

City & Town

JANUARY 2018 VOL. 74, NO. 01

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE



**See you at
#2018AMLWC
in Fort Smith**

How do you think new money becomes old money?



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Simmons Bank, Trust Department*



John Monroe

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Simmons Bank, Trust Department*



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*Senior Vice President
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*Senior Vice President,
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Cover photo by Benjamin Bandimere, Branchout Studios.



ON THE COVER—Fort Smith Convention Center is getting geared up to host the 2018 League Winter Conference, Jan. 10-12. The agenda is set, and it's full of sessions featuring important information for city and town leaders. Go to page 28 in this issue for registration info and the most up-to-date agenda. Read also inside about the commissioning of the USS Little Rock, tips for better communication, an overview of state record retention statutes for cities, and much more.—atm

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Dear Friends,
I hope you had a lovely holiday season. As we start this New Year, we know there is much work to do to build upon our successes in 2017 to make 2018 even better for our residents, businesses, and municipal employees.

Many of you are putting the finishing touches on your 2018 city budgets. We passed ours in December, and I know passing a budget comes with challenges and hopes for the following year. If you need any guidance during this critical time, I encourage you to reach out to the League.

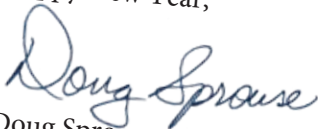
The League is an invaluable resource for municipalities, and you'll see us in action at our annual Winter Conference coming up soon in Fort Smith. It will be held Jan. 10-12 at the DoubleTree by Hilton/Fort Smith Convention Center. It's a perfect way to jump start the New Year and get caught up on the important issues your municipality might face in 2018. Additionally, city officials participating in the voluntary certification program will be offered three hours of continuing education credits, so you don't want to miss it.

Also this month, the second round of advisory council meetings will begin on Jan. 31 and will conclude on Feb. 9. I want to applaud the great work they did in 2017, and I look forward to continuing to work with them this year.

One important highlight of 2017 was the City of Springdale's decision to sign the Opioid Engagement Litigation Letter. No city is immune from the financial damages caused by drug overdoses, and this lawsuit is an avenue to recover some of those costs. I encourage you to reach out to the League, learn more about their efforts to combat this serious issue, and consider signing the letter, as well.

Let's work together to make 2018 an historic year in Arkansas. In our cities let's take small steps that will lead to monumental changes, such as putting in a place a protocol to collect internet sales tax, fighting for those in our communities who need our help, and passing budgets that are focused on taking care of our residents and returning the most efficient and effective services possible.

Happy New Year,



Doug Sprouse
Mayor, Springdale
President, Arkansas Municipal League



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



Sailors stand at the ready aboard the USS Little Rock, which was commissioned in December in Buffalo, N.Y.

USS Little Rock commissioned

On Saturday, Dec. 16 in snowy Buffalo, New York, more than 8,500 spectators watched a historic commissioning ceremony as the USS Little Rock (LCS-9) officially became a part of the U.S. Navy fleet. It was the first time in Navy history that a new ship was commissioned in the shadow of its namesake with the original USS Little Rock now serving as a museum ship at the Buffalo Naval and Military Park.

A contingent of Arkansans were in attendance for the event in Buffalo including Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola, Sen. John Boozman, North Little Rock Mayor Joe Smith, and Little Rock Namesake Committee Chair and former Little Rock Mayor Tom Prince. A group of 130 Arkansans also followed along live at a special watch party at the Ron Robinson Theater in Little Rock.



From left, former Little Rock Mayor and Namesake Committee Chair Tom Price, former North Little Rock Mayor and current North Little Rock Parks Director Terry Hartwick, former North Little Rock Mayor Pat Hays, Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola, Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown, and North Little Rock Mayor Joe Smith.

PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF LITTLE ROCK.

Former Navy Secretary Ray Mabus, who served on the original USS Little Rock, announced in 2011 that another ship would bear the capital city's name. Since that time, Mayor Stodola and a group of dedicated volunteers from Little Rock and North Little Rock have worked to fulfill the traditional U.S. Navy relationship between a ship's crew and its namesake city.

The group, which has become known as the Little Rock Namesake Committee, hosted a group of sailors from the USS Little Rock in Little Rock in June of 2017 that included the ship's commander Todd Peters and Command Master Chief Joseph Reynolds. The sailors had the opportunity to experience Central Arkansas landmarks, visit local veterans, and mentor students at City of Little Rock community centers. The Namesake Committee also hosted a special City of Little Rock reception as part of the commissioning ceremony.

The relationship between the USS Little Rock and her namesake city will continue for the life of the ship and the Namesake Committee has plans to establish a scholarship program for families of the crew or Little Rock residents who wish to serve in the U.S. Navy. As Mayor Stodola stated in his remarks at the commissioning ceremony: "It is the crew who will man the vessel



Aboard the USS Little Rock, Navy Lt. j.g. Robert Dyer of Mountainburg, Ark., describes to Commander Todd Peters and Mayor Stodola how he guided the ship into Buffalo.

PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF LITTLE ROCK.

that bring true honor to our city's name. You come from all walks of life and all areas of our amazing country, united in your dedication to protecting America and all that she stands for. As you sail, and those who come after you sail, you can be confident in knowing that the thoughts and prayers of the great and gracious people of Little Rock travel with you." 🇺🇸

PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF LITTLE ROCK.



U.S. NAVY PHOTO COURTESY OF LOCKHEED MARTIN

Ship sponsor Mrs. Janée Bonner conducted the time-honored tradition of christening the ship by smashing a bottle of champagne across the bow.



Resolve to Keep Arkansas Beautiful in 2018

By Mark Camp

The New Year brings aspirations of a fresh start, new habits, or a chance to make good decisions. As the director of the Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission, I focus on good habits and impactful decisions year-round.

Although the thought of keeping the entire state clean and litter-free can seem like a daunting task, I think we all know the importance of beauty in our state. Tourism adds more than \$7.6 billion to Arkansas's economy annually, according to the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism 2016-17 annual report. A large percentage of those visitors come to enjoy natural attractions of our state.

Litter hurts our bottom line. As a business owner, I know that a clean, beautiful space is attractive to customers, whether they are tourists, patients, or patrons. We also know that the very presence of litter in a community decreases property values by a little over seven percent, according to the National Association of Home Builders pricing model. Furthermore, 36 percent of business development officials say that litter impacts a person's or family's decision to locate to a community, according to a report from Keep America Beautiful on litter in America.

This year, I challenge you to take a look at your community with a new perspective. Evaluate your street sides, parking lots, and sidewalks. Check out your city buildings and properties, such as city hall, libraries, hospitals, parks, police and fire stations. Is there litter there? Do you see cigarette butts scattered along the ground?

Littering is illegal—all littering, including that cigarette butt. Cigarette butts are the number one littered item in the country. Arkansas law prohibits

smoking in many areas, but many properties don't have an appropriate receptacle, and most cars don't have ashtrays anymore.

If there's litter lying around, do you have a solution? It's tough to maintain these little details, but there are easy, cheap, and long-term solutions to this litter problem. Make a one-time investment in ash or trash receptacles outside your municipal buildings so residents and employees can properly dispose of their trash. Even placing a large coffee can filled with sand for cigarette butts can make a difference.

Work with organizations in your community, and involve the schools and art programs to create beautiful designs on your trash receptacles. Organize a community cleanup for the Great American Cleanup in Arkansas this spring. There are many ways simple solutions can bring your community together and help other residents and patrons join in the good work.

Are there individuals in your community who are especially passionate and active about keeping your town litter-free? Send us an email about these mission-minded people at info@keeparkansasbeautiful.com. We'd like to acknowledge their efforts and engage them in a statewide network of like-minded Arkansans. Together, we can resolve to create cleaner, beautiful spaces in our communities to keep The Natural State litter-free. Learn more at KeepArkansasBeautiful.com or call 1-888-742-8701.



Mark Camp is the director of the Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission. Contact him at (501) 862-3507 or by email at Mark.Camp@arkansas.gov.

The three keys to transforming your communication

By Dean Brenner

When we think about how to become a better communicator, we often think about the tools we use: our data, our PowerPoint deck, our posture, and poise. And these are crucial. But the real keys to sustained, long-term improvement and success as a communicator might surprise you, in part because they are simple, easy to implement, and available to everyone.

Think of training for a sailing competition. You have your gear, teammates, and past experience to draw on. But to succeed, you also need to set ambitious goals, adhere to a training plan, and practice assiduously until you've perfected all the necessary skills. Otherwise, you'll struggle to push yourself beyond your comfort zone and truly advance to a higher level of competition.

The same concepts apply to honing your communication skills. You need to turn on that mental switch that says, "I want to improve, and I want to be the best I can be." When you turn on this switch, you activate three important spheres:

- **Attitude** (positive and proactive): Every opportunity to speak becomes an opportunity to persuade your audience. A meeting with colleagues, a phone call with a client, or a formal presentation—no communication is without a challenge to be clear, confident, and persuasive.
- **Commitment** (total and persistent): Challenge yourself on every skill, and be deliberate about how you seek to improve.
- **Training** (thorough and long-term): Go after challenging communication opportunities. Ask your colleagues for feedback and provide constructive, honest feedback in return. Seek out mentors and recognize that as your communication improves, so will your career trajectory.

Now you have the right attitude, commitment, and training. What next? This is when you can successfully implement a metrics-based, tool-rich system for approaching communication. In our model, we focus on four major skill sets to improve communication:

- **Assess:** Analyze honestly your own skill and the challenge in front of you.



- **Message:** Craft a clear, persuasive argument.
- **Document:** Support that message with slides or other supplementary media.
- **Deliver:** Present your message with confidence and clarity.

In these areas, we can use measurable data and skill assessment to improve every communication opportunity, both in challenging the speaker to hone her skills and achieve her persuasive goal.

The best part of this system is that it not only can transform an individual's skill set, but when spread throughout an organization, it can transform an entire way of doing business. One person can use these tools effectively, but the benefits compound when a team uses them. And if an entire team commits in attitude, commitment, and training (if I encourage you and you support him and he inspires me) the effect is exponential.

So what's the first step? Try. Commit to becoming a better communicator. Persist. Improvement won't come all at once. Focus on one skill at a time, be patient with yourself, and see how each presentation or call changes some aspect of your skill set. Share. Get your team involved, ask and give feedback, and push each other to improve. The further these tools and attitudes cascade through a company, the greater the value. When we communicate effectively as an organization, we sell better, produce better, and grow better.

Dean M. Brenner is the president and founder of The Latimer Group, a communications coaching and training firm. This article appeared originally at thelatimergroup.com/blog and Forbes.com and is reprinted with permission.

New Year. New challenges.

By Jim von Tungeln

It being the start of a new year, I paid a visit to Mayor Furlow Thompson down in Pot Luck, Arkansas, the self-acclaimed “Best Mayor in America.” I thought I would check in and see what he had on his mind for the coming year. His views are the best leading indicators I’ve discovered in all my years of looking.

The mayor turned 74 this year, having been born in the middle of World War Two after his dad came home on leave from the Army. He’s as sharp as ever, though.

I found him in his office drumming his fingers on the top of the military surplus desk he purchased last year. His office, along with those of the other department heads, is located in a new building, part of the recently constructed community center complex. They say he assembled three grants, 12 corporate sponsorships, and \$600 in donations from school kids in the financing of the complex, a state-of-the-art facility that would be a marvel for a city of 10,000.

The center hosts an odd variety of uses, including a talented-youth support facility, a new jail, and a fitness center. “We care for the good, the bad, and the ugly,” he says.

The new jail replaces the one cell in the old City Hall. It had been called, oddly enough, “The Butt-Cut Shorty Detention Center” after one of the town’s most colorful, famous, and beloved residents. He was a little over four feet tall and known for not suffering insults about it. He was famous for his limited, and harmless, prowess with a knife. He also played the blues harmonica, a soothing sound that carried through City Hall and made him welcome in the old cell anytime.

