

City & Town

SEPTEMBER 2015 VOL. 71, NO. 09

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE



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ON THE COVER—Arkansas’s innovative State Aid Street Program was honored recently at the 2015 meeting of the Southeastern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials as the Quality of Life/Community Development award winner. AHTD received a second award in the Best Use of Innovation Category. Read about the awards inside on page 18. Read also the coverage of the League’s annual Planning Meeting, District 1 Vice President and Lake Village Alderman Sam E. Angel, new Cotton Plant Mayor Willard Ryland, Arkansas First Lady Susan Hutchinson’s dedication to helping child abuse victims, the push for e-fairness, and much more in this packed issue.—atm

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- 17 Guest Editorial: Even the playing field with RTPA**
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Dear Friends and Colleagues,
What an honor it was to host the League Planning Meeting, Aug. 19-21. Not only was the meeting very successful and productive, it was a chance for us to showcase the beautiful White River and our Historic Main Street District in Batesville. This meeting was a time for the League officers, Executive Committee, Investment Committee, past presidents, Advisory Council chairs, Municipal League Workers' Compensation Trust Board, Municipal Health Benefit Fund Board, and the Municipal Legal Defense Program Board to come together to work on the goals and events for the upcoming year.



I would like to elaborate on one very important issue that was discussed during the Planning Meeting—e-fairness legislation. E-fairness is not a new tax; it closes the online sales tax loophole to allow the collection of existing sales taxes and thus level the competitive playing field for retailers. In the 113th Congress, legislation passed the Senate but was not voted on in the House. Sen. John Boozman is a current co-sponsor of the Marketplace Fairness Act. Rep. Steve Womack was the original sponsor of legislation in the 113th Congress. I would like for each one of our cities to call and encourage Sen. Tom Cotton and Reps. Rick Crawford, French Hill, and Bruce Westerman to support the Marketplace Fairness Act and RTPA. Arkansas loses \$236,311,930.00—nearly a quarter billion dollars—every year in uncollected sales tax from online sales. Based on the 2013 sales tax revenue, the amounts lost by a few select cities are as follows:

- Batesville: \$600,000
- Fayetteville: \$786,000
- Fort Smith: \$900,000
- Hot Springs: \$367,000
- Little Rock: \$1,010,000

I encourage each of you to attend the certification workshops offered by the League if you do not already do so. They are a great way to further your knowledge as well as to keep your certification hours up to date. The finance and budgeting workshop, which was just held on Sept. 11, was a success as always. The next certification workshop covering human resources and personnel matters will be Oct. 28. Also coming up Oct. 6-15 will be the first round of Advisory Council meetings.

I would also like to extend an invitation to join us for the 2015 Fall Conference, Dec. 2-4 in Springdale. This is a great time of networking for both the newly elected and the seasoned officials. Registration information is included in this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rick Elumbaugh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Rick Elumbaugh
Mayor, Batesville
President, Arkansas Municipal League

ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE OFFICERS

Mayor Rick Elumbaugh, **Batesville** President
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Mayor Joe Smith, **North Little Rock** Vice President, District 2
Mayor Sonny Hudson, **Prairie Grove** Vice President, District 3
Mayor Frank Hash, **El Dorado** Vice President, District 4
Don A. Zimmerman..... Executive Director

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NOTE: Names submitted for positions on committees, councils and boards received after the issue print date will appear in the next issue of *City & Town*.



A typical Thursday morning in downtown Batesville. Not a parking space to be had.

League president's hometown hosts annual Planning Meeting



The fleur-de-lis, included in Batesville's logo, symbolizes perfection, light, and life.

Elumbaugh sets a fast pace for a solid finish for the 2015-2016 year.

Batesville is known for many things—historic homes, the beautiful White River, a bustling and revitalized downtown that adds to the “New Urbanism” movement in Arkansas, and an impressive industrial base are among them. Some may know Batesville as the home of NASCAR driver Mark Martin, a driver with a stellar racing record and career. And with all these things, it's no surprise League President and Batesville Mayor Rick Elumbaugh set a

fast pace for the coming year by waving the green flag and rolling out the red carpet for the municipal officials attending the 2015-2016 Planning Meeting.

The annual Planning Meeting is of great importance to the League. Year after year, this meeting affords our members the opportunity to attend governing board meetings and take part in all other League business meetings in order to familiarize themselves with the entirety of the Arkansas Municipal League's operations.



League President and Batesville Mayor Rick Elumbaugh, center, League First Vice President and Stephens Mayor Harry Brown, right, and League Executive Director Don Zimmerman, left, begin the Executive Committee's meeting during the annual Planning Meeting.



Independence County Judge Robert T. Griffin welcomes municipal officials to Batesville, the county seat.

While in Batesville, board meetings were held for the Municipal League Workers' Compensation Trust, the League's Investment Committee, the League's Executive Committee, the Municipal Legal Defense Steering Committee, and the Municipal Health Benefit Fund. A tremendous amount of ground was covered in the two and a half days and great progress was achieved.

Held Aug. 19-21, in downtown Batesville in the historic Barnett Building, President Elumbaugh called the Executive Committee meeting to order and spoke a bit on the interesting history of the building. Construction of the Barnett Building began in 1903 as the Barnett Brothers Department Store. Some months ago, the building was occupied by a local business, Pro Dentec. Sadly, the business closed but before leaving town, they deeded the property to the city. The building has been carefully restored and kept in pristine condition. The Barnett Building now serves as a venue for various events held in Batesville.

Elumbaugh then introduced Independence County Judge Robert T. Griffin. Judge Griffin welcomed the League's group of officials and was most appreciative of the League for meeting in his county seat. Griffin also respectfully requested a moment of silence to honor the memory of former Hot Springs City Manager David Watkins, who died suddenly days before the Planning Meeting and was to serve as the Large First Class Cities Advisory Council chairperson.

Getting down to League business, Elumbaugh thanked all members of the various committees, councils, and boards for serving so diligently.

"With the collective experience of the municipal officials we have serving in the various capacities, I am certain this year will be extraordinary," Elumbaugh said.

He reminded everyone of his top three priorities during his term: transparency, city wellness, and improving the League's Voluntary Certification Program by making it accessible to more municipal officials.

League Executive Director Don Zimmerman gave committee members a report on the Pension Management Trust-Municipal Other Post Employment Benefits Trust (PMT-MOPEBT) and called everyone's attention to lagging second-quarter returns. Under normal financial market circumstances, the League receives 10 basis points for administering the PMT-MOPEBT program. However, Zimmerman recommended the Executive Committee vote to waive the League's fee in order to improve the program's returns. The recommendation was voted on and accepted. Zimmerman also provided the Investment Committee report, as Little Rock Mayor and Investment Committee Chair Mark Stodola presided over the Investment Committee meeting the day before but was unable to attend the Executive Committee meeting. All second-quarter reports pointed to lagging results, however total League accounts experienced a growth rate of 4.91 percent with the League's Arkansas Index account having a 7.35 percent return. According to League Financial Consultant Ellis Sloan, "Although second quarter reports are down a bit, the League is diversified and over the last 10 years the League's investments have performed outstandingly well."

Zimmerman also gave Committee members a report on two of the League's programs that are currently facing a possible deficit year. The Municipal League Workers' Compensation Trust is currently handling some very serious and large claims, while the Municipal Legal Defense Program is overseeing and defending

170 lawsuits and possible judgments. In everyone's packet, Zimmerman called to their attention the League's schedule of fees and reserve payments effective Jan. 1, 2015. The formula for the AML Reserve Fund (AML RE) was explained to everyone. In an effort to keep program costs at the current rate and avoid increases in program costs, Zimmerman recommended that the Committee authorize each of these programs the ability to use reserve funds, if needed, at the end of the year to ensure the programs are made whole. The recommendation was accepted without question. Committee members did mention that instances, such as this, are exactly why AML RE exists and is good, sound business practice.

For budgeting purposes, information on the League's service charge formula, rates on the Municipal Legal Defense Program, Municipal Health Benefit Fund, turnback estimates and APERS cost, refer to the Budget Information memorandum from Executive Director Don Zimmerman on page 20 of this issue. Pertaining to the service charge formula, it was approved for charges to remain the same as last year's rates. Also, the normal reduction of seven cents per capita remains for participation in each of the League's optional programs, which include the Municipal Legal Defense Program, Municipal League Workers' Compensation Trust, Municipal Health Benefit Fund, Municipal Vehicle Program and Municipal Property Program.

Last year's implementation of the League's Limited Service Membership charge has been successful. To date, there are 129 limited service members for the 2015 year. The Executive Committee voted to keep the 2016 Limited Service Membership rates the same as the 2015 rates. For an annual fee of \$1,000 counties and planning and development districts will continue to be offered participation in the Municipal Health Benefit Fund, the Municipal Vehicle Program and/or the Municipal Property Program. The limited service membership rate for other entities will remain \$500 with access to the same programs above.

The unique membership relationship with the National League of Cities (NLC), the Arkansas Municipal League, and all of Arkansas's cities and towns will remain in effect for 2016. For years now, the

Arkansas Municipal League has paid organizational dues to the NLC and included in that amount the membership dues on behalf of all cities and towns in the state. This agreement makes each city and town in Arkansas either a direct or affiliate member of NLC at no additional cost to the League's member cities.

Federal legislation was an important topic of discussion at this year's Planning Meeting. Discussion included marketplace fairness, long-term renewal of the Highway Trust Fund, and protecting the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds. Related to the Marketplace Fairness Act, a bill entitled Remote Transactions Parity Act of 2015 (RTPA) has been cosponsored by Congressman Steve Womack, who continues to be a tremendous champion of this issue along with approximately 60 other cosponsors. League Director of Legal Services, Mark Hayes, reported that he recently discussed this issue with Congressmen French Hill and Bruce Westerman and they have yet to take a position on RTPA. NLC wants to obtain at least 200 sponsors of the RTPA before their November meeting in Nashville. With NLC's goal in mind, Mayor Elumbaugh urged members to return home and perform "a full court press" with all of Arkansas's Congressional delegation regarding the RTPA. The Executive Committee voted on and requested the League send a letter of support to the Congressional delegation asking them to cosponsor, if applicable, and endorse the RTPA. Individual members of the Executive Committee will also be sending letters of support directly to Arkansas's Congressional delegation urging their support of the RTPA. For more information on the RTPA, see State Representative Kelley Linck's letter in this issue on page 17 along with research outlining the actual dollars local governments are failing to capture because legislation like the RTPA is not yet in place.

Our League president also encouraged Executive Committee members to meet with their local legislators and concentrate on developing a working relationship with them. According to Elumbaugh, League members "should go out of your way and reach out to your local legislators, pull them in and keep them close."

In the spirit of transparency, discussion ensued about the special audit being performed by the Division



Officials during the Investment Committee meeting examine first and second quarter returns and ensure the League's investments comply with investment policies.



In an overwhelming gesture of support for League Executive Director Don Zimmerman, all municipal officials and staff gave a standing ovation for his exemplary leadership to the League and all its member cities and towns.

of Legislative Audit at the request of State Senator Bill Sample. Members discussed the investigative articles that have appeared in the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. Executive Director Zimmerman mentioned that in his latest discussion with Legislative Audit, auditors estimated presenting the special audit report at their November or December meeting. Zimmerman shared with committee members that he had received numerous phone calls, emails, notes of support, and had many conversations of encouragement since the initial article appeared in the state paper.

The Executive Committee also discussed Zimmerman's compensation, as his compensation has been questioned by Sen. Sample. A motion was made to ratify that all of the Executive Director's compensation, regardless of calculation or type, is salary as that term is commonly understood. The League Executive Director's compensation is and has always been based on merit, performance, and experience. The Committee further noted for the record that Zimmerman's salary was not only for his duties as League Executive Director, but also included Zimmerman's professional management of each of the League's benefit pool programs. At this point in the meeting, a motion was made directing League staff to draft a resolution of the Executive Committee's complete support of Executive Director Don Zimmerman's leadership and the ways in which he manages the League, its programs, and staff. After passing the motion, members of the League's Executive Committee along with everyone in the meeting room stood in ovation of Zimmerman and all he has done for the Arkansas Municipal League and for the cities and towns of Arkansas.

With employee wellness being a priority of our League president, a memo was presented to Executive Committee members outlining a League staff wellness initiative titled **#AMLMoves**. It was noted the League staff were motivated to develop the concept of this wellness initiative in support of Mayor Elumbaugh and all

he and his employees have done in the area of municipal wellness. **#AMLMoves** will track the monthly activity of League staff and offer healthy lifestyle habits that can be adopted easily by anyone. **#AMLMoves** is a voluntary effort on the part of League staff and launching the wellness movement at the League level will hopefully motivate other cities and towns to do the same. The end result and motto for **#AMLMoves** will hopefully be "Healthy Cities Make a Healthy State."

Pertaining to the League's Voluntary Certification Program, League Director of Operations Ken Wasson provided an update on the certification curriculum. Topics such as, "Respect and Understanding in the Workplace, Law Enforcement and Citizen Trust and Embracing/Understanding the New Immigrant Population" would be added to this year's rotation of workshops and continuing education. Wasson also provided a summary of the League's successful 81st Convention held in June in Little Rock. Executive Committee members agreed the 81st Convention was a success and offered their thanks to the League for making it such a success.

League Director of Communications Whitnee Bullerwell reported to the Executive Committee that the widely respected publication, *Current Municipal Problems* (CMP), has requested reprint permission from the League and would like to include Mayor Elumbaugh's presidential feature that appeared in the August issue of *City & Town* written by Editor Andrew Morgan. CMP, first printed in 1951, focuses on providing success stories and articles centered on ways municipalities have problem solved their way to success. Also mentioned was the collaborative effort on the part of the *Arkansas Times*, the Arkansas Municipal League and First Security Bank resulted in the printing of *Block Street Building*, which highlights the "New Urbanism" going on in many of the downtowns in Arkansas. Copies

Continued on page 42

Arkansas's First Lady makes helping abused children her mission

Municipal leaders in attendance at the opening night banquet of the League's 81st Convention in June won't soon forget the passion of Arkansas's First Lady Susan Hutchinson as she shared her commitment to helping children who have suffered abuse. She has made it her goal as First Lady to increase the support and reach of the Children's Advocacy Centers of Arkansas (CAC), which is dedicated to making sure every child victim has access to help, free of charge.

Arkansas currently has 14 advocacy centers across the state, where dedicated staff members offer victim support and advocacy, forensic interviews, medical exams, and therapy. The centers also offer abuse prevention training. And more centers are needed, particularly in underserved areas like the Delta region.

As a board member of Benton County's CAC, Hutchinson was inspired to make support for child abuse victims her priority as Arkansas's First Lady, she said.

"Too many children were hurting there and needing the CAC to heal their brokenness and help restore their



innocence," Hutchinson said. "Sadly, too few children in Arkansas live anywhere near a Center. I am compelled to change that. And I need everyone's help. Being First Lady is a God-given opportunity to sound forth the call to all Arkansans to help our children."

Her concern for victims of abuse goes much further back than her involvement with CAC, she said, to when her best friend confided in her that her pedophile father had violated her and her sisters throughout childhood. They had never told their mother for fear of hurting her, and they prayed their father would die so their mother could marry a nice man. Her friend thought she would never marry because of the shadow of her father's actions, Hutchinson said.

"Since promoting my platform, I have encountered other grown women with similar histories and resulting struggles, as there was no help for them. But now there is help, but only if people of good will make it available near them."

In 2014 alone, the 14 CACs across Arkansas served 4,347 children and their families, according to CAC's Executive Director Stacy Thompson. The staff size of each center varies, ranging from a staff of 15 full- and part-time workers to a staff of just two full-time workers. More forensic interviewers and victim advocates are desired, Thompson said, and more centers are needed. To determine the need and viability of a new center in an underserved area can be an involved process, which



Arkansas's First Lady, Susan Hutchinson, speaking at the League's 81st Convention, announced her intention to make assisting victims of child abuse her priority.



Hutchinson teaches a group of Malvern schoolchildren about the importance of child abuse awareness and reads to them from the famous Dr. Seuss book *Horton Hears a Who*.

would include a feasibility study conducted by a local multi-disciplinary team (MDT) comprised of the Crimes Against Children Division of Arkansas State Police, the Division of Child and Family Services of Arkansas DHS, local law enforcement, prosecutorial, medical, mental health, and victim advocacy professionals.

To see a map of the current service and to learn more about the training available and the steps necessary to establish a new CAC or satellite center, visit www.CACArkansas.org, or contact Executive Director Stacy Thompson at P.O. Box 628, Cabot, AR 782023; or call 501-286-1362.

“There’s such an urgency,” Mrs. Hutchinson said. “Children are dying every day because of sexual and/or physical abuse. Violators are walking among us as wolves in sheep’s clothing and we must identify them and protect children. And we must be there for the children to console them, affirm them, and help them remove the lies and deceit put into their lives by such evil people.”



It can take the courage of Superwoman to come forward about child abuse, as the staff of the Hot Springs CAC knows. They are, from left, Lauren Walker, Carol Levi, Marcie Hermann, Brandi Cannon, First Lady Mrs. Hutchinson, Janice Beaver, Tracey Childress, Lindy Westerman, and Mary Jo Selig.

