

City & Town

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Cover photo by Andrew Morgan.



ON THE COVER—Snow and frigid winds hit our nation’s capital and the whole northeast during the week of this year’s NLC Congressional City Conference. Read our takeaways from the annual event inside beginning on page 6. Back at home, in our state’s capital city, the 91st General Assembly has recessed after an eventful session. Our overview of the legislation, good and bad, affecting cities is in this issue on page 12. Also, be sure to check out registration and hotel info for the League’s 83rd Convention, which is fast approaching.—atm

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Dear Friends,

As I mentioned in the last issue of *City & Town*, March Madness was real and just that—madness! The National League of Cities (NLC) Congressional Cities Conference, held March 11-15 in Washington, D.C., was informative and coverage of the meeting is included in this issue. The Arkansas delegates attending the annual conference gained knowledge about NLC's priorities for the coming year, particularly as the priorities relate to the new administration.

We heard from NLC President Matt Zone, former White House Communications Director Nicolle Wallace, and U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs David Shulkin, to name a few.

As municipal leaders, we know that cities and towns drive the United States economy. More than 86 percent of the nation's population lives within city limits. I was surprised and happy to know that 88 percent of total real income is sourced within city limits across the country. While in D.C., our delegates visited with several members of Arkansas's Congressional delegation. We took full advantage of the opportunity to voice our priorities and goals for the cities and towns of Arkansas and the nation.

Closer to home, the Arkansas General Assembly is winding down, warm weather is here, and I want to make certain you "spring into action" by registering for the League's 83rd Convention, June 14-16 in Little Rock. I hope that everyone will take the time to register early. Doing so ensures you receive the discounted rate. You don't want to miss this year's Convention. We have plans to make the 83rd Convention informative, educational, and enjoyable. Check the League's website, as a more comprehensive agenda will be posted in the next few weeks. You can view the tentative agenda in this issue of *City & Town*.

The Planning and Zoning workshop (five continuing education hours) is being offered April 19 at League headquarters. Coverage of this event will be in next month's issue. Also, the Grant Book Company and Legacy Consulting will be holding a Grant Writing workshop on May 9 at League headquarters. Information on the grant workshop is being sent out around April 10, so look for that registration information.

As always, I welcome you all to contact me if I can be of assistance. Being your League President for the last nine months has been a joy and a privilege. It's also gone by incredibly fast. I look forward to seeing some of you at the upcoming workshops and I look forward to seeing ALL of you at the 83rd Convention! Great cities make a great state.

Sincerely,



Harry Brown
Mayor, Stephens
President, Arkansas Municipal League



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Cities take their message to D.C. at NLC Congressional City Conference

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

More than 2,000 municipal leaders from across the United States came together March 11-15 in Washington, D.C., to discuss mutual challenges cities and towns face and to advocate for city issues at the nation's capitol during the annual National League of Cities Congressional City Conference.



Zone

This year's NLC President Matt Zone, a Cleveland, Ohio, councilmember, outlined the organization's federal priorities, which include strengthening local economies, fixing and updating our nation's infrastructure,

public safety, and protecting the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds. Cities must speak with a unified voice on these key issues, he said.

"We're here together in D.C., not just to advocate for our own communities, but also to demonstrate that when cities work together, we can achieve any goal," Zone said. "That's what NLC is all about. It's even our tagline: Cities Strong Together."

With federal budget talks looming, what we've seen so far doesn't look good for cities, he said, which makes it essential that city leaders tell Washington not to undermine city-federal partnerships, which he called the foundation of a strong America. Public safety is a pillar of that strength, Zone said, and he called for federal lawmakers to preserve the Community Oriented Policing Services program, or COPS. It's also important that the federal government continue to assist local efforts to combat our nation's opioid epidemic, he said.

"Opioid and heroin deaths are now claiming the lives of 91 men, women, and children in our country every day," Zone said. "That's one death every 10 minutes."

Cleveland and Cuyohoga County have lost 109 lives so far in 2017, Zone said, and that number continues to grow.

“If we want our federal government to continue funding treatment for opioid addiction, we’re going to have to fight for it,” he said.

Part of the House of Representatives’ plan to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act drops Medicaid addiction treatment provisions that cover 1.3 million Americans, he said.

“I don’t know how we can tolerate that. That program is a lifesaver for those of us dealing with this public health crisis.”

Repairing and upgrading our nation’s aging infrastructure is another priority for cities, Zone said, and he cited the recent D+ grade given our infrastructure by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

“That is a horrible ranking. The worst grades went to drinking water, aviation, transit, and levees. And meanwhile federal funding is at a historic low. We’re facing a \$2 trillion infrastructure deficit.”

Zone called for more direct funding to cities and towns and more local control on how the money is spent since cities are where the needs are greatest. Cities are responsible for 78 percent of road miles in America, he said, and 50 percent of our bridges, and 95 percent of water infrastructure in the United States.

With fewer federal dollars for fixing infrastructure available, more than two-thirds of all public infrastructure projects in the United States are funded locally with municipal bonds, which makes it essential that cities fight to protect the bonds’ tax-exempt status.

“I hope you heard me on that: We must protect the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds.”

Cities are the engines of America’s economy, Zone said, but the proposed funding cuts coming from the White House will severely harm local economies.

“It looks like the administration will propose eliminating CDBG [the Community Development Block Grants program],” Zone said. “Targeting programs like CDBG is an attack on cities and it would hurt our economy and the most vulnerable populations we serve. If Congress and the administration want to make America great again, well then they’re going to need our help. But by cutting funding that our communities rely on, that won’t move America forward. And we won’t let it happen.”

Municipal leaders are some of the most effective voices in Washington when it comes to issues that directly affect cities and towns, said Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola, NLC first vice president. One of the main goals of the annual Congressional City Conference is to provide a venue through which local leaders can become better advocates for cities.

“You work every day to solve problems, to help people, and to support businesses where you live,” Stodola told municipal leaders at the conference. “You are the



Stodola

most important, most responsive, and most accountable level of government that we have, and that is something that we should all be incredibly proud of.”

With the tumultuous transition of the new presidential administration, this year’s Congressional City Conference featured fewer department heads and other high-ranking officials than is typical. U.S. Interim Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs Scott Blackburn was just one of two members of the administration to address municipal leaders. Blackburn thanked cities for being strong partners with the VA, particularly over the past two years as the agency has strived to improve access to services and reconnect with what he called its core mission and values, which is to “care for those who have borne the battle.”



Blackburn

The VA has made progress in regaining veterans’ trust, he said, but “we still have a long way to go.”

Veteran homelessness, opioid addiction, depression, and suicide prevention are all areas where the VA and cities can strengthen their partnerships, Blackburn said. He praised the support for the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness initiative, an inter-agency effort working with cities to end homelessness among veterans.

“You guys are out there, in the communities working together, and you are closer to the veterans personally than we are in Washington,” Blackburn said.

Scott Pruitt, newly appointed administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, addressed the conference’s closing general session on Tuesday, March 14. It’s important for the EPA to work with cities and towns across the country on environmental policy, he said.

“It is very key that we have a close partnership, that I listen, and that we learn together on how to respond to issues that you have at the local level, because they are unique,” Pruitt said.



Pruitt

One area where the EPA and cities work together is on Superfund sites, of which there are more than 1,300 across the country, he said. Some of those have been on the national priority list for 30 or 40 years, he said.

“That is unacceptable,” Pruitt said. “We need an attitude of commitment from the EPA working with local officials to achieve remediation.”

On the subject of the EPA’s Brownfields Program, Pruitt called it a “tremendous success.”

“It is important that the EPA and U.S. government continue to fund Brownfields and to fund Superfund sites as I just mentioned to ensure we have success.”

In sharp contrast to Pruitt’s acknowledgement of the importance of the Brownfields Program and pledge to work with cities, President Trump’s 2018 budget proposal proposes slashing the EPA’s budget by 31 percent, which would include a 42 percent funding cut to the Brownfields Program if passed. Between deep budget cuts and a recent executive order by Trump rolling back Obama-era efforts to combat climate change, it remains to be seen how Pruitt and the administration intend to help cities clean up and protect the environment at the local level.

“Local leaders are on the front lines of the fight against climate change every day, and we will continue to advocate for ambitious policies that address this global

crisis, spur action at the local level, and support our cities,” NLC President Matt Zone said in a statement released in response to Trump’s executive order. “Cities will continue to lead on fighting climate change, protecting health and promoting a safer, cleaner planet—even if Washington will not.”

Attorney General Jeff Sessions was scheduled to address the conference but cancelled, citing a scheduling conflict.

Breakout sessions explore key issues further

The conference included a variety of breakout sessions to continue the discussion on many of the key issues important to cities, including infrastructure investment, municipal bonds, community policing, connecting with communities online, and more.

The workshop “Efficient, Transparent, Trusted: Technology and Tactics for your Police Force” explored the ways analytics is helping police forces identify crime “hot spots” in an effort to reduce crime. Through so-called smart policing, which combines technology with traditional law enforcement protocols, cities can help citizens and businesses feel safer. In Philadelphia, it was noted, correct placement of beat officers helped reduce crime by 20 percent.

The nation’s opioid epidemic loomed large during the conference, with a strong panel discussion during one of the general sessions and a breakout session exploring the ways cities can combat the crisis, which has now touched every state, city, and demographic in our country. According to both addiction experts and the local officials taking on the epidemic, cities must prepare for the crisis and gain knowledge on implementing hard reduction efforts for the people battling addiction. For some cities, that means offering a site where addicts can dispose of drug paraphernalia in the proper way. In other cities that are seeing a large number of opioid addicts, safe injection sites are being offered to addicts. It seems counterintuitive, but when a city in West Virginia experienced 26 overdoses in a period of nine hours, city leaders had to do something. For more information, visit www.opioidaction.org.

Connecting with citizens digitally was another workshop topic. Only 15 percent of Americans do not get online. That leaves 85 percent of America’s population perusing the Internet every day. Those statistics should lead cities and towns to ensure there are strategies in place for building digitally inclusive communities.

Of course being online means dealing with cyber threats, and the workshop “Hot Tech Issues for Cities” stressed the importance of making cybersecurity a top priority.

The session “Road to Funding: Fixing America’s Infrastructure” reiterated the call for a major investment across the country with a focus on local needs. The \$2 trillion deficit cited by the troubling report card issued by the American Society of Civil Engineers represents the amount of funding needed to bring our D+ grade up to a B. For an in-depth look at the results of that study, see “America’s Public Infrastructure: A National Report Card” in the March 2017 issue of *City & Town*.

There are some in Congress that view tax-exempt municipal bonds as a major federal expense, making them vulnerable when and if tax reform gets underway, another workshop warned. But they have been crucial in efforts across the country to pay for important local infrastructure projects that would not have been funded any other way. Losing tax-exempt status on bonds would also place cities at risk of losing their excellent bond ratings.

Congressional delegates visit with Arkansas municipal leaders



Arkansas delegates meet with Sen. Cotton, at head of table, in his office.

The League set up a luncheon meeting with Arkansas’s Congressional delegation on Wednesday, March 15 in the Russell Senate Building, adjacent to the Capitol. The luncheon, which has become an annual tradition, gives Arkansas municipal leaders an opportunity to discuss issues in a relaxed environment with our representatives on The Hill.

Sen. Tom Cotton informed the League that he wouldn’t be able to attend the scheduled luncheon, but he invited our municipal delegates to meet with him earlier in the morning at his office, where he discussed several key issues. On the topic of marketplace fairness, Cotton has been a holdout and he continues to be wary, he said. Though he doesn’t consider it a new tax as some opponents have tried to claim, he fears it could be a hardship on businesses.

“I just want to make sure that federal legislation doesn’t impose undue burdens on our communities and open them up to the taxing jurisdictions of 50 other states or thousands of other jurisdictions,” he said. Cotton suggested putting a line item on our state income tax form for consumers to report online sales taxes voluntarily and to run public service announcements to raise awareness.

On the subject of federal investment in our aging infrastructure, Cotton referenced an anecdote from the recent Senate confirmation hearing of Secretary of Health and Human Services Tom Price, who, when asked if it was true that President Trump was working with him on a replacement for the Affordable Care Act, responded, “It’s true that [Trump] said that, yes.”

