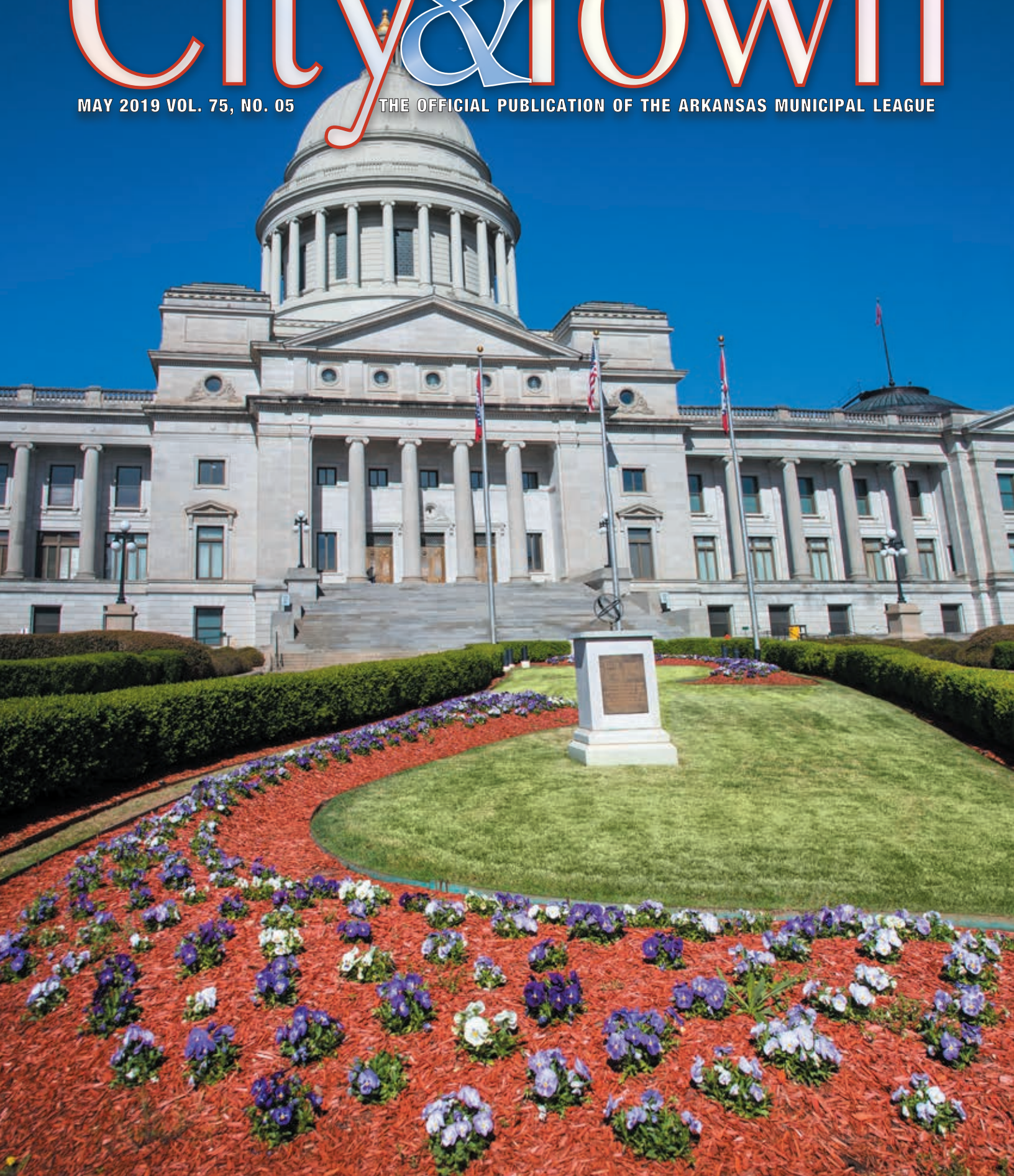


City & Town

MAY 2019 VOL. 75, NO. 05

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE



How do you think new money becomes old money?



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Cover photo by Mark Potter.



ON THE COVER—The 92nd General Assembly of the Arkansas Legislature concluded April 12, and overall the session was a strong one for cities and towns, reports the League’s executive director. Read a comprehensive summary of the resulting legislation that affects municipalities inside beginning on page 6. And check out the expanded tentative agenda for the fast-approaching 85th Convention, where we’ll gather to hear from experts, learn from each other, elect new officers, and set the League’s agenda for the coming year. Register now if you haven’t already.—atm

Features

6 92nd General Assembly concludes
The 2019 regular session of the Arkansas Legislature, which resulted in numerous new and amended laws that will affect municipalities, was largely a successful one for the cities and towns of our state, the League’s executive director reports in his overview.

12 League training programs saw strong 2018
Whether it was defensive driving, employee safety, or fostering a more positive work environment, the League’s on-site and remote training opportunities for municipal officials and employees saw good participation last year.

20 Arkansas has change of heart on municipal broadband
With the passage of Act 198 during this year’s legislative session, Arkansas lawmakers reversed course, allowing governmental entities under certain conditions to provide broadband and other related services.

22 Cities, states cooperate to tackle housing crisis
The United States is in the midst of an affordable-housing crisis, and states across the country are finding that it’s more productive to work with cities rather than offer one-size-fits-all solutions.

City & Town Contents

Arkansas Municipal League Officers	5
a'TEST Consultants, INC.....	24
Attorney General Opinions.....	16
Directory Changes	29
Economic Development	38
Engineering.....	46
Fairs & Festivals	53
Meeting Calendar	53
Municipal Mart	54
Municipal Notes	52
Obituaries.....	29
Planning to Succeed	40
President's Letter	4
Sales Tax Map.....	49
Sales Tax Receipts	50
Turnback Estimates	48
Urban Forestry.....	44
Your Health	42

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Dear Friends,

Apart from the allergies, how can anyone not love spring-time in Arkansas? School is winding down, parks are filling up, festivals are happening every weekend! Here in North Little Rock the thousands of tulips along our Main Street in Argenta were a sight to behold. We have plenty of natural beauty in this state and I encourage us all not to take it for granted.



Spring also finds out legislators returning home after adjourning the 92nd General Assembly. Many of our staff and members did an exceptional job keeping track of the thousands of bills, providing insightful analysis of the impacts to our communities for all of them, and providing leadership in the halls and committee rooms of the Capitol advocating for our interests. We had many successes this session, and even when a bill got through that we didn't support, we were able to work with legislators to make it more favorable. Please read the executive director's legislative wrap-up in this issue to learn about new laws and amended statutes that affect our cities and towns.

The League hosted two workshops in April that were at near capacity for attendance, a testament to the quality of the presentations and the preparation from our staff. Members were able to learn about ADA issues that pertain to our communities and planning and zoning best practices and policies. Each time I attend these I am grateful for these and the many other resources that benefit us thanks to our League's leadership here in Arkansas.

Again, don't forget to register for the League's 85th Convention by May 31 to receive the early bird pre-registration rate. The League staff works very hard to provide us with a great Convention experience with timely topics on local government, and they always throw in a fun event to boot. An expanded agenda is included in this issue for you to preview.

I look forward to seeing everyone there, so register now and we'll see you soon!

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

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The 2019 legislative session: Arkansas cities and towns have a bright future

By Mark R. Hayes

The League has been engaged in nearly full-time preparation for, and execution of, the 2019 legislative session since August of last year, when I was named executive director. The 92nd General Assembly of the Arkansas Legislature began Jan. 14 and concluded April 12. While not one of the longest sessions in Arkansas history, it may be remembered as one of the boldest when considering the infrastructure needs of cities and towns, and the state in its entirety.

Our water and sewer systems have deteriorated markedly in the last decade or so. That same deterioration has struck our highway, streets, roads, and bridges as well. The solution was, and remains, simple: revenue. How is revenue raised fairly, using sound fiscal planning and good tax policy? Not so easy. I'm happy to tell you

the 92nd General Assembly did just that, particularly by authorizing the collection of online sales tax and enacting a new program to fund our highways, streets, and roads. They addressed revenue, fiscal needs, and processes with the fundamental goal of fixing infrastructure in Arkansas. The result for your city or town: a very bright future indeed.

This article will summarize the various pieces of legislation that became law, and a few that we'll need to work on before the next general session, which is not far off—January of 2021 is but 19 months away. Perspective is a powerful thing.

Additionally, we've seen a continued questioning of local control, or home rule if you prefer. For background purposes, please recall that cities and towns in this state



PHOTOS BY MARK POTTER, LEAGUE STAFF.

have statutory home rule.¹ The local control provided by state law to municipalities is of critical importance for each of you to properly and efficiently run city hall and city services. Just as most state legislators will buck up against federal regulatory control at a state level, we too believe cities and towns are more than capable of running their own affairs with limited state involvement. At League headquarters, we are fond of saying the voters will take care of poor management of municipal finances and policy, and they should be allowed to do so without too many hurdles being put in the way. Toward the end of this article you'll find several examples of legislative attempts to directly limit local control. Please study these carefully. They'll probably be back in some form or another in a future session.

Below you'll find the new laws gathered by category in order to provide context. Where needed, further explanation of current law is also provided. Here we go!

Changing forms of government²

- Act 105^{*3} repeals a statute regarding changing the form of municipal government as it conflicted with other statutory law governing the same thing. Hopefully this will lower confusion for any city seeking a form change.
- Act 978 is permissive legislation that allows a city board in a city manager city to further empower a mayor in a hybrid city manager form of government. See footnote 2.
- Act 1092 concerns the terms of office for elected officials in city manager cities that reorganize into another form of local government. See footnote 2.

Fiscal and tax matters

General

- Act 133^{*} requires street turnback monies to be directly deposited in an appropriate municipal bank account.
- Act 616 authorizes the state to require direct deposit for general turnback monies.

1 See Arkansas Code Annotated 14-43-601 et seq., which enumerates matters that are considered state affairs and therefore off limits legislatively for municipalities *unless* the proposed local legislation does not conflict with state law. Thus, cities and towns have broad discretion to legislate on municipal affairs.

2 There are essentially three forms of municipal government in Arkansas: mayor/council, city manager, and city administrator. 492 of the 500 cities and towns in Arkansas are mayor/council oriented. There are five city manager form cities and three city administrators. One of the five city manager cities (Little Rock) is a bit of a hybrid in that the voters used a 2007 statute to bolster the powers of the elected mayor to be equal to, or close to being equal to, the city manager. Most of the laws reviewed in this section are a specific reflection and reaction to Little Rock's use of the 2007 law change.

3 An asterisk denotes legislation proposed by your League.

- Act 195^{*} formally allows municipalities to accept debit and credit cards for payment by cities. See also Act 773 regarding limitations on transaction fees.

Taxes

- **Act 416 is the first piece of a new highway, road, and street-funding program** that honors the traditional 70/15/15⁴ monetary split. This guarantees the collection of \$13 million per year in fuel taxes. The second piece of the funding will be presented to the state's voters during next year's general election. If approved it would guarantee an additional \$35 million per year via a permanent half-cent sales tax that would also honor the 70/15/15 split. This is one of the most important pieces of legislation passed this year. It will ensure safe and effective driving infrastructure for our state for years to come.
- Act 560 authorizes advertising and promotions taxes be applied to the sale of items to tourists and attendance at tourist attractions.
- **Act 822, frequently referred to as the Marketplace Fairness Act or the Internet Sales Tax Act**, requires remote sellers to collect and remit Arkansas sales tax, including city and county sales taxes. The passage of this act means cities and towns will likely collect an additional \$12 million or more overall per year. The act's effective date is July 1, 2019.

Retirement

- Act 526, APERS,⁵ lowers the interest paid on accumulated member contributions from 4 percent to 2 percent.
- Act 638, APERS and LOPFI,⁶ creates a presumption for firefighters with one of multiple cancers while employed as a firefighter, that the cancer was caused by firefighting and resulted in death for purposes of receiving a disability pension.
- Act 948 provides a mechanism for addressing actuarial unsoundness of a mayoral retirement in cities of the first class.

Economic Development

- Act 798 adds retail to the list of economic development projects that municipalities may help fund.
- Act 1072 adds sports complexes to the list of economic development projects that municipalities may help fund.⁷

4 The traditional 70/15/15 split monies refers to the State Highway Commission getting 70% of state dedicated revenue, counties and cities each receiving 15% of those same monies.

5 APERS: Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System.

6 LOPFI: Local Police and Fire Retirement System

7 When considering the use of either Act 798 or Act 1072 legal counsel must be sought.

Public safety (law enforcement, firefighting, emergency medical responders)

- Act 150* repeals a body of law regarding the creation and operation of a “department of public safety.” Such a department required police officers to also be firefighters, thus eliminating police and fire departments and creating one public safety department. There are no such departments in any municipality in our state. Because the previous law only allowed a certain classification of cities to establish such a department, concern was voiced that other classifications of cities and towns could not do so and in turn their home rule powers were limited. With no state law, cities and towns should be able to create such a department if they so choose.
- Act 397 creates a committee to advise the Department of Emergency Management on the creation of uniform standards for safety measures at public events.

- Act 472 permits certified police officers to carry an open or concealed handgun while on or off duty.
- Act 555 requires emergency personnel be trained/certified in critical incident management and that be denoted on any peer support certification.
- Act 584 requires internet service providers to give law enforcement agencies geolocation information to assist with responding to emergency calls.
- Act 646 requires the Commission on Law Enforcement Standards to develop a curriculum regarding the treatment of drug overdoses.
- Act 660, known as the Next Gen 911 Law or the Public Safety Act, creates a statewide 911 board with officials from all branches of government and public safety. The committee is charged with determining the appropriate number of PSAPS⁸ in the state and the best use of revenue for those PSAPS. Funding will be provided by additional fees on cellular devices.

Oath of office

- Act 194* clarifies that both clerks and recorders may administer the oath of office.

