

City & Town

DECEMBER 2020 VOL. 76, NO. 12

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE





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Cover photo by Ben Cline.

ON THE COVER—A volunteer at the Arkansas Foodbank preps canned goods for delivery to the hundreds of community pantries and shelters it serves in 33 counties. The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically increased food insecurity and the need for assistance. Learn about the Foodbank, its local partners and how your city or town can get involved inside on page 20. Read also about Sherwood Council Member and League District 2 Vice President Beverly Williams, the expanding industry at the Port of Little Rock and the state’s strategy for mitigating the ongoing pandemic through the winter months, all inside. And don’t forget: The 2021 Virtual Winter Conference is quickly approaching, and there is no registration fee. Check out the tentative agenda on page 38.—atm

Features

- 16 Respect guides League District 2 vice president**
 Respectful leadership and doing your homework are two essential qualities for League 2020-2021 District 2 Vice President and Sherwood Council Member Beverly Williams, who strives to maintain her city’s unique spirit while accommodating impressive growth.
- 20 Arkansas Foodbank answers the call as hunger rises in communities**
 Food insecurity has increased in cities and towns across our state during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Arkansas Foodbank has ramped up its efforts to work with its many local partners to ensure healthy meals reach those most in need.
- 24 NLC calls on Congress to act at Virtual City Summit**
 The National League of Cities held its annual City Summit and business meeting online in November, calling on Congress to put aside partisanship and provide critical assistance to communities struggling through this global pandemic.
- 26 Industry surges at Port of Little Rock**
 More than 40 companies from six countries operate at the Port of Little Rock, and with a new Amazon distribution center nearing completion and more sites getting ready for new tenants, the port’s contribution to the state’s economy continues to expand.

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December greetings to my fellow municipal officials,

Let not your heart be troubled; 2020 is almost over. Many of you who are reading this may be thinking that you wish it could have been different. But it was not. It is what it was, and it is what it is. You have made it this far.

Think back about past years. Remember what happened to you that you had no control over, both good and bad. What brought you through to where you are today? Well, you are here. Congratulations. You survived.

Did you worry about anything? How did that help? I am here to tell you that worrying about what will or will not happen is not a good plan. Fear not. You are going to have to make adjustments in your life as issues arise. That is the reason that I made a commitment to you, as your League president, to continually encourage you to ensure your city or town participates in each of the League's five major benefit programs. It takes the worry out of "what if this or that happens."



This month I am asking you to consider the Municipal Vehicle Program (MVP). Part I of the optional program provides participating municipalities the ability to pool their resources and provide liability protection on their vehicles. Part II allows municipalities the option of carrying physical damage coverage on their vehicles on a pooled, self-funded basis. If you are not currently participating in this vital program, please contact the MVP at 501-978-6123 or email mvp@arml.org to learn how this program can benefit your city or town.

On January 19, 2021, the day after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Governor Asa Hutchinson will lead the state of Arkansas to observe the fifth annual "National Day of Racial Healing." This will be the second consecutive year that this day will be observed in Arkansas. Hutchinson was the first governor to issue a gubernational proclamation in observance of the National Day of Racial Healing. The League is offering a sample proclamation, that you will see in this issue of *City & Town* on page 43, for cities and towns to issue for the observed day. As League president, I encourage you to consider issuing a proclamation as we come together to observe the National Day of Racial Healing.

I plan to place a proclamation on my city council agenda this month so Mulberry can be one of the cities and towns in Arkansas that leads the way to the healing that is needed. I grew up on a farm in Crawford County, just north of Van Buren, and learned early in life that having a good bloodline is vital to raising outstanding farm animals. The bloodline is passed down through the male. I believe that we all are descendants from one created man. Therefore, we are all brothers and sisters no matter what our skin tone or pigment may be because we have the same bloodline passed down to each of us. We are family. One great thing we can do is treat all of our family members with respect and dignity. That's my sermon for this month.

I cannot complete a December article without talking about Christmas. I love the Christmas season. Kay and I have placed red and white lights in shrubs and trees around the outside of our house and outlined the sidewalk with red lights. We want to spread joy and happiness as we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is definitely the "reason for the season."

May God Bless you and bless you indeed this Christmas,

Gary Baxter
Mayor, Mulberry
President, Arkansas Municipal League

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From the Desk of the Executive Director

Let's calm the noise; it's time to heal

Christmas is right around the corner. With it comes cherished memories, feelings of “good cheer” and hope for peace and good will for all.¹ As I prepare for Christmas I'm forced to first reflect on the past 11-plus months. It is impossible to imagine any of us would have foreseen the harshness and pain that 2020 has wrought. I wonder how my children will be affected in the long run. What about my grandchildren, should I ever be blessed enough to have them? I've used the word hellish to describe 2020 in past columns and it has been. With Christmas upon us, I hope the loud, screaming noise of 2020 fades and with that we feel the spirit of the holidays and begin to heal from this terrible year.

As I think back, January and February seemed “normal”—whatever that means. March proved to be ominous, and by my 60th birthday in early April, it was clear our “normal” was no more. Within weeks we were watching Governor Hutchinson's² presser every day. Hoping numbers dropped. Hoping for a miracle. Soon we realized neither was in the cards. We shut down, we gradually reopened, we masked, we washed our hands raw, we tried not to touch our faces, we stayed 6 feet away from each other as best we could, but the virus noise grew louder. Every day we heard more and more about New York City and many other places in dire straits. We saw and heard the pleas of medical personnel all over the country seeking help and equipment and begging us to mask up. The numbers of dead and those on ventilators grew. The noise grew, too. Soon the cacophony would be made louder, harsher, more vicious. The virus became a political football despite the trusted and good Dr. Fauci telling us not to do so.³ The noise reached a terrible peak and yet, it would get worse.

Spring came and while the virus noise subsided somewhat, the political and social noise erupted into a blaring, constant barrage. The death of George Floyd in early May united many communities across the country to protest systemic racism and law enforcement. The noise rose. It became deafening in places like Portland, Chicago and even Little Rock. As the presidential race became more heated the discourse became much louder. We learned about super spreader events and how to avoid that trap. Yet it became louder and in many instances more violent. Armed protestors became increasingly visible. Then in Kenosha a police shooting sparked a raging protest. One led to another which led to another. A 17-year-old is now accused of shooting and killing two protestors, a 36-year-old and 26-year-old. The clamor and chaos grew yet again. As we entered fall, the virus rumbled more and more. The presidential campaign spewed forth and attacked our senses. The tumult was like nothing I've ever witnessed. We saw tempers flare and civility fade into nothing but a memory. The noise amplified through video and audio clips capturing fights, profane language, racial epithets and much, much more, all being done in the name of free speech and “peaceful protest.” We became a country being bombarded by ourselves.

All of us wanted a break. Anything. Turn it down. Many people began tuning out the news and staying off social media. Others immersed themselves in streaming shows and movies through Netflix, HBO and Amazon Prime Video to name few.⁴ *Saturday Night Live* was hit or miss on comedy, but some of the character portrayals will forever be etched in our minds. Alec Baldwin⁵ as President Trump. Jim Carrey⁶ as former Vice President



¹ The exhortation to be of good cheer occurs in several passages of the New Testament, for example in Matthew 9:2, John 16:33, and Acts 27:22. Oh, and I had to look up “exhortation.” It means an emphatic communication urging someone to do something. So, be in good cheer, dear readers! www.dictionary.com/browse/good-cheer

² Governor Hutchinson is the 46th governor of Arkansas. He was born in 1950 in Bentonville. His public service record both nationally and in Arkansas is distinguished and lengthy. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asa_Hutchinson

³ Dr. Anthony Fauci was born in 1940 in New York City. Brooklyn to be precise. He has served six presidents, both Democrat and Republican. He is a Holy Cross and Cornell graduate. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthony_Fauci

⁴ On a totally unrelated matter, *The Mandalorian* on Disney+ streaming service is fantastic! Of course, I'm a total Star Wars nerd so it might not be your cup of tea.

⁵ Baldwin is 62 and was born in Amityville, New York. He won a Primetime Emmy in 2017 for his portrayal of President Trump.

⁶ Carrey is 58 and was born in Newmarket, Ontario, Canada. His portrayal of Vice President Biden has received mixed reviews at Casa Hayes. The local controller isn't a fan.

Biden. Kate McKinnon⁷ as Rudy Giuliani. Brad Pitt⁸ as Dr. Fauci. We did what we could to stay away from the virus and to lessen the noise. Admittedly a hit-or-miss tactic by most of us.

When election day finally arrived, it became clear that a record number of voters turned out both at the polls and via mail-in/absentee ballots. Almost 65 percent of those eligible to vote did so and the actual number of voters was the highest in over 100 years.⁹ That's a good thing no matter what party affiliation you may claim. It seemed to me that a collective pressure valve was released, albeit not completely, as the returns were counted that election evening. That night there were people outside in many cities singing and dancing. The noise became pleasant. The noise became tolerable.¹⁰

Of course, I'm not so naïve to think the ugly noise is gone. In fact, as the contentiousness of the post-election vote counting continues to erupt, the noise is growing again, and it's now being fed by the alarming numbers of COVID infections, hospitalizations and deaths not only in Arkansas but across our country. So, how do we heal? How do we quiet the noise? How do we get along? Tough questions, and to be candid, I don't have all the answers. None of us do, really. There are, however, some things for us to recall and to do. Christmastime in Arkansas, regardless of religion, has always been calm, loving and family oriented. Arkansans routinely give to those less fortunate. Party affiliation or voting records don't cause us to walk away or to pick a fight. We are better than that. We do more because we care about our fellow man. We try to be kind during the holidays and I for one feel it. The awful noise fades and the pleasantries of friends and neighbors puts harmony in our ears. Perhaps the key is to keep that good noise for longer than just December. Perhaps we dare to keep that tune in our head all year long.

I'm a movie buff and have been since I was little boy. There are many movies I watch over and over again. It drives my local controller crazy. As I thought about this column, something popped into my head and I haven't been able to remove it. Specifically, the movie *Scrooged* starring Bill Murray.¹¹ I realize this has been a pretty "heavy" column, and certainly introducing Bill Murray into the equation seems incongruous at best. Bear with me; there's a method to the madness. The adage "laughter is the best medicine"¹² seems appropriate here, thus Murray and *Scrooged*. For us to heal we must relax, and nothing helps more to let off steam and rid ourselves of tension like laughter. Dr. Mindy Levy once noted that laughter "...is free, has no bad side effects and is available to everyone!"¹³ Oh so true.

⁷ McKinnon is 36 and was born in Sea Cliff, New York. She's a fan fave at Casa Hayes!

⁸ Pitt is 56 and was born in Shawnee, Oklahoma. He was nominated for an Emmy for his portrayal of Dr. Fauci but didn't win. He, too, is a fan fave at Casa Hayes, most particularly with my local controller!

⁹ www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/elections/voter-turnout

¹⁰ As of the date I'm writing this column the Electoral College has not formally announced the winner of the presidential election. Most states have finalized their counts, while a handful are doing recounts or facing lawsuits regarding the vote counting. The AP and most other media outlets have declared former Vice President Biden the winner. President Trump hasn't yet conceded. www.businessinsider.com/joe-biden-kamala-harris-presidency-called-media-outlets-election-2020-11

¹¹ Murray is 70 and was born in Evanston, Illinois. Evanston is a suburb of Chicago.

¹² Proverbs 17:22 reads, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones." Thus, "laughter is the best medicine" was coined from the first part of the verse as being merry is associated with being happy and lots of laughter. www.theidioms.com/laughter-is-the-best-medicine

¹³ This Dr. Mindy Levy, I think: mindylevyleadership.com. I had some trouble tracking the source of the quote. Whether Dr. Levy said it or not the sentiment is spot on.

Back to *Scrooged*.¹⁴ Murray's character¹⁵ is a penny pinching, mean-spirited TV exec that, you guessed it, is much like the character Ebenezer Scrooge in the classic Charles Dickens tale, *A Christmas Story*.¹⁶ While this quote is rather long, I think it captures the need to rid ourselves of the noise of 2020 and to heal with our humanity. Murray has had his epiphany just as Mr. Scrooge did when visited by the ghosts of Christmas past, Christmas present and Christmas future. He tells the TV audience:

It's Christmas Eve! It's...it's the one night of the year when we all act a little nicer, we smile a little easier, we...we cheer a little more. For a couple of hours out of the whole year, we are the people that we always hoped we would be. It's a...miracle. It's really sort of a miracle. Because it happens every Christmas Eve. And if you waste that miracle, you're gonna burn for it, I know what I am talking about. You have to do something. You have to take a chance. You do have to get involved. There are people that are having...having trouble making their miracle happen. There are people that don't have enough to eat, or people that are cold. You can go out and say hello to these people. You can take an old blanket out of the closet and say "Here!" You can make them a sandwich and say, "Oh, by the way, here!" I...I get it now. And if you...if you give, then it can happen, then the miracle can happen to you! It's not just the poor and the hungry, it's everybody who's gotta have this miracle! And it can tonight for all of you! If you believe in this spirit thing, the miracle will happen and then you'll want it to happen again tomorrow. You won't be one of these b@#\$%^&\$s who says, "Christmas is once a year and it's a fraud." It's NOT! It can happen every day, you've just got to want that feeling. And if you like it and you want it, you'll get greedy for it. You'll want it every day of your life and it can happen to you! I believe in it now! I believe it's going to happen to me now! I'm ready for it! And it's great. It's a good feeling, it's really better than I've felt in a long time. I, I, I'm ready. Have a Merry Christmas, everybody.

That's how we heal. That's how the noise is muted. It's up to you, municipal leaders across Arkansas, to set an example of civility, helping, caring and giving. As this terrible year of 2020 winds down, let's all look forward to a better and less noisy 2021. Let's want that feeling that Murray's character speaks of. Let's help heal our state and our nation. Turn down the noise and turn up the healing.

With that, I wish each of you the Merriest of Christmases and God's Love.

Until next month, peace.



Mark R. Hayes
Executive Director
Arkansas Municipal League

¹⁴ www.imdb.com/title/tt0096061/?ref_=nv_sr_srsg_0

¹⁵ He plays Frank Cross and does an over-the-top job in one of his best snarky, sarcastic roles. I love this movie and watch it every Christmas. On occasion the local controller joins me. It's a wonderful cast: Karen Allen, Alfre Woodard, Robert Mitchum, Carol Kane, and Robert Goulet playing himself in one of the nuttiest scenes you may ever see.


¹⁶ en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Christmas_Carol



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Time to levy property taxes

City and town councils may levy general property taxes of up to five mills on the dollar (Ark. Const. art. 12 § 4; A.C.A. §§ 26-25-102 and 103). In order to implement this millage, the governing body of the city or town must certify the rate of taxation levied to the County clerk (A.C.A. § 26-73-202). This must be done prior to the time fixed by law for the quorum court to levy County taxes. Id. A.C.A. § 14-14-904(b) establishes the November or December meeting of the quorum court as the time to levy those taxes.

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

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

Bridge-load posting certification deadline set for Dec. 31

To promote safe travel over bridges on city streets and ensure eligibility for federal highway funding, cities and towns with bridge-length structures must submit a properly endorsed bridge-load posting certification by December 31.

The Federal Highway Administration and the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) administer the requirements of the National Bridge Inspection Standards, and the regulations implementing this federal law place the compliance responsibility on the official with jurisdiction over each bridge. In addition to identifying structural deficiencies during the inspection process, the official must also advise the traveling public of any weight restrictions if a bridge is found to not be capable of safely supporting legal-load vehicles. If the bridge is determined to not be capable of safely supporting a minimum of a three-ton vehicle, it is the official's responsibility to close the bridge until it is adequately strengthened or replaced.

A.C.A. § 27-85-101, Conservation of Bridges, requires the "administrators of the various public highway, road and street systems shall make every effort to conserve the safe function of the bridges under

their jurisdiction pursuant to the findings and recommendations of the bridge safety inspections by the bridge inspection teams of the Arkansas Department of Transportation in accord with the national bridge inspection standards published in the Federal Register."

Copies of required documents, as well as the *Local Government Procedures for Compliance with the National Bridge Inspection Standards* manual, can be downloaded at ardot.gov/bridge_division/bridge_rating_inventory.aspx. For questions or additional assistance, contact Todd Russell, district construction engineer, at todd.russell@ardot.gov or 870-836-6401.

Seven Arkansas communities receive water and wastewater project funding

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Commission on November 18 approved \$2,422,683.37 for water and wastewater projects serving more than 2,786 people in seven Arkansas communities including four cities, the agency has announced. The cities receiving funding are:

- The city of Dover in Pope County received a \$375,000 loan with principal forgiveness from the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund for conducting a sanitary sewer evaluation survey of the existing collection system and to develop a prioritized plan for rehabilitation, repairs and replacement of the system. This project will benefit 588 sewer customers.
- The city of Turrell in Crittenden County received a \$114,040 grant from the Water Sewer and Solid Waste Fund to replace outdated water meters, a master meter and an ultrasonic meter on the force main for the City for Jericho. Turrell has approximately 186 sewer customers.
- The city of Hampton in Calhoun County received \$56,650 in additional funding on an existing loan. The customer base for the project is 568.
- The city of Fifty-Six in Stone County received \$22,351 in additional emergency funding. Fifty-Six has a customer base of 230.

More information about the Natural Resource Division's water and wastewater programs can be found at agriculture.arkansas.gov/natural-resources or by contacting Debby Dickson at debra.dickson@arkansas.gov or 501-682-0548 or Debra Banks at debra.banks@arkansas.gov or 501 682-0547.

2020 Act 833 deadline for Arkansas fire departments

The 2020 Act 833 application period will open January 1, 2021, and will close June 30, 2021. 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.

An online application is available on the Arkansas Fire Portal at 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. 

Meeting Calendar

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

March 7-10, 2021, National League of Cities Congressional City Conference 2021.

Obituaries

J.L. "BUCK" DANCY, 62, a sergeant with the North Little Rock Police Department who had served in the department since 1985, died December 2.

LARRY JAMES HALL, 78, a council member for the city of Bay for more than 40 years, died November 21.

JACK MAY, 80, who served as mayor of McGehee for eight years, Desha County Judge for two years, and as director of the Desha County Department of Human Services for 34 years, died November 18.

RONALD DEAN STRICKLAND, 68, a council member for the city of Pangburn, died November 21.



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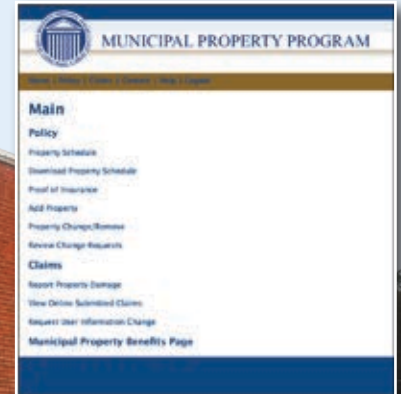


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PHOTOS BY ANDREW MORGAN

For Sherwood Council Member Beverly Williams, the League's 2020-2021 District 2 vice president, her city's parks system is a major perk, and she walks the trails near her home at Henson Park several times a week.

Respect key for League District 2 VP

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

When it comes to discussing her motivations and her philosophy of public service, the word "respect" is one you'll hear Sherwood City Council Member and League 2020-2021 District 2 Vice President Beverly Williams repeat. "That's a key word for me, just FYI."

Creating good public policy requires respect in the process and respect of the others involved in making the policy, whether it's at city hall or the state capitol, she says, and she credits "probably my favorite boss ever," the former commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education, Dr. Kenneth James, for teaching her about working through the legislative process. "You always want to find the best in pieces of legislation, and we have a right to disagree. But you don't disagree in a public meeting if you can find a way to resolve it privately."

Part of showing respect is not blindsiding folks with confrontational questions in public meetings, she says. It's all part of doing your homework beforehand so you'll be prepared. "I think it's respectful of our staff, of the leaders of our departments, to ask the questions beforehand. Sometimes those questions do have to be asked

in public meetings, because sometimes the knowledge I learned, everyone else needs to know it too. When I've already asked that question privately, then that department head is prepared to respond in the public meeting, and maybe even bring more insight to it."

