

# City & Town

OCTOBER 2016 VOL. 72, NO. 10

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE



**Pea Ridge makes  
history once again!**



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Cover photo by  
Whitnee Bullerwell.



**ON THE COVER**—September 30 was a historic day in Pea Ridge as they celebrated the grand opening of the new city hall and school administration building. Read about the unique joint venture and see photos from the day on page 6. Read also about how League District 2 Vice President, Bryant Mayor Jill Dabbs, works to ensure her city handles its growth in a sustainable way, and see photos from the decommissioning of the Broadway Bridge, now being dismantled to make way for a new bridge connecting Little Rock and North Little Rock.—atm

## Features

**6 Pea Ridge celebrates historic new building**  
Pea Ridge in September celebrated the grand opening of its new joint city hall and school administration building, the result of a collaboration between the city and school district.

**8 Bryant’s Dabbs seeks smart growth**  
The city of Bryant has experienced exceptional growth, and Mayor Jill Dabbs, the League’s 2016-2017 District 2 vice president, is helping ensure the city proceeds thoughtfully and sustainably.

**12 Broadway Bridge decommissioned, demolition begins**  
The 93-year-old Broadway Bridge was officially closed Sept. 28 and demolition began to make way for a new span across the Arkansas River connecting Little Rock and North Little Rock.

**28 Budgeting for LOPFI turnback**  
A consultant to the Arkansas Fire and Police Pension Review Board offers tips on the formulas cities can use to calculate turnback on premium tax proceeds through the Arkansas Local Police and Fire Retirement System.

## City & Town Contents

Arkansas Municipal League Officers.....	5
a'TEST.....	42
Calendar.....	20
Directory Changes.....	29
Economic Development.....	30
Engineering.....	32
Fairs & Festivals.....	21
Grant Money Matters.....	46
Municipal Mart.....	52
Municipal Notes.....	44
Obituaries.....	45
Planning to Succeed.....	22
President's Letter.....	4
Sales Tax Map.....	49
Sales Tax Receipts.....	50
Turnback Estimates.....	48
Urban Forestry.....	14
Your Health.....	38

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Dear Friends,

I'm excited about all the things that have gone on over the last few weeks. Starting with the groundbreaking of Stephens' first Dollar General Store, a project that we've been working on for the last three years has finally come to fruition. We're moving forward with our flea market project, as well. The flea market will be located in the former Stephens Elementary School. So far, we've cleaned about half of the rooms and are working on cleaning up the remainder as I write this month's letter. We are feverishly working toward and hoping for an opening date in early 2017.



Our first round of Advisory Council meetings was successful. I am always amazed by the dedication of the municipal officials and personnel across Arkansas. The meetings were productive as the League's legislative priorities were discussed. Also, these meetings provide us the opportunity to network with colleagues, which is very valuable.

As you probably read in last month's *City & Town*, we kick off our series of regional meetings this month with meetings in Batesville, Mountain Home/Lakeview, Jonesboro/Paragould, and Russellville. I believe the municipal officials of these areas are excited to host the meetings. It's my understanding the host cities have sent invitations to all the mayors in their region. Check the Calendar of Events page at [www.arml.org](http://www.arml.org) for meeting dates and locations for November and December. Please make sure to attend a regional meeting. My goal is for as many elected officials to attend and gain knowledge on the array of services and benefits provided by the League. I plan on attending most of these meetings myself. I want to meet as many of our hard-working municipal officials as I possibly can.

I hope you registered for the Oct. 12 League workshop, "Human Resources and Personnel Matters." I always come away with good information from the League's workshops. Encourage your elected officials to consider becoming a certified municipal official if they haven't achieved their certification yet. If your city or town is a member of the Municipal Health Benefit Fund, don't forget to register for the upcoming Health and Wellness seminar at League headquarters on Oct. 28.

Last, but certainly not least, be sure to register for the 2017 Winter Conference to be held Jan. 11-13, 2017, at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock. The League staff is working diligently to create an agenda that is packed full of useful information as we begin a new year. Some of our cities will have newly elected officials in January. There isn't a better way to educate your new municipal officials than the "City Government 101" training offered by the League. I strongly encourage cities and towns to attend the Winter Conference. It's going to be a great conference and I look forward to seeing you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harry Brown". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Harry Brown  
Mayor, Stephens  
President, Arkansas Municipal League

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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*.



Holding the traditional big scissors, Pea Ridge Mayor Jackie Crabtree and Pea Ridge Schools Superintendent Rick Neal cut the ribbon on the new shared facility.

PHOTO BY ANNETTE BEARD.

# Pea Ridge again makes history with joint city-school administration building

**A**s the site of one of the Civil War’s most pivotal battles in March of 1862, Pea Ridge, in Benton County in Northwest Arkansas near the Missouri border, is one of Arkansas’s most historic places. The city is again making history with the grand opening of its new city administration and school district administration building. The ribbon cutting was held on Sept. 30. The shared project is

unique in Arkansas and possibly the nation, according to the League’s research.

The innovative joint facility features 14,000 square feet of office and meeting space, and it fills the needs of both the growing school district and the city, which needed more space for city offices, meeting space, and courtroom space. The final cost was \$2.5 million, split equally between the city and the school district.

On a scale of one to 10, Pea Ridge Mayor Jackie Crabtree put the need for the new building at 10.





“The city needed it for space for our district court and city offices,” he said. “The old council/court room seated 60 people. We would have up to 250 people scheduled for court. We had just outgrown the facilities at our old location.”

Sharing space and making taxpayer dollars stretch further were two factors that drove the city and school district to work together on this project. Beyond the sharing of resources, it’s a symbol of the partnerships at the heart of good local governance, Crabtree said.

“This shows our ability to work together as a team for the future of our community. We are not just the city or school or civic organization. We are a community that works together to make things happen.”

The reaction has been very positive to the new building, he said, and he hopes to see it serve as a catalyst to get students in the district interested in their city and how it works.

“I feel like it will lead to younger people taking interest in local government,” he said, “but I think it is more than just the building that develops that attitude. As the students see us working as a team, with city staff being involved with school activities and vice versa, it gives an example for them to follow.”



PHOTOS BY WHITNEE BULLERWELL.

From left, Mayor Crabtree and Superintendent Neal.

That this new joint arrangement is possibly the only one like it in the nation is just icing on the cupcakes for the mayor.

“It is very humbling. We didn’t set out to make history; we set out to make a difference in our community.”



The city had outgrown the offices and meeting space of its old city hall.



Students from the high school’s culinary arts class baked ribbon-cutting themed cupcakes for the event.

# Dabbs aims for smart growth in Bryant

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

For many years Bryant may have been known as one of the bedroom communities within the Central Arkansas metro area, but that's quickly changing. The city just southwest of Little Rock has experienced impressive growth in the last two decades, and Mayor Jill Dabbs, League 2016-2017 District 2 vice president, is working to ensure that as Bryant grows, so does the quality of life in the city of nearly 20,000.

Dabbs isn't a native of Bryant, though it is now her adopted hometown. She was raised about 20 miles southwest in Malvern.

"I grew up in a dental family," Dabbs says. "My dad was a dentist and mom was a hygienist. I grew up in a live-work unit—office downstairs and home upstairs."

Following her family's lead, she spent her early career in the dental industry, working in marketing and practice development, staff training, customer service, and all those aspects that help make a successful dental practice.

When she moved to Bryant in 2000, she felt at home immediately.

"It was the first time I'd been excited to be in a community, to be a part of a community."

In the early 2000s, with the city growing and her two daughters on the swim team, Dabbs and a group of other concerned parents saw the need for improved recreational facilities. They got some pushback from the administration at the time, she says, but they were able, through a grassroots effort, to get the issue on the ballot in 2005 and voters approved. The community and aquatic center at Bishop Park is the result of that effort, and the city was even able to pay off those bonds early and fund several other capital improvement projects, she says.

That effort gave her a glimpse of how public policy works at the local level and she wanted to get even more involved to propel Bryant forward. She considered running for city council, but she was discouraged to do so and encouraged instead to run for mayor. That was 2005, she says, and she wasn't ready yet to bite off that much. In 2010, she decided it was time. She put together a team, a vision, and she ran and won, taking office in January 2011. She's now in her second term.

Bryant is in a unique place in its trajectory as a city at this moment in time, Dabbs says. It has experienced



Bryant Mayor and League District 2 Vice President Jill Dabbs enjoys a coffee at her "second office," Speak Easy coffee house.

three to four percent population growth each year for the last decade, but it's no longer just a bedroom community within the greater metropolitan area. The mayor cites recent stats from the Arkansas Economic Development Commission showing that while 60 percent of residents work outside of the city limits, 60 percent of the workforce within Bryant lives outside of the city. That's a lot of crossover, she says, and the schools continue to grow because the district geographic footprint is much larger than the corporate limits.

"We tend to have as many coming into Bryant during the day as we do going out at the end of the day."

With that kind of growth, it's tempting for a city and developers to look to expand outwardly. While bounded by Benton and Alexander on the east and west, Bryant has some room to grow north and south, but Dabbs and the city leaders are working to discourage sprawl, which doesn't make economic sense, she says.

"From an economic development standpoint, sprawling cities are finding that the more they sprawl the more long-term infrastructure and maintenance issues they cause. When you sprawl too far, the tax revenue generated that is supposed to be for maintenance and upkeep is just not enough. The largest example may be



PHOTOS BY ANDREW MORGAN.

A grant through Metroplan will soon help Bryant, which doesn't have a traditional downtown, transform this busy corridor into a more pedestrian-friendly town center development.



The aquatic center at Bishop Park is where her new career in public service began for Dabbs, who was part of a group of citizens who helped make the park a reality in 2006.



Detroit, but smaller cities like Bryant are experiencing the same thing.”

With more dense development, tax dollars go much further, and cities can better afford to maintain and improve the infrastructure they have in that space.

One of the main goals of Bryant’s evolving master plan is to create a more pedestrian and bicycle-friendly city, where paths and safe crosswalks connect neighborhoods, parks, and schools across Bryant. The growth in the 1990s and early 2000s was very “auto-centric,” Dabbs says.



As Bryant continues to grow, it’s a priority for Dabbs and the city to take a thoughtful approach and increase access for pedestrians and cyclists while also easing traffic congestion.

“Everything we’re doing from this point forward is trying to address that in a more thoughtful manner.”

The schools have been great supporters of this idea, Dabbs says.

“The school district really engaged us on this. They said if y’all get the infrastructure put in, we’ll push to

have more walkable schools. They recognize the benefit to their students.”

Another goal for the city, which doesn’t have a traditional downtown, is to create a town center, an accessible, welcoming business district at what Dabbs calls the “heart of the city” at Reynolds Road, NW 4th Street, and Mills Park Road. A \$2.1 million grant from Metroplan is going to help Bryant achieve that goal. The corner’s proximity to the high school is a plus. It will give students and families a place to gather and dine and socialize and shop after school and after ballgames. It’s one more step to improving the quality of life and place in Bryant, Dabbs says.

“It’s really going to change the look of that area—street trees, better pedestrian access, center islands, elaborate crosswalks.”

The city will be able to put the project out to bid in Spring 2017, and Dabbs expects to complete it in early 2018. Developments like this will attract not just Bryant citizens but commuters and travelers as well, she says.

“We’ve got a really good ‘catch basin’ for a lot of activity, but we don’t have all the restaurants right now to capture all of that. There’s a real want for that.”

On top of these projects, the citizens in a special election in August voted to re-issue the bonds created with the 2006 half-cent sales tax that was used to build Bishop Park. They will fund several key improvements, including replacing two aging fire stations, improvements to Bishop Park, and the completion of Bryant Parkway, which will provide much needed traffic relief in the city. It’s a lot to juggle.

“I have to remind myself and the staff sometimes to push hard and push fast, because we’re on a timeline. We’ve got four years to deliver an agenda to the people, and I don’t want to carry this list into the third term. I want a new list.” 🏛️



Springdale Mayor Doug Sprouse, third from right, welcomes a Marshallese delegation from Majuro Atoll.

# Marshallese enhance culture in Arkansas

By Sherman Banks

In the years following World War II, the United States conducted numerous nuclear weapons tests in the Marshall Islands, part of the Micronesia island group near the equator in the South Pacific. Since the islands gained their independence in 1986 under a Compact of Free Association with the United States, any Marshallese with a valid passport can relocate to the U.S. legally, find work, seek education, and stay as long as they like.

According to the 2010 Census, 22,434 people of Marshallese origin live in the U.S., and Springdale is home to nearly 6,000 Marshallese. In 2010 Dale Carpenter of the University of Arkansas produced a documentary called *The Island*, which examines their settlement in Springdale and Washington County from the 1950s to the mid 1990s. He also captured in the film that in addition to looking for jobs, healthcare, and education, they also brought their family traditions, culture, and values.

Springdale Mayor Doug Sprouse believes the Marshallese have added a wonderful cultural diversity to the community. Before becoming mayor, Sprouse became familiar with the Marshallese population during his tenure on the Springdale School Board. It is not

entirely clear why Springdale was chosen over other U.S. cities, but Sprouse thinks perhaps that as some families traveled to Springdale, they liked it and through word-of-mouth the message spread. Springdale is home to one of three Marshall Islands Consulate Generals in the U.S. The other two embassies are in Washington, D.C., and Honolulu.

In order to enhance the relationship with the Marshall Islands, Springdale entered into a partnership with the capital and largest city of Majuro Atoll in 2011. Mayor Sprouse is planning a goodwill mission next year to Majuro Atoll to develop a formalized sister city relationship.

As municipal leaders I think that you can agree that it is imperative we reach to other cultures to further enrich our communities. To bring about this kind change can be made possible through sister cities. Over the past 20 years, Springdale has become a fine example.



For more information contact Sherman Banks at (501) 786-2639; email [sbanks@aristotle.net](mailto:sbanks@aristotle.net); or write to P.O. Box 165920, Little Rock, AR 72216.



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PHOTOS BY ANDREW MORGAN.

## Broadway Bridge closes, dismantling begins

The final few cars crossed the Broadway Bridge between Little Rock and North Little Rock a few minutes before 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 28 before police turned cars away and workers put up the barricades on either side. The 93-year-old bridge that crosses the Arkansas River between the two cities was officially closed.

State and local officials gathered near the apex of the span a few minutes later to hold a “decommissioning” and to share a few words about the bridge’s history. At its 1923 opening, the bridge was dedicated to Arkansans who had fought in World War I. At its closing, members of the Arkansas National Guard and veterans groups passed a ceremonial wreath over its side and into the waters below and rang a bell to indicate its service had come to an end.

After members of the Highway Commission made a final procession across, the bridge was quickly cleared to make way for the demolition crew, which began dismantling the structure immediately. The new span, construction of which is already well underway next to the old bridge, is expected to be moved into place and open to motorists by March 28, 2017, at a cost of \$98.4 million. In the meantime, the 25,000 motorists who used the Broadway Bridge daily are finding new routes across the river for the next six months.





# There's an app for that

By Alison Litchy

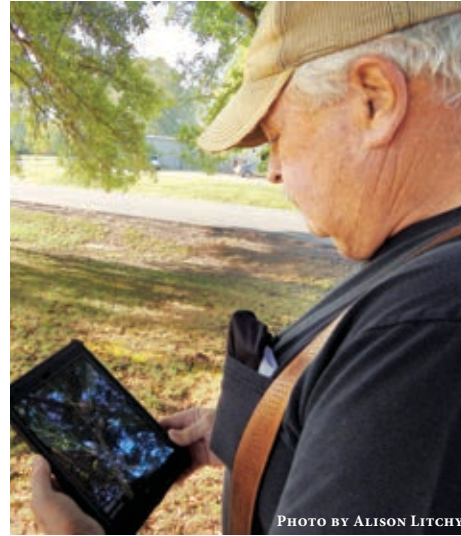
**H**ave a question about a tree? There is an app that has the answer. We live in a great time. If we have a question about nearly anything, we can quickly find an answer. We often get asked, "What kind of tree is that?" Or, "what is making those holes in my tree?" Mobile applications are designed to make it not only quick, but easy to find the information we seek.

