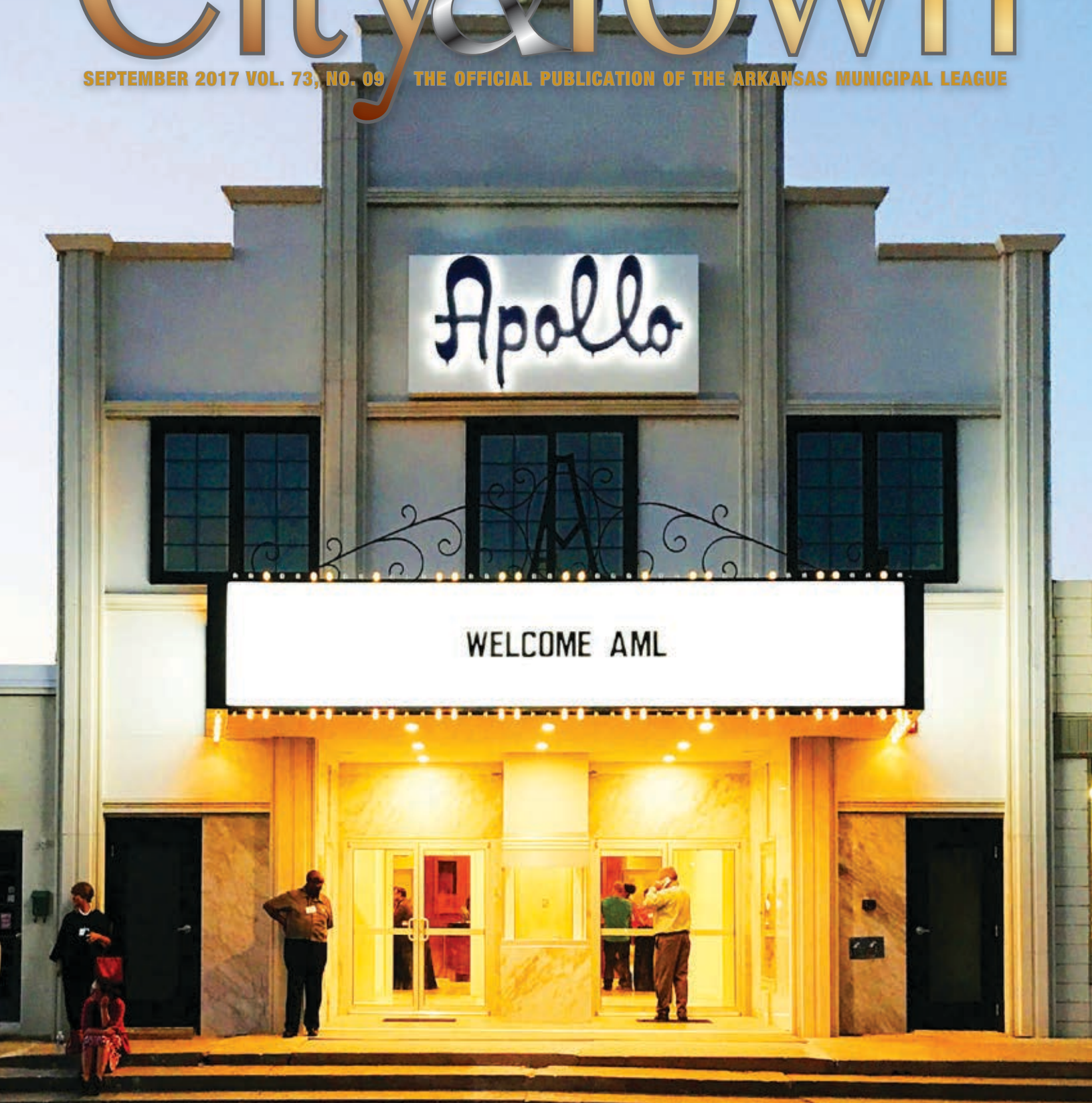


# City & Town

SEPTEMBER 2017 VOL. 73, NO. 09 THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

Apollo

WELCOME AML



# *How do you think new money becomes old money?*



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Cover photo by Ken Wasson.



**ON THE COVER**—The newly refurbished Apollo Theater in Springdale is a gem in historic downtown. The city and Mayor Doug Sprouse, the League’s new president, welcomed League leadership for the annual planning meeting in August. Read about the agenda and about our direction for the year inside beginning on page 6. Read also about League District 1 Vice President and Mountain Home Mayor Joe Dillard, and a primer on the new medical marijuana law in Arkansas. And it’s time to start planning for 2018’s Winter Conference. See page 18 for registration and hotel information.

## Features

**6 League leadership puts priorities in motion**  
The League’s executive committee, committees, and boards met Aug. 22-24 in Springdale for the annual planning meeting, where they charted the path ahead for the League’s agenda.

**10 Mountain Home’s Dillard keeps city moving forward**  
Mountain Home Mayor Joe Dillard, the League’s 2017-2018 District 1 vice president, helps his city grow while working to maintain the natural beauty that continues to draw people to the area.

**14 Executive Director releases budget information**  
The League’s Executive Director has released his annual budget information letter, which details the service charges, optional program rates, and turnback estimates for the coming year to help cities and towns budget appropriately.

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Friends,

I want to sincerely thank those of you who joined me in Springdale for the annual planning meeting. Not only did we get much accomplished, but it was truly a pleasure to share my beautiful community with you. If you were not able to join us, I thank you for your continued support as we lay the groundwork for our initiatives this year. We can build upon our agenda by taking the steps in our own communities to bring people together and take advantage of opportunities for professional growth.



Every day in Springdale brings with it new challenges and opportunities to grow and improve. In the past few weeks, I have taken additional steps to enhance the already strong relationship the city has with our residents. My office started a "conversation" series for the purpose of improving communication between residents and the city. Through this series, each month I will visit with members of religious and secular organizations around Springdale to answer questions and share new developments with those who live, work, and play in our community. Our first event in August was a great success, and I am eager for the next event in September.

I know many mayors around the state have similar programs in place to engage with residents. I sincerely believe you cannot successfully govern without the input and consideration of your community. I hope those of you who do not currently have such a program in place will consider starting one in your city.

Although I am in my third term as mayor, I continue to seek new tools, ideas, and best practices to maximize the quality of work I do for my city. I am thankful that the League has many resources to help us continue to improve our work as public servants.

Please take some time and check out the meetings calendar for 2017-2018 that is now available on the League's website. I encourage all municipal officials and those who work in government finance to attend the Finance and Budgeting workshop on Sept. 20. You can register online at [www.arml.org](http://www.arml.org). There, you can also register to attend the 2018 Winter Conference, Jan. 10-12 in Fort Smith. Registration opens Sept. 15. If you're traveling from out of town, please note that hotel room blocks open at 8 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 15.

This next year is going to be critical, as we work on the initiatives that we know will improve the lives of our residents and allow our communities to continue to flourish. Your work with the League will be vital as we implement these initiatives. Thank you for your hard work, and thank you for your commitment to public service.

Sincerely,

Doug Sprouse  
Mayor, Springdale  
President, Arkansas Municipal League

# ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE OFFICERS

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

# Leadership routes League's priorities for coming year

By Whitnee V. Bullerwell, League staff



Mayor Sprouse is an honorary member of the Arkansas Naturals baseball team.

Springdale served as host city for the League's 2017-2018 Planning Meeting, Aug. 22-24. League President and Springdale Mayor Doug Sprouse, along with his administration, did a fantastic job showcasing all that Arkansas's fourth largest city has to offer.

In the August issue of *City & Town*, you read about Sprouse and all the progress and revitalization taking place in Springdale. At the time readers received the August issue, many projects were under construction, replete with scaffolding high above the ground and concrete trucks peppering the downtown area. Returning just one month later, the scaffolding and trucks are gone and many projects are complete and shiny as a new copper penny. As you see on the cover of this month's issue, one of the largest projects completed just an hour before municipal officials arrived for a reception, is the amazing Apollo Theater that's been brought back to life. Did we mention that Springdale's motto is "We're Making It Happen?" A very fitting motto, we believe. A city walking the walk and talking the talk—well that's nothing shy of outstanding. Way to go, Springdale!

In between business meetings, Springdale treated League members and staff to an array of fun-filled activities hosted at venues so great that we are sure members won't forget the experience and will return to the host city on their personal time. Planning meeting

participants took in an Arkansas Naturals ballgame at Arvest Ballpark. The weather was perfect and the ballpark is impressive, but most of all it was the attitudes and the spirit of the ballpark staff that stood out—they were incredible. Engaging, hospitable, gracious, and excited are a few words that accurately depict their attitude and energy. It was contagious, and you can tell they are very proud of their hometown and all that it offers.

Springdale has experienced a 130 percent growth in population based on figures of the 1990 and 2010 censuses, but the city feels and lives like a small, closely-knit hometown. That's no small feat and is largely due to Mayor Sprouse's leadership over the last 10 years.

The last evening of the Planning Meeting was spent having dinner at Fairlane Station and dessert at the Apollo Theater in downtown Springdale. Attendees thoroughly enjoyed Fairlane Station, an event venue with outstanding interior and exterior design. The décor is considered modern industrial with an antique charm and was very carefully executed. Created in downtown Springdale, this venue was purposefully planned to be a blank canvas. Doing so, folks that rent the space can truly personalize their events. If you ask folks in attendance, Fairlane Station looks better than event venues



Turnbow Park, downtown Springdale.



From left, Mayor Sprouse and his wife, Sandy, with Rep. Robin Lundstrum, co-owner of the Apollo Theater.

featured on HGTV—that’s saying something. Just down Emma Avenue, dessert was served at the recently refurbished Apollo Theater. Built in 1945 and closed for business in the 1970s, the theater was in disrepair. Fast forward to 2014, when two of Springdale’s citizens purchased the building in order to preserve a huge part of Springdale’s history. As of today, the Apollo is now the premier location for events of all types in downtown.



Getting to the business of the Planning Meeting, much was discussed, voted on and charted as a priority for this year. For information on the League service charge, fees associated with the League’s programs, turnback estimates, and the latest APERS multiplier, refer to the Executive Director’s budget information memo in this issue on "Executive Director’s Budget Memo" on page 14.

Changes were made regarding certain League programs. Members of the Investment Committee heard from League Finance Director Cindy Frizzell and the League’s money managers. Per Frizzell, “The second quarter of this year was great but may make for a stale third quarter.” The League’s portfolio performed well overall, however there were a few portions that performed below benchmark. Ellis Sloan of APEX Wealth Management reported the Arkansas Index was a bit off this year, due in large part to the success of tech and healthcare stocks and the less-than-stellar performance of stocks related to consumerism and transportation. According to Sloan, “Overall, while this last year has been rough, the Arkansas Index has done well in the long term.” Committee members discussed implementing a more active investment strategy that could include a stop-loss provision, meaning if a stock in the Arkansas Index performs poorly for a long enough period, that stock can be sold and the money reinvested into a better performing stock.



Mayor Sprouse welcomes attendees to Fairlane Station.

Overall, the League’s benefit programs are in good shape. There have been some larger claims coming out of each of the programs over the last couple of years. The Municipal Legal Defense Program (MLDP) Steering Committee met, discussed and voted to implement a rate formula change for 2018. For member cities and limited service members participating in the MLDP program, the committee voted to eliminate the \$1.00 tier for members with zero loss ratio. That figure has now changed to a \$1.25 tier. Cities with a loss ratio of 300 percent will now be reduced to a \$6.50 tier as opposed to last year’s \$7.00 tier. And if a city’s loss ratio is 300 percent with active case(s) pending, the tier will now be reduced to a \$7.00 tier as opposed to last year’s \$8.00 tier. Currently, the MLDP is on track to either meet or exceed the number of legal cases handled in 2016. In addition to changes in the MLDP tiers, reserves on cases have been increased. Beginning in 2018, reserves on cases involving liability will move from \$100,000 to \$150,000. Reserves on cases involving defense only will move from \$30,000 to \$50,000.



PHOTOS BY AML STAFF.

From left, Crossett Mayor Scott McCormick and Stephens Mayor Harry Brown chat through the historic theater’s box office window.



Mulberry Mayor Gary Baxter and his wife, Kay, enjoy the game and perfect weather at Arvest Ballpark.



The interior of the refurbished Apollo Theater is welcoming.

The League's Municipal Vehicle Program (MVP) is operating in an efficient manner. In addition to covering cities and towns of Arkansas, this program offers coverage to 125 limited service members across the state. The MVP Committee met and voted to adjust costs to the program participants. Costs for Part I coverage is related to the members' rate class. As of now, if a member's cumulative loss experience exceeds a class 10, which is the highest class, Part I rates can exceed \$300/unit if at-fault drivers fail to participate in the program's Driver Improvement Training Class within 12 months of the accident. MVP continues to offer \$100/unit for Part I coverage, just as it did when the program was created many years ago. Rates for limited service members are slightly different than rates for member cities and towns.

The Municipal Property Program (MPP) Committee met to discuss the overall workings of the program. According to League Executive Director Don Zimmerman, the MPP has experienced a high number of claims that are weather related. To stabilize and strengthen the program, Zimmerman proposed to the Committee a solid solution involving the League's Reserve Fund Policy, known as "AML RE." The proposal would not only help the Municipal Property Program but would help the Municipal Vehicle Program. The Committee reviewed the policy of the League's Reserve Fund, which provides aggregate supplemental reserves to support and pay claims for a League program in the event resources aren't sufficient to cover outstanding claims. Zimmerman recommended to the Committee that AML RE funds be used to reimburse Municipal



Stephens Mayor and Immediate Past President Harry Brown, left, chairs the Investment Committee meeting.

Property and Vehicle Programs for reinsurance premiums. The proposal was put before the Executive Committee and they voted in favor of using the fund to reimburse League Benefit Programs that may need assistance. And for the MPP members, the Committee voted to add Boiler and Machinery coverage at no additional cost.

The Municipal League Workers' Compensation Trust held its meeting during this time, also. For the second year in a row, the Arkansas Workers' Compensation Commission has set rates at a reduced level. This year's reduction is about 10 percent. Board members were made aware of the change this year regarding the procedure for premium billing. Billing will now be based on actual payroll as opposed to payroll projections. The MLWCT discount and credit policy offers a three percent discount to all participants of this program with a cumulative loss ratio of 100 percent or less.



Jacksonville Council Member Reddie Ray marks his hometown on the map of attendees.

The Municipal Health Benefit Fund (MHBF) Trust held its meeting the last morning of the Planning Meeting. Mr. Jody Carreiro of the actuarial firm Osborn & Carreiro gave an OPEB report to the Trustees. The MHBF will be operating under a new set of GASB rules next year. Carreiro has calculated how much it costs the MHBF to allow retirees to purchase health coverage through the Fund. Currently, OPEB cost for the total fund is about five percent of expected individual premium. Moving forward, GASB 74 and 75 will move the liability to the front of the comprehensive annual report and will likely increase liability due to lower discount rates. The MHBF Booklet has undergone a full legal review and will be available toward the end of 2017.

Overall, MHBF rates have gone unchanged, which is rare in this day and time for healthcare. There has been a change in specialty drug pricing that will affect MHBF members. The copayment will increase from \$50 to \$100 for specialty drugs costing the Fund up to \$1,000. The



copayment will increase from \$100 to \$200 for specialty drugs costing the Fund over \$1,000.

The Executive Committee met and voted to continue the membership agreement with National League of Cities (NLC), whereby each city and town in Arkansas is a member of NLC. For over 20 years, Arkansas was the only state league to pay direct membership for all its cities and towns. In the last few years, two other state leagues have jumped on board with that same NLC membership agreement—Virginia and West Virginia.

Discussion ensued on Marketplace Fairness and the resolution imploring Gov. Asa Hutchinson to call a special session to implement a process for Arkansas to collect Internet sales tax. Every city represented at the meeting has passed the resolution. To date, over 75 cities in Arkansas have voted to pass this important resolution. League President and Springdale Mayor Doug Sprouse restated the importance of the resolution and urged the officials present to visit with their neighboring cities to ensure they too pass the resolution.



