

# City & Town

JULY 2018 VOL. 74, NO. 07

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

## Don A. Zimmerman

August 10, 1942 - June 24, 2018



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



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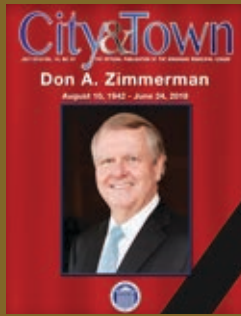
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Cover photo by Mark R. Potter.

**ON THE COVER**—The entire League family suffered a great loss June 24 with the death of longtime Executive Director Don Zimmerman. Thanks to his great leadership, we are prepared to work through this difficult time and continue to offer the programs and services our members have come to expect from their Arkansas Municipal League. Read about Don’s remarkable life beginning on page 6. Read also our wrap-up of June’s successful 84th League Convention, about the NLC’s recent meeting in Little Rock and new report on the future of work in cities and towns, the opening of Paragould’s new emergency services center, and much more.—atm

## Features

- 6 League celebrates legacy of Don Zimmerman**  
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- 10 League sets agenda for year at 84th Convention**  
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The National League of Cities held its Summer Board and Leadership Meeting in Little Rock in June and released a new report, which looks at the impact workforce changes have on cities and what they can do to meet the challenges ahead.
- 50 U.S. Supreme Court ruling makes way for online sales tax collection**  
The Supreme Court in June overturned the 1992 *Quill* decision in the case *South Dakota v. Wayfair*, which paves the way for states and local governments to be able to collect sales tax due on Internet purchases.

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Fellow Municipal League Members and Staff, Don Zimmerman will always be remembered as the rock upon which our state's municipalities relied to protect our mission. His dedication to the League was unparalleled and we are all better for his leadership and service.

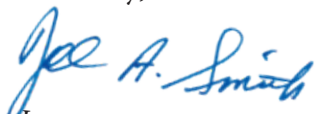
I will always consider Don to be one of my closest friends and confidants. The greatest testament I can give about Don is that my own personal service to the public in North Little Rock was always made better after consulting with his broad and deep understanding of what an Arkansas city could do for its residents.

Our thoughts are certainly with Jan and all of Don's family. In her role as the first lady of the Municipal League, Jan has been gracious and steadfast. She has been exceptional in her representation of our League around the nation at conferences, meetings, and events. She remains, and will forever be, a cherished member of our Municipal League family.

Don will be missed, and while we mourn his passing, we must take what we have learned from his time as our director and move forward as we continue to join together and improve our local governments. As director, Don leaves a human legacy with his exceptionally trained staff and a competent organization filled with qualified public servants. No one will ever replace Don, though I am confident in our ability to sustain the principles Don embodied and face the challenges we must.

As president of the League for the coming year, I will call upon the skill of our excellent staff, the dedication of the Executive Committee, and the trust and guidance of all our members as we embark upon the next chapter of our collective journey.

Sincerely,



Joe A. Smith  
Mayor, North Little Rock  
President, Arkansas Municipal League



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

# The League says goodbye to longtime leader Don A. Zimmerman

**D**on Alan Zimmerman, the longtime executive director of the Arkansas Municipal League and a true champion and friend of the cities and towns of his beloved state, died Sunday, June 24, 2018, at the age of 75. He was a giant man with gentle ways who deeply loved his family and his “League family,” comprised of Arkansas’s municipal officials and personnel in addition to the staff of the Arkansas Municipal League. Don’s dedication knew no bounds. He was a transformational figure for local governments and he worked tirelessly on their behalf. In his eyes, every city and town mattered—no matter the population.



Don A. Zimmerman

He will be greatly missed by his soul mate and wife of 33 years, Jan Lea Zimmerman, and his children, G.G. Millard (Chad), Lea May (Chris), and Bo Brister. Don’s seven grandchildren—Garrison and Finn Brister; Owen and Mary Evelyn May; Austin, Madison, and Cooper Millard—will deeply miss “Biggie,” as they lovingly referred to him. Don was predeceased by his father, Glenn G. Zimmerman; his mother, Louise M. Zimmerman; and his sister, Glenda L. Zimmerman.



Don and his wife, Jan.

His family held a visitation June 28 at Little Rock’s Ruebel Funeral Home and a celebration of life service June 29 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock. Arkansas Municipal League presidents served as honorary pallbearers.

In a very literal sense, Don was raised in the Arkansas Municipal League, and his story and the organization’s history are intertwined. According to local lore, Don left the hospital after he was born and went straight to a League Convention. That’s not quite true, but it’s close. The year of his birth, his father, Glenn G. Zimmerman, was a newly elected city attorney for North Little Rock and held the position of secretary for the

Arkansas Municipal League. Glenn attended the League Convention in 1942, where he stressed the importance of protecting the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds. Later that year, he was named director of the League, the position of leadership his son, Don, would later hold.

When Glenn took the helm of the League—just under 10 years into the organization’s existence—its future looked bleak. With issues surrounding local governance growing increasingly complex, Glenn believed it was essential to unify the voices of municipalities across Arkansas. And so he accepted the job on a part-time basis while still serving as North Little Rock’s city attorney. Don inherited that same belief.

He grew up on West 5th Street in North Little Rock, just a short walk from the current League headquarters at 2nd and Willow. It was also just a few blocks from the League’s home in those days, at the corner of 4th and Main Street, in the building that is now home to the THEA Foundation. The League’s small office was upstairs, above the Ellis Home and Auto store. Seven-year-old Don loved that upstairs office for its large window overlooking Main Street, out of which he could watch the State Fair parade march through the heart of downtown.

The League headquarters moved a couple of more times over the years, and Don loved hanging out with his dad there and meeting the important people in local government that came through. He’d mow the lawn if it needed mowing, or wash windows if they needed washing.

When Don graduated from North Little Rock High School in 1960, he decided to begin college at Little Rock University, now UA Little Rock, in order to stay close to his family. After a short while, he transferred to the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and then, following in his father’s footsteps, started law school.



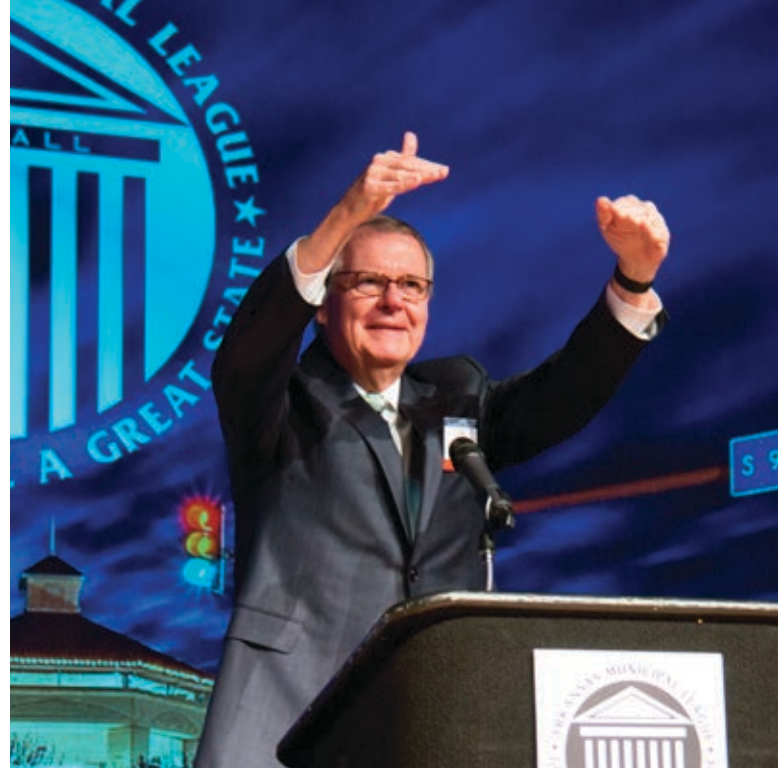
It was at this point in his life and his education that Don's path could have taken a very different turn. With the international space race building steam, and with recently assassinated President Kennedy's determination to put a man on the moon, NASA came to Fayetteville looking for talented young people to recruit. They interviewed Don and they liked what they heard. Enough so that they took him on a trip down to Houston, wined and dined him, and took him to a ballgame at the Astrodome. When he told them he still wanted to achieve his law degree they offered to pay for his night school in Houston. Don told them he wanted to think about it.

He went home and discussed it with his dad, who acknowledged that it was a great offer. Don, however, felt it was more important to utilize his skills in his home state. Don asked his dad what he thought about him getting a job with the Municipal League. His dad was hesitant about that idea. So Don changed tack. He worked up a proposal and presented it to the League's executive committee. With President Johnson's Great Society programs getting underway, the League would need someone on staff whose job it was to research what was available and bring that money into Arkansas cities and towns. That someone should be me, Don told them, and they agreed. So in 1966, as the League's new federal aid coordinator, Don earned \$400 a month going after those dollars, continued working at night toward his law degree, and on weekends he served with the National Guard.

Don's efforts working with state and national leaders to bring that federal money into Arkansas was a great success, and cities and towns across the state were able to build streets, update water infrastructure, build new police and fire stations, and much more. Don then took a leave of absence for a year, which he spent at Fort Polk in Louisiana, where he completed his military training.



Meanwhile, back in Arkansas, the state Legislature in 1969 passed a widely unpopular, anti-city annexation law that the newspapers had dubbed "The City Killer." At Fort Polk, Don befriended another Arkansan, a young state representative named Jerry Bookout. The City Killer was going to ruin his hometown of Jonesboro's chances of growing and becoming a great city, he said. He said that if Don would draft legislation to get rid of the new law, he'd introduce it in the next General Session. Don did



so and the new legislation passed in 1971. It remains the foundation of the state's election-based annexation laws.

The 1971 session marked a turning point in Don's career at the League. He had moved to the front lines, working directly with state legislators and lobbying for the interests of the state's municipalities, and over the next several years he worked on numerous issues, including securing an increase in state turnback funding to cities and towns. Don's shift to legislative advocacy also



allowed longtime League lawyer Bill Fleming to focus on providing legal assistance to members.

In July of 1974, after 32 years of service to the Arkansas Municipal League, Glenn G. Zimmerman died. The executive committee began the search for a successor and drew about 100 applicants from across the country. Don did not initially apply for his dad's position thinking they'd want someone older or with more experience, someone who hadn't just passed his bar exam two years ago. But members of the committee convinced him to put his name in the hat. They then voted to offer him the directorship, and Don accepted with the condition that they also promote Bill Fleming to the position of general counsel, as the two of them had a strong partnership. The executive committee agreed.

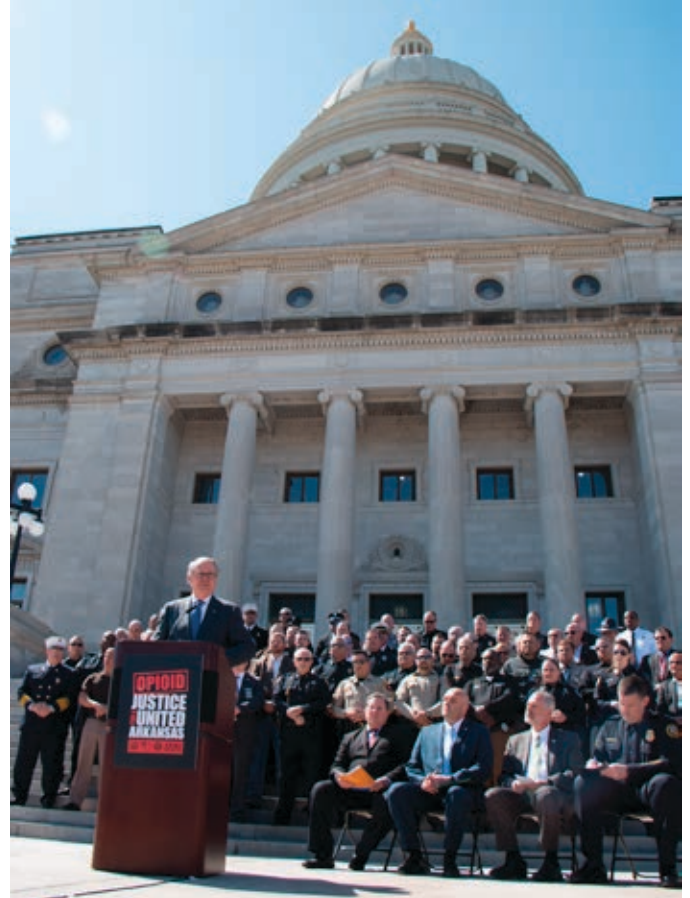
Don was now 31, and he felt a bit like the dog that finally caught the car: What are you going to do now?

He decided to focus on an issue his dad had been working on at the time of his death, which was removing from the state's constitution the \$5,000 cap on salaries for elected municipal officials. The outdated cap had been in place since 1874, and it was an impediment to attracting good, qualified candidates to run for important local offices. Don and the League were convinced that cities' governing bodies should be free to set compensation levels for their own officials. The Legislature in 1975 agreed to put the measure before the state's voters in the next general election, and

Don formed a broad coalition to campaign for its passage. Without sophisticated polling methods or other modern campaigning techniques, Don felt like they were just running scared but hoping for the best. He was pleasantly surprised with the results. The initiative passed with a strong majority, becoming Amendment 56 to the Arkansas Constitution.



Don realized early in his career that many times, it was equally if not more important to work to protect cities from bad initiatives as it was to enact new, helpful laws. In 1978 the U.S. Supreme Court dropped a bombshell decision. In *Monell v. Department of Social Services of the City of New York*, they held that a municipal corporation could be held liable for damages to an individual, which set off a flood of litigation against cities across the nation, including Arkansas. City leaders were now in danger of losing everything they had. Desperate, they asked Don to find them some insurance. No insurance company would bite, considering cities bad risks.



Confronted with that challenge, Don decided the cities could pool their risks and created the Municipal Legal Defense Program, which launched on January 1, 1979. It was the first of its kind in the country. To defend cities in the program, Don initially worked with prominent local lawyers such as John Gill, Mike Rainwater, Byron Freeland, and others. As the caseload grew, the League was able to hire several lawyers and bring the program in house. The Municipal Legal Defense Program remains successful today with the vast majority of Arkansas cities and towns participating.

Over the next several years, Don worked hard to create more optional benefit programs to offer League members, including the Municipal Health Benefit Fund, the Municipal League Workers' Compensation Trust, the Firefighters Supplemental Income Protection and Death Benefit Program, and Municipal Vehicle and Property Programs. Because of Don's vision and commitment, each of these programs has saved Arkansas cities and towns millions of dollars over the last three decades.

One of Don's first goals upon taking the helm of the League was to provide cities with a broad-based source of income. Cities were desperate, on what amounted to fixed incomes, relying on state turnback money and federal general revenue sharing, which in 1986 would come to an end. Don and the League pressed for a local option sales tax for cities and towns. In 1981 the League urged new Arkansas Gov. Frank White to support the local option. He said if the League could somehow convince the Legislature to pass it, he would sign it. With the help of Sen. Knox Nelson, who Don called "the strongest



legislator I ever saw—he was some kind of powerful,” and Rep. L.L. “Doc” Bryan, they got it passed. Voters in almost every city and town in the state have since passed local sales taxes to fund essential services like public safety, street and infrastructure, and much-loved amenities like parks and recreation facilities.

In recent years Don and the League have continued to promote legislation and initiatives that help cities, such as the State Aid City Street Program, Amendment 97 for cities’ economic development purposes, and home rule authority for cities and towns of all sizes. The League celebrated a victory at the U.S. Supreme Court in 2014 in the case *Plumhoff v. Rickard*, which was argued by the League’s Michael Mosley. It was the first time a state municipal league has argued a case before the country’s highest court.

Earlier this year the League partnered with Arkansas’s counties and the state to bring litigation against the opioid industry. By joining forces and speaking with one voice, Don believed, we can help to end the epidemic that has ravaged Arkansas families. This historic collaboration is a first for Arkansas and the first of its kind in the nation.

Just days before his death, Don learned of another great victory for local governments and businesses when the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the 1992 *Quill* decision in the case *South Dakota v. Wayfair, Inc.* It paves the way for cities to be able to collect the sales taxes they need to provide services to their citizens, and it helps even the playing field for hometown businesses forced to compete with online retailers. It was a special victory for Don, who had been at the forefront of this battle for over 25 years.



The League's Mike Mosley and Don at the U.S. Supreme Court in 2014.

Don was a true southern gentleman, as comfortable in a small town coffee shop as he was roaming the halls of our state or nation’s Capitol.