“I feel a little bit that way about the infrastructure plan,” Cotton said. “I can tell you we have seen very little in the way of details.”

He wants to make sure that whatever plan arises works for Arkansas and that the state gets its fair share, he said. Cotton said infrastructure legislation would not be rushed through Congress the way we’re seeing with healthcare. Such a bill will take some time to craft and that we may see something by this time next year. Regarding protecting the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds, Cotton was blunt.

“Protected. Don’t worry about it.”

While tax reform is important, he said, popular and longtime provisions like the municipal bond exemption will more than likely remain in any forthcoming legislation.

Sen. John Boozman and Rep. Steve Womack joined the Arkansas municipal delegation at the luncheon, where they shared their views on national issues affecting cities and took questions. Womack, who is a former mayor of Rogers, has been a champion of marketplace fairness legislation, now called the Remote Transactions Parity Act, and was one of the original sponsors of the first iteration of the bill. If the funding source for public safety, streets, parks, and other things our citizens need and care about is sales tax, Womack said, that playing



Boozman

field between online retailers and so-called brick-and-mortar retailers has to be level.

“This is not about giving brick-and-mortar retailers an advantage,” he said. “This is about saving their butts.”

Some action is being taken on the state level across the country on the issue, but federal legislation would be preferable in order to prevent a patchwork of laws across the country, Womack said.

Sen. Boozman reiterated Sen. Cotton’s opinion that the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds is protected for now.

“That’s something that just has tremendous support on both sides of the aisle,” Boozman said. “People realize that without that ability it really would impact you in such a negative way.”

He urged city leaders to continue to keep the congressional delegates informed about what is being accomplished with the bonds in our cities and towns.

“There’s nothing more powerful than being able to explain with real-life stories,” Boozman said.

Womack concurred that the bonds are safe, even as Congress discusses tackling tax reform at some point this year.

“If you threw every tax provision off the table and made them earn their way back into the tax code, municipal bonds would be one of them,” Womack said.



Womack

Without them, he added, cities and towns would be turning to the federal government for the money to fund those local projects.

Rep. French Hill made a brief appearance at the luncheon but did not address the room. While the offices of Reps. Rick Crawford and Bruce Westerman had initially confirmed they would be in attendance, they did not appear at the luncheon. 🏛️



Members of Arkansas’s delegation to the 2017 NLC Congressional City Conference.

Thursday 6:47 pm

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



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Arkansas General Assembly in recess

By Don Zimmerman

Around mid-day Monday, April 3, the General Assembly recessed the 91st Session. The sine die adjournment will likely occur in early May. The session recessed on a disappointing note with the defeat of Senate Bill 140, which attempted to provide for the collection of sales and use tax on remote sellers. This bill would have provided substantial increases to the state's, cities', and counties' sales and use tax receipts while at the same time giving brick-and-mortar stores a fair marketplace in which to compete. Until this issue is addressed, sales tax receipts will likely continue to decline and merchants will likely continue to collapse due to their inability to compete with the Internet sellers, who do not collect and remit sales taxes as do the brick-and-mortar stores. Unfortunately, Senate Bill 140 fell eight votes short of passage in the House of Representatives.

Another big disappointment of the session was the failure of Rep. Dan Douglas' House Bills 1726 and

1727 that would have allowed the voters of Arkansas to consider a great highway funding proposal. These bills would have moved us away from a per-gallon tax toward a tax based on price by removing the sales tax exemption on fuel at the wholesale level. It was a well thought out plan with tremendous potential and could have made our streets, roads, and highways among the best in the country if the electorate had been given the opportunity and enacted it. The last vote on the highway idea received 61 votes when it needed 67 to be reconsidered.

A different outcome on Internet sales tax and the highway funding bills would have taken Arkansas's economy and highway infrastructure to a whole new level. Perhaps those ideas will someday be approved.

Most of the League's recommended or endorsed bills passed. They included:

- Act 163 by Sen. Cooper, which clarifies a conflict in the laws regarding the necessary vote in a mayor's election;

- Act 170 by Rep. Williams, authorizes cities and towns to accept competitive bids in electronic format;
- Act 171, also by Rep. Williams, provides for the town council to fill a vacancy in a recorder/treasurer position;
- Act 303 by Rep. Nicks grants towns authority to remove unsightly or dangerous buildings in the same manner as cities;
- Act 323, also by Rep. Nicks, provides clarification as to whose personnel policies apply for district court clerks when employed by both cities and counties;
- Act 393 by Sen. Sample and Rep. Jett increases the historic rehabilitation income tax credits;
- Act 470 by Sen. Irvin combines and clarifies authority for municipalities to sell, lease, purchase, and dispose of real and personal property;
- Act 495 by Rep. Blake allows the address of an individual on file with a county assessor to be used as the address where notice of violations may be sent;
- Act 607 by Sen. Irvin authorizes street funds to be used for construction and paving of certain city-owned parking lots and sidewalks;
- Act 685 by Sen. Hendren and Rep. Boyd implements Constitutional Amendment 97 with reasonable safeguards for municipal finances;
- Act 701 by Rep. Sorvillo provides for monthly financial reports;
- Acts 878 and 879 by Rep. Lynch rename the aldermanic form of government to the mayor-council form of government and the title of the term alderman to council member;

- Senate Bill 541 by Sen. Hickey limits incorporations of new municipalities within three miles of an existing municipality unless agreed to by resolution of the existing municipality; and
- Senate Bill 657 by Sen. Cooper reduces, over time, the discount for prompt reporting of local sales taxes by merchants to the same amount that pertains to the state sales tax.

Several unfavorable bills were defeated. The only bills the League opposed that became law were Act 712 and Senate Bill 376. Act 712 allows for the revocation of a municipal charter due to noncompliance with state accounting laws. We are confident that the Division of Legislative Audit and their Committee will work with municipalities and League staff to provide the necessary training and assistance so that no charters will be sacrificed, except for the most egregious of circumstances.

Senate Bill 376 by Sen. Clark provides for a Water Provider Legislative Task Force, which is certainly better than his Senate Bill 35 that would have provided a state law directing local water policies. Hopefully the task force will recognize the many differences in local water services and needs as it develops its recommendations.


In summary, we of the League staff would like to thank the Governor, whose office worked closely with us and was most helpful. We would also like to thank the legislators who worked through the many hundreds of bills and did a remarkable job of separating out the bills worthy of becoming state laws. It is an amazing feat for the legislators to deal with the thousands of filed bills in such a short period. We applaud them for their hard work and dedication to making Arkansas an even greater place. 🏛️





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ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE GREAT CITIES MAKE A GREAT STATE



Welcome

Within the Arkansas Municipal League website, you will find resources that will assist you in providing leadership to your city. The dedicated staff of the League continues to work for cities and towns across our great state. "Great Cities Make A Great State" is more than just a motto; it is the spirit of this organization.

News Feed

- Gasoline Spending in America Hasn't Been This Low in 11 Years - Business Insider
- Denton named AEOC President - Athens Daily Review
- Duggars not shaken by petition to cancel their show - theday.com
- Year in Review: Top ASU sports stories of 2014 - acentral.com
- Stuttgart City Council hears from equipment dealer, talks airport funding - Stuttgart Daily Leader

More News

Calendar

MLWCT Board of Trustees
Thursday, October 30, 2014
League Headquarters
11:00 AM

Roundabout Training, Federal Highway Administration
Tuesday, October 21, 2014 - Wednesday October 22, 2014
Little Rock, AR

National League of Cities 2014 Congress of Cities and Exposition
Wednesday, November 19, 2014 - Saturday November 22, 2014
Austin Convention Center
Austin, TX

Full Calendar

Meeting Registrations

2015 Winter Conference
January 14-16, 2015
Marricott Hotel / Statehouse Convention Center, Little Rock

Register Online or Download PDF Registration Form

2015 Winter Conference Tentative Agenda

2014 Human Resource Seminar
October 15, 2014, League Headquarters

Register Online or Download PDF Registration Form

All Registrations

www.arml.org



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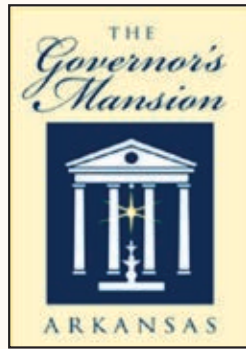


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Great Cities Make a Great State!



*The pleasure of your company
is requested for*

*An Elegant Dinner
at the*

Arkansas Governor's Mansion

*Thursday, June 15, 2017 ❖ 6:15 until 7:45 in the evening
1800 Center Street ❖ Little Rock, Arkansas
* Limited Seating **

\$50 per person or \$500 for a table of 10

Preferred Method of Payment to Complete Your Reservation:

<http://buytickets.at/arkansasgovernorsmansionassociation/92165>

To Pay by Check, Please Call 501-324-9805

** Dress for the Evening *
Coat and Tie for Gentlemen~Ladies Accordingly
No denim please*

** Transportation by Garver *
Buses depart the Marriott starting at 5:45 P.M.
Buses return to Convention Center starting at 7:45 P.M. to attend
Convention desert reception and evening entertainment
* Reservations accepted through May 31, 2017, if available **



83rd Annual Convention

Marriott Hotel/Statehouse Convention Center, June 14-16, 2017

MONTHS

02

DAYS

01

HOURS

12

MINUTES

00

Countdown to Convention.

June 14–16 in Little Rock, AR

See next page for more information.

Register online at www.arml.org.

Contact Whitnee Bullerwell
at (501) 978-6105.

Cost for 10' x 10' exhibit space is \$550.
Cost for Large Equipment Space is \$1,100.

TENTATIVE PROGRAM IN BRIEF

**WEDNESDAY
JUNE 14**

1:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
2:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
5:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m.

Registration and Exhibit Hall Open
Clerks Meeting
Continuing Education Certification Training
Resolutions Committee Meeting
Opening Night Banquet

**THURSDAY
JUNE 15**

7:00 a.m.-8:45 a.m.
7:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.
1:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
5:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Host City Breakfast
Registration Open
Exhibits Open
General Sessions
Luncheon
Concurrent Workshops
Evening Activities TBA

**FRIDAY
JUNE 16**

7:00 a.m.-8:45 a.m.
7:00 a.m.-Noon
9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.
10:15 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Noon -1:30 p.m.

Breakfast
Registration Open
General Sessions TBA
Annual Business Meetings
Awards and New Officers' Luncheon

RESOLUTIONS

Suggested Convention Resolutions for consideration at the 83rd Annual Convention should be mailed to:
83rd Convention Resolutions
Arkansas Municipal League
P.O. Box 38
North Little Rock, AR 72115-0038

The deadline for Resolution submission is Monday, May 15.

Resolutions may be drafted by an official of any member city or town and can relate to any matter of municipal concern. See your **2016-2017 Policies and Goals** for resolutions adopted at the 82nd Convention.

WANTED: Elected City officials with 25 years of service

Were you elected and began serving your city or town in 1993? The League would like to know.

The League will give special recognition to **elected city and town officials** who are in their 25th year of municipal service at the 83rd League Convention, June 14-16, in Little Rock.

Names must be submitted to the League by May 15.

Call Ken Wasson at (501) 374-3484, ext. 211; Sheila Boyd, ext. 218; or write to P.O. Box 38, North Little Rock, AR 72115-0038.

NOTICE TO EXHIBITORS

At the 83rd Convention, a special Exhibit Hall is available for businesses, companies and manufacturers to display their products and services that are available to Arkansas municipalities.

To guarantee your firm's exhibit area, contact the League immediately to reserve space for your display. Your name will be added to the list of exhibitors, and we will reserve a space for your exhibit when you arrive.

The cost this year is \$550 for a regular exhibit space or \$1,100 for a large exhibit space. We cannot guarantee space for companies that do not register before June 1.

Call Whitnee Bullerwell at (501) 978-6105, or write to Arkansas Municipal League, P.O. Box 38, North Little Rock, AR 72115-0038.



