

City & Town

JUNE 2020 VOL. 76, NO. 06

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE



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ON THE COVER—Cities and towns, schools and the communities that support them have found creative ways to celebrate the Class of 2020 during the coronavirus crisis, which has affected students and their families across the state. Check out some of the ways Arkansas’ grads have been honored this year beginning on page 18. Read also the state’s latest guidance for cities and towns during the COVID-19 pandemic, tips on crisis management for public officials, and about a new 100-acre solar energy farm coming to Jonesboro, all inside this issue. And don’t forget to register for the League’s 86th Convention, Aug. 19-21 in Little Rock. Hotel and registration information begins on page 28.—atm

Features

14 Jonesboro solar farm set to shine in 2021

A partnership between Jonesboro City Water and Light and TurningPoint Energy will bring a 100-acre solar farm to the Craighead Technology Park, adding clean, sustainable energy to the grid in the northeast Arkansas hub city.

16 Crisis management in 10 Rs

We are in the midst of battling numerous crises, some of them unprecedented, and keeping “the 10 Rs” of crisis management in mind can help cities and towns prepare, navigate and recover during challenging times.

18 Celebrating the Class of 2020 during COVID

The usual graduation ceremonies and other traditional senior-year traditions had to be put on hold this spring as the state mitigates the spread of coronavirus, but cities and towns still found creative ways to celebrate their graduates.

22 COVID resources for cities and towns: Reopening continues

Phase One of the governor’s plan for reopening continues with expanded guidance for certain businesses, and with added criteria for summer camps and school and community sports.

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Dear friends and fellow public servants,
The swirl of new challenges facing us seems unwilling to subside in 2020.

But the latest tragedy—the death of George Floyd by municipal police in Minneapolis—has come to many if not all of our doorsteps, even though it happened 800 miles away. The video is one of the saddest things I have ever witnessed. It has proven to be the proverbial last straw for many of us, and thousands of Arkansans have taken to the streets, in unison with Americans everywhere, to protest the abuse of police authority.

We must heal, and it will take time. But when the wounds are closed, we must get down to what many will find difficult: the necessity of making George Floyd's life—and death—meaningful.

In Jonesboro, we are starting that process with a long look in the mirror. My police chief, who I commend for his platform of minority outreach, feels like his five years of work to gain trust among Jonesboro's African-American community is unraveled by the rogue officers' actions in Minnesota. But Chief Rick Elliott has patiently listened to both the heartfelt pain of our citizenry, as well as more than a fair share of despicable labels and false accusations thrown at him and his department. Jonesboro Police Department has been exemplary during this time, but I expect nothing less.

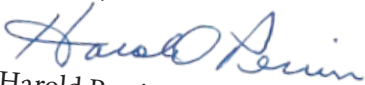
And while Elliott re-examines his policy manual with our city attorneys, I too am examining my best practices, my own policies and looking for flaws. I have listened to my community and have taken one criticism especially to heart: our lack of diversity among department heads and directors. While I could point to losses of African-American department leaders to better opportunities, the bottom line is we do not currently reflect the population we serve, and that has to change.

I have asked our local university, Arkansas State, for assistance in creating a way to connect the divide that we have to acknowledge exists in our constantly growing, diversifying population. And we will create a diversity commission, by one name or another, to help understand how to connect with those who feel like Jonesboro does not offer them the life they deserve.

What I'm saying is we are at another point in American history that requires sincere change. For years we have talked about "needing to have a conversation." Well, it's time. And as mayor, I am adamant that we are going to have it in Jonesboro.

I hope you will do the same in your city or town. You might even have some suggestions for me. If our experience in Jonesboro can be of any use to you, do not hesitate to reach out to me or my staff. And if you have found successful ways to connect diverse parts of your community, please share with us. It's too important, and has never been more urgent.

Sincerely,



Harold Perrin
Mayor, Jonesboro
President, Arkansas Municipal League



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From the Desk of the Executive Director

2020: Painful, Cruel and Frightening.

2020: Humanity Will Win.



This has been five hellish months. A pandemic, the likes of which we hopefully will never see again. It has taken our norms and turned them inside out. Cases, deaths and hospitalizations continue to rise in our state. The opioid epidemic continues its scourge, touching each of us in painful and, much too often, permanent ways.¹ The horrible and uncalled for death of George Floyd in Minnesota has been felt across our country. From justified and lawful peaceful protests to violence and burning buildings, we've seen it all unfold in real time on our various portable devices. It's overwhelming.

As I've drafted this column my mind has moved in a million different directions. I've thought about Mr. Floyd, my children and my friends. I've read dozens of social media posts. Some have been angry, but most have not. Most have spoken of love and the need for our country to heal. I follow a great many people on Twitter (@MarkHayes_AR). A crossroads of politicians, journalists, artists, friends, athletes, entertainers and family. I try to be selective about who I follow but admittedly have a large contingent of Green Bay Packers on the list of 376 folks I follow.² One of the players, Allen Lazard,³ posted a simple but powerful comment following the tragedy in Minneapolis. He posted: "Love is Love. Hate is Hate." Concise and meaningful, so I replied with: "Well said. Simple, accurate and done with love. Peace my friend." I was happy to see that he liked my comment. I like to think those small interactions make a difference. At least I hope they do.

Here are few more of my thoughts from this early June in this maddening, scary and awful year:⁴

- COVID-19. More infections, more deaths, and less distancing and mask wearing. We've got to do better.
- Peaceful demonstrations and protests. The foundation of our country is the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. The so-called "free speech" clause. It is so much more than that. It allows, demands really, that we think about our freedoms and articulate them. From political to ecclesiastic, our individual freedoms spring from the First Amendment.⁵ Without it there would be no democracy, no freedom and no republic.⁶

Many years ago, Martin Luther King Jr. told *TIME* magazine: "Our use of passive resistance in Montgomery is not based on resistance to get rights for ourselves, but to achieve friendship with the men who are denying us our rights and change them through friendship and a bond of

¹ My family's journey was outlined in last month's column. Wells' death will not go in vain. Alison and I know we have a mission to fulfill. We'll do it when our grief is more manageable. My family has united to grieve and heal. It's a long road we face. All of us thank you for your prayers and good thoughts. They help immensely.

² It is no secret that I am a passionate Green Bay Packers fan. My local controller calls it irrational; I call it enthusiastic. The Packers are one of the oldest clubs in the NFL and hold the record for most NFL championships at 13. And yes, that includes pre-Super Bowl, because the NFL was in existence before the Lombardi Trophy was born. And yes, the Lombardi trophy is named after the late Packer coach, Vince Lombardi. Ok, I'll stop now.

³ Lazard is 6 feet, 5 inches tall and weighs 227 pounds according to the Packers' official website. He played college ball at Iowa State where he set multiple records. He made a name for himself last year and I believe has a very bright future. He's a gifted young man. Yes, I am a fan. I'd like to meet him someday.

⁴ I like lists. I have a to-do list that is perpetual. I often write the local controller using a list of our blessings to let her know she's loved.

⁵ I've taught constitutional law for many years to rookie police officers. I say the same thing every time: Without the First Amendment there would be no others. Because if you can't think it and articulate it freely then the belief is gone. Take the Fourth Amendment (search and seizure) for example. If our Founding Fathers were forbidden to articulate the idea of individual personal rights to our homes and things, we would have no right to that privacy and no protection from state action.

⁶ For those who may wish to further read about democracy, representative democracy and a republic here's a good summary: <https://tinyurl.com/WashingtonPostVolokh>.

Christian understanding before God.”⁷ The article speaks to the relevancy of peaceful protests both then and now.

- Hate. I’ve seen this statement many times on social media: “No one hates a bad cop more than a good cop.” I shy away from the use of the word hate. It’s very strong and potentially very explosive. Of course, I have a few exceptions like most folks do. For instance, much to the chagrin of Mother Hayes I hate liver and onions. My brother Pete feels the same way. More importantly I abhor (hate I suppose) bigotry, prejudice, violence and bullies of all form and fashion. Mother Hayes drilled that into her two sons from a very early age, and she continues to whenever the opportunity arises.⁸
- Police. We ask cops to do a great deal. Too much I often think. They are called to help with domestic disputes, social disputes, angry people, injured people, overdoses, children gone missing, children misbehaving. The list goes on and on. Like teachers, we don’t pay them enough and like most vocations and professions there are good ones and bad ones. I firmly believe the vast majority of police officers are heroic and profoundly committed to helping people. We need to recognize that. However, we must also recognize that we have a police system that is flawed and must change. What happened to George Floyd should never have occurred. What’s captured on that video is abhorrent and criminal. We must address it directly and unequivocally.
- Narcan.⁹ Hung on most police officers’ duty belts along with a gun and handcuffs is a dose or two of Narcan used to bring people back from near-fatal heroin overdoses. We ask cops to act in this role because they are almost always the first of the first responders to arrive. They are already in a vehicle driving when the 911 call is received. Ambulances and fire trucks are almost always stationary when the call comes in. Thus, the cop arrives first most of the time. We need to ensure that all our police officers have that miracle drug at their disposal. Lives really do depend on it.
- Local government. I have immense faith in this country. I’m proud to work in local government as I believe it to be the most productive and necessary part of our political system. Local officials have always found creative solutions to extremely difficult problems. Today those officials face the most challenging of times. Discord in the community over actual and perceived police powers run amok. Ensuring that peaceful protests stay peaceful and providing basic city services while facing a pandemic. All the while infrastructure in the form of streets, electricity, water, bridges and more are deteriorating at rates we’ve never seen before. Now is the time for cities and towns to lead. To show our citizens that we care, that we will not stand for abuse, that we will stamp out injustice and we will do our very best to protect our children and those who cannot protect themselves.
- Love. I’m sure that sounds a bit hokey. I don’t mean it in that 1960s or ’70s groovy peace kinda way. Well, maybe I do a little bit. There is no greater power than humanity joined in harmony. When we respect, listen to and love each other we set the stage for not only healing but a better place to live. We owe that to our children. They need to feel comfortable that the police will help them, not hurt them. They need to know they have a place to land when addiction attacks them or their friends. They need to be free from COVID but if not, the appropriate medical care must be made available to them. Our children need to feel loved in their city or town. Local officials can do that. Of that I’m convinced.

Until next month, Peace.



Mark R. Hayes
Executive Director
Arkansas Municipal League

⁷ time.com/5101740/martin-luther-king-peaceful-protests-lessons

⁸ COVID has kept Mother Hayes quarantined in her senior two-bedroom apartment for the past 12 weeks or so. We keep in touch via FaceTime and often have an early evening cocktail together where we discuss multiple topics. She’s 87 and likely better read than I. She’s certainly wiser!

⁹ Narcan, or naloxone as it’s more formally named, is a nasal spray that can be administered to those suffering from an opioid/heroin overdose. It’s amazingly effective if administered in a timely manner.

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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

Anita Bennett, M.D.

Tracey Cline-Pew

Javier Hernandez

Tina S. Ipe, M.D., M.P.H.

Craig Rickert

Krissy Thomason

Jennifer Thompson

Jim von Tungeln

Larry Whitehorn

arml.org



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citytown@arml.org



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Arkansas
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GREAT CITIES MAKE A GREAT STATE

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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**

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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!

Six Arkansas communities receive water and wastewater project funding

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Commission has approved \$12,802,763 for water and wastewater projects serving 71,593 customers in six Arkansas communities, the agency announced on May 22. The recipients and projects funded are as follows:

- The city of Austin in Lonoke County received a \$3,078,031 loan from the Arkansas Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund for wastewater treatment plant improvements. The number of customers served by this project will be 1,285.
- The Little Rock Water Reclamation Authority in Pulaski County received a \$7.5 million loan from the Arkansas Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund to repair damaged infrastructure. This project will serve 69,410 customers.
- The city of Mitchellville in Desha County received a \$97,830 loan and \$293,490 in principal forgiveness from the Arkansas Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund to rehabilitate the water storage tank and replace existing city water meters with radio-read smart water meters. These smart meters save the city money by using radio signals to read customer's meters. This project will serve 180 customers.
- The city of Ravenden Springs in Randolph County received a \$7,298 grant from the Water Development Fund for the purchase of software and a handheld meter-reading device. This project will serve 63 customers.
- The city of Taylor in Lafayette County received a \$1,633,114 loan from the Arkansas Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund to replace the existing wastewater collection system. The customer base for this project is 255.
- The city of Tyrone in Poinsett County received a \$193,000 loan from the Arkansas Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund to repair and paint a water tank. The project will serve 400 customers.

More information about the Natural Resource Division's water and wastewater programs can be found at www.anrc.arkansas.gov/divisions/water-resources-development or by contacting Debby Dickson at debra.dickson@arkansas.gov or 501-682-0548. Learn more about the Arkansas Department of Agriculture at www.aad.arkansas.gov.

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.

Directory updates moving online

Updates to the *Arkansas Directory of Municipal Officials* will move from the pages of *City & Town* to the League's Local Government Portal at www.local.arkansas.gov. The portal is searchable by city or town name, county and zip code. Each municipality's entry will include the most up-to-date list of elected officials, department heads and contact information.

The *Arkansas Directory of Municipal Officials* will continue to be published on a biennial basis, with the 2021-2022 issue scheduled for next spring. The current edition is available to order from the League's Publications eCart at www.arml.org/store. The directory is also available to purchase as a searchable PDF. 📄

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.

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THIS MOMENT BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOUR HOMETOWN. What makes a place unique, memorable, or special? It's paying attention to the details and being invested in what the locals cherish. Whether it's making sure the recycling is collected on time every week or sponsoring your favorite festival or parade. A better life starts in the city limits. From small towns to big cities, Arkansas's municipal communities improve our quality of life, every day. *Great Cities Make a Great State.*



greatcitiesgreatstate.com



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Solar farm to bring clean energy to Jonesboro

By Craig Rickert, Jonesboro Unlimited

Two hundred eighteen sunny days per year. Meteorologists say that's how much sun we get in Jonesboro. It's the basis for a formula that makes our city a natural fit for a new solar farm.

From its new home in the Craighead Technology Park in Jonesboro, a new 100-acre solar farm will have a view from horizon to horizon.

Jonesboro's City Water and Light (CWL), just announced plans for the new 13.25 MW farm located in the heart of Jonesboro's growing industrial corridor, which already claims household names like Nestlé and Frito-Lay. Now, those powerhouse companies will have clean energy coming from, quite literally, next door. "This resource will be a great addition to our generation portfolio. It will provide clean, sustainable energy and price certainty for our customers for many years," said Jake Rice, manager of CWL.

The project is a partnership between TurningPoint Energy (TPE) and CWL. It also marks CWL's first solar project. TPE will develop and build the solar farm and turn the keys over to CWL when finished in 2021. The solar farm will generate an estimated 24,292 Mwh during the first year of operation. That equates to enough power to supply roughly 1,600 homes with electricity each year. In terms of backing up its label as "clean" energy, the addition of this solar farm is the same as adding 22,430 acres of U.S. forest storing carbon for one year or taking 3,711 cars off the road for the year.

