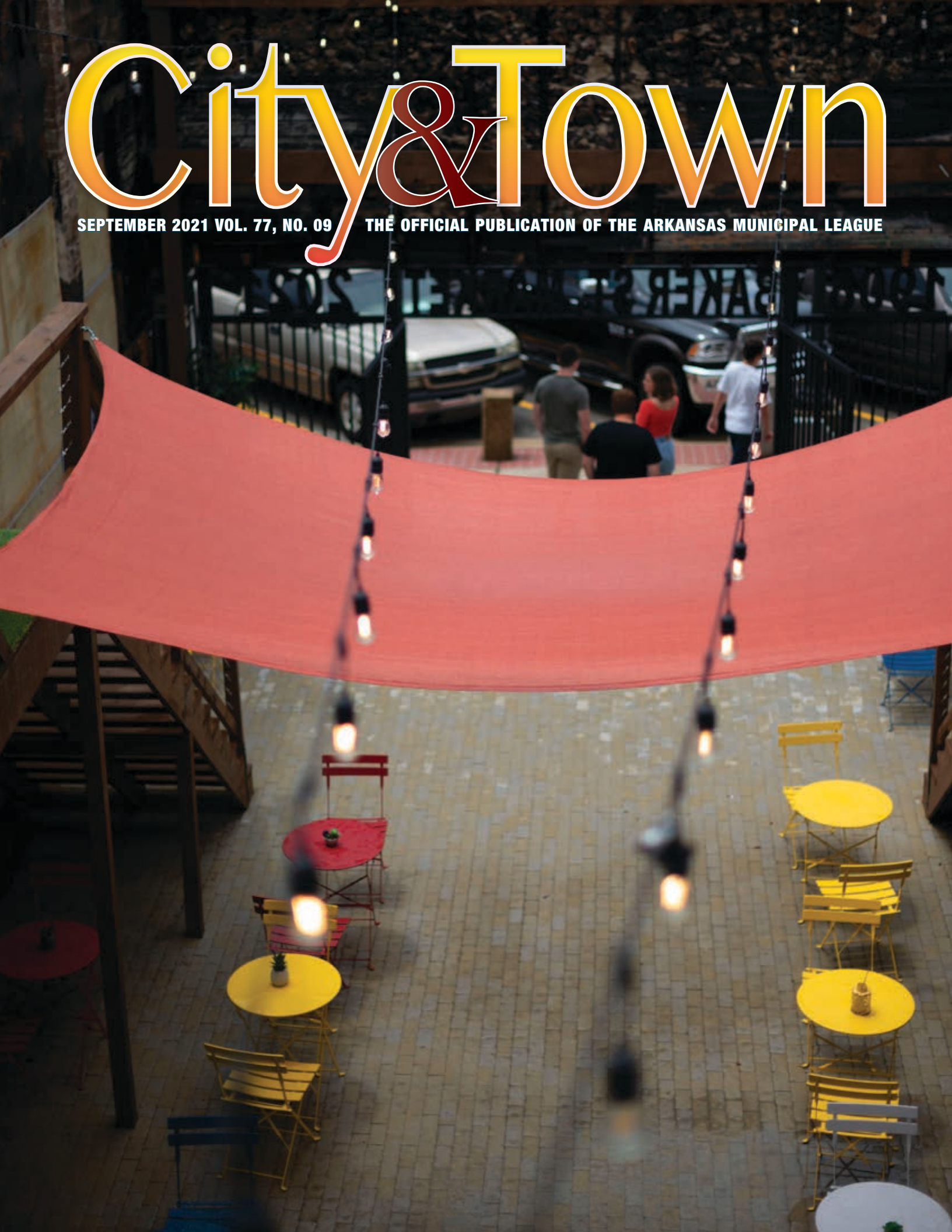


City & Town

SEPTEMBER 2021 VOL. 77, NO. 09

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE



How do you think new money becomes old money?



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SVP, Trust Officer
Little Rock, AR



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SVP, Trust Officer
Little Rock, AR



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Robin Thornton
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Cover photo by Ben Cline.



ON THE COVER—The outdoor dining area at Baker Street Market and Rio Burrito is just part of a larger transformation in downtown Mountain Home, where The District, the state’s first official entertainment district, has helped revive the city’s historic square. Read about The District, made possible by Act 812 of 2019, inside beginning on page 28. Read also about the League’s annual planning meeting, where the executive committee set our organization’s trajectory for the year, and get to know Lakeview Mayor Dennis Behling, the League’s 2021-2022 District 1 vice president.—atm

Features

- 14 The Wisconsin-Lakeview connection**
Lakeview Mayor and League 2021-2022 District 1 Vice President Dennis Behling’s public service began long before he retired and moved from Wisconsin to Arkansas, where his passion to improve his community continues.
- 20 Annual planning meeting sets course**
The League’s executive committee and boards met August 18-20 in Little Rock, where they reviewed the past year’s finances and activities and charted the path forward for the next.
- 24 Budgeting by the numbers**
The League’s executive director has released the annual budget information letter, which details the service charges, optional program rates and turnback estimates for the coming year to help cities and towns budget appropriately.
- 28 Mountain Home taps entertainment district potential**
With a city ordinance paving the way for the opening of The District, Mountain Home became the first city in the state to take advantage of Act 812 of 2019, which allows for the creation of entertainment districts.

City & Town Contents

- Arkansas Municipal League Officers.....5
- Attorney General Opinions..... 13
- Community Development.....46
- Engineering.....53
- From the Desk of the Executive Director.....6
- Loss Control.....42
- Meeting Calendar..... 13
- Municipal Mart.....62
- Municipal Notes 12
- Obituaries.....12
- Planning to Succeed.....44
- President’s Letter.....4
- Sales Tax Map.....59
- Sales Tax Receipts60
- Turnback Estimates.....58
- Urban Forestry.....50
- Your Health48

Greetings, fellow municipal officials,

Last month's annual planning meeting was the first in-person event the League has held since February 2020. The meeting was a success, in no small part due to the following factors: Almost 100 percent of the attendees were vaccinated, masks were worn, social distancing was practiced, the Marriott Hotel staff who served our meeting attendees were vaccinated and meeting rooms were sanitized daily. It was good to visit with fellow municipal officials in person, and hopefully things will continue to move in the right direction. The plan at this time is to have an in-person 2022 Winter Conference, but everything is going to depend on how the COVID numbers go in the coming months.



The executive committee, investment committee and the leadership of each of the League's benefit programs met during the planning meeting. It is with great honor that I inform you that all these programs are on solid financial ground thanks to the outstanding job the League staff is doing on our behalf. Mayor Gary Baxter did a great job last year as League president in promoting all these programs, and the number of participants grew in nearly every one of them because of his efforts. All our programs remain very affordable and continue to provide excellent service to our members. We all owe a big THANK YOU to the League staff and those who sit on the governing boards of these programs for making them the best choice for our cities and towns.

COVID continues to be a factor in almost every aspect of our lives and the way we do business. As I write this letter, most children in Arkansas are entering their second week of the school year, and I must say that local control never looked so good. I know of several school districts that started the year with a "masks are optional" policy that have now switched to "masks are required" as their quarantine numbers began to skyrocket in the first week of school.

As much as we all wish this was over, it is not, and we must continue to do our part to encourage everyone to get vaccinated and use common sense when it comes to masks, social distancing and other measures to prevent the spread of this virus. It's the only way to get back to a more normal way of life. As I said earlier, we hope to have a live Winter Conference in January 2022, but right now, given what we are seeing in Arkansas as far as vaccination rates and attitudes regarding masks and other preventative measures, I am not optimistic about that becoming a reality. Hopefully things will begin to turn around soon, but the irony I find in all of this is—in my opinion—that the people protesting masks, vaccines and other measures the most are the ones who, by their actions, are extending this pandemic and its severe consequences. But what do I know, since I have been listening to the guidance from medical experts and scientists who have spent *their* lives making *our* lives safer and healthier than any time in human history.

Stay safe and keep up the hard work all of you do for your cities and towns. As always, feel free to contact me any time with any questions or comments.

Best,

Tim McKinney
Mayor, Berryville
President, Arkansas Municipal League

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NOTE: Names submitted for positions on committees, councils and boards received after the issue printer date will appear in the next issue of *City & Town*.

From the Desk of the Executive Director

THE SUMMER WIND: My fickle friend, the summer wind^{1 2}

Summer officially started on Sunday June 20, at 10:32 p.m. CDT, according to calendardate.com, and it will end on Wednesday, September 22, at 2:21 p.m. CDT. The local controller has a different summer test, or better said, a blend of tests and dates. She starts with “anything under 70 degrees Fahrenheit” is winter. No doubt that predates June 20. She also follows the open-toed shoe and white clothing rule, which many of you know begins on Easter and ends on Labor Day. While the weeks after Easter aren’t necessarily summer, they are best described in her vernacular as “prep time for the real thing.” Oh boy, you should see her face right now. Wait until I tell her Miss Manners disagrees with her. Miss Manners uses Memorial Day—not Easter—for the beginning of white clothes and open-toed shoe rule.³ I need to move on lest I wind up sharing a floor bed with Olive and Zorro.



Let me digress from this end-of-summer chit-chat and address five seemingly unrelated topics:

- Shoulder surgery. (Don’t do it, trust me.)
- Boat driving. I can’t. (See shoulder surgery.)
- Moving. (See boat driving and shoulder surgery above.)
- Condominium rules and city ordinances.

I can tell how excited y’all are at these oddities being a part of my column. Relax. Take some time to enjoy my pithy commentary. The potholes and payroll will still be there when you’ve finished reading.⁴

Shoulder surgery: Just *don’t* do it

Some of you know that I had surgery on my right shoulder several weeks ago. Nothing says “have a great summer” like a torn rotator cuff⁵ and damaged bicep tendon. Good times. Here’s the thing: It hurts. Like it really HURTS. Knocked me to my knees sort of pain. Now, dear readers of the not-male persuasion, let me say unequivocally that I do not mean to in any way lessen what is the pain of all pains, childbirth. I, and my simple male counterparts, cannot ever fathom what you go through. What I am saying is that I have a very low pain tolerance and, well, you get the idea.

It is my right shoulder that is afflicted. That’s my dominant arm. Guess what? It is extremely difficult to make your nondominant arm and hand do anything related to fine motor skills. When I say really hard, I mean I can’t do it! Butter toast? Nope. Tie my shoes? Nope. Walk the dogs? Badly. Speaking of the dogs, that’s how this whole injury

¹ The song “Summer Wind” was written by Heinz Meier and was originally released in Germany. The German lyrics were written by Hans Bradtke. Johnny Mercer re-wrote the song in English attempting to stay true to the themes of the German version. In 1966 Frank Sinatra recorded the song and it peaked at number 25 on the Billboard Hot 100 and number one on the easy listening chart. It’s a fan fave of Mother Hayes. <https://bit.ly/3yEixWU>.

² For kicks I looked up the current Billboard Hot 100. I knew 19 artists on the list, some of them only because I’ve heard the name in the news or seen references on social media. I don’t recommend looking at the list if you’re over 40. You’ll feel old. The local controller is already fidgety at this odd start to my column.

³ <https://bit.ly/38CFeQE> and <https://bit.ly/3yEJZUo>.

⁴ The local controller is at nuclear level. I have to admit it’s fun once a month just to watch her “excitement” during the drafting of my column.

⁵ The “rotator cuff” is actually a series of tendons and muscles that allow the arm and shoulder to work. They also keep the shoulder joint in place. As in your arm not dangling willy-nilly from the end of your neck. <https://mayoclinic.org/3gSM9K8>. Willy-nilly is a medical term just in case you were wondering.

started, but the local controller will not allow me to tell the story in any place but a footnote. So, see below.⁶ Where was I? Oh yeah, my nondominant arm and hand. Everything from putting on a shirt to picking up a fork is 10 times clumsier and more time consuming than using my dominant hand. I do not recommend this injury, but I particularly warn you away from it during the summer. There's so much fun stuff to do in the summer but it all requires a working shoulder. Think about it. Tennis? No. Golf? Can't happen. Softball? Forget about it. Fish? Yeah right, go ahead and cast and reel. Lemme know how that goes. Drive a boat? Grr.

Boat driving: My forgotten passion

Sure, that subhead is a little melodramatic. In my defense however, one of the reasons the local controller and I bought a condo on Lake Hamilton was to go boating. One of my greatest pleasures is to be on a boat, any kind of boat, and enjoy the wind and the water. That sentence reminds me of a hit song from 1979. Christopher Cross' self-titled debut album featured the song "Sailing," which sailed to the top of the charts. See what I did there?! It *sailed* to the top of the charts! My own boat experiences began with sailing on Lake Michigan. My father had sailed on the East Coast as a child and had always loved it. The local controller loves to be on the boat. She does not wish to drive the boat, however.

It is hard to drive a boat on a choppy lake like Lake Hamilton when one only has the use of one arm. This is particularly so when the one arm is the nondominant of the two. In other words, I have very little gross or fine motor skills in my left hand and left arm! To drive my boat—like virtually every boat everywhere or anywhere—one must use their right hand to engage the throttle while steering with the left. Thus, our brand-new boat remains dry docked at the marina. I must say, however, it's a very good-looking boat.

Moving: A not-so-fun adventure

Here's my advice on moving:⁷ Don't do it! I suppose if somebody has a gun to your head you might have to, but otherwise I strongly suggest you stay put. You cannot possibly imagine the number of plastic containers and cardboard boxes the local controller and I filled upon leaving our home in The Rock. Moving from a 4,500-square-foot

⁶ During convention in June, I was walking Zorro and Olive early one morning before we began broadcasting. Alison and I were staying at the Marriott and it was my job to get up early and feed and water the dogs. Olive was not particularly well housetrained at this time, so my focus was on her during our walk. Zorro was on my right side. I told him to sit and he did. Apparently, however, he saw a dog, a cat, a skunk, a squirrel or something else that required him to fully engage at maximum speed toward his object of affection. He did so stealthily, and it wasn't until the six-foot leash went taut and my arm went straight out that my shoulder said "hey, that's not gonna work for me." One audible pop later and I thought a t-rex was pulling my arm from my socket. The expression on the local controller's face says "hyperbole" and "embellishment." Be that as it may my story is not yet over. Fast forward a week and the ortho doc at UAMS (kudos to the UAMS team and system for the excellent care I received) examines me and says it's definitely a torn rotator cuff and surgery will be required. He makes it clear, however, he can't totally understand the damage without an MRI. Prior to the MRI my tale takes a turn for the worse. Again, while walking the dogs, leashes firmly in my left hand only, I notice Olive is again toting something in her slobbery puppy mouth. Earlier that morning it was a large pinecone. The day before it was a baby turtle. Both turtle and pinecone were unharmed. She spits out a hickory nut. Rather than risk her grabbing it I reach down with my right hand, pick it up and, using the time-honored Frisbee toss, flick said hickory nut away from the little darling. Much happens in a very short span of time. Just as I'm releasing the hickory nut from my perfectly executed toss my brain says "uhh, dude you're using your rotator cuff thingy and this is gonna hurt." That was followed by my nervous system saying "dude, start screaming cuz this hurts." And I did. MRI was a few days later and voila, the tendon was torn off the bone. Blah, blah, blah. That last part was written by the local controller.

⁷ Moving is very stressful. If you don't believe me, check out this recent poll on life's most stressful events: <https://fxn.ws/3Bzhdqe>. Moving is at the top of the list at 45 percent, ahead of going through a breakup/divorce (44 percent), getting married (33 percent) and having children (31 percent).

house to an 1,100-square-foot condominium is akin to pouring 2 gallons in a 1-gallon jug.⁸ There's spillover. We have become the single most important economic driver for the storage building industry in Hot Springs. Here's another thing I suggest: Don't move into a new place that you are remodeling when the remodeling isn't complete. Oh, and here's one more thing I recommend: Don't mangle your shoulder while moving, don't mangle your shoulder before moving and don't mangle your shoulder immediately after moving. You will be of no help to your significant other, the movers or the builders.

Speaking of significant others, the local controller is steamed! Time for me to get to the point as she says.

The point: Condo rules and city ordinances

The new condo gig is a very different way of living for me and the local controller. Let's start with the aforementioned 1,100 square feet and a line from a song that I've always loved: "Nowhere to run to, baby, nowhere to hide!"⁹ I know exactly where each dog, the cat-dog and the local controller are at any given time. Likely more important, they know where I am. With that said, the view to the lake, no yardwork and no exterior maintenance are hard to beat. What has been an interesting lesson are the condominium rules set by the property owners association, or POA. The POA has specific rules, some of which are: assigned parking spaces and parking passes, hours the pool is open, pets must be on leashes, you have to pick up after your pet and many many more. In other words, it's structured.