The suites at Arvest Ballpark are plush and roomy.

Policies and Goals for 2017-2018 were reviewed. Sprouse's "big idea" as League President is to focus on public safety and work toward improving the working relationship among the League, its member cities, the Arkansas Association of Chiefs of Police (AACP), and the Arkansas Association of Fire Chiefs.

"We are dealing with issues of security like never before," Sprouse said. "We have in front of us an opportunity to work more closely with our police and fire associations."

Executive Director Zimmerman echoed Sprouse's comments.

"Mayor Sprouse has hit on something very important here," he said.

Fort Smith Vice Mayor Kevin Settle suggested the League work hard to include members of the police and fire associations in the training offered at the League's two largest meetings each year—January's Winter Conference and June's Annual Convention.

Along the lines of improving relations with the police and fire associations, Mayor Sprouse informed Executive Committee members that the AACP



League President and Springdale Mayor Doug Sprouse, center, chairs the Executive Committee meeting.

approached the League about leasing space inside League headquarters. A Memorandum of Understanding between the Association and the League has been agreed upon and signed. The Association's employees will not only have offices inside the League building but will have access to the League's meeting rooms to conduct official business and training for their association.

Executive Committee members were given a recap of the League's 83rd Convention. Video footage and interviews obtained during the three-day event have been airing across the state on a variety of news stations and local government channels. Thus far, coverage of the League's 83rd Convention has reached the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri, and Mississippi. To view all the coverage, visit the League's YouTube channel.

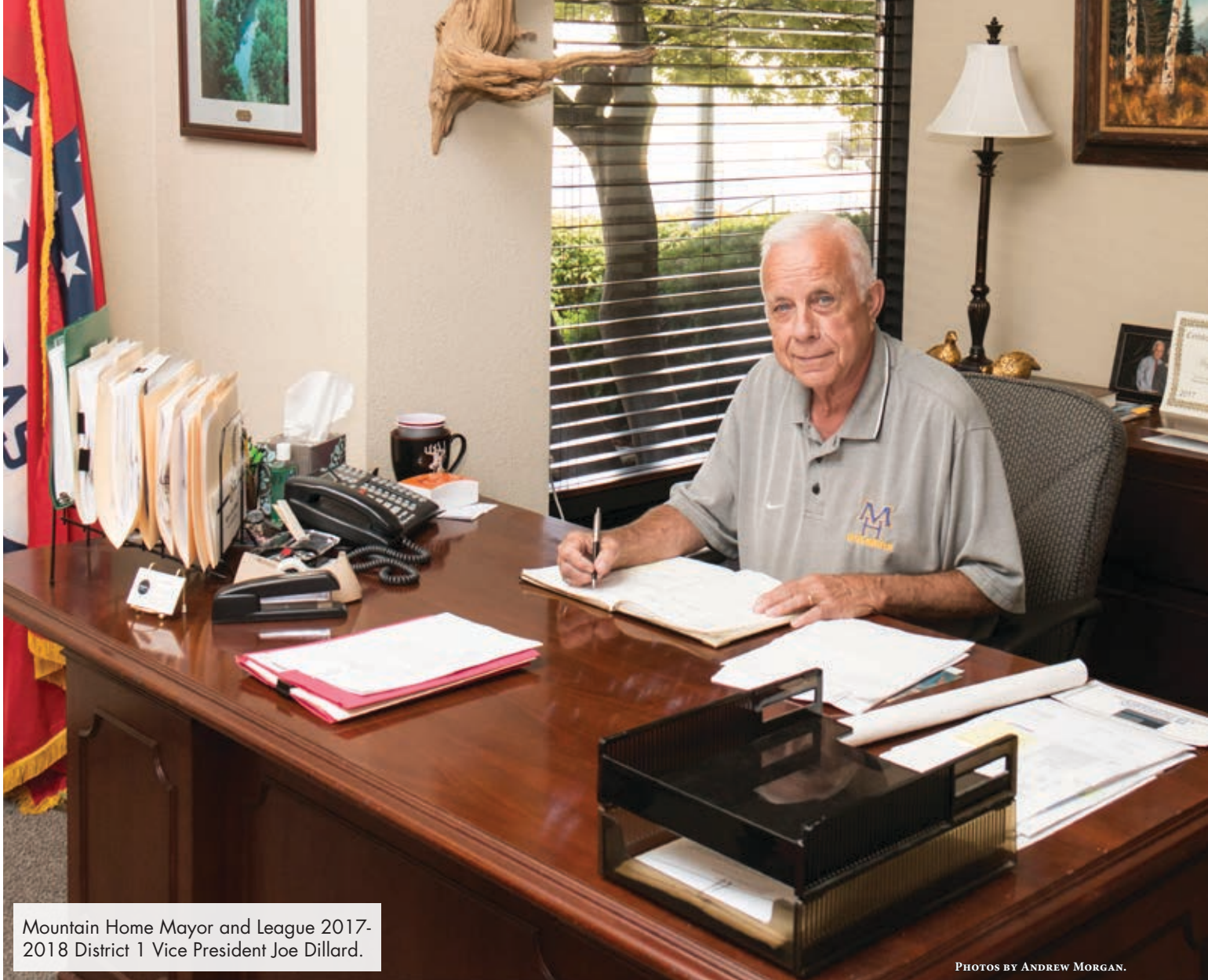
In other business, the League's leadership discussed the coming induction of Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola as president of the National League in November at the City Summit in Charlotte, N.C. Stodola's induction will be an historical event for Arkansas, as he is the first municipal official from our state to hold this position. Executive Committee members expressed the need for our state to send a

large delegation to the Charlotte meeting in support of the Little Rock mayor and of Arkansas. Stodola, who attended the meeting, spoke of how this was an extreme honor and privilege for him and assured his colleagues that he will be accepting the NLC Presidency on behalf of all cities and towns in Arkansas, not just Little Rock.



Mayor Brown dubbed himself Tyson's "Director of Quality Control."

Lastly, the future meetings calendar was reviewed and approved. The 2018 Winter Conference will be held Jan. 10-12 at the Fort Smith Convention Center in Fort Smith. Hotel room reservations and delegate registration will open at 8 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 15. To access the future meetings calendar, visit the League's website at [www.arml.org](http://www.arml.org). 



Mountain Home Mayor and League 2017-2018 District 1 Vice President Joe Dillard.

PHOTOS BY ANDREW MORGAN.

# Mountain Home mayor helps city grow while maintaining natural beauty

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

**M**ountain Home Mayor Joe Dillard, League 2017-2018 District 1 vice president, has witnessed his city go from quaint-but-struggling post-Depression Ozark town to regional hub with a population approaching 13,000. Located midway between Bull Shoals Lake and Norfolk Lake and just a few miles from the White and Buffalo rivers, Mountain Home is nestled in the southern reaches of the Ozark Mountains in Baxter County in north-central Arkansas.

Dillard was born in Baxter County but grew up in rural Marion County near the Buffalo River.

“It was a very, very small farm out in the county,” he says. “We had a milk cow and tried to kill a hog during the winter time. We ate a lot of squirrel and rabbit, and back then there was quail.”

He went to school for 12 years at nearby Yellville, which is where he met his wife, Mary Ann. They were married three days after graduation, and he went to work for the state at what was then the Department of Parks and Tourism. He served the department at the Buffalo River when it was still a state park in the years leading up to President Nixon signing the law making it the first national river in the United States.

In 1966 he enlisted for three years in the U.S. Army. After his service he and Mary Ann moved to Mountain Home in 1970. Over the next several years, Dillard and his wife, along with several other family members, ran two different restaurants, where they served up coffee, breakfasts, and blue-plate lunches for the city's blue-collar workers.

"We didn't make a lot of money, but we made a lot of friends," Dillard says of those years.

His intro to public service came in 1976, when he was elected to the school board. He was elected county judge in 1980 and served in that position until 1993, when Gov. Jim Guy Tucker appointed him to direct the state Office of Emergency Services, replacing James Lee Witt, who had left for Washington, D.C., to serve under President Clinton. He remained in that position for four years, serving under Tucker and then Gov. Huckabee.

He then turned his focus back to his hometown when, in 1997, Mountain Home's mayor left mid-term. Dillard ran in the special election and won. He served until 2002 and in 2003 he went to work for Rep. Marion Berry, who had an office in Mountain Home. When Berry retired in 2010, Dillard won a seat on the city



Growth has been slow but steady for the past three decades, and the city has striven to protect its natural beauty as it expands.

council and served from 2012-2013. He then ran for and was again elected mayor. And that brings us up to speed.

"You've gotta love it to do it, and I love dealing with people," Dillard says. "And I feel that city government is closest to the people, so it makes you feel good when you can do some things that you know are helping your people. And that's what it's all about."

As creations of the Legislature, city's exist essentially to provide services, he says, adding that Mountain Home provides some very good ones, with a hard working street department, excellent water and sewer, and police and fire protection. And as the city has grown in size and population, it has taken care to be protective of the region's natural beauty that draws folks to the area.

The area's beauty is one of the main reasons that Mountain Home has become a destination for retirees in recent decades. Another draw for retirees is the city's first-class hospital and the community of specialists and other medical services available, which has made it a hub in that part of the state.

While an estimated third of the population are retirees, young families are also choosing to call Mountain Home home. The housing market is surging, and the city is expanding its parks and recreation facilities to meet new demand.

The city recently hosted its first Little League World Series tournament, with teams in the 13-year-old



A vintage roadside motel sign is a reminder of Mountain Home's past as a quaint tourist destination in the Ozarks.



Medical device and supplies manufacturer Baxter employs about 1,600 workers at its Mountain Home facility.

division coming from nine different states/regions to play ball. The groundwork is being done now to add several more ball fields in the city.

“This is a baseball community here,” the mayor says. “It’s baseball, fishing, and garage sales. I don’t know in which order!”

The retail and restaurant scene continues to grow. The city’s largest employer, Baxter, which manufactures a broad range of medical products, has recently made a nearly \$100 million upgrade to their facility. ASU-Mountain Home is another major player in the local economy and a great supporter of the city, the mayor says. The public library, made possible by the Reynolds Foundation and local fundraising, is another wonderful community amenity.

It’s also a community of volunteers, and that’s evidenced by the rows of Volunteer Community of the Year plaques on the wall outside the mayor’s office.

“That’s the spirit you’ll find when you visit here and when you have conversations with people. They take pride,” Dillard says.

“Overall I see Mountain Home as a very positive city government, and we’ve got things out there that we want to improve on. That starts at the mayor’s office and works down. The finger points back at me on that.”

Looking to the future, the mayor would like to see more good jobs—high-paying and high-tech jobs—come to Mountain Home. And as the city grows, he wants to ensure that they keep the environment clean and the natural beauty intact.

The police and fire departments are both a bit understaffed at the moment, particularly since the city has grown via annexation in recent years and the need for expanded public safety services has grown with it. To that end, voters this month will decide on a 3/8-cent increase in the local sales tax to be dedicated to fire and

police. A portion will also go to fund code enforcement and animal control.

“Right now we’re still working on the tax that was implemented in ’81,” Dillard says.

Mountain Home was one of the very first cities in



ASU-Mountain Home offers two-year degrees with a strong emphasis on medical and technical career preparation.

the state to pass a one-cent sales tax, in fact. It’s served the city well, the mayor says, but as demand for services has grown, the need for revenue grows.

“We want to continue to upgrade so that we provide the very best services we can at the very lowest cost back to our taxpayers.”

# Clerks, recorders may now administer oaths of office



Clarksville City Clerk/Treasurer Barbara Blackard, left, administers the oath of office to Jacob Gould of the Clarksville Zoning Commission.

**W**ith the passage of Act 138 of 2017, Arkansas city clerks and recorders were granted authority to administer oaths of office. New officials around the state who were being appointed to boards and commissions for cities and towns often had a hard time receiving the oath of office as it was sometimes hard to locate a county or district judge, who may only be in the area a couple of days a month. City clerks and recorders are in city halls, which provide a convenient location for oaths to be administered and where the oaths are required to be kept by the clerk or recorder. 🏛️

## Van Buren hosts clerks workshop

**T**he District 3 Municipal Clerks Institute Workshop will be held Oct. 5-6 in Van Buren, the Institute has announced. The workshops give clerks the opportunity to network with other clerks from the area and across the state, discover new places within Arkansas, and gain valuable knowledge and skills related to the clerk's position.

Full participation in the education sessions will earn six hours of credit toward certification as an IIMC Certified Municipal Clerk and/or Arkansas Certified Municipal Clerk.

Lodging will be at the Holiday Inn Express, 1637 North 12th Court, Van Buren. Call (479) 471-7300 to make your reservation at the group rate.

Registration for Thursday and Friday is \$75 per person and includes dinner, lunch, refreshments, all program materials and instruction. Registration for Friday only is \$50 per person and includes refreshments, lunch, all program materials and instruction. Guests for Thursday's dinner will be \$25 each. 🏛️


# Municipal Notes

From the ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

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

August 29, 2017

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

**FROM: DON A. ZIMMERMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** 

**SUBJECT: BUDGET INFORMATION**

The new League governing bodies, which were elected at the Convention or appointed by Mayor Doug Sprouse, League President, met in Springdale last week. Several items considered will affect your budget preparations for 2018.

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

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

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

**Municipal Legal Defense Program.** The Steering Committee for the Municipal Legal Defense Program revised the current service charge formula for 2018. The 2018 charges will range from \$1.25 to \$7.00 per capita depending upon your municipality's loss experience. The optional drug & alcohol testing program for **non**-Commercial Drivers License (CDL) employees will continue to be available and can be implemented by increasing your MLDP charge by 20¢ per capita.

**Municipal Health Benefit Fund.** The Board of Trustees made some minor changes which will be effective January 1<sup>st</sup>. The 2018 booklets will be accessible online at [www.arml.org/benefit\\_programs](http://www.arml.org/benefit_programs). A Health Seminar will be held at League headquarters on October 13<sup>th</sup>. If you are not currently participating in the MHBF and would like to receive a proposal for comparative purposes, please advise.

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

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018 (same as 2017)</u>
Street Turnback -	\$65.50 per capita	\$65.50 per capita
General Turnback -	<u>\$15.50 per capita</u>	<u>\$15.50 per capita</u>
Total Turnback -	\$81.00 per capita	\$81.00 per capita

**APERS Cost.** For those municipalities participating in the Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System (APERS), the employer contribution has been tentatively set to increase from 14.75% to 15.32% effective July 1, 2018 subject to final ratification by the APERS Board in November.

We hope this information will be of assistance to you as you begin your budget preparations for 2018.

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# Arkansas Medical Marijuana 101

By Erika Gee

**A**fter years of public discussion in Arkansas about medical marijuana, in November 2016, 53 percent of the voters approved a constitutional amendment to legalize it, now known as Amendment 98. Since that time, the state has been working furiously to enact laws and rules to create an entirely new regulatory structure and determine how licenses will be awarded to medical marijuana businesses.

Amendment 98 legalizes the use of marijuana by patients who are certified by a physician to have one of 18 specific “qualifying” medical conditions, including cancer, Crohn’s disease, fibromyalgia, peripheral neuropathy, and intractable pain. It does not authorize growing marijuana at home, possession of marijuana by anyone who is not a registered as a qualifying patient or caregiver, or legalize the recreational use of marijuana.

Three state agencies will oversee different aspects of the industry: the Medical Marijuana Commission (MMC), which will issue licenses to dispensaries and cultivation facilities; the Department of Health (DOH), which will register patients and caregivers and oversee product testing standards; and the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (ABC), which has the broadest responsibilities, including security regulations, licensure of employees at dispensaries and cultivation facilities and overall enforcement.

Here’s a look at the basics of the law.

## Patients and caregivers

In order to become a qualifying patient, a patient over 18 must submit “written certification” from a physician establishing that the patient has a qualifying medical condition.