League District 1 VP builds on generations of success

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

The family roots of Sam E. Angel II, the League's 2015-2016 District 1 Vice President, run deep in Lake Village, where he serves as a longtime alderman. "Sammy," as many folks call him, is the fourth generation to run the family business in the area. They have over the years increased their many farmland holdings, all row crops—rice soybeans, milo, cotton, and wheat. The "family business" is actually several operations, including the Epstein Land Company, Epstein Transloading, and the Epstein Gin Company, all named for his great-grandfather, Sam Epstein.

The gin, he says, is a dying industry. Theirs is the last remaining gin in the county. At one time there were probably a dozen, years ago, Angel says. A new rail line coming soon will allow them to tie into the port at Lake Providence, La., and a lot of their business is looking to move this way, he says.

He and his family have a strong cultural as well as business history in the area. Lakeport Plantation,

Lake Village Alderman and League District 1 Vice President Sam Angel in his office at the Epstein Gin. He is the fourth generation of his family to run the business.



just outside of town, is a beautifully restored home and the last remaining of its kind in Arkansas. His great-grandfather Sam bought the plantation in 1927. Construction had started in 1856 but the Civil War stalled its completion. Over the years his family kept the roof watertight and vandals out, ultimately donating the property to Arkansas State University, which has since restored the home. The Antebellum Greek Revival home now draws thousands of visitors a year from all over the globe.

Angel is the second member of his family to serve as an elected official. His grandfather served on the school board. Through the years his family has long been very active and supportive in the community. The recently expanded sports complex, which includes ball fields, tennis courts, a playground, and a riding arena, was donated to the city by the family and is named in memory of his uncle, Rodney Angel, who was a great supporter of the schools and civic life in Lake Village.

Angel began his career in public service early, as a volunteer fireman, member of the Sheriff's Auxiliary, and as an office holder. The City Council was the first public office he held, when he was appointed in 1991 to fill a vacancy. Improving public safety in the city inspired him to take that post. It was the position of the former administration, at that time, that "the life of a fire truck is eternal," Angel says.

"I kind of thought that I needed a voice at the table to say hey, that's not true; we need some equipment."

Needs haven't always been met as quickly as they'd like, he says, but today the city has some of the best fire and public safety equipment available thanks to the hard work of city leaders over the years.

In 1993 he was elected to the Arkansas House of Representatives, where he served from 1994-2000. He then returned home, where he has served on the City Council since 2003 in addition to numerous boards and



From left, Water Clerk Amanda Strickland, Angel, and Code Compliance Officer Jean Wiley.



From left, Street Superintendent Ronnie Wilson, Larry Ford with the Street Dept., and Angel.

commissions. He is the former chairman of the Arkansas Rural Development Commission and this year he received the organization's prestigious Rural Advocate of the Year award. This is all on top of continuing to run the family business.

Lake Village has always been a hub in the southeast corner of the state, and Angel is proud of recent efforts, like Rodney Angel Park, to continue to improve life in the city and the surrounding Delta. The new location on Hwy. 65 of the farmers market is proving to be a success. It was located for many years near downtown, which, for travelers, is out of sight. It's now very visible and attracts sellers of food and goods from all over. For a city at the convergence of the area's two major highways—65 heading north-south and Hwy. 82 heading east-west—drawing travelers off the road and into the city and its shops and parks is essential to growth.

"Used to be, that's what Lake Village was—there wasn't anything on the highway. But the traffic volume is between 10-12,000 vehicles a day on both highways, 65 and 82, so it has grown to catch that pass-thru traffic."

Now the highway is lined with all kinds of restaurants and shops. One tourist destination the city is very pleased to have is the Arkansas tourist information center, which overlooks Lake Chicot, the largest natural oxbow lake in the nation. The

SEPTEMBER 2015

old center sat on a pier right on the lake. The new, very modern facility, now on the land, showcases the beautiful lake. It's easy to see why the large, clear oxbow is such a popular destination and why so many make their homes along its banks.

Angel is excited about the year ahead for the League and the cities and towns of Arkansas. As a certified auxiliary officer and as captain of the Chicot County Sheriff's Auxiliary for more than 20 years, he looks forward to continuing the League's efforts to promote good community relations between police and citizens. A program is in the works, he says, that could potentially include continuing education for officers to help ease tensions in our communities. He and the rest of the League's leadership will also be watching the upcoming 2016 fiscal session of the Arkansas Legislature as well.

"I'm always interested to see how the session goes and what surfaces and how it impacts our communities."



A fire destroyed the hangar and terminal at the city's airport in 2012, but the city is back in the air with new facilities.

The view of Lake Chicot from the new Arkansas tourist information center.





Mulberry Mayor Gary Baxter, center, with Monica Freeland, assistant to the mayor, left, was able to share the city's concerns with Congressman Bruce Westerman, right, who recently visited the Crawford County city.

Rep. Westerman visits Mulberry

By Sherman Banks

Arkansas's 4th District Congressman Bruce Westerman recently visited the city of Mulberry, where he spoke with Mayor Gary Baxter and Crawford County Judge John Hall about several issues of importance, including the devastation caused by the heavy rains in May of this year, the proposed Clean Line Energy power line, and Mulberry's edamame plant.

Rep. Westerman listened intently and posed specific questions to Mayor Baxter, asking if the damage from the torrential rains had been assessed and what the cost to the city will be. Baxter pointed out that the overflow of the Mulberry River had curtailed planting of crops by local farmers, and those crops that had been planted were destroyed. The cost to the farmers probably will not be assessed until next year. Crawford County is part of the declared disaster area, therefore they can apply for funds through the Corps of Engineers to cover the flood damage. The final assessment of the cost to the city, county, and state is yet to be determined, he said.

Clean Line faces local opposition

The proposed path of the Plains & Eastern Clean Line Transmission Project passes through Mulberry, Baxter and Judge Hall told Westerman. The line would carry 3,500 megawatts of electricity—three times more than the Hoover Dam—across 11 Arkansas counties as part of its 720-mile route. Clean Line has spent the past five years refining its network through public and private meetings with landowners, finding out such things as location of cemeteries and other key local landmarks. Mario Hurtado, executive vice president of Clean Line Energy, pointed out at a town meeting that the roughly 300-mile route has not been approved. The U.S. Department of Energy is carrying out an Environmental

Impact Statement on the project under the National Environmental Policy Act. It is expected to be finished by the second half of 2015.

The project continues to face fierce resistance from landowners and city and county officials. Despite the pushback, the plan is that the Clean Line Energy hopes to begin construction in 2016.

Mayor Baxter indicated that the Clean Line coming through the city of Mulberry would destroy economic development as well as the eco-system of the area. He also pointed out that it would negatively affect tourism in the Ozark Mountains to the north, the Mulberry River to the east, and the Arkansas River to the south.

Because of the strong opposition, the Crawford County Quorum Court in January unanimously passed a resolution asking the U.S. Department of Energy not to green light the route of the Clean Line Plan without further study on how it would impact the state of Arkansas.

Westerman tours edamame plant

Rep. Westerman, Mayor Baxter and Monica Freeland, assistant to the mayor, toured Mulberry's 32,000-square-foot edamame plant with the Raymond Chung, co-owner and CFO of American Vegetable Soybean. Westerman saw first hand the financial impact our nation's first dedicated plant to the receiving, processing, packaging, and shipping of edamame is having on the river valley.



Contact Sherman Banks at 501-786-2639, email sbanks@aristotle.net, or write to P.O. Box 165920, Little Rock, AR 72216.

Wednesday 7:03 pm



THIS MOMENT BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOUR HOMETOWN. While we may not have provided the perfect evening weather, we helped make the evening more enjoyable. Whether it's managing storm water runoff or building the neighborhood park for your impromptu after-work picnic. A better life starts in the city limits. From small towns to big cities, Arkansas's municipal communities improve our quality of life, every day. *Great Cities Make a Great State.*



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NLC shares the facts on e-fairness



The National League of Cities encourages Arkansas cities and towns to contact our elected leaders in Washington, D.C., and ask them to support e-fairness legislation—S.697, the Marketplace Fairness Act of 2015 in the Senate; and H.R.2775, the Remote Transactions Parity Act of 2015 in the House of Representatives.

IMPORTANT FACTS:

- Arkansas loses \$236,311,930—nearly a quarter billion dollar—every year in uncollected sales tax from online sales.
- **E-fairness is not a new tax.** It is closing the online sales tax loophole, to allow enforcement of existing sales taxes and level the competitive playing field for retailers.
- In the 113th Congress, legislation passed the Senate but was not voted on in the House.

Current Bills NLC Supports:

- Senate: S. 698, the Marketplace Fairness Act
- House: H.R. 2775, the Remote Transactions Parity Act
- Arkansas Lt. Gov. Tim Griffin was an original cosponsor of the legislation when he was in the House, and could be encouraged to help pressure his former colleagues.

2013 Lost Sales Tax Revenue in Select Arkansas Jurisdictions:

- Fayetteville - \$786,000
- Fort Smith - \$900,000
- Hot Springs - \$367,000
- Jonesboro - \$526,000
- Little Rock - \$1,010,000
- Pine Bluff - \$416,000
- Rogers - \$584,000

LEGISLATIVE STANCES:

- Senator John Boozman: Sen. Boozman is a current cosponsor of the Marketplace Fairness Act, and an original cosponsor from the 113th Congress. Be sure to thank him.
- Senator Tom Cotton: No public position. Needs to hear from city leaders.
- Rep. Rick Crawford: Previous cosponsor in the 113th Congress but has not yet cosponsored H.R. 2775.
- Rep. French Hill: No public position. Needs to hear from city leaders.
- Rep. Bruce Westerman: No public position. Needs to hear from city leaders.
- Rep. Steve Womack: Original sponsor of legislation in 113th Congress—be sure to thank him.

Collecting online sales tax levels playing field

By Rep. Kelley Linck

No one—at least no one I’ve met—enjoys paying taxes. And whether we like it or not, paying taxes is not a voluntary activity; it is the law. If you don’t pay your income taxes because you don’t want to and end up getting audited, you will find very few people sympathetic to your plight.

Yet, the director of the Arkansas chapter of Americans for Prosperity, in an op-ed earlier this month, appeared to suggest that individuals should not have to pay sales taxes they already legally owe.

Since when did obeying the law become voluntary?

Whether you make a purchase in downtown Yellville, or whether you buy the same product on your computer from the comfort of your couch, you owe sales tax. The only difference is that if the purchase made online is from a business not located in our great state, that out-of-state business is not required to collect and remit applicable sales tax, unlike the store downtown.

Seem fair?

This means that retailers in California have an immediate 6.5 percent to 11.625 percent price advantage over the stores in our communities that employ Arkansans, keep our downtowns vibrant, and who give back to Arkansas. I don’t know about you, but I have never seen eBay on the back of a Little League uniform. That same uniform that is often adorned with the logos of our favorite hometown stores.

To solve this problem, Arkansas Congressman Steve Womack and House Oversight Chairman Jason Chaffetz, along with 40 of their colleagues, have sponsored the Remote Transactions Parity Act (RTPA), legislation that levels the playing field for all retailers by ensuring that every product sold in this state is taxed the same. It provides important safeguards to prevent other states’ auditors from going after our businesses. It also requires states to cover costs associated with tax remittance to not burden our interstate commerce.

Since being elected to the Legislature, I have worked diligently with my colleagues to keep taxes low and equitable for all Arkansans. What the op-ed by Americans for Prosperity did not mention is that over 46 percent of our state’s income is derived from sales and gross receipts taxes. Full collection of these taxes ensures that we can keep other taxes low, or even eliminate some taxes altogether.

In that vein, I was proud to sponsor legislation this year that will now use excess revenue from remote sales-tax collection to lower our state’s income tax. In other words, federal legislation will not raise taxes for Arkansas, it will in fact lower them.

Facts, please!

So, what else did the op-ed fail to mention about RTPA? For one, it won’t cost online retailers a dime. The legislation requires states to pay for all costs associated with the integration and implementation of software used by online sellers.

What about being subject to audits from tax collectors in 46 states and having to know 10,000 taxing jurisdictions? The author failed to mention that all businesses that use the state-provided software—which, again, is free—cannot be audited in any state they are not located, and all tax-collection errors fall on the software provider, not the online retailer.

Determining how to develop the best state tax system is an ongoing debate with a lot of different viewpoints. However, discussions of whether to follow the law or not should not be part of the debate.

Congress should enact the Remote Transactions Parity Act, which will not only allow Arkansas stores to compete with California, it will also keep a little more change in our pockets come tax day.

Kelley Linck, R-Flippin, is the state representative for District 99.

Arkansas State Aid Street Program, AHTD win regional awards



Magnolia was able to put some of its own money together with State Aid funds to pave seven miles of city streets.

Arkansas's State Aid Street Program and the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department were honored with two awards at the 2015 Southeastern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (SASHTO) annual meeting in August. Arkansas projects were well represented at the awards, winning two of the eight awards presented. The State Aid Street Program won in the "Quality of Life/Community Development" category,

and the AHTD's Don Tyson Parkway Interchange won in the "Best Use of Innovation" category.

The State Aid Street Program, which so far has invested more than \$45 million in Arkansas's city streets, has provided municipalities with necessary funding to preserve, update, and maintain vital streets in cities and towns across Arkansas. To date 254 projects have been funded, and a new round of funding will soon begin.



AHTD Director Scott Bennett, center, accepts the SASHTO Award at the group's annual meeting in August in Nashville.

“The SASHTO award is symbolic of the positive effect the State Aid Street Program is having across the State of Arkansas,” said Steve Napper, attorney for the State Aid Street Committee. “More than simply repairing city streets the program is helping to establish a sense of new found pride by citizens in their local communities.”

One of those hundreds of cities and towns in which State Aid Street Program funding has made a difference is Gould in Lincoln County. The funding has been especially effective in small cities and towns like Gould. With the State Aid money, Gould was able repave, overlay, or repair six streets, Gould Mayor Essie Dale-Cableton said.

“It was a blessing for us,” the mayor said. “We would not have been able to do the work at all without that funding. Before, most of my complaints were ‘When are you going to fix our streets?’ And now I don’t have that.”

The State Aid Street work even had a kind of multiplier effect in the city, she said. Residents and businesses along the newly repaved streets were inspired to clean up their properties and make them more attractive.



The State Aid Street Committee will meet Sept. 17 to finalize the procedures for the new funding cycle, which begins soon. To learn more about the available funding and how to submit a request, visit www.citystreet.ar.gov.

AHTD’s \$13.23 million Don Tyson Parkway Interchange in Springdale was designed around a buried landfill under the interchange to ensure a stable roadway without excavation. As such the project was completed more than six months ahead of schedule and \$2.6 million under budget.

Other state transportation departments named award winners were Florida, Kentucky, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

“Ultimately it’s the American people who are the big winners,” said John Cox, president of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials and director of the Wyoming Department of Transportation. “These projects are a small example of how state DOTs are saving taxpayer dollars while building innovative projects to meet community needs.”



Bay students have a wonderful new school facility, but construction traffic tore up the city street. The city was able to repave with State Aid Street Program funds.



Little Rock was able to use State Aid money to transform part of its Main Street corridor into a more pedestrian and bicycle-friendly area.


Municipal Notes

From the ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

2nd & Willow • P.O. Box 38 • North Little Rock, AR 72115 • (501) 374-3484

August 26, 2015

**TO: OFFICERS, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND ADVISORY COUNCILS
MAYORS, CITY ADMINISTRATORS AND MANAGERS
CITY CLERKS, RECORDERS, AND TREASURERS**

FROM: DON A. ZIMMERMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 

SUBJECT: BUDGET INFORMATION

The new League governing bodies, which were elected at the Convention or appointed by Mayor Rick Elumbaugh of Batesville, League President, met in Batesville last week. Several items considered will affect your budget preparations for 2016.

League Service Charge. The Executive Committee retained the current service charge formula. The base charge is \$40 plus 35¢ per capita with 7¢ per capita credits, determined on October 1st, for participation in each of the following programs:

- Municipal Legal Defense Program
- Municipal Health Benefit Fund
- Municipal League Workers' Compensation Trust
- Municipal Vehicle Program
- Municipal Property Program

Also continued by the Executive Committee was inclusion of membership in the National League of Cities for all our members.

Municipal Legal Defense Program. The Steering Committee for the Municipal Legal Defense Program retained the current service charge formula for 2016. The 2016 charges will range from \$1.00 to \$5.00 per capita depending upon your municipality's loss experience. The optional drug & alcohol testing program for **non**-Commercial Drivers License (CDL) employees will continue to be available and can be implemented by increasing your MLDP charge by 20¢ per capita.

Municipal Health Benefit Fund. The Board of Trustees made some benefit changes which will be effective January 1st. The 2016 booklets will be accessible online at www.arml.org/benefit_programs. A Health Seminar will be held at League headquarters on November 18th. If you are not currently participating in the MHBFB and would like to receive a proposal for comparative purposes, please advise.