It also shines a light on Jonesboro's industrial base. "Having the project located in the Craighead Technology Park will greatly enhance our recruitment efforts," said Mark Young, president of Jonesboro Unlimited.

"Our utility infrastructure is a key component of our success in attracting new industry to Jonesboro," Young added. "Being able to provide inexpensive and reliable electricity, water and wastewater is one of the first factors industries consider when looking to locate a new project. When they see what is happening in Jonesboro, they always want to know more."

The solar project is one of several projects CWL is currently working on or has just completed. Recently, CWL installed 5 miles of hurricane-proof poles that feed Craighead Technology Park. In addition, a 200 MVA transformer will soon be added to a major substation near Craighead Technology Park.

"It takes a great partnership like the one we have with CWL to maintain the success of our progressive city," said Jonesboro Mayor Harold Perrin. "We couldn't be prouder of the work CWL does on behalf of the city of Jonesboro, its citizens and our industries. Knowing we can exceed our current and future utility needs is one of the reasons Jonesboro continues to be a place where people want to invest and grow their business."

When finished, there will be over 33,000 panels covering the site. The single-axis tracker system will rotate to follow the sun throughout the day and feature some new technology: bi-facial panels. Bi-facial panels feature cells on the backside of the solar panels. The bi-facial panels allow for light reflected off the ground and other panels to be collected. It's an additional measure of efficiency before the electricity is converted and fed back into CWL's grid for distribution.

"We are honored to partner with CWL to provide a turnkey solar solution from development to construction to operation for a clean, seamless generation resource within the CWL portfolio and its community," said Jared Schoch, president of TurningPoint Energy. "Now it's time to deliver on the commitments we have made by bringing the best solar industry providers to Jonesboro to actualize this project."

The project isn't solely an investment in renewable energy. According to Rice, "It'll provide a hedge against a future carbon tax, and we all know how volatile natural gas can be. So this resource will bring a measure of price protection for CWL's customers."

That's a forecast that pleases everyone, rain or shine.

Craig Rickert is director of communications at Jonesboro Unlimited. Contact Craig at crickert@jonesborounlimited.com.

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Obituaries

ROGER DEWAYNE ADAMS, 51, a police officer with the city of Hampton, died May 27.

DENNIS BREWER, 55, chief of the West Memphis Fire Department and a 30-year veteran of the fire service, died May 31.

SCOTT ANDERSON HUTTON, 36, a police officer with the city of Alexander, died June 3.

ROSEANNA MARKHAM, 69, who served the city of Norman as mayor from 1995-1998, a council member from 2011-2013 and was again elected mayor in 2015, died Feb. 7.

FRANK L. MARTIN, 76, who served as West Memphis' city treasurer and chief financial officer for 22 years, died May 23.

JOANN SMITH NELSON, 61, who served as a city director for the city of Arkadelphia, died Feb. 22.

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The 10 Rs of Crisis Management

By Edward Segal

Public health emergencies. Cyber attacks. Mass shootings. Floods. These are just a few of the dozens of things that can trigger a crisis for local government leaders and staff.

But all crises are not created equal. Some may come and go quickly with little or no lasting impact. Others may fester or linger for weeks or months and tarnish the image, reputation and credibility of your government, agency or department.

The coronavirus crisis poses a set of unique challenges for local governments across the country. It's unusual for a crisis to impact so many almost at once. Owing to the evolving nature of this emergency, there are many unanswered questions about the virus—the answers to which will be essential in continuing to address the crisis and ensure it doesn't return later.

No matter what kind of crisis you face or how long it lasts, this much is true:

- You must be ready to respond strategically, efficiently and effectively.
- Hope, luck, delay, denial or stonewalling are not effective management strategies. They usually make matters worse.

While it is seldom possible to predict when, where or how a crisis will strike, you can at least get ready for it. There are several major steps you can take now to help ensure you are as prepared as you can be for when you have to deal with a disaster, scandal, or other emergency. I've boiled these steps down to the following 10 rules—"The 10 Rs of crisis management for local governments."

Think of the 10 Rs of crisis management as your road map for avoiding, preparing for, managing and recovering from a crisis. Given what can be at stake, this is one map that can help you and your government, department or agency navigate a crisis when, not if, it strikes.

- 1. Risk.** Identify the risk triggers that would cause a crisis for your city, town, county, agency or department. Some risks—such as tornadoes, floods and other weather-related events—may be more likely for your area. Other crisis triggers—including allegations of inappropriate behavior, lawsuits and ransomware attacks—are universal.
- 2. Reduce.** Take the steps that are necessary and prudent to lessen known risks. These steps can be as basic as following common-sense accounting procedures in order to help prevent fraud and forgery to more extensive actions such as providing appropriate training or retraining to the employees at your agencies or departments.
- 3. Ready.** Have a crisis plan in place and ready to implement when it's needed. Because one size will not fit all, the plan should be customized to meet the needs and realities of your government.
- 4. Redundancies.** Have back-up and contingency plans in case they are required. Since it is impossible to plan for every eventuality, a Plan B, Plan C or Plan D may be needed, just in case.
- 5. Research.** Get all the information you can about your crisis, including details about what just

happened, is happening now or you expect to happen. Knowing the who, what, when, where, why and how of the situation is essential in helping to respond strategically, effectively and efficiently.

6. **Rehearse.** Practice implementing your plan on a regular basis—at least once a year. Having a plan and not practicing it is not much different than having no plan at all. The more you practice implementing the plan, the more prepared you will be if and when you need to use it.
7. **React.** Know in advance what event will trigger a crisis and who has the authority to activate it. Because different crises will require different responses, know in advance how you would react to a variety of different crisis scenarios. A crisis is no time to learn as you go along.
8. **Reach Out.** Immediately communicate with those who are affected by or concerned about the crisis. You may have different public sectors and stakeholders—taxpayers, senior citizens, homeowners and the business community—who would be affected by the situation and would want information and updates about the crisis and how it was addressed or resolved.
9. **Recover.** Know how your government would bounce back from a crisis. Planning your recovery from a disaster, scandal or other emergency is just as important as planning your response to it. You will need to get back to normal as quickly as possible, and a recovery plan will help you do just that.
10. **Remember.** Keep in mind the experiences of other local governments that have already gone through a crisis. What can you do to repeat their successes and avoid their mistakes? There is no need to reinvent the wheel when it comes to the best ways to respond to, manage and recover from a crisis. There are plenty of lessons from which you can learn.

Edward Segal is a crisis management expert, consultant, and author. He is the former government affairs director and CEO of the Marin Association of REALTORS® in northern California and CEO of the Greater Los Angeles Association of REALTORS®. His book on crisis management, Crisis Ahead: 101 Ways to Prepare for and Bounce Back from Disasters, Scandals, and Other Emergencies, will be released as a paperback on June 16.

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Cities celebrate Class of 2020 creatively during crisis

As the state and the nation continues to work to contain a global pandemic, it's safe to say that no member of the Class of 2020 will forget their senior year. With the last several months of school completed in relative isolation and traditional graduation ceremonies cancelled, it's been a challenging and often deflating experience for grads after 12 years of hard work.

While this year's class will never forget their senior year, their schools and their cities and towns stepped up to find creative ways to let them know they are not forgotten. Here are just some of the ways cities across Arkansas have celebrated the Class of 2020.

North Little Rock

North Little Rock High School organized several special events to celebrate this year's more than 500 graduates and to let them know they are appreciated in this unique and difficult year. On May 12, the day they would have held their traditional graduation ceremony, the faculty and administration lined the streets by the school and cheered on the Class of 2020, who paraded by car past the school. The school also placed yard signs featuring the portrait of each graduate along each side of the historic high school, said Principal Scott Jennings. "The kids and their parents really appreciated that," he said. "I saw a lot of them out there taking their pictures with them."

Camryn Ross is a member of NLR's Class of 2020 and the daughter of Andrea Sayre, a claims representative in the League's Municipal League Workers' Compensation Program. When *City & Town* spoke with her, she was busy planning a (small, COVID-aware) family party to celebrate her signing to be a member of the Red Wolves Dancers at A-State in Jonesboro this fall. Her high school's efforts helped the students through these tough times, she said.

"It's definitely sad—not having those last three months of your senior year is sad," Ross said. "Everybody coming together and seeing all of our teachers and coaches, it just makes us feel a little bit better about all of it."

During the parade of seniors, the lights and scoreboard of the stadium were lit for 20 minutes and 20 seconds to honor the year's grads, an event the school named "Be the Light."

"That was something that kind of brought me to tears a little bit," Ross said, "because that's where, every Friday night, we got to be with all our friends and teachers."

The school held a stripped-down, virtual graduation ceremony, which gave students the chance to don their caps and gowns and receive their diplomas with four family members or other special guests present. The whole event was captured on video, edited together and aired on KATV Channel 7, Principal Jennings said. The students

may also get another chance to participate in a traditional graduation ceremony in front of all their friends and family, with a tentative date of July 25 for the makeup event, to be held at Barton Coliseum in Little Rock.



Camryn Ross, North Little Rock High School Class of 2020.

PHOTO BY ANDREA SAYRE



PHOTO BY ANDREW MORGAN

Pea Ridge

The city of Pea Ridge also used photos to celebrate grads, hanging their portraits along N. Curtis Avenue, the main avenue in the city.

“The city of Pea Ridge was contacted by a parent of an outgoing senior looking for any ideas we could show recognition to the seniors,” said Mayor Jackie Crabtree about the banner project. “The city is very excited to be able to give back. Afterwards, the families will get the banners back for their outgoing seniors’ memorabilia. It is great to see our community come together to give these outgoing seniors the most that we can to show them recognition.”



PHOTOS COURTESY THE TIMES OF NORTHEAST BENTON COUNTY

Bay

In the city of Bay, they celebrated the Class of 2020 by expanding on a longtime tradition called the “senior ride” and turning it into a graduation parade through the city, said Bay Police Chief Paul Keith.

“This year we were tasked with putting on a parade version of the senior ride,” Keith said. “We were able to recognize the seniors with our first responders leading the way. I was amazed at how the community showed up and gave our grads a celebration that they won’t forget.”



PHOTOS BY KELLEE KIRBY



Benton

Benton senior Ryan Taneja was crowned the 2020 Prom “QuaranKing” after celebrating his senior prom at his local Sonic. Ryan entered a nationwide contest put on by the fast food chain calling on seniors to creatively celebrate their prom at Sonic.

“I have tried my entire life to be a role model and bring smiles to the faces of those who most desperately needed it, and with the honor of being selected as America’s Prom QuaranKing, I get to show the world and most importantly my hometown, little ole Benton, not to give in to anything in life,” Taneja said. “Times in life will be difficult, but I firmly believe and have proven through my actions that if you are the best person you can be, stay positive, and work hard for what you believe in, the sky’s the limit.”



PHOTOS COURTESY RYAN TANEJA

Crossett

In Crossett the community turned to social media to creatively celebrate their seniors. On Facebook, families could “adopt” a senior and send them cards, gifts and encouragement. That was just one of the ways the city celebrated its new grads, Mayor Crystal Marshall said.

“We also had a senior ride sponsored by the city and the school where all the seniors who wished to participate lined up at the high school and drove parade style in a police-led loop through town. The community lined up along the streets cheering them on. It is set to become a new Crossett tradition. Multiple local businesses painted all the seniors’ names on their windows. The chamber of commerce ran all their names on their electric sign. The high school itself ran photos of all the seniors on their electric sign and also rented a large billboard south of town with all the seniors’ pictures. It was a community effort to show appreciation and love to our incredible Class of 2020!”



PHOTO BY CROSSETT MAYOR CRYSTAL MARSHALL

Walnut Ridge

Walnut Ridge held a parade for its graduating class, complete with a fire and police department salute.

“We thought it was a good way to recognize our seniors, and we were able to hold the parade on the day of their graduation, said Jacob Kersey, principal of Walnut Ridge High School. “I was especially overwhelmed at the turnout we had. The community came out to support our kids and we’ve already had requests to make the parade a tradition. It was a simple concept, but the outcome was a very special moment for our graduating class.”

Mayor Charles Snapp agreed that their efforts to show appreciation to the grads helped during these challenging times. “Unusual times call for creative ideas,” he said. “I was honored to see our fire and police departments work together with others in the Lawrence County School District in an effort to put on an event that our seniors will remember for years to come.”



PHOTOS COURTESY CITY OF WALNUT RIDGE

Sherwood

The city of Sherwood didn't let a little rain get in the way of recognizing their grads with a parade! The city partnered with a church and three local schools for a "Trail of Seniors" parade on a rainy Sunday, May 16.

"The idea and funding for it came from Victory Baptist Church, along with several donors," said the city's interim public information officer Misty Raper. "Every senior at Sylvan Hills High School, Lisa Academy North High and Abundant Life Christian Academy had a sign with their photo on it. The students and families were able to drive through to see all the signs. Our community loved it, despite the pouring rain."



PHOTOS BY DARREN AUSTIN



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WHAT CITIES AND TOWNS SHOULD KNOW DURING THE

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PANDEMIC

Phase One reopening plans continue as coronavirus cases surge across the state

In mid-April, Governor Asa Hutchinson began announcing Phase One reopening dates for a variety of Arkansas businesses, including restaurants, gyms, salons, large outdoor and indoor venues, and houses of worship. Secretary of Health Dr. Nate Smith issued Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) directives that outline guidelines and criteria necessary for these businesses to reopen to the public.

Phase One reopening announcements continued throughout the month of May, including restaurant bars, stand-alone bars and clubs, overnight summer camps, and community and school-sponsored youth sports.

As of press time, Arkansas has over 8,000 confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19. Of the total confirmed cases, 2,208 cases are currently active. During his daily press briefing on Tuesday, June 2, the governor reported 375 new cases in Arkansas, the highest number of new community cases in one day. "Phase Two is on pause for now," he said, noting an increase in hospitalizations as one factor that is monitored and evaluated as the state considers lifting additional restrictions. Arkansas also reported the highest daily increase in hospitalizations with 11, for a total of 132 total hospitalizations.

To read a summary of the governor's daily actions and updates, as well as all COVID-19 executive orders and ADH directives, visit our COVID-19 Resources for Municipalities at www.arml.org/resources/covid-19/.

Restaurant Bars: May 19 **Stand-Alone Bars & Clubs: May 26**

During his daily briefing on Monday, May 18, Governor Hutchinson announced reopening dates for bars. Bars housed within restaurants are allowed to operate beginning Tuesday, May 19. Stand-alone bars will be allowed to resume operations on Tuesday, May 26.