Bickering in a public meeting is not a good look, Williams says. "Now, is it necessary sometimes? You're darn tootin'. But 90 percent of stuff can be resolved with simple courtesy and respect."

Williams was born and raised in North Little Rock, in the Vestal Park area. Actually, she quickly clarifies that she was born in Little Rock "because that's where all the hospitals were."

She graduated from North Little Rock High School and went to Hendrix College in nearby Conway. She has been married to her husband, Bill, for 49 years, and they have three grown children, seven grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Despite enjoying a 40-year career in the education arena, Williams didn't start out on the education track at Hendrix. "I was pre-med the whole way. But I was making As and Bs in my calculus classes and Ds and Cs



City leaders gathered November 19 to cut the ribbon on the new Henson Tennis Center.

in my anatomy classes, so I figured I wanted a better GPA.” She made the switch to education major her senior year, focusing on math and computer science. Data processing has obviously come a long way since then, Williams says, but she has fond memories of having to take punch cards off campus to a computer in downtown Conway to see if the program they wrote worked. “I mean, it wasn’t instant gratification.” She was also involved in theater and sang in the Hendrix choir, which gave her the opportunity to tour Europe.

After achieving her degree, Williams returned to her alma mater, North Little Rock High School, where she taught math for four years. During this time, she and her young family moved to Sherwood, and with her second child on the way, she wanted to transfer to a school district closer to home. She ended up teaching at North Pulaski High School in Jacksonville when it opened its doors in 1977. The city’s two high schools merged with the formation of Jacksonville’s independent school district in 2016, and the building is now home to Jacksonville Middle School.



The new tennis center, along with baseball and soccer fields, is within walking distance of Sylvan Hills High School and will be accessible to both residents and student athletes.



Sylvan Hills High School continues to grow, with a new arena and performance center nearing completion.

It was during her tenure at North Pulaski High she taught a young Virginia Fortson, now known to Sherwood residents and members of the Arkansas Municipal League as Mayor Virginia Young. “She was a good student,” Williams says of her friend and fellow public servant. “I keep telling her that’s why you’re so good at math—I trained you well.”

After eight years in the classroom, Williams spent the next 32 years in administration positions, ultimately serving as assistant commissioner at the Arkansas Department of Education. In 2007 she was instrumental in working with Arkansas legislators to establish the state’s first professional licensure standards board with the charge to create a code of ethics for Arkansas educators. Williams received national recognition for her work on this issue, receiving the Doug Bates Award in 2012. Despite retirements (and “re-retirements,” as her husband, Bill, says), she has remained active in education

circles, consulting and training others in her areas of expertise.

In a roundabout way, it was her policy work on education and related issues that got her involved in municipal issues, Williams says. Annexations over the years meant different parts of the growing city had a patchwork of different electric providers. A power struggle ensued, with the providers each wanting the contract to serve the whole city. The battle quickly got political, she says. Her Ward 3 neighbors asked Williams to help in their campaign to keep their existing North Little Rock Electric contract, with which they were happy.

They ended up winning that fight, and it’s also how Williams ended up getting to know so many of the constituents in her ward, she says. Being recently retired, she decided she could make a contribution to her ward and her city by serving on the city council. She has now represented Position 1 in Ward 3 since 2015.



A local mural shares the city’s slogan, which echoes why Sherwood is, as Williams says, “a great place to be.”

Over the course of the 20th century, what was mostly rural farmland north of North Little Rock slowly began attracting home developers and new residents, incorporating as a town in 1948. As roadways improved between Sherwood and the population centers to the south, it became an attractive bedroom community for many looking to benefit from the proximity to Little Rock and North Little Rock while living in a place with a small-town feel. Since 1980 the population has tripled to nearly 30,000 as of the 2010 census.

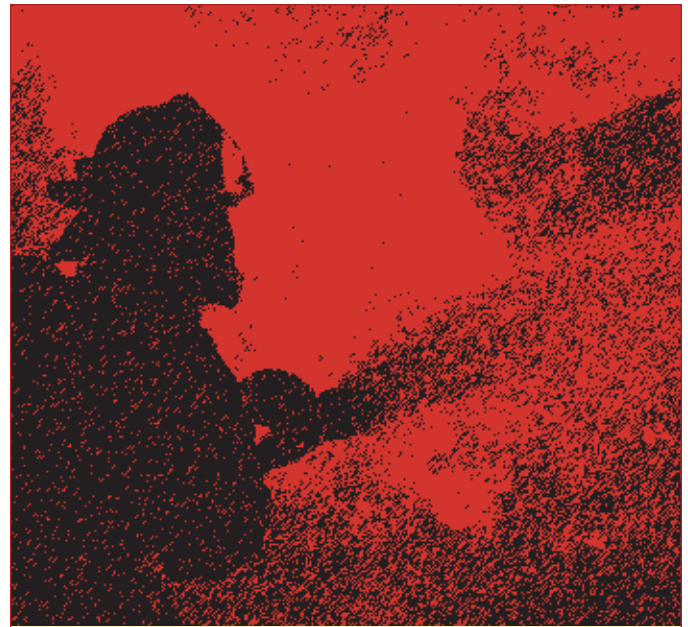
“We as a city are growing so much, and rightfully so, because it’s a great place to be,” Williams says. “But as you have new growth you never want to lose the tradition and respect of those individuals who helped form Sherwood in its original capacity.”

Orderly, smart growth is a recurring theme for the city’s leadership, Williams says. Unlike many small towns, Sherwood didn’t expand from a traditional town square. Instead there are many neighborhood centers, with the municipal complex on Kiehl Avenue acting as a city hub. “The Planning Commission is doing a stellar job,” she says. “We just completed a 2040 study of where we see our city in 20 years, looking at parks, trails, making sure our historic district is not lost.”

With 10 city parks and several miles of trails, Sherwood’s parks system is a point of pride. It includes the 180-acre Kevin McReynolds Sports Complex, the Sherwood Forest complex, the Bill Harmon Recreation Center and the public North Hills Golf Course. On November 19 the city celebrated the grand opening of the new Henson Tennis Center and Pro Shop, which is adjacent to two new soccer fields that are nearing completion, part of an expansion of the city’s sports complex. The complex is right next to new Sylvan Hills High School, which is still expanding, with construction underway on a new arena and performance center.

It’s not an accident that the city’s recreational facilities are so easily accessible to the schools, Williams says. “We built the new tennis center, baseball and soccer fields close to the high school with deliberate intent, so that we would be partners with the schools and that they would be used jointly. That’s been a real success.”

Another part of the city’s efforts toward orderly growth is focusing on transportation infrastructure, particularly establishing east-west routes connecting the city to Highway 67 on its east side. The highway is slated to become Interstate 57 at some point in the future, and the city wants to ensure it is connected in a way that doesn’t cause bottlenecks in its older neighborhoods, she says. “We’re making progress. It’s called growing pains. But they’re good growing pains. When your city grows, you have to make sure your infrastructure matches that growth.” 🏠



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When the pandemic hit, some local pantries had to scale back their operations, and the Arkansas Foodbank quickly became its own boxing center in order to do contact-less distributions. Since March, the Arkansas Foodbank has prepared and delivered more than 130,000 boxes of food.

Arkansas Foodbank increases response to overwhelming hunger demands across the state

By Mel Jones, League staff

Since March 2020, the Arkansas Foodbank has delivered around 6 million more pounds of food that it did during the same time period in 2019. The reason, of course, is due to the havoc that the COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked in Arkansas and around the world. “In 2019 we did 30 million pounds of food. This year we expect anywhere from 36 to 39 million pounds,” CEO Rhonda Sanders recently told a virtual meeting of municipal leaders. “It is a tremendous increase that will continue into 2021, and we’re still working to make sure we can maintain the food that we need.”

Founded in 1984 to serve several central and south Arkansas counties by providing an affordable and credible food source for local agencies serving hungry people in the state, the Arkansas Foodbank is now the largest hunger relief organization in Arkansas with a service area of 33 counties. By 1986 it had its first year of distributing 1 million pounds of food. In 1989 the organization became a member of the Feeding America national network and gained more assistance for acquiring and distributing food. Since that time the organization has grown to include 450 local partner agencies and delivering over 24 million pounds of food to more than 280,000 Arkansans.



Of its 90,000-square-foot facility, the Arkansas Foodbank’s warehouse encompasses a whopping 60,000 square feet of storage for the tremendous amount of food it receives and distributes to food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters in its 33-county service area.

“Our job is to acquire large amounts of food to process and make available to 320 community pantries, soup kitchens and shelters in the 33 counties the Foodbank serves,” said Sanders. “Our goal is to make sure those local pantries have what they need so they can put together food boxes, they can set up grocery store-type settings for their clients so they can select their own food boxes and they can help the clients get all of the extra support that we know so many of our families need.”

But as it did for everyone, everything changed for the Arkansas Foodbank around March 15 this year. Most of the volunteers at local pantries are retired Arkansans, the very population that is most at risk during the pandemic, and many pantries had to scale back their operations. To address this issue, the Arkansas Foodbank quickly pivoted from sending pallets of food for those pantries to box and became a boxing center, working with local partners and



One of the biggest issues the Arkansas Foodbank faces is the lack of refrigeration capacity at local pantries. Increasing access to refrigeration not only allows smaller pantries to accept more deliveries, it also ensures that fresh produce can reach more communities.

agencies to do contact-less distributions where boxes could be loaded into cars. And as schools closed and students faced the prospect of missing meals, the organization ensured food was made available to them as well.



With strict COVID-19 safety precautions in place, the Foodbank's distribution center remains busy as volunteers work to sort and box a variety of food deliveries the week before Thanksgiving.

Since March, the Foodbank has distributed more than 130,000 boxes of food, and it is clear to Sanders that the need will only continue to grow even when the pandemic is over. “Many jobs are going away for good; people have been laid off. We know the Foodbank is going to have to be there to step in to ensure that there is food for families who just need something to tide them over,” she said. “And that’s what most of the people we serve need. They need the opportunity to access three or four days’ worth of food to help them get to their next paycheck.”

There are a number of ways municipal officials can help support their local food pantries, and one of the most important is to be aware that there is hunger in their community. “I think that is something that is often difficult for us to recognize and to see what hunger looks like,” said Sanders, noting that most people in need don’t go around talking about it. She encourages mayors and other community leaders to connect with local pantries, visit them and see firsthand who they serve. “Talk with those families and recognize that there is a hunger issue, and it will take all of us together to meet that need.”

The Arkansas Foodbank also encourages cities and towns to have community-based pantries, where a variety of groups can volunteer so that the pantry can be

open more often and at set times. “Many of our pantries are only open one to two days a month, some once a week. Very rarely do you find one that is open three to four days a week,” Sanders said. “A lot of that is because of the resources. It takes resources to acquire the food, it takes resources of volunteers to box the food and put it on the shelf.”

Capacity building is critical in the effort to ensure pantries are able to do more, and one of the biggest issues the Foodbank is facing is the lack of refrigeration. “We are trying to do more direct deliveries, and we are looking to increase the amount of deliveries we can make each month,” Sanders said. “This will help the small pantries that can’t receive a whole month’s worth of food in one delivery but could take it in two different segments.” The organization provides around \$200,000 each year in mini-grants that help partner agencies acquire freezers and refrigerators, and often those mini-grants can be used as a match to other grants. The Foodbank also provides grant writing training to help their partners build capacity and think about where to go to leverage the funds. “I think that any way mayors can help find the dollars to assist their local pantry in leveraging the matching funds would be really good,” she said.



From sorting and processing donated food to packing and preparing boxes for distribution, volunteers are critical to the Arkansas Foodbank's success.

To that end, if municipal officials are aware of a location that isn't being used within their city or town, they can donate the space to be used to start a pantry or help an existing one expand its capacity. And by connecting with churches and other local organizations, leaders will not only be able to find individuals and groups interested in helping operate the pantry, they will also be able to help the Foodbank's goal of bringing these groups together to better serve their communities. "Our pantries are very mission based and passionate, and we don't want them to go away. We want them to have a passion for combining their resources so they can find more opportunities for more storage, more refrigeration, more volunteers," said Sanders.

Municipalities can also choose to set aside funding that is divided among their local pantries. For cities and towns that pass this financial support in their budgets each year, the Foodbank applies it as credit with each of those pantries. "Hunger is a very local issue. And the areas that are the most successful at addressing it are the ones where they have a champion in that community, and they have a real passion about their community," Sanders said. "Those champions come in all different shapes and sizes, and some of the most successful areas have champions at the mayoral level and the city council level who recognize hunger and want to do something about it." Visit arkansasfoodbank.org to learn more about ways to support its mission. 🏛️





NLC City Summit goes virtual

Originally scheduled to convene in Tampa, Florida, the National League of Cities’ annual City Summit transitioned to a virtual gathering November 18-20, with more than 2,000 city and town leaders from across the nation gathering online to discuss critical issues, including COVID-19 response, public health, racial equity and economic recovery. The NLC also held its annual business meeting on Friday, November 20, electing a new slate of officers for 2021, with Lexington, South Carolina, Council Member Kathy Maness taking over the presidency from Los Angeles City Council Pro Tempore Joe Buscaino.

Maness, a former third-grade teacher and 16-year member of Lexington’s Town Council, urged cities and towns across the nation to continue to come together to seek solutions for the challenges ahead. “We are at our best when we work together,” Maness said. That spirit of cooperation would also go a long way toward healing the partisan divide, she said. “Making sure that the trash

is picked up in your city or town, making sure that the potholes are filled, making sure that your businesses are thriving, that’s not Republican or Democrat. We’ve got to stop this partisanship in America. And that’s one thing about NLC. We are not a partisan organization. I truly believe that as we respond to this pandemic, as we recover from this economic downturn and rebuild our cities, towns and villages, we have to do it together.” These ideas are reflected in the theme she has chosen for her one-year term as NLC president: “Cities Stronger Together.”

As 2020 winds down, the U.S. Senate on recess, and aid for families and businesses set to expire at the end of the year, NLC Executive Director Clarence Anthony called on Congress to get back to the negotiating table and deliver the critical assistance to American communities. “We are deeply concerned that, with only 43 days until key programs and the few remaining CARES Act funds for state and local governments



Incoming NLC President Kathy Maness, right, a council member of Lexington, South Carolina, takes us on a virtual tour of her hometown.

expire, negotiations over a new COVID-19 relief package have completely stalled in Congress. This is more than a missed opportunity—it is a disservice to the American people,” Anthony said.

More than 13 million Americans are still unemployed, and eight million tenants face eviction in January. This will have a “cascading effect” on our already struggling economy, he said. “We call on House and Senate leaders to get back to the table immediately to deliver the relief that American communities need now, before it is too late.”



President-elect Joe Biden addressed the NLC City Summit on November 20 and pledged to work with the nation’s cities and towns as we battle the pandemic and recover economically.

The City Summit wrapped up November 20 with a message to America’s cities and towns from President-elect Joe Biden, who committed to support the communities and leaders battling the pandemic and to address systemic issues like racism, economic disparity and climate change. “American cities are on the front lines on all of these crises. You are the people this country looks to first,” Biden said. “I want you to know that my administration will have your back, I promise you. There are no red cities, there are no blue cities, there are only American cities, American states—period. These are American challenges, and we have to meet them as one country. Vice President-elect Harris and I are committed to being real partners to you so we can coordinate a real nationwide response to these crises.”

If you were unable to attend the City Summit, the general sessions, dozens of workshops and entertainment are available to watch on demand until January 30, 2021. Go to nlc.org to register and watch.

The 2021 NLC Congressional City Conference, traditionally held in the nation’s capital, will also be a virtual event, March 7-10. For more information and to register, visit nlc.org. 🏛️

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PHOTOS BY ANDREW MORGAN

Easy access to Interstates 30 and 40, the Arkansas River and two Class I rail lines will continue to make the port an attractive logistics hub for years to come, says Bryan Day, executive director of the Little Rock Port Authority.

On the waterfront: Port of Little Rock thrives as site for industry

By Dwain Hebda

A quick spin through the Port of Little Rock yields a glimpse of the city's industrial community foreign to many residents. Everything out here is huge—the gargantuan factories sprawling across the landscape; the raw materials and finished products that move in and out by semi-truck and railroad car; the silent, massive barges that glide by on the Arkansas River.

At the far edge of the bustling area sits the Port Authority headquarters, a stylish building of brick and glass with a breathtaking view of the water. It's a site that never fails to catch Executive Director Bryan Day's imagination, as does the confluence of logistical resources that makes the industrial park one of the hottest addresses going.

"I'm biased, but it's a huge deal out here," he said, leaning back in his chair as he scanned the rolling river. "We have easy access to the interstate, which is still the easiest way to move goods and commodities. We have two Class I railroads, the Union Pacific and Burlington Northern, that can bring or ship products and goods. And we have the airport, which you can see from here, right across the interstate.

"And then we have access to the river, which, on a typical year, is the only river in the country that is usable

year-round. Now, that wasn't true last year because we had the record flood, but compared with the Ohio and the Great Lakes, which freeze, and the lower Mississippi, which floods regularly, the Arkansas River is generally very dependable."

Such a place didn't happen by accident but by tragedy. The seeds for what would become the Port of Little Rock were sown by Arkansas' landmark flood of 1927, the worst in the state's history. The disaster inspired formation of the Arkansas River Flood Control Association that formed to lobby members of Congress for a comprehensive flood-control program.

In 1936, Congress finally responded by passing a landmark act creating the Southwestern Division of the U.S. Corps of Engineers, which began work on the upper Arkansas, Red, White and Black River basins to improve flood control and commercial navigation. Sens. John McClellan of Arkansas and Robert Kerr of Oklahoma became the firebrands for funding what would become the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System, a 445-mile system of 17 locks and dams, which came fully on line in the closing days of 1970.

"In doing that, there were several cities that said, 'Hey, we need to get in the game,'" Day said. "So, the cities of Pine Bluff, Little Rock, Muskogee and Tulsa



Amazon's new 826,000-square-foot facility is well underway, and CZ-USA will soon begin construction right beside it.

said, 'Let's have ports,' in the late '50s and early '60s. Our forefathers had the foresight in 1959 to create a port, even though the river didn't exist [as a shipping avenue], the interstate didn't exist and there was nothing out here. The board did it, with the citizens' support."

Six decades later, 42 companies from six nations operate here on 4,000 acres, making everything from American peanut butter (Skippy) to Czechoslovakian pistols (CZ-US). Between 2006 and 2016, resident companies contributed \$5 billion to the local economy per a Port-commissioned financial impact study.

"One of the things that's most fascinating is, last year we did a zip code survey with employers. It was unscientific, but we asked companies to tell us where their people were coming from," Day said. "We had zip codes

from 23 counties, and we have 75 counties in Arkansas. So, a third of the state sent someone to the Port of Little Rock to make a living. That's pretty impressive. That's a major economic developer."

HMS Manufacturing, a Michigan-based producer of houseware products that manufactured overseas, announced it would be moving into a 550,000-square-foot space at the Port, creating 90 new jobs over two years and bringing foreign manufacturing back home to the states in the process. Janet Sofy, company president, said the facility in Little Rock was large enough for HMS' expansion of its manufacturing in order to fulfill and exceed its strategic goals. "The ease of doing business with the city of Little Rock and the Port Authority, their willingness to make HMS part of their economic

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growth strategy and the availability of a talented workforce were driving factors in the decision to do business in Little Rock. Access to rail and other key transportation logistics were also important factors in our decision.”

Jay Chesshir, president and CEO of the Little Rock Regional Chamber, said the Port is a key implement in the chamber’s economic development toolbox. “The only way you can win in economic development is to have product to sell. If we didn’t have any sites or land available, then it wasn’t going to work for any of us,” he said. “We’re focusing now on trying to create new sites and infrastructure that may not come on-line for 18 to 24 months, and some of it doesn’t come on line for several years. But, if you’re not always working on that, then you don’t have anything to sell, and if you don’t have anything to sell, you can’t win these projects.”

