

# City & Town

WINTER 2024 VOL. 80, NO. 01

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE





Stephens

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# We proudly support the great cities and towns of Arkansas.

For nearly nine decades, the Arkansas Municipal League has been a tireless supporter of the cities and towns that make Arkansas a wonderful place to live and work. Stephens has been there from the beginning, providing the financing and investment advice that have enabled our great municipalities to thrive.



Cover photo by Andrew Morgan.



**ON THE COVER**—Having some fun between conference sessions, Bay Council Member David Milam gently removes a block from the tower to keep the game of Jenga going during the Arkansas Municipal League’s 2024 Winter Conference, held January 10-12 in Little Rock. Read highlights and see photos from the event inside beginning on page 18. Read also about the town of Denning’s road to recovery after a 2011 tornado, and get the lowdown on cryptocurrency and why Arkansas is an attractive place for crypto miners to set up shop, all in this issue.

## Features

**20 Denning builds back**  
 The town of Denning celebrated the completion of a new pavilion in October 2023. It’s the town’s latest victory in its recovery after a deadly 2011 tornado destroyed much of its infrastructure. With a new town hall, public works building, community center and tornado shelter, and now a new pavilion, Denning has built back better than before.

**22 #2024AMLWC is a wrap!**  
 City and town officials and personnel from across the state gathered in Little Rock January 10-12 for the 2024 Winter Conference, which offered sessions on a variety of timely topics for municipalities, including an introduction to the League’s new training and certification program, the Arkansas Civic Education Program.

**39 A crypto primer**  
 Arkansas is becoming a hotspot of crypto mining thanks to inexpensive land and electricity. As the state legislature continues to decide how best to regulate the power-intensive and noisy operations, *City & Town* offers a basic overview of the cryptocurrency driving the burgeoning industry.

## City & Town Contents

- Arkansas Municipal League Officers..... 13
- Community Development .....44
- Engineering.....48
- Event Calendar ..... 18
- From the Desk of the Executive Director.....6
- Municipal Mart.....66
- Municipal Notes ..... 16
- Planning to Succeed .....42
- President’s Letter.....4
- Sales Tax Map .....51
- Sales Tax Receipts .....52
- Turnback Estimates.....50
- Your Health .....46

Dear colleagues and friends,

You've done it once again. Thank you for making time to attend the 2024 Winter Conference in Little Rock and for making it a such a terrific week! That so many of you were in attendance speaks to the extra care and dedication with which you fill your role as an elected official or other member of a municipal team. Whether you attended in person or virtually, I hope you felt the same refreshing spirit of cooperation and progress that I did. The sessions were packed with great information and the speakers were enjoyable and inspiring. And how did you like the various changes in format and layout? I heard many positive comments about the updated exhibit hall, the scheduling and content of the sessions, and the overall experience.

How about the new Arkansas Civic Education Program, or ACE for short? This new program is going to revolutionize the way we educate local officials in our state, and no doubt it will become a model for other leagues across the country to emulate. I hope you'll log into the hub on the League website, set up your profile, and start contributing and learning.

It was such a fun week together, and I hope you left feeling energized and ready to do even more for your hometowns in 2024. As always, it was such an honor to be with you as our League president. My requests for you to stop me in the hall and chat didn't go unanswered, either! Wow, so many new introductions this year and chances to reconnect with those I've known for quite a while. My family got to join me for the last couple of days, and those in attendance at Friday's Inspire Breakfast made my oldest feel so loved and welcomed, as you always do. Thank you so much for that. Our winter conference and annual convention are two of the biggest highlights of my year.

Now we march ahead into the new year. What kinds of things are on your radar? In Cave City we are planning to do more water and sewer infrastructure upgrades, because we know that future development can't happen if the foundations aren't up to it. I encourage you to also make those kinds of things a priority. We're getting excitedly close to finishing renovations on two historic buildings in our downtown



From left, League Executive Director Mark Hayes, Julian Anderson, and 2023-2024 League President Jonas Anderson.

that will become a new city hall and police department. And it goes without saying that planning for the solar eclipse in April and our beloved watermelon festival in July are firmly underway. Lord willing, I look forward to helping represent our state in Washington, D.C., at the National League of Cities Congressional City Conference in March, and at some other meetings and events



The conference-closing Inspire Breakfast from the president's view.

throughout the rest of the year too. It is such an honor to stand before those kinds of audiences and tell the good story of our state, our cities and towns, and our League.

Finally, we are officially in an election year. Have you noticed? Campaigns and debates and early votes are in full swing. I think we have to be on guard to not let the nature of today's political discourse leach into how we conduct ourselves at the local level. Yes, we must pay attention to national issues that will inevitably affect us. Yes, we must know what candidates stand for and against, and align that knowledge and our vote to our own convictions and values. But my friends, in all of that, we do not have to mirror the ultra-divisive direction that national and even state politics too often takes. We can and should be the level headed, pragmatic and principled leaders that our residents so desperately need at this time in our history. Be a real change-maker. Let's be a positive and unifying force each and every day.

If I can be of any help to you, please reach out. Until we meet again in person, I wish you and yours continued health and success in all you do. Thank you for doing it to the very best of your ability. It matters.

For greater communities and a greater state,

Handwritten signature of Jonas Anderson in black ink.

Jonas Anderson  
Mayor, Cave City  
President, Arkansas Municipal League

# From the Desk of the Executive Director

## A Classic Re-Boot

*As always, I suggest you read the column first and then the footnotes!*



Despite my penchant for teasing her, the Local Controller and I have a great friendship, love affair and marriage. Yes, you'll be reading this close to Valentine's Day.<sup>1</sup> So what? A gift, that's what. Now that we have that out of the way, let's move on. "Please do." says LC. Actually, she now says, "Let's not move on from the gift part." Yikes, I need to pivot. Pivoting now.

Many of you are familiar with the long-ago sitcom *I Love Lucy*.<sup>2</sup> The crazy situations the lead character finds herself in are hilarious. Many of her own making and others are just the karma<sup>3</sup> she both exudes and attracts. Lucy routinely tries to become a movie star, a singing star or *any* kind of star, but she's really not very talented in that way. What she *is* good at is setting up hilarious séances, wearing badly designed disguises, attempting to be Cupid,<sup>4</sup> pretending to have amnesia and a line of pratfalls<sup>5</sup> that would make even the most gifted physical comedian jealous. On occasion, I feel like I'm living with Lucy. The Local Controller routinely misplaces her glasses, cell phone and keys. In and of themselves, not big deals. It's where we find them that brings the laughter. "Where are my glasses?" she asks. My responses have included:

- You're looking through them.
- On top of your head.
- I found them in:
  - The refrigerator
  - In the bed covers at the foot of the bed
  - Under the cushion of a long unused couch in a small room we used for storage...a YEAR after she lost them
  - A kitchen cabinet
  - On the deck
  - On the floor

The cell phone has been found in many places. The regularity of loss caused her to tape one of my business cards to the back of the phone with a message reading: If Found Please Call Mark. Some of the calls I've received:

<sup>1</sup> Ahh, yes. A day of romance, chocolates, flowers and overcrowded dining establishments. How did this day come into existence you ask? The LC has just demurred, commenting: "No. They didn't ask." I heard ya loud and clear so here's a bit of the history on who were the Valentines and how did the day come about! Let's start with two Romans preaching the good book, one of whom was martyred on February 14, 269. Add to that perhaps as many as 12-14 Saint Valentines, a Spanish Hermit, a woman named Valencia and the English poet Chaucer. I bet you didn't see that coming! The preacher who was martyred was allegedly named Valentine, which was a very popular name at that time. So popular in fact that his preaching partner was likely also named Valentine. What does any of that have to do with our celebrated Valentine's Day? Nothing. Zip. Nada. You'll recall I mentioned Chaucer earlier. He wrote a romantic poem in the 14th Century, *Parlement of Foules*. He needed a word that rhymed with whatever he had penned and Valentine fit the bill. That's it, a rhyme. The poem struck a chord with the English and they began the annual celebration on February 14 of writing poems and giving gifts to those they loved.

<sup>2</sup> The show starred Lucille Ball as the wife of the Cuban band leader Ricky Ricardo, her real life husband. She and her neighbor Ethel find hilarious predicaments at every turn. <https://bit.ly/42kltf> For those of you who aren't familiar with the show, I suggest two episodes that will undoubtedly tickle your funny bone. They are: "Job Switching" and "Lucy Does a TV Commercial." You won't be disappointed. <https://bit.ly/3Okhnug>

<sup>3</sup> Karma originated in the ancient Hindu text *Rig Veda* written during the Bronze Age around 1500 BC. I haven't read it. <https://bit.ly/42gcKaA>

<sup>4</sup> Originally known as Eros and traced back to 700 BC, Cupid was more of a heartthrob than cherub. Fast forward a few hundred years, the Greeks and then the Romans decided the cuter cherub version better fit society at that time. <https://bit.ly/3Ujce9C>

<sup>5</sup> A staple of slapstick comedy involves the pratfall, otherwise known as an overly dramatic (read funny) fall on one's posterior and other such crazy stunts. <https://bit.ly/49djzvH>

- A bike rental place in Florida. She left it in the bike's basket.
- Dillard's, Target, Kroger, gas stations galore and a variety of other retail outlets.
- Mother Hayes.

I've also found the phone in kitchen cabinets, under the couch, in the pantry behind some canned goods, on top of her car, in my truck while I was driving to work (it rang or I never would have known it), on the dog's bed and the list goes on and on. The keys, well you get the idea. To go along with these mishaps are loud noises from a room I'm not in, followed by one of two phrases. "Whoops!" or "Whoops...uh oh." The former signifies a drop, fall, slip, slide or other such thing. The second signifies the same thing with the addition of something being broken. It's ranged from a wine glass to her ankle and anything and everything in between. We now own a great deal of plastic drinkware, Bubble Wrap<sup>6</sup> and various orthopedic devices. Good times.

A couple of other stories of note. She once had to chase an Uber<sup>7</sup> through a large convention center parking lot to retrieve her phone. Picture her in heels, running behind the vehicle and frantically yelling and beating on the trunk. He hit the brakes and she hit the car. She was fine! And she retrieved the item, of course.

She's been lost a couple of times. At the Biltmore House<sup>8</sup> in Asheville, North Carolina, which has large forests and huge parking lots as well as a few dead cell coverage spots. She began walking to find cell coverage to summon a cab or an Uber. Instead, she managed to find every one of the "no signal available" zones and kept walking. Her walkabout included cutting through a wooded area trying to get back to a parking lot she thought she'd been in. She came upon a steep hill filled with large rocks at the top of which was the parking lot. She climbed, in her sundress, on all fours to the top and came out of the hedges with twigs in her hair and dirt on her hands and knees. Disheveled, to put it mildly. I'm sure the folks that first saw her thought she'd been abandoned in the woods for weeks. That or they figured she was a very small version of Bigfoot.

Parking and driving are the thing of legend. The controller has noted many times: "Ya know, I useta could park." A personal favorite is leaving the car running in a parking deck during an entire concert. "I thought I cut it off!" I'm not kidding. The entire concert. All of it. It was a great show I must admit. If you get a chance to see Arkansas' own Ashley McBryde<sup>9</sup> jump on it! She's a great entertainer. We've also experienced near misses of cement poles, garbage cans, mailboxes and people with LC behind the wheel. After one particularly harrowing moment she said: "Ya know, I scare myself sometimes." Life with the Local Controller is always entertaining!

I'm getting the eye. The stare. All couples know of it. In fact, I've written about it before. "They know. Get to the point funny man. And don't forget you're still coming home to me every night after work so move it along." Aye Aye Admiral! To the point it is. The title of this column is "A Classic Re-Boot." I'm not referring to making another sitcom. The point of the first part of the column is simply to note, in an admittedly over-the-top way, that many things in our past are important and still impactful. Additionally, while honoring those traditions we also chart new courses. Cell phones and Ubers are good examples and they sometimes lead to humorous situations like those I find myself in with LC.

The League's big meetings, convention and conference are places we can honor tradition and embrace the new. The Winter Conference held just a few weeks ago was by all measures an enormous hit. It's your conference, of course, so please share your thoughts with League staff. And not just your thoughts but your ideas as well. No single individual has cornered the market for good ideas. So please share! I'm sure it isn't lost on any of you the many differences between this year's Winter Conference and previous years. Those changes were deliberate and much needed. Some highlights from the surveys y'all filled out:

<sup>6</sup> Bubble Wrap was invented, accidentally, in 1957 by Alfred Fielding and his partner a Swiss chemist named Marc Chavannes. Oddly they were trying to invent textured wallpaper that would appeal to the Beat generation. You can't make this stuff up!  
<https://bit.ly/3SjHJ0d>

<sup>7</sup> Another partnership! Travis Kalanick and Garrett Camp were attending a tech conference in Paris. The one across the ocean not the one in Logan County. I digress. Oh boy, LC is getting fired up now. "You're making these poor people read about Bubble Wrap and Uber! What does that have to do with cities and towns?!" Oh ye of little faith. Where was I? Oh yeah, Uber. The two dudes, already independently wealthy, couldn't get a cab one night. From that the generation of summoning rides from your phone was born!  
<https://bit.ly/47UJV4s>

<sup>8</sup> I'm pushing my luck, so I'll make this quick. Go visit. It's spectacular. <https://www.biltmore.com/> Oh, and I wrote about it in an issue or two ago if you'd like some additional details. LC's arms are crossed and the toe is tapping. Moving on....