A common misconception is that physicians will prescribe or otherwise affirmatively recommend that a patient should use medical marijuana, which many physicians are uncomfortable or unwilling to do. But the certification requires only that a physician confirm that the patient has been diagnosed with a qualifying condition. Residents of other states may also qualify to obtain medical marijuana while visiting in Arkansas, if the visiting patient presents a medical marijuana patient registration card from another state.

All information regarding patients and caregivers is designated as confidential and cannot be released under the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act. This means that employers, landlords, and other interested parties will not be able to confirm whether an individual is registered as a qualifying patient. The other regulating agencies may access registry information, if necessary, and

the DOH is also authorized to verify registry status—but no more—to law enforcement personnel.

## Cultivation facilities

Amendment 98 authorizes up to eight cultivation facilities, which will serve as the primary source of all medical marijuana products in the state. The MMC has decided to initially license five cultivation facilities with the remaining three licenses held in reserve. The MMC is taking applications for the facility licenses; the deadline to submit an application is Sept. 18.

The facilities can be located anywhere in the state, so long as they are not within 3,000 feet of an existing public or private school, church, or daycare and they comply with local zoning, if any. They will have broad authority regarding the production of medical marijuana; they may cultivate, prepare, manufacture, process, package, sell, and deliver marijuana to a dispensary. In fact, the only aspect of the market in which the facilities cannot participate is the retail sale of medical marijuana.

The cultivation facilities will be chosen by the MMC based on its evaluation of a written application with extensive merit-based criteria. These criteria are intended to assess the applicant’s experience and resources to run a cultivation facility.

In order for their merit to be considered, applicants must first meet minimum requirements for residency, Arkansas ownership, and criminal, professional, and financial history, and prove that they have substantial financial assets. The full application, including the scoring rubric for the merit criteria, is available at [www.mmc.arkansas.gov](http://www.mmc.arkansas.gov).

The MMC is expected to begin evaluation of the applications at the beginning of October and to award the cultivation facility permits within a few months, perhaps before the end of 2017. In turn, medical marijuana will likely first become available to patients 3-6 months later, or in the spring/summer of 2018.

## Dispensaries

Amendment 98 authorizes up to 40 dispensaries, dispersed throughout the state in rough proximity to the location of qualifying patients.

The MMC has decided to initially license 32 dispensaries, with the remaining eight dispensary licenses distributed to address demand or diversity goals. Unlike cultivation facilities, the dispensaries will be awarded by geographical zone and, once awarded, can only be operated in the zone authorized.



The MMC has divided the state into eight geographical regions, with four dispensaries in each region; the zone map can be accessed at [www.mmc.arkansas.gov](http://www.mmc.arkansas.gov). The dispensaries cannot be within 1,500 feet of an existing public or private school, church, or daycare and must comply with local zoning, if any.

The dispensaries will also have broad authority on the retail side of medical marijuana, with the ability to “acquire, possess, manufacture, process, prepare, deliver, transfer, transport, supply, and dispense marijuana, marijuana paraphernalia, and related supplies and educational materials to a qualifying patient or designated caregiver.”

Unlike the limitation placed on cultivation facilities, dispensaries are authorized to engage in wholesale sales of marijuana to cultivation facilities and other dispensaries as well as retail sales to patients. Dispensaries will also have the ability to grow up to 50 “mature marijuana plants,” plus 150 additional seedlings.

Under a bill passed late in the 91st General Assembly, dispensaries will now also be required to designate a “pharmacist consultant,” who will develop educational materials, policies and procedures, and train the staff, as well as consulting with patients or staff by video or phone. The requirement of a pharmacist was enacted, in part, in recognition of the fact that patients will not have a physician’s prescription and are not required to receive any medical guidance regarding their use of medical marijuana.

The minimal standards and merit based criteria for the dispensary applications are nearly identical to the requirements for the cultivation facilities, other than a lower financial threshold, and can be viewed at [www.mmc.arkansas.gov](http://www.mmc.arkansas.gov). The closing date for dispensary applications will also be Sept. 18.

## Limitations

Amendment 98 created a wide-open product market, with no limits on the types of medical marijuana or delivery vehicles. Concern over the hazards of smoking and access by minors was a focus of this spring’s legislative session and agency rulemaking and, as a result, there are some new limits on what may be sold.



Act 1024 prohibits dispensaries from selling any paraphernalia requiring combustion to be properly utilized, so dispensaries cannot offer pipes, rolling papers or similar devices to patients. Act 740 prohibits patients from smoking marijuana anywhere that smoking tobacco is prohibited, in the presence of a pregnant woman or someone under 14 years old, inside any motorized vehicle or in a place that is likely to cause a person who is not authorized to use it to become under the influence. It also prohibits patients under 21 from smoking marijuana at all.

The ABC rules prohibit the sale of any marijuana item with a shape or design likely to appeal to minors, including anything modeled after an item primarily consumed by or marketed to children, products in an animal, vehicle, person or character shape, items which resemble cookies or brownies, products that closely resemble familiar food or drink items, including candy, or any product incorporating commercially available candy, food, or drink.



*Erika Gee is a partner at the Wright Lindsey and Jennings Law Firm in Little Rock. Email her at [EGee@WLJ.com](mailto:EGee@WLJ.com).*

*This is a condensed version of an article that originally appeared in the spring 2017 edition of The Arkansas Lawyer and is reprinted with the permission of the Arkansas Bar Association. You can read the unabridged version here: [https://issuu.com/arkansas\\_bar\\_association/docs/the\\_arkansas\\_lawyer\\_spring\\_2017issu/18](https://issuu.com/arkansas_bar_association/docs/the_arkansas_lawyer_spring_2017issu/18)*



# 2018 Winter Conference

Double Tree by Hilton/Fort Smith City Center, January 10-12, 2018

REGISTRATION

**Registration and payment must be received in League office by Friday, December 22, 2017, to qualify for Pre-registration rates.**

Pre-registration for municipal officials . . . . .	\$150
Registration fee after <b>December 22, 2017</b> , and on-site registration for municipal officials . . . . .	\$175
Pre-registration for guests . . . . .	\$75
Registration fee after <b>December 22, 2017</b> , and on-site registration for guests . . . . .	\$100
Other registrants . . . . .	\$200

- Registration will be processed **ONLY** with accompanying payment in full. Make checks payable to the Arkansas Municipal League.
- Registration includes meals, activities and a copy of **Handbook for Arkansas Municipal Officials, 2017-2018**.
- No daily registration is available.
- Registration must come through the League office. No telephone registrations will be accepted.
- **No refunds after December 22, 2017.**
- Cancellation letters must be postmarked by **December 22, 2017.**

HOTEL RESERVATION

## Hotel Room Rates

<b>DoubleTree by Hilton</b> (headquarters hotel)		
Single/Double. . . . .	\$99	Check-in . . . . . 3 p.m.
<b>Courtyard Marriott</b>		
Single/Double. . . . .	\$104	Check-in . . . . . 3 p.m.
<b>Hampton Inn</b>		
Single/Double. . . . .	\$94	Check-in . . . . . 3 p.m.
<b>Comfort Inn &amp; Suites</b>		
Single/Double. . . . .	\$85	Check-in . . . . . 3 p.m.

- Cut-off date for hotel reservations is **December 15, 2017.**
- Rooms in Fort Smith are subject to an 14.75 percent tax.
- Rooms will be held until 6 p.m. and then released unless guaranteed by credit card.
- Contact the hotel directly to make changes or cancellations in hotel accommodations.
- Hotel confirmation number will come directly from the hotel.
- Please check on cancellation policy for your hotel as penalties for cancellation can apply.

# Two ways to register **2**

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

**OR**

Complete the steps and **mail with payment** to:  
 ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE  
 Attn: 2018 Winter Conference  
 P.O. Box 38  
 North Little Rock, AR 72115-0038

## Step 1: Attendee Information

Name: .....

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

Address: .....

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

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

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

(non-city official)      Name: .....

## Step 2: Payment Information

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

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

• **How are you paying?**

**Check**

Mail payment and form to:  
 Arkansas Municipal League  
 2018 Winter Conference  
 P.O. Box 38  
 North Little Rock, AR 72115

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

Credit Card:  Visa  MasterCard  Discover

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

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

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

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

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

## Step 3: Hotel Reservations

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

**DoubleTree by Hilton** ..... Reservations ..... 479-783-1000  
**Courtyard Marriott** ..... Reservations ..... 479-783-2100  
**Hampton Inn** ..... Reservations ..... 479-452-2000  
**Comfort Inn & Suites** ..... Reservations ..... 479-434-5400

Special dietary needs:

- Gluten free
- Vegetarian
- Pescatarian
- Vegan

# Pine Bluff Wastewater receives prestigious award

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) has recognized the Pine Bluff Wastewater Utility as a recipient of the Platinum 8 Award for Peak Performance, the city announced Aug. 25. The Platinum Award is awarded to systems that have achieved excellence across the entire wastewater operation. It is given in recognition of eight years of complete and consistent National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit compliance. Pine Bluff Wastewater Utility is the only facility in the state to be recognized with this award. 🏆



Pine Bluff Wastewater Utility Manager Ken Johnson.

## Time to levy property taxes

City and town councils may levy general property taxes of up to five mills on the dollar (Ark. Const. art. 12 § 4; A.C.A. §§ 26-25-102 and 103). In order to implement this millage, the governing body of the city or town must certify the rate of taxation levied to the county clerk. (A.C.A. § 26-73-202). This must be done prior to the time fixed by law for the Quorum Court to levy county taxes. *Id.* Arkansas Code section 14-14-904(b) establishes the November or December meeting of the Quorum Court as the time to levy those taxes.

Accordingly, municipal officials should check with the Quorum Court to determine whether its levying meeting will be in November or December. It is important also to bear in mind that the city council must levy and certify its taxes annually, as failure to levy by the required date will result in a millage of zero for the following year (*See Ark. Ops. Atty. Gen. No. 91-044 and 85-5*).

The bottom line: If your city or town wishes to collect property taxes for the following year, make sure that council approval and certification to the county clerk occur prior to the meeting of the Quorum Court at which county taxes are levied.

"The greatest thing in this world is not so much where we stand as in what direction we are moving."  
— Goethe

110 South 7th Street Van Buren, AR 72956 479.474.1227	211 Natural Resources Dr. Little Rock, AR 72205 501.374.4846
438 East Millsap Rd., Ste.107 Fayetteville, AR 72703 479.455.2206	403 Garrison Ave., Ste.101 Fort Smith, AR 72901 479.242.4685


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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 AEDC President - Athens Daily Review
- Diggers not shaken by petition to cancel their show - theday.com
- Year in Review: Top ASU sports stories of 2014 - azcentral.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  
Marriott 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

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Flickr.com/photos/arkansas\_municipal\_league



greatcitiesgreatstate.com (microsite)

# Great Cities Make a Great State!

# Important Reminders:

## Health & Wellness Seminar

MHBF's Health & Wellness seminar is scheduled for October 13th. More information will be forthcoming as the date draws near. **SAVE THE DATE** so you can learn more about MHBF's 2018 Benefit Plan and much more!



## Are You Ready For 2018 Open Enrollment?

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



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



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## MEETING CALENDAR

**November 15-18, 2017**

**National League of Cities  
City Summit 2017**

Charlotte Convention Center  
Charlotte, NC

**January 10-12, 2018**

**Arkansas Municipal League's  
2018 Winter Conference**

Fort Smith, AR

**June 13-15, 2018**

**Arkansas Municipal League's  
84th Convention**

Statehouse Convention Center  
Little Rock, AR

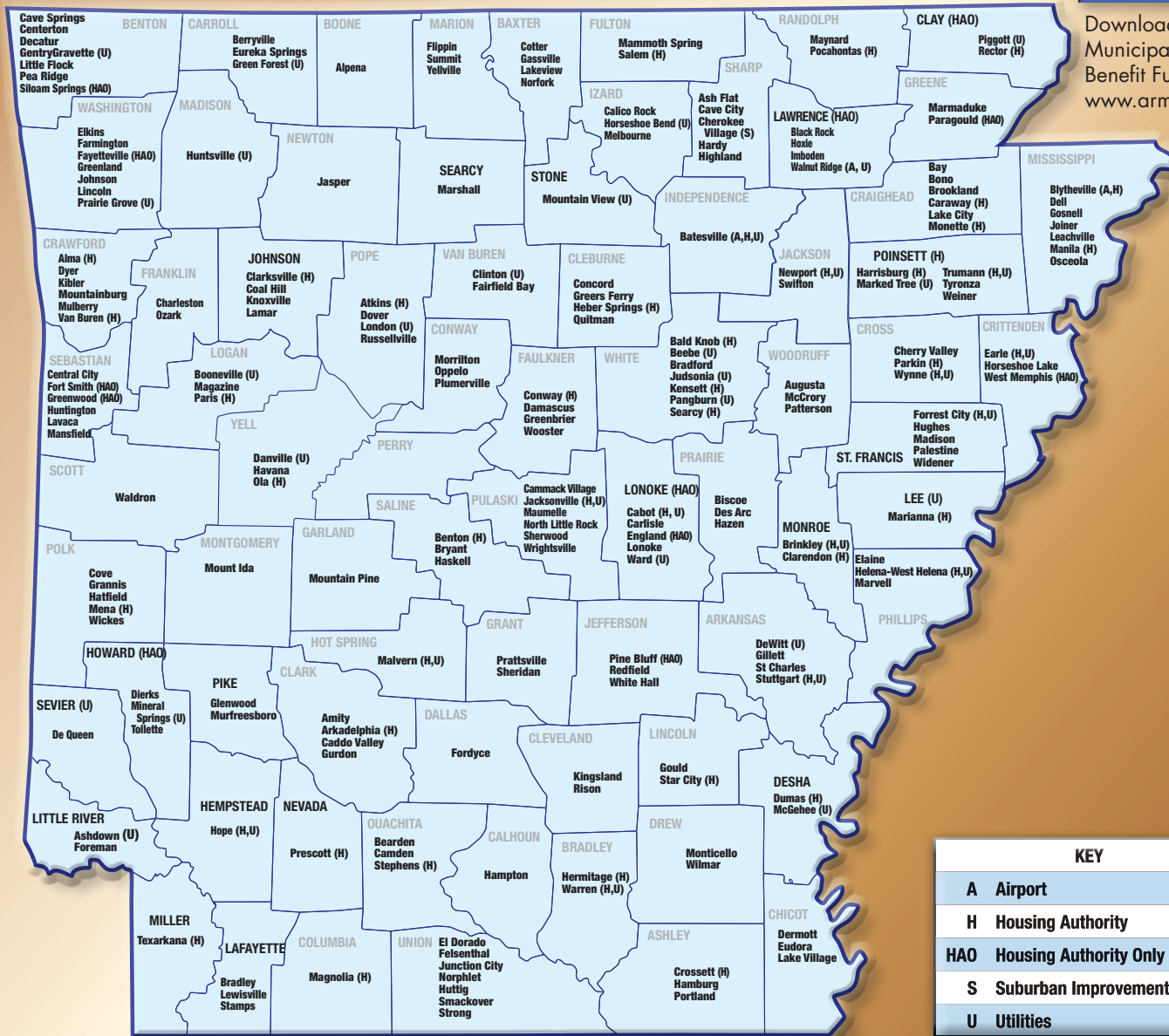


# Check out the Municipal Health Benefit Fund. MHBF provides coverage to 406 entities. And that number is growing!

For further information, call **(501) 978-6137**.