The Port entered a new chapter in July when it was announced that retailing giant Amazon was constructing an 826,000-square-foot facility on 80 acres. That project not only brings with it 1,000 jobs but is also expected to be a bell cow for similar companies and related suppliers. Day said working with Amazon, as with any new company, is a study in process and site improvement.

“Shovel-ready sites need adequate infrastructure,” he said. “Are the roads usable, is there adequate water,



More than 40 companies from six countries operate at the Port of Little Rock.

adequate sewer capacity, adequate power? We talk about that a lot, and we work with our partners at the utility companies and internet providers to make sure that we can meet tenants’ needs.

“We realized our road infrastructure was not adequate, as [Amazon and CZ-US] are going to add thousands of vehicle trips a day. As a result, a couple weeks ago, we announced \$11 million worth of road improvements. That came from the city, the county, the state and federal grants. Not often do we have a ‘build it and they will come’ opportunity. It’s more like ‘you get here, we’ll get it built.’ You generally can’t do that in New York City or California; it’s not that they don’t want to, they’re just too big. We still have that small-town, let’s-get-it-done attitude.”

Of course, being able to wield incentives or get the mayor or the governor on the phone to help seal a deal and cut red tape is not something many in the private sector can do. All positive results notwithstanding, the Port holds advantages over other suitors, causing some in the private sector to cry foul over unfair advantage.

“That’s a great philosophical conversation that we could talk about for hours,” Day said. “It is unfair. I do believe it is unfair, at times, that public entities have access to tax credits, grants and funding that private entities don’t. You could make the argument, and some do make the argument, that it is unfair.

“This is how I would respond to that: Private development could not have built the interstate system; it had to have public support. But by building the interstate system with tax dollars and public support, it created



The David D. Terry Lock and Dam is part of 445-mile McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System, which helps keep business flowing up and down the river year-round.

all these billions of dollars of opportunities—hotels, restaurants and shopping centers—along this brand new corridor that’s now 50 years old.

“I would argue that, by having public ports like Fort Smith, Little Rock, Pine Bluff, Muskogee and Tulsa, it allows us to make sure the river’s maintained, make sure the river’s built and create opportunity. And there’s probably another 15 to 20 private ports and terminals on the river that would not exist if public ports weren’t in place.

“If I was a private operator, I would definitely say, ‘Gosh, it sure seems unfair that the public ports have access to resources, policies and rules that I don’t.’ As a public operator, I would say that that is true, to some extent. But, when we’re successful, it creates new opportunities for the private investment to come in. Not everyone will agree with that, but that’s the argument that I make.”

One thing for certain, the Port is becoming a victim of its own success with fewer and fewer building sites available for development. And, in seeking additional parcels, Day has discovered the Port’s reputation for prosperity precedes it as asking prices have driven sharply upward. Still, there are plenty of things to look forward to, like the 8,000 jobs that will reside on Port land once the current crop of new tenants settles in.

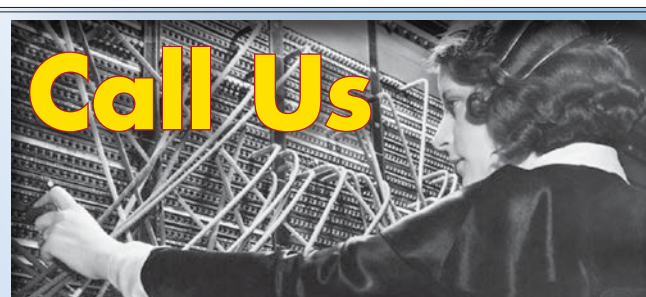


More than 8,000 jobs will reside at the Port once the current crop of new tenants moves in.

“We have major investment, we are hiring and there are not many communities that can say that right now,” Day said. “It’s a community effort. It takes the Port board, it takes the mayor, it takes the chamber, it takes the governor, it takes people who want to come out here and work, and we’re all in this together.

“I won’t be here in 50 years, but it would be great if you could see what it looks like. I think in 50 years, we might be 10,000 acres in size and maybe 25,000 people working here. The Port’s in really good shape, and we’re very lucky to have it.”

This article appeared originally in the September 10 issue of Arkansas Money & Politics and is reprinted with permission.



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

Municipal Health Benefit Program

501-978-6137

Fax 501-537-7252

Municipal League Workers’ Compensation Program

501-978-6127

Fax 501-537-7260

Municipal Property & Vehicle Programs

501-978-6123

Fax 501-978-6562

arkansas municipal league

Codification Service

Having your city ordinances codified to a single book is like carrying a miniature city hall with you!

Contact Lanny Richmond at Lrichmond@arml.org or 501-374-3484, Ext. 214.



Reminder: Time to pass your budget

Most cities and towns in Arkansas are legally obligated to pass their budget on or before February 1 of each year

Budgets in Mayor-Council Municipalities

Ark. Code Ann. § 14-58-201. Annual submission.

On or before December 1 of each year, mayors of all cities and incorporated towns having the mayor-council form of government shall submit to the governing body of the city or town, for its approval or disapproval, a proposed budget for operation of the city or town from January 1 to December 31 of the forthcoming year.

Ark. Code Ann. § 14-58-202. Adoption of budget.

Under this subchapter, the governing body of the municipality shall, on or before February 1 of each year, adopt a budget by ordinance or resolution for operation of the city or town (AML recommends using a written resolution).

Ark. Code Ann. § 14-58-203. Appropriations and changes.

- (a) The approval by the municipal governing body of the budget under this subchapter shall, for the purposes of the budget from time to time amount to an appropriation of funds which are lawfully applicable to the items therein contained.
- (b) The governing body may alter or revise the budget and unpledged funds appropriated by the governing body for any purpose may be subsequently, by action of the governing body, appropriated to another purpose, subject to the following exceptions:
 - (1) Funds resulting from taxes levied under statutes or ordinances for specific purposes may not be diverted to another purpose:
 - (2) Appropriated funds may not be diverted to another purpose where any creditor of the municipality would be prejudiced thereby.

Budgets in City Administrator-Director Municipalities

Ark. Code Ann. § 14-48-117(6)

He or she [the city administrator] shall prepare the municipal budget annually and submit it to the board for its approval or disapproval and be responsible for its administration after adoption.

Ark. Code Ann. § 14-48-122

- (a) The approval of the budget by the board of directors shall amount to an appropriation, for the purposes of the budget, of the funds which are lawfully applicable to the different items therein contained.
- (b) The board may alter or revise the budget from time to time, and unpledged funds appropriated by the board for any specific purpose may by subsequent action of the board be appropriated to another purpose subject to the following exceptions:
 - (1) Funds resulting from taxes levied under statute or ordinance for a specific purpose may not be diverted to another purpose; and
 - (2) Appropriated funds may not be diverted to another purpose where any creditor of the municipality would be prejudiced thereby.

Budgets in City Manager-Director Municipalities

Ark. Code Ann. § 14-47-120(6)

He or she [the city manager] shall prepare the municipal budget annually and submit it to the board for its approval or disapproval and be responsible for its administration after adoption.

Ark. Code Ann. § 14-47-140

- (a)(1) Any municipality organized and operating under the city manager form of government may authorize the mayor of the municipality to have the following

duties and powers if approved by the qualified electors of the municipality at an election called by the municipal board of directors by referendum or by the qualified electors of the municipality by initiative:

...

(E) The power to prepare and submit to the board of directors for its approval the annual municipal budget.

Ark. Code Ann. § 14-47-125

- (a) The approval by the board of directors of the budget shall amount to an appropriation for the purposes of the budget of the funds which are lawfully applicable to the different items therein contained.
- (b) The board may alter or revise the budget from time to time, and unpledged funds appropriated by the board

for any specific purpose may be appropriated by subsequent action of the board to another purpose, subject to the following exceptions:

- (1) Funds resulting from taxes levied under statute or ordinance for a specific purpose may not be diverted to another purpose; and
- (2) Appropriated funds may not be diverted to another purpose where any creditor of the municipality would be prejudiced thereby.

A *Sample Resolution for the Adoption of the Municipal Budget* can be accessed via the Legal FAQs page at www.arml.org/legal-faqs for your convenience. Please call or email the League with any questions you may have. ☎

NOTICE: Annexation Reports Due March 1

Arkansas Code Ann. sections 14-40-2201 and 14-40-2202 provide:

(a)(1) Beginning March 1, 2014, and each successive year thereafter, the mayor or city manager of a city or incorporated town shall file annually with the city clerk or recorder, town recorder, and County clerk a written notice describing any annexation elections that have become final in the previous eight (8) years.

(2) The written notice shall include:

(A) The schedule of services to be provided to the inhabitants of the annexed portion of the city; and

(B) A statement as to whether the scheduled services have been provided to the inhabitants of the annexed portions of the city.

(b) If the scheduled services have not been provided to the new inhabitants within three (3) years after the date the annexation becomes final, the written notice reporting the status of the extension of scheduled services shall include a statement of the rights of inhabitants to seek detachment.

(c) A city or incorporated town shall not proceed with annexation elections if there are pending scheduled services that have not been provided in three (3) years as prescribed by law.

Ark. Code Ann. § 14-40-2202. Inhabitants of annexed area

(a) In all annexations under § 14-40-303 and in accordance with § 14-40-606, after the territory

declared annexed is considered part of a city or incorporated town, the inhabitants residing in the annexed portion shall:

(1) Have all the rights and privileges of the inhabitants of the annexing city or incorporated town; and

(2) (A) Be extended the scheduled services within three (3) years after the date the annexation becomes final.

(B) The mayor of the municipality shall file a report with the city clerk or recorder, town recorder, and County clerk of the extension of scheduled services.

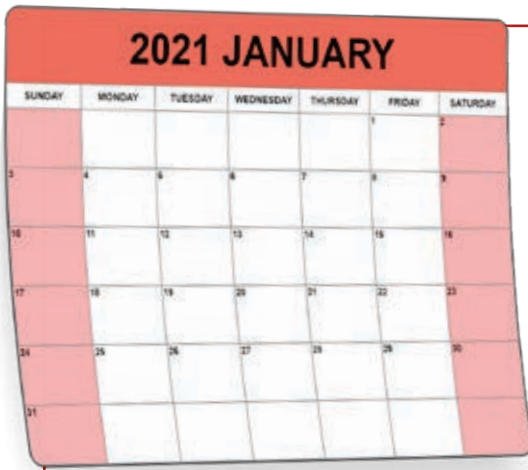
(b) If the scheduled services have not been extended to the area and property boundaries of the new inhabitants within three (3) years after the date annexation becomes final, the written notice reporting the status of the extension of scheduled services shall:

(1) Include a written plan for completing the extension of services and estimated date of completion; and

(2) Include a statement of the rights of inhabitants to seek detachment.

(c) A city or incorporated town shall not proceed with any additional annexation elections if there are pending scheduled services that have not been extended as required under this subchapter.

To obtain a sample *Notice Describing Annexation Elections, and Schedules of Services* access the Legal FAQs page at www.arml.org/legal-faqs.



Reminder to All City Councils Regarding First Council Meeting of 2021

The 90th General Assembly of the Arkansas Legislature in 2015, via Act 235, amended A.C.A. § 14-43-501 regarding the organization at the beginning of a new year of the governing bodies of cities and towns.

A.C.A. § 14-43-501. Organization of governing body

- (a)(1) The members of a governing body elected for each city or town shall annually in January assemble and organize the governing body.
- (2)(A) A majority of the whole number of members of a governing body constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.
- (B)(i) The governing body shall judge the election returns and the qualifications of its own members.
- (ii) These judgments are not subject to veto by the mayor.
- (C)(i) The governing body shall determine the rules of its proceedings and keep a journal of its proceedings, which shall be open to the inspection and examination of any citizen.
- (ii) The governing body may also compel the attendance of absent members in such a manner and under such penalties as it prescribes.
- (iii) The governing body may consider the passage of rules on the following subjects, including without limitation:
- (a) The agenda for meetings;
 - (b) The filing of resolutions and ordinances; and
 - (c) Citizen commentary.
- (b)(1)(A) In the mayor-council form of government, the mayor shall be ex-officio president of the city council and shall preside at its meetings.
- (B) The mayor shall have a vote to establish a quorum of the city council at any regular or special meeting of the city council and when his or her vote is needed to pass any ordinance, bylaw, resolution, order, or motion.
- (2) In the absence of the mayor, the city council shall elect a president pro tempore to preside over council meetings.
- (3) If the mayor is unable to perform the duties of office or cannot be located, one (1) of the following individuals may perform all functions of a mayor during the disability or absence of the mayor:
- (A) The city clerk;
 - (B) Another elected official of the city if designated by the mayor; or
 - (C) An unelected employee or resident of the city if designated by the mayor and approved by the city council.
- (c) As used in this section, “governing body” means the city council in a mayor-council form of government, the board of directors in a city manager form of government, and the board of directors in a city administrator form of government.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Highway Revenues and Severance Turnback Reporting Due

Act 747 of the 2019 Regular Session of the Arkansas Legislature requires municipalities receiving \$2 million or more in total highway revenues and highway severance turnback to submit reporting for 2020 projects to the House Committee on Public Transportation and the Senate Committee on Public Transportation, Technology, and Legislative Affairs. The reporting deadline is March 15, 2021. You can access Act 747 and the required reporting document online at: www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2019/2019R/Acts/Act747.pdf.

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

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

(1) *The use of the funds;*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Estella Smith, Assistant Director

Research Services Division

Bureau of Legislative Research

One Capitol Mall, 5th Floor

Little Rock, AR 72201

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

Gov. lays out COVID-19 winter strategy, appoints new task force

As new COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths continue rise across the state, Governor Asa Hutchinson has announced a series of measures aimed at mitigating the spread of the virus throughout the winter months. Among the new guidance and directives are the “Strategy for Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 This Winter,” “Holiday Guidance During the COVID-19 Pandemic,” the formation of a COVID-19 Winter Task Force and new restrictions on businesses with on-premises alcohol consumption.

To read a summary of the governor’s actions and updates, as well as all COVID-19 executive orders and Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) directives, visit our COVID-19 Resources for Municipalities page at www.arml.org/covid.

Strategy for preventing COVID-19 spread this winter

During his weekly COVID-19 update on November 3, Governor Asa Hutchinson announced his “Strategy for Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 This Winter.” Per the ADH directive: “There is a strong desire to return to normalcy as the weather cools and the holiday season approaches. However, the threat of COVID-19 remains real and may even be heightened as outdoor activities become less feasible. It’s critical that Arkansans take steps that will protect the people around them in the coming months. Each of the steps outlined below offers protection against spreading the virus, but each one alone is not enough. We need to take multiple precautions to limit the spread of COVID-19 so we can make it through this season as safely as possible. Using all of these strategies together can significantly decrease the spread of the virus and keep each of us and our loved ones healthy and safe.”

The winter strategy includes the following actions:

Masking

Wearing a simple cloth face covering over your nose and mouth helps prevent spreading COVID-19 to the people around you. Talking, singing, coughing and sneezing all create tiny droplets that can transmit the virus. Masks act as a barrier, decrease the spread of those tiny droplets and reduce the chances of infecting other people. Remember: You can have COVID-19 and

not know it, so masks should be worn anytime you are around others even if you don’t think you are sick.

The State of Arkansas currently has a mask mandate in place for indoor and outdoor settings where you are exposed to non-household members and social distancing cannot be assured, with a few exceptions.

Social distancing

COVID-19 is primarily spread from person to person. Maintaining a distance of 6 feet or more between yourself and others goes a long way toward stopping the spread. If you’re infectious and don’t know it, you’re less likely to infect others if you’re careful about keeping your distance. Also, if you happen to encounter a person who is positive, you’re less likely to catch COVID-19 if you stay at least six feet apart. This also applies to situations where you are with family or friends who don’t live in your household. Social gatherings of more than 10 people should be avoided, and so should crowded areas. Large events of 100 or more people are required to have a plan approved by the ADH and follow masking and social distancing guidelines.

Testing

If you have any symptoms like fever, cough or shortness of breath, or if you have recently been exposed to a person who has COVID-19, get tested. Testing is available across the state, including by appointment at local health units in every county at no cost to you. Also remember that if you have symptoms or have been exposed, it’s especially important to follow ADH guidelines for staying home and away from others until it’s confirmed that it’s safe to go back out.

The ADH continues to expand its testing capacity in its Public Health Laboratory and with partners across the state. As we go into the winter season when other respiratory viruses also circulate, testing will become even more important.

Contact tracing

Contact tracing is your chance to help solve the COVID-19 puzzle. If you test positive, you can help stop the chain of transmission by tracing your steps and identifying close contacts. If you have not tested positive and you get a call from a contact tracer, please answer or call the contact tracer back. The contact tracer is calling to give you important information about a possible exposure and can tell you how to further protect yourself and your loved ones. Other numbers may be used, but two to watch for that are used by our contact tracing vendors

are 877-272-6819 and 833-283-2019. This is crucial to helping stop the spread of the virus.

The ADH is continuing to expand our case investigation and contact tracing capacity. We are working internally and with our contractors to analyze and improve our contact tracing process to be timely and effective.

Compliance checks

The ADH has partnered with the Alcohol Beverage Control Board to conduct COVID-19 compliance checks among bars, food establishments and other facilities. These compliance checks ensure the establishments are adhering to COVID-19 directives and following approved event plans that will help keep employees and consumers safe and healthy. These checks monitor use of masks by employees and patrons and ensure social distancing is being practiced, required signs are posted, and soap and water or hand sanitizer are provided. The state has also partnered with the Arkansas Municipal League to encourage adherence to the mask mandate and other public health guidelines in Arkansas cities and towns. Through the winter months, the ADH and others will continue to perform these checks to educate business operators and strengthen compliance.

Get a flu shot

It's never been more important to get a flu shot. We need everyone to stay as healthy as possible to free up critical resources in our hospitals, and we also want to avoid the potential dangers associated with a patient getting flu and COVID-19 at the same time. The flu shot is safe, effective and available at no expense all across Arkansas at ADH Local Health Units. Many pharmacies and doctor's offices also carry the flu shot.

Stay vigilant to stop the virus

We all want the pandemic to end, and we will get there. But if we let our guard down, the virus can and will take advantage. It is important to continue taking the precautions lined out in this document. This isn't easy, but if we all stay strong and each do our part, we can protect one another. With multiple vaccines in clinical trials and plans being developed on how to distribute the vaccines once verified to be effective and safe, there is hope on the horizon.

COVID-19 holiday guidance

At his weekly COVID-19 update on Tuesday, November 10, Governor Asa Hutchinson announced

“Holiday Guidance During the COVID-19 Pandemic.” The document includes general considerations for Arkansans, as well as guidance for places of worship and service/civic organizations.

From the ADH guidelines: “Many traditional holiday activities can be high-risk for spreading viruses, including SARS-CoV-2, which is the cause of COVID-19. There are several safer, alternative ways to enjoy the holidays. As cases in Arkansas rise and you decide how you will celebrate the holidays, the ADH strongly encourages you to take the precautions listed below to protect yourself, your loved ones and others from the spread of COVID-19.”

The following people should not participate in any in-person holiday festivities due to the risk of exposing others:

- Anyone who has tested positive for the virus that causes COVID-19 and is within their isolation period, whether or not they have symptoms.
- Anyone recently exposed to someone diagnosed with COVID-19 and is in their 14-day quarantine period, even if they have tested negative during that time.
- Anyone experiencing symptoms of COVID-19:
 - Symptoms of COVID-19 may include: fever greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit, chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, or otherwise feeling unwell.

General considerations

- Be socially responsible when planning holiday activities. Even if you may not be at high risk for serious illness from COVID-19, you could spread the virus to vulnerable family members or members of your community. Ask elderly or at-risk family members if they feel comfortable participating this year. Many older individuals are trying to protect themselves but do not want to upset their family. Please honor their request.
- The holidays are often when people travel to celebrate with family. The ADH recommends avoiding holiday travel this year and encourages you to connect virtually with your loved ones instead.
- Face coverings should be worn anytime you are with people who do not reside within your household.