There are a number of applications on the Internet for tree identification. It is good to experiment with several applications to find out what works. I am not going to cover all of them, but I will discuss the merits of a few I have explored. Leafsnap is an easy-to-use application. By simply taking a photo of the leaf it will give a few options of what it could be. There is additional information along with each option to help figure out which tree it is. It is not always very accurate with specific species, but it could still be handy if being exact isn't important. For instance, if someone wanted to know if it is a maple tree but it didn't matter what kind of maple, it would be sufficient.

Virginia Tech Tree ID has the largest database that I am aware of. It has 969 different woody plants from North America and over 6,400 photos of leaves, flowers, fruits, twigs, barks, forms and ranges for each species. This app is more accurate than others. However, I am not sure if it is user friendly for people with no tree background. It does take a couple of tries to get used to how to sort and search, but with some practice this app is a good resource. A drawback is that it does take up a lot of memory on a phone or tablet.

I recently discovered that the University of Arkansas has an app called Hort Plants. This app is not just for trees. It also includes shrubs, vines, groundcovers, ornamental grasses, annuals, and perennials. This application is helpful for anyone, from a home gardening fan to someone who works out in the woods. From the standpoint of tree identification, the great thing about this application is that it was made in Arkansas, so the trees are all from our state. The app can also help find the right tree for the right place. Some of the filter options are surprising. To filter the trees there are three categories: plant use, plant size, and plant shape. These can be used to get the right tree for any specific application.

Under the plant-use category, the options include hedge/screen, foundation shrub, shade tree, street tree, groundcover, showy flowers, showy foliage, showy fruit, showy fall color, edible fruits, attractive bark, native to Arkansas, naturalized, specimen, and fragrant flowers. These are the most detailed categories I have seen, and



The Arkansas Forestry Commission's Charles Robinson identifies a water oak using an online application on his tablet.

PHOTO BY ALISON LITCHY.

many of them are perfect for the requests that we get in our offices. This app also allows for sorting by small, medium, or large trees. The shape of a plant is also a filtering factor. This is a great tool to help figure out what will grow in Arkansas and can do well here.

Pests and diseases sometimes can be hard to diagnose. The Purdue Tree Doctor application can help with figuring out the pests. This app was created at Purdue University and its goal is to help better identify and manage tree problems. The information ranges from insects to diseases. Just match the damaged plant part to over 1,000 high-resolution photos with descriptions. There are 175 different pests problems included in this app. This app focuses on species in the Midwest and Eastern U.S. There are many of the same pests in Arkansas as well, just not all of them will be found here.

I looked for an insect ID application for insects that would be seen in the woods here in Arkansas. The best one I could find is Who Let The Bugs Out, also from Purdue University. However, this app does not have great reviews. It requires some pre-existing knowledge about insects to be able to use the information. It is a good learning tool once the right insect is found.

As time goes on more apps will be developed, and others will be refined. There is a lot of room for growth with mobile applications used for information about the forest and urban forest. We live in a wonderful time where information is readily accessible. It is a great time of year to get outside, explore, and do some learning along the way!



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

# Payroll Got Your Office Tied Down?

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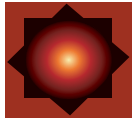
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## A centennial of postal service celebrated in Caraway

Caraway celebrated a centennial of postal service in the city on Sept. 28 with patriotic songs, fireworks, and a recreation of early mail delivery via train. Postal service in Caraway began on Sept. 28, 1916, predating the 1923 incorporation of the Craighead County city. Before the first post office was built, deliveries were set on a tree stump near the tracks. From there settlers could retrieve and distribute the mail. Outgoing letters and packages had to be taken by train to nearby Leachville in order to be mailed. Several buildings have been home to the post office over the years. The current Caraway Post Office at 201 Kentucky Street was built in 1976.

*Photos and information for this article courtesy the Northeast Arkansas Town Crier.*



From left, Mail Carrier Karen Vaughn, Caraway Mayor Barry Riley, and Postmaster Pam Poag, celebrate the 100th anniversary of postal service in the city.



# TENTATIVE 2017 Winter Conference

Marriott Hotel/Statehouse Convention Center, January 11-13, 2017

## Wednesday, January 11

- 3.5 hours of core certification will be offered via “Now That You Are Elected: City Government 101”
- Opening Night Banquet

## Thursday, January 12

- Breakfast
- General Sessions
- Lunch—Volunteer Community of the Year Awards
- Concurrent Afternoon Sessions
  1. Session 1: 1.5 hours of core certification (conclusion of “City Government 101”)
  2. Session 2: an optional topic of interest for city officials not attending Session 1
- Dinner on your own
- Entertainment

## Friday, January 13

- Breakfast
- General Session 1: 1.5 hours of continuing education
- General Session 2: 1.5 hours of continuing education
- Lunch buffet

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# 2017 Winter Conference

Marriott Hotel/Statehouse Convention Center, January 11-13, 2017

REGISTRATION

**Registration and payment must be received in League office by Friday, December 30, 2016, to qualify for Pre-registration rates.**

Pre-registration for municipal officials . . . . .	\$150
Registration fee after <b>December 30, 2016</b> , and on-site registration for municipal officials. . . . .	\$175
Pre-registration for guests . . . . .	\$75
Registration fee after <b>December 30, 2016</b> , 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 December 30, 2016.**
- Cancellation letters must be postmarked by **December 30, 2016**.

HOTEL RESERVATION

## Hotel Room Rates

<b>Marriott Hotel</b> (headquarters hotel)		
<b>SOLO OUT</b> Single/Double . . . . .	<del>\$134</del>	Check-in . . . . . 3 p.m.
<b>Capital Hotel</b>		
<b>SOLO OUT</b> Single/Double . . . . .	<del>\$189</del>	Check-in . . . . . 3 p.m.
<b>Doubletree Hotel</b>		
<b>SOLO OUT</b> Single/Double . . . . .	<del>\$138</del>	Check-in . . . . . 3 p.m.
<b>Wyndham Hotel</b>		
Single/Double . . . . .	\$99	Check-in . . . . . 3 p.m.

- Cut-off date for hotel reservations is **December 30, 2016**.
- Rooms in Little Rock are subject to an 13–15 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.

# Two ways to register **2**

**1** Register online at [www.arml.org](http://www.arml.org) and pay by credit card.

**OR**

Complete the steps and **mail with payment** to:  
 ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE  
 Attn: 2017 Winter Conference  
 P.O. Box 38  
 North Little Rock, AR 72115-0038

## Step 1: Attendee Information

I am a newly elected official.

Name: .....

Title: ..... City of: .....

Address: .....

City: ..... State: .... Zip: ..... Telephone: .....

Attendee only email (required) ..... cc email .....

Guests will attend:  Yes  No Name: .....

(non-city official) Name: .....

## Step 2: Payment Information

• **What is your total?** (see opposite page for fees)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-registration for Delegate \$ 150	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-registration for Guest \$ 75	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Registrants \$ 200	Pre-registration Total \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Registration for Delegate \$ 175	<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Registration for Guest \$ 100	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Registrants \$ 200	Reg. Registration Total \$ _____

### • How are you paying?

**Check**

Mail payment and form to:  
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 2017 Winter Conference  
 P.O. Box 38  
 North Little Rock, AR 72115

**Credit Card** Complete information below and send to address above.

Credit Card:  Visa  MasterCard  Discover

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/20\_\_\_\_

Card Holder Name (as it appears on card): .....

Billing address (as it appears on statement): .....

City: ..... State: .... Zip: ..... Telephone: .....

E-mail address (required for credit card payment) .....

## Step 3: Hotel Reservations

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

**Marriott Hotel** ..... Reservations ..... 877-759-6290

**Capital Hotel** ..... Reservations ..... 877-637-0037 or 501-374-7474

**Doubletree Hotel** ..... Reservations ..... 800-222-8733 or 501-372-4371

**Wyndham Hotel** ... Reservations ..... 866-657-4458 or 501-371-9000

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# Important Reminders:

## Health & Wellness Seminar

MHBF's Health & Wellness seminar is scheduled for October 28th. More information will be forthcoming as the date draws near. **SAVE THE DATE** so you can learn more about MHBF's 2017 Benefit Plan and much more!



## Are You Ready For 2017 Open Enrollment?

If you have American Fidelity and use their enrollment platform, contact Charles Angel at 501-690-2532 to schedule your enrollment dates ASAP. Appointments are scheduled on a first-come, first serve basis.



**MHBF is here to assist you! If you or your members have enrollment questions, please contact us at 501-978-6137 or email [MHBFPremiums@arml.org](mailto:MHBFPremiums@arml.org).**

# CALENDAR

## NLC City Summit

November 16-19, 2016

Wednesday-Saturday

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

## Arkansas Municipal League's 2017 Winter Conference

January 11-13, 2017

Wednesday-Friday

Little Rock, Arkansas

## Arkansas Municipal League's 83rd Convention

June 14-16, 2017

Wednesday-Friday

Little Rock, Arkansas

## Regional meetings

Continuing in November, cities across Arkansas will host regional meetings to discuss issues important to municipalities of all sizes and to share information about the League programs and services available to assist cities and towns. The dates and locations are:

- ◆ Tuesday, Nov. 1, Pine Bluff
- ◆ Wednesday, Nov. 2, Marianna
- ◆ Thursday, Nov. 3, Searcy
- ◆ Friday, Nov. 4, De Queen
- ◆ Wednesday, Nov. 9, Fort Smith/Mulberry
- ◆ Thursday, Nov. 10, Springdale
- ◆ Thursday, Dec. 1, Texarkana
- ◆ Friday, Dec. 2, Stephens
- ◆ Tuesday, Dec. 13, Dumas
- ◆ Wednesday, Dec. 14, Arkadelphia
- ◆ Thursday, Dec. 15, North Little Rock 

# Fairs & Festivals

**Oct. 14-15, MCGEHEE**, 10th Owlfest, [www.mcgeheeowlfest.weebly.com](http://www.mcgeheeowlfest.weebly.com), 870-222-4451

**Oct. 15, BEEBE**, 20th Beebe Fall Festival, [www.beebenow.com](http://www.beebenow.com), 501-882-8135;  
**PALESTINE**, L'Anquille River Festival, 870-581-2166

**Oct. 21-22, WHITE HALL**, 32nd White Hall Founder's Day,  
[www.whitehallfoundersday.com](http://www.whitehallfoundersday.com), 870-247-5502

**Oct. 22, CORNING**, 30th Corning Harvest Festival, 870-926-1188

**Oct. 28-29, MOUNTAIN VIEW**, 34th Bean Fest & Great Arkansas Championship Outhouse Races, [www.yourplaceinthemountains.com](http://www.yourplaceinthemountains.com), 870-269-3851; **MURFREESBORO**, Diamonds in the Fall Festival, 870-285-3131

**Oct. 29, HAZEN**, 40th Grand Prairie Rice Festival, 870-255-3042; **RUSSELLVILLE**, 25th Downtown Fall Festival & Chili Cook-Off, [www.mainstreetrussellville.com](http://www.mainstreetrussellville.com), 479-967-1437

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## Voluntary Certified Continuing Education Program

The League's Voluntary Certified Continuing Education Program continues in 2016-2017 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 2017 Winter Conference, the 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention, or the 2017 Planning & Zoning Workshop.

The Program is for Arkansas mayors, city administrators, 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 hours), 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Oct. 12 at League headquarters.
- Planning & Zoning Workshop (5 continuing hours), 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. April 19, 2017, at League headquarters.

For more information contact Ken Wasson at 501-374-3484 Ext. 211, or email [kwasson@arml.org](mailto:kwasson@arml.org).

PHOTO BY JIM VON TUNGELN.



Each city is unique and deserves individualized care, as apparent from this street scene in downtown Eureka Springs.

# The planner as physician: Heal thyself

By Jim von Tungeln

**T**hose involved in the planning process in our cities—both lay and professionals—can learn much from other professions. Accountants teach the value of financial reality. Engineers teach the value of physical reality. Architects teach the value of aesthetic reality. Attorneys teach the value of legal reality. Let us not, then, ignore the medical profession. It can teach the value of internal reality through examining, analyzing, prescribing, preventing, and healing. That is impressive.

It is even more impressive when one considers the portion of the oath, still guiding physicians today, that they “will do no harm or injustice” to those under their care. These words should also guide those who would participate in planning their communities.

It is tempting at times for planners to keep a better eye on what other cities are doing than what is actually happening in the one under their care. This can affect the type plans they produce, plans that might work elsewhere, but have limited relevance for the present location.

Physicians, on the other hand, while keeping abreast of new scientific breakthroughs, focus on the patient they are treating. Their analysis is specific, thorough, and honest. It can also be tedious, unpleasant, and disheartening, but physicians face the facts at hand and offer a good lesson for planners: Examine and analyze, no matter what hard truths emerge.

It is tempting for leaders of cities that are “doing well” to defer analysis. Planning can focus on accommodating new growth while ignoring existing neighborhoods. The medical profession, on the other hand, recommends establishing a health baseline while one is in her or his prime.

As Mary James, M.D., an internal medicine physician at Stanford University recently stated for Stanford’s Scope blog, “You may be thinking, ‘I’m healthy—I take no medications and never go to the doctor. Why should I start now?’ There are two fundamental components to good health. They are: appropriate treatment for current illness and appropriate preventative care to reduce health

decline in the future. While most people actively seek care for the former, we often forget about the latter.”

Another view was provided by a person who was not a physician, but highly regarded no less. Our country’s own Benjamin Franklin reminded us: “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” The methods of prevention first, though, require an “urban physical,” much like our doctor’s exam.

Most cities are aware of traditional elements of analysis—population composition, growth patterns, land characteristics, economic analysis, and so forth. Conscientious planners, like conscientious medical professionals, will dig deeper. Such deeper analysis may lead to solutions not normally considered.

One Arkansas city analyzed re-zoning requests over a 10-year period and discovered something quite interesting. Requests were not, in most cases, a result of the applicant’s desire to escalate the intensity of land uses. Rather, the requests resulted from a poorly designed system of permitted commercial land uses that allowed, for example, uses in restricted districts that were disallowed for no apparent reason in less restrictive districts. A simple restructuring would free the planning commission from endless re-zoning matters and allow it more time to ... well ... plan.

Once the examination and analysis phases are complete, the real fun begins. Here, the medical profession finds itself subject to criticism by some, revolving around charges of “treating the symptoms rather than the disease,” a charge that can fall with equal force upon the planning profession. Traffic planners and engineers, for example, tend to treat every instance of congestion with the same prescription: more vehicle lanes. Followed to its absurd conclusion, there will eventually be no city left, just lanes of vehicles, unencumbered and speeding toward nowhere.

Like a great ship attempting to reverse course, the thinking in this area is slowly—very slowly—changing. A more holistic approach includes consideration of diverse methods of moving about as well as more attention to traffic generation in the initial development process. As with medical prescriptions, proposed treatments for urban ills can come with built-in side effects. Planners seeking to increase the supply of affordable housing in a community, for example, may encounter stiff resistance from existing residents with the resultant discord that can endanger future programs. In rapidly growing areas, supply and demand factors may simply result in the escalation of prices to the point where once affordable housing no longer meets that description.

The long-term complications of dealing with traffic demand can, as mentioned earlier, leave cities split in half or surrounded by high-speed vehicle corridors. New

subdivisions may result in multiple wastewater-pumping stations. This hands a permanent cost to the ratepayers for upkeep and replacement. One might wish that urban plans would come accompanied by a long list of potential side effects, as do the drug commercials on television.

These days, physicians end their examination and analysis with, in addition to specific prescriptions, a wellness plan. Unfortunately, in many cases these remain ignored in the same fashion as urban plans. Both professions know the high cost of such disregard.

Specific medical prescriptions may result from a technique involving so-called “decision-tree analysis.” This is a method of determining causes based on a linear analysis containing paths, dead-ends, lateral alternatives, and “if-this, then” comparisons. The physician herself or himself then makes the determination as to the appropriate treatment.

Planners, on the other hand, unlike other professionals, rely on citizen participation to develop solutions. This is an admirable approach in many ways, and may provide valuable insight. The medical profession, however, might suggest that there is no substitute for professional expertise. Successful plans balance the two approaches. In fact, the medical community itself now relies on a team approach to healing and wellness with the patient a full team member. So perhaps the two professions have learned from one another.