In addition to the POA rules, the entire condominium complex lies within the boundaries of the Spa City and thus city ordinances are also in effect. In particular, Hot Springs has recently passed an ordinance dealing with short-term rentals of houses and condominiums, and guess what? About 50 percent of the condos in our complex are short-term rentals. After all it's a 20-foot walk to Lake Hamilton, there are lots of restaurants very close by and we've got a pool! In other words, if you're looking for a vacation spot this is a pretty good one. With that said, the transient nature of the short-term renter carries with it a few downsides. I feel certain you know where I'm going with this. After all, you are municipal officials in cities and towns with apartments, condominiums and houses. There are times when parties get a little louder than they should, pool rules aren't followed and the greatest faux pas of all occurs: parking in the wrong spot! The blend of city ordinances and POA rules has been a fascinating and educational experience for me. What's also been interesting are the politics that go with condo living! You'd be surprised (or perhaps you wouldn't) at the rumor mill that more often than not is correct.

Alas, summer is on the way out and we are moving into the fall, football season and all that entails. There's always a melancholy feeling for me and the local controller when summer concludes. There's also a slight glimmer of hope. As the great lead singer for the Eagles,¹⁰ Don Henley¹¹ once sang "...after the boys of summer are gone."¹² That lyric has always struck me as the closing of one chapter and the beginning of another. Indeed, a glimmer of hope.

Until next month, Peace.



Mark R. Hayes
Executive Director
Arkansas Municipal League

⁸ Here's why moving is so stressful, *id*:

1. Packing: 48%
2. Sorting out what to keep and what to get rid of/donate: 47%
3. Making a down payment on new house/getting a mortgage: 28%
4. Finding a mover: 24%
5. Budgeting for movers: 23%
6. Saving up enough money to sign a lease/get an apartment: 14%
7. Budgeting for renting a moving van/truck: 7%

⁹ Martha Reeves and the Vandellas made this song a hit in 1965. <https://bit.ly/2WQSiZn>.

¹⁰ This is not debatable: The Eagles are the greatest band ever. OK fine, I'm sure some of you disagree. You would, however, be wrong.

¹¹ <https://bit.ly/2WNMM0x>

¹² <https://bit.ly/3gYPTd7>



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Municipal Notes

Nominations open for 2021 Volunteer Community of the Year Awards

The Arkansas Department of Human Services Office of Communications and Community Engagement is now accepting nominations for the 2021 Arkansas Volunteer Community of the Year Awards. The deadline to apply is October 22.

Each year DHS partners with the Governor's Office and the Arkansas Municipal League, along with Little Rock's Channel 4 and the Governor's Advisory Commission on National Service and Volunteerism, to recognize cities and towns that seek to address challenges within their communities through volunteerism. A panel of judges from across the state will select the communities, which will be honored at the League's 2022 Winter Conference. Winners also receive two signs donated by the Arkansas Highway Commission designating the city or town as a Volunteer Community of the Year.

For more information and support materials, visit www.volunteerar.org/COY.

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. 🏛️

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Obituaries

THOMAS "TOMMY" RICHARD DICKSON, 55, code enforcement officer for the city of Cabot, died August 27. Dickson previously served as a North Little Rock police officer from 1993 until his retirement in 2018.

JAMES LARRY GIBBENS, 76, longtime mayor of the town of Ravenden in Lawrence County, who had served in that position since 1977, died September 2.

JOHN BERTRAN PLEGGÉ, 86, who served in the Arkansas General Assembly from 1971-1972 and as a municipal traffic judge before serving as 6th Judicial District, 7th Division, Circuit Court Judge from 1989 until 2002, died August 5. In 2003 he was appointed as presiding special judge by the Arkansas Supreme Court. During his time in the legislature, Plegge was named Person of the Year by the Arkansas Municipal League for his support of cities and towns.

Summaries of Attorney General opinions

Recent opinions that affect municipal government in Arkansas

From the office of Attorney General Leslie Rutledge

Virtual city council meetings OK so long as public can “attend”

Opinion: 2021-048

Requestor: David Whitaker, State Representative

If a city council has adopted rules of procedure pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 14-43-501, which includes authorization to meet virtually rather than physically, can the city council meet through electronic means rather than in person as long as there are means in place to ensure that members of the public can hear and participate in the conversation and debate? Q2) Are Act 2 of the Fiscal Session of the 92nd General Assembly and Act 56 of the Regular Session of the 93rd

General Assembly, either collectively or individually, still applicable and effective despite the expiration of the Governor’s Pandemic Emergency Decree? **RESPONSE:** The answer to your first question is “yes,” so long as safeguards for the public to virtually “attend” these meetings are in place and followed. With respect to your second question, while the relevant provisions of Act 2 of 2020 have expired, Act 56 of 2021 is currently in force because of the governor’s recent emergency declaration. 🏛️

To read full Attorney General opinions online, visit the “Opinions” page at www.arkansasag.gov or email oag@arkansas.gov.

Meeting Calendar

November 18-20, 2021, National League of Cities City Summit, Salt Lake City, Utah.

January 19-21, 2022, Arkansas Municipal League Winter Conference.





Lakeview Mayor and League 2021-2022 District 1 Vice President Dennis Behling stands next to the Freedom Bell at the city's park, which gets a lot of use, especially the walking trail. He notes that repaving the trail recently cost more than building the trail originally. "It was \$29,000 to put the trail in originally, and it was \$32,000 to resurface it. They call that progress," he adds with a laugh.

From Wisconsin, to dam tour guide, to mayor

Lakeview Mayor Dennis Behling, the League's 2021-2022 District 1 VP, has a lifetime of municipal leadership experience stretching from the Great Lakes to Bull Shoals Lake.

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

It's probably the accent that gives him away—Lakeview Mayor and League 2021-2022 District 1 Vice President Dennis Behling is not from Baxter County, or Arkansas, at all. If it reminds you of a Wisconsin accent, that's because it is. He was born in Milwaukee and raised in West Allis, a large, post-WWII Milwaukee suburb named for Edward Allis, founder of what would become the area's largest manufacturer, Allis-Chalmers, which made machinery for a number of industries and which has a unique local connection. More on that later.

In West Allis, Behling married his high school sweetheart, Judy. "Judy is six days older than I am, so I generally tell people I married an older woman."

Dennis and Judy have been married 57 years. They have two daughters and four grandchildren, and in early August the Behlings learned they're expecting their first great-grandchild.

Judy went into nursing school and Dennis went on active duty in the U.S. Navy. During his 27-month tour, he visited 23 countries, after which he returned home to West Allis. They then moved to Mukwonago, a farming and bedroom community about 35 miles from Milwaukee. Dennis continued to commute to work in the city, first as an electrical draftsman with Cutler-Hammer before moving to sales. He didn't see a future for himself in that position and kept his eyes open for something more appealing. A coworker was leaving to

join a smaller company, and Dennis asked him to call if anything opened up. “He called and said, ‘What do you know about purchasing?’ I knew a little bit about it, so I became a purchasing agent. And that was my career. That’s what I consider myself.”

As a purchasing agent, Dennis spent 20 years in the private sector and then 20 years in the public sector, retiring in 2003 from Milwaukee Area Technical College, where he worked in procurement. “If you can name it, I bought it. Everything from steel to furniture to dental supplies to printing supplies.”

In Mukwonago, both he and Judy were very active in the community. They served with the local volunteer fire department and were both EMTs. Dennis and Judy were also active in the local chapter of the Jaycees. Eventually someone asked if he’d be interested in running for the village board.

Wisconsin’s municipal governments are organized a little bit different than Arkansas’, he explains. Wisconsin has cities, which feature the mayor-council form of government; villages, which have a village president and board of trustees; and towns, which are headed by a town supervisor.

Dennis ran for the board, was elected and spent 10 years as a village trustee, followed by another 10 years as village president. He was also active in the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, serving as its president in 1993.

When Dennis retired in 2003 and Judy followed suit in 2004, they knew they’d have to leave Wisconsin to make their retirement dollars stretch further, he says, and the Behlings began looking at different potential spots around the country, like Hilton Head, South Carolina, and Sun City, Arizona. The state of Arkansas, much less a place called Lakeview, wasn’t on their radar, he says, until friends who’d bought property in Mountain Home suggested they “come give the area a look-see.” They did, were drawn to Lakeview and found a home for sale that they liked. They toured it on a Saturday. On Sunday they sat down with the seller and, with a handshake, agreed to buy it. Dennis and Judy have now been here 16 years.

Lakeview is a small resort city and retirement community of about 775 residents on the south shore of Bull Shoals Lake, just east of the Bull Shoals Dam and the White River that runs through the valley below. The water-centric family vacation atmosphere was a big draw for the Behlings, who, growing up in Wisconsin, spent their childhood trips with family getting out of the city and heading “up north” to visit one of the many lakes. “Every cottage had a boat and you were either on the lake or in the lake or doing something,” Dennis says. “At night you came back and nine times out of 10 we had fish. And guess who usually got stuck cleaning the fish!”



Lakeview incorporated in 1974 as a resort community and has become a popular retirement destination.

While there are more entertainment options beyond fishing, swimming and campfires these days, especially in resort destinations like nearby Branson, Lakeview is still the kind of place you can make your own fun, he says.

“What we like about it here is it reminds us a lot of Wisconsin. I could take you on the White River here, you and I could be fly fishing, and if I could do a *Star Trek* thing—‘Beam me up, Scotty’—and beam you up to the Wolf River in Wisconsin, you’d never know the difference. It’s the same type of topography.”

While Dennis likes that Lakeview is off the beaten path, it’s only about one day’s drive from here to their family in Wisconsin, eight hours to New Orleans, eight hours to Dallas-Fort Worth, eight hours to Nashville, and just about five hours to St. Louis or Kansas City. “You can go almost any place in this part of the country and it’s only a day trip.”

Continuing their tradition of community service, Dennis and Judy got involved in their new home of Lakeview almost immediately, and things snowballed from there. They attended public meetings at city hall and helped with the local fire auxiliary, where Dennis



Shops, restaurants and other retailers have come and gone over the years, Dennis says. He hopes to soon have a tenant for this available spot on the city's main drag.

was soon installed as a commissioner. Not long after, former Mayor Lloyd Travis called to ask what he knew about planning and zoning, which led to a spot on that commission. In April 2009 Dennis got another call from Travis and Council Member Joe Gies asking if he'd like to be mayor. Because of health issues, Travis was getting ready to step down, and Dennis' background made him the best prospect. He was appointed for the remainder of Travis' term, ran in 2010, was elected and took office in January 2011.

Gies, who was active in the League and himself a District 1 vice president in 2008-2009, encouraged Behling to attend the meetings and training sessions, which he did, starting with the budgeting workshop to learn about the differences between Arkansas and Wisconsin laws. "I think the first convention I came to I signed up to be on an advisory council," he says. Behling has served the League on the Incorporated Towns and Cities of the Second Class Advisory Council and the Executive Committee.

"I'm a firm believer that somebody, somewhere, at some period of time has had the same problem that you're having right now," Behling says. "And all you gotta do is ask somebody the question. Ninety-nine percent of the time you already know the answer but can't see the forest for the trees." That's why it's essential to participate in the League, whether in Arkansas or Wisconsin, he says.

Lakeview is about a third the size of Mukwonago, which had a substantially larger annual budget of around \$6 million. But Lakeview is lucky in the sense that it doesn't require high operating costs, he says. The

residents are on septic systems, and the city is a part of a water district and fire district. The city has two full-time and two part-time police officers and two part-time maintenance employees. That leaves just the mayor, recorder/treasurer and a building inspector. "And that's it! It's a very tight-knit crew," he says.

Tourism still drives the local economy, though many of the classic resort cottages have transitioned into long-term rental properties. There are only a few retail businesses in town, which he hopes will increase, but the ability to collect sales tax from internet purchases has helped shore up the city's bottom line over the past few years, he says. "When that internet sales tax went through, that was a windfall for us."

The tourism that stokes the economies of Lakeview and all of the communities on the lake and the White River would likely not exist without the construction of the Bull Shoals Dam, the fifth largest in the country, which was dedicated in 1952. Originally intended for regionwide flood control and hydropower generation, entrepreneurs like Forrest Wood, founder of Ranger Boats, and James Gaston, for whom the visitor center at Bull Shoals-White River State Park is named, saw an opportunity to bring visitors to the area to fish and enjoy the great outdoors. Before the tourism boom, they were "just some guys on the White River," Dennis says. "They were the ones that really brought recreation into the area." Getting Wood and Gaston together in the same room was always an entertaining experience, he adds. "Those two could tell you stories about each other that's not, uh, suitable for *City & Town* magazine!"



Camping, boating and fishing drive the local economy, both in Lakeview and communities around Bull Shoals Lake, which has about 740 miles of shoreline.



Cities like Lakeview might not exist were it not for the Bull Shoals Dam, which provides electricity, flood control, and recreational and economic opportunities for the entire region.

From 2008-2014 Dennis and Judy served as volunteer tour guides at the James A. Gaston Visitor Center, sharing the history of the dam and offering a look at its machinery. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, possibly out of concern for causing any offense, insisted they refer to it as a tour of the powerhouse, Dennis says. But he and Judy couldn't resist having a little rebellious fun. "Judy was the driver and I was the tour guide. I'd tell people, 'Welcome to the tour of the powerhouse, otherwise known as the dam tour. The young lady sitting next to me is the dam driver and I'm going to be your dam guide for the afternoon.'"

It was on the dam tour he discovered that he and Judy were not the area's only connection to Wisconsin. The powerhouse turbines bear the name: Allis-Chalmers, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. "But that's a misnomer," Behling says. "At that point Allis-Chalmers had a Milwaukee post office box." The turbines were actually manufactured in his hometown of West Allis, which these days has its very own post office. 🏠



A view of where Highway 178 crosses Bull Shoals Dam from Lakeview Cove Marina.



The new Monument Trails on Mount Nebo is the site of October's inaugural River Valley Bike Fest, co-hosted by the cities of Dardanelle and Russellville.

Russellville, Dardanelle host inaugural River Valley Bike Fest

Mountain bikers from across the region will descend on Russellville and Dardanelle October 8-10 for the inaugural Arkansas River Valley Bike Fest. This three-day festival, co-hosted by the two cities, is expected to attract hundreds of cyclists who will trek up the 1,750-foot Mount Nebo to race on the newly developed Monument Trails.

The event will kick off at 1 p.m. Friday, October 8, with race packet pickup at Depot Park in Russellville and will include bike demonstrations, food trucks, vendors and a free concert by the band Arkansauce beginning at 6 p.m.

The festival kicks into gear Saturday and Sunday with beginner through advanced races, youth strider events, leisure riding trails, skills clinics, live music, vendors, a mini-carnival and raffles for great prizes to benefit the local Boys & Girls Clubs. Tyson Chicken will be there to provide lunch on the mountain.

Downtown Dardanelle will be the star attraction on Saturday evening with live music by Mama Tryde, food trucks and a showing of the film *North of Nightfall*, courtesy of Red Bull. This documentary follows a group of freeride mountain bikers as they embark on an expedition in the Arctic. The movie will start at 7 p.m. followed by the free concert. Downtown shops will be open late and restaurants will stay open until 10 p.m.

Proceeds from the festival will support the nonprofit Friends of Nebo, which helps support Mount Nebo State Park.

The Arkansas River Valley Bike Fest is destined to become an annual family-friendly, memory-making event that will allow locals and visitors alike to experience what makes the River Valley so remarkable. Come for the mountain biking stay for the outdoor recreation, live music, entertainment, great food and charm of Russellville and Dardanelle.

Race participants are limited, so don't wait. Register today at www.ARVBikeFest.com. 📍





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League leadership locks in agenda for 2021-2022

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

The Arkansas Municipal League’s executive committee and the leadership of each of the League’s major benefit programs met to review the past year’s activities and set the agenda for the next during the annual planning meeting, held August 18-19 at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Little Rock.

After more than a year of virtual League meetings due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the members of the executive committee and boards chose to meet in person, albeit with safety protocols in place, including wearing masks and social distancing.

After introductions and the approval of the minutes from the May 19 meeting of the executive committee, League Executive Director Mark R. Hayes presented his annual executive director’s report. He opened his remarks with praise for the League staff. “The staff has been remarkable through what I can only describe as very trying times over this past year,” he said.

Despite the many challenges the state and the organization have faced since March 2020, the League



Hayes

and its staff have continued to provide services, programming and as much information as possible, Hayes said. In addition to holding the 2021 Winter Conference and 87th Annual Convention virtually, the League has significantly ramped up its online training efforts and continues its partnership with the Arkansas Center for



Gathering in person—with safety protocols in place—for the first time in well over a year, the executive committee approved the League’s agenda for the coming year during August’s annual planning meeting.

Health Improvement to deliver the most up-to-date coronavirus guidance possible.

On that front, Hayes said he is proud to report that about 80 percent of the League’s staff is fully vaccinated, and that percentage may increase, he said. “You have a resilient group of people working in that building and, for the most part, they have remained positive, upbeat, and as always, they are hard working.”

Most of the League’s optional programs have grown in the past year. “I like to think that’s a direct result of the services we’re providing,” Hayes said. The investment committee and the boards of the Municipal League Workers’ Compensation Program, Municipal Property and Vehicle Programs, Municipal Legal Defense Program and Municipal Health Benefit Program met over the course of the three-day planning meeting, and each received a clean audit for the year. “We remain very healthy within the confines of our budget,” Hayes reported to the executive committee.