<sup>9</sup> She was raised in Mammoth Spring and went to my alma mater, Arkansas State University. She was in the marching band which likely means I saw her before she was famous! <https://bit.ly/42gdP28> Also of note, she's related to family of a certain mayor in our fair state. I'm keeping that on the down low unless I get permission to share!

- Popcorn<sup>10</sup> is back!
- Thirty-minute breaks are much needed.
- The new layout and accoutrements of the exhibit hall were fantastic! Including:
  - Did I mention popcorn?
  - The new entryway and location of League Services.
  - Comfortable couches and chairs.
  - The games! Connect Four, Jenga and Tic-Tac-Toe led to some fierce and fun competition. Just wait for summer...Baggo!<sup>11</sup>
  - Mixing exhibitor booths between state and federal agencies and private vendors was terrific. Each exhibitor got more foot traffic and they were far more engaged.
  - The swag was awesome!
  - So were the door prizes!
- The Happy Hour before the banquet was great!
- As was the Inspire Breakfast. Coach Nutt is still at the top of his game!
- The sessions were informative and entertaining!
- The new Learning Management System is wonderful!

There was much more but I'm running up on my word count and deadline! Guess who just muttered: "Thankfully." Again, back to my point. While we did so many new things, we also honored many of our traditions. The classics if you will! The opening session paid tribute to our country and each of you and the service you bring to the community. We stood reverently when the color guard marched through and posted the colors. We put our hands over our hearts for the National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance. We listened and learned. We engaged in both the ways we've done in years past and in ways we've never done.

Much like each of you does at home, the staff made significant efforts to better your experience and to give you more tools for your jobs. On a daily basis you adjust and are creative. You do so because you care about your city or town. You make your community better. While there are setbacks and bad days, your resilience and willingness to embrace new things makes a difference. Let me tell ya, it's not easy planning a meeting for over 1,000 of our closest friends! The logistics alone are enough to make any person a bit dizzy. Add to that creating programming that's fresh, well it's a big, big job. Of course, I'm not telling you anything you don't already know. You tackle the seemingly impossible and find a way to make a difference. As you are proud of your city hall team, I too am proud of the League staff.

They made the conference a reality and a creative engaging reality at that. Tell them thanks if you get the chance. They really are the best in the business. Check out some of the feedback—and a few photos—on the following pages. Full coverage of the 2024 Winter Conference begins on page 22.



***“Keep the popcorn!”***

<sup>10</sup> Corn was likely cultivated around 9,000 years ago. In 2012 however archaeologists discovered evidence of popcorn in Peru. They found 6,700-year-old corn cobs with puffed kernels! I'll go ahead and beat everyone to age jokes. Yes, that's about the time I graduated from high school! I'll be here all week. Tip your servers. <https://bit.ly/42eAb49>

<sup>11</sup> Connect Four was created in 1974, Jenga in 1983, Tic-Tac-Toe in ancient Egypt and Baggo in the 14th Century. Who knew?! Google, that's who!



*“The setup of the exhibit hall was BY FAR the best! The location of League Services could not have been in a better place and the fact that any/all vendors could attend was a great idea and, in my opinion, a genius decision.”*



*“Check-in was extremely easy. Everyone is always so kind and makes the process smooth and painless.”*

*“The flow through the vendors and overall setup was perfect. I talked with more vendors during this conference than probably all previous conferences that I attended.”*



*“Always friendly faces! Knowledgeable and helpful! Makes the experience even better from the start!”*

*“The vendors were easy to talk to and very informative.”*

*“I learn something new every time. I really enjoyed learning the techniques for dealing with recording and the best practices to use to keep my city safe.”*

*“As an exhibitor, I thought it was well thought out.”*



*“Really enjoyed the free time to network!”*



*“This conference was so much fun, so educational and more chances to network/fellowship. Met so many new people.”*

The League will celebrate its 90th birthday at this summer’s convention. I’ve taken to saying we’re 90 years young! As we did in January, the summer meeting will be new, fresh, engaging and better than ever! You’ll be hearing a great deal about the 90th in the weeks and months to come. We’re going to show the state of Arkansas why your communities are the backbone of the state’s economy and shine a light on all the good you do! Great Cities do indeed make a Great State!

P.S.: The League’s 90th Annual Convention is just a few months away! We hope you’ll join us June 12-14 at the Statehouse Convention Center. Registration information and other details are coming soon.

Until next time, peace.

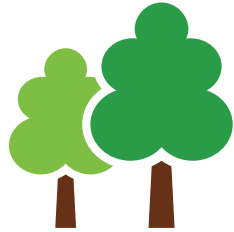
Mark R. Hayes  
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## Project: Texarkana Regional Airport

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15

## Lamb, Rea achieve CMC status

Murfreesboro Recorder/Treasurer Penny Lamb and Fayetteville Document Management Manager Christine Rea have earned the Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) designation from the International Institute Of Municipal Clerks (IIMC), the organization has announced. To earn the CMC designation, a municipal clerk must attend extensive education programs often totaling more than 120 educational hours. The CMC designation also requires pertinent experience in a municipality. Since 1970, the CMC program has prepared applicants to meet the challenges of the complex role of the municipal clerk by providing them with quality education in partnership with institutions of higher learning as well as local and national associations. For more information on the IIMC, visit [www.iimc.com](http://www.iimc.com).

## AHPP sets Sandwiching in History tours for 2024

The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) has announced the 2024 Sandwiching in History tour schedule, which highlights the following six historic sites across Arkansas:

- February 2—Isaac Homard House, 1217 W. 3rd Street, Little Rock
- March 1—Parkin Archeological State Park, 60 State Hwy. 184, Parkin
- May 3—Palarm Battle Site (Brooks-Baxter War), 950 AR-365 near Mayflower
- June 7—Choctaw Route Station (Sturgis Hall at the Clinton School of Public Service), 1200 President Clinton Ave., Little Rock
- September 6—Over-the-Jumps Carousel (Herschell-Spillman Carousel), 1 Zoo Drive, Little Rock
- November 1—Museum of Automobiles, 8 Jones Lane on Petit Jean Mountain

Tours generally last less than one hour. All tours start at noon and are free and open to the public. Tours are streamed live on the AHPP Facebook page whenever possible. For more details, call the AHPP at 501-324-9880 or visit [www.arkansaspreservation.org](http://www.arkansaspreservation.org).

## Annexation reports due March 1

A.C.A. § 14-40-2201 provides that on March 1 “the mayor or city manager of a city or incorporated town shall file annually with the city clerk or recorder, town recorder, and county clerk a written notice describing any annexation elections that have become final in the previous eight years.” The written notice must include a “schedule of services to be provided to the inhabitants of the annexed portion of the city” and “a statement as

to whether the scheduled services have been provided to the inhabitants of the annexed portions of the city.” If the scheduled services have not been provided to the new inhabitants within three years after the date the annexation becomes final, “the written notice reporting the status of the extension of scheduled services shall include a statement of the rights of inhabitants to seek detachment.” Finally: “A city or incorporated town shall not proceed with annexation elections if there are pending scheduled services that have not been provided in three years as prescribed by law.”

## Act 833 deadline for fire departments is June 30

The 2023 Act 833 application period for Arkansas fire departments opened January 1 and will close June 30. Act 833 of 1992, “Funding for Fire Departments,” is administered by the Arkansas Fire Protection Services Board and requires all Arkansas fire departments to become certified in order to be eligible for funding. Certification requirements include possession of a NFPA 1901-compliant fire suppression apparatus, a minimum of six active members with 16 hours of certification training, and personal protective equipment for all active members.

Act 833 application forms are available through the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management website at [dps.arkansas.gov](http://dps.arkansas.gov). For log-in credentials or for more information, please contact State Fire Coordinator Louis Eckelhoff at 501-683-6781 or email [louis.eckelhoff@adem.arkansas.gov](mailto:louis.eckelhoff@adem.arkansas.gov).

## Annual financial statements due April 1

In accordance with A.C.A. § 14-59-116, the governing body of each municipality shall publish annually a financial statement of the municipality by April 1 covering the previous calendar year (January through December). The financial statement shall include the receipts and expenditures for the year, along with a “statement of the indebtedness and financial condition of the municipality.” The statement must be published in a newspaper published in the municipality. In municipalities with no local newspaper, the financial statement “shall be posted in two (2) of the most public places in the municipality.”

A.C.A. § 14-237-113 provides similar publication requirements for the operating authority of water and sewer departments. Water and sewer departments administered by one or two commissions must comply with the law. If the water and sewer departments are



administered by the city council, then it is the responsibility of the council to comply with the statute.

The League has prepared suggested forms to comply with A.C.A. §§ 14-59-116 and 14-237-113. Forms A and B are available as downloadable, fillable PDFs on the League's website. For additional information, please call the League at 501-374-3484.

## Certain municipal officials may opt out of APERS

The Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System (APERS) provides cities with the ability to provide coverage for employees and officials (A.C.A. § 24-4-303). The law states generally that the mayor and clerk "shall become participating employees upon taking office." However, the statute permits mayors and clerks of cities of the first class to opt out of APERS in order to participate in the local retirement plans provided for in A.C.A. § 24-12-121.

To opt out of APERS, the mayor or clerk must provide written notice to APERS within 90 calendar

days of the date the official assumed office. Once made, this choice is irrevocable. Any employer contributions previously made on behalf of an official who elects not to participate will be refunded to the city and the official will forfeit service credit in the system. Newly elected city attorneys or city treasurers in cities of the first class who are otherwise covered by a local pension fund may also take advantage of these provisions.

To contact APERS, call 501-682-7800 or visit [www.apers.org](http://www.apers.org).

## Monthly sales tax receipts available online

The print version of *City & Town* is now a quarterly magazine, but you'll never have to miss a month of your latest local sales tax receipts. The latest reports for cities, towns and counties from the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration and each month's turnback estimates are available on the League's website. 🏛️



# 2024 filing dates for independent candidates for municipal office

For many mayors, council members, city directors, recorders, treasurers and other local officials, 2024 is an election year and the deadlines for filing and other important dates are approaching. The State Board of Election Commissioners has published *Running for Public Office: A “Plain English” Handbook for Candidates (2024 edition)*. This comprehensive handbook provides candidates with everything they need to know about elections in Arkansas, including the state statutes that govern the process and sample filing forms candidates may use. It is available as a free, downloadable PDF on the Arkansas Secretary of State’s website at [www.sos.arkansas.gov](http://www.sos.arkansas.gov).

## 2024 election dates

- Preferential primary election—March 5, 2024
- Primary election runoff—April 2, 2024
- General election—November 5, 2024
- General election runoff—December 3, 2024

## 2024 filing dates for independent candidates

- An independent municipal candidate in a **mayor-council** form of government seeking election at the November 5, 2024, General Election must file a petition, a political practices pledge and an affidavit of eligibility during the **one-week period ending at noon on August 7, 2024**.
- An independent municipal candidate in a **city manager** form of government seeking election at the November 5, 2024, General Election must file a petition, a political practices pledge and an affidavit of eligibility **between July 31, 2024, and noon on August 7, 2024**.
- An independent candidate in a **city administrator** form of government seeking election at the November 5, 2024, General Election must file a statement of candidacy and a petition **between July 31, 2024, and noon on August 7, 2024**. 🏛️

## Event Calendar

**March 10-13, 2024**, NLC Congressional City Conference, Washington, D.C.

**June 12-14, 2024**, Arkansas Municipal League 90th Annual Convention, Little Rock, AR

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Denning residents gathered to celebrate their new pavilion in October. It's the latest amenity the town has added in their efforts to rebuild after a devastating 2011 tornado.

# New pavilion latest victory in Denning

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

**T**he citizens of the Franklin County town of Denning got together October 14, 2023, to celebrate the opening of a new pavilion. Burgers and hot dogs were on the grill, and kids jumped and shouted in the bounce house next to the town's small playground.

That day may have been about the pavilion, but the town has much more to celebrate.

On May 24-25 of 2011, an EF-4 tornado ripped through Franklin and Johnson counties just after midnight. It killed three people, including a Denning resident. It destroyed homes and buildings, Denning's town hall and other infrastructure.



With help from federal and state grants and loans, Denning has been able to build a new town hall and attached community center/tornado shelter. The town has also built a new public works building to replace the destroyed water department.

It has taken time, but Denning is back, and better than before, said Mayor Paul Lee.

“We’ve rebuilt our city hall. We’ve rebuilt our water department. We’ve got a new tornado shelter now. We just finished this new pavilion to have this outside cookout.”

With a mix of federal and state grants, the town has been able to rebuild the infrastructure without accruing any long-term debt, Lee said.

Aside from being the town’s meeting space, town hall also acts as a museum with photos and memorabilia. The population is now just 200, but around the turn of the 20th century Denning was a thriving coal mining community and a hub of activity.

“Denning had over 4,000 people at one time,” Lee said. “Plus they had theaters, dance halls, all that stuff.”

The new community center and tornado shelter is attached to town hall, and it features a kitchen, restrooms and showers in the event residents need to shelter for a longer period of time. That decision was based on lessons learned after the 2011 disaster.

“We had a vision of making this a complex that you could possibly live in, because during a tornado, you never know how severe it can get for somebody. We had



From left, Angela Rives, Claudia Lee, Mayor Paul Lee, Joseph Harmon, Recorder/Treasurer Candice Harmon and Council Member Denise Ross.

families that didn’t have homes, they didn’t have a house to go back to. So we made this like a small house but yet a facility you could use for shelter.”

