

City & Town

MARCH 2020 VOL. 76, NO. 03

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE



2020



How do you think new money becomes old money?



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Little Rock, AR



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Conway, AR



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Cover photo by Andrew Morgan



ON THE COVER—If you’re looking for a takeaway from the 2020 Winter Conference, this is it: “Be Local. Be Heard.” The League has launched its new Local Control initiative, and it’s a concept that touches on nearly everything else discussed during the conference, from street funding to broadband expansion to economic development. Read our Winter Conference coverage inside beginning on page 16. Read also about the dedication of the League’s newly christened Don A. Zimmerman Campus, which is now named in memory of the beloved former executive director, as well as the broad spectrum of insights and tips on good governance from our slate of outstanding regular columnists. And, by the way, it’s already time to start planning for the 86th Convention. Check out the announcement, hotel and registration info on page 26.—atm

Features

14 League dedicates Don A. Zimmerman Campus to late leader

Family, friends and colleagues of the late executive director of the Arkansas Municipal League gathered at the North Little Rock headquarters the morning of Feb. 12 to dedicate the Don A. Zimmerman Campus.

16 2020 Winter Conference preps local leaders for year ahead

Protecting Local Control, expanding broadband access, funding city streets and governing with an eye toward equity were among the wide range of topics important to cities and towns covered at the well-attended winter meeting.

24 Protect Local Control: “Be Local. Be Heard.”

During the 2020 Winter Conference, the League introduced its newest initiative, “Be Local. Be Heard.” which aims to preserve Local Control and offers an array of resources cities and towns may use to spread this essential message.

City & Town Contents

Arkansas Municipal League Officers.....	5
Community Development	42
Engineering.....	48
From the Desk of the Executive Director....	6
Loss Control	52
Meeting Calendar	11
Municipal Mart	62
Municipal Notes	10
Municipal Sidebar	40
Obituaries.....	51
Planning to Succeed	38
President’s Letter.....	4
Sales Tax Map	59
Sales Tax Receipts	60
Turnback Estimates	58
Urban Forestry.....	46
Wellness.....	50
Your Health	44

Dear friends and fellow public servants,
 It might or might not be a beautiful March day as you read this, but either way, we know what's coming: spring cleanups. That means a lot of limbs and leaves by the curb, along with anything else that our residents want to get rid of as they clean out their homes and garages, all ready to become someone else's problem: yours.

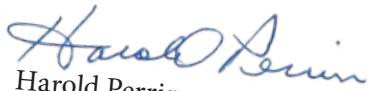
This is an annual ritual, and your sanitation departments are all too familiar with it. We have four neighborhood cleanups scheduled on various Saturday mornings, where residents work together and with our crews to get their neighborhoods shipshape. It makes a mighty difference, and my staff and I are encouraging other neighborhoods to do the same.

A less enjoyable springtime task falls on our code enforcement division, which will soon be writing tickets for tall grass, dilapidated structures and other city code violations. They'll write tickets and, in some cases, issue condemnations. These codes exist to keep our city attractive and desirable. Statistics show that nothing defeats crime better than clean, safe neighborhoods. And nothing attracts crime more than neglected structures that drive down property values and invite those who do not care about the welfare of your city. Maintaining aging neighborhoods is not easy, and every day presents new challenges requiring thoughtful solutions. We are not always as successful as I want to be, but I know what it takes to get the job done. It takes every member of our team—department heads, directors and all the employees who answer to them—looking to identify problems and working together to find solutions. Our police, fire, streets and sanitation departments represent the most prominent eyes and ears in our neighborhoods. If they see weed lots, potholes or anything else that needs attention, it is their responsibility to report these problems to their supervisors, who then get the information into the appropriate hands. I personally keep a checklist when I drive around town.

The hardest part of this process is teamwork. No one wants to point fingers, and sometimes that means directors knowing about problems but not wanting to be the ones to deliver the message to their cohorts. Sometimes it means disagreements about who's responsible for the problem. I recommend a "problems board," on which we list the areas in our city that require attention and then discuss what each department leader can do to help correct the problem. Together, we know we can solve it.

We in Jonesboro are redoubling our efforts, starting this month, to recognize and correct the problems that come with the blooming of spring.

Sincerely,



Harold Perrin
 Mayor, Jonesboro
 President, Arkansas Municipal League



ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE OFFICERS

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Mayor Gary Baxter, **Mulberry**..... First Vice President
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Mayor Parnell Vann, **Magnolia** Vice President, District 4
Mark R. Hayes Executive Director

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From the Desk of the Executive Director



Be Local. Be Heard.

My oh my, were we ever heard during Winter Conference! The League's new Local Control campaign was unveiled complete with drum lines, cheerleaders, thunder sticks and, best of all, T-shirt cannons!¹ With a crowd approaching 600, the "Be Local. Be Heard." initiative was presented with great fanfare. By the time we finished, the audience was on their feet yelling, dancing and having a grand old time. If you missed it, check out the videos on the League's social media pages.² You won't be disappointed.

Let's keep that momentum going. Please check out the League's microsite, belocalbeheard.com. You'll find both short and long videos that are perfect for public gatherings, civic clubs, chamber meetings and anywhere city business is being discussed. The site has other great tools as well, including:

- Social media graphics and text
- Print materials including infographics, a flyer and a handbook
- Radio PSAs
- And much more!

While all the materials are fantastic, I am particularly proud of the videos and the handbook. They both tell an important story in very clear and precise terms. The short video perfectly lays out the need for Local Control and the expertise of city leaders and citizens as they address their specific needs and wants. The long video goes even further. Mayors and other city officials³ explain their specific circumstances and the need for flexibility in making local policy. In short, they make it clear that one size does not fit all. They, like many of you, are perfectly capable of solving local problems without being preempted by state law or being given unfunded mandates.

The handbook is amazing. Divided into six parts, it provides simple, easy-to-follow steps to alert fellow city residents of the need of Local Control⁴ as well as getting that message out to others.

Here are the six sections:

1. What is Local Control?
2. Working with Legislators
3. Working with Your Residents
4. Working with the Media
5. Amplify the Message Through Social Media
6. Local Control in Action

1 Two cannons to be precise. What a blast (pardon the pun)! When I first raised the idea with certain staffers they were not supportive. As in, "Bad idea, Mark." I think we'd all agree that they rocked. Now, if I can just talk Finance into buying two so we don't have to rent again. Hmm...gonna need my thinking cap.

2 We're @ARMuniLeague on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

3 Kudos to League President, Mayor Harold Perrin of Jonesboro; First Vice President, Mayor Gary Butler of Mulberry; City Manager Catherine Cook of Hope; Mayor James Sanders of Blytheville and Municipal League Workers' Compensation Trust Trustee, Mayor Shirley Washington of Pine Bluff! Watch out, Hollywood. These are Oscar-worthy performances!

4 Also called Home Rule. See A.C.A. § 14-43-601 through 611.

Our energy from Winter Conference must continue. It is vitally important that you BE LOCAL AND BE HEARD each and every day. Discuss your exercise of Local Control and how it makes your city or town the unique and wonderful place it is. And I'll tell ya, from where I'm sitting you're hitting home run after home run. All that's left is making sure your residents and legislators understand what you are doing and how important your discretion in decision making is to the health of your municipality. So, bang a drum! Yell like a cheerleader! Put on a "Be Local. Be Heard." T-shirt and show it off! Great Cities Make a Great State because great Local Control ensures a great outcome.



Until next month, Peace.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark".

Mark R. Hayes
Executive Director
Arkansas Municipal League

A child wearing a dark blue polka-dot swimsuit is riding a red tricycle on a paved path. The background is a blurred green field under a clear sky.

Now Entering: Smooth Streets
Street Repair • Sewage Systems • Recycling Pickup
Great Cities Make a Great State.

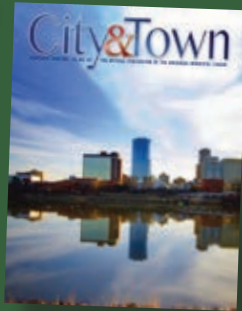
The logo for the Arkansas Municipal League, featuring a circular emblem with a classical building facade and the text "ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE" and "GREAT CITIES MAKE A GREAT STATE".

greatcitiesgreatstate.com

Missed us?

You can download last month's issue or older issues of *City & Town* that you might have missed.

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WHO you gonna CALL?

We don't know either, without your help. Fill out the

Directory Information

Request Forms and return to the League at your earliest convenience.

City&Town

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Children are born learning. Their early years determine a child's path to future learning and success in life. Working parents depend on child care providers to be their partners in giving their children a good start in life. Business depends on those same parents to keep the economy thriving. Our future is in child care.



Carlo wants to be a structural engineer. He learned about distance and spatial relationships in child care playing with blocks.

Alexa wants to be a biologist. She fell in love with nature growing plants from seeds in child care.



Anna wants to write a book that will inspire other children to love reading. She learned the power of words from a child care teacher.

The thinkers and doers, the creatives and game changers of the future are in child care.

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

Walton Foundation grants \$20 million to complete Delta bike trail

The Walton Family Foundation will issue a \$20 million matching grant to complete the 84.5-mile biking and pedestrian trail in southeast Arkansas from Lexa to Arkansas City, the foundation and Gov. Asa Hutchinson announced Jan. 30. The 50-50 matching grant will allow Arkansas State Parks to complete the construction of the Delta Heritage Trail over the next five years. The state is applying for federal grants to offset the match. This will create a \$40 million investment in the Arkansas Delta, according to an Arkansas Parks and Tourism press statement.

"This is great news for cyclists and hikers, who have waited more than 20 years for the completion of this rails-to-trails project," Hutchinson said. "The matching grant we announced today, combined with Arkansas Parks and Tourism funds, means that the wait is almost over. The \$7 million in tourism that the 85-mile trail will attract, along with the 600 jobs it will create, will infuse renewed energy into southeast Arkansas along the trail. Hikers and bikers will see bottomland hardwood forests and views from the levee that we don't see from our cars. This is a great project for Arkansas."

There are currently 44.4 completed miles in The Delta Heritage Trail State Park. That includes a 20.6-mile compacted crushed gravel section between Lexa and Elaine, a 14.4-mile shared-use roadway on the Mississippi River levee between Rohwer and Arkansas City, and another 9.4-mile compacted crushed gravel section between Rohwer and Watson. Portions of this project are former railroad lines that are converted to bike/pedestrian routes. Ultimately, this trail will be 84.5 miles when completed and will be one of the longest dedicated pedestrian and bicycle routes in Arkansas.

"The original Delta Heritage Trail Master Plan was approved in 1997 and in 2020, it's still not complete," said Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism Secretary Stacy Hurst. "Because of this generous matching gift, we'll be able to complete the Delta Heritage Trail in five years providing an enhanced recreational opportunity for residents, bringing more visitors to the area and increased economic growth to local communities. The completed trail will provide users

a unique glimpse into the rich history and natural beauty of the Arkansas Delta."

The grant includes funding to support a plan for public recognition of the life and professional accomplishments of John Harold Johnson (1918-2005). Johnson was born in Arkansas City and rose above abject poverty and racial discrimination to build a publishing empire that helped forever change the perception of African Americans in the United States. Johnson Publishing Company became the largest African American owned and operated publishing company in the world and launched *Ebony* and *Jet*, two very successful magazines that gave a voice to millions of Americans.

Time to levy property taxes

City and town councils may levy general property taxes of up to five mills on the dollar (Ark. Const. art. 12 § 4; A.C.A. §§ 26-25-102 and 103). In order to implement this millage, the governing body of the city or town must certify the rate of taxation levied to the county clerk. (A.C.A. § 26-73-202).

This must be done prior to the time fixed by law for the Quorum Court to levy county taxes. Id. Arkansas Code section 14-14-904(b) establishes the November or December meeting of the Quorum Court as the time to levy those taxes.

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

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

2019 Act 833 Deadline for Arkansas Fire Departments

The 2019 Act 833 application period will open Jan. 1, 2020, and will close June 30, 2020.

Act 833 of 1992, "Funding for Fire Departments," is administered by the Arkansas Fire Protection Services Board 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 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 Louis Eckelhoff at 501-683-6781 or email louis.eckelhoff@adem.arkansas.gov.

Summaries of Attorney General Opinions

Law outlines permissible uses for A&P funds

Opinion: 2019-063

Requestor: Jane English, state senator

Q1) Is a city's use of advertising and promotion (A&P) funds limited only to those uses explicitly stated in A.C.A. 26-75-606? Q2) May A&P funds be used for economic development under A.C.A. 26-75-601 et seq.? Q3) May a city enter into a

contract with a chamber of commerce to perform services related to economic development and pay for those contracted services with funds generated by an A&P tax? **RESPONSE:** Q1) Yes. Q2) A&P tax revenue may be used to fund economic development only if the economic development in question falls into a category of permissible uses for A&P funds and does not violate any of the prohibitions on the use of A&P funds. Q3) A city may pay for a chamber of commerce's contracted services with A&P funds as long as the chamber performs actual services that fall into a category of permissible uses for A&P funds and that do not violate any of the prohibitions on the use of A&P funds. 🏛️

Meeting Calendar

March 8-11, 2020, National League of Cities Congressional City Conference 2020, Washington, D.C.

June 17-19, 2020, Arkansas Municipal League 86th Convention, Statehouse Convention Center, Little Rock.

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Annual Statements

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

Form A

City or Town of _____
 (Cities of the first class, second class, and incorporated towns)
 Financial Statement January 1, 2019—Dec. 31, 2019

GENERAL FUND

Balance January 1, 2019	\$ _____
Cash Receipts	
State Revenues	\$ _____
Property Taxes	\$ _____
Sales Taxes	\$ _____
Fines, Forfeitures, and Costs	\$ _____
Franchise Fees	\$ _____
Transfers In	\$ _____
Other	\$ _____
Total Receipts	\$ _____
Total General Fund Available	\$ _____
Expenditures	
*Administrative Department:	
Personal Services	\$ _____
Supplies	\$ _____
Other services and charges	\$ _____
Capital Outlay	\$ _____
Debt Service	\$ _____
Transfers Out	\$ _____
Total Expenditures	\$ _____
Balance General Fund Dec. 31, 2019	\$ _____

STREET FUND

Balance January 1, 2019	\$ _____
Cash Receipts	
State Revenues	\$ _____
Property Taxes	\$ _____
Sales Taxes	\$ _____
Franchise Fees	\$ _____
Transfers In	\$ _____
Other	\$ _____
Total Street Receipts	\$ _____
Total Street Fund Available	\$ _____
Expenditures	
Personal Services	\$ _____
Supplies	\$ _____
Other services and charges	\$ _____
Capital Outlay	\$ _____
Debt service	\$ _____
Transfers out	\$ _____
Total Expenditures	\$ _____
Balance Street Fund Dec. 31, 2019	\$ _____

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

INDEBTEDNESS

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

Total	\$ _____	

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

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

Municipalities must publish annual financial statement


The time is rapidly arriving for the annual reporting of each city and town's financial statement. Refer to the *Handbook for Arkansas Municipal Officials*, 2019-2020 ed., section 14-59-116 and section 14-237-113.

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

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

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

What if no newspaper is published in the city or town? In that case, the statements may be posted in two public places in the municipality.

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

The suggested FORM B is for use by water and sewer departments to comply with 14-237-113.

Form B		
City or Town of _____		
Financial Statement January 1, 2019—Dec. 31, 2019		
WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENTS		
Balance January 1, 2019	\$ _____	
Cash Receipts		
Water Payments	\$ _____	
Sewer Payments	\$ _____	
Sanitation Funds	\$ _____	
Other	\$ _____	
Total Receipts	\$ _____	
Total Funds Available	\$ _____	
Expenditures		
Personal Services	\$ _____	
Supplies	\$ _____	
Other services and charges	\$ _____	
Capital Outlay	\$ _____	
Debt Service	\$ _____	
Transfers Out	\$ _____	
Total Expenditures	\$ _____	
Balance Water and Sewer Fund Dec. 31, 2019	\$ _____	
INDEBTEDNESS		
Type of Debt	Amount	Date Last Payment Due
Short term financing obligations	\$ _____	_____
Water Revenue Bonds	\$ _____	
Sewer Revenue Bonds	\$ _____	
		Date Free of Debt

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

League headquarters officially renamed the Don A. Zimmerman Campus

By Mel Jones, League staff

Before the hustle and bustle of the Arkansas Municipal League’s 2020 Winter Conference began the afternoon of Feb. 12, family, friends, and current and former officials and League staff gathered in the Assembly Hall to celebrate the dedication of its North Little Rock headquarters in memory of longtime Executive Director Don A. Zimmerman. He died in June 2018.

Zimmerman joined the League in 1966 as a federal aid coordinator. In 1971 he shifted to legislative advocacy and, following his father’s untimely death in 1974, became executive director. He held the position for 44 years. Under his leadership, the Legal Defense Program—the first of its kind in the country—launched in 1979. More programs, including the Health Benefit Program, the Workers’ Compensation Program, the Firefighters’ Supplemental Income Program, and the Vehicle and Property Programs soon followed, all of which have made our cities and towns safer and more efficient, as well as saving them millions of dollars.