Today, the Mayor had something on his mind, but he motioned me in and had me take a seat. He held up one finger for silence, and craned his neck toward a long hallway. He turned toward me for a second, nodded toward the hallway, and said, “Conflict resolution in progress.”

We waited. Three or four minutes passed, and the nearest door opened. A man dressed all in white shot out and sped down the hall away from us, one hand pressed to his head. Next, a tall, tanned woman in gym clothes walked out, brushing her hands together. She came to where we sat and addressed the mayor. “Resolved,” she said.

“Copacetic,” he said. “Go forth and sin no more.” He introduced us, we shook hands, and she went about her business.

I waited for an explanation. “Disagreement,” he said. “We get an awful lot of those lately. Folks don’t get along like they used to.”

I knew, from past experience, that I would learn more by not pressing, so I waited.

“That feller you saw teaches a local karate class here,” he said. “She teaches a girl’s wrestling team. They been worrying me to death ‘cause they both wanted the use of that room at the same time.”

“So, you had to make the decision?”

“Are you kidding? I’d rather separate two pit bulls fightin’ over a jogger.”

“Then how did it get resolved?”

“Danged if I know,” he said. “I put them in that room and told them to work it out. I reckon they did.”

I made a mental note to talk to Ken Wasson about that. Then I returned to the purpose of my mission.

“What do you have coming up this year?” I asked.

“Oh, this and that,” he said. “We’ve grown,” he said. “I reckon we’re going to hit up near 4,000 next census.”

“That’s a lot of growth,” I said.

“It’s a lot of headaches,” he said. “You can’t imagine how many times I’ve had to tell developers we ain’t havin’ no pump stations, force-main sewer lines running all over the county, or jackleg streets that our people would have to take care of forever. Somebody builds in Pot Luck, they pay their way, for now and for the future. We don’t provide charity just so we can brag about how much we are growing. We concentrate on building our people, not our population.”

“Makes sense,” I said. “What else is going on?”

“That development made our city limits crooked as a rabbit’s hind leg,” he said. “Police and Fire want the boundaries straightened out. They got with the county folks and want us to annex them lines straight so they will know what is where, so to speak. So, I reckon we will.” He stopped and asked, “You want a ‘Cokola’ or something?”

“No thanks,” I said.

“If it was after work hours, I’d take you over to Norma Jean’s for something stronger,” he said. “You’d like the place. It’s been a real asset in bringing that new development here. Them young folks do like to socialize after work.”

“So I’ve heard,” I said.

“Anyway,” he said. “We’ve gotta get busy on this annexation so we can get it counted on the next census.”

True that,” I said.



Mayor Furlow Thompson's thought for 2018: "Great leaders make great cities." (Pictured: Marvin L. Vinson, longtime Clarksville mayor and 1992-1993 League president.)

At that point, a large white cat wandered into to office and jumped on the Mayor's desk. It stretched out and began to purr. The mayor stroked him and said, "Meet the Honorable Marvin Vinson," he said, "named after an old friend and legendary mayor."

"I'm honored to have known him and worked with him," I said.

"This one here," he patted the cat, "he used to wander and cause trouble, so I took him over to Doc Blucker's." He winked. "Best animal control practice there is."

I changed the subject. "How are your revenues holding up? Are Internet sales hurting?"

"Say what?"

"Are you losing sales tax revenue because of Internet sales?"

"Oh," he said. "We don't have a lot of those, except for stuff you can't buy downtown."

"How do you manage that?"

"I don't," he said. "Martha Sue Castleberry does."

"Do you mind explaining?"

"She and her husband, Johnny 'One-Scoop' Castleberry, ran the Dairy Bar over by the high school, for 40 years," he said. "Retired awhile back, but they stay active."

"And?"

"They say between the two of them, they bailed every teenager who grew up here out of jail at one time or another. Kept a list of secrets, too."

"How does that relate to Internet sales?"

"She's a big supporter of local businesses, don't you see?"

"And?"

"She sees a delivery truck stopped at a house, she gets right over to investigate. Lord help the poor soul who bypasses a local store and buys off the net."

"Oh, really?"

"How would you like your wicked past to get published in the newspaper? Did I mention that she is a sister to Ramona Gale Ledbetter, who owns the *Pot Luck Prattler*?"

"What about newcomers who don't have a history?"

"Ain't you ever heard of signs?"

"Yes."

"Don't you know that we can't stop people from putting anything they want to on signs, long as it ain't vulgar or threatening somebody?"

"Yes."

"Well our zoning ordinance allows homeowners one sign in their yard."

"And?"

"They sure help local business. Martha Sue and Ramona Gale call them 'Shame Signs' and most of the folks in town like to help."

"Oh."

"Son," he said. "Shame, pride, and loyalty work wonders with a great number of things. We, here in Pot Luck, haven't lost sight of that."



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.

Annual Statements

The suggested **FORM A** is for use by cities of the first class, second class, and incorporated towns to comply with 14-59-116.

Form A

City or Town of _____
 (Cities of the first class, second class, and incorporated towns)
 Financial Statement January 1, 2017—Dec. 31, 2017

GENERAL FUND

Balance January 1, 2017	\$ _____
Cash Receipts	
State Revenues	\$ _____
Property Taxes	\$ _____
Sales Taxes	\$ _____
Fines, Forfeitures, and Costs	\$ _____
Franchise Fees	\$ _____
Transfers In	\$ _____
Other	\$ _____
Total Receipts	\$ _____
Total General Fund Available	\$ _____
Expenditures	
*Administrative Department:	
Personal Services	\$ _____
Supplies	\$ _____
Other services and charges	\$ _____
Capital Outlay	\$ _____
Debt Service	\$ _____
Transfers Out	\$ _____
Total Expenditures	\$ _____
Balance General Fund Dec. 31, 2017	\$ _____

STREET FUND

Balance January 1, 2017	\$ _____
Cash Receipts	
State Revenues	\$ _____
Property Taxes	\$ _____
Sales Taxes	\$ _____
Franchise Fees	\$ _____
Transfers In	\$ _____
Other	\$ _____
Total Street Receipts	\$ _____
Total Street Fund Available	\$ _____
Expenditures	
Personal Services	\$ _____
Supplies	\$ _____
Other services and charges	\$ _____
Capital Outlay	\$ _____
Debt service	\$ _____
Transfers out	\$ _____
Total Expenditures	\$ _____
Balance Street Fund Dec. 31, 2017	\$ _____

The classification of expenditures shall be by department, i.e., administrative, police department, fire department, parks department, etc.

INDEBTEDNESS

Type of Debt	Amount	Date Last Payment Due
Property Tax Bonds	\$ _____	_____
Short term financing obligations	\$ _____	
Sales & Use Tax Bonds	\$ _____	
Revenue Bonds	\$ _____	
Lease Purchase Agreements	\$ _____	
		Date Free of Debt
Total	\$ _____	_____

All financial records for the City of _____ are public records and are open for public inspection during regular business hours of ____ A.M. to ____ P.M., Monday through Friday, at City Hall in _____, Arkansas.

If the record is in active use or in storage and, therefore, not available at the time a citizen asks to examine it, the custodian shall certify this fact in writing to the applicant and set a date and hour within three (3) days at which time the record will be available for inspection and copying.

Municipalities must publish annual financial statement


The time is rapidly arriving for the annual reporting of each city and town's financial statement. Refer to the *Handbook for Arkansas Municipal Officials*, 2017-18 ed., section 14-59-116 and section 14-237-113. Although these statements were required semiannually in the past, Acts 620 § 11 and 621 § 10 of 2011 amended the law to provide for annual publication instead.

Ark. Code Ann. § 14-59-116 now provides that the governing body of each municipality shall publish annually in a newspaper published in the municipality a FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MUNICIPALITY by April 1 covering the previous calendar year (January through the end of December).

The financial statements should include the receipts and expenditures for the year. In addition, they should contain "a statement of the indebtedness and financial condition of the municipality."

Section 14-237-113 provides similar publication requirements for the operating authority of the WATER and SEWER DEPARTMENTS. Water and sewer departments administered by one or two commissions must comply with the law. If the water and sewer departments are administered by the city council, then it is the responsibility of the city council to comply with the statute.

What if no newspaper is published in the city or town? In that case, the statements may be posted in two public places in the municipality. Note that this is a change from the previous law, which only allowed incorporated towns to post and required that the postings appear in five public places.

Suggested Forms A and B appear on these facing pages. For additional information, call the League at (501) 374-3484. You can buy a copy of the *Handbook for Arkansas Municipal Officials* at www.arml.org/store. 

The suggested **FORM B** is for use by Water and Sewer Departments to comply with 14-237-113.

Form B		
City or Town of _____		
Financial Statement January 1, 2017—Dec. 31, 2017		
WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENTS		
Balance January 1, 2017	\$ _____	
Cash Receipts		
Water Payments	\$ _____	
Sewer Payments	\$ _____	
Sanitation Funds	\$ _____	
Other	\$ _____	
Total Receipts	\$ _____	
Total Funds Available	\$ _____	
Expenditures		
Personal Services	\$ _____	
Supplies	\$ _____	
Other services and charges	\$ _____	
Capital Outlay	\$ _____	
Debt Service	\$ _____	
Transfers Out	\$ _____	
Total Expenditures	\$ _____	
Balance Water and Sewer Fund Dec. 31, 2017	\$ _____	
INDEBTEDNESS		
Type of Debt	Amount	Date Last Payment Due
Short term financing obligations	\$ _____	_____
Water Revenue Bonds	\$ _____	_____
Sewer Revenue Bonds	\$ _____	_____
		Date Free of Debt

Total	\$ _____	
All financial records of the Water and Sewer Department of (City or Town) of _____ are public records and are open for public inspection during regular business hours of ____ A.M. to ____ P.M., Monday through Friday, at the Water Department in _____, Arkansas.		
If the record is in active use or in storage and, therefore, not available at the time a citizen asks to examine it, the custodian shall certify this fact in writing to the applicant and set a date and hour within three (3) days at which time the record will be available for inspection and copying.		

AHPP schedules 2018 Walks through History and Sandwiching in History tours



The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program's annual Walks through History and Sandwiching in History tours visit historic properties in Arkansas. All tours are free and open to the public.

In the Walks through History tour series, AHPP historians each month provide guided walking tours of historic structures and districts across Arkansas. Most tours begin at 11 a.m. on Saturdays. The 2018 schedule includes:

March 10

Mount Nord Historic District, Fayetteville

April 14

Columbia Street, Helena-West Helena

May 12

Downtown Beebe

Sept. 15

Downtown Osceola

Oct. 13

Heber Springs Commercial Historic District

Nov. 10

Magnolia Commercial Historic District

The Sandwiching in History tours target Pulaski County structures and sites. The noontime series includes a brief lecture and a tour of the subject property. Participants are encouraged to bring their lunches with them. 2018 tours include:

Feb. 2

Markham Street United Methodist Church, Little Rock

March 2

Block Realty-Couch House, Little Rock

April 6

Dr. Charles Kennedy House, North Little Rock

May 4

Lake Nixon, Little Rock

June 1

Maumelle Ordnance Works Bunker #4, Maumelle

July 6

William E. Woodruff House, Little Rock

Aug. 3

National Old Line Building, Little Rock

Sept. 7

Matthews-Story House, Little Rock

Oct. 5

Rock Island Argenta Depot, North Little Rock

Nov. 2

Mary H. Matthews Lustron House, Little Rock

Dec. 7

Curran Hall, Little Rock

For more details, call the AHPP at (501) 324-9880, email info@arkansaspreservation.org, or visit www.arkansaspreservation.org.

2018 municipal election dates at-a-glance

2018 is an election year for many municipal offices, and deadlines for filing and other important dates are approaching. For a complete overview of municipal election information, including state statutes, sample petitions for nomination and oaths of office, see the November 2017 issue of *City & Town* magazine, or visit the Legal FAQs page in the Resources menu on the League's website, www.arml.org.

Filing Dates

- ◆ Primary election—From noon Thursday, Feb. 22 until noon Thursday, March 1.
- ◆ Independents for General Election—From Friday, July 27 until noon Friday, Aug. 17; OR, by city ordinance from Wednesday, May 2 until noon Monday, May 21.