While October’s community celebration was a one-time event, there is interest in making it an annual event, the mayor said. “It’s something that gets all the community out and everybody gets involved.”

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Aaron joined HW in 2010, opening its first regional office in Little Rock. He is a licensed professional engineer in Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Mississippi specializing in wet infrastructure design. Aaron has been actively involved as a member and in the leadership of numerous professional organizations throughout Arkansas, and he considers the friendships made through this service and in collaborating with clients the most rewarding aspects of his career.

Aaron earned his bachelors in civil engineering at Arkansas State University and completed a masters degree in environmental engineering at the University of Memphis. He and his wife Harriett, a high school science teacher, grew up in Jonesboro, AR and became friends in their high school marching band and church youth group. They married just before graduating college, and later lived in Cabot where Aaron served as a Commissioner of Cabot Waterworks. They now live with their three children in Faulkner County, where the majority of Aaron’s time is spent chasing his very active kids from one event to the next. He also enjoys fishing, BBQing, teaching at church, woodworking, tinkering, and beekeeping.

**Aaron M. Benzing, P.E.**  
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Cave City Mayor and 2023-2024 League President Jonas Anderson welcomes municipal leaders to the 2024 Winter Conference.

## Revamped 2024 Winter Conference a wrap

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

**E**lected officials, department heads and other municipal personnel from cities and towns across Arkansas gathered in Little Rock or followed along online for the Arkansas Municipal League’s 2024 Winter Conference, held January 10-12 at the Little Rock Marriott and Statehouse Convention Center. Attendance may have been hampered a bit by the impending winter storm that affected much of the state in the days immediately following the conference, but participation was still strong, with 790 League members representing 207 cities and towns joining the meeting.

Conference general sessions and breakout sessions covered an array of timely topics important to municipalities, including First Amendment auditors and other trending legal issues, grants and other funding sources for local projects, disaster prep, changes to the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act, and preparing for April’s total solar eclipse.

Each winter conference is focused on education, and this year marked the transition to the Arkansas Civic Education Program, the League’s new online and in-person training and certification program. League

Director of Education Kerrie Lauck introduced the new program during an afternoon session on January 10 and held several breakout sessions to share information and answer questions from members.

While many of the familiar, tried-and-true elements of the annual winter meeting remained, the League opted to shake things up a bit in 2024. This year’s event featured more time built into the schedule to network with municipal colleagues, vendors and sponsors. To that end, the exhibit hall was set up with a more open floorplan with space for visiting, conferring with staff at League Services or having some fun with games like Jenga and Connect Four. The conference also concluded Friday morning with a new event, the Inspire Breakfast, giving members—especially those with long drives ahead of them—a chance to return home earlier than years past. According to Executive Director Mark Hayes, the majority of feedback from the membership about the conference changes has been very positive, and the League will be taking suggestions into account as we begin preparations for the 90th Convention in June and other meetings moving forward.

# Key sessions and takeaways from #2024AMLWC



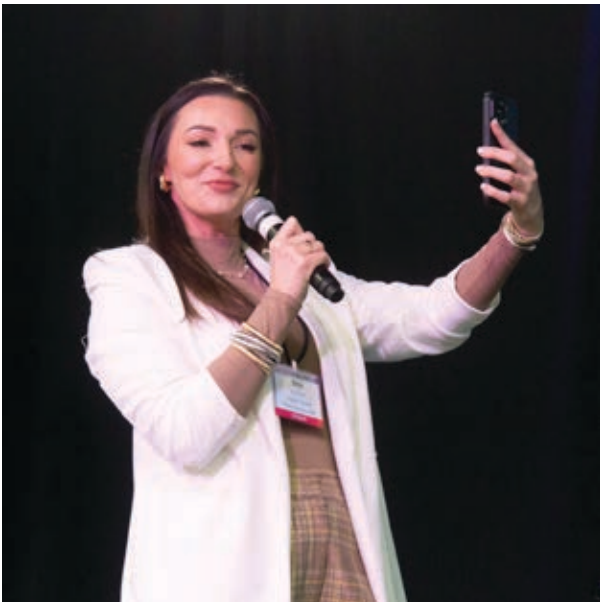
The goal of the new Arkansas Civic Education Program (ACE) is to build upon the success of the original voluntary certification program while expanding delivery options in order to make it accessible to more municipal officials and personnel, said League Director of Education Kerrie Lauck, above, during the 2024 Winter Conference's welcome session on the afternoon of January 10. While ACE will still include in-person training options, the online hub will expand our reach, she said. "As most of you know, most cities and towns in Arkansas are really small, and it's difficult for most people to travel all the way to Little Rock. They might be the only one manning the desk at city hall." Elected officials and personnel may sign up for the new program at [learningmanager.adobe.com/acehub](https://learningmanager.adobe.com/acehub).



The League welcomed *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* Senior Editor Rex Nelson to the stage during the opening night banquet to share his thoughts about the future of our state. The best stories are local stories, he said, encouraging city and town leaders to reach out to him. "Everything I write is gonna be about Arkansas because this state is home. This state is where I came back to after those years in Washington, D.C. This state is where I was born and it's where I will be buried. And I think that our best days are still ahead."



From filming police in the course of their work to showing up to city hall and other public facilities to record videos that often end up on YouTube, so-called First Amendment auditors have become a phenomenon. While they are often simply exercising their rights, the law isn't always clear and it can be difficult for city officials and employees to know how to handle these situations. League General Counsel John Wilkerson, right, and Legal and Inquiry Counsel Caleb Alexander-McKenzie, left, offered guidance on how to properly engage with these citizen activists during the opening general session.



Naturally the legal team put together an entertaining skit to help illustrate the point. League Litigation Counsel Brie Gibson, with smartphone camera rolling, played the role of First Amendment auditor “Brie on the Lookout,” who demanded access to city hall in the city of “Civildelphia.” “This is a public place, this is a public building, I pay taxes, I can be here and I can record,” she claimed.

While Brie on the Lookout is within her rights to film in many public places, certain areas may be off limits. Wynne Mayor Jennifer Hobbs demonstrated the correct way to respond to someone demanding access to an area not open to the general public. “I’m sorry, we have a policy. That’s a restricted area. We don’t allow visitors back there because there’s sensitive information.”



A large portion of Arkansas is in the path of totality of the total solar eclipse on April 8, which will darken the sky for more than four minutes. It is estimated more than one million visitors will descend upon our state to experience the eclipse, and that massive influx of tourists will present both opportunities and challenges. During the afternoon general session on January 11, a panel of tourism and public safety experts discussed what makes the 2024 eclipse unique and shared their thoughts about how cities and towns can prepare for it. From left, Arkansas Tourism Director Delaney Thomas; Hot Springs Fire Marshall Tom Braughton; Perry County, Missouri, Tourism Director Trish Erzfeld; and League Digital Content Manager Ben Cline.





The 2024 Winter Conference wrapped up Friday morning January 12 with a new event, the Inspire Breakfast. Former Arkansas Razorback football head coach Houston Nutt gave an entertaining and inspirational keynote address, regaling the crowd with tales from his coaching days and offering some gridiron-honed wisdom.



"Woooooo! Pig! Sooiie! Razorbacks!" If conferencegoers thought Coach Nutt would adjourn without calling the Hogs, they were mistaken.

# Municipalities honored for volunteerism, innovative problem-solving at 2024 Winter Conference



PHOTO BY McCULLOUGH EXPRESSIONS

Engage Arkansas honored the 2023 Volunteer Communities of the Year during a January 11 luncheon. The award recognizes cities and towns that exemplify the spirit of public service through volunteerism. The 2023 recipients are Bentonville, Crossett, Fairfield Bay, Fayetteville, Keo, Maumelle and Van Buren.



PHOTO BY ANDREW MORGAN

During the luncheon, the Arkansas Business Publishing Group presented its 2023 Trendsetter City Awards, which honor cities and towns that improve the quality of life for their residents through innovative initiatives in categories such as diversity and inclusion, infrastructure and water, tourism development and creative culture. The 2023 Trendsetter City Award winners and honorable mentions are Bentonville, Cave Springs, El Dorado, Eureka Springs, Fayetteville, Fort Smith, Jonesboro, Keo, Leslie, Little Rock, Maumelle, Morrilton, Mountain Home, Paragould, Paris, Pea Ridge, Searcy, West Memphis and Wilson. ABPG presented Leslie with the 2023 Don A. Zimmerman Pinnacle Award for the city's outstanding efforts in education and workforce development. Above from left, Crews & Associates Senior Managing Director Paul Phillips, Leslie Mayor Eric Jaeger and League Executive Director Mark Hayes.



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# 2024 Winter Conference Snapshots



PHOTOS BY ANDREW MORGAN AND McCULLOUGH EXPRESSIONS





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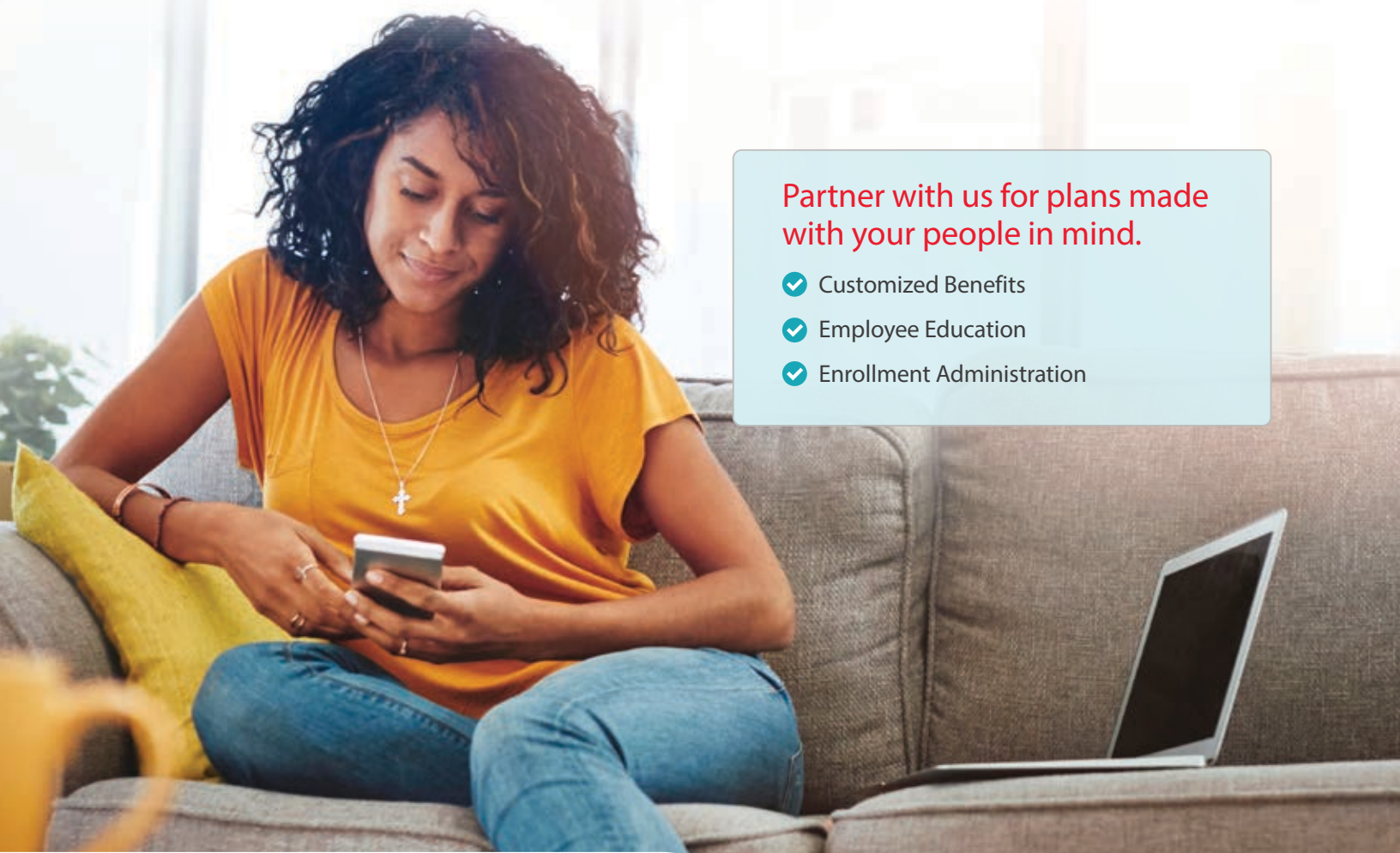


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Crypto mining operations like this one near Wooster in Faulkner County are cropping up in or just outside of cities and towns across Arkansas, and the noise they generate is not always welcome. Tune into the October 2023 edition of the City & Town Podcast series for a sample of the noise near Wooster and how it's affecting residents. Listen at [citytownpod.buzzsprout.com](http://citytownpod.buzzsprout.com).