During his report, Hayes took the opportunity to promote the League’s Be Local. Be Heard initiative

(BeLocalBeHeard.com). The legislature took swipes at local control during this year’s regular session, and the League’s legislative team has been remarkable at impressing upon legislators the importance of local control, both during and after the session, he said. He encouraged city leaders to invite their district’s legislators to attend a council meeting to begin a dialogue. Also reach out to the League’s John Wilkerson or Jack Critcher and invite them to attend, he suggested. “I think they would be thrilled to do that, and that is exactly the sort of thing they’ve been doing over the past two years and it’s made a big difference in our relationships.”

Berryville Mayor and League 2021-2022 President Tim McKinney, who presided at the meeting, also stressed the importance of communicating to legislators the value of local control. A lot of the members of the legislature ran “under the guise” of wanting local control, he said. “That’s a starting place to talk to any of them. So anytime you get the chance, tell them we want to do what’s best for our citizens, and if we mess up we’ll hear about it.”



McKinney

The executive committee voted to retain the League's current service charge formula for member cities and towns. The base charge will remain \$40 plus 35 cents per capita. Members receive a 7-cent credit per capita for participation in each of the League's optional programs.

For detailed information on the League service charge, fees associated with the optional programs, turn-back estimates and the latest APERS multiplier, please refer to the executive director's budget letter in this issue on page 24. For the updated 2021-2022 rates for the Municipal Property and Vehicle Programs, see page 26.

The League also has 121 limited-service members, which include counties, housing authorities, waste management districts, volunteer fire departments and other entities. The executive committee voted to retain the existing rates for limited-service members. Their cost is \$500 or \$1,000, depending on the type of entity.


League Deputy Director Whitnee V. Bullerwell provided a recap of the 87th Annual Virtual Convention, which had strong member engagement, with 237 cities and towns participating, she reported. That's higher than the previous two in-person conventions. "That is a very good thing," she said. "We're reaching more people in more cities and towns across the state."

The League has now held three major virtual meetings, and the 87th Convention, held June 16-18, provided a much more interactive user experience, and based on all the positive comments, it was a great success. "Member input is crucial, and the League takes all suggestions strongly under consideration," she said. "We continue as your League staff to track and adapt our convention experience and agenda based on your feedback."

The more-robust virtual platform allowed the League to expand the convention agenda and ramp up the educational components, including the return of concurrent sessions. The new platform also featured a virtual exhibit hall, which provided more than 30 sponsors and exhibitors the opportunity to share information with attendees. The 2022 Winter Conference will be a hybrid event, with both virtual and in-person programming, Bullerwell announced. Even as safe, in-person events return, the League will likely continue to offer a virtual option for those who cannot attend.

With virtual training sessions available on a near weekly basis, the League's voluntary certification program for municipal officials and personnel had a record-setting year with 42 events and 7,768 total participants. The League was also able to offer about 40 hours of continuing legal education.

After expanding the certification program in 2019 to include a second tier of advanced courses, the League was forced to sideline its Level 2 offerings as the pandemic took hold. The League plans to resume Level 2 certification training in 2022, beginning with Municipal Finance 201 in February. Level 1 courses continue this fall with Municipal Finance and Budgeting on September 15 and HR and Personnel Matters on October 13.

As a final order of business, the executive committee approved the proposed future meetings calendar for the remainder of 2021 through August 2022. The 2022 Winter Conference will be held January 19-21 at the Statehouse Convention Center and Marriott Hotel in Little Rock, which will also host the 88th Annual Convention June 15-17. To access the full calendar of events, please visit the League's website at www.arml.org/cal. 



Bullerwell

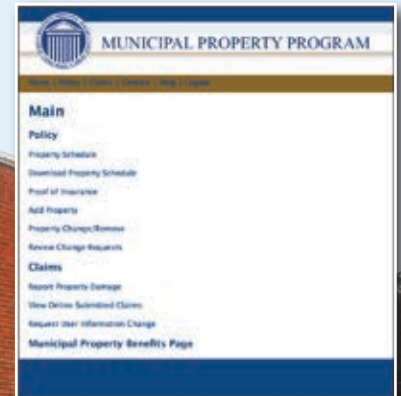


Visit the Municipal Property Program's New Interactive Full Service Web Portal: www.arml.org/mpp

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- First and Last Name
- Phone Number



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Municipal Notes

From the ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

2nd & Willow • P.O. Box 38 • North Little Rock, AR 72115 • (501) 374-3484

August 30, 2021

**TO: OFFICERS, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, ADVISORY COUNCILS,
MAYORS, CITY ADMINISTRATORS, CITY MANAGERS, CITY CLERKS, RECORDERS,
TREASURERS AND FINANCE DIRECTORS**

FROM: MARK R. HAYES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: 2022 BUDGET INFORMATION

The new League governing bodies, which were elected at the Convention or appointed by President and Mayor of Berryville Tim McKinney, met and considered several items that will affect your budget preparations for 2022.

League Service Charge. The Executive Committee retained the current service charge formula. The base charge is \$40 plus 35¢ per capita with 7¢ per capita credits, determined on October 1st, for participation in each of the following programs:

- Municipal Legal Defense Program
- Municipal Health Benefit Program
- Municipal League Workers' Compensation Program
- Municipal Vehicle Program
- Municipal Property Program

Included in the League service charge is membership in the National League of Cities for all our members.

Municipal Legal Defense Program. The Board of Trustees for the Municipal Legal Defense Program retained the current service charge formula for 2022. The 2022 charges range from \$1.25 to \$7.00 per capita depending upon your municipality's loss experience. The optional drug and alcohol testing program for **non**-Commercial Driver's License (CDL) employees will continue to be available and can be implemented by increasing your MLDP charge by 20¢ per capita. Participation in this Program can save your city or town money and from potential legal liability. Information about the MLDP is accessible online at www.arml.org/mldp.

Municipal Health Benefit Program. The Board of Trustees made some minor changes which will be effective January 1st. The 2022 Bylaws will be accessible online at www.arml.org/mhbp. If you are not currently participating in the MHBP and would like to receive a proposal for comparative purposes, please advise.

Municipal League Workers’ Compensation Program. The Board of Trustees adopted the same Arkansas Workers’ Compensation Commission rates used in 2021 for 2022 with the application of state mandated experience modifications (NCCI). They approved a 3% front-end discount for participating members with a loss ratio of 100% or less for the last five years. They also approved a 1.5% discount for reporting estimated payroll timely prior to the September 30, 2021 deadline for submission.

Municipal Vehicle Program. The Board of Trustees for the Municipal Vehicle Program did make some changes to the Program Bylaws effective September 1, 2021. The Bylaws and Program Summary are accessible online at www.arml.org/mvp. The Board retained the current rates for 2022.

Municipal Property Program. The Board of Trustees for the Municipal Property Program made some minor changes to the Program Bylaws effective September 1, 2021. The Board did approve a 10% increase in rates effective 12-1-21 due to increased renewal costs from our outside reinsurance carrier. They also approved an increase in the surcharge for high risk groups. The optional deductible buy-downs for entities in Class 1 and Class 2 remain unchanged. The flood deductibles will continue to be \$500,000 for ALL flood zones. We encourage our MPP members to consider the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to cover this deductible. NFIP can provide flood coverage up to \$500,000 with multiple deductible options. MPP would cover losses over \$500,000. The Bylaws and MPP Program Summary are accessible online at www.arml.org/mpp.

Turnback Estimates. Estimates for general turnback are as follows. The street turnback estimate includes proceeds from the highway ½ cent sales tax and the wholesale fuel tax.

		<u>2021 (revised)</u>	<u>2022</u>
Street Turnback	-	\$80.00 per capita	\$80.00 per capita
General Turnback	-	<u>\$15.50</u> per capita	<u>\$15.00</u> ¹ per capita
Total Turnback	-	\$95.50 per capita	\$95.00 per capita

APERS. For those municipalities participating in the Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System (APERS), the employer contribution will remain at 15.32% for 2022 and the employee rate will stay at 5%. Effective July 1, 2022, the member rate will be 5.25%.

We hope this information will be of assistance to you as you prepare your 2022 budgets.

¹ The legislature approved funding 95% in Category A and holding 5% in Category C for general turnback. Larger distributions are expected starting around February 2022. This amount was also based on the estimated 2020 municipal census population.

GREAT CITIES MAKE A GREAT STATE

Municipal Vehicle Program Summary 2021-2022

Program Coverages, Limits and Deductibles

Automobile Liability – In State	\$25,000 \$50,000 \$25,000	Bodily injury per person. Bodily injury per accident. Property damage per accident. Immunity is used as defense for over limit claims/damages.
Automobile Liability – Out of State	Honor that state's limits.	Immunity is used as defense for over limit claims/damages.
Watercraft Liability	None	Program only covers comprehensive (Part II) up to reported value and boats only under 30 feet.
Mobile Equipment	Included	Must be listed on schedule.
Auto Physical Damage	Included	Actual cash value up to the reported value.
Deductible	\$1,000.00	Each occurrence with deductible only applied to Part II claims. Zero deductible on Part I liability claims.

Initial Class 1 Rate Calculations

Part I – Municipal Member	Passenger Car/Truck	\$100.00
	Large Equipment	\$100.00
	Ambulance	\$200.00
	Buses/Vans over 15 passengers	\$800.00
	Trailers/Mobile Equipment	No liability required.
Part I – Limited Service Member	Passenger Car/Truck	\$200.00
	Large Equipment	\$200.00
	Ambulance	\$200.00
	Buses/Vans over 15 passengers	\$800.00
	Trailers/Mobile Equipment	No liability required.
Part II – Municipal Member	All units	.0055 multiplied by declared value.
Part II – Limited Service Member	All units	.011 multiplied by declared value.

*Full Coverage is calculated by adding the Part I and Part II totals.

*Rates are subject to increase at renewal based on loss ratios.

Municipal Property Program Rates 2021-2022

Program Coverages, Limits and Deductibles

Property: Includes Buildings, Personal Property, Boiler & Machine Breakdown	\$502,500,000	Per Occurrence: All Perils, Coverages (subject to policy exclusions).
Unscheduled Animals	\$2,500,000	Not to exceed \$50,000 per Animal, per Occurrence - \$1,000 Deductible.
Tax Revenue Interruption	\$102,500,000	\$5,000,000 per occurrence per location Deductible: 2.5% of Annual Tax Revenue Value; if unscheduled, limit is \$500,000 per member with an aggregate of \$2,500,000.
Cyber Liability Coverage	\$25,000,000	Subject to a sublimit of \$2,000,000 per member, with a \$25,000,000 Annual Aggregate for Program.
Flood Zone X	\$52,500,000	Per Occurrence and in the Annual Aggregate.
Flood Zones A	\$7,500,000	Subject to a sublimit of \$7,500,000 Per Occurrence with a \$10,000,000 Annual Aggregate for all locations in Flood Zones A (inclusive of all 100 year exposures).
Earthquake Shock	\$52,500,000	Per Occurrence.
Deductibles	All Perils Flood Earthquake Cyber Liability	See Rate Classes Below* \$500,000 \$500,000 \$50,000

Class Ratings, Deductibles and Surcharge

Effective 12/01/2021

Rate is determined by the member's ISO Rating

ISO Rating of 1 – 3 = Class 101 = .0021 - \$10,000 Deductible

ISO Rating of 4 – 6 = Class 102 = .0025 - \$7,500 Deductible

ISO Rating of 7 – 9 = Class 103 = .0029 - \$5,000 Deductible

ISO Rating of 10 = Class 104 (and LSM Members) = .0030 - \$5,000 Deductible

Premium is calculated by multiplying total TIV by Class Rate

Note: Class 101 and 102 members have an option of buying down to a \$5,000 deductible. Class 101 rate would increase .0002 and Class 102 would be .00015.

Note: Current (two year) and Cumulative Loss Ratios over 300% and Cumulative loss to the pool over \$600,000 will be assessed a surcharge of .0005.



Please contact John Wells, general manager of the Municipal Vehicle and Property Programs, at 501-978-6123, if you have any questions regarding the Municipal Property Program rates or the Municipal Vehicle Program rates.



After the Olde Tyme Restaurant on the Square was destroyed by a fire in October 2019, local investor Mark Bartel purchased the property and transformed it into the Baker Street Market, an open-air dining area. Bartel's Rio Burrito restaurant shares the space.

'The District' brings new life to downtown Mountain Home

By Ben Cline, League staff

On July 24, 2019, Mountain Home Mayor Hillrey Adams crossed the threshold of Clayton's Downtown Grill onto the sidewalk and became the first patron in "The District"—Arkansas' first outdoor entertainment district. A year and a half later, the ordinance establishing the district has led to an explosion of growth in downtown Mountain Home and an awakening of the once-sleepy square.

Just 90 days before that July afternoon, the Arkansas legislature passed Act 812, which allows municipalities to create entertainment districts within commercially zoned areas that highlight dining, entertainment and hospitality. Within the designated entertainment district, alcohol can be consumed in specially marked cups. The measure passed in April 2019.

Adams remembers when he first heard of an entertainment district. "I was on the economic development committee for the League in 2019. We were at a meeting in Little Rock, and Mark [Hayes] was giving us a legislative update," he said. "He hit that day on a particular bill that was about establishing entertainment districts. When he said that word and what it was about, it immediately got my attention. My ears just went straight up."

Adams wasn't alone in his excitement. As the bill began to pick up steam on its way to becoming law, there were already others in Mountain Home who saw the potential. "There had been a lot of talk in the previous year with a group called Baxter County Forward, a chamber of commerce project that was focused on improving the quality of life in Baxter County," Adams said. "This seemed like it was a great fit."

Duncan Clayton, a second-generation business owner and chairman of the entertainment district committee, knew the area needed a spark. “What we’ve always seen is—up until this happened—at 5 p.m. this place is dead. No shopping, no retail. We stayed open until 5:30 p.m., but after that, quiet, nothing,” he said. “When the state legislature allowed for this to be created, it’s something that only happens once in a generation. Where a city can change something drastically about itself.”

Mountain Home was already a fishing destination, but as the light of day left town, so did the tourists. “We have so many here that are on the river fishing, they’re out on the lakes,” Adams said. “After a day of fishing for trout on the White River or Norfolk Lake or Bull Shoals, what else is there for them to do?”

After Gov. Asa Hutchinson signed Act 812, Adams, Clayton and others went to work establishing an entertainment district in Mountain Home. “We got with the city attorney, came up with the language we needed for the ordinance and what we needed to do,” Adams said.

The prospect of creating an entertainment district was controversial, Adams said, and the process included a lot of discussions and packed city council meetings. “We only had seven [council] members that night and the vote was 4-3,” he said. “The city attorney called on me because that gave me an option to vote. I felt

like, in casting that vote to put it over the top, it was the right thing to do to help revitalize downtown Mountain Home.”

With the mayor as tiebreaker, the ordinance passed just hours after Act 812 went into effect. Arkansas laws go into effect 90 days after the legislature adjourns, setting July 24 as the first day a city could create an entertainment district. “We hit all the marks; we pushed it hard,” Clayton said. “It allowed us to be the first city in Arkansas to pass the ordinance, so that’s something that can never be taken away. We’ll always be the first in the state. Because of that, it brought a lot of interest, news articles, business exploration, people looking at the area.”

Up in smoke

Business picked up quickly in the newly established district, which runs from Hickory to Church Streets and from 5th to 8th Streets. On October 31 of 2019, however, a fire threatened all the newfound progress. “On Halloween night, one of my fire department crews was returning to the station around 10:30 p.m., and they saw something over on the city square,” Adams recalled. “When they got over there, a restaurant, the Olde Tyme café, which had been a part of Mountain Home as long as I could remember, was on fire. When I got out of my vehicle and I saw that building burning



Opened in June 2021, Rapp’s Barren Brewery is one of the newest businesses in “The District.” Mountain Home was originally known as Rapp’s Barren, named after the first permanent settler, Henry Rapp, who came to the region in the early 1800s.



During the renovation of the Baker building, Rapp's Barren Brewery co-owner Russell Tucker said it was important to reuse as much of the original materials as possible, including the old flooring that was transformed into tabletops and the bar top.

like that, I thought this dream we all had to create this destination is fixing to go up in smoke. A major fire right in the middle of the block, things are not going to end well here.”

Thankfully, Adams’ fears were extinguished, and the square continued to flourish despite the setback. The property was sold to Mountain Home native Mark Bartel, who reimagined the space in two parts—Baker Street Market and Rio Burrito. The Baker Street Market is an open-air dining space with courtyard and rooftop seating all contained within the former footprint of the Olde Tyme Restaurant on the Square. Rio Burrito, a build-your-own burrito restaurant, sits at the back of the property.

Bartel wanted the opportunity to do something unique with the space, he said. “I’ve always loved the Southwestern United States, the Mexican culture and the food out West. We wanted to design something different and something you wouldn’t be able to find anywhere in this area. We knew Mountain Home was a small town, so we didn’t know how people would take to it.”

They go their answer on opening day. “I remember we opened on a Saturday, and from 11 a.m. till about 10 o’clock at night, there was a line at Rio’s nonstop,” Bartel said. “I couldn’t believe it. I was called in to start doing dishes because we didn’t know we were going to be that busy.”