- Avoid events and activities where large numbers of attendees are expected. If you attend events, ensure you always maintain 6-foot physical distance from anyone who does not live in your household.
- If you are hosting an event with attendees who do not reside within your household:
 - Evaluate the space you have available and limit the number of attendees such that all attendees can easily maintain 6-foot physical distance.
 - Consider asking all guests to strictly avoid contact with people outside of their households for 14 days before the gathering.
 - Provide face coverings for any attendee who does not have one and encourage guests to wear them.
 - Encourage guests to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer containing at least 60 percent alcohol as they arrive and throughout the event.
- The risk of COVID-19 transmission increases in crowded or poorly ventilated spaces. Therefore, indoor events have a much higher risk of transmission than outdoor events. If the event is to be held indoors, ensure there is adequate ventilation. Open windows and doors to the extent that is safe and feasible based on the weather.
- Although there is no evidence that COVID-19 is spread by food, it may be spread by sharing of utensils and congregating around the food serving area. Avoid sharing of serving utensils by having one person serve food for other attendees. Ensure adequate distancing between non-household groups is available at the dinner table.
- For those with loved ones in a nursing home or assisted living facility, be aware of the risk to that person if they leave their facility to attend a family gathering and are then infected with COVID-19. They also could take the disease back to their living facility and spread to others. Please take extra precautions to prevent spread to these vulnerable people.

In summary, avoid situations with the following: large numbers of people, poor ventilation, prolonged contact with others, crowding, and people not wearing masks.

Lower-risk activities

- Having a small dinner with only your household members.
- Hosting a virtual dinner with your extended friends and family using video technology.
- Choosing to watch holiday programs from your vehicle or through live stream when possible.
- Participating in online shopping events instead of shopping in-person.

Medium-risk activities

- Having a small group (less than 10 persons) outdoor dinner with family and friends while maintaining 6-foot physical distancing and wearing cloth face coverings.
- Going to a pumpkin patch, Christmas tree farm, walk-through holiday light display, or other similar event in a large outdoor venue where appropriate mask use is enforced, and people can remain more than 6 feet apart.
- In-person shopping during “non-peak” times when physical distancing can be easily achieved.

High-risk activities (AVOID)

- Travelling outside of your local area, especially to areas with higher COVID-19 infection rates.
- In-person shopping during “Black Friday” sales or other “peak” times when stores are likely to be crowded.
- Large indoor gatherings with people outside of your household, including close friends and family.
- Attending office or community holiday parties or gatherings, attending a movie, or other indoor event where many people are likely to attend.

Additional Holiday Guidance for Places of Worship and Service/Civic Organizations

Places of worship

In addition to the guidance for worship services found on the ADH website, we want to remind places of worship of the high risk of unmasked singing. We strongly recommend masking of the entire congregation for the entire duration of the worship service in order to prevent spread. In addition, ADH recommends against having a choir perform. Consider having a solo instead with the singer standing at least 12 feet from anyone else. ADH also recommends against the use of wind instruments, such as trumpet, flute or clarinet, during the service.

ADH also recommends the following practices for holiday events:

- Consider hosting several events for smaller groups of people rather than one large event. Encourage attendees to sign up in advance to limit group size to allow for physical distancing to be maintained.
- If desiring to provide meals to the community, consider delivering the meals instead of hosting a large gathering.
- If a meal is provided on-site:
 - Use the largest facility available so that physical distancing of at least 6 feet can be maintained between household family groups.

- Provide cafeteria-style meal service instead of self-service buffets or consider a catered meal that is individually packaged for to-go service.
- If weather permits, encourage outdoor dining.
- People should not engage in neighborhood caroling due to the high risk from unmasked singing and the difficulty of maintaining enough physical distance.
- ADH discourages Christmas plays or pageants due to the difficulty in maintaining both physical distancing and masking for both participants and spectators.

Service/Civic Organizations

In addition to the above guidance:

- Any holiday event or activity must comply with either the ADH Directive Regarding Large Indoor Venues or the Directive Regarding Large Outdoor Venues as applicable. Events that anticipate attendance greater than 100 persons must submit a plan in accordance with those directives.
- “Pictures with Santa” events should be modified to maintain 6-foot physical distancing between attendees waiting in line as well as between the attendees and Santa.
- Instead of a traditional parade, consider hosting a “reverse parade” where the parade floats are stationary and attendees enjoy the festivities by driving through.

COVID-19 Winter Task Force

At a press conference on Friday, November 13, Governor Asa Hutchinson issued Executive Order 20-50 to Establish the Governor’s COVID-19 Winter Task Force. Per the press release: “We continue to see a record number of COVID-19 cases, and as winter approaches, we must take this head-on with a strategy that is medically sound and data-driven,” Hutchinson said. “This will ensure that we are combating COVID-19 with the best resources to limit the spread and mitigate the impact of the virus while we wait for a vaccine.”

- Governor Hutchinson will serve as chair, and Dr. Greg Bledsoe, Arkansas Surgeon General, will serve as vice chair. The other members of the COVID-19 Winter Task Force are:
 - Larry Shackelford, President and CEO of Washington Regional Medical Center
 - Chris Barber, President and CEO, St. Bernard’s Healthcare
 - Scott Street, CEO, Medical Center of South Arkansas
 - Dr. Cam Patterson, Chancellor, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

- Rachel Bunch, Executive Director, Arkansas Health Care Association
- Bo Ryall, President and CEO, Arkansas Hospital Association
- Troy Wells, President and CEO, Baptist Health
- Ryan Gehrig, President, Mercy Hospital, Fort Smith
- Major General Kendall Penn, Adjutant General, Arkansas National Guard
- A.J. Gary, Director, Arkansas Department of Emergency Management
- Dr. José Romero, Secretary of Arkansas Department of Health
- Dr. Jerrilyn Jones, Arkansas Department of Health
- Dr. Jennifer Dillaha, Arkansas Department of Health
- Dr. Naveen Patil, Arkansas Department of Health
- Dr. Keyur Vyas, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
- Phillip Gilmore, CEO, Ashley County Medical Center
- Dr. Steven Collier, CEO, ARcare
- Ron Peterson, President and CEO, Baxter County Regional Medical Center
- Additional citizens as the governor deems necessary

New curfew for businesses with on-premises alcohol consumption

On Thursday, November 19, Governor Asa Hutchinson issued a press release to announce the Arkansas Department of Health Arkansas has issued a directive that businesses that are licensed to sell and allow consumption of alcohol on their premises must close by 11 p.m. The directive is effective Friday, November 20, 2020, and remains in effect through January 3, 2021.

Per the press release: “In an effort to reduce the spread of the virus as a result of prolonged social interaction in group settings, I am accepting the recommendation of the COVID-19 Winter Task Force to require bars, restaurants and clubs that sell alcohol for consumption in their establishment to close at 11 p.m.,” Hutchinson said. “This is a balanced approach that is limited and targeted as we work to reduce new COVID cases in our state.” 🏠



2021 VIRTUAL WINTER CONFERENCE

#2021 AMLWC Tentative Agenda

Wednesday, January 13, 2021

10:00 A.M.	STATE AID STREET MEETING
1:00 P.M. to 1:10 P.M.	<p>WELCOME TO THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE 2021 VIRTUAL WINTER CONFERENCE—VOLUNTARY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS AND MUNICIPAL PERSONNEL</p> <p>Presiding: Mayor Gary Baxter, Mulberry President, Arkansas Municipal League</p> <p>Speaking: Whitnee V. Bullerwell, Deputy Director Arkansas Municipal League</p>
1:10 P.M. to 2:15 P.M.	<p>REPORT FROM GOVERNOR HUTCHINSON’S TASK FORCE TO ADVANCE THE STATE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT IN ARKANSAS (CONT. HOUR 1)</p> <p><i>Members of the Governor’s Task Force will share how they studied and analyzed best practices and procedures for Transparency, Bias and Community Policing, Usage of Body Cameras and the Future of Law Enforcement in Arkansas.</i></p> <p>Presiding: Mayor Gary Baxter, Mulberry President, Arkansas Municipal League</p> <p>Introduction: Fred Weatherspoon, Deputy Director and Task Force Chairman Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy (ALETA)</p> <p>1. THE NEED FOR A PUBLIC DECERTIFICATION DATABASE/REGISTRY</p> <p>Speaking: Police Chief Percy Wilburn Lake Village Police Department</p> <p>Bob McMahan Director, Arkansas Office of Prosecutor Coordinator</p> <p>2. BIAS AND COMMUNITY POLICING</p> <p>Speaking: Layla Holloway, Citizen Activist, Van Buren Police Chief Mike Reynolds, Fayetteville Police Department</p> <p>3. USAGE OF BODY CAMERAS</p> <p>Speaking: Police Chief Mike Reynolds, Fayetteville Police Department Police Chief Percy Wilburn, Lake Village Police Department Bob McMahan, Director, Arkansas Office of Prosecutor Coordinator</p> <p>4. FUTURE OF POLICING</p> <p>Speaking: Mayor Shirley Washington, Pine Bluff Mayor James Sanders, Blytheville</p> <p>CONCLUSION</p> <p>Speaking: Jami Cook, Secretary, Department of Public Safety (DPS)</p>

#2021 AMLWC Tentative Agenda

2:15 P.M. to 2:30 P.M.	BREAK
2:30 P.M. to 3:30 P.M.	<p>THE LEAGUE’S LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR THE 93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY (CONT. HOUR 2)</p> <p>Presiding: Mayor Tim McKinney, Berryville First Vice President, Arkansas Municipal League</p> <p>Speaking: Mark R. Hayes, Executive Director, Arkansas Municipal League John L. Wilkerson, General Counsel, Arkansas Municipal League Jack Critcher, Legislative Liaison, Arkansas Municipal League Chris Villines, Executive Director, Association of Arkansas Counties Gary Sipes, Executive Director, Arkansas Association of Chiefs of Police</p>
3:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.	<p>BRIEFING FROM ARKANSAS CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP (CORE HOUR 1)</p> <p>Presiding: Mayor Gary Baxter, Mulberry President, Arkansas Municipal League</p> <p>Speaking: Honorable Tim Griffin, Lieutenant Governor Honorable Leslie Rutledge, Attorney General Honorable Tommy Land, Commissioner of State Lands Honorable John Thurston, Secretary of State Honorable Andrea Lea, State Auditor Honorable Dennis Milligan, Treasurer of State Honorable Jimmy Hickey, State Senator President Pro Tempore Elect, District 92</p>
4:30 P.M.	WRAP UP AND RUN DOWN OF THURSDAY’S AGENDA
Thursday, January 14, 2021	
9:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M.	<p>OPENING GENERAL SESSION: THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MUNICIPAL LEADERSHIP IN ARKANSAS</p> <p><i>Winter Conference officially begins with the Presentation of Colors and the singing of the National Anthem. Little Rock Mayor Frank D. Scott, Jr. and North Little Rock Mayor Terry Hartwick will welcome conference delegates, and Rex Nelson, senior editor for the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette will offer our keynote address.</i></p> <p>Presiding: Mayor Gary Baxter, Mulberry President, Arkansas Municipal League</p> <p>Color Guard: Little Rock Fire Department National Anthem: Sergeant Allison Walton Little Rock Police Department</p> <p>Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Gary Baxter, Mulberry Host City Welcomes: Mayor Frank D. Scott, Jr., Little Rock Mayor Terry Hartwick, North Little Rock</p> <p>Speaking: Rex Nelson, Senior Editor, <i>Arkansas Democrat-Gazette</i></p>
10:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.	<p>GENERAL SESSION II: CITY GOVERNMENT 101: WHAT ROLE DO YOU PLAY IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT? (CORE HOUR 2)</p> <p>Presiding: Mayor Tim McKinney, Berryville First Vice President, Arkansas Municipal League</p> <p>Speaking: John L. Wilkerson, General Counsel, Arkansas Municipal League Lanny Richmond, Legal Counsel, Arkansas Municipal League</p>
11:00 A.M. to 11:15 A.M.	BREAK

#2021 AMLWC Tentative Agenda

Thursday, January 14, 2021, continued

<p>11:15 A.M. to 12:15 P.M.</p>	<p>2021 VIRTUAL WINTER CONFERENCE AWARDS RECOGNITION, PART I</p> <p><i>Arkansas Business Publishing Group (ABPG) will present the 2020 Trendsetter City Awards to cities and towns that have shown themselves to be innovative and creative at the local government level. These awards are presented in partnership with ABPG, Crews & Associates, the Arkansas Municipal League, Crafton Tull and the Arkansas State Chamber/AIA. Also, Engage AR will present on the 2020 Community of the Year Award winners. Engage AR has invited the Honorable Asa Hutchinson, Governor of Arkansas, to be a part of their presentation.</i></p> <p>Presiding: Mayor Gary Baxter, Mulberry President, Arkansas Municipal League</p> <p>Presentation of the Trendsetter City Awards: Mitch Bettis, President, Arkansas Business Publishing Group</p> <p>Presentation of the Don A. Zimmerman Pinnacle Award: Paul Phillips, Senior Managing Director, Crews and Associates</p> <p>Introduction of the Community of the Year Awards: Amanda Richardson Nipper, Commission Chair, Governor's Advisory Commission on National Service and Volunteerism</p> <p>Closing Comments: Shana Chaplin, Director, Engage AR</p>
<p>12:15 P.M. to 1:00 P.M.</p>	<p>LUNCH</p>
<p>1:00 P.M. to 2:00 P.M.</p>	<p>GENERAL SESSION III: CITY GOVERNMENT 101: COMMUNICATING WITH THE LEAGUE AND WITH YOUR LOCAL LEGISLATORS DURING THE 93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY (CORE HOUR 3)</p> <p>Presiding: Mayor Tim McKinney, Berryville First Vice President, Arkansas Municipal League</p> <p>Speaking: John L. Wilkerson, General Counsel, Arkansas Municipal League Blake Gary, Associate Legal Counsel, Arkansas Municipal League Whitnee V. Bullerwell, Deputy Director, Arkansas Municipal League Mark R. Hayes, Executive Director, Arkansas Municipal League</p>
<p>2:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.</p>	<p>GENERAL SESSION IV: CITY GOVERNMENT 101: HOW DO YOU HOLD A PRODUCTIVE AND EFFECTIVE CITY COUNCIL/BOARD MEETING DURING A PANDEMIC? (CORE HOUR 4)</p> <p>Presiding: Mayor Gary Baxter, Mulberry President, Arkansas Municipal League</p> <p>Speaking: John L. Wilkerson, General Counsel, Arkansas Municipal League Lanny Richmond, Legal Counsel, Arkansas Municipal League Jeff Melton, Senior Network Administrator, Arkansas Municipal League</p>
<p>3:00 P.M.</p>	<p>WRAP UP AND RUN DOWN OF FRIDAY'S AGENDA</p>



2021 VIRTUAL WINTER CONFERENCE

#2021 AMLWC Tentative Agenda

Friday, January 15, 2021

9:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M.	GENERAL SESSION I: HOW CAN PARTICIPATION IN THE “BIG FIVE LEAGUE PROGRAMS” BEST BENEFIT YOUR CITY OR TOWN? (CONT. HOUR 3) Presiding: Gary Baxter, Mulberry President, Arkansas Municipal League Speaking: Katie Bodenhamer, General Manager, Municipal Health Benefit Program (MHBP), Arkansas Municipal League Katy Busby, General Manager, Municipal League Workers’ Compensation Program (MLWCP) Arkansas Municipal League John Wells, General Manager, Municipal Property Program (MPP), and Municipal Vehicle Program (MVP) Arkansas Municipal League John L. Wilkerson, General Counsel, Municipal Legal Defense Program (MLDP), Arkansas Municipal League
10:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.	GENERAL SESSION II: CITY GOVERNMENT 101: IN WHAT WAYS HAS COVID-19 CHANGED LOCAL GOVERNMENT? (CORE HOUR 5) Presiding: Mayor Tim McKinney, Berryville First Vice President, Arkansas Municipal League 1. LEGAL PERSPECTIVE, SAFETY OF EMPLOYEES, PUBLIC Speaking: John L. Wilkerson, General Counsel, Arkansas Municipal League A.J. Gary, Director, Arkansas Department of Emergency Management (ADEM) 2. WORKPLACE CHALLENGES, LEAVE TIME DURING PANDEMIC Speaking: Tracey Cline-Pew, Director of Human Resources, Arkansas Municipal League 3. NETWORK SECURITY AND TELEWORKING Speaking: Jeff Melton, Senior Network Administrator, Arkansas Municipal League
11:00 A.M. to 11:15 A.M.	BREAK
11:15 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.	2021 VIRTUAL WINTER CONFERENCE AWARDS RECOGNITION, PART II <i>The League will recognize the municipal officials and personnel who have achieved their Certified Municipal Official/Personnel status, in addition to recognizing members who have maintained their “Continuing Certification” status. Municipal officials who are retiring from office with 10 or more years of service to the League will be recognized as Life Members. Lastly, the Dean’s Chair will be awarded to the outgoing municipal official who has the longest tenure of service to the League.</i> Presiding: Mayor Gary Baxter, Mulberry President, Arkansas Municipal League Dean’s Chair Presentation: TBD
12:00 P.M.	WRAP UP THE 2021 ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE VIRTUAL WINTER CONFERENCE Presiding: Mayor Gary Baxter, Mulberry President, Arkansas Municipal League

Municipal officials and personnel can register now at www.arml.org/reg.

Deadline to register is Monday, January 11, 2021.

Contact Deputy Director Whitnee V. Bullerwell at wvb@arml.org
for more information.



League partners with Arkansas Peace & Justice Memorial Movement, UCA, for 2021 National Day of Racial Healing

On January 19, 2021, the day after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the State of Arkansas will observe the fifth annual “National Day of Racial Healing.” This will be the second consecutive year that this day will be observed in the state.


In 1995, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF), one of the largest philanthropic foundations in the United States, established the National Day of Racial Healing as part of its Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation (TRHT) process, which was a restructuring of its funding priorities to promote healing as a critical path for ending racial bias and creating a society in which all children can thrive. Choosing the TRHT motto “We choose healing over hatred, belonging over bias, and unity over division,” numerous organizations and municipalities throughout America joined WKKF to host annual events that centered on truth telling and trust building that can lead to racial healing for a more just and equitable future.

Last year, the Arkansas Peace & Justice Memorial Movement and the Clinton School of Public Service met to figure out how they could partner to co-host an inaugural observance of the National Day of Racial Healing in the state of Arkansas in 2020. As a result of this meeting, APJMM joined with Philander Smith College, the Central Arkansas Library System, the Arkansas Black History Commission, the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center, the Central High School National Historic Site, the Arkansas Governor’s Office and the Arkansas Secretary of State’s Office to co-host a two-and-a-half day schedule of multi-site events throughout Pulaski County for the state’s inaugural observance.

As part of this inaugural observance, Governor Asa Hutchinson became the first governor to issue a gubernatorial proclamation. Hutchinson’s proclamation was immediately followed by proclamations issued by Pulaski County Judge Barry Hyde and the mayors of Cammack Village, North Little Rock and Wrightsville. Little Rock School District Superintendent Mike Poore became the first superintendent to issue a school district proclamation.

Today, APJMM has joined with the University of Central Arkansas and the Arkansas Municipal League to begin planning for a virtual observance of the fifth annual National Day of Racial Healing in Arkansas. One of the goals for the 2021 observance is for Arkansas to become the first state where all of its mayors, county judges and school superintendents issue proclamations, along with the governor. See the opposite page for a sample proclamation. Help us reach our goal by sending your proclamation to:

Kwami Abdul-Bey, Co-Convenor
Arkansas Peace & Justice Memorial Movement
2021 NDORH Proclamations
2513 McCain Boulevard, Suite 2-221
North Little Rock, AR 72116

We are also available to consult with members of your executive and legislative staffs to ensure your jurisdiction’s active participation in the 2021 virtual observance. Please do not hesitate to contact us. Learn more at www.APJMM.org. 