Is the foregoing intended to convert planners into doctors? Hardly. It merely suggests that they face a similar challenge: to be agents of change for the better in dealing with those they serve. It also suggests that looking at problems with a different set of eyes at times may help in developing new insights. As the late Albert Einstein once said, “We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them.”

Of all the ideas suggested, the most intriguing lies in the wisdom of problem prevention. This can be as simple as more in-depth analysis of potential long-term impacts. It can be as complicated as computing life-cycle costs to the taxpayers instead of grabbing temporary but immediate gains. As we have observed, such temporary gains may come with a basket full of future costs.

Whatever the methods, the advice of Thomas Fuller, British historian and writer of the 1600s, still rings true, even with his creative grammar: “He who cures a disease may be the skillfullest, but he that prevents it is the safest physician.”



*Jim von Tungeln is staff planning consultant and available for consultation as a service of the Arkansas Municipal League. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. Contact him at 501-944-3649. His website is [www.planyourcity.com](http://www.planyourcity.com).*

# As mobile-only becomes mainstream, government must adapt its services

An industry perspective.

By Bob Sanders

A decade ago, renewing a driver's license meant taking hours off work and standing in an interminable line. Registering a new business required calls or visits to several government agencies, filling out lengthy forms, and making multiple payments to cover various agencies' registration fees.

Today, a citizen might complete those tasks while waiting for an elevator or standing in line at the grocery store.

The difference? A soaring base of constituents who expect to be able to interact with government day or night, quickly and efficiently, wherever and whenever it's convenient for them—using mobile devices. In other words, if government wants to meet its citizens where they are, it should deliver services via mobile devices.

## The growing mobile-only population

In many states, the perception still exists that mobile devices aren't widely used to access government services. Some believe the costs of mobile devices and service plans prevent all but the wealthy from owning them, while others believe limited rural-area connectivity prevents reliable service for too many constituents. In many cases, these beliefs are far from the truth. The number of regions lacking connectivity is dwindling, and smartphone data plans are more affordable than traditional home Internet connections are in many areas.

Numerous studies have documented the skyrocketing, nationwide growth of smartphone use. In addition, a 2015 Pew report revealed that nearly 20 percent of Americans access online services using their smartphones either because they don't have Internet access at home or because they have few options for online access apart from their mobile phones. Seven percent of the population relies exclusively on smartphones for online access. Rather than being wealthy, these users tend to be younger, minorities, and lower-income households.

## Re-evaluating mobile delivery

Because government is established to serve all citizens, it must provide services that are accessible to everyone, including the growing population of mobile-only users. Effectively serving those users—and the millions of others who gravitate toward smartphone use because of its convenience—means more than simply making government forms mobile-ready online. It requires new thinking that focuses on creating a satisfying citizen experience.

In one example, Arkansas re-engineered a process for unclaimed property filings, first designing a mobile experience that suited constituents, and then working backward to achieve what state government needed. Claiming unclaimed property required citizens to get notarized verification of ownership. Finding and engaging the services of a notary public, though, turned out to be a barrier that prevented many people from claiming what was rightfully theirs.

To ease the claim process for its growing number of mobile users, the state established an identity verification system that no longer required a notary's service. Government decision-makers also recognized that users whose claims originated from mobile devices were unlikely to have access to printers that would allow them to mail in or fax the claim forms, so the revised system allowed citizens to submit their claims via a smartphone.

The state also ran ads about unclaimed property during the time people were most likely to conduct searches on their phones—while they're at home watching TV in the evenings—and adapted the process so it can be completed from start to finish via users' mobile devices. These changes boosted total filings for unclaimed property by 134 percent in the first year, with 71 percent of filings originating from mobile devices.



## Mobile delivery of every government service?

Delivery on a mobile device might not work for every government service, but far more services could be provided via mobile than are available today. While certain services may need to remain desktop-based, many other services can become mobile-ready if government leaders are willing to consider providing a slightly different customer experience.

For example, lengthy forms might not translate to smaller mobile screens and keypads, but government can review such forms to eliminate duplication or otherwise streamline them. Or, a mapping application might not be able to display an entire map on a mobile screen. However, government could provide a list of key map point options, sorted by distance first, allowing the user to easily secure the needed information. As long as users can achieve the desired outcome, the experience doesn't have to mirror exactly the desktop computer experience.

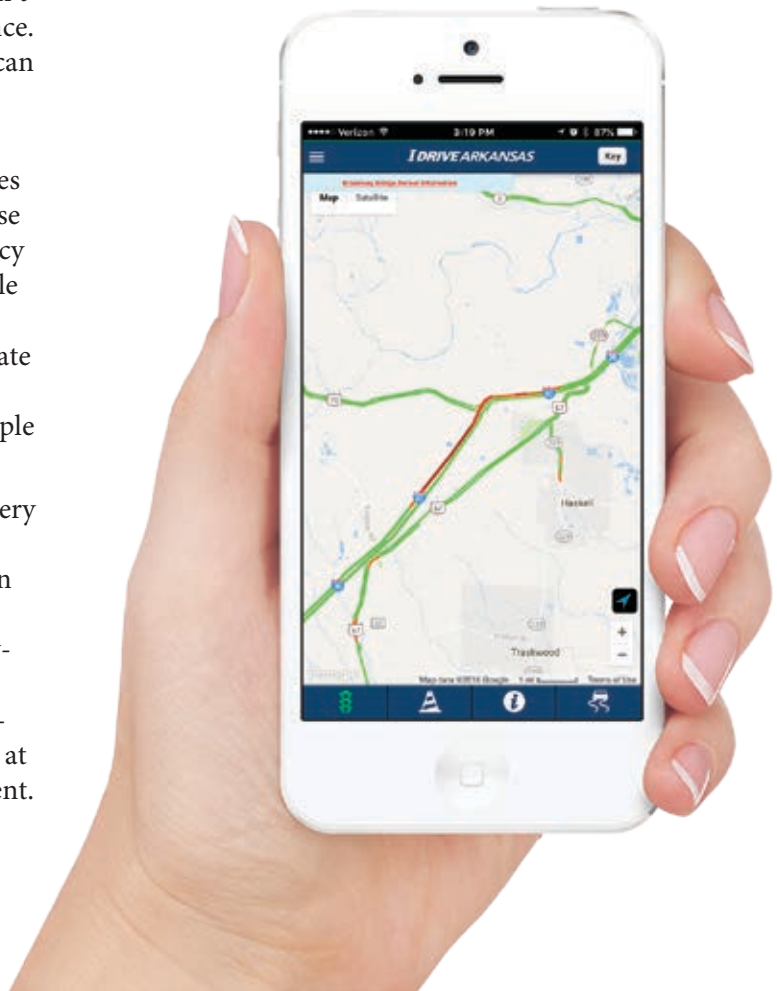
To decide which—or whether all—of its services can or should be delivered via mobile device, government leaders should think through three areas:

- 1. Solve constituents' pain points.** People sometimes feel anxious accessing government services because they don't know what steps to take or which agency oversees the process they need to complete. Mobile delivery can help alleviate such pain points. For example, agencies can work collaboratively to create a single process that allows citizens to complete transactions from their smartphones across multiple levels of government.
- 2. Create greater citizen engagement.** Mobile delivery is ideal for engaging citizens because most people monitor their smartphones throughout the day. In Arkansas, the State Highway and Transportation Department reaches more than 80 percent of drivers in the state thanks to a mobile-optimized site, IDriveArkansas.com. This high level of citizen engagement allows the department to reach citizens at critical times, such as during a winter weather event.

- 3. Ease the burden of compliance.** Government can increase citizen compliance with required tasks, such as paying taxes, through a mobile approach. For example, text notifications are one way government can remind users of deadlines and allow them to complete the required task in the moment using their phones.

There's no longer a question about the value of mobile delivery in government. The focus now should shift to how government can leverage mobile devices to create great citizen experiences for a large portion of constituents.

*Bob Sanders is general manager for the Arkansas Information Consortium, a subsidiary of NIC Inc. Sanders can be reached at bob@ark.org. This article appeared originally Sept. 14 on govtech.com, the official website of Government Technology magazine, and is reprinted with permission.*



# League offers health and wellness training at Fayetteville Clerk Institute



League Health and Safety Coordinator David Baxter presented a two-hour training session on Sept. 13 at the Municipal Clerk Institute at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, where he covered employee health and wellness. About 30 clerks attended the training. He also gave an overview of the importance of achieving respect and understanding in the diverse workplace. For information on scheduling a training session in your city or town, contact David Baxter at (501) 374-3484 Ext. 110 or email [dbaxter@arml.org](mailto:dbaxter@arml.org).



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## EXPERIENCE OUR REVITALIZED CONFERENCE IN A REVITALIZED PITTSBURGH

NLC's City Summit (formerly Congress of Cities) is coming to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, November 16-19, 2016. See how this once-industrial town has transformed into a beautiful and vibrant city.

[citysummit.nlc.org](http://citysummit.nlc.org)



# How to budget for fire and police premium tax turnback

By Jody Carreiro

The fire and police pension coverage provided by cities through the Arkansas Local Police and Fire Retirement System (LOPFI) and the old locally administered plans is paid for by the cities. A portion of the cost is offset by revenues received from insurance premium taxes that are returned to the cities (or directly to LOPFI). Since 2000, there have been three major formula changes that have affected the way that premium tax proceeds are turned back to cities to help pay for their fire and police pensions. The most recent formula was passed by the Legislature in 2011 and included transitional smoothing in the formula through 2016. After the completion of the transition, the latest formula does allow cities to better budget for this revenue.

The formula calculates separately the amounts paid for LOPFI-only paid locations, LOPFI volunteer locations, and local plans administered both locally and by LOPFI. LOPFI paid locations are allocated revenue based on a formula that allocates 40 percent of the projected costs for the year. "Projected costs" is a term defined in the state law. This value is the LOPFI department's contribution rate for the current year times the actual salary for the just-completed year. For 2017 budgets, the amount would be the 40 percent of the 2017 LOPFI paid rate times the 2016 salary actually reported. A city should have a good idea now what the total salary for 2016 will be and can plug that into this formula. There is an even easier way to budget this amount, but it is not as accurate. That is, the cities' portions of the cost will be about 60 percent times the 2017 rate times the budgeted salary.

The formula for volunteers under LOPFI is also fairly straightforward. The LOPFI board has set the total contribution amount for cities that is required after the premium tax allocation. That amount is \$5.60 per member, per month. So for budgeting purposes, take the expected number of volunteers for 2017 times 12 times \$5.60.

The local plans have a formula that works the same way whether the plan is locally administered or has been consolidated with LOPFI for administrative

purposes. The difference being that the money for LOPFI-administered plans goes to the system and the money for locally administered plans comes to the cities to pay to the local plan. This part of the formula is based on another defined term in law: the "base benefit actuarial cost." The base benefit is the minimum amount payable by law to a retiree under these plans. This is basically 50 percent of salary for a paid member with additional dollar amounts for service up to 25 years and additional percentage of pay for years over 25 years. The volunteer base benefit is \$100 for 20 years of service up to \$150 for 25 or more years of service. The present value of these benefits, not the currently payable benefits, is calculated and compared to the market value of assets. This unfunded amount is amortized at the same rate for all locations and that amount is the base benefit actuarial cost.

The formula for a local plan calls for a premium tax allocation of 30 percent of the base benefit actuarial cost. There is also an extra amount called the "additional allocation" that will provide another 10 percent of the base benefit actuarial cost to the plan, provided that the city is paying at least 80 percent of the calculated amount. This piece of the formula is still a bit hard to quickly calculate. So to assist in this endeavor, our firm is working with LOPFI to produce a letter to all cities affected by this calculation, which will give them a good estimate of the projected amount and show the contribution threshold necessary to be able to receive the additional allocation. These letters should be available by early October of this year.

This formula for premium tax now provides cities with some better tools to be able to budget for the amounts they can expect to receive to offset the pension costs.



*Jody Carreiro is an actuary and partner of Osborn, Carreiro & Associates, Inc. in Little Rock. The firm is the consultant to the Arkansas Fire and Police Pension Review Board that calculates the premium tax amounts for the state. For more information contact LOPFI at 501-682-1745*

# Changes to 2016 Directory of Arkansas Municipal Officials

Submit changes to Whitnee Bullerwell, [wvb@arml.org](mailto:wvb@arml.org).



## Allport

Delete R/T (Vacant)  
 Add R/T Porsche Farmer  
 Delete AL Porsche Farmer  
 Add AL (Vacant)

## Amagon

Delete AL Allen Brumley  
 Add AL Thea Eskew  
 Delete M (Vacant)  
 Add M Allen Brumley  
 Add AL Randal Willard

## Ash Flat

Delete SS Regan Nicholson  
 Add PRS Regan Nicholson  
 Add SS Jimmy Shaffer

## Beebe

Delete AL Becky Short  
 Add AL Lee McLane  
 Delete AL David Pruitt  
 Add AL Derrick Goff

## Bluff City

Add TEL 815-540-9358  
 Add E-Mail [kwasi1014@gmail.com](mailto:kwasi1014@gmail.com)

## Bradley

Delete M (Vacant)  
 Add M Renee Ikegulu  
 Delete AL Renee Ikegulu  
 Add AL Gladney Hunt  
 Delete R/T George Morgan  
 Add R/T Rosendo Mike Rodriguez  
 Delete CA Rebecca Jones  
 Add CA (Vacant)  
 Delete E-Mail [bradwtr@whiti.net](mailto:bradwtr@whiti.net)  
 Add E-Mail [cityofbradley@yahoo.com](mailto:cityofbradley@yahoo.com)

## Bryant

Delete AL Mike Chandler  
 Add AL Jonathan Long

## Cammack Village

Delete R Mary Lynn Walker  
 Add R Pam Stewart

## Cushman

Delete AL Joey Parks  
 Add AL (Vacant)  
 Delete M Lora Jean Weatherford  
 Add M Joey Parks

## Dardanelle

Delete FC Carl Cross  
 Add FC (Vacant)

## DeWitt

Delete AL Jeremy Cox  
 Add AL Dallas Traylor

## Dyess

Delete R/T Christy Hill  
 Add R/T (Vacant)

## Emmet

Add AL Margie Richardson  
 Delete R/T Frank Faulkner  
 Delete WS/WW Frank Faulkner  
 Add WS Mauricio Aparicio

## Evening Shade

Delete AL Anna Marie Avey  
 Add AL Randall Moore  
 Delete PC (Vacant)  
 Add PC Kevin Coursey

## Gateway

Delete M Frank Hackler, Jr.  
 Add M Andrew Tillman  
 Delete AL Dianna Nichols  
 Add AL Chris Jones

## Grubbs

Add PC Allen Brumley

## Hardy

Delete M Nina Thornton  
 Add M Jason Jackson

## Helena-West Helena

Delete WS Kevin McCormick  
 Add WC (Vacant)

## La Grange

Delete AL Ruby Smith  
 Add AL (Vacant)

## Maumelle

Delete C/T Joshua Clausen  
 Add C/T (Vacant)

## McCrary

Delete C/T Sue Pegg  
 Add C/T Karen Harrison

## Monticello

Delete AL (Vacant)  
 Add AL Leslie Paige Chase

## Mount Ida

Delete AL Mike Brown

## Oakhaven

Add AL Mark Hall

## Patterson

Add AL Bradley DeWitt

## Siloam Springs

Delete FC Greg Neely  
 Add FC Jeremey Criner

## Southside

Add M Ray Bowman  
 Add T Byron Southerland  
 Add R Vera Byrd  
 Add MR Bobby Mize  
 Add AL Jerry Byrd  
 Add AL Joey Sample  
 Add AL Tim Fairchild  
 Add AL Vince Gay  
 Add AL Mary Beth Bowen  
 Add Mail 99 Scott Dr.,  
 Southside, AR 72501  
 Add TEL 870-613-4801  
 Add E-Mail [cityofsouthside@gmail.com](mailto:cityofsouthside@gmail.com)

# Secrets of successful communities

By Corey Parks

**P**rior to the 21st Century, economic development was believed to be one size fits all. After the turn of the century, experts in the field realized this was not the case. What works in one community may or may not work in another. Ed McMahon, senior resident fellow of the Urban Land Institute, considers the following to be the eight secrets of successful communities:

- Develop a shared vision for the future.
- Inventory local and regional assets.
- Build plans around the enhancement of assets.
- Use education, incentives, partnerships, and voluntary initiatives, not just regulation.
- Pick and choose among development proposals.
- Cooperate with neighbors for mutual benefit.
- Protect community character as well as ecology and economics.
- Have strong leaders and committed citizens.