83rd Annual Convention

Marriott Hotel / Statehouse Convention Center, June 14-16, 2017

REGISTRATION

Registration and payment must be received in League office by Thursday, June 1, 2017, to qualify for Pre-registration rates.

Pre-registration for municipal officials	\$150
Registration fee after June 1, 2017 , and on-site registration for municipal officials	\$175
Pre-registration for guests	\$75
Registration fee after June 1, 2017 , 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 **2017 General Acts Affecting Arkansas Municipalities**.
- No daily registration is available.
- Registration must come through the League office. No telephone registrations will be accepted.
- **No refunds after June 1, 2017.**
- Cancellation letters must be postmarked by **June 1, 2017**.
- **Marriott and Capital Hotel guests:** In order to avoid a cancellation penalty of one night's room and tax, reservations must be cancelled at least seven (7) days prior to arrival.

HOTEL RESERVATION

Hotel Room Rates

Marriott Hotel (headquarters hotel)		
Single/Double	\$132	Check-in 3 p.m.
Capital Hotel		
Single/Double	\$189	Check-in 3 p.m.
Doubletree Hotel		
Single/Double	\$139	Check-in 3 p.m.
Wyndham Hotel		
Single/Double	\$109	Check-in 3 p.m.

- Cut-off date for hotel reservations is **June 1, 2017**.
- Rooms in Central Arkansas are subject to a 13.5 or 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 and pay by credit card.

OR

Complete the steps and **mail with payment** to:
 ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
 Attn: 83rd Annual Convention
 P.O. Box 38
 North Little Rock, AR 72115-0038

Step 1: Delegate Information

Name:

Title: City of:

Email (required): CC Email:

Address: City:

State: Zip: Phone Number:

Guests will attend: Yes No Name:

Name:

In Case of Emergency (ICE) Contact Name: ICE Phone Number:

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: Arkansas Municipal League
 83rd Annual Convention
 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

Special dietary needs:

- Gluten free
- Vegetarian
- Pescatarian
- Vegan

****TENTATIVE****

83rd ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE JUNE 14 - 16, 2017

WEDNESDAY - JUNE 14, 2017

1:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.	REGISTRATION	OSAGE & CADDO ROOMS, SCC
1:00 P.M. to 6:45 P.M.	MEET YOUR EXHIBITORS/RENEW ACQUAINTANCES	GOVERNOR'S HALLS I - III, SCC
TBA	ARKANSAS CITY CLERKS, RECORDERS, AND TREASURERS ASSOCIATION	CONWAY ROOM, MH
2:30 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.	CONTINUING EDUCATION CERTIFICATION TRAINING	GOVERNOR'S HALL IV, SCC
3:30 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.	INTERIM JOINT CITY, COUNTY, LOCAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE <i>City officials are welcome to attend this committee meeting.</i>	FULTON ROOM, SCC
5:30 P.M. to 6:45 P.M.	RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE <i>Each municipality has a designated representative who is a member of the Resolutions Committee.</i> Presiding: Mayor Doug Sprouse Springdale First Vice President Arkansas Municipal League	GOVERNOR'S HALL IV, SCC
7:00 P.M.	OPENING NIGHT BANQUET Presiding: Mayor Harry Brown, Stephens President Arkansas Municipal League Speaker: TBA	WALLY ALLEN BALLROOM, SCC

THURSDAY A.M. - JUNE 15, 2017

7:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.	REGISTRATION	OSAGE ROOM, SCC
7:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.	EXHIBITS OPEN	GOVERNOR'S HALLS I - III, SCC
7:00 A.M. to 8:45 A.M.	HOST CITY BREAKFAST BUFFET	GOVERNOR'S HALLS I - III, SCC
7:15 A.M. to 7:30 A.M.	VOLUNTARY PRAYER SESSION <i>This is a brief time set aside for those who wish to gather to pray for our national, state and local leaders.</i>	FULTON ROOM, SCC
8:45 A.M. to NOON	OPENING GENERAL SESSION Presiding: Mayor Harry Brown, Stephens President Arkansas Municipal League Speaker: TBA	GOVERNOR'S HALL IV, SCC

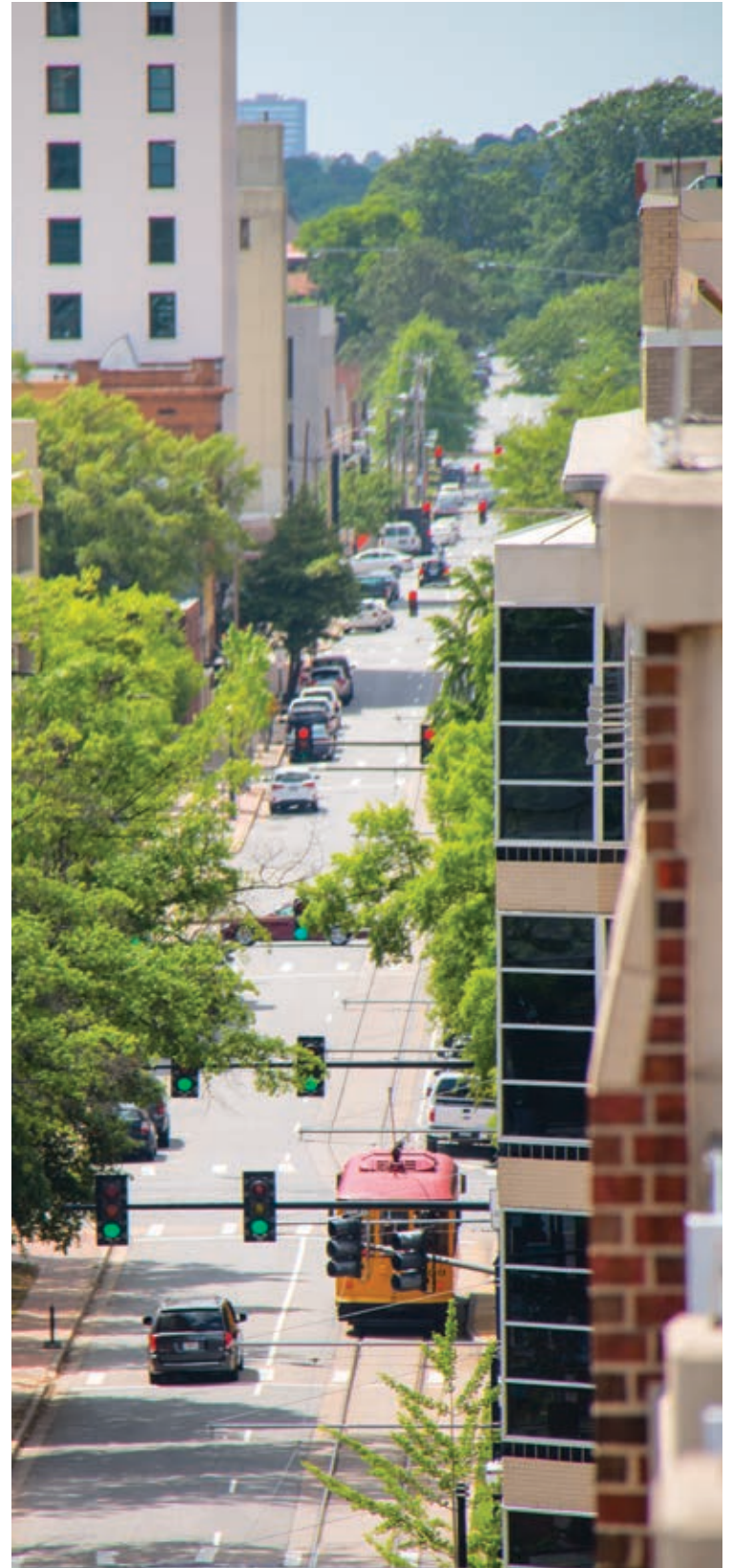
THURSDAY P.M. - JUNE 15, 2017

NOON to 1:15 P.M.	LUNCHEON BUFFET	GOVERNOR'S HALLS I - III, SCC
	CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS	
1:30 P.M. to 2:45 P.M.	CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS	TBA
2:45 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.	BREAK Soft drinks and coffee available in the Exhibit Hall.	GOVERNOR'S HALLS I - III, SCC
	CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS	
3:00 P.M. to 4:15 P.M.	CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS	TBA
4:15 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.	BREAK Soft drinks and coffee available in the Exhibit Hall.	GOVERNOR'S HALLS I - III, SCC
4:30 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.	RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE <i>Each municipality has a designated representative who is a member of the Resolutions Committee.</i> Presiding: Mayor Doug Sprouse Springdale First Vice President Arkansas Municipal League	GOVERNOR'S HALL IV, SCC
	CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS	
4:30 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.	CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS	TBA
5:30 P.M.	The exhibit hall will close for the day.	
6:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.	DINNER ON YOUR OWN <i>Visit some of central Arkansas's finest restaurants before returning for desserts and entertainment.</i>	
8:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.	DESSERTS AND ENTERTAINMENT	TBA

*MH = MARRIOTT HOTEL
*SCC = STATEHOUSE CONVENTION CENTER
*TBA = TO BE ANNOUNCED

FRIDAY - JUNE 16, 2017

7:00 A.M. to NOON	REGISTRATION OPENS	OSAGE ROOM, SCC
7:00 A.M. to 10:30 A.M.	EXHIBITS OPEN <i>(Exhibit Hall will close at 10:30 A.M. for the remainder of the Convention.)</i>	GOVERNOR'S HALLS I - III, SCC
7:00 A.M. to 8:45 A.M.	BUFFET BREAKFAST	GOVERNOR'S HALLS I - III, SCC
9:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M.	GENERAL SESSION I	GRAND BALLROOM SALON C, MH
10:00 A.M. to 10:15 A.M.	BREAK	GOVERNOR'S HALLS I - III, SCC
10:15 A.M. to 11:15 A.M.	ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING	GOVERNOR'S HALL IV, SCC
11:15 A.M. to NOON	GENERAL SESSION II	GRAND BALLROOM SALON C, MH
NOON to 1:30 P.M.	AWARDS AND NEW OFFICERS' LUNCHEON	GRAND BALLROOM SALONS A & B, MH



Changes to 2017 Directory, Arkansas Municipal Officials

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



Alicia

Delete AL Tonia Rawland
 Add AL Joey Harris
 Add AL Sherry Harris
 Delete R/T (Vacant)
 Add R/T Edgar Stanfill

Bella Vista

Delete T Alison Fusillo
 Add T Cary Elsten

Calion

Delete AL Kenneth Mayweather
 Add AL Susan Morris

Cotton Plant

Delete TEL 870-459-3661
 Add TEL 870-459-2121
 Delete FC (Vacant)
 Add FC Janson Johnston
 Add WW Anthony Jones

De Queen

Delete DJ Stephen Tedder
 Add DJ Many Wood
 Delete PC Richard McKinley
 Add PC Scott Simmons
 Delete SS/SAN Mike Van Houten
 Add SS/SAN Kevin Frachiseur
 Delete CEO Raymond Sowell
 Add CEO Jay Litchford

Dermott

Delete DJ Charles Gibson
 Add DJ Melinda French
 Delete PD Kesha Ellis
 Add PD (Vacant)
 Delete T Rowena Copico
 Add T (Vacant)
 Delete AL Betty Morse

Des Arc

Delete AL Bruce Sutton
 Add AL Jodie Mayher
 Delete DJ Robert Abney
 Add DJ Mark Derrick

Diamond City

Add AL Gina Whited

Earle

Delete SS William Eaves
 Add SS Nemi Matthews

Elkins

Add AM Sally Sparks

Gum Springs

Delete R/T (Vacant)
 Add R/T Diana Majors

Hot Springs

Delete M Ruth Carney
 Add M (Vacant)

Midway

Delete R/T Carla Tugwell
 Add R/T Elizabeth Lewis
 Delete Mail 1399 Midway Road
 Add Mail 1322 Midway Road

Mountainburg

Delete DJ Steven Peer
 Add DJ Chuck Baker
 Delete AL (Vacant)
 Add AL Nelda Marshall

North Little Rock

Delete FC Jim Murphy
 Add FC (Vacant)

Ogden

Delete AL Dawn Trafford
 Add AL Dawn Morton

Pangburn

Add AL Patience Cary

Paris

Delete FO Marlena Simmons
 Add FO Valorie Cripps

Pottsville

Delete AL Keith Davis
 Add AL Steve Williamson

Tuckerman

Delete E-Mail cityoftuckerman@yahoo.com

Wabbaseka

Delete E-Mail cityofwabbaseka.com
 Add E-Mail mayormyra@aol.com
 Delete R/T Wendy Harris
 Add R/T (Vacant)
 Delete PC DeShawn Bennett
 Add PC LaMarcus Nowden
 Delete WS Malcom Scott
 Add WS William Tibbett
 Add WW Calvin Carter
 Add AM Edward Spears
 Delete AL Jeremy Golden
 Add AL Cleolli Robinson

Walnut Ridge

Delete AM Missy Pratt
 Add AM Christy Vaccari-Robinson

Wynne

Delete C Tamara Brewster
 Add C Tamera Brewster



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Please send me _____ copies of the 2017 Directory of Arkansas Municipal Officials at: \$25 each.
My check of \$_____ is enclosed, payable to: The Arkansas Municipal League.