Turnback Estimates. Estimates for general turnback are as follows. The street turnback estimate includes proceeds from the highway ½ cent sales tax and the severance tax.

	<u>2015 (revised)</u>	<u>2016</u>
Street Turnback -	\$64.75 per capita	\$65.00 per capita
General Turnback -	\$15.25 per capita	\$15.00 per capita
Total Turnback -	\$80.00 per capita	\$80.00 per capita

APERS Cost. For those municipalities participating in the Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System (APERS), the employer contribution will remain at 14.5%.

We hope this information will be of assistance to you as you begin your budget preparations for 2016.

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Voluntary Certified Continuing Education Program

The League's Voluntary Certified Continuing Education Program continues in 2015 with a series of workshops covering topics helpful to municipal leaders. The voluntary certification plan is, approved by the Executive Committee, and consists of 21 credit hours of topics.

For those city officials who have completed the 21 hours of core curriculum, you must annually obtain 6 hours of continuing education to maintain your certification status. The required 6 hours must be gained by attending the hours of continuing education offered at the 2015 Fall Conference, the 82nd Annual Convention, or the 2017 Land Use Seminar.

The Program is for Arkansas mayors, city managers, city directors and aldermen, city recorders, recorder/treasurers, city clerks, clerk/treasurers.

The next workshops are:

- Human Resources and Personnel Matters (5 core curriculum hours), 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Oct. 28 at League headquarters. Registration will open Monday, Sept. 28.
- City Government 101: Who Does What at City Hall (5 core curriculum hours), 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 13, 2016, at League headquarters.

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

The road to recovery in Faulkner County

By Shelby Fiegel

April 27, 2014, will be forever ingrained in the minds of Faulkner County citizens, specifically those from the cities of Vilonia and Mayflower. Last April, a devastating F4 tornado hit the two cities, causing major damage both physically and mentally for those affected. There were 16 fatalities and 193 injuries along the tornado's 43-mile trek. It was recorded as the deadliest tornado in the country during 2014 and the deadliest in Arkansas since 1968.

Though the road to recovery was an uphill battle, just over a year later both cities are on the track to a brighter future. They did not give up in the face of adversity. Instead the citizens united and looked at the destruction as an opportunity to strategically rebuild their communities better than they were before.

As Vilonia and Mayflower community leaders initiated the rebuilding process, the key to their success was long-term thinking. They recognized that the tornado recovery efforts were not going to be completed in a matter of months and understood there was a need to implement strategic plans that would enact positive

change, keep momentum high, and ensure everyone was working toward a common goal.

The first step to effective long-term recovery was to identify anchor organizations across the state that would act as partners, resource guides, and knowledge centers. Vilonia and Mayflower partnered with a variety of groups at the federal and state level to assist them throughout the recovery process. Federal agencies were effective at collecting data, developing reports, providing recommendations, and developing solutions to complex issues, but those agencies only had a short window of time in which they were available to be utilized. Once those agencies completed their assignments, it was up to other organizations such as the University of Central Arkansas's Center for Community and Economic Development, Central Arkansas Planning and Development District, University of Arkansas at Little Rock's Institute for Economic Advancement, Metroplan, and the University of Arkansas's Community Design Center to make that data digestible, help those recommendations come to fruition and assist the communities in developing their action plans.



UCA's Center for Community and Economic Development hosted Faulkner County Economic Development Boot Camp to help local leaders move from recovery mode to planning mode.



Training sessions at the boot camp helped participants create strategic plans for moving forward.

The rebuilding effort also created an opportunity for local leaders to explore new possibilities for economic development. Leaders in both cities kept an open mind and were extremely receptive to suggestions and knowledge imparted on them by experts in the fields of disaster recovery and community and economic development. As a result of their efforts, several initiatives were completed in the last year, including:

- A long-range plan for redevelopment, which included community visioning meetings and development of zoning regulations.
- Funding of a recovery coordinator and support staff for one year. The recovery coordinator took on the role of economic developer for both cities, making the position the first of its kind in either community.
- A Benchmarking Tour of Arkadelphia, the goals of which were to understand how an Arkansas city responded to a natural disaster that impacted the central business district and hear about long-term economic development efforts that have gained traction in Arkadelphia and Clark County.
- The first ever Faulkner County Economic Development Boot Camp, held by UCA's Center for Community and Economic Development. The boot camp included training sessions and planning simulations presented by community and economic development professionals from across Arkansas.
- Vilonia began the development of a brand with the Center and LaGrone Design. The city, which previously had no established brand, recognized

the need for one during their recovery efforts. The new brand includes a logo and tagline that will establish a significant and differentiated presence for Vilonia among other communities.

Using all the resources at their disposal, Vilonia and Mayflower started to lay the foundation for their strategic action plans that would lead them into a prosperous future. Once the action plans were developed and adopted, elected officials, community leaders, grassroots organizations (such as the Rebuild Vilonia Committee), and various other community organizations were each assigned a role to play within the execution of the plans.

Vilonia and Mayflower have received an estimated \$8 million in state and federal grants, with the possibility for more funding in the future.

Over a year has passed since the April 27 tornado and both cities are on the fast track to moving from "tornado recovery" to "economic development" as their mind set.

For more information on preparing your community for resilience, or best practices for economic development following a disaster, contact UCA's Center for Community and Economic Development at ccd@uca.edu.



Shelby Fiegel is Project Coordinator, University of Central Arkansas, Center for Community and Economic Development.

BACC Director of Grant Writing and Communications receives GPA International Conference Scholarship

Batesville Area Chamber of Commerce (BACC) Director of Grant Writing and Communications Danell Hetrick has received a Grant Professionals Foundation scholarship to attend the Grant Professionals Association (GPA) International Conference in November. The GPA International Conference is the premier



comprehensive professional development conference for professionals in all areas of grantsmanship. It is the only international professional development conference of its kind. This year's conference will be held in St. Louis.

"I was truly thrilled when I received the award announcement," Hetrick said. "The GPA International Conference is a fantastic professional development opportunity, and I am excited to get to learn from some of the world's elite grant professionals. I am honored that the Grant Professionals Foundation Scholarship Committee selected my application."

The Foundation supports the GPA by providing resources to train, credential, and advocate for those grant professionals serving nonprofit organizations who secure the funding necessary to serve the needs of our most vulnerable neighbors.

Hetrick will share her takeaways from the conference in a future issue of *City & Town*.

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Nutrition is key as kids get back to school

By Tina Crook, Ph.D.

Nearly a month into the new school year, students are getting back into the swing of things. The newness has worn off the backpacks, notebooks, and pencils, and the homework, tests, and projects are starting to pile up.

As our children return to learning new things each day at school, it's important that we remember to send them off ready to absorb all that knowledge. A healthy, nutritious diet can ensure our kids have the energy needed to excel in the classroom.

First things first

This begins with breakfast. Usually, we think our morning meal has to be comprised of traditional breakfast foods like bacon and eggs or cereal and milk, but this is not the case. As long as kids are getting the fuel they need before school, the type of food does not matter. So get your kids involved in the planning process.

An ideal breakfast includes food from at least three food groups. Incorporate a protein-rich food (think eggs, low-fat yogurt, cheese, or peanut butter), a complex carbohydrate (like whole grain bread, tortillas, cereal, or crackers), and a piece of fruit or dairy food. Some examples are a whole grain tortilla filled with low-fat cheese or peanut butter served with an apple or banana.

Another easy, on-the-go option is homemade trail mix with low-fat milk or yogurt. Making trail mix with your kids is a great way to get them involved in the process. Have them choose a whole grain cereal, dried fruit and nuts and mix it all up over the weekend. The more involved your kids are in selecting and planning foods, the more excited they will be to eat them throughout the week!

What's for lunch?

While breakfast may be considered the most important meal of the day, lunch is also essential to get your child through the afternoon school hours. As with breakfast, we tend to get bogged down with traditional lunch items like sandwiches. However, there are ways to

switch it up at the lunch table. Make sandwiches more interesting by cutting them into fun shapes with a cookie cutter or make a wrap using a whole grain tortilla. Kids may also enjoy building their own lunches. Pack whole grain crackers, lean deli meat, cheese, and veggies and let them stack the ingredients how they like. The more appealing and colorful the food looks, the more likely kids are to eat it. Adding colorful veggies and fruit such as carrots, peppers, kiwi, and cherries can be quite enticing.

Having the proper equipment is also important. If packing a lunch is the norm in your household, investing in an insulated lunch bag can give you more options to pack, especially cold foods. Keeping a bin of easy, go-to items at home can also cut down on preparation time during the week.

As with breakfast, involve your kids in the planning process. Set aside time on the weekend to plan meals with your kids. Let them pick out a new veggie or fruit each week at the grocery store to add to their lunch. Pack a healthy dip like hummus or a low-fat dressing with raw veggies to increase the likelihood they will eat them.

If you have a picky eater, these tips can be especially helpful. Kids will be more invested in the entire process if they get to help plan and prepare the meals. Introducing new foods gradually one at a time and serving with one of your child's established favorites will increase the odds of them trying the new food.

Preparing multiple meals five times a week can be a daunting task for parents, but a little planning can go a long way. The impact a well-balanced diet can have on your child's performance in the classroom will make all that hard work worth it in the end.



Tina Crook, Ph.D., is Associate Professor, Department of Dietetics and Nutrition, UAMS College of Health Professions.

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CRAFTON TULL provided civil and surveying services for portions of this 36-mile, primarily off-road, shared-use trail that stretches from north Bentonville to south Fayetteville.



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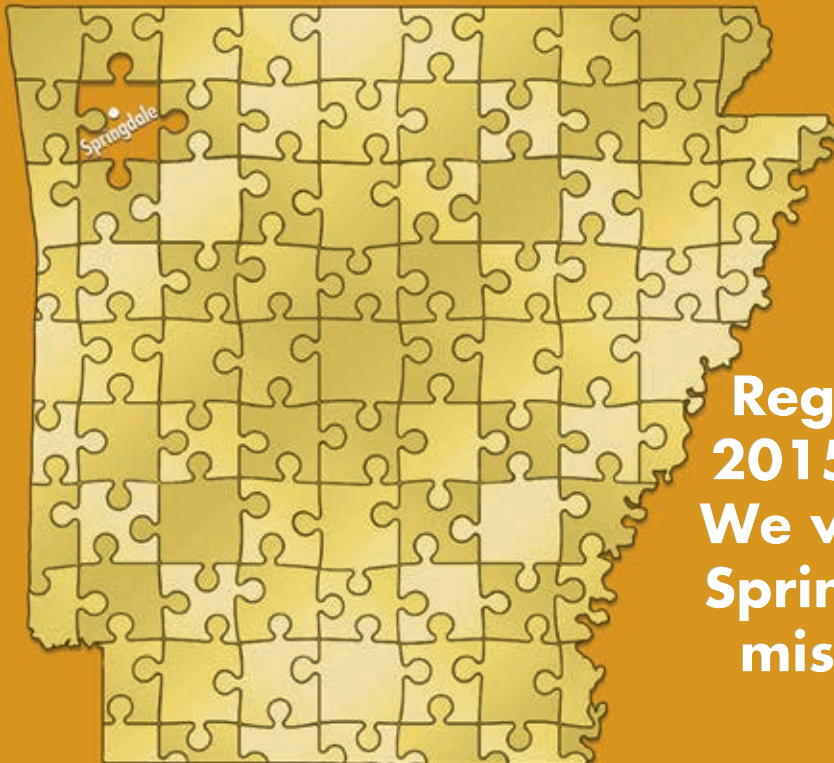
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Holiday Inn & Convention Center Northwest Arkansas, Springdale. December 2-4, 2015.



2015 Fall Conference

Holiday Inn & Convention Center Northwest Arkansas, Springdale. December 2-4, 2015.

REGISTRATION

Registration and payment must be received in League office by Monday, November 9, 2015, to qualify for Pre-registration rates.

Pre-registration for municipal officials	\$150
Registration fee after November 9, 2015 , and on-site registration for municipal officials	\$175
Pre-registration for guests	\$75
Registration fee after November 9, 2015 , and on-site registration for guests	\$100
Other registrants	\$200

- Registration will be processed **ONLY** with accompanying payment in full. Make checks payable to the Arkansas Municipal League.
- Registration includes meals, activities and a copy of **Handbook for Arkansas Municipal Officials, 2015-2016**.
- No daily registration is available.
- Registration must come through the League office. No telephone registrations will be accepted.
- **No refunds after November 9, 2015.**
- Cancellation letters must be postmarked by **November 9, 2015.**

HOTEL RESERVATION

Hotel Room Rates

Holiday Inn (headquarters hotel)		
Single/Double	\$104	Check-in 3 p.m.
Hampton Inn		
Single/Double	\$104	Check-in 3 p.m.
Fairfield Inn & Suites		
Single/Double	\$104	Check-in 3 p.m.
Comfort Suites		
Single/Double	\$104	Check-in 3 p.m.
Doubletree Club		
Single/Double	\$104	Check-in 3 p.m.

- Cut-off date for hotel reservations is **November 9, 2015.**
- Rooms in Springdale are subject to an 13.75 percent tax.
- Rooms will be held until 6 p.m. and then released unless guaranteed by credit card.
- Contact the hotel directly to make changes or cancellations in hotel accommodations.
- Hotel confirmation number will come directly from the hotel.
- Please check on cancellation policy for your hotel.



Being a good boss means doing the whole job

By Wally Bock

Being a boss is hard work, and it can be the most rewarding work in the world. But you have to do the whole job.

What's a boss?

A boss is someone who is responsible for the performance of a group. That group might be a six-person team or a 300,000-person company. What makes you a boss is that your performance is evaluated based on the performance of that team.

Great bosses are part of teams that have high productivity and high morale. Bad bosses destroy morale and drive away talent. Over time their negative impact overwhelms whatever numbers they may generate.

You'll do better as a boss if you enjoy helping other people succeed. You'll do better if you're comfortable with making decisions and willing to have tough conversations with others about performance and behavior. And you have a lot of things to pay attention to.

When you're a boss you have two objectives

Every day when you go to work, you've got two objectives. One or the other may be more important on any given day. But over time you have to achieve both.

- **Accomplish the mission**—Your team has to get the job done. Your part of that is to do everything you can to make it possible. Remove obstacles and don't be one yourself. Facilitate good work.
- **Care for the people**—You're the one responsible for keeping your people safe. It's your job to help them succeed today and also tomorrow.

When you're a boss you have to consider two time frames

You have to pay attention to the present and the future as you achieve your objectives. You must get today's job done, but you also need to do things that build team and individual capacity to succeed in the future.

When you're a boss you have three kinds of work

Forget the nonsense that some people are leaders and others are managers. If you're a boss you have to lead and manage and supervise too. They're different kinds of work.

- **Leadership work**—Leadership work is about setting the direction and demonstrating the values. You can't take a day off either. You must do your leadership work all day every day. Set the example because people are paying attention. Communicate the mission and other key messages.
- **Management work**—Management work is about groups and processes and priorities. You'll hold meetings and schedule activities and make sure the administrative laundry gets done.
- **Supervision work**—Supervision work is the people part of the job. It's all about helping team members do a good job today and a better job tomorrow.

Boss's bottom line

Being a good boss is hard work. Your life is a daily bowl of trade-offs and challenges. But if it's for you it can be the most rewarding work in the world.

This article originally appeared on Wally Bock's Three Star Leadership Blog, threestarleadership.com/blog, and is reprinted with permission.



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Best Practices for Local Government Budgets

A government's budget reflects its vision, strategy, and priorities. Effective budget processes are inclusive, transparent, and efficient. When done right, key budget processes and information are communicated simply, clearly, and frequently, which results in greater transparency and trust.

Budgets are local governments' most important documents.

Budgets matter. They signal a municipality's policies and civic priorities. The budget is where the rubber meets the road; it shows how a community will spend and invest.

Municipalities face multiple budget challenges.

Among the challenges:

- Diminished local government revenues. Many states have seen their tax revenues fall and have in turn cut funding for local governments.
- Lack of clear direction from councils and boards, and often lack of alignment around a central vision or strategy.
- Lack of buy-in from all key stakeholders.
- Low levels of citizen understanding, input, involvement, and engagement.
- Staff turnover and burnout.

Municipalities are developing budget best practices to overcome these challenges.

These best practices include:

- **Have a clear, well-defined budget process.** Each of the budget and finance directors could clearly describe all of the key steps of their government's budget process, on an annual and month-by-month basis. They have a timeline with all key steps, know what has to happen at each step, when the step must occur, how long the step must take, and who should be involved.
- **Start with a vision, goals, and a strategic plan.** The budget supports what a city wants to accomplish. For this reason, the first step in a good budget process is articulation of a clear vision by elected leaders and municipal personnel. In many cities, the budget process begins with the mayor's State of the City address, where the vision is laid out. In some cities, the budget process begins with a strategic planning and goal-setting session involving the city's aldermen. In this session, aldermen share their visions and set short- and long-term goals.
- **Focus.** Choose one or two challenges to focus on for the budget year. Tackling everything at once doesn't work and leads to staff burnout. Pick a challenge, and come up with a strategy to address it, execute, and report the results back to your citizens.
- **Get buy-in from all departments.** In creating a budget, it is important for all departments to understand the vision and goals of the budget, and how they fit into the budget process. The city leaders need to be certain to emphasize the importance of achieving buy-in across all departments, engaging all departments in creating and implementing the budget, and delegating work to various departments.
- **Invite citizen input.** Budgets are more credible and receive more widespread support when citizens understand them and know that they have a voice in them. Cities go about gathering citizen input in a variety of ways. Municipalities may hold public hearings, town hall meetings, open houses, citizen academies, focused discussion sessions, and needs surveys. Common questions asked of residents are:
 - What's most important to you? (common answers are public safety, maintenance and repair, and economic development)
 - What should be the city's top priorities?
 - What do you want to see more of [from your local government]?
 - What are you willing to pay more for?