While the implementation of these practices will vary in each community, everyone can benefit from utilizing them. An example of putting McMahon's secrets into action can be found in Morrilton, which is building its plan for the future around the enhancements of assets.

Local leadership and community members recognized that the growing downtown is an asset. According to McMahon, "If you don't have a healthy downtown then you don't have a healthy town." A nearly \$4 million bond issue has allowed the city to move forward with the purchase of a former downtown bank, enabling city hall to remain downtown. As a result, the current building will be renovated for future retail space. This property will likely become home to a mixed-use facility after renovation.

Morrilton has also worked to protect the city's character by improving its entrances. This simple but effective step can drastically improve the city's perception in the eyes of travelers and residents. Abraham Lincoln once said, "The best way to predict your future is to create it." Mayor Allen Lipsmeyer is a firm believer in this quote and is acting on it to improve Morrilton's future.

Rather than waiting for change to come, Morrilton has decided to create the change. McMahon says, "There are two kinds of change: planned and unplanned." Going forward, Morrilton plans to cooperate with neighbors for mutual benefit and inventory local and regional assets. The presence of colleges in Conway, Morrilton, and Russellville is an example of a regional asset and potential opportunity for cooperation. Lipsmeyer intends to



The Urban Land Institute's Ed McMahon shared his thoughts on successful communities during a recent presentation at the University of Central Arkansas's Community Development Institute in Conway.

continue developing relationships with surrounding area leadership to have a positive impact on the region.

According to Lipsmeyer, implementing these secrets in your community requires willpower and a positive attitude. "Without the will to grow and a positive attitude you won't be able to develop," Lipsmeyer said. "How will people view your town if you are constantly negative? I use every opportunity to share the positives about what is happening. There is hope in Morrilton because people believe in what we can accomplish."

The combination of hard work, resolve, and positivity has led to \$177,000,000 being invested in Morrilton. This growth exemplifies the change in economic development practices. A technique that works in a community does not automatically bring success in others.

Economic development is more dynamic than it ever has been, therefore we must have unique and creative strategies to be successful. Henry Ford said, "If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always got." McMahon's secrets of successful communities provide a foundation of methods that can be tailored to fit each city's needs. Implementation will vary, but these eight secrets are applicable regardless of your geographic location or community makeup.



Corey Parks is the Project Coordinator of the Center for Community and Economic Development at the University of Central Arkansas.

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# Delta Regional Airport expands access to eastern Arkansas

By Mike Griffin, PE

**T**oday's airports have to meet a complex network of industry, land, environmental, design, funding, and agency regulations. There's a seemingly endless to-do list to check off when planning a new airport development, including grant applications, site selection, master and airport layout plans, and an environmental impact analysis. And don't forget about the instrument approaches, height zoning plans, noise analysis, and public support. But when all those boxes are checked and an engineering consultant provides seamless support through the process, the resulting infrastructure provided by a new airport development can have a rewarding impact on a city—or in the case of Delta Regional Airport, multiple cities.

## Identify needs and solutions

In 2006, Garver began working with the cities of Wynne and Forrest City and Cross and St. Francis counties in eastern Arkansas to consider a new regional airport. The existing airfields at Wynne and Forrest City were limited to smaller private and agricultural aircraft, and neither was able to expand to serve a regional role in their present locations. Both cities and both counties had the common interest of increasing jobs and commerce in the region, and leaders knew that by pooling their resources they could create a regional facility that had the ability to serve the larger corporate and commercial

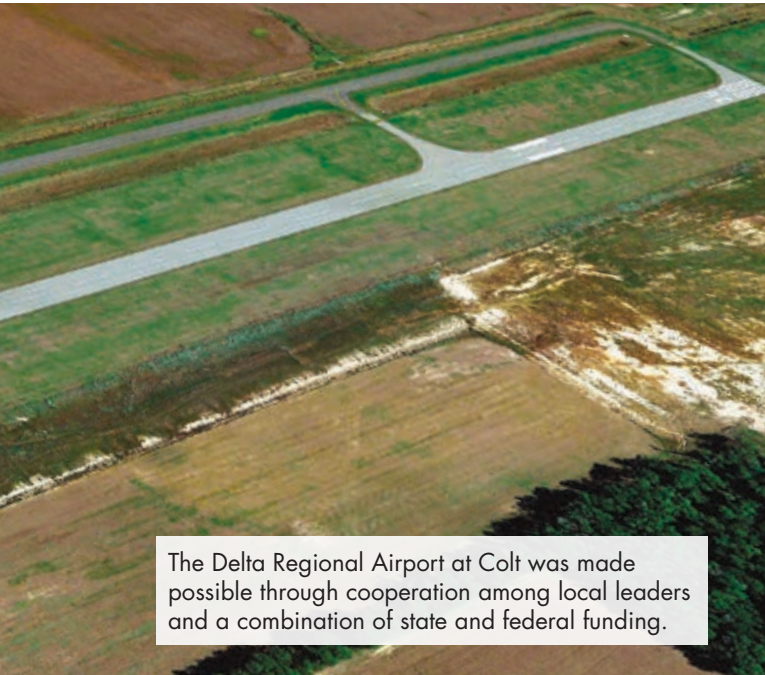
aircraft that would fuel economic development. To that end, the Delta Regional Airport Authority (DRAA) was formed. Dr. John Kerr, an experienced agricultural aviator and resident of the area, was named chairman, and he was instrumental in bringing together the various stakeholders to get the project off the ground.

## Find the necessary funding

The key to obtaining the magnitude of funding needed for a new airport is planning: Approach federal and state agencies (which provide grant packages that typically cover 50 percent to 95 percent of project costs) with a well-prepared, comprehensive project plan, and the battle is largely won.

The funding for most elements of the new Delta Regional Airport—including property acquisition, general site development, grading and utilities, security fencing, runways, taxiways, aprons, lighting, and an access road—was obtained through grants from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). These grants funded approximately 95 percent of project costs. The remaining five percent matching funding was provided by grants from the Arkansas Department of Aeronautics (ADA). Using this funding system, the DRAA's cost for these eligible projects, which derived its financial support from the cities of Wynne and Forrest City, was close to zero. New structures and revenue-producing items, such





The Delta Regional Airport at Colt was made possible through cooperation among local leaders and a combination of state and federal funding.

as fuel farms and T-hangars, were constructed after the airport's initial development and were eligible for a series of grants from the ADA.

The largest challenge of this planning effort was addressing the multi-year trickle of federal and state funding. The project was funded over nearly a decade of partial FAA and ADA grants, which made phasing for planning, design, and construction much more complicated. This planning and preliminary work also covered non-traditional services not usually encountered in a normal airport improvement project, such as cash flow projections, mineral rights, farming leases, public meetings, and banking lines of credit.

### Plan with the future in mind

New greenfield airports don't wrestle with expansion constraints and non-standard designs. Instead, an open field is a fresh canvas to create a custom airfield and, in the case of Delta Regional Airport, a unique gateway to east Arkansas communities. After the feasibility study, Garver assisted the DRAA by completing the site selection, environmental assessment, and master plan for the new airport.

By selecting Colt, a city centrally located between Forrest City and Wynne in St. Francis County, as the airport site, the DRAA is able to offer easy access from Arkansas State Highway 1 to the facility and affect relatively few property owners, with no significant airspace obstructions and readily available utilities.

### If you build it ...

Construction of Delta Regional Airport included nearly one million cubic yards of earthwork, 130,000 square yards of airfield pavement, 17 miles of cable for

the airfield lighting, and even a new railroad crossing for the access road. The airfield boasts a 5,003-foot runway, a full parallel taxiway, two instrument approaches, apron tie-down space for nearly 30 aircraft, T-hangars, fueling facilities, and available development areas for additional corporate and private hangars. In addition, the airport was one of the first in the state to have a complete system of LED runway and taxiway lights. This initial airport development cost over \$23 million and allows Delta Regional Airport to serve both small general aviation aircraft and large corporate jets. The airport opened in 2014.

Future plans include a 1,000-foot extension of the runway and taxiway, runway widening, an additional apron, and corporate and T-hangar development. The Delta Regional Airport is a true example of city, county, state, federal and private sector cooperation, and will serve the aviation needs of east Arkansas for decades to come.



Mike Griffin, PE, is Director of Aviation and a vice president at Garver. You can contact Mike at 501-376-3633 or MJGriffin@GarverUSA.com.

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# Quality subgrade means more stable projects

By Steven Head, PE

As one of the most precious natural resources in Arkansas, soil is the foundation of several of our most important activities, including infrastructure. In the world of engineering, there are few construction-related issues as significant—and expensive to correct—as foundation or subgrade problems after a project's completion.

As areas across the state continue to grow and develop, many of the new construction areas are occurring on tracts of land that have been avoided in the past due to issues such as poor subgrade materials. Constructing buildings or streets in these areas typically is more expensive than in areas with better subgrade soil. The additional up-front costs are less expensive than repairing damaged structures or streets due to inadequate subgrade.

So, what makes soils unstable? Different combinations and amounts of gravel, sand, silt, and clay result in varying soil properties and structural characteristics. Some soils that are highly influenced by water can lose significant strength, while other soils are quite resilient toward moisture. Some soils are more susceptible to frost heave, the swelling of soil during freezing conditions, which can greatly damage a structure foundation or roadway pavement. A good mixture of fine-grained and coarse-grained particle sizes will typically increase stability and often resiliency toward changing seasonal conditions including temperature and precipitation.

Additionally, groundwater has also been known to cause instabilities in subgrade soils. When a foundation or roadway is built, it is possible that its construction interferes with the natural flow of the groundwater. Groundwater can exist as perched/isolated pockets of water or as the water table as a whole beneath a project site.

Groundwater studies at a project site often take time and require seasonal data collection. If project planning allows, it is highly recommended to study the groundwater conditions beneath a project site before construction and ideally prior to project final budgeting.

The ability of the soil to support a load is measured by its compressibility or consolidation potential, as well as its bearing strength. Ideally, a structure foundation or roadway subgrade should not move once put in place. Generally, reasonable settlement tolerances for foundations are included in design criteria. However, in certain conditions subgrade soils can cause excessive foundation or roadway movement and ultimately failures in the corresponding structure or pavement.

The first step in preventing subgrade issues and problems caused by unstable soils is to sample and analyze the existing subgrade material beneath a project site. A geotechnical engineer can provide this service. The



A geotechnical engineer takes a soil sample using a truck-mounted drilling rig.

investigation typically consists of drilling boring holes and obtaining samples of the soil. The samples are then transported to a laboratory for testing. Data is compiled through the results of laboratory testing, soil classification, and information collected onsite during drilling.

A geotechnical report is then produced that provides recommendations for structure foundations, pavement subgrade and sections, site grading, rock excavation, and other project aspects. The report can highlight actions required to stabilize the project subgrade soils, if they were deemed unstable by the results of the investigation. These actions can include the removal of the unsuitable soils and replacement of quality material or the modification of the onsite soils through chemical or material additions.

The material brought to a project site for replacement of unsuitable soils is often referred to as “select fill” material. Select fill material generally has constraints that are outlined in project specifications. It should also be free of materials such as organic matter or construction debris that may deteriorate over time and create void space in the subgrade. Select fill material varies from region to region across the state, depending on the locally available soil types that can be brought to a project from pits or quarries. The specification constraints on select fill material typically involve gradation, plasticity characteristics, and structural integrity of the material. When properly placed, the select fill material allows the design engineer to anticipate the stability conditions regarding the structure or pavement placed above.

Select fill material may not always be readily available near a project site, and it may not be logistically or financially feasible to haul large quantities of select fill materials from distant locations. In these situations, it is often recommended to improve the existing subgrade soils through the addition of materials or chemicals. This practice is generally referred to as soil stabilization and can be achieved through the addition of cement, lime, or fly ash, among others. Depending on the soil type, different amounts of cement, lime, or fly ash may be recommended to satisfy the design requirements.

Other options, particularly in roadway construction, include the installation of geo-textile or geo-membrane layers beneath the pavement section. These materials improve the strength, stability, and drainage of the subgrade material.

Geotechnical engineers can also assist with project features that are in distress or have already failed due to subgrade issues. Foundations can often be repaired by retroactive solutions that do not necessarily include complete reconstruction. Typically, full-depth repairs and replacements are warranted in pavement failure areas.

In the long term, the best way to maximize the lifespan of a structure or pavement is to gather all data available for an accurate design. That begins with obtaining information regarding subgrade conditions beneath a prospective project site.



*Steven Head is a geotechnical engineer, laboratory manager, and associate for McClelland Consulting Engineers, Inc. in Fayetteville. Call Steven at 479-443-2377, or email him at [shead@mccllelland-engrs.com](mailto:shead@mccllelland-engrs.com).*

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# Officials discuss municipal finance at League workshop



Approximately 115 municipal officials and personnel from across the state attended the certification workshop entitled, “Municipal Finance: Preparing Your Budget,” held Sept. 14 at League headquarters. League President and Stephens Mayor Harry Brown presided and encouraged attendees to ask questions during the day-long training.

Speakers discussed topics of interest such as Arkansas’s budgeting laws, the new overtime regulations regarding the Fair Labor Standards Act, municipal

revenue resources, and municipal purchasing, bidding, and professional services. Workshop attendees also heard from representatives with the Arkansas GIS Office, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Arkansas Division of Legislative Audit.

To view a PDF of the information presented during the workshop, visit [www.arml.org](http://www.arml.org), hover over the “Resources” navigation button, and select “Voluntary Certification Program Archive.”



# NLR honors longtime treasurer

**N**orth Little Rock honored longtime Treasurer Mary Ruth Morgan during a Sept. 26 ceremony at the Patrick Henry Hays Senior Citizens Center. Morgan served as city treasurer for 40 years, has been on the Senior Citizen Commission for 30 years, was a Civics teacher in the local school system for many decades, and has always been a dedicated volunteer in her community.



From left, North Little Rock Senior Citizens Center Director Charley Baxter, Mary Ruth Morgan and North Little Rock Mayor Joe Smith.

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# Keeping your child safe on the playing field

By Chase Smith, M.D.

It's October and we find ourselves right in the middle of all sorts of sports seasons. Whether it's football, basketball, soccer, baseball, or volleyball, if you have a child or grandchild, you're likely to spend at least a few nights a week watching them in practices, matches, or games. There are a few tips to remember that can your child avoid injuries.

## Preparation begins long before game time

Injury prevention starts months before the season. Being active throughout the offseason, whether through running, another sport or strength conditioning, can allow your child to be physically prepared and avoid injury.

Once practices and games begin, proper warm-up routines, hydration, and equipment can also go a long way in preventing injury.

Proper stretching has an added benefit for children, whose bones grow faster than muscles and can cause muscle strains and tears. Warming up keeps muscles loose, helping to avoid injury. It's important that stretches include the abs, back, hip and pelvic muscles.

Over-specialization in youth sports has caused a rise in injuries. Children should try to avoid playing one sport year-round without adequate rest, as overuse injuries are much more likely to occur.

We encourage you to have your child play multiple sports in a calendar year. Not only does it allow your child to become a well-rounded athlete, it gives certain parts of the body time to rest. If your child does specialize in a sport, it's vital your child get rest from it at least three months a year.

## When an injury occurs

Minor or severe, an injury will likely occur at some point.

Concussion is one of the most serious injuries to be aware of. These are most common in football as well as soccer due to players using their head to hit the ball. It's important for coaches and parents to know the signs and symptoms of a concussion because when it occurs, it's crucial for the athlete to not return to playing or practicing for at least a week or until symptoms are gone.

Not everyone loses consciousness with a concussion. Signs can include a headache, dizziness, nausea, loss of balance, drowsiness, and problems concentrating or sleeping. It's important to have an established baseline for all kids so it gives a record to compare to.