When he wasn’t working for Arkansas’s cities and towns—which was almost never—Don loved spending time with his family, whether on his beloved Lake Hamilton, at UALR Trojan basketball games (in his youth he had a mean jump shot), Arkansas Travelers baseball games, Razorback games, or just roaming the aisles at Walmart. There was never an adventure too big or too small as long as they were together. 🏠





# League preps for year at 84th Convention

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

The Arkansas Municipal League set its agenda for the year, elected a new slate of officers for 2018-2019, and covered numerous issues important to cities and towns during the 84th Convention, held June 13-15 at the Marriott Hotel and Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock. Total attendance at this year's Convention was 1,092 including 685 delegates representing 206 cities and towns. The exhibit hall was at record capacity this year, with 112 companies and agencies that offer services to municipalities participating.

Several sessions during the 84th Convention served to update members on the status of the opioid litigation the League, the Association of Arkansas Counties, and the Arkansas Public Entities Risk Management Association has filed. Arkansas has the second-highest prescribing rate in the nation, and in March of this year the League announced a historic partnership with the counties and state to file a lawsuit against opioid manufacturers and distributors. The litigation has been filed in the Circuit Court of Crittenden County.

Participation in the unique litigation has been strong, League General Counsel Mark Hayes said, with all 75 counties participating and, as of Convention, 375



Hayes

cities and towns representing 95 percent of the state's population signed on. There is still time to join the litigation, Hayes said, and he encouraged any cities and towns not already signed up to do so.

"If your city or town is not engaged, please contact us and we will make sure that gets done very, very quickly," Hayes said.

The sheer amount of prescription opioids pouring into Arkansas has made stemming the flow of pills and treating addiction extremely difficult, State Drug Director Kirk Lane said. Arkansas had a high of 114 opioid prescriptions for every 100 people, he said.

"That's over 235 million prescription pills that have been put into the population of just over three million people in one year's time," Lane said.



Lane

Though the number dropped last year to 108 prescriptions per 100 people, it has been over 100 since 2007, he said. Methamphetamines are still the state's number one illegal drug problem, but opioids are now our most deadly drug threat, Lane said, adding that the United States consumes 80 percent of the world's opioids despite being less than five percent of the population.

“It’s very important that we address this vigorously and aggressively,” Lane said.

Echoing the League’s motto, Lane said, “Involved cities and involved people are what’s going to cure this epidemic.”

Neither the state, cities, nor counties by themselves have the resources to combat the epidemic alone, said Jerome Tapley, principal with Alabama-based Corey Watson Attorneys, the firm handling the litigation.



Tapley

“You know that and that’s why you signed onto the litigation,” he said. “And that’s why I think it shows superb leadership, because resources, revenue will have to be raised to intervene in this crisis.”

The situation has spiraled out of control, he said, and we can’t just raise taxes and hope to fight it.

“That’s what this litigation’s about,” Tapley said. “It’s about forcing the people who made the mess clean up the mess.”

To help drive home the uniquely devastating nature of opioid addiction and its toll in our communities, the League welcomed Dr. Sam Snodgrass, an expert in opioid addiction who shared his personal story of addiction, recovery, and activism. Willpower is not enough to stop addiction to opioids, much less addiction to heroin or deadly fentanyl, Snodgrass said, because the drugs change the brain neurologically. Understanding the science rather than treating addicts as “bad people who did it to themselves” is necessary to combat the crisis, he said.



Snodgrass

“We are suffering from an illness,” he said. “It’s a chronic but treatable, manageable illness if we will take the steps to make it one, to view it as one, and to do the things that will help us to manage this illness.”

Some of the steps, Snodgrass said, include making Naloxone available to keep people alive, syringe exchange programs to prevent the spread of diseases like hepatitis C, and access to science-based treatment to opioid disorder.

Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson addressed the Convention during the opening general session the morning of June 14. With the 92nd General Session of the Arkansas Legislature coming in January 2019, the governor acknowledged the important role the League plays in working with state leaders to help meet the needs of cities and towns.



Hutchinson

“It’s been my pleasure to work with the leadership of the Municipal League to make sure that the legislators and myself are knowledgeable about how legislation impacts you,” Hutchinson said.

Regarding the League’s opioid litigation, Hutchinson said he understands the financial burden that the epidemic puts on the state and local governments and the need to recover costs from manufacturers and distributors.

“I recognize the importance of that to the municipal officials and the cities that are here, and we want to make sure that we work in parallel and complimentary tracts to recover damages that we have suffered both as a state and as cities over the last decade or so,” he said.

Arkansas has a lot to brag about, Hutchinson said, citing last year’s historically low unemployment.

“We’ve created 60,000 jobs since I’ve been governor, and we’ve enacted tax cuts that I believe are important to economic growth,” he said.

Hutchinson said to expect more tax cuts to be on the agenda of the upcoming legislative session. Arkansas has a higher income tax than other states in the region and we’ve got to compete with that, he said.

“I ask you to be supportive of that, trust me that we take it in bites that we can handle and meet our



Rainwater

obligations to our citizens and to our state, but it is the continuing need that we have,” Hutchinson said.

He also said he wanted to attempt a comprehensive “transformation” of state government, with a goal of reducing the number of departments, boards, and commissions.

“I have over 42 direct reports to me as governor, and these are major departments of state government,” Hutchinson said. “I want to transform that where we have fewer than 20 major departments. And we don’t want to cut services, we want to eliminate duplication, improve accountability, and improve efficiency, which will ultimately save us some money in terms of state government.”

The governor also said he expects a new highway funding plan to come from the 92nd General Assembly that will be referred to the state’s voters for approval, and he asked that municipal leaders support the effort.

The League welcomed Brooks Rainwater, director of the National League of Cities’ Center for City Solutions, to address the Convention on the future of work in our nation’s cities and towns. Meeting the workforce challenges of a changing economy has been a priority for the NLC and its current president, Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola.

The so-called “gig economy” has been successful in many ways, Rainwater said, but these jobs typically lack health insurance, retirement plans, and other benefits

associated with traditional jobs, and that is a major policy challenge. Automation is another major challenge for the future of the nation’s workforce. We will lose jobs, he said, but we will also gain jobs in new areas, and preparing for those jobs is essential.

“There will be new jobs, we just don’t fully know what they are yet,” Rainwater said. “This is what necessitates a rethinking on the part of cities.”

Cities are great at finding innovative ways to address such challenges, he said.

Recommendations for preparing for the future of work include a revival of apprenticeship programs in skilled trades; expanding access to the Pell Grant program to include two-year degrees, certification programs, and other educational opportunities; and making sure workforce training and re-training programs are accessible to all.

During a panel discussion, Rainwater asked three city leaders about the workforce challenges they face in their cities. With crime and drug abuse a factor among what he called the city’s disaffected and detached youth and young adults, the issue is tied to public safety, Mayor Stodola said. Beginning early in life to better engage with the youth through the educational system and to provide the opportunities to build the right kinds of workforce skills will be most important he said.

“We’re going to need welders, we’re going to need HVAC people, and plumbers,” Stodola said. “A lot of baby boomers are aging out of this. We’ve got a very good opportunity to elevate those kinds of jobs that pay a very good wage and get those into our school system with our vo-tech programs.”

Lake Village faces some of the same challenges as the capital city, Mayor JoAnne Bush said. It can be difficult to fight apathy, that feeling of being in a rut, she said. Segments of the workforce may not be trained, but they are trainable, Bush said.

An educational challenge they face is a lack of broadband Internet, Bush said.



From left, Stodola, Bush, Rainwater, and Settle.

“Yes, broadband is offered, but it’s at a higher cost than most of our citizens can pay,” she said. “That is definitely a problem.”

As everything from private-sector jobs to our city utility systems become more automatable, we must find ways to adjust our workforces accordingly, Fort Smith Vice Mayor Kevin Settle said. As plant manager at Exide Technologies, which manufactures industrial batteries, Settle has experienced the transformation first hand.

“The automation is coming,” Settle said. “I can see my plant run from my cell phone. That’s pretty neat. And eventually you’ll be able to see your water plant or your sewer plant, and you’ll going to be able to have an alarm on your phone that tells you there’s something wrong.”

For that coming skills gap we will require more technical people, he said. Cities must work with our local school districts to develop curriculum and programs that prepare students for these changes, Stodola said.

“It starts in grade school,” he said. “It’s got to start then.”

The NLC has released a new report, “Assessing the Future of Work: Automation and the Role of Cities,” which covers these challenges in depth and provides guidance and recommendations for cities. Read more about the report and how to access it on page 35 in this issue.

Sharing information and best practices are one of the core missions of the Arkansas Municipal League, and the 84th Convention featured 18 concurrent workshops that covered a wide variety of topics important to cities. Topics included a continuation of the discussion on preparing tomorrow’s workforce, land use and annexation challenges, preparing for the 2020 Census, dealing with unkempt properties, avoiding legislative audit violations,



Wasson

preventing neighborhood crimes, social media and cybersecurity, expanding equality in our communities, and more.

This year marked the final Convention for the League’s Ken Wasson, who retired at the end of June as director of operations. Wasson has served cities and towns for 41 years, both at the League and as a former city manager.

To close out the final general session of the 84th Convention, Wasson’s “Mayor Jones” made a few final pre-retirement calls to League General Counsel Mark Hayes inquiring about the legalities of what’s been going on in fictional Midtown, Arkansas. The often-hilarious exchanges between the two have been a staple of Conventions over the last decade, poking a little fun at the ins and outs of local governance while shedding light on legal dos and don’ts. Wasson shared his memories of Conventions past and his thoughts on how the League has changed and grown through the years.

“What hasn’t changed,” he said, “is the desire that the officials have and their willingness to learn what is best for cities.”

The entire League family wishes Ken and his family all the best. 🍷



League General Counsel Mark Hayes, left, can't help but laugh at Mayor Jones's legal quandary.

# New officers elected, state of the League report given at annual business meeting

Delegates to the 84th Convention of the Arkansas Municipal League elected a new slate of officers for 2018-2019 during the annual business meeting, held June 15 at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock. Outgoing President Doug Sproue, mayor of Springdale, introduced the new officers at the closing awards and new officers' luncheon later that day.



Smith

The new officers are: North Little Rock Mayor Joe Smith, president; Jonesboro Mayor Harold Perrin, first vice president; Bay Mayor Darrell Kirby, District 1 vice president; Morrilton Mayor Allen Lipsmeyer, District 2 vice president; Rogers Mayor Greg Hines, District 3 vice president; and Smackover Mayor Bobby Neal, District 4 vice president.

In addition to preparing to lead the League into the 2019 legislative session, one of Mayor Smith's goals during his League presidency is to work on actively recruiting the younger generations to be more engaged in local governance and to run for municipal office, he said. To stress the point, Smith polled the ages of the officials at the luncheon. There was just one city official under the age of 35 in the room.

"It's our moral and our civic responsibility to ensure that the next generation of community leaders are equipped to understand and interpret the interaction

between politics and policy, and as you can see, we're not doing a very good job of it," Smith said. "We're not bringing the younger generation along. And you want to know why? One reason? It's because we're just a little bit lazy."

A diversity of ideas that come from different generations is necessary if cities and towns are going to thrive, he said.

"The continuity can only be secured by allowing and encouraging the younger generation of adults in our communities to become engaged in the mechanics of all of our municipal government," Smith said.

The League has had a strong year, reported Communications Director Whitnee Bullerwell, who provided this year's state of the League report. The League is in good standing financially and received a clean audit,



Bullerwell

she reported. Pattie Weed, CPA, partner with Thomas & Thomas LLP, presented the audit at the May 24 meeting of the Executive Committee.

It was a "monumental" year in a couple of key areas, she said, citing the progress being made in the effort to give local governments the ability to collect sales tax on online purchases and the historic opioid litigation that is the result of a partnership among the League, the Association of Arkansas Counties, the state, and APERMA.



Sprouse

Bullerwell credited the League's strong membership and good leadership for these forward strides, and she thanked outgoing President Doug Sprouse, mayor of Springdale.

"He is a champion of the Arkansas Municipal League—your League," Bullerwell said. "He's done an outstanding job representing the cities and towns of our state. He is an exemplary mayor, who happens to lead the sixth-fastest growing small city in America."

Over the last several years, the League has ramped up its professional development offerings to members, which include training sessions that are part of the voluntary Certified Municipal Official program, workplace safety, wellness, and other topics. In the last year, Bullerwell reported, the League has hosted 125 professional development events that reached 5,622 municipal officials and employees.

The League's optional programs are running strong, Bullerwell said.

"The risk pools are doing just as they were designed to do," she said. "They are saving cities and towns of Arkansas millions of dollars while providing you all with great coverage."

The Municipal Legal Defense Program has its highest ever participation rate, with 454 members, nine more than last year. It has around 175 active cases. The Municipal League Workers' Compensation Trust has 487 participants, two down from last year. The Municipal Health Benefit Fund has 406 participants, a number that includes 208 cities (four down from last year) and 198 limited service members.

The Municipal Vehicle Program is down one to 413. That includes 18 limited service members. The program covers 21,392 units with an insured-to-value of \$737 million.

The Municipal Property Program has 337 participants, eight more than last year. Nine of those are limited service members. The program covers 7,952 properties with an insured-to-value of \$2.6 billion.

Participation in the Accidental Death and Dismemberment benefit is up one to 209. The Firefighters Supplemental Income Protection and Death Benefit Program is down 11 to 232 participants.

The Arkansas Local Government Pension Management Trust has 13 participants, five less than last year. The drug-testing program for non-CDL employees has 97 members, four less than last year. The ordinance codification service has 143 participants, two more than last year.

## State of the League 2017-2018


### Arkansas Municipal League Annual Report

#### Our Mission

The Arkansas Municipal League was founded in 1934 and exists for a threefold purpose:

- To act as the official representative of Arkansas cities and towns before the state and federal governments;
- To provide a clearinghouse for information and answers; and
- To offer a forum for discussion and sharing of mutual concerns.

**Great Cities Make a Great State**  
#84thAMLConv

The League this year debuted a new publication, *State of the League: Arkansas Municipal League Annual Report*, which provides an overview of the League's programs and activities for the year in a concise format. It is available in print and available for download from the publications page on the League's website at [arml.org](http://arml.org). 

# League honors leaders, cities for service

**L**ITTLE ROCK—The Arkansas Municipal League honored state and local leaders and cities and towns for outstanding service to their citizens and to the League this past year at the League’s 84th Convention, held June 13-15 in Little Rock.

The League named Prosecuting Attorney Scott Ellington its Person of the Year. As Prosecuting Attorney for Arkansas’s Second Judicial District, Ellington has made possible the filing of the historic piece of opioid litigation in Arkansas, ensuring that an Arkansas judge and jury will have the chance to determine damages in the case.



From left, Arkansas Drug Director Kirk Lane, Springdale Mayor and League President Doug Sprouse, and Prosecuting Attorney Scott Ellington.

The League honored Arkansas Drug Director Kirk Lane with the John Woodruff “City Above Self” Award. The award is presented to a person who has provided lasting benefits to cities and towns of Arkansas, either collectively or individually, by being an outstanding example of dedication to their improvement.

As the state’s Drug Director, Lane stood in solidarity with the members of the Arkansas Municipal League on the steps of the State Capitol as we announced the historic opioid litigation earlier this year. The cities, counties, and the State of Arkansas are committed to fighting the opioid epidemic together.

The award is named in honor of the League’s former communications coordinator who, until his death in 2007, worked tirelessly and unselfishly for the cities of Arkansas.

Fourteen municipal officials received the Adrian L. White Municipal Leadership Award this year. The award is presented to city officials who have served with distinction and dedication on the League’s boards, councils, or committees for six years. The award is named in honor of White, who was mayor of Pochontas from 1967-1974

and a former League president and vice president. The recipients are Cabot Council Member Ann Gilliam, El Dorado Mayor Frank Hash, Fairfield Bay Mayor Paul Wellenberger, Fayetteville Mayor Lioneld Jordan, Gum Springs Mayor Michael Lester, Hot Springs Assistant City Manager Lance Spicer, Jonesboro Council Member Chris Gibson, Little Rock Assistant Police Chief Alice Fulk, McCrory Mayor Doyle Fowler, Mulberry Mayor Gary Baxter, North Little Rock Mayor Joe Smith, North Little Rock Council Member Beth White, Paragould Fire Chief Kevin Lang, and Sherwood Council Member Kenneth Keplinger.

Seven municipal leaders who have served their cities and the League for 12 years received the Marvin L. Vinson Commitment to Excellence Award, named for the longtime Clarksville mayor who served from 1983 until 2001 and was League president in 1992-1993. The recipients are El Dorado Council Member Dianne Hammond, Gassville Mayor Jeff Braim, Highland Recorder/Treasurer Mary Ruth Wiles, Huntsville City Attorney Howard Cain, Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola, Magnolia Council Member James Moore, and Norfolk Council Member Don Sappington.