- **Communicate the budget broadly, simply, and clearly.** Once the budget has been developed, the key is to communicate it to all key stakeholders, including elected officials, departments, staff, and citizens. Successful local government leaders communicate the same information multiple times, in multiple ways. This includes through formal budget books, press releases, summary sheets, PDFs on websites, social media, and web-based tools that are available today.

An effective budget process builds trust in local government.

Because budgets are complex and detailed, achieving understanding and trust requires moving from often overwhelming amounts of data to simple, clear information. Keys to successfully communicating priorities and building trust include:

- **Be as transparent as possible.** Trust is built through transparency. Share as much as you can, as often as you can. Repetition is a good thing.
- **Make it simple.** Don't assume the reader knows what you know or has the same level of expertise. Have staff or citizens (not on the budget team) proofread the budget document.
- **Provide consistent, repeated messages.** Deliver the same messages over and over, in different ways, using slightly different phrases and methods. Consistency helps to build trust.
- **Use compelling visuals.** Pictures, charts, and interactive graphs can help convey complex information in a simple way. A pie chart can be quite effective in this area.
- **Allow feedback and interaction.** In addition to making budget information transparent and easily accessible, build trust by fostering frequent conversations with citizens.

Readers may also reference the *Municipal Accounting Handbook* (Revised August 2013, Revised with Legislative Updates June 2015) online via the League's website at ww.arml.org/services/publications.

Source: *The Administrator's Guide to Financial Transparency* via opengov.com.





PHOTO BY JIM VON TUNGELN

Leftovers: The puzzle pieces of urban planning

By Jim von Tungeln

Urban planning can appear simple and direct to those who only contend with the development of vacant land. To those who must deal with the sum total of all properties within a planning area, the process may seem like making sense of a patchwork quilt sewn without rules and assembled in the dark by people who don't like one another. In short, planners can inherit a mess that can't be solved with pretty pictures or fancy, but unintelligible, terms.

One of the issues modern planners—professionals and lay planners—face is what we might call “dealing with the leftovers.” By this we mean individual properties that, in their present condition, will likely remain vacant or unused in their present zoning classification. In the long run, that seldom does anyone any good.

Left unattended, these properties may become a blighting influence on the neighborhood. At the same time, they produce nothing positive for the health of the city, despite receiving all municipal services.

They occur for a number of reasons. Some are properties that have remained vacant since the city developed. They may be small and inaccessible. They may have tangled ownerships, owned by long-standing and complex estates. Many will simply never be used by their owners within the confines of the current zoning regulations.

They may be vacant as a result of fires or natural disasters. In other cases, their improvements may have once formed an important part of the urban fabric, but later became obsolete and then derelict. Zoning statutes governing non-conforming structures or uses prevented their upgrading or replacement. Property owners demolished the original improvements and marginally useful vacant land remained.

Some stand as reminders of the so-called “block-busting” practices of years ago. During those times, many residential properties in older cities were zoned commercial in anticipation of a market that never developed. In any case, they are vacant unused properties returning little to the city in terms either of revenue or enhancement.

Such properties should not be confused with others that are simply being held for future development. They form different challenges for discussion on another day. The properties discussed herein are unlikely ever to be developed without some affirmative action on the part of the city, or a mutual effort between the property owner and the city.

The common term for this type of action is infill development—or making leftover parcels productive. It is, as Shakespeare phrased it, “...a consummation devoutly to be wished.”



A simple letter to the owner of this parcel, in the author's old neighborhood, resulted in the removal of an abandoned and derelict commercial use. Later, the lot was restored to a residential use.

on any given parcel without review by the planning commission, possibly with conditions placed upon their use. Cities should employ conditional uses sparingly lest they simply become a device for skirting the zoning code. Municipalities should consult with their attorneys and planning professionals when contemplating this approach.

The focus on single-use zoning is also giving way, albeit gradually, to a new focus on characteristics such as size, shape, bulk, height, and traffic impacts of a use on a specific location. This trend should add flexibility to the use of leftover parcels. This practice should originate in the planning and policy formation of the planning process. This can help assure that it is meeting the standards of addressing the health, safety, and welfare of the populace.

As so-called "greenfield development" becomes more costly, we are seeing more "tear downs" and redevelopment. This not only facilitates the use of leftover parcels, it provides the opportunity for planning commissions to work with property owners in mitigating the impact of development. The results are beneficial for both parties. The city sees less stress on the urban system. Property owners and developers profit from better access, improved utilities, and a more appealing image.

A major obstacle to making leftover parcels more productive is the refusal of property owners to act. There is not much a city can do about this until the inaction creates code violations that threaten the health and safety of other property owners and residents. Reasons for inaction are varied and include, as mentioned above, the complex entanglements of large estates. Other factors include emotional attachments: "My dad never wanted that property changed," and unrealistic monetary expectations.

The refusal of property owners to act generates frequent inquiries from our cities and pleas for easy solutions. Again, there is little the city can do except maintain code enforcement practices. There have been instances in which what the Federal Reserve calls "moral suasion" has worked. This simply means talking to property owners, providing information, and pointing out how the productive use of their property would benefit them as well as the community.

It's worth a try, at least.



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.

It is, unfortunately, an intent that is often more discussed and proposed than actually achieved. Challenges abound and solutions are few. There are, however, some approaches for the innovative planning commission.

One approach is the planned unit development, or PUD. Originally conceived as a tool to promote mixed-use development, they now form a part of almost every zoning code. In extremely simple terms, they are a zoning classification that includes a "plat" approval, limiting development to exactly what is proposed on the site plan. Their use can be thwarted, however, by an overly complex approach. Cities have been known to include them as a method to promote innovative development. They then produce long, complex, demanding regulations that discourage any developer who must respect a "bottom-line."

Other cities have liberalized their approach to PUDs and now allow them as a tool to address infill development. This approach permits some wider choice of uses while assuring neighbors that uses incompatible with the neighborhood will not be included. For example, suppose that a small non-residential use had existed harmoniously in a residential neighborhood for years, say a commercial or even limited manufacturing facility. Neighbors would be willing to accept a redesign, or even small expansion, of this property but would not want to "open it up" to the wide range of uses allowable in a different zoning classification. The small-size PUD could allow a modest redevelopment while protecting the neighborhood from "developmental escalation."

Another approach involves the careful use of "conditional uses," also known as "uses permitted on review." These are uses that are allowable in a district, but not

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2015

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

Random testing management concerns—Quarterly updates must include new hires

As a'TEST random management services approach the last quarter of 2015, we have begun a review of all employers' random update lists that have been submitted to us. In doing this, we have discovered a repeated problem, and action needs to be taken to correct it prior to year's end.

It appears that most employers have been good about conducting the testing of their selected employees in a timely manner. This is important to note, and we appreciate those program managers who perform this task correctly. We have, however, noted a serious matter on most lists submitted to us quarterly. When an individual is selected for pre-employment with an organization, they take a pre-employment drug test. Although we may be involved in conducting the individual's pre-employment drug test, we do not know that the person is hired.

There are many factors impacting the hiring of an employee, and it is possible to pass a drug test but fail to meet the other hiring standards. Unless you notify a'TEST that you have hired this individual, we have no record that the pre-employment test administered is to be added to your random list. Consequently, employee

names are on the lists you send to us, but we have no way to connect the pre-employment test to our list. In other words, we cannot add a pre-employment drug test to your random list unless you notify us to add this individual and their test to your random file. We have lots of names being added by you to the lists—and no verified pre-employment test noted. It is impossible for the random manager to guess on your hiring. You cannot do a random test if there is no pre-employment test in the file for your employee. **If your list is not correct, please contact Matt Gerke or Jeff Sims and send a complete list of employees with proper notations.**

This might seem rather crazy to you to ask that you send verification of hiring to a'TEST; however, in a DOT audit it would be an issue. **Please let us know if you hire anyone and note it on your quarterly random update. Your help is needed and appreciated.**

This random list update review also applies to the Non-CDL lists being sent to a'TEST. Please send a completed list of employees that are eligible for random testing to us. Additions and deletions without proper notations do not allow the random managers to keep your lists audit ready.



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.

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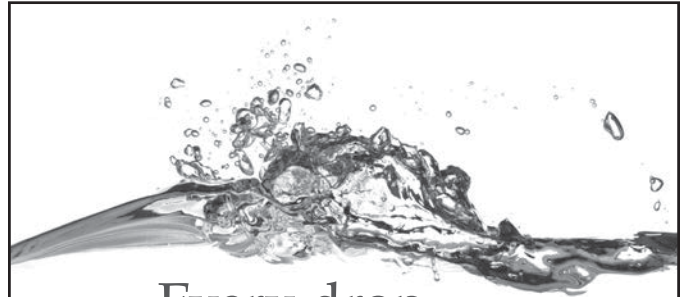
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New Cotton Plant mayor meeting city's challenges

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

New Cotton Plant Mayor Willard Ryland, a first-time office holder, has been in office less than a year and has stayed busy working to improve life in the Woodruff County city. He comes to the job from the nonprofit job-training sector, and he worked for 35 years for the federal government as a district conservationist, which also included stints in Oklahoma and Michigan. He returned to Cotton Plant, which is his hometown, where he still owns a family farm with his relatives. The land's been in the family for 96 years.

Ryland follows a two-term mayor, and, he says, the transition as a newcomer to the office has had its difficulties, but he's learning quickly on the job.

"We're moving forward, and we're looking at the future of Cotton Plant," he says. "I think Cotton Plant is on the move."

He ran a campaign on economic development improvements, and he's been working closely with the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, White River Planning District, and the USDA. He's confident about a relationship he's building between the city and an industry out of Kentucky called Two Rivers Fisheries. They're interested in moving into a plant with the possibility of future expansion. As in Augusta and other cities and towns on and near the White River and its tributaries, invasive Asian Carp is a big issue. The fish breed often, are voracious eaters, and threaten the existence of Arkansas's native species and their habitats. The new plant would process the fish for shipping to China and for other purposes. Ryland is cautious but optimistic about the development.

Health and wellness, infrastructure, and housing were other issues Ryland ran on. He's particularly concerned about the housing situation in the city of 649. The



city is looking at grant opportunities for fixing, weatherizing, and generally improving some of their housing.

On the education front, Ryland is pleased to announce the city's library, which had been closed for several years, has celebrated its grand reopening. The city in April of this year joined with the East Arkansas Regional Library System to facilitate the reopening, and it is already proving popular with the children. The librarian has already had to enforce the time limit so more of the kids had an opportunity to use one of the library's four computers.

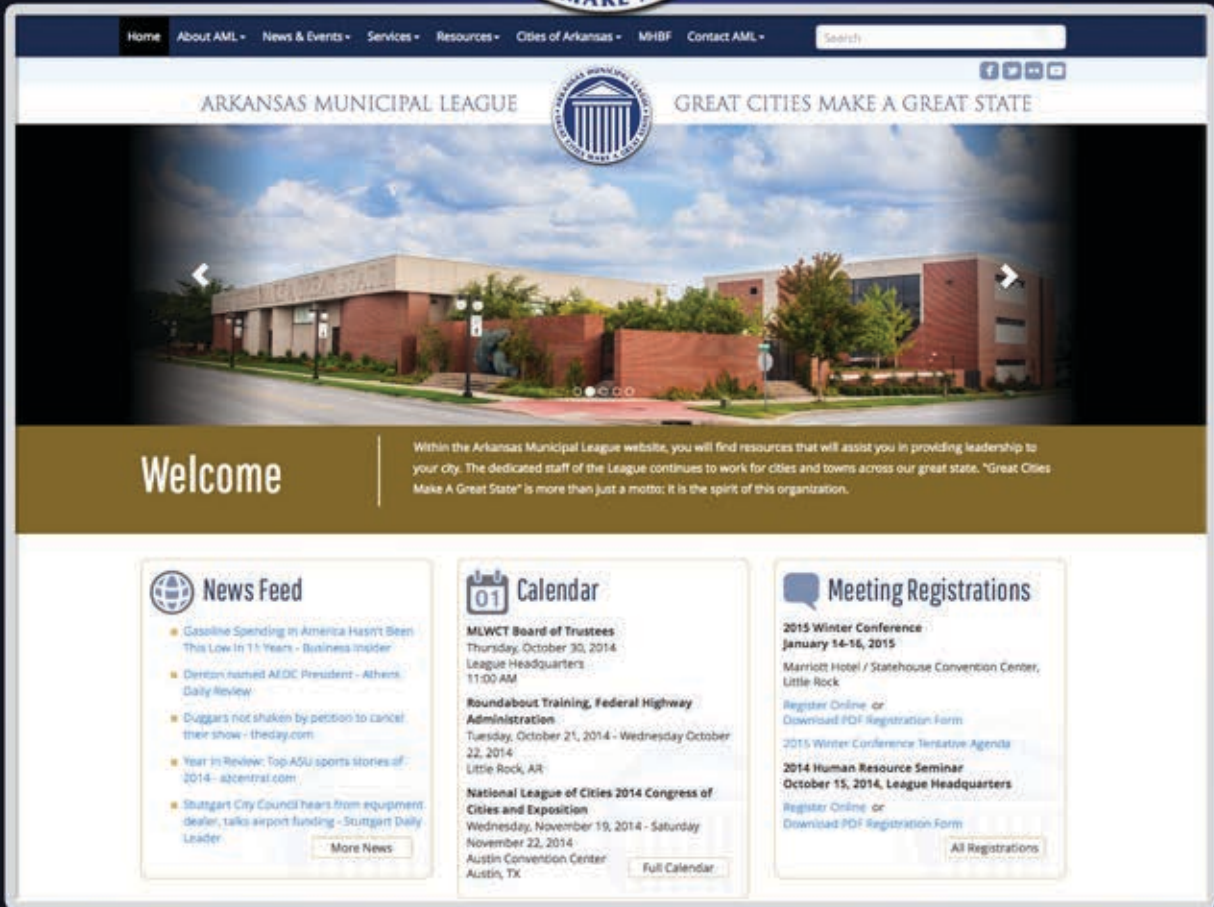
"We know that's a plus, when you have to use the time limit to get people off the machine so you can get someone else on. It's working out real well."

Cotton Plant has also stepped up its efforts to beautify the city. They participated in Keep Arkansas Beautiful's spring cleanup, and in late August residents held a citywide cleanup they've named the City Pride Campaign.

Taking the reigns of a municipality is challenging, to say the least, and the League has been a big help, Ryland says. He attended the 2015 Winter Conference in January right after he took office and found it "extremely helpful," he says. He missed the 81st Convention because he had knee surgery, but he plans to be there for our 2015 Fall Conference. He's also encouraging the City Council to take advantage of the many educational opportunities the League offers year-round. It's easy to get stuck in a rut, he says.

"That's why it's so important," Ryland says. "Go to these training sessions, network with people, get ideas from other communities. I want to bring Cotton Plant in line with other cities and be competitive."





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With grants from AHTD and the State Aid Street Program, Green Forest was able to complete a beautification project on the newly named Ratzlaff Avenue, which leads to the city's high school and new middle school.

Green Forest honors fallen hometown soldier with street name, beautification

The city of Green Forest in Carroll County has renamed Phillips Street as Tommy Ratzlaff Avenue, in honor of the highly decorated Navy SEAL and Green Forest native who was killed on Aug. 6, 2011 when his helicopter was shot down in Afghanistan. Ratzlaff was among 30 Americans killed when their CH-47 Chinook helicopter was downed by a rocket-propelled grenade.

Green Forest in 2010 applied for a beautification grant from the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department to plant trees, improve pedestrian access, and increase traffic safety along Phillips Street, which was the gateway to the city's high school and a new middle school. The city was also able to lay new asphalt thanks to the State Aid Street Program.

The initial grant was approved in 2011, and after the city learned of the death of their hometown soldier, they moved to rename the street Tommy Ratzlaff Avenue in his honor. The city topped off the project with Navy SEAL banners installed on the period-oriented streetlights.



Navy SEAL and Green Forest native Tommy Ratzlaff was killed in action in Afghanistan in 2011.