When a concussion occurs, rest is key, both physically and mentally. It's important to cut down on playing computer games and stay out of practice and playing. Once an athlete has returned to his or her baseline, the return-to-play decision is based on both an incremental increase in physical activity and contact risk supervised by a physician or physician-designee. This down time can take several days, but can be longer depending on the severity and other previous concussions.

With any injury, remember your child's long-term health is most important, not returning as quickly as possible to playing. Don't judge your response by how professional athletes cope with such an injury because many times these players return from an injury days, weeks, or months ahead of schedule.

When considering youth sports, it's important to remember this is not a profession for kids. Collegiate and professional athletes have constant access to rehabilitation and treatment methods that help them return rapidly. For children, returning to a sport too quickly may lead to further damage that could have an impact on the rest of your child's life.

As youth sports have continued to grow and expand, we've seen a growing number of sports medicine physicians, trainers, and surgeons. These specialized providers are in tune with the goals and needs of the athletes they care for and are up-to-date on cutting-edge techniques and treatments to get them back on the playing field as soon as possible. However, we must take into account the overall well being of the athlete.



*Chase Smith, M.D., is Assistant Professor, Department of Orthopaedics, UAMS College of Medicine.*



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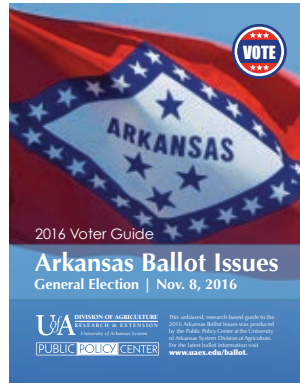
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# Cooperative Extension Service offers ballot guide

Looking for information on the Arkansas ballot issues going before voters November 6? The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service offers a 2016 Arkansas Ballot Issues Voter Guide to help voters educate themselves on each of the seven issues that will appear this year.



In the guide you can find the wording of each issue and answers to frequently asked questions, including how the proposal will appear on the ballot, and reasons why people may either support or oppose each issue. Each summary has been reviewed by attorneys, issue supporters and opponents, and subject experts to ensure accuracy.

To view the guide online or download a PDF, go to: [www.uaex.edu/ballot](http://www.uaex.edu/ballot).

You may also request a presentation to your organization or group. Ballot issue education programs can be requested by contacting your local county extension agent or by contacting the Public Policy Center at 501-671-2160 or emailing [publicpolicycenter@uaex.edu](mailto:publicpolicycenter@uaex.edu).

The League at its 82nd Convention in June voted to support Issue 3 in November's election. Issue 3, or Senate Joint Resolution 16, asks voters to approve multiple changes to the Arkansas Constitution with the

stated intent to encourage job creation, expansion, and economic development. It proposes modifications to Article 12 and Amendments 62 and 82. If approved by voters, this amendment would:

1. Remove the limitation on the amount of general obligation bonds the state may issue to pay for economic development projects (Amendment 82 currently provides that bonds cannot exceed five percent of state general revenues).
2. Allow a county, city, town, or other municipal corporation to obtain or provide money for other entities to support economic development projects or services.
3. Clarify the authority of counties and municipalities to issue bonds for economic development projects instead of industrial development purposes, which the Constitution currently authorizes but does not define.
4. Allow state legislators to authorize the use of other taxes (beyond special taxes) to pay off municipal and county bond debt.
5. Remove the requirement that municipal and county bonds may be sold only at public sale.
6. Allow cities, towns, school districts, and counties to form compacts for economic development projects.



## 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; A.C.A. 26-25-102 and 103). In order to implement this millage, the governing body of the city or town must certify the rate of taxation levied to the county clerk. This must be done prior to the time fixed by law for the Quorum Court to levy county taxes. (A.C.A. § 26-73-202). A.C.A. § 14-14-904(b) establishes the November or December meeting of the Quorum Court as the time to levy those taxes. Until 2016, this could be done only at the November meeting of the Quorum Court. However, Act 15 of 2016 (3rd Ex. Sess.) amended the law to permit the levy to occur at the December meeting as well.

Accordingly, municipal officials should check with the Quorum Court to determine whether its levying meeting will be in November or December. It is important also to bear in mind that the city council must levy and certify its taxes annually, as failure to levy by the required date will result in a millage of zero for the following year. (See Ark. Ops. Atty. Gen. No. 91-044 and 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 meeting of the Quorum Court at which county taxes are levied.



# Stodola addresses Iowa League of Cities conference

PHOTO COURTESY IOWA LEAGUE OF CITIES.



Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola, who is this year's National League of Cities Second Vice President, attended the Iowa League of Cities' Annual Conference and Exhibit, held Sept. 14-16 in Des Moines. The theme of the Conference was "The Power of Cities" and it attracted nearly 460 city officials from across Iowa. The Iowa League of Cities, founded in 1898, is the oldest, continuously operating municipal league in the country.

Mayor Stodola joined Chief of Police Jody Matherly of Altoona, Iowa, to address the national opioid epidemic from local government and national perspectives.

"Mayor Stodola's insight into the national opioid crisis was extremely valuable for city officials in Iowa who are just beginning to understand and deal with this issue," said Alan Kemp, executive director of the Iowa League of Cities. "As a native Iowan and an alumni of the University of Iowa, Mayor Stodola was able to connect on a personal level with city officials in Iowa, while his service as co-chair of the National League of Cities/ National Association of Counties National Task Force on the Opioid Epidemic provided them with a national insight and valuable resources they can put to use in their communities."



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# NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2016

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

## Study shows increased abuse of drugs

Quest Diagnostics has reported that the drug positive rate for the U.S. workforce has risen to the highest level in a decade. The report showed an increase for the fifth year in amphetamine and heroin positive test results. Marijuana positivity increased 47 percent in oral fluid testing since 2013. The analysis was a study of 11 million workforce drug test results.

The results of the study were unveiled in September at the recent Substance Abuse Program Administrators Association (SAPAA) in Louisville, Ky. Employers should use this information to review their own corporate testing program and make any adjustments on your own substance abuse testing program. It is important to update your drug policy annually because there are lots of changes that occur in the drugs that are popular in your state and from federal government regulations changes.

### A new abused drug combination

The latest addiction that has wreaked fear and death across all ages, genders, and socio-economic groups is heroin laced with an elephant tranquilizer. You would think people would reason that if this drug can put down an elephant in very few minutes, it might be too much for humans. That reasoning is not making any difference in the number of persons using heroin laced with Carfentanil. Carfentanil is 10,000 times stronger than Fentanyl, and as little as 20 micrograms can kill. A microgram is smaller than a grain of salt. In Ohio recently, there were 25 overdoses in a three-day period this past July. Unfortunately, the users had no way of knowing that the heroin they purchased was laced with Carfentanil. This combined drug is often called a "bionic opioid". Fear of death by users has not diminished use.

### "Medical" marijuana proposals

Two proposed Medical Marijuana Bills are being considered in Arkansas this year. Marijuana remains a Schedule 1 Drug by the DEA, and that means there is no recognized medical benefit from the drug. Issues 6 and 7 on the Ballot could definitely impact the workforce. Did you know that the ballots have anti-discriminating language that prohibits employers from considering the current or former use of medical marijuana as a factor in employment? This means you can't discriminate because of race, sex, disability, medical marijuana, etc. From what we have observed, employers will find these proposals apply to all employers.

Think about this: If the measure passes, marijuana would be a legal drug, treated like a prescription under the ADA and the Arkansas Civil Rights Act. A person is not disabled under the ADA if they are a current user of illegal drugs. If marijuana is legal, questions about the use of marijuana would be prohibited under the ADA. Employers are required to accommodate users of legal prescriptions and medical marijuana users could be in the same situation. In an accident, under the workers' compensation statute, an employee using medical marijuana would be the same as an employee using a legal prescription. Post-accident testing would be required to allow for an explanation of a positive test result, if it is tested at all, perhaps, the same way employees can prove they are on a legal prescription. The employer would be prohibited from communicating the result of any drug test revealing marijuana. The federal DOT drug testing regulations do not recognize state-allowed medical marijuana, so if these proposal bills pass, enforcement problems will escalate because drivers cannot have a legal prescription for medical marijuana.

Before voting "yes" for the medical marijuana proposals, think about how it will impact your workplace.

## The a'TEST staff members are fully trained

The staff members at a'TEST Consultants have all training required to assist you with your testing program. With the DOT soon to allow oral fluid testing, employers will be able to receive training to collect the specimen and to send it to the laboratory. We will be selling the oral fluid testing kits and offer training to employers. This will eliminate the need to travel to a clinic to have the specimen collected. The lab will process the test and send the result to our office for MRO review and reporting. Recent studies have shown the oral fluid testing is very accurate and adulteration is almost impossible. DOT is also considering hair testing in the near future and we can offer that training and supplies. On-site travel is still available to assist with random testing of your employees. We remain available to care for your post-accident testing needs on a "24/7/365" basis.



**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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## LR's Chief Buckner named to police panel

An international police accreditation group has named Little Rock Police Chief Kenton Buckner one of two new commissioners at the organization, the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* reported Sept. 9. The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, known as CALEA, evaluates agencies on the basis of hundreds of law enforcement standards ranging from community engagement to use of force. About 1,100 law enforcement agencies voluntarily follow the standards. Buckner is one of eight commissioners who will lead performance reviews of those agencies. The three-year position is voluntary and begins Jan. 1.

CALEA in July awarded the Little Rock Police Department advanced accreditation with a distinction of excellence. Commission officials said it was a rare honor. "Since 1979, CALEA has been responsible for setting the standards by which professional agencies are measured," Buckner said in a statement. "[Little Rock police] is CALEA accredited and it gives me great pleasure to serve as a commissioner."

## Parks and Tourism to target millennials for continued growth

After seeing a record number of visitors to Arkansas tourist destinations in 2015, the state Department of Parks and Tourism is shifting part of its outreach to target the nation's fast-growing millennial generation in order to maintain the current robust growth, *Talk Business & Politics* reported Sept. 7. To that end, the Department of Parks and Tourism has unveiled a new advertising and digital campaign.

"From a tourism standpoint, Arkansas is definitely on a roll," Parks and Tourism Director Kane Webb said. "I think we all know that if we can get folks to this great state and everything that we have to offer, they will come back again and again."

The department has also established a partnership with Arvest Bank to create a limited edition series of specialty debit cards that showcase some of the state's most scenic and popular attractions. Eight debit card designs feature images from every area of the state including Blanchard Springs Caverns, Buffalo National River, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Lake Chicot State Park,

Lake Ouachita, Petit Jean State Park, The Ridges at Village Creek, and Whitaker Point near Boxley. The cards will be available through June 2017 for new and current Arvest Bank customers.

According to Webb, Arkansas hosted more than 28 million visitors spending \$7.2 billion in total travel expenditures, \$374 million in state taxes, and \$137 million in local taxes. The economic impact of travel and tourism on the state's economy showed an 8.69 percent increase in travel expenditures in 2015. Arkansas's travel and tourism industry payroll has grown from \$240 million in 1979 to \$1.3 billion in 2015, an increase of 447.6 percent over the last 36 years. Webb said tourism is vital to Arkansas's economy, and is projected to be one of the fastest-growing industries in the next decade.

In targeting millennial travelers between the ages of 18 and 34, Webb said state research shows that population spent 50 percent more of their disposable income on "experiences—instead of stuff."

"They like to travel and they like what we have here—the adventure stuff in trails, mountain biking, hiking and camping out," he said. "We are kind of fortunate in the way that Arkansas is built for the modern traveler. We just have to get the word out, which is what we are doing."

## Hot Springs gets \$500,000 grant to finish Greenway Trail

Hot Springs has announced that it was awarded a \$500,000 grant to complete the Hot Springs Creek Greenway Trail, a project 21 years in the making, the *Sentinel-Record* reported Sept. 21. The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department Transportation Alternatives Program, or TAP, grant will be matched with local funds to complete the southern trail phase, a 12-foot wide shared-use asphalt path that will link the north end of the trail to Lake Hamilton. The city also received a \$120,000 TAP grant to extend sidewalks from Hot Springs Middle School into the surrounding neighborhoods, and a \$48,000 TAP grant to develop the Northwoods Trails near the Lakeside Water Treatment Plant. 🏞️

# Dardanelle's Chief Cross retires

**D**ardanelle Fire Chief Carl Cross retired July 31 after a 36-year fire-fighting career. Cross began his career in 1980 with the Dardanelle Rural Fire Department. In 1984 he became a fireman with the city of Dardanelle and served as chief for the past 19 years. At his retirement party, Mayor Carolyn McGee presented him with a key to the city, and Yell County Judge Mark Thone proclaimed July 31 Carl Cross Appreciation Day. The Dardanelle Fire Wives Auxiliary, which organized the retirement party, presented Cross with an engraved pistol, and his fellow firemen presented him with a red ax signed by all of them.



## Obituaries

**ROBERT BAKER**, 26, a four-year veteran of the McCrory Police Department, died Sept. 15.

**LEROY BROWN**, 79, former Buckner mayor and alderman, died Sept. 26.

**MICHAEL L. BROWN**, 57, a Mount Ida alderman for more than 10 years, died July 10.

**PHILLIP O. CARRUTH SR.**, 75, a former Russellville mayor and alderman, died Sept. 17.

**WILLIAM KELLY (DUKE) ELLINGTON**, 74, who served over 38 years with the Little Rock Fire Department, retiring as a captain, died Sept. 23.

**DALE FREEMAN**, 75, Lawrence County Judge and former mayor of Portia, died Sept. 17.

**DAVID NELSON**, 57, a Beebe police officer who had worked for the city for 38 years in various capacities, including working for the street department, parks department, and as a volunteer fireman, died Sept. 24.

**REBECCA "BECKY" POWERS (HENRY) SHORT**, 79, a Beebe alderman since 2007 and the city's clerk/treasurer from 1991-2002, died Sept. 8.

# Why do proposals fail?

By Chad Gallagher

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

I am often asked, “Why do proposals fail?” Sometimes a proposal’s failure isn’t because it wasn’t well written. The application may have met the necessary scores but competing applications scored higher, the demand for the funds could have significantly outpaced the funding availability, or a variety of other issues could have arisen. However, there are some common mistakes that hurt proposals.

## Reasons why proposals fail:

- Not following directions—Not following the guidelines provided for grant applicants or leaving out a required document will almost always automatically disqualify your application from even being considered.
- Poor or sloppy appearance—If you are proposing to achieve something great with the funding agency’s funds your application should be well organized and together. Presentation matters.
- Poor spelling and/or grammar—This only hurts your effort.
- Failure to demonstrate experience in similar projects or a reasonable ability to administer and implement the program—It is important to give the funding agency confidence in your organization.
- Project outcomes are unclear or immeasurable.
- Method of implementation doesn’t seem to achieve the anticipated goal—Your process should match the destination.

- A weak evaluation strategy.
- Math errors in the budget section—Your teacher was right: Math is important.
- Failure to appropriately justify budget request—Agencies don’t like to see greedy applicants.
- Lack of appropriate experience among key personnel.
- Failure to clearly identify the need to be addressed by the project?
- Lack of a commitment to provide matching funds, resources, or manpower—Funding agencies like to see demonstrated commitment to projects.
- Failure to demonstrate project sustainability beyond the funding cycle of the requested grant.
- Failure to sign a required form—Yes, this happens.
- Lack of clear and appropriate verifiable data for the need and the selected method of addressing the need—Every grant application declares a tremendous need. It is important that you support these statements with verifiable and dependable data.

As the old saying goes, when life hands you lemons make lemonade. When you receive the unfortunate news that your grant application was not funded you must somehow turn it into a good day. The best way to do that is to ask, “Why?” Put on your learning hat and ask your contact at the agency to explain to you why your application didn’t make it. Ask for the score sheets from the review process. Ask for constructive criticism. Request copies of successfully funded applications. All of these steps will help you be a better grant writer.