NATIONAL DAY OF RACIAL HEALING 2021 PROCLAMATION

TO ALL WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME – GREETINGS:

- WHEREAS: Just like those who came before us, it is our duty to protect the children of this <jurisdiction> and maintain communities in which they may all be given the opportunity to succeed; and,
- WHEREAS: We must all work earnestly to create courageous and supportive environments that acknowledge the traumatic past; promote the healing of the wounds created by racial, ethnic and religious bias; and build an equitable and just society so that all of <jurisdiction>'s children can thrive; and,
- WHEREAS: Children have the right to be provided every opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive in nurturing environments that do not violate their safety, dignity, and humanity; and,
- WHEREAS: Every single person has the opportunity to exhibit an act of kindness to make a simple change within themselves that can have a profound effect on an entire society; and,
- WHEREAS: If we all dedicate ourselves to the principles of truth, racial healing and transformation, we can all bring about the necessary changes in thinking and behavior that will propel this great <jurisdiction> forward as a unified force where racial biases will become a thing of the past; and,
- WHEREAS: Racial healing is a vital and crucial commitment to the education, social, mental, and overall, well-being of all residents in the <jurisdiction>, particularly children; and,
- WHEREAS: The <jurisdiction>, in conjunction with others throughout the State of Arkansas, and the United States of America, acknowledges January 19, 2021, as the “National Day of Racial Healing in the <jurisdiction>,” and urges all citizens to promote truth, racial healing and transformation in the ways that are best suited for them individually, as a means to working together to ensure the best quality of life for every child.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, <name of executive>, <title of executive> of the <jurisdiction>, do hereby proclaim January 19, 2021, as

NATIONAL DAY OF RACIAL HEALING 2021 IN THE <JURISDICTION>

IN TESTIMONY WHEREFORE, I hereunto set my hand and cause the Great Seal of <jurisdiction>, Arkansas, to be affixed.

<name of executive>, <title of executive>

<name of clerk>, <title of clerk>

ACCRTA offers virtual new clerk orientation

The Arkansas City Clerks, Records & Treasurers Association and the Arkansas Municipal League are pleased to present a free Virtual New Clerk Orientation Class from 9 a.m.-11 a.m. on January 19, 2021.

The two-hour class will cover an array of topics, including what should be in every clerk's "toolbox," such as information about policies and procedures, record retention, financial management, state statutes that govern the role of the clerk and other elected officials, and guidance on agendas, packets and minutes.

Attendees will also learn eight laws necessary to the clerk position, differences between ordinances and resolutions, procedures regarding ordinances and resolutions, and rules about the Freedom of Information Act.

"In addition to all of the great information, you'll also be welcomed into a strong network of resources, mentorship, training and support," North Little Rock Chief Deputy City Clerk and Treasurer Katelyn Thomas said in a video promoting the event. "All the time I've

been involved in the organization I've had the pleasure of building working relationships with clerks from all over. I know that any question I have or any training I need to further my profession as a clerk, I can rely on this group to help me succeed."

The Virtual New Clerk Orientation Class is open to any municipal official who is interested in learning more about the clerk profession. Registration is not required. Link will be sent via ListSrvs. For more information, contact Batesville Deputy Clerk Donna Smith at 870-698-2400, ext. 108, or clerk3@cityofbatesville.com.



Social media and municipal employees

By Tracey Cline-Pew, League staff

When in 1791 James Madison drafted the 45 words that we have come to know as the First Amendment, neither he nor our forefathers could have foreseen the way communication would evolve over the subsequent 200-plus years. The First Amendment was the blueprint for personal freedom and protects freedom of speech, press, religion, assembly and petition. But what if that speech threatens harm to someone whose beliefs are different from our own? What lines must be crossed before free speech can be restricted?

Some of us, me included, remember a time when there were no smart phones, internet or Google. There certainly was no Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Tik Tok, Zoom, WebEx or Parler. Our ability to communicate and be heard has increased exponentially and is constantly expanding. Yet with that ability comes responsibility, especially for municipal officials and employees.

The First Amendment allows us to speak our mind and stand up for what we believe in. However, the Supreme Court has called the few exceptions to the First Amendment “well-defined and narrowly limited.” They include obscenity, defamation, fraud, incitement, true threats and speech integral to criminal conduct. So, what does that mean for a municipality?

Ultimately, an individual is solely responsible for what they post online. But before posting anything—especially as an employee of a municipality or a city official—there are things you should consider. For example, if you post any content that adversely affects your job performance, the performance of co-workers, or otherwise adversely affects members of the public, or people who work on behalf of the municipality, or the municipality’s legitimate business interests, it may be prohibited. In short, an employee’s speech is weighed against the interest the city has in keeping an orderly workplace.

Which leads me to the recommendation that your city adopt a social media policy if it has not already done so. Having a social media policy is a city’s first defense in mitigating risk for the city and its employees. The policy should provide clear guidelines regarding posting

defamatory, derogatory or inflammatory content. It should emphasize the employee’s responsibility for their social media posts and require that they exhibit a level of professionalism. As with all policies, your city attorney should be consulted.

Most of us use social media to keep up with friends and family, and to stay engaged in our current COVID-19 environment. As a precaution, before you post anything online, carefully read your city’s guidelines. Specifically, be cognizant of your city’s ethical conduct policy, discrimination and harassment policy, and conduct toward the public policy. Ensure that your posts are consistent with these policies. Nothing should ever be posted that jeopardizes the trust that the public places on city officials and city employees.

You have a right to your opinion and to share that opinion. However, you should always be respectful of differing opinions. Social media should not be used to post comments that could be viewed as malicious, obscene, threatening, intimidating, harassing or bullying. These types of posts could be evidence of a hostile work environment and create a liability.

It is important to remember that the internet archives almost everything and that posts can go viral, quickly reaching huge audiences. Never forget that even a post shared only with friends can be shared and reposted, swiftly multiplying. Once posted, a comment is impossible to take back. Even deleted postings can be searched. Think before you post and if you have any doubts, don’t.

If the staff at the Arkansas Municipal League can assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to call. Information regarding social media and communication policies can be found in the League’s library of free publications at www.arml.org.



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

MHBP announces 2021 plan changes

By Katie Bodenhamer, League staff

As 2020 ends, we find that 2021 brings several welcome changes to the Municipal Health Benefit Program (MHBP) health plan. Below, we've outlined three key upgrades to our plan.

New ID cards and new PBM

MHBP is pleased to announce that it is partnering with MedImpact to manage our retail, mail-order and specialty pharmacy benefits. MedImpact will replace Optum Rx as the MHBP Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM).

Beginning next year, members will be able to get their prescription medication at one of 65,000 MedImpact participating retail pharmacies. To find a pharmacy near you and get driving directions, visit www.medimpact.com and use the online Pharmacy Locator tool.

Because of the PBM change, our members will be receiving a new ID card, which will include pharmacy information to allow them to fill their prescriptions. The ID card will also allow members to receive health care benefits from their medical provider as well.

Please note that each member of a covered household will receive their own unique ID card, and that starting on January 1, 2021, each member will need to present their unique ID card to their pharmacy or provider for claims to be submitted properly. ID cards should be arriving sometime in December.

Free preventive dental cleaning

MHBP is proud to offer a new preventive dental benefit for MHBP members. Beginning on January 1, 2021, MHBP will pay 100 percent of the allowable amount for preventive dental services provided by an in-network provider. Eligible preventive services include:

- One oral examination, including a cleaning, per calendar year
- One set of X-rays (bitewing, panoramic) per calendar year
- Fluoride and sealant application for dependents up to age 19

Eligible preventive services will not be subject to a member's deductible or co-insurance. For more details, refer to the 2021 Bylaws of the Municipal Health Benefit Program at www.arml.org/static/arml/Health_Fund_Booklet_2021_WEB.pdf, or contact our Customer Service Department at 1-800-265-6427.

New self-service member portal

Beginning first quarter 2021, MHBP members will have online access to their benefits and claims. For the first time in our program's history, MHBP will offer a self-service portal that will allow our membership to access the information they need to effectuate better health outcomes. Look for more information on this exciting development in the coming months.

MHBP is proud to offer so many of our cities and towns robust health coverage at an affordable price. The upgrades made to our benefit plan for 2021 are a direct result of listening to the needs of our membership, and we are looking forward to rolling out additional changes in the coming years.



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

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 2021 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

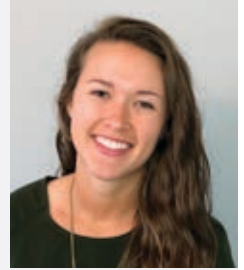
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Meet Breanna Keith, senior financial analyst for the Arkansas Municipal League.



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

Breanna Keith: I perform data collection and organization for the preparation of rating structures, investment reporting and financial reporting. I also help coordinate the annual audit and assist with various financial projects to help our cities and towns.

How long have you been working at the League? How did you get started? I have worked at the League for a year and a half. Prior to joining the League, I was in public accounting, and AML was one of my clients. As part of the audit team, I developed a great relationship with the finance department and other League programs. Now I get to be part of the AML team!

How has the League changed since you've started? What has stayed the same? I have not been here long enough to see any major changes, but the League seems to always be making forward progress in some way.

What advice would you have for someone just getting into public service? Take an interest in local government. Every municipality functions differently but they are all working to make things better for their community.

Where did you grow up? How has it changed? Stayed the same? I grew up in Conway, and it seems like an entirely different city now. The growth in population, shopping, restaurants and entertainment has been incredible to watch over time.

What is your favorite spot in your hometown? Why? My favorite spot in Conway is the Tucker Creek Walking Trail. I lived next to it growing up and always loved going for bike rides and playing in the creek. It has expanded significantly since then and now covers most of west Conway. I bought a house just down the street from it and probably spend more time out there now than I did as a kid.

What is your favorite part about working for the Municipal League and the cities and towns of Arkansas? The people! Mark has set an impeccable tone at the top, emphasizing relationships, community and teamwork for everyone at the League, the cities and towns. 🏡

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Dave Mims 770.670.6940 x110 davemims@sophicity.com www.sophicity.com	Chris Hartley 501.978.6106 chartley@arml.org www.arml.org																															

Meet Jim Smith, water superintendent for Cave City.

City & Town: What are your duties and responsibilities in Cave City?

Jim Smith: Ensuring the smooth daily operations of the water and sewer system, making sure leaks are found and repaired as quickly as possible, maintaining the plant and equipment associated with its operation, planning ahead for replacement of aging water and sewer mains as well as other assets associated with the water and sewer system.



Why did you choose your profession? Did it choose you? It really chose me. The day after high school graduation the water superintendent at that time approached me to come work for him at the city.

What's your favorite aspect of your job?

What's the biggest challenge? Serving the people of my community is my favorite aspect. I grew up here, so I know most of them personally. Water main breaks in the middle of the night is my biggest challenge.

What's your favorite spot in Cave City?

Why? The city park because it's so beautiful.

What is the public perception of your job versus the reality of your job?

Being visible most of the day, I think they don't realize all the work done at the plants on a daily basis. Sometimes I think the public sees us driving and thinks we are "looking" or "waiting" for something to do.

In what season does Cave City shine the most? Why?

Summer! The watermelon festival really showcases the community and what Cave City is all about.

What was your favorite subject in school? Science.

What's the biggest lesson you've learned working for a city government?

How government works. There is so much that goes on to get things done behind the scenes that the public never sees.

What advice do you have for someone who would like to follow your footsteps into this job?

Patience is key. Don't be discouraged by setbacks, delays or unexpected challenges.

What are three "can't miss" things that someone can do if they visit Cave City?

Watermelon festival, Christmas parade and the fall foliage. 🍂

Are Your Bad Debt Accounts Adding Up? Having No Success With Collection Agencies...

Turn Those Bad Debts Into Deposits By Joining The Water Utility DataBase System



A network of Municipalities and Rural Water/Sewer systems across the state, through legislation have joined forces through our database system to track and collect their otherwise uncollectable bad debts.

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For more information contact an ARWA representative, contact us at 800-264-0303 or go to www.wudb.com



The deadline for enrollment in the Arkansas Municipal League 2021 Municipal Officials and Department Heads Accidental Death and Dismemberment Plan is Dec. 31, 2020.

Contact Tammie Dodson at 501-537-3782, or email tdodson@arml.org.



CAROL M. HIGSMITH: PHOTOGRAPHS IN THE CAROL M. HIGSMITH ARCHIVE, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS DIVISION

Cities are adopting new policies in moving traffic to include people as well as automobiles, even on the Brooklyn Bridge.

Policy statements: strictures or suggestions?

By Jim von Tungeln

The topic of policy statements in urban planning evokes a line from the film *Pirates of the Caribbean*. When the heroine claims protection from her tormentor under a provision of the so-called “Pirates Code,” she is given disclaimers, the most important one of which contends that, “... the code is more what you’d call ‘guidelines’ than actual rules.”

Urban planning policies are similar, also evoking the well-known Miles Law: “Where you stand depends on where you sit.”

To the developer, for example, favorable policies are mandates carved onto governmental granite. To the citizens, they are there to protect the value of their homes and for no other reason. To attorneys, they are more useful for prodding and provoking than for prevailing. (See “Pirates Code.”) To the planning commissioners, they are a nuisance, and to elected officials they provide an obstacle to creative government. (That’s only true in other states, not ours, of course.)

Where do we encounter policies and in what form? A report published many years ago by a long-defunct organization has this to say: “One hears of policy plans, policy implementation, policy statements, development policy, policy alternatives, policy determinations—the list could go on.”

What is a policy, anyway? Much like a resolution passed by a governing body, it is a statement of intent, without the force of law. Some have referred to the term simply as “any governing principle, plan, or course of action.” Although limited, that definition will satisfy our present aim of examining the function and purpose of policies in urban planning.

How does it relate to planning? In a sense, the general or comprehensive plan of a city is itself a policy. The court in our state, in *Economy Whsle. Co. v. Rodgers* (1960), recognized this when it stated, “The land-use plan is plainly not a zoning ordinance. It is merely a broad declaration of policy, specifying in a general way

the uses to which the land in and near the city is now being put and to which it may be put in the future. The plan does not contain exact descriptions so that the property owner may ascertain what restrictions are being placed upon his land. The land-use plan contains none of the details that are essential to a zoning ordinance.”

If the plan is a collection of policies, what purpose do they serve? At the most basic level, they help determine that decisions regarding urban planning are consistent and have a rational basis. In short, they provide a defense for a city’s actions. Attorneys love this. Applicants depend on it. Citizens respect it as long as it doesn’t affect their own property.

Can published policies limit possible courses of action? Of course they can, perhaps not from legal force but from the preponderance of implied intent.

Policies can take different forms depending upon their function. At the most basic level, they resemble stated goals. Put another way, they point out the direction the city plans to take on a certain issue, problem or alternative. Jerrold R. Allaire, in his 1961 Policy Statements: Guides to Decision-Making report for the American Society of Planning Officials called these “first order” policies. Next are “second order” policies that bridge the gap between the first level and the most specific level, or “third order” policies. Using the metaphor of a city planning to take a trip, Allaire said that first-order policies determine the direction a city might take. Second-order policies determine the route to be chosen from available alternatives. Third-order policies determine the mode of transportation.

A review of current examples indicates that regarding most city plans, policies stop at the first order level. This makes sense from the standpoint of flexibility, perhaps more aptly described as “wobble room.” Consider that almost all plans state, in some form or other, a policy of promoting diversity in housing and the provision of affordable housing.

Less common is a second-order layer of policies stating the specific route the city will take to achieve those admirable goals.

Almost always missing are concrete, written and unequivocal policies tying the community into unwavering methodology for producing results. That is why so many noble planning proposals fall victim to the so-called “not in my backyard” or NIMBY.

A number of benefits can accrue from the establishment of a well-crafted policy document. One, mentioned previously, is consistency. Applying policies consistently can provide a guard against charges of acting in an arbitrary and capricious manner. That is one of the primary urban planning sins that can assure legal problems.

Policies can also enhance efficiency. Cities must use the talents, education and experience of staff personnel in as fruitful a manner as possible. Any time that staff members waste in analyzing requests costs the taxpayers. A policy framework can provide assurance that staff processes and recommendations are in line with the intent and direction of plan proposals. It can also promote much needed lateral communication among departments. In Southern parlance, this allows all staff, as well as public officials, to “sing from the same hymnbook.”

A policy document can also provide transparency for the general public. When the intent of the general plan is bolstered by clearly stated policies, it may result in fewer attempts to subvert or sidestep plan proposals. In the absence of thoughtfully conceived policies, planning commissions may be more subject to public appeals based on emotion, unsubstantiated claims and socio-economic prejudice. Conversely, a safety net of clear and equitable policies can protect the commissioners from bad publicity or frivolous legal entanglements.

Where do policies fit into the planning process? This is a good question since the plan itself has been termed a policy. Additional supporting policies may flow from the adopted land use plan or master transportation plan. These might warrant the term “supportive policies.”

A common approach today is for the plans to flow from policies adopted after the creation of a community vision. Thus, the land use, transportation, community facilities and other plans flow from originating policies. These might be appropriately titled “formative policies.”

Either approach will work if applied thoughtfully. What can prove to be not so productive is what might be termed implied policy. Allowing neighborhoods to be diminished by traffic arteries implies a policy that “the automobile rules.” Rejection of higher densities and multi-family development implies a policy of avoiding affordable housing.

A thorough policy statement can aid your city’s planning commission in fulfilling plan objectives. In the opinion of some observers, planning commissioners don’t fail to support their city’s plan by avoiding good decisions based on reliable information. They do so by avoiding bad decisions because of a lack of supporting information. Policies can help. Why not give them a try?



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Public-private partnership helps Jefferson County transform community services

By Andrey Archer

Jefferson County recently gained statewide attention thanks to a new public-private funding partnership between the county government and The P3 Group, Inc (P3). The largest needs of the community were voiced during a quorum court hearing early last year. The conditions of the Jefferson County Health Department, Coroner and Veterans Services were described as “hazardous, moldy, malfunctioning and unsafe” by Justice of the Peace Brenda Gaddy, Angela Parker from the Health Unit and several employees of Veterans Services.

County employees feared roof collapse and experienced upper respiratory infections. Customers avoided utilizing county services as the buildings were in disrepair. County Judge Gerald Robinson began the process of applying for a grant through the Arkansas Department of Health to update these buildings, which led to a partnership with P3.

What is The P3 Group?

The P3 Group, Inc., founded in 2013, is a minority owned, international real estate development and consulting firm. Their goal is to create public-private partnerships with government agencies and nonprofit organizations. Their process includes structured acquisitions through sales and leasebacks that turn high-interest, short-term real estate loans into long-term, tax-exempt, low-interest financed projects.

According to CEO Dee Brown, the two most important and beneficial parts of the funding plan include transferring the front-end financial risks away from the public and onto the private side through P3 and local partnerships, and eliminating the need for the county to pledge full faith and credit to the transaction, meaning the county isn’t required to vote on a bond issue for the project. This expedites the entire process because the partnership manages all financial burden and can proceed without waiting for a voting cycle.

That is the key for The P3 Group and their funding model—finding the financial support through local partners and contractors, managing the risks and targets of the community, and providing efficient guidance through the construction, architecture and engineering of top-of-the-line project sites.

Jefferson County and P3

The Jefferson County Quorum Court in July met and approved the P3 Group ordinance. The ordinance allows a \$14 million lease agreement between P3 and the county, with the goal of completing new facilities for the Health Department, Veterans Services and County Coroner. Within 84 days of the ordinance’s passage, the P3 Group was able to deliver the site acquisition, engineering, design and financing for the three facilities with a price tag of \$14.3 million and a one-year time frame.

Garnering community support for this large project was crucial, Brown said. “There was an overwhelming show of support from everyone, especially veterans and health care workers.”

This support was also evident in the organizations and key players that joined in the private funding side. Simmons Bank pledged \$1 million to support the Health Department and the Veterans Services office. The Quapaw Nation along with the Saracen Casino pledged to pay for all the furniture, fixtures and equipment for the Health Department. Another \$40,000 pledge was made by Relyance Bank for the Health Department.