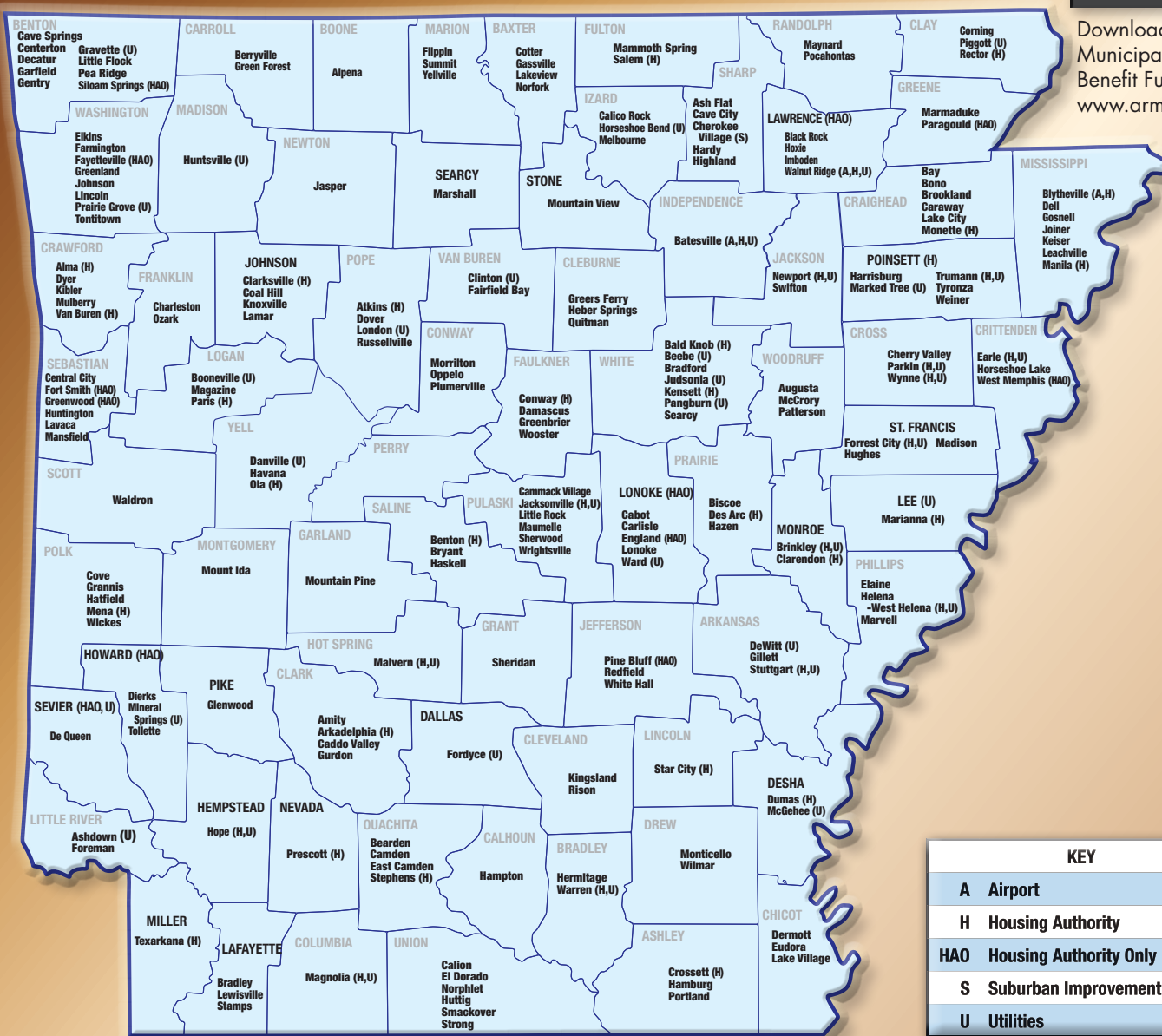


The city has named the former Phillips Street in Ratzlaff's honor.

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Other Municipal Entities Covered by MHBF

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Barton-Lexa Water Association	Phillips County	Little Rock Metroplan	Little Rock	Ozark Mountain Regional Public Water	Diamond City
Boston Mountain Solid Waste	Prairie Grove	Little Rock Port Authority	Little Rock	Ozark Regional Transit	Ozark
Central Arkansas Planning & Development District	Lonoke	Little Rock Workforce Investments	Little Rock	Piggott Community Hospital	Piggott
Eighth Judicial Drug Task Force	De Queen	Local Police & Fire Retirement System	Little Rock	Regional Recycling & Waste Reduction District	Pulaski County
Fifth Judicial District Prosecuting Attorney	Russellville	Magnolia Regional Medical Center	Magnolia	SE AR Economic Development District	Pine Bluff
Fifth Judicial District	Russellville	Mena Regional Health System	Mena	Sevier County Water Association	De Queen
Grand Prairie/Bayou Two Water	Lonoke and Prairie Counties	Montgomery County Nursing Home	Mount Ida	Third Judicial District Drug Task Force	Jackson County
Holiday Island Suburban Improvement District	Carroll County	NE AR Region Solid Waste Management District	Paragould	Thirteenth Judicial District Drug Task Force	Camden
Ladd Water Users Association	Pine Bluff	North Little Rock - Library	North Little Rock	Upper SW Regional Solid Waste Management District	Nashville
Lakeview Midway Public Water	Lakeview	North Little Rock - Sewer/Waste Water	North Little Rock	Waldron Housing Authority	Waldron
Lee County Water Association	Marianna	Northwest Public Water	Mountain Home	Western AR Planning & Development District	Fort Smith
Little Rock Arts Center	Little Rock	Northwest AR Conservation Authority	Rogers	White River Regional Housing	Melbourne
Little Rock Downtown Partner	Little Rock	Northwest AR Economic Development District	Harrison	Yorktown Water Association	Star City

of *Block Street Building* were distributed at the 81st Convention in June and made available across Arkansas. Many expert writings are included and Arkansas cities and towns, ranging in population from the town of Wilson (pop. 903) to our Capital City (pop. 193,524), are lauded for their efforts in the publication. The League was also approached with an opportunity to sponsor a one-time publication, *Arkansas Made*, which will be a curated look at the artisans of Arkansas. The intent of *Arkansas Made* is to highlight the Natural State's abundance of artists, craftsmen, and local food producers. The Executive Committee voted to proceed with participating in the publication. Approximately 100,000 copies of this publication will be distributed statewide.

Bullerwell also reported on the League's redesigned website, which launched in January 2015. The redesign process took 10 months to complete and all seems to be going well, especially given the robust nature of the League's website. Since mid-January, approximately 100,000 unique visitors have accessed arml.org. On an average day, the League's site is visited by over 600 people and more than 1,900 pages of the site are viewed. Committee members were also encouraged to use the Great Cities Great State educational initiative deliverables found on the League's microsite, greatcitiesgreatstate.com. All member cities should be using the items found on the microsite. If you would like a user id and password, contact the League and it will be provided.

Executive Committee members voiced concern regarding the lack of revitalization and redevelopment awards offered by the League, other than the Main Street Arkansas program. Past President and Conway Mayor Tab Townsell noted that many cities have made great progress in this area but because they do not participate in the Main Street Program, their success and progress go largely unnoticed. Townsell went on to say that revitalization and redevelopment should be encouraged widely across the state and the recognition for those efforts should be just as encompassing. Several members of the Executive Committee echoed Mayor Townsell's position on the matter. As such, members voted to ask that Arkansas Division of Volunteerism and Main Street Arkansas give consideration to expanding their recognition system for downtown projects across Arkansas.

Prince Kwame Kludjeson of Ghana accompanied Sister Cities Past President and League Consultant Sherman Banks to this year's Planning Meeting to discuss a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the League and the National Association of Local Authorities of Ghana/Volta Region (NALAG). The MOU focuses on promoting sustainable agriculture



Prince Kwame Kludjeson of Ghana presents the Memorandum of Understanding to the Executive Committee.

between Arkansas's Delta region and Ghana's Volta region. You may recall the Ghana delegation that participated during the League's 81st Convention this June. Based on the delegation's Convention participation and meeting with Stuttgart-based Riceland Foods, a delegation from the League and Riceland Foods will be traveling to Ghana in early October to explore the possibility of opening a rice production plant in Ghana. The Executive Committee voted to move forward with the MOU between the League and NALAG and also voted to include Banks, Mayor Elumbaugh, and Stephens Mayor Harry Brown, League first vice president, as the League's delegation. Prince Kwame expressed his appreciation to the League and to the Executive Committee for the good working relationship the League has maintained with his country. A large part of the good working relationship can be attributed to the hard work of Banks, and as a result he is being installed as the Kente-Chief for the Diaspora during the Kente Festival. It will be during the October trip that Banks will receive this great honor.

Lastly, the future meetings calendar was discussed and approved. Attending the NLC meeting, Nov. 4-7 in Nashville, is highly recommended as Immediate Past President and Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola is running for NLC Second Vice President. There will be a series of workshops at League headquarters through 2015 and early 2016. Registration and hotel reservations for the League's 2015 Fall Conference, Dec. 2-4 in Springdale, will open at 8 a.m. Sept. 15. Next year's Planning Meeting will be held Aug. 17-19, 2016, in Texarkana. Be sure to visit the Calendar of Events page on www.arml.org to view the meetings information for the next year. There will be a multitude of important meetings offered over the next year and we want to see our members attend them all because "Great Cities Make a Great State."



Changes to 2015 Directory, Arkansas Municipal Officials

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

Antoine

Delete R/T Alyssa Duggan
Add R/T Dawn Siglar
Delete AL Mary Hendrix
Add AL Theresa House
Delete WS Mick Vitzthum
Add WS Josh Campbell

Bethel Heights

Delete PC Rodney Reed
Add PC Rick Moore

Bluff City

Add M Pamela Purifoy

Cedarville

Add E-Mail mayor@cedarville.arcoxmail.com
Delete WEB www.cityofcedarvillear.com
Add WEB www.cityofcedarville.org
Delete PC (Vacant)
Add PC Donnie Threet

Cherokee Village

Delete AL Tom Thone

Diamond City

Delete R/T Ed Zehr
Add R Cheryl Guthrie
Add T (Vacant)
Delete AL Hazel Wyers
Add AL Shar Hudson

Diaz

Delete MA Newport, 72112
Add MA Diaz, 72043

Dover

Delete MR Rodney Pfeifer
Add MR Barry Walker

Eureka Springs

Delete PC Earl Hyatt
Add PC Thomas Achord
Delete FC Rhys Williams
Delete FC Randy Ates
Delete PRD Bruce Levine
AddA//PRD Donna Wood

Fort Smith

Delete ADM Ray Gosack
AddA//ADM Jeff Dingman

Greenway

Delete WS Harold Millikin

Hector

Delete AL Scott Garrison
Add AL Peggy Gregory

Hot Springs

Delete CM David Watkins
Add CM (Vacant)

McDougal

Delete AL Carroll Shipman
Add AL Freddy Bowers
Delete M Cindy Roberts
Add M Carroll Shipman

Paragould

Add FO Teresa Stormes

Poyen

Add AL Kevin Conner

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Add M Tobey Norberg

Tuckerman

Delete AL Lynelle Bridgeman
Add AL (Vacant)
Delete AL Don Ivie
Add AL (Vacant)
Delete AL Jarrod Bowen
Add AL (Vacant)
Delete AL Gary Browning
Add AL (Vacant)

Whelen Springs

Delete M Terry Lemay
Add M Glen Hughes

State agencies offer crucial grant opportunities

By Chad Gallagher

Arkansas municipalities are fortunate that there are a great number of state grant programs designed to help local governments. Over the years there has been some discussion on whether or not it is appropriate for the state to grant funds to local governments. Critics argue that such excess money should simply be given back to the taxpayers. As a small government advocate I agree that generally the less government the better of the people seem to fare. However, I also strongly believe that the best government is usually the government closest to the people and that if a task or project is worthy of taxpayer funds then it makes sense for it to be overseen and managed by, or at least in partnership with local government.

State agencies in our state have a long history of working closely with cities and towns on projects and many of our state agencies have very strong grant programs. Just in the last month Arkansas airports shared \$8.5 million in grants.

The Arkansas Department of Heritage has grant programs for restoring historic buildings, funding through the Arkansas Arts Council, historic cemetery grants, Main Street grants, and even small museum grants, among others. The agency works diligently and tirelessly to preserve and renew Arkansas's historic places, culture, and architecture for future generations. Towns across the state have benefited from their programs.

Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism is another strong partner for Arkansas cities. The department operates Outdoors grant programs including larger matching grants, smaller FUN grants, and trails grants.

Just this summer Clinton, Cave City, Hamburg, Haskell, Lake City, Paris, and Texarkana were among 18 cities receiving matching grants. Another nine cities received FUN grants and six more, including Lake Village and Mulberry, received trails grants.

We could also talk about grants from USDA, the Arkansas Department of Rural Development, the Arkansas Highway Department, the Department of Economic Development, and many more. These state agencies are funding grant programs every single year that are crucial to community and economic development for our cities and towns. It is important for municipal officials and employees to get to know each of these state agencies and work with your legislators to help you build strong relationships in the agencies.

It is my experience that these agencies want to help. They want to help you succeed in building a better community. If grant writing is not already a part of your overall community and economic development strategy then it should be. There are ready and willing partners in Arkansas. Call us today and let a member of our team give you some guidance on utilizing grants to achieve your goals.



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.

ASIA meets at League HQ



The Arkansas Self Insurers Association (ASIA) held its general membership meeting Aug. 4 at the League's North Little Rock headquarters, where the group discussed several topics important to the industry, including specialty care for repetitive motion disorders, updates on case law, and legal ethics.

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Police chief's association names Wynne's Stacy Mayor of the Year



The Arkansas Association of Chiefs of Police (AACP) has named Wynne Mayor Robert Stacy, left, the group's Mayor of the Year. The AACP made the announcement at its recent 48th Convention held in Hot Springs. Stacy was nominated by Wynne Police Chief Jeff Sanders, right, who stated, "His leadership for the City of Wynne constantly demonstrates his compassion for our entire community. He is devoted to helping strengthen each department of city government as well as our staff."



Time To Levy Property Taxes

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

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

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

ATTENTION:

New reporting requirements for Municipal League Workers' Compensation Trust participants

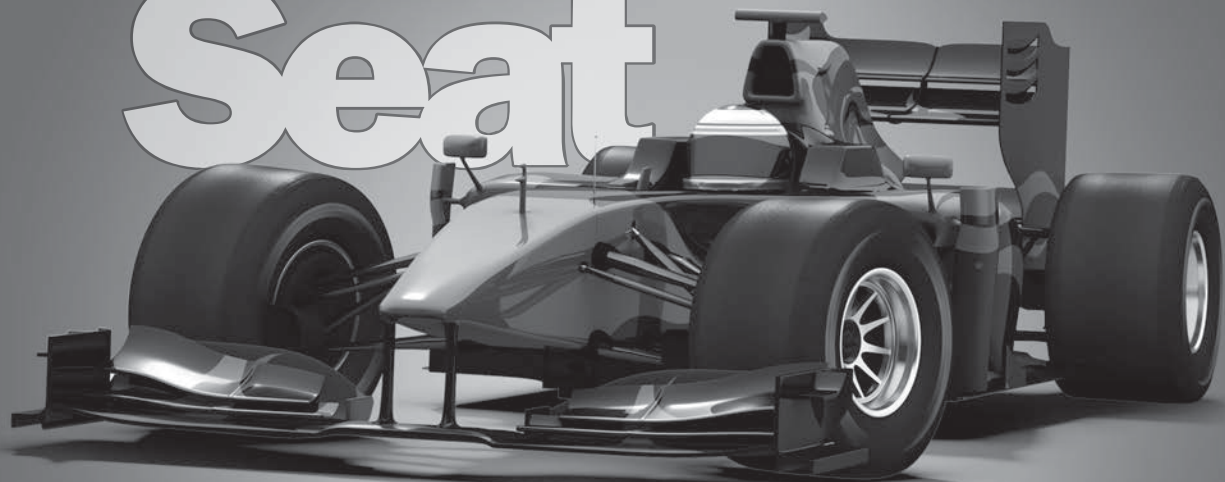
Members of the Municipal League Workers' Compensation Trust (MLWC) should have received by mail a document that outlines new reporting requirements and instructions regarding payroll information.

Estimated payroll information for 2016 must be submitted via webservices.arml.org/workerscompensation/ by **Friday, October 9** in order to receive a discount, if eligible.

Actual payroll information for 2015 must be submitted via webservices.arml.org/workerscompensation/ no later than **Monday, February 15, 2016**.

If you have questions, please contact Glenda Robinson, Director of Municipal League Workers' Compensation Trust, at 501-978-6133, or Barbara DePriest at 501-537-3788.

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REGISTER SOON
Early Bird deadline is July 31

NLC scholarship goes to League staffer's son

Adam Clanton, son of Arkansas Municipal League employee Darrin Clanton, has been named a recipient of the National League of Cities Mutual Insurance Company's Donald L. Jones Scholarship for the 2015-2016 academic year. The scholarship is offered each year to children of employees or employees of state leagues or its sponsored pool in a state where the pool is a member of NLC Mutual.



Adam, a recent graduate of Bryant High School, will receive \$1,000 for tuition and fees at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock this fall, where he plans to achieve his Bachelor's degree in Computer Science. Congratulations, Adam, from all of us at the Arkansas Municipal League!

It's not just a sports park.