Local control—home rule

Broadband, internet, and wireless services

- Act 198 allows governmental entities to provide voice, data, broadband, video, or wireless communications. This reverses the previous ban on those matters. The act is only applicable in certain instances and is designed to assist in the provision of internet services in the more rural parts of our state.
- Act 797, known as the Small Cell Act, recognizes the orders of the Federal Communications Commission in limiting municipal control over small cell placement and use of right of way. The act provides much in the way of local control over aesthetics, co-location, fees, and processes while also ensuring telecom providers have a clear and consistent set of guidelines.

Codification

- Act 205* simplifies and clarifies the process of codifying city ordinances by allowing scrivener’s errors and other minor changes be made to the codified version of an ordinance. Publication is clarified to mean that three copies be maintained in the clerk’s or recorder’s office and that may be done by hard copy or electronically. This act is expected to save cities and towns an estimated \$2 million per year collectively in unnecessary printing costs.

8 PSAPS: Public Safety Answering Point Systems.

Land use

- Act 446 places limited restrictions on municipalities' ability to implement building design regulations. There are multiple exclusions, thus it is not an outright ban. This act prevents municipalities from suffering substantial losses resulting from building design litigation. The act should be studied carefully before implementation of any such regulations or ordinances. Look for a more detailed description of the new law as well as easy methods to apply it in future League publications and communications.
- Act 574* authorizes cities of the second class and incorporated towns to issue building permits and do inspections regarding safety codes, unsanitary and obnoxious conditions, public welfare, etc.
- Act 575 allows municipalities to exchange real and personal property with the state or any political subdivision of the state (cities, towns, counties, etc.).
- Act 681 allows municipalities to authorize micro-breweries/restaurants via a private club permit. The act includes various requirements for proceeding with such an endeavor, thus consulting with your city attorney is strongly advised.
- Act 691 is similar to 681 but is applicable to hard cider manufacturing.
- Act 812 allows a municipality, by ordinance, to create an entertainment zone around various restaurants, bars, music halls, etc., thereby allowing citizens to move freely from venue to venue while carrying an open container.
- Act 932 lowers the population requirements for a community wishing to incorporate from 5,000 to 1,500.

Human Resources

- Act 799 amends the law requiring police officers to receive 15 days of vacation per year by clarifying the methodology to accomplish that mandate and a process of addressing accumulated leave.
- Act 823 sets up a statewide fund (no funding was provided) that allows donations of money and tax credits for the purpose of offsetting mandated sick leave costs for presumptive firefighter cancer.
- Act 883 allows, but does not require, municipalities to create catastrophic leave banks for presumptive illnesses.
- Act 973 requires cities to provide six months of leave time for firefighters with one of multiple cancers that are presumptively caused by firefighting. The six months is in addition to all other accumulated or mandated leave. Acts 823 and 883 will require close examination as it pertains to cities' and towns' budget preparations.

Scooters

- Act 1015 ensures that local control over scooters and scooter companies remains intact while providing insurance requirements, information and data collection and release, and a variety of definitions.

Sanctuary cities

- Act 1076 prohibits cities from adopting sanctuary policies and practices with regard to the immigration status of residents and requires local officials to cooperate with federal immigration officials.

Elections, offices, and office holding

- Act 207* sets the date for city runoff elections to four weeks from the general election, therefore being the same as county runoffs. The new law will save taxpayer money and alleviate voter confusion. See also Act 642 clarifying the four-week election date for mayors in a city manager form of government.
- Act 221* repeals the elected office of collector as there are none serving in the state nor have there been in many years.
- Act 234* enables cities of the second class and incorporated towns via ordinance to appoint the city treasurer.
- Act 336* authorizes a city council, in the event of the vacancy in the clerk/recorder/treasurer position, to lower the salary and to separate or join the offices together.
- Act 527 requires persons filing for office to provide a surname to be printed on a ballot.
- Act 533 further defines electioneering to include: displaying a candidate's name, logo, button, etc.
- Act 609 clarifies when cities of fewer than 10,000 people may appoint or elect a city attorney.

District courts

- Act 445* corrects an error from prior legislation and ensures clarity of district court judges serving four-year terms.
- Act 786 provides basic information and limitations regarding the salaries and benefits of most district judges and court clerks. It should be consulted as quickly as possible.

Freedom of Information Act

- Act 1012* amends the FOIA⁹ by protecting the identity of civilians who are assisting law enforcement agencies in criminal investigations.
- Act 1028 requires all public meetings of governing bodies be audio recorded by either digital or analog means and maintained for one year. Look

9 FOIA: Arkansas Freedom of Information Act

for a more detailed description of the new law in the forthcoming FOIA booklet produced by the Arkansas Press Association, expected later this year. Additionally, more information will appear in future League publications and communications, and the topic will be discussed during the 85th Convention in June.



PHOTO BY ANDREW MORGAN.

Overall, the 2019 legislative session was a winner for Arkansas cities and towns. You'll soon be collecting sales taxes on goods purchased over the internet. As many of you know, this issue alone has plagued states and local governments for years. Fairness is the key to understanding this law. The shop selling shoes on Main Street and collecting local sales tax is no longer fighting the uphill battle of an internet sales company not collecting that very same tax on the very same goods. Fair is fair, and we finally won this very worthy battle.

For the first time in many years, a highway funding plan that includes county roads and city streets is well on its way to becoming a reality. The last piece of the puzzle is extremely important: the passage of a permanent, half-cent sales tax. I encourage all of you to stay in contact with the League and to learn as much as possible regarding this issue. The election itself will take place in November 2020, and municipal officials across the state will need to inform voters of the vital importance of this tax extension.

All told, with the collection of online sales tax at an estimated \$12 million per year, the fuel tax bringing in \$13 million per year, and the estimated \$2 million in savings by simplifying the process of correcting local ordinances, the cities and towns of Arkansas will collectively receive \$27 million more on an annual basis moving forward. As mentioned, Arkansans will vote on a half-cent sales tax extension next year. If approved, the sales tax extension will bring in an estimated \$35 million per year. Added to the new monies as a result of this

legislative session, that would mean \$62 million more for cities and towns starting in 2021.

While our victories were many, retention of local control remains of great concern. We saw pre-emption bills on many subjects, all of which attacked your home-rule powers to legislate locally on a variety of topics. These include: the prohibition to move or rename monuments and streets, the taking of local control over municipal water systems, the removal of special elections for sales taxes, and the removal of municipal authority to set ward boundaries. Bills also appeared this session that would have placed a cap on local sales taxes and diminished local sales tax revenue on used cars and all-terrain vehicles. While we defeated these bills this time, they will likely rear their heads again in future sessions. This is why I encourage each of you to develop a strong relationship with your legislators so they understand the value of what you do on a daily basis and the need for local control to remain intact. Our ability to submit strong legislation and to compromise on potentially harmful legislation hinges on building these relationships.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the League staff and consultants for their demanding work, integrity, honesty, and intellect during the past three months at the Capitol. They were all amazing. The team consisted of: Jack Critcher, John Wilkerson, Lanny Richmond, Jamie Adams, Katie Bodenhamer, Sheila Boyd, Whitnee Bullerwell, Steve Napper, and Jason Carter. When you next see these folks please tell them thank you. They did all-pro work under very difficult circumstances. Additionally, we worked very well with our friend Emily Cox, the City of Little Rock's legislative liaison, as well as with the team at the Association of Arkansas Counties. You should say thanks to them as well.

I would be remiss if I didn't specifically thank the sponsors of the League's legislative packet, which contained your legislative priorities. This session, League legislation sponsors included Sen. John Cooper, Sen. Lance Eads, Sen. Stephanie Flowers, Sen. Ricky Hill, Sen. Kim Hammer, Sen. Gary Stubblefield, Sen. James Sturch, Rep. Sara Capp, Rep. Bruce Coleman, Rep. Carol Dalby, Rep. Brian Evans, Rep. Lanny Fite, Rep. Spencer Hawks, Rep. Jack Ladyman, Rep. Mark Lowery, Rep. Stu Smith, and Rep. Les Warren. Thank you so very much. Arkansas's cities and towns are better for your efforts.

Finally, I want to extend a thank you to all the municipal officials, department heads, and employees in our 500 cities and towns. Y'all make our state great, because you make your city or town great! I have the best job in the world because I get to work for you. Thanks for all you do, and I hope to see you soon at the June Convention to celebrate the League's 85th year. Peace, Mark. 🏛️

Thursday 6:37 pm

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The League's David Baxter, center, conducts training in West Memphis in 2018.

Professional training programs saw strong 2018

By David Baxter, League staff

Here at the League, we are motivated and committed to providing educational opportunities for our cities and towns. Education plays a key part in helping keep your employees safe and providing better service to the citizens that you serve. We are encouraged to see so many cities, both large and small, take advantage of the professional development classes we offer.

In 2018 many of our municipalities continued to make professional development a priority. Over the course of last year, both the Police and Non-Police Defensive Driving programs had great participation from our cities. The police departments of Arkadelphia, Benton, Berryville, Brinkley, Bryant, Cabot, Conway, El Dorado, Hot Springs, Lakeview, North Little Rock, Pottsville, and Sherwood sent a total of 55 officers through the CLEST certified training. As for the Non-Police Defensive Driving training, the cities of Gassville, Heber Springs, Jacksonville, Russellville, and Vilonia certified a total of 113 employees as National Safety Council defensive drivers. It is important to remember that the one thing that most employees do every day is drive. Statistically, driving is one of the most dangerous activities that we do every day, yet few of us receive any training after getting a license.

Loss control and safety skills training are not limited to defensive driving. In every city across this great state, municipal employees interact with and provide services for their citizens. It is during these interactions that

employees have the opportunity to project their municipality in a positive light. As a municipal employee, your values, character, and integrity are not just your own; they also reflect those of the municipality that you are representing.

When you ask a citizen, "How can I help you?" you mean, "How can my municipality help you?"

There is no dividing line between your values and those of your municipality. Therefore, it is so important for municipalities to receive professional development in the area of respect and understanding in the Arkansas municipal workplace. In 2018, the League trained 211 municipal employees to be more mindful, understanding, and respectful of the differences they see in others.

As you can see, loss control and safety skills training encompass a wide array of professional development topics. So start developing your employees today! To learn more about these training opportunities and to schedule one for your city or department, contact League Health/Safety and Operations General Manager David Baxter at (501) 374-3484 Ext. 110, or email dbaxter@arml.org.



David Baxter is the League's General Manager of Health/Safety and Operations. Email David at dbaxter@arml.org, or call 501-374-3484 Ext. 110.

ACCRTA scholarships available

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

A scholarship honoring the memory of Bill S. Bonner will be awarded to a first-year attendee in the certification program at the Municipal Clerks' Institute in September 2019. This scholarship covers the registration fee.

Additional scholarships include: four local \$400 scholarships to attend the Municipal Clerks' Institute, Sept. 15-19, 2019, in Fayetteville; one \$400 scholarship for the Academy for Advanced Education,

Sept. 16-17, 2019, in Fayetteville; and one \$400 scholarship to attend the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) annual conference, May 19-22, 2019, in Birmingham, Ala.

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

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

Andrea Williams, CMC, CAMC
City Clerk, City of Paragould
301 West Court Street
P.O. Box 1175
Paragould, AR 72450

Questions: Andrea.Williams@Paragouldcity.org
 or (870)239-7500.

2019 APPLICATION FOR SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE

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

Name _____ Title _____

Street Address or P.O. Box _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____ Date assumed present position _____

Other related experience: Title _____ Municipality _____ Years _____

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

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

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

Travel/Transportation _____ Registration Fee/Tuition _____

Lodging and Meal _____ Total Amount _____

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

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

I understand that if a scholarship is awarded to me, it must be used between Jan. 1, 2019, and Dec. 31, 2019, and that I must attend all sessions.

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____

CHECK THE SCHOLARSHIP FOR WHICH YOU ARE APPLYING:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Municipal Clerks' Institute, Fayetteville	September 15-19, 2019	Deadline: May 31, 2019
<input type="checkbox"/>	Academy for Advanced Education, Fayetteville	September 16-17, 2019	Deadline: May 31, 2019

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



League hosts NLC Strong Southern Communities Initiative meeting

Municipal leaders from Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi met at the League’s North Little Rock headquarters May 2-3 to discuss practical, data-driven ways to improve the quality of life and increase the economic vitality of their communities as part of the Strong Southern Communities Initiative (SSCI), an outgrowth of the National League of Cities’ Institute for Youth, Education, and Families.

Through a series of working roundtable groups, expert presentations, and panel discussions, the goal was for the participants to:

- Name or reaffirm a specific result to guide their work back home;
- Learn about tools, ideas, and success stories that can help them move forward in their communities;
- Build relationships with each other as thought and accountability partners;
- Understand the resources available through the NLC; and
- Identify next steps and make action commitments to carry forward the work of the day.

At the meeting, Pea Ridge Mayor Jackie Crabtree and Stephens Mayor Harry Brown participated in a panel discussion alongside Holly Springs, Miss., Mayor Kelvin Buck and Indianola, Miss., Mayor Steve Rosenthal, moderated by former Hattiesburg, Miss., Mayor Dr. Johnny DuPree. The mayors shared ways their cities have worked to improve outcomes for children and families by partnering with key stakeholders in



Pea Ridge Mayor Jackie Crabtree speaks during a panel discussion.


the community. Mayor Crabtree discussed the strong relationship the city has forged with the local school district, and Mayor Brown shared that, when the local young people have “skin in the game,” they were more likely to appreciate and take care of amenities like the basketball goals at the city park.

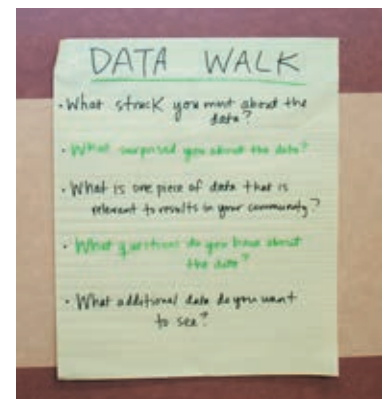


Stephens Mayor Harry Brown shares lessons learned in his city.



Former Hattiesburg, Miss., Mayor Dr. Johnny DuPree works with a roundtable group.