## Crypto comes to Arkansas

By Mark R. Potter, League staff

*In the complex global financial system, cryptocurrency may be a niche market, but its effects reach far beyond those who participate in accruing and trading the encrypted digital currency. Just ask residents and elected officials in places like the small city of Wooster in Faulkner County. It's one of many communities in Arkansas where crypto mining operations have cropped up over the past two years. Entrepreneurs set up the operations, which are typically buildings filled with banks of computer servers, to "mine" for digital currency. The operations are noisy, often emitting a near-constant high-pitched drone, and they consume massive amounts of electricity. With Act 851 of 2023, the state legislature limited how cities can respond to crypto mining operations, but the state's approach to crypto mining is far from settled. The legislature is expected to revisit the issue in the next session. With all that said, many of us may be asking, "What the heck is crypto? Why is it 'mined?' Why Arkansas?" The League's Mark Potter offers an overview of the digital currency and why entrepreneurs are looking to set up shop in The Natural State.*

The U.S. dollar was originally on the gold standard. That meant you could exchange a paper dollar for a gold dollar. However, this limited the amount of money in the economy because every dollar had to be backed by the same value of gold bullion. During the Great Depression the United States first moved away from the gold standard and then permanently in 1968. Now paper money was worth whatever the free market agreed that it was worth. Because of this, more money could flow through the system and the economy could grow with the population and industrialization.

With today's digital banking there is even more money in circulation. You might get paid your salary via direct

deposit and spend it on housing, transportation, groceries and more without ever exchanging a single paper dollar. According to the Federal Reserve, almost 89.8% of the money in the United States is not in the form of cash.<sup>1</sup>

### A currency without a country

A cryptocurrency is a non-government aligned digital currency that is designed to be used over the internet. Bitcoin,<sup>2</sup> which was invented in 2008 and launched in 2009, was the first cryptocurrency and remains the most well known. Competitors like Ethereum, Coinbase and Dogecoin have since entered the fray with varying levels of success in the cryptocurrency markets.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.independent.com/2011/09/25/How-Much-Money-Is-There-United-States>

<sup>2</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bitcoin>

## One-way encryption

Unlike their analog counterparts, any digital file can be easily and precisely duplicated. If office photo copiers could make perfect duplicates of paper money, the dollar would soon be worthless. This is known in the trade as the double-spending problem. In order to prevent the duplication of its new digital currency, Bitcoin needed a way to track each bitcoin's ownership record that was secure and verifiable. The solution was a shared encrypted audit that is called a blockchain, which is a globally distributed ledger formed by linking together individual blocks of transaction data through a very large one-way encryption hash number.

What is one-way encryption? Consider a credit card. The information on the front of your credit card is used to calculate the three-digit security code on the back of your credit card. An online retailer's computer can tell if you put in your credit card number and expiration date correctly by using that same calculation. The reverse is not true, however. The computer cannot take the three-digit number on the back of your card and reverse calculate the information that is on the front of your card. That is a simple one-way encryption. The blockchain's large 64-digit hash number works in much the same way but is more secure and takes a substantial amount of computing power to calculate.

### A Basic Crypto Glossary

**Cryptocurrency**—A digital currency secured using encryption algorithms. The uses of encryption technologies means that cryptocurrencies function both as a currency and as a virtual accounting system. To use cryptocurrencies, you need a cryptocurrency software "wallet." The wallet is a tool through which you store your encryption keys that confirm your identity and link to your cryptocurrency.

**Hash**—A one-way encryption method using very large numbers (64-place hexadecimal number) that ensures the block (ledger of transactions) is unaltered and each block is built from the hash number of the block before. That linked hash number encryption chains each block together, so that a fraudulent edit to the ledger would break the shared chain and not be recognized.

**Blockchain**—A database or ledger shared among a computer network's nodes. Each block of the ledger is chained together with the hash encryption. Blockchains are immutable; they cannot be altered.

**Node**—A computer linked to a cryptocurrency network that may perform tasks such as producing, receiving and moving data.

## Blockchain mining

Calculating that very large hash number with computer nodes is called mining. Blockchain mining is a metaphor for the computational work that computers in the network undertake in hopes of earning new bitcoins. Miners are paid for their work as auditors, verifying the legitimacy of bitcoin transactions. This convention is meant to keep users honest and was conceived by Bitcoin's founder, Satoshi Nakamoto.<sup>3</sup> By verifying transactions, miners are helping prevent the double-spending problem in the digital realm.

### A lottery where speed equals luck

The miners keeping the audit are rewarded with a chance to win bitcoins. Simply put, a new hash number is created from the last hash and all new transactions. The miner who can guess the new hash number first wins the next batch of bitcoins. And it's a valuable prize. On the day of this writing it would be valued at \$250,428.13.

A miner may guess as many times as they like, in a race with all the other miners and their computers. Whoever has the fastest and the most computers working on calculating the hash number has the best chance of winning. This has created a digital arms race of increasingly powerful (and power consuming) specialized computer node farms built to crack the next hash first.

Gone are the days when a hobbyist could mine bitcoin in their basement with a good computer. Bitcoin mining now resembles running a large data center. Crypto mining companies purchase the facility, hardware and electricity required to keep banks of computer servers running. The servers can generate an immense amount of heat and must be cooled. Those cooling systems, whether air- or water-cooled, also require large amounts of electricity, and they can generate unneighborly amounts of noise.<sup>4</sup>

### Why Arkansas?

Because of the power-intensive process of crypto mining, China abolished it in 2021. That resulted in several miners shifting operations to other countries, including the United States. Arkansas, with its affordable land and electricity, has become an enticing landing place.

Cryptocurrency is also a volatile market. Over the previous decade, the cryptocurrency market has experienced several speculative bubbles, where assets are inflated in value by hopeful investors. Some economists

<sup>3</sup> Satoshi Nakamoto is the pseudonym for the person who penned the original Bitcoin white paper and is the identity credited with inventing bitcoin itself.

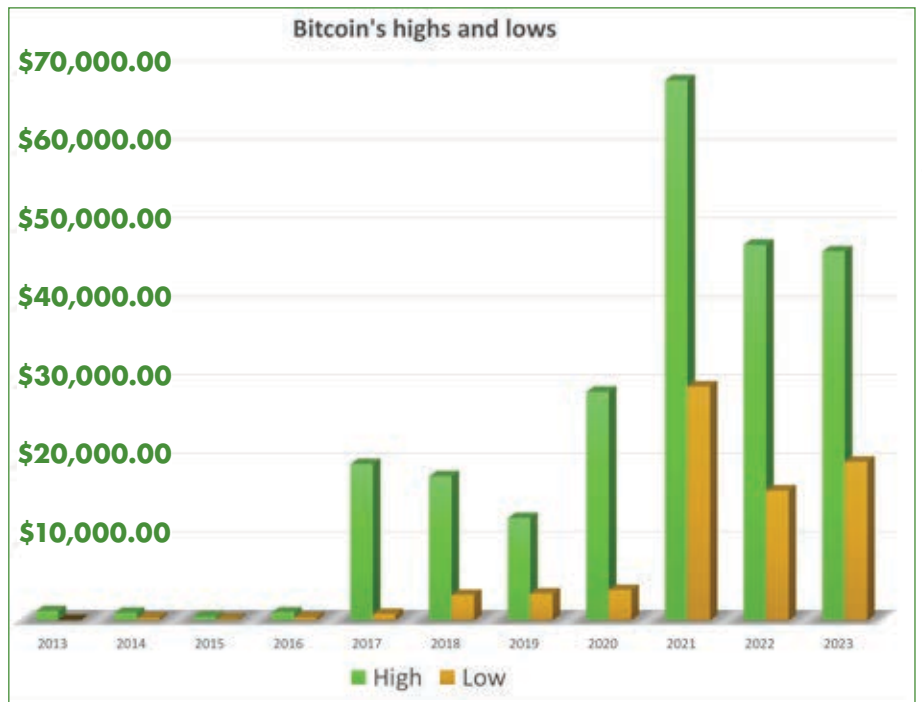
<sup>4</sup> <https://www.ualrpublicradio.org/local-regional-news/2023-06-29/rural-arkansas-crypto-mines-prompt-noise-complaints-from-residents>



have expressed the view that the entire cryptocurrency market constitutes a speculative bubble. In its brief history, bitcoin's valuation has at times dropped double-digit percentages and even 80% in 2018.<sup>5</sup>

Arkansas' low electricity rates have already lured several major mining operations. To attract more, Entergy, the state's largest power company, has sweetened the deal by offering crypto miners about a 90% discount on the base kilowatt-per-hour rate.<sup>6</sup>

Crypto mining by its very nature requires increasingly more power and more powerful computers turning electricity into heat and noise. Arkansas' cheap land and power are likely to continue to draw crypto miners to the state looking for a hedge on their investment. 🏠



SOURCE: INVESTOPEDIA

A look at the volatile past decade of Bitcoin trading.

<sup>5</sup> <https://w.wiki/8x23>

<sup>6</sup> <https://decrypt.co/116950/arkansas-electric-utility-offer-energy-sweetener-battered-crypto-miners>


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PHOTO BY JIM VON TUNGELN

Adaptive reuse can support workforce housing. Within this scene are a school building and two hotels that were converted to housing, along with a former company headquarters now planned for conversion.

# New year, old challenges

By Jim von Tungeln

**A**s we enter a new year, the time is here to plan for the challenges ahead. Choosing the right challenge to address is not easy for cities. The best advice the planning profession can offer: First, fix the basics.

The basics vary from city to town. One may have utility systems on the verge of collapse. In another, crime may be on the rise, with businesses locking the front doors of their stores. In another, development may be occurring so fast that the current administrative system can't keep pace.

Each city must decide.

There are, however, issues that confront almost all cities. One is the lack of workforce (i.e., affordable) housing. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development defines affordable housing as housing for which the occupant pays no more than 30% of gross income for housing costs, including utilities.

Statewide statistics fail in analysis due to the wide differences in income by region. Stated simply, the HUD definition would imply that rental of a \$1,000 per month, including utilities, would require a household income of nearly \$3,500 per month or \$42,000 per year. In terms of home ownership, that same income would allow the purchase of a \$140,000 home.

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that median household income in our state (in 2021 dollars) is \$52,123. That suggests that half of the households in the state are limited to housing that costs less than \$1,300 per month or so. The estimated median household for those 25 years of age and lower in our state is \$31,919, suggesting a

maximum housing cost of \$800 per month. The disconnect is apparent.

The lack of such housing in high-growth areas increases commuter distances for workers. This worsens the situation for many as it requires a dependable vehicle in a state with limited public transportation. It can mean choosing gas to get to work or gas to warm the house in winter.

What can a city or town do in the face of the affordable housing shortage? First, it must accept the things over which the city has no or limited control. One is the cost of new housing construction. Various sources cite the cost of new single-family homes at a little less than \$130 per square foot, or nearly \$200,000 for a 1,500-square-foot home. Multi-family units will also be beyond the reach of many households. Cities, however, can't control the market price of lumber or other building materials.

Cities command little power over the market or migration patterns. Older cities and towns established themselves primarily on trade routes and became seats of commerce. New households came to take advantage of economic opportunity. Today's migration patterns reflect other impulses.

Cities and towns don't control the minimum safety and health standards required in new housing. That control is exercised by the Arkansas Fire Prevention Code and the HUD manufactured home standards. Reducing permit fees required to enforce these standards doesn't deal with the problem but rather adds to it.

Cities face federal mandates such as asbestos abatement and the Americans With Disabilities Act. These are justified but add to the cost of construction.

Cities and towns face odd and extraordinary phenomena such as natural disasters that destroy housing stock.

Cities can't control public sentiment very much. It creates resistance, sometimes from powerful political sources, to the development of new housing development aimed at the workforce population cohort.

This leaves cities and towns with little more than the design of zoning and development regulations with which to address the provision of more affordable housing. Ideas include the following.

## Lot sizes

Surveyors of many older cities in our state laid out the original city in 25-foot lots. In light of that standard, many older zoning codes opted for minimum lot widths of 50 feet. (Do the math.) Over the years, this provision rose to a common minimum of 60 feet, resulting in nonconforming lots. In many cities, the minimum is greater. A visit to cities in the northern part of the country suggests that a city might leave this provision to the developer who must succeed or fail by meeting the market demand.

## Accessory dwelling units

Many older Americans grew up in cities where garage apartments and “in-law” units were common. Somewhere in our urban development process, these became unwelcome and disallowed. In many cities and towns, such dwellings are making a return inspired by “the good old days.”

## Infill development

This represents making productive use of vacant property within the city. In many cases up to 35%, sometimes more, of property within a city lies vacant. Some is not suitable for development, but much is. Vacant lots exist for a number of reasons, which can include restrictive zoning regulations that prohibit profitable development for housing.

Developing infill property usually places no additional burden on maintaining city services as the parcels already receive services but offer no public return. One Arkansas city amended its planned unit development (PUD) regulations to allow small-scale PUDs. This has resulted in land that otherwise would have remained vacant being developed for additional homes.

## Flexible zoning

Almost all cities place the single-family housing unit in an exalted and protected category. By default, residential land is zoned for single-family only. Development at higher density requires rezoning, which results in controversy and, often, in denial of the proposal. Cities are beginning to experiment with eliminating “single-family-only” residential districts.

## Adaptive reuse

A term much favored by our architect friends, it means the reuse of empty buildings for new purposes. This includes buildings of all types. In 2014, for example, *The Economist* estimated that the U.S. government owned about 45,000 underused, abandoned or functionally obsolete structures.

As this piece was written, a developer announced plans to convert two Little Rock buildings, the former AT&T building at 1111 W. Capitol Avenue and the former Veterans Health Administration hospital at 300 E. Roosevelt Road, into apartments. Though not specifically intended as affordable housing, the development could contribute positively to the overall market by freeing affordable units elsewhere in the city.

