

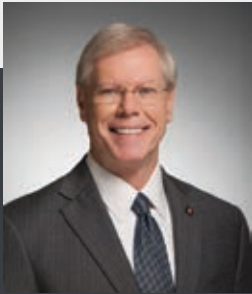
City & Town

SEPTEMBER 2022 VOL. 78, NO. 09 THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE



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Cover photo by Andrew Morgan.



ON THE COVER—Soybeans may have dethroned cotton as king in McCrory, dubbed “The Heart of Woodruff County,” but agriculture still drives the economy in the east Arkansas city. Get to know McCrory and Mayor Doyle Fowler, the League’s 2022-2023 District 1 vice president, inside on page 14. Also in this issue, check out coverage of the League’s annual planning meeting, essential turnback estimates for 2023 city budgets, new training requirements for water providers and much more.—atm

Features

- 14 Relationships build community for McCrory mayor**
For McCrory Mayor and League 2022-2023 District 1 Vice President Doyle Fowler, building a resilient community starts with building relationships.
- 18 Annual planning meeting plots path forward**
The League’s executive committee and boards met August 24-26 in Sherwood, where they reviewed the past year’s activities and charted the course for the next and beyond.
- 22 Budgeting for 2023 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.
- 27 AAC honors League’s Hayes, Wilkerson**
The Association of Arkansas Counties in August presented League Executive Director Mark R. Hayes and General Counsel John L. Wilkerson with the organization’s Diamond Award for their outstanding work on Arkansas’ unified litigation against opioid manufacturers and distributors.
- 28 League sponsors Quinones at Six Bridges Book Festival**
The League will sponsor author Sam Quinones at the 2022 Six Bridges Book Festival in October, where he will discuss his latest book, *The Least of Us: True Tales of America and Hope in the Time of Fentanyl and Meth*, in which he delves into the story of the opioid epidemic in this country.

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Dear public officials and friends,

I trust that each of you has enjoyed summer in Arkansas. School is back in full swing and we are moving toward fall and the holiday season. Many of us are in the heat of the election season. Let us all be sure to take a breather and enjoy the beautiful fall weather of Arkansas. Each season brings its own beauty and our communities are full of seasonal opportunities.

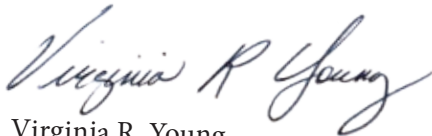
What a great annual planning meeting. We met August 24-26 in Sherwood, and it was wonderful to be able to gather in person. We enjoyed the hospitality of our community. I want to personally take the opportunity to thank my assistant Stacey Galloway and her team for all the hard work that went into planning the event with activities, dining and meeting accommodations. Sheila Boyd and her team from the League were gracious in leading us through the process of the event. And thank you to everyone who attended!

The executive committee approved some new additions to our programs at the planning meeting. More information about the meeting is included in this issue. The new initiatives are reflective of our growing communities and needs. I am so appreciative of the League and the resources that we all have access to.

Be sure to take advantage of the upcoming training available as part of the League's voluntary certification program. These opportunities prepare us for challenges as well as allow for personal growth. Our League staff works hard to ensure that we have the tools to be affective and informed leaders within our communities. Please do not hesitate to reach out with suggestions.

I look forward to the coming months and still believe that "Great Cities Make a Great State!" What a privilege it is to continue to serve our communities.

Purposely in His service,



Virginia R. Young
Mayor, Sherwood
President, Arkansas Municipal League



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From the Desk of the Executive Director

Civility. Awareness. Police.

Where to start? “At the beginning” was always my dad’s advice. At the beginning. Good idea and here we go.

Where did we first learn of civility? As a toddler? Not likely. Perhaps it was when we misbehaved as a toddler? Also not likely. Kindergarten?¹ That sounds more promising. In fact, there’s a book that asserts all any of us need to know, or perhaps remember, is what we learned in kindergarten. That’s amazing when you think about it. Robert Fulghum² is the author of *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*.³ Frequently cited from the book are the following 16 things Fulghum learned:



1. Share everything.
2. Play fair.
3. Don’t hit people.
4. Put things back where you found them.
5. CLEAN UP YOUR OWN MESS.
6. Don’t take things that aren’t yours.
7. Say you’re SORRY when you HURT somebody.
8. Wash your hands before you eat.
9. Flush.
10. Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you.
11. Live a balanced life—learn some and drink some and draw some and paint some and sing and dance and play and work every day some.
12. Take a nap every afternoon.
13. When you go out into the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands and stick together.
14. Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the Styrofoam⁴ cup: The roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why, but we are all like that.
15. Goldfish and hamster and white mice and even the little seed in the Styrofoam cup—they all die. So do we.
16. And then remember the Dick-and-Jane⁵ books and the first word you learned—the biggest word of all—LOOK.”

While I’ve not read the book in total, I have looked at several excerpts. I have it in my library queue as the next book for me.⁶ I must say, this list alone has me excited about reading the entire thing. When studied the list is remarkably complete. Of course, I can’t learn to fly a jetliner using the list, but I can be aware of “wonder.” The miracle of flight certainly fits the wonder idea. The list also tells me to learn and to LOOK. Necessary tools for a pilot. The

¹ The term “kindergarten” is German in origin. “Kinder” means children and “garten” means garden. The terms date back to the 19th century. Friedrich Froebel (1782-1852) started the first kindergarten in 1840. <https://bit.ly/3TwWiy0>

² Fulghum was born in 1937 and grew up in Waco, Texas. He has a graduate degree in theology and served as a Unitarian parish minister for 22 years in the Pacific Northwest. <https://bit.ly/3ACe9ea>

³ The book contains 50 short essays. It was first published in 1986. <https://bit.ly/3cypDY2>

⁴ Styrofoam is a trademarked brand of XPS and is typically blue in color. Please don’t ask me what XPS is. Cue the controller: “Why mention it at all?!” Same reason I’m going to mention EPS. Cuz’ I learned something about Styrofoam being used in a colloquial way much like saying you’d like a Coke and then buy a Dr. Pepper. EPS is the white version of this stuff and it’s expanded not extruded like XPS. Again, please don’t ask. <https://bit.ly/3wFVnkX>

⁵ The characters Dick and Jane were created by Zerna Sharp for a series of books written by William S. Gray to teach kids how to read. They were widely used in the ‘50s and ‘60s. <https://bit.ly/3CNcGV1>

⁶ I’m a proud member of the Central Arkansas Library System (CALs) and have become an avid listener of audiobooks while traveling with Zorro back and forth from the Spa City to Little Rock. Zorro is partial to fiction and loves a good mystery. <https://bit.ly/3e0V51q>

Golden Rule⁷ is found in several entries. None of us wants to be hit, cheated upon or stolen from thus we don't do those things to others. Nap, stay rested. We've long underestimated the health benefits of sleeping. Hygiene indeed, wash your hands and flush! Our time on this earth is limited and precious. Our time to depart will occur so let's stay balanced and enjoy all that our world has to give us. Singing, dancing, painting, reading, learning, doing....

I'm starting to buy into the lessons of the kindergarten theory although I'm pretty sure the Local Controller doesn't share my sentiment. Nevertheless, I suppose we've made things more complicated than need be. Somehow our world has become more angry and more cynical than ever. A friend of mine, a fraternity brother, recently told me he felt as though our society has, by and large, forgotten our basic manners. He may be right. While "please" and "thank you" were drilled into my head by Mother Hayes,⁸ my dad and my grandparents, I've seen plenty a poor mannered person these past few years. In my mind civility and good manners are linked together. We don't have to agree on everything but there's no excuse for being rude or abrasive.

One of my peers, Todd Glover,⁹ has implemented a civility program¹⁰ for cities and towns in South Carolina. He presented it at a recent meeting I attended. I found it fascinating. The power of the program is initially seen in its formal title: Civility. Respect. Solutions.¹¹ Those are three very powerful words. Todd's membership is being presented with "Pillars of Civility"¹² that very much echo the kindergarten rules. Here they are:

- Be as eager to listen as to speak.
- Concentrate on what you have in common, not what separates you.
- Act as you would expect someone to act in your home.
- Make your case on merits, not on what people want to hear.
- Your time is valuable. So is everyone else's. Respect it.
- Ask questions to learn. Answer questions with respect.
- Concentrate on facts, not theories.
- Ask "what will persuade people in this room?" not "what will make a great tweet?"
- Make your point about the issue, not the person.

Additionally, a civility pledge¹³ is said at every MASC-sponsored meeting and is encouraged at all municipal meetings. It reads: "I pledge to build a stronger and more prosperous community by advocating for civil engagement, respecting others and their viewpoints, and finding solutions for the betterment of my city or town."¹⁴ Wow! Incredibly simple yet it has a deep and profound meaning. Imagine promising, at every meeting, to make your community better by being civil and respectful to all in attendance. And further, to find solutions. That's the kind of meeting I think we would all like to participate in.

I'm hopeful we'll be doing something similar soon along with adopting a code of conduct for League meetings. We've all seen wretched videos of people screaming and cursing during public meetings or protests. Clearly there are many people that believe civil debate is verbal combat and name-calling. I wonder if those folks look at themselves on film and cringe at their behavior. Another league director recently told me they were forced to remove a city official from their annual convention because the official's behavior was unruly and verbally abusive during one of the general assemblies. Can you imagine?! That league now has a code of conduct in place for all who attend their meetings. As I understand it, during registration the official will be presented with the code of conduct and will be required to agree to its terms. In this day and age I think that makes sense.

Y'all are keenly aware that I love a good list. No one is better versed than the Local Controller on my list-making prowess. She calls them edicts. Potato, potato. Thinking about kindergarten, manners, conduct and civility a myriad of words and phrases popped into my mind.

⁷ The term "Golden Rule" is not found in Christian scripture. Rather, the "rule" is found in Matthew 7:12 and Luke 6:31. The words differ slightly but the message is clear: Treat others as you would like to be treated. <https://bit.ly/3B2ve2h> Simple. Graceful. Impactful. It is also found in many other religions such as Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam, according to the late artist Norman Rockwell. <https://bit.ly/3pZiVgR>

⁸ I get several inquiries a month regarding Mother Hayes. I'm happy to report that she's doing very well and turned 90 in July! She still plays cards and mahjong with several different groups and actively participates in the 4 p.m. happy hour at "The Home."

⁹ Todd was appointed executive director of the Municipal Association of South Carolina in 2019. He's a great guy and really good at his job. <https://bit.ly/3R9vLFe>

¹⁰ <https://bit.ly/3wGzIZF>

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Id.*

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ *Id.*

- Thoughtful.
- Kindness.
- Fiction versus non-fiction.
- “The pen is mightier than the sword.”¹⁵
- Tact.
- Courteous.
- Gentility.
- “Raise your words, not your voice. It is rain that grows flowers, not thunder.”¹⁶
- “Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless.”¹⁷

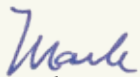
I’ve written nearly 1,500 words and this is the first time the Local Controller has made it clear to get to the point. To the point I go. Remember, happy wife happy life.¹⁸ Back to the point. By the time you read this the International Overdose Awareness Day¹⁹—August 31—will have come and gone. Whether it’s hydro²⁰ or oxy,²¹ heroin or fentanyl, overdoses will happen. And they’ll happen with frightening quantity and speed. I hope the Awareness Day has helped those in need of recovery or strength to stay in recovery. We must be a part of the solution, so the next generation of Arkansans don’t face this epidemic. I wrote last month about our partnership with the Association of Arkansas Counties and what soon will be in place for your community. Stay tuned!

Now to the final point. Let’s revisit how I started this column. Civility. I suspect not one of you good readers are unfamiliar with the viral video of the two deputies and one city officer engaged in a physical struggle in western Arkansas. National and international press covered the story and showed the clip hundreds of times. It was shared through every social media platform that I’m aware of and likely several I’ve never heard of. It was texted, emailed and viewed in offices, cars and homes the world over. It is not the sort of publicity anyone wants and certainly not the reputation any law enforcement agency or officer desires. The video isn’t a complete “picture” of the entire incident. In other words, it tells only part of the story. Certainly, the viral video is shocking and hard to watch. While we don’t have the full story yet, there’s no doubt about the viciousness of the physical blows.

I raise this incident for a couple of reasons. First the obvious: We live in a world where technology often records our actions. Phones, security cameras, motion-activated cameras and doorbell cameras just to name a few. As public officials and employees we must recognize and embrace that fact. Almost all our words and actions are likely recorded by someone, somewhere. Our law enforcement officers need to be trained in that regard in addition to the many ways to de-escalate volatile situations. Transparency isn’t something to run from. Rather, we should embrace it even when it’s not flattering or, in this instance, downright horrid. Now to my second point. A simple five-minute review of the social media coverage of this incident will reveal just how harsh and rude we’ve become in many of our communications. Many comments are not civil or respectful. Nor are they conducive to solutions. Most are full of harsh rhetoric and generic ugly language.

To ensure this incident is fully investigated and addressed, calm intellectual methods must be used. Please don’t misunderstand me. Slamming a suspect’s head on the ground is terrible. No sugar coating that. What I’m suggesting is that by turning down the conflict and angry noise surrounding the incident a clear and fair picture will emerge through the investigation and justice can then be served.

Finally, let’s go back to the Golden Rule. It applies to all of us, police officers and critics of police officers alike. Let us treat our fellow human beings as we wish to be treated. It’s a simple concept but many of us aren’t paying attention. Until next month, Peace.



Mark R. Hayes
Executive Director
Arkansas Municipal League

¹⁵ This famous phrase was created by English author Edward Bulwer-Lytton in 1839. I wonder if he knew the kindergarten dude?
<https://bit.ly/3B4rEow>

¹⁶ Rumi. Don’t worry, I didn’t know him either. Turns out he was a 13th century Persian poet. <https://bit.ly/3cvoock>

¹⁷ Mother Teresa. If you don’t know who she is, shame on you and read this: <https://bit.ly/3AFsQgo>. Also, she was an Ottoman subject from 1910-1912.

¹⁸ In my wildest dreams I didn’t think I could find a historical reference to this phrase. I was wrong. Oh boy, did the Local Controller just shoot out of her chair with an enormous grin. “Ha, you were wrong?!” The phrase is from a 1903 poem entitled “The Work and Wages Party.” Who knew?! <https://bit.ly/3CNwoT>

¹⁹ <https://bit.ly/3Trnoqh>

²⁰ Hydrocodone

²¹ Oxycodone



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Andy Dibble, PE
Sr. Project Manager/
Ft. Smith Office Manager

Who we are ...