To participate in the Strong Southern Communities Initiative and learn more about the SSCI Pledge, visit www.nlc.org or contact Anthony Santiago with the Institute for Youth, Education, and Families at (202) 626-3022 or email santiago@nlc.org. 



Data-driven solutions are a focus of the SSCI.



Fayetteville hosts Southern Municipal Conference IT Summit

About 30 information technology professionals from state leagues that participate in the Southern Municipal Conference (SMC) gathered April 17-19 in Fayetteville to discuss the IT challenges that leagues, cities, and towns face. The summit featured technology presentations covering the latest trends in software, cybersecurity, and membership management. The summit also provided SMC members the opportunity to network and share IT best practices with each other.

“The SMC IT summit is the most important conference I attend all year,” Arkansas Municipal League Chief Information Officer Chris Hartley said. “The state sharing round table discussions are invaluable. It is very beneficial to hear from smart people in the same unique position as me, providing IT support for our state league membership, operations, and risk pools.”

Fayetteville Mayor Lionel Jordan, Pea Ridge Mayor and SMC Immediate Past Chairman Jackie Crabtree, and the northwest Arkansas region were excellent hosts, Hartley said. The group also took an excursion to Bentonville to visit the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art and dine at its restaurant, Eleven. Everyone agreed that Arkansas and the League set the bar high for future meetings, he said. 🍷



From left, Arkansas Municipal League Chief Information Officer Chris Hartley and Network Security Engineer Matt Parker.

AACD holds equalization training in June and July

Act 659 of 2017 requires the Arkansas Assessment Coordination Department to provide training and certification for members of county equalization boards. At least two members of five-member boards and three members of nine-member boards must be certified in 2019 (A.C.A. § 26-27-324(c)(3)(A)). AACD will be conducting the training in several locations around Arkansas during June and July this year.

County equalization boards have two responsibilities: (1) to review and equalize overall county assessments as assessed by the assessor, and (2) to hear assessment appeals by property owners. “Equalization” means to adjust the valuation of property in order to bring about a uniform tax rate (A.C.A. § 26-27-315; *Black’s Law Dictionary*). The board begins the review of assessments on Aug. 1, when the county assessor delivers the completed assessment records to the county clerk, who serves as the secretary for the board. Assessment appeals from landowners begin no later than the second Monday in August (A.C.A. § 26-27-317). The boards will meet as often as necessary during this time to complete their work (A.C.A. § 26-27-309). If a county’s ratio of assessed-to-market value is out of compliance, the equalization board may meet after Oct. 1, but no later than the third Monday in November (A.C.A. § 26-27-309 & 311).

Summaries of Attorney General Opinions

Recent opinions that affect municipal government in Arkansas

From the Office of Attorney General Leslie Rutledge

Rescinded memo of termination questionable under FOIA

Opinion: 2019-022

Requestor: Justin Eichmann, city attorney, Cave Springs

Is the decision of the City of Cave Springs to release a memo regarding termination of a city employee (which was rescinded and never processed), in response to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, consistent with provisions of the FOIA? **RESPONSE:** In my opinion, based on the face of the record and the limited information before me, the record is properly classified as an employee-evaluation record. I cannot, however, resolve the apparent dispute regarding whether the termination decision was effective. If the employee's termination was effective, then, in my opinion, the custodian's decision to release the record is consistent with the FOIA. However, the effectiveness of the termination involves issues of fact and law that are outside the scope of my review under the FOIA.

Release of properly redacted disciplinary records consistent with FOIA

Opinion: 2019-028

Requestor: Jimmy Williams, mayor, Marianna

Whether the decision of the custodian of records to release two disciplinary records of a former city employee in response to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request is consistent with provisions of the FOIA. **RESPONSE:** In my opinion, the custodian's

decision to release the two disciplinary records is consistent with the FOIA. However, the redaction of a different employee's name from one of the records may be necessary under the relevant FOIA exception.

Former police chief's personnel file needs additional redactions before release

Opinion: 2019-030


Requestor: Justin Eichmann, city attorney, Tontitown

Are the decisions of the custodian of records regarding the release of the former police chief's personnel file in response to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request consistent with provisions of the FOIA? **RESPONSE:** Having reviewed the records the custodian intends to release in redacted form, it is my opinion, based on the face of the records, that the custodian has properly classified the records as either the former police chief's personnel or evaluation records (although the custodian does not specifically identify what records meet which classification). It is also my opinion that the applicable tests for disclosure of the records have been met. However, my review has uncovered additional redactions that must be made prior to disclosure. Furthermore, the former chief's asserted objection to the records' release is, in my opinion, not a legally sufficient reason to withhold the records. Finally, it is my opinion that the request for reasons for the termination is, standing alone, a valid request under the FOIA. But whether any records responsive to that request exist is a factual question only the custodian can answer.

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

2019 Act 833 Deadline for Arkansas Fire Departments

The 2019 Act 833 application period will open **Jan. 1, 2019**, and will close **June 30, 2019**.

Act 833 of 1992, "Funding for Fire Departments," is administered by the Arkansas Fire Protection Services Board (AFPSB) and requires all Arkansas fire departments to become certified in order to be eligible for funding. Certification requirements include possession of a NFPA 1901 compliant fire suppression apparatus, a minimum of six active members with 16 hours of certified training, and personal protective equipment (PPE) for all active members. New for 2019—Online application at the Arkansas Fire Portal arfire.arkansas.gov. To request log-in credentials contact your county LEMC/Fire Coordinator or State Fire Coordinator Kendell Snyder at (501) 683-6781 or email fire/emsservices@adem.arkansas.gov. 



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Hot Springs hosts ACMA spring conference

The Arkansas City Management Association (ACMA) held its 2019 spring conference April 25-26 in Hot Springs, where city managers, city administrators, chiefs of staff, economic development specialists, and other professionals gathered to discuss legal issues, small cells, economic incentives, and other issues important to cities, regardless of the form of local government. The ACMA held its annual business meeting during the conference, and elected Hot Springs City Manager Bill Burrough as president for the coming year. 🏛️



From left, League Deputy Director Whitnee Bullerwell, Siloam Springs City Administrator and ACMA Immediate Past President Phillip Patterson, Hot Springs City Manager and new ACMA President Bill Burrough, and League Executive Director Mark Hayes.



League General Counsel John Wilkerson.



Hot Springs Mayor Pat McCabe.



Springdale Mayor Doug Sprouse.



Amy Whitehead, assistant vice president of community and workforce development at the University of Central Arkansas.



Dr. Margaret Reid, professor, University of Arkansas, left, with ACMA student chapter members Madison Kienzle and Allison Hayes.



Danny Games, business and economic development director of Entergy Arkansas.



Bryan Scroggins, director of business finance, Arkansas Economic Development Commission.



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Why did Arkansas change its mind on municipal broadband?

Eight years after banning cities and towns from building high-speed internet networks, state lawmakers unanimously reversed course. Will more red states follow?

By Nick Keppler

Pat Ulrich can't make water-cooler talk about *The Handmaid's Tale* or *Shrill*.

"I can't get Hulu or anything like that," she says.

If it's on a streaming service, she probably hasn't seen it.

Her home, in Arkansas, has no broadband internet connection. A cable company once quoted her \$44,000 to install one, so she and her husband get mediocre Wi-Fi through a satellite provider.

"It's 20 gigabytes" per month, she says, "no different from using your phone."

Connectivity isn't just a problem for the state's sizable rural population. Ulrich lives in a suburb of Little Rock and commutes into the city each day to work as a web developer for the Arkansas Arts Center. Needless to say, she never works from home.

Arkansas is the least connected of the 50 states, according to BroadbandNow, a group that tracks consumer options. Since 2011, the state has banned cities and towns from building their own networks, outlawing a local solution that has been hailed as an effective way for communities to connect themselves when they don't have internet providers.

This year, however, Arkansas appears to be having a change of heart. Under the weight of constituent complaints about lousy internet—and after years of waiting for subsidies to goad telecom giants into expanding the

infrastructure—the state legislature in February passed a bill to repeal its ban. Republican Governor Asa Hutchinson said he will sign it. [The bill, now Act 198 of 2019, was passed and signed by the governor on Feb. 26.—Ed.]

That this is happening at all is significant. That it's happening in a deep-red state is perhaps monumental.

Arkansas outlawed municipal broadband in 2011 as a wave of other states passed similar laws. It was, in part, a factor of the Tea Party movement, which ushered small-government Republicans into state capitols. By 2018, 21 states had some law banning or restricting municipal broadband; many were cut-and-paste "model legislation" from the American Legislative and Exchange Council, backed by telecom giants. They sought to kill municipal broadband under the belief that "such services should not be offered by government in competition with private-sector providers."

In Arkansas, Republicans outnumber Democrats 3-to-1 in the state house and 2-to-1 in the senate. Still, the bill passed unanimously.

State Senator Breanne Davis, a Republican and a co-sponsor of the bill, said the state saw the poor results of its previous policy.

"We were one of the five states that had the most restrictive laws [on municipal broadband] in the nation," she says, "and almost last in broadband."

Only 75 percent of Arkansas homes have access to broadband. Even that statistic is overselling it, says BroadbandNow's technical product manager Jameson Zimmer. Some of that data was compiled from reports from service providers, who might exaggerate their capacity, and rural lines classified as broadband are often sluggish by city standards. Despite billions in federal subsidies to get them up to speed, the cost to extend broadband lines (which can be thousands per house) has left swaths of the U.S. with 1990s-grade internet.

Davis says the state has been underwhelmed by the promise of the Connect America Fund, an FCC program meant to subsidize broadband in underserved areas.

"The top three companies got millions to bring broadband to Arkansas," says Davis. "They've had that money so many years, and providers are not willing to use that to go into new areas."

According to the Institute for Self-Reliance, the FCC committed \$250 million from the Connect America Fund's first phase of funding, doled out in 2011, to AT&T, Windstream, and CenturyLink for the purpose of spreading broadband in Arkansas.

After years of waiting for results, Davis says Arkansans are losing out on jobs. Employers are looking for remote workers who need access to broadband, for example.

"If someone with a degree in coding gets a remote job here, they can't stay," she says. Arkansans who want to take online classes face the same roadblock. "I've had people tell me they can't pull up emails at their house," Davis says. "They have to go to McDonalds and use the internet."

It has caused other problems for constituents, too. Ulrich's subdivision was built just 15 years ago, when broadband was the Cadillac of internet connections, not the standard.

"Now people can't sell their houses because there's no broadband access," she says.

And when Arkansas imposed work requirements on Medicaid last year, recipients were required to find an internet connection to log work hours in order to keep their health care coverage. (A federal judge rejected the state's work requirements in March.)

Still, the new law won't give towns and cities a full license to set up their own networks. A last-minute amendment stipulated they need a grant or loan from a second party. Davis hopes the changes will allow farming towns to access some of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's \$600 million fund to build broadband networks in rural areas.

Christopher Mitchell, the director of community broadband networks for the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, has campaigned against municipal broadband bans since they started sprouting up.

"For years, we couldn't make a dent in them," Mitchell says.


He sees the change in Arkansas as a milestone: It's a red state, and constituent concerns overrode telecommunication interests and ideology.

North Carolina's Republican legislature is also considering modifying its 2011 ban on municipal broadband. HB 431, called "the FIBER NC Act," would allow local counties and cities to build infrastructure for broadband networks. Lawmakers are driven by similar constituent frustrations and fear of being technologically left behind. In January, Mississippi passed a law allowing rural electric cooperatives to offer broadband internet services.

Mitchell says he expects dominos will fall on statewide municipal broadband prohibitions as long as people face what Americans increasingly can't tolerate: not being able to get online.

"I do think you will see more changes as long as people have such bad internet," he says, "and people are being so frustrated by it all the time."


Nick Keppler is a freelance journalist whose work has been published by The Gizmodo Media Group, The Financial Times, The Daily Beast, Slate, Vice, and others. His website is nickkeppler.com. This article originally appeared April 17 at CityLab.com and is reprinted with permission.



"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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For the housing crisis, cities and states need each other

Constructive relationships and complementary policies are emerging in the quest for affordability.

By Christiana K. McFarland

The state of California is taking the reins to remedy its acute housing shortage with proposed zoning standards for housing construction near job and transit centers. But not everyone is on board. Some city leaders and housing activists call the effort a one-size-fits-all mandate that undermines local authority and allows developers to profit while doing little to meet affordable-housing goals. The tension in California, like places across the country, is as much about who leads—cities or the state—as it is about the solution itself.

Given the great resources needed to make a dent in the problem, the cross-jurisdictional nature of housing markets, and the sometimes-fierce local opposition to increased density, state support of housing affordability is vital. However, the need to mitigate neighborhood impacts such as residential displacement, to engage communities in meaningful compromises, and to nurture cultural shifts toward acceptance of all housing types (and people) means that city leadership is also critical.

In other words, neither cities nor states can do it alone. So where do we go from here?

While conducting research with state municipal leagues on local tools to address housing affordability, my colleagues and I uncovered cases where a commitment to ensuring that all people have a place to call home has compelled constructive relationships and

complementary policy positions between cities and their states.

Seattle's new Mandatory Housing Affordability (MHA) ordinance, for example, demonstrates a model that is grounded in local leadership but with state guardrails. Under state law, cities can mandate affordable housing only if developers are granted something of equal value in return, such as a tax incentive or zoning changes to allow taller or larger structures. MHA offers zoning changes that increase capacity to build in designated growth areas. The state zoning requirement serves the city's policy goal of creating more housing options overall while providing a degree of political cover to local officials to promote density.

The culmination of more than 200 community meetings and dozens of public hearings, this ordinance represents years of debate, trade-offs and compromise—all of which resulted not only in unanimous approval by the city council but also a cultural shift in how residents perceive the role of zoning in everyday life and inclusive growth. Yet no one is suggesting that MHA is a perfect solution.

"This is a significant step that will have lasting impact, but it is not enough," said Seattle City Council member Teresa Mosqueda. "We will continue to acknowledge and dismantle the legacy of racist redlining and historical exclusionary land use and zoning policies."