## Other options

Each municipality may direct its efforts in ways that address locally unique conditions. Some see easing restraints on manufactured housing as critical. Others may review the restrictions on nonconforming properties. An educational effort aimed at training local developers in the methodologies involved, and the benefits to be gained, in addressing the affordable housing market could do no harm. Nonprofit organizations are helping some cities.

## Commitment

Overshadowing all is the requirement that cities must believe in and support the provision of affordable housing, even when public sentiment may arise to oppose it. Allowing higher densities in all residential districts will undoubtedly draw opposition due to a phenomenon planners sometimes call “drawbridging.” This refers to cases in which the last family moving to a city wants to be the last family to do so.

It is critical that planning commissions withdraw the “veto power” that existing property owners have over new development when opposition is based on faulty logic, rumor or prejudice. More “by right” provisions in the zoning code would help. If a policy results from a well-crafted community plan, following it should take precedence over unjustified opposition.

As a legendary icon of urban planning in our state once remarked during a court testimony, “Public input is valuable, but only to the extent that it is based on reason and rationality.”

In short, our cities belong to all, not only the most recent arrivals. 🏠



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PHOTO COURTESY CCEd

The El Dorado-Union County Chamber of Commerce held its first-ever job fair in October 2023. For the 2024 fair, they will work with community partners to reach formerly incarcerated job seekers in an effort to reduce recidivism and boost the local economy.

## Unlocking opportunities: Empowering non-violent felons for a better future

By Abayi Ibro Ayouba and Shelby Fiegel

In the United States, there are approximately 70-100 million individuals with a criminal record. Studies show that one in three Americans have some form of criminal record or have been arrested by the time they turn 23. As of July 2022, 17,109 people were imprisoned in Arkansas, and that number is expected to increase to 19,160 by 2031.

While the ultimate goal of our corrections system is to rehabilitate incarcerated individuals so that they become productive citizens upon reentry, recidivism—the tendency of a convicted criminal to re-offend—remains a challenge in Arkansas. According to the Arkansas Department of Corrections publication “Recidivism in Arkansas: A Roadmap to Reform,” the recidivism rate in Arkansas as of 2022 was 50.6%.

Criminal records, often for non-violent offenses, create a multitude of challenges that reverberate throughout the lives of non-violent felons, their communities and the broader economy. Even after completing their

sentences, non-violent offenders face the daunting challenge of securing employment while contending with the stigma of their past actions.

Statewide organizations like the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute, DecARcerate, Arkansas Justice Reform Coalition, the Arkansas Department of Corrections and others are advocating and working to create innovative solutions to these problems, and local communities and organizations are also identifying ways they can generate positive change.

Following the county’s first-ever communitywide job fair in October 2023, the El Dorado-Union County Chamber of Commerce identified the need to intentionally focus on combating recidivism by connecting offenders with job opportunities. The job fair, hosted at the El Dorado Conference Center, engaged 238 local residents and 37 employers looking to fill 200 open positions. Employers included organizations like Standard Lithium, LANXESS, Clean Harbors El Dorado, Code 3

Services, the El Dorado Fire Department, financial institutions and many others. Next fall, the chamber hopes that these numbers and participating businesses will increase and that they will be able to provide connections and resources for formerly incarcerated residents.

“This was our first job fair, and it went really well,” said Karen Hicks, vice president of membership and events with the El Dorado-Union County Chamber of Commerce. “While we did not target any particular group at this job fair, we understand that connecting non-violent felons to local employers is a need. As we begin to plan the 2024 job fair, we have plans to reach out to local reentry organizations directly. In addition, we hope to include a small icon for employers that are open to employing felons. We envision this as a way to help felons see where they can apply without obstacles.”

The chamber envisions that the job fair will function as a one-stop shop to fulfill local workforce needs. With a boom in economic development activity expected from lithium production, the need for a qualified and willing workforce in south Arkansas will drastically increase. The chamber plans to work with the El Dorado Sheriff’s Department and organizations like Wings to Recover to connect formerly incarcerated individuals with job opportunities and resources. The chamber will also continue to work closely with the South Arkansas Community College Career Accelerator program and the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services to ensure that everyone who attends the job fair leaves with information, access to resources and employment opportunities.

By intentionally including non-violent felons in next year’s job fair, El Dorado will display a commitment to inclusivity, economic development and rehabilitation. The inclusion of these individuals in the local labor force enhances the town’s economic potential. A larger, more diverse workforce can stimulate growth and attract new businesses.

To learn more about El Dorado, community events and the chamber of commerce, please visit [www.goeldorado.com](http://www.goeldorado.com). 📍



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*Shelby Fiegel is the director of CCED. Learn more about CCED at [www.uca.edu/cced](http://www.uca.edu/cced).*

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# Relieving the pain from osteoarthritis

By Benjamin Stronach, M.D.

**A**rthritis, a degenerative condition that affects joints such as wrists, hips and knees, can have a profound impact on a person's quality of life. In severe cases, it can cause chronic pain and reduce your range of motion in that joint, making it difficult to perform even the most basic tasks.

There are different types of arthritis, but the most common of these is osteoarthritis. If you suffer from osteoarthritis, then you're far from alone: The condition affects approximately 32.5 million adults in the United States, including about 940,000 in Arkansas.

Osteoarthritis is often associated with the normal wear and tear that comes with aging, but a number of other factors can cause it to develop or worsen. Let's take a look at what triggers this form of arthritis and what we can do to treat it.

## What is arthritis?

Arthritis stems from a deterioration of cartilage, the tissue that connects and protects the bones that make up a joint. In a healthy joint, cartilage covers the ends of your bones and allows them to move with minimal friction. But when that cartilage breaks down, it exposes the bones and causes them to grind against each other. This exposes nerve endings in the bone, which can cause pain.

The process usually starts with the loss of cartilage, but further changes occur in the joint as the disease progresses. They include the formation of bone spurs and thickening of the bone around the joint. These changes cause further pain and restrict movement. There also can be hardening and tearing of soft tissues in the knee as arthritis progresses.

Several factors can increase your chances of developing osteoarthritis. Genetics has been shown to have a role, particularly for those who have arthritis in the hands and wrists. The rise in obesity rates around the world has contributed to an increase in arthritis cases, as even a small amount of excess weight puts significant pressure on your knees. Suffering a traumatic injury can also elevate your risk of arthritis, even if the injury appears to have healed.

## Treatment options

There's no treatment that will cure osteoarthritis and reverse the damage, so most of our current options focus on easing pain and improving function. Assistive devices such as canes or knee braces can be very helpful for those who suffer from arthritis in their lower body. Medications and steroid treatments can also provide some relief by reducing inflammation in the joints.

In some cases, a person's arthritis might be severe enough to require a surgical solution. This can be as minor as an arthroscopy, which repairs cartilage and removes loose fragments in the joint, or as significant as a joint replacement. Demand for these types of procedures is steadily growing, but they are typically reserved for patients who are no longer benefitting from other treatment options. Your physician will likely want to exhaust any noninvasive options before considering a surgical procedure.

## Keep moving

While all of those medical options can help address your symptoms, one of the most effective ways to manage arthritis in its earlier stages is simply to stay active. Low-impact activities such as walking, cycling and swimming will help you preserve your range of motion and strengthen the muscles that support your joints. Regular, moderate exercise will also help you keep your weight under control, which further relieves the pressure on your joints.

Many patients worry that physical activity will cause more damage to their joints, but the risk of that happening is very low. I always recommend that you let pain be your guide. Even a small amount of exercise is beneficial, so there's no need to overdo it to the point where you're worsening your pain.

Arthritis is often a progressive condition, meaning it worsens over time, but it's important to remember that you have options to help treat this condition. With the right course of treatment, it's possible to manage your condition and reduce its negative effects on your daily life. 🏠



*Benjamin Stronach, M.D., is an associate professor in the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and an orthopaedic surgeon who sees patients at the UAMS Orthopaedic Clinic on Shackleford in Little Rock.*



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# Soaring to new heights: The Arkansas Division of Aeronautics' pivotal role in shaping aviation in the Natural State

By Mitch Rose and Alex Smith, PE

Arkansas has a rich history of aviation contributions that are only possible with the support of the Arkansas Department of Commerce-Division of Aeronautics (ADA). Established with the mission of fostering and advancing aeronautics within the state, this division has played a pivotal role in shaping the aviation landscape in Arkansas. From supporting infrastructure development to promoting safety and education, the ADA has been a key player in propelling the state's aviation sector to new heights.

Originally created by ACT 457 of 1941 and subsequently amended by Act 373 of 1965, the ADA transitioned into a division of the Arkansas Department of Commerce in July 2019. The ADA is guided by a seven-member commission and is led by Director Jerry Chism and his staff. The role of the ADA is to “promote aviation safety, encourage the establishment and planned expansion of airports to enhance economic development and administer the State Airport Aid Program.”

ADA's funding comes from a special revenue sale tax on the sale of aircraft, aviation fuel/aviation related products, parts and repairs, or service. This means that no general revenue funds are used by the ADA and the division operates solely from the special revenue tax. The ADA's revenues are reinvested into the maintenance, development and improvement of the state's airports in the form of various grants.

The ADA offers a wide range of services related to aviation, with a key focus on funding aviation projects across the state. The ADA Commission meets 11 times a year to accept and approve grants from the state's airports. Operating in a fiscal year that runs from July 1 to the end of June, this process ensures an effective allocation of the ADA's resources. The grants can range from maintenance projects such as pavement rehabilitation to revenue-generating hangar development projects. There are also grants to reimburse airports for their portion of a Federal Aviation Administration 90-10 matching grant.

In May of 2023 the ADA voted to change their grant program. With an excess in available funds, the grant program added \$50,000 to the 80-20 State Airport Aid Grant (SAAG) and 90-10 SAAG. In addition, the ADA added \$100,000 to their 90-10 SAAG for hangars. The ADA saw

the need to increase the hangar grant limits to help with the rising costs of hangar construction. The demand for new hangars at airports is high with most general aviation (GA) airports having waitlists of around 20 tenants. This allows many of the GA airports across the state to meet the needs of the flying community by having a way to pay for new hangars. General aviation airports' main sources of revenue typically come from fuel sales and hangar rental. By building more hangars the airports will create more revenue from rental fees. A byproduct of having more hangars to house aircraft is that those planes require more fuel, which means additional airport revenue. A portion of these revenues is then returned to ADA in the form of the special revenue tax, which continues the grant funding process.

Arkansas' airports range from small GA airports that provide local commerce and are usually a hub for nearby agricultural operations to larger airports that provide commercial services regionally and nationally. No matter the size, airports can have a measurable impact on a community's economic development. According to the most recent statewide airport system plan update from the ADA, Arkansas airports have an annual impact of over \$3.5 billion to the state. That is not just from the larger airports; GA airports accounted for nearly \$500 million of that economic impact. With these numbers expected to see steady growth, Arkansas airports, with assistance from the Arkansas Department of Commerce-Division of Aeronautics, will help our state and its aviation community soar to unprecedented heights. 🏆



Alex Smith, PE is a project manager and partner in MCE's Aviation Department in our Little Rock office. Contact Alex by email at [asmith@mce.us.com](mailto:asmith@mce.us.com).



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JUST  
UPDATED!



# STATE AIRPORT AID GRANTS

**MCE** McCLELLAND  
CONSULTING  
ENGINEERS, INC.  
DEDICATED TO SERVING

FLYER COURTESY MCE

95-5%  
OR  
90-10%  
MATCH

## FAA AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

FAA-STATE

- Available to airports approved for Federal funding by FAA (NPIAS Airports)
- Limit of 5% or 10% of total project cost - state share **not to exceed \$250,000**
- FAA Federal grant number required and all FAA Grant Assurances apply
- State Grant Application (5% or 10%) reviewed after Project completion and AIP (95% or 90%) paid

50-50%  
MATCH

STATE-LOCAL

- Available to all public owned/public use airports
- Limited to 50% of total project cost - state share **not to exceed \$200,000**
- Limit of one 50% grant per airport per fiscal year
- Cash and/or In-kind Match required (in-kind requires pre-approval)

80-20%  
MATCH

UPDATED

STATE-LOCAL

- Available to all public owned/public use airports
- Limited to 80% of total project cost - state share **not to exceed \$300,000** (increased from \$250,000)
- Limit of one 80% grant per airport per fiscal year
- Cash and/or In-kind Match required (in-kind requires pre-approval)

90-10%  
MATCH

UPDATED

STATE-LOCAL

- Available to all public owned/public use airports
- Limited to 90% of total project cost - state share **not to exceed \$200,000** (increased from \$150,000) | Hangar **not to exceed \$500,000**
- Limit of one 90% grant per airport per fiscal year
- Cash and/or In-kind Match required (in-kind requires pre-approval)

90-10%  
MATCH

NEW! MATCH FOR FLIGHT CHECKS

STATE-LOCAL

- Available to all public owned/public use airports. State share **not to exceed \$15,000**

100%  
GRANT

STATE ONLY

- Available to all public owned/public use airports
- Emergency request only - limited to disaster areas - declared by the Governor
- Application must be based on Governor's Disaster Declaration. Insurance payments and other financial help will be reviewed before awarding grant