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Soil compaction a killer

By Alison Litchy

Imagine you are out fishing. You're having a great time, relaxed and living the life. Then a large wave capsizes your boat and you end up under it, unable to get out. The air is so close, but you are unable to get to it. The fear of getting enough air to survive is sinking in. In our scenario, a friend comes by and rescues you. However, if you are a tree and you cannot get to the air you need, your outcome may not be so positive.

Many people only think about what they can see above ground when it comes to trees. However, what is not seen is vastly important to the tree's health. Roots have many uses such as getting the nutrients, water, and

air that they need to survive. They also provide support for the tree to stay upright during heavy winds.

The sinking boat is like roots in compacted soil. When soil is compacted, the soil particles are pressed together, leaving no room for air space between them. The roots do not have the air they need or the proper soil to grow in. In healthy soil the particles are in clumps with gaps through which air and water freely flow. These gaps become smaller and smaller and eventually fill in when compaction occurs. Plants that grow in these compacted soils often struggle. This is evident with turf as well. It is easy to notice when turf is dying or not thriving when a car drives over it a few times.

The results are the same for a tree. Compaction slows the growth of the tree. The tips of the crown begin to die back in the tree's canopy. The tree can eventually die from compacted soils.

There are many ways soil can become compacted. It can be as simple as foot traffic, or repeated playing of children over the same area. Think of a playground or local park. Have you seen areas where turf will not grow, or areas where the trees are often struggling? This is most likely from compaction. The highest amount of compaction occurs the first time the soil is disturbed. According to Colorado State University, "most soils could reach 75 percent maximum compaction the first time it is stepped on, and 90 percent by the fourth time it is stepped on." So if a car drives over the root area of a tree, even if it is just one time, the damage has been done. Try to stay off soils, even more, when they are wet. Wet soils are more susceptible to compaction than dry soils.

When trying to protect your tree from compaction, remember the critical root zone (CRZ). The CRZ is where you would draw a line down from the edge of the crown to the ground. The roots inside of that circle are the most important to the tree. Remember that roots will grow out two-three times more than the tree's height.



PHOTO BY ALISON LITCHY.

One tree at Pine Bluff's Martin Luther King Jr. Park was already lost due to compaction, and a second tree is in decline.

How do you avoid compaction?

- **Mulch**—Mulching around a tree is one of the easiest and best ways to protect the root system. A wide ring of organic mulch such as pine bark about three inches deep will discourage people from walking on it and add nutrients to the soil. If the mulch is stepped on, it will act like a cushion to protect the soil.
- **Protect your trees prior to construction**—Any type of construction, from adding an irrigation system to putting in a new building, will impact your tree. Try and stay outside of the CRZ in all construction activities by using some type of fencing around the edge of the zone. Get help from an arborist before construction starts if something needs to be done inside the CRZ.
- **Paths**—Keep your walkways to a minimum and add mulch or other landscaping materials such as stones rather than turf.
- **Aerate lawns and around trees**—The rooting area of lawns and trees overlap in the soil. Aerating lawns at two-inch intervals will help manage compaction issues, but be careful not to impact large roots.
- **Air spade**—In some specific instances a tool known as an air spade may be utilized. This tool is like a pressure washer but with air. It blows the soil away and does not disturb the roots. The soil can then be added back to provide air space around the roots.

The best way to deal with compaction is to stop it before it starts. A free booklet titled “Natural Resource Management in the Urban Forest” is available for free from the Arkansas Forestry Commission and describes various protection techniques. For assistance please call Alison Litchy 501-580-9609 or Patti Erwin 479-442-4963.



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



Support a family on \$20 a week?

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

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

What they get: Weekly temporary total disability benefits payable up to a MAXIMUM of \$629 allowed under Arkansas Workers’ Compensation law; weekly benefits go for 52 weeks; \$10,000 death benefit.

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

Call: 501-978-6127
Glenda Robinson can be reached at ext. 243
or Barbara DePriest at ext. 108.
The fax number is 501-537-7253
Online: www.arml.org/mlwct

Protect your loved ones’ financial security.

Arkansas Municipal League’s Volunteer Firefighters Supplemental Income Program

The Arkansas River overflows its banks at Rebsamen Park in Little Rock in May, when cities and towns across Arkansas experienced flooding due to heavy spring rains.

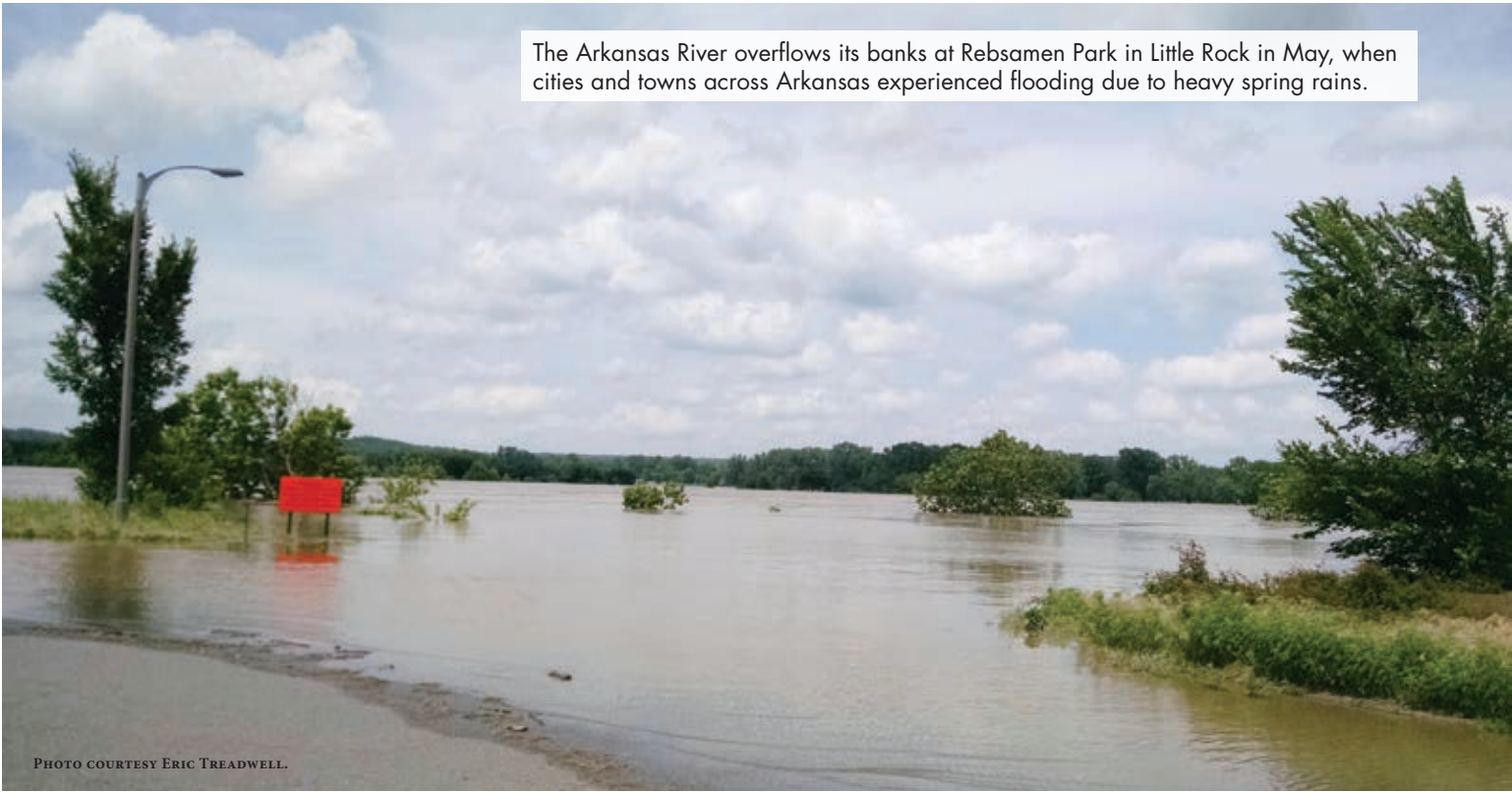


PHOTO COURTESY ERIC TREADWELL.

Why you need a floodplain manager

By Andrew Miller PG, CFM, CSA

During May of this year, Arkansas and surrounding states experienced record rainfall, which in turn created flooding along rivers across our state, including the Arkansas and Red Rivers. The flooding of the Arkansas River caused parks and many sections of the river to close with the river at or above flood stage. Tragically, lives were lost. Roads, bridges, buildings, and levees were damaged, and farmers were devastated by the large numbers of live-stock lost. We are still not certain of the effects to wildlife and the environment at this point.

On May 26, the Arkansas River peaked at 32.13 feet at Fort Smith, six feet above flood stage. This flood continued into early June, flooding cities downstream from Morrilton to Pine Bluff, which saw a crest of nearly 46 feet lasting until June 7.

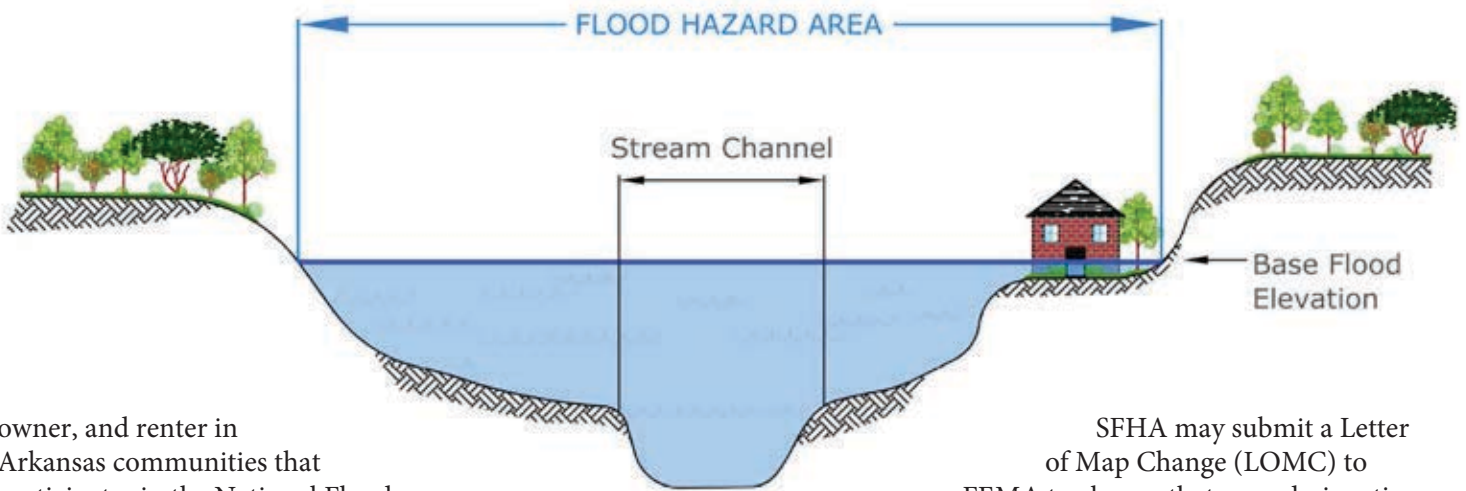
So, if the title of this article at first did not stir some concern, the preceding paragraphs and the record-breaking rainfall numbers certainly should.

What exactly is flood plain management? Simply put, it is a community program of corrective and preventative measures used to reduce flood damage and can take a variety of forms, which generally include zoning,

subdivision or building requirements, and special-purpose floodplain ordinances. Mitigating techniques and procedures such as flood proofing or retrofitting a flood-prone building are also beneficial in reducing flood damages to a community. When a community agrees to adopt and enforce floodplain management ordinances, flood insurance is often made more readily available to that community.

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) has adopted floodplain management policies to help reduce flood damage. The NFIP covers more than 20,000 communities, which are eligible for flood insurance backed by the federal government. These communities adopt and enforce local floodplain ordinances that provide flood loss reduction building standards for new and existing development. NFIP saves these communities more than \$1.1 billion dollars annually because of its involvement. It is possible for a community to receive as much as 45 percent discounts on its premium flood policies.

According to the Arkansas Natural Resource Commission's publication, *Floodplain Management in Arkansas Quick Guide*, "Every homeowner, business



owner, and renter in Arkansas communities that participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) may purchase a flood insurance policy – regardless of the location of the building. Federal disaster grants do not cover most losses and repayment of a disaster loan can cost many times more than the price of a flood insurance policy.”

Mike Borengasser is the NFIP Coordinator for Arkansas and is with the Arkansas Department of Natural Resources Commission (pdcc@arkansasfloods.org). There are currently 175 Certified Floodplain Managers (CFM’s) in Arkansas.

Through FEMA’s flood hazard mapping program—Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (MAP)—the agency identifies flood hazards, assesses flood risks, and partners with states and communities to provide accurate flood hazard and risk data to guide them to mitigation actions. This mapping is the basis of the NFIP regulations and flood insurance requirements. FEMA maintains and updates data through Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), Map Modernization and risk assessments. FIRMs include statistical information such as data for river flow, hydrologic/hydraulic analyses, and rainfall and topographic surveys. FEMA uses the best available technical data to create the flood hazard maps that outline your community’s flood risk areas. Whether you’re a business owner, engineer, or homeowner, you can benefit from learning more about the process of floodplain management.

Change your flood zone designation?

A Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) is an area that will be inundated by a flood event having a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. This land is covered by floodwaters of the base flood as shown on FIRM maps. NFIP regulations must be enforced, and the area where the mandatory purchase of flood insurance applies. A property owner who believes their property has been inadvertently mapped in an

SFHA may submit a Letter of Map Change (LOMC) to FEMA to change that zone designation.

This letter reflects an official revision/amendment to an effective FIRM. If this submitted request is granted, property owners may be eligible for lower flood insurance premiums or have the option not to purchase flood insurance.

Even one step further, an applicant can go to the website and use the Letter of Map Change tool to request an amendment to their particular map—Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA). This letter from FEMA states that an existing structure or parcel of land, naturally on high ground and not elevated by fill, would not be inundated by the one percent annual chance flood. This online tool is available to any applicant wanting to submit a LOMA request directly to FEMA and does not require an engineer or surveyor to submit the information. Licensed professionals (engineers and land surveyors) can also use the web-based application to submit simple LOMA requests to FEMA. Determinations from FEMA can be generated in minutes for residential single structures or properties provided no fill has been placed on the property to raise the elevations.

Floodplain management is a process. It is about making decisions on how to use floodplain lands and waters. It is about the choices of homeowners, business owners and officials at all levels of government. It is about developers’ decisions on how to plan their commercial flood-prone land and likewise how farmers use their fields and pastures that reach to the riverbanks. For more information on this topic, visit the Arkansas Floodplain Management Association at www.arkansasfloods.org or the FEMA website at www.fema.gov/floodplain-managers#2.



Andrew Miller, PG, CFM, CSA, is Geologist/Designer, McClelland Engineers. Contact Andrew at amiller@mcclelland-engrs.com.