Three city officials received the Jack R. Rhodes Sr. Distinguished Service Award. The award is presented to officials who have served their cities and the League for 25 years. Rhodes served as a mayor of Lake Village from 1957 until his retirement in 1990 and was League president in 1981. This year’s recipients are Heber Springs Council Member Sharon Williams, Gassville Council Member Rick Peglar, and Marion Mayor Frank Fogleman.

Eighteen cities and towns received the Four Star City Award for demonstration of excellence in loss control and employee safety, wellness, vehicle safety, and prevention of liability. They are: Bearden, Berryville, Calico Rock, Dell, Dierks, Gurdon, Havana, Jasper, Knoxville, London, Melbourne, Smackover, Stephens, Summit, Swifton, Waldron, Wrightsville, and Yellville.

The Arkansas City Clerks, Recorders, and Treasurers Association named Huntsville Recorder/Treasurer Janice Smith its Clerk of the Year. The award is presented each year to a member of the Association who has made significant contributions to the objectives of the municipal clerk profession, to the improvement of local government, and to the clerk’s community. The ACCRTA also presented a Distinguished Service Award to Lake City Clerk/Treasurer Linda Simpson for her dedication to the city clerk profession and to good municipal governance.



## ACCRTA, ACAA elect officers for 2018-2019



From left, Clinton Recorder/Treasurer Dena Malone, Mansfield Recorder/Treasurer Becky Walker, Batesville City Clerk/Treasurer Denise Johnston, and Paragould City Clerk Andrea Williams.

The Arkansas City Clerks, Records and Treasurers Association (ACCRTA) and the Arkansas City Attorneys Association (ACAA) each held their annual business meetings and elected officers for the coming year during the League's 84th Convention.

The new ACCRTA officers are Paragould City Clerk Andrea Williams, president; Batesville City Clerk/Treasurer Denise Johnston, vice president; Clinton Recorder/Treasurer Dena Malone, secretary; and Mansfield City Clerk/Treasurer Becky Walker, treasurer.

The new ACAA officers are Calico Rock City Attorney Connie Barksdale, president; Bryant City Attorney Chris Madison, 1st vice president; Cabot City Attorney Jimmy Taylor, 2nd vice president; Conway City Attorney Chuck Clawson, secretary; and Pine Bluff City Attorney Althea Hadden-Scott, treasurer.

The ACAA held two days of continuing legal education during the 84th Convention, meeting at the League's North Little Rock headquarters June 14-15. 🏛️



City attorneys participate in CLE at League headquarters.

## The must-have reference for every city hall in Arkansas

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

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



### Order Form

Mail to:

**Arkansas Municipal League**

**Attn: Handbook Sales**

**P.O. Box 38**

**North Little Rock, AR 72115-0038**

Please send \_\_\_ copies at \$100.00 each

Enclosed is a check in payment for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

# League adopts resolutions, policies and goals for 2018-2019



The League's Resolutions Committee, which is comprised of one delegate from each member municipality, met twice during the 84th Convention to discuss and then vote upon a package of resolutions and to update the policies and goals statement that will guide League policy this year. The resolutions and policies and goals statement endorsed by the committee were approved by the full membership during the annual business meeting on Friday, June 15.

The number of resolutions submitted for the committee's approval is typically larger in years when the Convention precedes the next General Session of the Arkansas Legislature. This year more than 30 resolutions were passed. They include:

- A resolution supporting federal and state legislation ensuring the proper assessment and collection of local sales tax on Internet sales, which is now more likely to happen after the U.S. Supreme Court in June reversed the *Quill* decision in the case *South Dakota v. Wayfair*;
- A resolution supporting amending A.C.A. § 26-74-401 et seq. to ensure a more fair distribution of sales tax revenue;
- A resolution supporting amending A.C.A. § 14-44-115 and § 14-45-108 to give cities of the second class and incorporated towns the authority, by ordinance, to make the position of recorder, treasurer, or recorder/treasurer non-elected but subject to the normal hiring practices of the municipality;
- A resolution to classify Internet providers as utilities;

- A resolution to allow cities and towns, under their home-rule powers, to utilize electronic automated systems to enforce state and local traffic laws;
- A resolution to repeal A.C.A. § 14-44-117 to terminate the obsolete office of city collector;
- A resolution to provide for more equitable reimbursement for fire fighting services performed outside city limits; and
- A resolution to reduce the administrative fee charged by the state to collect sales tax from three percent to 1.5 percent.

Last year the League created a task force to study the state's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Several of the resolutions passed this year are the result of the task force's recommendations, including:

- A resolution to amend FOIA in order to list all exemptions in a single section of the law;
- A resolution to amend the law to address record requests that are so voluminous that they disrupt basic city services and operations;
- A resolution to ensure the constitutional right to legal counsel for public officials is equal that of private citizens;
- A resolution to strengthen protections for confidential informants under FOIA; and
- A resolution to amend the state's Child Maltreatment Act to make it consistent with FOIA and to protect the records of juveniles.

The new resolutions will appear in the League's updated *Policies and Goals 2018-2019*, which will be included as a supplement to the August issue of *City & Town*. 🏛️

# *Recognition for One Year of Service*

The Recognition for One Year of Service is given to those who have served on various boards or committees for the first time this past year. Recipients were recognized at the 84th Convention's New Officers' and Awards Luncheon.

**Council Member Lorene Pearson, Ashdown,**  
Advisory Council

**Comptroller Mandy Spicer, Benton,** PMT-MOPEBT

**Council Member Damon Bivins, Cabot,** Advisory  
Council

**Council Member Norma Naquin, Cabot,** Advisory  
Council

**Fire Chief Robert Medford, Camden,** Advisory  
Council

**Police Chief Boyd Woody, Camden,** Advisory  
Council

**Council Member Wayne Low, Centerton,** Advisory  
Council

**Council Member Judy Weaver, Clarksville,**  
Advisory Council

**Council Member Anthony Scott, Dermott,** Advisory  
Council

**Council Member Edmond Shelton, Dermott,**  
Advisory Council

**Mayor Patrick Johnson, Dover,** Advisory Council

**Mayor Michael Cravens, Elaine,** Advisory Council

**Mayor Stephen Tisdale, Eudora,** Advisory Council

**Mayor Robert "Butch" Berry, Eureka Springs,**  
Advisory Council

**Council Member John La Tour, Fayetteville,**  
Advisory Council

**City Administrator Carl Geffken, Fort Smith,**  
Advisory Council

**Council Member Ulrica Trotter, Fountain Hill,**  
Advisory Council

**Council Member Anita Seaman, Gassville,**  
Advisory Council

**Recorder/Treasurer Sheila Mangrum, Gould,**  
Advisory Council

**Mayor Bill Groom, Greenland,** Advisory Council

**Mayor Dan Sherrell, Harrison,** Advisory Council

**Retired Fire Chief John Neal, Harrison,** Advisory  
Council

**Recorder/Treasurer Jennifer Hill, Haskell,**  
Advisory Council

**Police Chief J.R. Wilson, Jr., Hope,** Advisory Council

**City Manager David Frasher, Hot Springs,**  
Advisory Council

**Police Chief Jason Stachey, Hot Springs,** Advisory  
Council

**Recorder/Treasurer Shirley Rose, Lake View,**  
Advisory Council

**Council Member Louvenia Davis, Lake View,**  
Advisory Council

**Mayor Joe Inman, Lead Hill,** Advisory Council

**Mayor Roger Gardner, Mountain View,** Advisory  
Council

**Council Member Steve Baxter, North Little Rock,**  
Advisory Council

**Council Member Tyler Dunegan, Osceola,** Advisory  
Council

**Mayor Kary Story, Pocahontas,** Advisory Council

**Council Member Howard Austin, Prescott,**  
Advisory Council

**Mayor Lisa Hackett, Shirley,** Advisory Council

**Police Chief Chad Henson, Trumann,** Advisory  
Council

**Clerk/Treasurer Phyllis Thomas, Van Buren,**  
Advisory Council

**Mayor James Firestone, Vilonia,** Advisory Council

**Council Member Joel Tolefree, Warren,** Advisory  
Council

# 84th Convention Snapshots



Photos by Andrew Morgan and Mark Potter



# 685 delegates represented 206 cities and towns at the 84<sup>th</sup> Arkansas Municipal League Convention



## Alexander

Mayor Paul Mitchell  
City Recorder Sharon Bankhead  
Police Chief Robert Burnett  
Council Member Joe Pollard  
Council Member Melissa Ratliff  
Council Member Harold Timmerman  
Council Member Juanita Wilson  
Bookkeeper JoAn Churchill

## Alma

Mayor Keith Greene  
Alma A&P Chairman P. Brent Taylor

## Alpena

Mayor Bobbie Bailey  
City Treasurer Lora Carter  
City Recorder Roberta McAlister  
City Attorney James Goldie  
Court Clerk Phyllis McNair

## Alzheimer

Mayor Zola Hudson  
Recorder/Treasurer Doris Hudson-Gaddy  
Council Member Linda Gipson  
Council Member Blanchie Laws  
Council Member Essie Robertson  
Council Member Travis White

## Altus

Mayor Veronica Post

## Anthonyville

Recorder/Treasurer Shirley Craig  
Council Member Leroy Wright

## Arkadelphia

Mayor James Calhoun  
City Treasurer Tammy Beeler  
City Clerk Jennifer Story  
City Director Jason Jones  
City Director Delton Simpson  
Grants Administrator Nancy Anderson

## Ash Flat

Recorder/Treasurer Charlotte Goodwin  
Council Member Fred Goodwin

## Ashdown

Mayor James Sutton  
Clerk/Treasurer Kirk Mounts

## Atkins

Mayor Bernie Chamberlain  
Council Member Laurel Carnes  
Assistant to Mayor Angela Singleton

## Barling

City Administrator Mike Tanner  
City Treasurer April Melton  
City Clerk Florene Brown  
City Director Linda Shipley  
City Director Bill Young

## Batesville

Mayor Rick Elumbaugh  
Clerk/Treasurer Denise Johnston  
City Attorney Timothy Meitzen  
Police Chief Alan Cockrill  
Council Member Tommy Bryant  
Council Member Julie Hinkle  
Council Member Douglas Matthews  
Assistant to Mayor Jennifer Corter  
City Engineer Damon Johnson

## Bay

Mayor Darrell Kirby  
Council Member David Milam  
Sergeant Keith Milam

## Beaver

Mayor Ann Shoffit



## Beebe

Mayor Mike Robertson  
Clerk/Treasurer Carol Westergren  
City Attorney Scott Bles  
Fire Chief William Nick  
Council Member Linda Anthony  
Council Member Matt Dugger  
Council Member Derrek Goff  
Council Member Tracy Lightfoot  
Council Member Lee McLane  
Assistant to Mayor Angie Gibbons  
Human Resource Director Kim Weeks  
Police Officer Jennifer Latture  
Street Superintendent Horace Taylor

## Bella Vista

Mayor Peter Christie  
City Clerk Wayne Jertson  
Council Member John Flynn  
Council Member Doug Fowler  
Council Member James Wozniak

## Benton

Council Member Jeff Hamm  
Finance Director Mandy Spicer

## Bentonville

City Clerk Linda Spence  
City Attorney George Spence

## Berryville

Mayor Tim McKinney

## Bethel Heights

Mayor Cynthia Black  
City Attorney Joe Summerford  
Council Member Sam Black

## Black Oak

Mayor Eddie Dunigan  
Mayor Bonnie Ragsdale  
Assistant to Mayor Darlene Schmidt

**Blytheville**

Mayor James Sanders  
 City Attorney Chris Brown  
 Council Member L.C. Hartsfield  
 Council Member John Musgraves  
 Council Member Stan Parks  
 Assistant to Mayor Cody Wyatt  
 Finance Director John Callens

**Booneville**

Council Member Aaron Brewer

**Briarcliff**

Recorder/Treasurer Renate Schmitt

**Brinkley**

Council Member Ron Burrow

**Brookland**

Mayor Kenneth Jones  
 Clerk/Treasurer Billy Dacus  
 Council Member Mike Bishop  
 Office Manager Shelby Pfeifer  
 Planning Commissioner Jerry Blair

**Bryant**

Mayor Jill Dabbs  
 Council Member Butch Higginbotham  
 Council Member Brenda Miller  
 Council Member Allen Scott  
 Staff Attorney Chris Madison

**Bull Shoals**

Council Member Martin Nickels  
 Council Member Jim Traylor

**Cabot**

Mayor Bill Cypert  
 City Attorney Jimmy Taylor  
 Council Member Damon Bivins  
 Council Member Ann Gilliam  
 Council Member Eddie Long  
 Council Member Douglas Warner  
 Paralegal Crystal Callahan  
 Planning Commissioner Nancy Cohea

**Calico Rock**

Mayor Ronnie Guthrie

**Camden**

Mayor Marie Trisollini  
 City Clerk Donna Stewart  
 City Attorney Michael Frey  
 Fire Chief Robert Medford  
 Assistant to Mayor Amy Wright Perrin

**Caraway**

Mayor Barry Riley

**Cave City**

Mayor Jonas Anderson  
 Council Member Richard Hawkins

**Cave Springs**

Recorder/Treasurer Kimberly Hutcheson  
 City Attorney Justin Eichmann  
 Council Member Randall Noble

**Centerton**

Mayor Bill Edwards  
 City Attorney Brian Rabal  
 Council Member Wayne Low  
 Council Member Robin Reed  
 Administrative Assistant Katie Reynolds  
 Director of Public Works Rick Hudson  
 Finance Director Pam Grant  
 Planning Director Lorene Burns

**Cherokee Village**

Mayor Russ Stokes  
 City Attorney Jon Abele

**Cherry Valley**

Recorder/Treasurer Stacey Bennett

**Chidester**

Mayor Bobby Box, Sr.

**Clarendon**

Mayor James Stinson  
 Clerk/Treasurer Deborah Thompson

**Clarksville**

Clerk/Treasurer Barbara Blackard  
 Council Member Eddie King  
 Council Member Danna Schneider  
 Council Member Judy Weaver  
 Council Member Freeman Wish

**Clinton**

Mayor Richard McCormac  
 Recorder/Treasurer Dena Malone  
 City Attorney Chad Brown  
 Code Enforcement Officer Phillip Ellis

**Coal Hill**

Mayor Ronnie Garner  
 Recorder/Treasurer Doris Davis  
 Chief Court Clerk Laura Bryant

**Conway**

City Attorney Chuck Clawson  
 Chief of Staff Jack Bell  
 Deputy City Attorney Charles Finkenbinder  
 Deputy City Attorney Evan Pence  
 Grants Administrator Candy Jones  
 Personnel Director Lisa Williams

**Corning**

Mayor Robert Young

**Cotton Plant**

Mayor Willard Ryland

**Crawfordsville**

Mayor Joe Marotti

**Crossett**

Mayor Scott McCormick  
 City Attorney James Hamilton  
 Fire Chief Bo Higginbotham  
 Council Member C.T. Foster  
 Council Member James Knight  
 Council Member Crystal Marshall

**Danville**

Mayor Phillip Moudy

**De Queen**

Mayor Billy Ray McKelvy  
 Water Superintendent Jeff Brown

**Decatur**

Mayor Bob Tharp  
 Recorder/Treasurer Kim Wilkins  
 City Attorney Michael Nutt  
 Council Member Sandy Duncan

**Dermott**

Mayor Clinton Hampton  
 City Clerk Evelyn Wimbley  
 Council Member Chris Akins  
 Council Member Tanya Broadnax  
 Council Member Pamela Esters  
 Council Member Anthony Scott  
 Council Member Edmond Shelton

**DeWitt**

Mayor Ralph Relyea  
 Deputy City Clerk Melanie Adams

**Dover**

Recorder/Treasurer Regina Kilgore

**Dumas**

Mayor Johnny Brigham  
 Clerk/Treasurer Erma Coburn  
 City Attorney Brooks Gill  
 Council Member Roy Dalton  
 Council Member Ross Martin  
 Council Member Flora Simon  
 Council Member Romona Weatherford

**Dyer**

Mayor Billy Gayle Morse  
 City Attorney Sean Brister

**Earle**

Mayor Sherman Smith, Sr.  
 Clerk/Treasurer Cynthia Conner  
 Council Member Jimmie Barham  
 Council Member Tyrome Hurst  
 Council Member Robert Malone  
 Council Member Jesse Selvy  
 Council Member Charlie Young

**East Camden**

Mayor Angie McAdoo  
 Recorder/Treasurer Amanda Harcrow

**Edmondson**

Council Member Ira Ewing  
 Council Member Oscar Matthew

**El Dorado**

Mayor Frank Hash  
 City Clerk Heather McVay  
 Council Member Dianne Hammond  
 Council Member Tony Henry  
 Council Member Willie McGhee  
 Council Member Judy Ward  
 Council Member Vance Williamson

**Elaine**

Mayor Michael Cravens  
 Recorder/Treasurer Sandi Carlton  
 Council Member Thomas Brown, Jr.