Within a year, the number of businesses in the entertainment district increased from 29 to more than 40. One of those new businesses is Rapp’s Barren Brewery. The brewery had been operating in town for several years, but co-owner Russell Tucker, a fourth-generation Mountain Home native, wanted to be a part of the new district. The combination of existing businesses and the establishment of the entertainment district made the move a recipe for success, he said. “We knew that this was going to be exactly what Mountain Home needed.”

Rapp’s Barren moved into the historic Baker Building, the second-oldest structure in Mountain Home. The renovation process was intense, but maintaining the historical aspect of the building was crucial, Tucker said. “We knew from the very beginning that

being able to maintain as much of the history of the building was very important to us. It was our intent to repurpose as much as we could and to remind people that this was not what this building once was, this has been around for a long time. This building has a lot of stories to tell.”

The momentum over the past year is changing the makeup of his hometown, Tucker said. “The reality is that we’ve been watching people leave this community for a really long time,” he said. “This younger, professional population...they’re graduating high school and they go to college and they’re not coming back to this area at all. To see Mountain Home start shifting back where there is a reason to stay now, there’s opportunity to make a living here, there’s excitement in this area—there’s life, you know? People are wanting to stay.”



In developing Baker Street Market and Rio Burrito, owner Mark Bartel’s goal was to create a unique dining experience that would intrigue visitors from north central Arkansas and beyond.

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Rooftop seating at Baker Street Market.



According to Duncan Clayton, a second-generation business owner and chairman of the entertainment district committee, the camaraderie among the business owners in entertainment district is contagious. "We're all working together because we all see the value and how we're going to win if this area does well," he said.

Off the square and beyond

The positive momentum doesn't stop at the square. Several blocks away, properties that have sat vacant for years are being purchased and revitalized. As a result, daytime activity in downtown Mountain Home has continued to increase, and there is more economic growth on the horizon, the mayor believes. In March of this year, the city passed a 0.75-cent sales tax to fund a \$38.6 million park improvement project. The economic activity and park improvements will create a snowball effect, Adams said. "As we build and upgrade our parks system, ball fields and community center, all that is going to bring more people. We currently see nothing but good things. Other people are going to want to get businesses in here and be a part of that."

For Adams, the days of an empty downtown square are over. As the site of Arkansas' first entertainment district, this is Mountain Home's moment. "I think we're really sitting on a spot right now where things are really fixing to take off," he said. "I think Mountain Home has been one of those best kept secrets of the Ozarks for many years, and I think people are discovering us now." 🏠



Mountain Home Mayor Hillrey Adams checks out the progress at Stories Whiskey Bar, another new business in the entertainment district that will open soon.



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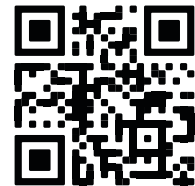
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Meet Beth Chappell, provider and member services supervisor with the Municipal Health Benefit Program.



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

Beth: I am the provider and member services supervisor, which entails writing provider contracts, maintaining fee schedules, benefit configuration and providing assistance in any way needed to our members, providers and staff.

How long have you been working at the League? How did you get started? Just over six years. I found the ad on a job seeker's app. I came in for an interview for one position that ended up being filled by someone within the organization. A few days later I received a call that another position was open and a second interview was requested. By the time the second interview was over, I was getting a tour of the building and started the very next day.

How has the League changed since you started? What has stayed the same? I think the League is constantly growing. I feel like each day we are exploring new opportunities to better serve cities and towns. What stays the same is the strength in our vision and our staff.

What advice would you have for someone just getting into public service? Make sure your customer service game is strong! Great customer service speaks volumes about you and the organization for which you work.

Where did you grow up? How has it changed? Stayed the same? I was raised in England, Arkansas, and still live there today. I've seen businesses come and go, buildings replaced and lots of things added to our small town. The sights have changed some, but the feeling of home is still there.

What is your favorite spot in your hometown? Why? That would definitely be our high school football field. I love fall and football season. My two sons play football and one of my daughters is a cheerleader. We make lots of memories there! #GoLions

What is your favorite part about working for the League and the cities and towns of Arkansas? I work with some of the greatest people at the League. I've grown a lot professionally in my time here and made lasting friendships. I love learning about the different cities and towns in Arkansas, getting to meet our members and see the difference we make. 🏡

Meet Aaron Street, communications director for the city of Hot Springs.

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

Aaron: Our Public Information Department (of two) serves as the link between Hot Springs' citizens and our city government by publicizing city departments' services and activities, managing the www.cityhs.net website and social media outlets, reporting on and recording city board and other meetings, along with writing, photos and videos.



Why did you choose your profession? As a junior in college, I took basic photography and almost immediately switched majors from business to journalism.

What's your favorite aspect of your job? What's the biggest challenge? I love putting together publications for the city because there is never a shortage of stunning photo opportunities, nor of great news/stories to share. It's a challenge to keep up with and provide updates on all the great projects happening in Hot Springs (a great problem to have).

What's your favorite spot in Hot Springs? My favorite Hot Springs hot spot is the Central Avenue Historic District. I'm fortunate to work downtown, and on days when I don't have the chance to walk down Central Avenue, at least I get to drive down it each morning and evening to and from work.

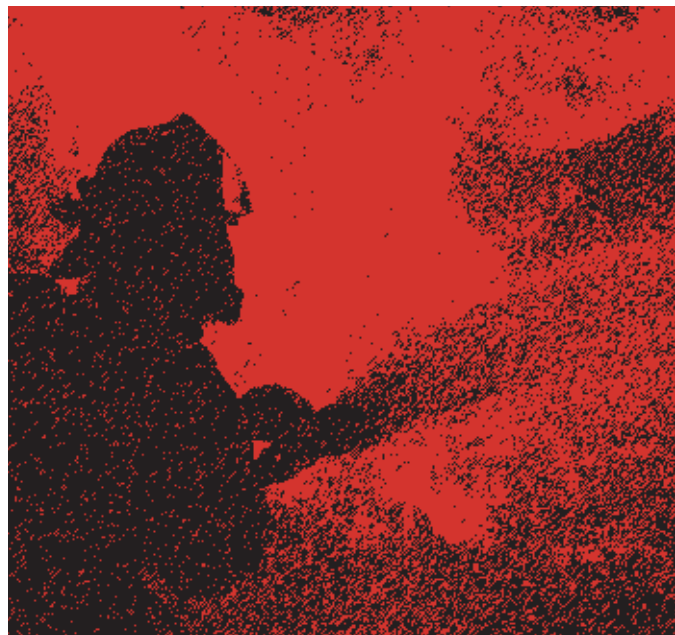
In what season does Hot Springs shine the most? Hot Springs shines year-round, but in the spring the horses are racing, the Japanese trees are blossoming downtown, the tulips are amazing at Garvan Woodland Gardens, and there's all the beautiful landscaping done by our Parks and Trails Department.

What was your favorite subject in school? Well, photography, but I would not be doing what I am today without all the writing classes and academic/work mentors.

What's the biggest lesson you've learned working for a city government? There are a lot of great people working tirelessly to help others and make a positive difference, whether they're city employees or community and nonprofit leaders.

What advice do you have for someone who would like to follow your footsteps into this job? Do it for the love of storytelling. Be clear and concise. Slow down and read it again...then again...before hitting "Send."

What are three "can't miss" things that someone can do if they visit Hot Springs? Just three?! I'm far from checking off all that's on the Hot Springs bucket list, but: 1. downtown (great shops/art/dining and the National Park's Bathhouse Row); 2. Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort (if you haven't seen their new look/expansion...wow!); and 3. outdoors (hot springs, three lakes, mountain biking mecca, hiking, camping, golfing, crystal mining...). 🍷



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

FMLA certification 101

By Alena Hernandez, League staff

When you hear “FMLA” your mind should immediately jump to the Family and Medical Leave Act. The purpose of the act is to help balance workplace demands with the needs of an employee’s family, and it entitles employees to take reasonable leave for medical reasons. The act provides up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to an eligible employee in certain circumstances.

Whether your municipality has a dedicated human resources position or not, I want you all to have a solid grounding on the certification process under the FMLA.

Remember, all cities and towns are “covered” under the FMLA.¹ However, for municipal employees to be eligible for leave under the FMLA, the municipality must have at least 50 total employees.² Don’t make the most common mistake—you must count full-time and part-time employees in determining how many employees you have.

What is a certification for FMLA?

Certification is meant to give confirmation of the employee’s need for leave.³ The document establishes that the employee has a medical condition and the employee’s expected leave time. A medical professional chosen by the employee completes the medical certification, not the employee.

An employer is able to create their own certification document, although the Department of Labor provides a certification form that is sufficient.⁴

You can request certification from the employee in limited instances. For example, you can request certification when an employee seeks FMLA leave for a serious health condition that causes the employee to be unable to perform their job’s normal, essential functions or if the employee is taking care of a family member with a serious health condition.

What are the deadlines for certification?

Generally, employers should request certification at the time an employee gives notice of their need for FMLA leave. If an employer does not request

certification at that time, it should be requested within five business days. An employer may request certification at a later date if the appropriateness of the leave or the duration of the employee’s leave comes into question.

After an employer requests certification, an employee has 15 days to provide the requested certification. The 15-day deadline is flexible when necessary. For instance, since a medical professional must fill out the document, it may not be practical for an employee to return it within 15 days. In that case, if the employee’s efforts are diligent and in good faith, an employer should accept the document.⁵ Employers may also create their own deadline for the certification document that is more than 15 days.

When an employee returns an insufficient certification, they are allowed seven days to return the certification with the deficiencies corrected. An insufficient certification document is one that is complete but with information provided to the employer that is “vague, ambiguous, or non-responsive.”

If an employee returns an incomplete certification document, the employee has seven days to complete the missing entries.⁶ If an employee fails to correct the deficiencies within the allotted time, the employer may deny FMLA leave. When a certification document is not returned, it is regarded as a failure to provide certification.

Can I ask for a second opinion?

Yes, but only in specific situations. If you have a reason to doubt the validity of the certification, an employee can be required to obtain a second opinion at the employer’s expense. While waiting for receipt of the second (or third) opinion, an employee remains entitled to the benefits of FMLA. If the later certification establishes the employee did not qualify for FMLA leave, the employer may then change the type of leave used. The provisional FMLA leave “may be treated as paid or unpaid leave under the employer’s established leave policies.”⁷

A municipal employer can choose the health care provider for the second opinion, although the employer

¹ 29 U.S.C. § 2611(4)(A)(iii); 29 C.F.R. § 825.108(d).

² 29 U.S.C. § 2611(2)(B)(ii).

³ 29 C.F.R. § 825.306.

⁴ For the full list of forms: www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/fmla/forms.

⁵ 29 C.F.R. § 825.305(b).

⁶ 29 C.F.R. § 825.305(c).


⁷ 29 C.F.R. § 825.307(b).

cannot choose a provider they regularly contract or utilize unless the employer's location is in an area where access to health care is "extremely limited."⁸

If the opinions of the employee's and employer's health care providers differ, the employer may require that the employee obtain certification through a third health care provider. The employee and employer must both, in good faith, choose the third medical professional. The opinion from this third health care provider will be final and binding. If during this process the employer's effort is not in good faith, the employer will be bound by the first certification. If the employee's effort is not in good faith, the employee will be bound by the second certification. If an employee does not furnish the documents necessary for certification to the third medical professional, you can deny the FMLA leave.

If you require a second or third opinion, you must reimburse the employee "for any reasonable 'out of pocket' travel expenses."⁹ An employee cannot be required to "travel outside normal commuting distances" for obtaining opinions.

Best practices

Don't be caught off guard when employees request FMLA leave. Ensure good policies are in place so you do not have to think about these issues when they arise. Include this policy in your employee handbook or provide FMLA guidelines. Also, utilize the Department of Labor's FMLA resources, which can be found online at www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/fmla/forms. 

Alena Hernandez is a law clerk at the Arkansas Municipal League. Tracey Pew, director of human resources, and Lanny Richmond, senior legal counsel, contributed to this article. For questions regarding the FMLA, contact Tracey Pew at 501-374-3484, ext. 111, or email tpew@arml.org.

⁸ 29 C.F.R. § 825.307(b)(2).

⁹ 29 C.F.R. § 825.307(e).



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Creative interlocal agreements help stretch dollars

By Mark Stodola

Even with the expectation of receiving federal dollars for infrastructure in the near future, cities and towns in Arkansas will still find themselves strapped for funding for basic municipal services.

Fortunately, Arkansas has for many years provided a framework for cities, towns, counties, school districts and agencies of the state to enter into interlocal agreements through the Interlocal Cooperation Act (Ark. Code Ann. § 25-20-101 et seq.). Interlocal cooperation agreements give local governments the ability to provide more cost-effective services by sharing resources, making joint purchases and avoiding duplication.

The legislature has also encouraged intergovernmental cooperation by establishing county intergovernmental cooperation councils in Ark. Code Ann. § 14-27-101, which requires the executives of all political subdivisions of each county to meet on a regular basis to encourage cooperation among the various local government jurisdictions and to explore the most efficient and cost-effective use of their mutual resources in providing services to their local communities.

The purpose of these laws is to explore the sharing of facilities, equipment, employees and services to the mutual benefit of the governments within the county. They encourage executives to use joint purchasing and buying agreements to purchase goods and services in an effort to achieve economies of scale that would not be possible without mutual cooperation and to identify areas of duplication of services so they may be eliminated to the maximum extent possible (Ark Code Ann. § 14-27-101).

Counties may also initiate interlocal agreements with one or more governments or public agencies, including other counties or other states (Ark Code Ann. §14-4-910). A good example of this type of cooperation is found with the operation of the Texarkana Regional Airport located in Arkansas and which is funded by both Texarkana, Arkansas, and Texarkana, Texas.

Types of interlocal agreements

Local governments have entered into interlocal agreements for all types of services, including purchasing, library services, water services, solid waste management, law enforcement, fire and emergency services, education, land management and more.

For example, Washington County and all the cities in the county are jointly funding and operating a hazmat response team. Maumelle and Conway have an agreement for joint cooperation for fire prevention and firefighting. Johnson and Springdale came together for design and environmental work for street extension and widening.

Fort Smith and Sebastian County constructed and operate a justice complex together. Highfill and Centerton agreed to provide animal control jointly. Metropolitan Emergency Medical Services (MEMS) provides ambulance services to Little Rock and the cities of Pulaski County as well as several other adjoining counties.

911 communications and facilities are jointly provided to Walnut Ridge, Hoxie and Lawrence County, and Nevada County and Prescott not only joined together on a health and fitness track but also jointly operate their jail and radio communications.

Cities and counties throughout the country are now exploring other new and innovative ways to provide for effective intergovernmental cooperation, including sharing equipment. Through “equipment pool” interlocal agreements, cities and counties may list available equipment with an hourly cost, both with and without an operator. In essence, cities can rent the equipment needed from other cities rather than having to purchase the equipment themselves and train their personnel.

Other cities have entered into interlocal agreements for such technology design services as GPS/GIS mapping where, rather than hiring independent design consultants, the economy of scale has reduced costs.

Legal requirements

Ark Code Ann. § 25-20-104 sets out very specifically the elements that must be in the agreement, including:

- Its purpose;
- Its duration;
- The precise organization, composition and nature of the agreement;
- The manner of financing and budget process; and
- The permissible methods in accomplishing or terminating the agreement.

If a legal entity is not created to conduct the joint undertaking, provisions should be made in the agreement for an administrator or a board made up of representatives to provide guidance for the operation. The agreement should also include the manner of acquiring, holding and disposing of real and personal property (Ark Code Ann. § 25-20-104).

Attorney general review

Importantly, every agreement entered into must first be submitted to the attorney general, whose responsibility it is to determine its proper form and compatibility with state law.

As a public official please keep in mind that while interlocal agreements are a great way to share resources and reduce costs, you should critically analyze the policy issues involved and the public reaction to the agreement proposed. Make sure that you are accomplishing your objective and your citizens are getting what they paid for with their valuable tax dollars. 🏛️



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 2007 to 2018 and as president of the National League of Cities in 2018.

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Kyle Salyer serves as a Director, Principal, and Vice-President at HW. He has been a Partner in the firm since 2009 and instrumental in the company's geographic growth. As a licensed Professional Engineer in Arkansas and Oklahoma, he has played a key role on numerous projects that include roadway design, stormwater drainage system modeling and design, water distribution system modeling and design, construction management, and private land development. Kyle is also a licensed Professional Surveyor in Arkansas, responsible for the management of all surveying services of the firm. He also serves as Board President on the Arkansas State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors in his second appointed 4-year term.

A lifelong resident of Crawford County, Kyle received his degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Arkansas. Just as importantly, he and his wife Kellie are die-hard Razorback fans. With their two children, Landon and Brylee Kate, they enjoy hunting, fishing, hiking, skiing, and appreciating the great outdoors. It is Kyle's love of the outdoors that provides him with motivation in his profession to ensure that he does his part to maintain and protect our precious natural resources.