Election Dates

- ◆ Preferential Primary Election—Tuesday, May 22.
- ◆ Primary Election (runoff)—Tuesday, June 19.
- ◆ General Election—Tuesday, Nov. 6.
- ◆ General Election (runoff)—Tuesday, Dec. 4.

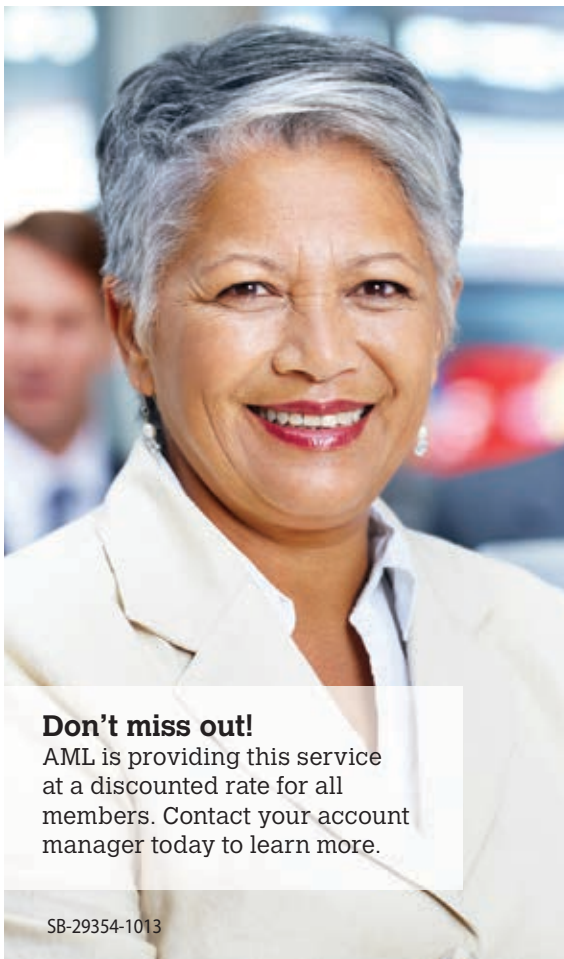


Political Practice Pledge and Affidavit of Eligibility

- ◆ For candidates in Preferential Primary Election—From noon Thursday, Feb. 22 until noon Thursday, March 1.
- ◆ For independent candidates—From July 27 until noon Friday, Aug. 17.

Financial Disclosure Statements

- ◆ Incumbent officeholders—Wednesday, Jan. 31.
- ◆ Non-incumbent primary candidates—Monday, March 5.
- ◆ Non-incumbent independent candidates (by ordinance)—Tuesday, May 29.
- ◆ Non-incumbent independent candidates (no ordinance)—Monday, Aug. 20. 🏛️



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Charles Angel
Senior Account Executive
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a different opinion

Reminder to All City Councils Regarding First Council Meeting of 2018

The 90th General Assembly of the Arkansas Legislature in 2015, via Act 235, amended A.C.A. § 14-43-501 regarding the organization at the beginning of a new year of the governing bodies of cities and towns.

A.C.A. § 14-43-501. Organization of governing body

- (a)(1) The members of a governing body elected for each city or town shall annually in January assemble and organize the governing body.
- (2)(A) A majority of the whole number of members of a governing body constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.
- (B)(i) The governing body shall judge the election returns and the qualifications of its own members.
- (ii) These judgments are not subject to veto by the mayor.
- (C)(i) The governing body shall determine the rules of its proceedings and keep a journal of its proceedings, which shall be open to the inspection and examination of any citizen.
- (ii) The governing body may also compel the attendance of absent members in such a manner and under such penalties as it prescribes.
- (iii) The governing body may consider the passage of rules on the following subjects, including without limitation:
- (a) The agenda for meetings;
 - (b) The filing of resolutions and ordinances; and
 - (c) Citizen commentary.
- (b)(1)(A) In the mayor-council form of government, the mayor shall be ex officio president of the city council and shall preside at its meetings.
- (B) The mayor shall have a vote to establish a quorum of the city council at any regular or special meeting of the city council and when his or her vote is needed to pass any ordinance, bylaw, resolution, order, or motion.
- (2) In the absence of the mayor, the city council shall elect a president pro tempore to preside over council meetings.
- (3) If the mayor is unable to perform the duties of office or cannot be located, one (1) of the following individuals may perform all functions of a mayor during the disability or absence of the mayor:
- (A) The city clerk;
 - (B) Another elected official of the city if designated by the mayor; or
 - (C) An unelected employee or resident of the city if designated by the mayor and approved by the city council.
- (c) As used in this section, “governing body” means the city council in a mayor-council form of government, the board of directors in a city manager form of government, and the board of directors in a city administrator form of government.



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IMPORTANT REMINDER: Highway Revenues and Severance Turnback Reporting Due

Act 166 of the 2016 Fiscal Session of the Arkansas Legislature requires municipalities receiving \$2 million or more in total highway revenues and highway severance turnback to submit reporting for 2016 projects to the Bureau of Legislative Research. The reporting deadline is March 15, 2018.

You can access Act 166 and the required reporting document online at:
www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2015/2016F/Acts/Act166.pdf

SECTION 13. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. TURNBACK REPORTING.

Each calendar year each county and municipality receiving total highway revenues and highway severance turnback per A.C.A § 27-70-207 and A.C.A § 26-58-124 of \$2,000,000 or more shall report to the House Public Transportation Committee and the Senate Transportation, Technology and Legislative Affairs Committee indicating how highway revenues and highway severance turnback funds were utilized. The report shall include a general ledger accounting of the city or county street/road fund. The county report shall be made utilizing the County Financial Management System of tracking county revenues and expenditures. The report shall also include the percentage of the street/road fund that is comprised of state funds. Further, the report shall include details of each contracted project including type and description of project and total amount of money spent on the project. The report shall be submitted annually no later than March 15 for the previous year's projects. The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017.

Finally, you have been requested, to the extent possible, to identify the type of projects using the following categories below:

- Bicycle Paths
- Bridges
- Drainage Maintenance
- Highways
- Hot Mix, Asphalt, Gravel, Concrete, Paint, Steel
- Intelligent Transportation Systems
- Intermodal Facilities
- Other Surface/Water Transportation
- Parking Facilities
- Pedestrian Ways
- Port Authorities
- Public Transit Systems
- Railroads
- Roads/Streets
- Safety Improvements
- Sidewalks
- Lighting/Right of Way Maintenance
- Toll Facilities
- Traffic Management Systems
- Traffic Signal Systems
- Trails
- Traveler Information Systems
- Tunnels
- Waterways
- Other

The report shall be submitted annually no later than March 15 for the previous year's projects. Please ensure this message is forwarded to the appropriate personnel. Direct all questions regarding this reporting requirement to:

Estella Smith, Administrator
Committee Staff Services
Bureau of Legislative Research
One Capitol Mall, 5th Floor
Little Rock, AR 72201
(501) 537-9192 or smithe@blr.arkansas.gov

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MEETING CALENDAR

January 10-12, 2018

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

Fort Smith, AR

March 11-14

**National League of Cities
Congressional City Conference**

Washington, DC

June 13-15, 2018

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

Statehouse Convention Center
Little Rock, AR





RECORD RETENTION LAWS FOR ARKANSAS MUNICIPALITIES

Revised November 7, 2017

David C. Schoen, Legal Counsel, Arkansas Municipal League

DESTRUCTION/RETENTION

(Ark. Code Ann. § 14-2-201 – 203)

These statutes provide for the destruction of paper records and reproduction in another format. Review these procedures carefully before destroying any records.

Ark. Code Ann. § 14-2-201. Authority—Requirements

- (a.) The head of any county or municipal department, commission, bureau, or board may cause any or all records kept by the official, department, commission, or board to be photographed, microfilmed, photostated, or reproduced on or by film, microcard, miniature photographic recording, optical disc, digital compact disc, electronic imaging, or other process that accurately reproduces or forms a durable medium for reproducing the original when provided with equipment necessary for such method of recording.
- (b.) At the time of reproduction, the agency head shall attach his or her certificate to the record certifying that it is the original record, and the certificate shall be reproduced with the original.

- (c.) The device used to reproduce the records shall be such as to accurately reproduce and perpetuate the original records in all details.

Ark. Code Ann. § 14-2-203. Disposal, etc., of copied records

- (a.) Whenever reproductions of public records have been made in accordance with § 14-2-201 and have been placed in conveniently accessible files or other suitable format and provision has been made for preserving, examining, and using them, the head of a county office or department or city office or department may certify those facts to the county court or to the mayor of a municipality, respectively, who shall have the power to authorize the disposal, archival storage, or destruction of the records.
- (b.) Cities of the first class, cities of the second class, and incorporated towns may by ordinance declare a policy of record retention and disposal, provided that:
 - (1.) The city or town complies with any specific statute regarding municipal records; and

(2.) The following records are maintained permanently in either the original or electronic format as required by law:

- (A) Ordinances;
- (B) City council minutes;
- (C) Resolutions;
- (D) Annual financial audits; and
- (E) Year-end financial statements.

COURT RECORDS

(Ark. Code Ann. § 13-4-201 through 204; Ark. Code Ann. § 16-46-101; Ark. Code Ann. § 16-10-211)

Sections 13-4-201 through -204 permit the destruction of paper records once they have been reproduced in another format unless another statute permits destruction without requiring a copy made. Any hand-written document over fifty (50) years old, and any document of historical value as determined by the Arkansas State Archives, may not be destroyed as well as if otherwise required to be kept by law.

Section 16-46-101 provides means by which copies of certain records are to be maintained for evidentiary purposes.

See attached for specifications of section 16-10-211.

ACCOUNTING

(Ark. Code Ann. § 14-59-114)

Accounting records fall into three groups:

Support Documents, Semipermanent Records, and Permanent Records.

Support documents must be kept for at least four (4) years and may not be destroyed before an audit for the time in question. They consist of cancelled checks, invoices, bank statements, receipts, deposit slips, bank reconciliations, check book registers or listings, receipts listings, monthly financial reports, payroll records, budget documents, and bids, quotes, and related documentation.

Semipermanent Records must be kept for at least seven (7) years with the same restriction regarding an audit. They consist of fixed assets and equipment detail records, investment and certificate of deposit records, journals, ledgers, and subsidiary ledgers, and annual financial reports. For investment and certificate of deposit

records, the seven (7) years of required maintenance begins on the date of maturity.

Permanent records shall be maintained permanently.

They consist of city or town council minutes, ordinances, resolutions, employee retirement documents, and annual financial audits.

POLICE TICKET BOOKS

(Ark. Code Ann. § 16-10-211(a)(3)(K) & (L))

Citation books and logs must be kept for at least three (3) years and may not be destroyed before an audit.

POLICE DEPARTMENT RECORDS

(Ark. Code Ann. § 14-2-204)

Maintain permanently or for at least seven (7) years, as the municipality may determine: closed municipal police case files for felony and Class A misdemeanor offenses and expungement orders of municipal police cases. However, after ten (10) years, these may be copied and maintained under Ark. Code Ann. § 14-2-203. In addition, records constituting evidence of sexual offenses or violent offenses resulting in convictions must comply with Ark. Code Ann. § 12-12-104 and Ark. Code Ann. § 5-42-203 and must also be maintained permanently. Furthermore, all of the above records must comply with Ark. Code Ann. § 14-2-203(b)(1).

Maintain for three (3) years: Accident, incident, and offense reports, fine and bond and parking meter records, radio logs and complaint cards, employment records, payroll sheets, time cards, and leave requests. After three (3) years, they may then be copied electronically or disposed of.

WATER and SEWER

(Ark. Code Ann. § 14-237-112)

These provisions are substantially the same as for Accounting Records (see above).

HISTORICAL

(Ark. Code Ann. § 13-3-107)

Before any records "other than ephemeral materials" are destroyed, city officials must advise the Arkansas State Archives in writing and give any records deemed to have historical value to the State Archives.