“There would be absolutely no way for me stand here and chronicle every single thing that he did. I will simply tell you that starting in 1978 and 1979, when the Supreme Court ruled that cities were a ‘person’ and could be sued, he created the Legal Defense Program to protect cities and towns,” Executive Director Mark R. Hayes told the standing-room-only crowd. “The myriad programs that followed—all of this came to be because of his vision, his creativity and his willingness to stick his neck out when it needed to be stuck out.”

Zimmerman’s wife of 33 years, Jan, spoke next. “What a wonderful day to reconnect with my League family,” she



said, and described the moment that the North Little Rock native made the decision to purchase the land where the League campus now stands. “People were concerned about the location, but Don would say, ‘I’ve never left my roots.’ And he never did. He was always true to himself and always with purpose and honesty, making things better.”

“Every day, he considered each of you a blessing, and an honor to know and be a part of your life. You are our family,” Jan said. “I appreciate the way that you have kept us in your hearts.”

League President and Jonesboro Mayor Harold Perrin, who first met Don when he was a council member, summed up the dedication as he closed the program. “For folks who come by this building, it will remind them about who absolutely built this thing—he didn’t do it by himself, but he knew how to get great people beside him and work with those folks,” Perrin said. “So Don, let me just say to you today: I know you’re looking down here and see us today, and that we all love you and obviously with this crowd today from all over the state of Arkansas, we just want to say, you are well deserving of this.” 🏠





AMListServ is now AML Communities!



Welcome to the Arkansas Municipal League Communities Platform

Our new AML Communities ListServ is more secure and offers a wealth of features designed to make idea sharing easier than ever. Upon login at <http://AMLCommunity.arml.org>, you may subscribe to the following communities:

**Mayor/City Manager • Council Member/City Director • Public Safety • City Attorney
Clerk/Recorder/Treasurer • Technology**

Members - Login here

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- Visit <http://AMLCommunity.arml.org>
- Click the “sign in” button
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- Follow the directions on the screen!



PHOTOS BY ANDREW MORGAN

Local Control, broadband access and sales tax take center stage at Winter Conference

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

City and town leaders from across Arkansas converged on the capital city for the Arkansas Municipal League’s 2020 Winter Conference, held Feb. 12-14 at the Statehouse Convention Center and Marriott Hotel in downtown Little Rock. Attendance was strong, with 1,071 total participants. That is higher than usual for a year that doesn’t coincide with the regular session of the state legislature. The conference also featured 52 exhibitors from state agencies, regional and national organizations, and other groups that offer a variety of services to cities and towns.

Before registration opened and the first conference meetings began, the League took the opportunity to dedicate its North Little Rock headquarters to the memory of longtime Executive Director Don A. Zimmerman, who died in June of 2018. Members of Zimmerman’s family, current and former municipal officials, and past and present employees of the League came together Wednesday morning, Feb. 12, to honor the beloved champion of Arkansas and its cities and towns at the newly christened Don A. Zimmerman Campus.

Local Control initiative kicks off

The League also took the occasion of the Winter Conference to officially launch its new initiative focusing on the importance of Local Control, dubbed “Be Local. Be Heard.” The League’s leadership took the stage during

Thursday morning’s general session and encouraged city and town leaders to join the fight against preemption on the federal and state level. And to emphasize the point, they raised the roof—pep rally style—complete with appearances by Little Rock Central High School’s drumline and cheerleaders. League Executive Director Mark Hayes and General Counsel John Wilkerson, armed with T-shirt cannons, sent shirts emblazoned with the campaign’s catchphrase flying into the crowd.

“The question of Local Control is not about political power,” Hayes said. “It is about influencing and listening



Hayes

to the people you see each and every day. It is about taking care of their needs each and every day. And the needs in your communities are unique, just like the various services and good things you offer to your city.”

Local officials, not the state or federal government, are in the best position to make decisions that affect their cities and towns, he said. “You know what’s good for your community, and you know why? It’s not because you’re omnipotent. It’s because every day—in church, grocery stores, at football games—people tell you, ‘this is what we need, this is what’s working, this is what’s not working.’” Mandates that don’t take these things into account can hamstring local government, he said.



Bullerwell

Cities and towns, with the League’s help, must work closely with state legislators when they consider legislation that affects local government in order to avoid eroding Local Control, Wilkerson said. “We want to be partners with them,” he said. “Sometimes they pass laws and unintended consequences arise, because they don’t understand the issues they’re dealing with to the extent that we know them, and it starts to erode our ability to govern ourselves.” Cities have unique challenges, and one-size-fits-all laws aren’t the answer. Legislation written to solve a problem in Jonesboro may cause a new problem in Springdale or Batesville, Wilkerson said.

League Deputy Director Whitnee Bullerwell encouraged city leaders to take action and stay in touch with their legislators. Let them know how proposed legislation is going to impact your city or town, whether it’s a positive or negative consequence. “They want to work with us. They’re willing to work with us, and that’s going to benefit everyone in the end.”

The League has worked closely with Little Rock-based firm Stone Ward to develop the campaign, which includes videos, digital assets, print materials and other information city leaders can share at council meetings, on the city website or social media, with local TV and radio stations, and at community meetings and events.



Wilkerson

Bullerwell asked city officials to check out the new website, belocalbeheard.com, log in and take advantage of the available materials. The League has also produced a new publication on the subject, a handbook titled *Why Local Control Matters*, which includes tips on taking advantage of the momentum of the campaign. She suggested taking the handbook and other campaign materials and leaving them in shops, waiting rooms and other strategic locations around town. “We want you to use this. We implore you to use this. It was created for you, and it is, in essence, local government in a nutshell.”

Hutchinson advocates for sales tax continuation

The League also welcomed Gov. Asa Hutchinson, who addressed the Winter Conference during the Volunteer Community of the Year Awards luncheon on Thursday, Feb. 13. He promoted his “Vote for Roads, Vote for Issue 1” campaign, which supports extending the existing half-cent statewide sales tax on gasoline that helps fund Arkansas’ highways, bridges, city streets



Hutchinson

and county roads. Issue 1 will appear on the ballot in November's general election.

"This is not a new tax," Hutchinson said. "It is an extension of an existing half-cent sales tax that is on the ballot. And today I'm asking you to make sure that your community understands how important it is for your community, your city and your county."

If the extension does not pass, every city and county in the state will lose money, he said, listing a few cities in Faulkner County as examples. "Conway would lose \$1.3 million. Greenbrier, \$190,000. Vilonia, \$89,000."

The governor urged city and town leaders to bring the issue to their constituents' attention. "Please talk to your council, talk to your public as to what this means for your cities, that you would actually lose highway and street money if the extension is not passed on Issue 1 next November. Do I have your support for that?" The audience of municipal leaders responded with a hearty round of applause.

The League gathered supporters of the initiative on stage Friday morning to discuss the importance of continuing the half-cent tax from the perspective of the state, city and county governments, and industries that rely on good infrastructure. The League's Mark Hayes stressed the importance of city and town councils passing a resolution in support of Issue 1. Doing so accomplishes two key things, he said. One, it lets your citizens know how important the funding source is for the community. "Additionally, when you combine those resolutions with others around the state on the same subject matter, you're not only telling your citizens, but you're telling the state as a whole the importance of the issue," Hayes said. "And you are hopefully, in a sense, starting a movement." The League has sent a sample resolution to each city and town, and it's also available on our website, arml.org.

Joe Quinn, director of the Arkansas Good Roads Foundation, who moderated the panel discussion, pointed out that in passing a resolution, the media would



Quinn

pay attention. "Don't forget that if your city council passes a resolution, you're driving news coverage. Your local newspaper will pick up on that."

County by county, roads are probably the number one priority, said Chris Villines, executive director of the Association of Arkansas Counties. About 26 percent of county roads are paved, which means 74 percent are gravel, and they require a lot of maintenance, especially after heavy rains, Villines said. Those access roads are critical to the state's agriculture and related industries.



Villines

After agriculture, tourism is the state's second biggest industry, State Highway Commissioner Robert Moore noted, and funding transportation infrastructure is critical to its continued success. "Bad roads leading to good places" doesn't cut it, he said. "The correlation between funding for good roads and what this means for tourism, especially since we are a rural state, cannot be emphasized enough."



Moore

Mulberry Mayor and League First Vice President Gary Baxter closed the session by encouraging all cities and towns to pass the resolution in support of extending the half-cent sales tax. At conference time, only 90 of the

state's 500 cities and towns had passed the resolution, he said. "As we band together, we can make this happen, and we will make it happen." Baxter said.

Broadband access for all

Also on Gov. Hutchinson's agenda is expanding broadband access, especially in rural, underserved parts of the state. In Arkansas, 214,000 people have no access to broadband internet, and 530,000 have inadequate internet service. In 2019 his office launched Arkansas Rural Connect, a \$25 million grant program to help communities partner with internet service providers to expand broadband in these underserved areas. The program can also help leverage federal grants and loans, and another round of funding through the U.S. Department of Agriculture is about to begin. "It's an urgent issue," Hutchinson said. "I don't want to wait for 10 years. I don't want to wait for five years. We want to accelerate that map."

During a session later on Thursday afternoon, Nathan Smith of the Arkansas Department of Commerce, who is the state broadband manager, provided a progress update on Arkansas Rural Connect. Since the program's creation in mid 2019, they've been working on the criteria for applicants and trying to find the best way to spend the money to reach the most people, he said. If the Legislative Council approves the requested \$25 million upon meeting later this month, the governor's office will open the application process.

Smith recommended that city and town leaders looking to participate in the program contact the broadband office for assistance in partnering with interested internet service providers. To read the governor's full plan, visit governor.arkansas.gov.

As the governor mentioned, a new round of federal funding through the USDA is available for rural broadband expansion and related services, and Bill Vogt, the administration's Rural Utilities Service's general field representative, provided an overview of the different grant and loan programs cities and towns, local utilities, coops and other entities can utilize. To read about the available programs, such as ReConnect, Community Connect, Rural Broadband Assistance Loan and Loan Guarantee, and their requirements, visit www.rd.usda.gov.

REAL talk from NLC's Andrews

Leon Andrews, director of the National League of Cities' Race, Equity and Leadership (REAL) initiative provided the keynote address during the 2020 Winter Conference opening general session, Thursday, Feb. 13. NLC created REAL five years ago, largely as a response to the death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, and the unrest that followed, the ripples of which continue to be felt across the nation. "The mission is to



Andrews

strengthen the capacity of city leaders to know your role to eliminate racial disparities, heal racial tensions and build more equitable communities," Andrews said.

The initiative draws inspiration to act from a Maya Angelou quote: "Prejudice is a burden that confuses the past, threatens the future and renders the present inaccessible." REAL offers training and technical assistance to create opportunities for cities to connect with one another, Andrews said, and its efforts go beyond race into other marginalized populations: women and girls, the LGBTQ community, religious minorities and indigenous communities. REAL has thus far worked with more than 1,200 cities, towns and villages across the country with more showing interest in joining the conversation, Andrews said. "We have more demand than we have capacity in the work that we're doing. So that's been a good thing and also a challenge for us."

The issue of race in this country is a broad one, and initially it was a challenge to hone REAL's approach, he said. Examining data—from infant mortality to life expectancy rates—helped focus the initiative. "The data really got us there," Andrews said. "Whether we're talking about housing or jobs or education, criminal justice, controlling for everything, race is still the strongest predictor of one's success in this country."

Andrews stressed that striving for equality (sameness) is not the same as seeking equity (justice). The ultimate goal is for race to no longer be a predictor of success while improving outcomes for everyone. Influencing good public policy with this goal in mind is where local leaders are so important, he said, and he encouraged city and town leaders not to feel overwhelmed by the challenges. "Racial equity is good governance," Andrews said. "In taking on racial equity, your cities prosper. Your cities are healthier, they're safer, they're more accountable."

NLC has resources at nlc.org that can support cities and towns large and small in their efforts. You can also connect with the REAL team by calling 202-626-3039 or emailing andrews@nlc.org.

Get counted in the right place

Two Winter Conference sessions covered the quickly approaching 2020 census, which will determine funding levels for cities and towns for the next decade, so an accurate count is vital. One essential element of preparation is making sure municipal boundaries are correctly reported. Time is running out to make any needed corrections, said Shelby Johnson, the state's geographic information officer. "We're at the 11th hour. We're on the one-yard line and it's fourth down at the end of the game with 15 seconds left on the clock. I could go on, but you get it."



Johnson

Johnson is currently working with 30 cities to verify their boundaries so they'll be ready by census day on April 1. He encouraged every city official to continue to impress upon their constituents the importance of the census, evoking the marketing concept of the "rule of seven," which posits that people need to hear something seven times before taking action.

"With the census, I think you should factor that up and make sure you're talking about the census and the importance of being counted at every event you have an opportunity to speak at," Johnson said.

Samuel Abbasi, partnership coordinator with the U.S. Census Bureau's Chicago office, has been working with state and local officials in Arkansas since 2018 to help ensure a complete count in the state. The goal is to get every resident to respond, especially among traditionally hard-to-count groups like minorities, immigrants and migrant workers. Local governments and community organizations are essential to reaching these groups, he said. "From the Greatest Generation to today's generation, newborns to their parents, those experiencing homelessness, migrant farm workers, schools, faith-based organizations, veterans, immigrants new and old, English-speaking or not, every resident counts," Abbasi said. "In order to count nearly 330



Abbasi

million people across this country, and, for the first time, over 3 million Arkansans, we need your help to encourage this mission and gain residents' responses to positively impact them and the state for the next 10 years."

Gaining the trust of residents who may be hesitant to provide information such as an address or phone number is a challenge, Abbasi said, but he stressed that the personal info is secure and that only aggregated data is provided in the final report.

Continuing ed for certified officials & personnel

The Winter Conference featured three hours of continuing education as part of the League's voluntary certification program for municipal officials and, new this year, key personnel. The legality of medical marijuana for qualifying patients in Arkansas means new challenges for municipal employers. Tracey Cline-Pew, the League's director of human resources, and Jeff Sims, president of drug-testing firm Xpert Diagnostics, shared information on detecting impairment on the job and putting into practice workplace policies and reporting procedures.

David Baxter, the League's general manager of health/safety and operations, and Sgt. Larry Behnke, North Little Rock Police Department SWAT team member, shared information on keeping the municipal workplace safe, how to maintain situational awareness and how to best respond if an active shooter incident occurs.

Fraud is an ongoing danger to city and town finances. A U.S. Secret Service agent addressed the League during the conference's final continuing education workshop, covering check fraud, currency counterfeiting and other emerging schemes that city leaders should be on the lookout for. 🏛️

2020 Winter Conference Snapshots

PHOTOS BY ANDREW MORGAN AND MARK POTTER



2020 Winter Conference Snapshots



PHOTOS BY ANDREW MORGAN AND BEN CLINE





Winter Conference Sponsors

Stephens Inc.

111 Center Street
 Little Rock, AR 72201
 501-377-2000

American Fidelity Assurance Company

P.O. Box 25523
 Oklahoma City, OK 73125
 405-523-5416

City of Little Rock

500 West Markham, Room 203
 Little Rock, AR 72201
 501-371-4510

Little Rock Convention & Visitors Bureau

101 South Spring Street
 Little Rock, AR 72201
 501-376-478

Little Rock Marriott

3 Statehouse Plaza
 Little Rock, AR 72201
 501-906-4000

Friday, Eldredge & Clark, LLP

400 West Capitol Avenue,
 Suite 2000
 Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-3493
 501-376-2011

Mitchell Williams Law Firm

425 West Capitol Avenue, Suite 1800
 Little Rock, AR 72201
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 Little Rock, AR 72122
 501-907-7117

Pettus Office Products

2 Freeway Drive
 Little Rock, AR 72204
 501-666-7226

TcPrint Solutions

4150 East 43rd Street
 North Little Rock, AR 72117
 501-945-7165

It's time to Be Local. Be Heard.

