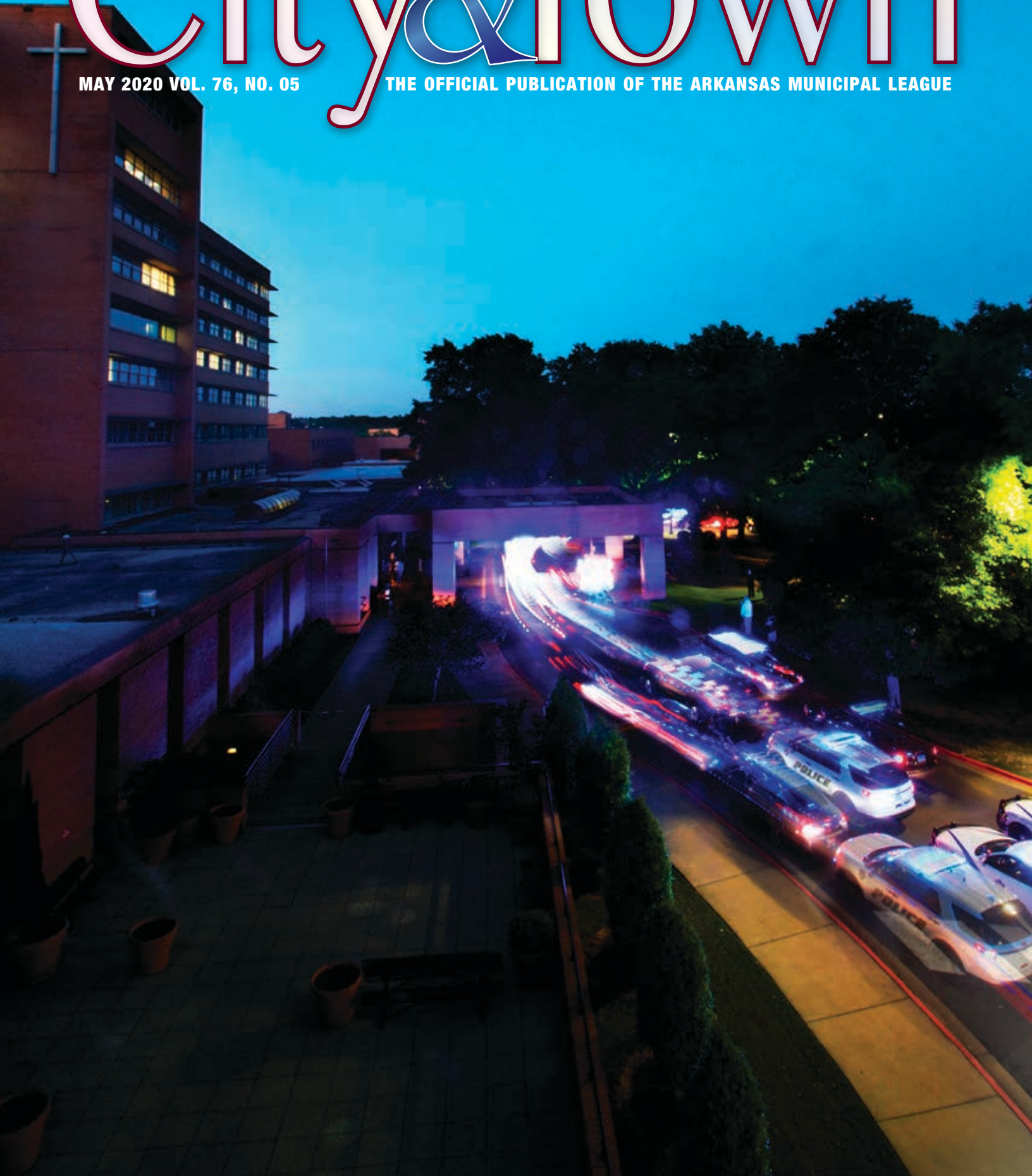


City & Town

MAY 2020 VOL. 76, NO. 05

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE



How do you think new money becomes old money?



Jim Shenep
SVP, Trust Officer
Little Rock, AR

Dee Davenport
SVP, Trust Officer
Little Rock, AR

David Daniel
Regional President, Trust
Jonesboro, AR

Robin Thornton
SVP, Trust Officer
El Dorado, AR

Lee Rush
SVP, Trust Officer
Little Rock, AR

At Simmons, our Investment Management services help you get the most out of your money. Our wealth management professionals have on average more than 20 years of experience and are responsible for over \$6 billion in assets. We will manage your portfolio with a diligent approach and in-depth knowledge of the marketplace. We'll devise clear strategies to help protect and grow your assets. That way, you can continue to work towards the future you've always envisioned.

Put our experience to work for your legacy.

Speak with one of our wealth management experts and start planning your tomorrow.

Trust | Investments | Insurance | Private Banking

Simmons Wealth Management is a marketing name used by the trust division of Simmons Bank.

Investments and Insurance Products Are: Not a Deposit | Not FDIC Insured
Not Insured by Any Federal Government Agency | Not Bank Guaranteed | May Lose Value.



Cover photo by Ben Cline.



ON THE COVER—Law enforcement agencies from across Pulaski County show their appreciation for hospital workers with a lights and sirens parade in front of CHI St. Vincent in Little Rock April 30. Our health care workers across the state have received similar shows of appreciation as we all work to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. In this issue, we continue our coverage of those efforts, taking a look at what cities and towns and their residents are doing and what changes they’ve had to make to curb the virus’ spread. We take a special look at Jonesboro, which has had to balance its COVID-19 response with the aftermath of a March 28 tornado. Check out all of this inside, including the latest guidance for Arkansas’ cities and towns.—atm

Features

12 Jonesboro on the mend after tornado strikes
On March 28 an EF-3 tornado ripped across the east side of Jonesboro, destroying homes and businesses in its path. Through a coordinated effort among all levels of government, the city is on its way to recovery.

16 Cities make tough calls, face challenges during COVID crisis
Every city and town in Arkansas has had to make changes to their normal operations with more difficult choices ahead as financial strain sets in, and *City & Town* reached out to a cross section of municipalities to get a snapshot of where they’re at.

22 Look for the helpers
For comfort and inspiration during times of great stress, Mr. Rogers famously said “look for the helpers,” and cities and towns across our state are doing just that as we work together to fight this pandemic.

26 COVID resources for cities and towns: Reopening begins
The governor has announced Phase One of the plan to reopen the state’s economy, with guidelines for certain businesses, churches, venues and restaurants.

39 League takes grants service in-house
The League has welcomed a new staff attorney specializing in grants in order to help member cities and towns learn about grant opportunities, coach local grant writers and navigate the application process.

City & Town Contents

Arkansas Municipal League Officers.....	5
Community Development.....	44
Engineering.....	50
From the Desk of the Executive Director..	6
Meeting Calendar.....	11
Municipal Mart.....	58
Municipal Notes.....	10
Municipal Sidebar.....	40
Obituaries.....	11
Planning to Succeed.....	42
President’s Letter.....	4
Sales Tax Map.....	55
Sales Tax Receipts.....	56
Turnback Estimates.....	54
Urban Forestry.....	48
XPert Diagnostics.....	52
Your Health.....	46

Dear friends and fellow public servants,
We are living in a world that is confusing, not only for us but for the public we serve. It seems like every day presents a new set of problems that we could never have imagined a few short months ago.

While we all are learning to adapt from one another—and in a major way, thanks to our Arkansas Municipal League—it is important to face facts while we present a brave face. For instance, we know this is not going away soon, and we know that no matter how we come out of this experience, our lives and indeed our world will be forever changed.

Amid this fog, I remain optimistic because we have faced hardships, loss of loved ones and situations that seemed overwhelming in the past. Each time, we have not only recovered but created a new, better way of living than we had before.

For Jonesboro, in the last week of April, I unveiled a plan called “Next Steps” that will help guide us, in concert with the decisions made by Gov. Asa Hutchinson, who I believe has guided us as well as any state in the union through the past two or three months.

In our Next Steps, we acknowledge the difficulty of fighting an enemy we cannot see and continue to learn about. I have leaned heavily on Dr. Shane Speights—city medical director and dean of the NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine at Arkansas State University—and my administration.

While we try to comfort our citizenry by acknowledging their concerns and repeatedly stressing best practices, we are creating groups of leaders to help rescue our economy and return it to vibrancy. Chief of Staff Mike Downing has a tremendous economic development resumé, and he and our chamber leadership are working in concert with Mike Preston—the governor’s secretary of commerce—to ensure our small businesses have access to every available resource to get them up and running quickly, smoothly and, most of all, safely.

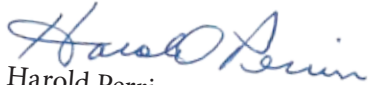
You are well aware we suffered a tornado March 28 that ripped a 5-mile trail of destruction through our city. We were blessed by no loss of life, miraculously, but it put many of our people in harm’s way because social distancing, especially for 24 to 48 hours while we searched for survivors, went out the window.

We instituted a curfew to protect both our residents and our first responders. One thing our medical experts have taught us is that coronavirus acquired at 11 p.m. will be spread tenfold at 11 a.m. So every hour counts. And with a nighttime curfew, we eliminated a few hours that made the least impact on most of our citizenry but still accomplished a goal.

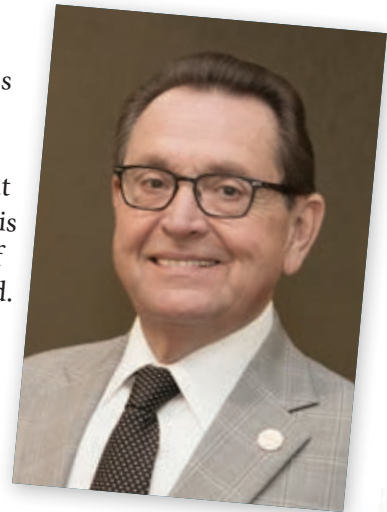
The third part of Next Steps is our ongoing assessment of city finances. I’m sure each one of you has been looking at tax revenues to ensure that we can manage this crisis, and we are incredibly fortunate to have the expertise of our friends at the AML to help us in every fashion conceivable. I cannot thank them enough.

With that, I’ll send a prayerful thought to all my Arkansas friends, and remind you that any time Jonesboro can be of service, we are here to help.

Sincerely,



Harold Perrin
Mayor, Jonesboro
President, Arkansas Municipal League



ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE OFFICERS

Mayor Harold Perrin, **Jonesboro**..... President
Mayor Gary Baxter, **Mulberry**..... First Vice President
Mayor Paul Wellenberger, **Fairfield Bay** Vice President, District 1
Council Member Allan Loring, **Wrightsville**.. Vice President, District 2
Mayor John Mark Turner, **Siloam Springs** ... Vice President, District 3
Mayor Parnell Vann, **Magnolia** Vice President, District 4
Mark R. Hayes Executive Director

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: City Clerk/Treasurer Denise Johnston, **Batesville**; Mayor Darrell Kirby, **Bay**; Mayor Tim McKinney, **Berryville**; Mayor James Sanders, **Blytheville**; Mayor Jonas Anderson, **Cave City**; Vice Mayor Kevin Settle, **Fort Smith**; Mayor Sammy Hartwick, **Greenbrier**; Mayor Doug Kinslow, **Greenwood**; Mayor Tonya Kendrix, **Hermitage**; City Manager Catherine Cook, **Hope**; Mayor Pat McCabe, **Hot Springs**; Council Member Reedie Ray, **Jacksonville**; Council Member Sam Angel II, **Lake Village**; Mayor Jerry Boen, **Lamar**; Mayor Steve Dixon, **Marmaduke**; Council Member James Turner, **Mena**; Mayor Allen Lipsmeyer, **Morrilton**; Council Member Debi Ross, **North Little Rock**; Council Member Tyler Dunegan, **Osceola**; Mayor Sonny Hudson, **Prairie Grove**; Mayor Greg Hines, **Rogers**; Mayor Virginia Young, **Sherwood**; Mayor Bobby Neal, **Smackover**; Council Member Colby Fulfer, **Springdale**

PAST PRESIDENTS ADVISORY COUNCIL: Mayor Rick Elumbaugh, **Batesville**; Mayor Frank Fogleman, **Marion**; Mayor Joe A. Smith, **North Little Rock**; Mayor Mike Gaskill, **Paragould**; Mayor Jackie Crabtree, **Pea Ridge**; Mayor Doug Sprouse, **Springdale**; Mayor Robert Patrick, **St. Charles**; Mayor Harry Brown, **Stephens**

CITIES OF THE LARGE FIRST CLASS ADVISORY COUNCIL:

City Administrator Carl Geffken, **Fort Smith**, Chair; Mayor Peter Christie, **Bella Vista**; Mayor Tom Farmer, **Benton**; Mayor Allen Scott, **Bryant**; Council Members Eddie Long, Norma Naquin, and James Reid, **Cabot**; Mayor Veronica Smith-Creer and City Clerk Heather McVay, **El Dorado**; Chief of Staff Susan Norton, **Fayetteville**; Mayor Cedric Williams and Council Member Jason Evansington, **Forrest City**; Assistant City Manager Lance Spicer, **Hot Springs**; Council Members Tara Smith and Mary Twitty, **Jacksonville**; Council Members Chris Gibson and John Street, **Jonesboro**; City Director Lance Hines and Director of Strategic Operations Emily Cox, **Little Rock**; Mayor Caleb Norris, Clerk/Treasurer Tina Timmons and Council Members Chad Gardner and Terry Williams, **Maumelle**; Council Member Jim Bodenhamer, **Mountain Home**; Council Members Steve Baxter, Jane Ginn, Charlie Hight and Beth White, **North Little Rock**; City Clerk Andrea Williams and Council Member Josh Agee, **Paragould**; Council Member Steven Mays, **Pine Bluff**; Council Member Marina Brooks, **Sherwood**; City Director Mindy Hunt, **Siloam Springs**; Mayor Joseph Hurst, **Van Buren**; Mayor Marco McClendon, Council Member Wayne Croom and City Clerk Joyce Gray, **West Memphis**

CITIES OF THE FIRST CLASS ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Mayor Jimmy Williams, **Marianna**, Chair; Mayor Jerry Martin, **Alma**; Council Member Larry Hall, **Bay**; Clerk/Treasurer Carol Westergren and Human Resources Director Kim Weeks, **Beebe**; Mayor Danny Shaw, **Bono**; Council Member Ron Burrow, **Brinkley**; Mayor Bill Edwards and Council Member Wayne Low, **Centerton**; Council Member C.T. Foster, **Crossett**; Mayor Flora Simon and Council Member Ramona Weatherford, **Dumas**; Mayor Kevin Johnston, **Gentry**; Mayor Rodney Robertson and Clerk/Treasurer Ruth Keith, **Leachville**; Council Member Loye Free, **Marianna**; Assistant to the Mayor Becky Horton, **Mena**; Mayor Doyle Fowler and Council Members Glinda Lou Dallas and Mary Ann Whitlock, **McCroary**; Mayor Sally Wilson, **Osceola**; Council Member David Hickman, **Parkin**; Council Members Tony Cunningham and Brea Gragg, **Prairie Grove**; Council Member Patricia Roberts, **Prescott**; Council Members Teddy Holt, Bill Shrum and Norma Strabala, **Stuttgart**; Mayor Charles Snapp, **Walnut Ridge**; Mayor Charles Gastineau, **Ward**; Council Member Dorothy Henderson, **Warren**

INCORPORATED TOWNS AND CITIES OF THE SECOND

CLASS ADVISORY COUNCIL: Mayor Dennis Behling, **Lakeview**, Chair; Mayor Veronica Post, **Altus**; Mayor Bo James, **Caraway**; Council Member Timothy Barnes, **Clinton**; Mayor Joe Marotti, **Crawfordsville**; Council Members Robert Otis and Doyle Scroggins, **Fairfield Bay**; Council Member Jennifer Porter, **Flippin**; Mayor Jeff Braim and Council Member Anita Seaman, **Gassville**; Mayor B.T. Smith, **Glenwood**; Recorder/Treasurer Jennifer Hill, **Haskell**; Recorder/Treasurer Mary Ruth Wiles, **Highland**; Mayor Craig Huckaby, **Horseshoe Bend**; Council Member Lee Guest, **Marvell**; Mayor Marion Hoosier, **McCaskill**; Mayor Carl Lee Griswold, **Mitchellville**; Mayor Bob Blankenship, **Monette**; Mayor Joseph Carlton, **Montrose**; Mayor Michael Marsh, **Pangburn**; Mayor Roben Brooks and Recorder/Treasurer Dane Fults, **Redfield**; Mayor Samuel Quarles, **Rosston**; Mayor James Jones, **Rudy**; Mayor Lisa Hackett, **Shirley**; Recorder/Treasurer Rick East, **Smackover**; Recorder/Treasurer Rita Fite, **Sparkman**; Mayor Brenda Porter, **Tollette**; Mayor Michael R. Frasier, **Weiner**

PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Chief of Police/Assistant City Manager J.R. Wilson, **Hope**, Chair; Council Member Jim Wozniak, **Bella Vista**; Mayor Kenneth Jones, **Brookland**; Council Member Doug Warner, **Cabot**; Interim Fire Chief Ronald Nash, **Camden**; Council Member Crystal Marshall, **Crossett**; Council Members Chris Akins and Robin Cook, **Dermott**; Council Member Dianne Hammond, **El Dorado**; Police Chief/Mayor Tim Mayfield, **Gassville/Salesville**; Director of Operations Rob Holland, **Highfill**; City Director Karen Garcia and Fire Chief John Stachey, **Hot Springs**; Council Member Jess Holt, **Maumelle**; Clerk/Treasurer Diane Whitbey, **North Little Rock**; Mayor Roxie Hall, **Ozark**; Fire Chief Kevin Lang, **Paragould**; Council Member April Broderick, **Sherwood**; Council Member James Pulliaum, **West Memphis**; Mayor Jennifer Hobbs, **Wynne**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL:

City Administrator Phillip Patterson, **Siloam Springs**, Chair; Director of Communications Keith Beason, **Arkadelphia**; Mayor Stephanie Orman, Council Member Cindy Acree and Community Relations & Economic Development Director Debbie Griffin, **Bentonville**; Mayor Randall Noblett, **Cave Springs**; Council Member Robin Reed, **Centerton**; Council Member Judy Weaver, **Clarksville**; Council Member Gail King, **Des Arc**; Mayor George McGill, **Fort Smith**; Council Member Naomi Lassen, **Gassville**; City Director Mark Ross, **Hope**; Mayor Bob Johnson, **Jacksonville**; Council Member Sherry Holliman, **Marion**; Council Member Jennifer Massey, **Mayflower**; Mayor Hillrey Adams and Council Member Paige Evans, **Mountain Home**; Mayor Roger Gardner, **Mountain View**; Council Member Howard Austin, **Prescott**; Council Member Gregory Baker, **Osceola**; Council Member Betty Cook, **Sheridan**; Council Member Beverly Williams, **Sherwood**; Finance and Human Resources Director Deborah Staley, **Ward**

MUNICIPAL HEALTH BENEFIT PROGRAM BOARD OF

TRUSTEES: Mayor David Stewart, **Newport**, District 1; Finance Director Joy Black, **Bryant**, District 2; Mayor Bill Edwards, **Centerton**, District 3; Clerk/Treasurer Barbara Blackard, **Clarksville**, District 4; Mayor Denisa Pennington, **Warren**, At-Large Member

MUNICIPAL LEAGUE WORKERS' COMPENSATION PROGRAM

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Human Resources Director Charlette Nelson, **Jacksonville**, District 1; Human Resources Director Lisa Mabry-Williams, **Conway**, District 2; Clerk/Treasurer Sharla Derry, **Greenwood**, District 3; Mayor Shirley Washington, **Pine Bluff**, District 4; City Attorney Howard Cain, **Huntsville**, At-Large Member and Group Manager

PENSION MANAGEMENT AND OPEB TRUSTS, BOARD OF

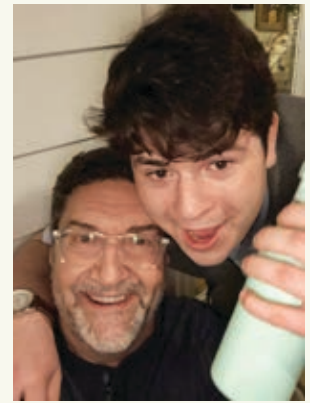
TRUSTEES: Treasury Manager Scott Massanelli, **Little Rock**, Chair; Comptroller Mandy Spicer, **Benton**, Vice Chair; City Manager Gary Brinkley, **Arkadelphia**; Clerk/Treasurer Carol Westergren, **Beebe**; Chief of Staff Danny Bradley, **North Little Rock**

From the Desk of the Executive Director

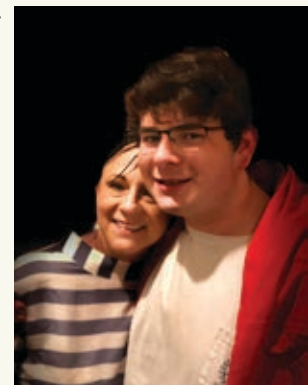
PANDEMIC RELIEF, EPIDEMIC CRISIS.