Download the Municipal Health Benefit Fund booklet at: [www.arml.org/mhbf](http://www.arml.org/mhbf)



### Other Municipal Entities Covered by MHBF

Barton-Lexa Water Association . . . . . Phillips County  
 Boston Mountain Solid Waste . . . . . Prairie Grove  
 Crossett Economic Dev. Foundation . . . . . Crossett  
 Central Arkansas Planning & Development District . . . . . Lonoke  
 Eighth Judicial Drug Task Force . . . . . De Queen  
 Fifth Judicial District Prosecuting Attorney . . . . . Russellville  
 Fifth Judicial District . . . . . Russellville  
 Gillham Lake Regional Water Association . . . . . Gillham  
 Grand Prairie/Bayou Two Water . . . . . Lonoke and Prairie Counties  
 Holiday Island Suburban Improvement District . . . . . Carroll County  
 Horseshoe Bend MRID . . . . . Horseshoe Bend

Ladd Water Users Association . . . . . Pine Bluff  
 Lakeview Midway Public Water . . . . . Lakeview  
 Lee County Water Association . . . . . Marianna  
 Local Police & Fire Retirement System . . . . . Little Rock  
 Magnolia Regional Medical Center . . . . . Magnolia  
 Mena Regional Health System . . . . . Mena  
 Monticello Economic Development Commission . . . . . Monticello  
 Montgomery County Nursing Home . . . . . Mount Ida  
 NE AR Region Solid Waste Management District . . . . . Paragould  
 North Little Rock - Sewer/Waste Water . . . . . North Little Rock  
 Northeast Public Water . . . . . Mountain Home

Northwest AR Conservation Authority . . . . . Rogers  
 Ozark Regional Transit . . . . . Ozark  
 SE AR Economic Development District . . . . . Pine Bluff  
 Sevier County Water Association . . . . . De Queen  
 Southwest White County Water . . . . . White County  
 Thirteenth Judicial District Drug Task Force . . . . . Camden  
 Upper SW Regional Solid Waste Management District . . . . . Nashville  
 Waldron Housing Authority . . . . . Waldron  
 Walnut Ridge Airport . . . . . Walnut Ridge  
 White River Regional Housing . . . . . Melbourne  
 Yorktown Water Association . . . . . Star City



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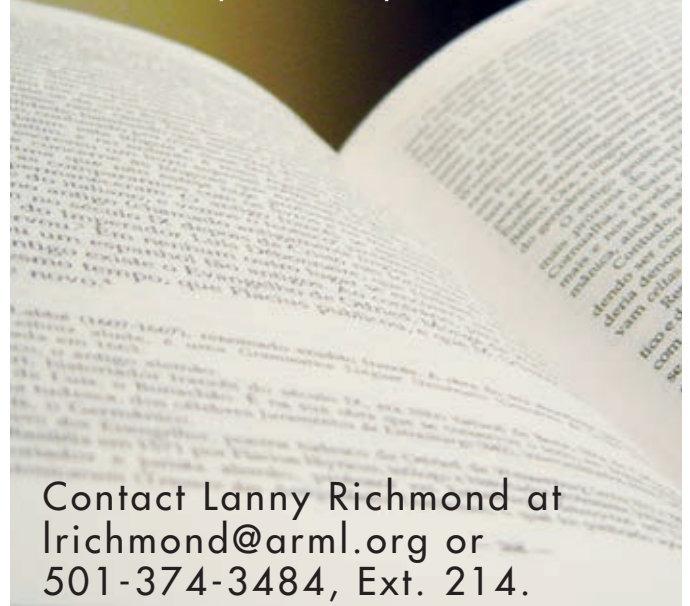
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Contact Lanny Richmond at  
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501-374-3484, Ext. 214.

## Obituaries

**HUBERT BRODELL**, 88, mayor of Jonesboro from 1987-2004, died Aug. 28.

**BERTIA MAE LASSITER**, 78, who, during her 36-years of service in Warren served as city clerk, treasurer, and special projects director for the mayor, died Aug. 2.

**JIM SUTTON**, 74, a former Morrilton council member and the city's mayor from 1986-1994, died Aug. 22.

**RANDY RAY TREAT**, 71, a retired battalion chief for the Springdale Fire Department, suffered a medical emergency and died in the line of duty on Aug 26 while responding to a call with the Kingston Rural Volunteer Fire Department.

**FAYE YARBROUGH**, 74, who served as recorder/treasurer for the town of Valley Springs, died June 11.





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For more information including a free quote on either of these programs, contact Dale Carter at League headquarters, (501) 978-6123.

# IBLA seeks benefactors for future Arkansas performances

By Sherman Banks

For 21 years IBLA has brought world-renowned performers to Arkansas and presented performances and master classes to thousands of children each year. We have presented programs in the cities of Lake Village, Batesville, Star City, Harrison, Tontitown/Springdale, Jacksonville, North Little Rock, and Little Rock.

The IBLA Grand Prize is under the auspices of the IBLA Foundation, which is a volunteer organization based in New York. All proceeds go toward advancing the careers of talented musicians from around the world.

The IBLA Grand Prize takes place annually in the small city of Ragusa Ibla, Sicily, Italy. The winners are presented to venues around the world, including Carnegie Hall in New York City. The competition is unique in that there is no age limit for participants.

The competition commences each year in the month of July in the magnificent baroque quarters of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) site of Ragusa Ibla on the island of Sicily, where participants compete in piano, vocals, composition, and other instruments. The emphasis is on classical music, but other musical genres are encouraged.

## The process

As a director on the IBLA Foundation Board of Directors and jury member of the competition, I organize the presentation of the IBLA winners in the state of Arkansas. In addition to the school performances and master classes, we present formal evening performances in local communities at no charge, however corporate and individual tax-deductible donations are accepted and encouraged.

As with any nonprofit program there is always a need for an infusion of capital. In order to meet our fiscal responsibility for the program we require a minimum annually of \$10,000. Fortunately, we have had for 21 years wonderful benefactors in the Central Arkansas Library System (for four years), the late Honorable Winthrop Paul Rockefeller (for six years), and Ms. Joan Zumwalt (for 11 years).

As we travel to the various cities we ask that the receiving city provide the performers and the IBLA assistants with room and board during their two-night stay. We encourage home-stay as a means to expose the international musicians to our culture and us to theirs. Although we try not to create a burden to the receiving cities to host the performers, but we also recognize the importance of soliciting and accepting contributions.

Now IBLA is in need of another benefactor. We want more cities from around the state to participate in this incredible program. Through our involvement with the Arkansas Municipal League, we will continue to work with the mayors and their staffs to seek their assistance in reaching more of our youth through local schools. As cities recognize the positive impact that IBLA has on their communities culturally and educationally, the easier it is to help IBLA seek out interested individual contributors and corporate sponsors. This kind of support will allow IBLA to continue to reach the students through the rhythm, harmony, and balance of all genres of music. To learn more about IBLA Grand Prize please go to the website at [www.ibla.org](http://www.ibla.org).

## IBLA 2018

The winners from the 2017 competition will be in Arkansas during the first week of May 2018, visiting the cities and schools of Springdale, Batesville, Lake Village, Jacksonville, Little Rock, and North Little Rock. They hail from such countries as Russia, China, Japan, Italy, the USA, Mongolia, Germany, the country of Georgia, and France.

Let's meet three of the top winners in their respective categories.

Miss Momoko Arima, a violinist from Japan/United Kingdom, is a 2017 IBLA Grand Prize Outstanding Musician. She was born in Kyoto, Japan, and began playing the violin at the age of three.



Arima

Miss Luowen Huang is pianist from China and is the 2017 IBLA Top Winner. She was born into a musical family—her mother is piano professor and her father is an oboe performer. Miss Huang began piano when she was four-and-a-half years old.



Huang

Zista Khersnberg, a mezzo soprano from Russia, is a 2017 IBLA Grand Prize Outstanding Musician recipient. She began as a music enthusiast at a very early age. She received her diploma with honors from the Blakirev Music College (Russia) and a Bachelor's degree in opera from the Buchmann-Mehta School of Music.



Khersnberg

It is my wish that more cities in Arkansas have an interest in presenting these world-class musicians. Please contact me to arrange a future performance or master class presentation in your city.



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



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# How to find peace of mind in 4 simple steps

By Mel Robbins

## “Just live in the moment.”

How many times have you heard this?

For a long time, I brushed off suggestions of being present, seeing it as too vague and something I didn't need to do.

My attitude changed when I learned that many people I admire swear by meditation—my husband being one of them. These days, every business guru seems to meditate for 20 minutes daily.

So I tried it. Simple, right? Sit and meditate for 20 minutes. I was shocked. It was impossible. Each time I tried to quiet my mind, thoughts would pop into my head at rapid-fire speed—grocery lists, to-do lists, things I'd rather be doing. I'm not alone either. A landmark study from Harvard University found that people spend 46.9 percent of their days with their minds wandering. Think about that: We spend almost half of our days totally distracted by thoughts unrelated to what we're doing. And what's more, they found our wandering minds don't make us happy.

## A quiet mind sounds good, doesn't it? But how do you quiet your mind when you really hate meditation?

Not too long after, I read that meditation trains your mind to be quiet. Once you master that skill, you can return to a quiet mind whenever you need it.

A quiet mind sounds good, doesn't it?

But how do you quiet your mind when you really hate meditation? Try micro-mindfulness. I discovered it while gardening.

I was pulling some weeds from the base of my tomato plants when I realized I was thinking about absolutely nothing. Pulling those weeds, I was in the moment. I felt at peace.

Mind-wandering is the cause, not the consequence, of unhappiness. Letting your mind wander leads to unhappiness just a short time afterward. That's why it's so important to pay attention to what your mind is doing.

If you struggle to meditate, try this micro-mindfulness strategy. You can use it anytime to increase your happiness.

1. Right now, write down a list of five things you enjoy doing. For me, that's cooking, gardening, reading a book, hanging with family, or hiking in the woods.
2. The next time you engage in one of those activities, focus on your senses. What do you taste? How does your body feel? What do you hear? What do you smell?
3. The moment you catch your mind drifting to the future, the past, or something unrelated to right now, catch yourself and direct your mind back to this moment. Anchor on your senses.
4. If you have trouble sticking in this moment, try expressing your appreciation for the thing you are doing as a way to quiet your mind and focus on the now.

The more you do this, the easier it becomes. Once you're a pro at being mindful during your favorite activities, you can use this same process in other daily events. Through micro-mindfulness you can quiet your mind and experience greater happiness and satisfaction in your life at any moment.

*Mel Robbins is a contributing editor to SUCCESS magazine, best-selling author, CNN commentator, creator of the “5 Second Rule,” and the busiest female motivational speaker in the world. To find out more, visit her website: [MelRobbins.com](http://MelRobbins.com). This article originally appeared in the August 2017 issue of SUCCESS magazine and is reprinted with permission.*



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# #AMLMoves makes preventative care a priority

By David Baxter, League staff

**D**id you know that 70 percent of all health care spending is a result of unhealthy lifestyle habits? These controllable and modifiable behaviors are stress, tobacco use, poor diet, inactivity, and improper alcohol and drug use. Fortunately, the League's Municipal Health Benefit Fund (MHBF) provides access to preventative health care that can address these and other health related issues.

We here at the Arkansas Municipal League are concerned with your health, safety, and overall quality of life. Education is the fundamental factor needed to create a more healthy and active lifestyle. Municipal employees may be simply unaware of how much influence they really have over their own health and wellness. This is where the League's wellness program #AMLMoves can assist in educating your municipal employees about all the benefits of the League's MHBF.

Recently, the city of Brookland invited me and Nurse Jill Sloan to come out and speak with their employees about the MHBF's preventative care benefits and answer any questions employees had on related health topics. I encourage you to invest a little bit of time in educating your employees by bringing the #AMLMoves wellness program to your city. Start your health education today by reading the great article on the opposite page from the Cooper Institute on how to reduce your risk of cardiovascular disease.



*David Baxter is the League's Health and Safety Coordinator. Email David at [dbaxter@arml.org](mailto:dbaxter@arml.org), or call 501-374-3484 Ext. 110.*

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# Decrease your cardiovascular disease risk: “Life’s Simple 7”

By Steve Farrell, PhD, FACSM

**H**ealth behaviors have a profound impact on our well being, both in the short and long term. In our society, unhealthy behaviors—smoking, sedentary lifestyle, etc.—are a leading cause of cardiovascular disease (CVD) and many other chronic health conditions. The American Heart Association has developed seven easy-to-understand recommendations that aim to improve cardiovascular health and decrease unnecessary and premature cardiovascular morbidity (illness) and mortality (death) in the U.S. by 20 percent by the year 2020.

These recommendations, known as Life’s Simple 7, are listed below. It is important to make the connection that changing unhealthy behaviors can go a long way toward meeting the Simple 7 recommendations and decreasing your CVD risk.

1. Don’t smoke (never smoked or quit more than 1 year ago).
2. Be physically active (150 minutes or more of moderate intensity activity or 75 minutes or more of vigorous intensity activity per week).
3. Have normal blood pressure (less than 120/80 mm Hg).
4. Have normal fasting blood glucose levels (less than 100 mg/dL).
5. Have normal blood cholesterol levels (less than 200 mg/dL).
6. Have a normal body weight (body mass index less than 25 kg/m<sup>2</sup>).
7. Eat a healthy diet (meet 4-5 components of the healthy diet score).

In order to determine the trends for what proportion of the population meets each of these guidelines, scientists reviewed data that was collected between 1988-2010 as part of the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), which is overseen by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Very few participants (two percent) met all seven recommendations during the period 1988-1994; this number was even lower by 2005-2010 (1.2 percent). The trends among the percentage of the samples reaching each recommendation during these two time periods varied. For example, the percentage reporting that they never smoked or quit more than one year ago increased significantly from 1988-1994 to 2005-2010.

Recommendation	Percentage Meeting Recommendation	
	1988-1994	2005-2010
Don't smoke or have quit for more than 1 year	72.1%	77.3%
Be physically active	41.1%	45.2%
Have normal blood pressure	42.4%	42.8%
Have normal blood glucose level	67.3%	59.5%
Have normal blood cholesterol level	46.8%	46.0%
Have normal body weight	44.1%	32.5%
Eat a healthy diet	33.1%	22.3%

Table 1: Percentage of U.S. adults meeting each of the seven recommendations from the American Heart Association (1988-1994 and 2005-2010 data).

The percentage with normal blood pressure and normal blood cholesterol remained essentially unchanged during these same time periods. However, the percentage consuming a healthy diet, having a BMI less than 25 kg/m<sup>2</sup> and having a fasting glucose level of less than 100 mg/dL declined significantly from 1988-1994 to 2005-2010.

The percentage of those reporting no physical activity increased sharply from 1988-1994 to 2005-2010 (15.6 percent and 31.9 percent, respectively).

This sample of adults was followed for an average of 14.5 years; a total of 1,661 deaths from cardiovascular disease occurred during this time. The age-adjusted cardiovascular disease death rate versus the number of heart-healthy recommendations met is shown in Table 1. Death rates are commonly expressed as the number of deaths per 1,000 person-years (when one person is followed for one year, it’s considered as one person-year of data. If 100 people are followed for 10 years, then it’s 1000 person-years of data). As shown in Table 1, those meeting zero to one of the seven recommendations were about six times more likely to die from cardiovascular disease during the follow-up period when compared with individuals who met six to seven of the recommendations.

*This article was published originally by The Cooper Institute, [www.cooperinstitute.org](http://www.cooperinstitute.org), and is reprinted with permission.*

# Vetting the public finance team: Has your municipal advisor passed the test?

By Erik Dolan

**W**hen managing their personal finances, many people turn to financial advisors to help them make informed decisions about complex financial products and investment options. For state and local government officials responsible for managing the public's finances, specialized financial advisors called municipal advisors may be hired to provide advice regarding the issuance of municipal bonds or use of municipal financial products.

If a municipal advisor is part of your public finance team, you should know that the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB), the national regulator responsible for protecting the public interest by promoting a fair and efficient municipal securities market, has established baseline standards of professional qualification for municipal advisors. Municipal advisors must pass the MSRB's Municipal Advisor Representative Qualification Examination, or Series 50 exam, no later than Sept. 12, 2017, to continue engaging in municipal advisor activities.

If you are currently working with a municipal advisor or planning to start a new engagement, it would be prudent to confirm that the municipal advisor has passed the Series 50 exam or is planning to do so by the deadline. Municipal advisors were granted a grace period of one full year from the launch of the exam on Sept. 12, 2016, to prepare for and pass the exam. Yet with less than one month remaining until the deadline, more than 100 municipal advisor firms registered with the MSRB did not have at least one person qualified with the Series 50 exam or enrolled to take the exam.