By Mel Jones, League staff

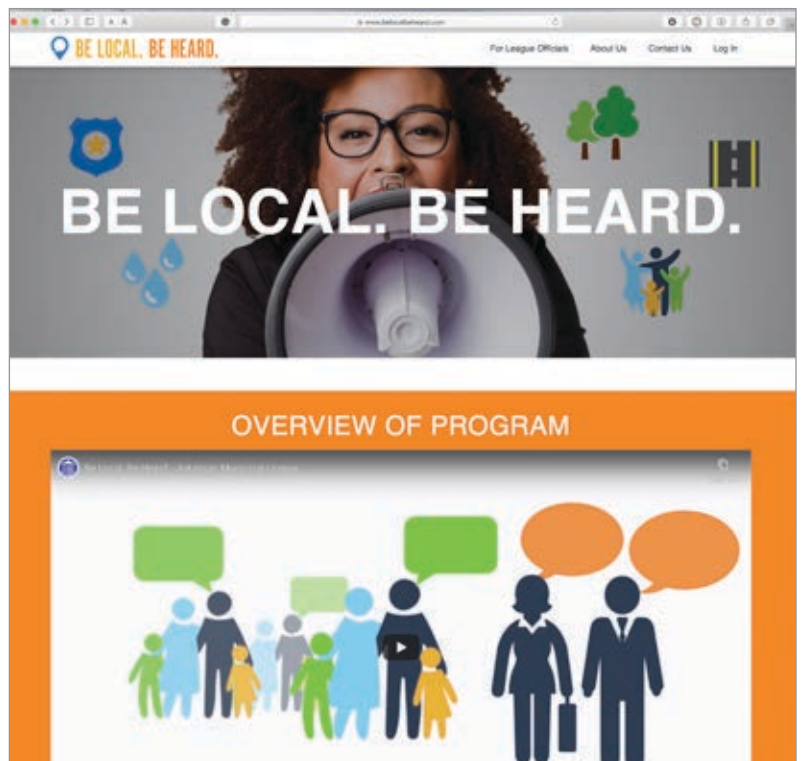
In 2011, the Arkansas Legislature acknowledged the need for cities and towns to have Local Control with the passage of Act 1187, which solidified the principle of Local Control. This power gives each city and town the authority and flexibility to create laws designed specifically to meet its own unique needs. Also known as Home Rule, Local Control ensures that services like fixing potholes, picking up garbage or responding to a 911 call are provided and managed locally, and that decisions about their future are made locally.

Local Control is something that the League fought hard to win for every city and town in Arkansas, and we must continue to protect it. So, it's time to be local and be heard.

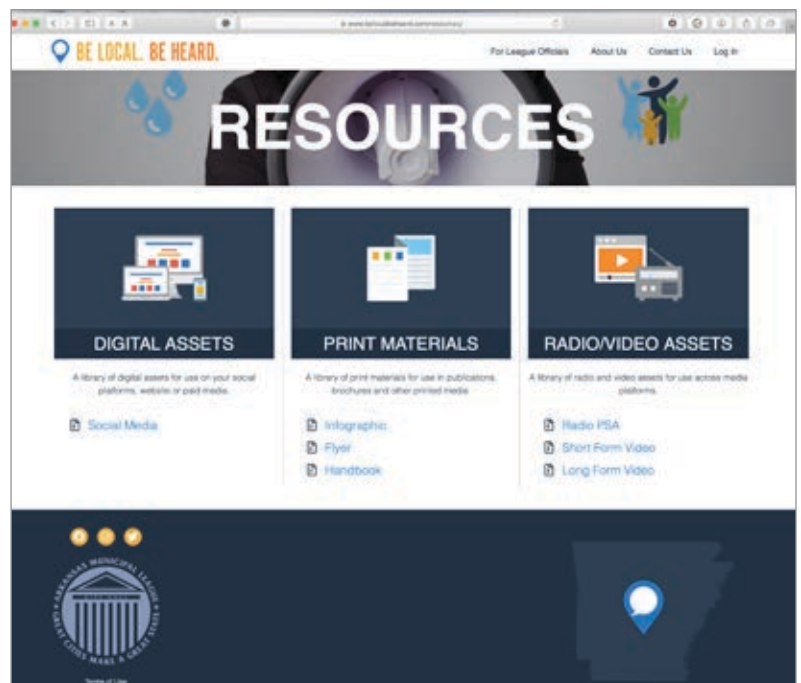
Launched with great fanfare at the Arkansas Municipal League's 2020 Winter Conference—thanks to Little Rock Central High School's drumline and cheerleaders, not to mention a pair of T-shirt cannons—the “Be Local. Be Heard.” initiative is designed to help municipal leaders educate and empower community members and build relationships with state lawmakers. And as Executive Director Mark Hayes said in his column on page 6, we have to keep the momentum going.

The League teamed up with Stone Ward to create valuable resources that make it easy to spread the word about Local Control, and they're all available on our new microsite: Once you log in, you'll have access to digital, print, and radio and TV assets. Winter Conference attendees received the log-in credentials at the event. If you need that information, just contact us.

The resources page includes graphics for Facebook and Twitter (don't forget to use #BeLocalBeHeard in your posts!), printable flyers and infographics that are ideal for leaving in strategic locations around your city or town, and the 24-page *Why Local Control Matters* handbook. The handbook is available as a PDF that can easily be emailed or professionally printed; you can request copies from the League as well. Radio/TV assets include a 30-second radio PSA and two versions of the video: the overview that's featured on the homepage, and a longer, six-minute video featuring testimonials from League



The public-facing homepage at belocalbeheard.com features a short, two-minute overview video of the initiative. The informative video, which is also available for download in the resources section, is ideal for posting on social media or showing when you speak to groups in your community.




Log in to access the free downloadable Be Local. Be Heard. assets, which include graphics for Facebook and Twitter, print materials such as the handbook, flyer and infographic, and radio/TV PSAs and both versions of the video.



The 24-page handbook, *Why Local Control Matters*, is chock-full with all of the information you need to effectively communicate with residents, legislators and the media about Local Control.

members, including League President, Mayor Harold Perrin of Jonesboro; First Vice President, Mayor Gary Baxter of Mulberry; City Manager Catherine Cook of Hope; Mayor James Sanders of Blytheville; and Municipal League Workers' Compensation Program Trustee, Mayor Shirley Washington of Pine Bluff.

Local decision-making. Self-government. Citizen-centered solutions. The right to address unique local needs with local solutions. We live locally, so we should decide locally. This is Local Control in a nutshell. If you have a story of how Local Control works for your community, let us know at citytown@arml.org. 



The must-have reference for every city hall in Arkansas

The 2019-2020 edition of the *Handbook for Arkansas Municipal Officials* has arrived. A compilation of state laws affecting Arkansas municipalities, including the newest laws from the 2019 legislative session, this is the most complete publication on municipal law and city government in Arkansas.

New this year: In addition to 1,000 printed copies, the Handbook will also be available in an enhanced, easy-to-search PDF version, which will be delivered on a flash drive. You may order and pay for your new Handbook online via Visa or MasterCard by visiting the Publications page at www.arml.org/store, or use the order form below.



Order Form

Mail to:

Arkansas Municipal League
Attn: Handbook Sales
P.O. Box 38
North Little Rock, AR 72115-0038

Please send ___ of the Handbook or ___ Flash Drive with easy-to-search PDF at \$100.00 each.

Enclosed is a check in payment for \$ _____

Name _____

Title _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____



86th Annual Convention

Marriott Hotel/Statehouse Convention Center, June 17-19, 2020

MONTHS

03

DAYS

02

HOURS

00

Countdown to Convention.

June 17-19 in Little Rock, AR.

See next page for more information.

Register online at www.arml.org.

Contact Whitnee Bullerwell
at 501-978-6105.

Cost for 10' x 10' exhibit space is \$600.

Cost for large equipment space is \$1,200.

TENTATIVE PROGRAM IN BRIEF

**WEDNESDAY
JUNE 17**

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

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

**THURSDAY
JUNE 18**

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

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

**FRIDAY
JUNE 19**

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

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

RESOLUTIONS

Suggested Convention Resolutions for consideration at the 86th Annual Convention should be mailed to:

86th Convention Resolutions
Arkansas Municipal League
P.O. Box 38
North Little Rock, AR 72115-0038

The deadline for Resolution submission is Friday, May 15.

Resolutions may be drafted by an official of any member city or town and can relate to any matter of municipal concern. See your **2019-2020 Policies and Goals** for resolutions adopted at the 85th Convention.

WANTED: Elected city officials with 25 years of service

Were you elected and began serving your city or town in 1995? The League would like to know.

The League will give special recognition to **elected city and town officials** who are in their 25th year of municipal service at the 86th League Convention, June 17-19, in Little Rock.

Names must be submitted to the League by May 15.

Call Whitnee Bullerwell at 501-978-6105; Sheila Boyd, 501-537-3785; or write to P.O. Box 38, North Little Rock, AR 72115-0038.

NOTICE TO EXHIBITORS

At the 86th Convention, a special Exhibit Hall is available for businesses, companies and manufacturers to display their products and services that are available to Arkansas municipalities.

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

The cost this year is \$600 for a regular exhibit space or \$1,200 for a large equipment space. We cannot guarantee space for companies that do not register before June 1.

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



86th Annual Convention

Marriott Hotel/Statehouse Convention Center, June 17-19, 2020

REGISTRATION

Registration and payment must be received in League office by Friday, June 1, 2020, to qualify for pre-registration rates.

Pre-registration for municipal officials	\$150
Registration fee after June 1, 2020 , and on-site registration for municipal officials	\$175
Pre-registration for guests	\$75
Registration fee after June 1, 2020 , 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 **2019-2020 Handbook for Arkansas Municipal Officials**.
- No daily registration is available.
- Registration must come through the League office. No telephone registrations will be accepted.
- **No refunds after June 1, 2020.**
- Cancellation letters must be postmarked by **June 1, 2020**.
- **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	\$144	Check-in 3 p.m.
Capital Hotel		
Single/Double	\$195	Check-in 3 p.m.
Doubletree Hotel		
Single/Double	\$146	Check-in 3 p.m.
Wyndham Hotel		
Single/Double	\$114	Check-in 3 p.m.

- Cut-off date for hotel reservations is **June 1, 2020**.
- 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: 86th Annual Convention
 P.O. Box 38
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Step 1: Delegate Information

Name: _____

Title: _____ City of: _____

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Name: _____ Name: _____

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• 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 \$ _____

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Meet Lanny Richmond, code and opinions counsel for the Arkansas Municipal League



City & Town: What are your duties and responsibilities at the League?

Lanny Richmond: The main one is issuing opinions, which is answering our legal inquiries. We get questions from city officials or employees and as long as it's municipal law adjacent, we try and help them get that question answered. In addition to that, I help run our Municipal Codification Program, work on vehicle cases with the Municipal Vehicle Program, help with our legislation and a variety of other duties. "As assigned" is how I describe it.

How long have you been working at the League? I'm closing in on my fifth year as an attorney here, and before that I worked two years here as a law clerk. They made the mistake of hiring me. I told them they wouldn't be able to get rid of me and I was true to my word.

How has the League changed since you've started? Honestly, not too much has changed from my point of view. When I joined, we were a very strong organization and we remain very strong and service oriented today.

What is the biggest lesson you've learned working for the cities and towns of Arkansas? One of the biggest lessons I've learned is that our municipalities, and even our counties to some extent, are as diverse as the citizenship of Arkansas. Going to different corners of the state is going to wildly different cities, you're going to communicate with them in different ways and the problems are going to be different. There's always a new challenge and it keeps things entertaining.

What advice would you have for someone just getting into public service? I think the best advice, especially for someone working in government, is to remember that we work for the citizens. You need to stay customer service focused.

Where did you grow up? I grew up in Williford, Arkansas. It's a very, very small town in Sharp County. I think most of my time there the population was 63 people. [As of the last census, it's up to 75.—Ed.]

What is your favorite spot in your hometown? The Spring River. It's a popular canoeing and kayaking spot up there and we were right beside it.

What is your favorite part about working for the League and the cities and towns of Arkansas? For the League I'd have to say it's the people I work with. From my peers in the legal department, to all the other departments and our leadership—everyone here is fantastic. The clients we work with, they're all very appreciative. I know the work we do means a whole lot to them, and they're kind enough to let us know that it means a lot to them, and that's a good feeling. 🍷

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Meet Howard G. Austin, Prescott council member

City & Town: What are your duties and responsibilities for the city of Prescott?

Howard Austin: My duties and responsibilities are to address our local needs for Prescott, such as utilities, streets, water, police, fire and the safety of all of our citizens. I attend our monthly meetings, develop and pass a budget, vote on ordinances, approve resolutions and address any issues that concern our citizens.



Why did you choose public service? I was asked to serve on the city council by a former mayor because one of the council members moved out of the city. The mayor told me that he saw my strong interest in the city and the citizens and felt I would be good for the job. I accepted and have been here ever since.

What's your favorite aspect of the job? What's the biggest challenge? My favorite aspect of my job is when a project is completed and a citizen gives me a pat on the back and say they appreciate what we're doing for our city. My biggest challenge is working with our utility companies to keep rates low.


What's your favorite spot in Prescott? The new splash pad. It's my favorite because my granddaughters love to play there when they visit us, and I love seeing so many parents bringing their children to enjoy it.

What is the public perception of your job versus the reality of your job? The public perception of my job is that we are only meeting for an hour and a half on the third Monday of each month. The reality is that it's much more than that. I attend ribbon cutting activities, economic development meetings, and I visit with our citizens about their concerns. I'm always getting calls and letters about things that need to be addressed in our council meetings. It's a lot more involved than people think.

What season does Prescott shine the most? Prescott shines the most in the summer because people get outside. They fill the baseball parks, splash pad, sand volleyball courts and tennis courts.

What's the biggest lesson you've learned working for a city government? The biggest lesson I've learned is not to guarantee a citizen something before you know if it's possible.

What advice do you have for someone who would like to follow your footsteps into this job? Maintain a good relationship with your fellow council members and attend the Arkansas Municipal League certification programs. The information they provide is essential to being the best elected official you can be for your city.

What are three "can't miss" things that someone can do if they visit Prescott? The city park splash pad and playground area, The Nevada County Depot Museum and the Prescott/Nevada County Library. 

arkansas municipal league

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— Goethe

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A new blueprint for community business success

By Mark Stodola

In my 12-year tenure as mayor of Little Rock and while serving as president of the National League of Cities, few topics related to cities caught the national attention in the same way as last year's discussion on Amazon and their decision to open a competition among cities for a second headquarters. The moment opened up an important conversation, drawing a critical eye to America's long-standing practices in economic development policy. It also raised much-needed questions about equity and the companies and people our public policy tends to favor.

The 2020 election cycle has already seen many references to Amazon and companies like it with respect to their power, influence and the many benefits they reap from the current political and economic system. Americans should turn their attention to a new blueprint, America's New Business Plan, a bipartisan policy agenda that aims to level the playing field for new firms and small businesses and invest in entrepreneurship as a long-term economic growth strategy.

Start Us Up Now (startusupnow.org) is a coalition of think tanks, foundations and nonprofits that is proposing systemic changes to our policies at the local, state and federal level that would invest in and foster entrepreneurship. New firms and small businesses account for nearly all of the net new job growth, and yet the rate of entrepreneurship has stagnated over the last two decades. Citizens of all backgrounds are being shut out of the opportunity to pursue good ideas that could be successful business ventures because of a lack of funding, knowledge and support. America's New Business Plan emphasizes what Americans can do through a four-part entrepreneurship plan.

We need structural changes that help level the playing field for new firms and small businesses, reduce barriers, and strengthen support systems for entrepreneurs. America's New Business Plan proposes a set of recommendations at each of the federal, state and local levels that would address four major priorities for expanding entrepreneurship: opportunity for a level playing field, access to capital funding, strengthening support systems and building knowledge for how to start a business.

As mayor of a mid-size, southern city, I knew that I couldn't count on a company like Amazon or the next big thing to deliver economic stability to my community. The way to long-term, sustained economic growth was to invest in our people, in entrepreneurs. Even without

federal intervention, there are a number of ways mayors can push for these policies locally, which is what we did in Little Rock. Please check out the Little Rock Technology Park (lrtpa.com), the Venture Center (venturecenter.co) and the Arkansas Innovation Hub (arhub.org) to see what has been accomplished in and around the capital city.

First, it is imperative that the impact on small businesses and entrepreneurs be considered up front when evaluating new ordinances and regulations. Three quarters of entrepreneurs think government processes and regulations are too complex, and 65 percent say that, overall, compliance is too burdensome. Adopting a type of "Entrepreneurship Impact Statement" into the ordinance process would allow cities to evaluate the financial cost and other impacts of new laws, rules and regulations before they're passed.

Access to capital is perhaps the number one reason most people are not able to pursue a new venture. With traditional avenues of capital like small business loans sometimes difficult to access for entrepreneurs, local government should consider new, innovative models to create access to capital pathways. Public-private partnerships, where established local businesses help finance new ventures, or revolving community loan funds can help fill these gaps.

There is a lot that a city leader can do just by being a vocal champion for entrepreneurship. Mayors uniquely understand their communities' assets and are therefore in a position to communicate and advocate on behalf of the city's entrepreneurs. Engaging entrepreneurs and regulators in focus groups, appointing a special city official or liaison to entrepreneurship, and requiring city departments to review procurement and contracting are all cost-effective tools that mayors have at their disposal to reduce barriers for entrepreneurs.

When candidates, particularly at the national level, talk about pro-business policies, rarely is entrepreneurship a significant part of the conversation. In the next election we should demand that change. We need an economy that invests in equity, competition and innovation. America's New Business Plan lays out the tools to reduce barriers and create a level field for all of America's entrepreneurs.



Mark Stodola is a lawyer with the Barber Law Firm in Little Rock and a member of the Kauffman Foundation's Mayors' Council. He served as mayor of Little Rock from 2001 to 2019 and as president of the National League of Cities in 2018.

Taking action at the local level

Entrepreneurs and government operate at different speeds. As policymakers pursue the adoption of new policies to support everyday Americans opening new businesses, they can also leverage the unique powers associated with their public offices to champion entrepreneurs today. Below is a list of tangible, actionable steps that mayors can pursue now.