By the time you read this I'm hopeful our state will have begun its rebirth from COVID-19. Not too fast mind you, but rather a logical and rational approach just as our governor has led us from the start but in reverse.¹ I think many things will change for us over the next few years. People will continue to social distance although perhaps not as strictly as we're doing now. We'll work at home more. We'll use disinfectant wipes and sprays more than we ever have. Anybody coughing or sneezing will no doubt make us anxious for many years to come. We won't think of headaches as we have in the past nor the loss of taste or smell. Shortness of breath may yield a 911 call rather than a brief respite. I suspect many of us will have groceries and other staples delivered to our homes. If we go to a store of any kind, we'll pick off hours in hopes there won't be very many people. Telemedicine will likely become the new normal for routine doctor visits. I wonder about movie theaters and small restaurants. Will they survive or change somehow? And what about traditional handshakes? What do we do, the Vulcan salute?² Peace signs?³ And hugs, what about hugs?! And yes, we'll certainly wash our hands more. It may take months or even years for our society to fully deal with the coronavirus, but we will. A vaccine will be invented and, like so many other killer viruses, COVID-19 will wither on the vine and die.

Unfortunately, our journey to health as Arkansans will not end with a COVID-19 vaccine. No, there's another killer on the loose and it hasn't yet been fully addressed. We will be leaving the virus pandemic but remain in a deadlier, more long-standing epidemic that in many instances hasn't been dealt with. I speak of course, of the epidemic of opioid addictions, overdoses and deaths. By the time you read this my 23-year-old son⁴ will have been dead from such an overdose for nearly a month. Four or five weeks will have passed since he collapsed, passed out and drifted into death. He is now part of a lost generation. His best friend suffered the same fate just over two years ago. And then, horrifically, two days after Wells died another good friend he met in rehab passed away. My son Wells suffered so much after his best pal died. He lived an anguished life over the past 24 months. Near-death experiences from overdoses certainly weren't everyday occurrences with him, but they happened often enough that we knew what the drill was. We knew the need for chest compressions, counting one, two, three, four while listening to the neutral calm voice of the 911 dispatcher. We knew that help would arrive quickly. We knew Narcan could be administered



Wells and me.



Wells and his mom, Alison.

¹ As of May 5, 2020, the governor's emergency declaration was extended 45 days. Several categories of businesses have been allowed to open or partially open including barbers and hair salons.

² Leonard Nimoy portrayed Spock in the long-running TV and movie series *Star Trek*. Nimoy invented the Vulcan hand gesture by borrowing from a tradition in Orthodox Judaism. The hand gesture first appeared in the first episode of the second season of the original TV show in 1967. *QZ.com*, *Baltimore Sun* and *Wikipedia*.

³ The hand gesture of raising both the index and middle fingers is widely known as a sign of peace in the United States although in other countries certain variations are considered insults.

⁴ Wells Curry Bratton came into my life in 2007 when I married Alison. He and his sister became instantly close with my sons and as our relationships deepened I simply referred to them as my children. My three boys and my daughter. Legally, Wells was my stepson, but his mother and I raised him with his father, giving him three parents. Recently one of Wells' friends described our family as the most "unblended blended family" she had ever seen. She meant that as a compliment noting that we were a family without notations of step or biological. Just a loving, caring family of six that is now down to five.

with near-miraculous results. We also knew it was too late this last time. I tried. Nearly two minutes of me pushing on his chest. Oh, how I tried.

Many other friends of my children have died. I can quickly count five without even trying. With just a little effort the number gets closer to 10. It happens so frequently that there's almost a callousness from the remainder of us. "Oh, there's another one. When will it end?" Well, *when will it end?* How many people must die? Like the coronavirus, opioid addiction knows no boundaries. Wealthy, poor, educated or not, male, female. If you know a group of people under 30 or 35 there is a high likelihood that someone in that group has an opioid problem. Lots of them start on pills, "hydros" and "oxys."⁵ Some don't do pills but try other things. Regardless, in all too many instances black tar heroin is just plain cheap. Just a few dollars for a hit.

As I've said many times, the illegal drug manufacturing world cares nothing about the quality control of their product. Thus, it matters little that the concentration of the drug or the mixture with death traps like fentanyl are so high that death is a very real possibility even for the most casual of users. In some instances, what's sold as heroin may in reality be fentanyl. One may as well put a gun to their head if that's the case. That's a high that nobody recovers from. These drugs produce a high that ends in a pleading, screaming mother wanting her child back. They cause funerals attended by family torn to shreds by the death of a young person whose life had just barely begun. Grief so very profound that it hurts. It quite literally hurts in the chest as though a force so strong is tearing through the rib cage and brutalizing the heart. It is the worst possible thing to witness and be a part of. It is my reality and it is the reality of my wife Alison. My dear precious spouse now faces motherhood with only three of her four children. She faces every waking minute without her baby boy. And she faces most sleeping minutes tortured with horrible visions and what ifs. That is the harsh, vicious and brutal truth of opioid addiction. That is our life now and forever more.

The combination of COVID-19 and opioids in Arkansas is a hell on earth. We are lucky, however, because we are assured by virtually every expert that a vaccine will be created for the virus and it likely will be done in record time. That would be a miracle for sure. But our society will continue with this plague of addiction caused by manufacturers and distributors placing profits before people. They value cold hard cash more than Wells, more than his friends and more than an entire generation. Amid our new normal of social distancing, there is a new surge of fatal opioid overdoses. That's right—while taking precautions to stay away from the pandemic, the epidemic is killing at a record pace. There are multiple reasons this is happening. Certainly, the stress and depression of being alone leads some away from sobriety and into the warm, welcoming death hug of heroin. For others the inability to get to daily or weekly sobriety meetings or church services pushes them to use again. And for those who use suboxone in their fight for sobriety, the inability to get to the doctor or the clinic or both to get the prescription updated leads to the same dark place. I fear we'll see more suffering and more death. I fear for my children, your children and grandchildren. I fear for my grieving wife. I fear for Wells' dad, his aunts and uncles, and his grandparents.



The "unblended blended family": Wells, Alison, Bliss, me, Franz and Colin.

⁵ Hydrocodone and Oxycodone.

All is not lost. There are some simple steps that can save lives. Learn CPR. Carry a dose of Narcan. Talk to your kids and their friends. More importantly, listen to your kids and their friends regardless of whether you like what you're hearing. The truth is often ugly and painful. Ignoring the truth is worse. Ignoring equals death, plain and simple. What else can be done?

Most of you good readers are familiar with the League's litigation efforts taken in conjunction with the Association of Arkansas Counties. As I'm writing this, the likelihood of a favorable settlement is beginning to emerge from the fog and rhetoric that accompanies most large cases. Litigation seldom completely solves societal problems. Those problems are solved by the commitment and work of people on the front lines. It starts with parents, teachers, counselors, doctors, friends, clergy...this list goes on and on. Together we can solve this opioid epidemic. Together we can help those with addiction. COVID-19 will have an injectable vaccine soon. The opioid vaccine isn't in a tube with plunger and needle. We are the opioid vaccine. We need the dollars that a settlement may bring, for sure, but the reality is the citizens of this state have to fight this evil together. That and that alone will defeat this epidemic. We can win for Wells and every other person stricken with this plague and for every family and friend that is tortured by the loss of a loved one.

I've written many, many things in my life, but this has been the hardest thing I've ever attempted. Strangely, there's a small catharsis in seeing the words in black and white on my laptop screen. Not complete by any stretch of the imagination, but a start. Frankly, I don't think my family as a whole or individually will ever be the same, particularly Alison. Mothers do indeed have a stronger bond to children. I've seen the anguish up close and personal. She suffers because she carried him for nine months and nurtured him from infancy to manhood. She was a great mom to Wells and is a great mom to Franz, Bliss and Colin. I need to give credit where credit is due. Alison helped me by proofing this. The reality, however, is that we co-authored this column. I've done nothing more than repeat the many conversations she and I have had during the past two weeks and likely will have for the remainder of our lives.

As I conclude on this bright sunny day, I can see Alison and our dogs on our back deck. They are in the shade looking into the trees. It is a perfect day made for fishing or golfing, two of Wells' favorite hobbies. I think it's a small sign from above. Wells is no longer tortured by addiction, and in that sunshine there is hope that we can defeat both the pandemic and the epidemic.

Until next month, Peace.



Mark R. Hayes
Executive Director
Arkansas Municipal League



Wells and his sister, Bliss.

City&Town

Publisher

Mark R. Hayes

Deputy Director

Whitnee V. Bullerwell

Communications & Creative Manager

Mel Jones

Editor

Andrew T. Morgan

Graphic Designer

Mark R. Potter

Communications Coordinator

Ben Cline

Advertising Assistant

Tricia Zello

Contributors

Dylan Edgell

Dustin Lawrence

Abhilash Perisetti, M.D.

Benjamin Tharian, M.D.

Krissy Thomason

John L. Wilkerson

Jim von Tungeln

arml.org



belocalbeheard.com



@armunileague



armunicipalleague

flickr

arkansas_municipal_league



citytown@arml.org



GreatCitiesGreatState.com

City&Town (ISSN 0193-8371 and Publication No. 031-620) is published monthly for \$20 per year (\$1.67 per single copy) by the Arkansas Municipal League, 301 W. Second St., North Little Rock, AR 72114. Periodicals postage paid at North Little Rock, Ark. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *City&Town*, P.O. Box 38, North Little Rock, AR 72115.

The Right Reports. Right Now.



To get your **FREE** guide visit:

www.csasoftwaresolutions.com/fundaccounting



CenterPoint®
Fund Accounting
and Payroll Software

Distributed By

CSAsolutions
Accounting & Billing Specialists

www.csasoftwaresolutions.com • 800.264.4465

2020 Henry Awards recognize excellence in Arkansas tourism

Arkansas tourism partners from across the state honored the 2020 winners of the annual Henry Awards for Excellence in Arkansas Tourism during a ceremony at the 46th Arkansas Governor's Conference on Tourism, held March 1-3 in Fort Smith. The Henry Awards honor individuals and organizations that have made important contributions to the state's tourism industry in the preceding year.

Stacy Hurst, secretary of the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism, served as master of ceremonies and Governor Asa Hutchinson and Miss Arkansas Darynne Dahlem assisted in the presentation of the awards. The 2020 winners are:

- Tourism Person of the Year: J.R. Shaw of Visit Rogers
- Media Support Award: Arkansas Festivals and Events Association
- Bootstrap Award: Marvell Civic Club for the Levon Helm Project
- Exceptional Use of Social Media Award: Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau social media team
- Outstanding Digital Campaign/Website Award: Searcy
- Distinguished Volunteer Service Award: Clinton Presidential Center volunteers
- The Natural State Community Development Award: Rogers
- Tourism Region of the Year (2020 People's Choice Award): Arkansas Delta Byways

The Henry Awards have been a feature of the annual Arkansas Governor's Conference on Tourism since their debut in 1981. The awards are named for Henri de Tonti, founder of Arkansas Post in 1686, and who is often hailed as the first "Arkansas Traveler." For more information, contact Leah DiPietro at 501-682-7606 or email leah.dipietro@arkansas.gov.

Clarksville clerk/treasurer Barbara Blackard honored with Quill Award

Barbara Blackard, clerk/treasurer for the city of Clarksville, is the 2020 recipient of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks' (IIMC) Quill Award. The organization's most prestigious award, the Quill Award was established in 1987 to recognize IIMC members who have made significant and exemplary contributions to their community, state or province, IIMC and peers.

"You were chosen for your strong support of IIMC's goals and philosophies as outlined in IIMC's Code of Ethics and as set forth in the IIMC Constitution," IIMC president Lana McPherson, MMC, said in a letter congratulating Blackard. "The criteria include length of service, strength and extent of participation in IIMC, service in teaching fellow municipal clerks, involvement with the initiation or administration of an IIMC-approved training Institute or program, or any other activity that enhances the professionals of IIMC members."

Due to the cancellation of the 2020 Annual Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, Blackard will receive her award via mail. She will officially be recognized at the 2021 Annual Conference.

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.

Trendsetter City Awards 2020 now accepting applications

Presented by Arkansas Business Publishing Group and Crews & Associates in partnership with the Arkansas Municipal League, the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce, Associated Industries of Arkansas and Crafton Tull, the Trendsetter City program is designed to honor cities that are leaders in innovative programs and initiatives for improvement and growth. Award recipients are recognized at the League's annual Winter Conference.

The competition is divided into three population categories: cities less than 5,000 population, 5,000-20,000 population and more than 20,000. Trendsetter City Award winners will be recognized in the following categories:

Public Safety: Recognizes cities and towns being proactive and innovative to improve public safety.

Infrastructure/Water: Recognizes cities and towns that have found innovative ways to preserve existing infrastructure and minimize repair costs for utilities, streets, public waterways, wastewater treatment and more.

Education/Workforce Development: Recognizes unique public programs and public-private partnerships that are improving graduation rates, raising the education standards in K-12 or developing a more-qualified workforce for employers.

Wellness and Fitness: Recognizes city-led programs to improve the wellness of city employees and/or its citizens.

Tourism Development/Creative Culture: Recognizes cities and towns that are building unique venues, attractions, museums and more to not only attract tourism but also improve the quality of life of citizens.

Environmental/Green Management Practices: Recognizes cities and towns for their efforts to preserve or improve their environment.

Cities and towns can submit one application in each award category, and each entry must describe programs or projects brought to conclusion or showing significant results between July 2016 and July 2020. An official entry application must be submitted for each project.

Applications must be received in the Arkansas Business office by 5 p.m. August 31 or be postmarked on or before that date. Entry forms can be submitted to: C/O Kelli Roy, Arkansas Business Publishing Group, 114 Scott Street, Little Rock, AR 72201. Applications may also be emailed to kroy@abpg.com or faxed to 501-375-7933.

Applications for the Trendsetter City Awards can be downloaded at: www.arkansasbusiness.com/trendsetter.

Obituaries

ROYCE "ALAN" BRADRICK, 67, a firefighter with the Rogers Fire Department from 1984 to 2008, and who served as interim fire chief from July 2007 to October 2008, died May 5.

MICHAEL DOMINIC CERASALE, 45, a 23-year veteran of the Rogers Fire Department, died April 30.

GARY W. DOBSON, 74, who for many years worked for the city of Humphrey, died April 14.

CLAYTON EADS, 61, a retired Jacksonville firefighter, died April 15.

JAMES EARL FINCH, 93, who served as a firefighter with the North Little Rock Fire Department for 28 years, rising to the rank of captain, died April 15.

BOBBY "BOB" WAYNE MATHIS, 79, former mayor of Hot Springs and a former state representative, died May 4.

SCOTT MCCORMICK, 63, mayor of Crossett for more than 20 years, died April 16. Before serving as mayor, McCormick retired from the city's police department after serving 20 years as an officer. He was active with the Arkansas Municipal League during his public service career, serving for 20 years on the Executive Committee, First Class Cities Advisory Council and Public Safety Advisory Council, and he served as District 4 vice president in 2009-2010.

BETTY RUTH MCDOWELL MORTON KIDD, 77, council member for the town of Ogden, died Feb. 8.

JAMES LEROY REEVES, former mayor of Norfolk, died Sept. 4, 2019.

ROBERT LEE WRAY, 73, who had served as a Viola council member since 1997, died Jan. 15.

Meeting Calendar

August 19-21, 2020, Arkansas Municipal League 86th Convention, Statehouse Convention Center, Little Rock.

November 18-21, 2020, National League of Cities City Summit; Tampa, Florida.

January 13-15, 2021, Arkansas Municipal League Winter Conference.



PHOTOS BY RACHEL CARMACK

The March 28 tornado destroyed Jonesboro homes and businesses along its path but took no lives.

Coordination among all levels of government key to Jonesboro's recovery following tornado

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

Around 4:45 p.m. on March 28, a funnel cloud was reported near the small Craighead County city of Cash and moving east. At 5:20 p.m. the tornado hit Jonesboro, where it touched down and stayed on the ground for more than 5 miles. Designated an EF-3 with winds that topped 140 mph, the tornado ripped a south-to-north path across the east side of the city, obliterating the Mall at Turtle Creek, damaging houses and businesses in surrounding neighborhoods, and tearing up planes and structures at the Jonesboro Municipal Airport. From there, the storm continued north, derailing train cars outside of Brookland and inflicting damage all the way to the Arkansas-Missouri border.

By the end of Sunday, March 29, after two surveys of the extensive damage, there were reports of 22 injuries, two of which required hospitalization but were not life threatening. There were zero casualties.