Find the names of individuals who have passed the Series 50 exam on the MSRB's website: [www.msrb.org/MARegistrants.aspx](http://www.msrb.org/MARegistrants.aspx).

It is in your constituents' best interest to make sure that all members of your public finance team are duly qualified in accordance with federal regulations. Doing this can help avoid a disruption in the municipal advisory services you receive and prevent a negative impact to the bond issuance process.

The MSRB creates and maintains rules for municipal advisors and municipal securities dealers that underwrite and trade municipal bonds. The Series 50 exam is one element of a comprehensive regulatory framework for



**Series 50 Deadline  
September 12, 2017**

municipal advisors that includes rules addressing core duties to clients, disclosures and conflicts of interest.

## About the MSRB

The MSRB protects investors, state and local governments and other municipal entities, and the public interest by promoting a fair and efficient municipal securities market. The MSRB fulfills this mission by regulating the municipal securities firms, banks, and municipal advisors that engage in municipal securities and advisory activities. To further protect market participants, the MSRB provides market transparency through its Electronic Municipal Market Access (EMMA®) website, [emma.msrb.org](http://emma.msrb.org), the official repository for information on virtually all municipal bonds.

The MSRB also serves as an objective resource on the municipal market, conducts extensive education and outreach to market stakeholders, and provides market leadership on key issues. The MSRB is a Congressionally chartered, self-regulatory organization governed by a 21-member board of directors that has a majority of public members, in addition to representatives of regulated entities. The MSRB is subject to oversight by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

*Erik Dolan is the Director, Professional Qualifications, at the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board, where he manages the development and maintenance of testing standards and educational programs for MSRB-regulated municipal advisors and municipal securities dealers.*



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# Tips for a nutritious, successful school year

By Tina Maddox, Ph.D.

**W**ouldn't you do anything to make sure your child was fully prepared to make the most of the new school year? If the secret were a new study guide or tutor, wouldn't you take action to help your pupil succeed?

How about your child's diet? Whether we realize it or not, food is the fuel that powers our children to success in the classroom. It's important that we send our kids out every day ready to learn with a healthy, nutritious diet. It ensures they have the energy to be at their best throughout the day.

When school starts back, days around the house always seem to grow longer and more hectic, which can make healthy eating a challenge. However, with a little planning and perseverance, you can do it. For starters, try following these four tips to get you through another school year.

## 1. Breakfast is really important

This is no myth. Breakfast is the most essential meal of the day for everyone, especially growing children. Getting protein and carbohydrates in the morning provides the fuel our kids need to learn and retain new information.

Traditional breakfast foods are not required. If time is an issue, there are some quick, nutritious options. For example, Greek yogurt, string cheese, and peanut butter are portable and good sources of protein. Pair them with a whole grain or fruit to give your child a nice mix of protein and carbs.

Pop tarts, donuts and high-sugar cereals should be avoided. They might be enjoyed at breakfast time and provide a quick burst of energy, but your kids are sure to crash well before their morning instruction is over.

## 2. Lunch = refuel

If breakfast is best described as an initial fueling, lunch is best portrayed as a refueling time. Making sure your child has a diverse lunch with several food groups represented—protein, grain, and dairy—will help them through the afternoon hours with flying colors.

Much like breakfast, it's easy to go with the traditional items like sandwiches, but you can get creative.

Try a wrap or use a cookie cutter to give the mundane sandwich a new twist. Switching things up could help your child be more interested in eating at the lunch table. Incorporate foods with a variety of colors as well to further entice your child to eat.

## 3. Being prepared increases variety

If packing a lunch is the norm in your household, investing in an insulated lunch bag will help widen the net in terms of food you can pack, especially cold foods. For instance, chilled hummus with raw veggies like carrots and cucumbers are a healthy alternative to chips. Also keep a bin of easy, go-to items at home, like fruits and veggies the kids like to cut down on prep time during the week.

Kids like being part of the planning process, too. Set aside time during the weekend to talk with your kids about what they want for lunch. Consider taking them to the grocery store to let them pick out a new fruit or veggie they want to start packing for lunch, and a healthy dip to go along with it to further encourage your kids to try the new food.

These tips can help with a picky eater, too. Kids will be more invested in the entire process if they're more involved in the planning. It's also important to introduce new foods slowly, and be sure to incorporate them with one of your child's established favorites so they will be more inclined to eat it.

## 4. Don't get discouraged

It's OK to feel overwhelmed at times. Life and all its occurrences—work, school, and hobbies—can make tasks like these difficult to achieve. However, the impact a well-balanced diet can have on your child's performance in the classroom will make the extra effort worth it in the end.



*Tina Maddox, Ph.D. is Associate Professor of Dietetics and Nutrition, College of Health Professions, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.*



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When the height limitation on signs inconveniences one property owner, it will surely inconvenience others.



# The Board of Adjustment: purpose and limitations

By Jim von Tungeln

Some aspects of administering the urban planning function are simple and require little focus. Some are quite complex, and require training and expertise. Some fall somewhere in between. Then, there is the board of adjustment.

Its function is perhaps the simplest part of zoning. Oddly, it is the most violated. Let us look at the BOA in detail to determine how and why.

First, a city's BOA can consist of the planning commission acting as a committee of the whole, a separate committee, or a mixture of the two. In either case, its record-keeping should be separate from the planning commission's as the two have different administrative roles, one legislative and one quasi-judicial.

After requiring a city that enforces a zoning ordinance to appoint a BOA, the Arkansas Code Annotated, then lists two functions for the Board.

One: It hears appeals from the decision of the administrative officers in respect to the enforcement and application of the ordinance, and may affirm or reverse, in whole or in part, the decision of the administrative officer. In short, the BOA settles differences in interpretation of the zoning regulations. This occurs rarely, as the language in zoning codes has tended to become more precise and standardized over the years.

Two: It hears requests for variances from the literal provisions of the zoning ordinance in instances where

strict enforcement of the ordinance would cause undue hardship due to circumstances unique to the individual property under consideration, and grant such variances only when it is demonstrated that such action will be in keeping with the spirit and intent of the provisions of the ordinance.

It is the later function, the one dealing with variances, that causes problems. As our attorney friends would say, the proper exercise of its function is "honored more in the breach than in the observance." To analyze why, we should first examine three phrases that seem to cause, for unknown reasons, much confusion.

1. The phrase "undue hardship" means undue hardship. That one is easy. It is broadly construed to mean a physical hardship, not a medical one or a need to accommodate a mother-in-law.
2. The phrase "circumstances unique to the individual property" means circumstances unique to the individual property. That one is simple.
3. The phrase "spirit and intent of the provisions of the zoning ordinance" means: Does granting a variance grant defensible relief while maintaining the spirit and intent of the provisions of the zoning ordinance [code]? That one is very clear. Don't rewrite or repeal municipal law.

What should concern elected officials, professional planners, and city attorneys is the fact that, almost without exception, BOAs in our state grant variances from zoning regulations simply because the applicant finds a municipal law inconvenient. Therein lies the danger.

When the BOA considers a variance, attorneys tell us that the board is acting somewhat like a judge or a court. That is why the attorneys call it a quasi-judicial function. The board interprets the zoning code, or grants relief to individual owners of individual properties harmed by the code in a unique and specific manner.

The statutes also forbid a BOA from granting a use in a zone that is not allowed by the zoning code or ordinance. This is called a “use-variance” and does not occur often, but it can and does occur on occasion.

When a BOA grants a variance in any manner not consistent with the provisions above, it is not granting relief, it is changing municipal law. Experience and education, along with the League’s legal staff, cause us to believe that only an elected city council or board of directors can make or change municipal law. If your Board of Adjustment is doing it, please seek legal advice immediately.

In other words: Inconvenience is not a valid basis upon which to grant a variance. Following are some reasons.

If a property owner receives a variance from a zoning regulation because of inconvenience, every other property owner within that zoning district must be eligible for the same relief. And if so, why the regulation?

A zoning regulation should be in place to carry out or protect the provisions of a land use plan, and other adopted plans of the city. The plans should be adopted for the purpose of protecting the health, safety, welfare, and morals of the community. This is vitally important in light of new statutes passed in recent legislative sessions. When a Board of Adjustment votes to negate a regulation simply because it inconveniences someone, that involves the questionable step of negating the public health, safety, welfare, and morals of the community in that particular case.

A city’s plans, policies, and regulations should be accessible and available to any citizen so that reasonable regulations placed on a zoning district should come as no surprise. There is even a Latin term for this: *caveat emptor*, or “let the buyer beware.” It may sound strict, but to those of us who have testified in court to defend our cities, strictness in public administration is greatly appreciated. It is not the function of a city’s BOA to rectify poor buying decisions.

What are some red flags to watch for in the case of the questionable granting of variances?

- Your city refers to its BOA as “the variance committee.”
- Someone overhears city staff telling a property owner, “The zoning ordinance doesn’t allow that. You’ll have to go to the Board of Adjustment to get permission.”
- The BOA in your city is unusually busy with long agendas.
- Property owners justify a request with “you allowed my neighbor to do it.”
- The section of the zoning code dealing with the BOA greatly expands the language in the state statute dealing with BOAs.

This brings us to the final phase of reviewing the actions of the BOA. A city should remain constantly aware of whether its plans and regulations meet the standard of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens. This includes identifying and removing regulations that are unnecessarily onerous. The BOA can be of use here. If a high number of variance requests occur because of a particular regulation, it is very likely that the regulation deserves a careful review, performed by the planning commission, not the BOA.

In fairness to the BOAs of our state, cities can, and some do, overregulate. When they do, the job of dealing with such overreach falls upon the BOA, and they have no legal standing to change the regulation. They can only grant relief if the regulation causes an undue hardship to the individual property in question. We can understand it when a BOA becomes tempted to go too far in granting relief from suspicious regulations. After all, the members may simply be trying to “clean up a mess” created by others.

From “Planning 101,” then, if your BOA is getting an inordinate number of requests for variances from a particular regulation, consider revising or eliminating the regulation. Your city will come out better doing this than it would in dealing with a protracted legal battle.



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

# Floodplains 101

By Jennifer Thompson and Nick Batker, PE, CFM

**F**looding risks can be dynamic, even aggressive at times, and can change intermittently due to a wide range of circumstances which can include, but aren't limited to, changing weather patterns, new development, and erosion. Floods have been and will continue to be a significant natural hazard for the citizens of Arkansas, as we experienced in our state earlier this year. In addition, the unprecedented flooding that resulted from Hurricane Harvey in Houston and surrounding areas is a solemn reminder that we are all at the mercy of Mother Nature.

According to the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC) Floodplain Management Program, "Since 1978, flood insurance policy holders have received over \$34.1 million in claim payments. Even though that represents many insurance payments, most of the State's flood-prone property owners do not have flood insurance." This is why everyone should be aware of what floodplains are, and how they can affect our cities, towns and communities when it is most critical.

In Arkansas, the most Presidential Disaster Declarations from 1965-2004 have occurred in Independence, Jackson, Craighead, Poinsett, Pulaski, and Columbia counties. The next largest group of disaster declarations were in Clay, Greene, Woodruff,

Monroe, White, Lonoke, Faulkner, Izard, Stone, Newton, Madison, Hempstead, Ouachita, Union, and Bradley counties, according to a map published by the ANRC in its guide to understanding what floodplain management is and why it regulates floodplain development.

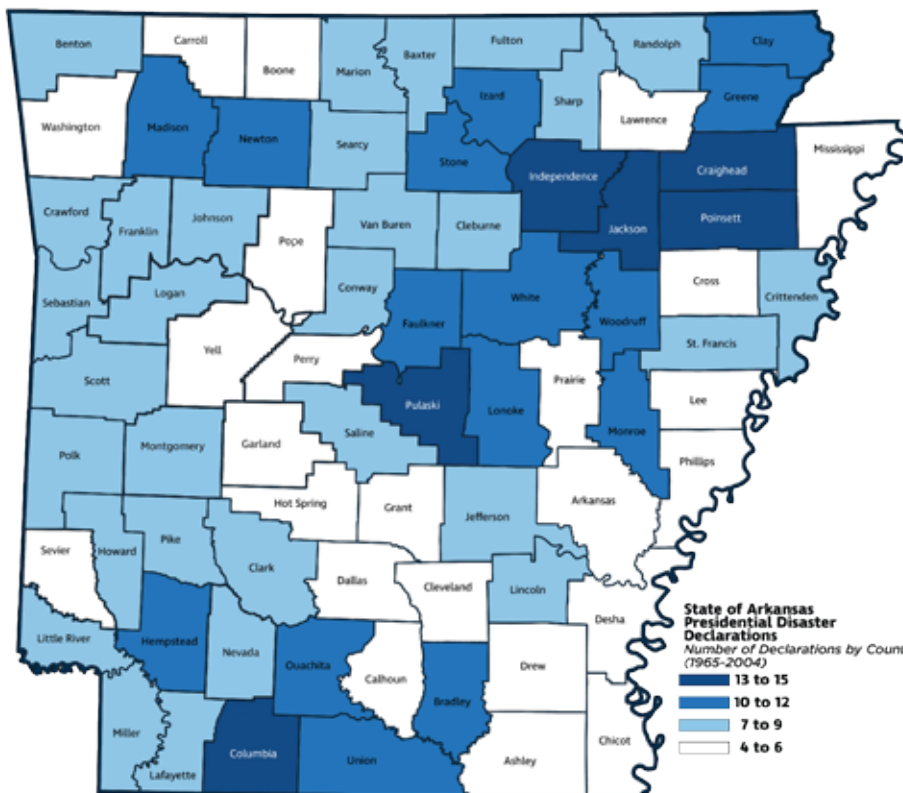
## Did you know?\*

- Flooding occurs in all 50 states, with nearly 12.5 million square miles at risk.
- A six-inch deep creek in the mountains can swell to a 10-foot deep raging river in less than an hour.
- Flood Maps are created to potentially save lives and damage to personal property.
- People outside of mapped high-risk flood areas file nearly 25 percent of all National Flood Insurance Program insurance claims and receive 1/3 of Federal Disaster Assistance for flooding.
- Floods are among the most frequent and costly natural disasters.
- Just one foot of water is enough to make most cars float, and two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles, including SUVs and pickup trucks.

\*Information obtained from [www.FEMA.gov](http://www.FEMA.gov) and [www.RedCross.com](http://www.RedCross.com).

A floodplain is defined as an area of low-lying ground adjacent to a river, formed mainly of river sediments and typically subject to flooding. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has developed flood maps for communities that are designed to inform with regard to local flood risks. These maps assist communities in setting minimum standards so that they can better manage their floodplains by building safely and resiliently. Additionally, the maps help to determine costs for flood insurance and assist property owners with financially protecting themselves against flooding. How does it work? The lower the degree of risk, the lower the flood insurance premium will be. In areas at high risk of flooding, homeowners may be required to carry flood insurance at a high premium.

A community must participate in the National Flood Insurance Program, also known as NFIP, in order for its residents to be able to purchase flood insurance. An NFIP community is an appropriate public



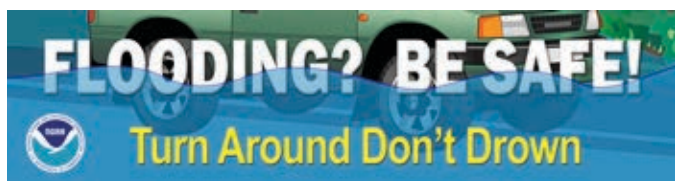
body (city or county, for example) that has adopted adequate floodplain management regulations for its flood hazard areas. If a community chooses not to participate in the NFIP, or is suspended from the NFIP due to non-enforcement of its floodplain management regulations, not only will flood insurance be unavailable for purchase by residents in the community, but the following restrictions will also be imposed:

- No federal grants or loans will be available to buildings in identified flood hazard areas;
- No federal disaster assistance will be provided in identified flood hazard areas for permanent reconstruction and grants;
- No federal mortgage insurance will be provided in identified flood hazard areas;
- Potential limitations on conventional loans;
- Potential liability to the local governing body should flood damage occur.