Mayors can:

- Use their “state of the city” and other public addresses to make increasing entrepreneurship a priority by highlighting the benefits to individuals, families and the community.
- Conduct focus groups and town hall meetings with entrepreneurs to learn how to address barriers to starting and growing businesses.
- Appoint a city entrepreneurship coordinator to be in charge of making new business creation a priority across the city. The entrepreneurship coordinator would build the entrepreneurial ecosystem by working in partnership with entrepreneurs, entrepreneur support organizations (ESOs), city agencies and councils, local business and nonprofit leaders, K-12 and higher education systems, and others.
- Require a review of the impact of existing ordinances, licenses, permits, zoning requirements and other regulations on the creation of new businesses, and work to eliminate or revise them as appropriate.
- Charge economic development agencies with making the support of new, homegrown entrepreneurs a top priority, hire managers in city agencies who understand this priority, and invest in entrepreneurs instead of prioritizing business recruitment.
- Play a leading role in supporting incubators, accelerators and other entrepreneur support organizations through actions ranging from touting the vital role they play in local economic development to providing them with needed resources.
- Examine how city contracting and procurement can support new businesses and be more entrepreneur-friendly, including among underserved areas and populations.
- Develop and leverage a place-based identity or brand for locally made goods and services to support local makers and entrepreneurs.
- Direct municipal agencies to collect and utilize data on new businesses in order to appropriately target interventions that reduce local barriers to new business creation.

Source: *America's New Business Plan* (startusupnow.org).



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Arkansas Municipal League's Firefighters Supplemental Income and Death Benefit Program

Arkansas Delta Byways celebrates tourism achievements

Arkansas Delta Byways, the tourism promotion association serving 15 counties in eastern Arkansas, presented the 20th annual Delta Awards recognizing tourism achievement in the region on Feb. 21 at the Technology Center for the Delta in Wynne. The awards honor groups, businesses and individuals in numerous categories. The finalists in each category, with winners denoted with an asterisk, are as follows:

Media Support Award

- Deborah Horn, SEALife, all counties
* KASU-AETN, Ken Burns' *Country Music* promotion, all counties
"Arkansas's Scenic Tourism Landscapes," Arkansas Tourism photographers, all counties

Hospitality Award

- Arkansas Welcome Center of Blytheville, Mississippi County
Women's Service League of McGehee, Desha County
* Vicki Trimble, Cross County

Entrepreneur Award

- * Weston Lewey, Chez Weenie, St. Francis County
Cypress Coffee House, Mississippi County
Delta Cultural Center Museum Gift Shop, Phillips County

Tourism Support/Promotional Award

- Helena Adventure Company and Mississippi River State Park Partnership Project, Phillips County
* Madpie's Tea Room and Shoppes, Clay County
Main Street Christmas Storefronts, Paragould, Greene County

Festival/Event Award

- Christmas at the Park, Craighead County
* Delta Roots Country Festival, Phillips County
World's Championship Duck Calling Contest, Arkansas County

Boot Strap Award

- Lake Village Chamber of Commerce, Chicot County
* WWI Anniversary Celebration, Hemingway-Pfeiffer Museum and Piggott PACE, Clay County
Rector Community Museum, Clay County

Cultural Heritage Award

- * Rockabilly Exhibit, Arkansas State University Museum, Craighead County
Desha County Museum, Desha County
"Chats with the Curator," Southern Tenant Farmers Museum, Poinsett County

Outstanding Member Award

- Sheila Ward, manager, Arkansas Welcome Center of Blytheville, Mississippi County

Tourism Person of the Year

- John Gill, author and former chair of the Arkansas History Commission

Arkansas Delta Byways is the nonprofit association recognized by the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism as the official tourism promotion association for 15 counties in Eastern Arkansas. Member counties are Arkansas, Chicot, Clay, Craighead, Crittenden, Cross, Desha, Drew, Greene, Lee, Mississippi, Monroe, Phillips, Poinsett and St. Francis. ADB is based on the A-State campus in Jonesboro and receives administrative support through the university's Arkansas Heritage Sites Office.

For more information, contact Arkansas Delta Byways at 870-972-2803 or visit deltabyways.com.



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Great American Cleanup in Arkansas readies for spring events



The Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission (KAB) invites Arkansans from across the state to come together for the Great American Cleanup after a successful 2019 campaign in the Natural State. The annual spring cleanup event runs from March 1 through May 31.

In 2019 nearly 7,000 volunteers across the state worked more than 28,000 hours to clean up and beautify their communities before the tourism and vacation seasons began. This community improvement effort involved 179 events, with volunteers collecting 153,343 pounds of litter from 862 miles of roadway, 123 miles of waterway and shorelines, and 1,368 acres of parks and public areas. The total economic value of the 2019 Great American Cleanup to Arkansas communities was \$1,373,035.

Executive Director Mark Camp says Arkansans need to keep up the good work. "Last year, Arkansans did an amazing job cleaning up our state and we want to encourage them to make a New Year's resolution to continue to do their part by not littering and helping remove it this year. We definitely do not want that momentum to slow down in 2020."

Once a community signs on to host a Great American Cleanup in Arkansas event, KAB helps organize and publicize the effort and provides volunteers with GLAD® trash bags, gloves, safety vests and T-shirts. Promotional materials available to communities include banners, fliers, customizable news releases, volunteer stickers and brochures. Community groups and organizers can register their event by going to www.keeparkansasbeautiful.com/event-registration.

The Great American Cleanup in Arkansas is one of two seasonal events that KAB promotes each year. The Great Arkansas Cleanup takes place each fall from September through October.

The Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission inspires and educates individuals to improve their communities by preventing litter, promoting recycling and keeping Arkansas beautiful. The commission is a division of the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism and is one of four state agencies that share proceeds from the Amendment 75 1/8-cent Conservation Tax. 



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Inspection and code enforcement: Linchpins of planning

By Jim von Tungeln

Code enforcement is the glue that holds together the planning function in local government and keeps it running. Without it, the greatest plan would be an empty gesture and our best intentions merely “walking shadows.” Enforcing the regulations that carry out or protect the provisions of our plans turns visions into results.

The effort requires the combined and trusting efforts of individuals, from staff to elected officials. Let’s start at the beginning.

Staff people taking on this job don’t have it easy. They must be highly trained and certified. They must be experts in human relations. An estimated 75 percent of the time, they resolve the infraction through moral suasion. They take more verbal abuse than a traffic cop who has ticketed someone’s teenage daughter. Many could earn more money working at one of the professional establishments they inspect. The average citizen seldom becomes aware of the results of our inspection and enforcement staff. Yet, that staff struggles on against the current.

In short, we don’t always show the staff as much respect as we should. Who are these overstressed and underappreciated people? They handle a number of jobs, depending upon the size of the city or town. For many Arkansas municipalities, code enforcement can include

any number of personnel who perform the administrative, inspection and enforcement functions. In smaller communities, the job often falls on the fire chief. It is their job to make sure that a proposal will meet the city’s adopted codes and the Arkansas Fire Prevention Code.

A medium-sized city or town might start the process with a receiving agent or administrative clerk. This person receives applications, inquiries, plan submittals and other material related to planning commission actions. It is a straightforward job that consists of checking applications for completeness, referring inquiries, cataloging submitted material and forwarding that material along the appropriate path.

They must also meet the public. This entry level person is the first face of the city encountered by investors, applicants and persons seeking information. It may be the face one remembers longest. That individual may also be the least-trained person working in local government.

As the population grows, the skill level of the first contact increases. Very large cities may have a certified urban planner—called a “counter planner”—on staff to receive applications pertaining to growth and development. This person also answers questions and provides on-the-spot assistance. In very small cities and towns, applicants simply deposit plans at the mayor’s office.

REVIEW RESPONSIBILITY – DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

	Receiving Clerk	Technical Staff	Professional Staff	Outside Resource	Board of Adjustment	Planning Commission	Board/Council
BOA Requests: Interpretation	Y	Y	I		Y		
BOA Requests: Relief	Y	Y	I		Y		
Development Review: Small Scale	Y	Y	I				
Development Review: Large Scale	Y	Y	Y	I		Y	
Conditional Use	Y	Y	Y			Y	
Plan/Code Amendment	Y	Y	Y	I		Y	Y
Final Plat	Y	Y	Y	I		Y	
Preliminary Plat	Y	Y	Y	I		Y	
Re-zoning	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y

Code: Y=Included in review I=Included if needed

Assuming a larger staff, applications proceed to the code enforcement technicians. This department may include a building official, plan reviewers, code enforcement officers, and individual reviewers of electrical, plumbing and HVAC plans.

As the population passes the 20,000 mark, the city may hire a full-time engineer and an urban planner. These are professionals who may be acknowledged as expert witnesses in court and thereby allowed to offer opinions as well as technical analysis. Additionally, cities may call in more-advanced technical consultants on special cases. For example, sticky problems involving telecommunication tower locations may require highly specialized engineering analysis.

The above illustrates that the analysis of applications includes different levels of staffing. It is extremely important that, at each level of analysis, an individual not exceed an authority or level of expertise that could not be defended in court.

From staff and professionals, requests proceed to appointed or elected bodies for final approval. The board of zoning adjustment, for example, handles cases in which applicants question the interpretation of the code by staff. It also grants variances when the zoning code creates a hardship due to conditions unique to a particular property.

The planning commission and elected body represent the final in-house steps in applying regulations to achieve or protect the provisions of municipal plans. Legal remedies exist beyond city hall.

It is a long and sometimes tortuous path from initial application to final approval. Some of this is because our world has become more complicated in the last several decades. As discussed in the previous issue, things will become more complicated in the next decade. At the same time, mistakes are becoming more costly. City personnel know that regulations must be clear and the review exacting. Persons wishing to invest in the community only know that the process can be complex.

Municipalities might reduce some of the complexity. The accompanying table summarizes which individuals normally get involved in or “touch” applications that arrive at city hall. Individual cities and towns may opt to alter this flow. The table suggests a guide and it illustrates some points. First, application review is heavily weighted at the staff level. If the staff is competent and a high level of trust exists, the burden of involvement by appointed and elected bodies should diminish. This in turn allows those members more time and energy for the broader and more numerous duties of planning and governing.

In public administration thinking, decision makers develop policies and others enforce them. Modern literature also grants that, at various levels, staff can influence policy and the manner in which it develops. Involving multiple departments in early planning efforts can encourage lateral thinking, or “cross-fertilization.” This can result in better decisions.

It is in the enforcement stage of those policies where difficulties appear. The first question in enforcement is: At what level was the staff involved in developing the plan and supporting regulations? If there is a lack of training, involvement or understanding, staff members may find themselves enforcing regulations under a cloud of uncertainty.

Take, for example, a current interest in regulating short-term rentals of residential property. Is a short-term rental a standard business or a home occupation? Is the intent to control or to prohibit? Are the instructions clear? Will the elected officials stand behind staff if the first infraction leads to the bank president? Where are the legal land mines?

Next, how will the staff enforce the new regulations? Municipalities face strained budgets that don’t often allow for a proactive approach to code enforcement. Instead, they rely upon complaint-based enforcement. This is inexpensive as it only needs personnel on a sporadic basis. It can seem responsive since neighbors tend to complain about the more extreme situations. It gives the impression that the city or town is attending to the issue, although it is mostly addressing the symptoms. It is a feasible but partial solution.

Some of the best advice on code enforcement comes from a continuing legal education session held during the Arkansas Municipal League’s Winter Conference in February. Several presenters recommended that the overall aim of code enforcement should be compliance with municipal law, not winning court battles or collecting fees for the municipal budgets. In short, the desired result is success in the “court of compliance” and not the “court of finance” if our goal is to protect the city and its inhabitants.

Carried out with forethought, training and education, code enforcement provides the final step in protecting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens. That is not a function to be taken lightly.



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.

Taser law update: Recent 8th Circuit decisions

By Sara Monaghan & Jenna Adams

Over the past decade, and in more recent years, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit—the federal appellate court over Arkansas—has issued several opinions on the lawfulness of police officers’ use of tasers. While tasers have been part of policing for a long time, the law on the use of tasers is very much in flux.

Generally, police officers use tasers to gain compliance of an arrestee who is actively resisting arrest. Tasers are also used as a means to control or deescalate a situation that could soon become violent. Of course, the varying scenarios leading to an officer’s decision to deploy a taser and the varying actions of the suspect will ultimately determine whether or not the use of the taser was lawful.

In recent decisions, the 8th Circuit has reviewed whether it is lawful for a police officer to tase an unarmed misdemeanor who is not resisting and whether it is lawful for a police officer to tase a handcuffed suspect. In addition, the 8th Circuit has focused on the importance of allowing time for a suspect who has been tased to comply with officers’ commands before tasing the suspect again. The court has decided cases in which an officer deployed a taser multiple times where a suspect continues to be aggressive or continues to not comply but the taser has no effect. Finally, the 8th Circuit has focused on the distinction between the application of a taser in dart mode and in drive stun mode. As you can see, determining whether the use of a taser is lawful is not that simple.

The only bright-line rule that has been established by the 8th Circuit can be found in the cases of *Brown v. City of Golden Valley* (2009) and *Shekleton v. Eichenberger* (2012). That bright-line rule is that tasing a non-violent misdemeanor arrestee, who was not fleeing or resisting arrest, is an unlawful use of force.

Beyond this rule, there is little concrete guidance. However, there are guidelines to keep in mind. For instance, officers are often forced to deploy their tasers multiple times in an effort to gain compliance of a suspect. In situations involving multiple deployments of a taser, the 8th Circuit has recently held in the case *Jackson v. Stair* (2019) that officers must ensure that they give the suspect time to either react with compliance or continue resisting before deploying the taser again. In *Jackson v. Stair*, the officer tased a suspect three times.



PHOTO BY BEN CLINE

The court held that the second tasing was unnecessary and excessive because the officer did not give the suspect time to comply before deploying the taser again.

On the other hand, the court also held that multiple tasing are reasonable where the suspect continues to be aggressive and refuses to comply with officer commands after the initial taser deployment. In *Brossart v. Janke* (2017), an officer tased a suspect five times after the suspect continually refused to comply with the officers’ commands and continued to try to stand throughout the course of the taser deployments. The court held that, given the suspect’s repeated noncompliance and threats of violence against law enforcement officers, the officer’s use of the taser under these circumstances was reasonable. Similarly, in *Zubrod v. Hoch* (2018), the court held that applying a taser up to 10 times in three minutes and 15 seconds for a total of 53 seconds to gain the suspect’s full compliance was objectively reasonable where the suspect continually fought three deputies and the tasing attempts failed to incapacitate the suspect.

Additionally, the 8th Circuit has made it clear that an officer’s distance from the suspect may be a factor in determining whether the use of a taser was reasonable. In *Montoya v. City of Flandreau* (2012), the 8th Circuit held that the use of a taser amounted to excessive force where a disorderly conduct suspect was 10-15 feet away from law enforcement and the suspect did not pose a threat. (See also *Jackson v. Stair*, noting that the suspect was several feet away from the nearest officer and thus did not appear capable of posing a danger to law enforcement.)

Finally, the 8th Circuit has noted the differences in using a taser in dart mode versus using a taser in drive stun mode. In *Brossart v. Janke* the court held that the use of a taser in drive stun mode on a handcuffed individual, which only causes discomfort and does not incapacitate the suspect, is reasonable where the suspect is refusing to comply with officer commands. The court noted that “the infliction of only *de minimis* injuries supports the conclusion that the officer did not use excessive force.”

Certainly, what can be gleaned from all of the cases decided by the 8th Circuit is that the lawfulness of the use of a taser is very fact specific and is determined on a case-by-case basis. As attorneys who often defend officers in use of force cases, we would highly recommend that, in addition to the taser training that is typically offered or required, police departments should offer taser training involving various fact-specific scenarios, such as the ones discussed in this article involving (1) unarmed misdemeanants who are not fleeing or

resisting, (2) noncompliant suspects who are handcuffed, (3) multiple applications of a taser when the taser is effective, and (4) multiple applications of a taser when the taser is not effective.

If you have any questions about taser law or training, feel free to contact one of the attorneys in the League’s Municipal Legal Defense Program.



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UCA Citizens Academy promotes local engagement

By Javier Hernandez

In the fall of 2019, the University of Central Arkansas Division of Outreach and Community Engagement, in partnership with the UCA Political Science Department, launched the first-ever UCA Citizens Academy. During this program, UCA students and Conway residents embark on a 13-week program aimed at emphasizing civic engagement at the local and regional level.

Many cities around Arkansas, such as Jacksonville, Bella Vista and Mountain Home, conduct their own citizen academies. However, these academies focus primarily on law enforcement. The UCA Citizens Academy is unique in the way its curriculum is designed to cover a variety of topics ranging from the local judiciary system to the Conway Sanitation Department. The focus of the course is to “bring residents together to become more informed about local and regional government, the entities and institutions of which its composed and their activities, and with the idea that with a greater understanding of local government and activities, they will be more disposed to participating and engaging with it.” The topics covered in the academy include those in the public and nonprofit sectors, such as finance, economic development, transportation, safety, ecology and sanitation, and human services.

