

City & Town

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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

MAUMELLE
CENTER ON THE LAKE

**Volunteer Outreach
Program Celebrates
Record-Setting Milestone**

How do you think new money becomes old money?



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Simmons Bank, Trust Department*



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Cover photo by Andrew Morgan.



ON THE COVER—The Center on the Lake in Maumelle is a hub of volunteer activity, and the annual Homebound Visitation Program, which delivers flowers to senior citizens in the city, celebrated its 10th anniversary this February. Read about the program and the center inside on page six. Read also about the Delta Byways Awards, tips on developing communication skills, and more. Registration and room block reservations open March 15 for the League’s 84th Convention, June 13-15 in Little Rock. Save money by registering before June 1.—atm

Features

6 Flowers brighten lives in Maumelle
Volunteers in Maumelle this year celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Homebound Visitation Program, which is based out of the Center on the Lake and delivers flower bouquets to senior citizens in the city.

16 Little Rock the base for Global Solutions Institute
Arkansas cities and towns have a new resource for money-saving technological innovations through the Little Rock-based Global Solutions Institute, a result of 2012’s historic Little Rock Accord.

22 Forrest City makes tech upgrade
With the help of the League’s IT in a Box service, Forrest City has been able to upgrade its existing technology, back up important data, and comply with Legislative Audit.

38 Communicate the right way
Keeping in mind five rules can help us communicate with each other more successfully.

City & Town Contents

Arkansas Municipal League Officers.....	5
a'TEST.....	30
Attorney General Opinions.....	40
Economic Development.....	50
Engineering.....	46
Fairs & Festivals.....	43
Grant Money Matters.....	44
Meeting Calendar.....	23
Municipal Mart.....	58
Municipal Notes.....	56
Obituaries.....	56
Planning to Succeed.....	18
President's Letter.....	4
Sales Tax Map.....	53
Sales Tax Receipts.....	54
Turnback Estimates.....	52
Urban Forestry.....	48
Wellness.....	36
Your Health.....	28

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Dear Friends,

The past few months in Springdale have been an exciting time. As we enter March, the pace is only picking up. We were pleased that the 2018 bond program was approved by Springdale voters with an average of 81 percent support among all six ballot items. This election had a larger turnout and stronger support than the last bond election in 2012.

With this election, we started educating the public early and laid the groundwork for many of the projects we planned to include as part of this program. By the time the election took place on Feb. 13, our residents had been hearing about our plans for about a year and a half. While we did not participate in or pay for any campaigning in this special election, we did work hard to share factual, objective information about the bond program and what this program would mean for our community.

One way we did this was through our "Conversation" series. Through this series, we go out into the community and meet with different local organizations to discuss ongoing City projects and community developments. This is a great opportunity for our residents to learn more and get their questions answered. We consistently see that communication and transparency are incredibly helpful for our residents. Even though the election is over, we are still conducting these meetings and keeping our residents updated on what is in store. We want our residents to be as involved in this process as possible from start to finish.

Thanks to this bond program, we will have \$160 million in construction funds that will be used to build and improve streets, build a new park and renovate and make improvements to older parks, build three new fire stations, renovate and relocate the animal shelter, and build a secure criminal justice complex that will include a renovated city administration building.

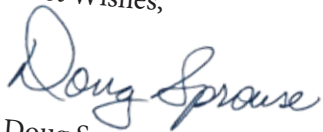
Infrastructure improvements are the largest aspect of this bond. For most municipalities, infrastructure is a high priority. In fact, I recently had the opportunity to join the NLC's executive director for a visit to the White House to discuss infrastructure. We had some great opportunities to learn and discuss various aspects of the president's proposed infrastructure bill. We know improving our infrastructure and quality-of-life amenities are important to our residents. We appreciate our voters showing support for these ballot items, and we know they'll be pleased with the outcome of these projects.

We learned a lot during this election. When you're in the public sector, it's important to seek out opportunities to learn. That is why the League's Annual Conventions are so valuable to our membership. Registration and hotel room block reservations for the 84th Convention open at 8 a.m. March 15. It's important that delegates register as soon as possible so the League can ensure all legislative issues affecting cities and towns will be addressed in the upcoming legislative session.

We are focused on the issues that matter to your municipality. At last week's Executive Committee meeting, we had lengthy and productive discussions on the progress of the opioid litigation, as well as consideration of League positions on several coming legislative proposals. The League is here as a resource, and your voice is crucial as we work to help you build and maintain strong cities.

Thank you for your work and for speaking up for your city. We have a lot of work to do, and it's encouraging to see how much we've already done this year.

Best Wishes,



Doug Sprouse
Mayor, Springdale
President, Arkansas Municipal League



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MAUMELLE CENTER ON THE LAKE



Maumelle's Center on the Lake is a hub of both senior activities and volunteerism in the city.

Bouquets bring joy to Maumelle's homebound seniors

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

Maumelle's new Center on the Lake, which opened its doors in March 2017, is an attractive and versatile facility aimed at giving local seniors a place to enhance their quality of life through educational activities, fitness and health classes, organized field trips, and much more. The \$4.6 million Center, located near the shore of Lake Willastein in the heart of the city, is also a hub of volunteerism in Maumelle, and this year the Homebound Visitation program celebrated its 10th anniversary.

Since not every senior in the city is physically able to partake in the many activities offered at Center on the Lake, the employees and numerous volunteers have made it a regular event to reach out to those seniors



From left, Volunteer Coordinator Gloria Mayo and Activities Coordinator Cindy Collins.

where they live and help them feel included. The annual effort involves both public-private partnerships and volunteerism to great effect.

Each February on the week following Valentine's Day, several area Kroger grocery stores and the local Walmart donate batches of beautiful but leftover flowers and bouquets to the Center on the Lake for the program. Dedicated volunteers then take the donated flowers and rearrange them into new bouquets to be delivered, also by volunteers, to homebound seniors. The groups Counting on Each Other Inc. and the Maumelle Garden Club partner with the Center on the Lake for the event, and they help cover incidental costs and collect vases and ribbons for the bouquets.

In the program's first year, they created and delivered 75 bouquets. The goal for the 10th anniversary was to deliver 150 bouquets. They actually surpassed that number, delivering 166 bouquets on Friday, Feb. 23.



Volunteers at Maumelle's Center on the Lake prepared a record 166 bouquets of flowers for homebound seniors this year, the 10th anniversary of the program.



Volunteer Jeannine Smith, right, delivers a bouquet to her friend Beauton Runsick.

“We could not do this project without an amazing team of volunteers collecting and arranging the flowers and those individuals that made the actual deliveries,” Maumelle Mayor Mike Watson said. “I did not get to participate this year but I have in previous years, and it is wonderful to see the smiles when you present the flowers and spend some time with the recipients.”



Volunteer Wanda Gooden, left, presents Pat Capps with flowers.

Almost every aspect of the Center on the Lake involves the effort of volunteers, from teaching classes to driving vans.

“We could not operate the Maumelle Center on the Lake without our great group of volunteers,” Watson said. “In 2017 we had 233 volunteers contribute 13,206 hours—equivalent to six additional fulltime staff members.”

In addition to the fitness room, classrooms, and meeting space, another offering at the Center on the Lake is the Mason Café, which serves breakfast and lunch to both members and the public. It’s an especially popular lunch destination on meatloaf day, said Gloria Mayo, the Center’s coordinator of volunteers.



Participants in a mountain dulcimer class perform “Ode to Joy,” “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star,” and other tunes they’ve learned for an audience of Center on the Lake members, employees, and volunteers.



The Mason Café has three regular employees, but relies on numerous volunteers to prepare and serve breakfast and lunch each day.

“The café has three paid employees, but everything else is volunteer, which helps us keep the prices low.”

Sometimes it can be difficult to recruit volunteers for some of the Center’s needs, Mayo said. Right now they are seeking more volunteers for non-emergency transportation, which helps seniors go shopping, make health appointments, and run other errands. Overall, however, she and the city are honored to have enthusiastic volunteers that help with the Center.

“We just had a volunteer appreciation event February 1, and we had 150 volunteers that were here, which is fantastic,” Mayo said. 🙏



Volunteers prep for lunch in the Center’s kitchen.



Jonesboro breaks ground on shooting sports complex

Jonesboro celebrated the groundbreaking of its future shooting sports complex with a groundbreaking ceremony Feb. 7, and many who played a key role in acquiring the property and providing the city with a \$2 million grant were in attendance, the city has reported.

“This is a great day in Jonesboro—even the chilly weather feels good to me today,” said Jonesboro Mayor Harold Perrin, pointing out that the complex will be an entertainment option to attract many visitors to the city as well as serve local enthusiasts.

Arkansas Game and Fish Director Pat Fitts said the grant money provided by his department will get the ball rolling on what will become an \$8 million to \$10 million facility. His favorite part of the project is that it will provide education and safety instruction for youth.

Fish and Game Chief of Staff Caroline Cone said when completed, the range will be the largest in Arkansas. Former Jonesboro Parks and Recreation Director Wixson Huffstetler said it will include “training classes for shooting sports and archery. We’re going to have nine trap/skeet fields, a 200-yard rifle range, a

50-yard pistol range, and 3-D and traditional archery ranges. The main building will have a classroom to hold 80 to 100 people for training/educational purposes.”

Jonesboro Police Chief Rick Elliott said hunter education, safety, “even how to shoot trap,” will be offered.

While the city pursues sponsors and private partners to raise the rest of the funding to complete the facility, many of its features are expected to open in mid-2019. The City purchased 208.7 acres on Moore’s Road in southeast Jonesboro from multiple owners for a price of \$1.276 million.

“This is a big step toward making our shooting range a reality,” Perrin said. “I think we’re going to see a lot of people coming to Jonesboro, and this is going to be great not only for sportsmen and women, but for our sales tax income in the city.”

The shooting range will make it an attraction for shooting and archery enthusiasts around the region. The \$2 million federal grant came through the Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act’s Basic Hunter Education and Safety Program. 🏹

Monday 8:34 am



THIS MOMENT BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOUR HOMETOWN. The lifeblood of any city is progress. Finding the new jobs and the new opportunities that will keep the city and its residents moving forward. And we're leading the charge. Whether it's negotiating with potential businesses or building roads to their new facilities. A better life starts in the city limits. From small towns to big cities, Arkansas's municipal communities improve our quality of life, every day. *Great Cities Make a Great State.*



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5 things you didn't know about rail safety

Arkansas boasts 23 freight railroads that operate 2,417 miles of track in the state. These privately funded rail lines help form a seamless and integrated transportation network in partnership with river ports and motor carriers, connecting Arkansas manufacturers and consumers to domestic and international markets. And as railroads deliver every day for businesses and consumers, safety is their all-year, round-the-clock priority. Here are five things you may not have realized about rail safety.

1. Railroads are on the cutting edge of safety

Trains have come a long way since the days of the Iron Horse. State-of-the-art technologies like big data, drones, and ultrasound technology are just a few of the innovations railroads use to advance rail safety. For example, while today's inspection technology currently makes it possible for railroads to identify 90 percent of track defects before they lead to an incident, multidimensional ultrasonic technology, currently in testing, aims to identify the remaining 10 percent of track imperfections.

2. There's an app for first responders

Thousands of first responders around the country have signed up for an innovative mobile app called AskRail. Launched in 2014 and recently updated with new features, the app is designed to prepare responders for a rail emergency in real time by providing immediate access to accurate, timely data about what type of hazardous materials a railcar is carrying. Updates unveiled this year include full integration of all North American Class I railroads, a map feature that provides isolation zones and points of interest, and a French version. AskRail is included as part of standard emergency responder training for Class I railroads and can only be downloaded by qualified emergency responders who have completed rail emergency training. Railroads can also offer the app to known emergency responders along their routes.

3. North American railroads partner to run the world's leading rail research facility

Railroads jointly support the Transportation Technology Center, Inc., or TTCI, the world's leading rail research and testing facility in Pueblo, Colo. Many of rail's new technologies—like the world's first laser-based rail inspection system, or on-board computer systems that analyze track geometry—are developed and tested at TTCI.

Also housed at TTCI, the Security and Emergency Response Training Center (SERTC), trains thousands of first responders every year. SERTC is a collaboration between railroads and the FRA, where responders get hands-on experience with simulated HAZMAT incidents. The center also offers free, web-based training for those who cannot attend in person.

4. Positive Train Control is the largest and most complex safety system in the history of the railroad industry

In 2008, Congress mandated that railroads install Positive Train Control (PTC), a set of advanced technologies designed to automatically stop a train before certain incidents occur, across some 60,000 miles of the rail network. Implementation requires the deployment of hundreds of thousands of technology pieces, the precise geo-mapping of tens of thousands of miles of railroad right-of-way, as well as extensive training and testing to ensure systems are interoperable.