"For years, I have been intrigued with how nature heals itself and how water and wastewater tends to clean itself up. In junior high, I became very interested in helping to clean up this valuable resource, and determined that civil engineering was the way to contribute. I have spent the majority of my career assisting communities and private entities with addressing their water-related needs. It has proven to be extremely rewarding."

Andy also enjoys the outdoors - especially camping trips. He and his wife love travelling throughout the country and taking trips abroad.

Nominations open for 40th annual Volunteer Community of the Year Awards

Nominations are now open for the 2022 Volunteer Community of the Year Awards, Engage Arkansas has announced. The deadline to nominate cities and towns for the award is October 22. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the annual award that recognizes Arkansas municipalities—rather than individual volunteers or nonprofits—that seek to address the community’s greatest needs through the engagement of citizens.

The Arkansas Volunteer Community of the Year Awards is co-sponsored by the Governor’s Advisory Commission on National Service and Volunteerism and the Arkansas Municipal League. A panel of judges composed of distinguished citizens from across the state meets to review each nomination and select the award recipients. The winning communities will be notified in December and celebrated at the League’s Winter Conference in January 2023. Winners also receive two street signs, donated by the Arkansas Highway Commission, that designate them as a Volunteer Community of the Year for the specified year.

To learn about the 2022 award criteria and to nominate a community, please visit www.engagearkansas.org/engaged-cities.

Nine cities among recipients of funding for water/wastewater projects

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Commission approved \$54,432,829 for 11 water and wastewater projects serving more than 49,000 Arkansans, the agency announced August 11. Nine cities are among the recipients. The cities and the projects funded are:

- Danville, Yell County, received a \$360,500 loan from the Water, Sewer, and Solid Waste Fund to install ultraviolet disinfection equipment to meet Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality requirements. The current customer base for this project is 786.
- Menifee, Conway County, received a \$294,863 loan from the Water Development Fund for water line replacement. The customer base for this project is 200.
- Monticello, Drew County, received a \$2,136,616 loan from the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund to replace and relocate the existing water

mains. The water customer base for this project is 4,044.

- Piggott, Clay County, received a \$456,994 loan from the Water, Sewer, and Solid Waste Fund for wastewater treatment facility improvements. The customer base is 1,821.
- Prairie Grove, Washington County, received a \$2,060,000 loan from the Water, Sewer, and Solid Waste Fund to expand the wastewater treatment facility. The current customer base for this project is 3,202.
- Rogers Water Utilities, Benton County, received a \$31,246,250 loan from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund to construct a sludge drying facility capable of producing a Class A biosolids product. The current customer base for this project is 25,068.
- Eudora, Chicot County, received a \$100,000 loan from the Water Development Fund to make emergency repairs to the well pumping station, and to replace the filter valve actuators, air dryer and filter valve actuator solenoids. The current customer base for this project is 925.
- Sidney, Sharp County, received a \$100,000 loan from the Water Development Fund to make emergency repairs to the water system and pump station. The current customer base for this project is 149.
- Greenland Wastewater System, Washington County, received \$735,700 in additional funding to their previously approved \$2,192,866 loan and \$1,617,434 loan with principal forgiveness from the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund to replace and expand a lift station and replace a force main. The customer base for this project is 482.

More information about the Natural Resource Division’s water and wastewater programs can be found at anrc.arkansas.gov/divisions/water-resources-development or by contacting Debby Dickson at debra.dickson@agriculture.arkansas.gov or 501-682-0548.

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. 🏛️

Event Calendar

November 15-16, 2022, National League of Cities, City Summit

January 11-13, 2023, Arkansas Municipal League Winter Conference

Obituaries

OLIVIA CHRISTINE "CHRISTI" DENTON DOBSON, 46, who worked for the city of Norfolk for eight years before becoming recorder/treasurer in 2016, died July 5.

TOMMY MELTON, 57, parks and recreation director for the city of Paris, died July 20. Melton was also a former president of the Greasy Valley Water Users Association and a former member of the Subiaco Volunteer Firefighter Department.

DANNY MILBURN, 77, who served as a council member in the Nevada County town of Cale, died June 18.

ROBERT FRANKLIN PATRICK, 93, the longtime mayor of the Arkansas County town of St. Charles, died August 28. Patrick was very active in the League, serving on various committees and boards for 31 years. He served as League president in 2003-2004, first vice president in 2002-2003 and as a district vice president 1999-2000.

JEANETTE PATRICIA PONDER, 63, who served as recorder/treasurer for the city of Chidester, died May 19.





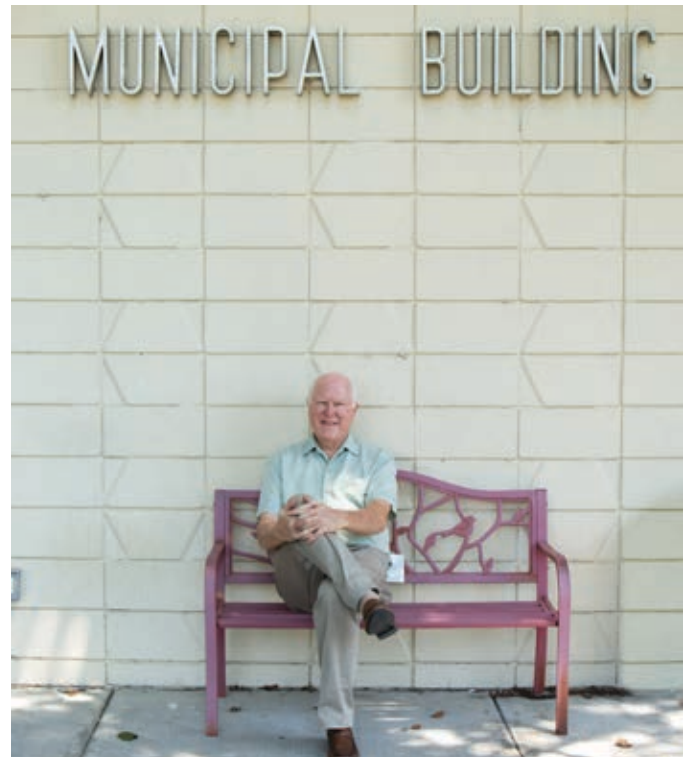
Granaries loom behind the McCrory Commercial Historic District, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Relationship building essential for growth in McCrory

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

For McCrory Mayor and Arkansas Municipal League 2022-2023 District 1 Vice President Doyle Fowler, the key to success in local government is fairly straightforward: Build partnerships. “My philosophy is to network and build those relationships with people like the Municipal League, White River Development District, local businesses and congressional leaders.” It’s even more essential in a small city like McCrory, he says. “We just all work together. Woodruff County has only got a little over 6,000 people now in the whole county, so as small as we are we just have to work together.”

His commitment to relationship-building is obvious as soon as we step into Smokin Joes BBQ to enjoy some pulled pork for lunch. After we place our orders, Fowler greets the CFO of health care provider ARcare, who is also grabbing some lunch. When we take our seats, he introduces me to a young banker at the next table who is investing in his hometown. A few minutes later, the former chief of police stops by our table to say hello. I find out later that he is one of two opponents Fowler will face in November’s election, but that doesn’t faze him.



McCrory Mayor and League 2022-2023 District 1 Vice President Doyle Fowler.



The downtown water tower is also listed on the National Register and bears the city's slogan.

"My other opponent was in there too," he tells me after lunch. "I should've introduced you."

Fowler was born and raised on a farm in the community of Pumpkin Bend just outside of McCrory. He attended school in Pumpkin Bend until the sixth grade. "Every little country community had its own grade school back in those days," he says.

He graduated from McCrory High School in 1962. With local employment opportunities scarce, he moved to Indiana in 1966 and took a job with International Harvester (now Navistar Corporation) in Indianapolis, which built trucks and farm machinery. Fowler was a foreman on the crankshaft line. "We had the foundry and the machine shop and the assembly line for the motors there in Indianapolis," he says. "They assembled them in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Springfield, Ohio. But we built the motors there in Indianapolis."

Fowler retired after 30 years and moved back home to McCrory in 2000. He got involved in the community and soon "got talked into running for mayor." He started his first term in 2003. He has now served 16 years in the office, the last 12 in a row. "I was first there for four years, then the mayor that I beat by six votes, he came back and ran against me and beat me by one vote." He retired after that term and Fowler decided to run again. All in all, he's now finishing up his fourth term and aiming for a fifth.

When he returned from Indiana, Fowler was dismayed at the state of his hometown, he says. It looked run down, litter everywhere. "The town just looked pathetic. It was just trashed. As you can see now, it looks pretty clean. We pick up trash every day. Any time my

city guys are not busy fixing a water leak or something, they're out cruising the streets picking up whatever people put out."

Fowler has also worked to stabilize the city's finances over the course of his four terms. "When I first took over, the finances were down. A few times we didn't know if we were going to be able to make payroll or not. Now we've got new police cars, new fire trucks, a new fire station and a new water plant." The city is also getting ready to completely rebuild its sewer plant with funds from American Rescue Plan Act, he says.

Although some businesses have migrated north toward the Highway 64 bypass, McCrory's historic downtown is lively. "I'm pretty impressed with our downtown," Fowler says. With the assistance of a grant from the Arkansas Department of Transportation, the city was able to build new sidewalks, with hopes to extend them north toward the highway. "That added so much to our downtown. Just about every building down here now has got a business in it," he says. "Sometimes it's hard to find a parking place down here, especially when the farmers come down here for lunch."

Making sure the city utilizes available space has been a priority for Fowler over the years, even if it means buying property himself. Soon after returning to McCrory in 2000, he purchased the Ken Theater and began the long process of securing funding to restore it. It's now run by a nonprofit foundation and hosts regular music, film and art events. In fact, the night after our interview, Fowler and his wife Earline will be singing a Clint Black tune as part of a community fundraising event.



Fowler purchased historic movie house The Ken Theater when he moved back to his hometown in 2000. The restored theater, now operated by a nonprofit foundation, hosts a variety of entertainment events.

In addition to the restaurants, hardware store, banks, florist and other businesses downtown, one formerly empty building is now a branch of the Woodruff



With granaries dominating its skyline and fields of soybeans stretching to the horizon in nearly every direction, McCrory remains an agricultural community at heart.

County Library. A thrift shop occupies another space and is run by Earline and a group of volunteers, one of whom is the mayor. All proceeds go to charity, he says.

A few storefronts down, the old Fake's Mercantile has a new life as a civic center, hosting events like school dances and cooking demonstration classes. It's also where the McCrory City Council meets, and storage space in the back serves as a community food bank.

The city's efforts to keep its downtown vibrant have paid off. The three-block McCrory Commercial Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2010.

The population in McCrory as of the 2020 census is 1,583. It's a slight dip since the previous census. "I'm not quite sure why, but it may be because we don't have any housing available," Fowler says. It's one of the city's greatest challenges, that and filling the jobs that are available. The two challenges are certainly related, Fowler believes. It's difficult to recruit new employees to the city when there's no housing available. "We've certainly got plenty of space to build housing," he says. The city is working with developers to rehab some of the older houses in need of repair and tear down those that are beyond it.

The city lost a major employer in 2003 when greeting card company American Greetings left, leaving behind a 770,000-square-foot facility that's been difficult to fill. Several smaller manufacturers operate in McCrory, however. Centoco makes toilet seats and hardware. Another company, Worldwide Label & Packaging, makes pressure-sensitive labels for corporations like Procter & Gamble and Nike. "We're hoping to get a Delta Regional Authority grant to build a loading dock at the facility," he says.

Health care provider ARcare, on whose board the mayor sits, is Woodruff County's largest employer, but

beyond that, McCrory remains a "total farming community," Fowler says. Aside from the water towers, the tallest structures in the city are the clusters of granaries that form the backdrop of downtown. Fields of soybeans stretch to the horizon on the north, east and south sides of the city. Cotton is also making a bit of a comeback in Woodruff County, Fowler says, although there are no more gins locally. "When I graduated in 1962, we had four cotton gins in McCrory. Now we don't have one in the county. Matter of fact, probably the closest one where they have to haul it to is down in Helena-West Helena."

Overall, McCrory is doing very well, he figures, especially for a city of its size and location. "We've got a grocery store, we've got two banks, two drug stores, two medical clinics," Fowler says.

The local school system, which ranks in the top 20 percent in the state in educational performance, is a big source of pride in the city. "The school is probably the strongest asset in our community. We've really got a good school," Fowler says. "And we love football."



An excellent school system and a state-champ Jaguars football team are points of pride.

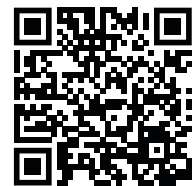
Last season the Jaguars were Class 2A state champions in football. And the high school baseball and softball teams made it to state.

Game days really bring the community together, Fowler says, as does the city's annual Mosquito Festival, held every May. Why name your fest after the blood-thirsty pests? "If you can't get rid of 'em you might as well celebrate 'em," he says. 🦟

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League General Counsel John L. Wilkerson, top left, with The Greens golf course in the background, addresses the executive committee during the League's annual planning meeting, held August 24-26 in Sherwood.

Executive committee reviews year, looks to next at annual planning meeting

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

For the first time since 2019, the Arkansas Municipal League returned to the pre-COVID tradition of holding its annual planning meeting in the hometown of the newly elected League president, which for 2022-2023 is Sherwood Mayor Virginia Young. On August 24-26, the executive committee and the boards of each of the League's benefit programs met to review the previous year's activities and to plot a course for the next.

Young called the meeting of the executive committee to order at 9 a.m. Thursday, August 25, in the meeting room of The Greens at North Hills, the city-owned and operated public golf course. After the approval of the minutes from the committee's May 18 meeting, League Executive Director Mark R. Hayes presented his



Sherwood Mayor and League 2022-2023 President Virginia Young calls the annual planning meeting of the executive committee to order.



League Executive Director Mark R. Hayes presents his annual report to the committee.

annual report. The annual planning meeting is possibly the most important League meeting of the year, he said. “The planning meeting is the policy meeting for the League for this next 12 months, and it really sets our course and vision for the things we want to do and accomplish.”

Leading into the COVID-19 pandemic that began in 2020, the League was more reactive than proactive, Hayes said. “We have shifted gears now, and I like to now call this the era of the proactive League.”

Implementing flexible workplace policies and increasing virtual meeting and training options are a few of the ways the League has been able to successfully meet the needs of its members, he said.