Clay Arnold, chair of the Political Science Department at UCA, designed and led the class as a part of a campus-wide initiative to promote civic engagement and citizen participation within UCA’s student body. The university partnered with Campus Compact, a national coalition of colleges and universities that aims to promote civic participation and community development within institutions of higher education. In addition to being offered to UCA students, the program is open to Conway residents so they would be able to learn more about their local government and services. Participants in the program interacted with local officials from regional government and nonprofit agencies in a series of classes once a week for two hours. The presenters ranged from elected leaders, such as Faulkner County Judge Jim Baker, to Daniel Tyler, the founder of Deliver Hope, a local nonprofit.

After the completion of the program, participants are tasked with creating a civic engagement plan to help local agencies provide services more efficiently and create a better community. Another goal of the program is the development of a civic action plan library that could



Carol Crews, prosecuting attorney for the 20th Judicial District, describes her role in the judicial process as part of the UCA Citizens Academy.

be made available to any civic group looking to perform a project to benefit their community. Arnold believes that the community civic engagement plans may inspire other communities, whether in partnership with institutions of higher education or not, to develop their own citizen academies.

In helping plan and create this program, Conway City Council Member Shelley Mehl, who is the former associate vice president of UCA outreach, believes the academy is “an opportunity for UCA to reach out, educate and engage the community,” adding “this program is a way to bring all parties together in a constructive way that we hope would improve communication and support the development of engaged citizens.” It is courses like the academy that Mehl believes are “the start of moving our community forward.”

Participants in the class felt the program allowed them to engage with local leaders in discussions that permitted them to ask more in-depth questions to more fully assess the needs within the community.

Booker White, a junior at UCA from Mayflower, said, “The class was very informative about the ways both state and local government and nonprofits work together and independently to serve the public. The civic engagement plan inspired me to look more closely at the needs of the community and come up with possible solutions or alternatives that will allow me to help work in a hands-on way to develop a better community.”

You can learn more about the UCA Citizens Academy at www.uca.edu/outreach/citizens.



Javier Hernandez is the intern for the Center for Community and Economic Development at the University of Central Arkansas. He is currently a junior in the UCA Schedler Honors College double majoring in Environmental Science and Political Science.



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Colonoscopy? Have no fear

By Jason S. Mizell, M.D.

Once upon a time, getting a colonoscopy wasn't all that pleasant. It required chugging down a gallon of nauseating liquid to clean out the colon, foregoing food and drink all day and night beforehand, and sometimes the procedure was even performed without sedation. You can understand why people weren't thrilled to schedule them.

Thankfully, modern medicine has improved to the point where none of those things are required. Unfortunately, the procedure still carries a reputation for unpleasantness. That scares people away—and puts them at risk.

Trust me when I say that getting a colonoscopy is nothing to be afraid of.

When to get a colonoscopy

A colonoscopy is a procedure in which a doctor uses a camera to inspect the inside of your colon. Generally, they're looking for polyps, which, if undetected or left untreated, can develop into cancer. Polyps generally don't cause symptoms until they are very large, so not having any symptoms doesn't mean you don't have a problem.

We tend to suggest patients get a colonoscopy starting around age 45 to 50. If there is a family history of cancer, you may need to start screening much earlier. If the colonoscopy is normal and you have no other risk factors, you can wait 10 years before having the procedure again. If polyps are found, future colonoscopies will be scheduled every three to five years.

This is assuming you have no symptoms or conditions that increase cancer risk, like Crohn's disease. If you have blood in your stool, vague unexplained abdominal pain, a change in the size or caliber of your stool, unintentional weight loss, or a very dark or even black stool, those are all warning signs you should see your physician and schedule a colonoscopy regardless of age.

There's rarely any need for an annual colonoscopy, even if you've had problems in the past. Polyps take a very long time to develop into cancer, so a screening every few years still gives doctors enough time to catch them while they're small.

Preparing for the procedure

In the past, preparation for a colonoscopy meant drinking a sickening amount of fluid meant to cleanse your colon. These days, the amount of liquid is reduced greatly and is not as bad tasting. Depending on your doctor, you may be offered the option to split that liquid into separate, smaller servings taken a few hours apart the day before your procedure. Colonoscopy preparation also once meant fasting the day before. Nowadays, the day before the procedure you will need to abstain from solid foods but can consume clear liquids like beef or chicken broth, gelatin, sports drinks and popsicles. On the day of, you'll be asked not to consume anything within four hours of your appointment.

Because the procedure requires sedation, probably the biggest hassle is having to arrange transportation. But sedation also means you'll sleep through the whole thing and very likely wake up feeling great. Some patients feel mildly bloated afterward, but this usually subsides quickly.

Finding peace of mind

With modern technology, a colonoscopy is a very accurate test. If a patient has a polyp, our ability to find it is very high. It is also a procedure with very little risk. You rarely hear about complications from a colonoscopy. Therefore, it's a procedure with tremendous benefit and very little downside. That's important because it provides certainty. What I mean is, a patient may go a long time suffering symptoms while blaming hemorrhoids. A colonoscopy can confirm whether the patient has anything to be concerned about and, if not, they can rest easy for several years. However, if the patient only assumes it's something benign like hemorrhoids and doesn't get a screening, a more serious issue like cancer can become very problematic in time.

So don't wait to get treatment. The earlier you do, the better the outcome is likely to be. The preparation isn't a cakewalk, but it's not as bad as it once was. And the results could save your life.



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The goal of urban wood utilization is to divert end-of-life trees away from the landfill and toward beneficial products like lumber, biomass and furniture.

Waste not, want not: Urban wood utilization

By Krissy Thomason

The Natural State is well known for its abundant tree cover. Two national forests account for 13 percent of Arkansas' forested acreage, industry owns and manages 12 percent of Arkansas forestland, and private landowners own 69 percent of Arkansas' forests. Arkansas Farm Bureau reports that the state's five-year average for annual timber removal between 2011 and 2015 was nearly 8.2 million tons of hardwood and 15.6 million tons of pine timber. Most of this wood was funneled into the forest products industry.

However, in the urban and community forest, the picture changes. Even the smallest logging contractor must be able to haul a minimum number of loads of timber to make it economically feasible. So what happens when a city needs to remove just a handful of trees? What is the destination of the wood from a backyard tree lost to storm damage? What about the large piles of limbs along a city street after crews finish pruning branches away from power lines? Where do they end up? A rapidly growing aspect of urban forestry, known as municipal tree utilization or urban wood utilization, addresses these questions.

Current wood utilization efforts

Since Arkansas state law prohibits the disposal of yard waste such as tree trunks, limbs, leaves and brush clippings in landfills, several Arkansas cities currently offer alternate solutions for landowners. In Fayetteville, brush collected from homeowners within city limits is ground into wood chips and mulch, which is then sold to the public. In Rogers, citizens dispose of yard waste in bags available for \$2 each, and the city utilizes a contract waste management company to pick up the bags. The debris is then recycled, most often into mulch. Hot Springs mixes wood chips from debris collected from residents with dehydrated biosolids from the city's wastewater treatment facility to produce compost. These are common methods of utilization across the United States. However, urban forests offer the potential for enhanced utilization beyond just mulching and composting.

Beyond mulch

Many urban forestry program managers and residents are not fully aware of the opportunities for utilizing urban trees following removals. The transition from

a disposal mindset to one of utilization for urban wood ultimately affects a wide range of stakeholders, from arborists, foresters, loggers, haulers, sawyers, millers and wood product developers to local governments, builders, landowners and consumers. For all professionals along the wood products supply chain there can be challenges, such as high costs related to handling and disposal of removed trees. There are also market opportunities for turning wood into an array of valuable products.

Mulch and compost are both sought after by homeowners improving their landscaping and by professional landscapers who use such products in the course of offering their services. Serving citizens both by accepting yard waste from them and by subsequently selling to them the mulch and compost produced from that waste is a progressive environmental and sustainable step by Arkansas cities who offer these services. However, across the nation, cities, states and private entrepreneurs are finding new and innovative ways to utilize urban wood.

Woody biomass, the solid portion of tree stems and branches or the residue products made from trees, is growing in popularity as a sustainable source of both heat energy and electricity. In Richmond, Virginia, Project WARM offers firewood for low-income households, and in Raleigh, North Carolina, the Neighbor Woods program markets saw logs and other products from removed urban trees to support tree planting efforts. Local businesses like Wisconsin's The Wood Cycle take removed trees and give them a second life in homes and offices as fine furniture or cabinetry.

Resources for urban forest planners

One of the first steps a city's planners, urban forestry professionals and concerned citizens can take is to work together to develop a community-wide strategic plan for the utilization of urban wood. There are numerous examples of opportunities and success stories in urban wood utilization available online. Listed below are several resources for communities looking to begin conversations around urban tree utilization.

Illinois has a Wood Utilization Team that produces and distributes newsletters focused on urban wood utilization. Learn more or sign up for their newsletters at illinoisurbanwood.org.

The Urbanwood Project in Michigan connects local sawmills and other partners with cities and homeowners to turn dead urban trees into finished products such as fine furniture and art pieces. Read more and watch a video about their efforts at youtu.be/ImDUstAiao.

Elkhart, Indiana, has an urban wood utilization program called ElkhartWood that provides a local source of lumber by providing at the Elkhart Environmental Center (EEC) higher-quality urban wood logs, available for purchase to individuals who are



PHOTO BY KRISSEY THOMASON

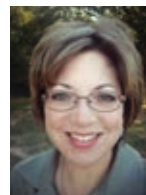
Reclaimed wood can be used to create useful and eye-catching furniture.

interested in utilizing them for “value-added” purposes. Profits are reinvested into community tree plantings and into funding educational programs at the EEC and around the city. Learn more at tinyurl.com/elkhartwood.

Vibrant Cities Lab is a tool created by the U.S. Forest Service, American Forests and the National Association of Regional Councils to help city leaders, policymakers and advocates build thriving urban forest programs. Numerous resources are available on their website, www.vibrantcitieslab.com/urban-wood-reuse.

Resolve to take steps toward repurposing

With an increasing number of trees removed from urban areas and the multitude of possibilities for the utilization of urban wood, it is vital for cities to create plans that reach beyond the landfill and low-value products. By finding solutions that fill a need such as providing firewood for low-income families, or by reinvesting profits into education outreach efforts or community tree plantings, cities can take waste products and turn them into valuable community assets.



Kristine (Krissy) Thomason is the urban forestry coordinator for Arkansas Department of Agriculture-Forestry Division. Contact Krissy at 479-228-7929 or email kristine.thomason@agriculture.arkansas.gov.



PHOTO COURTESY MCCLELLAND CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Walnut Ridge Regional Airport was able to upgrade its fueling station with the assistance of a grant through the Arkansas Division of Aeronautics.

Aviation helps state economy soar

By Bailey Carr, EI

What comes to mind first when you think of Arkansas' economy? You may not think of airports as being one of the largest contributors to our economy, but they are. Airports are a crucial factor in supporting the state's current and future transportation needs, as well as supporting the state's economy.

Aviation is a growing business with opportunities throughout the state. Arkansas currently has 90 airports in the statewide system. Eight of them have scheduled commercial airline service, and the other 82 are general aviation airports. General aviation airports accommodate all nonscheduled flights that are not operated by commercial airlines or the military. Arkansas experiences approximately 1.2 million visitors annually through our commercial and general aviation airports.

The maintenance and operational costs of these general aviation airports can sometimes be a challenge for the city or county responsible for the airport. Thankfully, the state has a specific grant program available for projects at all airports called the State

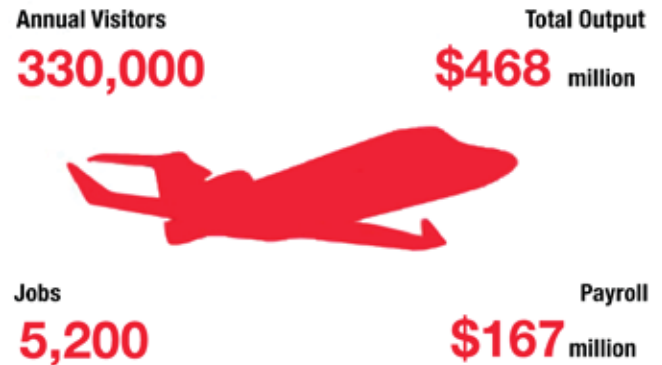
Airport Aid Program. The Arkansas Department of Commerce—Division of Aeronautics is responsible for the grant program. It is comprised of a small staff and governor-appointed commission that is committed to improving airports across the state. The commission's mission statement is: "To create a safer, more desirable atmosphere for the pilot, and at the same time, create and improve airports to better serve Arkansas communities and industry."

The Arkansas Division of Aeronautics (ADA) and its grant program are funded through a special revenue sales tax that is only for aviation-related purchases such as airplanes, aircraft parts or aviation fuel sales. The money spent at the airports goes directly back into maintaining or improving the airports. The ADA has an appropriation amount of \$15 million annually, meaning if they earn \$15 million through the special revenue tax, they can spend up to \$15 million in one year. The ADA has created a short grant application for an individual airport project, which is available on its website fly.arkansas.gov. The division reviews all applications and sorts them based on need and safety. It is the

Arkansas Commercial Airports



Arkansas General Aviation Airports



airport's responsibility to identify the need for a project and complete the application. The commission usually meets on the third Wednesday of every month to discuss the budget and current grant applications, among other items.

All airports with public owners or sponsors in the state are eligible to receive state grants, but not all are eligible for Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) funding. Only airports that are included in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems are eligible for FAA funding, and Arkansas has 76 airports that qualify. FAA funding for eligible projects usually covers 90 percent of the total eligible project cost, and the city or sponsor is responsible for the remaining 10 percent. The ADA has committed to funding the matching 10 percent of all FAA projects as long as funds are available. Airports must still complete a state grant application to receive reimbursement for the matching funds.

The ADA offers multiple types of grants, including a 90-10 (FAA-state), 50-50 (state-local), 80-20 (state-local), 90-10 (state-local), and an emergency 100-percent grant. The FAA 90-10 grant is the top funding priority. The other grants are sorted based on safety and need. It is important that the individual airport can identify its needs accurately and complete the application with all pertinent information.

The ADA has been helping fund airport projects since 1941 and has awarded almost \$200 million in grants since 1992. The Walnut Ridge Regional Airport has received several grants from the ADA recently. Airport Manager Stacy Hoggard expressed gratitude for being able to take on these projects, because without ADA funding, they could not have completed them. "ADA funding has provided us with a new modern fuel farm," Hoggard said. "Our previous one was built in 1967 and was very outdated. It has also provided us with means to rehabilitate our cross-wind runway, so that we

can still give our pilots the option of landing on one of our three runways, based on wind direction."

Airport Manager John D. Hale of Pine Bluff Regional Airport shared the importance of the ADA to his airport. "The ADA has greatly contributed to improvements at the Pine Bluff Regional Airport-Grider Field," he said. "Through its grant program we have made improvements to the pavement on our air and street side of the airport, aviation-related equipment purchases, fuel-dispensing equipment upgrades and hangar construction. These substantial upgrades could not have been possible without the ADA's program."

Prioritizing the 10-percent matching funds on FAA grants is especially helpful, Hale said. "The entire state's infrastructure has benefited from this grant alone. Most municipalities/county airports would not be able to afford the 10-percent match needed for the FAA projects funded through that grant. Therefore, the state and its cities benefit from their contribution."

Pocahontas Municipal Airport Manager Randy Gillless agreed with Hale. "The ADA grant program is crucial to the survival of small general aviation airports and is essential to maintain the economic impact aviation has on the state of Arkansas."

Aviation in Arkansas is extremely important to the state's economic and financial growth, and the ADA is committed to helping each and every airport improve and grow.



Bailey Carr is a project designer in the aviation department at MCE's Little Rock office. Contact Bailey by phone at 501-371-0272 or email her at bcarr@mce.us.com.

Is sitting the new smoking?

By Dr. Anita Bennett, M.D.

There has been quite a bit of talk recently about how bad sitting is for us. Some people have even said that too much sitting is just as bad as smoking cigarettes. I'm not sure if that is true, but it does seem pretty clear that being more active overall is associated with better health. Just what are the risks of sitting too much?

What health conditions have been linked to sitting for long periods of time?

Research has linked prolonged periods of sitting and too much sitting overall to the following health concerns:

- Obesity
- Increased blood pressure
- High blood sugar
- Excess body fat around the waist
- Abnormal cholesterol levels
- Increased risk of chronic pain
- Increased risk of death from cardiovascular disease
- Increased risk of death from certain types of cancer

An analysis of 13 studies, which looked at sitting time and activity levels, did find that people who sat for more than eight hours a day with no physical activity had a risk of dying similar to the risks of dying associated with obesity and smoking. However, this analysis of data, which included more than 1 million people, found that 60-75 minutes of moderately intense physical activity each day actually counteracted the effects of too much sitting. Another study found that sitting time contributed little to mortality rates for people who were the most active overall in their day-to-day lives. Another study indicates that the problem lies in the absence of movement, rather than the time spent sitting itself. The study author states that "Any stationary posture where energy expenditure is low may be detrimental to health, be it sitting or standing."