It was tempting to chalk up the lack of casualties and relatively low number of injuries to the mall and other businesses being practically empty because of coronavirus-related closures, part of the city's ongoing efforts to maintain social distance during this unprecedented era of COVID-19, said Jonesboro Communications Director Bill Campbell. There were a few people in the mall at the time, who somehow survived the hit. That doesn't tell the whole story, however, because people were staying home, and 83 homes were destroyed, with more than 300 more receiving significant damage. And still,



The Mall at Turtle Creek would have been full of employees and shoppers on a typical Saturday. Because of coronavirus-related closures and social distancing, very few people were in the mall and all survived.

none perished. "It defies logic when you go look at these neighborhoods," Campbell said.

Craighead County Director of Emergency Management Anthony Coy went further than that in his description of their relative good fortune. "COVID actually was a blessing on March 28 because on a Saturday at five o'clock, our mall would've been packed, those restaurants would've been packed and we would have had a mass fatality incident up here," Coy said. "Because of COVID-19 we had zero fatalities and just minor injuries."



Early estimates put damage to the mall at \$100 million.

That blessing manifested in other unexpected ways as well, Coy added. Of the city's many displaced families, only a few needed to utilize the limited emergency shelter space available. Because of the coronavirus, there were plenty of available hotel rooms in the city, and the Red Cross decided it was easier and safer to place families in need of shelter in them. Another blessing in disguise, Coy says. "If the hotels would've been full, what would you do then?"



Jonesboro Mayor Harold Perrin, left, discusses response strategy with Police Chief Rick Elliott.

For Mayor Harold Perrin, escaping the storm without a single fatality is "nothing short of a miracle," he said. Another blessing for him was the coordination among all levels of government. The cooperation among the city, county and state, and the help offered from cities and towns across the entire northeast region was incredible, Perrin said. Within 30 minutes of the storm's passing, a response command center was set up in the parking lot of the destroyed mall. Within an hour, police vehicles, ambulances and other emergency response units from neighboring cities were lined up and ready to help.

"It's been phenomenal," Perrin said. "The county pitched in. ARDOT pitched in. ADEQ pitched in. Even

some nonprofits came in to help us clean up this town." Without ADEQ's assistance, the city would have had difficulty finding a place for all the debris. "We couldn't have gotten all our debris pickup done without a directive from Secretary Becky Kehoe, who allowed us to open our old landfill to dump debris. That saved us time and expense."

In addition to the cleanup help, donations have poured in, including food, clothing and housing. "We've just been flooded with generous people. Where do you start thanking people when there's hundreds who have helped you?"

The emergency response went very well despite the storm giving them less time to prepare than is typical, Coy said. "To be honest, we were just a little bit caught off guard because we were not forecast for any severe weather," he said.

Coy is no stranger to emergency response. Before being named director of the Craighead office in October of last year, he had previously been the northeast area coordinator for the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management (ADEM) since 2006, serving 17 counties in the region. This tornado was his first big emergency in the new position, however. "It was unique in that it was my first in the role as local emergency manager. So I could talk the talk, but I had never walked that particular walk before."

Within minutes of the storm hitting, Coy had gathered his response team at the courthouse. They quickly assessed the situation and asked Craighead County Judge Marvin Day to declare a state of emergency so state assistance would be available.

Coy wasn't the only person on the response team who was new to their position. Jeff Jones, a retired West Memphis fire chief who had replaced Coy as ADEM's northeast area coordinator, soon joined them at the courthouse. He'd made a career of responding to fires and other emergencies, but this situation was new to him



Planes and structures at the Jonesboro Municipal Airport suffered extensive damage.

as well. It was the first major storm event for Judge Day as well, who is now in his second year in office.

Craighead County has had an emergency operations center, but never had it been activated to this extent, bringing together all the city, county and state decision-makers in one place, Coy said. “That was actually my plan for this year. That’s what our exercise was going to be. Mother Nature just beat me to it.”

Despite several of the decision-makers being new to the particular task, they’d already all worked to build relationships with each other, he said.

“In the blue-sky time, before that tornado hit, all of those leaders from the city and county had been building relationships of working together prior to that,” Coy said. “There was no business card trading at the command post. They all knew one another. They worked well together. That’s the foundation of emergency management: relationship building. You don’t have to know how to do everything; you just need to know who does. All those leaders—police, fire, elected officials—they’d been doing that all along in preparation for that day, and it showed.”

“We all look out for each other,” Day said. “We’re not territorial. I lean on that.”

The judge participates in monthly meetings with all the mayors in the county, where they get together, have dinner, bring their spouses, and build comradery and trust. “That’s why when we have these emergencies, everyone is trying to pull in the same direction.”

For now, social distancing guidelines have left the future of their monthly gatherings up in the air. Perhaps virtual meetings are a possibility, but with the cities traditionally taking turns hosting, it’s difficult to predict, Day said. “It’s hard to share a meal like that through Zoom, but we still all talk quite a bit together. We’re doing what we can. We’ll definitely be ready for a big blowout.”

Like all cities and towns that have been affected by the tornadoes that strike our region each year know very well, response and recovery are difficult under normal

circumstances. Trying to also mitigate the spread of a global pandemic makes it more so, particularly the statewide directive to observe social distancing. It was a significant challenge among emergency responders, Day said. “I’m not going to say there were any people shaking hands, but as far as being able to maintain a social distance, I’m going to say that part of it was out the window.”

They performed two major sweeps through the area after the storm passed, first on Saturday to look for anyone trapped or injured, and then another on Sunday.

“By Sunday morning they were all back to maintaining their social distance, really keeping the virus in their focus,” Day said. “Knock on wood. I’m very happy that we’re now well past 14 days since that time, and there’s not been a large outbreak here in Craighead County among our first responders. We’re very thankful for that.”



Gateway Tire was one of the city’s businesses that was reduced to rubble.

The answer to juggling both concerns is not clear cut, Coy said. You deal with the most prominent threat first, and in doing so, do what you can to protect yourself. Get safe and then work to protect yourself from the virus. “Our thought was, let’s get through the big threat first, and then we’ll move on to the smaller threat.”

The city implemented a 10 p.m.-6 a.m. curfew following the tornado to both help the tornado recovery efforts and limit the potential spread of the virus. Like most curfews, it allows for travel to and from work, the pharmacy, grocery store and a limited selection of other places. According to Mayor Perrin, an old ordinance on the books allows the city to declare an emergency curfew, but only for 48 hours. So they adopted it, had to drop it for a day, and then readopted it for two more days. “We’ve not written any tickets,” Perrin said. “We just say, hey, you do understand we’re under a curfew? You need to be home and, if not, where are you going? People have been courteous about it.” The city lifted the curfew on April 5.

It’s a disappointing and challenging time for cities like Jonesboro that have worked hard over the years to build up its enviable parks system and other public



First responders gather at the mobile command center set up in the mall's parking lot to put their disaster plan in motion.

amenities. Like most cities, Jonesboro has had to close its playground equipment, basketball courts, exercise equipment, picnic tables and other facilities. “We just don’t have anybody to keep it all sanitized,” Perrin said. “But out at Craighead Forest Park people can still walk. They can still get out for some fresh air.”

City and county leaders will soon set about reviewing its responses to both the pandemic and the tornado, the mayor said. “We’ve always had a business continuation and disaster plan in place, so now we’re updating that.” There are already some things within the plan that

will be reworded, he said. “We will be updating that for the future.”

For now, Perrin and the city are bracing for the financial strain of both the tornado and the virus. This isn’t the mayor’s first budget crisis. Nine weeks into his first term, a major ice storm hit Jonesboro that cost the city \$1.8 million to clean up. The city didn’t have an adequate reserve at that time, and though state and federal disaster assistance were available, it took more than 18 months to get reimbursed through FEMA and ADEM. “That’s why I’ve always tried to keep a reserve, so we’re not going to get in that pinch again.”

With the coronavirus and tornado recovery, the city is now keeping tabs on two ledger items for which it will seek reimbursement. “Our chief financial officer is very much on top of that,” Perrin said. He has two main words of wisdom for his fellow Arkansas city and town leaders, he said.

“One, always try to keep a reserve. If you can, keep a minimum reserve for three months of operating costs. Secondly, on the other side, if you don’t have any kind of plan in place for a disaster—we’ve got the pandemic as well as a tornado—have something on paper so that if it does happen, then at least you’ve got something to start with as a guideline.” 🏛️

We infused innovation into a wastewater treatment facility to strengthen a community.

EVERYONE’S A WINNER.

Wastewater Treatment Facility / Batesville, Arkansas

olsson®

We’re Olsson, engineers who understand that where there’s a project, there’s a purpose. See how we used a bio-tech approach in Batesville, Arkansas, to upgrade an important piece of infrastructure at [olsson.com](https://www.olsson.com).

Cities and towns seek light at the end of the coronavirus tunnel

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

Even as some businesses across the state are preparing to reopen their doors to customers, albeit with certain precautions and limitations in place, efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in Arkansas are still affecting every city and town. It's been an unprecedented two months of challenges, and *City & Town* wanted to speak with leaders from a cross section of our member municipalities to get a snapshot of how they are coping and what adjustments they've made. Some have been heavily impacted, while others have not yet been as directly affected. All share some of the same concerns, however, including what the toll will be on their budgets for the remainder of 2020 and beyond. Another thing they all have in common is their determination and resilience in the face of this crisis. If this is "the new normal," our cities and towns are preparing to continue to meet the needs of their citizens, despite the challenges.



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF PEA RIDGE

Teachers with the Pea Ridge school district held a drive-through tour of the city's neighborhoods to show support for their students, who, like their peers throughout the state and the country, will be finishing the school year from home.

In order to keep our cities running, the leadership needs to be able to continue to meet, and the citizens must be able to participate in the public's business. The League has offered guidance on how to hold council and other meetings safely and legally, whether by observing strict social distancing or holding virtual meetings online, and all cities and towns have made adjustments. After holding a brief March city council meeting, Pea Ridge decided to simply cancel the council and planning meetings scheduled for April, Mayor Jackie Crabtree said. Even with the guidance provided by the League and Attorney General Leslie Rutledge, they still had some reservations about virtual meetings, such as ensuring

that the public can participate and that the meeting doesn't get hacked. Also, they could afford to wait. "We didn't really have any pressing matters, and I just felt it wasn't worth the risk of maybe messing something up at that point in time," Crabtree said.



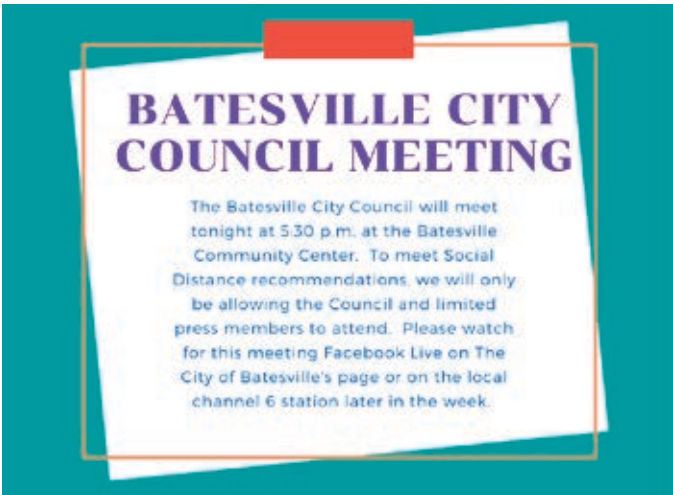
PHOTO BY ANDY ROSS

With their regular spring car show cancelled, participants got creative and held a touring show complete with police escort through Pea Ridge.

Elsewhere in city operations, Pea Ridge has cancelled the traditional annual spring cleanup, where residents can leave items on the curb for the city to haul off. "There just would have been a lot of public contact, and a lot of contact with materials that would not have been healthy for our folks," Crabtree said. City hall has remained open to the public with precautions taken. Other departments like the water department are closed to the public though drive-through is an option for paying bills. Despite some of those inconveniences, Crabtree considers Pea Ridge fortunate. "We're still looking forward to the light at the end of the tunnel, though."

Pea Ridge residents, especially the young people, are also finding creative ways to stay in touch. The teachers did a drive-by tour of the neighborhoods to honk and wave at the students, who came outside with signs. The fire department has held morale-boosting cruises through the city as well. A springtime car show that's a popular destination for enthusiasts was cancelled. To make the best of it, they picked a route through town and held a rolling car show with a police escort. The mayor has heard of at least one motorcycle group that's planning to do a similar display.

When asked how the response to the coronavirus has affected Batesville, Mayor Rick Elumbaugh didn't hesitate. "You know, it's changed everything." They are losing some essential revenue streams, including from the community center, which is shut down. They've



Batesville uses social media to get the word out to the public about participating safely in city council meetings.

suspended the 8,000 memberships, and it's an especially painful loss with the warm spring and summer months approaching, when the aquapark would typically be full nearly every day.

"We're also taking a lick, I'm sure like any other municipality, with sales tax revenue," Elumbaugh said. "I mean, what will it be?" For now they have not had to furlough any employees. "We keep thinking there's going to be light at the end of this tunnel."

The League's guidance and resources have been helpful through the crisis, Elumbaugh said. "The League has done a really wonderful job with getting out information. I even had my HR director phone in to the weekly conference call with questions for us." He also has praise for the governor's daily briefings. "He's been a rock star all the way through it. We try to inform our citizens to keep up with it. I did a Facebook Live to update our citizens and talked about everything from that to the census." The response rate is at about 50 percent, Elumbaugh said. The in-person efforts to get everyone counted have all but gone away, he said, so they are relying more on social media and other methods. "We're still doing it, but we just know it's going to be a struggle to get everyone counted."

From a public health perspective, Helena-West Helena is doing relatively OK, Mayor Kevin Smith said, though like many, he'd like to see more access to testing. "The testing that has been done, while I'm grateful for it, has been so incredibly limited, not only in the number of tests but in the number of people who've been tested."

As mayor of a border city, one of the things that concerns him most is the traffic crossing the Mississippi River bridge to and from our neighboring state. He feels a kinship with Mayor Marco McClendon of nearby West Memphis, which has traffic crossing the river to



Crafton Tull
architecture | engineering | surveying



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF SHERWOOD

Sherwood city leadership takes care of business via meeting app.

and from Memphis and Shelby County, Tennessee, and DeSoto County, Mississippi, where rates of infection have been higher than in Arkansas. “Northwest Mississippi basically has blown up from this virus, and their hospitals are taxed,” Smith said. “We aren’t, yet.”

Smith would like to keep doing what it takes to keep it that way. “My fear is that we just haven’t peaked yet. My fear is that the talk of reopening, while it might make sense for some other places in the country and in the world, it is the absolute worst time to talk about that in the Delta.”

Regional cooperation has always been important for Mulberry Mayor and League First Vice President Gary Baxter, and that is still essential during this crisis, he said. He and all the mayors in Crawford County, along with the county judge, have signed and delivered a letter to the governor, state legislators and our delegates in Washington, D.C., asking them to please consider economic assistance for cities and towns. “In Arkansas there are a lot of rural areas that are really hurting and are anticipating being hurt further by the 15-percent reduction in state turnback funds,” Baxter said. Mulberry itself doesn’t have a lot of retail providing sales tax revenue, but the city relies on county revenue, and that will decrease, he said.

With few cases in smaller cities like Mulberry, Baxter would like to see more flexibility in the ability to reopen some businesses, he said, rather than a one-size-fits-all approach. “Mulberry is different than Little Rock, just like Arkansas is different from New York.” But for now, they’re taking the recommended precautions. “We’re encouraging all of our people to wear masks, wash their hands and use sanitizer,” he said. “I’ve had several ladies who have gotten together and made over 500 masks that we’re giving out to anyone who wants them, and we’re trying to get everybody to wear them to the grocery stores or wherever they go.” He and his wife, Kay, keep extra masks in their car in case they run into folks who may need them.

In the small city of Wrightsville, just south of Little Rock, not much has changed day to day, Council Member Allan Loring, the League’s District 2 vice president, said. “If you didn’t really look at the news or anything like that, in Wrightsville, you wouldn’t really be able to tell the difference.” The library, park and community center are closed to the public, but city hall has remained open to take care of business, and the council has continued to meet, though with social distancing measures in place for them and for the public should they want to attend, he said. “The folks here are taking it in stride,” Loring said of the mostly bedroom community. “When they go to the Dollar General, they stay 6 feet apart. They’ve got the floor marked off like all businesses, but they’re still open during this.”

Wrightsville doesn’t collect a city sales tax. They do rely on state turnback and share in county sales tax revenue, however, and it remains to be seen how much of a drop they’ll see in that source, he said. When the statewide mitigation response first began, the council took several measures to help limit the fiscal strain on the budget, including implementing a hiring freeze. “We said, hey, we can’t spend like we used to,” Loring said. “Not saying that we were wastefully spending anyway, but we have to be really closely watching our revenue.”

In Springdale, revenue has remained relatively strong, Mayor Doug Sprouse said. He credits the city’s stable sales tax base and the fact that much of its manufacturing and stores have been able to remain operational even if somewhat diminished in capacity. “While I know we’ll take a hit, hopefully it won’t be the hit that I know some cities will take.”



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF MCGEHEE

Public works employees in McGehee keep the city running while wearing protective gear.

The city has put contingencies in place with some budgetary triggers. “With the best information we’ve got right now, we’re planning on about a 5.7-percent decrease in revenue. That’s anybody’s guess, but there is some science behind that. For our contingency plan, we’ve doubled that to 11.4 percent just as a scenario, to see how we would respond to that. We believe we can weather that decrease while still returning services to our residents, keeping everybody employed and not dipping into our reserves.” It also depends on how long and how deep this gets, Sprouse said.

Sherwood’s budget is a little more than 50-percent sales-tax driven, Mayor Virginia Young said, and the city is anxious to get its local economy rolling again. The slowdown has forced the city to close its recreation center, youth center and after-school programs. As a result, the city has had to release all part-time employees, because the majority of those work in the parks and recreation programs.

“I think our biggest concern moving forward, other than the finances, is when can we safely bring these programs back?” Young said. “Also, will we be able to hire employees in a sufficient manner, and will they be available to work for our pools and our full-day camp programs?”

Trumann’s sales tax revenue has held up through the first quarter, Mayor Barbara Lewallen said, and they’re waiting to see how the next several months play out. “I’m hoping it’s pretty close to normal because our Walmart probably had its biggest ever month in February. They’ve absolutely been overrun. It serves a lot of the small towns around here, and even people from the south side of Jonesboro come to our Walmart.” Also, the gas stations are still selling gas and the restaurants are still providing drive-thru service, she said. “Everybody is just learning to have a new normal for the time being. And so we hope that we can continue and that we don’t get into financial trouble. We’re trying to be cautious about how we’re using the budget.”