“It’s not just building physical structures,” Brown said, “but rather providing life-changing experiences for the entire community.”

When The P3 Group develops a partnership with a municipality it not only provides jobs through the use of local subcontractors, but also focuses on developing a personal connection with citizens throughout the process, she said.



Designs for the Jefferson County Health Unit, Veterans Services and Coroner.

The partnership

The success of this process largely relies on county officials. As evidenced in the quorum court hearing, the Jefferson County government proved their full faith and confidence in both the P3 Group and its citizens. The most important step is having confidence and cooperation with the county, because there are a lot of processes that must go through those officials first, Brown said.

According to Brown, communities that benefit most from this kind of partnership are those that have not had major projects delivered recently and require a boost to find funding, a key skill of P3. A public-private

partnership can be a catalyst for any municipality that seeks to develop their community. It provides not only a helping hand in project building, but a long-lasting positive impact on the entire community. For additional information on The P3 Group, visit www.thep3groupinc.com



Andrey Archer is the University of Central Arkansas (UCA) Center for Community and Economic Development (CCED) intern and an undergraduate at UCA. You can learn more about CCED at www.uca.edu/cced.

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Improving your health starts with being tobacco free

By Patricia Franklin

This year especially, many people will be thinking about their health as they make resolutions for the year to come. But for tobacco users, pandemic or not, the best thing you can do for your health is to try to quit.

You probably don't need a health professional to tell you that smoking increases your risk of complications from COVID-19, because it increases risk factors for all of the leading causes of death, including cancer, heart disease and stroke. Meanwhile, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than one in five adult Arkansans uses tobacco products. That's a little less than twice the national average. Among teenagers, the numbers are worse: 26.3 percent of high school students report nicotine use when e-cigarettes are included.

To make Arkansas healthier, we must stop using nicotine. The good news is no one has to do that alone.

Learning to quit

The vast majority of people who try to stop smoking are not successful the first time. Like anything else, it's a process. You have to learn to quit. Begin that learning with baby steps.

For example, many smokers live with other smokers. Before anyone can quit, the household needs to have a conversation about phasing out smoking, perhaps with a rule against smoking indoors or in the car. This likely won't prompt anyone to quit on its own, but it's a good start.

That first step signifies a desire to quit smoking, and it's easier than picking a cold turkey quit date out of the blue. If people relapse while trying to quit smoking, and most smokers do, it's usually not because they've given up the desire to quit. It's because they set an unrealistic goal and then beat themselves up if they fall short.

Set reasonable expectations. Quitting is the end goal, but even minimally reducing your tobacco use is still progress. Practice makes perfect, and eventually you can think about setting an end date.

Tools to quit and tips for affording them

Support for quitting smoking can take many forms. The most familiar are tools like gum or patches that deliver nicotine without tobacco. Many people find these tools helpful in quitting, and insurance companies are

making them easier to get. Most insurers would rather pay for you to quit than continue to insure you as a smoker, so ask your insurance provider what's covered.

Another tool to ask about is Chantix, a prescription medication. You might have heard a lot of rumors about the side effects of Chantix, but I'd encourage you not to believe everything you've read. Medications will always affect different people in different ways, but many studies have proven Chantix is safe and effective. What's more, manufacturers may offer you a discount on these methods if they are not covered by your insurance.

Other resources:

- BeWellArkansas Tobacco Quitline, 833-283-9355 (www.bewellarkansas.org)—offers patches, lozenges and counseling on the phone, online and smartphone app.
- American Lung Association Freedom From Smoking Online Class, 800-LUNG-USA—eight sessions for a nominal fee.
- UAMS Tobacco Cessation Quitline, 501-526-5448—offers personalized quit plans, virtual classes and coaching along the way.

Surround yourself with support

It also helps to have someone in your corner. Going it alone is difficult for most people. Most programs have spent the better part of the past year finding ways to maintain connections despite social distancing. Whether through online teleconference, email check-ins, apps to track progress or good old-fashioned phone calls, counselors will usually be more than happy to use whatever method works to keep you on track.

And let's face it, most people need that help more than ever right now. The pandemic has added stress in the lives of most people, and stress is the most commonly cited reason why people relapse when they're trying to quit.

But imagine the relief of knowing you're giving yourself the best chance you can to stay healthy during this pandemic—and long after, too. The best way to do that is to try to quit smoking.



Patricia Franklin, APRN, is a certified tobacco treatment specialist in the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

Building the public workforce of the future

By Mark Stodola

In these fast-changing times where traditional job skills are battling with the forces of machine learning, artificial intelligence and robotics, the need for workforce modernizations in the public sector has never been greater. Consider also that by 2030, 20 percent of the U.S. population will be over the age of 65 and eligible for Social Security. Multiple challenges exist that make it important—and at the same time more difficult—to attract new employees to public service, where salaries are traditionally lower, budgets are tighter and employees are asked to do more with less.

It is imperative for local governments to modernize their methods of attracting and retaining top talent. We must first recognize a fundamental challenge. Government workforces skew substantially older than their private-sector counterparts. The Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that as of December 2019 only one-third of the 14.6 million local-government employees are millennials. The Bureau indicates that public agencies employ a substantially higher percentage of Baby Boomers and Gen-Xers than private companies.

Consequently, public-sector organizations will continue to experience high retirement rates, especially for highly skilled and senior management positions. Good benefits have historically made public-sector work attractive, but as local governments struggle with tight budgets, increasing costs and pandemic overload, many have been forced to ask employees to pick up a greater share of pension and health care costs.

In light of these challenges, here are some suggestions for effective recruitment and retention strategies local governments should consider employing.

Engage in partnerships

Develop creative local partnerships and apprenticeship programs with schools, unions and other organizations to build a talent pipeline. This helps potential applicants meet the requirements of public job classifications. Create mentorships, leadership and career development programs. Encourage and incentivize additional education. These programs can all aid in retention and spread institutional knowledge by giving younger workers skills for future leadership positions as older workers retire.

Reward good performance

Develop a new performance management system to assess employee performance. Consider a new model

implemented in Tennessee. They use a five-tier system of “unacceptable, marginal, valued, advanced and outstanding.” Under this pay-for-performance model, an employee who received at least a “valued” rating earns an increase in base pay. Employees who earn an “advanced” or “outstanding” rating receive an additional one-time performance bonus. This method helps with recruitment and retention because it recognizes that performance may be just as important, if not more so, than seniority.

Focus on succession plans sooner rather than later

Cities need to build their talent pipeline so that they have employees ready to move into positions when people leave. Some local government agencies have formalized this process. California has developed a “workforce succession plan academy.” The academy lasts for several months and graduates are vested with a succession plan that helps the departments pass along institutional knowledge while creating a pool of qualified candidates to meet future needs.

Explore benefits modernization

Many cities rely on outdated paper-based enrollment processes. Cities should work with strategic partners to modernize benefits enrollment, communication and education. Customize benefits using voluntary, value-added products such as a menu option for coverage and personal benefits counseling. This facilitates cost sharing while offsetting employees’ cost. Institute wellness programs, which reduce the need for costly health interventions. Studies have shown employees save \$3 for every \$1 invested in wellness programs over a three-year period. Flexible spending accounts such as 125 health plans also create tax savings since the money deducted isn’t subject to payroll taxes.

Leverage technology and social media

As the older workforce retires, recruiting a younger workforce will be critical for cities to future-proof their success. Utilize technology to speed up the recruitment process. New recruits, especially for police and fire positions, don’t want to wait around for months to see if they passed a test or have made it to the next round of interviews. Departments can now text applicants, email their results and communicate regularly to keep them engaged in the hiring process.

Cities need to establish a technology and data-driven culture to address the pain points in their recruitment and retention efforts. Use data to gain visibility on where you need to improve, and leverage technology to automate the applicant experience and talent-development process using your employment portals and website.

Emphasize a positive workplace culture

People want to like where they work and the people they work with. It helps with retention, and a happy employee is a great recruiter. If a city employee loves their work, it is a great testimony that the city is a great place to work.

Emphasize your commitment to work-life balance by offering flexible work schedules and benefits such as paid parental leave. It is critical especially during these pandemic days. A recent survey on sustainable governing found that a proper work-life balance was the third most important factor for recruitment and the second most important for retention. Personal time is also valuable in the work-life equation. Insisting that employees take vacations is important in promoting healthy work-life balance.

Don't let budget constraints hamper creative solutions

Consider flexible vacation accrual schedules and use-your-own-device policies, which give employees the option of working from home or from any location as long as their internet connections are safe and secure. Organize game days and picnics. Some cities provide coffee services and refreshments for employees by partnering with local nonprofits. Encourage your employees to be a part of the solution in addressing challenges.

Building the public workforce of the future is all about breaking down institutional norms and embracing change. Government leaders must be willing to change the status quo. While budget constraints will always be a factor, developing innovative strategies can help recruit and retain the next generation of talented and skilled public employees without breaking the bank.



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

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Controlled burns fight fire with fire

By John Scott

On a recent trip to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, I was lucky enough to go through Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg, Tennessee. The surrounding hills, valleys and mountains remind me of Arkansas' Ouachita and Ozark mountains, and a couple of other parts of our state. As beautiful as the Smokies are, I could not help but notice the dead, burnt trees sticking out of the hillsides. I look at these areas as a cautionary tale and ask myself, "Could this happen here?"

The 2016 Great Smoky Mountains wildfire was one of the largest natural disasters in Tennessee history. It took 14 lives and injured 190 people. This region was experiencing severe drought at the time of the fire. The damages were estimated to be around \$2 billion.

Our Tennessee neighbors have a very similar climate, topography, terrain and vegetation as our state's hills and mountains. This summer, northwest Arkansas experienced drought conditions from early July to late October. The Arkansas Department of Agriculture maintains a map at arkfireinfo.org that shows wildfire dangers in our state. Parts of the northwest region remain at high risk for a wildfire after the long dry stretch.

As scary as forest fires can be, they are a natural way to restore ecosystems and improve overall forest health. Forest fires are part of the natural cycles that include rain, sun and snow. Yet we haven't done a great job in preventing them in our urban areas, which is why they

pose a high risk to our cities and towns. Years of leaf litter, limbs and logs have accumulated on our forest floors, creating conditions that could fuel a devastating wildfire under the right conditions.

Controlled burns, also called prescribed burns, are a great way to reduce hazardous situations. Fire from a controlled burn can also help control weeds and invasive plants. A controlled burn can promote a healthy biome in our urban forests and allows flora and fauna to return to a natural state. A regular regimen of controlled burns can also maintain a lower fuel load of dead plant debris on the forest floor, reducing the impact and danger of wildfire.

Cities often have parks that include conservation areas such as forests, prairies or other types of natural landscapes. Municipalities should consider conducting controlled burns in these natural areas. If controlled burns are an option, please make sure to enlist the services of a fire manager with proper training and experience.

Months of preparation and planning must take place before the burn. A burn plan will be provided by the fire manager. The fire plan will include the number of acres to be burned, the types of fuel available, distance to the nearest smoke-sensitive area, ignition time and duration, potential hazards, and other critical information. The fire plan should also include the timing of the fires, strategies and backup plans for weather delays. These details may seem cumbersome or exhaustive, but the

time, money and energy used to prevent a wildfire in our cities outweighs the consequences of experiencing a disastrous wildfire.

One of the challenges in using controlled burns is helping citizens understand the benefits and goals. Years of Smokey Bear campaigns, urging us to prevent forest fires, have entered our collective consciousness. Educating the public about the benefits of controlled burns is crucial in getting public support. Before a controlled burn, municipalities should have frequent discussions and share information with citizens to prepare for the controlled burn. Using social media and traditional media outlets to share information are some of the best ways to reach citizens.

Smoke from a controlled burn is the most significant issue and source of complaints. Citizens can have breathing issues and be susceptible to pollutants in the air. The Arkansas Department of Agriculture-Forestry Division has produced a voluntary smoke management plan that should be used with every controlled burn. A smoke plan aims to comply with air quality standards and manage the smoke impact on citizens and the environment.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service has a “Best Management Practices for Creating a Community Wildfire Protection Plan” available for communities at www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/gtr/gtr_nrs89.pdf. It provides excellent information to help educate and involve citizens in a wildfire protection plan for any municipality.

Reducing the risk of wildfires does not occur in one day or one year. It takes education, long-term planning and preparation. The goal is to identify high-risk areas, mitigate those areas and maintain the work. We certainly do not want Arkansas’ forests to become another wildfire cautionary tale.



John Scott is an urban forester for the city of Fayetteville. He is also the American Society of Landscape Architecture-Arkansas Chapter president and board member for Arkansas Urban Forestry Council.



Inspecting, maintaining and protecting our levees

By Dan Beranek, PE

River flooding over the last few years has identified that more attention and resources need to be directed at the levees along the rivers in Arkansas. MCE has assisted levee districts for a number of years, and we have learned a few helpful items that we would like to share with cities, counties and levee district boards.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is a great resource and has a number of operations and maintenance manuals and staff that can assist with technical knowledge. Other helpful groups include FEMA and the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC).

Over the years we have helped evaluate levees and assist districts with maintenance and repairs to protect their investment in the levee and the property behind the levee. Levees are important to a number of Arkansas communities and areas because of the variety of benefits they provide. The USACE Levee Safety Program is very important, and all levees should strive to be a part of that program. The USACE Levee Safety Program will work with local levee districts to help ensure that the levees provide their intended benefits.

Levee districts and the USACE play an important role in levee safety because both entities are crucial in managing flood risk. Obviously the USACE has individuals who know what to do before, during and after a flood, but levee districts and their teams need to be just as knowledgeable to make our communities safer places to live and work. During a flood event is not the time to find issues that should have already been addressed. Every flood event presents risks, and the conditions and problems that develop are constantly changing. Planning and maintenance can go a long way to make flood events less stressful.

Levees change over time, and issues like erosion, valve or opening closures or failures, animal burrowing, and mechanical and electrical issues with pumps occur. It is critical that these issues are found prior to a flood event.

Two types of USACE inspections

USACE now conducts two types of levee inspections using a GIS/GPS-based inspection tool that incorporates a standard levee inspection checklist. Levee sponsors are encouraged to be part of the inspection team.

2. **Routine Inspection** is a visual inspection to verify and rate levee system operation and maintenance. It is typically conducted each year for all levees in the USACE Levee Safety Program.
3. **Periodic Inspection** is a comprehensive inspection conducted by a USACE multidisciplinary team that includes the levee sponsor and is led by a professional engineer. USACE typically conducts this inspection every five years on the federally authorized levees in the USACE Levee Safety Program. Periodic Inspections include three key steps:
 - Data collection: A review of existing data on operation and maintenance, previous inspections, emergency action plans and flood fighting records.
 - Field inspection: Similar to the visual inspection for a Routine Inspection, but with additional features.
 - Final report development: A report including the data collected, field inspection findings, an evaluation of any changes in design criteria from the time the levee was constructed, and additional recommendations as warranted, such as areas that need further evaluation.

Inspection ratings

Both Routine and Periodic Inspections result in a final inspection rating for operation and maintenance. The rating is based on a levee inspection checklist, which includes 125 specific items dealing with operation and maintenance of levee embankments, floodwalls, interior drainage, pump stations and channels.

Each levee segment receives an overall segment inspection rating of Acceptable, Minimally Acceptable or Unacceptable. If a levee system comprises one or more levee segments (if there are different levee sponsors for different parts of the levee) then the overall levee system rating is the lowest of the segment ratings. A



PHOTO COURTESY MCE

A nearly 3-mile levee surrounds about 210 acres in Little Rock's Riverdale area, providing critical protection to homes and businesses, and regular inspections ensure that protection continues during a flood event.



levee sponsor must maintain the levee to at least the minimally acceptable standard to remain eligible for federal rehabilitation assistance through the USACE Rehabilitation and Inspection Program.

Sharing the results

USACE shares inspection results with the authority responsible for levee operation and maintenance, known as the levee sponsor. This is typically a local agency, but in some cases is USACE itself. USACE also shares the results with FEMA to help inform decisions about levee accreditation for flood insurance purposes. If you need assistance with your levee needs, please work with your engineers, the USACE or other groups to inspect, maintain and protect our levees.



Dan Beranek is a professional engineer and president of MCE's Little Rock office. Contact Dan by phone at 501-371-0272 or email him at dberanek@mce.us.com.



Understanding osteoporosis: Part 2

By Anita Bennett, M.D.

In the September issue we talked about osteoporosis, including risk factors and complications. This month, I want to talk about things that you can do to try to prevent osteoporosis. We will also discuss ways that it can be treated, if it does develop, in order to decrease the risk of complications.

Bones are living tissue, and they are continually being remodeled with old bone being removed and new bone being created. Bones continue to grow and reach a maximum size and strength (peak bone mass or bone-bank deposit) on average sometime between ages 25 and 30. There are two processes that increase your risk for osteoporosis. The first is a decrease in bone-bank deposits, and the second is an increase in bone-bank withdrawals.

Preventing osteoporosis starts with optimal bone growth and development from a very young age. It is never too early to start depositing into your bone bank! It is estimated that a 10-percent increase in peak bone mass reduces the risk of an osteoporotic fracture during adult life by 50 percent.

People of all ages should eat a nutritious diet with adequate calcium intake. We have learned that getting calcium through foods is much more beneficial and causes fewer long-term complications than taking calcium supplements. I would not recommend taking a calcium supplement without discussing it with your doctor first. The amount of recommended daily calcium varies depending on age and other factors.

Here is the recommended dietary calcium intake for children and adults.

Less than 4 years old	Consult your pediatrician
4-8 years old	1000 mg per day
9-18 years old	1300 mg per day
19-50 years old	1000 mg per day
Men 51-70 years old	1000 mg per day
Women 51-70 years old	1200 mg per day
71 years and older	1200 mg per day

What else can you do to decrease your risk of osteoporosis?

- Avoid under-nutrition or malnutrition, especially during childhood and adolescence. Be aware of possible eating disorders and the effects they have on nutritional status.
- Maintain an adequate supply of vitamin D, which is often found alongside calcium in fortified foods. Vitamin D is made in your body when your skin is exposed to sunlight.
- Participate in regular physical activity, particularly weight-bearing exercises, or activities that provide resistance, such as walking, jogging, running,

weight training, dancing, aerobics, hiking, stair climbing and push-ups. Daily activities like gardening, vacuuming, mowing the lawn or shoveling snow are also beneficial. Remember that weight-bearing exercises are the only exercises that enhance bone growth or stop bone loss.

- Avoid smoking and second-hand smoke exposure. We learned decades ago that there is a direct relationship between tobacco use and lower bone density.
- Avoid excessive alcohol intake. Too much alcohol intake interferes with the body's calcium balance. It can also cause hormone abnormalities that can affect our bone-bank balance, as well as vitamin deficiencies that can affect our bones.
- If you have thyroid problems, be sure to have this monitored regularly by your doctor. Excessive thyroid hormone, either from an overactive thyroid, or thyroid replacement at a dose that is too high, can lower your bone mass.
- Talk with your doctor about a bone density test. This is a painless test that can detect osteoporosis before a fracture occurs. The age at which you should have this test depends on your risk factors, so discuss it with your doctor at your next annual exam.

How is osteoporosis treated?

There is no cure for osteoporosis, but there are a number of treatment options. The treatment option recommended as the first-line treatment for most women is use of a medication in the bisphosphonate class. This class includes several different medications that may be taken by mouth daily, weekly or monthly, as well as given by injection on a less frequent basis. There are also several other classes of medications that can be used to treat osteoporosis. Which medication is best for you depends on many things, including other medical problems or your risk for other medical problems, other medications that you take, and other factors as well. If you have osteoporosis, you should talk with your doctor about which treatment option is best for you.

If you have any questions about your risk for osteoporosis or prevention, send a question to one of our eDocAmerica doctors. For osteoporosis resources, including a list of calcium-rich foods, visit the National Osteoporosis Foundation website at www.nof.org. If you have any questions about osteoporosis, please log into your account and send us your question. We are here to help.