I, Kyle Salyer, PE., PS.
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Jump-start your emergency response planning

By Allen Green, League staff

Since 2004, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has designated September as National Preparedness Month. The reason for this designation is to encourage all individuals, communities and businesses to be better prepared for emergencies. FEMA's theme is Disasters Don't Wait—Make Your Plan Today! With that in mind, let's review some key points for developing an emergency response plan.

The first and most important reason to invest in a preparedness program is to protect people, property, equipment and the environment. Maintaining continuity of services is also vital. Many disasters, natural or human-caused, may overwhelm the resources of even the largest public agencies. A preparedness program can also help manage loss risks. Some risks can be reduced by investing in loss prevention programs, protection systems and equipment. An understanding of the likelihood and severity of risk and the costs to reduce risk is needed to make these decisions.

To jump-start your emergency response plan development, consider these 10 steps:

1. Identify major hazards and threats for each location/operation.
2. Develop goals and objectives for your plan.
3. Assess the availability and capabilities of resources for incident stabilization, including people, systems and equipment available within your municipality and from external sources.
4. Work with public safety departments to determine response times to your facilities and educate them on potential hazards for each location.
5. Coordinate emergency planning with public safety departments to stabilize incidents involving the unique hazards at your facility.
6. Determine if there are any regulations pertaining to emergency planning at your facility; address applicable regulations in the plan.
7. Develop protective actions for life safety (evacuation, shelter, shelter-in-place, lockdown).
8. Develop hazard and threat-specific emergency response procedures.
9. Train personnel so they can fulfill their roles and responsibilities.
10. Develop and facilitate drills/exercises to practice your plan.

Leadership and commitment

To effectively develop an emergency response plan, maintain adequate resources and keep the program up to date, you must have leadership, commitment and financial support from top management. This, along with clearly defined roles and responsibilities and well thought out goals and objectives, must be developed for the plan to succeed.

Establishing goals and objectives

Establish goals and objectives for your program. Items that should be addressed include managing risk, hazard prevention and deterrence, providing resources, continuity of services, and establishing response capabilities through training and exercise.

Goals and objectives should be tangible and measurable. Think SMART—specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, time-bound. Track progress to determine if goals and objectives are being met. Both short-term and long-term goals and objectives should be considered.

Goals of a typical preparedness program might include:

- Protect the safety of employees, visitors, contractors and others at risk from hazards at the facility.
- Plan for persons with disabilities and functional needs.
- Maintain municipal services by minimizing interruptions or disruptions of operations.
- Protect facilities, physical assets and electronic information.
- Prevent environmental contamination.

Objectives should be set and implemented to achieve the goals established. Examples of short-term objectives might include:

- Develop evacuation, sheltering and lockdown plans. Conduct employee training and drills.
- Conduct a risk assessment to identify threat and hazard scenarios and significant loss potential.
- Conduct an impact analysis to identify the operational and financial impacts from a disruption of services.
- Establish a program committee that includes wide participation from municipal departments.
- Involve public safety departments.
- Install emergency generators for critical locations.

Examples of long-term objectives include:

- Install automatic fire suppression/sprinkler systems.
- Build or purchase back-up equipment or facilities.
- Phase out the use of highly toxic or flammable chemicals.
- Conduct a full-scale exercise of the emergency response plan involving public safety departments.

Program management

Consider utilizing key employees as a committee that will assist in the development, implementation and management of the preparedness program. Appoint a program coordinator to lead the group, guide the program and communicate essential aspects of the plan to all employees. Establish periodic program reviews to ensure the program meets your current needs.

When it comes to emergency response and preparedness, we should all do our best to abide by the longtime Boy Scouts of America motto: “Be Prepared!” Don’t wait until it’s too late. Make September the month you reassess your existing plan or develop a new one. 🏠



Allen Green is the League's loss control liaison. Contact Allen at 501-374-3484, ext. 122, or email him at agreen@arml.org.

Plan-Do-Check-Act

Utilize the Plan-Do-Check-Act method to manage your program and achieve continuous improvement. Plan each phase or change, test possible solutions, assess results and implement those that work.

- ✓ **Plan**—Recognize an opportunity for improvement and plan a change.
- ✓ **Do**—Test each planned change through drills, exercises or table-top assessments.
- ✓ **Check**—Review the test and analyze results. Recognize and focus on key takeaways.
- ✓ **Act**—Act and implement based on what you have learned.

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PHOTO BY JIM VON TUNGELN

A planning goal for a city might be simple: Stay the same, only better.

Planning made simple. Well, simpler.

By Jim von Tungeln

Time was that our cities and towns had access to resources to help them in the planning process. It started around the middle of the 20th century, when a group of stalwart planners from the Division of Community Affairs at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville traveled the state to help cities.

It wasn't an easy life for these pioneers. They ventured from Fayetteville to such distant destinations as Warren and Osceola to help form planning commissions, often making the round trip without rest. They helped cities produce plans and also supporting regulations. One can still find benefits produced by this effort, evidence of its lasting impact.

Then came the 1960s and what is now known as the Great Society years. Real money brought consulting planners and nonprofit planning agencies to the state. Planners with graduate degrees abounded. Some cities and towns wanted the plans to build their communities. Others simply wanted the plans to qualify them for larger "pipes in the ground" grant programs. At any rate,

plans took on a more sophisticated air, featuring color maps with circles and arrows and paragraphs on the back, to paraphrase a popular song of that era.

In the 1990s, a public agency created a small but successful grant program to help rural communities with the planning effort.

Then it all ended. So-called "marble cake federalism," in which various levels of government share interrelated policy goals, no longer provided "hard" aid in planning. Municipalities now often stand alone. There are periodic training sessions, but direct funding has disappeared.

For this reason, one finds cities that must rely on the products of previous planning efforts. They now operate with little assistance available for updating plans.

In the meantime, though, technical progress and sales tax options made it easier for municipalities to undertake the function alone. Time has come to examine how we may make the effort more efficient with scarce funding. Simplicity is primary.

Our state's planning statutes don't mandate planning, zoning or development regulations. Instead, they mandate consistency in the planning process. That means small towns must follow the same process as our largest. This creates a burden on a rural town that finds its scarce housing stock being converted to short-term rentals. The same holds true for one that fears a salvage yard downtown. A future of diverse issues faces all cities and towns, large, medium or small. Only the issues looming in that future change.

Following are some ideas for simplifying planning in all cases. Sophistication and efficiency in planning are not always positively correlated with a municipality's size.

First, never skip the statutes. They allow formation of a planning commission and enable it to prepare plans to promote "the present and future needs, the safety, morals, order, convenience, prosperity, and general welfare of the citizens." That statement is always foremost in planning.

Following adoption of a land use plan, the commission may prepare for submission to the legislative body a recommended "zoning ordinance [code] for the entire area of the municipality." Following adoption and filing of a master street plan, "the planning commission may prepare and shall administer, after approval of the legislative body, regulations controlling the development of land [in its planning area]."

The statutes, found mostly in Arkansas Code Ann. § 14-56-401 thru 426, do not mandate the form of a city's plan. Plans can be broad or targeted, simple or complex, plain or elaborate, depending upon the city or town.

They should all address certain elements of development. Remember to "fix the basics" first. Planners should consider Stephen Leacock, a Canadian political scientist and humorist, who wrote this about a character: "He flung himself from the room, flung himself upon his horse and rode madly off in all directions." Some municipal plans call this to mind on occasion.

Don't throw out the old plans without studying to see what wisdom they may have contained. It's not necessary to produce only new ideas with new plans. Also, new efforts may build effectively upon those that resulted from previous plans. "New and improved" may be a valuable guide in selling disposable goods but not so useful in guiding planning efforts. Building on assets saves work and benefits the community.

Don't use planning regulations to duplicate or contradict existing state or federal regulations that take precedence. One, the Arkansas Fire Prevention Code, is a municipality's building code unless it has adopted a more stringent one. It remains one of the municipality's best friends and the state fire marshal is always an asset.

For example, a typical question concerns so-called "tiny homes." In almost all cases, the issue doesn't involve small residential units that meet standards. Instead, proposals involve efforts to build unsafe and unsanitary units while using the current public-ity surrounding real tiny homes as cover. The Fire Prevention Code resolves this problem quickly and fairly.

Use outside sources. Some cities and towns don't have in-house access to mapping. Many, however, have access to geographic information systems (GIS) that can be used to document both existing and proposed land uses. There have been instances where high school classes have volunteered to help produce maps for the city. At any rate, this is a need that is far less expensive now than it was when the city's original plan may have come into existence.

Simplify mapping. Many cities and towns have complicated plan maps that (1) lock the planning commission into unrealistic objectives and (2) prove difficult to enforce. A city's plan provisions are merely policies. The plan map can be simplified by augmenting it with written policies that are much more useful and easier to publish.

Plan for all aspects of urban life. Some plans simply serve the automobile. Others strive to make businesses come or help them grow. Some others may concentrate on serving upper-income subdivisions or satisfying special interest groups. While some of these are worthwhile goals, the plan should serve all stakeholders. That's why we sometimes call them "comprehensive plans."

For smaller communities with fewer issues and limited resources, there may be a way to reduce the cost of plans and regulations. The Arkansas Municipal League and private consultants may help to reduce the cost of planning. Consider templates and guides that might allow much of the process to be carried out locally. In addition to lowering the cost, this "fill in the blanks" approach would promote local "skin in the game," which is always to be desired. Interested officials may contact the author to discuss this approach.

Finally, a municipality must recognize its context and limitations. What works for one city or town may not work for another. Pursuing goals that fit another city can be wasteful and counterproductive. And always remember a vital rule expounded by one of our state's preeminent urban planners: "Don't propose or enact what you can't enforce." 🏠



Jim von Tungeln is staff planning consultant and available for consultation as a service of the Arkansas Municipal League. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. Persons having comments or questions may reach him at 501-944-3649. His email is uplan@swbell.net.

Eclipse 2024

Arkansas is in the path of totality for this spectacular event. Is your community prepared?

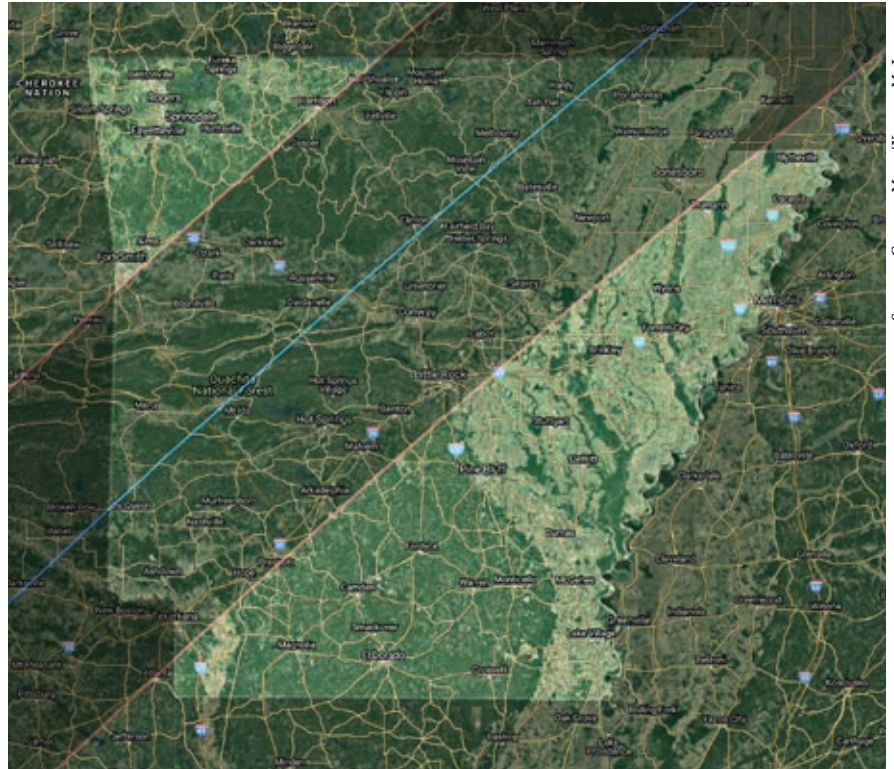
By Emily Cooper Yates

During the week of August 2-6, the University of Central Arkansas (UCA) Center for Community and Economic Development (CCED) hosted the 35th Annual Community Development Institute (CDI). Each year community developers, elected officials and community leaders flock to UCA's campus for a week of immersive training covering a range of topics related to community and economic development. This year's curriculum included a session about the 2024 North American total solar eclipse.

UCA astronomy professor Dr. Scott Austin, Trish Erzfeld, director of Perry County Heritage Tourism in Perryville, Missouri, and Visit Hot Springs marketing director Bill Solleder hosted an engaging and informative panel about the upcoming cosmic event. Each presenter offered a different perspective on the occasion—science, tourism and marketing.

Dr. Austin explained that a total solar eclipse occurs when the sun, moon and Earth align perfectly. The moon passes in front of the sun, which blocks out the sun's light, causing a moment of darkness during the daytime. The occurrence of a total solar eclipse is rare and seeing the event in one's lifetime is even less likely. Geographic location determines the visibility of the spectacle. Locations with the best view are part of what is called the path of totality. The last time Arkansas was in the path of totality was in 1918. A portion of Arkansas is in the path of totality for the next total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024.

This once-in-a-lifetime occurrence sets the stage for a boom in tourism for the state. The last total solar eclipse occurred in North America in 2017. Communities of all sizes in the path of totality experienced a record increase of visitors eager to get the best possible view of the eclipse. During their session at CDI, the presenters offered the following pieces of advice to prepare your community for the next solar eclipse.



SOURCE: GOOGLE MAPS/XAVIER M. JOUBIER

The path of totality for the 2024 eclipse covers a wide swath of Arkansas, offering a unique tourism opportunity for cities and towns.

Address the who, where and what

Immediately following the 2017 eclipse, Visit Hot Springs created a Facebook Event to generate buzz for the 2024 eclipse that quickly garnered 82,900 responses. Solleder noted that Hot Springs expects to see an influx of 100,000 visitors, whereas a smaller city like Pocahontas may see up to 15,000 visitors. Solleder said spectators will come to your community—regardless of size—eager to get the perfect view of the eclipse. As such, you should start planning as soon as possible. Begin by asking “who, where and what”: who is coming, where will they stay and what will the weather be?

Perryville, Missouri, was among the few towns in the coveted path of totality in 2017. The community estimated tens of thousands of tourists would visit the town of less than 10,000. Community leadership quickly began to question how their infrastructure would support such an explosion of people. Erzfeld established the Perry County Eclipse Task Force, which consisted of more than 50 people from all levels of government, astronomical societies, chambers of commerce and other community leaders. She explained that the task force was essential to make planning for a massive gathering more digestible and ensure every detail was considered. “The one thing I would do differently for the next eclipse is to begin planning earlier,” Erzfeld said.

Order your eclipse glasses now

Looking directly at the eclipse can damage your eyesight, so it is necessary to wear special solar filters or eclipse glasses for protection. Not only are these glasses essential for safety, but they also make great souvenirs or keepsakes to commemorate a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

“Over 31,000 pairs of eclipse glasses were sold or distributed by the Perryville tourism office,” Erzfeld said.

Legitimate eclipse glasses comply with transmission requirements of the ISO 12312-2. It is best to purchase your compliant eclipse glasses for 2024 as soon as possible, as vendors sold out quickly in 2017. The American Astronomical Society’s website has a list of reputable vendors for eclipse glasses (eclipse.aas.org).

Make the most out of a moment

The solar eclipse itself will last less than five minutes, but visitors are likely to stay in the area overnight and make a trip out of the occasion. Plan to make the most out of visitors’ time in your community by hosting additional celebrations.

Perry County turned the 2017 eclipse, timed at about four minutes, into a week-long festival called Solarfest. In the days leading up to the main event, tourists and residents alike participated in a glow-in-the-dark 5k and a mud run, visited a mobile planetarium and contributed to a chalk art festival. “The 2017 eclipse gave Perryville worldwide exposure to people that normally would not have known about our city,” Erzfeld said. “It allowed us to showcase what was special about our area to potential visitors, businesses and residents.”

A solar eclipse is a can’t-miss cosmic display. With Arkansas in the path of totality for the 2024 total solar eclipse, communities should anticipate a major increase in tourism. Start planning now to prepare your community for this historic event.

CDI 2022 will be held August 1-5, 2022. If you are interested in learning more about the Community Development Institute, visit www.uca.edu/cdi. 🏠



Emily Cooper Yates is the project coordinator for the University of Central Arkansas Center for Community and Economic Development (CCED). Learn more about CCED at www.uca.edu/cced.

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Gynecologic cancer awareness

By Michael Birrer, M.D., Ph.D., and Heather Williams, M.D.

While there are many aspects of life we can't control, there are many diseases we can try our best to prevent, including gynecologic cancers. Gynecologic cancer is any cancer that starts in a woman's reproductive organs, and there are five main types: cervical, ovarian, uterine/endometrial, vaginal and vulvar.

September is Gynecologic Cancer Awareness Month, and although it may be uncomfortable to discuss, it's time we talk about any steps that can be taken to mitigate the risks of exposure.