Despite the complexities and challenges of implementing PTC, freight railroads are on track to meet the deadline set out by Congress in 2015. The industry has invested upwards of \$7.9 billion so far, spending about \$100 million per month on continued development, testing and installation.

5. Private investments correlate with increased safety

Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) statistics announced earlier this year show that 2016 was the safest year on record for freight rail. That year not only marked the lowest train accident rate on record, but likewise the lowest derailment rate, which declined 10 percent from 2015. These gains are not anomalies, but examples of how steady rail investment pays safety dividends. Since railroads were economically deregulated in 1980, they have spent over \$630 billion and the train accident rate has decreased 79 percent.

GoRail is a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit. To learn more visit gorail.org.





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ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE GREAT CITIES MAKE A GREAT STATE

Welcome

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

News Feed

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

[More News](#)

Calendar

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

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

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

[Full Calendar](#)

Meeting Registrations

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

[Register Online](#) or [Download PDF Registration Form](#)
[2015 Winter Conference Tentative Agenda](#)

2014 Human Resource Seminar
October 15, 2014, League Headquarters

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Great Cities Make a Great State!



Crews & Associates Senior Managing Director Nathan Rutledge, far right, presents Batesville Mayor Rick Elumbaugh and other city leaders with the Pinnacle Award.

Batesville earns Arkansas Business Publishing Group Pinnacle Award

Arkansas Business Publishing Group (ABPG) has named Batesville its 2017 Pinnacle Award winner as part of its annual Trendsetter City Awards. The Pinnacle Award is a new addition to the slate of Trendsetter City honors. It recognizes a city that has gone above and beyond in its innovative efforts. Batesville earned the Pinnacle Award for its new wastewater treatment facility, which has received national recognition and has opened the doors for industry growth and sustainability in the city. Batesville also received Trendsetter City awards in the categories of wellness, infrastructure, public safety, and environment.

The ABPG Trendsetter City Awards were presented during the League’s 2018 Winter Conference in January in Fort Smith. Categories and winners included:

Education/workforce

- Berryville, winner
- Fayetteville, winner
- Crossett, honorable mention
- Little Rock, honorable mention

Wellness

- Batesville, winner
- Danville, winner
- Fayetteville, winner
- Magnolia, honorable mention

Infrastructure

- Batesville, winner
- Fayetteville, winner


Public safety

- Batesville, winner
- Bentonville, winner
- Maumelle, honorable mention

Environment

- Batesville, winner
- Fayetteville, winner

Tourism

- El Dorado, winner
- Fort Smith, winner
- Paris, winner
- Maumelle, honorable mention
- Prescott, honorable mention 



Voluntary Certified Continuing Education Program

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

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

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

The next workshop at League Headquarters is:

- City Government 101 (5 core hours), 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. April 4, 2018, at League headquarters.

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

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Keep Arkansas Beautiful challenges volunteers to #MakeArkansasGreen



Aligned with the national Great American Cleanup, the Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission encourages local cleanups statewide this spring.

The Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission (KAB) is helping volunteers in every county organize and promote local cleanup and beautification events that will #MakeArkansasGreen.

The Great American Cleanup in Arkansas—and the #MakeArkansasGreen challenge—is a call-to-action to volunteers to organize at least one cleanup event in each of the state’s 75 counties during March, April, and May. Cleanup events should focus on enhancing a community’s public spaces such as roadsides, waterways, parks, and neighborhoods by picking up litter and debris, planting flowers, removing bulky waste, recycling materials, and improving overall appearance.

“Littering is illegal in Arkansas, and it is ugly and unhealthy. We want Arkansans to no longer tolerate littered places,” said Liz Philpott, KAB’s volunteer program manager and statewide cleanup coordinator. “KAB is committed to fostering behavior change and new attitudes to make littering socially unacceptable. We advance change through volunteer activities and educational outreach about the negative impacts on a community that isn’t litter-free. The #MakeArkansasGreen challenge during the Great American Cleanup in Arkansas is a key initiative to engage and inspire Arkansans toward better habits.”

Each week beginning in April, KAB will post to its social media platforms a #MakeArkansasGreen map of the counties where a cleanup is registered. Arkansans can follow along on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to track the #MakeArkansasGreen campaign’s success. During the 2017 Great American Cleanup in Arkansas, volunteers registered events in 52 counties.

Communities and groups are invited to sign up to organize a local cleanup at <http://bit.ly/2018GAC>. KAB will provide local events with trash bags, T-shirts, and other supplies, as long as those supplies last. Volunteers can find local cleanups on the calendar of events at KeepArkansasBeautiful.com. The Great American Cleanup in Arkansas runs March through May.



KEEP AMERICA
BEAUTIFUL
— K A B . O R G —

2018 marks the 20th year of Keep America Beautiful’s Great American Cleanup. Last year alone, volunteers picked up nearly 186 million pounds of litter and debris in communities across the country. During last year’s Great American Cleanup in Arkansas, 6,153 volunteers picked up nearly 135,000 pounds of litter and collected 6.9 million pounds of bulky waste from 725 miles of roadside and 156 miles of waterway. Volunteers also cleaned up more than 10,000 acres of parks and public areas and recycled nearly 300,000 pounds of electronics. 🗑️



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Global Solutions Institute has much to offer cities

By Sherman Banks

In December 2012 Little Rock hosted a historic meeting between the Club de Madrid (comprised of 115 former presidents and prime ministers from over 60 countries) and the P80 Group Foundation organized by Prince Charles of Great Britain. P80's mission is to guide the world—cities, towns, tribal areas, and islands—toward a path of greater sustainability by developing financial instruments that deploy capital into technology that tackles local and global challenges.

The outcome of that meeting was the signing of the historic Little Rock Accord (LRA). Following the signing of the accord, the LRA Implementation Task Force was created to work with Club de Madrid and P80 Group Foundation to do three things:

1. Identify examples of proven technologies, which if deployed could help address growing resource shortage issues and to create innovative deployment models.
2. Develop a system using financial technology, new financing models, and other financial innovation tools to encourage the formation of new funds; the expansion of existing funds; and to move financial resources from large pension and sovereign wealth funds to smaller, more specialized funds that invest in technology companies and projects that can deploy technologies at scale to address resource shortages.
3. Establish a new institute—Global Solutions Institute (GSI), www.globalsolutionsinstitute.org—and a physical location (Global Technology Expo for the Development Demonstration (GTED2) for the work of the LRA Implementation Task Force and to have a place where examples of these various technologies and deployment projects can be displayed and demonstrated. GSI/GTED2 is located in Little Rock along the banks of the Arkansas River thanks to the dedication of Heifer International.

What is GSI/GTED2?

GSI/GTED2 is a central clearing house where the LRA Implementation Task Force will be based. It is the place where many modern technologies and projects utilizing and deploying those technologies will be demonstrated. It will be a center where those with problems and those with solutions meet and develop ways to bring about global solutions.

GSI/GTED2 is comprised of six key components:

1. Corporate component;
2. Cities, towns, tribal areas, and island states component;
3. Developing world component;
4. Foundation and NGO museum/library component;
5. Global Solutions Institute research and programs center; and
6. Technology exhibition center component.

The component that is most applicable to cities and towns is component number two involving local governments. Participating local governments will establish offices of urban technology deployment demonstration. The best way to explain how cities and towns benefit from GTED2 is to provide two examples.

Example 1

Austin, Texas, benefited from GSI by using Stealth Power technologies to minimize the amount of time vehicle operators idle their engines. To gain a perspective on why idle reduction is important, here are four statistics that will prove to be a cost savings to any city:

- Idling vehicles use billions of gallons of fossil fuel and release tons of greenhouse gases each year. Idle reduction is an essential way to conserve petroleum and prevent emissions.
- In the U.S., medium-duty trucks alone use about 2.5 billion gallons of fuel every year—or 6.7 percent of the total fuel they consume—just to idle.
- For each hour it idles, an ambulance burns about 1.5 gallons of fuel, and puts 35-50 miles' worth of wear-and tear on the engine.
- For a typical ambulance, oil and diesel particle-clogged filters are changed every 2-6 weeks, at a cost of about \$200 per vehicle, or over \$5,000 annually for basic maintenance per vehicle.

Stealth Power's idle-reduction technology (www.idlereduction.com) offers many benefits, including substantial savings on fuel and maintenance, significant extension of vehicle life, and dramatic decreases in polluting emissions for improved health and global sustainability. The Stealth Power EMS series features mobile energy systems that provide dependable power for ambulances, including air, heat, lights, camera, laptops, radio, refrigerator, chargers, and power-load stretchers all without idling.

Example 2

In the city of Boston they are using new pothole technology. A snowy winter leaves streets full of potholes. The new technology is relatively simple, but the stability and resilience of the fix stays five times longer and costs less. The process involves taking the asphalt of the area and mixing it with a special non-toxic putty like material. Packed into the pothole, it binds and stays five times longer than replacing it with more processed asphalt.

The LRA GIS/GTED2 project is being cultivated in Arkansas, and for municipal leaders this is a prime opportunity to take advantage of the cost-saving technologies and processes being explored. If you would like to learn more about GTED2, please contact Sherman Banks at (501) 786-2639 or (501) 360-7253; or email sbanks@aristotle.net.



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.

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

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

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Broadway in West Memphis may be the longest “Main Street” in the state. The planning process should be able to respond to its unique character.



PHOTO BY JIM VON TUNGELN

Unique cities, unique approaches to planning

By Jim von Tungeln

One thing that state and federal statutes do with regularity is to shoehorn all municipalities into one regulatory box. In the area of municipal planning, this means that every city must, for all practical purposes, follow the same state statutes regardless of size, location, and history of origin.

This can and does present a tough path for smaller communities. It is a heartbreaking matter to tell them they must follow the same planning and regulatory rules as a city with a population of 50,000 or more. Even if grants were available for helping them plan, the staff would not be available to enforce those plans. As we all know, the world of public administration has become infinitely more complex and litigious since those cities first took root.

As a case in point, some very competent attorneys in some very large cities are unsure how to regulate signs due to a 2015 decision by the United State Supreme Court in *Reed v. Town of Gilbert*. It profoundly affects every city in America, whether large or small.

We have discussed this case before, so there is no need to go into details herein. Put simply, it casts a

cloud of confusion over how much leeway a city has in describing signs within its land-use regulations. The simple answer is, according to some attorneys, no leeway at all. A sign is a sign and that's all. A city can regulate a sign's size, height, location and other non-content-based factors, but calling one a “real estate sign” or a “political sign” can mean big trouble. Attorneys are still struggling with it.

The point here is that if a large and sophisticated city finds it difficult to interpret a law, what happens to a small town in a rural area? That town may be watching the “freight-train of history” roar through without even slowing down. Meanwhile, all that its leaders are interested in doing with their zoning law is preserving what stability remains in the community.

On the other hand, a small city may find itself in growth path that suggests it won't be a small city much longer. It is faced with growing demands upon a staff that is shorthanded and not trained for the coming flood of development requests. Great damage can occur before that city may be large enough to support a staff equal to the demands of rapid growth.

A question we are frequently asked is: What is the point at which a city can justify a full-time professional urban planner? A broad guess may be somewhere in the vicinity of 30,000 population. Providing an exact answer suffers from the many variables involved: growth rate, revenue base, location, and history. The latter is extremely important.

For example, consider the several cities in our state that are incorporated municipalities now, but began as private, planned communities. At the time they were originally designed, no one had envisioned that the local option sales tax would become the primary source of municipal revenue. Consequently, some are located away from commercial development that would provide sales tax revenues with which to provide professional staff. Add to this the fact that the communities were professionally planned and with streets and utilities laid out in “whole-cloth” so to speak. Now, some of those cities face miles and miles of vacant streets still waiting for homes to appear.

Those cities have already been planned. They don’t need an urban designer on staff. They need more rooftops plus an additional source of revenue. Again, however, they must follow a planning process, based on state statutes that do not respect the unique characteristics of their city.

One thing that could benefit both smaller cities and cities with a unique history would be a revision to the state statutes that would allow alternative approaches to the planning process. The legislature took a small step in this direction a few years ago by passing a statute that allows a small city to allow the city council to act as its planning commission. Small changes like this might help streamline the planning process for small or unique communities. All cities in our state have statutory home rule. Cities remain bound, however, by existing enabling statutes and this makes major changes difficult in the area of urban planning.

What are cities to do then if their specific size, location, and history don’t fit traditional planning approaches? How much leeway do they have in responding to their differences while creating a plan that fits both their budget and state law? The answer may be quite a bit.