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	\$4.8562	\$0.4833	\$0.4599	\$1.0052	\$1.0921
March	\$4.7165	\$5.1898	\$0.4463	\$0.2339	\$1.0055	\$1.0909
April	\$4.8363	\$4.7309	\$0.5347	\$0.6375	\$1.0055	\$1.1417
May	\$5.1527	\$5.2197	\$0.5897	\$0.2544	\$1.0053	\$1.0906
June	\$4.9881	\$5.2355	\$0.6126	\$0.2735	\$1.0050	\$1.0909
July	\$5.5230	\$5.3027	\$0.5581	\$0.6593	\$3.9543	\$2.9716
August	\$4.9486	\$5.0207	\$0.6130	\$0.2558	\$1.0932	\$0.9631
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	
Total Year	\$59.8626	\$40.4217	\$6.1764	\$3.3471	\$16.3960	\$11.5404

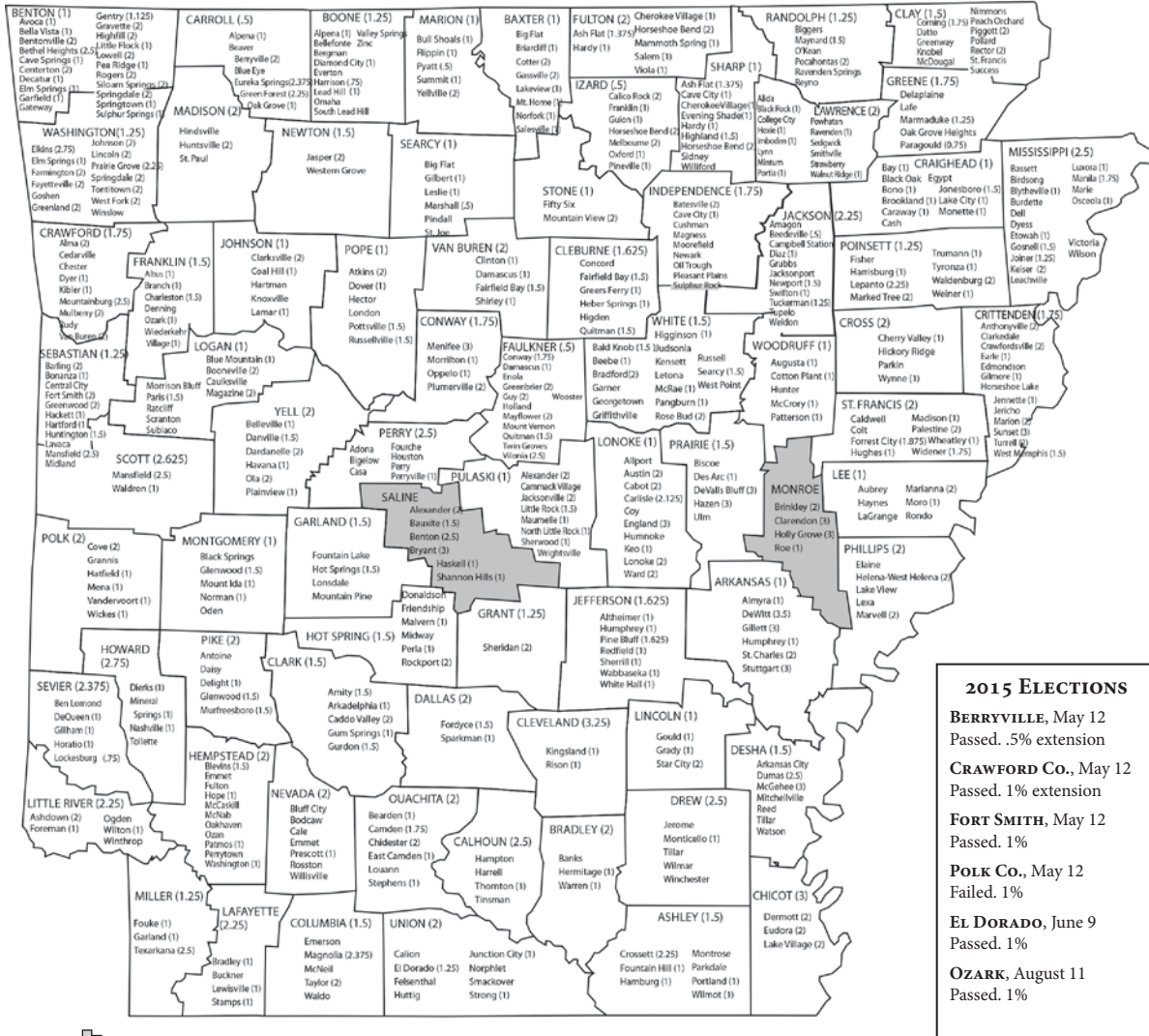
Actual Totals Per Month						
	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
MONTH	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
January	\$9,666,249.40	\$9,159,751.23	\$594,574.44	\$1,078,253.79	*\$3,671,282.93	*\$3,951,880.56
February	\$8,610,432.52	\$9,140,972.61	\$908,313.92	\$865,620.02	\$1,889,234.55	\$2,055,766.00
March	\$8,864,931.29	\$9,768,890.51	\$838,837.95	\$440,227.94	\$1,889,913.97	\$2,053,376.13
April	\$9,090,103.48	\$8,905,034.06	\$1,005,050.29	\$1,199,954.61	\$1,889,913.97	\$2,149,094.75
May	\$9,684,675.50	\$9,840,348.46	\$1,108,429.75	\$479,664.03	\$1,889,592.55	\$2,056,091.57
June	\$9,380,093.69	\$9,870,151.62	\$1,151,947.00	\$515,640.06	\$1,889,914.20	\$2,056,559.07
July	\$10,386,236.87	\$9,996,770.39	\$1,049,503.01	\$1,242,957.21	**\$7,436,192.77	***\$5,602,259.11
August	\$9,310,016.61	\$9,465,188.42	\$1,153,167.19	\$482,195.54	\$2,056,570.50	\$1,815,712.03
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	
Total Year	\$112,576,632.31	\$76,147,107.30	\$11,615,291.87	\$6,304,513.20	\$30,833,130.94	\$21,740,739.22

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

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

*** Includes \$3,516,801.52 supplemental for July 2015

Local Option Sales and Use Tax in Arkansas



KEY: Counties not collecting sales tax

Source: Rachel Graves, Office of State Treasurer

See also: 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	\$57,956,453	\$51,556,660	\$50,071,410	\$46,326,186	\$108,027,863	\$97,882,846	\$12,659	\$5,765	
March	\$46,032,300	\$41,142,676	\$41,404,634	\$37,596,230	\$87,436,935	\$78,738,906	\$19,161	\$5,571	
April	\$46,694,339	\$44,819,678	\$42,176,819	\$41,824,879	\$88,871,158	\$86,644,557	\$15,459	\$6,185	
May	\$52,104,723	\$48,373,032	\$46,560,371	\$43,431,803	\$98,665,094	\$91,804,835	\$4,827	\$6,011	
June	\$49,711,589	\$45,121,494	\$44,369,398	\$40,770,568	\$94,080,987	\$85,892,061	\$25,867	\$7,080	
July	\$50,358,675	\$50,985,699	\$44,565,666	\$45,660,838	\$94,924,341	\$96,646,537	\$18,804	\$7,291	
August	\$51,846,227	\$48,591,520	\$47,174,793	\$44,364,160	\$99,021,020	\$92,955,680	\$16,649	\$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	
Total	\$402,965,271	\$572,670,974	\$359,128,634	\$518,483,496	\$762,093,906	\$1,091,154,469	\$125,648	\$101,339	
Averages	\$50,370,659	\$47,722,581	\$44,891,079	\$43,206,958	\$95,261,738	\$90,929,539	\$15,706	\$8,445	

Cedarville	12,387.88	12,286.33	Pleasant Plains	4,185.76	3,867.96	Dyess	4,408.82	5,139.27	Big Flat	6.64	7.13
Chester	1,412.96	1,401.38	Sulphur Rock	5,469.08	5,053.86	Etowah	3,774.38	4,399.71	Gilbert	185.80	199.53
Dyer	7,784.64	7,720.82	Izard County	47,296.83	49,756.33	Gosnell	38,152.44	44,473.46	Leslie	2,926.34	3,142.64
Kibler	8,539.99	8,469.99	Jackson County	350,613.92	267,061.89	Joiner	6,193.86	7,220.04	Marshall	8,991.37	9,655.95
Mountainburg	5,607.43	5,561.46	Amagon	1,257.54	957.87	Keiser	8,161.70	9,513.91	Pindall	743.20	798.13
Mulberry	14,707.28	14,586.71	Beedeville	1,373.03	1,045.84	Leachville	21,431.17	24,981.85	St. Joe	875.91	940.65
Rudy	542.08	537.64	Campbell Station	3,272.18	2,492.41	Luxora	12,667.30	14,765.99	Sebastian County	823,053.78	759,990.50
Van Buren	202,533.84	200,873.56	Diaz	16,917.62	12,882.35	Manila	35,937.27	41,891.30	Barling	75,223.17	69,460.31
Crittenden County	685,291.69	690,660.05	Grubbs	4,953.18	3,772.83	Marie	903.27	1,052.92	Bonanza	9,303.79	8,591.03
Anthonyville	1,000.93	1,008.77	Jacksonport	2,720.40	2,072.12	Osceola	83,412.75	97,232.43	Central City	8,122.61	7,500.34
Clarkedale	2,306.50	2,326.50	Newport	101,103.90	77,010.63	Victoria	397.87	463.79	Fort Smith	1,394,905.18	1,288,041.32
Crawfordsville	2,977.93	3,001.26	Swifton	10,239.99	7,799.78	Wilson	9,710.16	11,318.93	Greenwood	144,847.88	133,751.07
Earle	15,007.78	15,125.35	Tuckerman	23,893.32	18,199.49	Monroe County	NA	NA	Hackett	13,138.57	12,132.02
Edmondson	2,654.65	2,675.44	Tupelo	2,309.77	1,759.35	Montgomery County	56,567.57	52,227.73	Hartford	10,387.88	9,592.07
Gilmore	1,471.55	1,483.08	Weldon	962.41	733.05	Black Springs	731.10	675.01	Huntington	10,274.62	9,487.48
Horseshoe Lake	1,815.36	1,829.58	Jefferson County	688,267.63	699,417.27	Glenwood	310.16	286.37	Lavaca	37,037.18	34,199.75
Jennette	643.46	648.50	Altheimer	9,916.64	10,072.28	Mount Ida	7,946.05	7,336.43	Mansfield	11,698.51	10,802.28
Jericho	739.82	745.62	Humphrey	3,103.99	3,154.27	Norman	2,791.45	2,577.30	Midland	5,258.66	4,855.80
Marion	76,748.57	77,349.80	Pine Bluff	494,652.64	502,665.79	Oden	1,713.27	1,581.82	Sevier County	289,649.82	254,421.54
Sunset	1,107.86	1,116.54	Redfield	13,071.01	13,282.76	Nevada County	91,945.57	99,734.21	Ben Lomond	1,319.45	1,158.98
Turrell	3,441.10	3,468.05	Sherrill	846.54	860.26	Bluff City	846.48	918.19	DeQueen	60,003.33	52,705.50
West Memphis	163,164.56	164,442.73	Wabbaseka	2,569.86	2,611.49	Bocaw	942.05	1,021.85	Gillham	1,455.95	1,278.87
Cross County	271,871.08	263,640.45	White Hall	55,690.37	56,592.53	Cale	539.29	584.97	Horatio	9,500.07	8,344.64
Cherry Valley	6,983.16	6,771.75	Johnson County	116,032.97	124,383.84	Emmet	3,242.57	3,517.24	Locksburg	6,724.67	5,906.79
Hickory Ridge	2,917.69	2,829.36	Clarksville	85,230.14	91,364.14	Prescott	22,500.01	24,405.97	Sharp County	79,523.80	74,028.57
Parkin	11,853.13	11,494.29	Coal Hill	9,397.79	10,074.15	Rosston	1,781.71	1,932.63	Ash Flat	9,512.18	8,854.88
Wynne	89,751.25	87,034.11	Hartman	4,819.62	5,166.48	Willisville	1,037.62	1,125.53	Cave City	16,908.39	15,739.99
Dallas County	135,304.95	134,173.03	Knoxville	6,788.32	7,276.88	Newton County	76,548.42	57,115.47	Cherokee Village	37,641.07	35,040.01
Desha County	112,172.99	110,103.92	Lamar	14,904.60	15,977.27	Jasper	3,063.25	2,285.60	Evening Shade	4,193.13	3,903.37
Arkansas City	4,341.26	4,261.19	Lafayette County	94,124.49	78,163.79	Western Grove	2,524.23	1,883.41	Hardy	7,085.61	6,595.98
Dumas	55,819.61	54,790.00	Bradley	4,435.95	3,683.75	Ouachita County	336,770.04	358,380.06	Highland	10,143.09	9,442.19
McGehee	50,043.13	49,120.06	Buckner	1,942.50	1,613.11	Bearden	8,835.89	9,402.88	Horseshoe Bend	77.65	72.28
Mitchellville	4,270.09	4,191.33	Lewisville	9,041.43	7,508.28	Camden	111,436.51	118,587.22	Sidney	1,756.84	1,635.44
Reed	2,040.16	2,002.52	Stamps	11,958.71	9,930.86	Chidester	2,643.45	2,813.08	Williford	727.97	677.67
Tillar	249.09	244.49	Lawrence County	207,976.28	207,367.55	East Camden	8,515.75	9,062.19	St. Francis County	147,942.84	146,192.08
Watson	2,502.75	2,456.59	Alicia	747.77	745.58	Louann	1,500.09	1,596.35	Caidwell	9,734.24	9,619.04
Drew County	429,200.05	404,357.63	Black Rock	3,992.12	3,980.43	Stephens	8,149.88	8,672.84	Cott	6,629.80	6,551.34
Jerome	466.46	439.46	College City	2,743.83	2,735.80	Perry County	96,830.17	82,259.01	Forrest City	269,594.50	266,404.10
Monticello	113,230.97	106,677.08	Hoxie	16,764.50	16,715.42	Adona	862.91	733.06	Hughes	25,273.94	24,974.84
Tillar	2,439.96	2,298.74	Imboden	4,082.58	4,070.63	Bigelow	1,300.57	1,104.85	Madison	13,487.62	13,328.00
Wilmar	6,111.87	5,758.11	Lynn	1,736.75	1,731.67	Casa	706.02	599.78	Palestine	11,944.18	11,802.82
Winchester	1,997.42	1,881.80	Minturn	657.31	655.39	Fourche	255.98	217.46	Wheatley	6,226.40	6,152.72
Faulkner County	754,334.52	691,487.59	Portia	2,635.28	2,627.57	Houston	714.28	606.79	Wiener	4,788.18	4,731.56
Enola	2,296.94	2,105.57	Powhatan	434.19	432.92	Perry	1,114.77	947.02	Stone County	90,348.24	82,518.19
Holland	3,785.20	3,469.83	Ravenden	2,834.29	2,825.99	Perryville	6,028.02	5,120.92	Fifty Six	117,218.62	1,506.98
Mount Vernon	985.37	903.28	Sedgwick	916.62	913.94	Phillips County	107,182.67	117,218.62	Mountain View	26,208.91	23,937.51
Twin Groves	2,276.55	2,086.88	Smithville	470.37	468.99	Elaine	11,998.22	13,121.67	Union County	540,763.45	524,254.60
Wooster	5,844.29	5,357.39	Strawberry	1,821.18	1,815.85	Helena-West Helena	190,123.82	207,925.96	Calion	15,765.00	15,283.71
Franklin County	168,851.09	140,126.73	Walnut Ridge	29,488.64	29,402.28	Lake View	8,357.25	9,139.79	El Dorado	671,255.27	650,762.66
Altus	6,615.28	6,499.91	Lee County	34,945.39	32,887.05	Lexa	5,395.42	5,900.63	Felsenthal	3,862.94	3,745.00
Branch	3,202.91	2,658.04	Aubrey	1,082.89	1,019.10	Marvell	22,374.05	24,469.02	Huttig	21,607.71	20,948.05
Charleston	22,010.20	18,655.90	Haynes	955.49	899.21	Pike County	150,409.72	160,553.36	Junction City	19,274.21	18,685.80
Denning	4,110.55	3,411.27	LaGrange	566.92	533.53	Antoine	964.59	1,029.64	Norphlet	24,318.84	23,576.41
Ozark	32,151.31	26,684.81	Marianna	26,212.23	24,668.28	Daisy	948.10	1,012.04	Smackover	63,979.98	62,026.75
Wiederkehr Village	331.63	275.23	Moro	1,375.90	1,294.86	Delight	2,300.17	2,455.29	Strong	63,979.98	17,648.09
Fulton County	113,517.30	116,522.71	Rondo	1,261.24	1,186.96	Glenwood	18,022.12	19,237.54	Van Buren County	278,308.08	310,725.82
Ash Flat	449.11	461.00	Lincoln County	54,267.54	55,303.26	Murfreesboro	13,528.96	14,441.36	Clinton	24,722.03	27,601.69
Cherokee Village	3,491.57	3,584.01	Gould	4,295.62	4,377.61	Poinsett County	126,125.94	110,362.98	Damascus	2,375.29	2,651.97
Hardy	184.93	189.82	Grady	2,304.34	2,348.32	Fisher	1,886.42	1,650.66	Fairfield Bay	20,475.01	22,859.97
Horseshoe Bend	74.85	76.83	Star City	11,670.56	11,893.29	Harrisburg	19,473.29	17,039.56	Shirley	2,764.84	3,086.89
Mammoth Spring	4,301.72	4,415.61	Little River County	169,987.73	205,484.73	Lepanto	16,013.44	14,012.11	Washington County	1,324,680.25	1,271,015.65
Salem	7,198.89	7,389.49	Ashdown	41,913.83	41,913.83	Marked Tree	21,706.54	18,993.71	Elkins	39,808.25	38,063.81
Viola	1,483.81	1,523.10	Foreman	7,422.13	8,972.03	Trumann	61,719.00	54,005.49	Elm Springs	26,398.52	21,518.70
Garland County	2,193,842.56	2,080,277.32	Ogden	1,321.45	1,597.39	Tyrnora	6,445.98	5,640.38	Farmington	89,809.09	85,873.56
Fountain Lake	7,447.91	7,062.36	Wilton	2,745.67	3,319.03	Waldenburg	516.02	451.53	Fayetteville	1,106,152.08	1,057,679.37
Hot Springs	223,329.25	211,768.52	Winthrop	1,409.55	1,703.89	Weiner	6,056.85	5,299.87	Goshen	16,100.69	15,395.14
Lonsdale	1,391.86	1,319.80	Logan County	107,122.36	94,655.98	Polk County	256,418.17	245,449.65	Greenland	19,453.12	18,600.67
Mountain Pine	11,401.36	10,811.17	Blue Mountain	1,055.48	932.65	Cove	7,691.54	7,362.52	Lincoln	50,421.77	48,212.24
Grant County	176,228.84	165,115.23	Booneville	33,962.51	30,010.12	Grannis	11,154.74	10,677.58	Lincolton	33,809.95	32,328.36
Greene County	492,537.74	471,913.31	Caulksville	1,810.04	1,602.04	Hatfield	8,315.72	7,960.00	Prairie Grove	66,537.50	62,960.53
Delaplaine	1,270.49	1,217.29	Magazine	7,209.59	6,370.57	Mena	115,514.02	110,572.80	Springdale	965,064.32	922,774.22
Lafe	5,016.23	4,806.18	Morrison Bluff	544.76	481.37	Vandervoort	1,751.74	1,676.80	Tontitown	36,981.98	35,361.39
Marmaduke	12,168.19	11,658.66	Paris	30,064.06	26,565.35	Wickes	15,181.72	14,532.34	West Fork	34,832.21	33,305.83
Oak Grove Heights	9,736.74	9,329.03	Ratcliff	1,719.41	1,519.31	Pope County	349,398.34	369,653.19	Winslow	5,878.03	5,620.45
Paragould	286,001.66	274,025.67	Scranton	1,906.67	1,684.78	Atkins	41,961.75	44,394.30	White County	944,881.47	880,631.46
Hempstead County	377,233.93	346,085.79	Subiaco	4,868.80	4,302.20	Dover	19,172.18	20,283.60	Bald Knob	36,770.71	34,270.37
Blevins	3,522.31	3,231.47	Lonoke County	265,695.20	242,300.44	Hector	6,260.87	6,623.82	Beebe	92,846.98	86,533.58
Emmet	480.82	441.12	Allport	1,074.37	979.77	London	14,455.66	15,293.66	Bradford	9,633.75	8,978.67
Fulton	2,247.57	2,061.99	Austin	19,039.62	17,363.16	Pottsville	39,485.23	41,774.21	Garner	3,604.72	3,359.61
Hope	112,881.68	103,561.06	Cabot	222,122.68	202,564.53	Russellville	388,452.25	410,971.08	Georgetown	1,573.89	1,466.87
McCaskill	1,073.47	984.83	Carlisle	20,683.87	18,862.63	Prairie County	64,143.79	60,404.12	Griffithville	2,855.85	2,661.66
McNab	760.37	697.59	Coy	896.86	817.89	Biscoe	2,665.47	2,510.07	Higdonson	7,882.16	7,346.19
Oakhaven	704.46	646.29	England	26,392.02	24,068.17	Des Arc	12,607.74	11,872.89	Judsonia	25,626.53	23,883.98
Ozan	950.46	871.99	Humnoke	2,653.22	2,419.60	DeValls Bluff	4,545.25	4,280.25	Kensett	20,917.54	19,495.19
Patmos	715.64	665.55	Keo	2,391.63	2,181.04	Hazen	10,779.36	10,150.91	Letona	3,236.63	3,016.55
Perrytown	3,041.49	2,790.35	Lonoke	39,658.09	36,166.15	Ulm	1,248.29	1,175.51	McRae	8,656.41	8,067.79
Washington	2,012.76	1,846.57	Ward	37,995.15	34,649.65	Pulaski County	879,021.67	838,204.86	Pangburn	7,628.30	7,109.59
Hot Spring County	295,498.35	292,710.87	Madison County	189,980.03	198,915.91	Alexander	4,255.19	4,057.60	Rose Bud	6,117.87	5,701