Trumann police and fire departments have ordered personal protective equipment (PPE), and the city has asked the county office of emergency management for extra things like cots and MREs just in case there’s a surge of cases in the area. “We’re close to Bay and close to Jonesboro, and neighbors help neighbors when you’re in a small town,” Lewallen said. “We’re hoping that all this preparation is just that—preparation.” If it’s needed, though, Lewallen is confident they are ready.

One of her concerns is the census. Before the coronavirus lockdown, the mayor spoke with every minister



*you work.
you thrive.*

WE DO THE BANKING

You can breathe easy. Focus on what truly makes your business successful, while our team of small business banking experts works for you.

arvest.com/business

ARVEST
BANK

Member FDIC



PHOTO BY DARRELL ALLEN

With in-person outreach stalled, Hope is still getting the message out about the importance of responding to the census.

in town and asked them to speak to their congregations about the importance of responding to the census for the city, county and state. She also spread the word on social media and visited with local industries. At last check, their response rate was at 52.5 percent. That’s higher than the state average, she said, but there’s still a ways to go. “I’m hoping that people don’t stop responding, because that is critical to us for our turnback money and for services that a lot of people depend on,” Lewallen said.

“I feel like I’ve been on one Zoom meeting after another,” Hope City Manager Catherine Cook said, referring to the now-ubiquitous online meeting app. The city has now held two board meetings virtually. “It took a minute to get everyone in there, but it’s worked really well,” she said.

Before the virus made its impact, Hope had been working hard to get an accurate census count. The need to socially distance has slowed their person-to-person outreach efforts. They’ve kept up their social media efforts, of course, but they’ve also come up with some creative ways to get the word out. With many of the restaurants offering takeout service while their dining rooms are off limits, the city saw an opportunity to partner with them. The city printed cards with a message, in both English and Spanish, about the importance of responding to the census and participating restaurants have dropped them in with the takeout meals.

“We think that might help, because people are going out and getting drive-thru or takeout at least sometimes. I know because I had to go to Tailgaters last night,” Cook said of one of her favorite local spots. “I had been really healthy, I had broccoli and Brussels sprouts steamed the night before, and last night I had grilled cheese and French fries.”

In McGehee, Mayor Jeff Owyong formed a task force at the outset of the crisis featuring representatives from the medical community, schools, daycares and retail. They’ve been meeting every Tuesday to review the situation. “We’ve been trying to be more proactive in letting everybody know what we’ve been doing and what we expect out of them.” The cooperation of the public

has been good. At the beginning, when the schools first closed, some of the young people treated it like a snow day, he said, and were out and about in groups. “We had to go out there and, in a very nice way say listen, you guys. This is serious. We’re trying to slow this virus down. If you could, please, just keep your distance from one another and help us in this area. It’s worked very well.”

A UAMS mobile screening unit has visited the city to hold drive-thru testing. So far they’ve had one positive case in the city and Desha County as a whole has remained relatively low. City buildings are closed to the public. “But we don’t have a lot of traffic anyway,” he said. The water department can take payments at its drive-thru window. “Our street department and sanitation department have not missed a beat. We’re taking their temperature every day, and we’re wearing masks and gloves.”

Pine Bluff on March 11 had the unfortunate distinction of being the first city in Arkansas to report a positive case of COVID-19. “We were almost traumatized by it,” Mayor Shirley Washington said, but the city has been able to regroup and move forward. “Our community is doing a good job of complying with the directives that have been passed down from our governor and those that are nationwide—wearing masks, social distancing, washing hands and sanitizing.”

Jefferson County has been a COVID-19 hot spot. To date they’ve tested more than 1,300 and 168 have come back positive. As of the first of May, 14 have died, most of whom were in nursing homes and had underlying health conditions, the mayor said. It has been a setback for the Delta city, which, after decades of decline has been on a revitalization streak in the last two years, with a new main library under construction, new and improved downtown streetscapes, a new aquatic center and more. The city was also about to close on an agreement to build a new movie theater and had even more new construction on the horizon, the mayor said. Some of the city’s projects will have to be delayed, but they are moving forward with the ones already underway, she said. “Our goal is to complete projects that have been started and suspend start dates on new projects until the environment and forecast changes.”

For Pine Bluff’s citizens, Washington encourages them to follow the three C’s: Stay Calm, Stay Cautious and Stay Clean. City leaders must follow the three E’s: Educate, Engage, Enforce.

“We are wiser and more powerful than this invisible invader known as COVID-19,” Washington wrote in an email to *City & Town*. “We must win this war on our health which impacts our overall welfare. The only way we can win is to always remember, ‘We Are One Pine Bluff Stronger Together.’” 🏠

Foster Heavy Duty Services
 316 Thomas Road
 White Hall AR 71602
 870-247-2670
 1530@ exit 36



Joel or Noel Foster
 870-540-7918
 Commercial Truck
 Sales and Service



2006 Sutphen Nice! \$38,750



2007 CCC Refuse Sideload, \$48,750



E-one ARFF Crash Truck, Nice!
 \$98,500



(7) Fire Engines \$39,500



\$39,500
 Nice, Auto, Rear Load Refuse Truck!



Gradall G3 \$15,900

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 _____

Look for the Helpers

The COVID-19 pandemic has seen Arkansas communities come together (while staying apart) to help their fellow citizens, pay tribute to first responders and frontline workers, and have a little fun in the process

With in-person outreach stalled, the Fayetteville Police Department connects with families stuck at home with a daily story time over Facebook Live.



PHOTO BY CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT (FACEBOOK PAGE)

“My current assignment in the Community Policing Division has many roles, but one of the biggest is community outreach. I feel that community outreach is imperative in how we police in today’s society. During this time of COVID-19 we did not want our community to be without some sort of involvement, so we have been trying to think of multiple ways to reach the community. I wanted something that would include several different faces and roles within our department and not just my own. I thought since young kids were currently at home and did not have teachers to read to them, why not have police officers read them a story every night. I have been surprised by not only the support and involvement from the community during Storytime with Fayetteville PD but also the number of officers that want to participate.” —Corporal John Foster

“The City of Rogers, like all other cities in our nation, has never experienced anything like the current situation we are facing with the COVID-19 outbreak. Though most of us are confined to our homes and are maintaining the social distancing directives put in place by the governor, our community has still managed to find ways to help our neighbors and come together even though we are physically apart. I am truly proud of the way our city has handled these unforeseen circumstances, and I am proud to serve as mayor for such a compassionate and resilient community.” —Mayor Greg Hines



PHOTO BY CITY OF ROGERS (FACEBOOK PAGE)

Hidden Valley Ranch donated money to Bariola’s Pizza in Rogers to purchase meals for firefighters at every station.



The Arkadelphia Police Department has been called into action...to judge sidewalk chalk art! The chief of police has been challenged to judge sidewalk chalk art all over the city. To help in the effort, APD picked up some chalk and donated it to any young artist wanting to participate.

“Fire Chief Jason Hunt and I were honored when we were asked to judge the sidewalk chalk competition. It was fun to drive around and see what everyone had drawn, and we were blown away by not only the talent but the complexity of some of the drawings. It was wonderful to see so many people participate and a neat way to bring our community together during social distancing.”
— Police Chief Jason Jackson



PHOTOS BY KEITH BEASON, CITY OF ARKADELPHIA



PHOTOS BY GARY BAXTER, CITY OF MULBERRY

Mayor Gary Baxter, his wife Kay and others are rolling up their sleeves and getting to work to keep the community safe. The group is making cloth masks for anyone who needs one in Mulberry.

“Mulberry citizens are ensuring that neighbors are being taken care of. Several individuals are making face masks for all Mulberry residents to wear when they go to the grocery store, doctor’s office or making a stop at the gas station. We’re supporting good hygiene and social distancing, and we believe in prayer because in God we trust.”—Mayor Gary Baxter



PHOTOS BY ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE STAFF

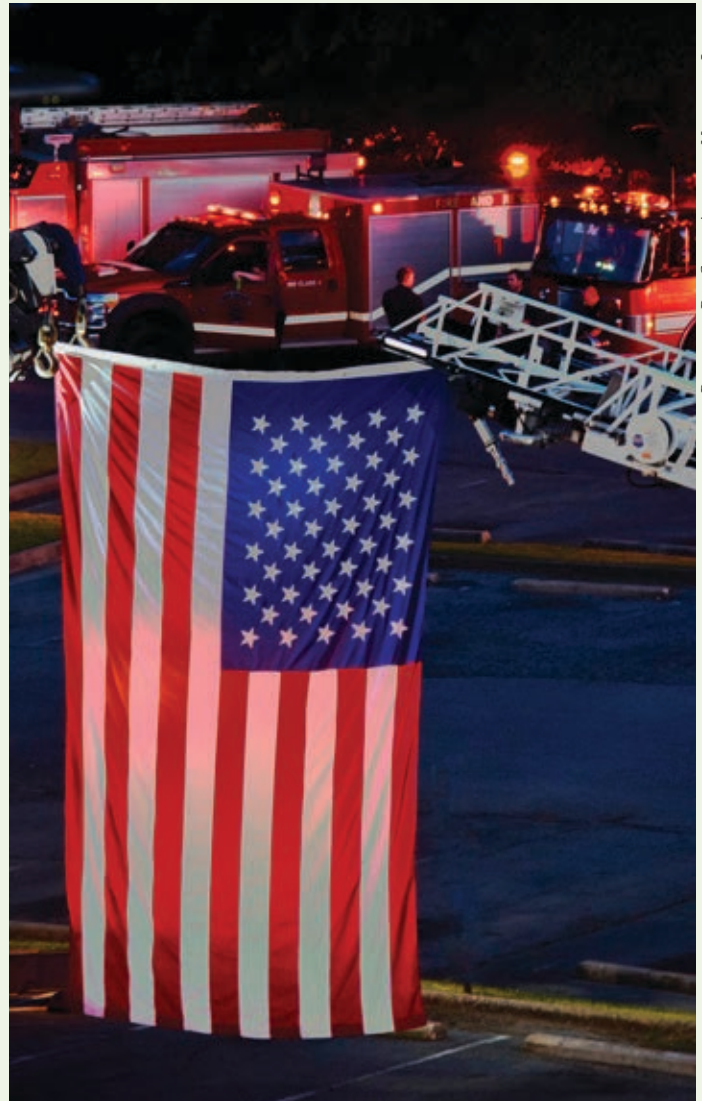


In late April, Sherwin-Williams announced a donation of 3,000 N-95 masks to law enforcement and first responders in the state of Arkansas. At the request of Attorney General Leslie Rutledge, the 3,000 masks were divided and allocated to the Arkansas Municipal League and the Association of Arkansas Counties.

After careful deliberation, the League decided to split its allotment of 1,500 N-95 masks among the five Arkansas Division of Emergency Management (ADEM) Area Coordinators to be earmarked for municipal law enforcement agencies and first responders.



“The League believes this is the most efficient way to allocate these valuable health resources. ADEM’s preexisting logistical and contact network ensures these masks are delivered where they are needed. This will allow law enforcement agencies and first responders all across the state to benefit from our shipment. We would like to thank Sherwin-Williams for the gracious donation and Attorney General Leslie Rutledge’s support of our mission.”—League Executive Director Mark Hayes



PHOTOS BY BEN CLINE, ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

Pulaski County Sheriff’s Office, along with a number of first responders in central Arkansas, gathered in front of area hospitals for a lights and sirens parade to show their support and appreciation for health care workers. PCSO partnered with J Hook Towing and Recovery to make the evenings possible. Over four separate events, every law enforcement agency in Pulaski County participated in the stunning display of support.

“This is an opportunity to show great appreciation for our health care workers on the frontline of a pandemic gripping our country. As we battle COVID-19, it’s important we express our love and gratitude for one another.”—Mitch McCoy, Pulaski County Sheriff’s Office



“Gravette continues to be a great place to call home during this difficult time as residents come together while staying apart. People are running errands for each other and taking the time to check in on neighbors. Local businesses have done a great job adapting to the changes required of them and have found ways to be accessible to the public in a way that is safe and responsible.”—Mayor Kurt Maddox

“Receiving recognition and a ‘thank you’ from the community gives every officer in our department the feeling of euphoria. We look at each other and smile and are simply thankful for the encouraging comments, food or ‘donuts’ (officer joke!). It lets us know that we are serving our community professionally and we are honored to serve and protect the citizens of Gravette in good times and bad. We know that in times of need we can all work together for the betterment of our city.”—Police Chief Charles W. Skaggs



PHOTOS BY MALLORY WEAVER, CITY OF GRAVETTE

In support of the Gravette Police Department, local resident Evelyn Allen donated homemade protective masks (seen here on Officer Josh Crane), an anonymous donor purchased a week’s worth of dinners from The Hard Luck Café, and one young man donated buckets of candy for the officers.



“This disaster has helped pull our city together. Our police and fire departments helped deliver 3,000 prepared meals. Our street and sanitation employees hand-delivered 1,000 boxes of dry goods and bottled water on streets that had been without power for as long as a week. Having our city employees on the front lines demonstrated to the community that their city cares. That’s big. I cannot express how grateful I am for all of those who came to our rescue, and especially our city employees who stepped up when needed and made sure they got to those suffering the most as quickly as possible.”—Mayor Kevin Smith



PHOTOS BY CITY OF HELENA WEST-HELENA

On April 13, the city of Helena West-Helena was hit with a round of severe storms that knocked out power to the city for over a week. The Arkansas Food Bank and the Salvation Army donated boxes of dry goods for those households without power. A number of volunteers and city employees came together to help distribute the food door-to-door and help the city get back on its feet.

WHAT CITIES AND TOWNS SHOULD KNOW DURING THE

COVID-19

PANDEMIC

Governor assembles advisory groups, announces plans for phased reopening of state economy

Beginning in mid-April, Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson took a number of steps to position the state for a gradual reopening despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Some of those first steps included the creation of the Governor's Medical Advisory Committee for Post-Peak COVID-19 Response, the Task Force for Economic Recovery and the COVID-19 Testing Advisory Group.

Governor's Medical Advisory Committee for Post-Peak COVID-19 Response

On Monday, April 13, Governor Hutchinson issued Executive Order 20-17 to establish the Governor's Medical Advisory Committee for Post-Peak COVID-19 Response. The committee will examine testing capabilities and social distancing protocols and make any recommendations necessary to avoid a resurgence of COVID-19.

Dr. Nathaniel Smith, secretary of the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), will serve as the committee chairman. Members of the Governor's Medical Advisory Committee for Post-Peak COVID-19 Response are: Dr. Jose Romero, ADH Chief Medical Officer and Chief of Pediatric Infectious Disease at University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS)/Arkansas Children's; Dr. Naveen Patil, ADH Medical Director for Infectious Disease; Dr. Jennifer Dillaha, ADH State Epidemiologist; Dr. Austin Porter, ADH Deputy Chief Science Officer and Assistant Professor at the UAMS College of Public Health; Dr. Greg Bledsoe, Surgeon General of Arkansas; Dr. Jerrilyn Jones, ADH Medical

Director for Preparedness and Response and Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at UAMS; and Dr. Sam Greenfield, ADH Medical Director for Family Health and Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at UAMS.

Governor's Task Force for Economic Recovery

On Saturday, April 18, Governor Hutchinson issued Executive Order 20-20 to establish the Governor's Task Force for Economic Recovery. The task force includes 27 leaders from the private sector and public agencies who will examine the impact of COVID-19 on businesses and industries in the state. The task force will recommend a strategy to the governor for our economy to shift out of low gear consistent with public-health guidance.

Members of the task force include: Steuart Walton, Runway Group (Chair); Wes Ward, Department of Agriculture; Mike Preston, Department of Commerce; Stacy Hurst, Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism; Ted Thomas, Public Service Commission; Randy Zook, Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce; Sylvester Smith, National Federation of Independent Business; Joey Dean, Associated General Contractors of Arkansas; Annemarie Jazic, Dillard's Inc.; Charlie Spakes, Arkansas Grocers and Retail Merchants Association; Montine McNulty, Arkansas Hospitality Association; Kelly Eichler, Indoor Recreational Facilities; Deke Whitbeck, Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation; Lance Taylor, Arkansas Activities Association; Hunter Yurachek, University of Arkansas; Shannon Newton, Arkansas Trucking Association; Charles Frazier, Rock Region METRO; Lorrie Trogden, Arkansas Bankers

Association; Dr. Sonny Tucker, Arkansas Southern Baptist Convention; Bishop Gary Mueller, Arkansas Conference of United Methodists; Bishop Michael Mitchell, African Methodist Episcopal Church 12th District; Richard Abernathy, Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators; Andy Goodman, Arkansas Independent Colleges and Universities; Andrea Henderson, Arkansas Association of Community Colleges; Dr. Chuck Welch, Arkansas State University System; David Wroten, Arkansas Medical Society; and Bo Ryall, Arkansas Hospital Association.

Governor's COVID-19 Testing Advisory Group

On Tuesday, April 21, Governor Hutchinson issued Executive Order 20-21 to establish the Governor's COVID-19 Testing Advisory Group to make recommendations to expand the capacity and performance of COVID-19 testing in the state. The working group includes senior representatives of the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS), Baptist Health of Arkansas and Arkansas Children's. The group will examine the state's supply of testing equipment and make recommendations to maintain adequate testing capabilities and conduct surveillance testing across the state.

Members of the Governor's COVID-19 Testing Advisory Group are: Dr. Nathaniel Smith, ADH; Dr. Glen Baker, ADH; Dr. Naveen Patil, ADH; Dr. Katie Seely, ADH; Dr. Jennifer Hunt, UAMS; Dr. Jose Romero, ADH, UAMS, Arkansas Children's; Dr. Atul Kothari, ADH, UAMS; Mr. Robin Mitchell, Arkansas Children's; and Dr. Bobby Boyanton, Arkansas Children's.

Plans to reopen businesses, gyms and large venues

During his daily briefing on Wednesday, April 22, Governor Hutchinson announced a series of decision dates related to lifting restrictions on restaurants, gyms, barbers and beauty shops, and houses of worship and larger venues, including sporting events.

Each reopening comes with its own set of restrictions and criteria, all of which are considered to be Phase One of reopening the state's economy. With the exception of houses of worship, the reopening of each business category is based upon ADH directives. A list of all directives can be found at <https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/novel-coronavirus>. Following is the current Phase One reopening schedule as of press time.

Arkansas State Parks: May 1

Governor Hutchinson and Secretary of Parks, Tourism and Heritage Stacy Hurst announced on April 28 that Arkansas State Parks will begin a limited reopening of some facilities starting May 1. Some high-use trails at Pinnacle Mountain State Park, Devil's Den State Park and Petit Jean State Park will remain closed.

May 1: Arkansas residents with self-contained RVs will be allowed to stay overnight in campgrounds. Bath houses remain closed.

May 15: Cabins, lodges and RV rentals will be available for Arkansas residents only. Rentals will be limited to Friday through Monday to allow for deep cleaning between visitors.