# 2023/2024 State Turnback Funds

Actual Totals Per Capita						
MONTH	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
January	\$6.66	\$6.71	\$0.49	\$0.12	\$1.96	\$1.02
February	\$6.986		\$0.348		\$0.963	
March	\$5.435		\$0.466		\$0.962	
April	\$6.849		\$0.304		\$0.963	
May	\$6.521		\$0.150		\$0.963	
June	\$7.108		\$0.114		\$0.914	
July	\$7.201		\$0.067		\$3.468	
August	\$6.729		\$0.030		\$0.903	
September	\$7.203		\$0.079		\$1.024	
October	\$6.965		\$0.118		\$1.023	
November	\$6.470		\$0.107		\$1.02	
December	\$6.69		\$0.109		\$1.02	
<b>Total Year</b>	<b>\$80.81</b>	<b>\$6.71</b>	<b>\$2.38</b>	<b>\$0.12</b>	<b>\$15.19</b>	<b>\$1.02</b>

Actual Totals Per Month						
MONTH	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
January	\$13,350,521.33	\$13,454,740.53	\$986,285.50	\$240,989.05	*\$3,932,114.58	*\$4,053,953.86
February	\$14,007,539.35		\$697,870.86		\$1,931,496.92	
March	\$10,897,459.57		\$934,876.36		\$1,929,735.55	
April	\$13,733,961.21		\$609,092.78		\$1,931,683.45	
May	\$13,076,319.93		\$301,616.52		\$1,931,551.66	
June	\$14,253,484.10		\$228,043.55		\$1,833,150.85	
July	\$14,439,295.46		\$134,328.98		** \$6,954,789.31	
August	\$13,493,375.49		\$59,296.15		\$1,811,150.89	
September	\$14,443,661.62		\$159,041.84		\$2,053,956.86	
October	\$13,972,991.18		\$236,786.27		\$2,051,882.67	
November	\$12,979,685.06		\$214,451.05		\$2,052,748.94	
December	\$13,416,576.21		\$218,523.64		\$2,053,956.86	
<b>Total Year</b>	<b>\$162,064,870.51</b>	<b>\$13,454,740.53</b>	<b>\$4,780,213.50</b>	<b>\$240,989.05</b>	<b>\$30,468,218.54</b>	<b>\$4,053,953.86</b>

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

\*\*Includes \$3,514,391.91 supplemental for July 2023

## Monthly sales tax receipts available online

The print version of *City & Town* is now a quarterly magazine, but you'll never have to miss a month of your latest local sales tax receipts. The latest sales tax reports for cities, towns and counties from the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration and each month's turnback estimates are available on the League's website. 🌐

# Local Option Sales and Use Tax in Arkansas



Source: Rachel Garrett, Office of State Treasurer

See also: [www.dfa.arkansas.gov](http://www.dfa.arkansas.gov)

Sales and Use Tax Year-to-Date 2024 with 2023 Comparison (shaded gray)

Month	Municipal Tax		County Tax		Total Tax		Interest	
January	\$86,862,371	\$82,120,928	\$74,528,796	\$69,845,325	\$161,391,167	\$151,966,253	\$617,233	\$411,348
February		\$93,165,528		\$77,635,228	\$-	\$170,800,757		\$511,512
March		\$79,341,600		\$67,618,149	\$-	\$146,959,750		\$515,250
April		\$78,305,282		\$66,303,939	\$-	\$144,609,221		\$632,323
May		\$88,996,875		\$75,685,477	\$-	\$164,682,352		\$553,441
June		\$85,583,054		\$73,815,799	\$-	\$159,398,853		\$662,415
July		\$89,238,401		\$75,809,222	\$-	\$165,047,623		\$686,346
August		\$87,381,329		\$75,090,414	\$-	\$162,471,743		\$659,519
September		\$85,581,759		\$73,904,247	\$-	\$159,486,006		\$730,434
October		\$88,379,581		\$75,845,684	\$-	\$164,225,265		\$708,877
November		\$85,565,813		\$74,128,511	\$-	\$159,694,324		\$703,712
December		\$84,907,725		\$72,205,365	\$-	\$157,113,090		\$682,165
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$86,862,371</b>	<b>\$1,028,567,875</b>	<b>\$74,528,796</b>	<b>\$877,887,361</b>	<b>\$161,391,167</b>	<b>\$1,906,455,236</b>	<b>\$617,233</b>	<b>\$7,457,342</b>
Averages	\$86,862,371	\$85,713,990	\$74,528,796	\$73,157,280	\$161,391,167	\$158,871,270	\$617,233	\$621,445





# City&Town

## Index 2019-2023

Save this index and use it to research past articles back to 2019.

### Ark. City Attorneys' Assoc. (ACAA)

Fields, Amy, IMLA honors-Aug. '19, p.23  
International Municipal Lawyers Association (IMLA), honors Fields-Aug. '19, p.23  
Officers, elected-July '19, p.11

### Ark. City Management Assoc. (ACMA)

Fall conference, Texarkana hosts-Dec. '19, p.30; virtual fall conf., coverage-Nov. '21, p.24; Fort Smith hosts-Nov. '22, p.22  
International City Management Association, annual conference-Dec. '19, p.21; Patterson credentialed-Aug. '20, p.10  
President, message from-Dec. '21, p.30  
Spring conference, Hot Springs hosts-May '19, p.18; virtual spring conf., coverage-May '21, p.16; Arkadelphia hosts-May '22, p.19

### Ark. City Clerks, Recorders and Treasurers Assoc. (ACCRTA)

(see also City Clerks)  
Clerk of the Year-July '19, p.11; Sept. '20, p.21; July '21, p.20; July '22, p.26  
International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC), Municipal Clerks Week-April '19, p.48; April '20, p.10; April '21, p.11; March '22, p.13; March '23, p.12; Bennett earns MMC designation-Oct. '21, p.12; Bailey, Hawkins earns MMC designation-Nov. '21, p.13; honors Whitbey-July '22, p.14; LR/NLR host 75th conference-July '22, p.14; 50th Municipal Clerks Institute, North Little Rock hosts-Oct. '22, p.29; AML hosts 51st institute-Autumn '23, p.37; Duncan earns CMC designation-Feb. '23, p.13; Howard earns CMC designation-Autumn '23, p.13; Thomas earns CMC designation-Autumn '23, p.13  
Message from president-Nov. '20, p.16  
New clerk orientation-Jan. '19, p.28; Jan. '20, p.25; Dec. '20, p.44; Jan. '21, p.40  
Officers, elected-July '19, p.11; Sept. '20, p.21; Summer '23, p.28  
Quill Award, Barbara Blackard receives-May '20, p.10; June '21, p.12  
Scholarship, Stephens R/T receives-Oct. '19, p.56  
Workshop, Lake DeGray hosts-April '19, p.22; preview of League's advanced training-Oct. '19, p.26

### Arts and Literature

Ashley, Hugh, from Beverly Hill Billy to Harrison mayor-Dec. '21, p.18  
Highsmith, Carol, photographer travels The Wonder State-March '21, p.18  
Jonesboro, Forum gets facelift-Feb. '20, p.16  
Murals, online workshop-Sept. '20, p.10; community canvas-Nov. '20, p.40  
Six Bridges Book Festival, League sponsors Sam Quinones-Sept. '22, p.28

### Awards

ABPG Don A. Zimmerman Pinnacle Award-Feb. '19, p.10; Feb. '23, p.22

ABPG Trendsetter City Awards-Feb. '19, p.10; Feb. '21, p.31; April '22, p.25; Feb. '23, p.22  
ACCRTA Clerk of the Year-July '19, p.11; Sept. '20, p.21; July '21, p.20; July '22, p.26; Summer '23, p.27  
Adrian L. White Municipal Leadership Award-July '19, p.10; Sept. '20, p.21; July '21, p.20; July '22, p.26; Summer '23, p.27  
Ark. Bar Assoc., Outstanding Lawyer-Humanitarian Award goes to League's Mann-Aug. '20, p.10  
Four Star Municipality Award-Sept. '20, p.21; July '21, p.20; July '22, p.26  
Delta Byways, Delta Awards-March '19, p.12; March '20, p.34; March '23, p.18  
Don A. Zimmerman Dean's Chair, JoAnne Bush receives inaugural-Feb. '19, p.9; Mike Gaskill receives-Feb. '21, p.28; Jackie Crabtree receives-Feb. '23, p.22  
Don A. Zimmerman Pinnacle Award-April '22, p.25  
Henry Awards, 2020 winners-May '20, p.10  
Jack R. Rhodes Sr. Distinguished Service Award-July '19, p.10; Sept. '20, p.21; July '21, p.20; Summer '23, p.27  
John Woodruff City Above Self Award-July '19, p.10; Sept. '20, p.20; July '21, p.20; Summer '23, p.27  
Main Street Arkansas, Excellence in Downtown Revitalization Awards-April '22, p.25  
Main Street Forward Award, Argenta wins-May '21, p.26  
Marvin L. Vincent Commitment to Excellence Award-July '19, p.10; Sept. '20, p.21; July '21, p.20; July '22, p.26; Summer '23, p.27  
Municipal Clerk of the Year-July '19, p.11; Sept. '20, p.21; July '21, p.20  
Person(s) of Year Sept. '20, p.20  
Reimagine the Town You Love-Summer '23, p.27  
Quill Award, Barbara Blackard receives-May '20, p.10; June '21, p.12  
Volunteer Communities of the Year-Feb. '19, p.10; Feb. '21, p.30; April '22, p.25; Feb. '23, p.22

### Boundary Changes

Annexation, reports due-Jan. '19, p.29; Jan. '20, p.19; Jan. '21, p.29; Jan. '22, p.17; Jan. '23, p.19

### Census, 2020

2020 Census, hard-to-count communities-June '19, p.8; Arkansas Complete Count Committee, governor announces-Sept. '19, p.54; important dates-Sept. '19, p.55; Nov. '19, p.30; field guide for cities-Oct. '19, p.28; get counted, Arkansas-Nov. '19, p.30; economic development perspective-Nov. '19, p.36; response rate-May '20, p.38; inter-city competition-July '20, p.16; preliminary results-July '21, p.36; final results, cities & towns-Oct. '21, p.44  
Redistricting, basics-July '21, p.38; statutes guiding, overview-Oct. '21, p.40; assistance available-Oct. '21, p.42  
Results, cities & towns-Oct. '21, p.44

### Centennial/Sesquicentennial Incorporation

Centennial celebrations-April '19, p.11; July '20, p.14; April '21, p.20; March '22, p.20; March '23, p.20  
Sesquicentennial celebrations-July '20, p.12; March '22, p.20; March '23, p.20

### Cities and Towns

Alma, solar project-April '22, p.12; downtown redesign-Sept. '22, p.44; ABPG Trendsetter City-Feb. '23, p.22  
Alzheimer, centennial-April '19, p.11; Doris Hudson-Gaddy, profile-Feb. '20, p.49; new public restroom-Dec. '21, p.22  
Arkadelphia, COVID-19, Look for the Helpers-May '20, p.23; AHPP grant-July '20, p.11; Winter storm of 2021-March '21, p.34; hosts ACMA spring conf.-May '22, p.19; ABPG Trendsetter City-Feb. '23, p.22  
Arkansas City, sesquicentennial-March '23, p.20; Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24  
Augusta, AHPP grant-July '20, p.11; Jeff Collins, from meth to mayor-Nov. '20, p.26; Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24  
Austin, receives water/wastewater funding-June '20, p.10; inter-city census competition-July '20, p.16  
Batesville, named among top 50 places to live-Feb. '19, p.44; AARP Community Challenge grant-Aug. '19, p.44; 76th White River Carnival-Oct. '19, p.36; responds to coronavirus pandemic-May '20, p.16; Walking in Batesville-Aug. '20, p.20; Jennifer Corter, profile-June '22, p.35; Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24; co-hosts annual planning meeting-Autumn '23, p.26  
Bay, cities celebrate Class of 2020-June '20, p.18  
Beebe, First Impressions Tour-Sept. '20, p.46; Carol Westergren, profile-Oct. '21, p.14; ABPG Trendsetter City-Feb. '23, p.22; Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24  
Beedeville, Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24  
Bella Vista, ABPG Trendsetter City-Feb. '21, p.31; Peter Christie, profile-Nov. '21, p.14  
Benton, AARP Community Challenge grant-Aug. '19, p.44; COVID-19, cities celebrate Class of 2020-June '20, p.18  
Bentonville, ABPG Trendsetter City-April '22, p.25; Feb. '23, p.22; U.S. National Mountain Bike Team-Jan. '23, p.12; Volunteer Community of the Year-Feb. '23, p.22; sesquicentennial-March '23, p.20  
Berryville, industrial park grant-July '19, p.56; AHPP grant-July '20, p.10; Tim McKinney, profile-Aug. '21, p.14  
Bethel Heights, hosts cybersecurity workshop-June '19, p.27  
Black Oak, centennial-March '23, p.20  
Blytheville, Melissa Logan profile-May '21, p.37  
Bono, water/wastewater funding-Feb. '20, p.10  
Booneville, Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24  
Bradford, Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24  
Brinkley, sesquicentennial-March '23, p.20  
Brookland, Mayor Jones profile-Autumn '23, p.30

Bryant, ABPG Trendsetter City-Feb. '21, p.31; Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

Buckner, Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

Bull Shoals, Tina Bailey earns MMC designation-Nov. '21, p.13

Cabot, inter-city census competition-July '20, p.16; ABPG Trendsetter City-Feb. '21, p.31; April '22, p.25; solar plant groundbreaking-May '21, p.28; sales tax success-May '22, p.40