**Elkins**

Mayor Bruce Ledford  
 Police Chief Bill Rhodes  
 Fire Chief J.D. Demotte

**Elkins, Greenland, Johnson**

City Attorney Danny Wright

**Eudora**

Clerk/Treasurer Juanita Burton  
 City Attorney Katie Elliott-Harris  
 Police Chief William El-Amin  
 Council Member Beulah Maiden  
 Council Member Charlene Taylor





**Eureka Springs**

Mayor Robert "Butch" Berry

**Fairfield Bay**

Mayor Paul Wellenberger  
Recorder/Treasurer Rose Owen  
City Attorney A.J. Kelly  
Council Member Don Bailey  
Council Member John Foster  
Council Member Sharon Luxon  
Council Member Robert Otis  
Council Member Doyle Scroggins  
City Prosecutor Matt Gilmore

**Fargo**

Mayor Linda Collins

**Farmington**

Mayor Ernie Penn  
City Clerk Kelly Penn  
City Attorney Steve Tennant  
Council Member Linda Bell  
Council Member Diane Bryant  
Assistant to Mayor Melissa McCarville

**Fayetteville**

Mayor Lioneld Jordan  
City Attorney Kit Williams  
Council Member Sarah Bunch  
Council Member Adella Gray  
Council Member John La Tour  
Assistant City Attorney Blake Pennington  
Chief of Staff Don Marr  
City Prosecutor Brian Thomas  
Communications Director Susan Norton  
Deputy City Prosecutor Jacob DeYoung

**Flippin**

Council Member Jennifer Porter  
Office Manager Sandra Balogh

**Fordyce**

Mayor John MacNichol  
Clerk/Treasurer Shirley Richart  
Council Member Larry Stacy

**Foreman**

Council Member William Harp

**Forrest City**

Mayor Larry Bryant  
Clerk/Treasurer Derene Cochran  
Council Member Louise Fields  
Council Member Dena Poteat  
Council Member Ronald Williams  
Utility Manager Calvin Murdock

**Fort Smith**

City Administrator Carl Geffken  
City Clerk Sherri Gard  
Vice Mayor/City Director Kevin Settle

**Fouke**

Mayor Terry Purvis  
Recorder/Treasurer Wanda Harris  
Council Member Brenda Purvis

**Fountain Lake**

Council Member Karl Lowry

**Fulton**

Mayor Henry Hale, III

**Garland**

Mayor Tyeshekka Antwine  
Recorder/Treasurer Linda Dudley  
City Attorney Carolyn Whitefield  
Council Member Brenda Coulter  
Council Member Clifton Rooters

**Gassville**

Mayor Jeff Braim  
Council Member Naomi Lassen

**Gentry**

Mayor Kevin Johnston

**Glenwood**

Council Member John Powell

**Gould**

Mayor Essie Cableton  
Recorder/Treasurer Sheila Mangrum  
Council Member Samuel King

**Grady**

Mayor Charles Knight  
Recorder/Treasurer Lynley Powell  
Council Member Marilyn Cobb Taggart  
Council Member Kelvin Hegwood  
Council Member Robert Scott

**Gravette**

Mayor Kurt Maddox  
City Attorney David Bailey  
Police Chief Chuck Skaggs  
Code Enforcement Officer David Keck  
Finance Director Carl Rabey  
Street Superintendent Tim Dewitt

**Green Forest**

Mayor Charles Reece  
Police Chief John Bailey  
Director of Public Works Buddy Fry  
Planning Commissioner Nestor Rivera

**Greenbrier**

Mayor Sammy Hartwick

**Greenland**

Mayor Bill Groom  
Planning Commissioner Charlotte Carnes  
Planning Commissioner Brenda Reynolds

**Greenwood**

Mayor Doug Kinslow  
Clerk/Treasurer Sharla Derry  
Assistant to Mayor Tammy Briley  
Finance Director Thomas Marsh  
Parks, Recreation Dir. Nathan Neighbors  
Planning Director Sonny Bell  
Street Superintendent Simon Wiley

**Guy**

Mayor Sam Higdon



**Hamburg**

Mayor Dane Weindorf  
Clerk/Treasurer Peggy Akers  
Council Member Daniel Shelton

**Hardy**

Mayor Jason Jackson

**Harrisburg**

Mayor Randy Mills  
City Clerk June Long  
Assistant to Mayor Johnetta Privett  
Water & Gas Department Nathan Pierce  
Water Superintendent Jimmy Chatman

**Harrison**

Mayor Dan Sherrell  
Council Member Chris Head

**Hartman**

Mayor Rita Griffin

**Haskell**

Recorder/Treasurer Jennifer Hill  
Council Member Rhonda Terry  
Council Member Dallas Wright

**Hatfield**

Mayor Linda Denton

**Heber Springs**

Mayor Jimmy Clark  
City Treasurer David Gibbs  
City Attorney Terry Lynn  
Council Member Chris Foster  
Council Member Jim Lay  
Council Member Paul Muse  
Council Member Paula Sporn  
Council Member Ali Sugg  
Council Member Sharon Williams  
Assistant to Mayor Lesa Jernigan  
Director of Public Works Scott Habbley

**Helena-West Helena**

Mayor Jay Hollowell  
City Treasurer Derrick Turner  
City Attorney Andre Valley  
Police Chief Patrick Smith  
Council Member Don Etherly  
Council Member Ever Jean Ford  
Council Member Christopher Franklin  
Council Member Vivian Holder  
Council Member John Huff  
Assistant to Mayor Helen Halbert  
Director of Landfill Bob Gaston  
Street Superintendent Oscar Hoskin

**Hermitage**

Administrative Assistant Angela Dawson

**Highfill**

Assistant to Mayor Valerie Davenport

**Highland**

Mayor Russell Truitt  
Council Member Mary Jo Morris

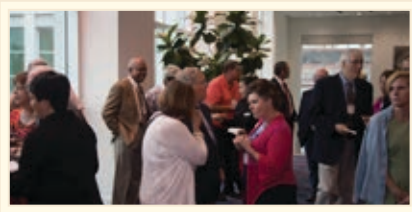


**Holland**

Recorder/Treasurer Benjamin Damron  
 Parks & Recreation Director Megan Damron

**Hope**

City Manager Catherine Cook  
 City Director Mark Ross  
 Customer Service Supervisor Jodi Perkins

**Hope Water & Light**

Assistant G.M. Charlotte Bradley

**Horseshoe Bend**

Council Member John Grochowski

**Hot Springs**

Mayor Pat McCabe  
 City Clerk/Assistant City Manager Lance Spicer  
 City Attorney Brian Albright  
 City Director Becca Clark  
 City Director Randy Fale  
 City Director Karen Garcia  
 City Director Elaine Jones  
 City Director Larry Williams  
 Deputy City Manager Bill Burrough

**Huntsville**

Recorder/Treasurer Janice Smith  
 City Attorney Howard Cain, Jr.  
 Economic Dev. Director Nancy Marsh  
 Street Superintendent James Sisk

**Huttig**

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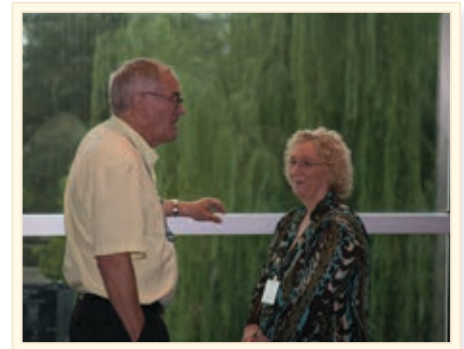
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417-236-0112  
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## **Arkansas Association of Development Organizations**

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www.arkansaseconomicregions.org

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# More than 300 City Officials from across America convene in Little Rock for NLC Leadership Meeting

More than 300 officials from 39 states gathered June 25-27 in Little Rock for the National League of Cities (NLC) Summer Board and Leadership Meeting and NLC University Leadership Forum. Groups meeting over the course of the three-day event included NLC's board of directors, the seven federal advocacy committees, and member councils. At a June 27 press event, NLC released new research on the future of work, analyzing how technology, trade and shifting demographics are shaping the modern American workforce. At the press event, Federal Communications Commissioner (FCC) Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel joined local officials at the Little Rock Technology Park, where she discussed the federal-local partnership to support the nationwide deployment of next-generation broadband technologies.



NLC President and Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola welcomes city leaders from across the country to Arkansas's capital city.

“The city of Little Rock is proud to welcome the hundreds of city officials in town for the National League of Cities meeting this week as we chart a path forward on the biggest issues facing America's cities,” said NLC President Mark Stodola, mayor of Little Rock. “This week is significant for the city of Little Rock, not only because the NLC is advancing their national municipal

policy here in our city, but it's also good for our local economy. The economic impact of the NLC being here is nearly \$500,000.”

In addition to governance activities, NLC's board of directors voted on a resolution calling on Congress and the administration to make sure that federal funding disbursed to states for opioid prevention

and treatment makes its way to local programs. In 2016, NLC and the National Association of Counties (NACo) created the National City-County Task Force on the Opioid Epidemic to provide policy recommendations to address the nation's opioid and heroin abuse crisis. Mayor Stodola and Gary Moore, judge/executive of Boone County, Ky., chaired the task force.

For the first time ever, NLC University held a forum in conjunction with the Summer Board and Leadership Meeting. The forum, entitled “Leading Through Disruption,” provided almost 100 city leaders with training on how to deal with the everyday challenges of change, including fostering strong communities and advocating for local priorities on the state and federal levels. National experts including Results for America; The Intersector Project; former councilmember and leadership expert Malcom Chapman; and communications strategist and founder of the Tom Sawyer Company, Carolyn Sawyer, led the training.

The next major NLC convening will be the organization's annual City Summit, taking place Nov. 7-10 in Los Angeles. More than 4,000 city leaders are expected to attend to collaborate on solutions to the common challenges facing America's cities. 🏛️



FCC Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel.



PHOTOS COURTESY NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES.

The NLC board of directors meets in Little Rock in June.

# NLC report forecasts future of work, which jobs will be automated

**L**ITTLE ROCK—The National League of Cities (NLC) on June 27 released a new report, “Assessing the Future of Our Work: Automation and the Role of Cities,” which analyzes the potential impact of jobs and skillsets most and least at risk of disappearing due to automation, and presents recommendations for cities.

The report was released at a media event at the Little Rock Technology Park and Venture Center, which opened in 2017. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel also spoke at the event, discussing the local leadership needed to support the nationwide deployment of next-generation broadband technologies.

Focusing ways in which cities can ensure the workforce remains human-focused has been a priority this year for NLC President and Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola.

“As president of the National League of Cities, my goal is to help city leaders build stronger communities,” Stodola said. “One of the biggest challenges—and greatest opportunities—that we have as local officials is preparing our cities for the future of work. Because it is in cities where we find the leadership and innovation required to do so.”

The report found the most secure occupations (those that are less than 30 percent automatable) include managerial and supervisory positions. Meanwhile, occupations that are most at risk (those that are more than 70 percent automatable) are the ones that pay poorly, are compensated hourly, and are generally physically demanding. The research analyzes occupations that are growing between now and 2026 in order to demonstrate how many of these are in areas that will likely be automated versus those that will not.

The research also takes a skills-based assessment and presents options for career paths that people can take from highly automatable jobs to less automatable, more human-centered work. This analysis of potential job pathways is also incredibly important as nearly a quarter of American workers are currently working below their skill level.

Cities that will fare best in this new economy are those that invest in a diverse mix of occupations that make them less vulnerable to industry changes, as well as educational opportunities that match the needs of employers. The report highlights examples from cities


that include Boston, Mass.; Minneapolis, Minn.; and Richmond, Va.

“The ‘future’ of work is now, and we are already feeling the effects of these changes,” said Brooks Rainwater, senior executive and director of NLC’s Center for City Solutions. “There needs to be a stronger focus on soft skills in the workforce, up-skilling people for the jobs of tomorrow, and exploring far-reaching income support solutions. At the end of the day, this story is about people, and what we need to do to ensure that every American has access to a fulfilling, good-paying job that puts food on the table.”

Key recommendations for city leaders from the report include:

- Looking beyond job placement towards income mobility and economic stability.
- Drawing on available federal resources like TAACCCT, WIF, and CTE.
- Considering ways to match the demands of their local industries with the skillsets of their populations.
- Rethinking education and workforce training programs to meet constantly changing employer needs.
- Working to create policies that build pathways between post-secondary education institutions and their business communities.
- Ensuring that business development programs consider equity.
- Exploring and implementing programs and pilots that go beyond the traditional mix of workforce support.

NLC’s future of work initiative focuses on workforce development in three key areas: technology and innovation; pathways to success, meaning that we need to make sure our education system is equipped to handle these changes; and equity and inclusion in the workforce.

To read or download the full NLC report online, go to [nlc.org/research-publications](http://nlc.org/research-publications). 



# Hot Springs connects cultures through art

By Sherman Banks

Hot Springs has held its first artist exchange with sister city Hanamaki, Japan. The Hot Springs National Park Sister City Foundation hosted the exchange.

Takuya “Taku” Onozaki was the first artist to arrive in Hot Springs in April of this year, and he spent one month working and visiting in the city. Back home Onozaki is a facilitator at the Rumbini Museum Art, which is dedicated to supporting disabled persons in Hanamaki. His artwork features abstract oil paintings and finely etched painted pieces. The exchange gave the public an opportunity to view his works and meet the artist during his stay.



Japanese artist Taku Onozaki of Hanamaki, Hot Springs' sister city, shares techniques with local artists at Abilities Unlimited during his monthlong stay in Arkansas as part of an artist exchange program between the two cities.

Hot Springs artist Gary Simmons and Onozaki had their art featured in an April exhibit in Hot Springs Village sponsored by Lifelong Learning Institute. To further exhibit the culture of and art of Hanamaki, Onozaki featured his works during Arts at the Park at Emergent Arts, where visitors witnessed a live demonstration and studio tours. Workshops were also held at Abilities Unlimited and First Step, where he lead participants using techniques that he uses in working at Rumbini.

In June, Hot Springs artist Erin Holliday traveled to Hanamaki to represent Hot Springs on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of their sister city relationship.

“I hope that this exchange will be the beginning of an ongoing artist exchange between Hot Springs and Hanamaki and I am excited to represent my community in Japan,” Holliday said. “I am also very interested in discovering how my creative process, aesthetic,

and narrative may change as a result of my time in Hanamaki.”

Upon Holliday’s return from Hanamaki she will share her experience with the Hot Springs arts community through her work at Emergent Arts. She is also expected to create a piece of artwork inspired by her experience in Japan to present to the city of Hanamaki as part of the continuing celebration of the 25th anniversary between the two cities.



Hot Springs artist Erin Holliday, at right, demonstrates weaving techniques during a June visit to Japan as part of the exchange program.

As city and town leaders, I would like for you to look at sister cities as an opportunity to share positive exposure to culture and education with your citizens. This is how we may bridge the gap of distrust and misunderstanding among people and cultures. Hot Springs has a 25-year history of living the dream of President Eisenhower, who founded sister cities with the concept of “one individual, one community at a time.”



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

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# Paragould cuts ribbon on new emergency services center

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

Paragould city leaders, Greene County officials, public safety officers, and citizens celebrated the opening of the city's new Emergency Services 911 Center with a ribbon cutting on June 21. The center will handle dispatching for the city and all of Greene County, including all local fire departments and hospitals, Paragould Mayor Mike Gaskill said.

"The idea behind this is so that if any emergency situation happens in Greene County, we'll be able to dispatch with the equipment that we have and we'll be able to help whomever it is," he said. "We'll be able to make sure our people get there as quickly as possible."

The core of the building is the tornado-proof and bulletproof dispatch room. It can handle up to 300-mph winds and keep the employees safe, Gaskill said.

"This building is going to protect the dispatchers for all the time that they're here," he said.

The center is currently set up with four dispatch stations. It was designed to be large enough to accommodate nine stations should the city need to expand.

The center also features office space, a conference room, and a shower for workers who might have to stay for an extended time at the center during an emergency event.

The new center is something the city has needed for a long time, the mayor said. Emergency services had been operating out of a room at city hall.