Send Directory to:

Name _____

Title _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Clip and mail to: Arkansas Municipal League

2017 Directory

P.O. Box 38

North Little Rock, AR 72115-0038



Upstanders: Seven Essential Guiding Principles

By Jon Mertz

Who is an “upstander?” One definition: “A person who chooses to take positive action in the face of injustice in society or in situations where individuals need assistance.”

Upstanders take action. More than simple action, upstanders undertake positive work to solve an injustice or help in areas of need.

The opposite of upstander

The opposite of an upstander is a bystander. Bystanders are spectators. The worst types of bystanders are those who talk about a situation or an injustice yet do nothing. Some bystanders are just talkers.

An upstander and bystander have one thing in common: They are present. From here, a big divide opens. Upstanders speak up and dig in to facilitate positive change. We need more upstanders and fewer bystanders.

Seven upstander principles

With a growing focus on upstanders, certain principles are necessary to ensure individuals stay on the right track for the right reasons with the right habits. Seeing the momentum on being an upstander is a good thing, and we need to grab ahold of what it means and enliven our work for positive change and action.

Upstanders need to hold themselves accountable and stay focused in the work ahead. Being an upstander is not easy. Most important efforts are challenging but necessary. Principles keep us centered.

Let’s dive in.

1. Don’t fake it.

Faux upstanders will arrive. They will say all the right things but take no action. They are loud bystanders cloaked in upstander dress. Loud bystanders will spew lots of words on Facebook or Twitter. Most will quickly realize that their words are hollow—no meaningful action to back up what is said.

Never fake being an upstander. Don’t dilute what real upstanders are doing.

2. Take thoughtful action.

Upstanders study an issue or situation to understand the multiple sides of it. Studying is important work, but upstanders do not stay in the homework mode. They study, explore, discover, and formulate ideas on how to lead, discuss, and bring others into the mission. To build robust actions, a certain amount of time is required to understand the different dimensions and perspectives of an issue or situation. The exception is when an immediate situation arises, and timely action is needed. In these moments, upstanders do a quick scan and understand

what they need to do. Upstanders know who and what to protect and step in to diffuse a situation.

Upstanders are thoughtful in what they do and how they do it. A good sense of timing comes by building a good studying and analyzing practice.

3. Be inclusive.

Upstanders bring diversity in. Upstanders do not see outward differences; they see strength in who shows up to lend an ear and involve their talents to solve an issue. Upstanders understand that we are better together in our diversity. Dividing others into segments diffuses efforts and positive results.

Upstanders gather different individuals to achieve a common purpose and mission.

4. Don't inspire only—raise aspirations.

Upstanders inspire. Inspiration keeps people engaged. However, inspiration alone solves little. Upstanders raise the view of those around them to what the positive possibilities are. Upstanders instill an aspiration within others that we can—and must—do better.

Inspiration and aspiration are tightly intertwined. Upstanders weave encouragement and purpose together to achieve a mission or goal.

5. Choose words wisely; take smart actions.

By their nature, upstanders are not divisive. An upstander speaks to bring people together and move toward positive action. Words uplift.

With an intelligent boost, better actions formulate. Upstanders speak to be understood and then craft next steps to facilitate movement in the right direction. What upstanders know is the rhythm between the right words and the right actions. Being thoughtful helps, as does instilling aspirations.

Simply stated, upstanders are emotionally intelligent and embrace these concepts in the right way and for the right reasons. They are mindful of others while crafting how to engage to make smart progress.

6. Be persistent and consistent.

Upstanders have a steeliness to their efforts. Showing up consistently to do the work is part of their DNA. With challenges, upstanders know how to renew and keep fresh in their initiatives. Upstanders are dogged in their work, and they need to be. Positive change is no cakewalk. Positive change faces stiff headwinds.

Upstanders navigate with a stiff backbone, an open mind, and an intense focus.

7. Be open to change, collaborate, and solve.

Upstanders are not stuck in their ways. Upstanders maintain a growth mindset through it all. Change is continuous, and upstanders adapt. In doing so, they collaborate with the right people with a constant focus on how to gain momentum and work toward a mutually beneficial solution.

Upstanders have an open mind and heart. More than the openness, upstanders have a strong connection between their heart and mind. While emotions activate themselves and others, analytical thinking keeps workable steps within sight and moving toward a good outcome.

Upstanders are active leaders

With the current political and business environment, many are stepping up for what is right, and many are taking the next step of doing more of the necessary work. A recent article in *New York Magazine* stated that 13,000 women are planning to run for office. More than marching, deeper involvement is happening. Being an upstander is a leadership model many are beginning to embrace.

We need to encourage more upstanders while encouraging bystanders to shift their stance. Through the work of an upstander, diligence is key. Duty is taken seriously. Doing what is right takes deeper engagement and commitment. A leadership shift is underway.

Be an upstander in your business and community. Keep the principles of an upstander and build upon them. Let's lead more positive change with a positive attitude and positive beliefs.

What added principles are important for an upstander? Join in the movement!

Jon Mertz is one of the Top 100 Thought Leaders in Trustworthy Business and highlighted as one of the Leaders to Watch in 2015 by the American Management Association. He also is the author of Activate Leadership: Aspen Truths to Empower Millennial Leaders. Jon serves as vice president of marketing at Corepoint Health. Outside of his professional life, Jon brings together a community to inspire Millennial leaders and close the gap between two generations of leaders.

This article appeared originally at Thin Difference (thindifference.com) and is reprinted with permission.

Try getting by with a little help from your friends

By Jim von Tungeln

As I travel the state, a common frustration I hear is that many elected officials see their city as a silo facing the winds of change alone. The fortunate thing is that cities have numerous friends willing to help them face their trials. The unfortunate thing is that some cities don't seem to realize this.

Perhaps some examples will help illustrate the point. When a tornado ravaged the local cemetery in the small White County city of Kensett in March of this year, that community faced a large task of clearing massive trees and associated debris. Almost immediately, help arrived from the neighboring city of Searcy in the form of community service workers, city crews, and machinery. Along with those came students from nearby Harding University and other volunteers. Nothing seems to bring out the best in Americans more than natural disasters.

It doesn't take a disaster, though. While spending a pleasant morning in Texarkana recently, I enjoyed a walking tour of Main Street with Mary Beck, of the city's planning staff (and a hardcore city booster). A park there featured a restored railroad caboose of a past era, donated to the city by Union Pacific Railroad. Space limitations prevent a complete listing of local volunteers who assisted in moving, sanding, restoring, and painting the car. Let us note, though, that the volunteers even included friends from across the state line when high school athletes from nearby Hooks, Texas, and their coaches sanded the caboose to prepare for painting. A local Cub Scout pack helped clean the site afterwards.

Anyone who attends the annual conferences of the Arkansas Municipal League is well aware, from the Volunteer Community of the Year awards, of the thousands upon thousands of volunteer hours donated to the cities of our state each year. The benefits of this program are vast and sometimes underutilized.

The Department of Human Services is not the only state agency standing by as a friend to the cities of Arkansas. How about the Arkansas State Fire Marshall's office?

The Arkansas State Fire Code and the people who administer it represent some of the best friends our cities enjoy. The fire code is nothing less than a statewide building code applicable to every square inch of our state. Your city need not adopt it to be eligible for its protection. It is a state law and applies to each city



Members of Cub Scout Pack 8 pose after cleaning up the restored caboose and site.

PHOTO: CITY OF TEXARKANA

whether that city adopts it or not. All elected officials and planning commissioners should be aware of this. They should also know that the Fire Code can help avoid complex regulatory actions and possible lawsuits.

For example, there are instances in which slum landlords are using the current media enthusiasm over so-called "tiny homes" to spread blight. They do this by hauling in storage buildings and containers, resting them on concrete blocks, running minimal utilities to them, and calling them tiny homes. They then use the popularity of the term in an attempt to convince the city that it is somehow cruel and discriminatory in not allowing such practices.

Each city must decide how to meet this challenge. The most complicated, litigation-prone, and enforcement-laden approach is to attempt to write an addition to the local zoning code placing enough restraints upon the size and configuration of homes as to solve the problem.

The simplest and most effective way is to use the Arkansas State Fire Code and its requirements as to what elements a dwelling must contain. That approach could have the added benefit of moving the city away from being a party to litigation. Further it would not punish property owners who desire small homes that

legitimately meet the requirements of the fire code and, thus, qualify as dwelling units.

As an interesting exercise, planners might review their zoning regulations to uncover any regulations that are not consistent with the state fire code. At the same time, they might search for regulations that are covered more effectively by the fire code. Simplifying a zoning code is an act greatly appreciated by the public in general and investors in particular. In other words, it's a good way to make new friends.

Speaking of investors, with an emphasis now building for local efforts in economic development, there will be opportunities for help from the private sector in carrying out the provisions of a city's adopted plans. Assisting developers whose projects are consistent with those plans constitutes what is popularly known as a "win-win" situation.

Finally, let us not forget assistance already available from public and nonprofit organizations. For example, thanks to efforts by the state's Geographic Information Office, the legal descriptions our cities' corporate boundaries may eventually be accurate for the first time in our state's history. As mentioned before in this space, the Arkansas Chapter of the American Planning Association offers a low-cost membership to lay planners in the state. The Chapter also offers workshops for planning commissioners, and now has an expanded program involving certification of commissioners.

Other professional associations, such as those involving code enforcement, offer training and expertise as well. Maintaining a trained staff should be possible for every city in our state.

Don't forget the support offered by the Arkansas Municipal League. In addition to legal assistance, the League offers a variety of informational workshops at the annual June Convention. It maintains a large library of publications and offers extensive training through its Voluntary Certified Municipal Official Training.

A word of warning is vital. Sometimes a city seeks assistance from another city simply in the form of "how did your city handle such-and-such?" Remember that each city in our state is unique and what works in one city may not work in another. Also, bear in mind that the lending city may have borrowed its solution from another city that borrowed it from—well, you get the picture. The origins, validity, and reliability of such "loans" may be lost in the fog of time.

For example, I once visited, years ago, a city of less than 1,000 population whose mayor at the time assured

PHOTOS BY JIM VON TUNGELN



Mary Beck, of the Texarkana, Arkansas planning department, with a donated Union Pacific railroad caboose, restored by volunteers with paint provided by Pittsburg Paints.

me that the city had a zoning code prepared especially for that city by a professional consulting planner. The mayor produced a 75-page document that looked vaguely familiar. It was. It turned out to be a "find and replace" version of a zoning code for a city of 13,000 population, a document with which I was familiar. The "professional consultant" was a former typist for an engineering/planning firm. Upon being dismissed from the firm, that typist had absconded with a shoebox full of diskettes, one of which contained the original zoning code. The \$5,000 cost of the code had been paid through a matching grant program available at that time. Its production had required less than a half-dozen computer keystrokes by a shyster willing to take advantage of a struggling community.

In closing, choose your friends wisely and they will help see you through the challenges that face the cities of our state. Remember that your city is not a single "silo" but part of an interlocking community of kindred organizations quite willing to help one another. We are all in this together.