First, a city may develop a plan that is based more on adopted policies than upon a map. After all, planners view a city’s plan as a statement of policy regarding development. Who says a plan can’t depend, to a large degree, on written policies along with a site-specific map? Overly detailed plan maps become outdated very quickly. Written policies, if they are sound, don’t. A general plan map may be desirable, even necessary, but it doesn’t have to be the only document that guides policy.

Things change with the zoning code. Since a zoning code is adopted as municipal law, in order to carry out or protect the plan, it will require both a specific document and a specific zoning map. It is vital to remember the difference between the plan and the zoning code. Streamlining the planning process by simplifying both the plan and the code can, if done wisely, set a stage for development in the city. Nothing in our state statutes seems to prohibit simplicity.

In many cases, cities—not the state—have made planning complicated by copying other cities’ work. Once, the mayor of town of less than 1,000 showed me their zoning code containing over 50 pages. Where did it originate? A consultant prepared it for the city with a \$5,000 grant available at the time for rural planning. Sensing familiarity, I discovered that the “consultant” was a former secretary for an engineering company who had copied company files, performed a “find and replace,” and presented the city with a zoning code created for a city of 13,000 along with a bill for \$5,000.

Many of the plans prepared as far back as the 1960s combined the plan and zoning code in the same document. This approach would force an instant comparison between the plan and any proposed zoning change. This step, a vital one, can be forgotten when the documents are separate or if adopted at different times.

At this moment in our state’s history, cities are increasingly including economic development considerations in their municipal planning documents. One of the most fundamental building blocks in this effort is flexibility in how cities treat development proposals. Past history indicates that, in many cases, developers will “get their way” eventually. Why not adopt flexible plans, standards, and regulations that would allow them to work seamlessly with the city in the first place? This could allow development that meets the city’s need to protect the health, safety, welfare, and moral of the community, while allowing a more streamlined and profitable course of action open for the developer.

In other words, could our cities look forward to a day when things are simpler and less contentious? Could developers look forward to a day when they can concentrate more on innovation and less on working through an exhaustive and sometimes contradictory maze of regulations?



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

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.

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

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.

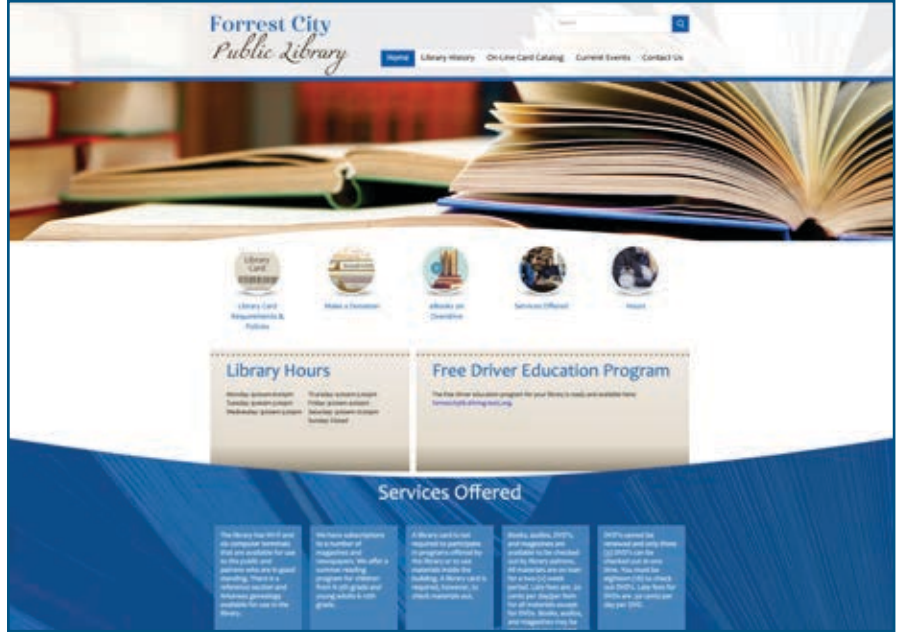
Form B		
City or Town of _____		
Financial Statement January 1, 2017—Dec. 31, 2017		
WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENTS		
Balance January 1, 2017	\$ _____	
Cash Receipts		
Water Payments	\$ _____	
Sewer Payments	\$ _____	
Sanitation Funds	\$ _____	
Other	\$ _____	
Total Receipts	\$ _____	
Total Funds Available	\$ _____	
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.		

IT in a Box a success in Forrest City

As the “Jewel of the Delta” and an important business hub in eastern Arkansas, Forrest City sits almost exactly between Little Rock and Memphis on I-40. Arkansas Hwy. 1 and two railways go through Forrest City as well, making it an important location for both businesses and residents.

Doubling in population since 1950, the city has continued to see steady growth in recent years. To support more businesses and residents, the city needs reliable technology. Outdated technology had begun to hinder the city’s ability to serve its citizens and made it more difficult to comply with Legislative Audit. By utilizing the League’s IT in a Box service by Sophicity, Forrest City has begun to solve those issues.



Challenges

Forrest City has four primary locations that each had technology challenges.

City Hall—In many cases, the challenges involved printer issues and employees needing help accessing their computers. The city’s technology support was having trouble completing even simple requests. Uncertainty about data backup and a lack of clear policies also worried the city.

Library—Because the public needs access to certain computers, some security issues existed. The software and support for enabling public access also led to inefficiencies and problems with authorization. The library’s website was outdated and needed a fresh look while also making it easier for staff to update information.

Public safety—With aging, outdated technology infrastructure, public safety’s systems needed an upgrade and some modernization. Data backup and disaster recovery were also concerns.

Court—Computers often froze and locked up, and the city’s vendor support was not capable of quickly handling issues remotely. Data backup and recovery were also issues. Issues with the digital IP phone system also lingered.

Solution

In order to solve these issues and put the city in a better position to pass an audit, Forrest City looked to the IT in a Box service, which has been able to implement changes fairly quickly.

The services within IT in a Box included:

- 24/7 helpdesk—Sophicity provides 24/7/365 support to city staff. Experienced engineers are ready to address any IT issue, remotely or onsite.
- Server, desktop, and mobile management—Many of Forrest City’s issues resulted from a lack of proactive IT management. IT in a Box helps keep computers patched, protected, and operating properly to guard against cyberattacks.
- Policy and compliance—IT in a Box works with cities that must comply with Legislative Audit, implementing policies and procedures that meet the demands of auditors.
- Data backup and offsite storage—Forrest City received unlimited offsite data backup storage and retention for disaster recovery and archiving. That includes real-time monitoring and quarterly testing.
- Vendor management—Sophicity deals with any technical issues related to the city’s IP phone system, the email/fax system, library software, and other technology-related vendors.
- New city website—The library immediately received an updated, custom-designed website, and library staff can now edit and update website content themselves. The city staff are currently working on a new version of the city’s website.

Results

After Forrest City switched over to IT in a Box, they have seen many positive results. With their systems now secure and the right policies in place, the city has passed Legislative Audit without a problem. The city’s data is now backed up and secure.

The responsive IT support has led to increased productivity and employee morale. Sophicity has been able to untangle several complex IT problems that had led to frustration and a loss of productivity. And the city's hardware has been modernized for a more reasonable price, helping Forrest City be good stewards of taxpayer dollars.

According to Forrest City Clerk/Treasurer Derene Cochran, IT in a Box has been a great help.

"I recommend that cities consider using IT in a Box," Cochran says. "They especially helped us with the Arkansas Legislative Audit. For a city with limited staff, it's a headache for one person to sit down and get all those policies in place. Also, Sophicity is there if you need them for overall IT support. At first we thought the service was a little costly. But after getting IT in a Box up and going, we all now realize we should have done this a long, long time ago."

For more information on the League's IT in a Box service, contact League Information Technology Director Chris Hartley at (501) 374-3484 Ext. 106 or email chartley@arml.org.

IT in a Box

A complete IT solution for city governments.

New City Website
Modern fresh design. We manage the content. Accept online payments.

Data Backup
Unlimited offsite data backup storage for disaster recovery. Realtime monitoring. Quarterly testing.

Document Management
Protect city records. Apply record retention schedules.

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Separate personal and city business. Share calendars. Includes Microsoft Office Professional Plus.

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84th Annual Convention

Marriott Hotel/Statehouse Convention Center, June 13-15, 2018

MONTHS

03

DAYS

02

HOURS

14

Countdown to Convention.

June 13–15 in Little Rock, AR

See next page for more information.

Register online at www.arml.org.

Contact Whitnee Bullerwell
at (501) 978-6105.

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

TENTATIVE PROGRAM IN BRIEF

**WEDNESDAY
JUNE 13**

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

Registration and Exhibit Hall Open
Clerks Meeting
Training Sessions
Resolutions Committee Meeting
Opening Night Reception

**THURSDAY
JUNE 14**

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

Host City Breakfast
Registration Open
Exhibits Open
General Sessions
Luncheon
Concurrent Workshops
Dinner on Your Own

**FRIDAY
JUNE 15**

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

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

RESOLUTIONS

Suggested Convention Resolutions for consideration at the 84th Annual Convention should be mailed to:
84th Convention Resolutions
Arkansas Municipal League
P.O. Box 38
North Little Rock, AR 72115-0038

The deadline for Resolution submission is Tuesday, May 15.

Resolutions may be drafted by an official of any member city or town and can relate to any matter of municipal concern. See your **2017-2018 Policies and Goals** for resolutions adopted at the 83rd Convention.

WANTED: Elected City officials with 25 years of service

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

The League will give special recognition to **elected city and town officials** who are in their 25th year of municipal service at the 84th League Convention, June 13-15, in Little Rock.

Names must be submitted to the League by May 15.

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

NOTICE TO EXHIBITORS

At the 84th Convention, a special Exhibit Hall is available for businesses, companies and manufacturers to display their products and services that are available to Arkansas municipalities.

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

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

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



84th Annual Convention

Marriott Hotel / Statehouse Convention Center, June 13-15, 2018

REGISTRATION

Registration and payment must be received in League office by Friday, June 1, 2018, to qualify for Pre-registration rates.

Pre-registration for municipal officials	\$150
Registration fee after June 1, 2018 , and on-site registration for municipal officials	\$175
Pre-registration for guests	\$75
Registration fee after June 1, 2018 , and on-site registration for guests	\$100
Other registrants	\$200

- Registration will be processed **ONLY** with accompanying payment in full. Make checks payable to the Arkansas Municipal League.
- Registration includes meals, activities and a copy of **2017-2018 Handbook for Arkansas Municipal Officials**.
- No daily registration is available.
- Registration must come through the League office. No telephone registrations will be accepted.
- **No refunds after June 1, 2018.**
- Cancellation letters must be postmarked by **June 1, 2018**.
- **Marriott guests:** In order to avoid a cancellation penalty of one night's room and tax, reservations must be cancelled at least seven (7) days prior to arrival.

HOTEL RESERVATION

Hotel Room Rates

Marriott Hotel (headquarters hotel)		
Single/Double. SOLD OUT	\$136	Check-in 3 p.m.
Capital Hotel		
Single/Double.	\$189	Check-in 3 p.m.
Doubletree Hotel		
Single/Double. SOLD OUT	\$144	Check-in 3 p.m.
Wyndham Hotel		
Single/Double.	\$109	Check-in 3 p.m.

- Cut-off date for hotel reservations is **June 1, 2018**.
- Rooms in Central Arkansas are subject to a 13.5 or 15 percent tax.
- Rooms will be held until 6 p.m. and then released unless guaranteed by credit card.
- Contact the hotel directly to make changes or cancellations in hotel accommodations.
- Hotel confirmation number will come directly from the hotel.
- Please check on cancellation policy for your hotel.

Two ways to register **OR**

1 Register online at www.arml.org and pay by credit card.

2 Complete the steps and **mail with payment** to:
 ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
 Attn: 84th Annual Convention
 P.O. Box 38
 North Little Rock, AR 72115-0038

Step 1: Delegate Information

Name:

Title: City of:

Attendee only email (required): CC Email:

Address: City:

State: Zip: Phone Number:

Non-city Official guests will attend: Yes No

Name: Name:

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

Step 2: Payment Information

• **WHAT IS YOUR TOTAL?** (see opposite page for fees)

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

• **How are you paying?**

Check

Mail payment and form to:
 Arkansas Municipal League
 84th Annual Convention
 P.O. Box 38
 North Little Rock, AR 72115

Credit Card Complete information below and send to address above.