Responding to a wave of incivility and “less than friendly discourse” in the public sphere across the country, the League is in the process of preparing a civility policy, Hayes said. He cited a civility code and pledge recently implemented by the Municipal Association of South Carolina. “We’re going to be instituting a similar sort of practice along with a code of conduct at our meetings.”

The League will soon be ramping up its training efforts, which in addition to traditional in-person meetings will include more digital outreach, regional meetings, self-paced online training and other new options, Hayes said. A new program planning committee, proposed by this year’s president, will look at content options for conferences and conventions, the voluntary certification program and other training sessions.

To help get the word out, the League is in the process of revamping its communications efforts, Hayes said, including modernizing the outdated website and increasing the ways in which the organization shares vital information quickly. “We’re going to make some substantial changes over the next year to try to push

messaging in a way that’s more meaningful to you, that’s faster and that’s more timely.”

The League is also developing its first-ever long-term strategic plan, inspired in part by the state of the League’s headquarters, which was constructed in sections starting in 1984. The structure has had a variety of problems over the years, including water infiltration and damage, HVAC failures and internet connectivity issues. Capacity for meetings and training sessions is also limited, Hayes said. “That sparked me to think about a strategic plan for the League as a whole and the League’s services and the League’s programs.” League Deputy Director Whitnee V. Bullerwell has been tasked with heading up the long-term planning effort.



League Deputy Director Whitnee V. Bullerwell gives an overview of the League’s meeting and training activities over the past year.

Bullerwell provided the executive committee with an overview of the past year’s meeting and training activities. Although attendance at the 88th Convention in June was slightly down when compared to pre-pandemic years, participation at this year’s event was still strong, she said. Of 974 total participants, 134 attended virtually. The feedback from members, exhibitors, hotels and the Statehouse Convention Center staff was overwhelmingly positive, and Bullerwell quoted several responses to the end-of-day surveys conducted during the convention, including a few that offered criticism. “‘The cybersecurity session was good information but way too long.’ That was *my* session,” Bullerwell said with a laugh.

“And then there is one of you who is very vocal about the type of soda that you drink. ‘Need Diet Dr. Pepper,’” she read to the amused committee, a few members of which raised their hands in solidarity with the cola critic.

The League’s voluntary certification program for municipal officials and personnel has continued to grow despite pandemic setbacks, Bullerwell reported. After a yearlong delay in implementing the new Level 2 course options, 559 members completed at least some portion of Level 2 training in 2022, and 72 will receive certificates for achieving their certification at the 2023 Winter Conference. “That is fantastic for an inaugural class,” she said.

After record-setting participation in Level 1 training in 2019, it increased by 45 percent in 2021 for a total of 805 participants. “That’s something we look forward to increasing further,” Bullerwell said.

The executive committee voted to retain the existing 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 benefit programs.

For detailed information on the League service charge, fees associated with optional programs, turnback estimates and the latest APERS multiplier, please refer to the executive director’s budget memo in this issue on page 22. For the updated rates for the Municipal Vehicle and Municipal Property Programs, see pages 24 and 25.

The League also has 120 limited-service members, which include counties, housing authorities, waste management districts, volunteer fire departments and other entities. The executive committee voted to retain



Mayor Young points out memorabilia on the wall at the Sherwood History Museum, which was one of the stops on a tour of the city taken by members of the executive committee.

their existing rates as well. The membership rate for counties is \$1,000 and the rate for other municipal-like entities is \$500.

Before adjourning, the executive committee approved the proposed future meetings calendar for the remainder of this year through August 2023. The 2023 Winter Conference will be held January 11-13, 2023, in Little Rock. The 89th Convention, also in Little Rock, will be held June 14-16, 2023. To access the full calendar of events on the League’s website, please visit www.arml.org/cal. 📅



While touring the city, annual planning meeting participants pose in front of the iconic Sherwood mural for a group photo.

Connecting with **HW** ■ What Sets Us Apart?

Our People Do.

Elizabeth Heiles, a Professional Engineer licensed in the States of Arkansas and Nevada, joined HW in July 2018. Promoted to Associate in 2021, she serves as a Project Manager on public works and private development projects. Elizabeth works with both large municipalities and rural authorities on site grading and civil projects as well as water distribution, wastewater collection systems, water treatment, and wastewater treatment designs.

Elizabeth grew up exploring the lakes and rivers of Arkansas. Raised in a family of engineers, her father, brother and uncles encouraged her to pursue a degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Arkansas in 2012. She saw the degree as a gateway to protecting the State's natural resources. Her love for the environment and passion to provide clean, safe water to local communities motivated Elizabeth to obtain her M.S. in Environmental Engineering from Montana State University in 2013.

Elizabeth resides in Little Rock with her husband, Jared, and their two children, Henry and Mae. On the weekends you can find her floating on a river or lake, chasing Henry around Two Rivers Park or soaking up baby snuggles with Mae. Elizabeth is an active member of Our Lady of Holy Souls Catholic Church and a CASA community volunteer.

Elizabeth Heiles, PE.
Associate



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Municipal Notes

From the ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

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August 31, 2022

**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: 2023 BUDGET INFORMATION

The new League governing bodies, which were elected at the Convention or appointed by President and Mayor of Sherwood Virginia Young, met, and considered several items that will affect your budget preparations for 2023.

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 approved 2023 charges that will range from \$1.35 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 2023 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 Arkansas Workers' Compensation Commission 2023 rates for all codes except for 7720 (police), 7710 (firefighters), 5506 (street/road construction), 9403 (sanitation), 7520 (waterworks), 9102 (parks), 8810 (clerical) for 2023 with the application of state mandated experience modifications (NCCI). These seven class codes had the highest claim count and total incurred over the last five years. The same rates from 2022 will be applied for these seven codes. The Board approved a 2% 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, 2022, deadline for submission.

Municipal Vehicle Program. The Board of Trustees for the Municipal Vehicle Program did make some minor changes to the Program Bylaws effective September 1, 2022. The Bylaws and Program Summary will be accessible online at www.arml.org/mvp. The Board retained the current rates for 2023 and surcharge application.

Municipal Property Program. The Board of Trustees for the Municipal Property Program made some changes to the Program Bylaws effective September 1, 2022. The Board did approve an almost 5% increase in rates effective 12-1-22 due to increased renewal costs from our outside reinsurance carrier. The surcharge for high risk groups will remain the same. 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 will be 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>2022 (revised)</u>	<u>2023</u>
Street Turnback	-	\$77.50 per capita	\$77.50 per capita
General Turnback	-	<u>\$15.00</u> per capita	<u>\$15.00</u> per capita
Total Turnback	-	\$92.50 per capita	\$92.50 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 increase from 5.25% to 5.50% effective July 1, 2023.

We hope this information will be of assistance to you as you prepare your 2023 budgets.

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Municipal Vehicle Program Summary 2022-2023

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 2022-2023

2022 – 2023

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 12/01/2022

Rate is determined by the member's ISO Rating

ISO Rating of 1 – 3 = Class 101 = .0022 - \$10,000 Deductible

ISO Rating of 4 – 6 = Class 102 = .0026 - \$7,500 Deductible

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

ISO Rating of 10 = Class 104 (and LSM Members) = .0032 - \$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

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.

New legislation for retail water providers includes board training requirement

By Nicole Blanks

Act 605 of 2021, sponsored by Senator Alan Clark and Representative Fredrick Love, became law on April 5, 2021. This new legislation was a direct result of the Water Provider Legislative Task Force created in 2017. The task force, which includes state legislators, state agency representatives, nongovernmental entities and water provider groups, was charged with developing a blueprint for water security for the state and identifying best management practices to enhance economic development by providing basic water service to our residents.

The legislation applies specifically to retail water providers and strives to promote efficiency in service and stability in fiscal management of retail water systems. Some water providers are exempt, such as those regulated by the Arkansas Public Service Commission.

The fundamental requirements of this new law include obtaining and implementing a rate study and water provider board training. More specifically to training, it requires that a majority of retail water provider board members receive a minimum of eight hours of training. Training for new board members is required within one year of becoming a member. A member with 10 years or more of service on the governing board is exempt from the training requirement. If a change in membership of a provider board causes the board to have less than a majority of members who have undergone provider training, enough members of the provider board must receive provider training within one year of the change in membership such that a majority of the board has received training.

Failure to obtain the required board training may result in a retail water provider being designated as being under fiscal distress. When under fiscal distress, a retail water provider must obtain approval from the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission to incur additional debt, transfer assets, or accept assistance for refurbishment or replacement of facilities or new facilities unless these projects are part of a provider improvement plan.

To assist water providers with compliance, an advisory training board developed training curriculum consistent with the intent of Act 605. Training started



PHOTO BY ANDREW MORGAN

in mid-July and will be provided to participants free of charge for the next two years at multiple locations across the state. Trainings will also be offered virtually via Zoom and online.

Training providers currently approved by the department are the Arkansas Environmental Training Academy, Communities Unlimited, and Arkansas Rural Water Association.

For more information about Act 605, training schedules and options, and how to apply to become a training provider, visit <https://bit.ly/3dJeEv9>. 📍



Nicole Blanks is program outreach coordinator with the Arkansas Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Division. You can reach her by phone at 501-682-0547 or email nicole.blanks@agriculture.arkansas.gov.



From left, AAC General Counsel Colin Jorgensen, League Executive Director Mark R. Hayes, League General Counsel John L. Wilkerson, Randolph County Circuit Clerk and AAC President Debbie Wise, and AAC Executive Director Chris Villines.

AAC honors League's Hayes, Wilkerson for opioid litigation efforts

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

The Arkansas Association of Counties presented Arkansas Municipal League Executive Director Mark R. Hayes and General Counsel John L. Wilkerson each with the association's Diamond Award for their work on Arkansas' unique, unified litigation against opioid manufacturers and distributors. AAC Executive Director Chris Villines presented the awards on August 11 during the group's 54th annual conference, held at the Hot Springs Convention Center.

The League partnered with the AAC and the state on the successful litigation, which was initially filed in March 2018. Settlement money is expected to begin arriving by the end of this year.

Villines thanked Hayes and Wilkerson for their partnership on this important issue. "I invited these two gentlemen here today to give them some awards from the Association of Arkansas Counties that are so shallow compared to the appreciation I truly feel for your friendships, for your dedication to this, for your hard work on this and your personal stories," he said. "Y'all are wonderful people who are invested in this as much as anybody in the country, and I look forward to us actually saving lives because of this partnership."

"I could not be more proud of the partnership with Chris and the Association of Arkansas Counties to make this state a leader in the ability to fight this horrible epidemic," Hayes said.

Local governments will be the key to utilizing the settlement money effectively, Hayes said. "Without your efforts at the local level, we can't eradicate this wretched disease. As the money begins to come in, I'm thrilled

to be able to tell you that we are the only state in the entire United States that has the real ability to tackle this problem to the ground and to make this state healthy. We have a whole lot of work to do, and I appreciate the partnership in getting that done."

Wilkerson also thanked the AAC for the collaboration that has been integral to the litigation's success. "I am humbled and honored to stand here with this award in front of y'all. You've been amazing partners and your friendship means the world to me."

AAC General Counsel Colin Jorgensen provided an update on the status of the settlement money. Several settlements and bankruptcies are finalized or will be soon, he said, which means payments will start later this year. It will be the start of a "long-term funding stream," which will be spread over the next 18 years.

Not only were the counties, cities and state unified in the litigation, they signed a memorandum of understanding to split evenly any settlement money. One-third of every dollar goes to the state, one-third to counties, one-third to cities, Jorgensen said. "That is an excellent deal for cities and counties compared to pretty much everywhere else. It's a beautiful, equal split that just screams partnership."

In July the League and the AAC created the Arkansas Opioid Recovery Partnership to oversee the distribution of the money cities and counties will receive in the settlements. Kirk Lane will serve as the Partnership's director. Lane previously served as Arkansas' state drug director since 2017. 🍷

League to sponsor author at Six Bridges Book Festival

By Mel Jones, League staff

The Arkansas Municipal League is proud to join the 2022 Six Bridges Book Festival as a “Rock Island Bridge Sponsor.” The League will sponsor Los Angeles-based journalist and author Sam Quinones for a discussion about his latest book, *The Least of Us: True Tales of America and Hope in the Time of Fentanyl and Meth*. The discussion is scheduled for 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 25 at the Ron Robinson Theater in Little Rock’s River Market District.

Quinones, a former *LA Times* reporter, has written four books of narrative nonfiction, including 2015’s *Dreamland: The True Tale of America’s Opiate Epidemic*, which awakened the country to the nationwide scourge of addiction to opioids and heroin. In the 2021 book *The Least of Us*, Quinones chronicles how America’s opioid epidemic has evolved from opioids into illicit synthetic drugs. Weaving analysis of the drug trade into stories of humble communities, it delivers an unexpected and awe-inspiring response to the call that shocked the nation in the author’s award-winning *Dreamland*.

“The opioid epidemic is a very personal issue for me and for my family, and it is a very personal issue for the Arkansas Municipal League as well,” says Mark R. Hayes, executive director of the League. “Through his reporting and storytelling, Sam has helped make the opioid epidemic a personal issue for *everyone* who has read his books or has heard him speak. I’m looking forward to his discussion in October and am proud that the League can bring Sam and his incredibly important work to Arkansas.”

The Least of Us deepens the story of our nation’s opioid epidemic to include the spread of mass supplies of synthetic drugs (fentanyl and meth). *The Least of Us* also delves into the neuroscience of addiction, concluding we live in a soup of legal substances and services whose addictiveness is ever-refined by consumer-product corporations. “In a time when drug traffickers act like corporations and corporations like traffickers,” Quinones writes, “our best defense, perhaps our only defense, lies in bolstering community.”



As he set out to do this book, Quinones sought small, unnoticed stories of Americans involved in community repair: The story of a man who secretly kept a community center open for kids in a crumbling neighborhood. A woman retired from corporate America who opens a tattoo removal clinic where she removes the pimp’s brand from the inner thigh of a prostitute. A woman who adopts an infant and cares for the child’s bedridden mother “rendered a vegetable” by a drug overdose—care rooted in a casual promise she made years before.

“After years of interviews, research and writing, finally, that’s what this national saga has left me with,” Quinones writes. “That the lessons of neuroscience, the epidemic and the pandemic are really the same: That we are strongest in community, as weak as our most vulnerable, and the least of us lie within us all.”