Credits for the volunteer help is a permanent part of the memorial.



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.

Five things to know if you have low vision

By Anna Schlesselman, O.D.

Many of us take our vision for granted until something goes wrong. Vision loss, including blindness and other visual impairments, affects about 10 million people in the United States, according to the National Federation of the Blind.

Low vision is a significant visual impairment, characterized by 20/70 vision or worse, that can't be corrected with glasses, surgery, or contact lenses. Here are five things to know if you think you, or someone you know, might have low vision.

1. The symptoms

A person with low vision may have trouble reading small print in newspapers and books; recognizing faces; performing tasks like cooking, mowing, or driving; or doing certain hobbies like hunting, crossword puzzles, or sewing. Some can experience tunnel vision while others have spots or holes in their vision.

2. The causes

Low vision can occur at any age and can be related to genetics; however, it's usually the result of an eye condition or disease and typically occurs in older adults. The most common eye conditions that lead to low vision are macular degeneration, glaucoma, cataracts, and diabetic retinopathy.

3. Visual aids and devices can help

Experiencing significant vision loss can be discouraging and frustrating, but there are an array of visual aids and other devices that can help you see better.

Many of our patients use magnifiers, both on a stand and handheld, to assist them in daily activities. The stand magnifiers are great for reading books and newspapers, as well as completing tasks like paying bills or reading mail. Handheld magnifiers can be great on the go, for example, at a restaurant while reading the menu.

Several patients use handheld telescopes to see people or things that are farther away, like signs in a grocery store or a friend across a crowded room. Certain telescopes can be used from the opposite end to expand the field of view. This is beneficial for patients with tunnel vision.

For patients with more severe vision loss, a video magnifier called a CCTV and other electronic

magnification can be very helpful for seeing print, threading needles or even clipping finger nails.

These may seem like small, day-to-day tasks for many, but these aids can help low-vision patients sustain a sense of privacy and independence.

4. Tips for the household

There are things you can do around the house to improve your productivity and safety. If you have low vision, don't move furniture around the house. Having a constant pattern of furniture can help you better recognize your surroundings and prevent accidents.

Remember: Contrast is key. More light and colors are vital to accomplishing this.

To increase the light in your home, open the windows during the day to allow more sunlight and use higher wattage bulbs. Some people even carry flashlights with them at home.

A variety of colors will help you differentiate objects. For example, if you have a dark coffee table, use brightly colored accents to help them stand out.

5. See your eye doctor

Annual eye exams are important for everyone. Frequent eye exams can even help identify issues that lead to low vision earlier. While there is no cure for low vision, identifying it sooner can help slow its progression and give you more time to prepare.

For those already diagnosed with low vision, your eye doctor will play a vital role in helping you find the right aids and devices.

At the UAMS Low Vision Clinic at the Harvey & Bernice Jones Eye Institute, our team of experts, which includes an occupational therapist, helps teach our patients to use their aids, to modify daily activities, to adapt the home for enhanced safety, to make referrals to community resources, and to assure your glasses are up to date.

These steps are essential in improving your daily quality of life and maintaining independence.



Anna Schlesselman, O.D., is Optometric Physician, UAMS Harvey & Bernice Jones Eye Institute.



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A matter of distance: land measurements of the early United States

By Paul Walla, PLS, and Jennifer Thompson

When the colonists from Europe began to settle the continent we now know as North America, they brought with them a systems of measurement from their homelands. Those systems of measurement came from various European countries such as England, France, Spain, Holland, Germany, and Italy.

These systems contained units of length, area, volume, and weight, and units were not always equal. They varied from place to place. As one can imagine, this caused issues. For instance, a bushel of wheat one bought may not have equaled the bushel of wheat one sold. After the American Revolution (1775-1783), a uniform system of measurements containing reliable units of length, area, volume and weight were established.

The English colonies, and later the fledgling United States, adopted the Gunter's chain as the standard unit for land measurement. Edmund Gunter, an English mathematician designed and created the chain in 1620. His chain was 66 feet long and was made up of 100 links, each of which was 7.62 inches. The chain was based upon the early English measurement of the perch. The perch was later replaced by the pole and rod. The perch and the pole and rod each measured 16.5 feet. An early English two-pole chain measured 33 feet. A four-pole chain measured 66 feet. Because of this, distances written on property deeds were often written in chains, links, perches, and poles and rods.

The furlong, which we hear in horseracing vernacular, is a unit of length equal to 40 poles, 220 yards or 660 feet. The name originates from furrow long, the length of a furrow that oxen can plow before they are rested and turned.

The original 13 colonies used the Gunter's chain, as well as the perch, and the pole and rod as the tools of land measurement. The Land Ordinance of 1785, which established guidelines for the dispersion of federal lands, applies to lands sandwiched between the original 13 colonies and the Mississippi River, and it specified that the "section lines be measured with a chain." The states constructed from the Louisiana Purchase, and all states close to the Pacific Ocean, all used the Gunter's chain as the primary tool of land measurement.

By today's standards, the Gunter's chain was an extremely rudimentary tool used to survey the new nation. However, it was not necessarily inefficient, and offered extremely accurate measurements that are still relied upon today.



The original survey of the lands of the Louisiana Purchase got its start in a headwater swamp in Arkansas in the fall of 1815 when two federal land surveying teams established the initial point for the survey of those lands. A marker is still in place in a remote region of eastern Arkansas, in the swampland of the Delta, commemorating the spot where the surveyors established the initial point for all future land surveys of the states of Arkansas, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, the Dakotas, and north to Canada. A very informative Arkansas Educational Television Network (AETN) documentary titled “It Started Here: Early Arkansas and the Louisiana Purchase” archives this surveying journey, and is available for viewing at www.aetn.org/programs/itstartedhere.

The granite marker/monument that stands in the spot in the swamp still today was erected in 1926 by the Daughters of the American Revolution, though it frequently went unseen due to being submerged in swamp water the majority of the time. The marker now sits in what is known as Louisiana Purchase State Park at the junction of Lee, Monroe, and Phillips counties, according to the Louisiana Purchase State Park website www.arkansasstateparks.com/louisianapurchase.

French settlements established along the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers and the Gulf coast before the Revolutionary War used a French unit of measurement called the arpent. The arpent was used as both a distance measurement and as an area measurement. The linear distance of the arpent is 191.88 feet and the area measurement of the arpent equaled 0.846 acres. In the early days of “New France,” with waterways being the most efficient transportation route, settlers wanted and needed land frontage along riverfronts. Tracts along the rivers would be two to three arpents wide and 20 to 40 arpents deep. Current aerial photography shows tracts along those waterways being similar in shape and size, and property descriptions along those areas are still described using the arpent as a distance measurement.

Lands that were once under the control of Spain and later Mexico used both the vara and the league as the primary tool for land measurement. The vara is equal to approximately 33 and 1/3 inches and the league equals 5,000 varas. Land grants were made during both the Spanish and Mexican periods in the southwest United States in what is now California, Florida, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. As with the French land grants, when those areas attained statehood, the Spanish and Mexican land grants were recognized by the United States government.

The United States is truly a melting pot of settlers, and the surveying profession—one of the oldest known professions—is no different. These settlers, coming from a wide array of countries, also had varieties in measurements of volume, weight, and mass, among others. All of these measurements were critical for the development of commerce and trade as we know it today. As the United States settled into the manifest destiny mind frame, a uniform system of measurements was established.

For further reading on these variations, Andro Linklater has written a wonderful book entitled *Measuring America* that goes into much more detail.



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Maintaining and improving city streets is a top priority of municipal leaders across Arkansas. Conway, which features several roundabouts that help ease congestion in the city, has undergone a professional assessment of its streets to determine how best to invest in its transportation infrastructure moving forward.



Using data to drive infrastructure decisions

By Amy Whitehead

In my conversations with municipal leaders from around the state, infrastructure is consistently one of the top economic development issues that is mentioned as a local priority. The needs will look different for different sized cities, but the conversation will often revolve around new infrastructure development, whether it be extending sewer and water lines to a site, building sidewalks, walking and biking trails, or creating new streets to improve traffic flow.

However, many cities struggle to maintain their aging infrastructure, particularly those cities with population loss or little to no growth. Without strategic, long-term thinking related to infrastructure, a city can quickly find itself in a situation where its assets are declining and there are not enough dollars locally to maintain the systems at current levels.

According to the 2014 Report Card for Arkansas Infrastructure, produced by the American Society of Civil Engineers, Arkansas's highway infrastructure

received a grade of D+. A 2015 presentation to the Governor's Working Group on Highway Funding, delivered by Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) personnel, stated that there are 17,518 miles of city streets and 1,007 bridges maintained by cities. For state highways, AHTD was predicting a \$16.8 billion shortfall for state highways over the next 10 years. Revenue for state and city highways is limited, and the future of federal funding levels of infrastructure is still uncertain.

Amid that uncertainty, the City of Conway is taking steps to ensure that limited city dollars are being used for the maximum return on investment, so that the city has the ability to maintain adequate service for residents and businesses. The Conway Street and Engineering Department worked with a consultant to assess the current quality and usable life of every mile of pavement that the city is responsible for maintaining. The consultant assigned a Pavement Condition Index (PCI)

number to each street. A newly constructed street will have a PCI of 100. The average PCI for Conway's pavement is 62, which is considered to be fair condition. Conway City Council member Shelley Mehl said that having an objective assessment of the pavement needs has made the process of spending limited street funds less subjective.

"In the past, many of the projects were made up of those streets reported by citizens to a council member or mayor," Mehl said. "Now we can use data to understand what areas have the greatest need and where our dollars could have the most impact. This ability to prioritize also helps us coordinate with our local utility provider, Conway Corp, to identify utilities that could be impacted by roadwork."

According to Mehl, Conway is one of the only cities in Arkansas to do this type of pavement assessment.

Having data related to a street's projected life span also helps the city understand when re-paving a particular section would be a bad investment. According to Finley Vinson, Conway Street and Engineering Department Director, if a street is near the end of its life cycle, it is not cost effective to pave it when the improvement won't significantly extend the life of the street.

"If we can pave a street and extend the life of the street by 15 years, the city and its residents can feel good about the return on that investment. If a street will need

to be re-constructed within a few years regardless of new pavement, we can redirect resources in the short term to other streets that will reap a greater long-term benefit."

Vinson believes the need for reliable data will mean the city will need to collect this pavement quality data on an annual basis to ensure that the underlying assumptions of the modeling are correct. With \$5 million dollars a year in projected maintenance needs and only \$1 million in the pavement maintenance budget, the city will at least have a clear priority list to keep streets at a serviceable level. The city will first focus on main arterials and collector streets, with residential maintenance being lower on the priority list.

As new policies are formulated for infrastructure development at the national level, cities would be wise to carefully evaluate its needs so that any commitment of local funds for new infrastructure doesn't occur at the cost of neglecting maintenance of existing systems. Assessing the current state of infrastructure and collecting data to make meaningful decisions will help remove some of the guesswork from city budgeting decisions.



Amy Whitehead is Director of UCA's Center for Community and Economic Development. Contact her at amyw@uca.edu or 501-852-2930.

ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE



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Voluntary Certified Continuing Education Program

The League's Voluntary Certified Continuing Education Program continues in 2017 with 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 83rd 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 workshop at League Headquarters is:

- Planning & Zoning Workshop (5 continuing hours), 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 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.



PHOTO BY JACK STOWE, CITY OF MAUMELLE.

Maumelle welcomes new senior community center

By Sherman Banks

The three rings in the logo for the City of Maumelle symbolize the unifying concept of “Live, Work, and Play.” This unity was evident when the city approved a bond issue in 2014 to build a state-of-the-art community center for the over 50 population. The Senior Services Program was established in Maumelle in 2004 in a rented location and in 2007 the program moved to a space underneath City Hall. For over 12 years the program provided extraordinary service to the city’s senior population in a less than adequate facility until the bond issue in 2014. The city celebrated the grand opening of the \$4 million, 16,000-square-foot Center on the Lake on March 3.