Credit Card: Visa MasterCard Discover

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: ____/____/20____

Card Holder Name (as it appears on card):

Billing address (as it appears on statement):

City: State: ... Zip: Telephone:

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

Step 3: Hotel Reservations

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

Marriott Hotel ... Reservations ... (877) 759-6290

Capital Hotel Reservations (877) 637-0037 or (501) 374-7474

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

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

Special dietary needs:

- Gluten free
- Vegetarian
- Pescatarian
- Vegan

Intermittent fasting no long-term solution

By Tonya Johnson

A new fad has taken the diet world by storm. It's called intermittent fasting. What's that, you ask? Intermittent fasting calls for going one day without eating, or greatly limiting your calorie intake for one day to about 500 calories.

So, does it work? Well, anytime you lower your calorie intake or go without eating for an extended period of time, you will lose weight. Now, before you pledge to fast the next 24 hours to see how far the scale drops, let's address some things to know about this diet.

Don't rush in

I've learned throughout my career that when clients say they're going to try a new diet, they usually do. If you're determined to try intermittent fasting, be prepared. First, know how many calories you regularly consume in a day. And make sure you still get about 100 grams of carbohydrates during your fasting day as carbs are important to proper brain function.

If your calorie count is 2,500 a day, maybe try dropping down to 1,000 calories a day instead of fasting for an entire day or restricting your calories further. No, this isn't fasting, but it's decreasing your calories while still remaining at a healthy level. Make sure the 1,000 calories includes adequate protein, vitamins, and minerals.

Is this a long-term option?

Simply put: No. When you don't eat or greatly restrict your caloric intake, your body will respond. Yes, you might lose a few pounds initially, but your metabolism will slow down to maintain internal stability. When you hop off the diet and return to regular eating, it becomes easier for you to gain weight quicker because your metabolism has slowed.

This can create a never-ending cycle as you go on and off this diet in the future, until it's hard for you to maintain a stable weight because of a slowing metabolism.

Your body also needs at least 1,000 calories a day regularly to function properly. That includes muscle building, immune and antibody development, and other run-of-the-mill processes you might take for granted but processes your body needs every day to keep going.

I tell patients if a new diet plan you want to try is not a long-term solution, it's not worth trying. A long-term solution must include a lifestyle change.

A better option

Pick almost any diet plan and you'll notice they all have a common theme: healthy eating and exercise. It's never the sexy, hip, or appealing option, but it still provides the best results in the long run.

This brings me back to the lifestyle change I mentioned. To make it successful, eating healthy and exercising regularly requires you to break old habits and convince yourself you don't need that bag of chips, or sleeve of cookies, or third scoop of ice cream. It's also realizing that when you do enjoy a treat here and there, you have to plan ahead for some extra gym or treadmill time or account for the extra calories in another way.

There's also what we like to call environmental control. This means limiting or eliminating the junk food portion of your pantry. When you have a moment of weakness or an uncontrollable urge, it's easier to avoid a pitfall if there isn't a new bag of chips or cookies waiting for you in the kitchen.

We lead busy lives. From work to family to social lives and everything in between, we're always looking for a shortcut that makes us more efficient and gets the results we need quicker and with less effort. Unfortunately, there isn't a magic pill that can immediately make us healthier beings. We have to work for it.

However, the work and effort are worth it in the end. Not only will you be a healthier you at the end, you'll appreciate all it took to accomplish your goal.



Tonya Johnson is director of Food and Nutrition Services, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

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NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2018

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

Marijuana and opiates at work

It is no surprise that drugs are invading the workplaces in Arkansas. The opioid crisis is real, and employers need to take action concerning the already prevalent abuse of opioids and marijuana at work. Medical marijuana will soon be available in Arkansas and you may have medical marijuana users in your workforce. Updating your employee handbook to address these substances is critical. Fortunately, the Arkansas Municipal League is aware of these issues and will guide you through the process of clarifying how to update your handbook. A very strong statement concerning safety or security required at your workplace and a no-drugs-allowed policy will help you avoid employees challenging you in court.

From a drug-testing perspective, marijuana is still the number one drug found on positive drug screens. Cocaine (crack) used to be number two. Methamphetamines became prevalent because these could be made at home and "meth" bumped cocaine to take the number two position, pushing cocaine to number three. In the meantime, opioid drugs have increased in positivity and remain high on the drug testing scale.

It is amazing how many people arrive at our drug testing sites with huge bags of prescription and over-the-counter drugs in hand. They want to show the specimen collector all the drugs they take. In the early years of drug testing, recommendations were made that this be done, but that was before the era of HIPAA. Under today's privacy rules, the specimen collector is not allowed to accept or review any medications prior to testing. The laboratory is not allowed to know what drugs a donor has consumed prior to testing. If any medication or illegal drug is consumed by the donor and is listed on the testing panel, a "non-negative" test result will be reported by the laboratory. This result will be interpreted by a medical review officer (MRO) and they will issue a final positive or negative result, depending on a review of the test result received from the laboratory and following an interview with the donor.

In federally mandated testing programs, the MRO is required as an integral part of the program. In non-federally mandated testing programs, there are no requirements for review by an MRO. It is solely the preference of the employer whether MRO review is included. Without the review by an MRO, a legally prescribed drug, which may be present in the sample and correctly reported by the

laboratory, will be reported as "positive." This can affect a person's employment, the decision in a court hearing, or in some administrative procedure. It is always the recommendation of a'TEST for an employer to utilize the services of the MRO to review test results that are released by the laboratory. In the case of the non-federally mandated testing program conducted through the Arkansas Municipal League, the MRO review is always included on "non-negative" test results.

It is important to note that federal and non-federal negative tests results may be issued in a timely manner; however, a new federal regulation, effective Jan. 1, 2018, has changed the reporting time for non-negative federal drug testing results. In the past, the MRO's assistants were allowed to verify prescriptions by accepting a copy of bottle labels, pharmacy lists, or by calling doctors for verifications of prescription drugs used. Although this process was time-consuming, it was helpful to the MRO in getting the information needed to expedite interpreting test results. The general rule was to issue the test results within 24 hours after receipt from the laboratory. Now, the MROs themselves and not their assistants must make the phone calls and handle the verification procedures. This will cause delays because MROs receive hundreds of tests to review daily. This new regulation is not helpful to donors and employers in being able to get test results finalized quickly.

If you experience a longer delay and you need a status report, call Matthew Gerke or Kendall Leeks at a'TEST, (501) 376-9776, and they will research a test for you. This delay only impacts federal "non-negative" testing. Negative federal test results and non-federal testing will be handled in the manner used in the past and delays should not be encountered. a'TEST realizes the importance to employers in getting rapid drug testing results and we will continue to work diligently to accommodate your needs.

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



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White Hall AR 71602
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Sales and Service

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low miles



2007 CCC Refuse Sideload, \$69,000



Rescue Pumper \$39,500
Pump tested, department ready.



2002 Fire Engine \$59,000, pump tested
Nice



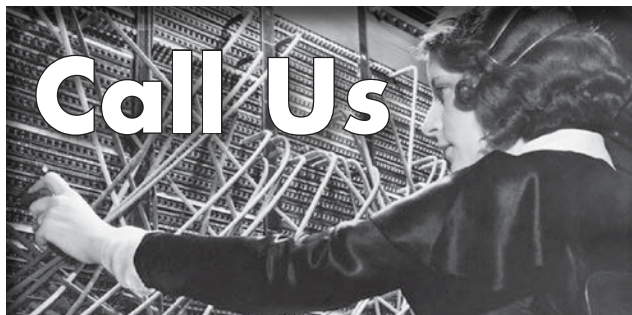
2011 International Tracker, \$39,900



Chevrolet Pro-Patch Truck, \$19,500



Call Us



You may now reach the Municipal Health Benefit Fund, the Workers' Compensation Trust, and the Municipal Property & Vehicle Programs directly, by phone or by fax, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

Municipal Health Benefit Fund
(501) 978-6137
Fax (501) 537-7252

Municipal League Workers' Compensation Trust
(501) 978-6127
Fax (501) 537-7253

Municipal Property & Vehicle Programs
(501) 978-6123
Fax (501) 978-6562

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ACCRTA scholarships available

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

A scholarship honoring the memory of Bill S. Bonner will be awarded to a first-year attendee in the certification program at the Municipal Clerks' Institute in September 2018. This scholarship covers the registration fee.

Additional scholarships include: four local \$400 scholarships to attend the Municipal Clerks' Institute, Sept. 16-20, 2018, in Fayetteville; one \$400 scholarship for the Academy for Advanced Education,

Sept. 17-18, 2018, in Fayetteville; and one \$400 scholarship to attend the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) annual conference, May 19-23, 2018, in Norfolk, VA.

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

Completed scholarship application should be returned to the ACCRTA Scholarship Committee chair:

Mitri Greenhill
City Clerk
304 S. Maple
Stuttgart, AR 72160

Direct questions to clerk1@cebridge.net or **(870) 673-3535**.

2018 APPLICATION FOR SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE

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

Name _____ Title _____

Street Address or P.O. Box _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____ Date assumed present position _____

Other related experience: Title _____ Municipality _____ Years _____

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

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

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

Travel/Transportation _____ Registration Fee/Tuition _____

Lodging and Meal _____ Total Amount _____

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

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

I understand that if a scholarship is awarded to me, it must be used between Jan. 1, 2018, and Dec. 31, 2018, and that I must attend all sessions.

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____

CHECK THE SCHOLARSHIP FOR WHICH YOU ARE APPLYING:

	Municipal Clerks' Institute, Fayetteville	September 16-20, 2018	Deadline: May 25, 2018
	Academy for Advanced Education, Fayetteville	September 17-18, 2018	Deadline: May 25, 2018
	IIMC Conference, Norfolk, VA	May 19-23, 2018	Deadline: April 19, 2018

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

ACCRTA seeks nominations for Clerk of the Year

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

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

Any municipal official or ACCRTA member may nominate a candidate for Municipal Clerk of the Year for 2018. The finalist will be honored at the 84th Annual Arkansas Municipal League Convention, June 13-15, 2018 in Little Rock.

The deadline for nominations is April 13, 2018.

Requirements for nominees:

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

Complete the nomination information below and send to:

Sonya Eveld, ACCRTA Vice President
P.O. Box 253
Ozark, AR 72949
(479) 667-2238
ozark.city.clerk@cityofozarkar.com

Municipal Clerk of the Year 2018 Please Submit the Following Information

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

NAME OF THE CITY THE MUNICIPAL CLERK REPRESENTS _____

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

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

ACCRTA OFFICES HELD _____

ACCRTA MEETINGS ATTENDED _____

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

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

IIMC WORKSHOPS (DISTRICT MEETINGS) ATTENDED _____

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

CERTIFICATION RECEIVED:

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

DATE OF CERTIFICATION _____

ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE CONFERENCES ATTENDED _____

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

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT _____

LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES _____

OTHER ACTIVITIES _____

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL SUBMITTING NOMINATION _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

NOMINATOR: PLEASE BRIEFLY SUMMARIZE THE REASONS WHY YOU BELIEVE YOUR NOMINEE SHOULD BE SELECTED AS THE 2018 MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR. _____



PHOTO COURTESY ARKANSAS DELTA BYWAYS

From left, Dr. Adam Long, director of the Hemingway-Pfeiffer Museum; Linda Hinton, director of the Johnny Cash Boyhood Home; Dr. Kelly Damphouse, chancellor of ASU-Jonesboro; Dr. Ruth Hawkins, executive director of ASU Heritage Sites; Paula Miles, assistant director of ASU Heritage Sites; and Marcel Hanzlik, president of Arkansas Delta Byways.

Arkansas Delta Byways recognizes tourism achievement

Arkansas Delta Byways (ADB), the tourism promotion association for 15 counties in eastern Arkansas, presented its 18th annual Delta Awards recognizing tourism achievement Friday, Feb. 23, during festivities at the Marianna Civic Center. Attendance was strong, with 200 participants at the banquet.

The event was sponsored by Arkansas Delta Byways with support from the City of Marianna, Mayor Jimmy Williams, and the Marianna Chamber of Commerce. Marcel Hanzlik, president of Arkansas Delta Byways, served as master of ceremonies.

The winners of the various tourism awards were:

- Media Support Award—Rex Nelson, columnist, *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*
- Hospitality Award—Wilson Community Gardens, Mississippi County
- Entrepreneur Award—Piggott City Market, Clay County
- Tourism/Promotional Support Award—Corning Welcome Center, “The Great American Eclipse Watch Party,” Clay County
- Festival/Event of the Year Award—Inaugural Johnny Cash Heritage Festival, Dyess, Mississippi County

- Boot Strap Award—Helena Downtown Partnership, Phillips County
- Cultural Heritage Award—The Circle, Arkansas State University, Craighead County

ADB presented its Outstanding Member Award to Gretchen Sacotnik of Greene County and the Tourism Person of the Year award to videographer Gary Jones, who also is a student in the Heritage Studies Ph.D. program at Arkansas State University. A special achievement award was presented to Paula Oliver of Helena.