May 15: The following will be open to limited capacity and with social distancing enforced:

- Visitor information centers
- Museums and exhibits
- Gift shops
- Golf pro shops
- Marinas
- Equipment rental

Gyms and Fitness Centers: May 4

On Thursday, April 30, Governor Hutchinson announced that gyms and fitness centers may resume operations on May 4 under certain guidelines established to protect the health and safety of employees and patrons. Under these guidelines, gyms and fitness centers must implement precautions such as use of face masks except when exercising, daily temperature checks for employees and patrons, and social distancing of at least 12 feet while exercising.

"I am pleased that Arkansans will be able to resume physical activity at their local gyms," Governor Hutchinson said in a press release. "There are still limitations on the use of these facilities, but if carefully observed, I am confident we will be able to return to our normal exercise routines soon. I look forward to resuming my weekly game of pick-up basketball once all restrictions lift, but until then, it's important that managers, employees and patrons carefully follow the guidelines as they resume operations."

Gyms and fitness centers must meet the following criteria to resume operations on May 4:

- Screening must be completed on entry for all staff and participants. Those who have any of the following characteristics should not be allowed to enter:
 - Have returned from travel to New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, New Orleans or overseas within the last 14 days;

- ◻ Have had a fever of 100.4°F or greater in the past two days;
- ◻ Have a cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell;
- ◻ Had contact with a person known to be infected with COVID-19 within the previous 14 days; or
- ◻ Have compromised immune systems and/or have chronic diseases.
- Staff should wear a face covering or mask at all times. Patrons should wear a face covering except when actively exercising.
- Prohibit the use of pools, spas, showers, saunas, etc., at this time. Locker rooms are to be used only for storage of personal items. Maintain physical distancing while in locker rooms.
- Hand sanitizer should be available throughout the facility.
- Staff should ensure that all exercise machines or equipment are sanitized after each use (via wipe-down with disposable disinfectant wipes, Lysol or the equivalent).
- Maintain proper spacing from others by working out with 12 feet between each person. This may require closing or moving some equipment.
- Avoid personal contact at all times, including hand shaking.
- Individual training sessions, indoor group fitness classes and workouts that require a partner must maintain 12-foot spacing between each person at this time.

This directive does not address team or youth sports. These will be addressed by a different document later, according to ADH.

Houses of Worship: May 4

At his May 4 press conference, Governor Hutchinson announced guidelines for the reopening of houses of worship.

Places of worship may resume corporate, in-person services if they can comply with the following directives:

- Houses of worship are strongly encouraged to continue to offer online platforms for participation in worship because it is not yet advisable/feasible for all congregants to come for in-person services.
- Post signs at all building entrances advising congregants not to enter if:
 - ◻ They have had a fever of 100.4°F or higher in the past 2 days;
 - ◻ They have cough, shortness of breath or other symptoms typical of COVID-19; or
 - ◻ They have had known exposure to someone with COVID-19 in the past 14 days.

- Post signs at all building entrances advising congregants that they may wish to refrain from entering if they are 65 or more years old or have underlying health conditions including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, severe obesity, asthma or immunocompromising conditions, because they are at higher risk for severe illness if infected by COVID-19.
- Post signs at all building entrances to inform people that no one will be admitted into the building without a face covering and that face coverings must be worn by congregants at all times while indoors. The only exceptions to the wearing of face coverings will be:
 - ◻ Worship leaders, only while addressing the congregation;
 - ◻ Performing singers, only while singing;
 - ◻ The above individuals must stand at a 12-foot distance from others while speaking or singing without a face covering; and
 - ◻ All congregants who participate in Holy Communion, only while actually consuming the Elements.
- Face coverings for children under 10 years are optional.
- Face coverings for children under 2 years old are prohibited by CDC guidelines.
- Places of worship may make their own decision on whether to allow children under 10 to return to corporate worship during Phase One, as this may pose some risk of transmission of COVID-19.
- Provide hand sanitizing stations at all public entrances.
- Lines or queues for entrance and exit must be marked or monitored for maintaining a distance of 6 feet between people.
- Instruct all congregants, staff and volunteers that the strict 6-foot physical distancing protocol applies to everyone aside from family groups, both indoors and outdoors. As above, speakers and singers will require additional distance while speaking or singing without face coverings.
- As much as possible, move “meet and greet” times before and after services outdoors. Because of the indoor face covering requirement, refreshments should be offered outdoors only.
- Instruct people to refrain from any physical contact with each other outside of family groups—no hand shaking, touching, embracing or reverencing of hands/rings of clergy.
- Aside from congregant family groups, seating in the sanctuary must follow strict physical distancing protocols with 6 feet between individuals.

- Eliminate or alter the use of items that are traditionally touched or handled by many different people. Examples are offering plates, the Torah (touch only by the bearer), holy water stations, shared prayer and song books, and the common cup (chalice) for Holy Communion.
- Refrain from having people come forward to a common altar rail for Holy Communion, blessing, altar call, etc.
- Refrain from holding religious education classes for children/youth or offering childcare.
- Sanitize all high-touch surfaces in the sanctuary and common areas after and between services.

Large Outdoor Venues: May 4

At his May 4 press conference, Governor Hutchinson announced an Arkansas Department of Health directive for the reopening of large outdoor venues. This directive allows the venues to open for audiences of fewer than 50 and requires strict social distance among performers, contestants, and members of the audience. The directive is in effect as of May 4.

The directive covers outdoor venues for commercial, community, or civic events and activities where an audience, spectators or a gathering of people are present, such as at concerts, plays, sporting events, rodeos, races, fundraisers, parades, fairs, livestock shows, auctions, carnivals and festivals. Examples of such venues include theaters, arenas, sports venues, race tracks, stadiums, auction houses, amusement centers, and fair grounds.

Gatherings subject to this directive also include, without limitation, community, civic, public, leisure, commercial or sporting events. This directive is not intended for gatherings of people in unconfined outdoor spaces, such as parks or athletic fields where physical distancing of at least 6 feet can be easily achieved.

Large outdoor venues must meet the following criteria to resume operations on May 4:

- The performers/players/contestants must be separated from the audience by at least 12 feet and must be limited to 50 or fewer.
- The audience is limited to 50 or fewer people.
- Lines or queues for entrance, exit, making purchases or for other reasons must be marked or monitored to maintain 6 feet between people.
- Seating must be arranged to maintain 6 feet between members of the audience.
- Family groups may sit together but maintain 6 feet between groups.
- Every other row of seating should be unoccupied.
- Face coverings are required except for children younger than 10.

- Performers/players/contestants may be without a face covering if they are 12 feet from each other.
- Signs must be posted at all entrances advising members of the public not to enter if:
 - They have fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, or a recent loss of taste or smell.
 - They have had known exposure to someone with COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
- Signs must be posted at all entrances advising members of the public that they may wish to refrain from entering if:
 - They are 65 years of age or older.
 - They have underlying health conditions including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, severe obesity, asthma or weakened immunity.
- Hand-sanitizer stations must be available at all entrances and exits.
- Refreshments may be served. However, self-service operations, including, but not limited to, salad bars, buffets and condiment bars shall not be allowed.
- The facility, including seating, shall be cleaned and disinfected before and after each use.
- Frequently touched surfaces shall be cleaned periodically during the course of the event.

Barber, Cosmetology, Massage Therapy, Body Art, And Medical Spa Services: May 6

Governor Hutchinson announced on May 1 that barber shops, body art establishments, body art schools, cosmetology establishments, massage therapy clinics and spas, and medical spas may resume operations on May 6 under Phase One guidelines established to protect the health and safety of employees and patrons.

“We have all felt the absence of these services over the past number of weeks, and professionals are eager to resume their work,” Hutchinson said in a press release. “I have great confidence that our stylists, cosmetologists and other professionals will work very hard to protect themselves and their clients and still provide the highest quality of service.”

The aforementioned businesses must follow Phase One guidelines to resume operations on May 6:

- Providers may resume services, however those services shall be scheduled by appointment with adequate time between appointments to properly clean and disinfect. Walk-in appointments are prohibited during Phase One.
- Vulnerable populations (i.e. those persons over the age of 65 or with chronic medical conditions)

- should consider remaining home during Phase One.
- Clients shall be pre-screened for potential COVID-related symptoms prior to arrival for the appointment using the following questions:
 - Have you had a fever of 100.4°F or greater in the last 2 days?
 - Do you have a cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell?
 - Have you had contact with a person known to be infected with COVID-19 within the past 14 days?
 - Those answering “yes” to any of the above shall have their services postponed for 14 days.
- Employees/licenseses shall be pre-screened with both the standardized questionnaire and a daily temperature check. Any employee with a temperature of 100.4°F or greater will not be allowed to work.
- Services shall not be performed on clients who show any sign of illness such as fever, cough or runny nose. Signage shall be posted informing clients about this policy.
- All persons in the salon/shop/clinic are required to maintain physical distancing of at least 6 feet while services are not being rendered. For most entities, occupancy will be limited to no more than 10 persons, including all support staff.
- In smaller facilities, the 6-foot physical-distancing condition may require that fewer than 10 persons are present at any given time.
- Larger facilities (able to accommodate more than 10 persons while maintaining appropriate physical distancing) shall operate no more than 30 percent of their stations during Phase One.
- Barbers, stylists and employees shall wear a face covering at all times. A cloth face covering is acceptable for this purpose.
- Clients shall wear masks as services permit. A cloth face covering is acceptable for this purpose. Signage shall be posted informing clients about this policy.
- Waiting area chairs shall be positioned to ensure 6 feet of social distancing. When possible, clients should wait outside of the shop/salon/clinic until called by their stylist/therapist.
- All existing infection control rules remain in effect and will be enforced. Nonporous surfaces shall be cleaned and disinfected prior to use. Porous items shall be discarded after a single use.

- Gloves shall be worn for all services as required by Rule. Licensees are encouraged to wear gloves for all other services when able.
- Handwashing shall be performed before and after each service.
- The Department of Health COVID Infection Control Education module should be viewed prior to reopening.
- Practitioners shall maintain a record of the name, date and contact information for each client serviced for a period of one month. This may be accomplished using a sign-in sheet.
- Barbering, cosmetology, body art and massage schools shall remain closed for in-person instruction during Phase One. However, practical examinations may occur if they are performed on inanimate objects (i.e. mannequins, artificial skin, etc.) Appropriate physical distancing shall be maintained during testing.

Restaurants: May 11

On Wednesday, April 29, Governor Hutchinson announced that restaurants in Arkansas may resume limited dine-in service on May 11 under Phase One guidelines that require daily health screening of staff, use of face masks and gloves, and strict social distancing.

“Based on current data that shows we have slowed the spread of COVID-19, we have decided it is safe to resume dine-in restaurant service with some common-sense limits,” Hutchinson said in a press release. “This is a significant but cautious step on the path back to normalcy. We will monitor the success of this step, and move to Phase Two as quickly as we safely can.”

The restrictions on dine-in service under this directive include:

- Restaurants must limit number of customers to one-third of total capacity.
- Tables must be 10 feet apart so that diners will be seated 6 feet away from diners at other tables.
- Each employee who directly interacts with patrons must wear a face mask that completely covers nose and mouth. Kitchen staff and others are encouraged to wear a mask.
- Each employee must wear gloves. Gloves should be changed between each customer, customer group or task.
- Management must conduct a daily health screening of all employees before they enter the restaurant. An employee with a cough, sore throat, fever or shortness of breath must not enter the restaurant.

- Patrons must wear a face covering until the food or drink is served.
- Salad bars, buffets and other self-serve features will remain closed.
- Groups must be 10 or fewer customers.
- Tables, chairs, salt/pepper shakers, condiment containers and napkin holders will be cleaned and disinfected after each customer.
- Bars and entertainment operations (such as live music, in-seat gaming devices, or arcades) are prohibited.
- Normal service of alcohol within the restaurant seating area is allowed.
- Restrooms should be disinfected frequently.
- Service may be declined to patrons not wearing masks.

Large Indoor Venues: May 18

Indoor venues such as theaters, arenas, stadiums and auction houses that are designed for large groups may reopen on May 18 on a limited basis, Governor Hutchinson announced at his daily COVID-19 press conference on Monday, May 4. The Arkansas Department of Health issued a directive that allows the venues to open for audiences of fewer than 50 and that requires strict social distance among performers, contestants and members of the audience.

“We are attempting to move past the restrictions that have been necessary during this pandemic, but we must do so in a manner that is based on solid data,” Governor Hutchinson said in a press release. “I am confident this measured reopening is the best approach that will allow us to enjoy these entertainment venues again. As we cautiously emerge from this difficult time, we will keep an eye on data for any evidence that we are moving too quickly.”

This directive covers indoor venues for commercial, community, or civic events and activities where an audience, spectators or a gathering of people are present, such as concerts, plays, movies, lectures, presentations, conferences, conventions, sporting events, races, fundraisers, trade shows and festivals. Venues include auditoriums, lecture halls, movie theaters, other theaters, museums, arenas, sports venues, race tracks, stadiums, gymnasiums, auction houses, amusement centers, barns, exhibit halls, conventions centers and funeral homes. The list of venues also includes recreational facilities such as bowling alleys and trampoline parks.

Gatherings subject to this directive also include, without limitation, community, civic, public, leisure, commercial or sporting events. This guidance is not intended to address casinos, which will be addressed in a future directive.

Large indoor venues must meet the following criteria to resume operations on May 18:

- The performers/players/contestants must be separated from the audience by at least 12 feet and must be limited to 50 or fewer.
- The audience is limited to 50 or fewer people.
- Lines or queues for entrance, exit, making purchases or for other reasons must be marked or monitored to maintain 6 feet between people.
- Seating must be arranged to maintain 6 feet between members of the audience.
- Family groups may sit together but maintain 6 feet between groups.
- Every other row of seating should be unoccupied.
- Face coverings are required except for children younger than 10.
- Performers/players/contestants may be without a face covering if they are 12 feet from each other.
- Signs must be posted at all entrances advising members of the public not to enter if:
 - They have fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, or a recent loss of taste or smell.
 - They have had known exposure to someone with COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
- Signs must be posted at all entrances advising members of the public that they may wish to refrain from entering if:
 - They are 65 years of age or older.
 - They have underlying health conditions including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, severe obesity, asthma or weakened immunity.
- Hand-sanitizer stations must be available at all entrances and exits.
- Refreshments may be served. However, self-service operations, including, but not limited to, salad bars, buffets and condiment bars shall not be allowed.
- The facility, including seating, shall be cleaned and disinfected before and after each use.
- Frequently touched surfaces shall be cleaned periodically during the course of the event. 🧼



86th Annual Convention

Marriott Hotel / Statehouse Convention Center, August 19-21, 2020

Registration and payment must be received in League office by Friday, August 3, 2020, to qualify for pre-registration rates.

REGISTRATION

Pre-registration for municipal officials	\$150
Registration fee after August 3, 2020 , and on-site registration for municipal officials	\$175
Pre-registration for guests.	\$75
Registration fee after August 3, 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 August 3, 2020.**
- Cancellation letters must be postmarked by **August 3, 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	SOLD OUT \$144	Check-in 3 p.m.
Capital Hotel		
Single/Double	SOLD OUT \$195	Check-in 3 p.m.
Doubletree Hotel		
Single/Double	SOLD OUT \$146	Check-in 3 p.m.
Wyndham Hotel		
Single/Double.	\$114	Check-in 3 p.m.

- Cut-off date for hotel reservations is **August 3, 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
 North Little Rock, AR 72115-0038

Step 1: Delegate Information

Name: _____

Title: _____ City of: _____

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

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone Number: _____

Non-city official guests will attend: Yes No

Name: _____ Name: _____

Step 2: Payment Information

• WHAT IS YOUR TOTAL?

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

• How are you paying?

Check

Mail payment and form to:
 Arkansas Municipal League
 86th Annual Convention
 P.O. Box 38
 North Little Rock, AR 72115

Credit Card Complete information below and send to address above.

Credit Card: Visa MasterCard Discover

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

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

Billing Address (as it appears on statement): _____

City: _____ State: ___ Zip: _____ Telephone: _____

Email Address **(required for credit card payment)**

Step 3: Hotel Reservations

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

Marriott Hotel Reservations 877-759-6290

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

Doubletree Hotel Reservations 800-222-8733 or 501-372-4371

Wyndham Hotel Reservations 866-657-4458 or 501-371-9000

Special dietary needs:

- Gluten free
- Vegetarian
- Pescatarian
- Vegan



86th Annual Convention

Marriott Hotel/Statehouse Convention Center, August 19-21, 2020

MONTHS

04

DAYS

07

HOURS

00

Countdown to Convention.

August 19-21 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 AUGUST 19

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 AUGUST 20

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 AUGUST 21

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 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, July 17.

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, August 19-21, in Little Rock.

Names must be submitted to the League by July 17.

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.

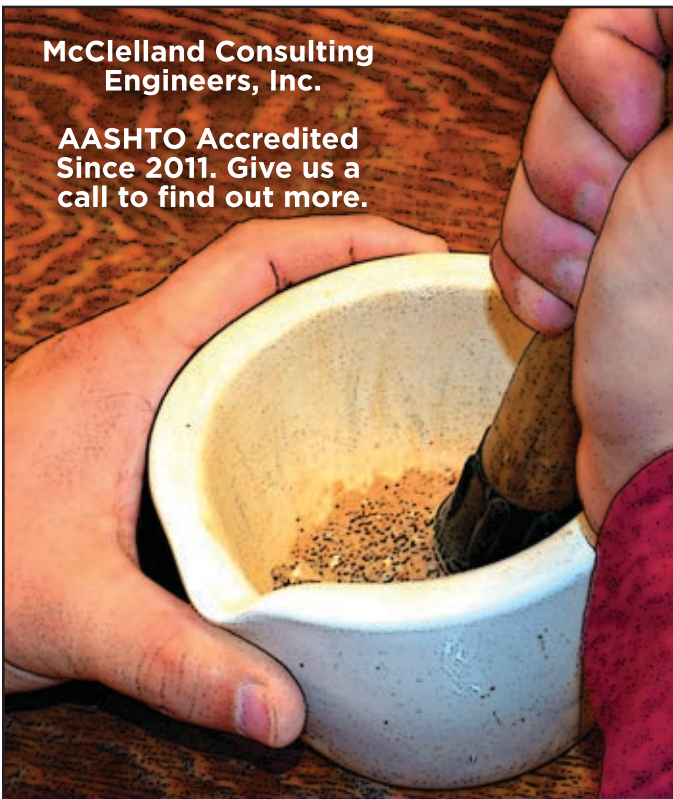
To guarantee your firm's exhibit area, contact the League immediately to reserve space for your display. Your name will be added to the list of exhibitors, and we will reserve a space for your exhibit when you arrive.

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 August 3.

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

McClelland Consulting Engineers, Inc.