Nicole Vogler, director of the Center, said that they have 900 members. Memberships are broken down into two categories. For Silver Members, the fee is \$25 for residents and \$40 for non-residents. Silver Members have access to the Center from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. For Gold Members, the fee is \$125 for residents and \$200 for non-residents. Gold Members may access the Center from 5 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays.

Vogler operates the Center with a staff of six full-time and three part-time employees, but she has a host of volunteers who come to work in different capacities, from instructor, greeter, chefs, porters (waiters), closers (janitorial), and drivers. Mayor Mike Watson’s father, Brodie, is a primary volunteer driver, in fact.

Membership fees and additional revenue through a 501(c)(3) “Friends Group,” along with the strong volunteer support, is expected to help the city meet the Center’s \$450,000 annual operating budget, Vogler and



PHOTO BY SHERMAN BANKS.

Maumelle Mayor Mike Watson, left, and Center on the Lake Director Nicole Vogler.

Watson said. The city also intends to rent out the large meeting space at the Center for events such as weddings, banquets, and various organizational meetings. The facility can seat 320 theatre style or approximately 180 with tables in the round.

One special attraction is the Mason Café, which offers daily breakfast and lunch specials and à la carte items at reasonable prices.

For more information about Maumelle’s new Center on the Lake, contact Nicole Heaps at (501) 851-4344.



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

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NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2017

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

Medical marijuana awareness seminars available to cities

a'TEST Consultants and the Human Resource Management Association of Arkansas recently held a Medical Marijuana in the Workplace Seminar. About 80 participants attended this half-day seminar. A very large number of the participants were municipal officials, and many have asked us to conduct similar programs in their cities. We have

coordinated their requests with Laura Carter, Director of the Arkansas Technology and Training (T²) Program at the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department. If interested in a program, please contact either Laura at AHTD or Jeff Sims, President of a'TEST Consultants. The T² Program pays the cost for a'TEST to conduct this training.

Marijuana issues in other states

Marijuana (legal or illegal) is presenting problems throughout many states. The issues range from minor concerns to legalization, to medical concerns, and financial problems. A short review of these problems makes us aware that the issues we are having in Arkansas are not unique.

In Colorado, marijuana is available for medical consumption and recreational use. A new bill was presented recently concerning the use of medical marijuana for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The bill, which would allow doctors to recommend medical marijuana for PTSD and acute stress disorders, passed the Senate with a 34-1 vote. The Senate's State Veterans and Military Affairs Committee unanimously advanced the bill in a 5-0 vote. This appears to be a newly approved medical condition that will warrant a medical marijuana card.

More Colorado companies are dropping "pot" from pre-employment drug testing. The Mountain States Employers Council conducted a December survey to verify how employers were using, or eliminating, pot testing for employment candidates. In their 2014 survey, when recreational marijuana use became legal, one in five employers implemented more stringent drug testing programs and policies. Even though many employers dropped marijuana from their testing panel, the survey indicated that this did not mean employers were okay with their employees smoking weed.

A new cannabidiol oil bill has advanced in Wisconsin to the legislature. The Senate has unanimously approved the bill that would allow possession of marijuana extract to be used for treating seizures. Parents testified at a hearing for the bill earlier this week and they were frustrated when similar legislation passed the Assembly but had stalled in the Senate.

Georgia parents and advocates are pushing for legislation that would expand access to medical marijuana; however, they are getting opposition from conservative lawmakers and law enforcement. A Senator has sponsored a bill that would allow patients with PTSD, AIDS, HIV, chronic pain, or autism to qualify for medical marijuana. Of note, the bill removes some residency restrictions and eases physician reporting and prescribing requirements.

These examples are just a few of the marijuana issues being legislated in other states. There is a lack of common illnesses that would qualify a person for a marijuana card and there is concern about how much drug to issue to a user.

Another question is: Are state lines a barrier to get the drug if your state does not allow it? It's a situation our Medical Review Officer in Arkansas deals with regularly when a person with a marijuana card from another state comes to Arkansas.

In Arkansas, our Marijuana Commission is charged with the responsibility to direct how and when medical marijuana will be dispensed, growing locations,

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laboratory monitoring of drug quality, distribution, training physicians to write cards, and how the money will be handled. There is much left for the Commission to do. The plan is, however, for Arkansas to be "up and running" this year.



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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Garvan Woodland Gardens in Hot Springs is a great botanical resource that inspires and educates more than 125,000 visitors each year.

PHOTO BY PENNY TALBERT.

Garvan Woodland Gardens offers inspiration, education

By Alison Litchy

Looking for inspiration? There is a place in Arkansas that preserves our natural resources within an urban environment. Garvan Woodland Gardens is a 210-acre botanical garden on the south side of Hot Springs along the shore of Lake Hamilton. It is a department of the School of Architecture at the University of Arkansas. The land it occupies was donated in 1985 by Verna Cook Garvan, as a wonderful gift to the University for everyone to enjoy. Garvan Gardens has a magnitude of different garden types to visit, all under a canopy of pines and hardwoods.

According to the Garden's website, Garvan wanted to share the wonders and joys of the gardens with the people and visitors of Arkansas. It was her wish that

the gardens be used to educate and serve the people of Arkansas, providing them the joy and repose it had given her. She noted the devastation of the environment that had taken place in her lifetime and wished to preserve a remnant of the 20th Century's natural grandeur for generations to come. When walking around the gardens there is a fantastic photo opportunity at every corner.

The landscapes to experience and enjoy at Garvan Gardens are diverse, ranging from a waterfall, Japanese garden, bonsai garden, wildflower garden, pine gardens, bridges, pergola, a fairy garden, and more. The gardens are very dynamic. New flora and visual displays are constantly being added, and every season has its own charm. Spring tulips, summer flowers, green space, fall

color, and winter lights are all something you can experience there. They are presented in a way to show just how diverse and beautiful each season can be enjoyed. Inspiration can be taken around every corner and there is so much to be seen that it can take quite some time to see it all.

Penny Talbert, UAMS landscape and facilities manager, has discovered species that she loves from walking around the gardens.

“I fell in love with the ‘daydream’ tulip and have been planting them for several years now,” she said. “Just walking around the gardens does inspire me every time. It reminds me why I love nature and went into horticulture to begin with so many years ago.”

Penny and her hard working crew have a big job. They keep UAMS a beautiful, functional, and safe place outside. Being able to see gardens like Garvan can get the creative juices flowing and inspire a new planting bed or garden. Their campus is improving species diversity every year.

There are educational opportunities at Garvan Gardens as well. There are programs for the entire family, from young children to gardening veterans. The garden has offered educational opportunities since 1995. Gardening 101 classes are offered three times a month. Topics range from soils, basic planting, Japanese garden design, cooking with plants, and advanced pruning. Children’s classes are offered occasionally and allow them to explore the wonders of nature. Different topics are provided regularly. Check out the calendar of events on their website, www.garvangardens.org, to keep up with the latest classes.

Garvan Gardens is also a great place to volunteer. There are many ways to get involved with the gardens. Opportunities range from greeter, to conductor of the model train garden.

For cities, the garden can be a great place to get ideas on how trees can be added to a landscape and be functional. Some of the gardens are in a relatively small section and others are vast. Ideas can be translated into something small like a pocket park or a large wooded area to preserve for citizens. Master gardeners come from all over the state to visit the gardens. They get ideas on plants in different elevations and soil compositions and learn how the weather affects each plant.

Let us know where you get your inspiration.



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



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Why should my organization use ACOOP?

ACOOOP utilizes a web-based, custom software that allows users to access and maintain plans from anywhere. The system can compile information into a single, printable document ideal for distribution to personnel.

How much does ACOOP cost?

ACOOOP training, services and use of the system are FREE to any city, county, state, higher education institution, or K-12 entity. Currently just 101 cities and city departments take advantage of ACOOP's services, which are available to every city and town in Arkansas.

To help ensure the timely continuity of operations with minimal disruption of critical services to citizens due to the loss of physical infrastructure, loss of data or loss of personnel, contact ACOOP at (501) 682-4307 or email DIS.ACOOP@arkansas.gov.





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Take steps to keep your data secure

By Jabari Massey

In the world of bits and bytes, the act of stopping hackers and preventing unauthorized access to data can seem like the highest information security priority. But physical security of electronic information is just as important—and often overlooked. It's not uncommon for organizations to spend lots of time on information security only to leave rooms with servers and workstations unlocked, allowing anyone to wander inside.

Any city—even a smaller city—needs physical security for its onsite technology. Don't make it too easy for a disgruntled employee or member of the public to damage or access information from a server or computer. Your liability greatly increases when you lack good physical security for your technology.

So what do you need to do? Physically lock down and prevent unauthorized access to your technology through the following best practices.

1. Prevent access to any rooms with machines that hold sensitive information.

In many cases, this will be a room with servers that contains some of your city's most critical information. You need to house any machines with sensitive data in a locked room. For example, that means not housing servers in an office where employees sit at their desks. Employees should only access a server room through some kind of barrier (or locked door) via a key, key fob, or key card.

2. Control and oversee access to these rooms.

Only authorized people should access any rooms with servers or other sensitive electronic information. Create clear policies that outline which employees, contractors, vendors, and visitors access these rooms. You also need policies about how you terminate access so that ex-employees or former contractors can't continue to enter these rooms.

3. Reconfigure physical access if you suspect a possible security weakness or breach.

We all make mistakes. But with physical security mistakes, you need policies that mitigate risks from any possible data breaches. Let's say someone misplaces a key fob and it might get into unauthorized hands. Your policy may outline procedures for deactivating the lost key fob, which is much quicker and easier than changing the locks on a door.

4. Create additional procedures to monitor physical access.

In addition to controlling how people enter and exit rooms containing sensitive technology, think about the following physical access procedures:

- Sign in and sign out: Know who enters your technology rooms by having everyone sign in and identify themselves.
- Escort visitors: Do not let a visitor—such as a contractor or vendor—wander around your buildings without an escort. They are not employees and they need to be monitored. You may handle visitors differently depending on their role (such as a one-time visitor versus a long-time trusted vendor), but you need an escort policy for each kind of visitor.
- Install security cameras: Cameras are more of a reactive security device, but they help provide information and evidence in case of a physical security threat or breach. If it's unclear how a physical breach occurred or a person disputes an incident, security camera footage can help provide answers.

5. Mitigate data breaches, sabotage, and disasters with physical security protections.

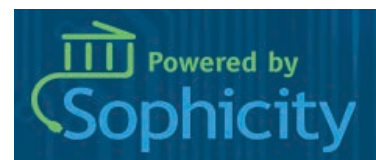
In case of a disaster, you want to have important physical security protections in place such as:

- Data backup and disaster recovery: In case of server failure, deleted information, or physical damage to equipment, a data backup and disaster recovery solution will ensure you don't lose any sensitive data.
- Fire suppression: This includes smoke detectors and sprinkler systems.
- Anti-flood prevention: Consider locating server rooms in places where it's likely not to flood. Avoid basements or rooms located near low ground, and raise servers off the ground. Technology also exists to detect the presence of water within your building.
- Redundant power supply: In case of a power outage, your technology should shift to backup power so that it keeps running.

Taken as a whole, these best practices will lock down your technology and make it difficult for a physical data breach to take place. Plus, these best practices also help with non-human disasters such as fire, flooding, or power outages.



Jabari Massey is a Sophicity network infrastructure consultant. Visit Sophicity online at sophicity.com, or call (770) 670-6940.



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ACCRTA scholarships available

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

A scholarship honoring the memory of Bill S. Bonner will be awarded to a first-year attendee in the certification program at the Municipal Clerks' Institute in September 2017. This scholarship covers the registration fee.

Additional scholarships include: four local \$400 scholarships to attend the Municipal Clerks' Institute, Sept. 10-14, 2017, in Fayetteville; one \$400 scholarship for the Academy for Advanced Education,

Sept. 11-12, 2017, in Fayetteville; and one \$400 scholarship to attend the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) annual conference, May 21-24, 2017, in Montreal, Canada.