Bars housed within restaurants must meet the following criteria to resume operations on May 19:

The ADH issued a revised directive for in-house restaurant operations to include requirements for those bars. The Phase One requirements are as follows:

- Physical distancing of 6 feet between individuals must be maintained.
- Entertainment operations within restaurants, such as live music, in-seat gaming or arcades, are permitted. Entertainment involving performers, such as live music or singing, shall follow these requirements:
 - The performers or players must be separated from the audience by at least 12 feet and must be limited in number to fifty (50) or fewer.
 - Performers or players may be without a face covering if they are 12 feet from other persons, including other performers.
 - In-seat gaming, arcades, billiards and other games that patrons physically touch should be disinfected between each use.

Stand-alone bars and clubs must meet the following criteria to resume operations on May 26:

- Seating shall be limited to up to 33 percent of total seating capacity. This includes indoor and outdoor dining areas.
- Seating at tables shall be adjusted to maintain 10-foot physical distancing between tables so occupied seats are 6 feet from seats at adjacent tables.
- Seating at the bar shall maintain 6 feet of physical distancing between individuals.
- Reservations should be encouraged when practical. If reservations are not made, physical distancing must be maintained when customers are waiting to be seated.
- All staff who come in contact with patrons must wear a face covering or mask that completely covers their nose and mouth. Staff in the back are encouraged to wear a face covering or mask.
- Gloves used during food preparation shall be worn in accordance with ADH Rules Pertaining to Retail Food Establishments. Glove use by waitstaff and others who do not directly contact food or beverages with their hands is optional.
- Patrons must wear a face covering upon entrance and while in the restaurant until the food or drink is served. Service may be declined to patrons not wearing face coverings or masks.
- All staff shall be screened daily before entering the facility. Any employee with a cough, sore throat, fever or shortness of breath shall be immediately excluded from the facility.
- Signage must be placed at the front of restaurants to alert patrons not to enter the facility if they are sick or have symptoms such as cough, sore throat, fever or shortness of breath.
- Monitoring of frequent handwashing and no bare-hand contact of ready-to-eat foods by staff.
- Drinks shall be served to customers in individual glasses/containers. No shared containers of drinks, such as pitchers of beer or mixed drinks.
- Groups at one table shall not exceed 10 people.
- Self-service operations, including, but not limited to, bar snacks (pretzels, peanuts, etc.), buffets and condiment bars shall remain closed for patron access.
- Facilities with any employee testing positive shall report the result to the Arkansas Department of Health immediately.
- Following each drink or meal service, the tables, chairs, menus and any other frequently contacted surfaces, including, but not limited to, condiment containers, napkin holders and salt/pepper shakers, shall be cleaned and disinfected prior to seating the next customer.
- Products with an EPA-approved emerging viral pathogen claim are expected to be effective against COVID-19. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for these products.
- Food contact surfaces shall be sanitized in accordance with §4-501.114 of the Rules Pertaining to Retail Food Establishments.
- Single-use items including, but not limited to, disposable silverware, condiment packets and straws, shall be removed from public access and provided only upon request.
- Entertainment operations within bars, such as live music or live dancers, in-seat gaming or arcades, are permitted. Entertainment involving performers, such as live musicians, singers or dancers, shall follow these requirements:
 - ◻ The performers or players must be separated from the audience by at least 12 feet.
 - ◻ Performers or players may be without a face covering if they are 12 feet from other persons, including other performers. Performers should wear a face covering while not performing.
- Dancing by patrons is prohibited at this time.
- In-seat gaming, arcades, billiards and other games that patrons physically touch should be disinfected between each use.
- Restrooms and other high-touch areas shall be disinfected frequently based on customer volume.

The above restrictions will be in place until the Secretary of Health determines epidemiological data are sufficient to proceed to Phase Two and then Phase Three. The requirements for Phase Two and Three will supersede the above-mentioned requirements. Phase Two will include less-restrictive measures such as increasing the total available seating to 66 percent while maintaining 6 feet physical distance among patrons. Phase Three will include returning to normal operations with full seating capacity.

Summer Camps: May 21

At his press conference on Thursday, May 21, Governor Hutchinson announced that restrictions for summer residential camps and community and school-sponsored team sports are being lifted and these events will be allowed to occur per ADH guidelines.

Per ADH: “This directive addresses the operation of overnight camps throughout the state this summer. This directive is intended to cover organized, residential camp group activities for children that may be outdoors or indoors. This directive excludes band or choir camps, which remain prohibited from operating. It is not intended to cover summer day camps, which are covered under the Directive for Summer Day Camps.”

Residential summer camps must meet the following criteria to resume operations on May 21:

- All staff and campers are strongly encouraged to self-quarantine at home (do not leave home for any purpose) for 14 days prior to arriving at camp, and strongly encouraged to have a PCR (nasal swab) COVID-19 test performed within 4 days (96 hours) prior to being admitted to camp.
- If the test is positive, campers shall not be permitted to enter the camp.
- This requirement does not apply to community based staff, including maintenance, kitchen and any others who do not stay overnight at the camp, who will not have direct contact with the campers or staff.
- Staff and campers 10 years of age and older shall wear cloth face coverings to diminish potential spread from people who might be asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic for COVID-19. For safety reasons, under no circumstances should a mask be placed on a child under 2 years of age. Face coverings are not required for children under the age of 10, as many children in this group will have difficulty consistently wearing a mask. However, if a child older than 2 but younger than 10 is able to consistently wear a face covering, it is encouraged. Face coverings are not required while exercising, eating, bathing or sleeping.
- Camps may require all staff and campers to self-quarantine for 14 days and a PCR COVID-19 test performed within 4 days (96 hours) prior to being admitted to camp. Camps that require both quarantine and test will be exempt from the requirement for staff and campers to wear face coverings.
- Counselors may arrive for training no earlier than May 24.
- Campers may arrive no earlier than May 31.

- Camps are discouraged from using volunteers. If this is not possible, camps shall ensure the volunteers adhere to all the rules in place for staff and should be treated as staff.
- Summer overnight camps shall prohibit persons from the facility except:
 - Camp or facility staff;
 - Children enrolled at the camp;
 - Parents or legal guardians who have children enrolled and present at the facility with a legitimate need; and
 - Professionals providing services to children.
- Parents or professionals shall sign in and be masked on entry.
- Providers of essential camp services, including, but not limited to, food suppliers and delivery drivers, shall be screened for symptoms prior to entry. To ensure that their contact with campers and staff is restricted, they shall use designated entry points into any camp facility and be physically segregated from campers and staff. They shall wear a face covering/mask at all times while on the premises.
- The camp shall require children to be picked up outside the facility, unless there is a legitimate need for the parent to enter a facility. Children should preferably be dropped off outside the facility as well, but parents may drop off children within the facility as long as they do not exit their cars under any circumstances and shall wear a face covering while in the camp facility, even within their cars. Stagger drop-off and pick-up times if possible.
- As much as possible, maintain physical distancing of 6 feet (space seating, etc.).
- Do not allow sick children to be cared for in the facility.
- Any person who becomes ill while at the camp shall be immediately isolated.
- Make arrangements for the individual to be returned home.
- If symptoms include fever above 100.4°F, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell, notify ADH.

Screening

- All staff and campers shall receive a pre-screening questionnaire that is reviewed upon entry to camp. This could include an agreement signed by the parent or staff member affirming they have followed the 14-day self-quarantine. Advise campers and families in advance about COVID-19 symptoms and exclusions, and place signage at all entrances. These signs shall inform campers

and staff that those who have any of the following characteristics shall not be allowed to enter:

- Have had a fever of 100.4°F or greater in the last 2 days;
 - Have a cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell; or
 - Had contact with a person known to be infected with COVID-19 in the previous 14 days.
- Advise campers and staff/volunteers that some people may wish to refrain from entering. Place signage at all entrances alerting campers and staff that it may not be safe for the following people to enter:
 - Individuals who are 65 years of age or older; or
 - Individuals of any age with underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, severe obesity, asthma or weakened immunity.
 - Camps shall check temperatures and ask the above screening questions of all who enter to ensure no one who is ill or exposed enters the camp. A screening tool is available at healthy.arkansas.gov.

Daily Activities

- Ensure student and staff groupings change as little as possible by having the same group of children stay with the same staff (all day for young children and as much as possible for older children). Limit mixing between groups.
- When possible, separate campers into groups of 10 or fewer.
- Promote gatherings, events or extracurricular activities which allow for proper social distancing and support proper hand hygiene.
- Prohibit all field trips and events with outside groups or other camps.

Hygiene

- Hand sanitizers shall be available in as many places as possible, including every bunk house, room and dining facility.
- Hand washing is required before and after every meal.
- Areas that are frequently touched—such as playground equipment, shared objects, door handles, drinking fountains and sink handles—shall be cleaned and disinfected multiple times daily.

Sleeping and Showering Arrangements

- Arrange cabins so that physical distancing can be achieved to the extent possible, with 6 feet between camper's heads while in their bunk beds. Bunk beds could be arranged head to toe to aid in achieving this.

- Reduce the number of campers in each bunk house to allow for spacing of beds.
- Shower times should be staggered.

Ongoing Monitoring

- Monitor staff for fever, cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell daily and exclude from work all who are ill.
- Temperature checks and symptom screening of all campers shall be done daily.

Medical Plan

- Identify a medical evaluation team.
- Identify a testing facility the camp would use in the event of an ill staff or camper.

Meal Service

- All meals shall be provided in accordance with the ADH Directive on Resuming Restaurant Dine-In Operations.
- Meals shall be plated by staff and access to single-service items such as plastic silverware, condiment packets and napkins should be provided individually.
- Consider increasing meal shifts to space out meals.
- Consider serving meals in cabins or classroom to further segregate groups.

Community and School-Sponsored Sports: June 1

The directive issued by Secretary of Health Dr. Nate Smith provides requirements for lifting limitations to community based and school-sponsored team sports through a phased approach for all ages of athletes. Each phase has a set of general requirements that apply across all team sports with specific requirements applied based on the nature of the contact required by the rules or conditions of the sport. The directive does not include intercollegiate athletic team sports. Due to potential spread of COVID-19 through playing of wind instruments, marching bands are prohibited at this time.

General Requirements

- Maintain minimum physical distancing of 6 feet between participants at all times, except when actively participating in the sports activity.
- Athletes, coaches and all staff must be screened prior to any activity by asking the following questions and excluded if the answer is yes:
 - Have had a fever of 100.4°F or greater in the last 2 days;
 - Have a cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell; or
 - Had contact with a person known to be infected with COVID-19 within the previous 14 days.

- Coaches and all staff must have temperature checked by digital thermometer prior to entry, and those whose temperature is greater than 100.4°F must be excluded.
- Face coverings that completely cover the nose and mouth are required for everyone 10 years of age or older.
- Athletes:
 - Must wear a face covering when not actively participating in the sports activity.
 - Face coverings or masks must be worn in sports where a face covering is not inhibitory such as bowling, archery and shooting sports.
- Coaches and Staff:
 - Must wear a face covering at all times.
- Use of communal spas, showers, saunas or other similar equipment is prohibited. Locker rooms may only be used for storage of personal items. Social distancing of 6 feet must be maintained in the locker room.
- An alcohol-based hand sanitizer or adequate handwashing facilities must be provided for use by all attendees.
- Sports equipment, restrooms, lockers, water fountains and other high-touch surfaces must be sanitized frequently during each event.
- Avoid non-sport related personal contact at all times. This includes, but is not limited to, huddles, high-fives, hand shaking, fist bumping and chest bumping.
- For games, competitions, tournaments, meets and other athletic events held in a facility, the facility hosting the event must follow the current ADH Directive for Large Indoor or Large Outdoor Venues. Spectators are covered under these directives.
- For training and conditioning held in an athletic facility, the facility must follow the current ADH Directive for Gym, Fitness Center, Athletic Club and Weight Rooms.
- Concession stands may operate but must follow all applicable sections of the ADH Directive for Resuming Restaurant Dine-In Operations.
- Admission and gate ticket sales should be taken online when possible.

Close-Contact Team Sports

Examples: basketball, wrestling, football, cheerleading, dance, volleyball, soccer, martial arts

- Team practice and/or competition is prohibited due to the close personal contact that is required or anticipated. Individual practice is permitted.
- Cheerleading and dance may practice under the ADH Directive for Gym, Fitness Center, Athletic Club and Weight Rooms.

- Conditioning and training may occur if the following conditions are implemented, in addition to the general requirements:
 - Group size must be sufficiently limited to maintain 6 feet between each person, including staff, whenever in an indoor or outdoor enclosed space.
 - When using weight rooms, practicing calisthenics, running or other conditioning training where vigorous exercise occurs, must maintain proper spacing from others by working out with 12 feet between each person. This may require closing or moving some equipment.
 - Spotters are allowed on the outside of weight bars on each side, for safety reasons. Physical distancing must be maintained when not actively performing spotting duties.
 - Individual practice participants should use their own equipment.

Limited-Contact Team Sports

Examples: baseball, softball, golf, track and field, cross country, bowling, tennis, gymnastics, shooting sports, swimming, individual dance competitions, drum corps

- Competition is allowed for participants of any age. However, participants should refrain from competition if:
 - They are 65 years of age or older; or
 - They have underlying health conditions including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, severe obesity, asthma or weakened immunity
- Practice for all ages may be permitted if the following conditions are implemented:
 - Player group size must be sufficiently limited to maintain 6 feet between each person, including staff, whenever possible;
 - When using weight rooms, calisthenics or other conditioning training must maintain proper spacing from others by working out with 12 feet between each person, (this may require closing or moving some equipment); and
 - When appropriate, participants should provide their own equipment, if possible. If shared equipment is used, disinfection is required frequently during each event or between each use. 🧼

Governor Hutchinson announces Dr. Nate Smith moving to CDC, appoints Dr. Jose Romero as interim health secretary

Arkansas Secretary of Health Dr. Nate Smith has accepted a position with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Governor Hutchinson announced at his May 26 COVID-19 briefing. “Dr. Smith literally has stood by my side nearly every day since March 11, when I declared that COVID-19 was a health emergency for Arkansas,” he said. “We have spent uncounted hours communicating in every way possible—in person, by telephone and text, and by email. His counsel has guided and informed every decision I have made as we have navigated this public health crisis.”

“He educated me, counseled me, challenged me and supported me,” Hutchinson continued. “His access to national experts on infectious disease allowed us to quickly gather information and respond rapidly as our situation changed, sometimes by the hour.”

Dr. Smith, who will become the Deputy Director for Public Health Service and Implementation Science at CDC, will remain as Arkansas Secretary of Health through August 28. “I have learned an incredible amount from my colleagues here,” he said. “I am honored to take this role at CDC, but it is not easy to leave ADH or this wonderful state. It has been a privilege to serve as Secretary of Health. I plan to take everything I’ve learned through my experiences here to my role at CDC.”