COURT RECORDS

Ark. Code Ann. § 16-10-211. Record retention schedule

(c.) All towns, cities, and counties of the State of Arkansas shall maintain records for the district courts and are to:

- (1.) Permanently maintain:
 - (A) Case indices for all district courts;
 - (B) Case dockets for all district courts;
 - (C) Active warrants;
 - (D) Waivers;
 - (E) Expungement and sealed records;
 - (F) Files concerning convictions under the Omnibus DWI or BWI Act, § 5-65-101 et seq.; and
 - (G) Domestic battering files;
- (2.) Maintain for a period of at least seven (7) years and in no event dispose of before being audited:
 - (A) Complete case files and written exhibits for all district courts, not including civil or small claims division cases in which the judgment is not satisfied;
 - (B) Show cause orders;
 - (C) Case information, including arrest reports and affidavits; and
 - (D) Files concerning cases resulting in a suspended imposition of sentence; and
- (3.) Maintain for a period of at least three (3) years and in no event dispose of before being audited:
 - (A) Bank reconciliations;
 - (B) Check book registers and check listings;
 - (C) Cancelled checks;
 - (D) Bank statements;

- (E) Receipts;
- (F) Deposit collection records;
- (G) Receipts listings;
- (H) Distribution reports;
- (I) Receipt and disbursement journals;
- (J) Time payment records;
- (K) Citation book logs;
- (L) Citation books from each police department and sheriff's office;
- (M) Served, recalled, or quashed arrest warrants;
- (N) Copies of citations;
- (O) Alternative service or community service time sheets;
- (P) Uniform filing fees collection remittance forms and fine reports;
- (Q) Miscellaneous fee and fine collection reports; and
- (R) Served or unexecuted search warrants.

- (a.) After a town, city, or county has maintained records for the time periods required by subdivision (a)(2) or subdivision (a)(3) of this section and after the records described in subdivision (a)(2) or subdivision (a)(3) of this section have been audited, the records may be destroyed.
- (b.) When records are destroyed under subsection (b) of this section, the town, city, or county shall document the destruction by the following procedure:
 - (1.) An affidavit is to be prepared stating:
 - (A) Which records are being destroyed and to which period of time the records apply; and
 - (B) The method of destruction; and
 - (2.) The affidavit is to be signed by the town, city, or county employee performing the destruction and one (1) employee of the governing body or, if applicable, governing bodies that contribute to the expenses of the court.
- (c.) In addition to the procedure described in subsection (c) of this section, the approval of the governing body or, if applicable, governing bodies that contribute to the expenses of the court shall be obtained before the destruction of district court records and an appropriate note of the approval indicated in the minutes of the governing body or bodies along with the destruction affidavit. 🏛️

Do I have acid reflux?

By Benjamin Tharian, M.D.

Feeling heartburn after you eat? Have a tinge of an acidic taste in your mouth? Do you experience general stomach discomfort? You could be among the millions of Americans who have acid reflux or its more severe form called gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD).

Acid reflux occurs when acid produced in your stomach regurgitates into your esophagus. For most people, this causes heartburn, the most common symptom of acid reflux.

The American College of Gastroenterology found in 2011 that 60 million Americans reported heartburn at least once a month. About seven or eight million Americans reported heartburn at least three times a week, which is a sign of GERD.

Seeking treatment for GERD is important, as some have developed a condition known as Barrett's esophagus, a serious complication that increases the chances of esophageal cancer. In Barrett's esophagus, the tissue that lines the esophagus, which carries food from the mouth to the stomach, changes to resemble the lining of the intestine.

When your stomach gates fail

Acid plays a crucial role in your stomach's digestive process. You'll typically produce about 1.5 liters of gastric content each day. Normally, this is contained, thanks to a set of "gates."

First, there's the lower esophageal sphincter that opens only for food to pass into the stomach. The sphincter can work improperly and remain open, causing reflux to enter the esophagus.

Secondly, the esophagus passes through an opening in the diaphragm to get to the stomach. The diaphragm, which helps with breathing, also enhances the sphincter by pinching it. A common cause of acid reflux is hiatal hernia, which occurs when the opening is weak and the upper part of the stomach slips into the chest.

What are the symptoms?

While the most common symptom of acid reflux is heartburn, many patients never complain of it. Others may experience a change in their voice or hoarseness

similar to laryngitis, or some may only experience a dry cough or wheezing and mimic asthma. The other major symptoms are difficulty swallowing, feeling of a lump in throat and worsening dental disease.

There are many risk factors associated with acid reflux, but our diet and eating habits play the biggest roles. If you're eating large meals before bed or consume a lot of chocolate, excessive caffeine, alcohol, peppermint, spicy or fatty foods that produce more gastric secretions, don't be surprised if you have acid reflux as they also relax the sphincter.

Eating a large meal before bed leaves little time for digestion before lying down. Lying flat in the bed can allow gastric acid to travel up the esophagus rather easily. It's best to eat your last meal a few hours before bedtime, as well as try to keep your meals frequent and light. Being overweight or obese can also aggravate acid reflux. Stress, pregnancy, alcohol, soda, coffee, and certain medications increase reflux.

How do I treat it?

Your family doctor would be able to help and guide you most often. For an occasional bout with heartburn, over-the-counter antacids could relieve the discomfort. Dietary and lifestyle changes would work for most. This includes losing weight, raising the head end of the bed by up to eight inches, consuming small frequent meals, and avoiding triggering foods.

For more frequent or severe symptoms not responding to the above, such as trouble swallowing, weight loss, or family history of esophageal cancer, you should see a gastroenterologist (GI doctor).

Acid reflux can be quite an inconvenience; however, knowing the symptoms, ways to prevent it, and finding the right treatment option for you can make acid reflux a thing of the past.



Benjamin Tharian, M.D., is Assistant Professor, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, College of Medicine, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2018

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

Summary of notable changes in DOT regulations for 2018

The DOT testing panel is changing. Effective Jan. 1, 2018, the drug testing program regulations adds hydrocodone, hydromorphone, oxycodone, and oxycodone to the drug testing panel. It also adds methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA) as an initial test analyte, and it removes methylenedioxyethylamphetamine (MDEA) as a confirmatory test analyte. This change, to add the semi-synthetic opioids to the federal testing panel, is applicable to all federal testing programs.

The protocol to be followed by the MRO in reviewing positive tests is changing:

In a "Final Rule," published in the Federal Register on Nov. 13, 2017, and available online at federalregister.gov/d/2017-24397, it is provided that:

a. The MROs have a ... safety duty when verifying the prescriptions an employee provides to the MRO. Under § 40.141(b), the MRO (and not the MRO staff) must "review and take all reasonable and necessary steps to verify the authenticity of all medical records the employee provides." "MROs should speak with the pharmacy and not simply rely on a photograph of the prescription label."

b. "... Substances like the semi-synthetic opioids ... could lead to adverse outcomes for employee's medical privacy or employment. An MRO might note that an employee had a legally valid prescription for an opioid, which provided a legitimate explanation for a laboratory positive result, but then decide that the employer should be told that the employee's use of that opioid poses a significant safety risk, endangering the employee's continued employment." "To ensure that the employee is not caught by surprise by an MRO's decision to report the medical information regarding a legally valid prescription to a third party, § 40.135(3) has been amended. Specifically,

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.

the MRO (is) to first provide the employee with up to five business days after the reporting the verified negative result to have the prescribing physician contact the MRO to determine if the medications(s) can be changed to one that does not make the employee medically unqualified or that the employee does not pose a significant safety risk before reporting the safety concern."

The change to shift the responsibility of verification of prescription information, so that the MRO has to speak with the employee's pharmacy to verify prescription information, rather than relying of photos of the prescription bottle, and the requirement for the MRO to allow up to five working days for an employee to have his or her physician contact the MRO to discuss safety concerns when a semi-synthetic opioid is reported by the laboratory will add both duties to the role of the MRO and add time to the review process. The addition of the opioids to the panel will increase the number of positive tests the laboratories will encounter and increase the number of reviews by the MRO.

The rules regarding marijuana (medical or recreational) are not changed:

Although marijuana, whether medical or recreational, has never been legal on the federal level, the "Final Rule" cited above reiterated that "Marijuana is a Schedule I drug and, therefore, regardless of the prescribing physician's intent, it cannot be the basis of a legitimate medical explanation." "MROs must not treat medical marijuana authorizations under state law as providing a legitimate medical explanation for a DOT drug test that is positive for marijuana."



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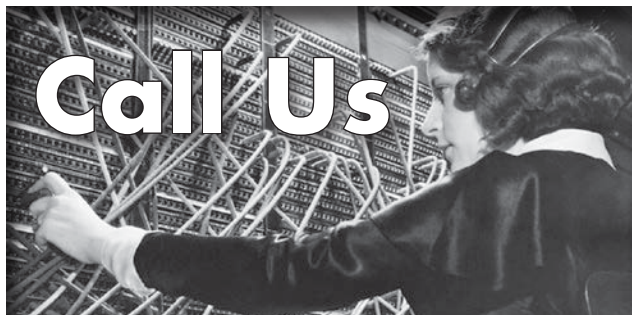
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CITY OF FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS



Greetings Everyone!

I am pleased to welcome you to Fort Smith on behalf of our City Board of Directors, City Administration and the people of our City. Once again the Arkansas Municipal League brings together local government leaders from across the state. In varying degrees we all face a number of challenges to provide the best possible city services to our citizens, and from each other we can learn new or better ways to accomplish this.

Although free time is limited, we hope you will discover Fort Smith from the Arkansas River on the west to the former Fort Chaffee area on the east side of town. Take time to walk around downtown and see the world-recognized outdoor art throughout the area. A wide variety of restaurants and entertainment venues await you.

Fort Smith has just kicked off our year-long Bicentennial Celebration, and we invite you to return during the year for the many events scheduled. Check out the Bicentennial web site gofortsmithar.com for the calendar of events, how to obtain limited special commemorative items and other information.

Fort Smith is glad you are here and we wish everyone a very successful convention.

623 Garrison Avenue
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Fort Smith, Arkansas
72902 479-784-2204
mayor@fortsmithar.gov



2018 Winter Conference

DoubleTree by Hilton/Fort Smith Convention Center, January 10-12, 2018

REGISTRATION

Registration fee after December 22, 2017 , and on-site registration for municipal officials	\$175
Registration fee after December 22, 2017 , and on-site registration for guests	\$100
Other registrants	\$200

- Registration will be processed **ONLY** with accompanying payment in full. Make checks payable to the Arkansas Municipal League.
- Registration includes meals, activities and a copy of **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

DoubleTree by Hilton (headquarters hotel)		
SOLD OUT Single/Double	\$99	Check-in 3 p.m.
Courtyard Marriott		
SOLD OUT Single/Double	\$104	Check-in 3 p.m.
Hampton Inn		
SOLD OUT Single/Double	\$94	Check-in 3 p.m.
Comfort Inn & Suites		
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 a 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 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"/> Regular Registration for Delegate \$ 1 7 5	<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Registration for Guest \$ 1 0 0	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Registrants \$ 2 0 0	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..... **SOLD OUT** 479-783-1000
- Courtyard Marriott** Reservations..... **SOLD OUT** 479-783-2100
- Hampton Inn** Reservations..... **SOLD OUT** 479-452-2000
- Comfort Inn & Suites** Reservations..... 479-434-5400

Special dietary needs:

- Gluten free
- Vegetarian
- Pescatarian
- Vegan

Tentative Agenda

January 10-12, 2018

WEDNESDAY - January 10, 2018

10:00 A.M.	STATE AID STREET COMMITTEE	MEETING ROOM 7
11:00 A.M.	MLWCT BOARD OF TRUSTEES	MEETING ROOM 3
1:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.	REGISTRATION	LOBBY
1:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.	VISIT WITH GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES	EXHIBIT HALL C
3:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.	RESOLVING CONFLICTS WITHIN YOUR DEPARTMENTS <i>This session and the next two sessions, Attorney Phil Kaplan will offer advice on resolving conflict. We will also focus on ways to resolve conflict in your municipalities. Three panels of municipal officials will examine specific scenarios and discuss various ways to resolve conflicts.</i> Moderator: Ken Wasson, Director of Operations Arkansas Municipal League Panelists: Mayor Joe Dillard, Mountain Home Mayor JoAnne Bush, Lake Village Mayor James Sanders, Blytheville Speaker: Phil Kaplan, Williams & Anderson PLC	THEATER
4:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.	RESOLVING CONFLICTS WITHIN YOUR CITY COUNCIL Moderator: Mark Hayes, Director of Legal Services Arkansas Municipal League Panelists: Mayor Bobby Neal, Smackover Mayor Rick Elumbaugh, Batesville Council Member Dorothy Henderson Warren Speaker: Phil Kaplan, Williams & Anderson PLC	THEATER
5:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.	RESOLVING CONFLICTS WITHIN YOUR COMMUNITY Moderator: Ken Wasson, Director of Operations Arkansas Municipal League Panelists: Mayor Billy Ray McKelvy, De Queen Mayor Larry Bryant, Forrest City Mayor Lionald Jordan, Fayetteville Speaker: Phil Kaplan, Williams & Anderson PLC	THEATER

7:00 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.	OPENING NIGHT BANQUET <i>During the Opening Night Banquet, Director Stacy Hurst of the Department of Arkansas Heritage will recognize the Arkansas cities who have earned various Main Street Arkansas Awards. We will also recognize city officials who have obtained their "Certified Municipal Official" status and the officials who have achieved "Continuing Certified Municipal Official" status.</i> Presiding: Mayor Doug Sprouse, Springdale President, Arkansas Municipal League Invocation: Mayor Joe Dillard, Mountain Home Vice President, District 1 Arkansas Municipal League	EXHIBIT HALL B
8:30 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.	POST BANQUET RECEPTION <i>After the conclusion of the Opening Night Banquet, walk down to Hall A and enjoy delicious desserts, beverages and entertainment. Don Bailey is an accomplished musician and teaches at the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith.</i> Post Banquet Reception sponsored by American Fidelity Crews & Associates	EXHIBIT HALL A

THURSDAY - January 11, 2018

7:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.	REGISTRATION	LOBBY
7:00 A.M. to 8:30 A.M.	BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN	
7:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.	VISIT WITH GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES	EXHIBIT HALL C
7:45 A.M. to 8:15 A.M.	VOLUNTARY PRAYER SESSION <i>This is a brief time set aside for those who wish to gather to pray for our national, state and local leaders.</i> Presiding: Mayor Mike Watson, Maumelle	MEETING ROOMS 5 & 6

2018 Winter Conference

DoubleTree by Hilton/Fort Smith Convention Center

<p>8:45 A.M. to 10:15 A.M.</p>	<p>OPENING GENERAL SESSION: ANALYZING THE ARKANSAS ECONOMY</p> <p><i>The Winter Conference officially begins with the Presentation of Colors and singing of the National Anthem. Host City Mayor Sandy Sanders will welcome the conference delegates followed by remarks from invited guests. The speakers will inform us on the state of the Arkansas economy. After their remarks, we will recognize this year's Trendsetter Cities' Award winners.</i></p> <p>Presiding: Mayor Doug Sprouse, Springdale President, Arkansas Municipal League</p> <p>Color Guard by: Fort Smith Police Department</p> <p>National Anthem by: Reggie Moore</p> <p>Speakers: Randy Zook, President & CEO, Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce Dr. Charisse Childers, Ph.D., Director Arkansas Department of Career Education</p>	<p>THEATER</p>	<p>NOON to 1:30 P.M.</p>	<p>VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR AWARDS LUNCHEON</p> <p><i>Cities chosen as an Arkansas Volunteer Community of the Year, through DHS–Office of Communications and Community Engagement, will be recognized at the conclusion of today's luncheon.</i></p> <p>Presiding: Mayor Doug Sprouse, Springdale President, Arkansas Municipal League</p> <p>Invocation: Mayor Rick Elumbaugh, Batesville</p> <p>Emcee: Hilary Hunt, Evening Anchor, KNWA/ FOX24</p> <p>Speakers: Clayton Sorrells, Commissioner Governor's Advisory Commission on National Service & Volunteerism Honorable Leslie Rutledge, Attorney General State of Arkansas</p>	<p>EXHIBIT HALL B</p>
<p>10:15 A.M. to 10:30 A.M.</p>	<p>BREAK</p>	<p>EXHIBIT HALL C</p>	<p>2:00 P.M. to 3:30 P.M.</p>	<p>GENERAL SESSION 3: TRENDING LEGAL MATTERS AND ISSUES OF INTEREST</p> <p><i>Panhandling, Sexual Harassment, Concealed Weapons, ACIC Pre-Audit Reporting, Opioid Litigation and other trending legal matters will be discussed during this session.</i></p> <p>Presiding: Mayor Doug Sprouse, Springdale President, Arkansas Municipal League</p> <p>Speakers: Legal Staff Arkansas Municipal League Tiffanie Ward, Field Agent, Arkansas Crime Information Center</p>	<p>THEATER</p>
<p>10:30 A.M. to NOON</p>	<p>GENERAL SESSION 2: URGENT ISSUES AFFECTING MUNICIPALITIES</p> <p><i>This session will feature a National League of Cities (NLC) update from NLC President and Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola on important national municipal issues. Information will be shared on urgent issues affecting Arkansas's municipalities including the upcoming 2020 Census.</i></p> <p>Presiding: Mayor Joe Smith, North Little Rock First Vice President Arkansas Municipal League</p> <p>Speaker: Mayor Mark Stodola, Little Rock and President, National League of Cities Don Zimmerman, Executive Director Arkansas Municipal League Ellisa Johnson, Partnership Coordinator U.S. Census Bureau Allen Green, Partnership Specialist U.S. Census Bureau Shelby Johnson, State Geographic Information Officer, Arkansas GIS Office</p>	<p>THEATER</p>	<p>4:00 P.M.</p>	<p>The Exhibit Hall will close for the day.</p>	<p>EXHIBIT HALL C</p>
			<p>4:00 P.M.</p>	<p>TOUR OF THE DOWNTOWN FORT SMITH MURALS AND DINNER ON YOUR OWN</p> <p><i>Fort Smith is becoming the City of Murals as international street artists add to the downtown scene year after year. Take a shuttle tour of the downtown area then head out to dine at some of Fort Smith's finest restaurants. Shuttles will leave from the Convention Center entrance at 4:00 p.m. and will return at approximately 5:15 p.m.</i></p>	
			<p>8:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.</p>	<p>RECEPTION AND ENTERTAINMENT</p> <p><i>Located less than a block from the Convention Center, stroll over to the Sound Room for a Reception with live entertainment provided by Good Luck Slim, a local band specializing in blues, classic rock, soul and funk. Don't miss The Sound Room as it's a uniquely constructed spot located at 817 Garrison Avenue.</i></p>	<p>THE SOUND ROOM</p>

FRIDAY - January 12, 2018

7:00 A.M. to NOON	REGISTRATION	LOBBY
7:00 A.M. to 8:45 A.M.	BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN	
8:45 A.M. to 10:00 A.M.	<p>GENERAL SESSION 1: THE CHANGING ROLE OF PUBLIC SAFETY</p> <p><i>Public Safety is a vital function of municipal government. However, the role of public safety and citizens' expectations have changed over the years. Public Safety officials answer questions and discuss their observations on the changing role of public safety.</i></p> <p>Presiding: Mayor Doug Sprouse, Springdale President, Arkansas Municipal League</p> <p>Speakers: Nate Clark, Chief of Police, Fort Smith Tom Jenkins, Fire Chief, Rogers Chad Henson, Chief of Police, Trumann Sam Angel, Fire Chief, Lake Village Kirk Lane, Arkansas Drug Director State of Arkansas</p>	THEATER
10:00 A.M. to 10:15 A.M.	BREAK	EXHIBIT HALL C
10:15 A.M. to 11:45 A.M.	<p>GENERAL SESSION 2: LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE UPDATES, HELPFUL INFO FROM LEGISLATIVE AUDIT AND INFORMATION ON MEDICAL MARIJUANA</p> <p><i>Various Committees of the Arkansas Legislature have been busy researching and conducting hearings on a variety of issues that affect Arkansas municipalities. Members from these various Committees will share results of their hearings. In addition, a Representative from the Legislative Audit and a State Representative will share information pertaining to municipal audits and to the Arkansas Medical Marijuana Amendment (AMMA).</i></p> <p>Presiding: Mayor Joe Smith, North Little Rock First Vice President Arkansas Municipal League</p> <p>Speakers: State Representative Jeff Williams, District 89 State Senator Missy Irvin, District 18 State Senator Jim Hendren, District 2 State Representative Lane Jean, District 2 State Representative Tim Lemons, District 43 State Representative Doug House, District 40 John Elser, CPA, CFE, Field Audit Supervisor Division of Legislative Audit</p>	THEATER

11:45 A.M. to *12:15 P.M.	<p>REMARKS FROM THE GOVERNOR</p> <p><i>Our 2018 Winter Conference will conclude with remarks from Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson.</i></p> <p>Presiding: Mayor Doug Sprouse, Springdale President, Arkansas Municipal League</p> <p>Speaker: Honorable Asa Hutchinson, Governor State of Arkansas</p>	THEATER
12:15 P.M. to 1:00 P.M.	LUNCH BUFFET	EXHIBIT HALL B
1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.	MHBF BOARD OF TRUSTEES	MEETING ROOM 7
1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.	<p>WORKSHOP: EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT ANNEXATION BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK</p> <p>Speakers: Jim von Tungeln, Staff Planning Consultant Arkansas Municipal League Jeff Hawkins, Executive Director Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission Shelby Johnson, State Geographic Information Officer, Arkansas GIS Office</p>	MEETING ROOMS 5 & 6
1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.	<p>ADVICE FROM THE DIVISION OF LEGISLATIVE AUDIT</p> <p>Speaker: John Elser, CPA, CFE, Field Audit Supervisor Division of Legislative Audit</p>	MEETING ROOM 4

**Qualifying municipal officials must attend the 2018 Winter Conference to receive three (3) hours of continuing education credit. Scanning for credit will take place at the conclusion of General Session 2 on Friday, 1/12/18.*

NOTICE, ALL ATTORNEYS:

There will be NO CLE Classes offered during our 2018 Winter Conference in Fort Smith. Six (6) hours of CLE will be offered at League Headquarters on Friday, January 26, 2018.

Don Bailey Jazz Combo plays League Winter Conference



The Fort Smith-based Don Bailey Jazz Combo is scheduled to entertain attendees during the post banquet reception on the opening night of the League's 2018 Winter Conference. The combo has performed for many prestigious events and elegant venues in Fort Smith and the surrounding region. The combo has performed for a number of high-profile people, including Governors Mike Huckabee, Mike Bebee, and Asa Hutchison. They have also performed twice for President Bill Clinton when he was governor. In fact, Clinton even joined the combo on stage for a song.

The trio consists of Fort Smith Symphony bassist Brandon Patterson, UA Fort Smith Music Department staff accompanist Terri Bailey on piano, and UA Fort Smith Associate Professor of Music Don Bailey.

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The past, present, and future

By Sherman Banks

Over the years I have written articles on numerous topics, from how to become a sister city with an international city, economic development efforts, to doing business in China and Africa. Let's take a moment at the beginning of this New Year to recap the past few years. I am proud to show the progress that has been made through the efforts of the Arkansas Municipal League to the rest of the world.

The past

For the last 10 years I have worked with League members to bring IBLA international musicians to Arkansas. My primary goal as a member of the board and as a jury member of the competition is to coordinate and assist in presenting to our youth world-class talent with hopes that it may inspire them to pursue their musical passions. We have been able to reach more than 10,000 students thus far in the cities of Lake Village, Star City, Batesville, Tontitown, Jacksonville, Little Rock and North Little Rock. Springdale has been added to the agenda for 2018.