*This column originally appeared in the October 2010 issue of City & Town.*



*Chad Gallagher is principal of Legacy Consulting and a former mayor of De Queen. Contact him at 501-246-8842 or email [chad.gallagher@legacymail.org](mailto:chad.gallagher@legacymail.org).*

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# 2016 State Turnback Funds

Actual Totals Per Capita						
	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
MONTH	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
January	\$4.8662	\$5.0284	\$0.5728	\$0.2297	\$2.0995	\$2.1382
February	\$4.8562	\$5.1992	\$0.4599	\$0.1524	\$1.0921	\$1.0775
March	\$5.1898	\$4.6255	\$0.2339	\$0.1655	\$1.0909	\$1.0778
April	\$4.7309	\$5.5340	\$0.6375	\$0.2342	\$1.1417	\$1.0777
May	\$5.2251	\$5.4590	\$0.2547	\$0.0745	\$1.0918	\$1.0773
June	\$5.2410	\$5.2768	\$0.2738	\$0.0968	\$1.0920	\$1.0778
July	\$5.3082	\$5.6734	\$0.6600	\$0.0987	\$2.9748	\$2.8803
August	\$5.0259	\$5.0337	\$0.2560	\$0.1292	\$0.9641	\$1.2006
September	\$5.3748	\$5.3389	\$0.2632	\$0.1482	\$1.0791	\$1.0906
October	\$5.2322		\$0.2767		\$1.0707	
November	\$5.0931		\$0.2797		\$1.0772	
December	\$4.8776		\$0.2499		\$1.0776	
<b>Total Year</b>	<b>\$61.0210</b>	<b>\$47.1689</b>	<b>\$4.4181</b>	<b>\$1.3293</b>	<b>\$15.8515</b>	<b>\$12.6979</b>

Actual Totals Per Month						
	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
MONTH	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
January	\$9,159,751.23	\$9,482,577.19	\$1,078,253.79	\$433,179.54	* \$3,951,880.56	* \$4,032,277.00
February	\$9,140,972.61	\$9,804,689.33	\$865,620.02	\$287,481.18	\$2,055,766.00	\$2,031,997.39
March	\$9,768,890.51	\$8,722,769.73	\$440,227.94	\$312,010.76	\$2,053,376.13	\$2,032,596.84
April	\$8,905,034.06	\$10,436,025.60	\$1,199,954.61	\$441,661.71	\$2,149,094.75	\$2,032,297.66
May	\$9,840,348.46	\$10,294,480.80	\$479,664.03	\$140,536.93	\$2,056,091.57	\$2,031,495.51
June	\$9,870,151.62	\$9,950,873.55	\$515,640.06	\$182,493.78	\$2,056,559.07	\$2,032,597.66
July	\$9,996,770.39	\$10,698,830.40	\$1,242,957.21	\$186,206.19	** \$5,602,259.11	*** \$5,431,589.73
August	\$9,465,188.42	\$9,492,433.07	\$482,195.54	\$243,594.47	\$1,815,712.03	\$2,264,157.25
September	\$10,122,118.61	\$10,068,067.87	\$495,609.13	\$279,548.09	\$2,032,276.34	\$2,056,681.01
October	\$9,866,818.54		\$521,753.79		\$2,019,155.56	
November	\$9,604,609.53		\$527,387.24		\$2,031,292.21	
December	\$9,198,069.64		\$471,202.66		\$2,032,217.62	
<b>Total Year</b>	<b>\$114,938,723.62</b>	<b>\$88,950,747.54</b>	<b>\$8,320,466.02</b>	<b>\$2,506,712.65</b>	<b>\$29,855,680.95</b>	<b>23,945,690.05</b>

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

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

\*\*\* Includes \$3,517,035.84 supplemental for July 2016



# Local Option Sales and Use Tax in Arkansas



KEY: Counties not collecting sales tax

Source: Rachel Garrett, Office of State Treasurer

See also: [www.dfa.arkansas.gov](http://www.dfa.arkansas.gov)

Sales and Use Tax Year-to-Date 2016 with 2015 Comparison (shaded gray)

Month	Municipal Tax		County Tax		Total Tax		Interest	
January	\$49,037,009	\$48,260,965	\$43,720,229	\$42,805,543	\$92,757,238	\$91,066,508	\$15,812	\$12,222
February	\$59,477,239	\$57,956,453	\$51,693,904	\$50,071,410	\$111,171,143	\$108,027,863	\$20,455	\$12,659
March	\$45,484,389	\$46,032,300	\$41,503,958	\$41,404,634	\$86,988,347	\$87,436,935	\$17,357	\$19,161
April	\$51,278,433	\$46,694,339	\$46,543,122	\$42,176,819	\$97,821,554	\$88,871,158	\$19,032	\$15,459
May	\$51,716,750	\$52,104,723	\$46,509,945	\$46,560,371	\$98,226,695	\$98,665,094	\$16,799	\$4,827
June	\$48,045,270	\$49,711,589	\$42,836,823	\$44,369,398	\$90,882,093	\$94,080,987	\$17,947	\$25,867
July	\$52,527,961	\$50,358,675	\$47,321,806	\$44,565,666	\$99,849,766	\$94,924,341	\$17,750	\$18,804
August	\$52,254,925	\$51,846,227	\$47,594,177	\$47,174,793	\$99,849,102	\$99,021,020	\$17,169	\$16,649
September	\$53,746,167	\$50,366,202	\$49,430,573	\$48,072,222	\$103,176,740	\$98,438,424	\$18,913	\$17,771
October		\$50,569,467		\$46,609,011		\$97,178,477		\$18,511
November		\$49,449,818		\$46,067,600		\$95,517,418		\$17,009
December		\$53,013,791		\$47,830,901		\$100,844,691		\$18,591
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$463,568,142</b>	<b>\$606,364,549</b>	<b>\$417,154,537</b>	<b>\$547,708,368</b>	<b>\$880,722,679</b>	<b>\$1,154,072,916</b>	<b>\$161,233</b>	<b>\$197,530</b>
Averages	\$51,507,571	\$50,530,379	\$46,350,504	\$45,642,364	\$97,858,075	\$96,172,743	\$17,915	\$16,461

## 2016 Elections

- BALD KNOB**, March 1  
Failed. .5%
- BIG FLAT**, March 1  
Passed. 1%
- GATEWAY**, March 1  
Failed. 1%
- HACKETT**, March 1  
Passed. 1%
- HARTFORD**, March 1  
Passed. 1%
- MARION Co.**, March 1  
Failed. .75%  
Passed. .25%
- PULASKI Co.**, March 1  
Failed. .25%
- RUDY**, March 1  
Passed. .5%
- SILOAM SPRINGS**, March 1  
Passed. .375%
- GARLAND Co.**, June 28  
Passed. .625%
- LOGAN Co.**, July 12  
Passed. 1%
- BOONE Co.**, Aug. 9  
Passed. .25%
- BRYANT**, Aug. 9  
Passed. .5% extension
- WEST FORK**, Aug. 9  
Passed. 1%

**September 2016 Municipal Levy Receipts and September 2016 Municipal/County Levy Receipts with 2015 Comparison (shaded gray)**

CITY SALES AND USE	AMOUNT	LAST YEAR	Garfield	9,490.58	10,147.17	Murfreesboro	40,555.15	44,071.59	Parkdale	2,802.06	2,763.62
Alexander	79,363.77	68,375.82	Garland	3,464.03	3,811.59	Nashville	120,189.36	115,719.60	Portland	4,349.77	4,290.10
Alma	227,939.36	214,221.10	Gassville	16,214.96	16,873.91	Newport	190,743.30	194,730.67	Wilmot	5,563.67	5,487.34
Almyra	2,836.49	2,722.14	Gentry	48,211.52	49,248.87	Norfolk	6,067.38	5,237.42	Baxter County	357,119.88	341,046.59
Alpena	4,269.10	5,436.89	Gilbert	2,466.43	1,315.43	Norman	2,232.52	2,236.84	Big Flat	1,549.13	1,479.41
Alzheimer	2,177.88	2,679.23	Gillett	10,198.65	9,144.80	North Little Rock	1,392,452.53	1,408,036.19	Briarcliff	3,515.34	3,357.12
Altus	7,124.13	6,771.97	Gillham	4,890.97	1,845.92	Oak Grove	900.79	899.96	Cotter	14,448.65	13,798.34
Amity	7,921.55	8,729.42	Gilmore	528.01	272.63	Oak Grove Heights	4,123.72	NA	Gassville	30,952.87	29,559.74
Anthonyville	491.94	348.48	Glenwood	75,970.25	68,082.42	Ola	24,524.80	14,199.52	Lakeview	11,037.57	10,540.79
Arkadelphia	165,546.01	172,337.66	Gosnell	16,248.24	16,091.76	Oppelo	3,421.37	6,561.76	Mountain Home	185,419.32	177,073.95
Ash Flat	98,527.03	88,584.86	Gould	14,628.34	3,831.56	Osceola	94,782.34	72,357.01	Norfolk	7,611.61	7,269.02
Ashdown	131,112.28	124,408.88	Grady	3,620.11	4,113.51	Oxford	1,862.28	1,464.71	Salesville	6,702.99	6,401.30
Atkins	55,596.43	52,776.01	Gravette	73,176.96	230,874.81	Ozark	176,976.59	96,820.64	Benton County	715,475.91	667,647.66
Augusta	26,262.14	30,571.41	Green Forest	70,602.75	62,416.63	Palestine	23,211.75	26,771.25	Avoca	8,218.63	7,621.33
Austin	32,888.37	27,576.52	Greenbrier	182,131.25	176,482.87	Pangburn	7,347.47	9,342.32	Bella Vista	446,736.67	414,269.51
Avoca	7,243.60	7,934.32	Greenland	22,039.33	20,151.59	Paragould	335,974.82	301,232.13	Bentonville	594,520.52	551,312.98
Bald Knob	36,420.40	49,463.55	Greenwood	218,229.09	203,853.03	Paris	78,824.96	78,474.68	Bethel Heights	39,947.95	37,044.68
Barling	60,349.86	53,276.13	Greers Ferry	22,461.70	18,821.41	Patmos	207.00	72.81	Cave Springs	32,520.87	30,157.37
Batesville	591,538.99	613,299.37	Guion	5,410.09	8,333.97	Patterson	1,961.17	2,434.39	Centerton	160,246.53	148,600.41
Bauxite	24,265.56	16,703.64	Gum Springs	468.72	335.87	Pea Ridge	50,294.73	45,071.05	Decatur	28,613.65	26,534.11
Bay	6,723.37	6,259.66	Gurdon	21,739.44	26,158.25	Perla	4,657.23	3,023.34	Elm Springs	2,307.28	2,139.60
Bearden	14,721.82	13,873.50	Guy	5,010.66	9,108.94	Perryville	22,632.89	27,387.42	Garfield	8,454.41	7,839.98
Beebe	114,640.64	114,022.55	Hackett	5,196.41	4,985.06	Piggott	74,139.01	61,943.36	Gateway	6,820.79	6,325.08
Beehiveville	148.28	88.63	Hamburg	30,384.38	28,248.04	Pine Bluff	974,629.23	937,698.98	Gentry	57,682.01	49,320.03
Bella Vista	153,008.11	151,939.32	Hardy	28,102.25	22,817.97	Pineville	1,637.62	1,755.98	Gravette	52,427.48	48,617.24
Belleville	2,697.32	1,340.16	Harrisburg	60,442.31	27,118.12	Plainview	3,356.95	3,248.96	Highfill	9,818.57	9,105.00
Benton	1,390,236.00	1,276,857.05	Harrison	474,315.54	461,655.92	Plumerville	12,527.09	12,236.98	Little Flock	43,535.18	40,371.21
Bentonville	1,956,507.27	1,707,956.47	Hartford	1,960.64	2,472.99	Pocahontas	292,010.68	248,756.86	Lowell	123,397.41	114,429.34
Berryville	243,679.42	233,577.82	Haskell	20,908.67	22,380.05	Portia	2,286.66	2,045.22	Pea Ridge	80,737.98	74,870.24
Bethel Heights	71,973.60	51,714.56	Hatfield	3,283.04	3,670.31	Portland	5,974.70	4,907.50	Rogers	942,515.68	874,017.16
Big Flat	101.99	NA	Havana	2,835.36	3,017.45	Pottsville	25,304.80	26,615.73	Siloam Springs	253,278.78	234,871.42
Black Rock	10,025.21	6,636.45	Hazen	54,901.42	60,766.89	Prairie Grove	86,584.16	88,533.01	Springdale	110,345.27	102,325.79
Blevins	2,098.36	2,702.43	Heber Springs	157,226.23	160,178.21	Prescott	61,272.99	74,047.97	Springtown	1,465.21	1,358.72
Blue Mountain	300.79	273.22	Helena-West Helena	249,029.66	237,612.80	Pyatt	625.82	490.25	Sulphur Springs	8,605.99	7,980.55
Blytheville	280,244.90	244,360.09	Hermitage	4,982.37	4,980.48	Quitman	19,529.45	25,982.87	Boone County	387,539.36	377,913.81
Bonanza	2,919.32	2,146.68	Higginson	1,377.04	1,895.95	Ravenden	2,275.92	2,331.39	Alpena	4,089.38	3,987.81
Bono	16,281.36	13,420.15	Highfill	62,736.12	64,703.87	Rector	26,789.99	26,093.44	Bellefonte	5,820.00	5,675.44
Booneville	107,301.57	104,575.92	Highland	26,768.47	27,675.62	Redfield	21,606.20	24,870.92	Bergman	5,627.71	5,487.93
Bradford	12,329.84	11,597.68	Holly Grove	6,631.00	9,361.47	Rison	13,462.57	12,401.31	Diamond City	10,024.75	9,775.76
Bradley	2,953.27	3,303.66	Hope	179,612.63	187,658.58	Rockport	49,722.30	17,214.78	Everton	1,704.98	1,662.63
Branch	1,736.75	1,624.87	Horatio	5,799.23	6,129.00	Roe	520.74	612.39	Harrison	165,921.19	161,800.10
Briarcliff	1,546.80	1,393.11	Horseshoe Bend	21,299.28	22,731.75	Rogers	2,896,688.59	2,624,303.48	Lead Hill	3,474.05	3,387.76
Brinkley	114,068.47	106,127.19	Hot Springs	1,780,681.60	1,713,105.18	Rose Bud	24,195.90	20,935.80	Omah	2,166.47	2,112.66
Brookland	57,294.39	20,801.19	Hoxie	16,370.18	17,190.94	Rudy	10,776.20	NA	South Lead Hill	1,307.58	1,275.10
Bryant	1,097,107.15	1,075,314.35	Hughes	6,897.45	12,018.35	Russellville	991,330.09	992,645.34	Valley Springs	2,345.95	2,287.68
Bull Shoals	16,932.88	14,798.16	Humphrey	2,054.57	2,284.71	Salem	22,209.00	21,029.01	Zinc	1,320.39	1,287.60
Cabot	764,246.77	692,256.74	Huntington	2,887.36	2,934.14	Salesville	4,587.47	4,251.90	Bradley County	129,126.75	132,735.19
Caddo Valley	69,977.86	60,999.14	Huntsville	126,753.51	113,753.40	Searcy	753,981.52	640,050.87	Banks	997.06	1,024.92
Calico Rock	27,350.63	25,604.43	Imboden	6,832.05	8,074.36	Shannon Hills	10,223.90	11,073.03	Hermitage	6,673.84	6,660.34
Camden	299,253.74	197,408.76	Jacksonville	647,786.66	653,512.60	Sheridan	199,960.12	189,360.12	Warren	48,268.75	49,617.62
Caraway	6,191.06	5,769.91	Jasper	29,712.70	26,971.55	Sherrill	1,027.42	852.63	Calhoun County	74,212.72	96,263.35
Carlisle	51,503.02	53,547.53	Jennette	300.83	104.83	Sherwood	425,864.93	418,935.00	Hampton	21,035.68	27,285.96
Cash	2,926.04	NA	Johnson	76,111.59	53,873.91	Shirley	2,977.13	3,072.47	Harrell	4,035.54	5,234.62
Cave City	18,134.06	17,858.20	Joiner	2,321.55	1,900.57	Siloam Springs	646,441.37	563,158.57	Thornton	6,466.40	8,387.76
Cave Springs	25,243.41	28,574.19	Jonesboro	1,477,038.70	1,388,430.71	Sparkman	4,004.94	3,456.32	Tinsman	857.94	1,112.86
Centerton	191,784.08	183,494.65	Junction City	6,153.43	5,661.87	Springdale	2,398,295.93	2,157,066.79	Carroll County	189,806.18	170,770.87
Charleston	31,200.13	31,937.87	Keiser	4,086.19	3,821.62	Springtown	9,335.71	204.80	Beaver	694.85	625.17
Cherokee Village	15,985.41	14,905.35	Keo	1,580.10	1,297.23	St. Charles	1,900.95	2,500.05	Blue Eye	208.46	187.55
Cherry Valley	4,111.36	4,495.36	Kibler	3,075.36	3,009.00	Stamps	11,764.57	13,621.20	Chicot County	143,997.09	245,682.10
Chidester	2,976.86	2,524.75	Kingsland	2,152.69	1,763.41	Star City	68,490.82	71,641.66	Dermott	26,218.41	25,654.23
Clarendon	50,002.39	42,462.20	Lake City	11,082.52	12,131.12	Stephens	5,453.20	5,709.13	Eudora	20,591.76	20,148.65
Clarksville	369,965.56	364,911.12	Lake Village	71,052.12	75,314.43	Strong	9,675.18	8,677.40	Lake Village	23,368.78	22,865.92
Clinton	86,392.72	99,797.00	Lakeview	4,404.40	4,025.41	Stuttgart	567,767.96	446,546.32	Clark County	434,155.15	427,369.80
Coal Hill	2,256.71	6,548.24	Lamar	12,999.51	10,891.97	Sulphur Springs	2,164.85	1,550.82	Clay County	96,030.67	91,691.61
Conway	2,045,480.87	1,967,579.26	Lead Hill	5,575.55	5,225.45	Summit	4,504.82	4,321.86	Corning	25,920.84	24,749.63
Corning	85,846.88	77,535.78	Lepanto	25,257.12	25,501.34	Sunset	1,579.84	2,098.29	Datto	1,151.35	1,099.33
Cotter	13,407.75	12,286.38	Leslie	3,285.07	3,686.28	Swifton	3,217.02	2,378.24	Greenway	2,406.33	2,297.61
Cotton Plant	1,382.57	1,341.07	Lewisville	9,115.31	9,774.20	Taylor	8,002.09	7,679.55	Knobel	3,304.39	3,155.08
Cove	13,141.73	12,733.03	Lincoln	42,586.31	41,913.77	Texarkana	408,068.60	404,884.63	McDougal	2,141.52	2,044.76
Crawfordsville	7,344.80	6,998.93	Little Flock	11,214.75	8,815.28	Texarkana Special	204,471.47	201,266.06	Nimmons	794.43	758.54
Crossett	287,178.18	286,610.24	Little Rock	6,204,185.56	5,973,223.56	Thornton	938.34	1,118.56	Peach Orchard	1,554.33	1,484.10
Damascus	13,376.86	19,746.98	Lockesburg	4,240.33	4,375.69	Tontitown	129,538.70	130,861.76	Piggott	29,543.77	28,208.86
Danville	28,704.45	42,069.68	Lonoke	154,865.52	147,536.55	Trumann	83,493.04	73,461.30	Pollard	2,556.01	2,440.52
Dardanelle	151,717.50	155,384.58	Lowell	327,685.19	277,379.34	Tuckerman	14,056.49	12,710.14	Rector	15,174.86	14,489.19
Decatur	20,567.18	20,567.18	Luxora	5,017.91	2,587.83	Turrell	3,449.19	3,601.55	St. Francis	2,878.38	2,748.33
Delight	4,330.01	4,900.38	Madison	1,182.32	1,532.82	Tyronza	3,065.29	3,537.11	Success	1,715.52	1,637.99
DeQueen	116,699.06	112,866.43	Magazine	10,963.25	7,629.25	Van Buren	652,595.18	635,732.94	Cleburne County	531,221.34	475,048.56
Dermott	35,353.34	29,951.79	Magnolia	463,183.68	486,294.59	Vandervoort	310.30	661.19	Concord	3,943.80	3,526.77
Des Arc	18,566										