We definitely need more study on this subject to really understand the effects of sitting on our overall health and risk of dying. However, it does appear that less sitting and more moving overall can lead to better health. Movement is the key. Here are some things that you might do to try to decrease the amount of time you spend sitting every day.

Find small activities that you can do moving rather than sitting whenever you have the chance, such as pacing back and forth when talking on the phone.

Take a break from sitting every 30 minutes, either with a short period of standing and stretching or a quick walk around the office. Set a timer to remind yourself. These short breaks can also help you be more focused on your work for the remainder of day.

Try using a standing desk, or use a high table or counter to improvise if necessary, for at least a part of your workday. Don't just stand there, though. Try to move a little while you're standing, even if it is just shifting from one leg to the other or moving back and forth.

If you have a meeting with only a few colleagues at work, try having your meeting while walking, rather than sitting in a conference room or office. Instead of sending an email to a coworker, try walking over to talk to them.

When at home, do something active while watching TV, such as walking on a treadmill, riding a stationary bike, standing while folding some clothes or doing some stretching exercises. Rather than sitting in a chair, try sitting on a stability ball at your desk or while watching TV. This forces you use your muscles to stay upright.

Don't forget to get at least 30 minutes of moderate-intensity exercise on most days.

If you are generally sedentary and spend a good deal of your day sitting, you may be surprised at the impact that movement can have on your health and well-being. Even leisurely movement uses more energy and burns more calories than sitting. This might lead to some weight loss or a general feeling of increased energy.

Physical movement also helps maintain muscle tone, flexibility, and your ability to move and balance, which is more important as we get older. It also decreases chronic pain from arthritis, fibromyalgia, back pain and other conditions. It helps to improve blood sugar and blood pressure levels. Physical activity can also have a big impact on your mental health by promoting a better chemical balance in your brain. We should all get up and move more!

If you have any questions about improving your physical activity, please log into your account and send us your question. We are here to help.

Dr. Anita Bennett, M.D., is health tip content editor for eDocAmerica, a free service offered through the Arkansas Municipal League's Municipal Health Benefit Program. For more information visit www.edocamerica.com. This article is reprinted with permission.

Obituaries

JAMES TRAVIS CALHOUN, 72, who served on Arkadelphia's board of directors for 18 years and was the city's mayor from 2015-2019, died Feb. 11.

WILLIAM "BILL" FULGINITI, 78, longtime executive director of the New Mexico Municipal League, died Feb. 26. Bill was one of six founding members of NLC Mutual Assurance Company and served as its chair for 30 years. He also served on the NLC-RISC Board on two separate occasions.

BETTY RUTH MCDOWELL MORTON KIDD, 77, a longtime Ogden council member, died Feb. 8.

ROSEANNA MARKHAM, 69, mayor of the town of Norman and the first woman to hold the office, died Feb. 7.

JOE MULLINS, 74, former mayor of Emerson who had served several separate terms since 1982, three-term Columbia County judge and former justice of the peace, died Jan. 31.



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

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Is your HASP up to the task?

By Bryan Lamb

You have probably heard of a “safety plan” and may even have one covered in dust tucked into some file cabinet somewhere in your city or town. Shame! Controlling costs due to employee injuries is only possible if this plan is put to work in your departments. But what exactly is a health and safety plan (HASP)?

A HASP outlines the policies and procedures for work environments, including detailed job hazard analyses, training timelines, department inspection forms and document retention recommendations. It is a comprehensive tool that establishes the parameters for safety practices. In fact, a latent benefit of a HASP is its impact on the perceptions of your employees; this illustrates the commitment of your city or town to safety and security.

HASPs come in all shapes and sizes, but most of them will describe immediate actions when there is an incident, policies and procedures, important contacts, protective gear for job tasks, and training and inspections.

Components of the HASP

The Arkansas Workers’ Compensation Commission details the elements of the seven-component HASP. The plan must be consistent with accepted industry practices. The HASP shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:

1. Management component, including a written safety policy statement and assignment, by position or title, of health and safety responsibilities and authority;
2. Analysis component, including identified operational, health and safety hazards;
3. Program record-keeping system component;

4. Safety and health education and training component;
5. Safety and health audit/inspection component, including identification, by title or position, of a qualified person(s) to conduct the audits/inspections;
6. Incident investigation component, including procedures to identify factors contributing to near-misses and accidents and institute corrective measures; and
7. Periodic review and revision of the health and safety program and operational procedures component, to determine effectiveness of abatement measures.

A plan does not need to be sophisticated or complex in order to be effective. It should be “site specific” and outline the training and hazards that are unique to your municipality and departmental workflow. It is not necessary to attempt to include every conceivable hazard or scenario, only how to proceed when an incident occurs.

Once a plan is created, the most important aspect of its execution is employee engagement. In this phase, it is critical to train each employee on the plan itself; the front-line supervisor is the critical person to ensure the consistent implementation of your HASP. It is very important to tweak and refine your plan as often as is necessary. The more input you allow from your employees and front-line supervisors about the nature of their work, the better your plan will become.



Bryan Lamb is the League's loss control liaison. Email Bryan at blamb@arml.org or call 501-374-3484, ext. 122.

Online service for safety training videos

The League is pleased to announce that the Training Network Now (TNN) program is available at no cost to all member cities and towns. TNN is an extensive online video library and it's incredibly convenient.

To become a user, you must submit a registration request to safetytraining@arml.org. You will receive a unique username and password by email that allows you to begin training immediately by clicking the link provided in the email. Please allow up to two business days to receive your login.

Why this resource?

- Designed for small group or large group training (classroom style).
- Videos have been developed in accordance with OSHA standards and industry best practices.
- Easy-to-use interface allows training anywhere you have an internet connection.

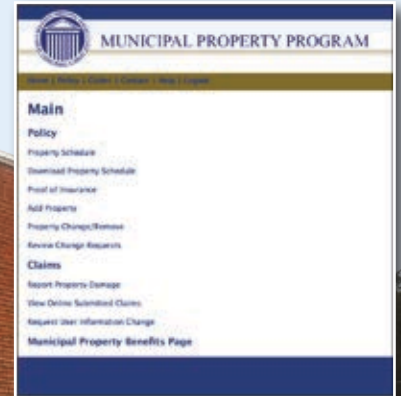
To check out their landing page, please visit trainingnetworknow.com. Please contact the Arkansas Municipal League loss control liaison for more information at 501-374-3484, ext. 122.



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

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

- City Name and/or Account Number
- First and Last Name
- Phone Number



For more information including a free quote on either of these programs, call (501) 978-6123.



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

www.arml.org/mvp



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

- City Name and/or Account Number
- First and Last Name
- Phone Number

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 2020. This scholarship covers the registration fee.

Additional scholarships include: four local \$400 scholarships to attend the Municipal Clerks' Institute, Sept. 13-17, 2020, in Fayetteville; one \$400 scholarship for the Academy for Advanced Education, Sept. 13-15,

2020, in Fayetteville; and one \$400 scholarship to attend the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) annual conference, May 17-20, 2020, in St. Louis, MO.

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**.

2020 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, 2020, and Dec. 31, 2020, and that I must attend all sessions.

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____

CHECK THE SCHOLARSHIP FOR WHICH YOU ARE APPLYING:

	Municipal Clerks' Institute, Fayetteville	September 13-17, 2020	Deadline: May 31, 2020
	Academy for Advanced Education, Fayetteville	September 13-15, 2020	Deadline: May 31, 2020
	IIMC Conference, St. Louis, MO.	May 17-20, 2020	Deadline: April 17, 2020

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

ACCRTA seeks nominations for Clerk of the Year

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

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

Any municipal official or ACCRTA member may nominate a candidate for Municipal Clerk of the Year for 2020. The finalist will be honored at the 86th Annual Arkansas Municipal League Convention, June 17-19, 2020, in Little Rock.

The deadline for nominations is April 17, 2020.

Requirements for nominees:

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

Complete the nomination information below and send to:

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

Municipal Clerk of the Year 2020 Please Submit the Following Information

NOMINEE'S FULL NAME AND TITLE _____

ADDRESS, CITY, ZIP _____

BUSINESS PHONE _____

NAME OF THE CITY THE MUNICIPAL CLERK REPRESENTS _____

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

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

ACCRTA OFFICES HELD _____

ACCRTA MEETINGS ATTENDED _____

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

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

IIMC WORKSHOPS (DISTRICT MEETINGS) ATTENDED _____

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

CERTIFICATION RECEIVED:

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

DATE OF CERTIFICATION _____

ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE CONFERENCES ATTENDED _____

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

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT _____

LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES _____

OTHER ACTIVITIES _____

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL SUBMITTING NOMINATION _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

NOMINATOR: PLEASE BRIEFLY SUMMARIZE THE REASONS WHY YOU BELIEVE YOUR NOMINEE SHOULD BE SELECTED AS THE 2020 MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR. _____

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Highway Revenues and Severance Turnback Reporting Due

Act 747 of the 2019 Regular Session of the Arkansas Legislature requires municipalities receiving \$2 million or more in total highway revenues and highway severance turnback to submit reporting for 2019 projects to the House Committee on Public Transportation and the Senate Committee on Public Transportation, Technology, and Legislative Affairs. The reporting deadline is March 15, 2020. You can access Act 747 and the required reporting document online at: www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2019/2019R/Acts/Act747.pdf.

SECTION 13. Arkansas Code § 27-70-207, concerning distribution of highway revenues to cities and counties, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

(f) A county or municipality that receives a distribution under this section or under § 26-58-124 of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) or more shall report annually by March 15 to the House Committee on Public Transportation and the Senate Committee on Public Transportation, Technology, and Legislative Affairs the following information regarding the use of the funds in the previous year:

(1) The use of the funds;

(2)(A) A general ledger accounting of the city street or road fund or the county street or road fund.

(B) The county street or road fund general ledger accounting shall be made using the County Financial Management System of tracking county revenues and expenditures;

(3) The percentage of the city street or road fund or county street or road fund that is comprised of state funds; and

(4) The details of each contracted project, including without limitation the type and description of the contracted project and the total amount expended on the contracted project.

Finally, you have been requested, to the extent possible, to identify the type of projects using the following categories below and the percentage comprised of state funds:

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

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

Estella Smith, Assistant Director

Research Services Division

Bureau of Legislative Research

One Capitol Mall, 5th Floor

Little Rock, AR 72201

501-537-9192 or smithe@blr.arkansas.gov

Maximize Your Benefit

Join the Municipal Health Benefit Program

MHBP provides coverage to 350 entities.
And that number is growing!

Download the
MHBP booklet at:
www.arml.org/mhbp

In 2020 the Program offers:

- ◆ Optional Routine Dental and Vision Benefits
- ◆ Optional Life & AD&D Coverage
- ◆ No Lifetime Dollar Maximums
- ◆ Preventative Care
- ◆ Coverage for Adult Dependents age 19 to 26 years
- ◆ Special Bariatric Surgery & Chemical Dependency Programs



The Municipal Health Benefit Program provides quality health protection for your officials and employees at a reasonable rate.

For further information, please call 501-978-6126.



www.arml.org/mhbp

2019/2020 State Turnback Funds

Actual Totals Per Capita						
MONTH	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
January	\$5.662	\$6.789	\$0.246	\$0.083	\$2.145	\$2.145
February	\$5.675	\$6.340	\$0.096	\$0.118	\$1.087	\$1.087
March	\$5.085		\$0.438		\$1.087	
April	\$5.401		\$0.338		\$1.085	
May	\$5.811		\$0.227		\$1.086	
June	\$6.017		\$0.209		\$1.088	
July	\$5.801		\$0.182		\$2.959	
August	\$5.990		\$0.114		\$0.924	
September	\$5.899		\$0.155		\$1.087	
October	\$5.654		\$0.124		\$1.087	
November	\$5.652		\$0.064		\$1.087	
December	\$5.775		\$0.069		\$1.087	
Total Year	\$68.422	\$13.129	\$2.261	\$0.201	\$15.810	\$3.232

Actual Totals Per Month						
MONTH	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
January	\$10,702,464.91	\$12,833,880.33	\$464,101.95	\$156,199.64	*\$4,054,867.57	* \$4,054,970.57
February	\$10,728,532.32	\$11,984,924.80	\$181,468.75	\$223,221.26	\$2,055,501.82	\$2,055,049.55
March	\$9,611,591.51		\$828,851.20		\$2,055,055.19	
April	\$10,209,400.74		\$638,095.99		\$2,051,915.02	
May	\$10,985,547.22		\$428,651.27		\$2,052,767.40	
June	\$11,374,227.00		\$395,730.25		\$2,056,915.45	
July	\$10,966,523.76		\$343,609.83		** \$5,592,768.93	
August	\$11,322,293.50		\$214,617.36		\$1,746,588.81	
September	\$11,150,912.22		\$292,391.02		\$2,055,099.92	
October	\$10,687,834.00		\$235,240.93		\$2,055,035.24	
November	\$10,684,885.09		\$121,344.58		\$2,055,035.24	
December	\$10,916,904.58		\$130,060.08		\$2,054,709.31	
Total Year	\$129,341,116.85	\$24,818,805.13	\$4,274,163.21	\$379,420.90	\$29,886,259.90	\$6,110,020.12

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

**Includes \$3,513,475.89 supplemental for July 2019

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 2020 with 2019 Comparison (shaded gray)								
Month	Municipal Tax		County Tax		Total Tax		Interest	
January	\$62,951,910	\$59,187,540	\$54,023,046	\$49,660,885	\$116,974,957	\$108,848,426	\$137,620	\$188,294
February	\$73,128,305	\$66,363,635	\$61,276,755	\$55,082,773	\$134,405,060	\$121,446,409	\$151,340	\$265,350
March		\$55,016,953		\$49,926,480		\$104,943,433		\$241,046
April		\$53,915,385		\$45,679,915		\$99,595,300		\$239,875
May		\$61,136,496		\$51,962,167		\$113,098,664		\$233,250
June		\$63,455,242		\$53,477,656		\$116,932,898		\$199,380
July		\$62,196,778		\$52,242,794		\$114,439,573		\$239,855
August		\$63,103,397		\$53,989,906		\$117,093,303		\$229,107
September		\$63,071,625		\$54,693,037		\$117,764,662		\$213,728
October		\$64,934,499		\$55,729,333		\$120,663,833		\$214,922
November		\$62,765,968		\$54,501,529		\$117,267,498		\$182,403
December		\$62,102,384		\$54,327,357		\$116,429,741		\$184,380
Total	\$136,080,216	\$737,249,904	\$115,299,801	\$631,273,834	\$251,380,016	\$1,368,523,738	\$288,960	\$2,631,590
Averages	\$68,040,108	\$61,437,492	\$57,649,900	\$52,606,153	\$125,690,008	\$114,043,645	\$144,480	\$219,299

February 2020 Municipal Levy Receipts and February 2020 Municipal/County Levy Receipts with 2019 Comparison (shaded gray)