As housing pressures mount in Minnesota, state Rep. Brad Tabke, a former mayor of the Twin Cities suburb of Shakopee, is leading an effort to transform state tax liabilities into funding for local affordable housing. The proposed Minnesota Housing Tax Credit Contribution Fund would allow residents and businesses with tax liabilities to receive a tax credit if they contribute to a statewide affordable-housing pool or to specific development or rehabilitation projects in their communities. Modeled after a successful North Dakota program, the bill is receiving rare bipartisan support and the backing of regional organizations, business leaders, and local government leaders. It would be of particular benefit to smaller and more rural communities that have less access to federal tax-credit programs and state resources.


In Utah, rapid population and economic growth prompted cities to work with the legislature and the state Commission on Housing Affordability to develop Affordable Housing Modifications legislation. The goal of the new law is not only to increase housing options for all incomes in high-growth areas but also to promote regional integration of housing and transportation. Under the legislation, for cities to be eligible for state transportation dollars they must include moderate-income housing components into local general plans.

“Cities do not control the cost inputs of housing such as land, labor, materials, and tariffs, or the profit that a developer can make from building one type of housing over another,” said Cameron Diehl, executive director of the Utah League of Cities and Towns. “The new legislation leverages the most powerful housing-affordability key that cities do hold—planning—while not punishing them for what they do not control.”

The state established a minimum set of requirements for cities—a “floor”—but collaborated with local governments to develop some two dozen options for how they can approach the housing mandate in ways that consider local circumstances.

Despite agreement that housing affordability is a defining crisis of our time, answers have not come easy. The push and pull of “who leads” has slowed advancement of solutions, while millions continue to struggle to find affordable homes near job opportunities. But promising policy initiatives from places ranging from Seattle to Minnesota to Utah demonstrate that cities and states can leverage their respective strengths to forge more collaborative, effective, and sustainable housing policy solutions.

Christiana K. McFarland is research director for the National League of Cities. This article appeared originally in the April 8 edition of Governing magazine (governing.com) and is reprinted with permission.



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April was Distracted Driver Safety Month: How did you do?

April is called Distracted Driver Safety Month for a very good reason. There is an epidemic of unsafe, even deadly, driving behavior in the United States. Employers must do their due diligence in training drivers; however, it appears there are some serious deficiencies accumulated and reported in a survey conducted by Vertical Alliance and the National Safety Council. Did you do any specialized training last month to increase driver safety in your workplace? I dare say many employers didn't realize the significance of the Distracted Driver Month or the reasoning behind it.

Vertical Alliance collected national data and released their findings in an April 2019 document. The use of cell phones and computers can be blamed for many accidents and the consequences of such behavior can be devastating to the victim, driver, and employer. The statistics are alarming, considering the fact CDL holders are prohibited by law from using their phones while driving. Most employers use the same guidance for non-CDL employees in their workforce.

The survey asked drivers some very basic questions about distracted driving. Their answers are troubling. Here are some example survey questions and response rates:

- Have you read a text while operating a commercial vehicle? 47 percent replied yes.
- Have you sent a text while driving a commercial vehicle? 39 percent replied yes.
- Has your distraction while driving a commercial vehicle potentially caused a collision? 72 percent replied yes.
- Nearly three-fourths of the truckers surveyed admitted their behavior was wrong.
- Alcohol and drugs were not directly listed in the questions.

Obviously, this is a red flag indicating a major need for training and remediation. How can we approve? First, it is important to realize that technology, apps, and social media are expanding so rapidly that the number of ways a driver can be distracted is growing. If you add any form of substance abuse to the mix, then you really have a bad scenario. Employers must be on the front lines to

help drivers correct poor behaviors. Employers must have current and realistic training programs about what is happening in the driver's cab or truck.

Here are a few of the types of distractions that may be problems:

- Phone conversations, hands-free or otherwise
- Checking emails or texts
- Snapchat, Facebook, Twitter, or other social apps
- Taking selfies or videos
- Typing input into a GPS
- Using voice-to-text features
- Contacting someone else who's on the road
- Personal grooming
- Reading
- Daydreaming or "zoning out"
- Adjusting the radio or music device
- Looking for or adjusting items in the floor or seat
- Eating and drinking
- Using illegal or legal drugs or alcohol
- Smoking, vaping, chewing tobacco

It would be hard to say drivers don't know better. Out of 500 respondents in the survey, almost 100 percent acknowledged that these behaviors are dangerous.

Some other interesting results of the survey were that commercial drivers were less likely to acknowledge checking their social media feed or doing their makeup as dangerous—only 6-7 percent. And when it comes to holding conversations or changing the radio station, commercial drivers were more aware of the risks than general (non-CDL) drivers—8-11 percent.

The survey is very eye opening and scary when you realize how many distracted drivers there are behind the wheels of commercial and non-commercial vehicles. Safety concerns on our highways and cities should be a priority for every employer, driver, citizen, and law enforcement. If you are an employer, today is the time to start your distracted driver training. This is a crisis that must be addressed.

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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Planning and Zoning Workshop sets record

The League held its biennial Planning and Zoning Workshop April 17 at its North Little Rock headquarters. The workshop is part of the League's Voluntary Certified Continuing Education Program for municipal officials, and it set a new attendance record with 125 participants from cities and towns across the state. League staff members, professional planners, and other specialists covered a variety of land-use topics important to cities, including an overview of state statutes governing local governments' ability to plan, updates to state laws following this year's legislative session, practical uses of geographic information services in planning and zoning, new trends in planning, and more.



Conway Director of Planning and Development James Walden.



PHOTOS BY ANDREW MORGAN.

League Staff Planning Consultant Jim von Tungeln.

Give me a “T” for teamwork

By John Baldoni



Dysfunction is prevalent across many organizations and so management responds with an increase in training.

Yet holding team-building activities when management is in flux, standards are declining, and behaviors are eroding is akin to selling life insurance policies as the Titanic is sinking—meaningless.

What makes a team is defined by common purpose, and if there is no common purpose, then teamwork is superfluous. When lack of focus is endemic, responsibility falls at the feet of those in charge.

Building teams is a perennial effort in organizations—so much so that when we use the term “team building,” many employees roll their eyes. They also do a mental checklist of all the team building exercises they have experienced—“radioactive contamination” exercises, trust falls, whitewater-rafting trips, and backyard ropes courses.

Dysfunction stems from lack of trust. The way to build trust is through commitment that emerges from listening to employees to determine the problems. Members of dysfunctional teams live lives of daily misery because their ability to make improvements is disregarded by their bosses, who know only how to make things worse.

Savvy managers challenge individuals to solve problems and empower them to put those remedies into action.

This article appeared originally on the March 29 edition of digital newsletter SmartBrief (smartbrief.com) and is reprinted with permission.

Sevier County celebrates new slogan



Sevier County Economic Development Tourism Committee Chairperson Keisha McKinney, at podium, reveals the county's new slogan April 18 at Lockesburg City Park.

In an effort to boost county-wide community engagement and economic development, Sevier County has revealed a new slogan: “Sevier County: Where Creeks & Culture Unite.” The slogan was the result of a contest, and the winner, De Queen native Micah Martin, also received a \$500 prize. The University of Arkansas Cossatot and the Sevier County Economic Development Tourism Committee announced the winning slogan at an April 18 event at Lockesburg City Park.

“Today is an exciting day for Sevier County”, said Keisha McKinney, Tourism Committee chairperson. “The Tourism Committee has been working closely with the economic development director on new initiatives in our region and today marks a big step for us to move forward. Gathering current opportunities and developing a marketing and promotion brand for our county have been two of our first goals. Today we have arrived. This new slogan uniquely captures the opportunities and feeling that differentiates our county. Our natural resources and unique cultural experiences are unlike any other place in the state and we cannot wait for more people traveling our way to experience them.”

ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

The 2019-2020 Directory of Arkansas Municipal Officials

**THE NEW AML
DIRECTORY IS NOW
AVAILABLE!**

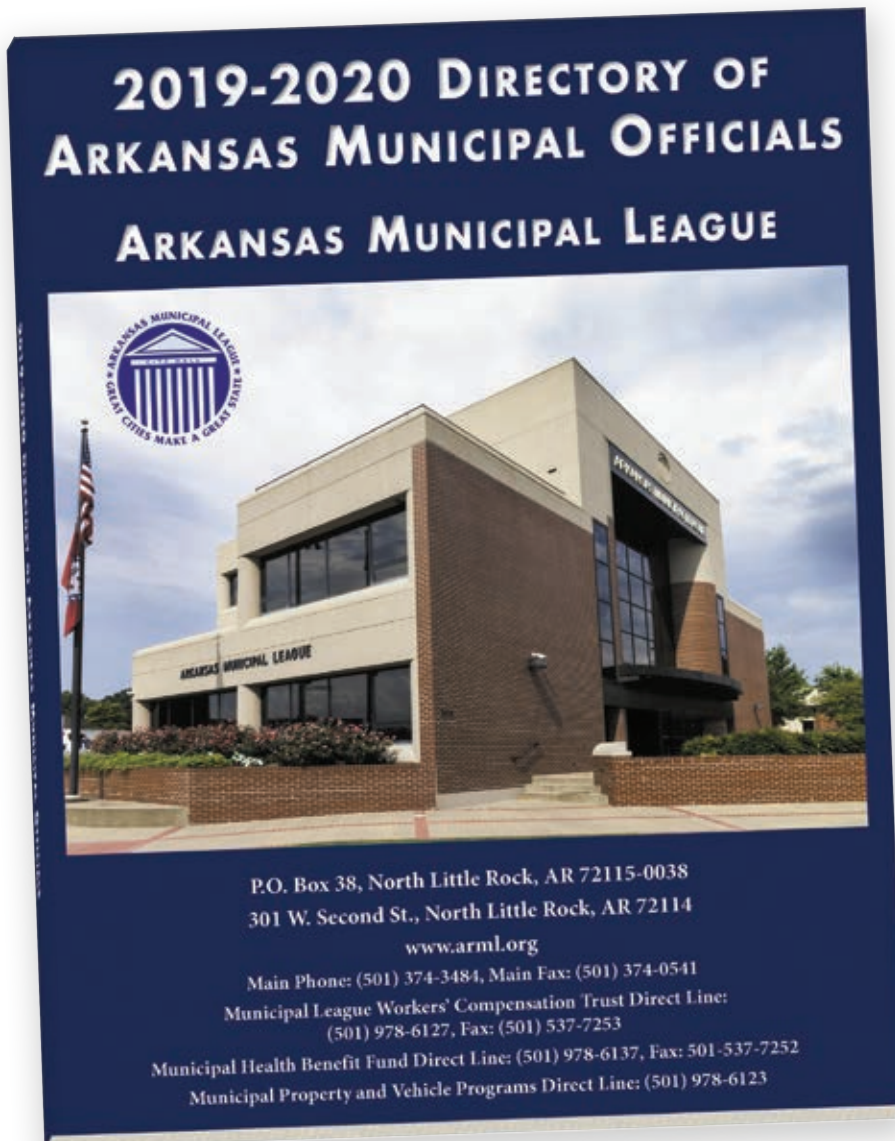
Don't be without the best resource for information on Arkansas cities. The Directory of Arkansas Municipal Officials is published biennially by the Arkansas Municipal League.

Directory information on each incorporated Arkansas cities or town includes:

- Municipal officials' names
- City population as updated by the city
- County in which the city is located
- City hall mailing addresses
- Phone and fax numbers for city hall
- Day of city council meetings
- City's Web address

Order the Book for \$25 or the Seachable PDF for \$50 at the AML Web site at www.arml.org/store or call 501-374-3484.

Great Cities Make a Great State



Changes to the Directory of Arkansas Municipal Officials

Submit changes to **Tricia Zello**, tzello@arml.org.

Amagon

Delete M (Vacant)
Add M (Daniel Riley)

Arkadelphia

Delete FC Ricky Arnold
Add FC Jason Hunt

Bull Shoals

Delete DPW Scott McConnell
Add DPW Rose Mary Rogers

Central City

Add CM Tonya Fagan
Delete CM (Vacant)
Add CM Kathryn Jacobs
Chavez

Charleston

Delete
E-Mail mailaboutcharleston.com
Add
E-Mail cityhall@aboutcharleston.com

Daisy

Delete FC Kenneth Crow
Add FC Scotty Frazier

Etowah

Delete R/T Johnny Bryan
Add R/T Kattie Riney

Eudora

Delete PC William El-Amin
Add PC Darien Aikens
Add CEO David Jones
Add CA Vicki Lucas

Goshen

Delete MTG First Tuesday
Add MTG Second Tuesday
Delete CA Charles Harwell
Add CA (Vacant)

Gosnell

Delete CA (Vacant)
Add CA Chris Brown

Fort Smith

Delete DR Mike Lorenz
Add DR Lavon Morton
Delete PC Nathaniel Clark
Add /A/PC Danny Baker
Delete DJ Ben Beland
Add DJ Gunner DeLay
Add BI Jimmie Deer

Hector

Delete M John Riley
Add M Carey McGee
Delete R/T Angela Watkins
Add R/T Sandra Barton
Delete PC BeLinda Shelton
Add PC Scott Dixon
Delete CM Jason Waterson
Add CM JW Mackey
Delete CM Rita Chandler
Add CM John Mosley
Delete CM Mike Barleet
Add CM Shane Williams

Hot Springs

Delete DCR Bill Burrough
Add CR Bill Burrough
(Correction from April issue)

Humnoke

Delete M Harold "Bill" Morris
Add M Richard Terry

Jericho

Delete M Carol Witt
Add M Ida Shumpert
Delete R/T Ida Shumpert
Add R/T Elaine Dupree

Little Flock

Delete M Bob Stout
Add M Tracy Englebrecht

Little Rock

Delete PC (Vacant)
Add PC Keith Humphrey

Lowell

Delete PC Randy Harvey
Add PC Tim Kuth
Delete FC Mike Morris
Add FC Pete Melnicki

Mountain Pine

Delete M Tambrea Bailey
Add M Morgan Wiles

Mansfield

Delete PC Boyd Farmer
Add PC Everett Robb

Monticello

Delete PC Eddie Deaton
Add PC Jason Akers

Mountain View

Delete SS Mike Vannatter
Add SS Rex Vannatter
Add PC George Bethell
Delete FC Curt Decker
Add FC Jeremy Beaudin

Pottsville

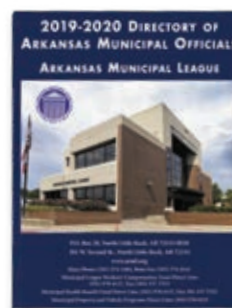
Delete CM Bryant Duvall
Add CM Clint Maness

South Lead Hill

Delete Mail P.O. Box 112
Add Mail P.O. Box 512

Wabbaseka

Delete M Myra Edwards
Add M Linzie Anderson



Obituaries

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN "FRANK" BIGGER II, 77, mayor of Pocahontas from 2011-2014, died May 3.