Now in its 19th year, the Six Bridges Book Festival runs October 20-30, featuring more than 60 bestselling and emerging authors in sessions, panels and special events. This year the festival will be a combination of virtual and in-person events—most of the festival is free, but some events require registration. For more information, please visit sixbridgesbookfestival.org. 📖



Quinones



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2023 WINTER CONFERENCE

The Arkansas Municipal League 2023 Winter Conference will be a hybrid event—you may choose to attend in person or virtually. **Online registration for both options will open on Thursday, September 15, at 8 a.m. at arml.org/reg.**

The 2023 Winter Conference will offer 5 core certification credit hours of City Government 101, as well as 3 continuing education hours, for participants of the League's Voluntary Certification Program. Learn more about the certification program at arml.org/vcp.

The 2023 Winter Conference will also focus on achieving civil public discourse at the local level, the upcoming 94th General Assembly, including the League's legislative priorities for the session, how to effectively communicate with your legislators and more.

REGISTRATION PRICING & DEADLINES IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL ATTENDEES

- **EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION** for both In-Person and Virtual Attendees is **\$229** for municipal delegates and municipal personnel.
- Deadline for Early Bird Registration is **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2022, 5 P.M.**
- After Thursday, December 15, 2022, at 5 p.m., registration for both In-Person and Virtual Attendees will increase to **\$279** for municipal delegates and municipal personnel.
- Registration for guests is **\$125**.
- In-Person registration for non-members is **\$300**.
- You **must** register online at arml.org/reg with a credit card.
- Telephone registration will **not** be accepted.
- On-site registration is **not** available.
- Refunds will not be given for any attendee type after **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2022, 5 P.M.**
- The last day to change your attendee type (Virtual to In-Person, or vice versa) is **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2022, 5 P.M.**

Please contact Tricia Zello at tzello@arml.org or 501-374-3484, ext. 285, with questions.



2023 WINTER CONFERENCE

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RESERVATIONS

Room blocks at participating hotels will open on **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2022, 8 A.M.** Please identify yourself as being with the Arkansas Municipal League to receive the reduced room rate listed below.

- Check in at 3 p.m.
- Rooms in Little Rock are subject to a 13-15% tax.
- Cut-off date for hotel reservations is **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2022.**
- Rooms will be held until 6 p.m. and then released unless guaranteed by credit card.
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Meet Jill Sloan, clinical and claims supervisor/LPN with the Municipal Health Benefit Program.

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

Jill: I am an LPN and work in the Municipal Health Benefit Program (MHBP) as the clinical and claims supervisor. I also review all high-dollar claims to ensure correct billing and coding edits are taken and that the claims are paid according to the contractual agreements.



How long have you been working at the League?

I have worked in the MHBP for almost 16 years. I had just gotten married in August of 2006 and moved to Little Rock, and I wanted a job that would have the same schedule/hours as my husband, Carson, who works for ARDOT. I found the job listed in the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* and applied. I was hired as temp-to-perm in September 2006 and became a permanent employee on January 1, 2007.

How has the League changed since you started?

So much has changed since I started working here. Within MHBP we have had a couple changes in managers, different co-workers, renovations, the technology has evolved and made our jobs easier, and we are now able to work remotely a few days a week.

What advice would you have for someone just getting into public service? If you have a passion to be a contributor to something bigger than yourself, go for it!

Where did you grow up? I was born in Harrison, Arkansas. I grew up the youngest child of a minister so we moved frequently. We lived in several towns in north Arkansas before moving to Missouri. The longest I lived in any town was about 18 months. When I graduated from high school in Lincoln, Missouri, I move back to Arkansas because I always knew I was an Arkansan at heart.

What is your favorite spot in your hometown?

Since I moved so much as a child, I really don't feel like I have a hometown. I do feel like home is where my family is. I now live in Benton with my husband and our 12-year-old son, Scout. We have lived there almost eight years. My favorite spot in Benton is the downtown area. We have a great farmers market and lots of local restaurants, and the Saline County Courthouse during the holidays is spectacular.

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

I really thought that I would miss patient care and the hustle and bustle of a hospital, but I found a place where I can still be caring and nurturing while using my nursing knowledge without the long shifts and being away from my family. The fact that I never have to work on Christmas Day again is an added bonus. ☺

Meet LaDonna Poindexter-Hill, administrative assistant for the city of McCrory.

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



LaDonna: As the administrative assistant, my main responsibility is to assist the mayor. I am also responsible for the accounts payable and receivable, licensing, permits, employee payroll and benefits, maintenance of city records and being a support to all departments.

Why did you choose your profession? It all started 29 years ago. I had a friend who worked for the city part-time and she let me know that she would be leaving. I had just finished getting a word processing degree from a business college. I started part-time as an office assistant for six months, and 29 years later I'm still here.

What's your favorite aspect of your job? What's the biggest challenge? I have a great office family and it is wonderful to be able to smile and laugh while working. One of the biggest challenges in working with the public is knowing that you try your best, but you can't always please everyone.

What's your favorite spot in McCrory? My favorite spot is the playground at the elementary school. My children love playing there.

What is the public perception of your job versus the reality of your job? It's not just answering the phones. The daily operation of the city involves a lot of work.

In what season does McCrory shine the most? I don't believe we have just one season. We have our annual Mosquito Festival in May, our Halloween parade, and this year we'll have a fall festival plus our awesome Jaguar football season. We have Christmas at Raney Park and our downtown is lit up for our annual Christmas parade.

What's the biggest lesson you've learned working for a city government? Working with the public, there are so many different personalities that you have to deal with. Have patience and don't take it personally.

What advice do you have for someone who would like to follow your footsteps into this job? Be prepared to do a lot of multitasking. It's not just one main job.

What are three "can't miss" things that someone can do if they visit McCrory? Enjoy a great football, basketball, softball and baseball game during the season, enjoy our wonderful Mosquito Festival, and enjoy our local downtown venues. 🍷

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Do your employees feel valued and appreciated?

By Tracey Cline-Pew, League staff

As employers, one of the biggest investments that we make is in recruiting, hiring and retaining employees. But what are we doing to ensure that our investment is reaching its full potential? How do we take that investment and create an opportunity for it to garner huge dividends and a win-win situation for everyone? Here are a few simple suggestions to do just that.

Create a positive organizational culture

It is essential that we provide employees with a clear understanding of our organization's culture, policies and goals. It is not enough to tell an employee that your organization has a culture of respect and understanding, and policies that enable an employee to grow and develop their skills. You can't just provide them with the personnel handbook and a company mission statement. You must show an employee by modeling the behavior that creates the culture from the top down. They must see the buy-in from their executives, supervisors, managers and peers.

Creating a positive organizational culture might begin with a civility policy. At the Arkansas Municipal League, we have a simple civility policy that states, among other things, that we greet and acknowledge each other, we say please and thank you, and we treat each other equally and with respect, no matter the conditions. Because civility and professionalism are taught, modeled and made a priority, there is no one at the League who doesn't know and understand their importance. The culture we have created has made this an organization where people want to work, so much so that staff members often refer friends and colleagues to us when we have an open position.

Provide employees with the tools and training that they need to be successful

Every workplace is different. Regardless of the knowledge, skills and abilities that new employees bring to the table, we should not assume that they know how our workplace functions. Nor should we assume that current employees do not want or need additional training. In today's fast-paced environment, technology is constantly evolving, best practices for safety-sensitive positions are advancing, and tools and equipment are improving. Because of these factors and more, the way

we work is in a constant state of flux. As employers, we must make sure that our employees receive the training that they need to stay current on the laws and guidelines related to their position. If new equipment or technology is introduced, employees should be well-versed in their operation. When we invest in the training and education of our employees, we are showing them that they matter.

The same is true when we provide them with the right tools and equipment to accomplish their assigned tasks. I realize that not every organization can afford to buy new equipment or software every time an improvement is made, but an organization can make sure their equipment is well maintained and that employees are trained to operate it safely. This sends a strong message to employees that your organization respects them enough to provide them with the tools and equipment needed to perform their job.

When it comes to training, look to the future. If an employee expresses interest in learning more than is required for their current position, try to envision the position or another position five years in the future. If possible, invest in training to ensure that your organization has employees with the skills that are needed for years to come. This will benefit the employee and the employer.

“
A safe workplace is also a place where employees feel comfortable and know the organization welcomes their input on important matters.
”

Give employees a safe place to work

Providing a safe workplace has many different meanings, and if done correctly it can have a huge impact on your employees. Safety is a factor that is often overlooked when the discussion turns to making an employee feel valued.

Safety in the workplace can be interpreted as removing elements that can cause harm, accidents and other negative outcomes in the workplace. Providing a safe physical workplace includes making sure that it is clean and organized. It comprises confirming that equipment is maintained and in good working order, and that all safety protocols are being followed. Regular safety training should also be a priority to prevent accidents. Employees arrive at work safe and sound each day and should go home the same way. Creating an environment that limits hazards, accidents and other kinds of harm is a big indicator that you care about your employees.

A safe place to work also encompasses other factors that impact the safety, health and well-being of employees. It involves providing a workplace where employees feel psychologically safe and do not fear being harassed, bullied or intimidated. It embraces providing an environment in which employees' rights are protected, and diversity and inclusion are part of the organizational culture. At our core, most people want to belong.

A safe workplace is also a place where employees feel comfortable and know that the organization welcomes their input on important matters. There is no better way to build trust and gain buy-in than including your employees in discussions about organizational goals. While not everyone will agree with all aspects, open communication will help employees accept and understand the outcome.

There are many other ways to show your employees that they are valued and appreciated, and most of them include small, commonsense practices such as giving credit where credit is due, not taking people for granted, sharing open and honest dialogue, and simply saying thank you. This article just scratches the surface. I challenge you to try some of these tips and see what happens. You may be surprised at the difference it will make for both you and your employees.

As always, the League is here to assist you. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions you may have. 📧



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



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Where can we plan and where can we regulate?

By Jim von Tungeln

Planning can be a confusing part of municipal government. Planners talk funny. Citizens demand odd and self-contradicting goals. Legislative personalities and intents change. There are things that just don't make sense but enter the stewpot of planning anyway. Then countless hands stir the mess.

One factor that comes to mind immediately is the question of where a city or town may plan and regulate, and how. That remains a challenge to many, even to some who call themselves professional planners. Let us try to wade through it.

The obstacle standing in our way is understanding the term "territorial jurisdiction." This doesn't refer to the legal concept which determines the court's power to bind the parties to an action. For planners, it provides municipalities the basic authority to plan outside their cities and towns for expansion and for connection to other communities, farms and factories. Early lawmakers, as well as planners, thought this was important.

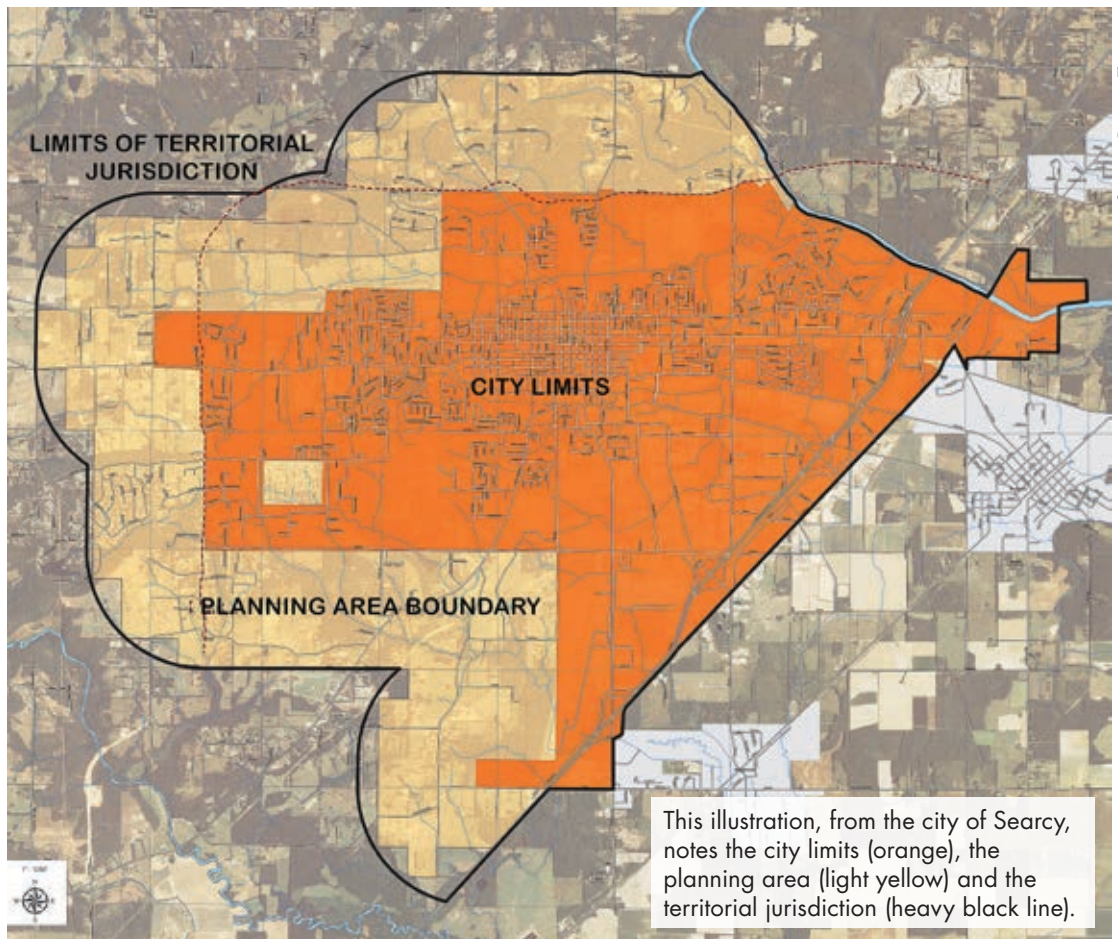
For example, standard planning laws created by the U.S. Department of Commerce under then-director Herbert Hoover recommended a jurisdiction that extended beyond a municipality's boundaries. Those framers intended the planning of regional transportation systems and the orderly connection of suburban outliers to urban services.

Therein lies the first misunderstanding. Planners generally regard the territorial jurisdiction as the area beyond the municipality's boundary which the municipality can add to its planning area.

Taken alone, it implies no right of regulatory control, nor does it stake a defensible claim for future annexation. It simply defines the limits of regulatory authority. In other words, it sets the limits of a planning area but not the specific boundaries. No regulatory power exists within it until the municipality acts to specify a planning area that may include all or part of the territorial jurisdiction.

Some confusion occurs when laypersons (and some who call themselves planners) use the term "extraterritorial jurisdiction." That term provides no useful function and should be avoided in polite circles, along with its troublesome acronym "ETJ." Prudent staff and officials will assign the term to the dustbin of planning jargon.