Through the Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (Risk MAP) program, FEMA is working with communities to collect new and/or updated flood hazard data and then update flood maps to reflect these changes. By incorporating the best available data into the flood maps, it helps increase public awareness regarding flood risk and provides for more accurate pricing on flood insurance premiums.

While not all waterways have FEMA designated floodplains, all waterways will flood. Floodplains are designed to store and convey floodwaters. If this storage space is taken away, or encroached upon by new developments or fill, future flooding can be made much worse. Therefore, it is critical that communities develop effective floodplain management regulations and enforce them.

Floodplain management is a decision-making process targeted at mass achievement of the wise use of the nation's floodplains, meaning both reduced flood losses and protection of the natural environment and resources, and function of floodplains. It includes the operation of a community program of preventative and corrective measures to reduce the risk of current and future flooding. Although floods are inevitable, everyone can play a role in reducing flood risk, from state and federal agencies, to local communities and property owners.



You can learn more about floodplains at the following links:

- [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)
- [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov)
- <https://store.msc.fema.gov>  
(FEMA Flood Map Store)
- [www.redcross.com](http://www.redcross.com)
- [www.arkansasflood.org](http://www.arkansasflood.org)



*Jennifer Thompson is the Marketing Coordinator with McClelland Consulting Engineers, Inc.'s Fayetteville office. Contact Jennifer by phone at (479) 443-2377, or email [jthompson@mce.us.com](mailto:jthompson@mce.us.com).*



*Nick Batker, PE, CFM is a Professional Engineer and Certified Floodplain Manager with McClelland Consulting Engineers, Inc.'s Fayetteville office. Contact Nick by phone at (479) 443-2377, or email [nbatker@mce.us.com](mailto:nbatker@mce.us.com).*



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# NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2017

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

## New DOT drug testing form awaiting final approval

**O**n August 15, 2017, the Department of Transportation issued notice that the DOT drug testing CCF (Custody and Control Form) has been modified to align with the national drug use patterns. The changes are not too extensive. Specifically in Step 1D, the change that has been made is to remove the checkboxes, the respective DOT mode, and the word "DOT."

The hash line in front of the text "specify DOT agency" is also being removed. In Step 5A, an addition of four new analyses (Oxycodone, Oxymorphone, Hydrocodone, Hydromorphone) are listed and there is a removal of MDMA (Methylenedioxyethylamphetamine).

As an employer, you will not be involved in having to complete the new drug testing form, but you will see some changes in the employer copy of the CCF (custody and control forms) that you will receive for your employee's drug testing folder. You will also see some different testing results.

The Department of Transportation is trying to be pro-active in changing the testing program to allow employers to check for the presence of opioid drugs. These changes are in line with the government's war on opioid drugs. For the time being, however, DOT is holding off on transitioning to the use of the new forms. We will keep you informed when DOT releases the publication and use of the new forms.

## Medical marijuana cards being issued

**A**s more people receive medical marijuana cards, employers must become more alert to the possibility of having a user in their workforce.

Traditional drug testing panels are not designed to determine the presence of CBD, the chemical that is supposedly used for medical conditions. Traditional drug testing, according to the Federal Testing Guidelines, looks for the presence of THC in marijuana. So, employers must be very vigilant in observing their workforce for any signs of substance abuse.

We are entering a new phase of "acceptable" drug use, and it leaves employers asking questions about how to handle the situations caused by an employee using CBD at work. Review your handbook for clarification on what to do if you are faced with this problem.



**a'TEST CONSULTANTS, Inc.**, provides drug and alcohol testing as a service of the Arkansas Municipal League Legal Defense Program. The program helps cities and towns comply with the U. S. Department of Transportation's required drug testing for all holders of commercial drivers' licenses.



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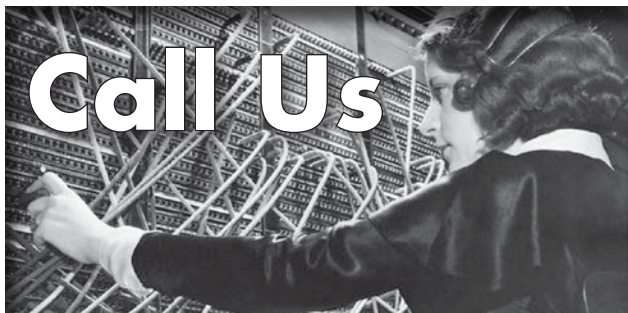
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# Springdale bioswale controls and cleans runoff

By Alison Litchy

Arkansas's rural forests cover over 19 million acres and contain 11.9 billion trees. As Arkansas's urban areas grow, resulting in forest fragmentation and loss, there is a need to protect forests and, where necessary, replace them. Our canopy cover needs our help, and in return it will help us with home values, water disposal, and cleaner air just to name a few benefits. The Arkansas Forestry Commission (AFC) has been able to facilitate several projects with grant assistance, which allowed Tree City USA communities to apply for and be awarded with funds to plant trees and improve tree-planting spaces.

In the thriving Tree City USA community of Springdale, AFC was able to provide one such grant for the public works department and the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service (UACES) to create a bioswale project. Bioswales are landscape elements designed to concentrate or remove silt and pollution from surface runoff water. The purpose of a bioswale and biofiltration is to absorb, collect, and treat stormwater runoff. Effectiveness of bioswales grows with increased contact time between soil and stormwater. Bioswales also become more effective with increased vegetation cover, thus becoming more effective over time.

The Springdale plan was to create a demonstration bioswale project to show the benefits of this system. First the issue is identified: Stormwater runoff from the recycling drop-off center and the city's Public Works Department yard was washing off site. The bioswale was designed to screen stormwater through an amended soil mix planted with native trees, shrubs, grasses, and flowering perennials. During rain events, runoff temporarily pools six to 12 inches above the mulch layer in the basin and then quickly infiltrates the bed. The basin and plants reduce and slow the



PHOTO BY KATIE TEAGUE.

Bioswales such as this one in Springdale are very effective at controlling and cleaning stormwater runoff from the many roofs and pavements in our urban environments.

stormwater and remove oils and other pollutants coming from nearby roofs and pavements. During moderate rainfall events, much of the water infiltrates native soil. During large storm events, excess stormwater is collected in a perforated pipe surrounded by a gravel layer along the bottom of the filter bed and slowly released to the storm drain system at the edge of the city's property and joins Spring Creek, a major tributary in the Illinois River Watershed.

Washington County Cooperative Extension Service agent Katie Teague said, “This project is a great demonstration of green infrastructure and showcases the ways urban trees can not only provide shade, habitat and food for birds and beneficial insects, but also help with runoff filtration and stormwater uptake.”

The hope behind the bioswale project is to promote public awareness and education. An interpretive sign will describe the function and benefits of the basin and its native trees to the high volume of residents visiting the recycling center. This sign will also be posted outside of the engineering office in city hall.

The design and construction also enhanced the technical skills of the Engineering and Public Works staff. Springdale leadership strives to improve the municipal stormwater management and pledges to use their employees to guarantee successful tree and plant establishment and maintenance of this bioswale. Maintenance includes watering (in times of no rain) mulching, and removal of silt and trash over time. City employees with various departments will use this educational tool during their annual stormwater training piloted by UACES.

Sam Goade of Springdale Public Works said, “Thank you for inviting us to be part of this fine project. I can’t wait to see the many plants when they start on the second year of growth. This will be a great project for Springdale to feature at the Recycling Center for many years to come.”

All the Tree City USA communities involved in the grant program are very enthusiastic to be able to have this opportunity, and I will touch on more of them in future articles. If your city or group would like to get additional trees planted, there are many different options. AFC grows small trees for groups or communities to plant at Arbor Day Celebrations or other commemorative events. AFC’s Shade Trees on Playgrounds program plants shade trees on school playgrounds. The Arkansas Urban Forestry Council does a ReLeaf project each year that gets trees back into areas that have lost them after a natural disaster. These are just some of the ways we can get trees back into our urban areas so we can receive the many benefits they provide.

For more information about Tree City USA visit the Arbor Day Foundation at [www.arborday.org/programs/treecityusa](http://www.arborday.org/programs/treecityusa).



*Alison Litchy is urban forestry partnership coordinator with the Arkansas Forestry Commission. Call Alison at (501) 580-9609 or email [alison.litchy@arkansas.gov](mailto:alison.litchy@arkansas.gov).*



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## Voluntary Certified Continuing Education Program

The League's Voluntary Certified Continuing Education Program continues in 2017 & 2018 with a series of workshops covering topics helpful to municipal leaders. The voluntary certification plan is, approved by the Executive Committee, and consists of 21 credit hours of topics.

For those city officials who have completed the 21 hours of core curriculum, you must annually obtain 6 hours of continuing education to maintain your certification status. The required 6 hours must be gained by attending the hours of continuing education offered at the 2018 Winter Conference and the 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention.

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

The next workshop at League Headquarters is:

- Municipal Finance and Budgeting Workshop (5 core hours), 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. September 20, 2017, at League headquarters.
- Human Resources and Personnel Matters (5 core hours), 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., October 26, 2017, at League headquarters.
- City Government 101: Who Does What at City Hall (5 core hours), 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., April 4, 2018, at League headquarters.
- For more information contact Ken Wasson at 501-374-3484 Ext. 211, email [kwasson@arml.org](mailto:kwasson@arml.org) or Tricia Zello at 501-374-3484 Ext. 285, email [tzello@arml.org](mailto:tzello@arml.org).

## Nominations sought for 2017 Volunteer Community of the Year Awards


The Arkansas Department of Human Services Office of Communications and Community Engagement (OCCE) is accepting nominations for the 2017 Arkansas Volunteer Community of the Year awards through Sept. 15. The OCCE made the announcement in a July 13 media release.

Each year, the division partners with the Governor's Office, Governor's Advisory Commission on National Service and Volunteerism, and the Arkansas Municipal League to recognize communities that band together in serving its neighbors. Winners typically have overcome obstacles such as limited funding for projects, taking a new approach to an old problem or recovering from natural disasters. Cities that have been honored in the past can be recognized again for new accomplishments.

A committee of citizens who represent a cross-section of the state population will select 12 communities to be honored at the Arkansas Municipal League's Winter Conference in January 2018 in Fort Smith. Winners will receive two signs donated by the Arkansas Highway Commission designating the city as a Volunteer Community of the Year.

Recipients in 2016 were Benton, Bentonville, Cherokee Village, Clarkridge, Fayetteville, Greenbrier, Heber Springs, Little Rock, Maumelle, McNeil, Mountain Home, and Van Buren. Volunteers in these communities donated thousands of hours last year toward supporting on-going activities and needs of their fellow citizens.

To complete the online nomination form, visit [www.surveymonkey.com/r/VCOYA2017](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VCOYA2017) or if you would like to complete the PDF nomination form visit [www.volunteer.org](http://www.volunteer.org).

For more information or assistance in completing the nomination form, contact Kimberly Simpson at 501-320-6599, [kimberly.simpson@dhs.arkansas.gov](mailto:kimberly.simpson@dhs.arkansas.gov), or by mail at P.O. Box 1437, Slot S-230, Little Rock, AR 72203. 



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# Increasing entrepreneurship in Arkansas communities

By Corey Parks

It is no secret entrepreneurs stimulate job growth, but recently interest in entrepreneurship as an economic development strategy has increased. How do community leaders promote an entrepreneurial environment to create jobs in their community?

Like everything else in community and economic development, there is not a one-size-fits-all model for entrepreneurship. Jeff Standridge, chief catalyst at the Arkansas Conductor and managing partner at Cadron Capital Partners, and Dr. Ron Duggins, University of Central Arkansas assistant professor of innovation and entrepreneurship, offered insight on how Arkansas communities can increase entrepreneurship. Their suggested action steps are as follows:

## Start where you are

Pull a group of interested community stakeholders together and talk about how to get started.

## Access available resources

Take advantage of the various resources across Arkansas charged with developing the Arkansas entrepreneurial ecosystem. Some of these resources include Arkansas Conductor, Startup Junkie Consulting, Innovate Arkansas, Arkansas Economic Development Commission, Arkansas Capital Corporation Group, Arkansas Innovation Hub, Arkansas Small Business and Technology Development Center, and Arkansas Venture Center.

## Learn from other communities

Simply repeating what other communities have done will not work, but learning from their successes and failures will generate ideas for what will work in your community.

## Identify entrepreneurial champions to lead the effort

Identify someone in the community who can serve as a “one-stop-shop” for helping new entrepreneurs take care of the initial steps to start a business (register a legal entity, apply for an Employer ID Number, open a bank

account, etc.). If possible, have entrepreneurs lead this effort. While entrepreneur support groups (government, schools, economic development organizations, and others) are vital to the effort, successful entrepreneurs are most effective at energizing the culture and driving the effort.

## Raise awareness

If a community has entrepreneurship assistance, it is imperative the information is shared in multiple venues. Many aspiring entrepreneurs do not know about all the available resources. It sounds simple, but access to information is a barrier to entrepreneurial development in communities.

Eureka Springs is an example of a community taking steps to improve their entrepreneurial ecosystem. When Mayor Butch Berry took office, his focus was on infrastructure improvements and economic growth. This focus motivated him to create the Mayor’s Task Force on Economic Development, which aims to analyze the current economic status of Eureka Springs, and plan a diversified and sustainable economy.

“One of the first issues identified by the Task Force was that we were not really business friendly,” Mayor Berry said. “Anyone interested in starting a business had to go several places for basic information.”

As a result, the Task Force’s first project was identifying and consolidating all resources and information into one easy package. This led to the development of The Eureka Springs Live, Work, and Play website and the Eureka Springs Business Packet. This packet includes information on important contacts, licenses/permits, sales tax, tourism, forms, and resources. Most importantly, it includes a checklist to ensure businesses are aware of city, county, and state requirements.

The Task Force also offers community programming. Through a partnership with Startup Junkie Consulting and Innovate Arkansas, Eureka Springs held a G60 Pitch Contest in May. The contest was well-received by community members, so the Task Force plans to offer similar programming in the future to boost the Eureka Springs entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The mayor shared that their success would not be possible without the help of strategic partners and community member buy-in.

“Startup Junkie Consulting has been an extremely valuable partner in the process because they know how to help businesses grow and succeed,” he said. “They are with you every step of the way with resources for entrepreneurs and community leaders.”

Fortunately, the Eureka Springs community has been receptive to the Economic Development Task Force’s efforts to increase entrepreneurship, but in some communities, that is not always the case.

Duggins offered advice for communities that may receive pushback on new initiatives.

“If the effort is led by people who have proven their ability and expertise in starting businesses and creating

jobs, then there is less resistance,” Duggins said. “It is hard to argue against the reality of an existing successful entrepreneurial enterprise.”

For more information on the Mayor’s Task Force on Economic Development and the happenings in Eureka Springs, visit [www.eurekaspringsliveworkplay.us](http://www.eurekaspringsliveworkplay.us)

To connect with the Arkansas Conductor or Startup Junkie Consulting, visit [www.arconductor.org](http://www.arconductor.org) or [www.startupjunkieconsulting.com](http://www.startupjunkieconsulting.com).



*Corey Parks is the Project Coordinator of the Center for Community and Economic Development at the University of Central Arkansas. Contact him at [cparks@uca.edu](mailto:cparks@uca.edu) or (501) 450-3460.*

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# Grants available for disaster prep

By Chad Gallagher

**W**e have all been moved by the extraordinary flooding that took place recently in Houston. The amount of water—52 inches of rain in some parts of the city—is nearly incomprehensible. More than 500,000 cars alone were lost, not to mention the homes that were totaled completely or damaged significantly. Understanding the total impact of the storm will take some time and recovery will take much longer. Most touching has been the heroic stories of neighbors helping neighbors, strangers rescuing those in need, and even Arkansans making the drive south to do all they can to help. We encourage everyone who is able to consider giving in some way to help those who have been impacted.