Arkansas Delta Byways is the official tourism promotion association recognized by the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism for the region. Member counties are Arkansas, Chicot, Clay, Craighead, Crittenden, Cross, Desha, Drew, Greene, Lee, Mississippi, Monroe, Phillips, Poinsett, and St. Francis.

ADB is based on the Arkansas State University campus in Jonesboro and receives administrative support through the university’s Arkansas Heritage Sites Office. For more details, contact Arkansas Delta Byways, (870) 972-2803. 📞



Visit the Municipal Vehicle Program's New Interactive Full Service Web Portal:



www.arml.org/mvp



Manage your municipal fleet's insurance needs online at www.arml.org/mvp. Members can make changes to your municipal policy, add and delete vehicles and file and view claims. Create an MVP interactive account by emailing dcarter@arml.org your:

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- First and last name
- Phone number



Visit the Municipal Property Program's New Interactive Full Service Web Portal: www.arml.org/mpp

Manage your municipal property insurance needs online at www.arml.org/mpp. Members can make changes to your municipal policy, add and delete properties and file and view claims. Create an MPP interactive account by emailing dcarter@arml.org your:

- City Name and/or Account Number
- First and last name
- Phone number



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

Evidence suggests Mediterranean diet decreases risk of heart attack and stroke

By Steve Farrell, PhD, FACSM

Anyone can write a diet book and say whatever they want, regardless of whether or not they are qualified. As a result, fad diets are a dime-a-dozen, and rates of obesity in the U.S. remain at an all-time high. At the same time, cardiovascular disease (CVD) remains the number one cause of death among men and women worldwide.

It is well established that death rates from CVD are lower in countries that surround the Mediterranean Sea as compared to CVD death rates in the U.S. Part of this reduced risk has been attributed to the so-called “Mediterranean Diet.” This approach to eating is characterized by a relatively high intake of plant-based foods such as olive oil, fruit, nuts and seeds, and vegetables, as well as a moderate intake of fish, whole grains, wine, and sofrito (a sauce made with tomato, onion, and olive oil). Red and processed meats, as well as simple sugars and dairy are limited. Observational studies have consistently shown that adherence to a Mediterranean type of diet is strongly associated with a decreased risk of cardiovascular disease, and plausible biological mechanisms have been identified to explain this relationship.

Researchers in Spain conducted a multicenter trial to evaluate the effect of Mediterranean diets as compared to a control diet on primary prevention of cardiovascular disease (i.e. preventing a first heart attack or stroke) in a high-risk population. The results were published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* in 2013. A total of 7,447 adults between the ages of 55 to 80 years were enrolled. Although none had cardiovascular disease at baseline, all were considered to be at high risk because they had either type 2 diabetes or at least three of the following major risk factors: smoking, hypertension, abnormal blood cholesterol, overweight or obesity, or a family history of early coronary heart disease. Subjects were then randomly assigned to one of three dietary intervention groups.

Group 1 consumed a Mediterranean diet supplemented with extra-virgin olive oil (nearly 1 liter per week). Group 2 also consumed a Mediterranean diet supplemented with 1 ounce of mixed nuts per day. Group 3 (the control group) consumed a diet where they were advised to limit all dietary fats. Dietitians

conducted individual and group dietary training sessions at baseline and then quarterly thereafter. Adherence to each of the three diets was tracked via a 14-item questionnaire on a quarterly basis. More detailed dietary questionnaires were used on a yearly basis. No restriction on total daily caloric intake was advised, nor was physical activity promoted. So just to be clear, this was not a weight-loss study.

Participants were followed for an average of five years after their baseline exam. Heart attack, stroke, and death from cardiovascular disease were the major areas of interest during the follow-up period. There were a total of 106 heart attacks, 139 strokes, and 87 deaths from cardiovascular disease during follow-up. Compared to the control group, Group 1 had a 30 percent reduction in risk, while Group 2 had a nearly identical 28 percent reduction in risk.

The authors concluded that a calorie-unrestricted Mediterranean diet, supplemented with either extra-virgin olive oil or mixed nuts resulted in a substantial reduction in the risk of major cardiovascular events in the absence of weight loss and without any changes in physical activity. What made this study unique is that it was performed in a high-risk population. Remember that the Mediterranean diet is relatively high in plant-based foods, most of which are complex carbohydrates. This supports The Cooper Institute’s evidence-based dietary guidelines for Americans, which encourage individuals to increase their intake of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and legumes. On the contrary, there are a grand total of zero published long-term studies that show very low carbohydrate diets to have these same cardiovascular benefits.

This article was published originally by The Cooper Institute, www.cooperinstitute.org, and is reprinted with permission.



David Baxter is the League’s Health and Safety Coordinator. Email David at dbaxter@arml.org, or call 501-374-3484 Ext. 110.

IT tip: USB sticks could be “User Snare Bait”

Have you ever found a USB stick or thumb drive on the ground or in a parking lot? Hopefully you did not put this into your computer.

While you may be tempted to see what data is on there, or perhaps to identify the owner, do not insert any of these found objects into your computer.

You may think that it is your lucky day. “Hey, free USB stick!” It could in fact turn out to put you in the hot seat with your IT department.

This is a common tactic used by bad guys to infiltrate your network, steal information, and gain unauthorized access. Code can be executed simply by inserting these devices into your computer. By the time you can see what files are on the USB stick, the damage may have already been done.



The average cost of a cyber attack such as this one on a small company is \$200,000. The cost to a large public corporation can cost over \$6 million per day of downtime.

Remember to always refer to your company policies or consult with your IT department on how to handle these situations.

This tip was shared by the KnowBe4 Security Team (KnowBe4.com) and is printed with permission.

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MJGriffin@GarverUSA.com | 501.376.3633

Five rules for finding the right way to communicate

By Dean Brenner

Not long ago, I made a decision about a key benefits program for my company. I was excited about it; I felt like I was making a good call for the whole team. That Friday afternoon, pumped up, I sent out a Slack instant message to everyone announcing the big news. I was surprised when not a single person responded to it.

A few days later, I asked one of my employees about it. “Why didn’t anybody respond?”

She laughed and told me, “Dean, it was a lot to take in right before the weekend. And it wasn’t really an announcement that works well on Slack—you would have been better off sending an email.”

It’s a mistake almost everyone has made at one time or another: sending an instant message when an email would better convey the information or sending an email instead of communicating face to face. We’re all multitasking and trying to check off items on our to-do list, but spending 30 seconds evaluating a few factors will help you avoid sending the wrong message or irritating the person you are communicating with.

1. How complex is the information you are conveying?

Anything that requires more than a few words to explain or that contains multiple layers of information should be sent as an email. Simpler requests or notes might be better suited to the casual conversations over instant message.

2. How quickly do you need a response—or how invasive are you willing to be?

Slack, texting, or other instant messaging tools are made for quick-fire, rapid-response situations. Email is more likely to sit in an inbox for a few hours. Of course, these days, an unscheduled phone call signals its own kind of urgency. Evaluate whether you need to grab someone’s attention right away and potentially interrupt them in the midst of a task or meeting or if it can wait for a more opportune time.

3. How sensitive is the subject?

If you need to communicate something that will impact someone’s day-to-day or might be met with resistance, consider doing it face to face or at least over the phone. This also shows respect for your audience.

4. How important is tone?

Nuances are often lost with the written word. Emoticons can ease some of this loss of effect but aren’t always appropriate for an office. If you have any doubt that you can convey the right tone in writing, do it over the phone or in person.

5. When are you communicating?

Is it business hours, early morning or evening or over the weekend? This is where setting expectations for your team is key. Do you want your team to be on-call at all times? If that’s your business environment, perhaps texting or instant messaging at all hours is OK (whether this is healthy or good for business in the long-term is another discussion). But for most, instant messaging should be saved for business hours.

What about email?

Again, it’s best to set expectations ahead of time. I might send an email over the weekend because I’ve found a few hours to knock out my to-do list, but I don’t expect my team to be checking in or responding to emails until the work week begins. Other managers want their team to respond to requests in off-hours, but without the house-on-fire urgency of texting or instant messaging. With expectations in place, team members can then take responsibility for how they handle email: constantly checking or setting aside an hour or two to deal with work requests.

When and how we communicate sends its own message: how quickly we need a response, how sensitive the topic might be, how much we’ve thought about our audience and their reception of the material. By putting a few extra seconds into considering the tool and the timing, we can increase our odds of communicating successfully.

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



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Summaries of Attorney General Opinions

Recent opinions that affect municipal government in Arkansas

From the Office of Attorney General Leslie Rutledge

Public facilities serving alcohol may ban firearms

Opinion: 2017-062

Requestor: Bill Sample, State Senator

Can publicly owned buildings and facilities that serve alcoholic beverages for on premises consumption prohibit concealed handgun carry license holders, including those with a special endorsement under Ark. Code Ann. 5-73-322(g), from possessing a firearm on the premises pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. 5-73-306(11)(B) as amended by Act 562 of 2017? Q2) Can publicly owned buildings and facilities [where] beer and light wines are consumed prohibit concealed handgun carry license holders, including those with a special endorsement under Ark. Code Ann. 5-73-322(g), from possessing a firearm on the premises pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. 5-73-306(11)(B) as amended by Act 562 of 2017? **RESPONSE:** In my opinion, the answer to both questions is “yes.” By means of a posted, written notice, a publicly owned building or facility licensed to dispense alcoholic beverages may prohibit individuals with concealed-carry licenses from possessing firearms on the premises. Such a written notice would be effective as to holders of enhanced concealed-carry licenses, as well as holders of conventional licenses. Likewise, a written notice would effectively prohibit individuals with enhanced (and conventional) concealed-carry licenses from possessing firearms in a publicly owned building or facility where beer or light wine is consumed.

Retirement eligibility may vary depending on service

Opinion: 2017-123

Requestor: Jonathan Dismang, State Senator

In the event that a municipality provides that a retired employee, including a retired mayor, may “receive retirement benefits pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. section 24-12-101, et seq., as may be amended from time to time...”, does the inclusion of a reference to all provisions of this chapter of the Arkansas Code permit a municipality to provide retirements benefits

to a retired mayor pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. section 24-12-123 before age 55? Q2) In the event that a retired official served in excess of fifteen years as a city clerk, and eight (8) years as a mayor, would, pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. section 24-12-121 and -123, this retired official be entitled to receive retirement benefits equal to one-half of the pay attributable to that officials’ service as a mayor? **RESPONSE:** It is possible that the person described in your fact pattern could retire with benefits under section 24-12-123, a statute that authorizes changes to the way mayoral service is calculated and that lowers (in some circumstances) the minimum retirement age. But whether a mayor is eligible to retire under this statute cannot be determined simply by reference to an ordinance that cites “Ark. Code Ann. Section 24-12-101, et seq., as may be amended from time to time.” I therefore cannot provide a definitive answer. Instead, I will limit this opinion to a general discussion of section 24-12-123 in the context of the facts presented.

City police officer may run for, hold elected county position

Opinion: 2018-014

Requestor: Bob Ballinger, State Representative

Would it violate the Arkansas Constitution for a city police officer to run for and hold an elected county position? **RESPONSE:** No. No provision of the constitution would prohibit him from running for a county office. And if he is successfully elected to the county office, no provision of the constitution would prohibit him from continuing to serve in the police officer position that he held prior to the election. Nevertheless, the constitution may restrict the police officer from holding certain other positions if he is elected to county office. If the county position is one covered by Article 7, section 53 of the Arkansas Constitution, the police officer would be barred, during his county-office term, from being appointed or elected to a different “civil office in this state.” But Article 7, section 53 would not prevent him from continuing to serve in the city police officer role he held prior to being elected to the county office.


*To read full Attorney General opinions online, go to
www.arkansasag.gov/arkansas-lawyer/opinions-department/opinions-search.*



Ukrainian delegation visits League

A delegation of six civic-minded Ukrainians visited the League's North Little Rock headquarters on Feb. 15 during a nearly two-week visit to Arkansas and Washington, D.C., as part of the Open World Leadership Center's "Open World Program," an educational exchange program for young leaders to learn about methods of local governance.


During their time here and in the nation's capital, the delegation met with Sen. John Boozman, visited Arkansas cultural and historic sites, toured the Clinton Presidential Center, visited the State Capitol, the Arkansas Supreme Court, the Ethics Commission, the Economic Development Commission, Little Rock's Venture Center, and others.