CAROL WITT, 64, mayor of the Town of Jericho for eight years, died April 5.



Convention Keynote on 21st Century Leadership

We live in an era of astonishing technology, instant information, and rampant social networking. Despite the epidemic advances that ushered in a new millennium, cultural critics argue that society has never been more shallow in communication and more superficial in appearance. In fact, Dr. Rigsby argues that for many organizations, appearance—or what he refers to as impression—has become the new corporate wardrobe.

We invite you to rediscover what is really important and meaningful, not only in your professional career but in your personal life as well. Join Dr. Rigsby as he shares the wisdom of past generations—wisdom that will inspire, motivate, and empower you to make an impact rather than an impression!

Dr. Rick Rigsby is a *USA Today*, *Amazon* and *Wall Street Journal* best-selling author who became an Internet sensation when his speech on hope—produced by Goalcast—was viewed by over 200 million people worldwide. An internationally recognized motivational speaker, Dr. Rigsby is founder of Rick Rigsby Communications. With engagements spanning the globe, audiences include Fortune 100 and Fortune 500 companies, service organizations, educational institutions, and professional sports organizations, including the NFL and PGA. Rick is a former award-winning journalist, college professor, and football character coach at Texas A&M University. 🏛️



CLE Offered During League Convention

Twelve hours of continuing legal education (CLE) will be available for city attorneys who attend the 85th Arkansas Municipal League Convention, June 12-14 at the Statehouse Convention Center and Marriott Hotel in Little Rock. The Arkansas City Attorney’s Association (ACAA) sponsors the CLE.

Connie Barksdale, city attorney for Cave City and the current ACAA president, urges members to register for the Convention as soon as possible.

The 12 hours will be offered June 13 and 14, and the tentative agenda includes case law updates, sign ordinance revisions, medical marijuana in the workplace update, Act 779 of 1999, legislative process and updates, concealed carry update, and federal court practice presented by a panel of federal court. The program will also include at least one hour of ethics.

Held in conjunction with the League’s 85th Convention, all CLE classes will be located at the League’s headquarters in North Little Rock. CLE

will tentatively begin at 8:15 a.m. Thursday morning, June 13. If you have not pre-registered, you may do so starting at 1 p.m. Wednesday, June 12 at the Statehouse Convention Center. Registered city attorneys attending Thursday and Friday classes can pick up registration materials at the League headquarters on Thursday or Friday, or from 1-6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 12 at the Statehouse Convention Center.

To attend the CLE program, registration is required. If you have not pre-registered, you may do so online with a credit card or download the registration form at www.arml.org/meetingRegistrations. Deadline for pre-registration is May 31. For registration information, call Whitnee Bullerwell at (501) 374-3484 Ext. 206. For CLE information call John Wilkerson at (501) 978-6136 or Jamie Adams at (501) 978-6124. 🏛️





Three great acts set to entertain at 85th Convention

The League is honored to welcome Journey former lead vocalist Steve Augeri, Kool & The Gang former member Al Paris, and the band Sixwire to the 85th Convention, where they will perform during the opening night reception, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 12 in the Wally Allen Ballroom of the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock.

Drawing on a range of diverse musical influences to deliver a unique take on the genre of melodic rock, Steve Augeri is an American rock singer best known as the former lead vocalist for the rock group Journey. In 1998, Augeri was officially named the group’s lead vocalist and the first “official” lead vocalist since the departure of Steve Perry. For the next eight years Augeri and the band toured almost constantly to reclaim their standing as one of America’s premier rock bands.



Steve Augeri

Today, Steve continues to excite audiences around the globe with his soaring vocal performances and the Journey songs that everyone remembers and loves to sing along with, including the hits “Don’t Stop Believing,” “Separate Ways,” “Stone in Love,” “Who’s Crying Now,” and “Open Arms.”

Al Paris is a performer of rare talent, whose charisma really shines on stage. After a decade touring globally as a former member of Kool & The Gang, Al’s “renaissance man” career has spanned acting, singing, song-writing, and producing from his home base in Memphis. Working with artists like Gladys Knight, Pink, and Joe Walsh exposed Al to a wide range of music and talented performers and studio



Al Paris

musicians, many of whom he has recruited into Al Paris & The Heartbreakers formed in late 2013. A highlight of Al’s musical career was playing in front of then President Bill Clinton and the leaders of the eight largest global economies at the G8 Summit in Denver.



Sixwire’s first Warner Brothers Records album release debuted in the top 30 and spawned the chart hits “Look at Me Now” and “Way Too Deep,” resulting in major concert tours with the top artists of that time. Sixwire members then served as the house band on USA Network’s *Nashville Star* for three seasons, and the band temporarily relocated to Los Angeles and were featured on Fox’s *The Next Great American Band*. Sixwire returned to Nashville to become the house band for CMT’s *Can You Duet* and *Next Superstar*, and then landed the role as the backing band for character Rayna James played by actress Connie Britton on ABC’s *Nashville*.

Through the years, members of Sixwire have played in the bands of Faith Hill, Alabama, Randy Travis, Richard Marx, Dolly Parton, Little River Band, and Don Felder, and members have written hit songs recorded by Tim McGraw, Brooks & Dunn, Chris Cagle, Sir Cliff Richard, and many more. Collectively, Sixwire members have been seen on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*, *The Late Show with David Letterman*, *Saturday Night Live*, *The Today Show*, *Good Morning America*, *The View*, the Grammy Awards, CMT’s Flameworthy Awards, the ACM Awards, the CMA Awards, and many others. Sixwire has been featured at the Daytona 500, the Bob Hope Classic, the NHL All-Star Game, Super Bowl 51, and served as the house band for the Charlie Daniels Volunteer Jam and the Academy of Country Music Awards All-Star Jam. Sixwire members include guitarist/vocalist Andy Childs, guitarist/producer Steve Mandile, keyboardist Steve Hornbeak, bassist John Howard, and drummer Chuck Tilley. 🎵



85th Annual Convention

Marriott Hotel / Statehouse Convention Center, June 12-14, 2019

REGISTRATION

Registration and payment must be received in League office by Friday, May 31, 2019, to qualify for Pre-registration rates.

Pre-registration for municipal officials	\$150
Registration fee after May 31, 2019 , and on-site registration for municipal officials	\$175
Pre-registration for guests	\$75
Registration fee after May 31, 2019 , and on-site registration for guests	\$100
Other registrants	\$200

- Registration will be processed **ONLY** with accompanying payment in full. Make checks payable to the Arkansas Municipal League.
- Registration includes meals, activities and a copy of **2019 General Acts Affecting Arkansas Municipalites**.
- No daily registration is available.
- Registration must come through the League office. No telephone registrations will be accepted.
- **No refunds after May 31, 2019.**
- Cancellation letters must be postmarked by **May 31, 2019**.
- **Marriott guests:** In order to avoid a cancellation penalty of one night's room and tax, reservations must be cancelled at least seven (7) days prior to arrival.

HOTEL RESERVATION

Hotel Room Rates

Marriott Hotel (headquarters hotel)		
Single/Double	SOLD OUT \$140	Check-in 3 p.m.
Capital Hotel		
Single/Double	SOLD OUT \$189	Check-in 3 p.m.
Doubletree Hotel		
Single/Double	SOLD OUT \$146	Check-in 3 p.m.
Wyndham Hotel		
Single/Double	SOLD OUT \$109	Check-in 3 p.m.

- Cut-off date for hotel reservations is **May 31, 2019**.
- Rooms in Central Arkansas are subject to a 13.5 or 15 percent tax.
- Rooms will be held until 6 p.m. and then released unless guaranteed by credit card.
- Contact the hotel directly to make changes or cancellations in hotel accommodations.
- Hotel confirmation number will come directly from the hotel.
- Please check on cancellation policy for your hotel.

Two ways to register

1

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

OR

2

Complete the steps and **mail with payment** to:
 ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
 Attn: 85th Annual Convention
 P.O. Box 38
 North Little Rock, AR 72115-0038

Step 1: Delegate Information

I am a newly elected official.

Name: _____

Title: _____ City of: _____

Attendee only email (required): _____ CC Email: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone Number: _____

Non-city Official guests will attend: Yes No

Name: _____ Name: _____

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

Step 2: Payment Information

• WHAT IS YOUR TOTAL?

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

• How are you paying?

Check

Mail payment and form to:
 Arkansas Municipal League
 85th Annual Convention
 P.O. Box 38
 North Little Rock, AR 72115

Credit Card Complete information below and send to address above.

Credit Card: Visa MasterCard Discover

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

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

Billing address (as it appears on statement): _____

City: _____ State: __ Zip: _____ Telephone: _____

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

Step 3: Hotel Reservations

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

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

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

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

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

Special dietary needs:

- Gluten free
- Vegetarian
- Pescatarian
- Vegan

85th ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE JUNE 12 - 14, 2019

WEDNESDAY - JUNE 12, 2019		
1:00 P.M. to 6:30 P.M.	REGISTRATION <i>(Be sure to download the League's meeting App onto your smart device. Search for "ARML Events" in your App Store.)</i>	OSAGE & CADDO ROOMS, SCC
1:00 P.M. to 6:45 P.M.	MEET YOUR EXHIBITORS/RENEW ACQUAINTANCES <i>Use this time to meet the exhibitors and see what products and services they have that could benefit your city. Popcorn and cool beverages will be served throughout the afternoon. Also, take the time to renew acquaintances with fellow municipal officials while relaxing in the Exhibit Hall.</i>	GOVERNOR'S HALLS I - III, SCC
1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.	ARKANSAS CITY CLERKS, RECORDERS, AND TREASURERS ASSOCIATION	ARKANSAS BALL ROOM, MH
*3:15 P.M. to 4:15 P.M.	MEDICAL MARIJUANA AND THE WORKPLACE Presiding: Mayor Joe A. Smith, North Little Rock President Arkansas Municipal League	GOVERNOR'S HALL IV, SCC
3:30 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.	INTERIM CITY, COUNTY, LOCAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE	TBA
4:15 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.	BREAK	GOVERNOR'S HALLS I - III, SCC
*4:30 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.	2019 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FOR CITIES AND TOWNS Presiding: Mayor Joe A. Smith, North Little Rock President Arkansas Municipal League *Qualifying municipal officials must attend these 85th Convention sessions to receive three (3) hours of continuing education credit. Scanning for two hours of credit will take place at the conclusion of this session.	GOVERNOR'S HALL IV, SCC
MH = MARRIOTT HOTEL, SCC = STATEHOUSE CONVENTION CENTER, TBA=TO BE ANNOUNCED		
THURSDAY A.M. - JUNE 13, 2019		
5:30 P.M. to 6:30 P.M.	RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE <i>Each municipality has a designated representative who will vote on legislative matters to include the League's Policies and Goals for the coming year.</i> Presiding: Mayor Harold Perrin, Jonesboro First Vice President Arkansas Municipal League	GOVERNOR'S HALL IV, SCC
6:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.	OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION AND ENTERTAINMENT <i>Welcome to the 85th Convention's Opening Night Reception. Visit with colleagues from across the state. Enjoy delicious foods, tasty drinks and scrumptious desserts all while listening to an outstandingly talented musical group.</i>	WALLY ALLEN BALLROOM, SCC
MH = MARRIOTT HOTEL, SCC = STATEHOUSE CONVENTION CENTER, TBA=TO BE ANNOUNCED		
7:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.	REGISTRATION <i>(Be sure to download the League's meeting App onto your smart device. Search for "ARML Events" in your App Store.)</i>	OSAGE ROOM, SCC
7:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.	MEET YOUR EXHIBITORS/RENEW ACQUAINTANCES <i>Use this time to meet the exhibitors and see what products and services they have that could benefit your city. Popcorn and cool beverages will be served throughout the afternoon. Also, take the time to renew acquaintances with fellow municipal officials while relaxing in the Exhibit Hall.</i>	GOVERNOR'S HALLS I - III, SCC
7:00 A.M. to 8:30 A.M.	HOST CITY BREAKFAST BUFFET	GOVERNOR'S HALLS I - III, SCC
7:15 A.M. to 7:30 A.M.	VOLUNTARY PRAYER SESSION <i>This is a brief time set aside for those who wish to gather to pray for our national, state and local leaders.</i>	FULTON ROOM, SCC
8:15 A.M.	CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION <i>City attorneys will receive 12 hours of CLE credit for participation in two days of meetings.</i>	LEAGUE HEADQUARTERS 301 W. SECOND NLR, 72114
MH = MARRIOTT HOTEL, SCC = STATEHOUSE CONVENTION CENTER, TBA=TO BE ANNOUNCED		