This flood has caused some of our cities to inquire about disaster preparedness grants and opportunities. We can't prevent natural disasters from taking place, but it is important that we do all we can to prepare for them. Doing so may allow us to mitigate their impact, help ensure the safety of our citizens, and expedite the recovery process. Cities and counties work closely together at times of disaster to ensure state and federal resources are delivered at the local level. The Arkansas Department of Emergency Management (ADEM) and the federal agency FEMA are the key source agencies for state and federal assistance. Arkansas is fortunate that both ADEM and the Governor's office are rapid in responding to natural disasters and assisting local leaders.

ADEM is the state administrator for the federal Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), which provides funds to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a disaster. This is different from FEMA's more well-known program designed to provide immediate disaster assistance, pay for permanent repairs, and restore existing facilities. The HMGP is a proactive program to help fund projects that help to eliminate or reduce as many long-term risks to people and property as possible.

Studies commissioned by FEMA show that for every \$1 spent on such mitigation efforts, \$4 of future damages are mitigated. HMGP includes funds that can be applied for by individuals, businesses, and private nonprofits via

local governments. Examples include relocating community property that is at risk, flood proofing historic structures, elevating structures, creating community disaster mitigation plans, building community safe rooms, retrofitting buildings to withstand strong winds, wildfire mitigation, and much more.

ADEM also oversees grant programs related to emergency 911 systems, developing community emergency response teams, environmental planning, preserving historic structures, and many others. The department also provides training for community leaders, volunteers, and disaster coordinators to help prepare our communities for worst-case scenarios.

Beyond exploring the potential grants available, it is important for community leaders to think through how a disaster of any kind would be responded to in your city. Ice storms, tornadoes, floods, and wildfires are all possibilities in our state. Each of these can bring real devastation to our towns and our citizens, and municipal leaders must be prepared.

If you haven't done so recently it would be worth giving your disaster planning efforts a fresh look. Check out grant opportunities with the state and federal agencies, hold town hall meetings with citizens for input and to inform them of procedures, and share plans with local media so they know what information to share when trouble hits.

If disaster does come, don't forget to stay in close contact with the Governor's office and your other elected officials, as they can be a tremendous help when you need it the most.

As we continue to pray for those impacted by Hurricane Harvey, let us also look and see what all we can do as leaders to ensure our communities are as prepared as possible for natural disasters before they arrive.



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



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# Changes to 2017 Directory, Arkansas Municipal Officials

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

**As of August 1, 2017, Act 879 of the 91st General Assembly changed the term "Alderman" to "Council Member." Please note this update in terminology will be used moving forward.**

**Alma**

Add CM Gary Perry  
Delete CM Doug Wilson  
Add CM James McGhee

**Austin**

Delete CM Matt Sheets  
Add CM Kasai Finley

**Cave City**

Delete M Ron Burge  
Add M Jonas Anderson  
Delete CM Jonas Anderson  
Add CM (Vacant)

**Crossett**

Delete PD Rebecca Ledbetter  
Add PD Araceli Mondragon

**Danville**

Delete WS Wendell Limbocker  
Add WS Wayne Morphis  
Add WW Anthony Adcock

**Dell**

Delete CM Leslie Hogue  
Add CM William Knight  
Delete DPW Eugene Cleveland  
Add DPW Danny Moody  
Add WEB www.townofdell.com

**Garfield**

Delete CM Susie Morrison  
Add CM Scott Wassman  
Delete CEO Zannie Morrison  
Add CEO (Vacant)

**Garland**

Delete CM Raymond Person  
Add CM (Vacant)

**Gosnell**

Delete FC Jimmy Hogan  
Add FC Shawn Paschal

**Hatfield**

Delete CM (Vacant)  
Add CM Virginia Diane Osborne

**Jonesboro**

Delete CM Darrel Dover  
Add CM L.J. Bryant

**Judsonia**

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Add E-Mail cityof\_judsonia@yahoo.com

**Lowell**

Delete CM Delia Ingle  
Add CM (Vacant)

**Norfolk**

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Add M Lisa Harrison  
Delete CM Lisa Harrison  
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**Ola**

Delete PC Daniel Warren  
Add PC J.C. Nelson

**Poyen**

Delete CM (Vacant)  
Add CM Mike Sullivan

**Sparkman**

Delete CM Steve Mann  
Add CM Johnny Gordon  
Delete CM (Vacant)  
Delete CM Robbie Seale  
Add CM Heather Williams  
Add CM Donny White

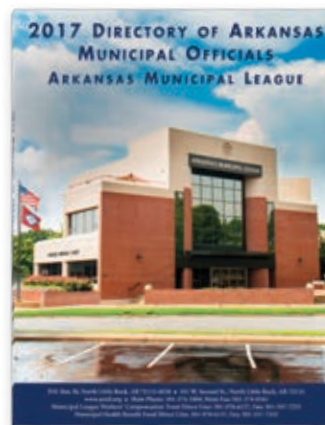
**Valley Springs**

Delete R/T Faye Yarbrough  
Add R/T Cheryl Breedlove

**Warren**

Delete C Helen Boswell  
Add C Charlotte Brown

Note: CM = Council Member





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2017 Directory

P.O. Box 38

North Little Rock, AR 72115-0038

## FAIRS & FESTIVALS

### Sept. 16

10th Avoca Town & Fire Department BBQ

#### Avoca

(479) 621-5921; [www.avocaarkansas.info](http://www.avocaarkansas.info)

74th White River Carnival

#### Batesville

(870) 793-2378; [www.mybatesville.org](http://www.mybatesville.org)

31st Cane Hill Harvest Festival

#### Cane Hill

(479) 435-4622

Bash on the Boulevard

#### Maumelle

(501) 851-9700; [www.maumellechamber.com](http://www.maumellechamber.com)

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### Sept. 23

29th Autumn on the Square

#### Marianna

(870) 295-2469; [www.mariannaregionalchamber.org](http://www.mariannaregionalchamber.org)

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### Sept. 29

20th Depot Days Festival

#### Newport

(870) 523-3618; [www.depotdays.org](http://www.depotdays.org)

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### Sept. 29-30

10th Get Down Downtown Festival

#### Searcy

(501) 279-9007; [www.searcy.com](http://www.searcy.com)

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### Sept. 30

9th Downtown Jonesboro BBQ Fest

#### Jonesboro

(870) 336-7364; [www.jonesboro.org](http://www.jonesboro.org)

Fishing Derby

#### Mountain Home

(870) 425-9290

41st Sherwood Fest

#### Sherwood

(501) 833-0476; [www.cityofsherwood.net](http://www.cityofsherwood.net)

11th Quitman Fest

#### Quitman

(501) 589-3312; [www.quitmanfest.com](http://www.quitmanfest.com)

### Oct. 7

28th Hoo-Rah Festival

#### De Queen

(870) 642-6642; [www.seviercountymuseum.com](http://www.seviercountymuseum.com)

Greenwood Fall Fest

#### Greenwood

(479) 806-2241; [www.greenwoodar.org](http://www.greenwoodar.org)

7th Main Street Food Truck Festival

#### Little Rock

(501) 375-0121; [www.mainstreetfoodtrucks.com](http://www.mainstreetfoodtrucks.com)

2nd Arkansas Goat Festival

#### Perryville

(501) 749-7976; [www.arkansasgoatfestival.com](http://www.arkansasgoatfestival.com)

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### Oct. 12-14

Cabotfest

#### Cabot

(501) 843-2136; [www.visitcabot.com](http://www.visitcabot.com)

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### Oct. 13-14

37th Blytheville Chili Cook-off & Harvest Festival

#### Blytheville

(870) 763-2525; [www.mainstreetblytheville.com](http://www.mainstreetblytheville.com)

35th Wild Duck Festival

#### Trumann

(870) 483-5424; [www.trumannchamber.org](http://www.trumannchamber.org)

72nd Turkey Trot

#### Yellville

(870) 449-4676; [www.yellville.com](http://www.yellville.com)

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### Oct. 13-15

Fall Festival

#### Van Buren

(479) 474-8936; [www.vanburencity.org](http://www.vanburencity.org)

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### Oct. 14

11th Crawfordsville Harvest Festival

#### Crawfordsville

(870) 636-5822

46th Old Fashion Square Gathering

#### Ozark

(479) 667-5337; [www.mainstreetozark.com](http://www.mainstreetozark.com)

Fall Festival

#### Prescott

(870) 887-2101; [www.pnpartnership.com](http://www.pnpartnership.com)



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# 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	\$5.3517	\$0.2342	\$0.3611	\$1.0777	\$1.0886
May	\$5.4590	\$5.4824	\$0.0745	\$0.2602	\$1.0773	\$1.0864
June	\$5.2768	\$5.5686	\$0.0968	\$0.1900	\$1.0778	\$1.0881
July	\$5.6734	\$5.5610	\$0.0987	\$0.2628	\$2.8803	\$2.9480
August	\$5.0337	\$5.5557	\$0.1292	\$0.2711	\$1.2006	\$0.9499
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	
<b>Total Year</b>	<b>\$62.9483</b>	<b>\$43.1070</b>	<b>\$2.0238</b>	<b>\$2.1796</b>	<b>\$15.9639</b>	<b>\$11.4854</b>

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	\$10,110,987.00	\$441,661.71	\$682,243.26	\$2,032,297.66	\$2,056,718.50
May	\$10,294,480.80	\$10,363,642.30	\$140,536.93	\$491,893.79	\$2,031,495.51	\$2,053,761.87
June	\$9,950,873.55	\$10,526,632.40	\$182,493.78	\$351,199.83	\$2,032,597.66	2,056,937.75
July	\$10,698,830.40	\$10,512,280.90	\$186,206.19	\$496,864.92	** \$5,431,589.73	*** \$5,572,710.46
August	\$9,492,433.07	\$10,502,217.40	\$243,594.47	\$512,555.17	\$2,264,157.25	\$1,795,649.71
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	
<b>Total Year</b>	<b>\$118,752,623.16</b>	<b>\$81,465,661.61</b>	<b>\$3,818,458.38</b>	<b>\$4,118,868.13</b>	<b>\$30,114,362.91</b>	<b>\$21,705,734.33</b>

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

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

\*\*\* Includes \$3,515,747.46 supplemental for July 2017

# Local Option Sales and Use Tax in Arkansas



KEY: Counties not collecting sales tax

Source: Rachel Garrett, Office of State Treasurer

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

Sales and Use Tax Year-to-Date 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	\$50,349,075	\$51,278,433	\$44,591,728	\$46,543,122	\$94,940,803	\$97,821,554	\$15,747	\$19,032
May	\$55,441,606	\$51,716,750	\$48,861,910	\$46,509,945	\$104,303,516	\$98,226,695	\$17,059	\$16,799
June	\$50,977,784	\$48,045,270	\$45,261,893	\$42,836,823	\$96,239,677	\$90,882,093	\$17,534	\$17,947
July	\$55,472,881	\$52,527,961	\$49,248,601	\$47,321,806	\$104,721,482	\$99,849,766	\$18,995	\$17,750
August	\$54,840,523	\$52,254,925	\$49,357,901	\$47,594,177	\$104,198,425	\$99,849,102	\$15,982	\$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
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$427,064,241</b>	<b>\$621,274,986</b>	<b>\$378,767,741</b>	<b>\$560,288,690</b>	<b>\$805,831,982</b>	<b>\$1,181,563,676</b>	<b>\$137,470</b>	<b>\$213,621</b>
Averages	\$53,383,030	\$51,772,916	\$47,345,968	\$46,690,724	\$100,728,998	\$98,463,640	\$17,184	\$17,802

**AUGUST 2017 Municipal Levy Receipts and August 2017 Municipal/County Levy Receipts with 2016 Comparison (shaded gray)**