CITY SALES AND USE	AMOUNT	LAST YEAR						COUNTY SALES AND USE	AMOUNT	LAST YEAR	
Alexander	136,652.77	132,894.84	Garfield	17,174.19	14,241.75	Mountain Home	654,547.53	612,266.09	Arkansas County	358,714.09	355,416.07
Alma	247,887.81	236,995.52	Garland	2,967.79	2,959.09	Mountain View	182,931.13	184,952.02	Ashley County	252,535.77	225,266.17
Almyra	3,028.74	1,679.82	Gassville	22,347.68	22,677.68	Mountainburg	14,015.25	17,147.02	Crosssett	61,455.82	54,819.63
Alpena	6,709.48	5,280.40	Gentry	115,414.12	75,126.65	Mulberry	33,992.00	26,593.30	Fountain Hill	1,952.93	1,742.04
Altheimer	2,774.57	2,258.80	Gilbert	313.65	180.46	Murfreesboro	30,114.15	25,577.71	Hamburg	31,882.93	28,440.11
Altus	7,114.93	7,761.19	Gillett	12,485.44	8,883.17	Nashville	126,463.48	139,887.55	Montrose	3,950.49	3,523.91
Amity	14,984.28	11,455.02	Gillham	4,535.23	3,316.59	Newport	202,212.19	202,197.43	Parkdale	3,091.20	2,757.41
Anthonyville	1,111.41	1,173.66	Gilmore	533.31	506.98	Norfork	4,606.08	4,113.57	Portland	4,988.62	4,280.45
Arkadelphia	194,903.89	181,302.08	Glenwood	71,444.22	67,325.38	Norman	3,580.70	3,960.22	Wilmot	6,137.77	5,474.99
Ash Flat	118,154.61	108,458.42	Goshen	14,163.45	8,991.99	North Little Rock	3,507,093.17	3,352,136.96	Baxter County	556,905.51	365,648.64
Ashdown	158,390.78	145,703.20	Gosnell	16,128.08	16,982.51	Oak Grove	1,290.66	1,116.60	Big Flat	1,685.96	1,586.13
Atkins	68,803.45	60,318.50	Gould	14,388.53	12,976.07	Oak Grove Heights	11,305.74	7,997.15	Briarcliff	3,825.83	3,599.29
Augusta	24,856.67	20,586.46	Grady	3,557.22	2,935.81	Ola	19,800.25	20,591.02	Cotter	15,724.81	14,793.71
Austin	43,131.72	34,476.73	Gravette	92,570.16	83,391.72	Oppelo	4,057.41	3,976.37	Gassville	33,686.76	31,692.09
Avoca	8,234.18	7,630.94	Green Forest	103,282.84	105,434.68	Osceola	103,891.50	102,309.20	Lakeview	12,012.46	11,301.17
Bald Knob	59,705.33	80,306.58	Greenbrier	263,495.42	223,860.01	Oxford	2,151.36	1,717.42	Mountain Home	201,796.33	189,847.52
Barling	60,347.72	64,764.15	Greenland	33,953.32	31,003.92	Ozark	201,847.96	165,145.33	Norfork	8,283.90	7,793.39
Batesville	845,009.43	806,080.66	Greenwood	261,604.92	238,369.10	Palestine	25,777.33	29,045.74	Salesville	7,295.01	6,863.06
Bauxite	14,862.90	15,149.54	Greers Ferry	20,943.69	16,150.80	Pangburn	8,109.46	7,653.04	Benton County	1,083,897.49	878,161.43
Bay	9,993.23	6,336.59	Guion	701.93	5,591.88	Paragould	362,906.60	346,514.35	Avoca	12,450.67	10,087.39
Bearden	12,606.86	10,722.83	Gum Springs	336.44	391.42	Paris	80,622.36	81,585.52	Bella Vista	676,775.76	548,316.04
Beebe	154,189.43	134,937.43	Gurdon	25,743.01	26,709.86	Patmos	673.83	130.85	Bentonville	900,658.27	729,703.10
Beebeville	177.42	143.29	Guy	7,696.81	5,934.94	Patterson	1,240.73	1,152.73	Bethel Heights	60,518.44	49,031.35
Bella Vista	206,053.55	175,000.69	Hackett	7,447.70	6,699.76	Pea Ridge	79,040.64	61,290.78	Cave Springs	49,266.91	39,915.49
Belleville	1,979.94	2,108.51	Hamburg	85,849.00	57,330.09	Perla	3,247.71	3,330.24	Centerton	242,762.62	196,683.52
Benton	2,253,559.39	1,765,802.51	Hampton	7,198.71	NA	Perryville	24,773.96	20,067.56	Decatur	43,347.74	35,119.84
Bentonville	3,608,235.49	2,343,004.66	Hardy	19,199.29	19,242.58	Piggott	67,988.03	32,937.11	Elm Springs	3,495.37	2,831.91
Berryville	269,132.80	236,299.68	Harrisburg	58,732.25	61,745.70	Pine Bluff	1,489,333.18	1,463,292.52	Garfield	12,807.87	10,376.79
Bethel Heights	83,197.30	87,804.09	Harrison	621,106.06	338,093.62	Pineville	1,398.86	1,614.91	Gateway	10,333.04	8,371.71
Big Flat	389.37	356.85	Hartford	6,019.97	4,413.74	Plainview	5,364.18	5,887.80	Gentry	87,384.34	70,797.80
Black Rock	9,537.96	9,598.34	Haskell	45,429.16	43,085.42	Pleasant Plains	12,661.29	9,598.11	Gravette	79,424.07	64,348.48
Blevins	4,038.99	3,612.32	Hatfield	6,225.89	4,606.15	Plumerville	14,293.51	11,004.36	Highfill	14,874.47	12,051.13
Blue Mountain	240.34	250.90	Havana	3,687.54	3,299.56	Pocahontas	323,845.16	281,243.13	Little Flock	65,952.85	53,434.25
Blytheville	378,309.33	393,905.04	Hazen	78,547.58	73,790.68	Portia	3,918.82	3,010.12	Lowell	186,938.70	151,455.61
Bonanza	3,195.53	3,474.02	Heber Springs	161,322.66	161,294.98	Portland	6,003.05	4,799.98	Pea Ridge	122,312.56	99,096.25
Bono	19,041.70	17,751.81	Hector	6,068.36	NA	Pottsville	31,739.90	28,296.57	Rogers	1,427,847.35	1,156,825.70
Booneville	142,572.12	129,997.26	Helena-West Helena	241,943.30	262,072.89	Prairie Grove	156,025.00	115,296.14	Siloam Springs	383,700.17	310,869.52
Bradford	17,848.26	11,188.27	Hermitage	7,213.63	5,964.65	Prescott	77,241.59	72,036.26	Springdale	167,165.60	135,435.67
Bradley	3,219.21	3,931.73	Higginson	1,643.12	1,824.80	Pyatt	859.01	944.57	Springtown	2,219.69	1,798.37
Branch	2,573.15	1,798.74	Highfill	56,316.45	53,070.76	Quitman	25,304.85	22,214.04	Sulphur Springs	13,037.50	10,562.83
Briarcliff	1,792.80	2,071.24	Highland	26,982.57	26,144.15	Ravenden	2,988.96	3,363.60	Boone County	513,121.87	326,842.55
Brinkley	174,528.14	155,802.79	Holly Grove	9,063.71	7,045.64	Rector	32,963.83	29,362.77	Alpena	5,414.55	3,448.90
Brookland	80,664.49	59,505.80	Hope	187,892.17	208,498.81	Redfield	64,956.92	29,971.05	Bellefonte	7,705.97	4,908.46
Bryant	1,157,715.59	1,323,467.42	Horatio	7,622.03	7,558.49	Rison	15,697.85	16,283.89	Bergerman	7,451.37	4,746.29
Bull Shoals	33,018.59	23,298.13	Horseshoe Bend	27,422.62	22,665.31	Rockport	17,168.36	17,345.83	Diamond City	13,273.28	8,454.67
Cabot	993,070.72	885,173.78	Hot Springs	2,153,029.98	1,890,094.39	Roe	816.34	638.25	Everton	2,257.48	1,437.94
Caddo Valley	55,841.74	53,529.18	Hoxie	15,211.03	14,636.23	Rogers	4,205,288.08	3,841,126.67	Harrison	219,688.11	139,934.44
Calico Rock	50,589.19	44,639.74	Hughes	5,949.61	5,960.86	Rose Bud	21,105.69	21,804.31	Lead Hill	4,959.82	2,929.94
Camden	372,221.92	344,246.22	Humphrey	2,645.44	2,253.31	Rudy	8,612.42	9,315.53	Omaha	2,868.52	1,827.16
Caraway	5,589.10	5,699.95	Huntington	4,624.56	4,575.96	Russellville	1,289,044.96	1,216,464.90	South Lead Hill	1,731.30	1,102.78
Carlisle	55,226.88	48,466.19	Huntsville	143,455.68	169,415.22	Salem	25,794.17	22,240.64	Valley Springs	3,106.15	1,978.52
Cash	2,286.11	2,267.98	Imboden	9,616.63	10,620.75	Salesville	4,031.06	3,558.10	Zinc	1,748.27	1,113.60
Cave City	25,660.98	21,061.09	Jacksonville	841,210.33	657,950.38	Scranton	4,692.88	NA	Bradley County	135,717.64	134,592.59
Cave Springs	46,820.62	31,211.94	Jasper	34,059.90	28,353.29	Searcy	963,336.00	917,381.40	Banks	1,047.95	1,039.26
Cedarville	8,494.22	5,228.14	Jennette	295.88	231.49	Shannon Hills	14,687.16	10,928.52	Hermitage	7,014.49	6,956.34
Centerton	307,037.62	235,195.81	Johnson	53,130.20	59,708.52	Sheridan	223,894.29	221,545.30	Warren	50,732.49	50,311.93
Charleston	33,837.89	32,547.26	Joiner	2,653.48	3,373.71	Sherrill	741.95	339.71	Calhoun County	122,974.86	86,997.68
Cherokee Village	21,890.64	19,235.40	Jonesboro	1,947,174.30	1,952,817.72	Sherwood	1,063,621.12	992,692.88	Hampton	34,857.36	24,659.58
Cherry Valley	5,212.79	5,002.88	Judsonia	18,419.50	10,122.37	Shirley	2,915.78	2,699.10	Harrell	6,687.14	4,730.76
Chidester	3,370.43	3,210.92	Junction City	8,049.97	7,829.95	Siloam Springs	816,955.44	712,744.78	Thornton	10,715.22	7,580.40
Clarendon	53,160.16	50,205.78	Keiser	4,348.22	4,324.61	Sparkman	5,184.07	3,729.51	Tinsman	1,421.66	1,005.76
Clarksville	422,094.15	406,877.32	Keo	1,635.87	1,515.65	Springdale	2,879,012.16	2,663,394.17	Carroll County	181,685.04	163,458.84
Clinton	102,621.26	94,043.50	Kibler	3,580.95	4,103.82	Springtown	180.87	288.85	Beaver	665.12	598.40
Cot Hill	5,026.96	4,782.50	Kingsland	2,586.05	2,020.48	St. Charles	3,714.57	3,948.81	Blue Eye	199.54	179.52
Conway	3,370,138.76	3,160,926.13	Lake City	16,735.11	13,473.59	Stamps	13,634.05	7,382.06	Chicot County	151,166.62	113,201.44
Corning	65,991.50	68,067.26	Lake Village	83,103.26	68,839.80	Star City	74,871.72	77,199.47	Dermott	27,523.81	20,611.27
Cotter	11,237.72	11,056.44	Lakeview	4,531.83	3,535.70	Stephens	6,771.47	5,892.26	Eudora	21,617.01	16,187.94
Cotton Plant	2,876.21	2,132.29	Lamar	30,673.95	34,356.46	Strong	10,023.70	9,361.94	Lake Village	24,532.30	18,371.07
Cove	13,002.11	12,485.91	Lead Hill	6,836.58	7,173.62	Stuttgart	747,545.17	751,039.60	Clark County	469,590.28	430,109.63
Crawfordsville	11,128.26	6,262.88	Lepanto	28,352.98	27,196.82	Sulphur Springs	2,567.61	1,610.28	Clay County	94,603.14	86,355.37
Crosssett	182,316.08	146,767.55	Leslie	7,100.68	6,115.38	Summit	3,154.67	2,134.95	Corning	25,535.51	23,309.26
Damascus	8,922.97	9,699.16	Lewisville	10,480.93	11,593.02	Sunset	13,959.87	4,839.92	Datto	1,134.24	1,035.36
Danville	51,177.08	38,418.34	Lincoln	56,090.28	46,249.16	Swifton	8,253.21	2,876.60	Greenway	2,370.56	2,163.89
Dardanelle	176,433.68	168,455.93	Little Flock	16,275.92	10,286.91	Taylor	11,448.42	8,930.97	Knobel	3,255.27	2,971.47
Decatur	18,648.07	23,803.14	Little Rock	8,675,650.27	7,343,404.81	Texarkana	480,305.38	455,736.60	McDougal	2,109.69	1,925.76
Delight	4,985.97	4,623.86	Lockesburg	5,555.22	5,127.94	Texarkana Special	213,624.87	202,153.00	Nimmons	782.63	714.39
De Queen	147,280.12	139,380.93	Lonoke	262,327.82	246,165.92	Thornton	1,427.36	953.33	Peach Orchard	1,531.23	1,397.73
Dermott	38,893.43	27,352.72	Lowell	386,371.44	382,751.41	Tontitown	273,387.61	208,111.35	Piggott	29,104.59	26,567.17
Des Arc	69,357.89	55,459.09	Luxora	2,682.13	2,274.46	Trumann	178,476.13	168,005.89	Pollard	2,518.01	2,298.48
DeValls Bluff	20,293.95	33,515.19	Madison	1,441.51	1,437.06	Tuckerman	12,309.07	8,074.41	Rector	14,949.28	13,645.96
DeWitt	201,037.47	212,410.16	Magazine	11,642.24	10,521.44	Turrell	4,669.51	3,905.97	St. Francis	2,835.60	2,588.38
Diamond City	2,007.02	1,893.49	Magnolia	559,103.97	519,477.89	Tyronza	3,378.02	3,102.50	Success	1,689.99	1,542.66
Diaz	2,503.71	2,624.90	Malvern	369,709.29	362,483.00	Van Buren	568,811.86	699,387.81	Cleburne County	426,285.16	397,337.26
Dierks	14,242.02	16,863.15	Mammoth Spring	8,139.35	8,558.49	Vandervoort	609.21	455.46	Concord	3,164.75	2,949.84
Dover	23,419.58	22,202.48	Manila	37,762.69	34,548.37	Vilonia	116,930.31				