“Secretary Smith’s selection to serve at the national level affirms what we already knew, that with him at the helm, we were in good hands,” Hutchinson said. “To say that I am saddened doesn’t begin to describe my feelings, but I am thrilled that our nation now will have the benefit of his expertise, wisdom” and compassion.

The governor has appointed Dr. Jose Romero, chief medical officer at the Arkansas Department of Health and chief of the pediatric infectious disease section at Arkansas Children’s, as interim Secretary of Health.


Dr. Romero has been at Arkansas Children’s since 2008, and he has been the Arkansas Department of Health’s chief medical officer since April of this year. Dr. Romero also serves as the chair of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices with the CDC. The governor recently appointed him to serve on the medical advisory panel he created to guide the state during the pandemic.

“Dr. Romero has been involved in the COVID-19 fight since the first day, and his move to interim Secretary of Health will allow a seamless transition that will ensure we continue to successfully mitigate the spread of the coronavirus and cautiously lift restrictions throughout Arkansas,” Governor Hutchinson said. “Dr. Romero’s international perspective and relationships have been invaluable in our fight against this pandemic.”

Governor establishes COVID-19 Technical Advisory Board

At his press conference on Friday, May 29, Governor Asa Hutchinson issued Executive Order 20-28 to establish the COVID-19 Technical Advisory Board. The board will review and evaluate new technologies as the state’s public health agencies develop strategies for testing and contact tracing. “Two of the most critical tools in our ongoing efforts to stop COVID-19 are testing and finding those who have had contact with someone who is sick or who has tested positive,” the governor said. “The technology for those tasks is changing rapidly. This advisory board will review options to ensure that we are employing the best tools that will allow us to quickly mitigate the spread of the coronavirus.”

Governor Hutchinson appointed Dr. Austin Porter III as chair of the COVID-19 Technical Advisory Board. Dr. Porter is the Deputy Chief Science Officer at the Arkansas Department of Health.

- The Governor’s other appointees to the COVID-19 Technical Advisory Board are:
 - Nolan Leatherwood, Interim Chief Information Security Officer, Arkansas Department of Information Systems
 - Donald McCormick, Epidemiologist, Arkansas Department of Health
 - Jim Carter, Chief Information Officer, Arkansas Department of Health
 - Adita Karkera, Deputy State Chief Data Officer, Arkansas Department of Information Systems
 - Dr. Michael Cima, Chief Epidemiologist and Associate Director for Science, Arkansas Department of Health
 - Dr. Mandana Rezaeiahari, Assistant Professor of Health Policy and Management, Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
 - Dr. Kevin Sexton, Co-Director of Healthcare Analytics, Institute of Digital Health and Innovation; Associate Chief Clinical Informatics Officer for Innovation, Research, and Entrepreneurship; Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery, Biomedical Informatics and Health Policy Management, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
 - Jennifer Davis, Chief Privacy Officer, Arkansas Department of Information Systems
 - Anne Santifer, Director, Office of Health Information Technology, Arkansas Department of Health
 - Kim Gardner, Arkansas Department of Human Services
 - Clark Cogbill, Arkansas Economic Development Commission, Department of Commerce 



86th Annual Convention

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

REGISTRATION

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

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	\$144	Check-in 3 p.m.
Capital Hotel		
Single/Double	\$195	Check-in 3 p.m.
Doubletree Hotel		
Single/Double	\$146	Check-in 3 p.m.
Wyndham Hotel		
Single/Double	\$114	Check-in 3 p.m.

- Cut-off date for hotel reservations is **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

02

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.

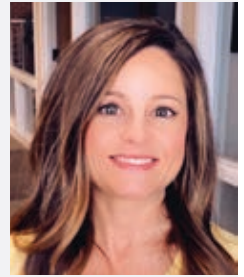
Give us a call to learn more about our Construction Observation services.



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

Meet Sara Jansen, bodily injury adjuster for the League's Municipal Vehicle Program.



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

Sara Jansen: I obtain medical records, correspond with physicians' offices, attorneys and claimants to settle their bodily injury claims. I analyze and review a heavy volume of medical records and billing statements from various providers and medical facilities. There is a lot that goes into settling a claim with claimants/attorneys!

How long have you been working at the League?

How did you get started? Ten years in August. I began in the Health Fund as a claims analyst. I relocated to Arkansas with my family and heard that the League was a wonderful place to work and was fortunate enough to get the position.

How has the League changed since you started?

What has stayed the same? The major change since I've been here would be the passing of Executive Director Don Zimmerman in 2018, but his legacy continues through the hard work and dedication of everyone at the League. The thing that has stayed the same here at the League is our staff's dedication to the cities and the residents in Arkansas. We have a very close work family.

What is the biggest lesson you've learned working for the cities and towns of Arkansas? No matter the size or the population of the city, they all need and want similar things. I was not very familiar with municipalities prior to working here, and it's very interesting to see the networking that goes on and the resources that are made available to the cities to meet their needs.

What advice would you have for someone just getting into public service? Keep an open mind. Always be willing to listen to others' needs.

Where did you grow up? How has it changed?

Stayed the same? I grew up in Oran, Missouri. They've added a new bank and a Dollar General since I've been in Arkansas. There is growth, which is always a good thing. The things that have stayed the same are the people. They are very kind, hard-working and good-hearted people. They are always willing to lend a helping hand.

What is your favorite spot in your hometown?

My favorite spot back home is my Mom and Dad's house because it's home and that's where my heart is. My favorite spot in Cabot is the municipal water park. Our kids love it there!

What is your favorite part about working for the Arkansas Municipal League and the cities and towns of Arkansas?

Our employees are fantastic! We have a great group of people and I've developed many long-lasting relationships with people here. I have a sense of pride knowing that the work we do here on a daily basis is helping others across the 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 																		
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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 Matt Francis, council member for the city of Elkins.

City & Town: Why did you choose public service? Did it choose you?

Matt Francis: I decided to run for this position because I saw it as an opportunity to serve my community. We're a fast-growing community in northwest Arkansas with a diverse set of issues to deal with: responsible planning, growth and scaling city services with that growth. As an engineer and business person, my hope was my background would be of value in helping deal with these (good) challenges.



What's your favorite aspect of your job? What's the biggest challenge? My favorite part has been meeting people in my community, my neighbors. I think the biggest challenge has been learning about all of the aspects of municipal operations—the Municipal League has been a tremendous resource in that regard.

What's your favorite spot in Elkins? My favorite part of town is "Old Elkins," where you will find our park, library, community center and senior center all within walking distance. My favorite spot is by far the Elkins Public Library. It is a real gem, one of the greatest little libraries in our county. I love meeting with our Elkins Robotics/Electronics Club students every week there (elkinsrobotics.org).

What is the public perception of your job versus the reality of your job? My own perception was about 10 percent of reality going in! Our primary responsibilities are making sure our town is fiscally sound and safe. But I've also learned the position is what you make it. For example, a big push for me was putting a new website in place for the city (elkins.arkansas.gov). With a dedicated group of volunteers (including my amazing wife, Lynn) we were able to gather input and, over the course of about six months, create something that really fits our community well. With COVID-19, we are very happy to have this effective way to communicate with our citizens.

In what season does Elkins shine the most? Why? Being situated in the White River Valley, the spring and fall are absolutely beautiful, and I highly recommend a trip down the Pig Trail—starting with a pit stop in our community! I think fall might be my favorite overall, though, since we always have great community events.

What's the biggest lesson you've learned by working for a city government? It's all about people. I am an electrical engineer by training, and I've been amazed at how "technical" a municipality is, from zoning to budgeting to planning.

What advice do you have for someone who would like to follow your footsteps into this position? Don't be afraid to get involved. I think the best city government has the broadest and most diverse set of people from your community involved, and every new person brings a new perspective that makes the community better. 🍷

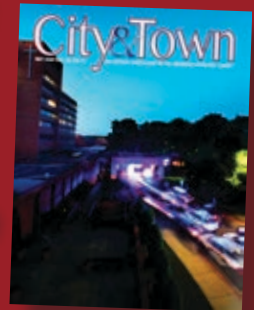
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PHOTO BY JIM VON TUNGELN

Places of quiet and solitary repose, such as this spot in Hardy, may become more welcome in the future.

Planning: Back to the future, or forward to the past?

By Jim von Tungeln

Writing about the future is hard if one is not certain about the present. Things change rapidly these days. We may know much more about the new planning paradigm when this column is published than when it was written.

Since predictions may simply be guesses, perhaps some thoughts about the past might be useful. Along with those, a careful look at strong current trends may provide a look into what lies in store for the planning function in government.

As my friend and third-generation urban planner Rob Middleton said recently, “We sometimes, during a crisis, depend so much on scientific advancements and technological breakthroughs to protect us in the future that we disregard the past.” He suggested that a combination of old ideas and new thinking might serve us well in future planning efforts. Let’s start with some examples of past planning ideas that might be worth keeping.

One example is the old concept of using greenbelts to mark the end of one type of urban development and

the beginning of another. They were sometimes used to preserve valuable areas of wetlands. They were also used, as proposed by English town planner Ebenezer Howard, to create compact urban environments ringed by natural greenbelts. These would create what he termed “Garden Cities.” As expressed by the editors of *Encyclopaedia Britannica*:

“Howard’s solution to the related problems of rural depopulation and the runaway growth of great towns and cities was the creation of a series of small, planned cities that would combine the amenities of urban life with the ready access to nature typical of rural environments.”

The automobile sealed the fate for the greenbelt approach in modern times. Maybe we should bring it back. Could renewed emphasis on this type of planning create buffers against the spread of pandemics such as the one that world has unleashed upon our communities?

On the subject of nature, one of the other fading elements of past planning is the inclusion of passive recreation space in the urban environment. Recent

emphasis has put the emphasis on active recreation: sports, biking, jogging, walking, etc. These may not be useful, in times of sequestration, in slowing the spread of disease.

Past plans relied heavily on including large reserves for quiet contemplation, learning about nature and the physical/mental stimulation of self-invented play. This element of urban life also provided a healthy escape for residents trapped in the slum neighborhoods that provided housing for our country's poor. The natural spaces provided at least a temporary escape from the diseases so common in tenement housing.

That brings up another "blast from the past." In the 1960s, most urban plans concentrated heavily upon what they termed "decent safe and sanitary housing." We have made progress in this area, but the emphasis waned with the modern accent on "neo-traditional" housing. Generally, this aims toward the more affluent members of society. Krista Evans Ph.D., of Missouri State University, who visited Arkansas last year along with her class, reports in a recent paper on housing the homeless: "It is estimated that on any given night in the United States there are approximately 553,742 individuals who are homeless, of whom about 39,500 are veterans."

Housing the poor contains its own pitfalls. Unfortunately, some practices of the past would be suspect today. Once, the solution to housing the poor was to store them in inhumane living environments. These varied from the slum tenements of New York to the "shotgun houses" of the rural South. Proposed remedies—public housing, for example—were unsuccessful in some cases (often family housing) and effective in others (often elderly housing). This is not to say that public housing for families never worked. Perhaps a detailed analysis of the differences will teach that providing housing for the poor while ignoring the need for health care, education and employment was a recipe for failure.

Some elements of past planning may require a good deal of thinking from reasonable people in the future. The question of density presents such a case. Planners have long supported higher densities as a solution to sprawl. They argue that sprawl, among other things, increases our dependency upon the automobile as our major means of getting about. It can also create untenable costs for maintaining infrastructure, a problem now facing some of our fastest growing cities.

Arrayed against this seemingly good intention is the now familiar report of the pandemic's concentration in areas of high density. This simply means that the two are often linked or correlated. It is a shortcoming of logic to confuse correlation and causation. It may be that health problems, like many social ills, are more prevalent

among our nation's poorly housed and those lacking in matters of health, nutrition, education and basic safety.

The implications of density will require much serious study and honest discussion in the future.

Let us move on to what lies ahead in terms of value. One can't help but notice the increased number of people working from home since the health crisis began. It may very well turn out that this isn't an emergency phenomenon but a test run for the future. We've even found that meetings don't always require rooms full of people. For that matter, we may decide that meetings are overvalued. One of our state's mayors once complained that too many meetings are held simply to "plan the next meeting." Perhaps there is an alternative, even a better way for holding public hearings.

This implies, of course, an increasingly computer-based society. Accordingly, future planning must concentrate heavily on areas in which broadband fluency, or availability, is missing. This may direct more of our efforts away from concentrating on highways and toward increasing new internet capabilities.

Neither a theme of "back to the basics" nor a wish for a return to the "good old days" may suffice. Dependence upon past practices will simply produce past results. A blind dependence on future technology may invite a visit from the "Law of Unintended Consequences."

What all of this may add up to is an increased understanding of how urban planning, in its primary role, addresses the health, safety, welfare and morals of our communities. It is tempting, on occasion, to drift away from this mandate when planning our cities and towns. There are many new fads in urban design. Some can sap our efforts to make communities healthier and safer, and instead promote places where planners think folks ought to live. Chasing those trends may result in squandering limited planning resources. Or worse, it may result in legislation or legal action.

For most of recent history in urban planning, the chief metric in evaluating a city's success has been the growth of its population. Perhaps future plans will concentrate on health care, decent housing, availability to co-exist with nature and increased opportunities for gainful employment via the internet. Then a city's success might be judged according to the growth in the welfare of its people.



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.

COVID-19 and the municipal workplace: Keeping employees safe and healthy

By Tracey Cline-Pew, League staff

CCOVID-19 has created countless challenges for the municipal workplace. However, none are as important as ensuring the health and safety of our employees. The numbers show that as Arkansas begins to reopen, COVID-19 cases are rising. As your employees re-enter the workplace, what steps are you going to take to protect their health and safety, as well as that of the community?

Each municipality is unique. The mitigation strategies that work for one may need to be modified to work for another. As you begin to bring employees back to the workplace and reinforce the protocols that you already have in place, don't forget to take a common-sense approach in your preventative measures.

Like every other policy and proactive measure to ensure employee safety, it begins with buy-in from the top. If city officials, managers and supervisors do not comply with and enforce preventative strategies and protocols, your efforts will not be effective. The health and safety of your employees must be a priority. Everyone should be required to follow the guidelines and strategies set forth by the Centers for Disease Control (www.cdc.gov/COVID19) and the Arkansas Department of Health (www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/novel-coronavirus).

Start with the basics. Clean and disinfect your workplace often using disinfectants approved by the Environmental Protection Agency to protect against COVID-19. For a complete list of these products, go to www.epa.gov. Many common cleaners are on the list so there is no need to purchase special products. Ensure that employees or the cleaning team take safety precautions when performing these tasks, such as wearing masks and gloves.