Crawford County	697,829.49	690,590.49	Oil Trough	3,260.65	3,369.21	Dell	2,719.39	2,685.54	Big Flat	7.39	6.72
Alma	50,784.80	50,257.98	Pleasant Plains	4,376.79	4,522.51	Dyess	4,999.78	4,937.54	Gilbert	206.87	188.26
Cedarville	13,064.04	12,928.52	Southside	28,304.93	NA	Etowah	4,280.30	4,227.02	Leslie	3,258.16	2,965.12
Chester	1,490.09	1,474.63	Sulphur Rock	5,718.67	5,909.07	Gosnell	43,266.35	42,727.82	Marshall	10,010.91	9,110.50
Dyer	8,209.54	8,124.38	Izard County	49,881.37	46,348.41	Joiner	7,024.07	6,936.65	Pindall	827.47	753.05
Kibler	9,006.13	8,912.70	Jackson County	280,888.94	283,012.56	Keiser	9,255.68	9,140.48	St. Joe	975.23	887.52
Mountainburg	5,913.49	5,852.15	Amagon	1,007.46	1,015.08	Leachville	24,303.79	24,001.28	Sebastian County	854,231.65	778,467.36
Mulberry	15,510.03	15,349.13	Beedeville	1,099.98	1,108.30	Luxora	14,365.21	14,186.41	Barling	78,072.68	71,148.19
Rudy	571.67	565.74	Campbell Station	2,621.46	2,641.27	Manila	40,754.27	40,247.01	Bonanza	9,656.23	8,799.79
Van Buren	213,588.56	211,372.88	Diaz	13,549.33	13,651.76	Marie	1,024.34	1,011.59	Central City	8,430.30	7,682.60
Crittenden County	1,310,765.91	759,165.04	Grubbs	3,968.16	3,998.16	Oseola	94,593.31	93,415.93	Fort Smith	1,447,745.23	1,319,340.50
Anthonyville	1,064.12	1,108.83	Jacksonport	2,179.41	2,195.88	Victoria	451.20	445.58	Greenwood	150,334.83	137,001.20
Clarkedale	2,452.10	2,555.14	Newport	80,997.83	81,610.20	Wilson	11,011.69	10,874.67	Hackett	13,636.27	12,426.83
Crawfordsville	3,165.92	3,298.95	Swifton	8,203.61	8,265.64	Monroe County	NA	NA	Hartford	10,781.39	9,825.15
Earle	15,955.20	16,625.60	Tuckerman	19,141.76	19,286.48	Black Springs	756.67	739.32	Huntington	10,663.83	9,718.03
Edmondson	2,822.23	2,940.82	Tupelo	1,850.44	1,864.43	Glenwood	321.01	313.65	Lavaca	38,440.17	35,030.80
Gilmore	1,564.45	1,630.19	Weldon	771.02	776.86	Mount Ida	8,223.99	8,035.41	Mansfield	12,141.65	11,064.77
Horseshoe Lake	1,929.96	2,011.05	Jefferson County	725,893.72	707,850.20	Norman	2,889.10	2,822.85	Midland	5,457.87	4,973.79
Jennette	684.08	712.82	Alzheimer	10,458.76	10,198.78	Oden	1,773.19	1,732.53	Sevier County	296,850.55	285,042.67
Jericho	786.52	819.57	Humphrey	3,273.68	3,192.30	Nevada County	114,204.07	135,331.57	Ben Lomond	1,352.26	1,298.47
Marion	81,593.59	85,021.95	Pine Bluff	521,694.22	508,726.49	Bluff City	1,051.40	1,245.91	DeQueen	61,495.01	59,048.92
Sunset	1,177.80	1,227.29	Redfield	13,785.58	13,442.91	Bodcaw	1,170.11	1,386.57	Gillham	1,492.14	1,432.79
Turrell	3,658.33	3,812.04	Sherrill	892.82	870.63	Cale	669.84	793.76	Horatio	9,736.24	9,348.96
West Memphis	173,464.89	180,753.41	Wabbaseka	2,710.35	2,642.98	Emmet	4,027.54	4,772.63	Lockesburg	6,891.84	6,617.71
Cross County	292,042.35	271,379.01	White Hall	58,734.82	57,274.87	Prescott	27,946.89	33,117.00	Sharp County	88,112.94	78,856.07
Cherry Valley	7,501.27	6,970.52	Johnson County	123,029.29	120,543.06	Rosston	2,213.03	2,622.43	Ash Flat	10,539.57	9,432.31
Hickory Ridge	3,134.17	2,912.41	Clarksville	90,369.18	88,542.95	Willisville	1,288.81	1,527.24	Cave City	18,734.62	16,766.42
Parkin	12,732.56	11,831.68	Coal Hill	9,964.44	9,763.07	Newton County	58,386.38	55,809.77	Cherokee Village	41,706.58	37,325.02
Wynne	96,410.27	89,588.80	Hartman	5,110.22	5,006.95	Jasper	2,336.46	2,233.35	Evening Shade	4,646.01	4,157.92
Dallas County	141,313.46	162,670.88	Knoxville	7,197.63	7,052.18	Western Grove	1,925.32	1,840.36	Hardy	7,850.90	7,026.11
Desha County	111,580.37	113,079.65	Lamar	15,803.28	15,483.92	Ouachita County	591,341.89	574,060.86	Highland	11,238.62	10,057.93
Arkansas City	4,318.33	4,376.35	Lafayette County	73,433.60	94,299.93	Bearden	9,076.03	8,810.80	Horseshoe Bend	86.04	77.00
Dumas	55,524.72	56,270.78	Bradley	3,460.82	4,444.22	Camden	114,465.09	111,120.03	Sidney	1,946.59	1,742.09
McGehee	49,778.75	50,447.61	Buckner	1,515.49	1,946.12	Chidester	2,715.29	2,635.94	Williford	806.60	721.86
Mitchellville	4,247.53	4,304.61	Lewisville	7,053.90	9,058.28	East Camden	8,747.19	8,491.57	St. Francis County	164,110.86	153,264.94
Reed	2,029.38	2,056.65	Stamps	9,329.89	11,981.00	Louann	1,540.86	1,495.83	Caldwell	10,798.04	10,084.42
Tillar	247.77	251.10	Lawrence County	298,508.77	213,317.98	Stephens	8,371.37	8,126.72	Cott	7,354.34	6,868.30
Watson	2,489.53	2,522.97	Alicia	804.96	766.97	Perry County	111,853.84	123,247.37	Forrest City	299,057.26	279,292.87
Drew County	389,700.74	444,938.46	Black Rock	4,297.43	4,094.66	Adona	996.80	1,098.33	Hughes	28,036.01	26,183.14
Jerome	486.23	483.57	College City	2,953.67	2,814.30	Bigelow	1,502.35	1,655.39	Madison	14,961.62	13,972.82
Monticello	118,030.12	117,383.06	Hoxie	18,046.59	17,195.08	Casa	815.56	898.64	Palestine	13,249.50	12,373.85
Tillar	2,543.38	2,529.43	Imboden	4,394.80	4,187.44	Lynn	295.70	325.82	Wheatley	6,906.86	6,450.40
Wilmar	6,370.91	6,335.98	Lynn	1,869.57	1,781.36	Houston	825.10	909.15	Whelan	5,311.48	4,960.43
Winchester	2,082.08	2,070.66	Minturn	707.58	674.20	Perryville	6,963.30	7,672.58	Stone County	89,591.22	90,526.29
Faulkner County	743,105.95	809,425.98	Portia	2,836.82	2,702.97	Phillips County	119,996.40	104,741.83	Fifty Six	1,636.15	1,653.23
Enola	2,262.75	2,464.69	Powhatan	467.39	445.34	Elaine	13,432.62	11,724.99	Mountain View	25,989.30	26,260.55
Holland	3,728.85	4,061.64	Ravenden	3,051.04	2,907.08	Helena-West Helena	212,853.22	185,794.24	Union County	433,360.87	608,018.53
Mount Vernon	970.71	1,057.34	Sedgwick	986.72	940.16	Lake View	9,356.37	8,166.94	Calion	12,633.87	17,725.70
Twin Groves	2,424.62	2,442.82	Smithville	506.34	482.45	Lexa	6,040.46	5,272.57	El Dorado	537,935.34	754,739.66
Wooster	5,757.29	6,271.12	Strawberry	1,960.46	1,867.96	Marvell	25,048.88	21,864.53	Felsenthal	3,095.71	4,343.37
Franklin County	191,957.12	189,781.33	Walnut Ridge	31,743.83	30,246.03	Pike County	184,452.31	185,828.03	Huttig	17,316.14	24,295.07
Altus	7,520.53	7,435.29	Lee County	39,281.86	35,776.16	Antoine	1,182.91	1,191.73	Junction City	15,446.11	21,671.35
Branch	3,641.21	3,599.94	Aubrey	1,217.27	1,108.63	Daisy	1,162.68	1,171.36	Norphlet	19,488.80	27,343.40
Charleston	25,022.14	24,738.52	Haynes	1,074.06	978.20	Delight	2,820.77	2,841.81	Smackover	51,272.73	71,937.20
Denning	4,673.05	4,620.08	LaGrange	637.27	580.40	Glenwood	22,101.11	22,265.96	Strong	14,588.32	20,467.85
Ozark	36,550.98	36,136.68	Marianna	29,464.98	26,835.38	Murfreesboro	16,591.00	16,174.75	Van Buren County	355,267.48	532,706.78
Wiederkehr Village	377.01	372.75	Moro	1,546.64	1,408.61	Lincoln County	128,221.79	122,255.05	Clinton	31,558.31	47,320.19
Fulton County	113,348.71	118,263.01	Rondo	1,417.75	1,291.24	Gould	4,499.52	4,182.53	Damascus	3,032.12	4,546.52
Ash Flat	448.44	467.88	Lincoln County	53,917.70	56,843.40	Grady	2,289.49	2,413.72	Fairfield Bay	26,136.88	39,191.01
Cherokee Village	3,486.39	3,637.54	Gould	4,267.93	4,499.52	Star City	11,595.32	12,224.50	Shirley	3,529.39	5,292.15
Hardy	184.65	192.66	Little River County	218,015.69	201,213.87	Ashdown	44,469.84	41,042.69	Washington County	1,441,359.00	1,320,511.75
Horseshoe Bend	74.74	77.98	Ashdown	44,469.84	41,042.69	Foreman	9,519.16	8,785.55	Elkins	43,314.58	39,682.98
Mammoth Spring	4,295.33	4,481.56	Foreman	9,519.16	8,785.55	Ogden	1,694.81	1,564.19	Elm Springs	28,723.72	26,315.45
Salem	7,188.20	7,499.85	Ogden	1,694.81	1,564.19	Wilton	3,521.43	3,250.05	Farmington	97,719.53	89,526.47
Viola	1,481.61	1,545.85	Wilton	3,521.43	3,250.05	Winthrop	1,807.80	1,668.47	Fayetteville	1,203,582.71	1,102,671.24
Garland County	2,197,115.13	2,162,044.53	Logan County	107,309.41	113,138.73	Blue Mountain	1,114.76	1,114.76	Goshen	17,518.85	16,050.03
Fountain Lake	7,459.01	7,339.95	Booneville	34,021.81	35,869.97	Booneville	34,021.81	35,869.97	Greenland	21,166.57	19,391.91
Hot Springs	223,662.40	220,092.27	Caulksville	1,816.20	1,914.86	Magazine	7,122.17	7,614.50	Johnson	54,862.96	50,263.11
Lonsdale	1,393.93	1,371.68	Magazine	7,122.17	7,614.50	Morrison Bluff	545.71	575.36	Lincoln	36,787.95	33,703.56
Mountain Pine	11,418.37	11,236.12	Paris	30,116.55	31,752.56	Paris	30,116.55	31,752.56	Prairie Grove	72,398.17	66,328.12
Grant County	188,053.26	176,102.63	Ratcliff	1,722.41	1,815.97	Ratcliff	1,722.41	1,815.97	Springdale	1,050,067.84	962,027.46
Greene County	545,163.43	499,032.64	Scranton	1,910.00	2,013.75	Pope County	332,838.04	345,906.08	Tontitown	40,239.38	36,865.61
Delaplaine	1,406.23	1,287.24	Subiaco	4,877.32	5,142.27	Atkins	39,972.90	41,542.34	West Fork	37,900.26	34,722.60
Lafe	5,552.19	5,082.38	Lonoke County	283,540.55	263,200.40	Dover	18,263.48	18,980.55	Winslow	6,395.76	5,859.51
Marmaduke	13,486.31	12,328.63	Alport	1,146.52	1,064.28	Hector	5,964.13	6,198.29	White County	874,930.34	845,160.09
Oak Grove Heights	10,777.07	9,865.13	Austin	20,318.41	18,860.84	London	13,770.51	14,311.17	Bald Knob	34,048.51	32,889.98
Paragould	316,559.81	289,773.06	Cabot	237,041.50	220,037.01	Pottsville	37,613.76	39,090.57	Beebe	85,973.37	83,048.05
Hempstead County	371,879.81	386,365.54	Carlisle	22,079.03	20,489.65	Russellville	370,040.93	384,569.65	Bradford	8,920.54	8,617.02
Blevins	3,472.32	3,607.57	Coy	957.10	888.44	Prairie County	369,338.08	73,202.93	Garner	3,337.86	3,224.29
Emmet	474.00	492.46	England	28,164.63	26,144.20	Biscoe	2,881.31	3,041.92	Georgetown	1,457.37	1,407.79
Fulton	2,215.67	2,301.98	Humnoke	2,831.42	2,628.30	Des Arc	13,628.70	14,388.35	Griffithville	2,644.43	2,554.45
Hope	111,279.54	115,614.19	Keo	2,552.26	2,369.17	DeValls Bluff	4,913.32	5,187.18	Higginson	7,298.63	7,050.29
McCaskill	1,058.23	1,099.45	Lonoke	42,321.72	39,285.71	Hazen	11,652.26	12,301.75	Judsonia	23,729.35	22,921.94
McNab	749.58	778.78	Ward	40,547.11	37,638.41	Ulm	1,349.37	1,424.58	Kennett	19,368.98	18,709.94
Oakhaven	694.46	721.51	Madison County	199,492.32	186,990.40	Pulaski County	875,646.90	852,331.54	Letona	2,997.02	2,895.04
Ozan	936.97	973.47	Hindsville	420.87	394.49	Alexander	4,238.86	4,125.99	McRae	8,015.56	7,742.83
Patmos	705.49	732.97	Huntsville	16,186.24	15,171.87	Cammack Village	13,794.24	13,426.95	Pangburn	7,063.57	6,823.22
Perrytown	2,998.32	3,115.11	St. Paul	779.65	730.79	Jacksonville	509,452.92	495,888.00			