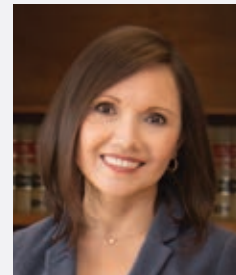
AASHTO Accredited Since 2011. Give us a call to find out more.



MCE McCLELLAND CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC.
DESIGNED TO SERVE

mce.us.com
Little Rock: 501.371.0272
Fayetteville: 479.443.2377
Ft. Smith: 479.434.5333

Meet Sheila Boyd, Operations and Programs Manager for the Arkansas Municipal League



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

Sheila Boyd: I am the Operations and Programs Manager. I advise on League programs, review League and League program policies, bylaws and organizational documents, assist in planning and coordinating League meetings and events and a variety of other duties as well.

How long have you been working at the Municipal League? How did you get started? June 1 will be my 27th year working for the League. I started in the Municipal Health Benefit Fund until I became the assistant to the late League Executive Director Don Zimmerman.

How has the League changed since you've started? What has stayed the same? The League and its programs continue to expand and grow, and our campus is what it is today because of our growth. We exist to serve our cities and towns and we all share the same passion to provide them with the assistance and programs they need and seek from us.

What is the biggest lesson you've learned working for the cities and towns of Arkansas? How challenging and rewarding it is to work for our cities and towns. Each day brings a new set of questions from our members seeking answers and guidance from us because each city and town is unique.

What advice would you have for someone just getting into public service? Treat everyone the same and be open to new ideas. Listening and learning about issues that people are concerned about and working together to resolve them makes a positive difference for all.

Where did you grow up? My dad was in the Air Force, so I have been fortunate to have lived at Clark AFB in the Philippines, Sheppard AFB in Texas, Barksdale AFB in Louisiana and Eaker AFB in Arkansas. Two of the bases have been deactivated and closed. I now call Cabot home, since I don't have a hometown, per se. I enjoy its small-town charm and its proximity to North Little Rock, where our League campus is located.

What is your favorite spot in your hometown? Why? The Cabot Community Pond is a great place to visit and see people enjoying the many recreational activities available. I also must include Greystone as a favorite because of our love of nature, the great views and playing golf.

What is your favorite part about working for the Arkansas Municipal League and the cities and towns of Arkansas? I love our League staff and our members! We are like family and it's always a joy to see and interact with everyone and know that we are all striving to do our best to ensure that "Great Cities Make A Great State".

IT in a Box Gold	IT in a Box Silver	IT in a Box Bronze																								
Save up to 51%	Save up to 51%	Save up to 63%																								
Features & benefits include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Cybersecurity & Computer Maintenance > 24x7 Helpdesk (onsite & remote) > Data Backup & Disaster Recovery > Records/Document Management, Email, & Microsoft Office > Video Archiving > Policy & Compliance > Website > Vendor Management and Procurement 	Features & benefits include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Cybersecurity & Computer Maintenance > 24x7 Helpdesk (remote) > Data Backup & Disaster Recovery > Vendor Management and Procurement 	Features & benefits include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Cybersecurity & Computer Maintenance > Data Backup & Disaster Recovery 																								
SIGN UP ONLINE & SAVE																										
Example: 2 PCs <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">List price</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Onboarding</td> <td>Monthly Fee</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$1,030</td> <td>\$530</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	List price		Onboarding	Monthly Fee	\$1,030	\$530	Example: 2 PCs <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">List price</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Onboarding</td> <td>Monthly Fee</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$1,030</td> <td>\$259</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	List price		Onboarding	Monthly Fee	\$1,030	\$259	Example: 2 PCs <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">List price</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Onboarding</td> <td>Monthly Fee</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$1,030</td> <td>\$146</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	List price		Onboarding	Monthly Fee	\$1,030	\$146						
List price																										
Onboarding	Monthly Fee																									
\$1,030	\$530																									
List price																										
Onboarding	Monthly Fee																									
\$1,030	\$259																									
List price																										
Onboarding	Monthly Fee																									
\$1,030	\$146																									
AML members SAVE 51% the first year! <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Onboarding</th> <th colspan="2">Monthly Fee</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>FREE</td> <td>FREE</td> <td>\$261</td> <td>\$126</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Onboarding		Monthly Fee		FREE	FREE	\$261	\$126	AML members SAVE 51% the first year! <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Onboarding</th> <th colspan="2">Monthly Fee</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>FREE</td> <td>FREE</td> <td>\$126</td> <td>\$54</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Onboarding		Monthly Fee		FREE	FREE	\$126	\$54	AML members SAVE 63% the first year! <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Onboarding</th> <th colspan="2">Monthly Fee</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>FREE</td> <td>FREE</td> <td>\$54</td> <td>\$54</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Onboarding		Monthly Fee		FREE	FREE	\$54	\$54
Onboarding		Monthly Fee																								
FREE	FREE	\$261	\$126																							
Onboarding		Monthly Fee																								
FREE	FREE	\$126	\$54																							
Onboarding		Monthly Fee																								
FREE	FREE	\$54	\$54																							
Save on IT in a Box, sign up today, and let us handle your IT needs and risks. https://sophicity.com/Signup-AML-ITinaBox.aspx																										
Dave Mims 770.670.6940 x110 dave@mims@sophicity.com www.sophicity.com	Chris Hartley 501.978.6106 chartley@arml.org www.arml.org																									

Meet Rick East, Smackover recorder/treasurer

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

Rick East: As a recorder/treasurer, I am sure most in my position would say our duties and responsibilities vary greatly. It seems as if new duties pop up daily! My main responsibility is to ensure all incoming funds go where they belong and make sure monies are spent as needed and required. I also maintain all incoming and outgoing correspondence; keep all documents like ordinances, resolutions and proclamations; oversee all city and water/sewer operations; keep the mayor updated and much more! Since Smackover is a small city, my position is an all-in-one combination of departments like human resources, payroll, accounting, and even police and animal control dispatch.



Why did you choose your profession? I would have to say I chose my profession, as it seems my entire life has been serving people in some way or another. I've been a waiter, sales clerk, active duty and reserve in the U.S. Air Force, chief deputy tax collector and finally recorder/treasurer. When Carolyn Willett announced her retirement, Mayor Neal asked me to be a part of the city! To be able to help anyone I meet keeps me fulfilled.

What's your favorite aspect of your job? What's the biggest challenge? My favorite aspect is working with a great group of people and community every day. My biggest challenge is to stay in the moment, and not get too far ahead of myself when I'm coming up with new ideas for Smackover.

What is the public perception of your job versus the reality of your job? I think the public tends to think a lot of us just sit behind a desk doing nothing for the most part. It's always nice to have someone ask what I do. They usually leave very overwhelmed and surprised at what "sitting behind a desk" actually involves!

In what season does Smackover shine the most? The people here love all seasons! In spring there are several events with local churches and other organizations, in summer we have the Smackover Oil Town Days Festival, in the fall we have our annual "Trunk or Treat," and in winter we have our downtown Christmas lighting.

What's the biggest lesson you've learned by working for a city government? Someone always has a better answer! Never think yours is the best, and always be open to suggestions.

What advice do you have for someone who would like to follow your footsteps into this job? Be ready for a lot of hard work, but in the end, if it is truly "in your heart," it is the best job you will ever have!

What are three "can't miss" things that someone can do if they visit Smackover? First would be city hall, of course! Second would be downtown. It isn't very big, but our shops have a lot to offer! The third would be the Arkansas Museum of Natural History. 🏛️

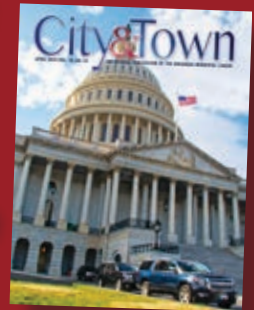
Missed us?

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

Help us keep you up to date and informed.

www.arml.org

www.arml.org/pubs



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

— Goethe

110 South 7th Street
Van Buren, AR 72956
479.474.1227

211 Natural Resources Dr.
Little Rock, AR 72205
501.374.4846

438 East Millsap Rd., Ste.107
Fayetteville, AR 72703
479.455.2206

403 Garrison Ave., Ste.101
Fort Smith, AR 72901
479.242.4885

www.hawkins-weir.com

HW HAWKINS WEIR
ENGINEERS, INC.

Make the 2020 census count in Arkansas

Response rate map shows what areas are responding the fastest

Every 10 years in the United States, as mandated by the U.S. Constitution, a decennial census is conducted that determines who is counted and where they are counted.

The U.S. Census Bureau has worked diligently since 2010 to ensure that responding to the 2020 census is easy and safe, because it is key to shaping the future of communities. Census statistics are used to determine the number of seats each state holds in the U.S. House of Representatives and informs legislative district boundaries. Census statistics also inform how hundreds of billions of dollars in public funds are allocated by state, local and federal lawmakers to communities for public services and infrastructure like hospitals, emergency services, schools and bridges each year over the next 10 years.

As of April 25, almost 49 percent of households responded to the 2020 census in Arkansas since invitations began arriving in mailboxes in mid-March. This can be compared to 53.2 percent who have responded in the nation. Response rates are updated in the map daily seven days a week at 2020census.gov/en/response-rates.html so that the public can see how well their community is doing compared to the nation and other areas.

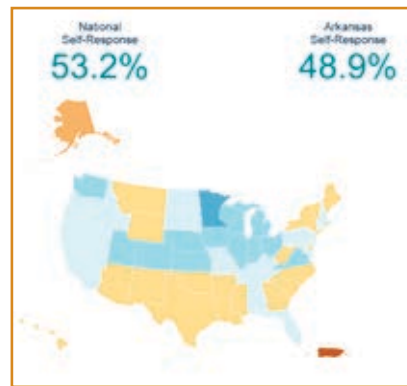
The Census Bureau is strongly encouraging the public to respond to the 2020 census online using a desktop computer, laptop, smartphone or tablet. You can respond online or by phone in English or 12 other languages. There are also 59 non-English language guides and videos (plus American Sign Language) available on 2020census.gov ensuring over 99 percent of U.S. households can respond online in their preferred language. It has never been easier to respond on your own—all without having to meet a census taker. This is really important with the current health and safety guidance being provided by national, state and local health authorities.

When you respond:

- Respond for where you live as of April 1, 2020.
- Include everyone who usually lives and sleeps in your home as of April 1, even if they are staying somewhere else temporarily. This includes relatives, friends, roommates and anyone else who

lives and sleeps in your home most of the time—even children under age five and babies born on or before April 1, even if they are still in the hospital.

- Count college students where they live while attending school. If they live on campus in university/college housing such as dorms or fraternity/sorority houses, they will be counted by school officials and do not need to respond. However, if they live off campus in private housing or apartments, they should respond to the census on their own using their off-campus address even if they are currently staying elsewhere.
- Find additional answers about “Who to Count” at 2020census.gov.



You can use the census ID from your invitation or provide your address when you respond. Then, please make sure your friends, family and social networks know about the importance of responding and encourage them to complete their census. Responding now will minimize the need for a census taker to follow up and visit your home later this year.

Some households in areas less likely to respond online have already received a paper questionnaire along with their first invitation. Households that have not responded online or by phone will receive a paper questionnaire. If you live in a rural area and have not received a paper questionnaire by early May, please wait for the U.S. Census Bureau to deliver your paper questionnaire in June.

Please note: Based on continuing assessments of guidance from federal, state and local health authorities, the Census Bureau is suspending 2020 census field operations until June 1. The Census Bureau is taking this step to help protect the health and safety of the American public, Census Bureau employees and everyone who will go through the hiring process for temporary census taker positions. The Census Bureau continues to evaluate all 2020 census field operations and will communicate any further updates as soon as possible.

The 2020 census is open for self-response online at 2020census.gov, over the phone at 844-330-2020 (English) and 844-468-2020 (Spanish), and by paper through the mail.

League launches new in-house grants service

By Mel Jones, League staff

The Arkansas Municipal League is pleased to announce a new in-house grants service for our members and welcomes Caran Curry, our new grants attorney, to the League. She will be working to disseminate information about grant opportunities, coach local grant writers through the application processes, and once the virus subsides, coordinate and teach educational classes.

Curry, who graduated from UALR in 1975 and received her Juris Doctorate in 1979, brings more than 35 years of experience in the grant writing and management, training, and legal fields. She has served on several national and multi-state peer-review panels and has reviewed over 1,000 grant applications. Curry has written more than 400 grant applications that were funded. She has lectured in 32 states and for three U.S. departments on compliance issues and grant writing.

As Arkansas' Prosecutor Coordinator (PCO) from 1980 to 1997, Curry served as the state's administrator for several federal grants. The Coordinator's Office was designed to improve the criminal justice system by promoting professionalism in Arkansas' prosecuting attorneys and victim service providers through education, information, liaison and advocacy. Like the League, the Coordinator's Office offers a broad range of support services, and it was that focus on helping others that drew her to the League.


Prior to joining the League Curry was the grant manager for the city of Little Rock, and knows first-hand the importance of grants at the municipal level. In that position, she wrote and managed various grant projects including most of the mayors' grant projects. Curry also reviewed grant award documents and grant contracts written by the city attorney's office to ensure compliance with grant requirements. She served as the program manager for economic development grants from the

Arkansas Economic Development Commission, as well as Little Rock's Main Street Creative Corridor. The Main Street project became EPA's "poster city" for its Greening America's Capital Program, and has been acknowledged for \$125 million of redevelopment.

Much of Curry's immediate work will focus on providing members with information and guidance on grants related to COVID-19 recovery. And because many of those grants will be at the federal level, it's important to understand how that system works. "No grant application process or system is the same, and this is particularly true at the federal level," Curry said. "Each federal department has their own portal, and all agencies have different systems and procedures for the grant application process."

The key to a successful grant application, federal or otherwise, is planning. "I want to encourage people to apply for grants," Curry said. "There is so much that goes into the process, the first one being finding the right grant. Grants have a lot of requirements, and reading and fully understanding those requirements and all of the little details is essential to determining whether or not the grant is the right one for your city or town."

In addition to coaching the people who are writing grants, Curry plans to conduct training seminars that focus on writing grants and managing grants, as well opportunities to "meet the funders," to help cities and towns learn more about what they will fund, what funders are looking for in applications, and understanding eligibility requirements. And as an attorney, Curry will also be providing continuing legal education for city attorneys that focuses on the legal aspect of grants.

To learn more about the League's new in-house grants service and current grant opportunities, please visit www.arml.org/grants. 

Legislating during a pandemic

By John L. Wilkerson, League staff

For the first time in the history of the United States, all 50 states are under a major disaster declaration. As a large portion of the world has temporarily shut down, many people continue to go to work day in and day out. With the pandemic at the forefront of our thoughts, it is difficult to keep track of what is happening outside of our own city limits. So, we thought this would be a good opportunity to give you an update on the First Extraordinary Session of 2020 and the 2020 Fiscal Session that took place over the last few weeks.

On March 24, Governor Asa Hutchinson called for an Extraordinary Session of the Arkansas General Assembly to convene March 26 in Little Rock to create and transfer funds to the COVID-19 Rainy Day Fund. The legislature was called to fill a \$350 million shortfall in the state's fiscal year 2020 (FY2020) budget incurred from extending the 2019 individual income tax filing date and individual income tax payment date from April 15, 2020, to July 15, 2020.

Adorning masks and practicing social distancing, legislators were able to pull together roughly \$173 million from the General Revenue Allotment Reserve Fund to help decrease the shortfall. However, the legislature was forced to make cuts to fill the remainder of the shortfall. As it pertains to cities, the biggest impact felt from this special session was the amount cities would receive in general turnback for the months of April, May and June of 2020. Due to the cuts made, cities should expect roughly a 30-percent decrease in the amount of general turnback they will receive for those three months.

While the special session only lasted for a few days, the Arkansas Legislature reconvened at the state capitol a week later for the 2020 Fiscal Session. On April 2 the Department of Finance and Administration revised the FY2021 forecast, which indicated a \$205.9 million decrease from the prior forecast released in January. While the special session was focused on getting the state through the end of FY2020, the focus of the fiscal session was on the FY2021 budget. There are two main takeaways from the session that are important to city government finances.

The first is the cut to general turnback for FY2021. The Arkansas state budget is separated into multiple categories of priority. Category A, for example, is the category of highest priority, meaning all budget expenditures in Category A will likely be fully funded. Category C, on the other hand, is a category of lower priority, meaning the state will not fund the items in

Category C until all appropriations in Category A and B are fully funded. Historically, 100 percent of general turnback was placed in Category A. Therefore, barring some unforeseen disaster, 100 percent of the general turnback would be funded. However, this year the governor and the legislature decided to add, in addition to categories A, B and C, a category D. For FY2021, the legislature budgeted 85 percent of the general turnback into Category A, and then 5 percent in categories B, C and D. The current FY2021 projections are showing Category A will be fully funded, Category B will likely be funded, Category C may or may not be funded, and Category D will most likely not be funded. This means that 85 percent of the general turnback should be funded, as it falls within Category A, while the 5 percent in Category B will likely be funded, the 5 percent in Category C may or may not be funded, and the 5 percent in Category D will likely not be funded.

There are a couple of different ways to evaluate this information. In the most probable best-case scenario, your city will receive 5 percent less in general turnback than it did in FY2020, as this would mean every category but D would get funding. In a worst-case scenario, you will receive 15 percent less in general turnback in FY2021 than you did in FY2020, as only the 85 percent in Category A will be funded.

The second takeaway of importance to cities is the decrease in street turnback. There is no doubt that street turnback will be reduced; the question is by how much. Without a crystal ball, it is very difficult to determine just how much street turnback will be reduced. According to the Arkansas Department of Transportation, there is currently not enough information to provide a reliable forecast. The best estimates, which are no more than mere guesses, show that street turnback will be reduced by 40 percent in April, May and June of FY2020. This is a result of the decrease in the number of people going to work everyday and traveling across the state, leading to a lower rate of fuel consumption. However, as traffic begins to flow again, revenues should bounce back. The guess right now is that the reduction for the 12-month period in FY2021 would be roughly 20 percent less than the prior 12-month period.

There were also two important pieces of legislation for cities that were passed during the fiscal session. If you have tuned into the League's weekly web conferences every Tuesday, you may recall discussion about municipal governing bodies conducting virtual meetings. During the fiscal session, the legislature saw the need for city and county government bodies to meet without

having to be physically present. Act 2 of 2020 allows public entities to assemble, gather, meet and conduct an open public meeting through electronic means, including without limitation by telephone, video conference or video broadcast. Therefore, city council meetings and other public meetings traditionally held in person can now be held by telephone, video conference or video broadcast. The League has put together guidance on conducting virtual meetings that can be found on the COVID-19 Resources page of our website titled “Virtual Meeting Law Guidance.”