8:45 A.M. to 10:30 A.M.	OPENING GENERAL SESSION <i>The 85th Convention begins with the posting of the colors and the singing of the National Anthem, followed by a Host City Welcome from Little Rock Mayor Frank D. Scott, Jr. We are honored to have keynote speaker, Dr. Rick Rigsby, join us for the Opening of our 85th Convention.</i> Presiding: Mayor Joe A. Smith, North Little Rock President Arkansas Municipal League Host City Welcome: Mayor Frank D. Scott, Jr. Little Rock (invited)	GOVERNOR'S HALL IV, SCC
10:30 A.M. to 10:45 A.M.	BREAK <i>Soft drinks and coffee available in the Exhibit Hall.</i>	GOVERNOR'S HALLS I - III, SCC
10:45 A.M. to 11:15 A.M.	GENERAL SESSION 2 GREETINGS FROM THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES PRESIDENT Presiding: Mayor Harold Perrin, Jonesboro First Vice President Arkansas Municipal League Speaker: Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson (invited) Gary, Indiana President, National League of Cities	GOVERNOR'S HALL IV, SCC
11:15 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.	GENERAL SESSION 3 UPDATE ON SMALL CELL TECHNOLOGY Presiding: Mayor Joe A. Smith, North Little Rock President Arkansas Municipal League	GOVERNOR'S HALL IV, SCC

THURSDAY P.M. - JUNE 13, 2019

12:00 P.M. to 1:30 P.M.	AWARDS LUNCHEON <i>Welcome to the 85th Convention Awards Luncheon. Governor Hutchinson will speak to our attendees. We will recognize municipalities and individuals that have made significant contributions to the cities and towns of Arkansas.</i> Presiding: Mayor Harold Perrin, Jonesboro First Vice President Arkansas Municipal League Speaker: Honorable Asa Hutchinson Governor, State of Arkansas	WALLY ALLEN BALLROOM, SCC
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MH = MARRIOTT HOTEL, SCC = STATEHOUSE CONVENTION CENTER, TBA=TO BE ANNOUNCED

THURSDAY CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS		
1:30 P.M. to 2:45 P.M.	1:30 P.M. TO 2:45 P.M. CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS	TBA
2:45 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.	BREAK <i>Soft drinks and coffee available in the Exhibit Hall.</i>	GOVERNOR'S HALLS I - III, SCC
THURSDAY CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS		
3:00 P.M. to 4:15 P.M.	3:00 P.M. TO 4:15 P.M. CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS	TBA
4:15 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.	BREAK <i>Soft drinks and coffee available in the Exhibit Hall.</i>	GOVERNOR'S HALLS I - III, SCC
THURSDAY CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS		
4:30 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.	4:30 P.M. TO 5:30 P.M. CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS	TBA
4:30 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.	RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE <i>Each municipality has a designated representative who votes on legislative matters to be included in the League's Policies and Goals for the coming year.</i> Presiding: Mayor Harold Perrin, Jonesboro First Vice President Arkansas Municipal League	GOVERNOR'S HALLS IV, SCC
5:30 P.M.	THE EXHIBIT HALL WILL CLOSE FOR THE DAY	
	DINNER ON YOUR OWN <i>Visit some of central Arkansas's finest restaurants.</i>	
MH = MARRIOTT HOTEL, SCC = STATEHOUSE CONVENTION CENTER, TBA=TO BE ANNOUNCED		

85th ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE JUNE 12 - 14, 2019

FRIDAY - JUNE 14, 2019

7:00 A.M. to NOON	REGISTRATION <i>(Be sure to download the League's meeting App onto your smart device. Search for "ARML Events" in your App Store.)</i>	OSAGE ROOM, SCC
7:00 A.M. to 10:30 A.M.	EXHIBITS OPEN <i>(Exhibit Hall will close at 10:30 a.m. for the remainder of the Convention.)</i>	GOVERNOR'S HALLS I - III, SCC
7:00 A.M. to 8:45 A.M.	BUFFET BREAKFAST	GOVERNOR'S HALLS I - III, SCC
8:30 A.M.	CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION <i>City attorneys will receive 12 hours of CLE credit for participation in two days of meetings.</i>	LEAGUE HEADQUARTERS 301 W. SECOND NLR, 72114
8:45 A.M. to 10:00 A.M.	ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING <i>During the Annual Business meeting, the League's Policies and Goals are presented and voted on by members. The nominating committee presents their recommended slate of new officers for the upcoming year, which will be followed by annual business meetings for the Municipal League Workers' Compensation Program (MLWCP), Municipal Health Benefit Program (MHBP), Municipal Vehicle Program (MVP), and Municipal Property Program (MPP). Executive Director Mark R. Hayes will also give the State of the League report.</i> Presiding: Mayor Joe A. Smith, North Little Rock President Arkansas Municipal League	GOVERNOR'S HALL IV, SCC

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

10:00 A.M. to 10:15 A.M.	BREAK	GOVERNOR'S HALLS I - III, SCC
*10:15 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.	GENERAL SESSION TOPICS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE FOR CITIES AND TOWNS Presiding: Mayor Harold Perrin, Jonesboro First Vice President Arkansas Municipal League *Scanning for one hour of credit will take place at the conclusion of the New Officers' and Awards Luncheon.	GOVERNOR'S HALL IV, SCC
NOON to 1:30 P.M.	NEW OFFICERS' AND AWARDS LUNCHEON <i>Municipalities and individuals are honored for their many successes and contributions during the past year. The new League president and officers will be introduced to the Convention delegates.</i> Presiding: Mayor Joe A. Smith, North Little Rock President Arkansas Municipal League *Qualifying municipal officials must attend the 85th Convention to receive three (3) hours of continuing education credit. Scanning for the final hour of credit will take place at the conclusion of the New Officers' and Awards Luncheon on Friday, 6/14/19.	GRAND BALLROOM SALONS A-C, MH

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





QUALITY CHILD CARE MEANS A QUALITY WORKFORCE

Two out of three Arkansas children under age 5 live in homes where **both** parents work. Those working parents must have child care.

Business and industry leaders can play an important role in helping employees make good child care decisions by sharing information about Better Beginnings.

Better Beginnings is Arkansas's quality rating and improvement system for licensed child care and early education programs.

Why does quality child care and early education matter to business and industry leaders?

- When parents have dependable, quality child care, productivity and absenteeism at work improve dramatically
- Quality child care provides a foundation for lifelong learning and a more qualified workforce for tomorrow



Visitors to ARBetterBeginnings.com can click this icon to find quality child care and early education options that work for their families.



Visit our YouTube channel to play the video about the return on investment quality early childhood experiences bring to Arkansas's economy.



better beginnings

EVERY CHILD DESERVES OUR BEST

www.ARBetterBeginnings.com

1-800-445-3316



Why communities fail; A Q&A with Danny Games

By Amy Whitehead

As director of business and economic development for Entergy Arkansas, Danny Games understands that local governments have an active role to play in the economic vitality of communities. Recently, Danny was the keynote speaker at the Malvern Chamber of Commerce annual banquet, and his comments about why communities fail were timely. He explained that economic developers often talk about the keys to economic success, but it is equally important to identify why some communities fail.

Danny reached out to his professional network to find out what his peers in the field of site location consulting and community and economic development had to say about why some communities fall behind. Seven main reasons rose to the top:

1. Leaders who do not lead.
2. We don't plan, strategically.
3. We're not ready to work.
4. The *commnity* is missing *U*.
5. Not taking care of business.
6. The shelves are empty.
7. The economic development organization's leadership.

In a follow-up question-and-answer session, Danny explained a little more about the survey and its results.

What made you decide to reach out to your network to ask why communities fail?

I find that in the business of economic development, the most overlooked—and hardest—part is good community development. Ribbon cuttings and other celebratory moments are usually preferred, whereas meaningful community development requires making difficult decisions, tackling problems, working together, and having real endurance to do the right things. Getting everyone together on the easy things is, well, easy. But, we too often ignore the big challenges. I liken it to going to the doctor for an annual physical and insisting that we only hear the good news. Choosing ignorance is not good self-medicating, and neither is sweeping our communities' problems under the rug. The findings of our survey don't make for a picker-upper chamber banquet speech, but I hope the results prove to be useful for those who are genuinely interested.

Who responded to your request?

We sent a simple survey question—What are the 3-5 reasons communities fail?—to leading site location consultants, economic developers, and a few opinion leaders across our state and the country. We received more than 50 responses from some seasoned veterans who have literally seen it all, and I am grateful for the candid feedback we received. It was pointed and helpful.

Were there any surprises in the responses you received?

Our intention was to find some common groupings among the responses that might give us some summary points, and honestly, I was surprised at just how easily the responses lined up. There was a lot more consistency than I originally expected, which told me that we asked the right question.

What were some of the most commonly listed reasons why communities fail?

One of the issues that came up several times was the need for a renewed focus on our public K-12 educational systems. Local public school systems are a significant reason why people choose—or don't choose—a community as a place to live. People will drive long distances for a good job, but you have to live near your local school if you have school-age children. Local leaders from city hall and the business community should be actively investing time and resources into the school district. Survey responses revealed that education and business often operate in silos, but the success or failure of one of them will most certainly impact the other.

Additionally, workforce development is now the number one issue in economic development for the state of Arkansas, so business and education leaders working together has become essential to ensuring we have a skilled, prepared workforce to meet the changing demands of the labor market. We need candid conversations at the local level to address this issue head on.

Another issue that came up several times was the need for additional community engagement and leadership development. One comment in the survey spoke to the fact that while we are more connected than ever [digitally], we are still very disconnected. Finding new ways to meaningfully engage citizens is important for effecting positive change and improving civic involvement.

What advice would you give local elected officials about economic development?

Throughout my career, I've had the privilege of working with many elected officials, from members of Congress to city council members. Their jobs are often challenging and they are faced with innumerable priorities and challenges. My primary advice along these lines is to take an active role in helping shape the economic future of your community, which directly impacts your tax base, income levels, funding for public services, and your future.

To learn more about Entergy Arkansas' business and economic development work, visit

www.entergy-arkansas.com/business-economic-development.



Amy Whitehead is the assistant vice president of community and workforce development at the University of Central Arkansas. Contact Amy at amyw@uca.edu or (501) 852-2930.

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From left, gathered at the McCollum-Chidester house in Camden: Mayor Julian Lott, Nancy Lott, Kathy Boyette, Rep. David Fielding, and Mark Christ.

PHOTO BY JIM VON TUNGLIN.

Building on your assets and heritage: catalysts for growth

By Jim von Tungeln

On March 23 of this year, a group organized in Little Rock joined a group organized in south Arkansas to promote one of the top five steps in community or regional development: “Build on your assets.”

The group from Little Rock comprised a busload of folks interested in the history of Arkansas, specifically the Civil War era. Stephan McAteer, director of Little Rock’s MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History organized the gathering.

The group from south Arkansas had just accomplished the adoption of Act 292 of the State of Arkansas’s 92nd General Assembly. The act established various segments of state highways as the “Camden Expedition Scenic Highway.” The signing of the act by Gov. Asa Hutchinson capped the efforts of individuals, too numerous to be named, in connecting historic sites in nine counties.

Historic sites consisted of landmarks in the Union Army’s ill-fated Camden Expedition, a part of a larger Union effort known as the Red River Campaign in the spring of 1864. The campaign’s goal was for troops from Little Rock and Fort Smith—some 12,000 strong—to converge with troops from New Orleans, capture Shreveport, Louisiana, push on into Texas, and fly Old

Glory once again over the Lone Star State. Union troops under Gen. Frederick Steele left Little Rock 155 years to the day before the aforementioned bus tour.

As related to planning and economic development, the effort resulting in this designation offers several lessons. It represented a regional effort involving a large portion of southwest Arkansas. It was a multi-layered effort involving private citizens, local officials, state organizations, national organizations, nonprofits, and state government. It also represented a case of building on assets already in place. It builds on the heritage of our state and its cities. It is not a case of “build it and they will come,” a popular and sometimes ruinous approach to community development. It suggests, “Work to let more people know about what of value is here now and good things will come.”

Finally, the group making this possible was as diverse as our country itself. Touring the route should also appeal to a diverse group. Some sites, for example, represent the important but sometimes horrific history of the participation of African-American troops and the treatment of slaves during the Civil War. Perhaps the best personal account of the campaign was written by an enlisted man of a German regiment from Wisconsin that marched and fought along the entire route.

The group on the tour was diversified, and it included participants from out of state intent on visiting sites at which their ancestors had fought and perhaps died. Some students also joined the group. It was a cross-section of Americans that set forth from MacArthur Park for the 12-hour tour. Mark Christ, Civil War historian and head of adult programming for the Central Arkansas Library System, served as guide.

After stops near the Elkins' Ferry battle site, the group proceeded to the Prairie D'Ane site, which is being purchased and renovated by the Nevada County Depot and Museum—a non-profit organization in Prescott—with help from the American Battlefield Trust. Two members of the museum, Paul Ridgell and Cody Jackson, each dressed in period attire, met the group at the battlefield site, and helped bring history to life.

The bus proceeded to Poison Spring, the site of one of the more tragic battles of the campaign. Actions during the battle included atrocities against the First Kansas Colored Infantry, establishing the groundwork for a more vicious and vengeful war.

Lunchtime brought the group to Camden and the grounds of the historic McCollum-Chidester House. Built in 1847, it served as Gen. Steele's headquarters during his occupation of Camden. Immaculately maintained, it serves as a museum and tourist attraction. Curator Kathy Boyette met the group. Accompanying her were Camden Mayor Julian Lott and Nancy Lott, his wife. Camden restaurant Woods Place catered lunch and became perhaps the first local business to benefit financially from the scenic designation.

During lunch, Boyette briefed the group on the history of the the project. A regional group of individuals and organizations, known as the Camden Expedition Steering Committee, did the heavy lifting. Christ assisted them with his historical expertise. Ultimately, the committee became bogged down, much like a Civil War regiment marching through a muddy swamp, by the mysteries of writing the legislation that would lead to the designation of the Camden Expedition Scenic Highway.

Enter State Rep. David Fielding of House District 5. He guided the steering committee through the writing of the legislation, then marshaled it through the General Assembly to the governor's desk. Fielding attended the day's luncheon, receiving hearty approval from all.