CITY SALES AND USE TAX . AMOUNT	LAST YEAR	Franklin	2,737.49	2,524.71	Mountainburg	15,064.38	25,500.61	Crossett	56,386.78	52,221.34
Alexander	84,214.09	74,647.79	Garfield	14,752.33	9,431.89	Mulberry	31,385.23	Fountain Hill	1,791.84	1,659.48
Alma	234,308.81	228,734.93	Garland	2,191.98	3,969.21	Murfreesboro	37,967.69	Hamburg	29,253.14	27,092.13
Almyra	8,709.05	5,173.81	Gasville	18,067.26	18,289.00	Nashville	111,636.45	Montrose	3,624.64	3,356.88
Alpena	9,146.15	6,754.00	Gentry	49,620.36	51,798.32	Newport	75,725.56	Parkdale	2,836.23	2,626.71
Altheimer	2,343.75	2,113.09	Gilbert	1,692.23	170.29	Norfolk	5,855.48	Portland	4,402.82	4,077.57
Altus	6,715.65	6,797.86	Gillett	11,884.52	10,478.39	Norman	2,561.03	Wilmot	5,631.52	5,215.49
Amity	11,343.72	10,769.28	Gillham	3,871.28	4,359.45	North Little Rock	1,486,249.25	Baxter County	351,088.04	345,051.23
Anthonyville	826.23	442.09	Gilmore	256.38	291.37	Oak Grove	806.13	Big Flat	1,522.97	1,496.78
Arkadelphia	160,811.77	164,929.18	Glenwood	73,683.26	72,044.79	Oak Grove Heights	6,011.54	Briarcliff	3,455.97	3,396.54
Ash Flat	99,058.45	94,780.70	Gosnell	16,810.95	15,659.91	Ola	10,859.51	Cotter	14,204.60	13,960.36
Ashdown	126,177.00	127,355.78	Gould	12,785.83	13,330.49	Oppelo	3,401.96	Gassville	30,430.07	29,906.84
Atkins	55,210.69	56,754.44	Grady	4,816.87	3,347.21	Osceola	96,658.57	Lakeview	10,851.15	10,664.57
Augusta	27,950.18	26,993.52	Gravette	91,563.43	103,696.23	Oxford	1,440.34	Mountain Home	182,287.55	179,153.19
Austin	33,863.09	31,426.96	Green Forest	11,808.21	78,835.76	Ozark	191,561.16	Norfork	7,483.04	7,354.38
Avoca	7,215.27	6,900.82	Greenbrier	177,145.77	160,766.84	Palestine	25,111.69	Salesville	6,589.77	6,476.46
Bald Knob	53,942.04	37,305.23	Greenland	20,659.70	19,813.37	Pangburn	8,866.73	Benton County	756,126.00	684,353.84
Barling	44,643.36	61,643.25	Greenwood	208,076.41	217,231.96	Paragould	324,614.84	Avoca	8,685.58	7,861.14
Batesville	627,268.54	618,913.14	Greers Ferry	25,419.33	21,275.85	Paris	77,193.47	Bella Vista	472,118.22	427,304.33
Bauxite	13,056.53	18,590.76	Guion	5,529.18	5,329.20	Patmos	527.16	Bentonville	628,298.47	568,659.81
Bay	7,987.15	7,664.07	Gum Springs	570.83	493.90	Patterson	1,660.44	Bethel Heights	42,217.61	38,210.28
Bearden	9,887.54	14,193.08	Gurdon	22,846.52	21,743.70	Pea Ridge	61,479.32	Cave Springs	34,368.55	31,106.26
Beebe	123,154.99	107,094.73	Guy	6,297.41	4,118.39	Perla	2,647.07	Centerton	169,351.01	153,276.06
BeeDEVILLE	120.86	275.50	Hackett	5,519.62	5,482.11	Perryville	21,019.86	Decatur	20,339.34	27,369.00
Bella Vista	168,797.49	158,292.50	Hamburg	32,550.71	32,330.92	Piggott	67,549.42	Elm Springs	2,438.37	2,206.92
Belleville	1,871.87	1,851.16	Hardy	23,048.84	21,075.76	Pine Bluff	949,352.35	Garfield	8,934.76	8,086.66
Benton	1,462,701.60	1,340,140.95	Harrisburg	54,705.44	45,315.92	Pineville	1,794.55	Gateway	7,208.32	6,524.10
Bentonville	1,947,394.41	1,482,684.87	Harrison	501,576.40	463,789.08	Plainview	3,017.45	Gentry	60,959.24	55,172.94
Berryville	242,441.49	239,928.32	Hartford	3,885.91	1,955.61	Pleasant Plains	7,762.80	Gravette	55,406.17	50,146.96
Bethel Heights	87,525.81	80,476.83	Haskell	39,343.85	22,122.20	Plumerville	11,941.97	Highfill	10,376.42	9,391.48
Big Flat	334.73	NA	Hatfield	4,252.41	1,909.31	Pocahontas	260,940.30	Little Flock	46,008.66	41,641.47
Black Rock	9,175.31	9,604.01	Havana	3,140.19	2,205.67	Portia	3,744.29	Lowell	130,408.28	118,029.81
Blains	1,963.58	1,944.40	Hazen	63,494.34	51,850.41	Portland	6,319.28	Pea Ridge	85,325.14	77,226.00
Blue Mountain	119.65	140.70	Heber Springs	159,261.06	154,782.85	Pottsville	37,436.17	Rogers	996,065.14	901,517.74
Blytheville	251,336.83	256,176.36	Helena-West Helena	227,527.63	220,472.73	Prairie Grove	102,600.21	Siloam Springs	267,688.92	242,261.55
Bonanza	2,523.42	2,163.72	Hermitage	5,285.70	6,576.17	Prescott	70,324.68	Springdale	116,614.59	105,545.43
Bono	15,866.89	13,973.13	Higginson	1,468.08	1,057.59	Pyatt	579.09	Springtown	1,548.45	1,401.47
Booneville	109,924.64	106,665.01	Highfill	68,214.02	66,246.77	Quitman	22,449.37	Sulphur Springs	9,094.94	8,231.64
Bradford	13,223.79	16,660.99	Highland	28,503.38	29,758.87	Ravenden	2,449.23	Boone County	419,938.41	389,646.26
Bradley	2,571.12	3,349.13	Holly Grove	6,078.58	5,677.69	Rector	26,851.91	Alpena	4,431.26	4,111.61
Branch	1,778.83	1,604.00	Hope	182,182.42	183,340.76	Redfield	19,950.55	Bellefonte	6,306.56	5,851.64
Briarcliff	1,620.39	1,207.16	Horatio	6,640.91	6,218.47	Rison	14,145.89	Bergman	6,098.19	5,658.30
Brinkley	106,868.21	106,479.30	Horseshoe Bend	24,632.42	25,614.96	Rockport	13,856.31	Diamond City	10,862.84	10,079.25
Brookland	61,256.02	53,859.38	Hot Springs	1,771,033.21	1,782,039.55	Roe	907.28	Everton	1,847.52	1,714.25
Bryant	1,105,700.96	1,068,442.95	Hoxie	15,643.59	15,475.09	Rogers	3,071,366.10	Harrison	179,792.52	166,823.24
Bull Shoals	16,119.47	14,347.49	Hughes	6,279.06	8,085.16	Rose Bud	24,093.14	Lead Hill	3,764.49	3,492.94
Cabot	759,987.58	769,564.77	Humphrey	2,663.49	2,083.12	Rudy	8,375.74	Omaha	2,347.60	2,178.25
Caddo Valley	56,809.97	57,345.89	Huntington	3,115.96	3,001.71	Russellville	982,071.21	South Lead Hill	1,416.89	1,314.69
Calico Rock	28,035.76	26,429.17	Huntsville	124,076.87	129,697.89	Salem	16,899.54	Valley Springs	2,540.07	2,358.70
Camden	275,424.89	287,967.17	Imboden	7,609.11	6,825.94	Salesville	5,683.58	Zinc	1,430.78	1,327.57
Caraway	4,783.45	3,968.30	Jacksonville	649,498.56	629,396.84	Searcy	809,947.39	Bradley County	132,200.61	125,978.11
Carlisle	50,700.89	53,577.52	Jasper	32,399.02	31,224.58	Shannon Hills	9,827.46	Banks	1,020.79	972.74
Cash	2,431.58	2,417.69	Jennette	312.58	87.44	Sheridan	189,434.46	Hermitage	6,832.71	6,511.11
Cave City	18,141.93	17,764.07	Johnson	63,454.56	20,670.99	Sherill	900.33	Warren	49,417.80	47,091.77
Cave Springs	34,288.83	33,984.17	Joiner	3,794.14	2,613.20	Sherwood	440,693.07	Calhoun	88,308.04	73,373.34
Cedarville	5,924.32	NA	Judsonboro	1,543,950.95	1,476,897.18	Shirley	2,103.83	Hampton	25,031.01	20,797.76
Centerton	195,991.38	197,801.75	Judsonia	12,361.85	NA	Siloam Springs	665,857.60	Harrell	4,802.02	3,989.90
Charleston	34,224.89	28,937.16	Junction City	5,381.93	6,137.08	Sparkman	3,550.86	Thornton	7,694.58	6,393.26
Cherokee Village	16,052.56	15,010.99	Keiser	7,002.52	5,376.21	Springdale	2,555,877.94	Tinsman	1,020.91	848.24
Cherry Valley	4,720.01	4,297.91	Keo	2,731.81	1,494.18	Springtown	76.07	Carroll County	181,936.47	177,127.06
Chidester	2,598.16	2,549.49	Kibler	3,180.68	3,049.53	St. Charles	986.11	Beaver	6,664.04	648.44
Clarendon	47,465.61	46,140.30	Kingsland	2,083.29	1,783.41	Stamps	15,366.29	Blue Eye	199.81	194.53
Clarksville	358,300.58	363,564.86	Lake City	12,934.49	11,790.43	Star City	73,070.66	Chicot County	124,515.81	122,833.43
Clinton	88,831.75	88,307.25	Lake Village	74,350.82	73,119.50	Stephens	4,955.53	Dermott	22,671.34	22,365.02
Coal Hill	4,788.49	2,575.14	Lakeview	3,590.84	3,956.93	Strong	10,057.46	Eudora	17,805.91	17,565.33
Conway	2,114,433.14	1,912,685.80	Lamar	12,942.41	10,732.32	Stuttgart	579,949.78	Lake Village	20,207.24	19,934.20
Corning	78,563.36	16,680.23	Lead Hill	5,872.77	6,106.09	Sulphur Springs	1,567.80	Clark	390,074.01	394,601.82
Cotter	12,716.47	12,697.26	Lepanto	28,943.98	26,272.44	Summit	4,300.33	Clay County	90,568.16	80,074.32
Cotton Plant	1,493.05	1,365.31	Leslie	3,700.46	2,988.45	Sunset	2,865.30	Corning	24,446.38	21,631.86
Cove	9,810.49	15,316.70	Lewisville	11,023.03	7,895.22	Swifton	3,686.65	Datto	1,085.86	960.05
Crawfordsville	13,712.85	9,570.34	Lincoln	42,187.91	38,683.63	Taylor	7,556.16	Greenway	2,269.45	2,006.50
Crossett	299,443.60	259,915.86	Little Flock	11,219.75	8,476.57	Texarkana	395,410.60	Knobel	3,116.43	2,755.33
Damascus	11,778.22	6,507.16	Little Rock	6,359,520.20	6,147,188.86	Texarkana Special	193,827.65	McDougal	2,019.70	1,785.69
Darville	35,068.03	43,999.00	Lockesburg	4,234.41	4,821.20	Thornton	969.81	Nimmons	749.25	662.43
Dardanelle	147,076.89	153,120.25	Lonoke	168,603.48	157,236.10	Tontitown	151,086.35	Peach Orchard	1,465.92	1,296.06
Delator	24,836.18	20,977.99	Lowell	288,339.19	382,454.64	Trumann	146,368.89	Piggott	27,863.23	24,634.81
Delight	5,212.16	5,078.88	Luxora	1,570.10	6,140.91	Tuckerman	13,812.32	Pollard	2,410.62	2,131.30
DeQueen	127,760.51	117,781.07	Madison	1,094.47	1,037.42	Turrell	2,869.16	Rector	14,311.67	12,653.42
Dermott	22,094.68	22,753.50	Magazine	8,815.07	9,665.71	Tyronza	2,083.35	St. Francis	2,714.66	2,400.12
Des Arc	18,888.22	19,534.34	Magnolia	456,886.92	446,621.47	Van Buren	687,522.20	Success	1,617.91	1,430.47
DeValls Bluff	14,623.00	15,663.75	Malvern	172,054.16	162,746.81	Vandervoort	467.48	Cleburne County	394,208.45	240,814.47
DeWitt	153,769.41	153,167.20	Mammoth Spring	10,538.36	10,252.79	Vilonia	105,775.85	Concord	2,926.62	1,787.81
Diamond City	2,128.32	2,816.25	Manila	37,718.94	30,792.04	Viola	7,273.83	Fairfield Bay	2,194.96	1,340.86
Diaz	10,960.26	2,112.88	Mansfield	35,803.60	33,781.74	Wabbaseka	769.32	Greers Ferry	10,686.94	6,528.45
Dierks	27,492.51	23,430.57	Marianna	68,617.36	69,068.49	Waldenburn	7,357.49	Heber Springs	85,939.33	52,498.71
Dover	19,959.86	21,422.80	Marion	233,957.21	216,349.32	Waldron	106,966.99	Hyden	1,439.32	879.25
Dumas										





# MUNICIPAL MART

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

**CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**—Jonesboro seeks applicants for the position of Chief Finance Officer. This position will be responsible for assisting the mayor with overall management of the city's finances, as well as direct department supervision. This person will work closely with the mayor, attend city council meetings, committee meetings and other city-related functions that require regular business hours, after-hours and out-of-town overnight travel. This position ensures compliance with all local, state and federal laws regarding financial reporting, payment of various taxes and administrative areas. Minimum qualifications and skills: BS in Accounting, Finance, Business, Public Administration or related field; plus 7 years related experience and, and 5 years of related management experience. CPA preferred. Ability to effectively present information to top management, city council, public groups and news media. Basic knowledge of Microsoft Office products, such as Word, Excel and PowerPoint software. A successful background check. Applications will be accepted at the Human Resources Department, 300 S Church St, Jonesboro, AR; or on our website [www.jonesboro.org](http://www.jonesboro.org); (870) 933-4640. Open until filled. EOE.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR**—Anthony, Kan. (pop. 2,178; \$11.4 million budget, 36 FTE's), located 55 miles southwest of the Wichita, is friendly, progressive community seeking an energetic administrator with strong leadership skills. Bachelor's degree in Public Administration or a related field and at least 5 years of local government experience required, Master's preferred. Open transparent communication and budgeting skills required. Salary \$65,000-\$75,000 DOQ. Send cover letter, resume, and 3 professional references to [LEAPS-Anthony@lkm.org](mailto:LEAPS-Anthony@lkm.org) or LEAPS-Anthony, 300 SW 8th, Topeka, KS, 66603. EOE. Open until filled. Application review begins Sept. 18.

**OFFICE CLERK**—The City of Tontitown is accepting applications for full-time personnel for the position of Office Clerk. Applicant is required to provide a copy of their driver's license and resume with their application. Please submit applications by email to [adminasst@tontitownar.gov](mailto:adminasst@tontitownar.gov) or drop off at Tontitown Administrative Offices located at 201 E Henri de Tonti Blvd. Requires HS diploma or GED. Must possess valid Arkansas DL. Must be able to effectively operate standard office equipment. Must be proficient in the use of a personal computer, proficient in Excel, Word and other Microsoft programs. Ability to calculate fees associated with permits, inspections, and applications. Must pass a criminal background check and drug test. While performing the functions of this job, the employee is regularly required to communicate effectively with others orally and in writing. The employee regularly is required to move within the department, sit; use hands to finger, handle, or feel; reach with hands and arms; stoop, kneel, or crouch. The employee must occasionally lift and/or move up to 25 pounds. Specific vision abilities required to accomplish computer and office work. Must be able to hear to answer phones.

**OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR**—The City of Maumelle is seeking a highly qualified and motivated individual to serve as Office Administrator for Maumelle Center on the Lake. The successful candidate will oversee and manage daily office operations for department, assist Director with supervision of full and part time personnel, develop/implement marketing plan, and directly oversee all aspects for facility rentals. Oversee all aspects of facility rentals including marketing, tours, rental documents, facility calendar on department software, collect/maintain rental deposits and payments, set up facility equipment for events and scheduling of workers for events. Maintain management information systems (manual or computerized) updates, software, department website, servers and voicemail systems for department. Maintain a list of equipment maintenance, service contacts, arrange for repairs and maintenance of equipment and small building repairs. Supervise to completion. Maintain bookkeeping, payroll, daily accounting, and accounts payables/receivables. Assist Director in supervision

of staff including hiring, determining workload and delegating assignments, schedules, employee meetings, training, monitoring and evaluating performance, and initiating corrective or disciplinary actions. Produce flyers for distribution to members, create and manage social marketing plan and assist with promotion of events and activities for department. Assist with Membership Desk as required, greet members/visitors and give tours to visitors as needed. Answer phone as needed. Assist with community functions, complete other duties and tasks as required, needed and assigned. This job requires a Bachelor's degree from a four-year college or university or three years related experience and/or training or equivalent combination of education and experience, and two years managerial experience. Experience managing information systems, reconciling multiple employee deposit drawers, and/or social media campaigns a plus. Hours: M-F from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Starting salary: \$34,329. Open until filled. A City of Maumelle Employment Application must be completed. Please go to the City of Maumelle web page ([www.maumelle.org](http://www.maumelle.org)) and click on the Human Resources Department site and complete the online application. You may also contact the Maumelle Human Resources office by phone at (501) 851-2784 ext. 242, or at the office location 550 Edgewood Drive, Suite 555 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 pm.. Monday-Friday on an application or assistance. EOE. Men and women of all racial and ethnic groups are encouraged to apply. This ad is available from the Title VI Coordinator in large print, on audio, and in Braille at (501) 851-2784, ext. 242 or at [rhilton@maumelle.org](mailto:rhilton@maumelle.org).

**POLICE OFFICER**—The City of Eureka Springs is accepting applications for a full-time patrol officer position at the Eureka Springs Police Department. An application can be obtained by contacting the Police Department, [admin@police.eurekaspringsar.gov](mailto:admin@police.eurekaspringsar.gov), (479) 253-8666, or by mail at Eureka Springs Police Department, 147 Passion Play Road, Eureka Springs, AR 72632. Please submit applications/resume or questions to the above email or mailing address.

**POLICE OFFICER**—Russellville seeks applicants for the position of entry level certified and non-certified police officer. Minimum qualifications: 1. U.S. citizen. 2. Possess HS diploma or GED. 3. 21 years of age. An applicant may be 20 years of age at time of application but must be 21 at time of hiring. Hiring usually occurs within several weeks after initial testing. 4. Have not been convicted of any felony, or pled guilty to any felony, either as an adult or juvenile. Expunged records, sealed records, or pardons do not relieve the applicant from this requirement. 5. Possess a valid Arkansas DL at time of hire. 6. Free of any misdemeanor domestic violence conviction, in accordance with 18 USC Section 922. Deadline for application submittal: 5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 2. Civil service testing dates: Physical ability test, 8 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 7, at Russellville Police Department Training Facility, 1731 Airport Rd., Russellville. Written examination, 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7, at Russellville Police Department 115 West H Street, Russellville. Apply online at [www.russellvillepolice.org](http://www.russellvillepolice.org), click on Career Opportunities.

**PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR**—The City of Cotter is accepting applications for the position of Public Works Director. Experience with heavy equipment, water distribution, plumbing and electrical license is suggested. Competitive salary and benefits. Call Cotter Water Department, (870) 435-6325.

**PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR**—Junction City seeks applicants for the position of public works director. Applicant must be a certified water and sewer operator. Competitive salary and benefits. Must relocate to Junction City area. Interested persons may call the Junction City Hall at (870) 924-4922 for an application or apply in person at 207 North Main in Junction City.





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Standing from left:  
Leigh Ann Biernat, Jack Truemper,  
Lindsey Ollar, Michael McBryde,  
Michele Casavechia, Kevin Faught,  
Melissa Walsh

Seated from left: Jason Holsclaw,  
Bo Bittle, Mark McBryde,  
Dennis Hunt (Executive Vice  
President and Manager of  
Public Finance)

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## Public Finance