Prevention is the best medicine

There are two specific ways to lower the risk of gynecologic cancer: the HPV vaccine and the Pap test.

Human papilloma virus (HPV) is a virus that can be contracted through any type of sexual activity or close skin-to-skin contact during sexual activity. The HPV vaccine protects girls and women against different types of HPV that most often cause cervical, vaginal and vulvar cancers (also head and neck cancers, anal cancer and penile cancers in men).

Based on research from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in August 2020, there were approximately 21,000 cases of HPV-related cancer in women in the United States. HPV vaccination is highly recommended for all preteens age 11 to 12 years old—both boys and girls. Although this seems like a young age, it's important to understand that the vaccine will protect your child against most HPV-related cancers for the rest of their lives.

Children under age 15 who receive the vaccine are recommended to get two doses administered six to 12 months apart. People age 15 and older are given a series of three shots, but it's important to note that the vaccine is generally not recommended for everyone age 27 and older because it's not as effective (many women at this age have already been infected). It is approved for women up to age 45 for certain circumstances. Women in the 27 to 45 age range should discuss with their primary care physician or gynecologist if vaccination is right for them.

Even after getting the HPV vaccine, it's crucial for women to get a full gynecologic exam every year.

The Pap test, also known as a Pap smear, is normally conducted during a gynecologic exam and is used to detect cervical cancer early, in addition to screening for precancers. Early diagnosis can save lives and lessen the

long-term effects. Pap tests are usually repeated every three to five years if test results are normal.

At this time, there aren't any screening tests for the other four gynecologic cancers.

A woman's reproductive system

Many women have trouble identifying the main parts of their reproductive system. If you don't know your body, you don't know what to look for—possibly until it's too late.

Cervical cancer begins in the cervix, which is the lower, narrow end of the uterus. The uterus is also known as the womb, where a pregnant woman carries her child and where uterine cancer begins.

Ovarian cancer starts in the ovaries, which hold the eggs and are located on each side of the uterus.

Vaginal cancer starts in the vagina, which is the pathway between the uterus and the outside of the body, and vulvar cancer begins in the vulva, which is the visible, outer part of female genital organs.

Symptoms and effects

It's always important to understand your body and pay attention to it. The most common symptoms of gynecologic cancer can include abnormal vaginal bleeding or discharge, pelvic pain or pressure and the frequent urge to urinate, in addition to constipation.

Like all cancers, gynecologic cancer can potentially cause devastating, permanent damage. Long-term effects of gynecologic cancer can include infertility, heart disease, bladder problems, bowel changes and inability to produce estrogen among others.

Treatments typically include surgery, chemotherapy and/or radiation. It is important to note that gynecologic cancers are survivable, especially if caught early. So don't be afraid to talk to your doctor if you think something is wrong. You might just save your life. 🙏



Michael J. Birrer, M.D., Ph.D., is vice chancellor and director of the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.



Heather Williams, M.D., is a gynecologic oncologist and an assistant professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

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PHOTOS BY KRISTA QUINN

Large-stature trees, like this sugar maple, provide a lot of shade and cool the air, making outdoor spaces more comfortable and reducing energy use in buildings.

Big trees, big benefits

By Krista Quinn

The average size of individual trees in most U.S. cities is getting smaller. One reason for this is that people who live in cities and towns tend to select and plant trees that mature at a small size. Trees of smaller stature may easily fit into urban landscapes, but they do not provide as many benefits to communities or the environment as large stature trees do.

Large trees obviously provide more shade than smaller trees, but there are many other ways that large trees also help communities and the people who live in them. Planting any quality tree is beneficial, but communities should be looking for opportunities to plant large-stature trees and preserve existing large trees whenever possible to maximize the benefits provided.

Bigger is better

Large, stately trees do more to enhance the appearance and livability of cities and towns than almost any other type of landscaping. Tree-lined streets add beauty

and character to communities and create a sense of tranquility. The many layers of branches and leaves from large trees also block soundwaves, making our communities quieter and more peaceful. Additionally, large trees are great for screening unsightly views and provide habitat for many birds and other wildlife.

Trees also reduce air pollution by directly removing particulate matter from the air. Particulate matter can cause inflammation of the airways and reduce lung function. Plants with large leaf areas and “hairy” or sticky leaves are very effective at removing these pollutants from air. Large trees remove more particulate matter than small trees simply because they have more leaves.

Large trees also significantly reduce air temperatures through shading and transpiration cooling. As trees release water into the atmosphere from their leaves, the surrounding air is cooled as the water is converted from a liquid to a vapor. Lower air temperatures make outdoor spaces more comfortable, reduce energy use in buildings



This large, grassy area free of overhead powerlines is an ideal location to plant trees that will mature at a large size to help manage stormwater and reduce air pollution near the street.

and reduce the formation of ozone or smog in cities. Since large trees provide more shade and tend to transpire more, they are more effective at reducing air temperatures than small trees.

Additionally, large trees can play an important role in reducing short term flooding in communities and keeping waterways clean. The leaves and branches of trees intercept and absorb rainfall, reducing the amount of water that ultimately reaches the ground. The velocity of raindrops is also reduced when they encounter tree canopies, which reduces soil erosion and sediment pollution of waterways. Tree roots also allow more water to be absorbed into the soil so less becomes runoff. Also, trees can remove trace amounts of harmful chemicals in stormwater and transform those chemicals into less harmful substances, use them as nutrients or store them in their plant tissues. Large trees are much more effective for managing stormwater than small trees.

Right tree, right place

Horticulturalists have long encouraged choosing plant varieties and planting locations carefully to ensure their success. The Arbor Day Foundation promotes planting the right tree in the right place and offers resources at www.arborday.org/trees/righttreeandplace. Evaluate site conditions first and then select a tree with growth needs and characteristics that will perform well in that site. For example, a tree that grows best in shade and moist soil should be planted on a shady, moist site. The Arbor Day Foundation also recommends selecting trees that will easily fit in a space when they reach their mature height and spread. This is good advice to prevent conflicts between trees and buildings or other infrastructure as trees grow, but it can lead people to choose smaller trees even when there is plenty of space for large trees.

Because large trees provide so many environmental, aesthetic and social benefits, it is best to plant the largest

tree that will fit into a space when it matures. We have many oaks that make wonderful yard, park and street trees. Some even have colorful fall foliage, including scarlet oaks, Shumard oaks and Nuttall oaks. Tulip poplars (also called tulip trees) are a great choice when large, fast-growing trees are desired, perhaps near a playground or other outdoor area where shade is needed. Other large trees that do well in cities and towns include bald cypress, red maples, sugar maples, black tupelos, birch, Kentucky coffee trees, and disease-resistant varieties of American elm. Planting large-stature trees can also be very cost effective, since fewer trees are needed to complete a landscape.

Preserving large trees

Working to preserve as many large, mature trees as possible is often the best way to ensure that communities maximize tree benefits since it can take several decades for young, newly planted trees to provide the same level of environmental services as mature trees. Unfortunately, mature trees are not very tolerant of changes that occur in their root zones, and those root zones often extend well beyond the tree canopy. Changes in drainage, compaction, trenching, tilling or excavating near mature trees will often kill them.

Extreme care should be taken when construction activities occur near trees. Whenever possible, new construction should be located in areas with few existing trees. If constructing near trees, install fences around the entire root zone of the trees to be preserved to prevent any driving, parking or material stacking over the roots of the trees. If construction activities must occur in the root zone of trees, spread a temporary, 9-inch layer of wood chip mulch (not bark) over the root zone to conserve moisture and reduce compaction. When the construction is completed, remove the mulch or reduce it to a 2 to 4-inch depth. Similarly, when installing underground utilities in root zones, bore under the roots rather than trench to keep the roots intact. Conducting construction activities when trees are dormant can also be less damaging than doing it during the hot, dry summer months when trees are already stressed.

When it comes to providing community benefits, big trees really are better. Large trees make cities and towns more livable and provide many important environmental services. Communities should work to plant more large-stature trees and preserve existing large trees when possible. 🌳



Krista Quinn is a county extension agent in Faulkner County with the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service. Contact Krista at 501-329-8344 or email klquinn@uada.edu.



PHOTO COURTESY MCE

B Street Trail, Bentonville.

Get geotechnical for more stable, durable trails

By Steven J. Head, PE

It's no secret that trails can generate substantial benefits for cities and towns, and communities across the state regularly invest in quality-of-life amenities like new trail construction. Trails can increase adjacent property values and have shown to boost spending at local businesses. They make communities more attractive places to live and promote active, healthy lifestyles. Proximity to trail systems can even influence business location and relocation decisions.

Geotechnical investigations, which provide recommendations for subgrade stability, pavements, foundations and other project elements, are standard for most commercial construction projects and assist with both design and budgeting. Public trail projects, however, do not often include geotechnical investigations since

the scope, design and construction of these projects are fairly straightforward. Unfortunately, this can lead to unforeseen conditions during construction that adversely impact the budget and sometimes the end product. Subgrade issues especially impact trail projects, given that the subgrade makes up such a substantial portion of the project scope.

New trails are often routed through areas that have not been previously developed due to conditions that lead to difficult construction, such as poor soils and drainage. Trails through previously developed properties can also come with surprises during construction, depending on what's beneath the surface. Geotechnical investigations can provide recommendations to remediate problematic soil conditions and help to ensure that

resources are planned and budgeted on the front end of the project. Findings from a geotechnical investigation can even lead to a trail alignment that is more feasible and cost-effective in the long term. While added up-front costs for construction may not be the most popular choice for budget-conscious municipal leaders, they can prove less expensive than the cost of future repairs to a trail with inadequate subgrade stability.

Trail construction is typically straightforward, building what is in essence an oversized sidewalk. However, it is important that design and planning personnel recognize that the construction process itself is often the most impactful on the subgrade. Trail alignments are often in areas that aren't easily accessible, which means the under-construction trail becomes the route for trucks and materials. This load on the subgrade is far greater than what it will receive during its service life, but it must perform to its needed capacity nonetheless.

In many cases, a trail's subgrade conditions must support a concrete truck or asphalt paver, which is quite a bit different than the minimum support needed

for bicycle and foot traffic. Some trail routes become a network of paths utilized by city maintenance vehicles, which aren't as impactful as construction equipment but certainly impose more weight than pedestrians.

More complex trail design and construction elements such as bridges or tunnels should certainly be accommodated by a geotechnical investigation. On-site quality control is also important to ensure that the project has been constructed according to specifications, which further reduces the potential for issues in the future.

Trails continue to be some of our city and towns' most popular amenities. Performing geotechnical investigations on new trail projects is a wise front-end investment and a key component in the budgeting, design and construction processes. 🏠



Steven Head is a partner and head of MCE's Construction Related Services Department and he works out of the Fayetteville office. Contact Steven by phone at 479-443-2377 or email him at shead@mce.us.com.

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Actual Totals Per Capita						
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MONTH	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021
January	\$6.789	\$6.659	\$0.083	\$0.071	\$2.145	\$1.951
February	\$6.340	\$6.607	\$0.118	\$0.163	\$1.087	\$0.893
March	\$5.758	\$5.693	\$0.101	\$0.110	\$1.087	\$0.892
April	\$6.088	\$6.135	\$0.064	\$0.162	\$0.924	\$0.889
May	\$5.943	\$7.568	\$0.034	\$0.258	\$0.924	\$0.890
June	\$5.605	\$6.753	\$0.030	\$0.206	\$0.924	\$1.665
July	\$6.094	\$7.303	\$0.022	\$0.163	\$2.795	\$4.306
August	\$6.478	\$6.988	\$0	\$0.150	\$1.542	\$0.854
September	\$6.399		\$0.014		\$0.728	
October	\$6.378		\$0.021		\$0.893	
November	\$6.340		\$0.060		\$0.893	
December	\$5.984		\$0.105		\$0.893	
Total Year	\$74.197	\$53.705	\$0.652	\$1.284	\$14.838	\$12.339

Actual Totals Per Month						
	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
MONTH	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021
January	\$12,833,880.33	\$12,587,621.61	\$156,199.64	\$134,647.89	* \$4,054,970.57	* \$3,688,464.32
February	\$11,984,924.80	\$12,488,753.05	\$223,221.26	\$308,183.56	\$2,055,049.55	\$1,688,281.84
March	\$10,883,990.67	\$10,760,836.82	\$191,150.53	\$207,709.60	\$2,055,396.67	\$1,685,424.74
April	\$11,509,342.85	\$11,627,333.33	\$120,647.65	\$307,147.46	\$1,747,446.98	\$1,684,913.88
May	\$11,233,895.61	\$14,343,742.05	\$63,817.15	\$489,324.42	\$1,747,094.76	\$1,687,137.50
June	\$10,595,347.60	\$12,799,319.93	\$57,224.47	\$390,405.22	\$1,747,446.98	\$3,154,867.86
July	\$11,520,392.64	\$13,841,564.30	\$41,735.92	\$309,031.02	** \$5,284,317.00	*** \$8,160,945.43
August	\$12,263,537.56	\$13,245,023.56	\$0	\$285,053.21	\$2,919,346.12	\$1,617,878.89
September	\$12,097,147.76		\$26,456.51		\$1,376,535.41	
October	\$12,057,206.89		\$39,675.17		\$1,688,464.32	
November	\$11,984,780.59		\$113,060.67		\$1,688,281.98	
December	\$11,312,336.38		\$199,121.43		\$1,688,464.32	
Total Year	\$140,276,783.68	\$101,694,194.65	\$1,232,310.40	\$2,431,502.38	\$28,052,814.66	\$23,367,914.46

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

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

***Includes \$3,513,480.88 supplemental for July 2021

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 2021 with 2020 Comparison (shaded gray)

Month	Municipal Tax		County Tax	Total Tax		Interest		
January	\$68,199,990	\$62,951,910	\$59,726,912	\$54,023,046	\$127,926,902	\$116,974,957	\$14,602	\$137,620
February	\$79,611,239	\$73,128,305	\$68,300,663	\$61,276,755	\$147,911,902	\$134,405,060	\$20,412	\$151,340
March	\$66,877,931	\$57,761,974	\$57,918,592	\$49,863,364	\$124,796,523	\$107,625,338	\$13,492	\$140,860
April	\$60,600,707	\$58,720,966	\$53,282,134	\$50,676,002	\$113,882,841	\$109,396,969	\$16,537	\$173,069
May	\$83,488,059	\$64,061,809	\$73,792,913	\$55,167,274	\$157,280,972	\$118,762,027	\$10,492	\$51,758
June	\$78,858,097	\$61,816,632	\$67,860,902	\$54,700,218	\$146,718,999	\$120,220,830	\$9,681	\$37,445
July	\$76,784,978	\$66,569,122	\$65,778,959	\$58,404,198	\$142,563,936	\$127,921,569	\$12,566	\$27,240
August	\$78,501,622	\$69,810,263	\$67,970,242	\$61,352,447	\$146,471,864	\$132,096,586	\$9,395	\$22,963
September		\$69,731,104		\$62,286,322		\$132,017,426		\$14,982
October		\$67,795,513		\$60,898,642		\$128,694,156		\$13,552
November		\$70,085,468		\$62,498,473		\$132,583,941		\$12,579
December		\$67,813,178		\$60,080,515		\$127,893,693		\$14,370
Total	\$592,922,623	\$790,246,247	\$514,631,317	\$691,227,256	\$1,107,553,939	\$1,488,592,551	\$107,177	\$797,777
Averages	\$74,115,328	\$65,853,854	\$64,328,915	\$57,602,271	\$138,444,242	\$124,049,379	\$13,397	\$66,481

August 2021 Municipal Levy Receipts and August 2021 Municipal/County Levy Receipts with 2020 Comparison (shaded gray)