Calion, centennial-July '20, p.14

Camden, AHPP grant-July '20, p.10

Caraway, centennial-March '23, p.20

Caulksville, Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

Cave City, 40th watermelon festival-Aug. '19, p.12; Jonas Anderson, profile-Nov. '20, p.18; Autumn '23, p.28 Jim Smith, profile-Dec. '20, p.49; co-hosts annual planning meeting-Autumn '23, p.26

Cave Springs, water/wastewater funding-Feb. '20, p.10; hybrid police fleet-Aug. '20, p.18

Cherry Valley, Stacey Bennett MMC designation-Oct. '21, p.12

Clarendon, Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

Clarksville, Barbara Blackard receives Quill Award-May '20, p.10; June '21, p.12; Barbara Blackard, profile-July '20, p.35; ABPG Trendsetter City-Feb. '23, p.22; Howard achieves CMC-Autumn '23, p.13

Cleveland, Miss., Food Desert Working Group field trip-Oct. '22, p.24

Clinton, Dena Malone profile-Sept. '20, p.35; Duncan earns CMC designation-Feb. '23, p.12; Mayor McCormac profile-Autumn '23, p.31

Concord, Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

Conway, Certified Local Government grant-May '19, p.52; splashpad and memorial-Sept. '19, p.16; SAG award for open data-Oct. '19, p.56; Winter storm of 2021-March '21, p.34; home-grown influencers-Dec. '21, p.54; Shawanna Rodgers, profile-Feb. '22, p.33; ABPG Trendsetter City-Feb. '23, p.22

Corning, Growing Corning Together initiative-Dec. '19, p.46; Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

Cotter, receives water/wastewater funding-July '20, p.10

Crossett, Ember, firefighting mascot-April '19, p.14; AEDC Competitive Community-July '19, p.56; COVID-19, cities celebrate Class of 2020-June '20, p.18; partners with ARDOT on Main Street-Aug. '22, p.16; Mayor Marshall profile-Dec. '22, p.14; Jeff Harrison, profile-Dec. '22, p.35; AHPP grant-Summer '23, p.13; Council Member Foster profile-Autumn '23, p.33

Danville, centennial-April '19, p.11; receives water/wastewater funding-Sept. '22, p.12

Dardanelle, River Valley Bike Fest-Sept. '21, p.18

Decatur, Kim Wilkins profile-Jan. '20, p.37

Delaplaine, Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

Dell, Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

Des Arc, Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

DeValls Bluff, turns 150-AHPP grant-July '20, p.11

Dover, sesquicentennial-July '20, p.12; water/wastewater funding-Dec. '20, p.12

Drew, Miss., Food Desert Working Group field trip-Oct. '22, p.24

Elaine, centennial-April '19, p.11; field rep. visit-March '23, p.26

El Dorado, Smith-Creer participates in African-American mayoral panel-March '19, p.10; Certified Local Government grant-May '19, p.52; sesquicentennial-July '20, p.12; Heather McVay, profile-Oct. '20, p.37; Winter storm of 2021-March '21, p.34

Elkins, Matt Francis, profile-June '20, p.33

Emmet, Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

Etowah, Volunteer Community of the Year-Feb. '23, p.22

Eudora, receives water/wastewater funding-Sept. '22, p.12

Eureka Springs, Certified Local Government grant-May '19, p.52; ABPG Trendsetter City-Feb. '21, p.31; April '22, p.25; Feb. '23, p.22; Mayor Berry profile-Autumn '23, p.32

Fairfield Bay, Volunteer Community of the Year-Feb. '19, p.10; receives DRA funding-Nov. '19, p.8; Mayor Wellenberger, profile-Dec. '19, p.12; ABPG Trendsetter City-Feb. '21, p.31; Feb. '23, p.22; Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

Fayetteville, ABPG Trendsetter City-April '22, p.25; Feb. '23, p.22; hosts SMC IT Summit-May '19, p.15; Certified Local Government grant-May '19, p.52; solar array-June '19, p.56; Mayor Jordan receives award for solar-July '19, p.57; COVID-19, Look for the Helpers-May '20, p.22; sesquicentennial-July '20, p.13; Winter storm of 2021-March '21, p.34; Kara Paxton achieves CMC-Feb. '22, p.12; Volunteer Community of the Year-Feb. '23, p.22

Fifty-Six, water/wastewater funding-Aug. '20, p.11; Dec. '20, p.12; Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

Flippin, receives water/wastewater funding-July '20, p.10; centennial-April '21, p.21

Fordyce, AHPP grant-July '20, p.10

Forrest City, sesquicentennial-July '20, p.13; ABPG Trendsetter City-Feb. '21, p.31

Fort Smith, McGill participates in African-American mayoral panel-March '19, p.10; bicentennial wins Natural State Award-March '19, p.56; transportation plan semifinalist in competition-Dec. '19, p.10; ABPG Trendsetter City-Feb. '21, p.31; hosts ACMA fall conference-Nov. '22, p.22

Fountain Hill, centennial-April '21, p.20

Fountain Lake, Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

Franklin, receives water/wastewater funding-July '20, p.10

Gassville, Flippin retires-May '22, p.12

Gentry, Mayor Johnston, profile-Jan. '21, p.18

Goshen, Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

Gravette, COVID-19, Look for the Helpers-May '20, p.25; ABPG Trendsetter City-Feb. '21, p.31; April '22, p.25; Don A. Zimmerman Pinnacle Award-April '22, p.25

Green Forest, ABPG Trendsetter City-Feb. '21, p.31

Greenbrier, ABPG Trendsetter City-Feb. '21, p.31; making strides in community development-Aug. '22, p.34

Greenland, receives water/wastewater funding-Sept. '22, p.12

Greenwood, Mayor Kinslow profile-Nov. '22, p.16; Danielle Smith, profile-Nov. '22, p.37; Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

Hackett, fire dept. receives Rural Community Grant-June '19, p.56

Hamburg, receives USDA water project funding-Oct. '19, p.56

Hampton, water/wastewater funding-Dec. '20, p.12

Harrisburg, AHPP grant-July '20, p.10

Harrison, Hugh Ashley history-Dec. '21, p.18; ABPG Trendsetter City-Feb. '23, p.22

Hartford, Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

Hazen, AHPP grant-July '20, p.11; Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

Heber Springs, ABPG Trendsetter City-Feb. '21, p.31

Helena-West Helena, Certified Local Government grant-May '19, p.52; receives DRA funding-Nov. '19, p.8; responds to coronavirus pandemic-May '20, p.17; COVID-19, Look for the Helpers-May '20, p.25; Winter storm of 2021-March '21, p.34; ABPG Trendsetter City-April '22, p.25

Hope, receives TAP grant-Nov. '19, p.8; responds to coronavirus pandemic-May '20, p.20; Debra Hall, profile-Nov. '20, p.37

Horatio, Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

Hot Springs, hosts ACMA conference-May '19, p.18; ABPG Trendsetter City-Feb. '21, p.31; April '22, p.25; Feb. '23, p.22; Aaron Street, profile-Sept. '21, p.37; hosts Southern Municipal Conference-May '22, p.20; Don A. Zimmerman Pinnacle Award-Feb. '23, p.22

Huntsville, water/wastewater funding-Feb. '20, p.10

Huntington, Rural Community Grant-June '19, p.56

Jacksonville, Reedie Ray profile-April '20, p.31

Jasper, water/wastewater funding-Aug. '20, p.11

Jennette, Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

Joiner, centennial-March '22, p.20

Jonesboro, Veterans Village, ADFA awards \$1 million-March '19, p.36; Mayor Perrin, League president profile-Aug. '19, p.6; hosts annual planning meeting-Sept. '19, p.6; Forum gets facelift-Feb. '20, p.16; tornado response amid pandemic-May '20, p.12; solar farm-June '20, p.14; Bill Campbell, profile-Aug. '20, p.33; Miracle League Park named in Perrin's honor-Oct. '20, p.30; Jeff Sexton, profile-Jan. '22, p.41; ABPG Trendsetter City-Feb. '23, p.22

Judsonia, sesquicentennial-March '22, p.20

Kingsland, receives USDA water project funding-Oct. '19, p.56

Lake Village, RWJF Culture of Health prize-April '19, p.16; AHPP grant-July '20, p.10; Johnny Williams, profile-June '21, p.29

Lakeview, Dennis Behling profile-Sept. '21, p.14

Laurel, Miss., revitalization-Aug. '19, p.32

Lavaca, centennial-April '19, p.11

Little Rock, playgrounds grant-Jan. '19, p.60; Scott, Shackelford participate in African-American mayoral panel-March '19, p.10; Tree Streets-March '19, p.48; named AEDC Competitive Community-May '19, p.52; Certified Local Government grant-May '19, p.52; Cities Combating Hunger convening-Aug. '19, p.18; Nov. '19, p.16; receives water/wastewater funding-June '20, p.10; broadband access-Oct. '20, p.32; Port of Little Rock, expanding economic driver-Dec. '20, p.26; ABPG Trendsetter City-Feb. '21, p.31; Winter storm of 2021-March '21, p.34; Food Truck Fest, 10th anniv.-Nov. '21, p.27; Emily Jordan Cox, profile-Dec. '21, p.41; Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

Lonoke, ABPG Trendsetter City-April '22, p.25; Volunteer Community of the Year-Feb. '23, p.22

Louann, centennial-March '23, p.20

Lowell, ABPG Trendsetter City-April '22, p.25

Magnolia, Parnell Vann, profile-Nov. '19, p.10; Autumn '23, p.29; Mule Kick biz plan incorporates community-July '20, p.40; 33rd Magnolia Blossom Festival-June '22, p.14; new brand-July '22, p.50

Malvern, AHPP grant-July '20, p.10

Marianna, AHPP grant-July '20, p.10; Jones Bar-B-Q reopens after fire-Aug. '21, p.22; Barbara Burnett, profile-Nov. '21, p.33

Marks, Miss., Food Desert Working Group field trip-Oct. '22, p.24

Marmaduke, Veneta Hargrove profile-Oct. '22, p.39; Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

Marshall, receives DRA funding-Nov. '19, p.8; ABPG Trendsetter City-April '22, p.25

Maumelle, ABPG Trendsetter City-April '22, p.25; Doreen Mattes, profile-July '21, p.41; Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

Mayflower, new city center-Jan. '20, p.16

McCaskill, centennial-July '20, p.14

McCrary, Mayor Fowler profile-Sept. '22, p.14; LaDonna Poindexter-Hill, profile-Sept. '22, p.33; Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

McDougal, Bobby Brown profile-Jan. '21, p.43

McGehee, hosts EEOC training-Oct. '19, p.22; responds to coronavirus pandemic-May '20, p.20; World War II Japanese American Internment Museum, 10-year anniversary-Summer '23, p.14

McNab, Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

Mena, AHPP grant-July '20, p.10, 11; Becky Horton, profile-Oct. '21, p.27; James Earl Turner, profile-Dec. '21, p.14; Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

Menifee, receives water/wastewater funding-Sept. '22, p.12; AHPP grant-Summer '23, p.13

Mitchellville, receives water/wastewater funding-June '20, p.10

Monticello, Miracle League ballpark and playground-June '19, p.6; receives DRA funding-Nov. '19, p.8; AHPP grant-July '20, p.11; receives water/wastewater funding-Sept. '22, p.12

Morrilton, AHPP grant-July '20, p.10; Playland opens-Dec. '22, p.18

Mount Pleasant, receives USDA water project funding-Oct. '19, p.56

Mountain Home, entertainment district approved-Aug. '19, p.44; downtown revitalization-Oct. '20, p.42; The District-Sept. '21, p.28; adaptive reuse-Jan. '23, p.52

Mountain View, Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

Mulberry, Mayor Baxter, profile-Oct. '20, p.12; responds to coronavirus pandemic-May '20, p.18; COVID-19, Look for the Helpers-May '20, p.23; ABPG Trendsetter City-Feb. '21, p.31; Volunteer Community of the Year-Feb. '23, p.22

Newport, wi-fi park-Nov. '22, p.42; Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

North Little Rock, Mayor Smith named to NLC committee-Jan. '19, p.43; IMLA honors city attorney-Aug. '19, p.23; COVID-19, cities celebrate Class of 2020-June '20, p.18; Argenta, Main Street Forward Award-May '21, p.26; second, first-annual Pulaski County Fair-Nov. '21, p.26; North Little Rock Justice Center, opens-March '22, p.16; ABPG Trendsetter City-April '22, p.25; Jim Scott, profile-April '22, p.37; hosts Destination Downtown conference-Aug. '22, p.17; Diane Whitbey, profile-Oct. '22, p.14; hosts 50th Municipal Clerks Institute-Oct. '22, p.29; AHPP grant-Summer '23, p.13; Thomas achieves CMC-Autumn '23, p.13

Ogden, centennial-July '20, p.14

Oil Trough, Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

Osceola, AHPP grant-July '20, p.11; ABPG Trendsetter City-April '22, p.25; Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

Ozark, AHPP grant-July '20, p.10

Palestine, water/wastewater funding-Feb. '20, p.10

Pangburn, ABPG Trendsetter City-Feb. '21, p.31; Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

Paragould, chiefs name Gaskill mayor of year-Oct. '19, p.34; Kevin Lang, profile-April '21, p.31; trail system groundbreaking-June '21, p.16; ABPG Trendsetter City-April '22, p.25; Feb. '23, p.22

Paris, Mary Sullivan profile-March '21, p.39

Pea Ridge, responds to coronavirus pandemic-May '20, p.16; COVID-19, cities celebrate Class of 2020-June '20, p.18; Winter storm of 2021-March '21, p.34