At the League, Director of Operations Ken Wasson shared with the delegation an overview of the role of municipalities in Arkansas and covered the various purposes of the League and the services it offers cities and towns. 



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. 

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.

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Cities urged to revise value-based manufactured home ordinances

Several Arkansas cities have ordinances governing mobile homes, manufactured homes, and/or trailer homes. This issue has been the subject of recent litigation and has appeared in the media.

The ordinance provision at issue is a provision requiring that such a home be of a certain monetary value, i.e., no such home can be placed in the city unless it is worth X dollars.

The League recommends amending any such ordinance and removing that provision and, until amended, that any such provision not be enforced.

Instead, we refer cities to the Arkansas laws regarding mobile homes and manufactured homes (Ark. Code Ann. § 14-54-1601 et seq. including section 14-54-1604). Note that a city cannot enact an ordinance that conflicts with state law. Second, we recommend that a city use its powers under (among other laws) Ark. Code Ann. § 14-54-103(1) (cities of the second class) or Ark. Code Ann. §§ 14-54-104 & 105 (cities of the first class) to protect the residents of the city from any danger or public safety concern posed by any activity on a person's property. 🏠

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March 30-31

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April 14

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Arkansas Municipal League's
84th Convention

Statehouse Convention Center
Little Rock, AR

November 7-10, 2018

National League of Cities
City Summit


Los Angeles, CA

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. 

Applying for the right grant half the battle

By Chad Gallagher

There are several common questions I am frequently asked by community and municipal grant writers. Questions, such as “How can I be sure my proposal is successful?” And “Why do proposals fail?” Often, we are asked to review grants that were rejected to help a city figure out what they could have done differently. Other times we scrutinize applications on the front side to help improve an application.

One of the most important questions to ask is “Which grants should I apply for?” Too often an application is doomed before a single word is written because it isn’t the right application for the need or the applicant. Learning which grants to apply for and which ones to pass up is a huge forward step in the world of grant writing.

In community service few things are more rewarding than achieving a successful grant. Likewise, unsuccessful applications are frustrating because you work just as hard on those that fail as you do on the successful ones.

Too many times grant writers are blinded by the end result. We become like the gold rushers of ‘49 charging to California. A few made out rich, but most did not. The dream of the gold in hand and all it could do for them often caused them to lay aside good judgment and prudent action. When we read of other cities scoring a large grant or we see a new opportunity announced we can’t help but want those funds. Unfortunately, we need to learn when obtaining them is realistically possible. Mastering this will save a lot of disappointments and allow us to focus our efforts on the grants we are most likely to obtain.

There are a few things you can do to help determine if a grant is a good fit. If it doesn’t fit, don’t pursue it.

- Does it truly meet a need in your community that you’ve already identified as deserving of grant funds? Don’t fall into the temptation to essentially “create” a need to fit the opportunity. If detectable, funding agencies can sense it and they rarely are impressed.

- Get a list of projects the agency has funding through the particular program you are considering. Review this list of projects. Are there similar size towns, demographics, projects as yours? This can be a good indicator of the likelihood of success.
- Review a successful application from recent years of a project as similar to yours as possible or a community similar in size, even if a different project. This can give you a great feel for how to approach your application.
- Talk with a staff person at the agency. Ask them for input and guidance in your considerations on whether or not to apply.
- Have a neutral third party review the opportunity and give you honest feedback if they believe you have chance in a successful award.

All of these are steps you can take to help eliminate the pursuit of grants that are least likely to be funded and focus on those with greater chances of success. Of course, there are exceptions to every rule and this guidance is simply a first step. Once you determine what to apply for, the work of writing a successful application begins. Municipal leaders and grant writers do not have time to spare in pursuit of wild goose chases. Hopefully, with this counsel, you’ll spend more time on winning applications instead.



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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Methodologies for sewer rehabilitation

By Andrew Dibble, PE

The rehabilitation of underground utilities is often neglected until a catastrophic failure occurs. Sewer system operators and managers are faced with an assortment of options when it comes to repairing and rehabilitating their sewer collection systems. Choosing the correct option for sewer system rehabilitation can be a tricky process. For the purposes of this article, we are assuming that the owner of the collection system has performed an evaluation of facilities that probably includes smoke testing of sewer segments and inspection of sewer lines by closed-circuit television methods.

After completion of testing and inspections, and after identifying the locations and severity of the defects, the city must clearly define the goal of the rehabilitation plan. The decision must be made whether the goal is to eliminate infiltration/inflow (I/I) from the system, correct structural deficiencies, provide additional capacity, or some method that corrects a combination of these goals.

Relining of existing pipes is an effective means for reducing I/I in the collection system. Most relining systems are considered “trenchless” even though excavation might be required. The first trenchless repair method to consider is Cured-in-Place Pipe (CIPP) liners. CIPP liners typically use a polyester sleeve that is impregnated with a resin. The outside diameter (OD) of the sleeve closely matches the inside diameter (ID) of the host pipe. The impregnated sleeve can be inverted into the existing pipe by using water or heated air. The inversion process allows the sleeve to fit tightly to the ID of the pipe. Because of this, it is not a preferred method for repairing mains with significant sags or joint offsets. Different thicknesses of sleeve material are available for use, depending upon the relative structural condition of the pipe.



Example of CIPP liners.

Curing by using heated water is a commonly used method, and assures that the sleeve fits tightly within the pipe. The curing process takes a matter of hours, so bypass pumping is usually required. Because the sleeve has a tight fit to the existing pipe, the structural integrity of the repair is enhanced. Connection to existing service lines can be made internally, if the location of the repair does not lend itself to excavation from the surface. Additionally, the service lines can also be relined from inside of the relined pipe using robotic machinery. Lining of service lines from inside the pipe is commonly limited to approximately eight feet from the main. CIPP liners do reduce the ID of the main, but due to the relative slickness of the interior of the sleeve, capacities are not significantly reduced.



Example of sliplining.

Another relining method is “sliplining.” This entails pulling a new pipe, typically HDPE, into the existing pipe. In order to insert the new liner pipe, an insertion pit is dug to allow access. The HDPE pipe is fusion welded to a length above ground to provide a watertight pipe-within-a-pipe. The annular space between the OD of the slipline pipe and the ID of the host pipe is recommended to provide the best structural integrity, but at a minimum, the annular space must be sealed at all manhole connections to prevent I/I from entering the collection system. Sliplined pipe service connections are made by excavation. Because sliplined pipes can have significantly smaller capacities, a firm grasp of the flows the sections must convey is essential. Deep collection lines that have numerous service connections are not typically sliplined due to costs.

Pipe bursting is another repair method that is used extensively. Bursting works by pulling in a new pipe behind a bursting head attached to the liner pipe. The bursting head fractures the existing pipe, forcing it into the surrounding soil, making sufficient space for the new pipe to occupy. The new pipe is attached to the bursting head and is normally made from HDPE. Depending upon the type of soil and the depth of bury, it is possible to upsize the pipe's capacity when using pipe-bursting methods. This can provide the flexibility to increase collection system capacity relatively easily. Excavation is required for inserting the pipe and to reconnect services. Because of the time required to perform pipe bursting, bypass pumping is normally required.



Example of pipe bursting.



Example of internal service connection and relining.

These are just a small sampling of methods for repairing and rehabilitating sewer mains. Other methods such as utilizing chemical grouting, internal mechanical seals, fold and formed pipes or other new technologies are worth exploring. Traditional open cut, small point repairs are also appropriate rehabilitation options as well. Evaluating the needs of the system, the disruptions caused by different methods, along with the associated costs are all factors that must be considered when choosing how best to address deficiencies.



Andrew Dibble, PE, is a senior project manager and manages the day-to-day operations of MCE's Fort Smith office; he is also a member of MCE's Water/Wastewater team. Contact Andrew by phone at (479) 434-5333, or email him at adibble@mce.us.com.



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Kids show off the artwork they created for the Arbor Day celebration in Warren last year.

Arbor Day: Old-fashioned but never out of style

By Krista Quinn

Americans have been celebrating Arbor Day for more than a century. Many of us probably remember celebrating Arbor Day as school children by either planting a tree or participating in learning activities about the value of trees. Because of this long history, celebrating Arbor Day may seem old-fashioned, but with the widespread development of forested areas and increasing urbanization in Arkansas and the rest of the country, it is more important than ever.

More green infrastructure needed

Asphalt, concrete, and other nonporous materials have taken over our green spaces in the last 40 years, expanding six times faster than our population has grown. These forms of “gray infrastructure” have greatly reduced the numbers and sizes of trees growing in cities and towns where the majority of people live. In addition, trees in urban environments often struggle to thrive due to pollution, soil compaction, root disturbance, and poor tree management practices.

However, trees and other “green infrastructure” are immensely valuable to communities and provide many tangible benefits. Studies show that properly placed trees increase property values by 7-20 percent and cut energy use in buildings by up to 25 percent. Businesses

on treescaped streets also report up to 12 percent higher sales, which increase a city’s tax revenues. Perhaps one of the greatest benefits of planting and managing trees in cities is that they collect and filter stormwater. In fact, up to 30 percent of precipitation can be absorbed by the leaves of trees so that it never hits the ground. The roots of trees can take up another 30 percent. This reduces the likelihood of flooding, reduces erosion, and leads to lower water treatment costs and higher water quality. Trees have also been shown to increase community pride, reduce crime, improve personal health, and enhance the quality of life in communities. Arbor Day provides the perfect opportunity for communities to educate their residents about the importance and value of trees.

Celebrate Arbor Day

Arbor Day in the United States is celebrated on the last Friday in April. However, Arkansas will officially celebrate Arbor Day on March 19 this year. Cities and towns can choose to celebrate Arbor Day on the state or national dates or they can choose another day that works best for their community. Many Arkansas communities have begun celebrating Arbor Day in the fall since many horticulturalists consider fall to be the best



Jerry Lynn, a forester with the Arkansas Forestry Commission, speaks at the 2017 Warren Arbor Day celebration.

time to plant trees in Arkansas. Many communities also choose a weekend day to celebrate so they can get more widespread participation.

One way to mark the importance of a community celebration is by asking the mayor of the city to make an official proclamation establishing a certain day as Arbor Day in that city. Then a committee may be formed to help plan activities for the event. Most community Arbor Day celebrations involve planting trees in public areas such as local parks, schools, or other public buildings. Other possible Arbor Day activities include hosting a citywide cleanup, fun run, or festival with tree themed games and activities for all ages.

When planning an Arbor Day celebration, try to include activities that people of different ages will enjoy. Teens and adults often find participating in service projects that improve their communities, such as a beautification project in a public area, most fulfilling. Adding educational presentations or hands-on workshops on pruning, planting, tree variety selection, or other tree care topics can also help draw adults to Arbor Day celebrations. Walking tours with a local gardener or tree expert to identify trees and learn more about different varieties of trees can also be a lot of fun.

Recognize community accomplishments

Arbor Day is also great time to recognize a community's efforts in tree management and conservation or even start the process of becoming a Tree City USA. Holding an awards presentation as part of the Arbor

Day celebration to recognize individuals, businesses, or city officials who have contributed to tree planting or conservation efforts is a great way to acknowledge and thank those who have helped make improvements in the community. A publicity campaign can also be organized to highlight successful community beautification projects or projects that help make the community more sustainable and environmentally friendly.

One of the best ways for cities and towns to demonstrate their appreciation of trees and commitment to sound tree management is by becoming a Tree City USA. The Tree City USA program is coordinated by the Arbor Day Foundation and provides a framework for communities to manage and expand their urban forests. The Tree City USA designation recognizes cities and towns that take pride in their community trees, recognize trees as valuable community assets, and develop a community tree program that fosters care of existing trees while planning for future tree planting.

Celebrating Arbor Day may be old-fashioned, but taking care of and planting trees will never go out of style. One of the best investments a city can make is to manage their trees and green spaces wisely.



Krista Quinn is the urban forestry partnership coordinator with the Arkansas Forestry Commission. Contact Krista at (479) 228-7929 or email Krista.Quinn@arkansas.gov.

The do's and don'ts of site selection

By Shelby Fiegel

Every city in Arkansas is impacted by the quickly changing landscape of the global economy. No longer are we only competing on a regional or national level, we are competing with communities all over the world. This reality has forced many cities to change their economic development strategies.

Understanding what companies expect and are looking for during the site selection process is more critical than ever; because if you can't give them what they want, you are removed from the list before they even set eyes on your city.