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

Fill out the scholarship application below and return it to:

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

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

2017 APPLICATION FOR SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE

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

Name _____ Title _____

Street Address or P.O. Box _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____ Date assumed present position _____

Other related experience: Title _____ Municipality _____ Years _____

Education: H.S. _____ Graduate College (years) _____ Degree _____

Check one: This application is for a ___ First ___ Second ___ Third year Institute

What are the approximate costs of the institute you plan to attend? _____

Travel/Transportation _____ Registration Fee/Tuition _____

Lodging and Meal _____ Total Amount _____

How much does your municipality budget your department yearly for education? _____

What is your reason(s) for applying for this scholarship _____

I understand that if a scholarship is awarded to me, it must be used between Jan. 1, 2017, and Dec. 31, 2017, and that I must attend all sessions.

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

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____

CHECK THE SCHOLARSHIP FOR WHICH YOU ARE APPLYING:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Municipal Clerks' Institute, Fayetteville	September 10-14, 2017	Deadline: May 26, 2017
<input type="checkbox"/>	Academy for Advanced Education, Fayetteville	September 11-12, 2017	Deadline: May 26, 2017
<input type="checkbox"/>	IIMC Conference, Montreal, Canada	May 21-24, 2017	Deadline: May 31, 2017

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

ACCRTA seeks nominations for Clerk of the Year

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

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

Any municipal official or ACCRTA member may nominate a candidate for Municipal Clerk of the Year for 2017. The finalist will be honored at the 83rd Annual Arkansas Municipal League Convention, June 14-16, 2017 in Little Rock.

The deadline for nominations is April 14, 2017.

Requirements for nominees:

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

Complete the nomination information below and send to:

**Andrea Williams, ACCRTA Vice President
City of Paragould, City Clerk/Treasurer
P.O. Box 1175
301 West Court Street
Paragould, AR 72451
(870) 239-7500
andrea.williams@paragouldcity.org**

Municipal Clerk of the Year 2017 Please Submit the Following Information

NOMINEE'S FULL NAME AND TITLE _____
ADDRESS, CITY, ZIP _____
BUSINESS PHONE _____

NAME OF THE CITY THE MUNICIPAL CLERK REPRESENTS _____

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

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

ACCRTA OFFICES HELD _____

ACCRTA MEETINGS ATTENDED _____

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

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

IIMC WORKSHOPS (DISTRICT MEETINGS) ATTENDED _____

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

CERTIFICATION RECEIVED:

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

DATE OF CERTIFICATION _____

ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE CONFERENCES ATTENDED _____

EDUCATION PROGRAM PARTICIPATION (INSTRUCTOR, PANEL MEMBER, MODERATOR) _____

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT _____

LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES _____

OTHER ACTIVITIES _____

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL SUBMITTING NOMINATION _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

NOMINATOR: PLEASE BRIEFLY SUMMARIZE THE REASONS WHY YOU BELIEVE YOUR NOMINEE SHOULD BE SELECTED AS THE 2017 MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR. _____

Use time between sessions to build relationships with legislators

By Chad Gallagher

As you receive this edition of *City & Town*, the Arkansas General Assembly will have just completed its work for this year's legislative session. This session was one of the most interesting sessions I've ever been a part of during my years around the Capitol. The political makeup was certainly historic, with such large Republican majorities in both chambers, but this only created new political realities. Many of the battle lines were not along party lines at all. The session tackled major issues ranging from taxes, highways, tort reform, alcohol sales, and much more. One thing is sure: This assembly did not shy away from the complex issues of the day.

When you reflect on the session as a whole and the serious task given to citizen legislators, it is rather impressive that Arkansans from all over the state can come together and, in a relatively brief span of time, consider important bills, hear testimony, make concessions, debate with passion, and ultimately pass or defeat major legislation. In this session, more than any other, I was struck with the keen awareness of how important it is to elect thoughtful public servants to the General Assembly, because the responsibility they have is not only significant but genuinely impacts our daily lives as Arkansans in so many ways.

This General Assembly considered an extraordinary number of issues that impact municipal government. Issues such as Internet sales tax collections, discounts for retail tax collectors, regulations on planning distances, term limits, water systems, permits, election dates, and much more went before legislators. I was honored to be part of the League's legislative advocacy team, who worked tirelessly every single day of the session. This work is done in committee hearings, through one-on-one meetings with members, and involves countless hours of behind-the-scenes work researching, drafting amendments to offer, and reviewing the language of bills that could help or harm municipalities.

The League worked hard to protect home rule—a city or town's right to govern itself and make its decisions at the local level. This was the ever-guiding principle at every turn. The staff also advocated tirelessly for the specific pieces of legislation adopted by the

members in the League's legislative package. Beyond this, each piece of legislation submitted was monitored and reviewed for its impact upon municipalities, and if a negative impact was discovered, the team went straight to work. Like any group, the League had victories and losses in the session but overall did a very excellent job in representing its members.

One of the most effective tools utilized to help the legislative team was the good work done at home by our members. Calls, texts, and emails from mayors, clerks, and council members to legislators made all the difference in the world on key votes. Having city officials in the Capitol to testify about a bill adds important gravitas and influence on legislation.

Now that the session is over the work must continue at the local level. Here are a few things you can do:

- Review the list of bills impacting municipalities, which were passed or defeated.
- Talk with your legislators about these bills and how they will directly impact your city.
- Stay in close contact with your legislator between sessions to build a strong rapport and have a key advocate for your city.
- Partner with your legislator for help in securing state and federal grants and projects.
- Keep your fellow officials and community members aware of the impacts of new legislation.

Before we know it, another legislative session will be here. Between now and then we must live with the laws that were passed this time and the consequences of those that were not. In addition, the interim is our opportunity to strengthen legislative relationships and ensure municipal government is empowered, never hindered in serving the people at the level of government closest to them.



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.

FAIRS & FESTIVALS

April 14-15

14th StarDaze Festival
Star City

(870) 628-4204; www.stardazefestival.com

April 21-22

36th Fordyce on the Cottonbelt Festival
Fordyce

(870) 352-3107; www.fordyceonthecotton.com

16th Twin Rivers Festival
McNab

(870) 896-2281

13th Fourche River Days
Perryville

(501) 889-3466; www.fourcheriverdays.com

April 22

3rd BayFest
Fairfield Bay

(501) 884-6012

April 28-29

30th Springfest
Heber Springs

(870) 834-11437; www.heber-springs.com

April 28-30

43rd Dogwood Festival
Siloam Springs

(479) 524-6466; www.siloamchamber.com

April 29

3rd Youth Literature Festival
Bentonville

(479) 271-6816; www.bentonvillelibrary.org

May 5-6

Downtown Crawfest
Arkadelphia

(870) 246-1460;
www.arkadelphiaevents.com/crawfest

May 5-7

35th Toad Suck Daze
Conway

(501) 327-7788; www.toadsuck.org

May 6

16th Cotter Trout Festival
Cotter

(870) 321-1243; www.cottergassville.com

47th World Famous Armadillo Festival
Hamburg

(870) 853-8345

May 12-13

28th Free State of Yell Fest
Dardanelle

(479) 229-3328; www.dardanellechamber.com

Railfest
Texarkana

(501) 779-4943

May 13

Mayfest
Blytheville

(870) 763-2525; www.mainstreetblytheville.com

20th Festival on the Ridge
Harrisburg

(870) 91-2790

Dogwood Days Festival
Horseshoe Bend

(870) 670-5433; www.horseshoebend.org

MEETING CALENDAR

April 19

Planning & Zoning Workshop
(5 continuing education hours)

League headquarters
North Little Rock, Arkansas

June 14-16

Arkansas Municipal League's 83rd Convention

Statehouse Convention Center
Little Rock, Arkansas

Nov 15-18

National League of Cities
City Summit 2017

Charlotte, NC

MUNICIPAL MART

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

CHIEF OF POLICE—The City of Van Buren is currently seeking a Police Chief to direct its Police Department and continue to advance its strong commitment to community engagement and community policing. The Police Department has a budgeted staff of 45 sworn officers and 13 non-sworn employees. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, budget management (current budget \$4.3 million), formulating and enforcing departmental policies, rules, regulations and procedures. The ideal candidate will have strong leadership and supervisory skills, excellent oral and written communication skills, and will enjoy being part of a local government team striving to serve the citizens of the community. Requirements: Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, Public Administration or related field, as well as extensive, progressively responsible administrative and supervisory experience in law enforcement. An equivalent combination of education and experience may substitute for the specific requirements listed here. For a complete job description and application, access www.vanburencity.org. Completed applications with cover letter and resume to be mailed to Bob Freeman, Mayor, City of Van Buren, 1003 Broadway, Van Buren, AR 72956 or emailed to jfroud@vanburencity.org.

CITY ATTORNEY—The City of Republic, Mo., seeks a City Attorney. This position answers inquiries from the City Administrator and Department Heads on legal issues pertaining to City operations. Performs legal research and prepare opinions on various legal problems for City Board of Directors, Boards and Commissions, and City Departments. Studies, interprets and applies laws, court decisions, ordinances, and other legal sources in advising officers and employees of the City in legal matters. Prepares and drafts ordinances, resolutions, administrative policies, letters, contracts, deeds, leases, and other legal documents and instruments; review such documents and offer opinions as to legal acceptability when presented to the City for consideration. Represents the City and its officers and employees in litigation including motions, trial of cases and appeals in civil actions brought by or against the City in state and federal court. Applicant must successfully complete background investigation and pre-employment substance abuse testing and may be subject to random substance abuse testing. Pay Range: \$85,000-\$95,000 DOQ. Open until filled. Application and complete job description available at www.republicmo.com. Application must be completed and submitted to HR, City Hall, 213 N. Main, Republic, MO 65738 by the specified deadline. EOE.

CITY ENGINEER—The City of Cabot is accepting applications for a newly created position of City Engineer. This position will be salaried exempt and will be appointed by and report directly to the Mayor. This person will be responsible for the entire Planning and Development Department which consists of engineering, code enforcement, permitting and planning, MS4 compliance, floodplain management, and other areas. Degree in the engineering field or equivalent technical degree required; BSCE desired. A minimum of five years of progressively responsible experience in managing a professional engineering function. Pay range is \$70,000 to \$80,000 depending on experience, with full benefits including APERS. Application and complete job description at www.cabotar.gov. Please go to website to officially apply. This position will be open until filled. EOE.

CITY PLANNER—The City of Sherwood is seeking qualified applicants for the position of City Planner. The essential duties of this position include the following: plans, organizes, directs and integrates current and long-range municipal planning programs and services; supervises and manages all building inspection staff as well as permits office staff; conducts comprehensive planning projects affecting land use, regulations, and transportation issues; meets with public, developers, and other planning agencies to discuss regulations; attends Planning Commission meetings, City Council meetings and other forums as assigned; and partners with the Sherwood Chamber of Commerce and other city department to facilitate city growth. Successful candidate must possess a Baccalaureate Degree in planning, design or a similar related field of study and have five years direct experience in municipal, urban, or regional planning. Applicant must also possess AICP certification and maintain such throughout employment. Certification as a Floodplain Manager is essential and must be obtained within six months of initial employment date. Salary is negotiable and DOE. The City of Sherwood provides full time employees with a generous benefit program. All new employees are required to contribute 3% of gross salary to the 457(b) Retirement Plan. For more information and a full job description, visit www.cityofsherwood.net or contact the Human Resources office at (501) 833-3703.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE—The city of Republic, Mo., seeks a Director of Finance. The new director will need to be visionary and a self-starter to address the following in the 18 months: Evaluate, adjust and provide action plan(s), think outside the box building solid fiscal processes and direction; establish vision and leadership to the finance and utility billing department; work with a new auditing firm; work towards relationships, processes (internal controls) and trust; and participate in replacing the city's operating software. Pay Range: \$62,500-\$80,000 Annually DOQ (Re-evaluation in 6 months for further consideration). Applicant must successfully complete background investigation and pre-employment substance abuse testing and may be subject to random substance abuse testing. Application and complete job description available at www.republicmo.com. Application must be completed and submitted to HR, City Hall, 213 N. Main, Republic, MO 65738. Open until filled. Current city employees must complete city application for consideration. EOE.

