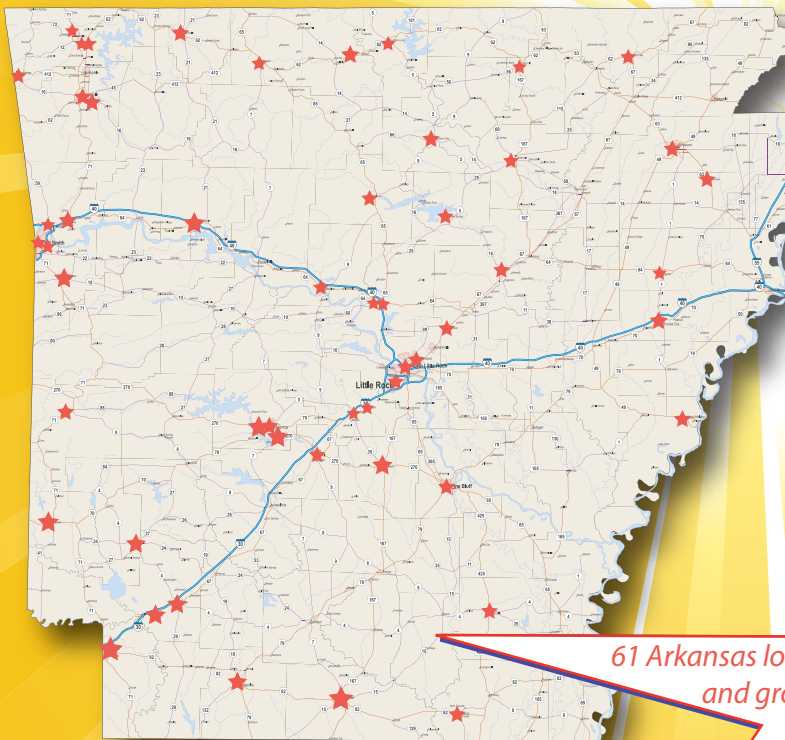
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