# MUNICIPAL MART

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

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE COORDINATOR**—The City of Maumelle has an opening for a Accounts Payable Coordinator in the Finance Department. Position Summary: The position of Accounts Payable Coordinator is responsible for all monthly and quarterly billing and all related duties. Essential duties and responsibilities include: posting deposits and processing payments, assisting with quarterly and monthly billing, and processing invoices, checking monthly statements and verifying payments, filling in as receptionist when needed, accounts payable file maintenance; and completing other duties and tasks as needed and assigned. Minimum Qualifications: Associates Degree or equivalent from a two-year college or technical school; and three years related experience and/or training or the equivalent combination of education and experience. Experience with utility billing and collecting preferred. Experience with Microsoft Word and Excel required. Experience with Springbrook preferred but not required. Salary Range \$24,511-\$36,767. Open until filled. NOTE: A City of Maumelle Employment Application must be completed. Please go to [www.maumelle.org](http://www.maumelle.org) and click on the Human Resources Department to print an application. Completed applications should be mailed to: City of Maumelle Human Resources Department, 550 Edgewood Drive, Suite 590, Maumelle, AR 72113. For questions, you may contact the Human Resources office at (501) 851-2784, ext. 242 between the hours of 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. EOE. This ad is available from the Title VI Coordinator in large print, on audio, and in Braille at (501) 851-2784, ext. 242 or at [reuah@maumelle.org](mailto:reuah@maumelle.org).

**CDL/EQUIPMENT OPERATOR II**—The City of Maumelle is currently taking applications for the position of CDL/Equipment Operator II in the Public Works Department. Position Summary: The general purpose of a CDL/Equipment Operator II is to carry out various duties of the Street and Drainage Maintenance Department. Education and experience: HS diploma or a GED and 12 to 18 months related experience and/or training or equivalent combination of education. Starting salary for this position is \$11.86 per hour. Open until filled. Please go to the City of Maumelle web page ([Maumelle.org](http://Maumelle.org)) and click on the Human Resources Department for complete job description and an application. Completed applications should be mailed to: City of Maumelle Human Resources Department, 550 Edgewood Drive, Suite 590, Maumelle, AR 72113. For questions, contact the Human Resources office at (501) 851-2784, ext. 242, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. EOE.

**CITY MANAGER**—The City of Arkadelphia is accepting applications for the position of City Manager. Successful applicants should have a college degree or equivalent: Business or Public Administration major preferred but not required. Applicants must have experience in a supervisory role, have strong management and decision-making skills, and strong communication skills both written and verbal. The ability to read, draft and follow budgets is an absolute requirement. Salary range is negotiable depending upon qualifications and experience. Offer and acceptance contingent upon passing a drug test and background checks. Send resumes to Brenda Gills, Acting City Manager, 700 Clay St., Arkadelphia, AR 71923. Resumes will be taken until the position is filled.

**FINANCE DIRECTOR**—The City of Gravette seeks a Finance Director. Manages the day-to-day accounting, budgeting and purchasing activities of the city; establishes and enforces proper accounting methods, maintains the integrity of accounting and reporting functions, coordinates and participates in financial/budget research including recommendations regarding research findings and prepares technical reports. Requires a minimum of a college degree in Accounting and/or Finance plus eight years of accounting/finance experience and five years of supervisory/managerial experience. Applications are available in City Hall or at [www.gravettear.com](http://www.gravettear.com). Please hand deliver, email ([cpembleton@gravettear.com](mailto:cpembleton@gravettear.com)) or mail applications, with professional references and salary requirements, Attn: HR at 604 First Avenue SE, Gravette, AR 72736; or fax to (479) 787-5018. No phone calls please.

**FIRE CHIEF**—General Qualifications: Must be 21 years or older; possess a valid Ark. DL without record of suspension or revocation in any state; felony convictions and disqualifying criminal histories within the past seven years are not allowed; U.S. citizen; must be of good moral character and of temperate and industrious habits. Education and experience: HS diploma or equivalent. Must have minimum Firefighter II/IFSA certification, EMT-B or ability to receive certificate within one year of hire. Necessary knowledge, skills and abilities: Knowledge of fire suppression principles, procedures, techniques, and equipment; skill in operating the required tools and equipment. Must have supervisory experience. Requirements: Must be able to meet all entry level requirements listed above; Must be able to pass medical exam. Must have 3 years experience in fire service, officer's level experience preferred. Benefits: Employees receive a competitive benefit package including medical, dental, vision, life insurance, and short term disability. As well as LOPFI retirement. Our employees also receive paid vacation, holidays, and sick days. Salary: Commensurate with skill, ability, and experience. Apply by sending your resume to: City Administrator, City of Barling, P.O. Box 23039, Barling, AR 72923. Resumes will be accepted through Friday, Nov. 4.

**JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN**—The City of Paris is accepting applications for a Journeyman Lineman for full time employment. Duties include construction and maintenance of electric distribution system lines and facilities, climbing poles, working out of bucket trucks, on call and exposure to all weather conditions. Valid CDL required. The city requires a completed application be submitted for all positions, which may be picked up 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday thru Friday at City Hall, 100 North Express Street, Paris, AR 72855; or email [cityclerk@paris-ar.net](mailto:cityclerk@paris-ar.net). EOE.

**POLICE CHIEF**—Jasper is now accepting applications for a full-time police chief. Must be certified and meet all requirements of law enforcement standards and training. Prefer live in the City Limits. Applications are available at: City of Jasper, City Hall, P.O. Box 434, Jasper, AR 72641. Resume must accompany application. Office hours are 8-4 Mon.-Fri., 870-446-2633. Open until filled.

**POLICE OFFICER**—The City of Lewisville Police Department is currently seeking qualified applicants for full time position of police officer. Application may be picked up at Lewisville City Hall, 330 West 1st Street, Lewisville, Ark. Contact Chief Jason Tomlin at 903-748-6970 for further information.

**WATER & SEWER OPERATIONS MANAGER**—The City of Harrison is accepting applications for the Position of Water & Sewer Operations Manager, a management and salaried position. The individual selected will report to the Director of Public Works. Applications will only be made available at the Department of Public Works (303 N. Third Street, Harrison, AR 72601) offices until Oct. 28. Responsibilities include but are not limited to management of all activities of the water distribution and sewer collection departments (i.e. maintenance, construction, regulatory compliance, communication with customers and city management, budget preparation and monitoring, etc.). Five years of increasingly responsible experience in public works maintenance and repair at a journey or lead level, including at least two years of administrative and supervisory responsibility is required. Candidates must possess a Class 4 Water Distribution License; Water Treatment and Wastewater licenses are desirable but not required. Candidates must be able to pass a background check and a drug test; possess a HS diploma or equivalent; and possess a valid driver's license. Starting salary is negotiable based upon qualifications, experience and education. Interested parties may contact the Department of Public Works, call (870) 741-3434 or email [publicworks@cityofharrison.com](mailto:publicworks@cityofharrison.com). EOE.

**WATER OPERATOR**—Forrest City Water Utility is seeking a water operator that has a Class IV Water Treatment and Distribution license. The Water Supply Operator is responsible for the operation of the Water Treatment Plant, storage distribution system monitoring on an assigned shift and other related duties. Application can be found on <http://dws.arkansas.gov/> or you can ask for Derrick Spearman at Arkansas Workforce at (870) 633-2900 located at 300 Eldridge Rd #2, Forrest City, AR 72335. Application accepted until filled. Forrest City Water Utility is located at 303 N. Rosser in Forrest City, AR 72335 (870) 633.2921.

**WATER/WASTEWATER DIRECTOR**—Fort Smith is the second largest city in the state with a population of just over 87,000. The City employs over 900 staff members and has an FY2016 operating budget of \$111 million. The Director supervises one administrative coordinator and four deputy directors, and indirectly supervises eight program managers and approximately 260 other employees within the department. Bachelor's degree with at least 10 years' experience working with water and wastewater systems. Registered PE in Arkansas with a Class IV water license preferred or the ability to acquire each. The starting salary range for this position is up to \$108,380. View complete position profile and apply online at: <http://bit.ly/SGRCurrentSearches>. For more information contact: Gary Holland, Senior Vice President, Strategic Government Resources, [GaryHolland@GovernmentResource.com](mailto:GaryHolland@GovernmentResource.com).

**WATER/WASTEWATER GEN. MANAGER**—Helena-West Helena is accepting applications for the position of General Manager of the Water and Wastewater Department, a management and salaried position. Reports to the mayor. Applications will only be made available at the Mayor's, City Clerk's, or Human Resources, 226 Perry Street, Helena-West Helena, AR 72342. Completed applications must be submitted by the end of business Oct. 14. Responsibilities include but are not limited to: Manage all Water and Wastewater Department activities; effectively communicate both verbally and written with customers, employees, and city management; insure accounts receivables and payables integrity; prepare and monitor budgets and capital equipment requirements; and ensure governmental regulations compliance planning and reporting. Education and knowledge include but are not limited to: degree in engineering, chemistry, biology, environmental science, or related; five or more years of experience in water and wastewater management; possess a level 3 water distribution, level 3 water treatment, and a level 3 wastewater licenses or the ability to acquire these licenses. Starting Salary is negotiable based upon qualifications, experience and education. EOE.



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## October is Act 833 funding deadline

The deadline to apply for 2016 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 2016 funding year. Applications and program guidance documents are available on the ADEM website, [www.adem.arkansas.gov/aem/grants-funding/arkansas-fire-and-ems-services](http://www.adem.arkansas.gov/aem/grants-funding/arkansas-fire-and-ems-services). 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](mailto: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.

# MHBF tips: Become a wise healthcare consumer



**D**o you make wise choices regarding your healthcare and how you spend your healthcare dollars? Do you know what expenses your health benefit provides? Deductibles? Copayments? Coinsurance amount? When precertification is required? Benefit exclusions? Which physicians and hospitals are in-network? By making wise choices and following the policies set by your health plan, you can maximize your benefits and limit your out-of-pocket expenses.

Understanding your healthcare benefits can be overwhelming. It is important to first know the meaning of the terms frequently used to describe your healthcare benefits. Here are a few of the basics:

**Allowable expense**—The usual, customary and reasonable charges, including the average wholesale price (AWP) made for necessary health care services, medications and supplies.

**Coinsurance**—You pay a certain percentage of the costs of a service. If you have Municipal Health Benefit Fund (MHBF) coverage, the coinsurance when using an in-network provider is 20 percent.

**Copayment**—An amount that must be paid each time a provider/service is accessed. The MHBF copayment to access a physician is \$20. MHBF's emergency room copayment is \$250.

**Covered expenses**—Medical expenses that are paid under the terms of the policy.

**Deductible**—The amount of money you must pay for medical expenses before the benefit provider pays. Groups covered by MHBF choose from a \$500, \$1,200 or \$2,000 deductible.

**Exclusion**—A service that a benefit provider will not cover or pay for. It is important to know and understand your plan's benefit exclusions.

**Precertification**—A requirement that notification be given to your coverage provider prior to receiving certain services specified in the policy. If you have coverage through MHBF, services requiring precertification can be found on page 16 of the Fund Booklet or by calling 888-295-3591. The Fund Booklet can be accessed online at [www.arml.org](http://www.arml.org).

**Stop-loss**—A provision that limits the amount you make in copayments to a maximum figure. There is a stop-loss in place for medical expenses, and a separate stop-loss for prescription drug expenses.

A wise healthcare consumer knows what benefits are covered by their plan. If you are a member of the MHBF, the Fund Booklet containing detailed information regarding the plan can be found at [www.arml.org](http://www.arml.org).

If you have a question regarding a specific benefit, please contact MHBF's customer service at 501-978-6137. We are here to assist you and look forward to your call.

In addition to knowing what benefits are covered by their plan, a wise healthcare consumer is aware of the benefit exclusions and limitations. For example, most plans will not cover cosmetic procedures or payment for missed or cancelled appointments. If you are covered by MHBF, benefit exclusions can be found in the Fund Booklet under Section 2: Benefits.

One of the most common oversights that healthcare consumers make is choosing an out-of-network physician or hospital. The coinsurance that a covered member must pay when going to an out-of-network physician or hospital is much higher than an in-network alternative. If you are covered by MHBF, the coinsurance for an in-network provider is 20 percent. The coinsurance for an out-of-network provider climbs to 50 percent. When an out-of-network provider or facility is utilized, MHBF has no contract in place to protect members from being billed for ineligible charges, which can quickly add up.

A wise healthcare consumer is aware of the services that require precertification. Most plans assess a penalty deductible for failure to meet precertification requirements. MHBF assesses a \$1,500 penalty deductible if precertification requirements are not met. It is important to note that precertification is ultimately the member's responsibility. A few of the items that require precertification by MHBF are surgical procedures, chemical dependency treatment, inpatient hospital confinement, and PET scans. A complete list can be found in the Fund Booklet under Section 2: Benefits or by calling 888-295-3591. Our clinical staff will be happy to help.

Just as a wise healthcare consumer is aware of their medical benefits, they are also familiar with their prescription benefits. Most plans have prescription drugs that are excluded from coverage, have quantity limits, or require prior authorization. Information regarding MHBF's prescription drug coverage can be found in Section 3: Prescription Drug Coverage of the Fund Booklet and on the League's website at [www.arml.org](http://www.arml.org). If you have questions regarding MHBF's prescription drug plan, please feel free to contact OptumRx customer service at 855-253-0846.

Please contact your health care provider when you have questions about a benefit. It is better to get an answer before you go forward so you can avoid making a costly error. Ultimately, the way you choose to spend your healthcare dollars is up to you! 🏠

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