As employees return to work, maintain a written log and contact information of everyone who enters the workplace. This includes employees, vendors, service personnel and guests. This information will be needed if someone tests positive for COVID-19 and contact tracing and notification measures need to be taken.

Consider regular health checks of employees and guests entering the workplace. These screenings would include taking temperatures and answering a simple

screening questionnaire before allowing someone to enter the building beyond an intake area. Complying with this recommendation may require establishing a single point of entry for your municipal buildings. If an employee or guest does not meet the established criteria (temperature greater than 100 degrees and answering "yes" to any of the screening questions), that person should not be allowed to return to work or enter the building beyond the intake area. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration recommends treating these steps as a "red light/green light" for admission so there is no need to record temperatures or specific questionnaire information.

Following is a sample questionnaire. To be eligible for admission, the required answer to each question is "no."

- Have you received a positive test result for COVID-19 and NOT been released to return to work by your physician?
- Have you had any symptoms of COVID-19 in the last 14 days? (Symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, loss of the sense of smell or taste.)
- Have you been in contact with anyone in the past 14 days who, in that time period, has exhibited or reported experiencing symptoms of COVID-19?
- Have you been in contact with anyone in the past 14 days who, in that time period, received a positive test result for COVID-19?

It is important to note that the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission recently updated its guidance and now allows an employer to screen employees for COVID-19 (www.eeoc.gov). The new guidance states that "applying the standard to the new circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, employers may take steps to determine if employees entering the workplace have COVID-19 because an individual with the virus will pose a direct threat to the health of others." If you have access to testing, you may want to have returning employees tested or, in the alternative, add testing for COVID-19 to your pre-employment physical requirements.

As employers, we need to ensure that our employees and our guests have access to hygiene supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE) such as soap, hand sanitizer, disposable face masks, disposable gloves and disinfectant wipes. I recommend going one step further and educating your employees on the proper use of PPE and proper handwashing techniques, as well as recognizing the symptoms of COVID-19 and reporting protocols. Remind employees of the simple steps they can take to ensure their health and safety, such as refraining from using another worker's phone, desk, office space, or work tools and equipment.

While it may create an inconvenience, encourage employees to stay home when they are sick. Remind them that they are protecting themselves as well as others by doing so.

Implement workplace social distancing measures such as increasing physical space between employees, staggering work schedules and limiting in-person

meetings. Take measures to ensure that common spaces such as breakrooms and conference rooms are not overcrowded. Limit work-related gatherings and luncheons. Allow travel only when essential.

Employees are a city's most important asset. Cities are essential and each employee plays a vital role in providing the benefits and services that make Arkansas' cities and towns wonderful places to live, work and play. It is critical that as a friend and employer we recognize that COVID-19 has altered the workplace landscape, but we can take measures to ensure that our employees remain safe and healthy.



Tracey Cline-Pew is the League's director of human resources. Email Tracey at tpew@arml.org, or call 501-374-3484 ext. 111.



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Batesville Community Center

Rogers debuts free, on-demand public transit

By Javier Hernandez

In January of this year the city of Rogers partnered with Ozark Regional Transit (ORT) to arrange zero-fare transportation for the general public. They join Springdale and Fayetteville in providing passengers with free bus fares. Rogers also implemented On-Demand Transit, a feature that allows riders to request bus rides in real time. Rogers is the second city in the country to offer this type of service to its residents and the first to offer it without a fare.

The on-demand buses will travel from the Historic Downtown Rogers District to the Pinnacle Hills area with stops at recreational and retail areas, including the Rogers Aquatic Center, Walmart AMP and Supermercado. Residents can download the “On-Demand Transit” app and request a ride to any point along the route. Users will receive expected bus arrival times when using the system. Riders may also board the bus and indicate their desired destination to the driver.

The city hopes to speed up public transportation by servicing users within a goal time of 15 to 20 minutes. Rogers will also continue to provide residents with traditional fixed-route transportation without the use of ride-request technology. “We hope that this program will provide our citizens with fast, safe and reliable access to work, meetings, shopping and events within the city,” Mayor Greg Hines said. “Considering the buses will have bike racks, cyclists will also be able to easily access all of our beautiful trail systems.”

On-Demand Transit allows passengers to schedule trips between bus stops using the app, a computer or by calling the ORT office. In traditional public transportation models, the buses travel along a fixed route, regardless of any obstacles such as traffic or construction. The on-demand model will allow buses to skip any stop where there are no active users and set alternative routes to avoid any known impediments. The system works by determining an optimal route dependent upon the number of users, their locations and their destinations.

Bus ridership increased 11 percent in January 2020 compared to January 2019, with 1,298 Rogers citizens



Rogers has ramped up its free public transit system with ride-request technology.

utilizing the service. The city expects to see lower ridership numbers at the beginning of the program but predicts the program will gain popularity as more residents are made aware of the service. Buses currently have a capacity of 18 passengers but can be upgraded to larger buses that hold 40 passengers.

The service runs 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and is closed on holidays. Due to public health and safety concerns caused by COVID-19, ORT limited the number of passengers to 10 people (nine passengers plus the driver) on any ORT vehicle at any given time and expects to follow state health regulations to continue to service customers in the safest way possible. Updates can be found on the ORT website.

Transportation is a major community and economic development concern for many cities across Arkansas. As new technologies are developed and implemented, community leaders can look to cities like Rogers to benchmark and learn best practices.

To learn more about ORT and the On-Demand Transit service, go to www.ozark.org.



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

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Arkansas exploring blood plasma to treat COVID

By Tina S. Ipe, M.D., M.P.H.

With the spread of COVID-19 across the world, the race is on to find a treatment for this serious respiratory disease that has claimed the lives of more than 80,000 people in the U.S. alone. Because it is caused by a virus we have never seen before, one of the biggest questions is how we can treat it. When the novel coronavirus emerged, we had no drugs or other therapies to stop the resulting disease or vaccines to prevent it.

Now, in a unique new program, doctors in Arkansas are exploring the idea of using blood donated by people who have recovered from the virus to treat those with the disease. This approach is being coordinated through a collaborative, statewide effort led by the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS), which last month received authorization from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

In the blood

Convalescent plasma is the liquid part of blood that is collected from people who have recovered from COVID-19, the illness caused by the new coronavirus. The plasma contains antibodies, which for some viruses can help fight infection. Because there is currently no FDA-approved therapy for this disease, scientists across the world are testing COVID-19 convalescent plasma's potential use as a treatment. The antiviral drug remdesivir has also shown promise, and the FDA has also authorized its investigational use.

The FDA has approved the investigation of convalescent plasma for COVID-19 because, while unproven, it has been used to treat patients with other severe respiratory syndrome (SARS) illnesses. There is anecdotal evidence to suggest it might help some people recover from COVID-19. Further studies and larger clinical trials are necessary before it becomes a standard treatment. However, experiences gained during its expanded access treatment use could be a stepping stone toward clinical trials.

Emergency authorization

UAMS has previously used convalescent plasma therapy on a case-by-case basis, applying through a separate FDA emergency use authorization process for each patient. This program authorization streamlines that process.

With the authorization, UAMS is able to use the treatment now without applying for FDA approval for every patient. Other health care providers in the state can

also work through the UAMS Arkansas Expanded Access COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma Treatment Program to use the treatment.

The effort is a partnership between UAMS, the Arkansas Department of Health, UAMS Transfusion Medicine Services (Blood Bank), UAMS Office of Research Regulatory Affairs in the Division of Research & Innovation, UAMS Translational Research Institute, blood collectors such as the Arkansas Blood Institute, and the FDA.

Not only was this the fastest FDA authorization of a project in UAMS' history, but the program also represents another first in that it enables treatment statewide. Typically, UAMS research projects are conducted exclusively at UAMS or with a handful of other sites. However, the convalescent plasma program was written so that other health care providers in Arkansas may participate by coordinating with UAMS instead of having to go through a separate authorization process with the FDA.

The ongoing work

The partnership is just one example of the many things related to COVID-19 that have been fast-tracked as the state, nation and world look for treatments and cures. With no currently approved treatments for COVID-19, there is a sense of urgency as scientists, public health officials, regulatory staff and others are hard at work giving front-line health care workers every tool to help as many patients as possible.

According to the Arkansas Department of Health, more than 3,300 people in Arkansas had recovered from COVID-19 by mid-May. Candidates to donate convalescent plasma must be fully recovered for at least two weeks, have laboratory-confirmed COVID-19, meet blood donor eligibility criteria and provide informed consent. The Arkansas Blood Institute, Community Blood Center of the Ozarks, and LifeShare are gathering the donations in Arkansas. Health care providers interested in using COVID-19 convalescent plasma through the expanded access program may contact Tina Ipe at TIpe@uams.edu.



Tina S. Ipe, M.D., M.P.H., is an associate professor and division director for UAMS Transfusion Medicine Services and project leader for the statewide convalescent plasma effort.

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Privacy, please!

Hedges and screen plants for Arkansas

By Krissy Thomason

Summertime sunshine provides a wonderful opportunity to get outside and enjoy nature in your backyard or a local community park. Open spaces provide room to roam. Sometimes, however, too much open space creates a lack of privacy between neighbors, such as when a homeowner wants to sunbathe or a business owner wants to keep passersby from walking through a private back lot. Evergreen hedges and screen trees can provide a year-round green belt of privacy along property boundaries or can be used to create living partitions within a larger landscape. Although they are the focus of this article, evergreens aren't the only options; broadleaf hardwoods such as maples can provide a splash of fall color without sacrificing privacy if placed in areas where the lack of winter leaves will be acceptable.



PHOTO COURTESY DAVEY TREES

Careful species selection and plant spacing can help create a lush, green privacy screen.

Species selection

Arkansans frequently contact cooperative extension service agents and Forestry Division personnel inquiring about suitable evergreen hedge and screen plants. The ideal choice depends on site location, a desirable growth rate, and on what size and shape is desired for the screen at maturity. Low-growing shrubs can provide a green boundary while maintaining an open line of sight across the landscape. Taller species provide more privacy and can shield otherwise undesirable areas from passersby. Either type can be used to create smaller, defined areas or to separate two different spaces when planted in a row as living "walls."

When selecting which species to incorporate in the urban landscape, it is important to consider size at maturity and how long the tree or shrub will need to achieve that size so that plantings can be spaced appropriately. The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service publication *Evergreen Hedge or Screen Plants for Arkansas* lists those and additional details about many of the species covered here.

Many times, a fast-growing tree is chosen for its ability to quickly provide a screen, but in the case of plants, faster doesn't always mean better. As Davey Tree points out on their website (davey.com), quick-growing trees and shrubs tend to have weaker wood that is more prone to breakage and attack by insects and diseases. They also require more frequent pruning to keep them under control and help them develop a strong structure. While a slower growing species may require more patience, the payoff in less frequent pruning and a stronger ability to withstand storm damage or pests may be worth it. Finally, another consideration is diversity. It's best to select a mix of species so that if one plant succumbs to disease or pest infestation, the entire screen isn't at risk.



PHOTO COURTESY BRIGHTER BLOOMS

Italian cypress, while not an extremely fast grower, adds a dramatic statement as a street tree or in a decorative border planting.

Broadleaf evergreens

Broadleaf evergreens such as varieties of holly and privet can be left to grow in their natural shape or can be pruned to a more structured appearance. Fast-growing species well suited for Arkansas include: Burford Chinese holly, Emily Bruner holly, Nellie Stevens holly, Japanese privet or waxleaf privet, Chinese fringe flower, banana shrub, southern wax myrtle and Southern magnolia.

Medium-growing species include Japanese holly, American holly, foster holly, Koehne holly, anise tree, sweet bay magnolia, osmanthus, Carolina cherry laurel and viburnum.

Needle-like evergreens

Needle-like evergreens generally do not require much if any pruning. Fast-growing species well-suited for Arkansas include Atlantic white cedar, Japanese cryptomeria, Arizona cypress, Chinese juniper and Eastern redcedar.

Medium-growing species include Italian cypress, Chinese podocarpus and Japanese yew.

What about arborvitae?

Arborvitae is an extremely popular privacy screen choice due to its natural form and the fact that both extremely fast-growing varieties like “Green Giant” and slower growing varieties such as “Emerald” are available. However, extension agents advise caution due to the numerous root disease issues they can have. These trees can still have a place in the landscape, but using them as single specimen trees, as minor contributors to a more diverse species mix, or in areas where only one or two plants will provide ample privacy would provide more security against possibly having to replace an entire screen due to loss.

Spacing

Although selecting the correct species for the planting location is extremely important, spacing is vital. The right trees planted too close together will crowd each other for nutrients, sunlight and water, which will stunt their growth or cause loss. The right trees planted too far apart leave open gaps in the intended privacy screen, thus defeating the purpose of the planting. First, look at how wide the plant you are considering using will spread. A 4-foot-wide plant at maturity means it

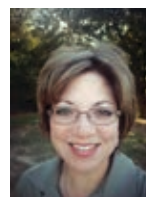


PHOTO COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

Sweet bay magnolia is an under-utilized plant in Arkansas. The challenge when recommending it as a hedge plant is to find forms that have evergreen foliage and an upright growth habit. For hedge or screen use, cultivars such as “Green Shadow” or “Willowleaf Bay” are worth the hunt.

will grow about 2 feet on either side of the main stem of the plant. Split the mature width in half to know how far apart these plants can be planted before they would touch. If you want the plants to grow together to create a solid screen, then shorten the distance between plants by 1 foot. Note that you’ll also need to measure the width of the actual plants you are installing. If you buy larger plants, you’ll get a rapid head start on privacy, since you’ll plant them closer together when you first install them.

Whether for decorative aesthetics or for privacy, hedges and screen trees can make a definitive impact on the urban landscape. With careful planning of species selection and spacing, achieving beautiful and functional green borders and walls is easily within reach.



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.

Construction site observation

By Larry Whitehorn and Jennifer Thompson

Construction observers are an integral part of ensuring that project specifications and recommendations are implemented on engineering projects. Observers are typically supervised and guided by professional engineers and are required to review drawings, plans and pay applications, as well as to complete progress reports. This requires observers to have extensive knowledge of all aspects of the project, including construction methodology and techniques.

Construction observers (or inspectors) are the eyes and ears of the engineers and owners and act on their behalf. A quality observer needs to have extensive knowledge of and expertise in the relationships on the jobsite while also ensuring no corners are cut, which may require delivering unfavorable news at times. When issues arise on a project, the construction observer typically becomes the link between the contractor and engineer to coordinate a resolution.