After more than two years of planning and construction, Paragould's new emergency services dispatch center is ready to help protect the residents of the city and the region.

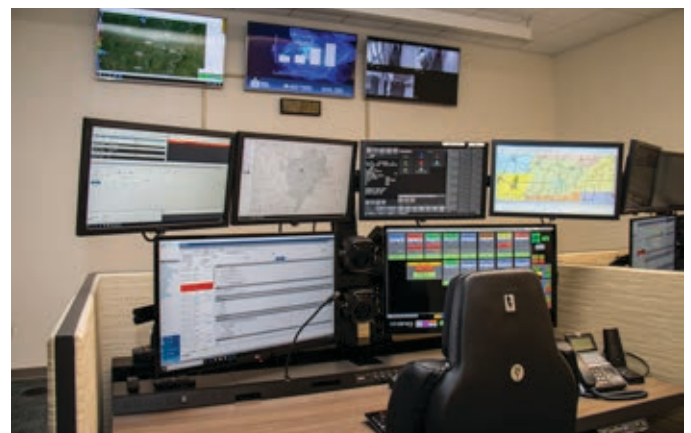
The property on which the building sits was donated two years ago by a citizen, Gaskill said, and the city has since purchased another piece of land beside the building to accommodate for any needed future expansion.

The city was fortunate to have the reserve funds to be able to build the dispatch center without raising additional taxes, Gaskill said. He estimated the city spent about \$1.2 million on the construction and another \$1 million on the dispatch equipment.

"It's been a pretty expensive thing that we've done," Gaskill said, "but we wanted something that would last 50 years." 🏛️



Paragould Mayor Mike Gaskill, center, along with city and county leaders from across Greene County, cuts the ribbon on the city's new emergency services center.



The center features four dispatch stations to serve the entire county, but it has room to expand to nine stations if needed.

# Summaries of Attorney General Opinions

Recent opinions that affect municipal government in Arkansas

From the Office of Attorney General Leslie Rutledge

## Participation via conference call allowed for committee meetings

Opinion: 2018-017

Requestor: Ken Casady, prosecuting attorney, 22nd Judicial District

Would a city's procedural rules that allow city council members to participate in committee meetings by conference call violate state law? **RESPONSE:** No, based on the described rules, which would allow members of

the public in attendance at the meeting to hear the voices of those council members who are present by conference call. It is permissible under the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) for a governing body to have a meeting by telephone conference if there is some means of ensuring that members of the public in attendance can hear the conversation. And I have found no other provision of state law that would prohibit the proposed rules you have generally described.

To find and read full Attorney General opinions online, go to [www.arkansasag.gov/arkansas-lawyer/opinions-department/opinions-search](http://www.arkansasag.gov/arkansas-lawyer/opinions-department/opinions-search).

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**July 26-28**

39th Cave City Watermelon Festival

**Cave City**

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**July 28**

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## MEETING CALENDAR

**November 7-10, 2018**

**National League of Cities  
City Summit**

Los Angeles, CA

**January 16-18, 2019**

**Arkansas Municipal League  
2019 Winter Conference**

Statehouse Convention Center  
Little Rock, AR

# Egypt's new police chief prioritizes drug arrests



Egypt Police Chief Gerald Goza has drug traffickers thinking twice before coming through the northeast Arkansas town.

PHOTO BY DAVID TALLEY, THE JONESBORO SUN.

Egypt's new Police Chief Gerald Goza has worked to curb drug trafficking in the northeastern Arkansas town.

By David Talley

**W**hen Joy Lingo built a home in Egypt in 1979, the town was quiet. With a church and the homes of several families nearby, she thought it would stay that way. But the rising tide of narcotics abuse in Arkansas hasn't spared the small town.

Across the state, drug use has become more prevalent.

In Egypt, those who sought to traffic illegal substances have taken advantage of its location away from major highways and, over time, Lingo watched neighbors' homes become places she wouldn't let her kids walk by.

"We've had the neatest little public park, but it got to where people didn't want to let their kids go down there because people were pulling in and doing their drug deals," she said. "It's obvious from the traffic there, and the paraphernalia that's been found by children."

The town's small police force would chase the traffickers and dealers, but, after time, criminals learned when the cops worked and when they were off duty, meaning the drug flow in and through town could go on uninterrupted. The town hasn't been able to pay officers to work as much as the job requires, leaving them unable to work certain hours when known criminals could be active.

Lingo said that changed late last year when the town hired Gerald Goza as police chief. Goza is the three-man department's only full-time employee, but he started the job working an uneven schedule—alternating days and hours to keep traffickers on their toes.

"He came in with a passion for drug enforcement," Lingo said.

The strategy, coupled with a stricter crackdown on users and dealers, helped the department see early



success. By Goza's count, they've made 10 major stops since he took over, the *Jonesboro Sun* reported.

"I've found meth and ecstasy and marijuana," he said. "It's an ongoing problem everywhere, but I think people are coming through these small towns to avoid the bigger towns and their cops.

"Those stops are drugs and paraphernalia," he said, laying out a set of photos of the contraband on a table at the police station.

The photos will be used in court, where the department has vowed to make every effort to make sure offenders are charged to the fullest extent of the law.

"When I took over as chief, one of my goals was drugs," Goza said. "It's zero-tolerance to any type of drugs coming through Egypt. I don't bend on drugs. If anyone comes through, and they've got a pipe or any drugs, I don't bend on it. We're going to charge them."

And those stops have helped with lingering issues in the rest of the town, Lingo said.

"We just don't see it as much anymore," she said. "I'm not going to say it's all gone, but it's been cleaned up."

Part of that is due to the department's schedule, Goza said, which now keeps an officer on call just about 24/7. But a bigger part is the attitude of the town's 130 residents.

In his time as chief, Goza said he's seen support for policing in the town increase. That includes residents watching his back while he's out on a traffic stop and taking part however they can in his stakeouts.

"I can park in just about anybody's driveway because they appreciate the police being here," he said. "They want their town back."

It's a group effort Goza said, citing help the town has received from the Craighead County Sheriff's Office, police from nearby Bono, and the Second Judicial District Drug Task Force.

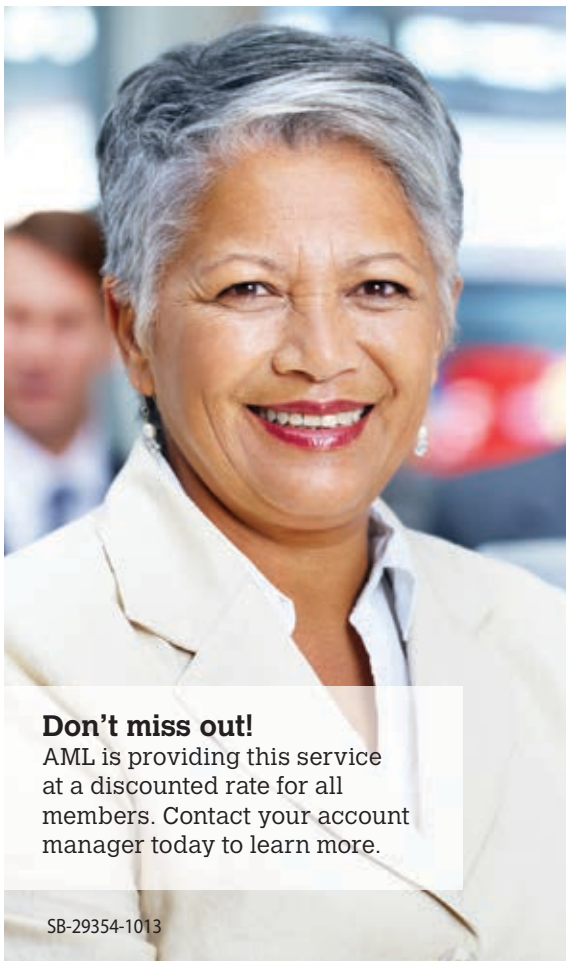
On a late spring afternoon at the public park in Egypt, kids were playing. That's becoming a more common sight, Lingo said, with several of the larger traffickers either behind bars or hesitant to return to Egypt.

"I think the word's gotten out that Egypt isn't a free run anymore," she said. "You never know when [Goza's] going to be out on patrol."

It's a big war for a small town to fight, but, Goza said, Lingo can say, "not here."

"There's not ever going to be a win [on drugs]," he said. "As long as people are on them, there's not going to be a win. But we can deter what comes through our town. The people will take back their town."

*This article appeared originally in The Jonesboro Sun and is reprinted with permission.*



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PHOTO BY IAN BEEBE.

Not all tiny houses meet HUD's, the state's, or your city's building code.

## Reviewing basics can't hurt, might help

By Jim von Tungeln

From conversations with attendees at the League's 84th Convention in June, it seems that a few words on the basics of urban planning bear mentioning. Even professional planners and sophisticated city staff might benefit. City attorneys might also appreciate staff taking a review of some sticky points. It could make an attorney's job easier.

First, knowledgeable professionals and legal experts tell us that the planning function in local government rests on the legally defensible intent to protect the health, safety, welfare, and morals of the community. This is particularly important in light of the so-called "takings" provision that is now a part of the legal structure of planning.

As we know, this adds a potential penalty for cities that enforce zoning laws that are outside the police power of the community. When such zoning regulations have the effect of lowering property values, the city may be in peril. Anyone not familiar with this provision should consult their city attorney immediately.

Next, there are recent statutes governing the manner in which a city annexes property by any of the four ways open to them. The League publishes a handbook on

annexations that covers these laws, and the League's legal staff can provide additional insight.

Questions from our planning commissioners and elected officials indicate that there may be some confusion about the term "modular" housing. The answer to this is fairly simple: There really isn't any reason to use the term anymore. Some builders try to use the term to confuse issues associated with so-called "tiny homes." Don't let them.

As regards manufactured homes, they exist under a special building code established and enforced by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The HUD code is the only one allowed to govern the construction of manufactured homes. A city may not preempt that code with any other. Thus, a manufactured home is one built in a factory under the provisions of HUD's code. It may comprise a single section or multiple sections built using steel beams, with wheels under each section. The wheels and axles are generally removed upon setup.

What is a "mobile" home? Although commonly interchanged with the term manufactured home, a mobile home is specifically defined as a factory-built

home on wheels built before the HUD code went into effect in 1976, and not built in compliance with it. Such units are seldom transported these days. A city may, however, prohibit their placement within its boundaries, unlike manufactured homes. A city that enforces zoning must make provisions for manufactured homes on single lots.

So what is a modular home? This is a somewhat outdated term used to describe homes or components of homes built in factories but, when shipped to your city and assembled, meet the provisions of your building code. In essence, a home placed or built in your city must meet one of three codes. The first is, as mentioned, the HUD code for manufacture homes. The second is the residential component of the Arkansas State Fire Code. The third is a specialized code adopted by your city, one that meets the minimum requirements of the Arkansas State Fire Code but may contain supplemental or additional regulations. These must be more stringent requirements that don't negatively affect the provisions of the basic residential fire code.

Notice that recreational vehicles (RVs) meet none of these codes and are not eligible for use as permanent residences in your city, nor are packing crates, moving containers, or storage buildings with windows and curtains.

Finally, and on a different topic, several cities have inquired about the cost and process of having an updated zoning map prepared. There is some good news, some warnings, and some confusion about this.

First, many cities have lost track of where their corporate limits should be. The news about this is that a city's official corporate limits are those currently on file with the Arkansas Geographic Information Office. A city that doesn't agree with what that office has can take steps to correct the information.

Warning: This may be a tedious or even expensive process. Annexation ordinances of the past have sometimes been vague and inaccurate. "To a point one-half mile due north of Chidester's barn" is not a well-defined bearing.

Second, and probably more commonly, paperwork gets lost in the custodial/approval chain from county court, to city council, to county clerk, to secretary of state, to the AGIO.

The good news is that producing maps has become much easier in the Internet Age. What used to require days of painstaking drafting now might require a few clicks on a computer keyboard. A city must understand, though, that computer-generated maps can be, as our surveyor friends tell us, highly precise but not particularly accurate. That is to say that the dimension of a line may be carried out to six digits, but the line may be useless if it is not in the right place.

For many cities, surveyors produced maps depicting lots and blocks at some point in the past. If these have been digitized and updated, they serve well as a basis for a zoning map. If the county assessor's office has completed digitizing tax parcels, these can be placed within zoning districts. Then the zoning classification of individual properties can be recalled at the push of a button.

Warning: These parcels can change through real estate transactions and their use in zoning maps will require careful monitoring.

If no or little digitized information is available, zoning district lines must be estimated and any standards applied for their location included. For example, a note specifying a zoning district line as "600 feet from the street right-of-way line or the limits of the property fronting the street, whichever is least" may allow accurate location of district lines.

The most important fact about zoning maps, however, regards their purpose. The zoning map, along with its accompanying text, exists for the purpose of carrying out or protecting a future land use plan formally adopted by the planning commission. Without such plan, use of the zoning map is questionable. A city should seek competent legal advice in the absence of a plan, or when the existing plan is quite old. It is not unusual to see a small community produce a plan adopted in the 1960s. America and its cities have changed since then.

The production of a new zoning map can become a costly process. It may require a broader effort than a simple update of an old map despite the fact that the mechanics of production have become simpler with computers. The Arkansas Geographic Information Office provides valuable data, as may the county assessor's office. These must be used, however, within the structure of the state's planning statutes.

In short, nothing is simple in the administration of local government. In fact, it grows more complicated each year. That is why our cities are fortunate to have such fine leaders, and the assistance provided by the Arkansas Municipal League.

Thanks to old friend, respected planner, and colleague Rob Middleton for assistance in producing this column.



*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. Persons having comments or questions may reach him at (501) 944-3649. His email is [uplan@swbell.net](mailto:uplan@swbell.net).*

# Conference teaches tips for small-scale development

By Shelby Fiegel

The UCA Small Developer Conference, held May 31 in Conway, provided participants with a “big-picture view” of small-scale real estate development.

“We all need places to: earn a living, learn a skill, share a meal, be a kid, and live your life,” said Matthew Petty, principal at the Infill Group and a Fayetteville city council member.

Petty and Allison Thurmond Quinlan, principal of Flintlock Architecture and Landscape, led the conference. Both are faculty members of the Incremental Development Alliance.

Small-scale development is important to Arkansas communities because it promotes infill development, eliminating sprawl that puts a strain on city services. When communities invest in creating a strong small development ecosystem they create a more resilient tax base that includes more tax revenue, wealth retention, and adaptable neighborhoods.



Allison Thurmond Quinlan works with participants at the recent UCA Small Developer Conference

Courtney Dunn, who is executive assistant and website administrator for the city of Maumelle, had some strong takeaways from the conference.

“It was helpful to hear the obstacles that developers can face when interacting with city government,” she said. “I learned that great things can happen when working together with a shared love of a community.”

Development needs are different in every community; in some areas there is a great need for infill projects on empty lots, in others there are homes that hold potential but need rehab, and in many areas affordable housing is desperately needed. Across our state there is a need for small developers who love their community and are willing to take on some risk because they realize that in most cases no one from the outside is going to come and fill in gaps in their neighborhoods.

There are many factors that go into creating a successful environment for small-scale development and becoming a small-scale developer, but Petty and Quinlan shared a few tips for people interested in pursuing small development:

- Understand key truths of small-scale development. Remember: Small scale equals small risk. Focus on small projects to reduce your risk. Plan for repeatability and create a development plan that can be used for several projects. To successfully revitalize our cities, we need to take development step by step and grow slow and steady. Most importantly, don’t fall in love with projects.
- Do your due diligence. Do your homework and don’t leave anything to luck. Even though it may be difficult, always be ready to walk away. Survey the property you are considering and inspect major systems. Sometimes estimates are wrong. Know how wrong.
- Leverage your strengths. You may lack certain skills and knowledge, but don’t try to learn everything all at once. To ease the learning curve, start out by taking on minimum viable projects. Also, be willing to share the strengths you do have, and reach out for help from others when you need it.

“Arkansas cities need more small-scale development because that’s how the best parts of all our cities will be built,” Petty said. “It brings in more tax revenue and the infrastructure costs less to maintain for the same amount of land. Our oldest neighborhoods, squares, and Main Streets were built one parcel at a time by many individuals. If we can change our laws to lower barriers to small-scale development, all of our cities will get stronger.”



Smaller scale means smaller risk, Matthew Petty, a Fayetteville City Council member and principal of the Infill Group, told conference goers.

Every city wants to create unique places their citizens are proud of and their visitors want to experience. Cities can strategically use small-scale development to connect people to the places they want to be. When this happens, cities see increased economic vitality. Quality of place is becoming more important when determining the success of our cities and towns, and small-scale development is a significant part of creating that place and improving our quality of life.