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



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Oregon voters approve decriminalization, treatment funding

Oregon, the first state in the nation to do so, has rejected charging drug users with criminal offenses, with voters in November passing a ballot measure that decriminalizes possession of heroin, methamphetamine, LSD, oxycodone and other hard drugs. The measure changes how Oregon's justice system treats those who are found with small amounts of the drugs. Instead of going to trial and facing possible jail time, a person would have the option of paying a \$100 fine or attending new addiction recovery centers funded by tax revenue from the state's legalized, regulated marijuana industry. In 1973 Oregon became the first state to decriminalize marijuana possession.

The measure takes effect December 4, but the punishment changes don't take effect until February 1, 2021. Addiction recovery centers must be available by October 1 of next year.

It may sound like a radical concept, but the initiative's backers said making criminals out of drug users, locking them up, and burdening them with criminal records that made it difficult to find housing and jobs just was not working. One in 11 Oregonians is addicted to drugs, and nearly two people die every day from overdoses in the state, the Oregon Nurses Association, the Oregon Chapter American College of Physicians and the Oregon Academy of Family Physicians said in support of the measure.

About 3,700 fewer Oregonians per year will be convicted of felony or misdemeanor possession of controlled substances now that the measure has passed, according to estimates by the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission. The measure will also likely lead to significant reductions in racial and ethnic disparities in both convictions and arrests, the commission said.

While this approach is new in the United States, several countries, including Portugal, the Netherlands and Switzerland, have already decriminalized possession of small amounts of hard drugs, according to the United

Nations. Portugal's 2000 decriminalization brought no surge in drug use. Drug deaths fell while the number of people treated for drug addiction in the country rose 20 percent from 2001 to 2008 and then stabilized, Portuguese officials have said.

Two dozen district attorneys said the measure was reckless and would lead to an increase in the acceptability of dangerous drugs. Two other district attorneys, including the one in Oregon's most populous county that includes Portland, backed the measure, as did a district attorney-elect.

Oregon voters also legalized therapeutic use of psilocybin mushrooms, with a two-year development period. War veterans with PTSD, terminally ill patients and others suffering from anxiety voiced support. The measure requires the Oregon Health Authority to allow licensed, regulated production and possession of psilocybin, exclusively for administration by licensed facilitators to clients.

Before the November elections, Oregon was among 11 states and Washington, D.C., that had legalized marijuana. Several other states are following suit. Voters in Arizona, Montana, New Jersey and South Dakota all approved 2020 ballot measures legalizing marijuana for adults.



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.

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2019/2020 State Turnback Funds

Actual Totals Per Capita						
	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
MONTH	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	\$5.605	\$0.209	\$0.030	\$1.088	\$0.924
July	\$5.801	\$6.094	\$0.182	\$0.022	\$2.959	\$2.795
August	\$5.990	\$6.478	\$0.114	\$0	\$0.924	\$1.542
September	\$5.899	\$6.399	\$0.155	\$0.014	\$1.087	\$0.728
October	\$5.654	\$6.378	\$0.124	\$0.021	\$1.087	\$0.893
November	\$5.652	\$6.340	\$0.064	\$0.060	\$1.087	\$0.893
December	\$5.775		\$0.069		\$1.087	
Total Year	\$68.422	\$68.213	\$2.261	\$0.547	\$15.810	\$13.945

Actual Totals Per Month						
	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
MONTH	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	\$10,595,347.60	\$395,730.25	\$57,224.47	\$2,056,915.45	\$1,747,446.98
July	\$10,966,523.76	\$11,520,392.64	\$343,609.83	\$41,735.92	** \$5,592,768.93	*** \$5,284,317.00
August	\$11,322,293.50	\$12,263,537.56	\$214,617.36	\$0	\$1,746,588.81	\$2,919,346.12
September	\$11,150,912.22	\$12,097,147.76	\$292,391.02	\$26,456.51	\$2,055,099.92	\$1,376,535.41
October	\$10,687,834.00	\$12,057,206.89	\$235,240.93	\$39,675.17	\$2,055,035.24	\$1,688,464.32
November	\$10,684,885.09	\$11,984,780.59	\$121,344.58	\$113,060.67	\$2,055,035.24	\$1,688,281.98
December	\$10,916,904.58		\$130,060.08		\$2,054,709.31	
Total Year	\$129,341,116.85	\$128,964,447.30	\$4,274,163.21	\$1,033,188.97	\$29,886,259.90	\$26,364,350.34

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

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

*** Includes \$3,513,475.64 supplemental for July 2020

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	\$64,061,809	\$61,136,496	\$55,167,274	\$51,962,167	\$118,762,027	\$113,098,664	\$51,758	\$233,250
June	\$61,816,632	\$63,455,242	\$54,700,218	\$53,477,656	\$120,220,830	\$116,932,898	\$37,445	\$199,380
July	\$66,569,122	\$62,196,778	\$58,404,198	\$52,242,794	\$127,921,569	\$114,439,573	\$27,240	\$239,855
August	\$69,810,263	\$63,103,397	\$61,352,447	\$53,989,906	\$132,096,586	\$117,093,303	\$22,963	\$229,107
September	\$69,731,104	\$63,071,625	\$62,286,322	\$54,693,037	\$132,017,426	\$117,764,662	\$14,982	\$213,728
October	\$67,795,513	\$64,934,499	\$60,898,642	\$55,729,333	\$128,694,156	\$120,663,833	\$13,552	\$214,922
November	\$70,085,468	\$62,765,968	\$62,498,473	\$54,501,529	\$132,583,941	\$117,267,498	\$12,579	\$182,403
December	\$62,102,384			\$54,327,357		\$116,429,741		\$184,380
Total	\$722,433,068	\$737,249,904	\$631,146,742	\$631,273,834	\$1,360,698,858	\$1,368,523,738	\$783,407	\$2,631,590
Averages	\$65,675,733	\$61,437,492	\$57,376,977	\$52,606,153	\$123,699,896	\$114,043,645	\$71,219	\$219,299

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

CITY SALES AND USE	AMOUNT	LAST YEAR	Garfield	18,583.78	11,303.67	Mountain Home	657,216.02	590,675.41	COUNTY SALES AND USE	AMOUNT	LAST YEAR
Alexander	145,535.73	115,415.17	Garland	3,313.07	3,591.22	Mountain View	195,991.78	178,835.99	Arkansas County	349,736.06	291,079.05
Alma	265,538.86	218,345.24	Gassville	24,901.41	21,146.94	Mountainburg	20,577.96	15,509.53	Ashley County	225,316.50	239,999.31
Almyra	3,158.69	3,158.12	Gentry	117,919.64	114,185.04	Mulberry	36,565.87	37,881.26	Crossett	54,831.88	58,405.01
Alpena	7,420.23	5,917.36	Gilbert	1,070.58	696.96	Murfreesboro	36,936.02	35,298.56	Foundation Hill	1,742.43	1,855.98
Altheimer	4,267.41	2,495.37	Gillett	12,452.23	10,032.81	Nashville	117,811.35	112,974.16	Hamburg	28,446.46	30,300.19
Altus	6,925.23	7,877.46	Gillham	5,008.61	4,418.88	Newport	232,033.16	193,089.18	Montrose	3,524.69	3,754.38
Amity	13,330.95	12,642.97	Gilmore	5,552.50	468.29	Norfolk	8,253.17	6,178.03	Parkdale	2,758.02	2,937.75
Anthonyville	1,578.98	1,781.22	Glenwood	84,568.95	73,375.56	Norman	4,935.44	4,213.73	Portland	4,281.41	4,560.41
Arkadelphia	439,898.18	183,203.83	Goshen	27,226.30	10,701.79	North Little Rock	3,196,528.39	2,895,458.07	Wilmot	5,476.23	5,833.07
Ash Flat	129,837.76	96,510.34	Gosnell	20,158.05	17,054.66	Oak Grove	979.40	1,124.07	Baxter County	586,012.68	522,941.82
Ashdown	151,663.56	141,205.37	Gould	16,347.85	14,578.48	Oak Grove Heights	13,674.46	9,115.71	Big Flat	1,774.08	1,583.14
Atkins	67,765.98	67,765.98	Grady	5,271.43	3,964.02	Ola	18,861.77	18,605.57	Briarcliff	4,025.79	3,592.51
Augusta	26,865.06	26,500.56	Gravette	110,037.68	90,159.68	Oppelo	3,644.90	3,549.20	Cotter	16,546.68	14,765.81
Austin	45,008.82	39,407.73	Green Forest	130,232.54	116,128.82	Osceola	113,850.21	99,620.51	Gassville	35,447.43	31,632.32
Avoca	11,887.71	8,948.01	Greenbrier	287,934.45	234,696.70	Oxford	3,001.08	1,602.80	Lakeview	12,640.30	11,279.86
Bald Knob	49,005.62	59,158.25	Greenland	45,369.86	34,096.42	Ozark	188,117.24	189,103.55	Mountain Home	212,343.40	189,489.49
Barling	80,009.13	65,933.23	Greenwood	280,418.36	229,065.65	Palestine	27,985.27	31,528.99	Norfolk	8,716.86	7,778.69
Batesville	750,713.95	619,472.69	Greers Ferry	25,546.38	20,010.72	Pangburn	8,439.83	8,240.78	Salesville	7,676.29	6,850.12
Bauxite	23,705.68	12,759.47	Guion	1,205.12	1,949.77	Paragould	369,393.74	333,106.18	Benton County	1,019,368.50	906,413.61
Bay	11,477.16	12,247.85	Gum Springs	488.15	290.89	Paris	78,246.11	72,729.20	Avoca	11,709.43	10,411.93
Bearden	13,725.62	12,596.10	Gurdon	29,859.93	24,974.82	Patmos	774.92	576.09	Bella Vista	636,484.45	565,956.44
Beebe	164,546.06	132,216.80	Guy	8,339.22	6,772.93	Patterson	1,095.05	1,383.31	Bentonville	847,038.29	753,179.08
Beehive	162.73	67.04	Hackett	8,103.71	7,131.94	Pea Ridge	94,750.89	55,686.93	Bethel Heights	56,915.52	50,608.79
Bella Vista	501,607.86	213,508.61	Hamburg	106,605.48	93,489.37	Perla	3,828.74	4,015.24	Cave Springs	46,333.84	41,199.65
Belleville	3,308.35	2,152.49	Hampton	8,214.15	7,074.13	Perryville	26,295.44	25,505.72	Centerton	228,309.94	203,011.22
Benton	1,810,830.26	1,620,133.40	Hardy	25,278.86	20,925.62	Piggott	73,746.23	70,938.62	Decatur	40,767.06	36,249.72
Bentonville	2,983,224.86	2,543,538.94	Harrisburg	71,843.48	59,481.28	Pine Bluff	1,585,469.45	1,454,345.22	Elm Springs	3,287.28	2,923.02
Berryville	311,086.67	267,813.96	Harrison	564,111.82	486,185.38	Pineville	2,527.40	2,106.22	Garfield	12,045.36	10,710.63
Bethel Heights	85,654.51	90,059.87	Hartford	4,851.43	3,996.74	Plainview	5,269.56	4,697.53	Gateway	9,717.87	8,641.04
Big Flat	822.06	409.17	Haskell	47,898.90	48,913.97	Pleasant Plains	11,790.93	10,369.40	Gentry	82,181.98	73,075.50
Black Rock	5,094.94	8,915.32	Hatfield	5,275.55	4,660.36	Plumerville	13,917.65	12,311.07	Gravette	74,695.62	66,418.70
Blevins	4,173.31	4,215.66	Havana	4,063.96	3,655.97	Pocahontas	321,604.56	275,116.53	Highfill	13,988.93	12,438.83
Blue Mountain	218.93	216.93	Hazen	88,855.17	82,223.88	Portia	4,161.34	3,591.17	Little Flock	62,026.40	55,153.34
Blytheville	419,290.45	362,437.67	Heber Springs	173,688.09	150,367.02	Portland	9,981.28	10,526.25	Lowell	175,809.45	156,328.24
Bonanza	2,234.61	2,783.23	Hector	7,187.67	6,401.26	Pottsville	40,870.57	35,076.59	Pea Ridge	115,030.78	102,284.37
Bono	28,450.78	19,155.71	Helena-West Helena	272,818.81	246,626.80	Prairie Grove	166,670.20	142,587.36	Rogers	1,342,841.58	1,194,043.06
Booneville	132,678.23	115,405.49	Hermitage	7,880.73	5,907.35	Prescott	61,736.41	69,780.10	Siloam Springs	360,856.88	320,870.80
Bradford	20,447.74	16,144.81	Higginson	2,299.17	1,833.28	Pyatt	963.06	1,730.89	Springdale	157,213.53	139,792.90
Bradley	3,475.45	3,048.78	Highfill	30,894.08	60,915.51	Quitman	26,780.86	24,402.65	Springtown	2,087.54	1,856.22
Branch	1,905.26	2,312.53	Highland	33,355.07	27,061.68	Ravenden	3,389.16	3,567.96	Sulphur Springs	12,261.33	10,902.64
Briarcliff	1,863.75	1,673.39	Holly Grove	8,574.84	12,353.19	Reactor	32,497.98	30,338.93	Boone County	503,229.53	432,538.21
Brinkley	180,025.20	175,547.25	Hope	188,486.30	182,828.83	Redfield	47,311.83	39,553.25	Alpena	5,310.16	4,564.22
Brookland	104,850.29	86,982.53	Horatio	7,709.64	7,209.34	Rison	18,859.53	17,789.06	Bellefonte	7,557.41	6,495.78
Bryant	1,460,079.29	1,155,335.15	Horseshoe Bend	29,722.36	26,822.59	Rockport	22,711.90	20,081.91	Bergerman	7,307.72	6,281.16
Bull Shoals	36,968.27	36,429.53	Hot Springs	1,969,952.89	1,748,507.28	Rogers	1,211.67	1,083.90	Diamond City	13,017.39	11,188.77
Cabot	1,002,349.93	860,174.84	Hoxie	2,100.58	16,532.28	Roe	3,682,154.56	3,559,395.97	Everton	2,213.96	1,902.95
Caddo Valley	55,013.50	58,235.35	Hughes	7,165.56	6,648.56	Rose Bud	21,162.35	20,848.82	Harrison	215,452.80	185,187.00
Calico Rock	48,529.57	45,539.94	Humphrey	2,915.24	5,663.73	Rudy	11,799.42	8,077.86	Ladell Hill	4,511.14	3,877.44
Camden	360,714.71	314,840.89	Huntington	4,667.06	4,231.52	Russellville	1,260,044.86	1,126,614.43	Omaha	2,813.22	2,418.03
Caraway	7,807.93	6,086.99	Huntsville	152,528.05	132,656.49	Salem	24,835.88	21,798.20	South Lead Hill	1,697.92	1,459.40
Carlisle	69,047.69	60,727.16	Imboden	11,750.40	9,723.89	Salesville	5,227.50	4,375.72	Valley Springs	3,046.27	2,618.34
Cash	3,693.98	3,546.94	Jacksonville	782,936.76	698,856.32	Scranton	5,337.47	5,360.55	Zinc	1,714.56	1,473.73
Cave City	28,045.07	23,917.87	Jasper	40,722.20	34,772.04	Searcy	913,848.87	738,968.06	Bradley County	153,261.55	145,357.34
Cave Springs	146,444.56	40,936.62	Jennette	193.01	274.54	Shannon Hills	15,107.03	11,460.50	Banks	1,183.41	1,122.38
Cedarville	9,201.49	9,195.63	Johnson	68,272.74	67,190.09	Sheridan	257,302.59	209,998.41	Hermitage	7,921.23	7,512.71
Centerton	353,016.27	294,173.27	Joiner	4,063.42	3,131.81	Sherill	1,732.57	4,694.72	Warren	57,290.57	54,335.90
Charleston	34,364.54	35,479.34	Jonesboro	1,769,801.13	1,585,654.15	Sherwood	1,087,029.11	944,816.91	Calhoun County	114,617.75	101,527.90
Cherokee Village	24,899.93	22,136.84	Judsonia	14,723.52	12,675.59	Shirley	3,217.07	3,028.06	Hampton	32,488.52	28,778.20
Cherry Valley	NA	5,668.38	Junction City	8,354.58	6,994.43	Siloam Springs	794,637.05	666,727.84	Harrell	6,232.70	5,520.90
Chidester	4,245.57	3,154.09	Keiser	5,238.88	4,229.42	Sparkman	6,264.93	4,806.72	Thornton	9,987.04	8,846.46
Clarendon	46,595.36	47,453.18	Keo	1,914.09	1,700.60	Springdale	3,121,097.79	2,852,005.64	Tinsman	1,325.06	1,173.72
Clarksville	434,190.10	361,015.81	Kibler	4,046.49	4,103.14	Springtown	450.64	75.71	Carroll County	232,854.62	202,923.13
Clinton	100,870.36	92,034.43	Kingsland	2,534.04	2,041.05	St. Charles	4,950.72	3,190.62	Beaver	852.45	742.87
Coal Hill	5,909.26	5,157.19	Lake City	15,707.18	14,540.16	St. Paul	3,900.67	NA	Blue Eye	255.73	222.86
Conway	2,840,974.61	2,758,127.02	Lake Village	77,211.63	81,053.19	Stamps	13,555.16	14,002.88	Chicot County	218,520.16	136,790.98
Corning	70,706.72	120,690.86	Lakeview	5,046.45	3,542.06	Star City	85,507.79	72,677.01	Dermott	39,787.28	24,906.36
Cotter	20,268.89	15,101.63	Lamar	23,219.94	21,327.68	Stephens	7,053.72	5,786.95	Eudora	31,248.64	19,561.28
Cotton Plant	3,991.17	3,153.00	Lead Hill	7,020.78	5,552.05	Strong	13,747.16	8,264.16	Lake Village	35,462.88	22,199.33
Cove	15,327.53	11,863.55	Lepanto	40,652.48	28,626.73	Stuttgart	639,789.53	519,536.53	Clark County	517,408.25	435,750.37
Crawfordsville	9,500.27	9,504.37	Leslie	7,703.43	6,200.81	Sulphur Springs	2,994.23	2,166.98	Clay County	101,758.95	114,842.57
Crossett	163,615.51	159,649.02	Leville	9,719.46	10,455.54	Summit	8,677.38	5,340.06	Corning	27,467.03	30,998.59
Damascus	9,065.54	8,996.64	Lincoln	60,302.09	47,688.59	Sunset	12,615.98	7,918.86	Datto	1,220.04	1,376.90
Danville	51,891.76	46,294.13	Little Flock	13,024.26	11,917.62	Swifton	5,643.42	5,586.33	Greenway	2,549.87	2,877.72
Dardanelle	185,953.02	154,327.31	Little Rock	6,640,939.72	6,652,216.63	Taylor	13,566.82	10,393.28	Knobel	3,501.50	3,951.70
Decatur	20,216.52	24,404.61	Lockesburg	6,185.69	6,625.62	Texarkana	514,022.08	449,240.38	McDougal	2,699.26	2,561.03
Delight	5,564.15	5,133.98	Lonoke	275,236.18	232,523.13	Texarkana Special	223,886.06	197,191.51	Nimmons	841.83	950.06
De Queen	132,175.85	123,600.85	Lowell	524,296.75	371,076.49						