This raises the question: What constitutes a municipality's territorial jurisdiction? This is a straightforward concept, sort of. The original standard planning law allowed it to extend up to five miles beyond the city



SOURCE: JIM VON TUNGELN

limits. Our state followed the standards when adopting modern planning statutes via Act 186 of 1957, now codified in A.C.A. § 14-56-401-426.

But wait. If another city or town exercising planning happened to lie within 10 miles, the act set the limits of the territorial jurisdiction at a point halfway between the city limits of the competing municipalities.

But wait. If one city or town was more aggressive than the other, the limits in question could be resolved by an agreement between the two municipalities. Whatever the outcome of that, the five-mile restriction would still prevail.

But wait. The Arkansas General Assembly reduced the authority a few years back. Established unartfully by population, the planning statutes now limit the “jurisdictional area” of cities with populations up to 60,000 to one mile beyond the corporate limits. For cities of 60,000 to 150,000 the limit is two miles. For cities larger than that it is three miles.

What can a city do within its territorial jurisdiction? First, it can designate the area within the territorial jurisdiction for which it will prepare plans, ordinances and regulations. A description of the boundaries of the area is to be filed with the city clerk and the county recorder. Planners and statutes call that the “planning area map” and it is the area in which the city may exercise its authority under the planning laws. Determining boundaries is not difficult. Modern geographic information systems can produce a buffering diagram delineating the statutory limits of the territorial jurisdiction with a few keystrokes. The city can then form the adopted planning area boundary within that buffer.

What authority may it exercise within the planning area? According to the statutes, after the planning commission prepares and adopts a master street plan, “the city may prepare and shall administer, after approval of the legislative body, regulations controlling the development of land.” This implies, but does not limit a city to, approval of items related to subdivisions.

The statutes state: “Within the area within which the municipality intends to exercise its territorial jurisdiction as indicated on the planning area map, the county recorder shall not accept any plat for record without the approval of the planning commission.”

But wait. To borrow a phrase from our attorney friends, this is a statute often honored more in the breach than in the observance. Compliance among our state’s county recorders is not a uniform practice or foregone conclusion. A more dependable method of compliance is for the city to refrain from extending municipal services to the unincorporated areas of its planning area unless developers meet the minimum standards of the city’s development code. The Arkansas Municipal League recommends this policy.

In summary, a municipality’s territorial jurisdiction might be compared to the entirety of a canvas upon which one may draw or paint. The planning area is that portion of the canvas upon which one actually chooses to create the work. The unused portion remains blank until plans change. The important thing to remember is the difference between the territorial jurisdiction and the adopted planning area map. They may be the same or they may not be.

Furthermore, as stated, the city must record its planning area boundary and the regulations it intends to enforce beyond the city limits. In those lands beyond the corporate limits, that authority remains limited to development regulations.

But wait. Suppose a city has a population in excess of 8,000 according to the most recent decennial census. Now suppose that city is situated on a navigable stream. In that case, A.C.A. § 14-56-413 allows the city to “administer and enforce zoning ordinances outside their corporate limits.” It may not, however, in using this power, exceed the territorial limits as prescribed.

“What,” an inquiring mind might ask, “constitutes a navigable stream?” One safe answer may be the Arkansas River, since this specific statute appeared in its original form years ago at the request of the city of Little Rock. Officials in cities located on other waterways should seek legal advice in the unlikely event any should wish to undertake this adventure.

The remaining source of confusion concerning this element of planning resides in A.C.A. § 14-56-426. This statute specifically relates to cities in proximity to military bases. It might appear to some to represent a conflict in the size of territorial jurisdiction powers. It is outdated and only involves a few cities. Furthermore, as this column goes to press, actions are in progress that may update the statute. Stay tuned.

Best advice? Take care of the basics inside the city first, extend the planning area only to critical areas within the territorial jurisdiction, require compliance to the city’s development regulations in those areas and require annexation as a requirement for providing municipal services. Or, in the words of our state’s most renowned mayor, “Don’t go looking for problems outside your city limits. Within has enough trouble of its own.” 🍷



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



PHOTO BY DYLAN EDGEELL

Using the famous photo astronaut Buzz Aldrin shot of his footprint on the moon during the Apollo 11 mission, John Carroll encouraged CDI 2022 participants to collaborate and create bold “moon missions” in their communities.

Identifying Your Community’s Moon Mission

By Dylan Edgell

The University of Central Arkansas (UCA) Center for Community and Economic Development (CCED) hosted the 36th Annual Community Development Institute (CDI) August 1-5 in Conway. Each year, community developers, elected officials and community leaders make the trip to UCA’s campus for a week of immersive training covering a wide range of topics related to community and economic development. CDI is a three-year training program consisting of one week of training per year. Graduates of CDI qualify to take the Professional Community and Economic Developer (PCED) exam for certification.

One of the special events during the week of CDI is the keynote presentation, which was delivered by John Carroll, the executive director of City Leadership, an organization that seeks to change the lives of Memphis, Tennessee, residents through building and developing leaders. City Leadership is the organization behind the Choose901, Teach901, Serve901 and Give901 campaigns that work to recruit talented individuals, develop leaders and organizations, and catalyze collaborative projects for the benefit of the city of Memphis.

Since starting these initiatives, City Leadership has provided leadership development assistance to 2,515 Memphians. Carroll shared this progressive spirit in his keynote address, emphasizing that everyone has the power to create broad and bold visions for the future of their communities.

Carroll referenced the United States government’s persistent efforts to win the Space Race in the 1960s. He urged CDI 2022 participants to identify their own “moon mission” in their community.

Carroll noted that the time between President John F. Kennedy’s speech announcing the moon mission on May 25, 1961, and Americans landing on the moon on July 20, 1969, was 2,979 days. When it was announced, the decision to go to the moon within a decade may have felt too ambitious, too big and too broad to be accomplished. It would require engineers learning and creating new technologies and experiencing multiple failures along the way. But accomplishing big and bold things requires big and bold thinking.

Carroll challenged CDI participants to look forward 2,979 days into the future and imagine what their community will look like on September 29, 2030. He


encouraged them to bring the energy and long-term vision required for the original moon mission into their work as community leaders.

This prompt raises important questions for the future of our communities as we move further into the 21st century. What plans do we need to make to build stronger communities, who do we need to bring to the table, and how will we engage and uplift the next generation of leaders?

Lonoke Mayor Trae Reed, a CDI 2022 participant, said he appreciated the future-focused keynote message, and he highlighted Carroll's emphasis on collaborative decision-making. "No one person can effect change by themselves," he said. "We all know it takes a village, which is why everyone in a position of influence needs a strong and reliable network."

Finding a moon mission in your community is a great way to spark interest, energy and action around

community and economic development initiatives. Not everyone in your community has this long-term vision so it's important that local leaders take the time to collaboratively create and set the vision, express what the future could look like and bring others into the fold to make it happen.

To learn more about John Carroll and City Leadership, visit www.cityleadership.org. CDI 2023 will be held July 31-August 4, 2023, at UCA. If you are interested in learning more about the Community Development Institute, visit www.uca.edu/cdi. 



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



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Managing chronic pain without opioids

By Johnathan H. Goree, M.D.

Chronic pain can come in many forms and can stem from a wide variety of medical conditions or injuries. Millions of people in the United States suffer from chronic pain, which can have a costly toll on their checkbooks and, most importantly, on their quality of life.

For years, opioids frequently were prescribed by doctors—with good intentions—to make patients feel better. However, those medications can be highly addictive. While opioids are at times necessary, dangers arise when these drugs are overprescribed and used incorrectly.

Fortunately, medical professionals have made significant progress in understanding the causes of pain and the body's response to treatments. As a result, we have more options than ever as we work to help our patients. Let's look at a couple of categories of treatments that have shown promise.

Complementary medicine

In addition to standard treatments, your doctor might suggest an approach that utilizes complementary medicine. There are many types of complementary therapies, but some of the most notable include massage, acupuncture and meditation.

Acupuncture, a therapy in which thin needles are inserted into the skin along specific pathways, has shown benefits. People use acupuncture to address a myriad of health conditions, but most often it serves as a treatment for long-term pain. It is now recognized and covered by Medicare for low back pain therapy.

While acupuncture has demonstrated some benefits, researchers are still trying to discover exactly how it works. Some theorize that the process activates the central nervous system, stimulating our natural healing abilities and leading to the release of hormones that cause us to feel less pain. While there is still more to learn about acupuncture, there is definitely promise.

Neuromodulation

Neuromodulation is a proven, beneficial therapy for those who are living with chronic pain. This treatment involves the implantation of a device that alters the activity of neural pathways using electrical stimulation

or small doses of medication. It helps restore the nervous system to its normal function, similar to the way a pacemaker corrects an abnormal heartbeat.

Neuromodulation typically is performed only after doctors have exhausted nonsurgical treatments for relieving pain. However, in recent years it's increasingly been seen as an option earlier in the treatment process. While it is commonly used for pain after spine surgery, it is now used for complex regional pain syndrome, pain after orthopedic surgery and even chronic pelvic pain.

One exciting new use of neuromodulation is for treatment of painful diabetic neuropathy. In this diabetes complication, patients experience severe pain in their hands and feet because of nerve damage. Thanks to research completed at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and other centers, some of the country's largest insurers are now providing coverage for this type of procedure. As diabetes affects tens of millions of Americans, I am excited about this treatment, which has the potential to improve many lives.

The best treatment for you

These are a few of the many options available for patients suffering from chronic pain. While they may not all be for you, we hope that some combination of medications and other treatments will provide relief.

As physicians, we want to decrease your pain, but hopefully, that will be a small piece of a quality-of-life improvement plan. Our goal is to help you regain the ability to do the things you enjoy and to spend time with the people who make you happy.

If you are struggling with chronic pain, talk to your doctor to evaluate your options. Often, a physician with specialized training in chronic pain therapy may have knowledge of treatments that may work for your specific problem. 🏥



Johnathan H. Goree, M.D., is the director of the Chronic Pain Division and an associate professor of anesthesiology in the College of Medicine at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

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Fall in love with fall plantings

Trees planted late in the year have an advantage during spring leaf-out.

By Krissy Kimbro

Arbor Day and Earth Day celebrations abound in the spring months. Combined with the arrival of rising temperatures, the return of songbirds from their winter forays to warmer climates and brightly colored flowers popping up in the landscape, these celebrations beckon horticulture, gardening and tree enthusiasts to get their hands dirty by breaking ground and planting flowers, shrubs and trees. However, in warmer regions such as Arkansas, there are several advantages to planting trees in the fall in as well.

Stronger root systems

Fall planting allows trees to acclimate to their new surroundings and put on a fair amount of root growth while temperatures are typically more moderate and when there is generally a sufficient amount of rainfall. Even though air temperatures are dropping, ground temperatures stay relatively warm until the ambient temperature consistently hovers closer to freezing levels. Rainfall amounts typically pick back up as the season transitions from the harsh drought-like conditions of summer into the wetter fall months.

When fall fades into winter, trees will enter dormancy, which is a physiological process similar to animals going into hibernation. As trees begin to lose their leaves and approach this dormant period, nutrients and water they acquire from the soil are no longer funneled toward leaf production. When proper tree-planting techniques are followed, such as tamping down soil around the planting hole and sufficiently watering the new tree, the roots have ample opportunity to use available water and nutrients to begin branching out almost as soon as the planting is complete. As long as ground temperatures stay above freezing, roots continue to put on new growth, even after falling leaves make it appear as though the tree has already gone into its winter rest.



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF HOT SPRINGS

Whether planting a small 3-gallon tree or spading in a much larger one, fall is the best time to plant trees in Arkansas. Allen Bates, city forester for Hot Springs, tends to final details such as removing nursery tags after overseeing the October 2019 planting of this water oak in Hill Wheatley Park.

Bonus growing season

In the spring, as temperatures begin to warm back up and trees emerge from dormancy, established trees are able to send all of their water and nutrient uptake toward leaf production and putting on new growth. Trees planted in the fall enter spring with the advantage of already having an established root structure that allows for immediate uptake of available water and nutrients. Alternatively, trees planted in the spring must dedicate their first growth efforts toward establishing a root system, thereby limiting the amount of energy available for leaf production and above-ground growth. In essence, planting in the fall provides trees a bonus growing season over trees planted in the spring.

Nursery availability

There is often less demand for the most sought-after tree species in the fall as opposed to the spring, when customer counts rise dramatically at nurseries and gardening centers. Therefore, it may be easier to obtain popular trees by planning to plant during the fall months. According to Jeb Legget of Custom Landscape & Nursery in Mount Vernon, those wishing to plant trees in the fall should call their local nursery in early September to reserve trees they wish to plant. He is a strong proponent of fall planting. “That’s a great time to plant! The ground is still warm, and there is less sap flowing in the trees,” he said. “In the spring, everyone wants to get out and plant, and they are all looking for the same species of trees.”

Fall and winter watering

Increased rainfall is one advantage of planting trees in the fall, but they still need to be mulched and provided with regular watering. Mulching prevents moisture loss, which is especially important on the random fall days when Arkansas temperatures can spike back up and for trees planted in full sunlight. Newly planted trees should be irrigated with slow, steady watering on a frequent basis: daily watering for the first two weeks after planting, every-other-day or every-third-day watering for the next two months and then weekly beginning about three months after planting.

Generally, an ample amount of water can be determined by measuring the tree’s diameter 6 inches

above ground level and providing 10 gallons of water for each diameter inch. For example, a three-inch diameter tree needs 30 gallons per watering. Most of a tree’s root growth occurs in the top 18 inches of soil, so focus watering efforts on the area surrounding the tree, up to and a little past the drip line, rather than at the base of the trunk. As fall transitions into winter, continue to follow a regular watering schedule up until the first freeze.

Drought-stressed plants are more susceptible to cold damage, so watering a few days in advance of a cold snap is beneficial. Water soaking into soil loses heat slowly, so watering just prior to a freeze can also help protect young roots from a hard freeze. If winter precipitation is lacking, plan on watering trees one to two times per month until spring leaf-out.

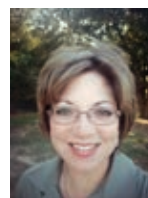
Sweat equity benefits

Finally, there are benefits to fall planting for the planter as well. Spring ushers in the bright awakening of the landscape from its dreary winter color palette and draws people outdoors to enjoy warmer days, but fall has similar advantages for those engaging in outdoor tasks. Planting trees in the fall allows one more opportunity to enjoy nature before winter’s chill and fading evening sunlight hours impose challenges for completing outdoor chores. Fall tree planting can provide to those planting trees the emotional benefit of finishing up the year by investing in the future, knowing that the tree is getting a head start on the spring growing season.