Shelby Fiegel is the assistant director of the Center for Community and Economic Development at the University of Central Arkansas. Contact her at [sfiegel@uca.edu](mailto:sfiegel@uca.edu) or (501) 450-5269.

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

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# AHPP awards more than \$2.9 million in preservation grants

The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage, has awarded more than \$2.9 million in grants for projects 47 Arkansas counties through its Historic Preservation Restoration Grant and Main Street Downtown Revitalization Grant programs, the agency has announced.

Twenty-nine projects shared \$874,795 in Historic Preservation Restoration Grants to rehabilitate buildings listed on the Arkansas or National Registers of Historic Places and owned by local governments or nonprofit organizations. Municipal recipients of the grants, amounts, and properties to be restored include:

- Arkadelphia, \$19,333 for roof restoration at the Missouri-Pacific Depot.
- Eureka Springs, \$9,999 for documentation and restoration at the Eureka Springs Cemetery.
- Highfill, \$20,000 for roof restoration at the Highfill Community Center.
- Little Rock, \$63,333 for roof and masonry restoration at the Oakland and Fraternal Cemetery Mausoleum.
- Nashville, \$10,000 for restoration at the American Legion Building.
- Osceola, \$39,757 structural frame restoration at the Coston Building.
- Paris, \$10,000 for HVAC and electrical upgrades at the American Legion Hut.
- Paragould, \$20,000 for roof restoration at the Linwood Mausoleum.
- Rogers, \$16,667 for window restoration at the Victory Theater.
- Stephens, \$67,000 for wood-deck restoration on the Arkansas Highway 57 Bridge.
- Warren, \$50,000 for HVAC and to make the former Warren and Ouachita Railway Station accessible to all.

Twenty-one Main Street Arkansas programs shared \$315,000 in Downtown Revitalization Grants, which are funded through the state Real Estate Transfer Tax and are available to accredited Main Street programs for building rehabilitations, parks, streetscape improvements, and other design-related projects that will have major long-term impacts in the local Main Street area.

Main Street programs in Batesville, Blytheville, Dumas, El Dorado, Eureka Springs, Helena-West Helena, Osceola, Ozark, Paragould, Rogers, Russellville, Searcy, Siloam Springs, Texarkana, West Memphis, the Conway Downtown Partnership, Downtown Little Rock Partnership, Downtown Jonesboro Association, Southside Main Street Project, Pine Bluff Downtown Development, and the Argenta Downtown Council in North Little Rock each received \$15,000 grants through the program.

An additional \$18,000 in Downtown Revitalization Grants was awarded to cities involved in Main Street's Arkansas Downtown Network. Grants of \$1,000 each were awarded to the programs in Arkadelphia, Clarksville, Forrest City, Fort Smith, Hardy, Heber Springs, Hope, Malvern, Mena, Monticello, Morrilton, Newport, Paris, Pocahontas, Prairie Grove, Rector, Warren, and Wynne.

For more information on AHPP grant programs, write the agency at 1500 North Street, Little Rock, AR 72201; call (501) 324-9880; email [info@arkansaspreservation.org](mailto:info@arkansaspreservation.org); or visit [www.arkansaspreservation.org](http://www.arkansaspreservation.org).





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# Big is as big does

By Chad Gallagher

**P**retty is as pretty does. That was a favorite saying of my grandmother's. She was right. True beauty is found in our actions, not our appearance.

I think the same can be said of being "big." I found it so appropriate that to Don Zimmerman's family and grandchildren, he was their "Big" or "Biggie." It was an extraordinarily fitting term of endearment that reflected the life of Don Zimmerman. Don was big. He was big in life, big in service, and his legacy is far reaching.

I met Don Zimmerman in 1998 when I was a candidate for mayor of De Queen. I was 22 years old at the time. Don treated me with respect and kindness and it took no time at all for me to realize why every municipal and state official respected him. While serving as the mayor, Don became a friend and a valuable voice of counsel and guidance.

Don treated each elected official with respect and honor, regardless of the size town they led. He said more than once that holding elected office at the local level has one of the most upside down ratios of investment and return. Most doing so are underpaid and underappreciated, yet they are the unsung heroes of Arkansas. It's the government that's closest to the people, the most accountable, and the most productive. Don deeply respected the love these officials have for their communities and their willingness to serve. He built this ethos into the operations of the Arkansas Municipal League. I see it in interacting with the League staff that every team member truly believes it is an honor to serve the state's cities.

After I left city hall and became the political director for former Gov. Mike Huckabee, my previous experience meant that I was also responsible for handling issues regarding municipalities and counties. This gave me a front row seat to watch Don and his team at work at the Capitol on behalf of Arkansas cities and allowed me to work closely with him as he labored to resolve any problem brought to his attention by a mayor. I don't know if the halls of the Capitol will ever have a duo as powerful as Mark Hayes and Don Zimmerman working together for cities. It became a real honor for me when years later I was able to also help on occasion with the League's legislative work.

When Gov. Huckabee's term ended, I followed my dream of launching my own consulting company, and one of the things I wanted to do was help cities and towns with economic development, community projects, and securing grants. I had learned firsthand as a mayor how helpful grants could be for a city. I brought this

idea to Don in 2007 and he immediately endorsed the concept. After a few months of talking through how it might work best, we presented the idea to the executive committee and have been helping cities and towns with grants and projects ever since.

Don was always looking for ways the League could better serve its members. It's the reason he created other extraordinary programs for its members, such as the Municipal Legal Defense Program, the Municipal Health Benefit Fund, Municipal Vehicle Program, and more. These programs are the result of Don seeking innovative ways to help the members.

Don understood the importance of grants. His first paying job with the League was in pursuing grant funds through the federal Great Society programs. I asked Don at least a dozen times to let me write about that in this space. He didn't like that idea, however, always saying that he hated for us to use space talking about him and that there's no need for us to do anything that seemed like we were bragging on his accomplishments or work. He was big in that way. Big people don't need the spotlight, nor do they seek it.

Over the years, we not only interacted with Don, but also with his wife, Jan, who has become a dear friend to us. She handled our real estate needs, took our daughters for milkshakes, and with Don extended friendship and generosity well beyond the call of duty. They're big that way.

No hyperbole is necessary when trying to state the impact Don has had on municipal government in Arkansas. He wrote the book, drafted the statutes, and solved the problems. His efforts won him accolades across the country. He took the Arkansas Municipal League from a small service organization to what is considered by many to be the nation's most progressive, well-built, and successful league. It's a model to other states. It's the template they follow. It was a vision that he not only birthed but executed. He was a visionary, in a big kind of way.

Don was a gentleman, and I know my story is just one of thousands of the kindness he extended to so many. He made us all feel big, and that is no small task.



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





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# States and local governments win online sales tax case

By Lisa Soronen

In *South Dakota v. Wayfair* the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that states and local governments can require vendors with no physical presence in the state to collect sales tax in some circumstances. In a 5-4 decision, the Court concluded that Wayfair's "economic and virtual contacts" with South Dakota are enough to create a "substantial nexus" with the state allowing it to require collection.

As the Court pointed out in its majority opinion, it is estimated states and local governments lose between \$8-\$33 billion annually because they haven't been able to collect sales tax owed on purchases from out-of-state sellers.

As a result of this decision, state legislatures are likely to pass laws like South Dakota's, if they haven't already.

In the 1967 case *National Bellas Hess v. Department of Revenue of Illinois*, the Supreme Court held that per its Commerce Clause jurisprudence, states and local governments cannot require businesses to collect sales tax unless the business has a physical presence in the state.

Twenty-five years later in *Quill v. North Dakota* (1992), the Supreme Court reaffirmed the physical presence requirement but admitted that "contemporary

Commerce Clause jurisprudence might not dictate the same result" as the Court had reached in *Bellas Hess*.

Customers buying from remote sellers still owe sales tax, but they rarely pay it when the remote seller does not collect it. Congress had the authority to create a solution that would overrule *Bellas Hess* and *Quill* but never did so.

In March 2015 Justice Kennedy wrote a concurring opinion stating that the "legal system should find an appropriate case for this Court to reexamine *Quill*." Justice Kennedy criticized *Quill* in *Direct Marketing Association v. Brohl* for many of the same reasons the State and Local Legal Center (SLLC) stated in its amicus brief in that case. Specifically, Internet sales have risen astronomically since 1992 and states and local governments had been unable to collect most taxes due on sales from out-of-state vendors.

Following the 2015 Kennedy opinion a number of state legislatures passed laws requiring remote vendors to collect sales tax in order to challenge *Quill*. South Dakota's law was the first ready for Supreme Court review. It requires out-of-state retailers to collect sales tax if they annually conduct \$100,000 worth of business or 200 separate transactions in South Dakota.

*South Dakota v. Wayfair* was a nail biter. After oral argument it looked like South Dakota had four votes: Justices Kennedy, Ginsburg, Gorsuch, and Thomas (who has long since disavowed dormant Commerce Clause jurisprudence). Justice Alito provided the fifth vote to overturn *Quill*—perhaps in part because he was going to write an opinion overturning union dues precedent a week later.

In an opinion written by Justice Kennedy the Court offered three reasons for why it was overruling *Quill* and abandoning the physical presence rule. “First, the physical presence rule is not a necessary interpretation of the requirement that a state tax must be ‘applied to an activity with a substantial nexus with the taxing State.’ Second, *Quill* creates rather than resolves market distortions. And third, *Quill* imposes the sort of arbitrary, formalistic distinction that the Court’s modern Commerce Clause precedents disavow.”

Overturning precedent isn’t something the Supreme Court does often or lightly. But the Court noted the Internet’s “prevalence and power” have dramatically changed the national economy since 1992. The Court pointed out that in 1992, less than two percent of Americans had Internet access. Today that number is about 89 percent. In 1992, mail-order sales in the United States totaled \$180 billion. Last year, Internet retail sales were estimated at \$453.5 billion. In 1992, it was estimated that the states were losing between \$694 million and \$3 billion per year in sales tax revenues as a result of the physical presence rule. Now estimates range from \$8 to \$33 billion.

Justice Kennedy noted that 41 states, two territories, and the District of Columbia joined an amicus brief asking the Court to overturn *Quill*. It is remarkable to get so many state attorneys general from different political parties to agree to the same position on any issue.

While the dissenting Justices, in an opinion written by Chief Justice Roberts, would have left it to Congress to act, Justice Kennedy opined the Court should be “vigilant” in correcting its error. “Courts have acted as the front line of review in this limited sphere; and hence it is important that their principles be accurate and logical, whether or not Congress can or will act in response.”

The dissent also questioned whether the Court needed to act urgently given the fact that states and local governments are currently collecting approximately 80 percent of the tax revenue that would be available if there were no physical-presence rule. The dissent also criticized the majority opinion for “breezily” disregarding the costs that the decision will impose on small businesses. It noted that “[o]ver 10,000 jurisdictions levy sales taxes, each with ‘different tax rates, different

rules governing tax-exempt goods and services, different product category definitions, and different standards for determining whether an out-of-state seller has a substantial presence’ in the jurisdiction.”

Although *Wayfair* overturned precedent, it is not without limitations. In 1977 in *Complete Auto Transit v. Brady* the Supreme Court held that interstate taxes may only apply to an activity with a “substantial nexus” with the taxing state. *Quill*’s physical presence test was seen as an addition to the “substantial nexus” requirement. Post-*Quill*, the “substantial nexus” requirement remains.

The Court found a “substantial nexus” in this case based on the “economic and virtual contacts” *Wayfair* has with South Dakota. A business could not do \$100,000 worth of sales or 200 separate transactions in South Dakota “unless the seller availed itself of the substantial privilege of carrying on business in South Dakota.” “And [*Wayfair*, etc.] are large, national companies that undoubtedly maintain an extensive virtual presence.”

Finally, the Court acknowledged that questions remain whether “some other principle in the Court’s Commerce Clause doctrine might invalidate” South Dakota’s law. The Court could have (but didn’t) say that South Dakota’s law (including its small-seller exception of \$100,000 worth of business or 200 separate transactions) is constitutional in every respect and that if every state passes a law exactly like South Dakota’s they will be in the clear. Instead, the Court cited three features of South Dakota’s tax system that “appear designed to prevent discrimination against or undue burdens upon interstate commerce. First, the Act applies a safe harbor to those who transact only limited business in South Dakota. Second, the Act ensures that no obligation to remit the sales tax may be applied retroactively. Third, South Dakota is one of more than 20 States that have adopted the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement.”

In conclusion the opinion highlighted several aspects of the South Dakota tax system that may outline a successful legislative or regulatory roadmap for other states to follow including: not requiring small businesses to collect, not collecting online sales tax retroactively, and adopting a standardized tax system that reduces administrative and compliance costs.



*Lisa Soronen is the executive director of the State and Local Legal Center (SLLC), which files Supreme Court amicus curiae briefs on behalf of the Big Seven national organizations, including the National League of Cities, representing state and local governments.*

# Recognizing and treating a migraine

By Dale Carter, M.D.

**O**f course, it is the incredible pain, but it is also the blurred or spotty vision, the inability to concentrate, the irritability.

Dealing with a migraine headache is not easy and it is something millions of Americans face. According to the Migraine Research Foundation, more than 38 million people experience migraines and about two or three million have them chronically.

## What causes a migraine?

Migraines can be caused by a host of circumstances. It is all about meeting the individual threshold for a migraine. This is different for everyone. Some have a lower threshold and others have a fairly high one, but once the threshold is crossed, a migraine ensues.

Sometimes it can be caused by inadequate sleep paired with an argument at home or the office. Other times, it could be what I call “computer neck.” This occurs when too much time is spent at the computer with bad posture that can stretch the muscles in the neck.

Dramatic changes in the weather or barometric pressure can also trigger a migraine. It does not matter whether it’s cold to hot or vice versa, fast changes can bring on a migraine. Sinus infections, allergies, and any other inflammatory or infectious condition can also work to meet our individual migraine threshold.

Migraines tend to be contained to one side of the head, but if they go on long enough, the entire head can be encompassed. As a result, migraine sufferers find it hard to concentrate at work or home, they become more irritable and sensitive to light and sound. Nausea and vomiting are common with migraines.

It is possible to see one coming. A portion of migraine patients report neurological symptoms before the migraine, including spots or flashes in their vision and blurred peripheral vision. Other times, a migraine can happen with no warning at all.

## How do I treat a migraine?

The most important step if you’re experiencing frequent headaches or migraines with no relief is to seek out a headache specialist. Relying on over-the-counter medications can be a slippery slope.

No matter the medication, whether BC Powder, ibuprofen, Tylenol, Aleve, Excedrin, or another popular medication, over reliance on these drugs can end up creating a worse situation. As your resistance to the medication builds, you are forced to consume more to treat the migraine and run the risk of developing ulcers. Eventually, the medicine’s effectiveness could provide no relief.

These medications can be used sparingly, usually once a week. However, if you are experiencing two or more headaches a week, it is important to seek help. A daily preventive, such as a beta-blocker or anti-seizure medication, could help raise your threshold and stave off your migraines. Speak to a headache specialist about all your options.

## Lifestyle changes may help

Changes in your daily routine can be huge. Many are chronically dehydrated and unaware. As your body adapts to being dehydrated, your thirst receptors become less active. Drinking large amounts of coffee or soda only makes the situation worse and can trigger a migraine.

Limiting caffeine intake to about 16 ounces a day and drinking plenty of water can help avoid migraines. Obesity is another risk factor for migraines as it is usually associated with high cholesterol, high blood pressure, and other issues that can cause strain on the body and result in a migraine.

Dealing with a migraine can be a helpless feeling, but it does not have to be. Seeking out a headache specialist, in addition to certain lifestyle changes, can help you avoid migraines and enjoy life more.



*Dale Carter, M.D., is assistant professor, College of Medicine Department of Neurology, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.*

# Changes to the Directory, Arkansas Municipal Officials

Submit changes to Tricia Zello, [tzello@arml.org](mailto:tzello@arml.org).