The second bill relates to something that we have been working on for a long time now—broadband. As you may recall, almost a year ago Governor Hutchinson announced the Arkansas State Broadband Plan to extend high-speed internet throughout the state. Shortly after the announcement, rules were established governing the application procedures for the funds appropriated. During the fiscal session, more work was done to provide cities and counties with assistance in studying the

broadband needs in their area. The General Assembly recognized that local governments do not typically budget for or have funds available for broadband due-diligence business studies in connection with making applications for federal grants or loans for broadband development programs. The General Assembly appropriated \$2 million to local governments to defray expenses for broadband due-diligence businesses studies in connection with preparation for federal grant and loan applications. This will allow cities that are interested in conducting a broadband due-diligence business study to apply for a state grant to help defray the costs of the study.



John L. Wilkerson is general counsel for the Arkansas Municipal League. Contact John at 501-374-3484, ext. 128, or email jwilkerson@arml.org.

A photograph of a young child riding a red tricycle on a paved path. The child is wearing a dark blue polka-dot dress with a red and white checkered hem. The background is a blurred green field under a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid on the bottom half of the image.

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



ARIZONA ARKANSAS CALIFORNIA COLORADO CONNECTICUT DELAWARE FLORIDA GEORGIA ILLINOIS INDIANA IOWA KANSAS KENTUCKY LOUISIANA MAINE MARYLAND MASSACHUSETTS MICHIGAN MINNESOTA MISSISSIPPI MISSOURI MONTANA NEBRASKA NEVADA NEW HAMPSHIRE NEW JERSEY NEW YORK NORTH CAROLINA NORTH DAKOTA OHIO OKLAHOMA OREGON PENNSYLVANIA RHODE ISLAND SOUTH CAROLINA SOUTH DAKOTA TEXAS UTAH VERMONT VIRGINIA WASHINGTON WISCONSIN WYOMING

greatcitiesgreatstate.com



As we cross the bridge into the future, the sun will continue to rise.

Change: Here we go again

By Jim von Tungeln

The problem with talking about change is that many thought it would never happen to us. Now we know it can. The first question becomes: What steps should we take to address it? And that would be followed by: What will life be like after we survive it?

By the time this piece goes to press, we may know about the survival issue. So let's consider how the functions of good government, particularly urban planning, may change for the next generation. Can we even imagine that?

Not really, but we can look at how adapting to past changes has set new courses. Based on that, we might make some educated guesses about the future. After all, that's what planning is actually about. First a disclaimer: Any attempts here at projecting the future come from the author and do not necessarily reflect the views or policy of the Arkansas Municipal League.

Let's begin with the most recent time of drastic change in America that only a few of us experienced: the 1940s. Programs that emerged during those years still affect us. For example, most veterans of that era

came home to the opportunity of obtaining a college education and buying a home under the provisions of the G.I. Bill. A more educated population emerged that continues to influence us. For example, the father of Bill Gates received a college education through the G.I. Bill, enabling him to finance his son's interest in computers. Rising education levels did much good.

America changed. Our country became the richest in the world. Our gross national product, a measure of all goods and services produced in the United States, jumped from about \$200 thousand-million in 1940 to more than \$500 thousand-million in 1960. Growth of the middle class was particularly significant. Admittedly, not all Americans, or Arkansans, gained equal access to the growth and prosperity.

Much of this growth developed from the automobile industry. The number of automobiles produced annually quadrupled between 1946 and 1955. This growth accompanied the demise of urban mass transit, a subject of much conspiracy-oriented controversy. That's a matter for another day. The final result is that accommodating the motor vehicle remains one of the most significant

urban planning challenges. It will remain so, although financing the feeding of this ever-hungry pet will likely pose new problems.

As a majority of Americans enjoyed the sustained prosperity, two catalysts emerged that would change the atmosphere of planning in the U.S. Oddly, they occurred simultaneously. Even stranger was the fact that a majority of politicians at the national level supported both simultaneously. One involved military conflict. The other involved addressing socio-economic problems. Each would impact local government in its own way.

This movement brought into focus the spending model known as “guns and butter.” Investopedia defines this as “the dynamics involved in a federal government’s allocations to defense versus social programs when deciding on a budget.” During much of the 1960s, politicians tried to support both. As a result, cities and towns became sites of sometimes violent social conflicts concerning war. At the same time, money flowed in for grants aimed at alleviating poverty and the urban problems it created. Funds also poured into cities for planning. Since planning was required for many grant programs, cities and towns did a lot of it, even as the families in them faced the repercussions of the war.

Next came one of the more dramatic impacts on urban planning in recent history, particularly for inner cities and states with minority populations. The “War on Poverty” began to focus on the segment of society that hadn’t benefited from the post-war prosperity of the 1940s, 1950s, and much of the following decade. This focus drew the attention of the judicial system. On April 20, 1971, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education*. It upheld busing programs that aimed to speed up the racial integration of public schools. It also created a massive shift that still rates as the most common cause of population distribution in many regions of America.

As municipalities dealt with the factors outlined above, another seismic financial event would jar U.S. cities, particularly in our state. During the 1970s, the flow of federal money to states in the form of grants slowed substantially. What had been categorical grants for specific projects became smaller block grants to be used with some discretion. Along with those, the federal government gave money directly to cities as revenue sharing. Cities and towns came to depend upon the funds, to their peril as it would soon be revealed. Meanwhile, it was popular.

The logic of revenue sharing lay in the fact that the federal government was good at collecting taxes and local government was good at appropriating money where it was most needed. In 14 years, \$85 billion went to cities, counties, towns, villages and other communities across the country. Local elected officials, not federal

bureaucrats, should determine where supporting funds were assigned, program supporters said.

The program ended in October 1986. It wasn’t phased out. It wasn’t ended with any “grace period.” There was little warning. It simply ended. Those who remember the times recall city board and council meetings in Arkansas that focused on how many police officers and firefighters would lose their jobs. Disaster loomed. As might be expected at the time, the planning function underwent no discussion whatsoever.

Timely leadership from folks like the late heroes Don Zimmerman and U.S. Rep. John Paul Hammerschmidt resulted in the passing of the law allowing our local governments to enact local option sales tax collections. That saved our municipalities at the time. Even planning, which had been ignored for years, came back into vogue.

The current crisis, population distribution, and online sales have revealed the weaknesses in this manner of financing local government. Will the future paradigm result in different methods of financing city government? Who knows. Other questions also arise. Will there be less allegiance to the motor vehicle? Will increasing numbers of people work from home? Will there be migration toward cities with more jobs and better health care facilities? Will our citizens respect government more? Will our social priorities change? Will fertility rates change? Will we be more likely to listen to scientists and other experts, including planners and engineers? Will we realize that cataclysmic change can occur and that we’d best plan for it? Will we accept that, as the Scripture says, “The rain falls on the just and the unjust?” Will we accept the fact that our health and the health of the planet are connected? Will we face new conflicts in planning such as resolving a conflict between higher densities and the spread of pandemics?

Writer and teacher Michael S. Neiberg of the U.S. Army War College had this to say regarding worldwide crises: “Such is the nature of global problems: There is not a single silver-bullet solution.” That is especially true for our cities. On one hand, our cities and towns have worked through drastic changes before. On the other, we have no idea what other surprises the planet has in store for us. Our one certainty may be that the Arkansas Municipal League, as it has in the past, will be there to help.



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.



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF RUSSELLVILLE

#CommUNITY: How Russellville is coming together through a crisis

By Dylan Edgell

We are in difficult and unprecedented times. Our country is in the midst of a public health crisis that has led to millions of Americans losing their jobs and the health of our communities coming into jeopardy. Our small businesses are suffering from the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic and are at risk of having to permanently shut their doors. Local businesses serve as the backbone of our communities by providing jobs as well as places to eat, shop and gather. We have never faced an issue like this in our lifetimes, but one Arkansas community found a way to come together in the face of this crisis.

Main Street Russellville Executive Director Danielle Housenick had a decision to make. The COVID-19 pandemic was getting serious in the United States, and social distancing measures began impacting the small business community.

“When I started seeing these guidelines come in, I started to think about what I could do for downtown,” Housenick said. The organization had \$9,000 left in their downtown revitalization grant fund and she, along with the board of directors at Main Street Russellville, decided to spend that money directly on downtown businesses to help stimulate the local economy. They bought lunches for first responders and health care workers, as well as gift cards that they would give away on social media to Russellville citizens to generate exposure.



At the same time, *River Valley Now*, a local online news site, was looking for a way to give back to the community. The executive board had a meeting to talk about new issues facing their community. According to Production Manager Mattie Lasiter, “We knew that there were going to be places in town that would not make it. It would be the worst thing if we make it through this but our favorite businesses didn’t.”

River Valley Now began to reach out to community leaders about what they could do and decided to team up with Main Street Russellville for a joint effort. The #CommUNITY campaign is a way for the citizens of Russellville to support their local businesses and develop a renewed sense of community during this uncertain time. According to their website, the purpose of the

#CommUNITY campaign is to “unite our community and band together for a common purpose: support our local economy.” Community members are invited to shop at the online store and purchase t-shirts, mugs, stickers or a bundle of the items, which feature a logo that says “#CommUNITY: You Can Make A Difference.”

All the products sold on this site are locally made and 100 percent of the profits from the store go to support local businesses. To date, the #CommUNITY campaign has raised over \$23,000 through the sale of products on their website as well as donations from community members and larger businesses.

Russellville Mayor Richard Harris thinks that efforts like these can go a long way. “These initiatives are an encouragement to the community and reflect the compassion that exists for our local business partners,” he said. “Our local businesses have been paying it forward for many years by sponsoring our children’s sports activities, contributing to local nonprofits and supporting community projects. Now is the time for the community to pay it back.”

Housenick was very happy with what she saw but was not surprised. “I knew the community would rally,” she said. “I’m not originally from here, but when we

moved to Russellville, we had our new neighbors coming to help us move in. I think this is unique to our community and to Arkansas. We tend to come together.”

We have never experienced anything like the COVID-19 pandemic. The effects of this global health crisis will be long lasting and, in some cases, permanent. The only way to get through a crisis like this is to go through it together and to continue developing the social fabric of our communities. The #CommUNITY campaign in Russellville is a great example of how one Arkansas community found a way to come together virtually, build community during this uncertain time and provide real relief to its small businesses when they need it most.

You can learn more about or participate in the #CommUNITY campaign at river-valley-community.myshopify.com.



Dylan Edgell is the assistant director for the University of Central Arkansas Center for Community and Economic Development (CCED). Learn more about CCED at www.uca.edu/cced.



ETC Engineers & Architects, Inc.

1510 S. Broadway, Little Rock, AR 72202 • (501) 375-1786
www.etcengineersinc.com



Architecture • Public Buildings • Parks Planning and Design
Stormwater • Hydraulic Modeling • Water & Wastewater Systems
Street and Drainage Designs • Aquatic Parks

Batesville Community Center

FDA removes Zantac, but you don't have to feel the burn

By Abhilash Perisetti, M.D., and Benjamin Tharian M.D.

On April 1, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requested removal of all ranitidine products, which most people know by the brand name Zantac, from store shelves in the United States. Because it's long been available over the counter to reduce acid in the stomach, Zantac is commonly taken by many patients for temporary relief from heartburn and long-term management of acid reflux.

In September 2019, the FDA determined some ranitidine products contained unacceptably high levels of an impurity called N-nitrosodimethylamine, or NDMA, which has the potential for causing cancer if exposure levels are high over time, especially when it is stored at higher-than-recommended temperatures. The FDA announced a voluntary recall at that time and retailers began pulling the medication from their shelves. In April of this year, the FDA requested its withdrawal from the market.

The recall has left many patients wondering both what will happen to them from taking Zantac and what medications they might take instead.

The problem with ranitidine

It's important to know that NDMA is actually found in a lot of things we consume daily, including many foods such as smoked fish, processed meats, alcohol, dairy, fruits and vegetables. We normally consume it in only very tiny amounts that are considered to be safe. Unfortunately, tests found the amount of the chemical in ranitidine was many times the safe, normal amount.

That doesn't necessarily mean it poses an immediate cancer risk, though. While we can't know for sure right now how long-term use of Zantac and other ranitidine products might have affected patients, studies suggest the elevated cancer risk requires constant exposure to this chemical over multiple decades to develop. So, it's unlikely the contamination has caused any immediate harm.

We don't yet know how or why this contaminant was showing up in Zantac-like products, but it does appear to have something to do with the manufacturing process. It could be the chemicals involved, the temperature at which it's made or any number of factors. The FDA is trying to figure that out.

Exploring other options

While they are not identical, Zantac works by the same mechanism as another drug called famotidine, which most people know by the product name Pepcid. So you might consider that as one alternative.

Another treatment is omeprazole, which is best known by the brand name Prilosec. Like Zantac and Pepcid, Prilosec and drugs belonging to this class reduce the excess acid in your stomach. It just does that in a different way.

However, it's important to remember that all drugs have side effects. Some patients will be able to tolerate one kind of drug better than others, or sometimes none at all. That's the reason we have these different treatments, all of which achieve the same end but in different ways.

What's right for me?

Both of these medications are available over the counter and a prescription might not be needed. However, before selecting a ranitidine replacement, you should consider speaking with a doctor about your symptoms, because there may be other non-medical treatment options, such as changes in diet. Additionally, not all acid reflux conditions can be managed by these medications, and in some conditions further discussion is needed. Again, your doctor can provide guidance even if a prescription isn't required.

If you are taking Zantac by prescription, you should ask your doctor for guidance when finding a replacement. This probably doesn't require a visit to the doctor's office. A phone call or online chat will likely get you the conversation you need, probably with an advanced practice nurse who will be able to help you.

If you simply find yourself at the pharmacy in need of an acid reducer, ask the pharmacist to give you guidance based on what other medications you are taking.



Abhilash Perisetti, M.D., is a second-year gastroenterology fellow in the Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.



Benjamin Tharian, M.D., is an assistant professor of medicine and director of general and advanced endoscopy at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL EQUIPMENT

ametricks.com

501-425-1567

Daniel Ellison



LOOK

NJPA

National Joint Powers Alliance*

contracts on
Refuse Trucks,
Knuckle Boom Trucks
and Refuse Carts.



**PROVIDING QUALITY REFUSE AND RECYCLING EQUIPMENT TO MUNICIPALITIES.
MUNICIPAL LEASING OPTIONS IN THE NJPA.**





PHOTO COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

Pruning to remove potentially hazardous branches can help prevent storm damage and improve the tree's overall structure and health.

Weathering the storm: Tips for managing trees after storm damage

By Krissy Thomason

Surveying damage after a major storm can be a heartbreaking experience. Destruction wrought by nature upon buildings and power lines instantly changes a community's landscape. Sometimes, the pain of discovering beloved trees with broken tops and ripped limbs results in hasty decisions to remove trees with non-lethal wounds or to salvage trees that should be removed due to structural risk. To anyone who has anguished after a favorite tree was damaged in recent storms, The Arbor Day Foundation offers advice: Be patient.

"Trees are amazingly resilient," says Matt Harris, chief executive of The Arbor Day Foundation. "It may take several years, but many trees damaged by a storm will recover as they grow." Harris also notes that damaged trees may need human assistance in the recovery process. "They need our help and our patience, and they need our care. The experience of other communities has shown that with proper care of damaged trees and planting of new trees to replace those toppled or mortally wounded by a storm, once-devastated neighborhoods can come back."

Safety first

Before undertaking any tree care, make safety a priority. Observe the area surrounding the damaged tree, staying alert for downed power lines, hanging branches, leaning trees with exposed roots and other potential hazards. If the area is safe, decide whether the necessary

equipment, safety gear and skilled workers are available to perform the needed care, or if the services of a professional arborist or other tree-care expert should be employed. Trees leaning on power lines or structures, with large hanging limbs, or requiring complicated chainsaw work are best left to professionals.

Observe and assess

One of the first things to assess after safety considerations is the tree's likelihood of survival. Several benchmarks are used to help determine whether to keep a tree, to take a wait-and-see approach, or to remove a wounded one.

- Was the tree generally healthy and vigorous prior to the damage? If so, it has a higher likelihood of survival. Younger trees are also able to recover more completely and more quickly from storm damage than are more mature trees.
- If less than 50 percent of the tree's crown (branches and leaves) is damaged or missing, there are no major structural defects to it, and it isn't creating a hazard, it will generally recover with proper and timely care. If less than half the crown remains, there may not be enough foliage growth for the tree to nourish itself in the next growing season.
- If larger limbs are broken or hanging, or if the tree's branch structure is significantly altered, recovery will be more challenging. If the remaining branches

can't sufficiently fill out the tree, the tree may no longer provide ample shade or add any real beauty to the landscape. In this case, it may be more desirable to remove the tree and replace it with a new tree.

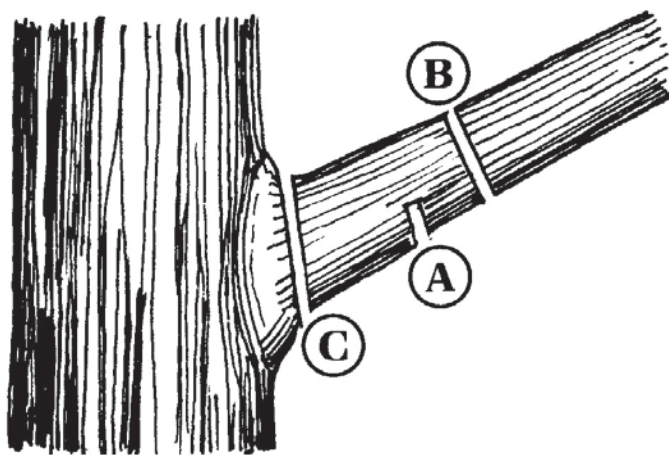
- The leader, which is the main upward-growing branch on most trees, is important not only to the tree's health, but also to its aesthetic value. While some trees can survive a broken leader, they may not recover from the irregular, deformed or stunted appearance that results.
- Wound size relative to tree size is a predictor of the tree's ability to recover. A wound less than 25 percent of the tree's diameter will close over with new bark within a couple of years. For a 12-inch diameter tree, wounds should be 3 inches or less.
- Was the tree a desirable species growing in the right space? If not, it may be better to go ahead and remove it and use the opportunity to plant a native tree better suited to the site.
- If there are major splits, decay or cavities in the trunk, heaving or cracked soil at the base of the tree, a visible root system, or the entire tree is leaning, it is usually best to consult a professional because these danger signs indicate the tree poses a risk of falling or breaking at any time, especially in future storms.

Make a decision

It can be difficult to decide to remove a tree, especially if it has sentimental value or is a mature tree that will be difficult to replace. Consulting an arborist or other tree-care professional provides the benefit of an expert and unbiased recommendation on whether to repair the tree, to give the tree more time before making a final decision or to remove it.