After lunch, the group toured several historic sites in Camden. These included Fort Lookout, now being restored by the Ouachita County Historical Society, and Fort Southerland, now a city park. The tour left Camden and proceeded to the sites of the battles of Marks' Mills and Jenkins' Ferry. The latter being the battle featured, somewhat inaccurately according to the guide, in the opening scene of the popular movie *Lincoln*. The battle

involved the Second Kansas Colored Infantry and saw revenge exacted for Poison Spring.

Urban planners like to talk about a "sense of place." This author understood the term completely as he stood on the banks of the swollen Saline River near Jenkins' Ferry, where his great-grandfather had waded through the water while attacking the Union forces. It proved to be the last battle of the Camden Expedition, and the only one that saw the Union troops victorious before they limped back to Little Rock. History termed the entire Red River campaign a Union failure.

The project described herein was not undertaken by a single municipality, nor is it specifically an urban planning endeavor. It does teach a number of lessons that apply to city or community development. First, as mentioned, it teaches the value of building on existing assets. It also teaches the value of regionalism in community or state planning. The route of the Camden Expedition runs near the Arkansas Museum of Natural Resources at Smackover, El Dorado's entertainment center, Historic Washington State Park, and other sites. Could a multi-day expedition lie in the future?

The project illustrates the use of heritage tourism as an economic development tool. The National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States defines heritage tourism as "traveling to experience the places, artifacts and activities that authentically represent the stories and people of the past." It can include cultural, historic, and natural resources.

Heritage tourism provides a resource for our municipalities as well as our state. There should be no argument against educating our citizens as they enjoy themselves. As for planning around the Civil War, that certainly isn't confined to the southwest sector. The staff of the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History is already planning a trip east to the site of the Battle of Helena, and returning along the route of the Little Rock Campaign.

Further, how many know that Bentonville and Berryville are among the cities in northwest Arkansas that were burned by federal forces during the Civil War? How many know about a Confederate guerilla of slight stature from the Des Arc area who delighted in dressing as a woman and infiltrating the dress balls of federal officers while spying on them?

Our state is an interesting and wondrous place. Why not use the planning function of our municipalities to let the rest of the world know?



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.

Being mindful doesn't always mean being unplugged

By Angie Moore, LCSW

In our fast-moving modern world, it's sometimes hard to stop and take a moment for yourself. Many people don't realize how important it is to do that. They might argue they don't have time to put their phone down—or perhaps they'll say they couldn't handle the stress of doing so.

That's why it's important to understand that self-care means doing what's right for you. If you find peace sitting quietly in a dark room, that's great. But many people won't find their happy place without incorporating a smartphone or at least technology of some sort. And that's ok, too.

A state of mindfulness

Let's start with the idea of mindfulness. People hear the term and probably picture a solitary figure in a yoga position, mind closed to the world. Maybe that's true for some people. But mindfulness means learning to live more fully in the present. It means anchoring to present-moment experiences and being more aware and engaged in every moment with curiosity and acceptance. That awareness might be found in music, in the sounds of nature, or in the feeling of sunshine. It doesn't have to mean being still somewhere in the quiet dark.

So why not use your phone to make those nature sounds or to play a favorite instrumental track? There's no harm in that. Making "me" time doesn't mean punishing yourself. If your phone helps you, use it.

I personally find music helpful in relaxing, whereas a colleague prefers white noise like the sound of rain or thunderstorms. You can find plenty of long videos online to serve as a soundtrack.

But understand that mindfulness does not require a huge time commitment. The truth is, you can do it in just 10 minutes a day. It can be done while walking from your car into your workplace—or even during your morning or evening commute. In fact, transition times are good times to stop and think, taking a moment to switch modes. Of course, you shouldn't close your eyes while driving, but you can think positive thoughts. Find three things that you're grateful for or list three things you did well that day. There, mindfulness accomplished.

There's an app for that

Naturally, smartphones can offer more aid than just background noise or being a portal to YouTube. With mindfulness, like all things, there's an app for that.

Many students have told me they enjoy using Headspace. This is a free app with hundreds of themed sessions to aid mindfulness and meditation for a variety of goals: personal happiness, building relationships, reducing stress.

Another popular app is called Calm. Again, it's free to download. Named 2017 App of the Year by Apple, Calm is about reducing anxiety, aiding sleep and helping people feel better. It offers meditation, breathing guidance, music, and sound to help users relax.

One resource people might not think of is the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. They have produced several apps to aid in mindfulness, sleep, and even health and fitness. These are free and you don't have to be a veteran to download or use them.

Other options

Aids to mindfulness don't necessarily have to be high tech, however. If a smart home system gives you peace of mind, that's fine. But if you prefer simple lavender or frankincense aromatherapy to sleep, then that's what works for you. Grab a diffuser and some oils and add some joy and rest to your life.

Personally, I have a lamp made of salt crystals that I absolutely love. It's got a low intensity of light that certainly helps me relax. At the other end of the spectrum, many people find comfort in light therapy.

The point is, don't ignore yourself. The old adage is true: If you don't take care of yourself, you can't take care of other people. In some contexts, no doubt we could all stand a little less screen time, but that doesn't mean your mindfulness has to be unplugged.



Angie Moore, LCSW, is a therapist in the Student Wellness Program at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

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Protecting trees from construction damage

By Krista Quinn

Construction sites can be dangerous places for both people and trees. While people can move out of the way of construction equipment and wear hard hats and other protective gear, trees are unable to defend themselves and are often irreparably harmed by construction activities. Yet, there are many effective ways for landowners and contractors to protect trees from construction related damage. Since trees require many years to reach maturity and develop a size that provides ample shading and other valuable benefits, it is well worth the effort and minor expense to develop a good tree protection plan before starting a construction project.

One of the confusing things about construction damage to trees is that symptoms of the damage can show up many years after a construction project is completed.

“Most of the time, trees don’t die right away,” says Bryan Aday, Arkansas Forestry Commission county forester for White and Cleburne counties. “A tree may show a few signs of stress during construction and then just gradually decline over the next few years. Many people don’t realize that the death of a tree five years



A heavy duty chain link fence keeps people out of this construction site, but the lightweight plastic fencing protecting the critical root zone has slipped down and is doing little to protect the trees.

down the road was actually caused by soil compaction and root damage that occurred during a construction project. And, in many cases, that damage could have been prevented with proper planning.”

Planning is truly the key to avoiding construction related damage to trees. If preserving trees is a goal, then everyone involved in the construction project from the property owners to the architects, engineers, and builders need to work together to develop a tree preservation plan before construction begins. The plan should include an inventory of the trees on the property and construction vehicle access routes. Trees slated for removal and trees to be preserved should be indicated. The locations of tree protection fencing should also be included on a map of the site, along with locations for material storage and worker parking.

It is best to use six-foot-tall chain link fencing to protect trees. Flexible plastic fencing often slips down the fence posts allowing contractors to drive over it, and hog panel fencing is often detached from the posts by workers when it gets in the way. Adding signage to the fencing informing everyone that the area is off limits is also a good idea. Too often, if heavy duty fencing is not



PHOTOS BY KRISTA QUINN.

Typical symptoms of construction related tree damage are branch die-back and a slow decline in tree health over several years.



A general rule for determining a tree's critical root zone is by measuring the trunk diameter at 4.5 feet above the ground and allowing a one-foot radius around the tree for each one inch of trunk diameter.

over soil or the addition of topsoil, fill, or pavement over tree roots. Wilting leaves, early fall coloration, branch die back, general decline, and death are common symptoms of soil compaction.

If there is no way to avoid driving over the roots of trees that are to be preserved, temporarily spreading nine to 12 inches of wood chips (not wood bark mulch or sawdust) can reduce soil compaction in access routes. When very large vehicles use the routes, it is wise to also lay plywood sheets or rubber mats over the wood chips. Care must be taken to ensure that the wood chips do not shift over time. This may involve periodically raking the chips and avoiding using the access routes

when the soil is muddy. When construction is complete or the access route is no longer needed, the wood chips must be removed from the site as they can also smother tree roots if left too long.

Builders and contractors are not likely to go to great lengths to protect trees unless a property owner demands it. It is also a good idea for property owners to keep an eye on projects to make sure all of the planned tree protection measures are being followed. Protecting trees on construction sites is inconvenient and takes a little more planning and monitoring. Many contractors will cut corners when it comes to tree protection if they are not monitored regularly.

However, there are many rewards to having mature trees around newly constructed buildings. Mature trees provide a multitude of economic, social, and environmental benefits, while newly planted trees would need several decades of growth to get to the same point.

"I don't know anyone who doesn't feel better around trees," Aday says. "A little effort put into protecting trees during construction can make a new development more enjoyable and more desirable to potential renters or buyers."

Making tree protection a priority and developing a comprehensive tree preservation plan before construction begins can prevent a lot of construction damage to trees. While tree preservation does require some effort and minor expense, the benefits of having mature trees for many years to come far outweigh the costs.



Krista Quinn is the Urban Forestry Program Coordinator with the Arkansas Forestry Commission. Contact Krista at (479) 228-7929 or Krista.Quinn@arkansas.gov.

installed around trees, construction materials will be stacked under the trees and workers will park around the trees, which is very damaging to tree roots.

Access routes for construction vehicles need to be determined before construction begins. In some cases, one access route may be used during the early stages of construction and then a different route may be needed later in the project. Access routes should avoid impacting the critical root zone (CRZ) of trees that are to be preserved. A general rule for determining the size of the CRZ is to allow a one-foot radius around a tree for each one inch of trunk diameter measured 4.5 feet above the ground. For example, a tree with a 21-inch trunk diameter would need to have an area 21 feet away from the trunk in all directions fenced off to prevent driving, parking, or storing materials over the roots.

There is also an area of about six to 10 feet around all mature trees that is considered the "No Cut Zone." If any trenching or digging occurs in the No Cut Zone, a tree is likely to be destabilized and can fall at any time. It is often possible to bore under the roots of tree without damaging too many stabilizing roots. It is still a good idea to keep tunnels as far away from the trunks of trees as possible.

"It's a common misconception that trees have taproots," Aday says. "Most mature trees have 85 percent of their roots in the top 18 inches of soil and those roots grow way out beyond the canopy of the tree. People can bore under tree roots just like they might bore under a driveway or road to install utilities."

In addition to crushing or severing roots, soil compaction is a common way that construction damage can harm and kill trees. Tree roots need loose, well-aerated soil to grow and to obtain oxygen, water, and nutrients. When soil is compacted, there are fewer and smaller pore spaces in the soil to hold air and water and the tree roots will struggle to survive or grow. Severe compaction can occur from a single instance of a large vehicle driving

We are the champions

By Brett Budolfson, PLA

“**H**ow do we get more people to the park downtown?”

“Wouldn’t you love to see a bike trail along the river there?”

“Where can we get money for a bike park?”

“We really need to add a splash pad to our park.”

“How can we make a trail from Little Rock to Hot Springs happen?”

Regardless of whether you’re a mayor, a council member, or just a friendly neighbor who wants to improve the amenities in your community, if you have asked questions similar to these, then there’s a pretty good chance you are the champion needed to make these ideas happen.

Given my experience in helping to guide the Southwest Trail from a sketch on a napkin to receiving a \$3.5 million federal design grant, I can attest to the exhausting efforts you are about to embark on. Here are some key ideas that can help you along in the process.

Focus on the small tasks

When we began envisioning the Southwest Trail, it started with a few friends meeting for a beer to discuss the “what-if” questions. We’ll call this the research stage. Estimating that we would need \$20 to \$30 million to design and build a 70-mile bike trail from Little Rock to Hot Springs was extremely daunting, seemingly impossible, and almost laughable. We forced ourselves to first focus on the simple tasks that we knew we could complete. The tasks that were immediately in front of us cost little to nothing: researching precedents, photo and image gathering, presenting our ideas to municipalities and other groups along the proposed corridor, and talking with other professionals who had been through the process.

Get your plan on paper

The next step is to develop a work plan. Begin with an end goal and then attempt a chronological outline to reach that goal. Eventually you will need a professional designer who has been through this process to help develop your concept into a pretty picture of the end result. In our case this was a map to guide you along to shovel-ready construction drawings.



A team explores what will become the route for the ambitious Southwest Trail connecting Little Rock and Hot Springs.

Engage the community

Many developers will tell you that an engaged community can move mountains in support of a project, or erect barriers where they would not otherwise exist. Engaging the community is not only the right thing to do, but it will also make for a better, more successful project in the long run. Addressing community issues—whether it is downtown revitalization or community planning—is complex and cannot be effectively addressed without engaging stakeholders and community members. If your community misses out on the planning process, then your project misses out on the benefits of providing citizens with their desired quality of life.

Focus on the goals

The key to making your ideas a reality is to be consistent and relentless with your goals. It takes sheer will and desire to turn your dream into a reality. It takes setting a long-term goal along with immediate, incremental goals, and then holding yourself and each other accountable to meeting each of those marks.

Go blaze that trail, build that bike park, and be that champion your community needs.



Brett Budolfson is a professional landscape architect with MCE's development department and works out of the Little Rock office. Contact Brett by phone at (501) 371-0272 or email him at bbudolfson@mce.us.com.