Practical takeaways

“If a tree dies, plant another in its place.”—Carolus Linnaeus

Unfortunately, the record-breaking temperatures and lower rainfall amounts of the past summer dealt a hard blow to many trees across the state, both newly planted and mature, especially in urban settings. One of the best ways to mitigate the loss of trees that succumbed to the harsh conditions of the past few months is to replace them as soon as possible. As always, be sure to select species appropriate for the space and location where they will be planted, and consider drought-hardy species. Planting in the fall and maintaining a consistent watering schedule up until the first freeze will give them the best chance of entering the spring growing season ready to flourish. 🌳



Krissy Kimbro is the urban and community forestry coordinator for Arkansas Department of Agriculture’s Forestry Division. Contact Krissy at 479-228-7929 or email kristine.kimbrow@agriculture.arkansas.gov.



PHOTO BY KENNETH SMOTHERS

Students at Highland Preschool—with a little supervision from Arkansas Department of Agriculture Forest Ranger Deric Franks—planted trees received through the Forestry Division’s Shade Trees on Playgrounds (STOP) program last October and were able to watch them leaf out during the same school year. The STOP program tree ceremonies and plantings are scheduled in late fall when possible to give the trees time to establish a strong root system prior to winter dormancy.



PHOTOS COURTESY MCE

Seen here before and after construction, Alma's downtown streetscape project has made the city center more inviting and accessible.

Redesign rejuvenates Alma's downtown

By Andy Hanna, PE

Growing up in Alma, I spent a lot of time in the downtown area. Like many of Arkansas' older cities, it has long needed a rejuvenation. In 2013, Allen Canning Company, known for making Alma the "Spinach Capital of the World," closed its Alma facility. It was located downtown. With Allen's gone, other businesses were already on their way out to other, more attractive locations. Fayetteville Avenue, the heart of downtown Alma, was becoming a shell of its former self. Other than the high school, there wasn't anything attractive in downtown to draw business prospects in need of a place to call home.

Things were about to change for Alma's downtown, however. In August 2014 voters approved a sales tax renewal to fund numerous improvement projects around the city. A portion of that money was used for the downtown Alma streetscape project.

Streetscaping is a form of landscaping, in a way. Downtown Alma had little to no landscaping features originally. There were no trees along the sidewalk, no flowers or shrubbery lining the store fronts. Every building looked bland and outdated. The Alma streetscape project would inject life into the area with numerous improvements.

The most important aspect of this project was the addition of landscaping along the street. Zelkova trees were placed at the sidewalk's edge on both sides of Fayetteville Avenue with larger London Plane trees planted in the median's newly installed landscaped islands. An assortment of perennial flowers, decorative grasses and other colorful plants took root at the foot of each tree. New benches and entry features were introduced to add a modern look to the downtown area. An entryway was also included in the project that ties

aspects of the existing Popeye Park with the new features via brick and stone pillars, decorative iron fencing and large, colored- and stamped-concrete pavers to create a sense of place and further define the limits of the downtown area.

The first summer after the project was substantially completed, the city held its Liberty Festival, and the rejuvenated streetscape was a great place for the community to gather and celebrate. Events and festivals aren't the only use for streetscape projects. The design also offered opportunities for Alma to invite business owners who had moved out of downtown to bring their stores and shops back to Fayetteville Avenue. With a more modernized downtown area, the city has invested in creating an attractive location for business owners.

Street improvements were also integral to the project. Fayetteville Avenue originally had a total width of 60-65 feet from curb to curb. Parking along the street was diagonal, which resulted in poor visibility when backing out into traffic. Parallel parking has replaced the diagonal spaces, reducing on-street parking. Three new parking lots on nearby cross streets make up for the lost spaces.

Another issue was the number of cars speeding through downtown. The streetscape is now intended to slow traffic. The driving width was decreased to a standard width of 12 feet with concrete curb and gutter as an added barrier. The concrete median islands serve as another traffic-calming element along the newly vibrant street. Pedestrians also use the median islands as safe areas to rest as they cross the street with traffic flowing.

The new design makes Alma's downtown streetscape more accessible, with curb cuts, accessible parking spaces and other features to increase usability for persons with disabilities. On top of all that, the street surface also received its first overlay in nearly 20 years. With its new streetscape, Alma's downtown area is now a pedestrian-friendly environment that promotes walkability and usability, as well as creating a safer, more vibrant roadway. 🍷



Andy Hanna is a professional engineer in MCE's Fort Smith office. Contact Andy by phone at 479-434-5333, or email him at ahanna@mce.us.com.

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2021/2022 State Turnback Funds

Actual Totals Per Capita						
	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
MONTH	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022
January	\$6.659	\$6.744	\$0.071	\$0.485	\$1.951	\$1.961
February	\$6.607	\$6.648	\$0.163	\$0.486	\$0.893	\$0.964
March	\$5.693	\$5.544	\$0.110	\$0.411	\$0.892	\$0.964
April	\$6.135	\$6.689	\$0.162	\$0.314	\$0.889	\$0.964
May	\$7.568	\$6.636	\$0.258	\$0.433	\$0.890	\$0.964
June	\$6.753	\$6.504	\$0.206	\$0.363	\$1.665	\$0.963
July	\$7.303	\$7.289	\$0.163	\$0.407	\$4.306	\$3.463
August	\$6.988	\$7.021	\$0.150	\$0.558	\$0.854	\$0.807
September	\$6.822		\$0.205		\$1.020	
October	\$6.597		\$0.295		\$0.964	
November	\$6.306		\$0.285		\$0.964	
December	\$6.12		\$0.374		\$0.96	
Total Year	\$79.549	\$53.075	\$2.443	\$3.458	\$16.250	\$11.050

Actual Totals Per Month						
	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
MONTH	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022
January	\$12,587,621.61	\$13,523,371.95	\$134,647.89	\$971,650.77	* \$3,688,464.32	*\$3,933,044.80
February	\$12,488,753.05	\$13,330,126.26	\$308,183.56	\$974,949.61	\$1,688,281.84	\$1,932,029.37
March	\$10,760,836.82	\$11,116,392.03	\$207,709.60	\$824,985.57	\$1,685,424.74	\$1,932,175.48
April	\$11,627,333.33	\$13,413,142.61	\$307,147.46	\$629,375.82	\$1,684,913.88	\$1,932,175.48
May	\$14,343,742.05	\$13,306,592.12	\$489,324.42	\$868,435.30	\$1,687,137.50	\$1,933,337.16
June	\$12,799,319.93	\$13,042,397.16	\$390,405.22	\$728,488.74	\$3,154,867.86	\$1,930,396.00
July	\$13,841,564.30	\$14,616,346.04	\$309,031.02	\$816,970.67	** \$8,160,945.43	*** \$6,944,783.81
August	\$13,245,023.56	\$14,078,419.61	\$285,053.21	\$1,119,657.38	\$1,617,878.89	\$1,619,187.98
September	\$12,929,805.85		\$389,181.65		\$1,932,348.55	
October	\$13,228,061.49		\$592,445.41		\$1,933,129.73	
November	\$12,644,574.33		\$571,049.30		\$1,932,763.61	
December	\$12,272,528.63		\$749,777.69		\$1,933,129.71	
Total Year	\$152,769,164.95	\$106,426,787.78	\$4,733,956.43	\$6,934,513.86	\$31,099,286.06	\$22,157,130.08

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

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

***Includes \$3,514,811.45 supplemental for July 2022

Local Option Sales and Use Tax in Arkansas



2022 Sales Tax Elections
NORTH LITTLE ROCK, August 9
 Passed. 0.5%

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 2022 with 2021 Comparison (shaded gray)								
Month	Municipal Tax		County Tax		Total Tax		Interest	
January	\$79,509,192	\$68,199,990	\$67,235,746	\$59,726,912	\$146,744,937	\$127,926,902	\$7,996	\$14,602
February	\$90,989,478	\$79,611,239	\$75,394,289	\$68,300,663	\$166,383,767	\$147,911,902	\$20,291	\$20,412
March	\$71,237,219	\$66,877,931	\$60,990,849	\$57,918,592	\$132,228,069	\$124,796,523	\$13,414	\$13,492
April	\$70,722,847	\$60,600,707	\$61,123,066	\$53,282,134	\$131,845,913	\$113,882,841	\$23,045	\$16,537
May	\$85,621,568	\$83,488,059	\$73,394,919	\$73,792,913	\$159,016,487	\$157,280,972	\$45,685	\$10,492
June	\$79,693,712	\$78,858,097	\$68,198,650	\$67,860,902	\$147,892,362	\$146,718,999	\$66,577	\$9,681
July	\$82,774,267	\$76,784,978	\$69,831,518	\$65,778,959	\$152,605,785	\$142,563,936	\$100,880	\$12,566
August	\$84,835,673	\$78,501,622	\$72,760,141	\$67,970,242	\$157,595,815	\$146,471,864	\$133,556	\$9,395
September		\$77,398,158		\$65,883,715		\$143,281,872		\$13,951
October		\$77,705,438		\$66,726,221		\$144,431,660		\$11,344
November		\$76,869,137		\$65,831,542		\$142,700,679		\$8,299
December		\$76,860,225		\$65,183,723		\$142,043,948		\$9,939
Total	\$645,383,956	\$901,755,580	\$548,929,180	\$778,256,518	\$1,194,313,136	\$1,680,012,098	\$411,444	\$150,710
Averages	\$80,672,995	\$75,146,298	\$68,616,147	\$64,854,710	\$149,289,142	\$140,001,008	\$51,431	\$12,559

August 2022 Municipal Levy Receipts and August 2022 Municipal/County Levy Receipts with 2021 Comparison (shaded gray)