2017 marked the 20th year that the IBLA performers have come to Arkansas. The official name for IBLA, now in its 27th year, is the IBLA Grand Prize, which is under the auspices of the IBLA Foundation, a volunteer organization based in New York. All proceeds go toward advancing the careers of talented musicians from around the world and the United States.

In October 2015 Mayor Harry Brown of Stephens was a member of a League delegation to Ghana led by then League President Rick Elumbaugh, mayor of Batesville. That trip resulted in sister city agreements for both Stephens and Batesville.

Upon meeting with various public service agencies, Mayor Brown learned that there was a desperate need for firefighting "turnout gear" by the Ghana Fire Department. Brown contacted his fire chief in Stephens and asked if the city had any turnout gear that was not in use and could be donated. The city had just purchased new sets of turnout gear for the department. Stephens was therefore able to donate 20 sets of turnout gear valued at about \$16,000 to Ghanaian firefighters. A donation of this magnitude from a city the size of Stephens is what Sister Cities is all about—helping one individual, one community at a time. This is true citizen diplomacy.

We have also hosted delegations from Ghana, and during the 81st Convention the governor of the Volta

Region of Ghana was a keynote speaker. In 2015 the city of Jacksonville entered a sister city agreement with Kpando Municipality, and the League entered into an agreement with the National Association of Local Authorities of Ghana (NALAG) to pursue efforts to train Ghanaian municipal leaders.

The present

On Sept. 21, 2017, the World Trade Center Arkansas celebrated 10 years of connecting Arkansas businesses and cities to the world. The World Trade Center works with municipalities in helping to promote local commodities to other countries. Through the World Trade Center, cities have established economic partners in Cuba, Japan, South Korea, Argentina, Chile, Belarus, South Africa, India, China, Vietnam, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Malaysia, Panama, and many more.

Also in September, Little Rock hosted the World Woman Summit at the Clinton Presidential Center. The World Woman Foundation is based in Los Angeles and works to empower women across the globe with a focus on healthcare access and economic development.

The future

As we enter 2018, we look forward to continuing our citizen diplomacy efforts, including developing training programs in best practices for local governments through the League's agreement with NALAG. During the League's Annual Convention in June there will be an official signing of sister city agreements between the city of Lake Village and North Dayi District of Ghana. Magnolia has expressed an interest in developing a sister university relationship with the university in Accra that will also be confirmed. The State of Arkansas is finalizing the MOU for the development of a sister state relationship with the Volta Region of Ghana. And the Cote d'Ivoire city of Korhogo has inquired about developing a sister city relationship with Rogers.

Also, after a year and half of work, the turnout suits that were donated by Stephens will finally be delivered to Ghana in February of 2018.



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



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Small town rebirth within reach

By Chad Gallagher

It's hard to believe that it's 2018. As a boy, I thought years with such high numbers deep into the 2000s were so far off in the future that they sounded like sci-fi or fantasy. With the turn of the calendar every year comes new opportunities to start fresh, mend a fence, set new goals, outline plans, and create a sense of newness in your community.

Municipal leaders carry a great amount of responsibility in regard to the city's success and forward direction, but they also have the unique opportunity to inspire, offer a vision, and shape the community's attitude and spirit. As we begin this New Year, I want to encourage all of our municipal leaders to think about how you can inspire your city to become the best version of itself.

Small towns specifically have tremendous challenges, and for many it seems the road is only uphill. Rural communities, especially those remote from urban job centers, have suffered through some difficult days. Population loss, empty factories that once boomed, graduates who don't return, downtowns that are a shell of their former selves—these can all be discouraging realities. It's easy to see why some small town leaders can feel frustrated and at times even a bit hopeless. Yet stars can shine brightest on the darkest of nights. So too can small town resilience and ingenuity.

I spent some of my most formative years in a small town. As a teenager, Winthrop in Little River County was my hometown. With a population of 227, we weren't quite as busy as the city I had moved from (Houston, Texas). I can tell you, though, that I quickly fell in love with small town life. I instantly became a small town boy, and being so is still an honor today. I learned that in spite of the hardships facing rural communities, there is much more to them than meets the eye as you whiz by on an Arkansas state highway.

In each community, there are individuals who love one another and are working together to create a sense of place. Those who are determined and proactive can indeed create a real renaissance and see their small town get a new lease on life. For example, the "new" economy allows businesses to set up anywhere and access global markets from their laptops. This alone creates previously impossible economic advancements. The Governor's

recent successful efforts in creating new jobs in Arkansas have benefited small towns tremendously. Cities that focus on the new economy and invest in it properly can reap the benefits, regardless of size.

Creating a sense of place and converting a city into a destination for a particular event or type of shopping or activity have also created a real sense of newness in communities that once felt tired. A town that crafts itself as a destination town or discovers its own niche is much more likely to thrive. This can often include leveraging local assets and individuals currently underutilized. Canton, Texas, is a great example of how a small town created a niche for itself that has worked out very well.

Grants are another way to help small towns achieve more than they could on their own. Grants can help you build parks, improve streets, renew your downtown, purchase new fire trucks, lay new sewer lines, open new health care centers, renovate community buildings, and much more. Grants are available and they can help small towns arise new and afresh.

Across the state and across the country, small towns are experiencing comebacks through the zeal, effort, and proactive attitudes of community leaders. Here in Arkansas, the City of Wilson is receiving national attention for its bold efforts in reinventing itself. Every story is different and every town unique, yet it is the determination to both survive and thrive that ensures a brighter future.

I love small towns and I love the type of people who choose to live in them. If leaders will dream, seek help, refuse to settle for mediocrity, and be willing to inspire change, then your city, too, can be a success in the 21st century. Our firm works with members of the Arkansas Municipal League on community development projects, strategic planning, creative community rebirths, and the utilization of grants. Call us today and allow us the opportunity to work with your town.



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

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The amphitheater is once again ready to host events at one of the state's most scenic locales and is even ADA accessible.



Reviving an Arkansas treasure

By Maneesh Krishnan, PE, M. ASCE

Our state has many manmade treasures that we as Arkansans may take for granted at times. From Thorn Crown Chapel in Eureka Springs, to the multitude of lakes for recreation and fishing, to the Arkansas River Trail and Razorback Regional Greenway, Arkansas has a vast array of destinations that we all need to visit.

Mount Magazine State Park features an impressive destination that I would like to reintroduce. The newly renovated Cameron Bluff Amphitheater is located within Mount Magazine State Park in western Arkansas in Logan County. The park covers more than 2,000 acres, is the highest point in Arkansas, and has incredibly impressive views of the surrounding area. The Cameron Bluff Amphitheater is an awe-inspiring location to enjoy at sunset or host your next event.

Mount Magazine was originally developed as a Works Progress Administration project when over 700 workers transformed the area between 1935-1940.

Lodges, cabins, and roads were built along with the amphitheater at Cameron Bluff. The original amphitheater was built using native flagstone and had 24 different seating areas that encircled the hill site. Estimates of the seating capacity vary, but it is easy to say that several hundred could easily be accommodated as numerous photos have documented.

Over the years, the area and the amphitheater started to deteriorate and it was abandoned in the 1970s. Thanks to the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism's decision to move forward with this renovation project, we can again enjoy this treasure today. The amphitheater is supported by a retaining wall that was built on the hillside. The existing retaining wall was the best-preserved element of the original amphitheater. Several small sections of seats and stairs along with loose and scattered stones were preserved in the area. Some of the existing seats were left in place, and the old flagstone was used to blend in the new seating with the old.



Arkansas State Parks staff, along with McClelland Consulting Engineers, Inc., designed and oversaw the construction of the renovations for the amphitheater. Panamerican Consultants, Inc. performed the historical assessment and archaeological documentation for the site. The design presented numerous challenges, from steep grades, to culturally relevant sites, to drainage and accessibility.

The Contractor for the project VEI, LLC should be commended as well. Getting materials to and from the site proved difficult and they developed a trolley system to get construction materials from the top of the site to the bottom to facilitate the construction.

Not only was the geography of the site a challenge, the weather on top of Mount Magazine can be significantly different than the surrounding area. While it can be 10 degrees cooler and more pleasant in the summer, it can also be snowing and colder in winter. Construction was delayed on one occasion for seven days due to the snow and ice on the mountain.

Today the site is ADA accessible, and it is truly a treasure that we recommend for a trip in your near future. The renovated 300-seat amphitheater will provide a great location for meetings of all kinds and create memories for visitors for generations to come. Get out there and enjoy Arkansas!



Maneesh Krishnan is a professional engineer, project manager and senior associate in MCE's Little Rock office. Contact Maneesh by phone at (501) 371-0272, or email mkrishnan@mce.us.com.

Decades of disuse and neglect had left the Cameron Bluff Amphitheater at Mount Magazine State Park crumbling and unsafe.

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Combating crepe myrtle bark scale

By Chandler Barton

The scale insect *Eriococcus lagerstroemia* is an invasive pest of crepe myrtles, causing the condition known as crepe myrtle bark scale, or CMBS. The bug likely originated in China, Japan, and Korea. It was first discovered in 2004 in Richardson, Texas, and has since spread into the surrounding region. It can be found in some areas of Arkansas, including Texarkana and Little Rock in particular.



PHOTO BY CHANDLER BARTON.

Crepe myrtle bark scale, caused by an invasive species of insect, has been found in several locations in Arkansas, but treatment options are available.

Identification and lifecycle

CMBS is the only scale insect to appear on crepe myrtles in the United States. Infested trees may take a black appearance. This is caused by the growth of sooty mold on the honey dew that is secreted by the pest. Adult females are 2 mm long, white/gray, and are covered in a felt-like shell. The adult will mother several dozen pink eggs, which will hatch into the “crawler” nymph stage. These crawlers will disperse. As the female crawler

matures it chooses a feeding location and becomes immobile. Males will develop wings and mate with females that have now produced the characteristic felt-like covering. Though not yet determined, CMBS may have two to four generations per year in Arkansas.

Dispersal

Since CMBS females do not move and the crawler stage is only capable of short movement, it does not spread from the plant on its own. It can, however, be moved locally by birds or wind and it may be spread long distances by the movement of infested material.

Control

There are several control options available for this insect. Some organic approaches are effective as well. Ladybird beetles, such as the twice stabbed lady beetle (*Chilocorus stigma*), can offer some natural biocontrol against the scale, and care should be taken not to harm a beetle population.

The first step to consider when treating a smaller tree is to simply wash the bark with a soft brush and a mild solution of dishwashing soap. Small branches should be pruned prior to brushing so that crevices can be reached. The brushing can physically remove scales and crawlers, kill some of the scales in crevices, and remove sooty mold. Plus, it may make insecticide treatments more effective.

To treat larger trees or for multiple trees, pressure washing equipment can aid in the removal of CMBS. However, it is important to find the appropriate pressure that will not damage the tree.

An application of horticultural or dormant oil will kill scales in crevices and under bark where brushing may not be effective. This is best used against the crawler life stage and therefore should be sprayed after leaf drop in fall and again in late winter before bud break.

Soil-applied systemic insecticides are the most promising control. Between May and July, apply a soil drench with the active ingredient imidacloprid (Bayer Advanced™ Garden Tree and Shrub Insect Control) or dinotefuran (Greenlight Tree and Shrub Insect Control with Safari). Read and follow the label instructions.

For more information, consult with your local University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service agent, or visit the publications page at www.uaex.edu.

Chandler Barton is Forest Health Specialist with the Arkansas Forestry Commission. Contact Chandler at (501) 297-1581, or email Chandler.Barton@arkansas.gov.

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ACAA schedules CLE in January

The Arkansas City Attorney's Association (ACAA) is sponsoring a 2018 Continuing Legal Education program that includes six hours of continuing legal education, including one hour of ethics, to be held from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 26, 2018, at the Arkansas Municipal League's North Little Rock headquarters.

Tentatively the program will cover opioid class action litigation, case review, use of medical marijuana, and other items of interest.