The construction phases of most projects are coordinated through construction observation services in order to keep the project on schedule and to deliver high-quality projects to clients. A general scope of work for construction observation services includes the following:

- Attending preconstruction conference and coordinating Notices to Proceed.
- Providing full- or part-time on-site construction observation to assist with quality assessments, problem resolution, documentation of construction conditions and the progress of work.
- Provide daily and/or weekly construction reports to document project conditions and the progress of work, including photographing the contractor's work, site conditions and problematic conditions to include for an as-built record of the project.
- Coordinate with the project engineer to review shop drawings and samples, test and inspection results, determine acceptability of



MCE's Adam Lesso observes the installation of an underground detention system in Fayetteville.

substitute materials and equipment proposed by contractor(s), and receive and review maintenance and operating instructions, schedules, guarantees, bonds and certificates of inspection.

- Coordinate public communications including public safety notifications for elements such as blocking a street/driveway, or water disconnection or service taps. The inspector can also ensure the contractor does not proceed until all necessary notifications have been issued.



A construction observer inspects progress at the site of Pine Bluff's Saracen Casino.

- Prepare and verify monthly and final estimates for payments to the contractor and furnish to the owner any necessary certifications as to payments to contractors and suppliers; assemble written guarantees, which are required by the contract documents.
- Prepare and furnish a set of reproducible project record drawings.
- Conduct a final inspection to determine if the work has been completed in accordance with the contract documents and if contractors have fulfilled their obligations.

A seasoned construction observer will provide the following essential services to the owner and design team to satisfy the aforementioned needs:

1. Provide liability protection against defects and deficiencies in the work for assurance that the engineer and owner receive the intended product.
2. Vastly improve communication between various team members both on-site and

off-site. Additionally, the observer can assist with communication to improve public safety surrounding the project.

3. Provide documentation and verification of various project aspects.
4. Ensure that testing, system start-ups and training are performed and up to specification.



Larry Whitehorn is a construction observer and Jennifer Thompson is a marketing coordinator. Both work out of MCE's Fayetteville office. For more information about construction observation services, contact Larry at 479-443-2377 or email lwhitehorn@mce.us.com. In Little Rock, contact Maneesh Krishnan, PE, at 501-371-0272 or email mkrishnan@mce.us.com.

Vaping, smoking and COVID-19

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, smoking cigarettes, using e-cigarettes, or smoking or vaping marijuana can all increase the risk of chronic respiratory conditions, making COVID-19 infection a grave concern for those who use such products. In a recent interview, U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams stated that the high prevalence of vaping among young people may partially explain the higher rates of COVID-19 infection among this population in the United States compared to other countries.

E-cigarettes release many chemicals that are poisonous to the lungs and damage multiple components of the respiratory system. Prolonged use may cause airway and alveolar inflammation and damage, which indicates greater susceptibility to respiratory infections. Users may be more prone to pneumonia due to decreased cough sensitivity and diminished ability to clear pathogens and to move mucus in the airways. Both marijuana smoke and e-cigarette vapor are associated with inflammation of the airways, similar to that observed in patients with COPD and with the development of bronchitis and asthma, all of which are shown to increase risk of severe complications and mortality from COVID-19.

Commercial marijuana processing poses a serious risk

There is a new focus on the dangers of butane’s role in producing hash oil that emerged after a fiery blast injured 12 Los Angeles firefighters last month. This explosion at a downtown L.A. business, which makes “honey oil,” also known as “butane hash oil,” was using butane in the oil extraction process.

Butane is a highly flammable gas, which creates an explosion hazard and can cause a fire when its vapors are either ignited from heat, a spark or an open flame, and the risk increases when the gas accumulates in confined

Both marijuana smoke and e-cigarette vapor are associated with inflammation of the airways, similar to that observed in patients with COPD and with the development of bronchitis and asthma, all of which are shown to increase risk of severe complications and mortality from COVID-19.

spaces. It’s a process that can happen in regulated commercial operations, but also in home garages, where simple tools such as steel tubes and Pyrex dishes are used. During extraction, liquid butane is passed through the cannabis plant, extracting the “high-inducing” psychoactive compound THC, and then the oil still containing butane is passed through a filter. After adding a heat source to slowly burn the solvent out of the oil, a highly potent and concentrated form of the product

is produced in what are sometimes called “dabs,” “shatter,” “honeycomb,” “oil” or “wax,” according to the National Institute of Health.

Consumers might recognize products such as vape pens and edibles, two delivery sources of the final drug that is produced. “These explosions and burns represent a growing and underappreciated problem associated with dabbing that must be considered alongside any risks associated with use,” according to an NIH summary. It is apparent that regardless of why it’s being used, the presence of butane represents a hazard and real risk to our emergency response personnel, neighbors and consumers using this type of marijuana product.



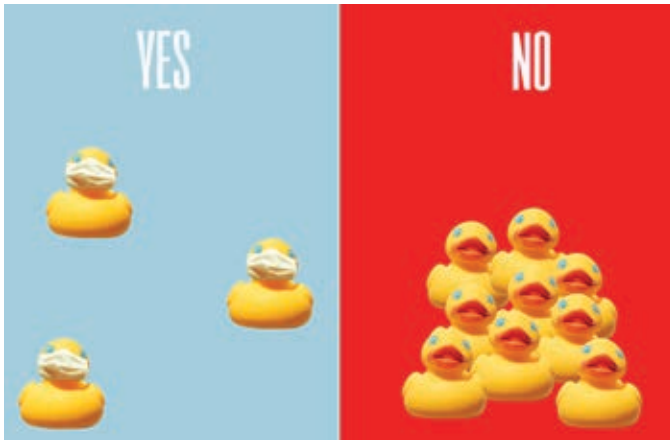
XPert Diagnostics (formerly a’TEST CONSULTANTS, Inc.) provides drug and alcohol testing as a service of the Arkansas Municipal League Legal Defense Program. The program helps cities and towns comply with the U. S. Department of Transportation’s required drug testing for all holders of commercial drivers’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

A guide to social distancing

By Anita Bennett, M.D.

We have been hearing a lot of talk about “social distancing” as a method to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. I thought we might talk more about what that is and how best to practice it, so that you can stay safe and healthy.

What is social distancing?



Social distancing is not the same thing as being quarantined or being in isolation. All of these things are being used to minimize the spread of the coronavirus. Here is the basic difference between these safety measures.

A quarantine or isolation restricts a person’s movement within a certain area. If you have been exposed to the coronavirus, or think you may have the virus, you should quarantine or isolate yourself. This means that you should not leave your house during the two-week quarantine period for any reason. You should not be going out into any public spaces, and other people should not be coming into your home.

Social distancing does not limit your movement or your access to public spaces. It is a behavioral practice to lower the risk in most circumstances. It simply means putting distance between you and others around you, particularly when you are outside your home. It is a fairly general term, and there are different types of practices that can fall into the category of social distancing. Working from home is one way of practicing social distancing, but not everyone is able to work from home. Here are a few ways you can practice social distancing:

- Avoid unnecessary trips outside your home. Leave home for work if necessary. Go to the grocery store or pharmacy only when necessary and buy

enough to avoid frequent trips. Take advantage of any available option for buying groceries online for delivery or pick up.

- If you must go to work, try to avoid in-person meetings. Use email or the phone when possible. If a meeting is unavoidable, it should be in a large room, where people can remain 3-6 feet away from each other.
- Avoid gatherings of more than five people or any gathering where close contact with others is likely. This includes gatherings in open spaces. Just because you are on a beach or in a park does not mean that you are safe. The virus spreads in open spaces if you are close to someone.
- Try to keep a distance of at least 3 feet, and preferably 6 feet, between you and other people. Avoid shaking hands or hugging people, even if they are friends. Familiarity with someone provides no assurance that they do not have the coronavirus.
- Avoid public transportation when possible (walk, ride a bike or take your own car instead). If you do need to take public transportation, try to go early or late to avoid crowds.
- Avoid crowded restaurants. Order takeout or delivery instead.
- Avoid play dates for your children.

As a complement to social distancing measures, we should also focus on good infection control measures, which include the following:

- Clean and sanitize frequently touched surfaces often.
- Wash your hands frequently and encourage children to do the same, or use hand sanitizer if washing isn’t an option.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Use a tissue to cover a sneeze or cough, then throw it in the trash.
- Do not go to work if you are sick.

It can be hard to change some of these behaviors, but we all need to work together to stop the spread of coronavirus. If we all work to stop the spread together, we can make an impact and save lives. You may even save the life of someone you love.

Dr. Anita Bennett, M.D., is health tip content editor at eDocAmerica. This article appeared originally on eDocAmerica’s Health Tips blog and is reprinted with permission.

Take steps to avoid accidents during National Safety Month

According to the National Safety Council, injuries are a leading cause of disability for people of all ages, and they are the leading cause of death for Americans ages 1 to 44. However, there are many things that you can do to keep you and your family safe. Everyone can get involved to help prevent injuries.

This June, the Municipal Health Benefit Program encourages you to learn more about important safety issues like prescription painkiller abuse and transportation safety. The health and safety of you and your family should be a priority every day. Developing habits to ensure your safety could prevent you or a loved one from being hurt.

Prescription painkillers are opioid medications used to manage pain of moderate to high severity. They can be safe and beneficial if taken as prescribed, but when they are misused, they have powerful addictive potential and can cause dangerous depressant effects. Prescription drug abuse has become a national health concern. After marijuana and alcohol, prescription drugs are the most commonly abused substances by Americans age 14 and older. To protect yourself and your family, make sure that you take medications only as prescribed. Do not share your medication with others. Properly store prescription medications to ensure that they are out of reach of children and others. In addition, make sure that you dispose of medications appropriately. While this may not be a traditional safety issue, the misuse of prescription painkillers has become a national epidemic and deserves attention.


Another safe practice is to always wear your seatbelt. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death among those aged 1 to 54 in the United States. Statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) demonstrate that more than half of teens and adults who died in crashes in 2014 were unrestrained at the time of the crash. Make wearing a seatbelt a habit, no matter how short the trip. Make sure children are properly buckled into a car seat, booster seat or seat belt, whichever is appropriate for their age, height and weight. All children age 12 and under should sit properly buckled in the back seat, and never place a rear-facing child safety seat in front of an air bag. You and your family are worth the extra second that it takes to properly fasten your seat belt.

According to a report from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis, each day in the United States more than eight people are killed and 1,161 injured in crashes that are reported to involve a distracted driver. Distracted driving is driving while doing another activity that takes your attention away from driving. There are three main types of distraction—visual (taking your eyes off the road), manual (taking your hands off the wheel) and cognitive (taking your mind off driving).

Distracted driving activities include using a cell phone, texting, eating and smoking. Texting while driving is especially dangerous because it combines all three types of distraction. Please take every precaution to protect you and your passengers, as well as others on the road. Distractions can wait until you safely reach your destination.

Every day, 28 people in the United States die in motor vehicle crashes that involve an alcohol-impaired driver. This amounts to one death every 53 minutes, according to the NHTSA. Don't become a statistic. Before drinking, designate a non-drinking driver when with a group. Don't let your friends drive impaired. If you have been drinking or are impaired in any way, get a ride home or call a taxi. If you're hosting a party where alcohol will be served, remind your guests to plan ahead and designate their sober driver; offer alcohol-free beverages, and make sure all guests leave with a sober driver.

While only 1 percent of all trips taken in the U.S. are by bicycle, bicyclists face a higher risk of crash-related injury and death than occupants of motor vehicles do. Bicycle helmets reduce the risk of head and brain injuries in the event of a crash. If you are a bicyclist, wearing fluorescent clothing can make you more visible from further away both during the day and at night. Active lighting including front white lights, rear red lights or other lighting on your bicycle may improve your visibility and prevent accidents. It is important when you are riding your bicycle that you obey traffic laws and ride in bicycle lanes where available. Teaching your children these important guidelines will ensure their safety as well.

There are so many safety topics that they cannot be covered in this small space. The most important thing to remember is that most accidents and injuries can be prevented by taking a few simple precautions. Make your safety and the safety of your family a high priority. You can learn more by going to the National Safety Council's website, www.nsc.org. 

Maximize Your Benefit

Join the Municipal Health Benefit Program

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

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

In 2020 the Program offers:

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



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

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



www.arml.org/mhbp

2019/2020 State Turnback Funds

Actual Totals Per Capita						
MONTH	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
January	\$5.662	\$6.789	\$0.246	\$0.083	\$2.145	\$2.145
February	\$5.675	\$6.340	\$0.096	\$0.118	\$1.087	\$1.087
March	\$5.085	\$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	\$5.943	\$0.227	\$0.034	\$1.086	\$0.924
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	\$30.918	\$2.261	\$0.399	\$15.810	\$6.168


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	\$11,233,895.61	\$428,651.27	\$63,817.15	\$2,052,767.40	\$1,747,094.76
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	\$58,446,034.26	\$4,274,163.21	\$755,036.23	\$29,886,259.90	\$11,659,958.53