CITY SALES AND USE	AMOUNT	LAST YEAR	Garland	4,404.99	1,828.43	Mount Ida	29,325.22	28,484.27	Wilton	871.79	646.66
Alexander	179,585.32	175,119.83	Gassville	27,783.73	27,426.66	Mountain Home	1,237,721.32	751,905.58	Winslow	10,240.37	9,171.55
Alma	325,323.00	313,420.27	Gentry	147,203.74	142,155.62	Mountain View	246,013.87	226,212.62	Wynne	186,963.72	177,926.96
Almyra	3,091.36	3,467.05	Gilbert	2,973.32	2,841.36	Mountainburg	20,043.41	17,226.97	Yellville	69,589.98	59,129.81
Alpena	9,093.12	8,215.42	Gillett	15,661.37	13,326.42	Mulberry	35,436.79	34,956.94			
Alzheimer	4,481.37	4,006.76	Gillham	14,392.46	9,295.44	Murfreesboro	44,857.05	44,412.66	COUNTY SALES AND USE	AMOUNT	LAST YEAR
Altus	8,150.85	8,847.17	Gilmore	446.41	352.63	Nashville	138,740.23	138,251.32	Arkansas County	422,552.33	332,374.22
Amity	18,918.07	16,514.79	Glenwood	125,607.78	102,525.87	Newport	262,906.79	234,811.78	Ashley County	334,385.20	258,386.68
Anthonyville	1,434.97	1,382.04	Goshen	36,210.16	33,679.56	Norfolk	9,495.17	8,816.22	Crossett	80,737.34	62,879.67
Arkadelphia	480,553.37	444,925.47	Gosnell	16,978.34	18,251.19	Norman	5,420.71	4,769.40	Fountain Hill	1,808.30	1,998.17
Ash Flat	149,146.33	133,388.40	Gould	18,993.09	16,153.28	North Little Rock	3,739,647.31	3,669,249.61	Hamburg	42,461.61	32,621.61
Ashdown	174,419.63	165,823.35	Grady	11,754.58	6,653.31	Oak Grove	1,379.77	1,333.96	Montrose	4,068.68	4,042.02
Atkins	81,843.14	76,214.14	Gravette	131,616.02	102,535.63	Oak Grove Heights	14,473.46	20,904.95	Parkdale	2,879.89	3,162.82
Augusta	24,741.28	24,741.28	Green Forest	109,913.69	128,754.84	Ola	29,389.32	20,169.06	Portland	5,441.65	4,909.80
Austin	75,573.75	58,816.22	Greenbrier	339,092.61	303,546.10	Oppelo	4,656.08	4,972.26	Wilmot	6,965.31	6,279.98
Avoca	11,636.20	9,580.43	Greenland	48,423.19	43,062.97	Osceola	139,629.73	104,546.14	Baxter County	739,478.82	686,746.74
Bald Knob	68,612.95	64,203.69	Greenwood	333,130.40	292,362.37	Oxford	3,990.20	3,428.99	Big Flat	1,907.51	2,079.04
Barling	85,360.90	58,806.91	Greers Ferry	40,477.28	37,885.07	Ozark	219,678.39	224,769.81	Briarcliff	5,115.59	4,717.81
Batesville	848,519.09	812,072.69	Guion	3,336.35	2,014.50	Palestine	34,544.64	33,841.50	Cotter	19,205.13	19,391.01
Bauxite	26,204.48	25,632.01	Gum Springs	814.73	556.08	Pangburn	11,903.17	9,503.22	Gassville	47,059.07	41,540.75
Bay	10,574.46	10,648.14	Gurdon	27,683.38	28,935.96	Paragould	437,911.59	392,780.84	Lakeview	16,799.07	14,813.14
Bearden	16,300.11	13,487.50	Guy	12,576.76	10,226.68	Paris	96,869.72	79,992.12	Mountain Home	277,997.52	248,844.68
Beebe	235,605.63	170,704.25	Hackett	9,214.23	8,095.13	Parkdale	730.08	487.01	Norfork	10,079.44	10,215.27
Beehive	196.11	172.04	Hamburg	112,466.96	90,356.79	Parkin	6,034.43	4,319.57	Salesville	10,252.86	8,995.82
Bella Vista	642,760.74	605,912.83	Hampton	6,421.09	6,116.83	Patterson	128.23	813.02	Benton County	1,138,378.15	1,220,134.66
Belleville	2,756.15	3,054.80	Hardy	37,481.65	32,549.63	Pea Ridge	905.49	1,575.59	Avoca	12,376.16	14,015.62
Benton	2,287,315.84	2,038,892.82	Harrisburg	97,064.08	78,240.99	Perla	126,748.02	113,564.60	Bella Vista	765,034.84	761,841.02
Bentonville	4,368,936.22	3,715,011.74	Harrison	907,502.56	643,789.15	Perryville	2,901.61	3,330.76	Bentonville	1,376,473.13	1,013,863.75
Berryville	361,968.10	350,795.99	Hartford	7,842.57	8,204.58	Perrysville	29,032.28	26,043.46	Cave Springs	139,644.78	55,459.36
Big Flat	471.16	345.73	Haskell	61,326.21	61,215.03	Piggott	114,751.94	75,885.40	Centerton	452,149.21	273,275.93
Black Rock	12,520.14	9,054.31	Hatfield	5,425.45	5,671.89	Pine Bluff	1,627,575.94	1,524,087.60	Decatur	45,057.36	48,796.20
Blevins	4,395.33	4,427.36	Havana	4,149.48	4,080.48	Pineville	2,895.77	2,775.97	Elm Springs	11,817.07	3,934.71
Blue Mountain	262.88	301.23	Hazen	99,587.15	95,930.92	Plainville	6,054.38	4,478.40	Garfield	15,069.95	14,417.71
Blytheville	475,435.49	512,604.82	Heber Springs	220,976.88	215,450.57	Pleasant Plains	12,511.35	12,587.95	Gateway	11,080.10	11,631.82
Bonanza	4,594.81	3,846.16	Hector	7,387.31	6,438.71	Plumerville	13,805.37	15,700.30	Gentry	96,315.51	98,367.85
Bono	24,362.55	25,566.82	Helena-West Helena	267,565.71	257,000.55	Pocahontas	376,452.85	340,179.47	Gravette	90,140.13	89,407.04
Booneville	170,426.87	149,911.90	Hermitage	18,997.03	23,197.98	Portia	4,991.74	4,673.55	Highfill	40,330.53	16,744.07
Bradford	20,952.16	15,469.66	Higginson	2,244.89	2,032.72	Portland	8,774.04	9,875.88	Little Flock	77,636.91	74,242.59
Bradley	6,202.37	5,569.06	Highfill	58,556.99	65,589.19	Pottsville	42,188.10	32,116.92	Lowell	250,039.12	210,435.39
Branch	2,456.79	2,577.87	Highland	57,563.48	32,862.52	Prairie Grove	217,619.24	200,864.63	Pea Ridge	166,684.28	137,686.26
Briarcliff	2,117.20	3,309.52	Holly Grove	11,347.59	7,983.63	Prescott	57,717.98	68,890.44	Rogers	1,776,576.39	1,607,316.25
Brinkley	178,052.39	211,910.56	Hope	229,548.29	200,617.93	Pyatt	1,829.69	1,748.04	Siloam Springs	439,315.62	431,928.19
Brookland	165,919.68	104,862.16	Horatio	9,038.48	8,915.74	Quitman	31,520.28	33,687.95	Springdale	307,320.17	188,176.97
Bryant	1,659,392.68	1,567,874.58	Horseshoe Bend	39,522.43	33,089.76	Ravenden	6,942.73	3,906.32	Springtown	2,109.28	2,498.69
Bull Shoals	42,957.13	41,195.67	Hot Springs	2,549,601.71	2,352,259.91	Rector	33,669.15	34,231.45	Sulphur Springs	12,223.69	14,676.20
Cabot	1,211,535.18	1,111,953.13	Hoxie	22,579.69	20,823.64	Redfield	62,446.10	44,199.84	Boone County	571,578.64	566,037.54
Caddo Valley	65,014.28	62,143.10	Hughes	7,314.31	8,713.20	Rison	20,776.27	20,135.78	Alpena	5,364.98	5,972.92
Calico Rock	62,716.51	57,666.42	Humphrey	2,620.74	2,937.56	Rockport	28,331.29	18,786.22	Bellefonte	7,603.47	8,500.65
Camden	384,294.40	371,471.74	Huntington	5,234.44	4,373.96	Roe	790.73	631.56	Bergman	7,880.97	8,219.79
Caraway	8,439.83	8,486.08	Huntsville	185,270.56	169,320.24	Rogers	4,921,729.61	4,306,407.12	Diamond City	14,004.45	14,642.09
Carlisle	62,456.32	65,691.32	Imboden	14,748.20	12,343.29	Rose Bud	22,802.13	20,950.84	Everton	1,923.99	2,490.28
Cash	3,247.36	2,967.15	Jacksonville	936,887.73	882,851.05	Rosston	2,916.02	NA	Harrison	241,775.66	242,343.44
Cave City	40,293.82	27,895.53	Jasper	51,499.73	44,640.51	Rudy	13,662.22	13,179.99	Lead Hill	5,068.98	5,074.18
Cave Springs	160,401.59	143,173.94	Jennette	357.91	316.00	Russellville	1,419,840.60	1,351,658.09	Omaha	2,367.99	3,164.34
Cedarville	9,930.77	13,522.09	Johnson	149,447.63	84,853.80	Salem	33,360.95	27,183.08	South Lead Hill	1,590.99	1,909.84
Centerton	480,159.23	389,023.79	Joiner	6,450.11	3,769.96	Salesville	5,791.31	6,377.36	Valley Springs	3,385.49	3,426.47
Charleston	46,448.05	39,079.61	Jonesboro	2,207,564.87	2,004,307.56	Scranton	5,620.14	4,793.37	Zinc	1,702.01	1,928.57
Cherokee Village	37,182.47	26,143.43	Judsonia	16,763.60	14,215.97	Searcy	1,087,503.24	1,037,197.95	Bradley County	176,019.91	169,728.38
Cherry Valley	7,090.83	3,915.43	Junction City	6,585.33	6,613.39	Shannon Hills	9,614.93	15,305.57	Banks	1,019.22	1,310.56
Chidester	5,729.54	6,094.17	Keiser	5,539.05	4,973.05	Sheridan	307,280.22	247,538.72	Hermitage	6,150.45	8,772.31
Clarendon	51,033.44	49,711.27	Keo	2,212.83	1,887.51	Sherrill	1,092.25	687.71	Warren	63,882.62	63,446.01
Clarksville	530,312.68	480,233.47	Kibler	7,275.14	6,919.39	Sherwood	1,266,769.69	1,190,250.59	Calhoun County	197,826.26	121,018.49
Clinton	130,751.49	118,578.99	Kingsland	2,497.03	2,847.31	Shirley	4,749.77	4,181.03	Hampton	56,381.98	34,302.82
Coal Hill	8,751.11	5,452.14	Lake	18,295.77	15,807.60	Siloam Springs	1,034,065.94	971,098.70	Harrell	10,025.58	6,580.76
Concord	3,002.74	NA	Lake Village	116,095.45	90,048.71	Sparkman	6,102.64	4,838.23	Thornton	16,184.16	10,544.74
Conway	3,867,453.53	3,402,919.64	Lakeview	7,753.89	5,361.64	Springdale	4,083,174.58	3,485,308.69	Tinsman	2,387.04	1,399.06
Corning	87,281.24	74,956.73	Lamar	30,293.17	26,592.14	Springtown	830.82	537.67	Carroll County	247,157.41	242,223.94
Cotter	20,055.18	19,960.47	Leachville	13,413.24	12,125.71	St. Charles	1,563.86	1,789.70	Beaver	643.14	966.73
Cotton Plant	1,459.45	9,740.26	Lead Hill	10,377.68	7,781.92	St. Paul	5,889.34	3,971.99	Blue Eye	441.56</	