Caraway	27,021.05	23,926.80	Cave City	2,533.85	2,281.97	Birdsong	571.66	522.67	Waldron	32,217.53	29,448.01
Cash	7,225.33	6,397.94	Cushman	7,069.76	6,366.97	Blytheville	217,790.17	199,122.89	Searcy County	89,307.35	75,396.31
Egypt	2,366.19	2,095.23	Magness	3,159.49	2,845.41	Burdette	2,663.12	2,434.86	Big Flat	8.74	7.37
Jonesboro	1,421,045.45	1,258,317.88	Moorefied	2,142.83	1,929.81	Dell	3,109.30	2,842.79	Gilbert	244.59	206.49
Lake City	43,985.80	38,948.87	Newark	18,393.89	16,565.38	Dyess	5,176.64	5,226.66	Leslie	3,852.35	3,252.29
Monette	31,711.18	28,079.87	Oil Trough	4,066.68	4,616.09	Etowah	4,894.00	4,474.53	Marshall	11,836.60	9,992.86
Crawford County	881,572.29	766,411.18	Pleasant Plains	5,458.73	4,916.09	Gosnell	49,469.88	45,229.71	Pindall	978.38	825.98
Alma	64,156.75	55,775.86	Southside	61,015.78	54,950.30	Joiner	8,031.19	7,342.82	St. Joe	1,153.08	973.48
Cedarville	16,503.88	14,347.95	Sulphur Rock	7,132.31	6,423.32	Keiser	10,582.76	9,675.69	Sebastian County	922,866.62	842,230.34
Chester	1,882.44	1,636.53	Izard County	53,720.21	33,512.40	Leachville	27,788.46	25,406.65	Barling	84,345.59	76,975.91
Dyer	10,371.16	9,016.36	Jackson County	317,038.22	276,509.32	Luxora	16,424.89	15,017.08	Bonanza	10,432.07	9,520.56
Kibler	11,377.49	9,891.24	Amagon	1,137.12	991.75	Manila	46,597.62	42,603.63	Central City	9,107.65	8,311.86
Mountainburg	7,470.55	6,494.66	Beedeville	1,241.55	1,082.83	Marie	1,171.21	1,070.83	Fort Smith	1,564,067.23	1,427,405.46
Mulberry	19,593.92	17,034.33	Campbell Station	2,958.83	2,580.58	Osceola	108,156.10	98,885.80	Greenwood	162,413.78	148,222.73
Rudy	722.19	627.85	Diaz	15,293.07	13,338.07	Victoria	515.89	471.67	Hackett	14,731.90	13,444.69
Van Buren	269,827.75	234,579.75	Grubbs	4,478.85	3,906.29	Wilson	12,590.58	11,511.39	Hartford	11,647.64	10,629.91
Crittenden County	1,609,969.67	1,488,490.82	Jacksonport	2,459.89	2,145.42	Monroe County	NA	NA	Huntington	11,520.64	10,514.01
Anthonyville	1,307.02	1,208.40	Newport	91,421.93	79,734.92	Montgomery County	224,296.52	176,777.82	Lavaca	41,528.73	37,900.12
Clarkedale	3,011.84	2,784.58	Swifton	9,259.39	8,075.70	Black Springs	833.72	657.09	Mansfield	13,117.20	11,971.07
Crawfordsville	3,888.60	3,959.19	Tuckerman	21,605.23	18,843.31	Glenwood	353.70	278.77	Midland	5,896.39	5,891.19
Earle	19,597.24	18,118.54	Tupelo	2,088.58	1,821.59	Mount Ida	9,061.46	7,141.73	Sevier County	471,298.60	276,913.80
Edmondson	3,466.45	3,204.90	Weldon	870.23	759.00	Norman	3,183.30	2,508.90	Ben Lomond	1,531.42	1,456.58
Gilmore	1,921.57	1,776.58	Jefferson County	496,329.48	434,555.63	Oden	1,953.78	1,539.86	De Queen	69,642.47	66,239.32
Horseshoe Lake	2,370.50	2,191.64	Alzheimer	12,440.87	10,892.46	Nevada County	128,538.17	127,992.11	Gilham	1,689.84	1,607.26
Jennette	840.23	776.84	Humphrey	3,894.09	3,409.43	Bluff City	1,183.36	1,178.34	Horatio	11,026.20	10,487.39
Jericho	966.06	893.17	Pine Bluff	620,564.35	543,328.08	Bodcaw	1,316.97	1,311.38	Lockesburg	7,804.94	7,423.55
Marion	100,218.67	92,656.76	Redfield	16,398.18	14,357.24	Cale	753.92	750.71	Sharp County	287,588.95	223,895.75
Sunset	1,446.66	1,337.50	Sherrill	1,062.03	929.84	Emmet	4,533.05	4,513.79	Ash Flat	13,331.31	10,378.78
Turrell	4,493.40	4,154.36	Wabbaseka	3,224.01	2,822.74	Prescott	31,454.59	31,320.96	Cave City	23,697.08	18,448.82
West Memphis	213,061.06	196,984.73	White Hall	69,866.12	61,170.50	Rosston	2,490.79	2,480.21	Cherokee Village	52,753.89	41,070.32
Cross County	563,332.64	304,886.14	Johnson County	138,815.44	120,616.56	Willisville	1,450.58	1,444.41	Evening Shade	5,876.66	4,575.14
Cherry Valley	8,486.16	7,831.16	Clarksville	101,964.64	88,596.94	Newton County	49,540.88	42,847.96	Hardy	9,930.46	7,731.13
Hickory Ridge	3,545.68	3,272.01	Coal Hill	11,243.00	9,769.02	Jasper	3,086.37	2,669.41	Highland	14,215.53	11,067.17
Parkin	14,404.32	13,292.53	Hartman	5,765.92	5,010.00	Western Grove	2,543.28	2,199.68	Horseshoe Bend	108.83	84.72
Wynne	109,068.70	100,650.32	Knoxville	8,121.18	7,056.48	Ouachita County	571,334.56	646,367.64	Sidney	2,462.21	1,916.90
Dallas County	161,822.37	157,908.54	Lamar	17,831.03	15,493.37	Bearden	11,065.07	9,920.58	Williford	1,020.24	794.30
Desha County	136,113.66	118,971.82	Lafayette County	81,677.35	66,974.77	Camden	139,550.48	125,116.34	St. Francis County	415,791.28	146,818.18
Arkansas City	5,267.80	4,604.39	Bradley	3,849.34	3,156.42	Chidester	3,310.36	2,967.96	Caldwell	10,227.10	9,660.24
Dumas	67,732.99	59,202.85	Buckner	1,685.62	1,382.19	East Camden	10,664.16	9,561.14	Colt	6,965.48	6,579.40
McGehee	60,723.65	53,078.63	Lewisville	7,845.78	6,433.48	Louann	1,878.54	1,684.24	Forrest City	283,244.44	267,545.04
Mitchellville	5,181.44	4,528.90	Stamps	10,377.27	8,509.28	Stephens	10,205.99	9,150.33	Hughes	26,553.60	25,081.80
Reed	2,475.58	2,163.81	Lawrence County	370,318.35	344,693.11	Perry County	130,986.95	119,070.04	Madison	14,170.52	13,385.08
Tillar	302.25	264.19	Alicia	999.21	930.06	Adona	1,313.56	1,194.06	Palestine	12,548.92	11,853.38
Watson	3,036.90	2,654.44	Black Rock	5,334.47	4,965.33	Bigelow	1,979.77	1,799.66	Wheatley	6,541.66	6,179.08
Drew County	475,932.11	430,809.54	Hoxie	22,401.54	20,851.40	Casa	1,074.73	976.96	Widener	5,030.62	4,751.78
Jerome	593.83	537.53	Imboden	5,455.34	5,077.84	Fourche	389.67	354.22	Stone County	187,952.38	96,230.13
Monticello	144,147.33	130,480.90	Lynn	2,320.73	2,160.14	Houston	1,087.30	988.38	Fifty Six	2,075.03	1,757.40
Tillar	3,106.16	2,811.67	Minturn	878.33	817.55	Perry	1,696.95	1,542.56	Mountain View	32,960.63	27,915.17
Wilmar	7,780.64	7,042.96	Portia	3,521.39	3,277.72	Perryville	9,176.08	8,341.25	Union County	727,344.38	546,636.41
Winchester	2,542.79	2,301.71	Powhatan	580.18	540.04	Phillips County	199,975.79	118,838.11	Calion	21,204.44	15,936.21
Faulkner County	874,679.22	823,144.37	Ravenden	3,787.31	3,525.24	Elaine	9,610.78	13,302.96	El Dorado	902,860.09	678,545.41
Enola	2,663.39	2,506.47	Sedgwick	1,224.83	1,140.08	Helena-West Helena	185,509.49	210,798.64	Felsenthal	5,195.77	3,904.89
Holland	4,389.08	4,130.48	Smithville	628.53	585.04	Lake View	6,691.27	9,266.05	Huttig	29,063.07	21,842.38
Mount Vernon	1,142.58	1,075.26	Strawberry	2,433.55	2,265.15	Lexa	4,313.36	5,982.15	Junction City	25,924.44	19,483.54
Twin Groves	2,639.75	2,484.22	Walnut Ridge	43,014.18	40,037.69	Marvell	17,917.13	24,807.08	Northlet	32,709.63	24,582.96
Woolster	6,776.67	6,377.39	Lee County	41,142.30	35,024.30	Pike County	207,768.65	176,817.87	Smackover	86,055.14	64,674.83
Franklin County	303,236.96	264,230.32	Aubrey	1,274.92	1,085.33	Antoine	1,332.43	1,133.94	Strong	24,484.74	18,401.53
Altus	9,420.36	8,208.57	Haynes	1,124.93	957.65	Daisy	1,309.66	1,114.56	Van Buren County	328,469.77	343,356.00
Branch	4,561.04	3,974.34	LaGrange	667.46	568.20	Delight	3,177.34	2,704.02	Clinton	29,177.88	30,500.22
Charleston	31,343.20	27,311.39	Marianna	30,860.47	26,271.42	Greenwood	24,894.88	21,186.35	Damascus	2,803.41	2,930.46
Denning	5,636.75	4,911.67	Moro	1,619.89	1,379.01	Murfreestboro	18,688.25	15,904.30	Fairfield Bay	24,165.38	25,260.56
Ozark	45,784.44	39,895.00	Rondo	1,484.90	1,264.09	Poinsett County	311,918.17	148,871.61	Shirley	3,263.17	3,411.05
Wiederkehr Village	472.26	411.52	Lincoln County	153,042.73	130,526.06	Fisher	2,557.15	2,226.62	Washington County	2,832,819.67	1,627,249.12
Fulton County	231,440.53	204,963.68	Gould	5,184.43	4,421.66	Harrisburg	26,397.16	22,985.12	Elkins	54,011.89	48,900.81
Ash Flat	581.10	514.63	Grady	2,781.13	2,371.95	Lepanto	21,707.13	18,901.32	Elm Springs	35,817.55	32,428.18
Cherokee Village	4,517.80	4,000.96	Star City	14,085.28	12,012.96	Marked Tree	29,424.46	25,621.12	Fayetteville	121,853.11	110,322.29
Hardy	239.28	211.90	Little River County	309,039.97	224,891.36	Trumann	83,663.62	72,849.46	Maytown	1,500,828.92	1,358,807.15
Horseshoe Bend	96.85	85.77	Ashdown	46,503.75	45,872.31	Tyronza	8,737.89	7,608.46	Goshen	21,845.44	19,778.23
Mammoth Spring	5,566.07	4,929.31	Foreman	9,954.54	9,819.37	Waldenburg	699.49	609.08	Greenland	26,394.03	23,896.39
Salem	9,314.76	8,249.15	Ogden	1,772.32	1,748.26	Weiner	8,210.42	7,149.15	Johnson	68,412.34	61,938.56
Viola	1,919.92	1,700.28	Wilton	3,682.49	3,632.49	Poik County	332,527.34	261,533.26	Lincoln	45,873.39	41,532.44
Garland County	2,594,408.22	2,237,700.22	Winthrop	1,890.48	1,864.81	Cove	9,974.52	7,844.98	Prairie Grove	90,278.18	81,735.26
Fountain Lake	8,878.10	7,657.44	Logan County	347,852.54	303,376.48	Grannis	14,465.66	11,377.26	Springdale	1,309,400.82	1,185,493.68
Hot Springs	286,925.88	247,476.13	Blue Mountain	1,234.58	1,076.73	Hatfield	10,783.96	8,481.60	Tontitown	50,177.21	45,429.00
Lonsdale	1,659.13	1,431.01	Booneville	39,725.56	34,646.29	Mena	149,800.50	117,818.32	West Fork	47,260.40	42,788.21
Mountain Pine	13,590.74	11,722.13	Caulksville	2,120.69	1,849.69	Vandervoort	2,271.68	1,786.68	Winslow	7,975.34	7,220.62
Grant County	248,861.35	201,994.55	Magazine	8,432.97	7,354.74	Wickes	19,687.91	15,484.56	White County	1,297,639.68	1,089,696.91
Greene County	405,819.13	581,716.72	Morrison Bluff	637.20	555.73	Pope County	433,225.28	395,120.07	Bald Knob	40,115.06	33,686.74
Delaplaine	1,612.89	1,500.52	Paris	35,165.58	30,669.35	Atkins	52,029.13	47,452.80	Beebe	101,291.55	85,059.90
Lafe	6,368.13	5,924.47	Ratcliff	2,011.17	1,754.02	Dover	23,771.93	21,681.02	Bradford	10,509.95	8,825.76
Marmaduke	15,447.59	14,371.36	Scranton	2,230.21	1,945.06	Hector	7,762.97	7,080.16	Garner	3,932.58	3,302.39
Oak Grove Heights	12,360.86	11,499.68	Subiaco	5,694.99	4,966.83	London	17,923.83	16,347.30	Georgetown	1,717.04	2,616.33
Paragould	363,081.02	337,785.19	Lonoke County	361,804.98	314,134.04	Pottsville	48,958.44	44,652.20	Griffithville	3,115.60	3,115.60
Hempstead County	649,961.38	383,914.16	Allport	1,462.99	1,270.23	Russellville	481,648.94	439,284.54	Higginson	8,599.05	7,221.08
Blevins	3,633.65	3,584.69	Austin	25,926.81	22,510.73	Prairie County	103,644.95	92,069.68	Judsonia	27,957.30	23,477.23
Emmet	496.02	489.34	Cabot	302,471.00	262,617.83	Biscoe	4,306.92	3,825.92	Kensett	22,820.02	19,163.19
Fulton	2,318.61	2,287.37	Carlisle	28,165.83	24,454.74	Des Arc	20,371.86	18,096.69	Letona	3,531.01	2,965.18
Hope</											

MUNICIPAL MART

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

DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY—The city of Springdale is accepting applications for the position of deputy city attorney. Interested persons should submit an application to the Human Resources Department no later than 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 12. The incumbent works under the direct supervision of the city attorney and senior deputy city attorney and performs a variety of technical and professional work primarily in the area of prosecuting crimes, drafting legal documents, advising city officials as to legal rights, obligations, practices and other related phases of applicable local, state or federal law. Qualified applicants must have a Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree and have no felony convictions. General knowledge of state statutes relating to criminal offenses, criminal law, criminal procedure and traffic law. Starting salary is \$50,452 to \$62,323. To apply, you must submit a city of Springdale application. You can apply online at www.springdalear.gov/789/Current-Job-Openings For questions or to request an application, contact Katherine Bowen at kbowen@springdalear.gov or call 479-756-7714.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING—Located on the Arkansas River at the Arkansas-Oklahoma border, scenic Fort Smith is where you can “expect the unexpected.” Covering just over 65 square miles, the city sits at the crossroads of Interstates 40 and 49 and US Highways 64 and 71 in Sebastian County. Fort Smith is the second largest city in the state and has a population approaching 90,000. This thriving community is a hub for commerce and boasts a diverse economy, a rich history and a promising future. The deputy director of finance and accounting directly supervises the finance manager, accounting manager and treasury staff and assumes duties and responsibilities of the director in the absence of the finance director. The deputy director provides indirect oversight of 12 employees in accounting and finance. The ideal candidate will possess knowledge of financial systems and experience with data analytics. Good verbal and written communication skills, as well as excellent organizational abilities, are necessary. The ideal candidate will have demonstrated problem solving and analytical ability, as well as excellent interpersonal skills. Knowledge of modern office practices, procedures, and equipment is vital for the successful candidate. The position requires a bachelor's degree in accounting, business, finance, public administration or a related field and seven years of progressively responsible experience in corporate or municipal finance and/or governmental accounting. Two years of supervisory experience, preferably in finance or accounting is required. A master's degree and Certification in Public Accounting (CPA) or Certified Public Finance Officer (CPFO) designation is preferred. Municipal accounting experience at the controller or manager level and supervisory experience with at least three full-time direct reports is ideal. Experience with ERP systems, knowledge of utility billing systems and investment program experience is highly desired. The salary range is \$81,000 to \$121,000 commensurate with experience and education. Position closes November 27. Please apply online at: bit.ly/SGRCurrentSearches. For more information on this position contact Gary Holland, senior vice president, Strategic Government Resources, GaryHolland@governmentresource.com, 405-269-3445.

FIRE CHIEF—Holiday Island Suburban Improvement District is taking resumes for the position of fire chief. Holiday Island Fire Department is a combination department with three full-time and 25 volunteers. Position description: oversees the day-to-day operations of the department, develops policy, personnel and budgets. Reports to the district manager. Position Responsibilities includes but not limited to: recruitment, retention and development of volunteers; develop and administer all policies and procedures; develop and assure compliance with the budget; respond to fire, rescue, medical and non-emergency calls; maintain communication with the community; assure compliance with the Arkansas Department of Health; interact positively with all district employees; assure compliance to fire codes

by businesses; provide required reports to the district manager. Position requirements including but not limited to: must reside in the Holiday Island Fire Department response area; valid Arkansas EMT license; U.S. citizen; Firefighter II Certification; NIMS Certification-ICS 100, 200, 300, 400, 700 and 800; valid Arkansas DL; knowledge of computer systems; pursue grant opportunities; no felony convictions or misdemeanor convictions involving theft, illegal drugs, violence or weapons; HS graduate or equivalent; 10 years minimum suppression and EMS experience with five years company officer experience. Benefits for eligible full-time employees include paid vacation, retirement plan, sick leave, paid holidays. Please email resume to District Manager Lawrence Blood, districtmgr@holidayisland.us. Call 479-253-9700 for more information.

FIRE MARSHALL—The city of Monticello is accepting applications for the position of full-time fire marshall classified within the Monticello Fire Department. The objective of the fire marshall is to direct the operations of building inspections for all residential and commercial construction, enforce adherence to ADEQ storm water requirements, complete commercial and residential plan reviews, and direct enforcement of city codes. Individual will be expected to be available during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and will be expected to be available for other needs that the fire chief deems necessary. Essential duties and responsibilities: complete commercial and residential plan reviews; knowledge of city codes and directing enforcement procedures; interpret and communicate building, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, and structural codes; train other employees in code enforcement and building inspections; public speaking as requested; direct ADEQ storm water enforcement procedures/flood plain management and city compliance; all other duties as required or assigned. Education and experience: Qualifications include five years of related experience and/or training or equivalent combination of education and experience, and prefer at least four years of managerial experience. Must be licensed/certified with the following credentials: Arkansas Plumbing Inspectors License, Arkansas Mechanical Inspectors License, Arkansas Electrical Inspectors License, Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control Certification, Flood Plain Management Certification, FF1 and FF2 certifications, Inspection 1 certification. Must be familiar with International Fire Code and International Building Code. Resumes may be sent to Patty Burchett, HR Director, City of Monticello, P.O. Box 505, Monticello, AR 71655; or faxed to 870-367-4405. Full benefit package included and salary DOE. For more information, please call 870-367-4400, ext. 2. Position is open until filled.

POLICE CHIEF, PART-TIME OFFICER—The city of Stamps is accepting applications for the position of chief of police and a part-time certified officer. Resumes can be faxed to 870-533-4788; emailed to citycomplex@hotmail.com, or call 870-533-4771 for more information.

POLICE OFFICER—The city of Monette is accepting applications for a certified police officer. Resumes can be mailed to P.O. Box 382, Monette, AR 72447; faxed to 870-486-5111; or emailed to Bcarmichael@monettepolice.org. For more information, call 870-486-2121.

FOR SALE—The city of Caddo Valley has a 2014 white Chevrolet Tahoe for sale. The vehicle has approximately 99,000 miles on it. It has a blue LED federal signal light bar and federal signal light controller. It has a prisoner partition and wide console to hold radios and other light controls. The Tahoe also has a rear partition that protects the rear cargo area. It has a front push bumper. Price is \$16500 OBO. Contact Chief Collier at 870-246-6357 to inquire about the vehicle.

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