* 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

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

CITY SALES AND USE	AMOUNT	LAST YEAR						COUNTY SALES AND USE	AMOUNT	LAST YEAR	
Alexander	120,459.15	132,244.29	Garfield	13,939.58	10,744.40	Mountain Home	629,260.19	584,067.18	Arkansas County	304,830.71	293,831.03
Alma	249,739.34	228,981.97	Garland	3,301.98	3,892.05	Mountain View	178,882.01	179,124.45	Ashley County	242,708.30	238,935.09
Almyra	7,250.37	2,735.38	Gassville	22,475.56	21,835.03	Moutainburg	14,428.18	14,739.42	Crossett	59,064.26	58,146.03
Alpena	6,570.60	5,524.38	Gentry	119,504.29	56,517.92	Mulberry	31,162.75	24,739.07	Fountain Hill	1,876.93	1,847.75
Altheimer	4,792.94	2,527.78	Gilbert	400.40	230.21	Murfreesboro	30,265.34	29,349.79	Hamburg	30,642.20	30,165.23
Altus	7,174.57	6,797.73	Gillett	11,589.40	10,057.71	Nashville	153,681.02	120,702.64	Montrose	3,796.76	3,737.73
Amity	15,458.10	12,904.01	Gillham	4,550.54	6,780.91	Newport	203,561.04	191,753.60	Parkdale	2,970.91	2,924.72
Anthonyville	1,436.80	1,632.02	Gilmore	417.75	589.21	Norfolk	4,918.52	4,933.55	Portland	4,611.88	4,540.18
Arkadelphia	358,584.89	193,343.25	Glenwood	78,928.47	71,590.65	Norman	4,522.55	3,664.43	Wilmot	5,898.91	5,807.22
Ash Flat	116,873.61	100,438.41	Goshen	13,950.06	7,504.74	North Little Rock	2,855,731.64	2,947,748.99	Baxter County	544,788.85	498,458.81
Ashdown	166,850.84	147,498.79	Gosnell	17,308.56	15,517.97	Oak Grove	1,361.81	1,407.76	Big Flat	1,649.28	1,509.02
Atkins	67,977.24	61,110.82	Gould	17,398.11	22,402.59	Oak Grove Heights	9,817.06	8,307.02	Briarcliff	3,742.59	3,424.31
Augusta	27,512.75	28,070.44	Grady	4,844.46	4,924.35	Oppelo	3,544.82	3,957.66	Cotter	15,382.68	14,074.51
Austin	41,016.91	35,295.28	Gravette	112,608.61	129,397.30	Osceola	109,234.50	97,594.61	Gassville	32,953.83	30,151.37
Avoca	11,695.20	8,267.40	Green Forest	145,750.42	106,773.05	Oxford	2,086.07	1,872.78	Lakeview	11,751.10	10,751.76
Bald Knob	64,909.48	56,139.78	Greenbrier	279,022.01	231,255.92	Ozark	169,341.14	164,812.62	Mountain Home	197,405.83	180,618.00
Barling	60,031.52	52,040.40	Greenland	33,787.98	31,462.52	Palestine	26,237.46	26,976.72	Norfolk	8,103.66	7,414.51
Batesville	689,034.14	640,319.06	Greenwood	260,740.58	224,287.61	Pangburn	9,763.31	8,585.09	Salesville	7,136.30	6,529.41
Bauxite	14,940.01	13,848.05	Greers Ferry	20,101.81	20,224.17	Paragould	365,796.98	333,129.96	Benton County	890,249.86	819,533.32
Bay	10,678.47	11,047.62	Guion	NA	4,886.75	Paris	83,574.04	77,494.31	Avoca	10,226.25	9,413.94
Bearden	12,771.98	10,238.72	Gum Springs	253.10	366.31	Patmos	746.38	65.10	Bella Vista	555,863.94	511,709.19
Beebe	154,505.42	132,361.23	Gurdon	28,160.09	24,832.81	Patterson	1,081.47	1,059.25	Bentonville	739,747.91	680,986.42
Beedeville	129.60	180.94	Guy	7,004.82	7,250.02	Pea Ridge	77,953.46	63,854.37	Bethel Heights	49,706.30	45,757.90
Bella Vista	237,243.56	208,431.38	Hackett	6,741.43	6,797.14	Perla	2,240.42	2,597.16	Cave Springs	40,464.95	37,250.64
Bellefonte	2,561.42	2,076.37	Hamburg	89,414.53	84,511.76	Perryville	26,183.31	24,185.03	Centerton	199,390.99	183,552.47
Benton	1,679,371.50	1,424,654.01	Hampton	7,554.15	NA	Piggott	70,342.04	69,859.31	Decatur	35,603.29	32,775.16
Bentonville	2,570,334.55	1,987,215.04	Hardy	20,056.60	19,714.35	Pine Bluff	1,404,579.66	1,502,837.53	Elm Springs	2,870.89	2,642.85
Berryville	345,769.03	235,643.40	Harrisburg	61,423.25	55,957.31	Pineville	1,880.82	1,914.13	Garfield	10,519.63	9,684.01
Bethel Heights	92,983.89	62,560.76	Harrison	541,218.19	520,195.02	Plainview	5,522.04	4,481.34	Gateway	8,486.95	7,812.80
Big Flat	442.79	315.21	Hartford	4,315.88	3,979.15	Pleasant Plains	10,955.77	13,367.31	Gentry	71,772.37	66,071.17
Black Rock	7,881.14	11,077.87	Haskell	58,963.29	43,198.38	Plumerville	12,237.23	12,731.57	Gravette	65,234.28	60,052.43
Blevins	4,282.88	3,956.49	Hatfield	5,647.16	4,112.69	Pocahontas	330,004.49	281,787.31	Highfill	12,217.02	11,246.57
Blue Mountain	174.32	257.20	Havana	NA	3,577.78	Portia	3,267.25	3,944.43	Little Flock	54,169.81	49,866.86
Blytheville	414,899.42	391,969.37	Hazen	71,174.60	78,021.15	Portland	9,412.69	6,914.63	Lowell	153,540.49	141,344.08
Bonanza	2,827.69	2,188.56	Heber Springs	162,787.39	151,321.52	Pottsville	28,184.02	29,369.80	Pea Ridge	100,460.37	92,480.35
Bono	19,670.65	18,102.11	Hector	5,363.68	NA	Prairie Grove	147,355.86	104,366.46	Rogers	1,172,750.11	1,079,593.32
Booneville	137,930.06	128,527.00	Helena-West Helena	271,705.44	227,290.17	Prescott	68,168.05	66,052.41	Siloam Springs	315,148.83	290,115.14
Bradford	17,492.72	17,926.72	Hermitage	6,079.39	6,178.88	Pyatt	835.66	876.24	Springdale	137,300.03	126,393.67
Bradley	2,886.15	5,785.82	Higginson	2,034.06	2,068.91	Quitman	23,515.50	21,667.86	Springtown	1,823.12	1,678.30
Branch	2,103.34	1,758.85	Highfill	31,373.65	63,115.81	Ravenden	2,882.53	2,929.84	Sulphur Springs	10,708.23	9,857.62
Briarcliff	1,486.68	1,237.04	Highland	36,065.88	26,642.47	Rector	34,628.30	29,463.21	Boone County	462,115.40	436,149.48
Brinkley	186,573.58	150,769.25	Holly Grove	7,081.96	6,095.95	Redfield	34,293.34	20,023.52	Alpena	4,876.32	4,602.32
Brookland	76,437.74	71,516.02	Hope	192,309.64	199,876.67	Rison	16,906.55	15,654.63	Bellefonte	6,939.97	6,550.01
Bryant	1,259,759.68	1,205,191.50	Horatio	7,291.26	7,098.46	Rockport	15,925.82	19,852.26	Bergerman	6,710.67	6,333.60
Bull Shoals	37,170.47	37,550.65	Horseshoe Bend	28,450.62	24,916.35	Roe	934.01	653.17	Diamond City	11,953.86	11,282.18
Cabot	939,319.43	784,769.19	Hot Springs	1,794,574.70	1,814,317.97	Rogers	3,270,663.01	3,492,868.64	Everton	2,033.07	1,918.84
Caddo Valley	46,174.71	58,275.55	Hoxie	19,869.30	17,113.62	Rose Bud	18,840.78	24,605.48	Harrison	197,850.19	186,733.14
Caldico Rock	53,394.79	58,719.50	Hughes	6,658.75	6,295.83	Rudy	7,693.19	9,645.37	Lead Hill	1,422.58	3,909.81
Camden	328,382.19	329,240.88	Humphrey	2,611.38	2,315.37	Russellville	1,153,529.52	1,086,818.44	Omaha	2,583.38	2,438.22
Caraway	6,696.18	6,530.82	Huntington	4,393.77	2,845.66	Salem	25,280.95	24,961.27	South Lead Hill	1,559.20	1,471.59
Carlisle	59,525.66	54,497.41	Huntsville	149,724.91	135,852.51	Salesville	4,880.34	4,221.06	Valley Springs	2,797.39	2,640.20
Cash	2,027.73	3,259.76	Imboden	11,158.97	7,692.89	Scranton	4,492.56	NA	Zinc	1,574.49	1,486.03
Cave City	26,828.59	21,581.20	Jacksonville	719,933.85	669,715.96	Searcy	869,624.80	854,408.10	Bradley County	137,388.60	142,525.63
Cave Springs	44,979.44	32,752.84	Jasper	38,494.45	34,794.08	Shannon Hills	13,221.27	11,319.35	Banks	1,060.85	1,000.52
Cedarville	8,915.35	5,196.97	Jennette	311.93	216.16	Sheridan	236,693.32	218,831.14	Hermitage	7,100.85	7,366.56
Centerton	336,186.15	264,235.76	Johnson	66,051.79	52,932.95	Sherrill	1,029.71	2,892.24	Warren	51,357.10	53,277.38
Charleston	36,849.96	29,581.48	Joiner	4,124.75	5,778.24	Sherwood	1,034,919.98	911,231.64	Calhoun County	101,407.03	94,120.16
Cherokee Village	21,874.14	18,888.45	Jonesboro	1,582,676.94	1,551,109.81	Shirley	2,696.60	2,875.65	Hampton	28,743.94	26,678.46
Cherry Valley	4,129.68	4,759.46	Judsonia	15,254.92	10,989.15	Siloam Springs	763,846.29	678,084.11	Harpell	5,514.32	5,118.08
Chidester	3,417.37	3,098.68	Junction City	8,381.39	6,332.69	Sparkman	4,438.78	2,905.22	Thornton	8,835.94	8,201.00
Clarendon	48,847.91	52,730.94	Keo	1,463.28	1,390.14	Springdale	2,858,201.04	2,663,384.04	Tinsman	1,172.32	1,088.10
Clarksville	414,060.46	403,361.46	Kibler	3,547.83	3,144.65	Springtown	191.41	245.89	Carroll County	208,109.78	180,248.18
Clinton	97,961.62	91,669.27	Kingsland	2,221.54	1,945.60	St. Charles	1,453.40	1,878.80	Beaver	761.86	659.86
Coal Hill	5,848.42	4,878.54	Lake City	13,546.21	13,476.40	Stamps	15,329.38	14,153.47	Blue Eye	228.56	197.96
Conway	2,729,258.51	2,648,592.67	Lake Village	85,880.47	82,145.00	Star City	82,154.40	71,225.94	Chicot County	141,349.10	124,927.66
Corning	67,050.30	80,257.78	Lakeview	4,189.35	6,197.30	Stephens	7,413.94	5,590.76	Dermott	25,736.28	22,746.33
Cotter	14,868.24	11,944.45	Lamar	24,670.29	17,512.52	Strong	11,238.02	10,403.76	Eudora	20,213.09	17,864.81
Cotton Plant	2,877.87	2,827.39	Lead Hill	7,068.71	5,905.37	Stuttgart	593,665.18	580,762.19	Lake Village	22,939.06	20,274.07
Cove	13,906.64	13,779.05	Leapano	31,057.11	27,654.80	Sulphur Springs	2,515.99	2,105.91	Clark County	420,098.13	435,910.54
Crawfordsville	8,080.98	6,097.20	Leslie	7,116.34	6,138.73	Summit	6,241.02	5,102.74	Clay County	91,442.15	94,917.65
Crosssett	174,142.90	178,667.37	Lewisville	14,394.88	11,609.89	Sunset	5,737.79	4,473.72	Corning	24,682.29	25,620.41
Damascus	9,354.01	8,483.91	Lincoln	50,905.20	49,169.82	Swifton	5,064.45	3,625.04	Datto	1,096.34	1,138.01
Danville	51,307.87	43,253.42	Little Flock	10,593.55	13,909.76	Taylor	10,751.94	8,565.06	Greenway	2,291.35	2,378.44
Dardanelle	190,062.78	162,626.70	Little Rock	6,412,285.70	6,453,934.24	Texarkana	471,361.67	456,648.64	Knobel	3,146.50	3,266.09
Decatur	17,657.68	24,986.44	Lockesburg	7,445.71	6,106.35	Texarkana Special	213,040.43	201,772.77	McDougal	2,039.19	2,116.70
Delight	6,080.83	5,554.79	Lonoke	257,085.53	266,228.87	Thornton	1,257.78	1,145.91	Nimmons	756.48	785.22
De Queen	140,067.56	132,319.10	Lowell	333,814.85	295,917.37	Tontitown	287,652.95	212,896.01	Peach Orchard	1,480.06	1,536.31
Dermott	42,092.87	26,518.02	Luxora	2,983.71	3,067.85	Trumann	189,170.53	165,701.63	Piggott	2,832.11	29,201.35
Des Arc	66,555.22	56,830.63	Madison	1,518.68	1,630.19	Tuckerman	11,650.52	12,599.89	Pollard	2,433.87	2,526.39
DeValls Bluff	16,084.60	12,725.01	Magazine	10,830.07	9,243.60	Turrell	3,819.59	5,210.49	Rector	14,498.78	14,998.98
DeWitt	189,614.04	162,142.04	Magnolia	554,127.69	524,522.71	Tyronza	2,607.67	4,013.13	St. Francis	2,740.86	2,845.02
Diamond City	2,754.38	2,537.84	Malvern	377,975.58	332,473.67	Van Buren	597,321.72	706,781.89	Success	1,633.55	1,695.63
Diaz	4,289.69	8,800.15	Mammoth Spring	7,539.91	7,303.09	Vandervoort	505.99	610.80	Cleburne County	427,109.19	391,698.82
Dierks	15,990.95	11,900.58	Manila	38,692.68	35,031.54	Vilonia	119,701.16	99,789.12	Concord	3,170.87	2,907.98
Dover	24,979.57	23,174.09	Mansfield	39,842.61	34,478.09	Viola	9,613.15	7,			