Jonesboro City Attorney Carol Duncan, ACAA President, urges all city attorneys to register for the program as soon as possible. The registration fee for this workshop is \$150, which includes lunch. The deadline for registration is Monday, Jan. 22, 2018. There is a room block at the Wyndham Hotel adjacent to League headquarters at a discounted rate of \$109. For room reservations call 866-657-4458 or 501-371-9000. To register with a credit card online visit www.arml.org. For more, please contact Jamie Adams at 501-978-6124, or email jadams@arml.org.

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Lonoke 2022: A small city's big plan for change

By Kristen Barre

In May 2017 the city of Lonoke unveiled a five-year plan for community and economic development, with an emphasis on branding and marketing, recreation, downtown development, retail, education, jobs, beautification, housing, and infrastructure. Michael Florence, a city council member and small businessman in Lonoke, said that “concerned citizens, educators, bankers, realtors, business owners, retirees,” and others have all been part of “making a difference in the future of our town.”

This plan for Lonoke’s future was formulated through a partnership with the University of Central Arkansas’s Center for Community and Economic Development and the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service through the Community Kick Start program. Though the planning and visioning phase is complete, the city did not stop there. Phase II, known as Lonoke 2022, is off to a strong start.

“Implementing a common vision for visible, attractive, and connected Lonoke” is how Ryan Biles describes Lonoke 2022. Biles, a member of the Lonoke Industrial Development Commission, is one of the community leaders helping facilitate the five-year plan. The year 2022 will mark the city’s 150th anniversary, making the name

Lonoke 2022 particularly relevant. Through the initiative, the city has already taken great steps toward implementing the breakthroughs established during the initial planning phase. For example, the city is partnering with Thrive, a design studio based in Helena-West Helena, to create a brand that accurately portrays Lonoke as a “unique, vibrant community that attracts tourists, retirees, families, and businesses from all over the nation.”

Lonoke 2022 leaders are partnering with the Lonoke Chamber of Commerce, Lonoke Industrial Development Commission, ASU Beebe, UA-Pulaski Tech, and the Lonoke school system with the goal of educating “a capable workforce and establishing a technical school satellite facility in the community,” according to the action plan. Leaders are also working with the Lonoke Planning Commission to implement a master plan that will foster creative development in Lonoke’s historic downtown.

LynAnne Ivy, one of the Lonoke 2022 leaders, envisions that this project will significantly impact the local economy. Lonoke 2022 is encouraging “existing businesses to grow and new businesses and entrepreneurs being drawn to the attractive, available, historical storefronts,” Ivy said. Improvements are underway to



restore Lonoke’s downtown area through beautification, infrastructure, and retail development.

Biles said the key to Lonoke 2022 having a successful impact on the community is to initiate “a transparent, respectful conversation about challenging issues and ideas.” He notes that it is imperative for the discussion to include “participation by people of all generations and backgrounds.” Lonoke’s inclusive mentality is evident by the diverse group of community members who attended Kick Start Lonoke meetings.

“Lonoke 2022 crosses all demographic lines and gives our Lonoke family a vehicle to become more united as our citizens contribute their ideas, opinions, talents, and labor,” said Alice Bridges, one of the community leaders. The project has “created a contagious, collaborative spirit that has generated common visions and lists of goals for the future of our community,” Ivy added.

Over 400 Lonoke citizens have contributed their time and input since the planning initiative began in 2016, and many will continue volunteering over the course of the next five years.

Lonoke provides an example for other rural communities looking to establish a new vision and implement an effective community development strategy. According to Biles, “the example of humility, kindness, and hard work embodied by these volunteers throughout this process will have a long-term impact on raising the expectations and, ultimately, the standards of what the people of a small rural community like Lonoke will require of those in public service.”

Lonoke 2022 leaders are planning on sustaining the initiative beyond the five-year mark. A Phase III is already being discussed, with the intention of directing resources toward implementation and a focus on investing in the community.



Kristen Barre is an intern with the University of Central Arkansas’s Center for Community and Economic Development. For more information on how your community can initiate a community planning process, contact the Center at cced@uca.edu or call (501) 450-5269.



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

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NOTICE: Workers’ Comp payroll reports due

It is mandatory that members of the Municipal League Workers’ Compensation Trust submit their 2017 actual payroll to MLWCT by March 15, 2018. As a member of MLWCT, non-compliant members (cities) will be assessed a 25 percent penalty based on premium.

For more information, contact Glenda Robinson at (501) 374-3484 ext. 243, grobinson@arml.org; or Barbara DePriest at (501) 374-3484 ext. 108, bdepriest@arml.org.

EPA names Region 6 administrator

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced in December that Anne Idsal has been appointed regional administrator for Region 6. Idsal has served since 2015 as chief clerk and deputy land commissioner for the Texas General Land Office. Region 6 is one of 10 EPA regional offices and encompasses New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Arkansas. It is headquartered in Dallas.

Little Rock seeks Bloomberg funds to reduce recidivism rate

Little Rock has applied to Bloomberg Philanthropies' Mayors Challenge to compete for millions of dollars to set up an online platform that would help people who are released from prison access various resources to restart their lives, the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* reported Dec. 25. If the program works as envisioned, those ex-criminals wouldn't keep committing crimes once released. Past winners of the Mayors Challenge have dealt with early childhood education, waste management, health, and the use of data to address problems before they begin. Collectively, the five cities selected as winners of the most recent U.S. version of the contest, in 2012-13, received \$9 million.

The New York-based nonprofit will select 35 cities from the 2017 applicants to receive up to \$100,000 to test their ideas. Cities that will receive the test funding will be notified in January. In October, Bloomberg will announce the grand winner, which will receive up to \$5 million, and four other winners that will receive up to \$1 million each to implement their plans. The goal is for the winners to come up with solutions that can be duplicated in other cities facing the same problems.

Stodola receives Jack Evans Regional Leadership Award

Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola has been named the recipient of the 2017 Jack Evans Regional Leadership Award, the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* reported Dec. 25. Stodola received the award for his "leadership at the local, state and national level," said Tab Townsell, executive director of Metroplan, the federally designated metropolitan planning agency for central Arkansas and sponsor of the award since it was established in 1993. Stodola is the first Arkansas mayor to serve as president of the National League of Cities, which Townsell called a "tremendous

recognition of local leadership in Arkansas at the national level." He said the mayor's ascension to the post is a testament to his political and personal skills. "You don't get that recognition unless you are at the peak of your peers in terms of performance," Townsell said.

The Jack Evans Award, named after a former Sherwood mayor, is presented annually to an individual or organization for "outstanding public service in advancing sound planning and intergovernmental cooperation in central Arkansas."


Arkansas to host International Institute of Municipal Clerks conference

Little Rock and North Little Rock will host the 2022 conference of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC). The Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau, with support from the North Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau, the cities of Little Rock and North Little Rock, the Arkansas Municipal League, and the Arkansas City Clerks, Records and Treasurers Association, submitted the winning bid. The last time Arkansas hosted the IIMC conference was 1990. About 1,000 clerks from the U.S. and across the world are expected to attend the conference. The IIMC has 15,000 members worldwide and promotes educational opportunities for those in the municipal clerk profession.

State Treasury launches improved Money Management Trust for municipalities and state agencies

State Treasurer Dennis Milligan received final approval in December from the Arkansas Legislative Council to expand the investment opportunities the Treasury is allowed to engage in on behalf of local municipalities participating in the State Treasury Money Management Trust.

Milligan initiated an Act that was passed in the 91st General Assembly that revised the state's decades-old Money Management Trust and brought it up to current investment practices. The revisions were presented to and approved by the State Board of Finance, which oversees State Treasury investments and is chaired by the governor.

The State Treasury Money Management Trust is open to state agencies, school districts, and city and county governments throughout Arkansas. For more information about the program, visit www.artreasury.gov/money_management.html. 

The must-have reference for every city hall in Arkansas

The new 2017-2018 edition of the *Handbook for Arkansas Municipal Officials* has arrived. The Handbook compiles state laws affecting Arkansas municipalities, including the newest laws from the 2017 legislative session.

This is the most complete publication on municipal law and city government in Arkansas. You may order and pay for your copy online via Visa or MasterCard by visiting the Publications page at www.arml.org/store, or use the order form below.



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Obituaries

MARY ANN RITTER ARNOLD, 90, mayor of Marked Tree, died Dec. 21, 2017.

GROVER M. EVANS, 65, a six-term Jonesboro City Council member and vice mayor from December 1984 to July 1996, died Dec. 3, 2017.

LEE ARTHUR MUNSON, 80, a former prosecuting attorney for Pulaski and Perry counties, chancery judge for the Sixth Judicial District for 20 years, and municipal/district judge from 1990 until his 2008 retirement, died Dec. 21, 2017.



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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	\$0.1858	\$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	\$5.4801	\$0.1482	\$0.2230	\$1.0906	\$1.0881
October	\$5.5217	\$5.5047	\$0.2562	\$0.2508	\$1.0896	\$1.0888
November	\$5.3393	\$5.1475	\$0.2306	\$0.2377	\$1.0881	\$1.0875
December	\$4.9184	\$5.1764	\$0.2078	\$0.1561	\$1.0884	\$1.0882
Total Year	\$62.9483	\$64.4157	\$2.0238	\$3.0472	\$15.9639	\$15.8379

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	\$10,359,333.50	\$279,548.09	\$421,562.72	\$2,056,681.01	\$2,056,885.50
October	\$10,421,889.30	\$10,405,765.80	\$483,529.74	\$474,027.01	\$2,056,531.47	\$2,058,156.39
November	\$10,087,659.40	\$9,730,523.28	\$435,692.77	\$449,423.80	\$2,055,823.30	\$2,055,750.30
December	\$9,292,326.92	\$9,785,275.08	\$392,523.22	\$295,172.64	\$2,056,318.09	\$2,056,989.97
Total Year	\$118,752,623.16	\$121,746,559.27	\$3,818,458.38	\$5,759,054.30	\$30,114,362.91	29,933,516.49

* 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



2017 Elections

- NEWTON Co., Feb. 14**
Failed. 1%
- BLYTHEVILLE, May 9**
Passed. .5%
- BULL SHOALS, May 9**
Passed. 1%
- GREENLAND, June 12**
Passed. 1%
- PINE BLUFF, June 12**
Passed. 5/8%
- TONTITOWN, July 11**
Passed. 0.75%
- NORTH LITTLE ROCK, Aug. 8**
Passed. 1%
- BAXTER Co., Sept. 12**
Passed. 1%
- CENTERTON, Sept. 12**
Passed. 1%
- MOUNTAIN HOME, Sept. 12**
Passed. .375%
- ALEXANDER, Nov. 14**
Passed. 1%
- CONWAY, Nov. 14**
Passed. 3/8%
- LONOKE, Nov. 14**
Passed. 1.25%
- Passed. .25%**

KEY: Counties not collecting sales tax

Source: Rachel Garrett, Office of State Treasurer

See also: www.dfa.arkansas.gov

Sales and Use Tax Year-to-Date 2017 with 2016 Comparison (shaded gray)									
Month	Municipal Tax		County Tax		Total Tax		Interest		
January	\$51,749,675	\$49,037,009	\$46,139,133	\$43,720,229	\$97,888,807	\$92,757,238	\$15,903	\$15,812	
February	\$60,007,416	\$59,477,239	\$52,583,090	\$51,693,904	\$112,590,506	\$111,171,143	\$17,386	\$20,455	
March	\$48,225,282	\$45,484,389	\$42,723,485	\$41,503,958	\$90,948,767	\$86,988,347	\$18,863	\$17,357	
April	\$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	\$53,692,981	\$53,746,167	\$48,991,616	\$49,430,573	\$102,684,597	\$103,176,740	\$45,866	\$18,913	
October	\$53,796,257	\$52,105,594	\$49,299,660	\$47,384,899	\$103,095,917	\$99,490,493	\$79,279	\$17,666	
November	\$53,815,854	\$53,632,182	\$49,290,527	\$48,831,434	\$103,106,380	\$102,463,617	\$78,491	\$17,523	
December	\$52,730,085	\$51,969,068	\$48,086,258	\$46,917,820	\$100,816,343	\$98,886,888	\$72,999	\$17,198	
Total	\$641,099,418	\$621,274,986	\$574,435,802	\$560,288,690	\$1,215,535,220	\$1,181,563,676	\$414,105	\$213,621	
Averages	\$53,424,951	\$51,772,916	\$47,869,650	\$46,690,724	\$101,294,602	\$98,463,640	\$34,509	\$17,802	

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

CODE INSPECTOR—The City of Gravette is accepting applications for the position of a full time Code Inspector. Salary arrange: \$35,500 to \$48,700 DOE. Go to www.gravettear.com for full description and qualifications. Applications may be acquired and dropped off at Gravette City Hall, 604 1st Ave SE, Gravette, (479) 787-5757. Application period will close Jan. 15.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-POLICE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES—Fort Smith seeks a Deputy Director of Police Administrative Services. The Fort Smith Police Department is a progressive law enforcement agency made up of 151 sworn officers and 55 non-sworn staff members. The Deputy Director of Police Administrative Services conducts managerial and administrative work functions associated with coordinating research, planning, and change management activities for the Police Department. A bachelor's degree is required and a master's degree is strongly preferred. Three years of previous experience and/or training that includes law enforcement administration, grant writing and administration, alternative funding management, planning, tactical operations, budgetary oversight, and research work is required. Please apply online at: <http://bit.ly/SGRCurrentSearches>. For more information on this position contact: Gary Holland, Senior Vice President, Strategic Government Resources at GaryHolland@governmentresource.com, (405) 269-3445.