CITY SALES AND USE	AMOUNT	LAST YEAR	Garland	1,828.43	2,262.71	Mountain Home	751,905.58	696,237.26	Wynne	177,926.96	166,504.83
Alexander	175,119.83	161,851.10	Gassville	27,426.66	24,219.49	Mountain View	226,212.62	206,341.88	Yellville	59,129.81	64,242.63
Alma	313,402.29	265,929.73	Gentry	142,155.62	129,921.90	Mountainburg	17,226.97	16,013.12	COUNTY SALES AND USE		
Almyra	3,467.05	2,934.35	Gilbert	2,841.36	2,940.12	Mulberry	34,956.94	33,569.71	Arkansas County	332,374.22	292,976.18
Alpena	8,215.42	7,478.21	Gillett	13,326.42	12,388.25	Murfreesboro	44,412.66	40,002.09	Ashley County	258,386.68	257,411.20
Alzheimer	4,006.76	4,118.68	Gillham	9,295.44	5,951.35	Nashville	138,251.32	126,442.04	Crossett	62,879.67	62,642.28
Altus	8,847.17	10,554.28	Gilmore	352.63	424.45	Newport	234,811.78	222,065.53	Fountain Hill	1,998.17	1,990.63
Amity	16,514.79	15,557.59	Glenwood	102,525.87	95,703.84	Norfolk	8,816.22	7,148.89	Hamburg	32,621.61	32,498.46
Anthonyville	1,382.04	1,609.36	Goshen	33,679.56	15,131.15	Norman	4,769.40	4,820.64	Mantoloke	4,042.02	4,026.76
Arkadelphia	444,925.47	410,568.98	Gosnell	18,251.19	22,781.94	North Little Rock	3,669,249.61	3,167,383.96	Parkdale	3,162.82	3,150.88
Ash Flat	133,388.40	129,394.09	Gould	16,153.28	15,486.56	Oak Grove	1,333.96	1,213.36	Portland	4,909.80	4,891.26
Ashdown	165,823.35	166,065.61	Grady	6,653.31	6,052.52	Oak Grove Heights	20,904.95	12,045.28	Wilnot	6,279.98	6,256.27
Atkins	76,214.14	71,282.38	Gravette	102,535.63	100,519.90	Ola	20,169.06	19,655.60	Baxter County	686,746.74	623,212.86
Augusta	24,741.20	29,098.60	Green Forest	128,754.84	120,772.07	Oppelo	4,972.26	3,902.60	Big Flat	2,079.04	1,886.70
Austin	58,816.22	48,008.32	Greenbrier	303,546.10	298,197.88	Osceola	104,546.14	111,155.95	Briarcliff	4,717.81	4,281.35
Avoca	9,980.43	11,153.05	Greenland	43,062.97	39,197.41	Oxford	3,428.99	4,431.75	Cotter	19,391.01	17,597.07
Bald Knob	64,203.69	61,428.41	Greenwood	292,362.37	278,131.10	Ozark	224,769.81	185,144.03	Gassville	41,540.75	37,697.64
Barling	58,806.91	78,155.94	Greers Ferry	37,885.07	30,881.02	Palestine	33,841.50	29,537.82	Lakeview	14,813.14	13,442.71
Batesville	812,072.69	750,217.83	Guion	2,014.50	NA	Pangburn	9,503.22	8,453.55	Mountain Home	248,844.68	225,822.99
Bauxite	25,632.01	20,518.29	Gum Springs	556.08	441.17	Paragould	392,780.84	371,948.07	Norfork	10,215.27	9,270.21
Bay	10,648.14	10,889.84	Gurdon	28,935.96	32,154.78	Paris	79,992.12	80,098.26	Salesville	8,995.82	8,163.58
Bearden	13,487.50	11,712.49	Guy	10,226.68	8,141.14	Parkdale	487.01	NA	Benton County	1,220,134.66	1,000,403.49
Beebe	170,704.25	157,102.40	Hackett	8,095.13	8,253.31	Parkin	4,319.57	NA	Patmos	813.02	781.58
Beedeville	172.04	150.46	Hamburg	90,356.79	101,493.74	Patterson	1,575.59	1,581.13	Perla	113,564.60	93,040.14
Bella Vista	605,912.83	253,096.95	Hampton	6,116.83	8,829.23	Pea Ridge	113,564.60	93,040.14	Perryville	26,043.46	28,626.00
Belleville	3,054.80	3,372.69	Hardy	32,549.63	26,595.19	Perla	3,320.76	1,990.53	Piggott	75,885.40	78,103.96
Benton	2,038,892.82	1,896,151.65	Harrisburg	78,240.99	61,684.50	Pine Bluff	1,524,087.60	1,810,959.16	Pineview	2,775.97	2,667.36
Bentonville	3,715,011.74	2,751,610.97	Harrison	643,789.15	570,955.45	Pineville	2,775.97	2,667.36	Plainview	4,478.40	5,460.76
Berryville	350,795.99	314,437.65	Hartford	8,204.58	4,849.12	Pleasant Plains	12,587.95	12,051.17	Plumerville	15,700.30	12,365.13
Bethel Heights	3,411.68	114,985.23	Haskell	61,215.03	48,097.12	Pocahontas	340,179.47	310,660.08	Portia	4,673.55	4,210.99
Big Flat	345.73	426.74	Hatfield	5,671.89	5,028.21	Portland	9,875.88	10,683.91	Portland	9,875.88	10,683.91
Black Rock	9,054.31	8,064.04	Havana	4,080.48	3,980.30	Pottsville	32,116.92	38,454.36	Pottsville	32,116.92	38,454.36
Blains	4,427.36	4,524.53	Hazen	95,930.92	78,428.95	Prairie Grove	200,864.63	182,891.84	Prairie Grove	200,864.63	182,891.84
Blue Mountain	301.23	250.68	Heber Springs	215,450.57	194,189.48	Prescott	68,890.44	57,332.59	Pyatt	1,748.04	1,356.75
Blountville	512,604.82	433,291.74	Hector	6,438.71	6,051.99	Ravenden	3,906.32	3,208.48	Quitman	33,687.95	29,504.07
Bonanza	3,846.16	3,065.70	Helena-West Helena	257,000.55	279,906.61	Rector	34,231.45	30,859.70	Ravenden	3,906.32	3,208.48
Bono	25,556.82	28,459.53	Hermitage	23,197.98	7,770.38	Redfield	44,199.84	46,722.91	Redfield	44,199.84	46,722.91
Booneville	149,911.90	140,876.49	Higginson	2,032.72	1,753.91	Rison	20,135.78	15,908.70	Rison	20,135.78	15,908.70
Bradford	15,469.66	18,900.32	Highfill	65,589.19	17,346.12	Rockport	18,872.22	18,800.43	Roe	631.56	695.01
Bradley	5,569.06	2,684.32	Highland	32,862.52	36,084.44	Rogers	4,306,407.12	3,647,583.14	Rogers	4,306,407.12	3,647,583.14
Branch	2,577.87	2,648.95	Holly Grove	7,983.63	8,727.01	Rose Bud	20,950.84	20,382.07	Rose Bud	20,950.84	20,382.07
Briarcliff	3,309.52	1,702.82	Hope	200,617.93	198,366.99	Rudy	13,179.99	12,213.44	Rudy	13,179.99	12,213.44
Brinkley	211,910.56	210,107.76	Horatio	8,915.74	7,659.28	Russellville	1,351,658.09	1,190,551.05	Russellville	1,351,658.09	1,190,551.05
Brockland	104,862.16	97,121.70	Horseshoe Bend	33,089.76	34,054.45	Salem	27,183.08	26,752.40	Salem	27,183.08	26,752.40
Bryant	1,567,874.58	1,434,833.95	Hot Springs	2,352,259.91	1,979,515.05	Salesville	6,377.36	6,798.34	Salesville	6,377.36	6,798.34
Bull Shoals	41,195.67	42,375.50	Hoxie	20,823.64	19,693.34	Scranton	4,793.37	4,569.82	Scranton	4,793.37	4,569.82
Cabot	1,111,953.13	976,332.76	Hughes	8,713.20	7,175.60	Searcy	1,037,197.95	936,294.99	Searcy	1,037,197.95	936,294.99
Caddo Valley	62,143.10	73,550.73	Humphrey	2,937.56	1,974.68	Shannon Hills	15,305.57	13,624.52	Shannon Hills	15,305.57	13,624.52
Calico Rock	57,666.42	49,688.76	Huntington	4,373.96	4,675.49	Sheridan	247,538.47	239,459.48	Sheridan	247,538.47	239,459.48
Camden	371,471.74	359,476.18	Huntsville	169,320.24	153,894.99	Sherrill	687.71	970.47	Sherrill	687.71	970.47
Caraway	8,486.08	6,753.72	Imboden	12,343.29	15,700.26	Shirley	1,190,250.09	1,145,071.96	Shirley	1,190,250.09	1,145,071.96
Carlisle	65,691.32	63,204.21	Jacksonville	882,851.05	819,108.22	Siloam Springs	971,098.70	837,458.18	Siloam Springs	971,098.70	837,458.18
Cash	2,967.15	3,065.39	Jasper	44,640.51	49,782.63	Sparkman	4,838.23	5,044.37	Sparkman	4,838.23	5,044.37
Cave City	27,895.53	26,560.89	Jennette	316.00	237.97	Springdale	3,485,308.69	3,089,665.79	Springdale	3,485,308.69	3,089,665.79
Cave Springs	143,173.94	123,983.90	Johnson	84,853.80	71,935.42	Springtown	537.67	410.24	Springtown	537.67	410.24
Cedarville	13,522.09	10,652.35	Joiner	3,769.96	4,307.43	St. Charles	1,789.70	2,009.17	St. Charles	1,789.70	2,009.17
Centerton	389,023.79	346,829.86	Jonesboro	2,004,307.56	1,748,457.94	St. Paul	3,971.99	NA	St. Paul	3,971.99	NA
Charleston	39,079.61	41,199.38	Judsonia	14,215.97	14,930.35	Stamps	16,011.12	14,622.80	Stamps	16,011.12	14,622.80
Cherokee Village	26,143.43	25,348.61	Junction City	6,613.39	7,530.94	Star City	60,012.69	86,195.93	Star City	60,012.69	86,195.93
Cherry Valley	3,915.43	NA	Keiser	4,973.05	5,482.79	Stephens	6,802.24	5,723.70	Stephens	6,802.24	5,723.70
Chidester	6,094.17	3,518.14	Keo	1,887.51	1,155.84	Strong	9,290.48	12,062.14	Strong	9,290.48	12,062.14
Clarendon	49,711.27	46,130.38	Kibler	6,919.39	4,286.26	Stuttgart	652,921.70	561,056.77	Stuttgart	652,921.70	561,056.77
Clarksville	480,233.47	422,913.12	Kingsland	2,847.31	2,366.34	Subiaco	8,469.99	2,294.30	Subiaco	8,469.99	2,294.30
Clinton	118,578.99	105,245.63	Lake City	15,807.60	15,579.01	Sulphur Springs	3,427.88	NA	Sulphur Springs	3,427.88	NA
Coal Hill	5,452.14	5,702.49	Lake Village	90,048.71	82,110.31	Summit	5,707.65	6,101.58	Summit	5,707.65	6,101.58
Conway	3,402,919.64	3,044,991.93	Lakeview	5,361.64	6,330.89	Sunset	10,506.78	10,198.72	Sunset	10,506.78	10,198.72
Corning	74,956.73	72,297.89	Lamar	26,592.14	23,137.16	Swifton	5,626.14	5,995.97	Swifton	5,626.14	5,995.97
Cotter	19,960.47	19,640.52	Leachville	12,125.71	NA	Taylor	11,666.20	12,585.31	Taylor	11,666.20	12,585.31
Cotton Plant	9,740.26	2,690.92	Lead Hill	7,781.92	6,552.36	Texarkana	551,027.40	499,300.81	Texarkana	551,027.40	499,300.81
Cove	15,990.11	14,329.17	Lepanto	36,005.14	36,173.87	Texarkana Special	246,869.94	222,435.00	Texarkana Special	246,869.94	222,435.00
Crawfordsville	11,708.06	10,280.06	Leslie	8,911.88	7,023.25	Thornton	1,377.20	1,367.98	Thornton	1,377.20	1,367.98
Crossett	259,925.27	179,966.12	Levinville	2,532.31	10,545.70	Tontitown	400,708.92	315,687.36	Tontitown	400,708.92	315,687.36
Damascus	11,478.45	9,891.60	Lincoln	90,760.57	53,022.99	Trumann	194,251.73	194,458.07	Trumann	194,251.73	194,458.07
Danville	47,396.29	49,313.95	Little Flock	22,413.65	17,292.25	Tucker	13,113.58	14,651.80	Tucker	13,113.58	14,651.80
Dardanelle	193,182.97	175,268.03	Little Rock	7,965,468.05	6,706,585.28	Turrell	7,956.82	5,475.01	Turrell	7,956.82	5,475.01
Decatur	23,214.02	20,897.81	Lockesburg	6,976.43	6,493.72	Tyronza	2,331.80	4,013.96	Tyronza	2,331.80	4,013.96
Delight	5,543.02	5,489.14	Lonoke	296,754.75	260,777.30	Van Buren	660,648.70	619,970.99	Van Buren	660,648.70	619,970.99
De Queen	150,713.08	136,203.86	Lowell	704,099.23	632,226.00	Vandervoort	497.83				