## Allport

Delete CM Fred Coleman  
Add CM Odessia Gaston

## Batesville

Delete CM Sonya Crafton  
Add CM Julie Hinkle

## Cherokee Village

Delete CEO Mike Eash  
Add CEO Donnie Dawson

## Fisher

Delete M Homer Anschutz  
Add /A/M Debbie Jones  
Delete CM Debbie Jones  
Add CM (Vacant)

## Glenwood

Delete M Ron Martin  
Add M (Vacant)

## Havana

Delete R/T Hope Patton  
Add R/T Rebecca Phillips

## Hot Springs

Delete CR David Frasher  
Add CR (Vacant)

## Mountain Pine

Delete M Rick Petty, Sr.  
Add /A/M Tambrea Bailey  
Delete R/T Tambrea Bailey  
Add R/T Rebecca Bailey  
Add MR Miguel Hernandez  
Delete CM Larry Nevels  
Add CM Vera Nevels  
Delete E-Mail  
citymtnpine@cablelynx.com  
Add E-Mail  
mayor.bailey@yahoo.com

## Ola

Delete MTG Second Monday  
Add MTG Third Tuesday

## Redfield

Delete CM Jeremy Williams  
Add CM Daniel Travis

## Siloam Springs

Delete DR Lucas Roebuck  
Add DR Reid Carroll

## St. Francis

Delete CM Jim Smith  
Add CM Ricky George

## Vilonia

Add CM Shawntel Brown  
Delete FC (Vacant)  
Delete DPW (Vacant)



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# Greenways and trails in Arkansas

By Edwin Hankins, IV, PLA

Arkansas is on the move with a plan to improve its bicycle and pedestrian transportation systems. The Arkansas Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan, published by the Arkansas Department of Transportation, was funded in part by ARDOT, the Federal Highway Administration, and U.S. Department of Transportation. The very first iteration of this plan was published in 1998. However, in 2005 the Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodation Policy was developed by ARDOT to provide a framework for incorporating bicycle and pedestrian considerations into project development. The most recent adaptation of the plan was published in January 2017.

The plan details the development of local trail systems, making them safe for children to walk to school, and developing mountain biking venues and on-road touring routes, which are increasingly becoming high priority projects. Since the plan's inception and through the development of the Arkansas River Trail and the Razorback Regional Greenway, Arkansas is seeing a growing interest in bicycling and walking, and community planners are taking notice.

## Economic benefits

Studies from around the country demonstrate that good planning and smart investments in bicycling and walking not only provide citizens improved mobility, travel options, and personal health and fitness benefits, but also deliver



SOURCE: ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

quantifiable economic benefits at the local, regional, and state levels. Robust bicycling networks and safe walking environments have the potential to generate millions of dollars in economic benefits for Arkansans, including contributions to tax revenue.

Economic impacts are felt in many ways: by attracting workers and professionals that Arkansas needs to stay competitive, supporting growth in tourism, and generating customers for the small businesses that thrive in walkable main street environments and neighborhood commercial centers. Improved safety for bicycling and walking will reduce economic losses and health care costs related to pedestrian and automobile accidents.

More people bicycling and walking more often will also reduce health care costs related to major diseases that are linked to obesity and physical inactivity.

Furthermore, bicycling and walking for routine transportation activities can reduce energy consumption costs and other environmental impacts inherent in our motor vehicle-based transportation system.

At the local level, bicycle and pedestrian-friendly communities help attract professional talent, encourage neighborhood revival, and stimulate local economies.



The author stops for a sunset selfie on the Big Dam Bridge, part of the Arkansas River Trail system.

## Attracting professional talent

Arkansas cities are looking to attract and retain a skilled and committed workforce that includes professors, medical specialists, managers, and top executives for public and nonprofit institutions like hospitals, universities, and colleges. Moreover, the Arkansas Economic Development Commission has identified workforce development and attracting skilled employees as among the state's most pressing economic challenges.

In order to stay competitive, Arkansas must be able to attract new and expanding businesses. These businesses and institutions are looking to locate in communities where young, family-oriented, and highly skilled workers want to live. As a result, cities must invest in creating the bicycle and pedestrian-friendly spaces that these workers demand for themselves and their families.

## Reviving neighborhoods

Bicycling and walking improvements can help transform urban neighborhoods and small towns, whether along a specific corridor or in an entire downtown business district. Many Midwest cities are focusing on bicycle and pedestrian access and safety as cultural components of revitalization efforts. Arkansas cities are also embracing these strategies.

In downtown Little Rock and North Little Rock, the development of the Arkansas River Trail has created a centerpiece around which waterfront redevelopment has been stimulated on both sides of the river.

The trail and its associated bridge crossings link the Clinton Presidential Center, Heifer International Headquarters, Verizon Arena, Dickey-Stephens Park, and the Statehouse Convention Center with numerous downtown hotels, restaurants, the River Market, and Argenta Arts District. The connectivity provided by the trail system has become a major attraction for the entire Central Arkansas region. The Arkansas River waterfront regularly buzzes with pedestrians and cyclists, local strollers and tourists, lunch crowds, concertgoers, and weekend shoppers.

## Higher revenues and property values

While high quality trail systems will draw out-of-town visitors to local communities, they also have positive economic impacts by stimulating local spending and increasing property values. They meet a wide range of recreational needs because they accommodate bicycling, running and walking, and are accessible to a broad range of individual skill and endurance levels. Paved, shared-use paths like the Razorback Regional Greenway and Arkansas River Trail can be used by individuals, families, seniors, children, and people with disabilities, creating a broad market from which economic benefits are drawn.

## Tourism

Tourism is an important source of employment in Arkansas. In 2014, 8.3 percent of workers in Arkansas were employed in the leisure and hospitality sector, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Outdoor activities like cycling and walking contribute significantly to tourism activity in our state and nationally.

According to the Outdoor Industry Association, outdoor activity in Arkansas, undertaken by both local residents and tourists, generates \$10 billion in consumer spending, and directly and indirectly supports 126,000 Arkansas jobs, produces \$2.9 billion in wages and salaries, and generates \$696 million in state and local tax revenue. At least 63 percent of Arkansas residents participate in outdoor recreation each year, either in their home community or as part of a trip to another area of the state.

## Support from the Walton Family Foundation

Over the past 10 years, the Walton Family Foundation has contributed \$74 million toward the construction of 163 miles of trails in Arkansas, including the \$38 million Razorback Regional Greenway, a 37-mile shared-use paved trail that links the major cities in the northwest Arkansas region.

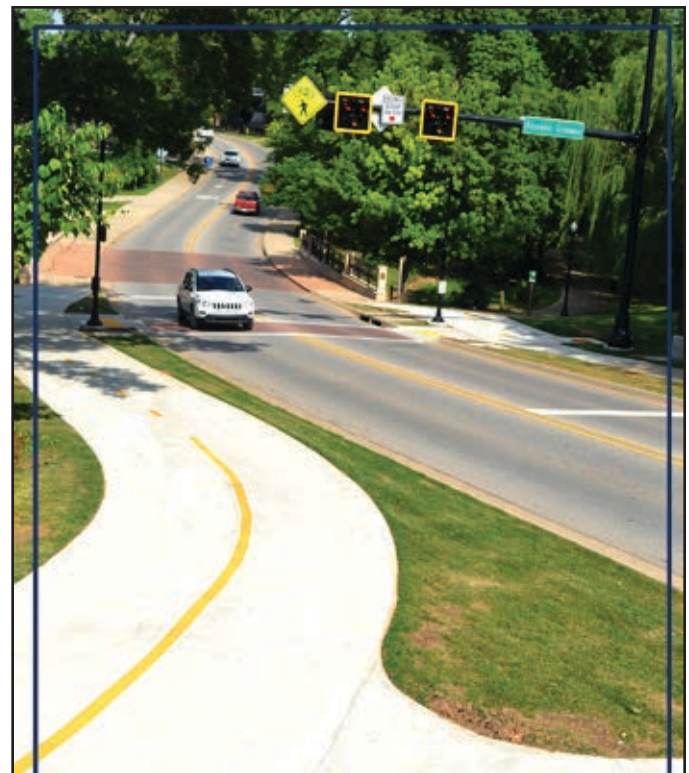
In a report, the foundation states that, “Bicycling produced an estimated \$51 million business benefit to the Northwest Arkansas economy in 2017, including \$21 million in reported household and resident spending on bicycles, bicycle goods, equipment and events, \$3 million in bicycle retail sales and retail sales taxes paid by local customers, and approximately \$27 million in tourism spending by out-of-state visitors.”

The report also notes that the trail system has contributed an estimated \$86 million in total health benefits to the local economy, including \$79 million in reduced mortality benefits and \$7 million in avoided health care costs.

As for cycling and tourism, the report states that benefits from bicycle tourism as another contributing factor for the local economy with more than 900,000 bicycle tourists having visited the region in the last year just to mountain bike.



*Edwin Hankins, IV, is a professional landscape architect and LEED® Green associate in MCE-Little Rock's office and is a member of our Land Development Team. Contact Edwin by phone at (501) 371-0272 or email him at [ehankins@mce.us.com](mailto:ehankins@mce.us.com).*



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# a'TEST celebrates 26 years of service

a'TEST will be 26 years old this fall. This is a notable milestone for any business, but, in drug testing, it means that a'TEST is as old as modern drug testing.

Congress passed the Drug-Free Workplace Act in 1988, requiring drug-free workplaces for federal employees and contractors. This was followed in 1991 with the Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act. This act required the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to implement drug testing of "safety-sensitive" transportation employees. The testing of federal employees, government contractors, and of private industry employees set the precedent for testing of persons in the workplace, and it wasn't long before non-federally-regulated testing became widespread.

During the same time period that the federal government was beginning to require drug testing, Judy Sims was the coordinator of an occupational health program at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS), and this program included drug testing for corporate clients. In 1988, Jeff Sims began working at UAMS as a technician in the newly established drug-testing lab. With this background, Judy and Jeff opened a'TEST in 1992 and became instrumental in the development of drug testing in Arkansas.

In 1988, President George H.W. Bush kicked off the national "Drugs Don't Work" campaign with a White House Rose Garden ceremony. Judy was at that Rose Garden ceremony.

In 1988, Arkansas began implementing the new federal laws. Judy was a member of the committee that developed and published the "Arkansas Drug Strategy" (1988-89), which outlined the drug-free workplace program for businesses.

Judy was an appointed member of the "Arkansas Drugs Don't Work" program committee. She was on the committee that authored the "Program and Policy Handbook," a guide for employers in developing drug-free workplaces.

Judy received a legislative appointment to the Arkansas Alcohol and Drug Abuse Coordinating Council (1987-1993), a board that was charged with statewide program administration of federal grant funding for drug treatment and prevention, education, and law enforcement.

In 1992, as DOT was preparing to implement the provisions of the Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act, DOT held a seminar in Houston where the requirements and procedures were taught by the federal

administrators for those who would become the first specimen collectors and program administrators. Jeff was there.

Judy and Jeff over the years have continued to be leaders in the industry, in Arkansas, nationally, and, in Jeff's case, internationally. Judy and Jeff were advisors to the Arkansas Workers' Compensation Commission in the development of the program requirements for the Voluntary Drug-Free Workplace program. Jeff is active in the Substance Abuse Program Administrators Association (SAPAA), serving as a board member, past governmental affairs committee member and international conference committee member, and past president. He represented SAPAA before a congressional sub-committee looking into the widespread sales of devices and products for beating drug tests. He has testified before Arkansas and other states' legislative committees. Jeff has been a presenter and participated in international conferences and meetings in Europe, South America, and Canada. He has been on the speakers' roster for the White House Office of Drug Control Policy and has been called on to represent that office in speaking engagements.

In 1998, Jeff became one of the first professionals to earn the C-SAPA (Certified Substance Abuse Program Administrator) certification, and he has also earned C-SI (Certified SAPA Instructor) certification. In 2014, Jeff became a commissioner with the certification committee (SAPACC) that administers professional certifications in the drug-testing industry, including the C-SAPA and C-SI examinations.

Jeff authored and teaches the MRO (Medical Review Officer) Assistant course on behalf of SAPAA at conferences and via the web. Jeff also teaches the DER (Designated Employer Representative) course, the urine specimen collector course for clients, and the "Signs and Symptoms of Substance Abuse" two-hour course that meets the DOT requirement for supervisory training.

In the early years, there were only a handful of companies and persons involved in the industry, and a'TEST was one of those original companies. Because of this history of leadership and extensive credentialing, a'TEST is uniquely qualified to serve as the program administrator for the Arkansas Municipal League member municipalities.

*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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# Giving street trees a chance to grow

By Krista Quinn

The benefits of having trees planted along streets and sidewalks are numerous. From providing shade and cooling the air to reducing storm water runoff and improving human health, trees are known to have many positive effects in urban settings. However, many street tree plantings are poorly planned, which can cause trees to decline and die before reaching maturity. In fact, some studies have estimated the average lifespan of urban trees at only seven years. While Arkansas is fortunate to have an abundance of trees growing statewide, trees in urban settings in the state still struggle to survive. A few fairly simple techniques can greatly improve the success of street tree plantings.

## Plan for root growth

One of the biggest challenges of growing trees along streets and sidewalks is providing enough space for root growth. Tree roots need both air and water, so they cannot be expected to grow underneath non-porous pavement. However, many street trees are planted in four-by-four-foot tree wells carved out of pavement. A typical shade tree will outgrow a planting bed that size in just a few years.

There are several good ways to give street trees more room for root growth. The first possibility is just to make the planting bed larger. Some cities are making long, narrow planting beds along sidewalks to give trees a little more rooting area. Similarly, larger island planting beds can be created in parking lots and curb extensions, or “bump outs” can be constructed at road intersections to provide larger planting areas and help calm traffic in downtown areas.

There are also many new permeable paving options. The City of Little Rock has renovated some parallel parking spaces along Main Street using permeable asphalt and paving stones. These types of paving materials allow water and air to move through them so that tree roots can actually survive underneath. This is beneficial for tree growth and also helps reduce stormwater runoff. Some types of permeable pavement do require regular maintenance such as sweeping, vacuuming, or pressure washing.



Permeable paving material and street side curb cuts allow rainwater to reach trees along Little Rock's recently redesigned Main Street.



PHOTOS BY KRISTA QUINN.



“Donut mulching” protects young trees from string trimmers and mowers without endangering their health.

## Get water to trees

The availability of water can also be a limiting factor to street tree growth. Once trees are well established, rainfall is usually sufficient to keep them alive. However, it can greatly improve survival rates to irrigate trees weekly during dry spells the first year or two after planting. Sometimes it is even necessary to irrigate in the winter if there is a dry period. Unfortunately, street side planting sites can be difficult to irrigate since they often have no plumbing. Some cities have purchased water tanks that can be pulled behind a vehicle to water trees. Sometimes even the local fire department can help water street trees with a tanker truck.

Using watering bags is another low-tech option for irrigating trees. The bags are usually made of fabric or plastic and circle the trunks of the trees. They are filled with water, which slowly drips out of the bag for a period of a few days. Because the water is delivered slowly, more of it soaks into the soil and is available for tree use. There is no runoff and very little evaporation, so it is a very efficient use of water. Of course, cities still need to figure out how to fill the bags at least once a week during dry periods.

Another way to help get more water to street trees is to direct more rainwater toward the trees. Street trees are often surrounded by curbing that prevents the rainwater that falls on the street or sidewalk from reaching the roots of the trees. By simply cutting out sections of the curb or eliminating the curb altogether, water from the street and sidewalk can reach the root zone of trees. This can also help manage stormwater runoff.

## Protect trees from damage

Unfortunately, many trees in urban settings are damaged by common lawn care activities. It is very important to be careful when using power equipment around trees. Young trees in particular have soft, thin bark and are easily damaged by mowers and string trimmers. Applying a thin, two to four-inch layer of mulch under trees is a good way to keep weeds and grass from growing near trees so that power equipment is not used too close to them. Piling too much mulch around trees can do more harm than good, however.

Mulch should not be more than four inches deep and should never touch the bark of trees. When “mulch volcanoes” are created around trees, with the mulch piled high against the trunks, the bark will begin to rot and the roots cannot get enough air. The trees will slowly die over a period of a few years in this situation. A much better way to mulch is to create a “donut” of mulch around the tree so that there is a hole in the middle of the mulch layer keeping the mulch away from the tree trunk.

Trees generally grow very well in Arkansas, but urban trees can still use a little extra care. With proper planning, appropriate oversight, and good tree care, all Arkansas cities and towns can have beautiful and healthy community forests.