Caraway	23,681.76	23,043.51	Cave City	2,345.95	2,214.24	Birdsong	439.12	525.55	Waldron	31,552.74	27,431.82
Cash	6,332.42	6,161.75	Cushman	6,545.49	6,178.00	Blytheville	167,292.77	200,222.05	Searcy County	79,354.96	71,031.81
Egypt	2,073.77	2,017.88	Magness	2,925.20	2,760.96	Burdette	2,045.64	2,448.30	Big Flat	7.76	6.95
Jonesboro	1,245,430.87	1,211,865.21	Moorefield	1,983.92	1,872.53	Dell	2,388.37	2,858.48	Gilbert	217.34	194.54
Lake City	38,549.98	37,511.01	Newark	17,029.87	16,073.72	Dyess	4,391.17	5,255.51	Leslie	3,423.05	3,064.02
Monette	27,792.27	27,043.25	Oil Trough	3,765.11	3,553.71	Etawah	3,759.27	4,499.23	Marshall	10,517.53	9,414.40
Crawford County	827,027.43	738,856.82	Pleasant Plains	5,053.93	4,770.18	Gosnell	37,999.66	45,479.37	Pindall	869.35	778.16
Alma	60,187.23	53,770.58	Southside	56,491.10	53,319.39	Joiner	6,169.05	7,383.35	St. Joe	1,024.58	917.12
Cedarville	15,482.75	13,832.11	Sulphur Rock	6,603.42	6,232.67	Keiser	8,129.01	9,729.10	Sebastian County	838,661.32	851,998.90
Chester	1,765.97	1,577.69	Izard County	47,376.43	52,697.77	Leachville	21,345.36	25,546.90	Barling	76,649.62	77,859.48
Dyer	9,729.47	8,692.20	Jackson County	282,458.62	257,618.10	Luxora	12,616.57	15,099.97	Bonanza	9,480.22	9,629.86
Kibler	10,673.54	9,535.62	Amagon	1,013.09	924.00	Manila	35,793.37	42,838.80	Central City	8,276.64	8,407.28
Mountainburg	7,008.33	6,261.16	Beedeville	1,106.13	1,008.85	Marie	899.65	1,076.74	Fort Smith	1,421,356.72	1,443,791.71
Mulberry	18,381.60	16,421.91	Campbell Station	2,636.10	2,404.28	Osceola	83,078.75	99,431.65	Greenwood	147,594.63	149,924.29
Rudy	677.51	605.28	Diaz	13,625.04	12,426.80	Victoria	396.28	474.28	Hackett	13,387.72	13,593.03
Van Buren	253,132.90	226,146.03	Grubbs	3,990.34	3,639.41	Wilson	9,671.27	11,574.94	Hartford	10,584.87	10,751.94
Crittenden County	1,457,205.33	1,365,981.16	Jacksonport	2,191.59	1,998.85	Monroe County	NA	NA	Huntington	10,469.46	10,634.71
Anthonyville	1,183.00	1,108.95	Newport	81,450.47	74,287.39	Montgomery County	192,087.53	167,901.21	Lavaca	37,739.51	38,335.20
Clarkedale	2,726.05	2,555.40	Swifton	8,249.46	7,523.97	Black Springs	714.00	624.10	Mansfield	11,920.34	12,108.50
Crawfordsville	3,519.62	3,299.29	Tuckerman	19,248.73	17,555.92	Glenwood	302.91	264.77	Midland	5,358.38	5,442.96
Earle	17,737.72	16,627.30	Tupelo	1,860.78	1,697.14	Mount Ida	7,760.24	6,783.12	Sevier County	304,336.19	282,946.58
Edmondson	3,137.53	2,941.12	Weldon	775.33	707.13	Norman	2,726.18	2,382.92	Ben Lomond	1,600.83	1,488.31
Gilmore	1,739.24	1,630.36	Jefferson County	436,607.37	453,103.97	Oden	1,673.21	1,462.53	De Queen	72,798.91	67,682.39
Horseshoe Lake	2,145.57	2,011.26	Alzheimer	10,943.89	11,357.39	Nevada County	132,106.52	132,757.24	Gilham	1,766.43	1,642.28
Jennette	760.50	712.89	Humphrey	3,425.53	3,554.96	Bluff City	1,216.22	1,222.21	Horatio	11,525.94	10,715.87
Jericho	874.39	819.66	Pine Bluff	545,893.37	566,519.19	Bodcaw	1,353.53	1,360.20	Lockesburg	8,158.69	7,585.27
Marion	90,709.27	85,030.68	Redfield	14,425.03	14,970.06	Cale	774.85	778.66	Sharp County	252,258.99	85,615.18
Sunset	1,309.39	1,227.42	Sherrill	934.23	969.53	Emmet	4,658.89	4,681.84	Ash Flat	11,693.57	10,240.80
Turrell	4,067.04	3,812.44	Wabbaseka	2,836.07	2,943.27	Prescott	32,327.80	32,487.03	Cave City	20,785.92	18,203.54
West Memphis	192,844.49	180,771.96	White Hall	61,459.30	63,781.45	Rosston	2,559.94	2,572.55	Cherokee Village	46,273.13	40,524.31
Cross County	495,982.58	276,390.12	Johnson County	134,697.58	125,562.03	Willisville	1,490.83	1,498.19	Evening Shade	5,154.72	4,514.31
Cherry Valley	7,471.59	7,099.23	Clarksville	98,939.93	92,229.55	Newton County	44,997.95	45,601.11	Hardy	8,710.52	7,628.35
Hickory Ridge	3,121.77	2,966.19	Coal Hill	10,909.48	10,169.57	Jasper	2,803.35	2,840.92	Highland	12,469.17	10,920.04
Parkin	12,682.19	12,050.15	Hartman	5,594.88	5,215.42	Western Grove	2,310.05	2,341.02	Horseshoe Bend	95.46	83.60
Wynne	96,028.84	91,243.10	Knoxville	7,880.27	7,345.81	Ouachita County	658,097.48	651,278.34	Sidney	2,159.73	1,891.41
Dallas County	149,977.71	146,041.08	Lamar	17,302.08	16,128.61	Bearden	10,100.61	9,995.95	Williford	894.91	783.74
Desha County	108,489.30	107,419.82	Lafayette County	119,416.09	85,749.09	Camden	127,386.86	126,066.89	St. Francis County	144,166.58	145,100.54
Arkansas City	4,198.70	4,157.31	Bradley	5,627.91	4,041.23	Chidister	3,021.82	2,990.51	Caldwell	9,485.76	9,547.22
Dumas	53,986.54	53,454.34	Buckner	2,464.45	1,769.65	East Camden	9,734.64	9,633.77	Cold	6,460.58	6,502.44
McGehee	48,399.74	47,922.62	Lewisville	11,470.90	8,236.90	Loann	1,714.80	1,697.03	Forrest City	262,713.05	264,415.00
Mitchellville	4,129.87	4,089.15	Stamps	15,172.05	10,894.60	Stephens	9,316.41	9,219.87	Hughes	24,628.82	24,788.36
Reed	1,973.16	1,953.71	Lawrence County	330,552.71	323,778.82	Perry County	118,737.23	105,396.52	Madison	13,143.34	13,228.50
Tillar	240.91	238.53	Alicia	891.91	873.63	Adona	1,190.72	1,056.94	Paletine	11,639.30	11,714.70
Watson	2,420.55	2,396.69	Black Rock	4,761.64	4,664.06	Bigelow	1,794.62	1,592.99	Wheatley	6,067.48	6,106.78
Drew County	166,487.23	423,367.08	Hoxie	19,996.01	19,586.24	Casa	974.22	864.77	Widener	4,665.96	4,696.20
Jerome	509.32	528.24	Imboden	4,869.53	4,769.74	Fourche	353.23	313.54	Stone County	95,697.01	91,826.62
Monticello	123,635.37	128,226.77	Lynn	2,071.53	2,029.08	Houston	985.62	874.88	Fifty Six	1,747.66	1,676.98
Tillar	2,664.16	2,763.10	Minturn	784.02	767.95	Perryville	1,538.25	1,365.42	Mountain View	27,760.52	26,637.76
Wilmar	6,673.46	6,921.29	Portia	3,143.26	3,078.48	Phillips County	126,404.76	103,427.58	Union County	532,509.27	583,755.08
Winchester	2,180.97	2,261.95	Powhatan	517.88	507.27	Elaine	14,149.99	11,577.87	Calion	15,524.36	17,018.35
Faulkner County	837,423.43	787,525.57	Ravenden	3,380.62	3,311.34	Helena-West Helena	224,220.59	183,462.96	El Dorado	661,009.24	724,621.24
Enola	2,550.01	2,398.01	Sedgwick	1,093.31	1,070.90	Lake View	9,856.05	8,064.46	Felsenthal	3,803.97	4,170.05
Holland	4,202.23	3,951.75	Smithville	561.04	549.54	Lexa	6,363.04	5,206.40	Huttig	21,277.89	23,325.56
Mount Vernon	1,093.94	1,028.73	Strawberry	2,127.23	2,127.71	Marvell	26,386.59	21,590.19	Junction City	18,980.01	20,806.55
Twin Groves	2,527.37	2,376.72	Walnut Ridge	38,395.20	37,608.41	Pike County	179,262.62	164,065.42	Norphlet	23,947.64	26,252.23
Wooster	6,488.18	6,101.44	Lee County	34,598.21	30,972.63	Antoine	1,149.62	1,052.16	Smackover	63,003.38	69,066.50
Franklin County	248,257.17	230,503.46	Aubrey	1,072.13	959.78	Delight	1,129.97	1,034.18	Strong	17,925.97	19,651.07
Altus	7,712.36	7,160.82	Haynes	946.00	846.86	Glenwood	21,479.28	19,658.35	Van Buren County	269,768.91	280,871.72
Branch	3,734.08	3,467.05	LaGrange	561.29	502.47	Murfreesboro	16,124.20	14,757.26	Clinton	23,963.49	24,949.75
Charleston	25,660.37	23,825.32	Marianna	25,951.81	23,232.30	Pointsett County	260,852.19	138,452.23	Damascus	2,302.41	2,397.17
Denning	4,614.75	4,284.74	Moro	1,362.23	1,219.48	Fisher	2,138.51	2,070.78	Fairfield Bay	19,846.78	20,663.61
Ozark	37,483.28	34,802.72	Rondo	1,248.72	1,117.87	Harrisburg	22,075.52	21,376.42	Shirley	2,680.01	2,790.31
Wiederkehr Village	386.63	358.97	Lincoln County	139,562.49	127,851.44	Lepanto	18,153.33	17,578.44	Washington County	1,636,261.10	1,565,309.29
Fulton County	197,622.30	121,823.28	Gould	4,727.77	4,331.05	Marked Tree	24,607.20	23,827.93	Elkins	49,171.63	47,039.44
Ash Flat	496.19	481.97	Grady	2,536.16	2,323.35	Trumann	69,966.55	67,750.80	Elm Springs	32,607.77	31,193.83
Cherokee Village	3,857.66	3,747.05	Star City	12,844.64	11,766.80	Tyrnosa	7,307.36	7,075.95	Farmington	110,933.27	106,122.97
Hardy	204.31	198.46	Little River County	348,090.41	236,209.45	Waldenburg	584.97	566.45	Fayetteville	1,366,332.45	1,307,085.33
Horseshoe Bend	82.70	80.33	Ashdown	52,379.99	48,180.92	Weiner	6,866.23	6,648.77	Goshen	19,887.77	19,025.39
Mammoth Spring	4,752.75	4,616.48	Foreman	11,212.40	10,313.55	Polk County	268,280.86	268,971.24	Greenland	24,028.73	22,986.80
Salem	7,953.68	7,725.63	Ogden	1,996.27	1,836.24	Cove	8,047.38	8,068.08	Johnson	62,281.59	59,580.92
Viola	1,639.39	1,592.37	Wilton	4,147.81	3,815.30	Grannis	11,670.80	11,700.84	Lincoln	41,762.46	39,951.55
Garland County	2,302,630.71	2,290,392.91	Winthrop	2,129.36	1,958.66	Hatfield	8,700.44	8,722.82	Prairie Grove	82,187.92	78,624.08
Fountain Lake	7,879.64	7,837.76	Logan County	327,677.32	301,039.27	Mena	120,858.05	121,169.06	Springdale	1,192,059.14	1,140,368.89
Hot Springs	254,657.05	253,303.62	Blue Mountain	1,162.97	1,068.43	Vandervoort	1,832.78	1,837.50	Tontitown	45,680.59	43,699.78
Lonsdale	1,472.54	1,464.71	Booneville	37,421.51	34,379.38	Wickes	15,884.06	15,924.96	West Fork	43,025.17	41,159.51
Mountain Pine	12,062.25	11,998.16	Caulksville	1,997.69	1,835.29	Pope County	391,595.80	370,758.51	Winslow	7,260.62	6,945.77
Grant County	224,319.86	164,015.04	Magazine	7,943.86	7,298.08	Atkins	497,294.54	44,527.04	White County	1,230,742.47	1,165,113.33
Greene County	614,700.94	568,523.36	Morrison Bluff	600.24	551.45	Dover	21,487.64	20,344.25	Bald Knob	38,047.00	36,018.16
Delaplaine	1,585.60	1,466.49	Paris	33,126.00	30,433.07	Hector	7,017.01	6,643.62	Beebe	96,069.67	90,946.77
Lafe	6,260.39	5,790.10	Ratcliff	1,894.52	1,740.51	London	16,201.49	15,339.39	Bradford	9,968.13	9,438.58
Marmaduke	15,186.24	14,045.42	Scranton	2,100.86	1,930.07	Pottsville	44,253.93	41,899.12	Garner	3,729.84	3,530.95
Oak Grove Heights	12,151.72	11,238.86	Subiaco	5,364.70	4,928.58	Russellville	435,366.34	412,199.97	Georgetown	1,628.52	1,541.68
Paragould	356,938.14	330,124.20	Lonoke County	327,990.73	287,296.88	Prairie County	77,706.58	69,895.46	Griffithville	2,954.98	2,797.41
Hempstead County	390,423.11	397,868.58	Allport	1,326.26	1,161.71	Biscoe	3,229.06	2,904.48	Higginson	8,155.74	7,720.84
Blevins	3,645.46	3,714.98	Austin	23,503.70	20,587.59	Des Arc	15,273.56	13,738.25	Judsonia	26,516.02	25,102.06
Emmet	497.63	507.12	Cabot	274,202.10	240,181.81	DeValls Bluff	5,506.31	4,952.81	Kensett	21,643.58	20,489.44
Fulton	2,326.15	2,370.51	Carlisle	25,533.46	22,365.52	Hazen	13,058.58	11,745.93	Letona	3,348.98	3,170.39
Hope	116,828.35	119									

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. CPF0 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.


GENERAL MANAGER (TOWN MANAGER)—Hot Springs Village, Ark., a beautiful resort style community of 14,000 residents in forested Ouachita Mountains, is looking for a general manager to run our small town. Responsible for over \$30 million+ annual budget and 300-500 employees. Outdoor enthusiast's dream environment, all within our gated 26,000 acres. Eleven lakes, nine golf courses, 30 miles of hiking trails. You will be responsible for day-to-day operations of all departments including streets and building facility maintenance, golf, fitness center and swimming pool operations, public works and safety, human resources, finance and marketing. Role reports to a board of directors. Excellent interpersonal skills to build trust and confidence from community and staff is essential. A minimum bachelor's degree and seven years management experience required. Send resume to hsvsearch@gmail.com. Equal opportunity employer.

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.

LOSS CONTROL LIAISON—The Arkansas Municipal League seeks a Loss Control Liaison. Duties include but are not limited to analyzing risk and developing loss control strategies for MLWCP members; developing and implementing safety policies; conducting field inspections and providing safety and loss control consultation for members; providing assistance to program members who have been identified by the Arkansas Workers' Compensation Commission's (AWCC) Rule 32 program; and promoting safety and loss control through member training. A bachelor's degree and seven (7) years of safety-related experience is required. Must be able to obtain certification from AWCC within one year. CSP or OHST certification is preferred. To request a complete job description or submit resume, contact Tracey Cline-Pew, SPHR, SHRM-SCP at tpew@arml.org. Employees must reside within the limits of an Arkansas city or incorporated town.

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.

STORMWATER MANAGER—The city of Hot Springs seeks applicants for the position of stormwater manager in the Public Works Department. Applicant must possess a high school diploma or equivalent; four-year college degree in a related field is preferred; completion of courses or classes in stormwater and/or construction management; at least three years in a similar capacity in stormwater and/or construction management and administration; must possess the National Stormwater Inspector (CSI) certificate and at least two other stormwater certifications from recognized stormwater training organizations or be able to obtain within one year. Submit application to City of Hot Springs HR, 133 Convention Blvd., Hot Springs, AR 71901; or online at www.cityhs.net/jobs by June 16 or until job is filled.

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. 



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

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- First and Last Name
- Phone Number



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



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