Black Oak	6,227.85	5,395.69	Independence County	641,155.91	610,160.47	Bassett	2,608.27	2,411.07	Waldron	33,503.81	33,993.22
Bono	50,654.74	43,886.29	Batesville	174,621.38	166,179.64	Birdsong	618.15	571.41	Searcy County	104,674.85	95,204.94
Brookland	46,803.94	40,550.03	Cave City	2,760.41	2,626.96	Blytheville	235,498.28	217,693.26	Big Flat	10.24	9.31
Caraway	30,402.35	26,340.01	Cushman	7,701.88	7,329.55	Burdette	2,879.65	2,661.93	Gilbert	286.68	260.75
Cash	8,129.48	7,043.22	Magness	3,441.99	3,275.59	Dell	3,362.11	3,107.91	Leslie	4,515.25	4,106.75
Egypt	2,662.29	2,306.55	Moorefield	2,334.42	2,221.57	Dyess	6,181.45	5,714.10	Marshall	13,873.37	12,618.25
Jonesboro	1,598,869.09	1,385,229.35	Newark	20,038.52	19,069.80	Etowah	5,291.93	4,891.83	Pindall	1,146.73	1,042.98
Lake City	49,489.99	42,877.18	Oil Trough	4,430.28	4,216.11	Gosnell	53,921.18	49,447.87	St. Joe	1,351.50	1,229.24
Monette	35,679.39	30,911.94	Pleasant Plains	5,946.81	5,659.32	Joiner	8,684.19	8,027.61	Sebastian County	1,054,640.54	960,814.01
Crawford County	975,398.43	904,431.17	Southside	66,471.31	63,257.88	Keiser	11,443.23	10,578.05	Baring	96,389.09	87,813.80
Alma	70,984.99	65,820.32	Sulphur Rock	7,770.03	7,394.41	Leachville	30,047.89	27,776.10	Bonanza	11,921.64	10,861.03
Cedarville	18,260.39	16,931.82	Izard County	61,193.72	55,755.89	Luxora	17,760.37	16,417.58	Central City	10,408.11	9,482.15
Chester	2,082.79	1,931.25	Jackson County	321,662.75	316,369.77	Manila	50,386.38	46,576.88	Fort Smith	1,787,396.67	1,628,380.20
Dyer	11,474.97	10,640.08	Amagon	1,153.70	1,134.72	Marie	1,266.44	1,170.69	Greenwood	185,604.46	169,092.09
Kibler	12,588.41	11,672.51	BeeDeville	1,259.66	1,238.93	Osceola	116,950.08	108,107.98	Hackett	16,835.44	15,337.66
Mountainburg	8,265.64	7,664.26	Campbell Station	3,001.99	2,952.59	Victoria	557.84	515.66	Hartford	13,310.78	12,126.58
Mulberry	21,679.30	20,101.98	Diaz	15,516.15	15,260.83	Wilson	13,614.27	12,584.98	Huntington	13,165.64	11,994.36
Rudy	799.06	740.92	Grubbs	4,544.18	4,469.41	Monroe County	NA	NA	Lavaca	47,458.51	43,236.35
Van Buren	298,545.64	276,824.29	Jacksonport	2,495.77	2,454.70	Montgomery County	297,682.77	281,791.51	Mansfield	14,990.17	13,656.57
Crittenden County	977,042.33	1,584,978.35	Newport	92,755.47	91,229.17	Black Springs	1,106.50	1,047.43	Midland	6,738.32	6,138.84
Anthonyville	1,427.06	1,286.73	Swiftan	9,394.45	9,239.86	Glenwood	469.43	444.37	Sevier County	535,920.82	494,268.51
Clarkedale	3,288.45	2,965.08	Tuckerman	21,920.38	21,559.68	Mount Ida	12,026.23	11,384.23	Ben Lomond	1,741.40	1,606.05
Crawfordsville	4,245.73	4,285.24	Tupelo	2,119.05	2,084.18	Norman	4,224.83	3,999.29	De Queen	79,191.51	73,036.67
Earle	21,397.07	19,293.03	Weldon	882.93	868.40	Oden	2,593.02	2,454.60	Gilham	1,921.54	1,772.20
Edmondson	3,784.82	3,412.64	Jefferson County	484,621.66	548,891.32	Nevada County	135,480.05	117,489.93	Horatio	12,538.06	11,563.59
Gilmore	2,098.04	1,891.74	Altheimer	12,147.41	13,758.37	Bluff City	1,247.27	1,081.65	Lockesburg	8,875.12	8,185.33
Horseshoe Lake	2,588.21	2,337.71	Humphrey	3,802.24	4,306.48	Bodcaw	1,388.09	1,203.77	Sharp County	297,780.39	275,845.41
Jennette	917.40	827.19	Pine Bluff	605,925.97	686,282.80	Cale	794.63	689.12	Ash Flat	13,803.74	12,786.93
Jericho	1,054.79	951.06	Redfield	16,011.37	18,134.77	Emmet	4,777.86	4,143.42	Cave City	24,536.85	22,729.42
Marion	109,422.90	98,662.99	Sherrill	1,036.97	1,174.50	Prescott	33,153.33	28,750.97	Cherokee Village	54,623.36	50,599.71
Sunset	1,579.52	1,424.20	Wabbaseka	3,147.96	3,565.43	Rosston	2,625.31	2,276.70	Evening Shade	6,084.91	5,636.69
Turrell	4,906.08	4,423.65	White Hall	68,218.05	77,265.01	Willisville	1,528.93	1,325.89	Hardy	10,282.38	9,524.96
West Memphis	232,628.93	209,775.77	Johnson County	156,370.28	139,242.78	Newton County	55,828.57	57,602.02	Highland	14,719.29	13,635.04
Cross County	605,581.70	563,123.94	Clarksville	114,859.26	102,278.53	Jasper	3,478.09	3,588.57	Horseshoe Bend	112.68	104.38
Cherry Valley	9,122.61	8,483.02	Coal Hill	12,664.80	11,277.61	Western Grove	2,866.07	2,957.11	Sidney	2,549.47	2,361.67
Hickory Ridge	3,811.60	3,544.36	Hartman	6,495.09	5,783.67	Ouchita County	587,674.27	722,664.00	Williford	1,056.40	978.60
Parkin	15,484.62	14,398.98	Knoxville	9,148.19	8,146.18	Bearden	11,381.52	11,091.59	St. Francis County	488,925.33	430,106.96
Wynne	117,248.69	109,028.31	Lamar	20,085.99	17,885.92	Camden	143,541.52	139,884.90	Caldwell	12,025.96	10,579.22
Dallas County	166,573.76	163,003.29	Lafayette County	77,757.81	83,150.37	Chidister	3,405.03	3,318.29	Colt	8,190.64	7,205.30
Desha County	123,665.60	119,116.44	Bradley	3,664.61	3,918.76	East Camden	10,969.15	10,689.72	Forrest City	335,064.66	292,996.56
Arkansas City	4,786.04	4,609.98	Buckner	1,604.73	1,716.02	Louann	1,932.27	1,883.04	Hughes	31,224.14	27,467.84
Dumas	61,538.57	59,274.82	Lewisville	7,469.28	7,987.28	Stephens	10,497.87	10,230.44	Madison	16,662.98	14,658.40
McGehee	55,170.26	53,140.77	Stamps	9,879.29	10,564.42	Perry County	166,729.62	132,679.62	Palestine	14,756.16	12,980.98
Mitchellville	4,707.58	4,534.41	Lawrence County	395,846.73	354,915.42	Adona	1,336.97	1,330.54	Whately	7,692.28	6,766.88
Reed	2,249.18	2,166.44	Alicia	1,068.09	957.64	Bigelow	2,015.05	2,005.35	Widener	5,915.48	5,203.82
Tillar	274.61	264.51	Black Rock	5,702.21	5,112.59	Casa	1,093.89	1,088.62	Stone County	203,203.21	114,410.74
Watson	2,759.17	2,657.66	Hoxie	23,945.82	21,469.77	Fourche	396.61	394.70	Fifty Six	2,243.40	2,089.42
Drew County	477,216.38	180,911.72	Imboden	5,831.41	5,228.43	Houston	1,106.68	1,101.35	Mountain View	35,635.13	33,189.14
Jerome	595.43	553.45	Lynn	2,480.72	2,224.21	Perry	1,172.19	1,718.87	Union County	604,629.37	584,107.98
Monticello	144,536.31	134,347.16	Minturn	938.88	841.80	Perryville	9,339.61	9,294.67	Calion	17,626.90	17,028.64
Tillar	3,114.55	2,894.98	Portia	3,764.14	3,374.92	Phillips County	190,152.29	133,818.28	El Dorado	750,532.72	725,059.31
Wilmar	7,801.63	7,251.65	Powhatan	620.18	556.05	Elaine	9,138.67	14,979.86	Feisenhath	4,319.16	4,172.57
Winchester	2,549.65	2,369.93	Ravenden	4,048.39	3,629.78	Helena-West Helena	176,396.63	237,370.93	Huttig	24,159.65	23,339.67
Faulkner County	1,027,727.10	928,053.77	Sedgwick	1,309.27	1,173.89	Lake View	6,362.57	10,430.10	Junction City	21,550.57	20,819.13
Enola	3,129.42	2,825.91	Smithville	671.86	602.39	Lexa	4,101.48	6,736.23	Norphlet	27,190.98	26,268.10
Holland	5,157.06	4,656.91	Strawberry	2,601.31	2,332.33	Marvell	17,036.98	27,934.16	Smackover	71,536.22	69,108.25
Mount Vernon	1,342.50	1,212.30	Walnut Ridge	45,979.41	41,225.06	Pike County	242,077.92	225,776.13	Strong	20,353.77	19,662.95
Twin Groves	3,101.64	2,800.83	Lee County	44,290.35	37,050.90	Antoine	1,552.46	1,447.92	Van Buren County	286,633.67	346,278.62
Wooster	7,962.43	7,190.20	Aubrey	1,372.47	1,148.13	Daisy	1,525.92	1,423.17	Clinton	36,126.85	30,759.83
Franklin County	217,234.65	288,920.31	Haynes	1,211.00	1,013.06	Delight	3,702.02	3,452.73	Damascus	3,471.07	3,471.07
Altus	1,210.22	8,975.60	LaGrange	718.53	601.08	Glenwood	29,005.83	27,052.55	Fairfield Bay	29,920.59	25,475.57
Branch	585.95	4,345.71	Marianna	33,221.80	27,791.55	Murfreesboro	21,774.27	20,307.97	Shirley	4,040.32	3,440.09
Charleston	4,026.62	29,863.40	Moro	1,743.84	1,458.80	Pointsett County	295,879.48	275,886.07	Washington County	3,041,986.91	1,792,406.07
Denning	2,506.66	570.62	Rondo	1,598.52	1,337.24	Fisher	2,425.67	2,261.76	Elkins	57,999.97	53,863.97
Ozark	5,881.87	43,622.82	Lincoln County	166,743.68	153,608.14	Harrisburg	25,039.83	23,347.81	Elm Springs	38,462.22	35,719.46
Wiederkkehr Village	60.67	449.96	Gould	5,648.55	5,203.58	Lepanto	20,590.96	19,199.57	Farmington	130,850.39	121,519.40
Fulton County	254,542.94	241,999.56	Grady	3,030.11	2,791.41	Marked Tree	27,911.47	26,025.41	Fayetteville	1,611,645.79	1,496,718.70
Ash Flat	639.11	607.62	Star City	15,346.25	14,137.31	Trumann	79,361.67	73,998.98	Goshen	23,458.45	21,785.62
Cherokee Village	4,968.77	4,723.92	Little River County	338,454.63	319,085.46	Tyrone	8,288.60	7,728.51	Greenland	28,342.89	26,321.74
Hardy	263.16	250.19	Ashdown	50,930.02	48,015.38	Waldenburg	663.52	618.69	Johnson	73,463.71	68,224.99
Horseshoe Bend	106.52	101.27	Foreman	10,902.02	10,278.12	Weiner	7,788.22	7,261.96	Lincoln	49,260.55	45,747.76
Mammoth Spring	6,121.67	5,820.01	Ogden	1,941.01	1,829.93	Poik County	327,958.86	306,712.44	Prairie Grove	96,946.06	90,300.95
Salem	10,244.56	9,739.73	Wilton	4,032.99	3,802.19	Cove	9,837.48	9,200.16	Springdale	1,406,083.20	1,305,814.85
Viola	2,111.57	2,007.51	Winthrop	2,070.42	1,951.93	Grannis	14,266.92	13,342.66	Tontitown	53,882.15	50,039.79
Garland County	3,063,337.07	2,580,675.99	Logan County	367,620.23	338,871.64	Hattfield	10,635.80	9,946.78	West Fork	50,749.98	47,130.98
Fountain Lake	10,482.78	8,831.11	Blue Mountain	1,304.74	1,202.70	Mena	147,742.44	138,171.12	Winslow	8,564.20	7,953.48
Hot Springs	338,786.57	285,407.11	Boneville	41,983.08	38,699.92	Vandervoort	2,240.48	2,095.32	White County	1,415,281.35	1,311,848.07
Lonsdale	1,959.01	1,650.35	Caulksville	2,241.20	2,065.94	Wickes	19,417.43	18,159.52	Bald Knob	43,751.81	40,554.29
Mountain Pine	16,047.22	13,518.79	Magazine	8,912.20	8,215.25	Pope County	466,616.79	414,300.37	Beebe	110,474.46	102,400.64
Grant County	252,342.34	241,323.85	Morrison Bluff	673.41	620.75	Atkins	56,039.35	49,756.30	Bradford	11,462.76	10,625.03
Greene County	450,932.09	634,047.85	Paris	37,163.97	34,257.68	Dover	25,604.19	22,733.48	Garner	4,289.10	3,975.64
Delaplaine	1,792.19	1,635.51	Ratcliff	2,125.46	1,959.24	Hector	8,361.31	7,423.85	Georgetown	1,872.70	1,735.84
Lafe	7,076.05	6,457.43	Scranton	2,356.94	2,172.63	London	19,305.33	17,140.85	Girfithville	3,398.05	3,149.71
Marmaduke	17,164.83	15,664.21	Subiaco	6,018.62	5,547.96	Pottsville	52,731.99	46,819.75	Higginson	9,378.62	8,693.21
Oak Grove Heights	13,734.95	12,534.18	Lonoke County	399,880.70	352,125.45	Russellville	518,772.78	460,608.70	Judsonia	30,491.86	28,263.42
Paragould	403,442.99	368,172.28	Allport	1,616.96	1,423.85	Prairie County	98,767.51	81,101.75	Kensett	24,888.85	23,069.89
Hempstead County	727,734.90	423,119.72	Austin	28,655.31	25,233.18	Bischoe	4,104.24				

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.

ASSIST. SUPERVISOR, WATER AND SEWER—The city of Dumas seeks a full-time assistant supervisor for the water and sewer department. Requirements: Prefer a person with water operator license and/or wastewater treatment operator license (Class II wastewater treatment operator license) or one that has 50 percent of the hours toward certification. Applicant with no training must have the ability and willingness to start classes immediately. Good communication skills with the public. Electrical experience and ability to operate a backhoe and other such equipment an asset. Must be available for after-hours and weekend rotating shifts and have a current DL. Responsibilities: Meter reading; water inspections and sampling; water and sewer line repair; monitor pump stations and wells; some equipment repairs; add chemicals to disinfect water; clean and maintain equipment, tanks, filter beds and other work areas; document and report test results to regulatory agencies; and follow EPA regulations. Must be willing to maintain certification and attend workshops and specialized training. Some jobs require heavy lifting and climbing. Deadline: Open until filled. Pay rate negotiable depending on certification. Benefits: insurance, retirement, paid holiday, sick and vacation leave. Application can be picked up at the Dumas City Hall and returned to the same location, or request an application by writing to the City of Dumas, P.O. Box 157, Dumas, AR 71639, or visit Dumasar.net.

FIRE CHIEF—The city of Mayflower is accepting applications for a full-time fire chief and administrator to manage a volunteer department. Minimum qualifications are completion of training at a certified state or national fire training academy and ability to pass a background and drug test. Salary DOE w/excellent benefits. Applications will be accepted until positioned is filled and may be obtained online at www.cityofmayflower.com or at #2 Ashmore Street.

FIRE CHIEF—The city of Warren seeks qualified applicants for a full-time fire chief. Duties include: provides chief supervisory authority for the full-time and volunteer firefighters, establishes policies and procedures and implements directives from the mayor and city council. Works a minimum of 40 hours per week. Complete background check will be required. Minimum qualifications: Must be at least 21. Prefer graduation from an accredited college or a closely related field. Prefer 12 years of experience in a supervisory field firefighting or seven years as a full-time firefighter. Knowledge of the principles, practices and techniques of modern firefighting and fire prevention. A physical examination and drug test will be required upon hire. For application information and other details, contact Mayor Denisa Pennington at 870-226-6743 or come by the mayor's office at 104 North Myrtle Street, Warren, AR 71671.

GENERAL MANAGER—South Grayson Special Utility District (SUD) is currently seeking a General Manager to oversee the operations of the district. The SUD provides water to rural residential customers in an area east of Van Alstyne, Texas. Van Alstyne, pop. 3,806, is within 15 miles of two larger cities, McKinney (pop. 127,671) and Sherman (pop. 38,407). The SUD service area is approximately 60 square miles with 110 miles of service lines providing drinking water to 4,950 customers. The water system consists of 11 water wells with ground storage tanks and three elevated storage tanks. The SUD is governed by a five-member board of directors. The general manager serves as the CEO for the South Grayson SUD. Qualified candidates should have a bachelor's degree from an accredited university in business, management, accounting, engineering, public administration or a related field. A bachelor's degree in civil engineering is preferred. The position requires 10 years of increasingly responsible experience in a water district or similar agency, with a minimum of five years of supervisory experience. The successful candidate must have a valid Class B Ground Water TCEQ operator's license or have the ability to obtain within 12 months of employment. A Class C driver's license with an acceptable driving record is required. The general manager must live within a 25-mile radius of SGSUD offices within 12 months of hire. Please apply online at: <http://bit.ly/SGRCURRENTSEARCHES>. For more information contact: Kevin Hugman, Sr. Vice President, SGR, 940-257-8888, KevinHugman@GovernmentResource.com.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS—The city of Hackett is taking bids for weekly residential sanitation services. This will be a five-year contract. Must include a once-per-year free citywide clean up. Deadline for bids will be 3:30 p.m. October 1, 2021. Send bid or questions to triniharper@yahoo.com or call 479-638-8107.

POLICE CHIEF—The city of Pangburn is seeking applications for a new police chief. Must be a certified police officer with leadership experience. The chief of police works under the direction of the mayor. For more information contact Mayor Mike Marsh, 501-270-9463. Closing date is October 29.

POLICE OFFICER—The city of Mansfield is accepting applications for a full-time certified police officer. Candidates must be able to meet all requirements of law enforcement standards and training. Benefits include paid health insurance, vacation, sick leave and retirement. Interested and qualified applicants, please call City Hall at 479-928-5552 or the Police Department at 479-928-5700 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. M-F.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR—The city of Lonoke is seeking a dedicated and qualified candidate for public works director. This position manages the city's water supply, wastewater distribution, street and drainage systems and all respective infrastructure in compliance to state and local codes; programs and executes the departmental budget; oversees the daily operation of the water and wastewater filtration facilities; and guides the installment of water and wastewater infrastructure projects as required to meet future needs of the community. State Treatment III operator's license, Distribution II operator's license and Wastewater II operator's license required. Desired qualifications include a minimum of 10 years of general experience in public works or related area and eight years of supervisory/managerial experience. Resumes may be submitted in person or emailed to creaves@cityoflonoke.com. EOE.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR—The city of Hot Springs seeks a public works director. Starting salary \$82,762-\$92,279 DOQ plus full benefits. Qualifications: Must have a HS diploma or equivalent; bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in civil engineering, public administration, business administration or a related field. Must have at least five years in public works or civil service experience or equivalent experience, where at least three years were in a supervisory and administrative capacity or any equivalent combination of education and experience. Must possess a valid DL and clean driving record. Must obtain accreditation in floodplain management with 190 days of employment. To apply contact Human Resources Office at City Hall, 133 Convention Boulevard, Hot Springs, AR 71901, 501-321-6841. Or visit www.cityhs.net/jobs. You may also email resumes to Alisha Gruszka at Agruszka@cityhs.net. Open until filled. EOE.

PUBLIC WORKS LEAD-WATER OPERATOR—The city of Monticello is taking applications for a FT public works lead-water operator. To be considered applicant must possess the following: Arkansas DL, Distribution and Treatment Water Operator Licensing Class 4, HS diploma or GED. A qualified candidate must have the ability to adapt to various environmental conditions. An acceptable applicant should have at least 2 years or more of experience working within a water or public works department. At least 2 years of experience taking water samplings and carryout treatment. At least 1 year of experience supervising others in the area of water treatment and distribution and be willing to train other operators in training. The city is seeking an energetic individual who has the capability and knowledge of communicating with The Department of Health, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality as well as various other organizations in order to maintain city compliance with all required standards set forth by these entities. The public works lead-water operator will be expected to communicate effectively with the public works superintendent, mayor and utility manager on a daily basis of concerns and issues that may arise. On-the-job training provided. Salary range is \$18.00 - \$30.00 per hour; position is eligible for overtime. Full benefits package included. Interested applicants can pick up application from City Hall at 203 West Gaines St., Monticello, AR 71655, from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. M-F. Applicants can also apply online at Indeed.com or Ziprecruiter.com with a resume or can email Patty Burchett for an application at pburchett@cityofmonticelloar.com. For more information, please contact Patty Burchett at 870-367-4400 or email at montcitypatty@att.net. Position open until filled.

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Matthews Park – City of Greenbrier, AR

Photo by Infinity Wedding Photography



Dan Lovelady
Director
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Standing from left: Lindsey Ollar, Leigh Ann Biernat, Kevin Fought, Dennis Hunt (Executive Vice President and Head of Public Finance), Michael McBryde, Jason Holsclaw
Seated from left: Michele Casavechia, Jack Truemper

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