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

# 2018 State Turnback Funds

| 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         | \$4.9583         | \$0.3450        | \$0.2452        | \$1.0886         | \$1.0870        |
| April                    | \$5.3517         | \$5.3609         | \$0.3611        | \$0.2342        | \$1.0886         | \$1.0854        |
| May                      | \$5.4824         | \$5.6871         | \$0.2602        | \$0.2369        | \$1.0864         | \$1.0859        |
| June                     | \$5.5686         | \$5.6422         | \$0.1858        | \$0.1786        | \$1.0881         | \$1.0872        |
| 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         |                 |
| <b>Total Year</b>        | <b>\$64.4157</b> | <b>\$32.7413</b> | <b>\$3.0472</b> | <b>\$1.3444</b> | <b>\$15.8379</b> | <b>\$7.5783</b> |

| 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          | \$9,372,912.56         | \$651,783.55          | \$463,496.06          | \$2,056,718.50         | \$2,054,888.05         |
| April                   | \$10,110,987.00         | \$10,133,933.55        | \$682,243.26          | \$442,746.74          | \$2,056,718.50         | \$2,051,743.46         |
| May                     | \$10,363,642.30         | \$10,750,634.53        | \$491,893.79          | \$447,755.63          | \$2,053,761.87         | \$2,052,679.36         |
| June                    | \$10,526,632.40         | \$10,665,832.80        | \$351,199.83          | \$337,582.28          | 2,056,937.75           | \$2,055,168.34         |
| 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         |                        |
| <b>Total Year</b>       | <b>\$121,746,559.27</b> | <b>\$61,892,621.23</b> | <b>\$5,759,054.30</b> | <b>\$2,541,319.91</b> | <b>\$29,933,516.49</b> | <b>\$14,325,583.04</b> |

\* 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



**2018 Elections**

- GREENBRIER, Feb. 13**  
Passed. 0.5%
- SPRINGDALE, Feb. 13**  
Passed. 1% extension
- MAUMELLE, Mar. 13**  
Passed. 0.5% permanent  
Passed. 0.5% temporary
- GOSHEN, May 22**  
Passed. 1%
- SILOAM SPRINGS, May 22**  
Passed. 5/8% extension
- SHERWOOD, June 19**  
Passed. .25% permanent  
Passed. .75% temporary

KEY: Counties not collecting sales tax

Source: Rachel Garrett, Office of State Treasurer

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

| Sales and Use Tax Year-to-Date 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  | \$51,260,662         | \$51,749,675        | \$44,932,987         | \$42,723,485         | \$96,193,649         | \$94,473,160           | \$79,235         | \$18,863         |
| April  | \$51,354,831         | \$51,749,675        | \$45,689,403         | \$44,591,728         | \$97,044,234         | \$96,341,403           | \$79,564         | \$15,747         |
| May  | \$60,844,519         | \$51,749,675        | \$53,613,192         | \$48,861,910         | \$114,457,712        | \$100,611,585          | \$75,253         | \$17,059         |
| June   | \$56,373,987         | \$51,749,675        | \$48,955,855         | \$45,261,893         | \$105,329,842        | \$97,011,568           | \$71,501         | \$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         |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$343,068,790</b> | <b>\$51,749,675</b> | <b>\$300,151,440</b> | <b>\$574,435,802</b> | <b>\$643,220,230</b> | <b>\$1,195,431,899</b> | <b>\$450,150</b> | <b>\$414,105</b> |
| Averages   | \$57,178,132         | \$51,749,675        | \$50,025,240         | \$47,869,650         | \$107,203,372        | \$99,619,325           | \$75,025         | \$34,509         |





## **NLR's Whitbey wraps term on IIMC board of directors**

North Little Rock City Clerk/Treasurer Diane Whitbey, MMC, recently completed a three-year term on the International Institute of Municipal Clerks Board of Directors. Whitbey represented Region IV, which includes the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Texas.

During her term, Whitbey participated in biannual board of directors meetings and teleconferences that included 22 board members and an executive committee of four. During meetings, directors reviewed the status of the international nonprofit organization and voted on various issues affecting its nearly 15,000 members worldwide. Whitbey also served as a board liaison to several committees.

Serving on the board wasn't something she initially thought she wanted to do, Whitbey said.

"However, I have grown as an individual and professionally because of my service on the IIMC Board of Directors," she said. "I strongly encourage our members to get involved with IIMC and the Arkansas City Clerks, Records and Treasurers Association [ACCRTA]. The ongoing educational opportunities, networking and life-long friendships are worth it."

Whitbey has worked in local government since 1980. She spent 10 years with Pulaski County and the last 28 years with the city of North Little Rock. She was elected City Clerk/Collector in 2000. She has served as president of ACCRTA twice (2006-2007 and 2011-2012). Whitbey is a Certified Arkansas Municipal Clerk, IIMC Master Municipal Clerk and a Certified Municipal Official through the Arkansas Municipal League. She is also a Registered Parliamentarian with the National Association of Parliamentarians.

In 2022, Whitbey and other municipal clerks from around the state and within the region will host the annual IIMC Conference. This will be the first time since 1990 that the conference has been held in Arkansas.

IIMC is a professional, nonprofit association that promotes continuing education and certification through university and college-based institutes and provides networking solutions, services, and benefits to members worldwide. Founded in 1947, IIMC is the leading professional association serving the needs of municipal clerks, secretaries, treasurers, recorders, and other allied associations from cities

and towns of all sizes. Currently, Arkansas has 84 members. Twenty-eight are Certified Municipal Clerks and eight are Master Municipal Clerks.

## **Mansfield receives grant for turnout gear**

The city of Mansfield received almost \$10,000 to purchase 13 sets of turnout gear for firefighters as part of the Arkansas Rural Community Grant Program, *The Southwest Times-Record* reported June 25.

Gov. Asa Hutchinson, AEDC Executive Director Mike Preston, AEDC Executive Vice President of Operations Amy Fecher, and Rural Services Director Alex Johnston presented \$353,727.64 to rural communities May 24. The communities were selected for Fiscal Year 2018 Cycle II funding through the program, according to a news release. Mansfield received \$9,672.51 to purchase the turnout gear.

The Arkansas Economic Development Commission Division of Rural Services works in partnership with the Arkansas Rural Development Commission to select the Arkansas Rural Community Grant Programs recipients. Incorporated cities and towns and unincorporated communities in rural areas of less than 3,000 in population are eligible to apply for assistance through the mayor or county judge's office. For information about the Arkansas Rural Services grant programs or other services, call the Division of Rural Services at 1-888-RURAL-AR.

## **Rector awarded grant for new siren**

The city of Rector has received an Arkansas Rural Community Grant of \$10,383.98 to replace an existing storm siren, *The Clay County Times-Democrat* reported June 7. Gov. Asa Hutchinson, AEDC Executive Director Mike Preston, AEDC Executive Vice President of Operations Amy Fecher, and Rural Services Director Alex Johnston presented \$353,727.64 to rural communities during a presentation on May 14 in Little Rock.

The Arkansas Rural Community Grant Program is open to incorporated cities and towns and unincorporated communities in rural areas of less than 3,000 in population. For more information about the grant programs or other services, contact the Division of Rural Services at 1-888-RURAL-AR.




## Southside begins planning for new city hall

Arkansas's newest city, Southside in Independence County, is in the planning stages to build its first city hall since incorporating in 2014. Leaders from the city of nearly 4,000 have been touring the municipal buildings of other cities and asking for advice.

"I talked to different mayors and different officials, recorders, and clerks," Southside Mayor Ray Bowman told the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. "I asked, 'If you were going to build a new city hall, what would you do differently?'"

The city's goal is to build something that will last and that will have space enough for the city to continue to grow, he said. The city has also reached an agreement with the Independence County Sheriff's Department to include a room in city hall for deputies.


While the city goes through the process of building its first city hall, it will continue to hold city council meetings in the conference room of the Southside Public Water Authority, and the local school system has allowed the city to use space there to temporarily house public records. 

## Obituaries

**HOMER DON ANSCHULTZ**, 66, former mayor of Fisher, died April 21.

**TERRY RAY BALLARD**, 62, city attorney for Mayflower, died April 9.

**TOM DALTON**, 78, a former Little Rock city manager and former head of the Arkansas Department of Human Services, died June 12.

**RON MARTIN**, 84, mayor of Glenwood, died May 30. 

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# MUNICIPAL MART

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

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER**—The City of Odessa, Texas, seeks an innovative and visionary assistant city manager to guide the city on the path to sustainable growth while preserving its unique heritage. It is crucial that the incoming assistant city manager has a thorough understanding of the regional economy and its impact on the city. Advanced financial and budget forecasting skills are required to ensure the city meets its fiduciary responsibilities, develops sustainable finance practices, and experiences the growth it desires. The selected candidate must hold a Bachelor's degree in Business Admin., Public Admin., Accounting, or a related field and have seven years of professional program and staff management experience in the public sector. Three to five years of experience as a city manager or assistant city manager and a Master's degree are preferred. An equivalent combination of education and experience may be considered. The City of Odessa offers a competitive salary depending on qualifications and experience. View complete position profile and apply online: <http://bit.ly/SGRCurrentSearches>. For more information: [LarryGilley@GovernmentResource.com](mailto:LarryGilley@GovernmentResource.com).

**POLICE OFFICER**—The City of Cotton Plant is accepting applications for F/T police officer. Contact the Cotton Plant Police Department or City Hall at (870) 459-2121 or [wryland-cpmayor@gmail.com](mailto:wryland-cpmayor@gmail.com) for application and job description. Applications for this position may also be picked up at the police station, 226 West Main Street, or City Hall 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. M-F. Mail applications to the attention of Mayor Willard C. Ryland, P.O. Box 220, Cotton Plant, AR 72036. Open until filled. EOE.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR**—Columbus, Kan., is seeking the services of a city administrator. The City of Columbus ([www.columbuscityhall.com](http://www.columbuscityhall.com)) has an annual budget of just over \$4.6 million, with 30 employees, and water, sewer and refuse utilities. The city administrator position has a salary range of \$80,000-\$90,000. A degree in Business or Government is required, with a Master's degree and experience in city government desired. A full benefit package will be included in the contract. Deadline for submission of resume is noon Friday, June 29. Resumes and cover letters must be submitted via email (PDF or Word attachment) to City Clerk Cherrri Chancellor, at [cityclerk@columbuscityhall.com](mailto:cityclerk@columbuscityhall.com).

**CITY MANAGER**—Coffeyville, Kan., seeks a city manager. Coffeyville is a city of the first class operating under a commission/city manager form of government. The commission is made up of five at-large members and a mayor selected from among the commissioners. A professional city manager administers the day-to-day operations of the city. The city seeks a forward thinking, innovative, and proactive municipal management professional with strong leadership skills to be its new city manager. The ideal candidate will have a strong background in economic development and the ability to forge strategic partnerships that promote sustainable growth. The selected candidate must hold a Bachelor's degree in Public Admin., Business Admin., or a closely related field and have seven years of experience in city government, with at least two years of city management experience. A Master's degree is preferred. The city manager is required to live within the city limits. The salary range for this position is \$120,000 to \$140,000 depending on qualifications and experience. Please apply online at: <http://bit.ly/SGRCurrentSearches>. For more information on this position contact [GaryHolland@governmentresource.com](mailto:GaryHolland@governmentresource.com), (405) 269-3445.

**CITY MANAGER**—The City of Lockhart, Texas, seeks qualified applicants for new city manager. Lockhart is a home rule municipality operating under a council-manager form of government. The city council is composed of seven members, including the mayor. The council hires a professional city manager to manage the day-to-day operations of the city. The city manager reports directly to the council. The city has a 4a/4b economic development corporation for which the city manager serves as president. The city has a budget of \$25.8 million and 145 employees. The city seeks a strong, energetic, and visionary leader with an outgoing personality and highly advanced interpersonal skills to be its next city manager. The ideal candidate will be an ethical, transparent, disciplined, and steadfastly strategic municipal manager who inspires and motivates others by example. An open-minded individual who can provide creative, outside-the-box ideas and solutions will be successful in this position. The selected candidate must hold a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration, Business Administration, or a related field. A master's degree is preferred. A minimum of five years of progressively responsible municipal supervisory experience, preferably as a city manager or assistant city manager, is required. To apply online go to [www.governmentresource.com/CurrentSearches](http://www.governmentresource.com/CurrentSearches).

**FIRE CHIEF**—Heber Springs is accepting applications for the position of fire chief. Under the general direction of the mayor and the city council, the fire chief is responsible for managing and directing the day-to-day operations of the Fire Department and Planning and Zoning. The fire chief makes policy recommendations; prepares an annual budget; plans, directs, and reviews personnel activities; prepares reports for city officials and state and national organizations; initiates and advises on the development of ordinances and regulations pertaining to fire prevention and suppression; responds on call to emergency situations either as an observer or to command the situation. This is just a sample of the many things the fire chief is responsible for. Salary depends on experience and qualifications. Benefits include vacation, sick leave, paid holidays, LOPFI retirement, health insurance as well as dental, vision and life insurance. Apply in person at the City

of Heber Springs Human Resource office, submit resume and cover letter to City of Heber Springs, Attn: Human Resources, 1001 W. Main St., Heber Springs, AR 72543; or e-mail [marthagarrett@suddenlinkmail.org](mailto:marthagarrett@suddenlinkmail.org).

**HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR**—The City of Helena-West Helena is accepting applications for landfill heavy equipment operators, a 40 hour per week position. Duties include but are not limited to the following: Operate and perform routine maintenance of heavy equipment (off-road dump truck, dozer, track hoe and compactor); perform basic to advanced tasks relating to individual projects in conjunction with the operation of a landfill; maintain accurate job-site records; perform other duties as may be assigned. Knowledge and skills required include but are not limited to the following: Operation and maintenance of heavy equipment (off-road dump truck, dozer, track hoe and compactor); familiar with landfill operation; posses good verbal and written communication skills; ability to maintain job-site records as required. The starting rate of pay is \$13 to \$15 per hour depending on experience and qualifications. Applications may be obtained and resumes submitted to the Human Resources Office, 226 Perry Street, Helena, AR 72342; email [hr@helena-westhelena.us](mailto:hr@helena-westhelena.us); phone (870) 817-7403; fax (870) 817-7474. EOE.

**HR DIRECTOR**—The City of Sherwood is accepting applications for the position of human resources director. This position develops policy and directs and coordinates human resource activities, such as employment, compensation, labor relations, benefits, training, and employee services. Completion of a Bachelor's Degree in Personnel Administration, Industrial/Organizational Psychology or Sociology, Public Administration or a related area or any equivalent combination of education and experience is required. Master's Degree preferred. Preference for human resources professional certification (SHRM or IPMA). Extensive knowledge in the practices, terminology and understanding of municipal government functions. Must possess interpersonal skills to communicate with the public, employees and city officials. Salary DOE. Applications and resume can be submitted online at [www.cityofsherwood.net](http://www.cityofsherwood.net). If you have any questions, please contact (501) 833-3703.

**POLICE CHIEF**—The City of Harrisburg is accepting applications for the position of police chief. Ideal applicant will have at least 5 years of direct law enforcement with experience in criminology and strong leadership skills, will be ALETA certified, and have experience in a supervisory position in the law enforcement field. Starting salary \$52,000. Resumes may be sent to Harrisburg City Hall, 200 East Jackson Street, Harrisburg, AR 72432, or email [mayorhbg@gmail.com](mailto:mayorhbg@gmail.com). For more information call (870) 578-5467.

**POLICE CHIEF**—The City of Taylor is accepting applications for a full-time police chief. Salary range is from \$25,000 - \$38,000 DOQ. Apply in person or call Taylor City Hall at (870) 694-2051.

**UTILITIES DIRECTOR**—Located in northeast Oklahoma, Broken Arrow is the fourth largest city in the state, with an estimated population of 112,000 people spread out over 55 square miles. Under management of the utilities director, the Utilities Department is responsible for the maintenance and repair of water lines, sewer lines, and the City's water plant and wastewater plant. The Utilities Department includes the divisions for the water system, the sanitary system, the water plant, and the wastewater plant. The city seeks an energetic, dedicated manager and self-motivated leader who can maintain a collaborative and supportive work environment to serve as its new utilities director. The director will be responsible for developing and monitoring the department's operational goals and will work harmoniously with department team members to carry out the organization's assigned duties. The selected candidate must hold a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Science, Chemical Engineering, or a related field from an accredited college or university and have three to five years of experience sufficient to thoroughly understand the diverse objectives and functions of the subunits in the division/department. Possession of an "A" water and wastewater license or the ability to obtain licensing within the first six months of employment is required. A Master's Degree and Professional Engineer (PE) certification are preferred qualifications. The salary range is \$92,457 - \$137,400. Please apply online at: [bit.ly/SGRCurrentSearches](http://bit.ly/SGRCurrentSearches).

**FOR SALE**—The City of Junction City has a 2001 Ford E350 Super Duty Diesel Ambulance for sale. It is fully equipped, well-maintained and ready for use and has only 30,000 miles. It can be seen at the Junction City City Hall, 207 North Main St. Bids will be received until August 1 and should be addressed to: Junction City Mayor, P.O. Box 787, Junction City, AR 71749. The city maintains the right to reject any or all bids.



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President and Manager of Public  
Finance), Leigh Ann Biernat,  
Bo Bittle, Jack Truemper

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