Caraway	28,705.32	28,415.46	Cave City	2,752.54	2,564.86	Birdsong	512.40	553.46	Waldron	30,277.10	28,332.33
Cash	7,675.70	7,598.19	Cushman	7,679.94	7,156.29	Blytheville	195,210.46	210,853.15	Searcy County	78,355.59	75,208.40
Egypt	2,513.68	2,488.30	Magness	3,322.18	3,198.16	Burdette	2,387.02	2,578.29	Big Flat	7.66	7.36
Jonesboro	1,509,621.62	1,494,377.87	Moorefield	2,437.77	2,169.05	Dell	2,786.94	3,010.26	Gilbert	214.60	205.98
Lake City	46,727.51	46,255.66	Newark	19,981.43	18,619.01	Dyess	5,123.96	5,534.56	Leslie	3,379.94	3,244.18
Monette	33,687.80	33,347.64	Oil Trough	4,417.66	4,116.45	Etowah	4,386.61	4,738.12	Marshall	10,385.08	9,967.95
Crawford County	804,333.97	753,701.06	Pleasant Plains	5,929.86	5,525.54	Gosnell	44,341.02	47,894.17	Pindall	858.40	823.92
Alma	58,535.71	54,850.88	Southside	66,281.94	61,762.55	Joiner	7,198.54	7,775.38	St. Joe	1,011.68	971.05
Cedarville	15,057.90	14,110.01	Sulphur Rock	7,747.92	7,219.63	Keiser	9,485.58	10,245.68	Sebastian County	988,147.87	996,623.74
Chester	1,717.51	1,609.39	Izard County	46,769.78	49,542.52	Leachville	24,907.45	26,903.35	Barling	90,311.98	91,086.63
Dyer	9,462.50	8,866.83	Jackson County	293,007.80	267,351.64	Luxora	14,722.02	15,901.73	Bonanza	11,170.01	11,265.82
Kibler	10,380.66	9,727.20	Amagon	1,050.93	958.91	Manila	41,766.54	45,113.39	Central City	9,751.91	9,835.55
Mountainburg	6,816.02	6,386.95	Beedeville	1,147.44	1,046.97	Marie	1,049.79	1,133.91	Fort Smith	1,674,705.42	1,689,070.22
Mulberry	17,877.21	16,751.84	Campbell Station	2,734.56	2,495.12	Osceola	96,942.86	104,711.13	Greenwood	173,902.53	175,394.18
Rudy	658.92	617.44	Diaz	14,133.91	12,896.32	Victoria	462.41	499.46	Hackett	15,774.00	15,909.30
Van Buren	246,186.98	230,689.49	Grubbs	4,139.37	3,776.92	Wilson	11,285.21	12,189.54	Hartford	12,471.56	12,578.54
Crittenden County	1,581,798.29	1,416,358.71	Jacksonport	2,273.44	2,074.37	Monroe County	NA	NA	Huntington	12,335.58	12,441.39
Anthonyville	1,284.15	1,149.84	Newport	84,492.46	77,094.18	Montgomery County	163,955.53	145,555.35	Lavaca	44,466.36	44,847.77
Clarkedale	2,959.14	2,649.64	Swifton	8,557.56	7,808.24	Black Springs	609.43	541.04	Mansfield	14,405.08	14,165.55
Crawfordsville	3,820.55	3,420.96	Tuckerman	19,967.63	18,219.24	Glenwood	258.55	229.53	Midland	6,313.49	6,367.64
Earle	19,254.32	17,240.52	Tupelo	1,930.28	1,761.26	Mount Ida	6,623.72	5,880.36	Sevier County	322,028.42	297,063.48
Edmondson	3,405.80	3,049.59	Weldon	804.26	733.85	Norman	2,326.92	2,065.78	Ben Lomond	1,693.89	1,562.57
Gilmore	1,887.95	1,690.49	Jefferson County	474,247.46	439,006.49	Oden	1,428.16	1,267.88	DeQueen	77,030.99	71,059.24
Horseshoe Lake	2,329.02	2,085.43	Alzheimer	11,887.37	11,004.03	Nevada County	149,410.60	132,665.21	Gilham	1,869.12	1,724.22
Jennette	825.53	739.19	Humphrey	3,720.84	3,444.35	Bluff City	1,375.52	1,221.36	Horatio	12,195.99	11,250.51
Jericho	949.16	849.88	Pine Bluff	592,955.05	548,893.01	Bodcaw	1,530.82	1,359.25	Lockesburg	8,632.98	7,963.72
Marion	98,465.03	88,166.62	Redfield	15,668.62	14,504.29	Cale	876.34	778.12	Sharp County	246,255.96	87,300.04
Sunset	1,421.34	1,272.68	Sherrill	1,014.78	939.37	Emmet	5,269.14	4,678.59	Ash Flat	11,415.30	10,442.33
Turrell	4,414.78	3,953.03	Wabbaseka	3,080.57	2,851.65	Prescott	36,562.28	32,464.52	Cave City	20,291.28	18,561.78
West Memphis	209,332.91	187,438.89	White Hall	66,757.92	61,797.01	Rosston	2,895.25	2,570.76	Cherokee Village	45,171.97	41,321.81
Cross County	509,643.34	289,102.57	Johnson County	147,225.93	133,316.71	Willisville	1,686.13	1,497.16	Evening Shade	5,032.05	4,603.15
Cherry Valley	7,677.38	7,425.76	Clarksville	108,142.42	97,925.63	Newton County	44,203.87	37,063.97	Hardy	8,503.23	7,778.47
Hickory Ridge	3,207.75	3,102.62	Coal Hill	11,924.18	10,797.64	Jasper	2,753.88	2,309.07	Highland	12,172.44	11,134.94
Parkin	13,031.49	12,604.39	Hartman	6,115.27	5,537.52	Western Grove	2,269.29	1,902.75	Horseshoe Bend	93.19	85.24
Wynne	98,673.74	95,439.78	Knoxville	8,613.22	7,799.48	Ouachita County	729,160.33	656,003.37	Sidney	2,108.34	1,928.64
Dallas County	158,480.56	144,451.00	Lamar	18,911.37	17,124.73	Bearden	11,191.29	10,068.47	Williford	873.61	799.16
Desha County	112,291.53	101,060.20	Lafayette County	77,368.60	76,650.32	Camden	141,142.38	126,981.51	St. Francis County	113,255.09	157,276.56
Arkansas City	4,345.85	3,911.18	Bradley	3,646.27	3,612.42	Chidester	3,348.12	3,012.20	Caldwell	7,451.88	10,348.36
Dumas	55,878.60	50,289.66	Buckner	1,596.70	1,581.87	East Camden	10,785.81	9,703.67	Colt	5,075.34	7,048.08
McGehee	50,096.01	45,085.44	Lewisville	7,431.89	7,362.89	Louisiana	1,899.97	1,709.35	Forrest City	206,383.41	286,603.20
Mitchellville	4,274.61	3,847.06	Stamps	9,829.83	9,738.59	Stephens	10,322.41	9,286.75	Hughes	19,348.02	26,868.46
Reed	2,042.31	1,838.04	Lawrence County	322,253.05	308,484.62	Perry County	126,005.68	117,893.82	Madison	10,325.22	14,338.56
Tillar	249.35	224.41	Alicia	869.51	832.36	Adona	1,263.61	1,050.63	Palestine	9,143.66	12,697.72
Watson	2,505.40	2,254.81	Black Rock	4,642.08	4,443.75	Bigelow	1,904.48	1,583.48	Wheatley	4,766.52	6,619.22
Drew County	451,631.15	432,599.62	Hoxie	19,493.94	18,661.05	Fourche	374.85	311.67	Widener	3,665.49	5,090.28
Jerome	563.50	539.76	Imboden	4,747.27	4,544.44	Houston	1,045.95	869.66	Stone County	97,196.89	91,484.98
Monticello	136,787.21	131,023.06	Lynn	2,019.52	1,933.23	Perry	1,632.41	1,357.27	Fifty Six	1,775.05	1,670.74
Tillar	2,947.56	2,823.36	Minturn	7,643.33	731.67	Perryville	8,827.13	7,339.29	Mountain View	28,195.61	26,538.66
Wilmar	7,383.36	7,072.23	Portia	3,064.34	2,933.41	Phillips County	116,820.49	115,567.89	Union County	634,484.17	556,303.68
Winchester	2,412.97	2,311.27	Powhatan	504.88	483.31	Elaine	11,077.10	12,936.89	Calion	18,497.27	16,218.05
Faulkner County	976,832.38	904,689.16	Ravenden	3,295.74	3,154.93	Helena-West Helena	207,219.70	204,997.84	El Dorado	787,591.76	690,545.51
Enola	2,974.45	2,754.77	Sedgwick	1,065.86	1,020.32	Lake View	9,108.74	9,011.06	Felsenthal	4,532.43	3,973.95
Holland	4,901.67	4,539.66	Smithville	546.95	523.58	Lexa	5,880.58	5,817.53	Huttig	25,352.59	22,228.66
Mount Vernon	1,276.02	1,181.78	Strawberry	2,117.69	2,027.21	Marvell	24,385.91	24,124.44	Junction City	22,614.67	19,828.11
Twin Groves	2,948.04	2,730.32	Walnut Ridge	37,431.16	35,831.90	Pike County	170,781.74	152,329.00	Norphlet	28,533.58	25,017.71
Wooster	7,568.12	7,009.18	Lee County	34,612.59	30,612.53	Antoine	1,095.23	976.90	Smackover	75,068.46	65,818.60
Franklin County	272,181.98	239,805.31	Aubrey	1,072.57	948.62	Delight	2,611.71	2,329.52	Strong	21,358.77	18,726.97
Altus	8,455.60	7,449.79	Haynes	946.39	837.02	Glenwood	20,463.10	18,252.09	Van Buren County	293,375.82	317,912.69
Branch	4,093.94	3,606.95	LaGrange	561.52	496.63	Murfreesboro	15,361.37	13,701.59	Clinton	26,060.49	28,240.10
Charleston	28,133.29	24,786.78	Marianna	25,962.59	22,962.19	Pointsett County	131,384.53	128,983.56	Damascus	2,503.89	2,713.31
Denning	5,059.48	4,457.65	Moro	1,362.80	1,205.31	Fisher	1,965.07	1,929.16	Fairfield Bay	21,583.54	23,388.70
Ozark	41,095.58	36,207.17	Rondo	1,249.24	1,104.85	Harrisburg	20,285.20	19,914.50	Shirley	2,914.53	3,158.29
Wiederkehr Village	423.90	373.47	Lincoln County	133,594.80	131,343.27	Lepanto	16,681.09	16,376.26	Washington County	1,803,585.13	1,668,753.52
Fulton County	212,636.52	120,279.10	Gould	4,525.61	4,449.34	Marked Tree	22,611.56	22,198.35	Elkins	54,199.92	50,148.06
Ash Flat	533.89	475.86	Grady	2,427.72	2,386.80	Trumann	64,292.26	63,117.36	Elm Springs	35,942.24	33,255.29
Cherokee Village	4,150.74	3,699.55	Star City	12,295.39	12,088.18	Tyrone	6,714.73	6,592.03	Farmington	122,277.31	113,136.15
Hardy	219.84	195.94	Little River County	211,992.71	202,147.30	Waldenburg	537.53	527.71	Fayetteville	1,506,053.59	1,393,464.70
Horseshoe Bend	88.98	79.31	Ashdown	43,241.30	41,233.08	Weiner	6,309.39	6,194.08	Goshen	21,921.49	20,282.69
Mammoth Spring	5,113.84	4,557.96	Foreman	9,256.18	8,826.31	Polk County	294,727.80	267,141.29	Greenland	26,485.91	24,505.89
Salem	8,557.95	7,627.70	Ogden	1,647.99	1,571.45	Cove	8,840.68	8,013.19	Johnson	68,650.50	63,518.36
Viola	1,763.93	1,572.20	Wilton	3,424.15	3,265.12	Grannis	12,821.30	11,621.22	Lincoln	46,033.09	42,591.77
Garland County	2,609,420.90	2,278,464.63	Winthrop	1,757.85	1,676.21	Hatfield	9,558.12	8,663.48	Prairie Grove	90,592.46	83,819.99
Fountain Lake	8,929.48	7,796.94	Logan County	332,378.53	321,657.45	Mena	132,772.16	120,344.68	Springdale	1,313,959.09	1,215,730.72
Hot Springs	288,586.19	251,984.43	Blue Mountain	1,179.66	1,141.61	Vandervoort	2,013.46	1,825.00	Tontitown	50,351.89	46,587.70
Lonsdale	1,668.73	1,457.08	Booneville	37,958.39	36,734.02	Wickes	17,449.88	15,816.61	West Fork	47,424.93	43,879.56
Mountain Pine	13,669.37	11,935.67	Caulksville	2,026.35	1,960.99	Pope County	437,888.79	401,001.40	Winslow	8,003.07	7,404.78
Grant County	225,294.16	204,942.61	Magazine	8,057.83	7,797.92	Atkins	52,589.20	48,159.13	White County	1,303,215.30	1,238,150.21
Greene County	606,276.76	574,858.69	Morrison Bluff	608.86	589.22	Dover	24,027.82	22,003.74	Bald Knob	40,287.42	38,276.01
Delaplaine	1,563.87	1,482.83	Paris	33,601.26	32,517.43	Hector	7,846.53	7,185.55	Beebe	101,726.78	96,647.91
Lafe	6,174.60	5,854.62	Ratcliff	1,921.70	1,859.72	London	18,116.77	16,590.63	Bradford	10,555.11	10,028.13
Marmaduke	14,978.12	14,201.93	Scranton	2,131.00	2,062.26	Pottsville	49,485.46	45,316.85	Garner	3,949.47	3,752.29
Oak Grove Heights	11,985.19	11,364.10	Subiaco	5,441.66	5,266.13	Russellville	486,833.73	445,823.23	Georgetown	1,724.42	1,638.32
Paragould	352,046.45	333,802.95	Lonoke County	345,811.98	304,615.23	Prairie County	87,887.95	87,097.99	Griffithville	3,128.98	2,972.77
Hempstead County	389,534.93	403,458.54	Allport	1,398.33	1,231.74	Biscoe	3,652.15	3,619.32	Higginson	8,636.00	8,204.83
Blevins	3,637.17	3,767.18	Austin	24,780.76	21,828.62	Des Arc	17,274.75	17,119.48	Judsonia	28,077.43	26,675.62
Emmet	496.50	514.25	Cabot	289,100.76	254,660.05	DeValls Bluff	6,227.76	6,171.79	Kensett	22,918.08	21,773.86
Fulton	2,320.86	2,403.82	Carlisle	26,920.81	23,713.72	Hazen	14,769.56	14,636.81	Letona	3,546.18	3,369.13
Hope	116										

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.

DEPUTY UTILITY DIRECTOR FOR SYSTEMS—Fort Smith is seeking a deputy utility director for systems who is an innovative, dedicated manager and self-motivated leader who can maintain a collaborative and supportive work environment in the department. Under the general guidance of the utilities director, this position is responsible for assisting in the overall management, administration, and leadership of the water distribution system operation and maintenance program, sewer collection system operation and maintenance program, and sewer collection system construction program. The deputy director will strategically manage the department's operational goals and will work harmoniously with department managers to carry out the organization's assigned duties. The chosen candidate will hold a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, business administration, or a related area, with at least 10 years of experience working with water and wastewater systems. A master's degree is a plus. Five years of supervisory experience, including three years of administrative or managerial experience, is required. A Grade 4 Arkansas Water Distribution Operator License is required, or the selected candidate must obtain the license within one year of employment. The starting salary range for this position is \$63,668 - \$97,739 annually, dependent on qualifications and experience. Please apply online at: <http://bit.ly/SGRCurrentSearches>. For more information on this position contact: Gary Holland, senior vice president, Strategic Government Resources, GaryHolland@governmentresource.com, 405-269-3445.

DEPUTY UTILITY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS—Fort Smith is seeking a deputy utility director for operations who will strategically manage the department's operational goals and will work harmoniously with department managers to carry out the organization's assigned duties. Under the general guidance of the utilities director, this position is responsible for assisting in the overall management, administration, and leadership of the water treatment operation and maintenance program; wastewater treatment operation and maintenance program; environmental quality program; and the building, station, and easement maintenance program. This position is also responsible for developing and administering plans, systems, and activities to support and promote the mission, values, vision, and strategies of the utility department. The chosen candidate will hold a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering, chemistry, civil engineering, environmental engineering, industrial engineering, business administration, or a related area with at least 10 years of experience working with water and wastewater systems. A master's degree is a plus. Five years of supervisory experience, including three years of administrative or managerial experience, is required. A Grade 4 Arkansas Water Treatment Operator License is required, or the selected candidate must obtain the license within one year of employment. A Class 4 Arkansas Wastewater Treatment License is a plus. The starting salary range for this position is \$63,668 - \$97,739 annually, dependent on qualifications and experience. Please apply online at: <http://bit.ly/OpenRecruitments>. For more information on this position contact: Gary Holland, senior vice president, Strategic Government Resources, GaryHolland@governmentresource.com, 405-269-3445.

GRANT ADMINISTRATOR—The city of Conway is accepting resumes for a grant administrator responsible for the coordination of grant researching and writing; administering grants and outside funding to ensure city grants are properly administered, recorded, spent, documented and reported. This position will administer federal, state or other grantor agency programs in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), city ordinances, policies and procedures. The grant administrator reports directly to the mayor. Salary is \$62,400 annually with a competitive benefits package. A background investigation will be conducted before employment can begin. For a complete job description, visit the employment opportunities page at ConwayArkansas.gov. Please submit resume with salary history to: Human Resources, City of Conway, 1201 Oak Street, Conway, AR 72032; email humanresources@conwayarkansas.gov; fax 501-358-6325. The city of Conway is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, genetic information, marital status, status as a covered veteran, political status, or other legally protected status. Submitted resumes will be subject to disclosure under the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act.

POLICE OFFICER—The city of Marshall is accepting applications for the position of full-time police officer. Applicants must be 21 years old and have a minimum of a high school diploma or GED. Arkansas certified preferred. Must be able to pass a background check and other pre-employment screening, possess a valid Arkansas driver's license. Salary, paid insurance and paid LOPFI retirement. Applications may be picked up 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday at Marshall City Hall, 102 W. College.

PUBLIC WORKS LABORERS—The city of Monticello is currently taking applications for full-time and part-time public works laborers. Applicants must possess the ability to work independently, be trainable, have good listening skills, knowledge of public works and have a minimum of a high school diploma. Must be able to pass a pre-employment background check, motor vehicle check and drug screen. Applicants should have an interest in obtaining either water and/or wastewater licensing to the level that is required for the city. Some job responsibilities include assisting daily with the upkeep of all city streets including asphalt repair, replacement and repair of all culverts, assist with water leak repairs, maintenance of sewer ponds, tree limb removal, general maintenance of city grounds and buildings, lawn care around wells, sewer ponds and city lake, and communicating with the public works superintendent and assistant public works superintendent on daily issues that may arise. On-the-job training will be provided. Hours may vary depending on daily assigned tasks. Salary DOE. Full benefits package included for full-time positions. To apply please come by Monticello City Hall in person to pick up an application or the Workforce Training Center located at 477 S Main Street, Monticello, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information please contact Patty Burchett at 870-367-4400. The positions will be open until filled.

TRAFFIC OPERATIONS ENGINEER—For the city of Jonesboro. This position is responsible for developing, implementing and maintaining the city's traffic programs and reports directly to the director of engineering. The person will supervise the work of three traffic signal technicians; prepare traffic signal timing and coordination plans; develop and maintain an inventory of city traffic control equipment, signal timings, traffic counts, traffic flow patterns and other information pertinent to traffic operations; manage design and construction contracts for roadway and intersection improvements; and review private development plans for compliance with the city traffic impact and access management requirements. Minimum qualifications and Skills: BS degree in civil or electrical engineering plus five years related experience and two years of related management experience. Registered Professional Engineer in the state of Arkansas required. Institute of Transportation Engineer's Professional Traffic Operations Engineer (PTOE) certification preferred. Ability to effectively present information to top management, city council, public groups and news media. Basic knowledge of Microsoft Office products, such as Word, Excel and PowerPoint software. Basic knowledge of AutoCAD Civil 3D and ESRI ArcGIS. Proficiency in HCM/HCS, Synchro and TRU-TRAFFIC software is preferred. A valid driver's license and a successful background check. Grade/minimum salary: Pay grade 124. (Min. \$66,248 to \$72,873 annually. Any additional pay will need council approval.) Applications will be accepted at the Human Resources Department, 300 S Church St., Jonesboro, Arkansas, or on our website www.jonesboro.org (870-933-4640). Position will remain open until filled. The city of Jonesboro is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE).

FOR SALE—Ash Flat is accepting sealed bids on the following vehicles: a 1993 John Deere Excavator/Track Hoe (reserve—\$12K); a 1996 GM HMMHV (reserve—\$10K); and a 2009 Freightliner Truck/Tractor with 22k miles (reserve—\$25K). Vehicles are sold as is and can be seen at the city shop located on Arnhart Street adjacent to the Ash Flat Library. Sealed bids must be marked "Bid" and submitted no later than 3 p.m. March 5. Please write the name of the vehicle on which you are bidding on the outside of the envelope. Bids may be mailed to P.O. Box 280, Ash Flat, AR 72513. Bids will be opened during the March 9 council meeting beginning at 7 p.m. If you prefer to attend the council meeting, the address is 869 Ash Flat Drive, Ash Flat. The city of Ash Flat reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

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

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