DIRECTOR OF SANITATION—Fort Smith seeks a Director of Sanitation. The purpose of the Fort Smith Department of Sanitation is to lead the community in a commitment to shared environmental responsibility. The Director of Sanitation is responsible for all aspects of the Sanitation Department including direction for the following divisions: residential collection, commercial/industrial collection, landfill, and fleet/grounds maintenance. A bachelor's degree is required. Knowledge of the operations of a sanitation department and/or sanitary landfill is preferred. Please apply online at: <http://bit.ly/SGRCurrentSearches>. For more information on this position contact: Gary Holland, Senior Vice President, Strategic Government Resources at GaryHolland@governmentresource.com, (405) 269-3445.

FIREFIGHTER—The Osceola Fire Department is accepting resumes for a certified Firefighter (FF2). Salary is \$13.49/hr. Pre-employment physical, drug test and background check required. The City of Osceola maintains a residency policy for all city employees. For consideration please contact City of Osceola Human Resources Director Jane Stanford at (870) 563-5245 Ext. 24, or email janes@osceolalightandpower.com. EOE.


POLICE CHIEF—The City of Plainview (Yell County) is seeking a full-time, certified police chief. Salary is negotiable DOE. Includes paid vacation, sick leave and personal leave. Please submit resumes either by mail or in person to the City of Plainview, Post Office Box 117, Plainview AR 72857 by Jan. 12.

POLICE OFFICERS—Harrison is accepting applications for 2 Police Officers. Salary: \$31,900. Must be a U.S. citizen; be at least 21 years of age or older; possess a valid Arkansas DL; have no felony record/arrests; be able to pass a background investigation, a psychological examination and a physical examination, as well as a polygraph examination; ability to work rotational shifts; must be fingerprinted; and must purchase uniforms and equipment. Contact Leta Price at 116 S. Spring for an application, or call 870-741-5463.

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER—Republic, Mo., seeks a Public Information Officer. Coordinates and manages the city's public information including marketing efforts, dissemination of information to the public and media concerning City events and issues, and the implementation of strategic communication campaigns and programs. Education and experience: Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in journalism, communications or related field. Must have at least two years of related and responsible work experience. Municipal experience is preferred, but not required. Knowledge, skills and abilities: principles, techniques and objectives of public relations as it applies within municipal government organization and able; knowledge of accurate grammar, spelling, punctuation, and standard English usage required; must be able to read, understand, and interpret a variety of information including city ordinances; must maintain a high level of confidentiality; must be able to make sound decisions within established guidelines and procedures; must be able to effectively and efficiently coordinate

office activity including adapting to a fast paced, multi-task environment; must be able to independently plan, prioritize and organize work in an efficient manner; must be able to perform effectively as a member of a team in carrying out the city's mission, vision and values. Must possess valid Missouri DL. Applicant must successfully complete background investigation and pre-employment substance abuse testing and may be subject to random substance abuse testing. Pay Range: Grade 7, \$43,534.40–\$57,824.00. Application and complete job description available at www.republicmo.com. Application must be completed and submitted online or to City Hall, 213 N. Main, Republic, MO 65738. Open until filled.

PURCHASING MANAGER—The City of Bentonville has an immediate opening for a Purchasing Manager. Hiring salary range is \$52,208 - \$70,481 DOE. Job duties include providing exemplary customer service for city departments and vendors, acting as liaison between the departments and vendors, and ensuring the procurement process is carried out in accordance with the applicable city and state laws/policies, and federal rules and regulations. Purchasing Manager will also be responsible for promoting free, open competition and equal opportunity for all vendors who seek to conduct business with the city. The ideal candidate would have experience with various procurement software and be willing/able to lead the Purchasing office through software upgrade implementation and process evaluation during the next 3 years. Additional duties include reviewing requisitions for conformance to Purchasing Policy, preparing/issuing purchase orders/amendments as necessary, conferring with vendors to obtain product/service information such as price, availability, and delivery schedule, determining method of procurement such as direct purchase or formal bid based on state law or city policy. Also prepares bid documents and sends to responsible vendors, prepares public notification advertisement and maintains bid files according to state law or project requirements. Once bids are received, compares prices, specifications, and delivery dates and recommends contract awards to bidders. Recommends for approval and arranges for disposal of surplus items, maintains vehicle files and prepares all correspondence to secure titles and registration on all vehicles acquired, maintains current insurance policy information and handles insurance claims on all vehicles, buildings, equipment, etc., Demonstrated experience with contract review, contract oversight and project oversight preferred, and coordinates services for building maintenance or repairs for City Hall. Certified Professional Public Buyer (CPPB) or Certified Public Purchasing Officer (CPPO) or Certified Purchasing Manager (CPM) preferred. At minimum, the candidate should have a desire to obtain a certificate mentioned above and have a timeline/plan in place to obtain the certificate. Associate's degree in business or a related field from two-year college or university and 5 years related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience. A full job description is available upon request. Interested applicants should submit city application and/or resume to Jake Harper, Assistant Finance Director (jharper@bentonvillear.com) or fax at (479) 271-5913.

STREET SUPERINTENDENT—Republic, Mo., seeks a Street Superintendent. Plans, supervises, directs, and coordinates the reconstruction, maintenance, and repair of streets, alleys and storm water drainage systems. Education and experience: Must be HS graduate or equivalent with preferably an Associate's Degree in Construction Management, Public Works or a related field. Shall have a minimum of 7 years progressive maintenance experience in an organized street or road department, including 5 years at the supervisory level. Experience may be substituted for the education requirement on a year-for-year basis. Must possess a Class "B" CDL. Air brake endorsement is required. Must possess or obtain within probationary employment period, the following National Incident Management Training Certifications: ICS-100.PW, IS-200, FEMA IS-700. Applicant must successfully complete background investigation and pre-employment substance abuse testing and may be subject to random substance abuse testing. Pay range: Grade 8, \$47,902.40–\$63,564.80. Application and complete job description available at www.republicmo.com. Application must be completed and submitted online or to City Hall, 213 N. Main, Republic, MO 65738. Open until filled. 

NOTICE:

Annexation Reports Due March 1

Arkansas Code Ann. sections 14-40-2201 and 14-40-2202 provide:

- (a)(1) Beginning March 1, 2014, and each successive year thereafter, the mayor or city manager of a city or incorporated town shall file annually with the city clerk or recorder, town recorder, and county clerk a written notice describing any annexation elections that have become final in the previous eight (8) years.
- (2) The written notice shall include:
 - (A) The schedule of services to be provided to the inhabitants of the annexed portion of the city; and
 - (B) A statement as to whether the scheduled services have been provided to the inhabitants of the annexed portions of the city.
- (b) If the scheduled services have not been provided to the new inhabitants within three (3) years after the date the annexation becomes final, the written notice reporting the status of the extension of scheduled services shall include a statement of the rights of inhabitants to seek detachment.
- (c) A city or incorporated town shall not proceed with annexation elections if there are pending scheduled services that have not been provided in three (3) years as prescribed by law.

Ark. Code Ann. § 14-40-2202. Inhabitants of annexed area

- (a) In all annexations under § 14-40-303 and in accordance with § 14-40-606, after the territory declared annexed is considered part of a city or incorporated town, the inhabitants residing in the annexed portion shall:
 - (1) Have all the rights and privileges of the inhabitants of the annexing city or incorporated town; and
 - (2) (A) Be extended the scheduled services within three (3) years after the date the annexation becomes final.
 - (B) The mayor of the municipality shall file a report with the city clerk or recorder, town recorder, and county clerk of the extension of scheduled services.
- (b) If the scheduled services have not been extended to the area and property boundaries of the new inhabitants within three (3) years after the date annexation becomes final, the written notice reporting the status of the extension of scheduled services shall:
 - (1) Include a written plan for completing the extension of services and estimated date of completion; and
 - (2) Include a statement of the rights of inhabitants to seek detachment.
- (c) A city or incorporated town shall not proceed with any additional annexation elections if there are pending scheduled services that have not been extended as required under this subchapter.


To obtain a sample Notice Describing Annexation Elections, and Schedules of Services access the "Legal FAQs" page of www.arml.org/mldp. 

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

The Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System (APERS) provides cities with the opportunity to cover its employees and officials (Ark. Code Ann. § 24-4-303). The law states generally that the mayor and clerk "shall become participating employees upon taking office." On the other hand, the statute permits mayors and clerks of first class cities to opt out of APERS in order to participate in the local retirement plans provided for in Ark. Code Ann. §§ 24-12-121 and 24-12-123.

In order to make this election, the mayor or clerk must provide written notice to APERS within 90 calendar days of the date the official assumed office. Once made, this choice is irrevocable. Any employer contributions previously made on behalf of an official who elects not to participate will be refunded to the city and the official will forfeit service credit in the system.

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

To contact APERS, call (501) 682-7800 or visit www.apers.org. 

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Managed intake-May '15, p.30
Mixed breeds, identifying-Nov. '14, p.26
Safety, heat-July '14, p.32
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Arkansas City Managers Association

Anti-government sentiment, combating-May '15, p.15
Officers, Hot Springs' Spicer elected president-July '16, p.62

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a'TEST Consultants, Inc.

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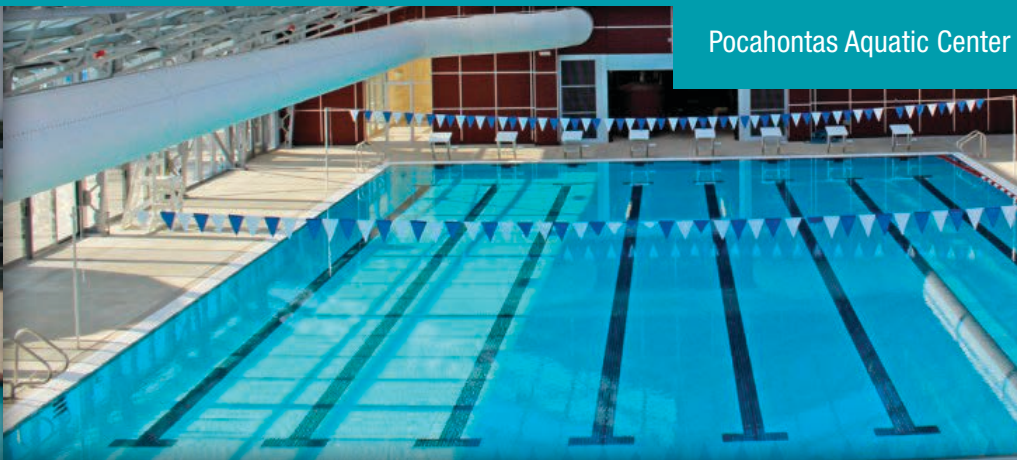
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