Lindsey M. Cannon, principal and director of economic development services with McCallum Sweeney Consulting, a Greenville, S.C., firm that provides site selection and incentives negotiation services to leading companies worldwide, has developed a list of "do's and don'ts" communities should consider as they develop their economic development strategies. Here are some helpful tips from the list.

Sites and buildings

- Do have a portfolio of various site sizes and buildings.
- Do have due diligence completed.
- Don't submit sites with impediments (streams, wetlands, etc.), but if you do, provide a mitigation plan (cost and schedule) for any impediments.
- Do understand the contiguous, developable acres.
- Do have site/building names that are short and easy to remember.
- Don't submit sites or buildings that don't meet the minimum criteria.

Responding to RFPs

- Do follow the instructions.
- Don't use previous projects submission without verifying they are the same.
- Do meet the deadline ... or get it in early.
- Do submit consistent information (double check your submission).
- Don't try to hide the truth. It will come out sooner or later (site consultants do not like surprises!).
- Don't leave questions blank.
- Do show property boundaries.

Maps and visuals

- Don't submit out-of-date visuals.
- Do make sure visuals match the information in the RFP.
- Do make sure visuals are zoomed in enough to see the property.
- Do clearly label utility lines, road names, etc.
- Do review the information submitted to you before submitting to company/consultant.

Site visits

- Do stick to allotted timeframe, especially the end time.
- Do prep the team prior to the visit, and have the right people at the visit.
- Don't assume everyone knows the site and the area.
- Do have extra visuals available.
- Do provide transportation so the team can travel in one vehicle. And clean out your car!
- Do have snacks/drinks available, especially for company representatives.
- Don't say, "Don't worry; that won't be a problem."



Workforce

- Do know how your workforce compares to the state, nation, and your competitors (both county level and for commuting areas).
- Do understand your talent gaps.
- Don't just look it up and stick it in a presentation. Interpret the data; tell your story.
- Do know your existing industries and what challenges they are facing.

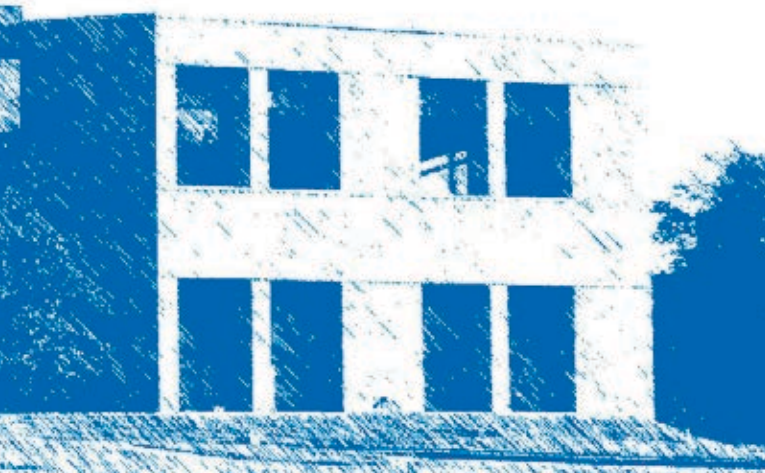
Marketing and communications

- Do update marketing materials as conditions change (e.g. new interstate interchange, tenant announced in the park, updated data, etc.).
- Do make sure individual contact information and up-to-date pictures are on your website.
- Don't send one email to all contacts (we don't care about your golf tournament).
- Do limit the number of emails you send.

In this competitive climate it's more difficult than ever before to successfully recruit new industry, so Arkansas cities must use every advantage to stand out from the crowd. Following these suggestions is a necessity for any community that is serious about business recruitment. Failing to follow this list could potentially lead to a new company choosing a different community to locate in.



Shelby Fiegel is assistant director of the Center for Community and Economic Development, University of Central Arkansas.



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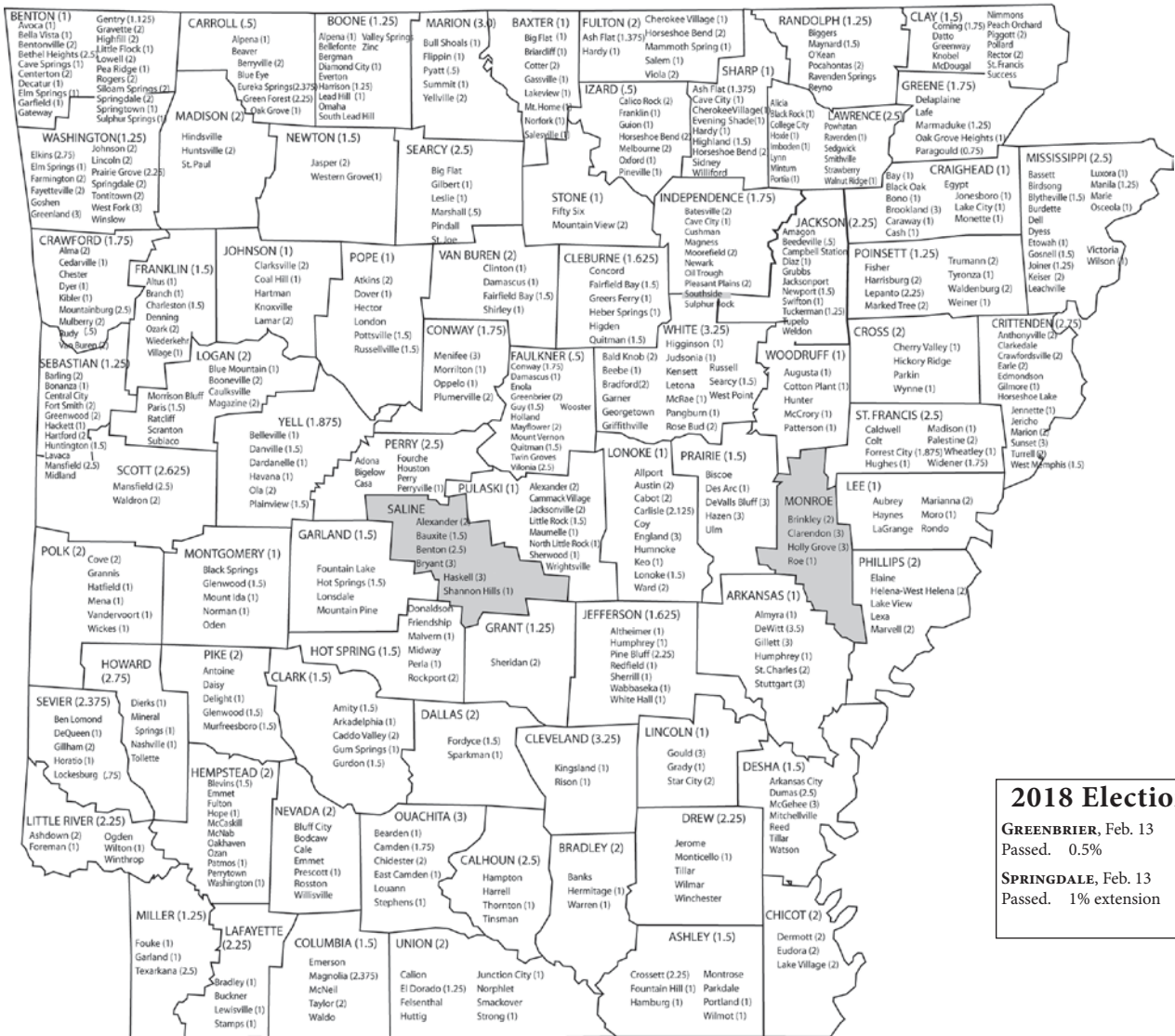
Actual Totals Per Capita						
MONTH	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
January	\$5.3276	\$5.3807	\$0.3041	\$0.2314	\$2.1473	\$2.1460
February	\$5.5378	\$5.7121	\$0.1894	\$0.2181	\$1.0884	\$1.0867
March	\$4.7222		\$0.3450		\$1.0886	
April	\$5.3517		\$0.3611		\$1.0886	
May	\$5.4824		\$0.2602		\$1.0864	
June	\$5.5686		\$0.1858		\$1.0881	
July	\$5.5610		\$0.2628		\$2.9480	
August	\$5.5557		\$0.2711		\$0.9499	
September	\$5.4801		\$0.2230		\$1.0881	
October	\$5.5047		\$0.2508		\$1.0888	
November	\$5.1475		\$0.2377		\$1.0875	
December	\$5.1764		\$0.1561		\$1.0882	
Total Year	\$64.4157	\$11.0928	\$3.0472	\$0.4495	\$15.8379	\$3.2328

Actual Totals Per Month						
MONTH	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
January	\$10,065,525.00	\$10,171,403.10	\$574,575.98	\$437,461.72	*\$4,056,819.92	*\$4,056,771.18
February	\$10,462,690.50	\$10,797,904.69	\$357,751.63	\$412,277.48	\$2,056,417.62	\$2,054,332.65
March	\$8,921,686.11		\$651,783.55		\$2,056,718.50	
April	\$10,110,987.00		\$682,243.26		\$2,056,718.50	
May	\$10,363,642.30		\$491,893.79		\$2,053,761.87	
June	\$10,526,632.40		\$351,199.83		2,056,937.75	
July	\$10,512,280.90		\$496,864.92		** \$5,572,710.46	
August	\$10,502,217.40		\$512,555.17		\$1,795,649.71	
September	\$10,359,333.50		\$421,562.72		\$2,056,885.50	
October	\$10,405,765.80		\$474,027.01		\$2,058,156.39	
November	\$9,730,523.28		\$449,423.80		\$2,055,750.30	
December	\$9,785,275.08		\$295,172.64		\$2,056,989.97	
Total Year	\$121,746,559.27	\$20,969,307.79	\$5,759,054.30	\$849,739.20	29,933,516.49	\$6,111,103.83

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

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

Local Option Sales and Use Tax in Arkansas



KEY: Counties not collecting sales tax

Source: Rachel Garrett, Office of State Treasurer

See also: www.dfa.arkansas.gov

Sales and Use Tax Year-to-Date 2018 with 2017 Comparison (shaded gray)								
Month	Municipal Tax		County Tax		Total Tax		Interest	
January	\$59,272,899	\$51,749,675	\$50,925,990	\$46,139,133	\$110,198,889	\$97,888,807	\$68,417	\$15,903
February	\$63,961,892	\$51,749,675	\$56,034,012	\$52,583,090	\$119,995,904	\$104,332,765	\$76,180	\$17,386
March		\$51,749,675		\$42,723,485		\$94,473,160		\$18,863
April		\$51,749,675		\$44,591,728		\$96,341,403		\$15,747
May		\$51,749,675		\$48,861,910		\$100,611,585		\$17,059
June		\$51,749,675		\$45,261,893		\$97,011,568		\$17,534
July		\$51,749,675		\$49,248,601		\$100,998,276		\$18,995
August		\$51,749,675		\$49,357,901		\$101,107,576		\$15,982
September		\$51,749,675		\$48,991,616		\$100,741,291		\$45,866
October		\$51,749,675		\$49,299,660		\$101,049,335		\$79,279
November		\$51,749,675		\$49,290,527		\$101,040,201		\$78,491
December		\$51,749,675		\$48,086,258		\$99,835,933		\$72,999
Total	\$123,234,791	\$51,749,675	\$106,960,003	\$574,435,802	\$230,194,794	\$1,195,431,899	\$144,597	\$414,105
Averages	\$61,617,396	\$51,749,675	\$53,480,001	\$47,869,650	\$115,097,397	\$99,619,325	\$72,298	\$34,509

IIMC announces 49th Municipal Clerks Week

The International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC), a professional nonprofit association with 10,000 members comprised of city, town, township, village, borough, deputy and county clerks throughout the United States, Canada, and 15 other countries, announces its 49th annual Municipal Clerks Week, May 6 through May 12. This event features a weeklong series of activities aimed at increasing the public's awareness of municipal clerks and the vital services they provide for local government and the community.

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

Main Street Arkansas projects worth \$68.7M in '17

Cities participating in Main Street Arkansas, the state's preservation-based economic development program, saw \$68.7 million in downtown project investment in 2017, according to a news release from the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage. The cities involved in the program documented a net gain of 54 new businesses and 37 businesses that expanded or relocated to their downtown areas, resulting in an additional 522 jobs.

The investments included 215 facade renovations, building rehabilitations or new downtown construction projects. The participating cities also saw 35 public improvement projects worth \$1.5 million in their historic commercial areas, the news release said. Main Street Arkansas cities also recorded 20,856 volunteer hours invested in downtown.

Main Street Arkansas provides technical assistance and design services to help foster economic development in downtown areas through design, economic restructuring, organization and promotion.