ELECTRICAL LINEMAN—The City of Nixa, Mo., has an opening for Electrical Lineworker. Under general supervision of the Electric Superintendent, Electric Department performs a variety of skilled, journey level electrical installation, maintenance, and repair activities on electrical high voltage overhead and underground transmission, distribution, and service lines. For a complete job description, please visit our website at www.nixa.com. Must possess HS diploma or GED. Possess valid State of Missouri certification for journey level electrical work or level of experience equivalent. Possess valid State of Missouri CDL-B driver's license at a level appropriate to the equipment operated. Starting Salary: \$30.50 per hour. If interested in applying, please visit our website: www.nixa.com or come by the City of Nixa Human Resources office, located at 715 W. Mt. Vernon St., Nixa, Mo., to fill out an application. You may also call (417) 724-5626 for more information.

IT DIRECTOR—Harrison is accepting resumes for an Information Technology Director. Responsible for the development, management, security and maintenance of the city information systems including but not limited to: city-wide network operations, website management, telecommunications, PC technical support, and systems design, development, and maintenance. For complete job description and qualifications, see Employment tab on website: www.cityofharrison.com. Send resumes to: P.O. Box 1715, Harrison, AR 72602; or email hr@cityofharrison.com.

PARKS MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR—Leawood, Kan., seeks a Parks Maintenance Supervisor (Turf Maintenance). Starting Rate of Pay: \$26.45/hour to \$30.42/hour DOQ (This is a benefits eligible non-exempt position.) Closing Date: Friday, April 21 at 4 p.m. The Turf Maintenance Supervisor plans, directs and supervises athletic field maintenance, sport court maintenance, lawn maintenance and playground maintenance at all city-owned parks and public grounds. The Turf Maintenance Supervisor is in charge of training the assigned personnel in safety, proper equipment use and general work procedures. This position requires independent decision making with occasional review and guidance. Must have an bachelor's degree in turf management, sports field management, park management or closely related field with two years of relevant work experience; or associate's degree in turf management, sports field management, park management, or closely related field with four years of relevant work experience OR six years of work experience in turf management, sports field management, park management or closely related field. Two years of supervisory experience required. Must have or be able to obtain a State Board of Agriculture Pesticide Application Certification in turf and ornamental pest control within one year of hire. Must have or be able to obtain a Certified Playground Safety Inspector's (CPSI) certification within one year of hire. Must be proficient in Microsoft Outlook, Word, and Excel. Applicants will be required to submit an online employment application along with a resume and cover letter at ks-leawood.civicplushrms.com/careers/.

PATROL OFFICER—The Lewisville Police Department is accepting applications for the position of Patrol Officer. Application packets may be picked up at City Hall at 330 West 1st Street in Lewisville. Contact Misty at (870) 921-4971. Starting Salary dependent on qualifications and experience. Preference may be given to certified officers.

WATER SUPPLY OPERATOR—Forrest City Water Utility seeks a water supply operator. Position is responsible for the operation of the water treatment plant, storage tanks and distribution pumping and metering on an assigned shift. Knowledge, skills and abilities required: Ability to read, write and perform mathematical calculations for required records and laboratory test; ability to perform required laboratory tests; ability to read charts and meters; ability to read and interpret equipment operation and maintenance manuals; ability to write plainly for record keeping; ability to lift and move 60 pounds sacks, move up and down ladders, & pass through a 24-inch manhole ring; ability to work in inclement weather; ability to use SCBA respirators. Other qualifications: Must maintain a Utility issued cellphone and subject to call 24-hours a day, 365 days a year; must have and maintain a valid Arkansas DL and be insurable with the Utility's insurance; must be willing to work overtime when needed; must maintain residence within a 15 mile radius of Forrest City. Special qualifications: Must have and maintain a Class IV Water Treatment License, a Class IV Distribution License or a combination of experience and education to provide the required level of knowledge and abilities. Must pass the Treatment and Distribution test within 18 months of hire or assuming the position. For more information contact Forrest City Water Utility at (870) 633-2921 or (870) 270-5017.

FOR SALE—The City of McNeil Fire Department has a 71' Ford Pumper, 750 for sale for \$3,000 and a 79' Chevy Pumper for \$4,500. For more information contact Fire Chief Bo Huffman AT (870) 904-0198 or Assistant Fire Chief, Terry Price at (870) 904-2304.

FOR SALE—Rison has for sale a 2008 Dodge Durango with 152,370 miles. Good shape. Used as a police patrol unit. KBB values the vehicle at \$4,224, will work with another city on price. Contact: Mayor Vernon Dollar at judgovern2003@yahoo.com or call (870) 814-8775. We would like to sell this vehicle to another department that needs a vehicle.



2017 State Turnback Funds

Actual Totals Per Capita						
MONTH	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
January	\$5.0284	\$5.3276	\$0.2297	\$0.3041	\$2.1382	\$2.1473
February	\$5.1992	\$5.5378	\$0.1524	\$0.1894	\$1.0775	\$1.0884
March	\$4.6255	\$4.7222	\$0.1655	\$0.3450	\$1.0778	\$1.0886
April	\$5.5340		\$0.2342		\$1.0777	
May	\$5.4590		\$0.0745		\$1.0773	
June	\$5.2768		\$0.0968		\$1.0778	
July	\$5.6734		\$0.0987		\$2.8803	
August	\$5.0337		\$0.1292		\$1.2006	
September	\$5.3389		\$0.1482		\$1.0906	
October	\$5.5217		\$0.2562		\$1.0896	
November	\$5.3393		\$0.2306		\$1.0881	
December	\$4.9184		\$0.2078		\$1.0884	
Total Year	\$62.9483	\$15.5877	\$2.0238	\$0.8385	\$15.9639	\$4.3243

Actual Totals Per Month						
MONTH	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
January	\$9,482,577.19	\$10,065,525.00	\$433,179.54	\$574,575.98	* \$4,032,277.00	*\$4,056,819.92
February	\$9,804,689.33	\$10,462,690.50	\$287,481.18	\$357,751.63	\$2,031,997.39	\$2,056,417.62
March	\$8,722,769.73	\$8,921,686.11	\$312,010.76	\$651,783.55	\$2,032,596.84	\$2,056,718.50
April	\$10,436,025.60		\$441,661.71		\$2,032,297.66	
May	\$10,294,480.80		\$140,536.93		\$2,031,495.51	
June	\$9,950,873.55		\$182,493.78		\$2,032,597.66	
July	\$10,698,830.40		\$186,206.19		** \$5,431,589.73	
August	\$9,492,433.07		\$243,594.47		\$2,264,157.25	
September	\$10,068,067.87		\$279,548.09		\$2,056,681.01	
October	\$10,421,889.30		\$483,529.74		\$2,056,531.47	
November	\$10,087,659.40		\$435,692.77		\$2,055,823.30	
December	\$9,292,326.92		\$392,523.22		\$2,056,318.09	
Total Year	\$118,752,623.16	\$29,449,901.61	\$3,818,458.38	\$1,584,111.16	\$30,114,362.91	\$8,169,956.04

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

** 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

Sales and Use Tax Year-to-Date 2017 with 2016 Comparison (shaded gray)								
Month	Municipal Tax		County Tax		Total Tax		Interest	
January	\$51,749,675	\$49,037,009	\$46,139,133	\$43,720,229	\$97,888,807	\$92,757,238	\$15,903	\$15,812
February	\$60,007,416	\$59,477,239	\$52,583,090	\$51,693,904	\$112,590,506	\$111,171,143	\$17,386	\$20,455
March	\$48,225,282	\$45,484,389	\$42,723,485	\$41,503,958	\$90,948,767	\$86,988,347	\$18,863	\$17,357
April		\$51,278,433		\$46,543,122		\$97,821,554		\$19,032
May		\$51,716,750		\$46,509,945		\$98,226,695		\$16,799
June		\$48,045,270		\$42,836,823		\$90,882,093		\$17,947
July		\$52,527,961		\$47,321,806		\$99,849,766		\$17,750
August		\$52,254,925		\$47,594,177		\$99,849,102		\$17,169
September		\$53,746,167		\$49,430,573		\$103,176,740		\$18,913
October		\$52,105,594		\$47,384,899		\$99,490,493		\$17,666
November		\$53,632,182		\$48,831,434		\$102,463,617		\$17,523
December		\$51,969,068		\$46,917,820		\$98,886,888		\$17,198
Total	\$159,982,373	\$621,274,986	\$141,445,707	\$560,288,690	\$301,428,080	\$1,181,563,676	\$52,153	\$213,621
Averages	\$53,327,458	\$51,772,916	\$47,148,569	\$46,690,724	\$100,476,027	\$98,463,640	\$17,384	\$17,802

Northwest Arkansas 22nd fastest-growing U.S. metro areas

Northwest Arkansas was the 22nd-fastest-growing metropolitan area in the country last year, according to population estimates released in March by the U.S. Census Bureau, the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* has reported. Between 2015 and 2016, the estimated population of the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers metropolitan statistical area increased by 11,583—or 2.3 percent—from 513,449 to 525,032, according to the Census Bureau. The metropolitan area has seen a 12.8 percent increase in population since 2010.

The Northwest Arkansas metropolitan area includes Benton, Madison and Washington counties in Arkansas and McDonald County in Missouri.

The rankings are based on percentage growth. Northwest Arkansas ranked No. 25 the previous year.

The three fastest-growing metropolitan areas in the nation were The Villages, Fla., with a 4.3 percent increase; Myrtle Beach-Conway-North Myrtle Beach, S.C.-N.C., with a 3.9 percent increase; and Bend-Redmond, Ore., with a 3.6 percent increase.

Within Arkansas

Seven of Arkansas's eight metropolitan areas grew in population from 2015 to 2016, but not by as much as Northwest Arkansas.

The Jonesboro metropolitan area was second in Arkansas and 105th nationwide with an increase of 1.1 percent. Since 2010, Jonesboro has seen a 7.1 percent increase in population. The Jonesboro metropolitan area includes Craighead and Poinsett counties.

The Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway metropolitan area was third in Arkansas and 213th nationwide with an increase of 0.4 percent from 731,542 to 734,622. Since 2010, the Little Rock metropolitan area has had an increase in population of 4.6 percent. The Little Rock metropolitan area includes Faulkner, Grant, Lonoke, Perry, Pulaski and Saline counties.

The Pine Bluff metropolitan area was the only one in Arkansas to have a decrease of population between 2015 and 2016. The estimated population of the metropolitan area dropped by 2.1 percent during that time. Since 2010, the Pine Bluff metropolitan area has had an 8.1 percent decrease in population. The Pine Bluff metropolitan area includes Cleveland, Jefferson and Lincoln counties.

IIMC announces 48th Municipal Clerks Week

The International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC), a professional nonprofit association with 10,000 members comprised of city, town, township, village, borough, deputy and county clerks throughout the United States, Canada, and 15 other countries, announces its 48th annual Municipal Clerks Week, May 7 through May 13. This event features a weeklong series of activities aimed at increasing the public's awareness of municipal clerks and the vital services they provide for local government and the community.

IIMC has sponsored Municipal Clerks Week since 1969. In 1984 and 1994, Presidents Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton, respectively, signed a proclamation officially declaring Municipal Clerks Week the first full week of May and recognizing the essential role municipal clerks play in local government. During this week, municipal clerks throughout the world will host open houses and tours of municipal clerk's offices, visit local schools, and participate in various other events.

To learn about ways to participate, visit the IIMC online at www.iimc.com.



Obituaries

DR. PERRY W. BROWN, 88, a Morrilton alderman from 1998-2002, died March 26.

JIM CLINKINGBEARD, 89, a former Calico Rock alderman, died March 12.

BRUCE FOUTCH, 63, a North Little Rock alderman from 2011-2016, died March 29.

FRANK GATLIN, 86, a Paragould alderman who served from 1979-2002, died March 17.

BOBBY HALE, 52, former Shannon Hills police chief, died March 8.

SHARRON JOY, 69, a Paragould alderman who served from 1999-2013, died March 23.

JAMES EDGAR MURPHY, 65, North Little Rock fire chief from 2014-2017, died March 18.

JAMES "BUBBA" PRESCOTT JR., 60, a Norfolk volunteer fireman and former alderman, died March 29.



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