Bay	42,597.73	42,810.51	Tollette	4,096.62	4,815.76	Mississippi County	1,523,708.31	1,191,271.55	Mansfield	9,582.77	8,375.96
Black Oak	5,290.66	6,227.85	Independence County	613,034.36	641,155.91	Bassett	2,756.98	2,608.27	Waldron	39,331.07	33,503.81
Bono	54,700.39	50,654.74	Batesville	180,022.24	174,621.38	Birdsong	711.48	618.15	Searcy County	115,641.86	104,674.85
Brookland	92,279.95	46,803.94	Cave City	2,927.71	2,760.41	Blutheville	298,064.89	235,498.28	Big Flat	0.00	10.24
Caraway	25,726.67	30,402.35	Cushman	6,965.39	7,701.88	Burdette	3,112.72	2,879.65	Gilbert	307.18	286.68
Cash	6,357.87	8,129.48	Magness	3,538.99	3,441.99	Dell	4,313.34	3,362.11	Leslie	4,430.50	4,515.25
Egypt	2,565.85	2,662.29	Moorefield	2,026.88	2,334.42	Dyess	7,537.22	6,181.45	Marshall	15,701.68	13,873.37
Jonesboro	1,784,200.12	1,598,869.09	Newark	18,981.88	20,038.52	Etowah	5,647.36	5,291.93	Pindall	1,122.39	1,146.73
Lake City	52,815.74	49,489.99	Oil Trough	3,635.51	4,430.28	Gosnell	64,700.05	53,492.18	St. Joe	1,524.09	1,351.50
Monette	34,196.27	35,679.30	Pleasant Plains	5,662.39	5,946.81	Joiner	11,072.38	8,684.19	Sebastian County	425,996.38	1,054,640.54
Crawford County	602,880.01	975,398.43	Southside	68,833.45	66,471.31	Keiser	16,697.50	11,443.23	Barling	112,071.01	96,389.09
Alma	86,545.44	70,984.99	Sulphur Rock	9,796.60	7,770.03	Leachville	45,334.50	30,047.89	Bonanza	13,756.94	11,921.64
Cedarville	21,157.20	18,260.39	Izard County	64,540.83	61,193.72	Luxora	20,944.14	17,760.37	Central City	10,804.00	10,408.11
Chester	2,139.49	2,082.79	Jackson County	360,621.06	321,662.75	Manila	81,864.46	50,386.38	Fort Smith	2,089,132.93	1,787,396.67
Dyer	11,470.06	11,474.97	Amagon	992.66	1,153.70	Marie	2,401.24	1,266.44	Greenwood	223,017.09	185,604.46
Kibler	14,931.87	12,588.41	Beedeville	1,208.46	1,259.66	Osceola	155,102.24	116,950.08	Hackett	18,373.83	16,835.44
Mountainburg	7,844.81	8,265.64	Campbell Station	3,337.65	3,001.99	Victoria	444.67	557.84	Hartford	11,694.57	13,310.78
Mulberry	22,925.26	21,679.30	Diaz	17,608.99	15,516.15	Wilson	17,030.99	13,614.27	Huntington	11,483.65	13,165.64
Rudy	1,931.49	799.06	Grubbs	4,330.32	4,544.18	Monroe	NA	NA	Lavaca	57,418.23	47,458.51
Van Buren	344,963.45	298,545.64	Jacksonport	2,157.96	2,495.77	Montgomery County	306,022.01	297,682.77	Mansfield	16,030.23	14,990.17
Crittenden County	970,040.41	977,040.33	Newport	115,163.38	92,755.47	Black Springs	1,233.60	1,106.50	Midland	5,319.97	6,738.32
Anthonyville	1,227.44	1,427.06	Swifton	10,545.25	9,394.45	Glennwood	796.70	469.43	Sevier County	606,359.71	535,920.82
Clarkedale	3,054.97	3,288.45	Tuckerman	24,557.64	21,920.38	Mount Ida	12,798.57	12,026.23	Ben Lomond	2,041.57	1,741.40
Crawfordsville	4,200.59	4,245.73	Tupelo	1,007.05	2,119.05	Norman	3,893.54	4,224.83	DeQueen	89,027.13	79,191.51
Earle	16,647.79	21,397.07	Weldon	820.04	882.93	Oden	2,312.99	2,593.02	Gilham	2,289.48	1,921.54
Edmondson	2,209.40	3,784.82	Jefferson County	521,033.63	484,621.66	Nevada County	115,394.68	135,480.05	Horatio	13,416.05	12,538.06
Gilmore	1,440.20	2,098.04	Altheimer	10,483.03	12,147.41	Bluff City	1,099.00	1,247.27	Lokesburg	8,662.10	8,875.12
Horseshoe Lake	2,400.34	2,588.21	Humphrey	3,223.23	3,802.24	Bodcaw	1,126.94	1,388.09	Sharp County	356,942.02	297,780.39
Jennette	965.59	917.40	Pine Bluff	621,345.36	605,925.97	Cale	679.89	794.63	Ash Flat	17,306.89	13,803.74
Jericho	891.03	1,054.79	Redfield	22,668.04	16,011.37	Emmet	3,697.47	4,777.86	Cave City	29,408.20	24,536.85
Marion	125,035.70	109,422.90	Sherrill	798.28	1,036.97	Prescott	28,881.27	33,153.33	Cherokee Village	66,709.29	54,623.36
Sunset	1,505.66	1,579.52	Wabbaseka	2,711.13	3,147.96	Rosston	2,533.28	2,625.31	Evening Shade	7,098.53	6,084.91
Turrell	4,230.59	4,906.08	White Hall	84,060.03	68,218.05	Willisville	1,378.40	1,528.93	Hardy	11,966.09	10,282.38
West Memphis	222,940.32	232,628.93	Johnson County	175,227.95	156,370.28	Newton County	60,688.46	55,828.57	Highland	16,597.04	14,719.29
Cross County	652,462.76	605,581.70	Clarksville	129,914.91	114,859.29	Jasper	5,249.30	3,478.09	Horseshoe Bend	219.72	112.68
Cherry Valley	9,243.28	9,122.61	Coal Hill	11,355.96	12,664.80	Western Grove	3,397.17	2,866.07	Sidney	3,245.04	2,549.47
Hickory Ridge	3,665.16	3,811.60	Hartman	7,145.94	6,495.09	Ouachita County	626,961.58	587,674.27	Williford	1,335.21	1,056.40
Parkin	12,763.76	15,484.62	Knoxville	9,140.16	9,148.19	Bearden	11,245.69	11,381.52	St. Francis County	461,864.36	488,925.33
Wynne	133,649.72	117,248.69	Lamar	23,805.96	20,085.99	Camden	153,787.68	143,541.52	Caldwell	11,531.26	12,025.96
Dallas County	191,394.20	166,573.76	Lafayette County	111,222.00	77,757.81	Chidester	3,666.44	3,405.03	Cott	7,491.48	8,190.64
Desha County	144,974.16	123,665.60	Bradley	3,934.05	3,664.61	East Camden	11,564.51	10,969.15	Forrest City	332,770.40	333,064.66
Arkansas City	6,626.18	4,786.04	Buckner	1,602.76	1,604.73	Louann	2,217.26	1,932.27	Hughes	27,000.04	31,224.14
Dumas	70,508.92	61,538.57	Lewisville	8,888.05	7,469.28	Stephens	11,158.72	10,497.87	Madison	19,406.28	16,662.98
McGehee	67,830.25	55,170.26	Stamps	12,219.85	9,879.29	Perry County	201,460.27	166,729.62	Palestine	12,937.52	14,756.16
Mitchellville	5,163.49	4,707.58	Lawrence County	469,340.93	395,846.73	Adona	1,196.05	1,336.97	Wheatley	7,133.54	7,692.28
Reed	2,290.97	2,249.18	Alicia	1,501.87	1,068.09	Bigelow	2,825.57	2,015.05	Widener	5,420.46	5,915.48
Tillar	563.93	274.61	Black Rock	6,196.54	5,702.21	Casa	963.26	1,093.89	Stone County	223,580.16	203,203.21
Watson	3,260.23	2,759.17	Hoxie	27,285.80	23,945.82	Fourche	449.52	396.61	Fifty Six	2,278.56	2,243.40
Drew County	530,176.48	477,216.38	Imboden	6,721.67	5,831.41	Houston	1,147.89	1,106.68	Mountain View	41,489.99	35,635.13
Jerome	0.00	595.43	Lynn	2,709.68	2,480.72	Perry	2,103.12	1,727.19	Union County	682,040.80	604,629.37
Monticello	149,573.07	144,536.31	Minturn	913.73	938.88	Perryville	11,021.33	9,339.61	Calion	18,837.67	17,626.90
Tillar	2,480.48	3,114.55	Portia	4,453.11	3,764.14	Phillips County	196,279.39	190,152.29	El Dorado	835,131.19	750,532.72
Wilmar	6,998.50	7,801.63	Powhatan	1,092.27	620.18	Elaine	9,819.60	9,138.67	Felsenthal	3,578.61	4,319.16
Winchester	2,427.33	2,549.65	Ravenden	4,474.11	4,048.39	Helena-West Helena	185,613.08	176,396.63	Huttig	24,395.63	24,159.65
Faulkner County	1,183,201.68	1,027,727.10	Sedgwick	1,711.93	1,309.27	Lake View	6,488.15	6,362.57	Junction City	23,031.79	21,550.57
Enola	3,107.23	3,129.42	Smithville	913.73	671.86	Lexa	4,130.27	4,101.48	Norphlet	29,658.90	27,190.98
Holland	5,725.91	5,157.06	Strawberry	2,814.70	2,601.31	Marvell	17,114.52	17,036.98	Smackover	76,891.24	71,536.22
Mount Vernon	1,407.05	1,342.50	Walnut Ridge	56,546.09	45,979.41	Pike County	284,360.01	242,077.92	Strong	20,134.51	20,357.77
Twin Groves	3,097.46	3,101.64	Lee County	46,368.67	44,290.35	Antoine	1,965.06	1,552.46	Van Buren County	324,946.00	286,633.67
Wooster	10,181.57	7,962.43	Aubrey	1,137.36	1,172.47	Daisy	1,530.31	1,525.92	Clinton	43,493.70	36,126.85
Franklin County	206,137.36	217,234.65	Haynes	1,284.80	1,211.00	Delight	5,008.30	3,702.02	Damascus	4,247.07	3,471.07
Altus	5,969.20	1,210.22	LaGrange	547.62	718.53	Glennwood	34,884.19	29,005.83	Fairfield Bay	33,751.39	29,920.59
Branch	2,656.97	585.95	Marianna	37,648.88	33,221.80	Murfreesboro	25,997.94	21,774.27	Shirley	4,299.10	4,040.32
Charleston	23,230.51	4,026.62	Moro	1,864.01	1,743.84	Poinsett County	337,873.68	295,879.48	Washington County	2,122,621.85	3,041,986.91
Denning	2,593.14	2,506.66	Rondo	1,716.59	1,598.52	Fisher	2,436.22	2,425.67	Elkins	74,983.60	57,999.97
Ozark	31,793.84	5,881.87	Lincoln County	186,130.83	166,743.68	Harrisburg	29,938.47	25,039.83	Elm Springs	39,469.43	38,462.22
Wiederkehr Village	448.81	60.67	Gould	5,426.53	5,648.55	Lepanto	23,441.88	20,590.96	Farmington	157,877.74	130,850.39
Fulton County	329,684.47	254,542.94	Grady	2,496.37	3,030.11	Marked Tree	30,940.03	27,911.47	Fayetteville	1,955,756.28	1,611,645.79
Ash Flat	929.87	639.11	Star City	17,785.60	15,346.25	Trumann	100,142.30	79,361.67	Goshen	43,757.78	23,458.45
Cherokee Village	6,854.70	4,968.77	Little River County	373,190.59	338,454.63	Tyronza	9,690.75	8,288.60	Greenland	25,251.28	28,342.89
Hardy	288.01	263.16	Ashdown	55,208.79	50,930.02	Waldenburg	717.33	663.52	Johnson	75,129.32	73,463.71
Horseshoe Bend	90.52	106.52	Foreman	12,658.76	10,902.02	Weiner	8,756.88	7,788.22	Lincoln	47,754.69	49,260.55
Mammoth Spring	7,644.67	6,121.67	Ogden	1,697.34	1,941.01	Polk County	365,492.12	327,958.86	Prairie Grove	146,657.26	96,944.06
Salem	12,886.50	10,244.56	Wilton	3,718.59	4,032.99	Cove	9,948.12	9,837.48	Springdale	1,563,018.75	1,406,083.20
Viola	2,945.95	2,111.57	Winthrop	1,502.99	2,070.42	Grannis	15,467.92	14,266.92	Tontitown	89,534.83	53,882.15
Garland County	3,189,644.39	3,063,337.07	Logan County	431,382.35	367,620.23	Hatfield	10,758.94	10,635.80	West Fork	48,524.92	50,749.98
Fountain Lake	9,817.89	10,482.78	Blue Mountain	1,136.44	1,304.74	Mena	174,294.84	147,742.44	Winslow	7,598.28	8,564.20
Hot Springs	335,993.24	338,786.57	Booneville	49,189.78	41,983.08	Vandervoort	3,586.32	2,240.48	White County	1,553,517.70	1,415,281.35
Lonsdale	2,128.93	1,959.01	Caulksville	1,988.77	2,241.20	Wickes	19,865.04	19,417.43	Bald Knob	42,013.75	43,751.81
Mountain Pine	12,091.50	16,047.22	Magazine	9,556.43	8,912.20	Pope County	493,205.78	466,616.79	Beebe	140,551.17	110,474.76
Grant County	308,675.89	252,342.34	Morrison Bluff	1,007.30	673.41	Atkins	54,743.20	56,039.35	Bradford	11,294.74	11,462.76
Greene County	485,129.67	450,932.09	Paris	41,015.16	37,163.97	Dover	25,600.44	25,604.19	Garner	3,515.03	4,289.10
Delaplaine	1,016.24	1,792.19	Ratcliff	2,156.65	2,125.46	Hector	7,869.69	8,361.31	Georgetown	1,349.37	1,872.70
Lafe	6,637.35	7,076.05	Scranton	3,163.95	2,356.94	London	17,922.22	19,305.33	Griffithville	2,582.13	3,398.05
Marmaduke	19,245.13	17,164.83	Subiaco	5,178.56	6,018.62	Pottsville	60,123.70	52,731.99	Higginson	11,744.53	9,378.62
Oak Grove Heights	17,530.22	13,734.95	Lonoke County	952,365.62	399,880.70	Russellville	554,133.68	518,772.78	Judsonia	30,885.61	30,491.86
Paragould	469,012.65	403,442.99	Allport	1,249.36	1,616.96	Prattville					

MUNICIPAL MART

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

DEPUTY DIRECTOR WATER & SEWER LINE MAINTENANCE—The city of Fort Smith's next deputy director of water and sewer line maintenance will be an innovative, dedicated manager and self-motivated leader who can maintain a collaborative and supportive work environment in the department. The deputy director will strategically manage the department's operational goals and will work harmoniously with department managers to carry out the organization's assigned duties. The deputy director will evaluate and recommend improvements to existing programs and propose new initiatives as needed for department and system effectiveness, efficiency, safety and full compliance with state and federal requirements. The chosen candidate will possess a comprehensive knowledge of water and wastewater systems as well as the state laws and regulations governing their administration and have the technical skills required to operate and manage municipal utility systems. It will be vitally important for the next deputy director to possess a well-rounded background of both engineering knowledge and management experience coupled with a successful track record of delivering excellent business operations. The successful candidate should be able to interpret and develop technical drawings, specifications and contracts, and have extensive knowledge of electrical and mechanical systems. Specific training and continuing education in the water and wastewater fields is critical. The chosen candidate will hold a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, business administration or related area, with at least 10 years of experience working with water and wastewater systems. A master's degree is a plus. Five years of supervisory experience, including three years of administrative or managerial experience, is required. A Grade 4 Arkansas Water Distribution Operator License is required or the selected candidate must obtain the license within one year of employment. The starting salary for this position is up to \$100,000 annually, dependent on qualifications and experience, with growth potential to \$118,913. Please apply online at <https://www.governmentresource.com/executive-recruitment/open-recruitments/fort-smith-ar-deputy-director-of-water-sewer-line-maintenance>. For more information on this position contact: Gary Holland, senior vice president, Strategic Government Resources, GaryHolland@governmentresource.com, 405-269-3445.

DISTRIBUTION OPERATOR—Springdale Water Utilities is now accepting applications for the position of distribution operator. Working under the direction of the distribution supervisor and supervision of the distribution manager and the distribution director, this individual is a member of a three-member crew working in the water distribution and sanitary sewer collection systems owned, operated, and maintained by Springdale Water Utilities. Persons employed in this position are responsible for making sure health and safety measures are executed. This is a safety sensitive position. Pre-employment and random drug testing are required per DOT regulations. This position is required to be on call (duty assignment) at scheduled weekly intervals and to be available for working outside normal business hours. Actively participates in duties of a high performance three-member crew assigned to maintain, upgrade, and expand the Utility's water distribution system and the sanitary sewer collection system. Education and training: Obtain, within three years, a Class II Water Distribution Operator's License issued by the Arkansas Department of Health. Employees in this position are strongly encouraged to obtain a Class IV Water Distribution Operator's License. The Utility's compensation system is designed to motivate employees to contribute to the maximum of their ability by compensating based on their job performance and meeting licensing requirements. Inability to obtain proper licenses, within a year of being eligible to test, will result in a decrease of potential merit increases. Employee must obtain and maintain, within six months, a State of Arkansas CDL commensurate with work duties and remain insurable by the carrier providing automotive insurance coverage to the Springdale Water and Sewer Commission. Salary range is \$22.01 – \$33.02 DOE. For a complete job description and to apply, visit www.springdalewater.com by clicking the apply here button or by e-mail to hr@springdalewater.com. Open until filled. Springdale Water provides an exceptional benefit package and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

PUMP STATION SUPERVISOR—Springdale Water Utilities is now accepting applications for the position of pump station supervisor. Working under the direction of the technical services director, persons in this position are charged with the primary responsibility of working in the operation and maintenance of fire hydrants, sewer lift stations, water storage facilities and water booster stations owned,

operated and maintained by Springdale Water Utilities. The pump station supervisor is responsible for ensuring appropriate health and safety measures are established and executed by pump station operators. This is a safety sensitive position. Pre-employment and random drug testing are required per DOT regulations. This position is required to be on call (duty assignment) at scheduled weekly intervals and to be available for working outside normal business hours. High school diploma or equivalent required. Individuals must have met the minimum licensing requirements of Class II Water Distribution Operator's License issued by the Arkansas Department of Health in order to apply for this position. Encouraged to obtain other operating licenses that are applicable to assigned job duties. The Utility's compensation system is designed to motivate employees to contribute to the maximum of their ability by compensating based on their job performance and meeting licensing requirements. Inability to obtain proper licenses, within a year of being eligible to test, will result in a decrease of potential merit increases. Employees must have and maintain, a State of Arkansas CDL commensurate with work duties and remain insurable by the carrier providing automotive insurance coverage to the Springdale Water and Sewer Commission. Directly accountable for supervision of all assigned personnel as indicated on the Utility's organizational chart and to periodically assist in the training of employees with less experience. Salary range is \$25.96-\$38.94 DOE. For a complete job description and to apply, visit www.springdalewater.com by clicking the apply here button or by e-mail to hr@springdalewater.com. Open until filled. Springdale Water provides an exceptional benefit package and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

PUMP STATION MANAGER—Springdale Water Utilities is now accepting applications for the position of pump station manager. Working under the direction of the technical services director, this individual is charged with the primary responsibility of working with assigned personnel in the operation and maintenance of all sewer lift stations, water storage facilities and water booster stations owned, operated, and maintained by Springdale Water Utilities. The pump station manager is responsible for ensuring appropriate health and safety measures are established and executed by personnel under his or her supervision. This is a safety sensitive position. Pre-employment and random drug testing are required per DOT regulations. This position is required to be available for working outside normal business hours. This individual assumes responsibility for supervising pumping station operators in the daily work assignments required for operation, maintenance and repair of water storage facilities and pump stations (sewer lift stations and water booster stations). High school diploma or equivalent required. Individuals must have met the minimum licensing requirements of a Class II Water Distribution Operator's license issued by the Arkansas Department of Health in order to apply for this position. Individual must obtain within one year, after assuming position and meeting licensure experience requirements, a Class IV Water Distribution Operator's License issued by the Arkansas Department of Health and a Class III Wastewater Operator's License issued by the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality. The Utility's compensation system is designed to motivate employees to contribute to the maximum of their ability by compensating based on their job performance and meeting licensing requirements. Inability to obtain proper licenses, within a year of being eligible to test, will result in a decrease of potential merit increases. Must have and maintain a valid State of Arkansas CDL commensurate with work duties and be insurable by the carrier providing automotive insurance coverage to the Springdale Water and Sewer Commission. Salary range is \$30.41-\$45.61 DOE. For a complete job description and to apply, visit www.springdalewater.com by clicking the apply here button or by e-mail to hr@springdalewater.com. Open until filled. Springdale Water provides an exceptional benefit package and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

SR. PURCHASING AGENT—The city of Fayetteville seeks applicants for the position of senior purchasing agent. This senior level position manages the majority of the city's construction bids, RFPs and RFQs amongst various other duties. This is in a fast-paced, high-volume bidding environment where attention to detail is critical and multi-tasking is necessary. This position also has a great energetic supportive team who work great together. To learn more about this position or to submit an application, please visit Careers at www.fayetteville-ar.gov or contact Andrea Foren, NIGP-CPP, purchasing manager, at aforen@fayetteville-ar.gov.

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