DRA appoints Hutchinson co-chairman of Board of Governors

Gov. Asa Hutchinson will serve as co-chairman of the Delta Regional Authority's Board of Governors, the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* reported Feb. 25. Hutchinson replaces Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey.

The White House has called on Congress to eliminate the DRA, but Arkansas Republican leaders have defended the agency, which promotes economic development in some of the nation's poorest counties. Hutchinson told the *Democrat-Gazette* that the authority is a force for good in the region.

"They've been a great partner with the state of Arkansas through the years. Particularly since I've been governor, they've worked with the states in terms of economic development projects and infrastructure initiatives that are needed locally in the Delta," he said.

The agency's day-to-day business is overseen by the DRA's federal co-chairman, Little Rock Republican Chris Caldwell, who was sworn into office in January. He welcomed the announcement.

"I'm proud to have my longtime friend, Gov. Hutchinson, serve in this role. His successful track record of economic growth and tax reform in Arkansas will be a great asset to the Delta Regional Authority," Caldwell said.

Chris Masingill, who served as federal co-chairman from 2010-17, also was pleased with the news.

"That's fantastic for Arkansas. That's good for the Delta Regional Authority," he said.

In his new role, Hutchinson will serve as "the collective voice for the governors" from the region, Masingill added. 🏛️

Obituaries

KENNETH JOE CULBREATH, 53, an Earle police captain, died Feb. 25.

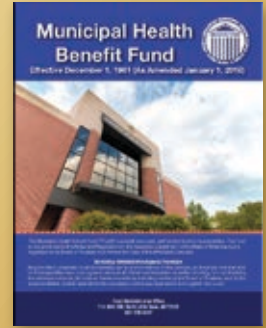
GERALDINE LEE HALL, 75, a longtime Fourche council member, died Nov. 13, 2017.

CHARLES HARMON MALDING, 67, fire chief for the city of Peach Orchard, died Dec. 4, 2017.

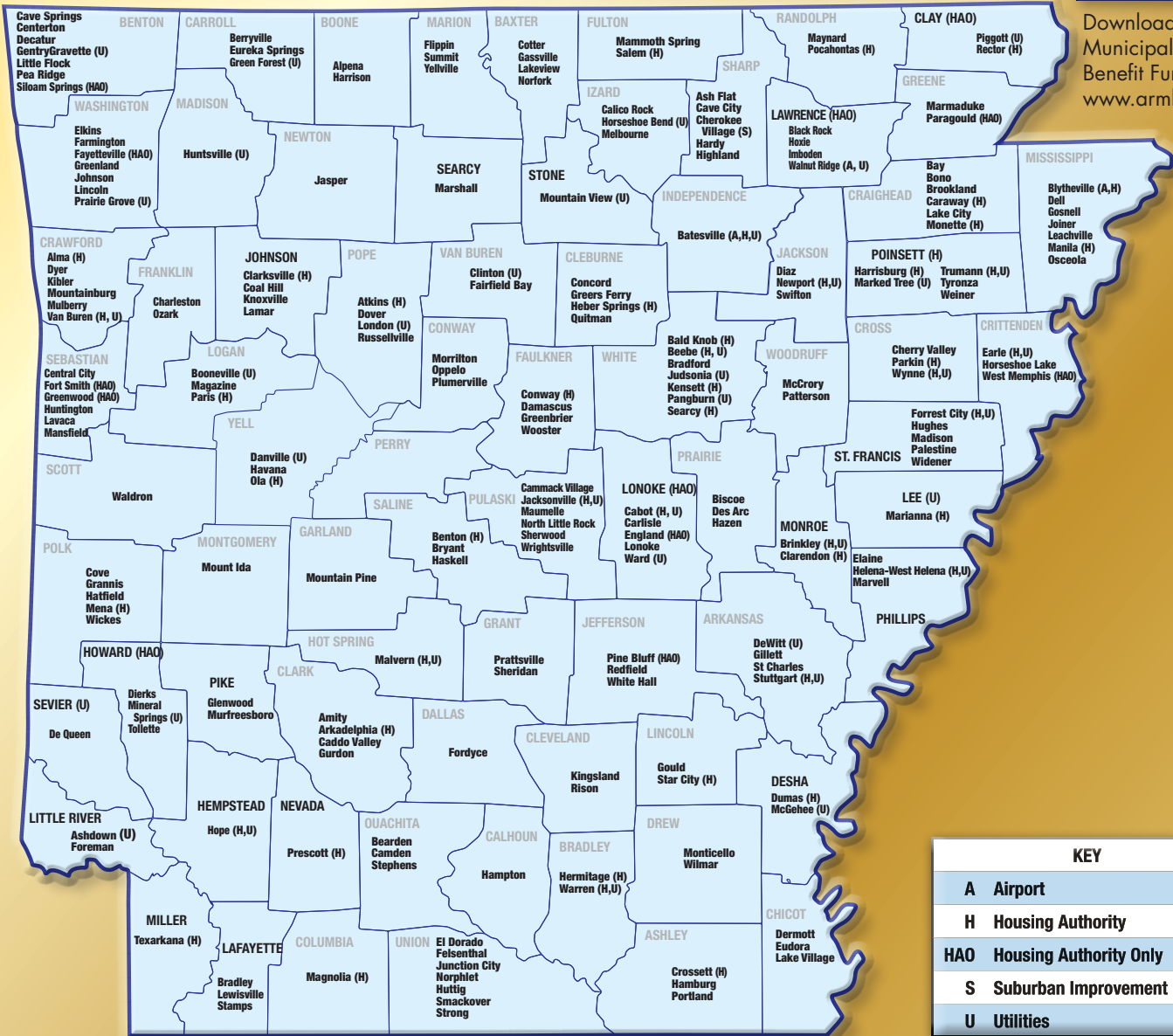
GARLAND E. "TIM" MASSANELLI, 85, who retired in 2011 after serving 38 years as parliamentarian for the Arkansas Legislature, died Feb. 12.

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

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Download the Municipal Health Benefit Fund booklet at: www.arml.org/mhbf



Other Municipal Entities Covered by MHB Fund

Barton-Lexa Water Association	Phillips County	Ladd Water Users Association	Pine Bluff	Northwest AR Conservation Authority	Rogers
Beebe Housing Authority	Boston Mountain Solid Waste	Lakeview Midway Public Water	Lakeview	Ozark Regional Transit	Ozark
Crossett Economic Dev. Foundation	Crossett	Lee County Water Association	Marianna	SE AR Economic Development District	Pine Bluff
Central Arkansas Planning & Development District	Lonoke	Local Police & Fire Retirement System	Little Rock	Sevier County Water Association	De Queen
Eighth Judicial Drug Task Force	De Queen	Magnolia Regional Medical Center	Magnolia	Southwest White County Water	White County
Fifth Judicial District Prosecuting Attorney	Russellville	Mena Regional Health System	Mena	Thirteenth Judicial District Drug Task Force	Camden
Fifth Judicial District	Russellville	Monticello Economic Development Commission	Monticello	Upper SW Regional Solid Waste Management District	Nashville
Gillham Lake Regional Water Association	Gillham	Montgomery County Nursing Home	Mount Ida	Waldron Housing Authority	Waldron
Grand Prairie/Bayou Two Water	Lonoke and Prairie Counties	NE AR Region Solid Waste Management District	Paragould	Walnut Ridge Airport	Walnut Ridge
Holiday Island Suburban Improvement District	Carroll County	North Little Rock - Sewer/Waste Water	North Little Rock	White River Regional Housing	Melbourne
Horseshoe Bend MRID	Horseshoe Bend	Northeast Public Water	Mountain Home	Yorktown Water Association	Star City

MUNICIPAL MART

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

CITY MANAGER—Springfield, Mo., the third largest city in Missouri, seeks applicants for the position of city manager. The Springfield Metro Area has a population of 456,456, with 166,810 within the city limits. Springfield operates under the council-manager system of governance. The city has an annual operating budget of \$334 million and 1,840 full-time employees. The city seeks a visionary leader, strategic thinker, and creative problem solver to be its new city manager. The ideal candidate will be a confident, results-driven municipal professional with a strong customer service focus and commitment to the community. It will be important for the next city manager to maintain an environment of credibility, integrity, and transparency and to foster positive and productive relationships with the Council, staff, and the community. The selected individual should be comfortable with the public nature of their position in a diverse and growing community. A Bachelor's in Public Admin. or a related field is required. Master's preferred. ICMA credentialing or other leadership development program credentialing a plus. The selected candidate should have 10 years of experience in public management at the assistant city manager/administrator, deputy city manager/administrator, or city manager/ administrator level. Directors and department heads with significant experience (10 years or more) with federal, state, or other public entities will also be considered. A starting salary of a minimum of \$200,000 plus is negotiable depending on qualifications. Please apply online at: <http://bit.ly/SGRCCurrentSearches>. For more information contact: Kirk Davis, Senior Vice President, Strategic Government Resources, KirkDavis@GovernmentResource.com.

DISTRIBUTION & COLLECTION MAINTENANCE SUPERINTENDENT—Forrest City Water Utility seeks a Distribution and Collection Maintenance Superintendent with Class III License. To apply contact Forrest City Water Utility, (870) 633-2921.

FIREFIGHTER TEST—Van Buren Fire Department will hold testing at 6 p.m. April 9 at the Adult Education facility, 605 Alma Blvd. Circle, Van Buren. Must have arrived at the age of 21 and not yet reached 35 to be eligible for the Civil Service Exam. Must have HS diploma or GED. Physical agility requirements. Background check. City-provided physical prior to employment. Drug test provided prior to employment. Must complete and return an application by March 30. Applications available at Fire Station #1, 2009 Pevehouse Road, Van Buren. Contact: Marvin Stout, (479) 471-5032. EOE. Women, minorities, and veterans encouraged to apply.

PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR—Jonesboro seeks applicants for the position of director of parks and recreation department. This exempt senior manager directs, plans, promotes, organizes and administers public recreation, park facilities, community centers and cemeteries for the city by performing duties personally or through subordinate supervisors. Minimum qualifications: Broad knowledge of such fields as accounting, marketing, business administration, finance, etc. Equivalent to a four-year college degree, or equivalent combination of education and experience. Three years related experience and/or training, and 2 years related management experience. Valid DL. Salary Grade/Range: Grade 124/\$66,248 minimum annual salary. Review position and apply online at www.jonesboro.org. Applicants may also contact the City of Jonesboro Human Resources Office located at 300 South Church Street, Suite 100, Jonesboro, AR 72401 to submit a paper application. Open until filled. EOE.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST—The City of Siloam Springs Police Department is accepting applications for the position of a full-time Public Safety Communications Specialist. This will include operating emergency police, fire, EMS, and the 911 communication equipment, receive emergency and non-emergency phone calls and dispatching personnel and equipment. The successful candidate will operate telephone console to receive income calls for assistance, question caller to determine nature of problem, transmit orders and receive messages for fire, state and local agencies, wrecker services, utility workers and others. Maintains constant knowledge of emergencies. Knowledge of modern office practices and procedures as well as office equipment, radios, computer and Internet applications is required, 12 hour shifts. Must be able to pass a background check. Salary range: \$29,400 - \$44,100. The City requires a completed application be submitted for all positions. Applications are available at City Hall, 400 North Broadway, Siloam Springs, AR; or can be accessed on our website: www.siloamsprings.com. For further information, please call (479) 524-5136 or email humanresources@silosprings.com. Open until filled. EOE.

WATER OPERATOR—Forrest City Water Utility seeks a Water Operator with Class IV License. To apply contact Forrest City Water Utility, (870) 633-2921.

WATER TREATMENT DISTRIBUTION SUPERINTENDENT—Forrest City Water Utility seeks a Water Treatment Distribution Superintendent with Class IV License. To apply contact Forrest City Water Utility, (870) 633-2921. 🏠

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Standing from left:
Robert Dudley, Kevin Faight,
Dennis Hunt (Executive Vice
President and Manager of Public
Finance), Leigh Ann Biernat,
Bo Bittle, Jack Truemper

Seated from left: Lindsey
Ollar, Michele Casavechia,
Jason Holsclaw, Melissa Walsh,
Michael McBryde

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In 2017, our firm led the state in successfully managing the largest number and par amount of negotiated issues. During the same period, Stephens completed a majority of the financial advisory transactions for Arkansas school districts. While 2017 was another good year, we understand it was possible because of the trust and confidence shown by our fellow Arkansans.

We are continually impressed with the talent and dedication of the women and men who manage Arkansas' municipalities, hospitals, colleges and universities, school districts, state agencies, counties, utility systems and other governmental organizations. Thank you, Arkansas, for your continued confidence in our capabilities.

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