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2019 State Turnback Funds

Actual Totals Per Capita

MONTH	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
January	\$5.3807	\$5.662	\$0.2314	\$0.246	\$2.1460	\$2.145
February	\$5.7121	\$5.675	\$0.2181	\$0.096	\$1.0867	\$1.087
March	\$4.9583	\$5.085	\$0.2452	\$0.438	\$1.0870	\$1.087
April	\$5.3609	\$5.401	\$0.2342	\$0.338	\$1.0854	\$1.085
May	\$5.6871		\$0.2369		\$1.0859	
June	\$5.6422		\$0.1786		\$1.0872	
July	\$5.9048		\$0.1625		\$2.9589	
August	\$5.5464		\$0.1504		\$0.9368	
September	\$5.5992		\$0.1999		\$1.0873	
October	\$5.7310		\$0.1746		\$1.0871	
November	\$5.2853		\$0.2317		\$1.0869	
December	\$5.4642		\$0.2511		\$1.0871	
Total Year	\$66.2722	\$21.822	\$2.5145	\$1.118	\$15.8224	\$5.405

Actual Totals Per Month

MONTH	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
January	\$10,171,403.10	\$10,702,464.91	\$437,461.72	\$464,101.95	*\$4,056,771.18	*\$4,054,867.57
February	\$10,797,904.69	\$10,728,532.32	\$412,277.48	\$181,468.75	\$2,054,332.65	\$2,055,501.82
March	\$9,372,912.56	\$9,611,591.51	\$463,496.06	\$828,851.20	\$2,054,888.05	\$2,055,055.19
April	\$10,133,933.55	\$10,209,400.74	\$442,746.74	\$638,095.99	\$2,051,743.46	\$2,051,915.02
May	\$10,750,634.53		\$447,755.63		\$2,052,679.36	
June	\$10,665,832.80		\$337,582.28		\$2,055,168.34	
July	\$11,162,170.00		\$307,247.09		** \$5,593,456.00	
August	\$10,484,657.00		\$284,348.41		\$1,770,842.80	
September	\$10,584,484.30		\$377,800.40		\$2,055,387.11	
October	\$10,833,617.52		\$330,015.80		\$2,054,971.77	
November	\$9,991,022.76		\$438,040.74		\$2,054,702.54	
December	\$10,329,322.67		\$474,599.17		\$2,054,975.16	
Total Year	\$125,277,895.48	\$41,251,989.48	\$4,753,371.52	\$2,112,517.89	\$29,909,918.42	\$10,217,339.60

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

**Includes \$3,514,066.32 supplemental for July 2018

Local Option Sales and Use Tax in Arkansas



KEY: Counties not collecting sales tax

Source: Rachel Garrett, Office of State Treasurer

See also: www.dfa.arkansas.gov

Sales and Use Tax Year-to-Date 2019 with 2018 Comparison (shaded gray)									
Month	Municipal Tax		County Tax		Total Tax		Interest		
January	\$59,187,540	\$59,272,899	\$49,660,885	\$50,925,990	\$108,848,426	\$110,198,889	\$188,294	\$68,417	
February	\$66,363,635	\$63,961,892	\$55,082,773	\$56,034,012	\$121,446,409	\$119,995,904	\$265,350	\$76,180	
March	\$55,016,953	\$51,260,662	\$49,926,480	\$44,932,987	\$104,943,433	\$96,193,649	\$241,046	\$79,235	
April	\$53,915,385	\$51,354,831	\$45,679,915	\$45,689,403	\$99,595,300	\$97,044,234	\$239,875	\$79,564	
May		\$60,844,519		\$53,613,192		\$114,457,712		\$75,253	
June		\$56,373,987		\$48,955,855		\$105,329,842		\$71,501	
July		\$59,973,977		\$52,379,093		\$112,353,069		\$84,551	
August		\$60,174,400		\$52,922,077		\$113,096,478		\$79,558	
September		\$58,128,177		\$51,260,076		\$109,388,253		\$111,033	
October		\$60,197,608		\$52,310,178		\$112,507,786		\$174,353	
November		\$57,456,746		\$50,423,804		\$107,880,551		\$202,659	
December		\$59,269,564		\$50,277,652		\$109,547,217		\$208,901	
Total	\$234,483,514	\$698,269,262	\$200,350,054	\$609,724,320	\$434,833,568	\$1,307,993,584	\$934,566	\$1,311,205	
Averages	\$58,620,878	\$58,189,105	\$50,087,513	\$50,810,360	\$108,708,392	\$108,999,465	\$233,641	\$109,267	

AEDC names Little Rock a “Competitive Community”

Little Rock has become the latest Arkansas city to be designated a “Competitive Community,” the Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AEDC) has announced. The city recently completed its Competitive Communities Initiative (CCI) evaluation, which is designed to “ensure the city’s preparedness to successfully compete for jobs and investments,” according to an AEDC press release.

Currently, there are only five Competitive Communities in Arkansas, including Little Rock. The other cities include Paragould, Newport, Russellville, and Jonesboro. These cities are required to be re-evaluated every two years to maintain the Competitive Communities designation.

“The capital city continues to progress and grow its economic development efforts,” said AEDC Executive Director Mike Preston, “by focusing on its strengths and setting itself apart from other similar cities in surrounding states. Little Rock has defined qualities and appealing amenities that will continue to attract business and industry leaders from across the nation and the globe. When one of our communities wins an expansion or relocation project, all of Arkansas benefits.”

The Competitive Communities initiative is looking for Arkansas cities that are competitive in four categories: economic development organizational structure, economic development funding, workforce, and product readiness.

“In today’s competitive marketplace, we must be able to adapt to the ever-changing economic landscape,” said Little Rock Regional Chamber President/CEO Jay Chesshir. “Having the CCI designation will help Little Rock contend for economic development projects as well as help us achieve our MetRock 2020 strategic plan goals.”

To achieve the Competitive Communities designation, cities must commit to completing a questionnaire that details the city’s workforce, funding sources, available and shovel-ready sites, and other pertinent economic development information. AEDC evaluators then use the information to understand any gaps or weaknesses that could negatively affect economic growth. The city can then formulate an action plan to improve areas that require attention. Once the four pillars of the initiative are sound, the city is designated as a Competitive City.

Certified Local Government grants awarded

Nearly \$100,000 in Certified Local Government (CLG) grants have been awarded to eight Arkansas cities, the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) has announced. CLG Grants represent a partnership among the National Park Service, the AHPP, and local governments around the state to preserve historic resources at the local level. These grants are specifically pass-through grants funded by the Historic Preservation Fund Grants-In-Aid program, which is administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

An Arkansas city or county is eligible to participate in the CLG program if it has appointed a Historic District Commission (HDC) and has passed a local preservation ordinance designating one or more local historic districts, according to applicable state law.

The awarded cities include:

- Conway—\$25,000 for a citywide preservation plan (\$25,000 match).
- El Dorado—\$43,300 for a citywide preservation plan, historic preservation officer’s salary, preservation organization memberships, and training-related travel for HDC commissioners and staff (\$12,000 match).
- Eureka Springs—\$5,650 for training-related travel for staff and HDC commissioners, an informational brochure on the historic district commission, and preservation organization memberships (\$2,375 match).
- Fayetteville—Up to \$790 for training-related travel expenses of staff and commissioners.
- Helena-West Helena—\$5,825 for an historic preservation officer’s salary, training-related travel, and equipment and supplies for scanning historic property records.
- Little Rock—\$9,200 for funding of the second and final phase of a survey of the Broadmoor subdivision, research help and scanning of slides in support of a historic structures GIS project, and attendance at training opportunities by staff and commissioners (\$14,000 match).
- Texarkana—\$2,290 for training-related travel expenses for staff and commissioners, an informational brochure on historic sites, and purchase of educational materials for commissioners.
- Van Buren—\$2,030, for training-related travel for commissioners and staff. 🏛️

FAIRS & FESTIVALS

May 17-18

Steamboat Days

Des Arc

(870) 256-3011

May 17-18

29th Crawdad Days Festival

Harrison

(870) 741-2659; crawdaddays.org

May 17-18

32nd Springfest

Heber Springs

(870) 834-1437; downtownhebersprings.com

May 17-18

31st Magnolia Blossom Festival &
World Championship Steak Cook-off

Magnolia

(870) 234-4352; blossomfestival.org

May 18-19

42nd Old Timers Day Steampunk
Festival

Van Buren

(479) 922-6862; oldtownvanburen.com

May 23-26

22nd Augusta Days

Augusta

(870) 347-6659

May 31-June 1

52nd Shirley Homecoming

Shirley

(501) 723-4848

June 1

17th Gassville in the Park Festival

Gassville

(870) 435-6439; cityofgassville.org

June 6-8

43rd Farm Fest

Wynne

(870) 238-4183; crosscountychamber.com

June 7-8

43rd Mudtown Days

Lowell

(479) 770-2185; lowellarkansas.gov/mudtowndays

June 7-8

Lum & Abner Festival

Mena

visitmena.com

MEETING CALENDAR

June 12-14, 2019

**Arkansas Municipal League
85th Annual Convention**

Statehouse Convention Center
Little Rock, AR

Nov. 20-23, 2019

**National League of Cities
2019 City Summit**

San Antonio, Texas

February 12-14, 2020

**Arkansas Municipal League
2020 Winter Conference**

Statehouse Convention Center
Little Rock, AR

MUNICIPAL MART

To place a classified ad in City & Town, please email the League at citytown@arml.org or call (501) 374-3484. Classified ads are FREE to League members and will run for two consecutive months from the date of receipt unless otherwise notified. FOR NON-MEMBERS, classifieds are available for the rate of \$0.70 per word and will run for one month unless otherwise notified. Once we receive the ad, we will send an invoice. The ad will run once payment is received.

ATTORNEY—Messer Rockefeller & Fort is seeking an experienced associate to join its team in the Frisco, Texas, office as an associate or senior attorney. View details and apply at: <http://bit.ly/SGRCurrentSearches>.

CITY MANAGER—The City of Terrell, Texas, with a diverse population of nearly 17,000 and a trade area population of over 250,000, is located 30 miles east of Dallas along Interstate 20 and U.S. Highway 80. Terrell is a fast-growing city with a population that is expected to reach 43,000 by 2024. Terrell is a home-rule city operating under the council-manager form of government. The city council consists of a mayor and four city council members. The city council appoints a professional city manager who is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the organization. The city has 170 employees delivering a full range of municipal services. The City of Terrell is searching for a creative, innovative, visionary leader to serve as its new city manager. The ideal candidate must hold a Master's in Public Administration, Political Science, Business, or a related field and have 10 years of experience as a city manager in a medium to large municipality or assistant city manager with executive management duties. Experience working in Texas, with TIF programs, with street maintenance programs and plans, and fast-growth communities preferred. Please apply online at <http://bit.ly/SGRCurrentSearches>. For more information on this position contact: Kurt Hodgen at KurtHodgen@GovernmentResource.com, (540) 820-0531. Deadline for first review of applications: May 31.

DIRECTOR OF BUILDING, CODE ENFORCEMENT AND PERMITS—The City of Maumelle is accepting applications for the position of director of building, code enforcement and permits to lead the Department of Building, Code Enforcement and Permits. The objective of the director of building, code enforcement and permits is to direct the operations of the department, direct building inspections for all residential and commercial construction, enforce adherence to ADEQ storm water requirements, complete commercial and residential plan reviews, direct enforcement of city codes, manage department budget, and responsible for department personnel decisions. Essential duties and responsibilities: Complete commercial and residential plan reviews; knowledge of city codes and directing enforcement procedures; interpret and communicate building, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, and structural codes; direct procedures for residential and commercial building inspections; train employees in code enforcement and building inspections; develop annual budget and monitor expenditures against budget on a monthly basis; public speaking as requested; direct ADEQ storm water enforcement procedures and city compliance; all other duties as required or assigned. Education and experience: Qualifications include Bachelor's degree (or equivalent) and five years related experience and/or training or equivalent combination of education and experience, and four years of managerial experience. Must be licensed/certified or eligible to become licensed/certified with the following credentials: Arkansas Plumbing Inspectors License, Arkansas Mechanical Inspectors License, Arkansas Electrical Inspectors License, Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control Certification. Starting salary range is \$59,782 to \$71,240 DOE. Applications will be accepted until the job is filled. NOTE: A City of Maumelle Employment Application must be completed. Resumes will not be accepted in lieu of application. Please go to the City of Maumelle web page maumelle.org/jobs to print an application or apply online. Completed applications may be hand delivered or mailed to: City of Maumelle, Human Resources Department, 550 Edgewood Drive, Suite 590, Maumelle, AR 72113; or fax to (501) 803-4016. For questions, please contact Human Resources at (501) 851-2784 Ext. 24, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., M-F. EOE. Minority, women, and disabled individuals are encouraged to apply.

DISPATCHERS/RADIO OPERATORS—The City of Monticello Police Department is currently seeking both full and part-time dispatchers. Salary DOE. Must be able to pass a pre-employment background check and drug screen. Must be able to work swing shift hours, weekends and holidays. On-the-job training as well as out-of-town training required. Must be 21 years of age or older and have a valid Arkansas DL. To apply please come by the Monticello City Hall in person to pick up an application, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., M-F. For more information please contact the Monticello City Hall at (870) 367-4400. Deadline to apply is May 30.

FIREFIGHTER—The City of Monticello is accepting applications for the position of full-time firefighter. Qualifications: driver's license, be able to complete academy training if not already certified, and have HS diploma. Must be 21 years of age or older and be able to meet all other requirements. Resumes may be sent to Patty Burchett, HR Director, City of Monticello, P.O. Box 505, Monticello, AR 71655; or faxed to (870) 367-4405. Full benefit package included. Salary DOE. For more information please call (870) 367-4400 Ext. 228 or (870) 367-5433.

POLICE OFFICER—City of Rison is accepting resumes for a full-time, preferred certified police officer. Will consider non-certified on individual basis. Resumes may be mailed to Mayor Vernon Dollar, P.O. Box 405, Rison, AR 71665; or email judgovern2003@yahoo.com.

WATER/WASTEWATER OPERATOR—City of Glenwood has an immediate opening for a licensed water/wastewater operator. Class 3, D3 or above. Full time, sick leave, vacation, health paid, 401A. Send resume or inquire via email: bt@glenwoodar.com.

FOR SALE—City of Rison will be accepting bids on 2009 Dodge Durango, VIN: 1D8HB38P29F715423. Bids accepted until 10 a.m. May 22. Submit bids to: Mayor Vernon Dollar, P.O. Box 405, Rison, AR 71665; or email judgovern2003@yahoo.com. Contact (870) 814-8775. 🏠



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- Environmental/Green Management Practices

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Deadline to enter: August 29

Entry information is available at:
www.arkansasbusiness.com/trendsetter

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Standing from left: Jack Truemper, Michael McBryde, Leigh Ann Biernat, Kevin Faught, Lindsey Ollar, Jason Holsclaw
Seated from left: Michele Casavechia, Melissa Walsh, Dennis Hunt
(Executive Vice President and Manager of Public Finance)

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