Cities receive \$8.5 million in FAA grants for airport improvements

Thirteen Arkansas airports will receive \$8.5 million from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to support facility upgrades and expansions, *Talk Business & Politics* reported Aug. 31. The airports receiving funding are as follows:

- Batesville: Batesville Regional Airport will receive \$438,971 to extend its taxiways to provide more aircraft parking.
- Bentonville: Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport will receive \$3,498,120 to expand the apron by 11,000 square yards to meet FAA design standards.
- Bentonville: Bentonville Municipal/Louise M Thaden Field Airport will receive \$91,064 to remove obstructions in a runway.
- Crossett: Z M Jack Stell Field will receive \$187,677 to rehabilitate the runway and install navigation aids.
- Hot Springs: Memorial Field will receive \$38,000 to study options to improve an airport runway.
- Little Rock: Bill and Hillary Clinton National Airport will receive \$720,000 to update its master plan to show current and future needs of the airport.
- North Little Rock: North Little Rock Municipal Airport will receive \$647,146 to install a new taxiway lighting system.
- Marshall: Searcy County Airport will receive \$175,860 to rehabilitate the apron.
- Mount Ida: Bearce Airport will receive \$292,000 to install perimeter fencing and remove obstructions in the runway.
- Osceola: Osceola Municipal Airport will receive \$157,500 to update the facility's master plan and address future development needs.
- Piggott: Piggott Municipal Airport will receive \$90,900 to improve runway safety to be in compliance with FAA design standards.
- Rogers: Rogers Municipal-Carter Field will receive \$1,975,201 to rehabilitate the apron.
- West Memphis: West Memphis Municipal Airport will receive \$249,236 to update its master plan to reflect current and future needs of the airport.

Arkansas cities, counties receive HUD grants

Seven Arkansas cities and counties have received U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development block grants to help pay for about \$1.38 million in community improvements, the Associated Press reported Aug. 14. Gov. The federal Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) include \$220,000 for a safe room in Amagon; \$210,000 for drainage improvements in Danville; \$220,000 for stormwater channel rehabilitation in Eureka Springs; \$121,000 for drainage improvements in McCrory; \$187,000 for a homeless shelter in Paragould; \$202,000 for a youth center in Waldron and \$220,000 for drainage improvements in Monroe County.

The grants are given to communities with fewer than 50,000 and a majority of households earning low to moderate incomes. The Arkansas Economic Development Commission's Grants Division will administer the funds.

Eight Arkansas cities exceed average economic activity rating

Eight Arkansas cities included in the Arkansas Tech Business Index had above-average economic activity ratings during the year's second quarter, the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* reported Sept. 1. Arkansas Tech said in a statement that Bentonville, Fayetteville, Springdale, Rogers, Fort Smith, Conway, Hot Springs, and Mountain Home each finished the quarter with a 100 or greater rating, which is above the state average since 2009. The rating, created by the Arkansas Tech University College of Business and sponsored by Arvest Bank, is calculated using labor, housing market, construction and retail sales data in each city.

Mike Willard, president and chief executive officer of Arvest Bank in Prairie Grove, said in a statement that the data reflects demand the bank has experienced "in mortgage, consumer and commercial loan activity."

"The major cities in Northwest Arkansas continue the pattern of leading the state in the economic recovery at a steady pace," he said. "We have seen this growth echoed in construction, business expansion and general consumer optimism throughout the region."





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To place a classified ad in City & Town, please email the League at 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.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER—Jonesboro seeks a Chief Financial Officer. CFO is Responsible for city finance and accounting as well as other administrative functions to include information systems, human resources, and grants administration. Ensures compliance with all local, state and federal laws regarding financial reporting, payment of various taxes and other administrative areas. An integral member of the senior executive leadership team for the city. Oversight for treasury, accounting, budget, tax, audit, and other administrative functions of the city. Position requires broad knowledge of such fields as accounting, marketing, business administration, finance, etc. Equivalent to a four-year college degree, plus 7 years related experience and/or training, and 5 years related management experience, or equivalent combination of education and experience. Requires strong communication, mathematical, and critical thinking skills. CPA license preferred. For more information and a complete job description, contact Gloria Roark, Director of Human Resources, City of Jonesboro, groark@jonesboro.org, 870-933-4640 Ext. 1221.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR—Kiowa, Kan. (pop. 1,028; \$2.9 million budget; 10 FTE's), is a tight-knit community located 90 miles southwest of Wichita. The City is looking for a hard-working, professional leader with a bachelor's degree and at least 2 years of local government experience. MPA is preferred. Salary \$55K-\$65K DOQ. Send cover letter, resume, and 3 professional references to LEAPS-Kiowa@lkm.org or LEAPS-Kiowa, 300 SW 8th, Topeka, KS, 66603. EOE. Open until filled. Application review begins August 23.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR—Lakin, Kan. (pop. 2,260; \$5.1 million budget; 18 FTE's), is a progressive bedroom community located 20 miles west of Garden City. The city is looking for a hard-working, communicative leader with at least 2 years of local government experience. Salary \$55K-\$68K DOQ. Send cover letter, resume, and 3 professional references to LEAPS-Lakin@lkm.org or LEAPS-Lakin, 300 SW 8th, Topeka, KS, 66603. EOE. Open until filled. Application review begins August 17.

DISPATCHER—The City of Siloam Springs is accepting applications for the position of Communications Dispatcher. This position is responsible for answering multiple phone lines including 911. The position requires simultaneous data entry into a computer aided dispatch program while dispatching routine and emergency calls to include police, fire, ambulance and other emergency response, maintain logs and tapes and other duties as required. The successful applicant should possess strong computer and typing skills and the ability to multi-task. Knowledge of modern office practices and procedures as well as office equipment, radios, computer and Internet applications is required. Applicants must possess the ability to communicate effectively and perform cashier duties accurately. Previous experience and certification preferred. Requirements: must be a U.S. citizen, 18 years of age, possess valid DL, HS diploma or equivalent, no felony record. Must be able to work nights, weekends, and holidays. Must pass background check. Hire Rate: \$12.33 per hour. The City offers a generous benefit package including, but not limited to medical, dental, vision, LTD, 457 Deferred Compensation, vacation and sick leave. The City requires a completed application be submitted for all positions. Applications are available at City Hall, 400 N. Broadway, Siloam Springs, AR; or can be accessed on our web site www.siloamsprings.com. For further information please call 479-524-5136 or email humanresources@siloamsprings.com. This position is governed by state and federal laws, emergency protocol procedures and department policy. EOE. Open until filled.

DISTRICT MANAGER—The Holiday Island Suburban Improvement District (pop. 3,300, \$4 million budget, 45 employees) seeks applicants for District Manager. Holiday Island is a planned community in the scenic Ozark Mountains on Table Rock Lake. The District Manager is the chief executive and operational officer and is responsible to an elected Board of Commissioners for the overall affairs of the District's service offerings, finances, programs, policies, and priorities. The Manager will work closely with the Board of Commissioners, Department Heads, District personnel and the general public to accomplish short and long-term objectives. A Bachelor's Degree in public administration, business administration, or related field is required. MBA and/or planned community experience a plus. Applicants should have substantial management and administrative experience in municipal government or a public agency. A competitive compensation package, commensurate with qualifications and

experience, includes base salary, health and life insurance, vacation and sick leave, and employee retirement savings plan. For more info and a complete job description visit www.holidayisland.us. Send resume, cover letter and detailed salary history to: Holiday Island Suburban Improvement District, ATTN: District Manager Search, 110 Woodsdale Drive, Holiday Island, AR 72631.

POLICE OFFICER—Siloam Springs is accepting applications for the position of Police Officer. This position is responsible for vehicle police patrol, investigations, traffic regulation and related law enforcement activities. Federal and State laws and departmental policy govern this position. Minimum qualifications: Must be Arkansas Certified or capable of meeting reciprocity requirements for Licensure; U.S. citizen; possess valid DL; HS diploma or equivalent; at least 21 years of age; free of felony record. Hiring process includes a written test, physical agility assessment, oral interview board, psychological test, drug test and a thorough background investigation. Additionally, an applicant must meet the medical standards required by law Enforcement Minimum Standards and pass a health examination for communicable diseases. Certified Salary Range: \$15.55 - \$17.10 per hour. Starting salary for a lateral transfer will be considered on a sliding scale. Shift work and irregular working hours are required. This position is subject to call out. Please attach a copy of the following documents to your application for employment: Your birth certificate, social security card, HS diploma or GED certificate, valid DL. The City offers a benefit package including, but not limited to medical, dental, vision, LTD, 457 Deferred Compensation, LOPFI, vacation and sick leave. The City requires a completed application be submitted for all positions. Applications are available at City Hall, 400 N. Broadway, Siloam Springs, AR; or can be accessed on our web site www.siloamsprings.com. For further information please call 479-524-5136 or email humanresources@siloamsprings.com. EOE. Open until filled.

WASTEWATER TECH—The City of Bentonville has a job opening for Wastewater Lab Pre-Treatment Technician. The hiring salary range is \$17.88-\$22.35/hr. DOE. This position is located at the Wastewater Treatment Plant under the direct supervision of the Wastewater Lab Pre-Treatment Supervisor. Requires the flexibility to fulfill all laboratory duties when necessary; it requires skilled analytical work involving proper sampling and laboratory analysis to determine water quality. Position includes conducting inspections of and corresponding with commercial and industrial entities to determine the nature of their discharge processes; evaluating and approving pretreatment systems, and the ability to determine compliance with pretreatment regulations. Maintaining precise documentation of inspections and correspondence is required. Performs lab analyses. Collects, evaluates, and records data on wastewater samples. Maintains and calibrates lab equipment. Other duties as assigned. Must have strong math and organizational skills. Strong science/chemistry background with emphases on wet chemistry and gravimetric analysis. Wastewater field familiarization preferred. Must be able to work weekends as required. Additionally, must possess a Class II Arkansas Wastewater License at time of hire. Must acquire and maintain a Class III Arkansas Wastewater License within three years. Must possess and maintain a valid DL commensurate with work duties. To apply for the position, access an application on the City website (www.bentonvillear.com). Completed application and/or resumes can be emailed to ewheeler@bentonvillear.com or mailed to City of Bentonville, Attn: Human Resources, 117 West Central Avenue, Bentonville, AR 72712. EOE.

FOR SALE—The City of Huntsville has 1500-watt metal Musco Halide lights for sale that were removed from a softball field. There are two 2-light fixtures (arms), two 5-light fixtures, and two 6-light fixtures. Asking \$100 per light or \$2400 for all. They are single phase 240 voltage. Also have three 4x10 Nevco scoreboards for softball or baseball fields. Please call 479-789-0179.

FOR SALE—City of Norman is dismantling water treatment plant. We have for sale: 1 8" pressure relief, pressure sustaining, back pressure valve (new); 2 115/230 volt 3hp elec. motors; 2 220/440 volt 20 hp elec. motors; 2 6" shaft driven pumps; 2 4" shaft driven pumps; 2 4" check valves. Will consider reasonable offers. Contact Mayor Roseanna Markham, 870-334-2400 or 870-245-6436.



CALENDAR

Human Resources and Personnel Matters

October 28, 2015

Arkansas Municipal League headquarters
North Little Rock

National League of Cities 2015 Congress of Cities and Exposition

November 4-7, 2015

Nashville, TN

2015 Arkansas Municipal League Fall Conference

December 2-4, 2015

Holiday Inn & Convention Center
Springdale

City Government 101: Who Does What at City Hall

January 13, 2016

Arkansas Municipal League headquarters
North Little Rock

Volunteer Community of the Year nominations open now

It's time to consider nominating your city or town for the annual Arkansas Volunteer Community of the Year Awards. The awards, co-sponsored by the Arkansas Municipal League, the Governor's Office and the DHS Division of Community Service and Nonprofit Support, honor 12 communities each year for outstanding citizen volunteerism.

For nomination details and to download an entry form online, visit www.humanservices.arkansas.gov/dcsns and click the Volunteer Community of the Year Award link.

Nominations were accepted beginning in July. The nomination deadline is Sept. 30. If you have any questions about the nomination process, please call Christina Smith at 501-320-6039, or email christina.smith@dhs.arkansas.gov.



Obituaries

BETTY VANNATTER ANDREW, 80, a Marie alderman of 12 years, died May 22.

FRED ALLEN MCKINNEY, 94, mayor of Pea Ridge from 1955-1958 and city recorder for the next 26 years, died Aug. 24.

HAROLD LESTER MILLIKIN, 71, water supervisor for the city of Greenway, died Feb. 9.

TOM THONE, 77, a former Cherokee Village alderman, died July 20.

DAVID F. WATKINS, 61, city manager of Hot Springs since 2012, died Aug. 17. Watkins previously served in administrative positions in Ottawa, Kan.; Lenexa, Kan.; Auburn, Ala.; and Bryan, Texas.

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October 31 is Act 833 funding deadline

The deadline to apply for 2015 State Fire Grant Act 833 funds through the office of Fire Protection Service is October 31. Applications must be postmarked by that date to qualify for the 2015 funding year. Applications and program guidance documents are available on the ADEM website, www.adem.arkansas.gov. For more information on the grant program, contact Kendell Snyder, Fire and EMS Coordinator, at 501-683-6700, or email kendell.snyder@adem.arkansas.gov. Mail completed applications to Office of Fire Protection Services c/o Arkansas Department of Emergency Management, Bldg. #9501 Camp Joseph T. Robinson, North Little Rock, AR 72199-9600.



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Standing from left:
Dennis Hunt (Executive Vice President
and Director of Public Finance), Chris
Angulo, Michael McBryde, Mark
McBryde, Bo Bittle, Jack Truemper
and Kevin Faught

Seated from left:
Michele Casavechia, Lindsey Ollar
and Jason Holsclaw

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We are continually impressed with the talent and dedication of the public sector employees who strive every day to improve our state's municipalities, counties, school districts, hospitals, colleges, universities, utility systems, and other governmental agencies. We thank each of you for your continued trust in our firm, and we look forward to serving you in the years to come.

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