Keepers—If the decision is made to keep the tree, first determine who should do any necessary repairs. Minor splits are like paper cuts; most will usually heal on their own. Branches smaller than 3 inches in diameter can usually be pruned with pruning shears, but larger branches or ones requiring overhead chainsaw work may require professionals for the work to be done safely. Resources are widely available to assist property owners with pruning techniques, such as the three-cut method pictured. Resist the urge to over-prune, and step back often to assess the tree's overall appearance. Never top a tree (cut the main branches back to stubs), as this makes a tree more dangerous in future storms and reduces foliage necessary for re-growth. Finally, repair torn bark or rough edges around wounds. This will help prevent further damage to the tree.

Wait and see—Trees are resilient and heal quickly. If in doubt about removing particular branches while pruning or whether to remove an entire non-hazardous tree, it may be best to wait a growing season or two to give the tree a chance to recover before making a final decision.

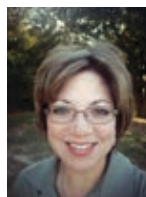


Removing broken limbs from storm-damaged trees by following the three-cut method helps the tree heal faster and prevents further damage to the wounded area.

Say goodbye—Some trees simply can't be saved or are not worth saving. Trees presenting the danger signs above that indicate hazard risks, trees left with only a trunk and few branches, or trees with wounds too large to mend usually need to be removed. Again, consult a tree-care professional for advice or to perform work beyond the skill level of the property owner.

Weathering future storms

Some storms are severe enough to wreak havoc on any tree in their path, and there is little that can be done to prevent breakage in trees that have been weakened by disease. However, there are actions that property owners and tree managers can undertake to help strengthen trees and to lessen the impact of future storm damage. The regular pruning of healthy trees is one proactive measure, because it removes any limb that could potentially threaten the tree's overall structure or strength, that would severely damage nearby structures should the limb break, or that is showing signs of disease or previous damage. Periodically inspecting trees for signs of disease or pest infestations is another preventative measure to mitigate the risk of future storm damage. An urban forester, certified arborist or other tree-care professional can be an excellent resource at any point in the process of assessing storm damage, repairing damaged trees, or removing trees that are hazardous or have lost their survival edge. Before hiring any contractor, remember to check references and insurance certificates, obtain more than one estimate if possible, and have a clear understanding of who will remove the remaining debris from the property after clean-up.



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.

Materials lab accreditations help ensure engineering project integrity

By Dustin Lawrence

Materials laboratory accreditations and certifications are very important in the engineering and construction industries, especially from the quality control/quality assurance standpoint. Having trained and certified technicians assures a high level of knowledge and proficiency. Earning and maintaining an accreditation makes a statement about a laboratory's commitment to competency, compliance and excellence.

Accreditation is generally considered to be a higher level of recognition than a certification. Obtaining accreditation is accomplished through assessments of a third-party agency, as well as participation in a proficiency sample program. The two accreditation agencies in the world of construction materials testing are associated with the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), and they are: AASHTO re:source (formerly known as AASHTO Material Reference Laboratory or AMRL), and the Cement and Concrete Reference Laboratory. Both generally make up AASHTO's Accreditation Program (AAP), which is the most widely recognized and accepted accreditation program for construction materials testing laboratories in the United States.

As part of the AAP, AASHTO re:source and CCRL provide scheduled on-site assessments of laboratories that perform testing of materials used for construction. Many participating laboratories include state departments of transportation, universities, research facilities, material producers and commercial testing laboratories. The thorough on-site assessments conducted by these agencies are a critical step in obtaining and maintaining accreditation.

During the on-site assessments, the assessor will observe a demonstration of each accredited standard test method. The equipment associated with each test is evaluated for compliance. In addition to the performance of the test

methods, the assessment can also include an in-depth review of the laboratory's Quality Management System (QMS). All accredited labs must meet and maintain the requirements of AASHTO R18 Standard Recommended Practice for Establishing and Implementing a Quality Management System for Construction Materials Testing Laboratories. AASHTO R18 is the basis of all guidelines pertaining to the QMS. To fully comply with AASHTO R18, it is imperative that an appropriate QMS be in place. The QMS includes internal policies and procedures, records of technician training and competency evaluations, equipment calibration and standardization records, management reviews, and internal audits.

Upon completion of the assessment, the findings are presented to the laboratory technical staff by the assessor. Laboratories are then required to resolve nonconformities noted in the final on-site assessment report within 60 days in order to maintain the lab's accreditation.

Another requirement of AASHTO accreditation is the laboratory's participation in what is known as the Proficiency Sample Program (PSP). Throughout the year, AASHTO re:source and CCRL will send pretested



The author performs an asphalt test.

samples to evaluate the laboratory's proficiency. CCRL provides proficiency samples on the accredited test methods for cement, concrete and masonry. AASHTO resource provides proficiency samples pertaining to the accredited test methods for bituminous materials and general soils. Proficiency samples related to the accredited test methods for coarse and fine aggregates may be provided by both agencies.

The PSP samples will include a predetermined amount of material(s) and detailed instructions. The objective is to evaluate the laboratory's proficiency against all accredited labs in the country. This is important to ensure that all accredited laboratories are conducting the test methods uniformly. Once testing is complete and reviewed, the laboratory will submit its test data to the respective agency for evaluation. If the laboratory received low ratings in any of the evaluated test methods, an in-depth review of the procedure(s) and equipment will be required to determine the root cause of the non-conformity by the laboratory's technical staff. If the laboratory fails to adhere to the requirements of AASHTO accreditation, it can and will be suspended or revoked unless the laboratory can demonstrate compliance.

Having certified personnel is another major requirement of AASHTO accreditation. The laboratory must have personnel certified in every test method for which they are accredited. AASHTO does not require that every member of the staff be certified in each test method. In most cases at least one member of the technical staff maintains certification for all accredited test methods. Major projects or state agencies may also require that the technicians and certain staff meet certification criteria before they are allowed to conduct any quality control/quality assurance testing.

Construction materials-testing technicians, for the most part, work primarily on civil engineering projects. These technicians will generally be on site to monitor building materials as they are made and tested and to verify that the practice or material complies. Certifications should be gained at a recognized and accepted agency, whether at the local, state or federal level. Certification training courses are available for a vast majority of construction practices. The primary and



A device used for testing Atterberg limits, which is a method of testing the water content of different soil types.

most practical training courses include concrete testing, bituminous materials testing, coarse and fine aggregate testing, and general soils testing. Some of these agencies include the American Concrete Institute, the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association, and the Center for Training Transportation Professionals (CTTP). Located on the University of Arkansas campus in Fayetteville, the CTTP offers a wide variety of courses for technicians, including concrete field testing, concrete compressive strength testing, aggregate testing, soils testing, hot mix asphalt testing, as well as National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems training.

When it is your job to determine if a material or practice complies with a predetermined set of specifications, it is very important to provide high levels of competency and integrity. Being a certified laboratory and having certified personnel ensures that you are doing your part to achieve the global uniformity intended by these test methods.



Dustin Lawrence is a laboratory supervisor/ QMS manager in the Geotechnical Engineering Department at MCE's Fayetteville office. Contact Dustin by phone at 479-443-2377 or email him at dlawrence@mce.us.com.

Substance abuse can increase during national crisis

During a national crisis, substance abuse increases as people experience stress, anxiety and fear. This was true after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, especially in New York City. People “self-medicated” to deal with the symptoms of depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). According to a National Institute on Drug Abuse-funded study by Dr. David Vlahov conducted in the months following the attacks, depression and PTSD were almost twice the national baseline among New York City residents, and an increase in substance use persisted among survey respondents following 9/11. Respondents reported a 24.6 percent increase in alcohol consumption, a 9.7 percent increase in smoking cigarettes, and a 3.2 percent increase in marijuana use. When surveyed again six to nine months later, those rates had decreased only slightly.

There is evidence to suggest the same substance abuse and PTSD-related trends are occurring during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Associated Press recently reported that sales of alcoholic beverages rose 55 percent in the week ending March 21, according to market research firm Nielsen. Spirits like tequila, gin and pre-mixed cocktails led the way, with sales jumping 75 percent compared to the same period last year. Wine sales were up 66 percent, while beer sales rose 42 percent.

Cannabis e-commerce platform Jane Technologies reported in March that the average store revenue is up from 52 percent to 130 percent compared with sales in January 2020, with new online buyers increasing 142 percent. Cannabis analytics firm Headset reports marijuana beverage and edible sales are up significantly in California. Wholesale marijuana marketplace LeafLink reported on April 13 a 48 percent spike in orders versus the week before.

How will these substance abuse trends impact our workplaces when employees are able to return to work, and how can employers address the challenge? Now is not the time to stop or curtail drug testing; it’s a deterrent to use. The federal government continues to require drug testing of employees in certain safety-sensitive industries such as transportation. State drug testing laws and regulations have not been suspended. Employees who are required to be tested must be tested, regardless of our concerns with COVID-19.

We recommend the following steps toward maintaining a drug-free workforce. First, employers should take the appropriate steps to reaffirm their drug-free workplace policy with employees during this time. It could be transmitted by email, phone or in virtual staff meetings. Second, if you don’t have a telecommuting policy for employees working from home, establish one that references your drug-free workplace policy. And third, maintain your existing drug and alcohol testing requirements. Service agents that perform federally mandated drug and alcohol testing are considered essential employees, as safety and security is our core focus as an industry. We are open for business. We are here to help during this trying time and as our economy recovers in the coming months.

Arkansans working from home less likely to tipple during work hours

According to Alcohol.org, an American Addiction Centers resource, Arkansans working from home are drinking less alcohol during regular work hours than employees in other states. The survey of 3,000 American workers found that just 8 percent of Arkansans are drinking alcohol at home during work hours, the lowest rate in the nation. Hawaii tops the list with 67 percent of workers admitting to drinking alcohol at home during work hours. The survey found that more than one in three workers say they are likely to drink more alcohol in isolation. For an interactive map of the survey results, visit www.alcohol.org/guides/work-from-home-drinking.



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



AMListServ is now AML Communities!

Home - AML Communities

Contact Us Terms and Conditions Sign in



Arkansas
Municipal
League
Communities

GREAT CITIES MAKE A GREAT STATE

Home Communities Directory Events Browse Participate

search

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

Email

Password

[Can't access your account?](#)

Stay signed in

Login

Existing subscribers will automatically migrate to their respective groups in the AML Communities ListServ—just follow these steps to set a new password!

- Visit <http://AMLCommunity.arml.org>
- Click the “sign in” button
- Click the “Can’t access your account?” link
- Follow the directions on the screen!

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	\$5.758	\$0.438	\$0.101	\$1.087	\$1.087
April	\$5.401	\$6.088	\$0.338	\$0.064	\$1.085	\$0.924
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	\$24.975	\$2.261	\$0.366	\$15.810	\$5.244


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	\$10,883,990.67	\$828,851.20	\$191,150.53	\$2,055,055.19	\$2,055,396.67
April	\$10,209,400.74	\$11,509,342.85	\$638,095.99	\$120,647.65	\$2,051,915.02	\$1,747,446.98
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	\$47,212,138.65	\$4,274,163.21	\$691,219.08	\$29,886,259.90	\$9,912,863.77

* 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	\$57,761,974	\$55,016,953	\$49,863,364	\$49,926,480	\$107,625,338	\$104,943,433	\$140,860	\$241,046
April	\$58,720,966	\$53,915,385	\$50,676,002	\$45,679,915	\$109,396,969	\$99,595,300	\$173,069	\$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	\$252,563,156	\$737,249,904	\$215,839,167	\$631,273,834	\$468,402,323	\$1,368,523,738	\$602,889	\$2,631,590
Averages	\$63,140,789	\$61,437,492	\$53,959,792	\$52,606,153	\$117,100,581	\$114,043,645	\$150,722	\$219,299

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.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE—The city of Maumelle is accepting applications for the position of director of finance. This position reports directly to the mayor and works closely with the city clerk/treasurer. The general purpose of the position is to perform responsible management and municipal financial accounting work directing and coordinating the varied functions of the city's Finance Department. Work involves administering the central accounting system and data processing functions of the city. Education and experience: Applicants must possess a minimum of a bachelor's degree from a four-year college or university and four years related experience and/or training, or equivalent combination of education and experience. Also, must have three years managerial experience. CPFO and governmental accounting background strongly preferred. This is a full-time position with a generous benefit plan. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Note: Online applications and Resumes will not be accepted by themselves. A City of Maumelle Employment Application must be completed. For additional information, including a complete job description, application and listing of employee benefits go to the City of Maumelle web page (www.maumelle.org) and click on the Human Resources Department page. Completed applications are to be mailed to: City of Maumelle, Human Resources Department, 550 Edgewood Drive Maumelle, AR 72113. For questions, you may contact the Human Resources office at 501-851-2784, ext. 242 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. "EOE – Minority, Women, and Disabled individuals are encouraged to apply." This ad is available from the Title VI Coordinator in large print, on audio, and in Braille at 501-851-2784, ext. 242.


FIRE CHIEF—The city of Farmington is accepting applications for the position of fire chief. The fire chief is an exempt, administrative position that performs command and administrative functions. General areas of responsibility include the oversight and support of preparedness, supervision of a blended department of full-time and volunteer firefighters, scheduling, departmental short- and long-term planning, budget development and operation, statistical tracking and reporting, and other duties as assigned. Minimum qualifications include: graduation from high school or equivalent, bachelor's degree in fire technology, fire engineering, public administration, management, business administration or a related field preferred. Ten years of suppression and fire prevention experience including 5 years at a significant and increasingly responsible administrative level. Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications. A complete job description and application may be found at www.cityoffarmingtonar.com. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Send a completed application and resume to: Mayor Ernie Penn, P.O. Box 150, Farmington, AR 72730; or email erniepenn@cityoffarmington-ar.gov.

HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR—The city of Sherwood is accepting applications for the position of human resources director. All candidates for this position should be able to develop policy, direct and coordinate human resources activities, such as employment, compensation, labor relations, benefits, training, and employee services by performing duties personally or through subordinate supervisors. Applicants must possess the ability to effectively communicate on a one-to-one basis with the public; ability to maintain effective working relationships with employees, officials and the public; must possess working knowledge of the principles of modern HR management and a background in the fundamental principles and practices of public personnel administration; knowledge of the practices, terminology and requirements of a wide variety of occupations and an understanding of municipal government functions; knowledge of office practices with ability to identify and assign personnel as required. Broad knowledge of labor and employment

law requirements is a must. Completion of a bachelor's degree in personnel administration, industrial/organizational psychology or sociology, public administration or a related area; preference for Human Resources Professional Certification (SHRM-CP or SHRM-SCP), master's degree or equivalent; recent experience in HR or personnel administration or any equivalent combination of education and experience is required. Starting salary range is \$64,163 to \$80,204 DOE.

OPERATIONS MANAGER—Ozark Regional Transit of Northwest Arkansas seeks an operations manager. The position oversees, directs and manages transit fixed-route and paratransit/demand-response operations. The position is responsible for developing, implementing and maintaining the transit programs and reports directly to the executive director. Will supervise the work of drivers, dispatch, call center, road supervisor and safety coordinator. Will direct, plan and organize the development of transit operations and activities. Must have HS diploma or GED, a bachelor's degree in business, public administration or planning is encouraged and five years of professional public transit operations experience is preferred. Candidates that demonstrate progressive supervisory experience, management and leadership given preferential review. Will be required to have a valid Arkansas Class B Commercial Driver's License with air-brake endorsement and passenger endorsement or equivalent issued by another state by time of appointment. Successful background check and pre-employment drug screening required. Basic prior knowledge of ADA, Title VI, EEO and DBE are preferred. Applications accepted by Ozark Regional Transit Human Resources Department, 2423 East Robinson Avenue, Springdale, AR 72764; online at www.ozark.org; email resume to gdelancey@ozark.org, 479-361-8752. Salary \$50,000 to \$52,000. Open until filled. Ozark Regional Transit is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

PUBLIC WORKS AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIRECTOR—The city of Prairie Grove is accepting applications for the position of public works and administrative services director. Prairie Grove is a vibrant, fast growing city in NW Arkansas, roughly 5 miles west of Fayetteville Arkansas, with a population expected to reach 7,000 following the 2020 census. Applicants should submit a detailed resume as well as an application to Mayor Hudson, P.O. Box 944, Prairie Grove AR 72753; or email sonnyhudson@pgtc.com; or deliver in person at City Hall, 975 E. Douglas Street, Prairie Grove. The position is responsible for overseeing water, sewer, streets, solid waste, parks and recreation, planning, code enforcement, and various city administrative responsibilities related to the day to day operations of the city. Applicants should hold a minimum of a bachelor's degree in engineering, public administration, management or related field. Experience and knowledge of water and wastewater utilities is a priority and applicants will either need to be licensed with a minimum of a Class IV water and Class III wastewater license or the ability to get licensed within the first year. Applicants should have a minimum of 10 years of experience managing similar job duties. Knowledge of budgeting, regulation compliance, human resource management, and business operations is important. Salary range is \$75,000 to \$95,000 DOQ with benefits to be negotiated that could include phone, work vehicle, health insurance, retirement and other benefits. Applications will close June 1.

WATER TREATMENT OPERATOR—The city of Danville is accepting applications for a water treatment operator. Applicants must have a minimum of a Class T3 license. Salary depends on experience and qualifications. Benefits include paid health insurance, paid vacation, sick leave and retirement. For more information contact Danville City Hall at 479-495-2013, email resume to danville@arkwest.com, or mail to Danville City Hall, P.O. Box 69, Danville, AR 72833. 

EARN THE RECOGNITION YOUR CITY DESERVES!



Enter the programs you have developed that show the improvement and growth of your city.

Categories:

- Public Safety
- Infrastructure/Utilities/Water
- Education/Workforce Development
- Wellness & Fitness
- Tourism Development/Creative Culture
- Environmental/Green Management Practices

Winning cities will be featured in Arkansas Business and awards presented at the Winter Meeting of the Arkansas Municipal League.

Deadline to enter: August 31

Entry information is available at:

www.arkansasbusiness.com/trendsetter

For questions email bonnie@abpg.com

Presented by



In partnership with





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

CELEBRATING 86 YEARS OF SERVICE TO ARKANSAS

Stephens traces its origins back to the public finance markets of the early 1930s when we first began investing in Arkansas. We have since grown into one of the largest privately held financial services firms in the United States, all while remaining true to our roots. From our municipal advisory work to financing the recent expansion of Razorback Stadium, we take great pride in all that we do and in the difference we're able to make in Arkansas.

Headquartered in Little Rock, Stephens offers broad-based knowledge and sound advice with the objective of meeting the long-term goals of Arkansas' public, private and nonprofit municipal bond issuers. With the largest salesforce and investor network in the state, we stand ready to dedicate a full complement of senior bankers, traders and technicians to your community's success.

Little Rock 800-643-9691
Fayetteville 800-205-8613

LITTLE ROCK, AR • ATLANTA, GA • AUSTIN, TX • DALLAS, TX
FAYETTEVILLE, AR • JACKSON, MS • NASHVILLE, TN

Stephens
Public Finance