Piggott, AHPP grant-July '20, p.10; receives water/wastewater funding-Sept. '22, p.12

Pine Bluff, federal Challenge Grant and Go Forward Pine Bluff-March '19, p.6; Washington participates in African-American mayoral panel-March '19, p.10; new aquatic center-Aug. '19, p.14; receives grant for youth sports-Oct. '19, p.56; receives DRA funding-Nov. '19, p.8; responds to coronavirus pandemic-May '20, p.20; gets sprucing up-Nov. '20, p.22; Mayor Washington, profile-Feb. '21, p.18; ABPG Trendsetter City-Feb. '21, p.31; AHPP grant-Summer '23, p.13

Pocahontas, receives DRA funding-Nov. '19, p.8

Pollard, centennial-April '21, p.21

Portland, ANRC loan-July '19, p.56

Prairie Grove, receives water/wastewater funding-Sept. '22, p.12

Prescott, Howard G. Austin, profile-March '20, p.31; Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

Ravenden Springs, receives water/wastewater funding-June '20, p.10; Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

Rison, Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

Rogers, Money Magazine best place to live-Jan. '19, p.60; Hollis, Carey, employee profile-Nov. '19, p.27; COVID-19, Look for the Helpers-May '20, p.22; zero-fare transit debuts-June '20, p.38; Winter storm of 2021-March '21, p.34; Railyard Park-May '21, p.22; receives water/wastewater funding-Sept. '22, p.12; Mt. Hebron Park, grand opening-Autumn '23, p.38

Russellville, Volunteer Community of the Year-Feb. '19, p.10; #CommUNITY-May '20, p.44; sesquicentennial-July '20, p.14; River Valley Bike Fest-Sept. '21, p.18; AHPP grant-Summer '23, p.13

Saint Paul, Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

Searcy, Small Business Revolution: Main Street competition-Feb. '19, p.44; March '19, p.56; April '19, p.12; July '19, p.32; AHPP grant-July '20, p.11; ABPG Trendsetter City-Feb. '21, p.31; AHPP grant-Summer '23, p.13

Shannon Hills, Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

Shaw, Miss., Food Desert Working Group field trip-Oct. '22, p.24

Sheridan, Kick Start Sheridan-June '19, p.42

Sherwood, 43rd Sherwood Fest-Oct. '19, p.10; responds to coronavirus pandemic-May '20, p.19; COVID-19, cities celebrate Class of 2020-June '20, p.18; Beverly Williams, profile-Dec. '20, p.16; honors first responders-Aug. '21, p.29; Sherwood History and Heritage Museum opens-May '22, p.14; Mayor Young, profile-Aug. '22, p.18

Sidney, receives water/wastewater funding-Sept. '22, p.12

Siloam Springs, Memorial Park, opens-July '19, p.30; Mayor Turner, profile-Oct. '19, p.6; water/wastewater funding-Feb. '20, p.10; ICMA credentials Phillip Patterson-Aug. '20, p.10; Renea Ellis earns CMC-May '21, p.12; named Bioeconomy Development Opportunity Zone-Nov. '21, p.29; accessible pier & kayak launch-Dec. '21, p.23

Smackover, ANRC loan-July '19, p.56; Rick East, profile-May '20, p.37; centennial-March '22, p.20

Springdale, junior police academy-Sept. '19, p.24; EDA public works grant-April '20, p.10; responds to coronavirus pandemic-May '20, p.18; AHPP grant-July '20, p.11; ABPG Trendsetter City-Feb. '23, p.22; Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

Star City, receives USDA water project funding-Oct. '19, p.56; Alicia Hawkins earns MMC designation-Nov. '21, p.13; Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

Stephens, Fulkroad, profile-Feb. '21, p.45; new city hall opens-Oct. '22, p.20

Strawberry, Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

Stuttgart, AHPP grant-July '20, p.10

Sulphur Rock, receives water/wastewater funding-July '20, p.10

Taylor, receives water/wastewater funding-June '20, p.10

Texarkana, 145th anniversary-Jan. '19, p.60; Certified Local Government grant-May '19, p.52; hosts ACMA fall conference-Dec. '19, p.30; AHPP grant-July '20, p.10; Texarkana Regional Airport, expansion-Dec. '21, p.60; ABPG Trendsetter City-Feb. '23, p.22

Trumann, responds to coronavirus pandemic-May '20, p.19

Turrell, water/wastewater funding-Dec. '20, p.12

Tyrone, fire dept. grant-Jan. '20, p.10; receives water/wastewater funding-June '20, p.10

Van Buren, Volunteer Community of the Year-Feb. '19, p.10; Certified Local Government grant-May '19, p.52

Wabbaseka, centennial-July '20, p.14

Waldenburg, Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

Waldron, Johnston, Sherry, profile-Dec. '19, p.37

Walnut Ridge, receives DRA funding-Nov. '19, p.8; COVID-19, cities celebrate Class of 2020-June '20, p.18

Ward, inter-city census competition-July '20, p.16; centennial-March '23, p.20

Warren, AHPP grant-July '20, p.10; water/wastewater funding-Aug. '20, p.11; Thomas Freeman-Miller, profile-May '22, p.35

Weiner, Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

West Memphis, AARP Community Challenge grant-Aug. '19, p.44; Amanda Hicks, profile-Aug. '21, p.33; ABPG Trendsetter City-April '22, p.25; Feb. '23, p.22; Tawana Bailey, profile-Aug. '22, p.29; Volunteer Community of the Year-Feb. '23, p.22

Wheatley, Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

Wilmar, receives DRA funding-Nov. '19, p.8

Winslow, Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

Wrightsville, Council Member Loring profile-Sept. '19, p.8; responds to coronavirus pandemic-May '20, p.18; Outdoor Recreation Grant-April '23, p.24

Wynne, revitalization-July '19, p.44

## City Clerks

(also see Ark. City Clerks, Records and Treasurers Assoc.)

Blackard, Barbara, Quill Award-May '20, p.10; June '21, p.12; profile-July '20, p.35

Ellis, Renea, achieves CMC-May '21, p.12

Howard, Jennifer, achieves CMC-Autumn '23, p.13

International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC), Municipal Clerks Week-April '19, p.48; April '20, p.10; April '21, p.11; March '22, p.13; Bennett earns MMC designation-Oct. '21, p.12; Bailey, Hawkins earns MMC designation-Nov. '21, p.13; honors Whitbey-July '22, p.14

Johnston, Denise, message from president-Nov. '20, p.16

Johnston, Sherry, profile-Dec. '19, p.37

Malone, Dena, profile-Sept. '20, p.35

McVay, Heather, profile-Oct. '20, p.37

Paxton, Kara, achieves CMC-Feb. '22, p.12

Story, Jennifer, retires-Jan. '19, p.31

Sullivan, Mary, profile-March '21, p.39

Thomas, Katelyn, achieves CMC-Autumn '23, p.13

Whitbey, Diane, IIMC Quill Award-July '22, p.14; profile-Oct. '22, p.14

## City Administrators and City Managers

Cook, Catherine, AML life member-Feb. '23, p.22

## City Attorneys

Cain, Howard, AML life member-Feb. '23, p.22

## City Council Members and City Directors

Foster, C.T., profile-Autumn '23, p.33



Francis, Matt, profile-June '20, p.33  
Loring, Allan, profile-Aug. '19, p.8; Sept. '19, p.8  
Pickett, T.C., retires-Jan. '19, p.31  
Ray, Reddie, profile-April '20, p.31  
Turner, James Earl, profile-Dec. '21, p.14  
Williams, Beverly, profile-Dec. '20, p.16

## City Councils

Meeting, statutes governing-Jan. '19, p.16; Jan. '20, p.20; Jan. '21, p.30; Jan. '22, p.18; Jan. '23, p.20

## City Officials

Advice, General: newly elected tips-Jan. '19, p.8; media relations-Jan. '19, p.34; legislative process, participation-Jan. '19, p.42; sexual harassment, "me too" movement-Jan. '19, p.10; connecting across the divide-Feb. '19, p.16; three reasons to apologize-March '19, p.32; building civic capital-April '19, p.24; teamwork-May '19, p.27; men mentoring women, "me too" movement-Aug. '19, p.20; Sept. '19, p.36; Crisis management, 10 Rs of-June '20, p.16; virtual meetings, professionalism tips-April '21, p.24

## Communications

Arkansas Citizens Access Network (AR-CAN), AETN and governor's office launch-Feb. '19, p.44  
Broadband, Arkansas opens door for municipal broadband-May '19, p.20; Arkansas State Broadband Plan-June '19, p.56; Arkansas Rural Connect, announcement-Sept. '19, p.54; ARC update-Jan. '20, p.14; July '20, p.19; bridging digital divide-Feb. '20, p.46; ARC grant-Aug. '20, p.10; Little Rock increases access-Oct. '20, p.32; libraries bridging digital divide-Feb. '22, p.38  
Communications, General: power of effective communication-June '22, p.36  
COVID-19, communication during-Sept. '20, p.32  
Engaging Local Government Leaders (ELGL), Little Rock hosts training-Oct. '19, p.24  
Little Rock, ELGL Road Trip-Oct. '19, p.24  
Media relations, tips-Jan. '19, p.34  
Small cell technology, local authority-March '19, p.41  
Virtual meetings, professionalism tips-April '21, p.24

## Community Development

ACT Work Ready Communities, workforce development-Oct. '22, p.44  
Adaptive reuse-Jan. '23, p.52  
Ark. Black Hall of Fame, minority business development-April '21, p.19  
American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), opportunity-July '21, p.46  
Aspire Arkansas, Ark. Community Foundation-Jan. '19, p.32  
Beebe, First Impressions Tour-Sept. '20, p.46  
Cabot, sales tax success-May '22, p.40  
Childcare, access-April '23, p.38  
Community Development, General: early childhood education-Feb. '19, p.24; festivals build community-March '19, p.38; joint use agreements-April '19, p.34; why communities fail-May '19, p.38; 2020 Census and economic development-Nov. '19, p.36; apprenticeships-Jan. '20, p.46; smart tech helps cities plan-Feb. '20, p.56; running events, community impact-April '20, p.36; community survey-March '21, p.48  
Community Development Institute (CDI), 36th annual-Sept. '22, p.38  
Community events, planning-March '23, p.34  
Conway, home-grown influencers-Dec. '21, p.54  
Corning, Growing Corning Together initiative-Dec. '19, p.46  
Create Bridges program-Oct. '21, p.32  
Crowdfunding-Autumn '23, p.44  
Delta Population Health Inst., overview-Aug. '20, p.36

Eclipse 2024, preparing for-Sept. '21, p.46  
Equity, moving the needle-Jan. '21, p.46  
Flood mitigation-Summer '23, p.58  
Greenbrier, making strides-Aug. '22, p.34  
Hot Spring County Conversations, strategic plan-Oct. '19, p.44  
Influencers, home-grown-Dec. '21, p.54  
Laurel, Miss., revitalization-Aug. '19, p.32  
LeadAR program, overview-Dec. '22, p.38  
Libraries, bridging digital divide-Feb. '22, p.38  
Magnolia, Mule Kick biz plan incorporates community-July '20, p.40; branding-July '22, p.50  
Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service-Feb. '23, p.38  
Mobile health clinics-June '22, p.42  
Mountain Home, downtown revitalization-Oct. '20, p.42  
Murals, community canvas-Nov. '20, p.40  
National Day of Racial Healing-March '22, p.48; Feb. '23, p.32  
Newport, wi-fi park-Nov. '22, p.42  
Outdoor recreation, community assets-April '22, p.42  
Public-private partnerships, Jefferson Co. and P3 Group-Dec. '20, p.52  
Retail, recruitment-June '21, p.38  
Rogers, zero-fare transit debuts-June '20, p.38  
Russellville, #CommUNITY-May '20, p.44  
Sevier County, new slogan-May '19, p.27; Residential Substance Abuse Treatment program-Aug. '21, p.38  
Sheridan, Kick Start Sheridan-June '19, p.42  
"Smart City" movement-March '21, p.28  
Sustainable development, best practices-Feb. '21, p.48  
UCA Citizens Academy-March '20, p.42  
Walk audit, conducting-Sept. '19, p.42; May '21, p.42  
Women's Leadership Academy-Jan. '22, p.46  
Workforce development, virtual reality training-Nov. '21, p.38; ACT Work Ready Communities-Oct. '22, p.44  
Wynne, downtown revitalization-July '19, p.44

## COVID-19

Absentee voting an option-July '20, p.11  
CARES Act, grants awarded-Feb. '21, p.12  
Cities respond, seek light at end of tunnel-May '20, p.16; celebrate Class of 2020-June '20, p.18  
Communication, during quarantine-Sept. '20, p.32  
COVID-19, General: What Cities Should Know-April '20, p.11; May '20, p.26; June '20, p.22; July '20, p.20; Aug. '20, p.22; Sept. '20, p.28; Oct. '20, p.28; Dec. '20, p.34; Feb. '21, p.36; March '21, p.57; Long COVID and the ADA-Feb. '22, p.22  
HR, keeping employees safe-June '20, p.36  
Hunger, Ark. Food Bank responds to increased demand during COVID-19-Dec. '20, p.20  
Look for the Helpers-May '20, p.22  
National public health emergency, end of-April '23, p.20  
Vaccination, state announces plan-Jan. '21, p.35; mandates-Feb. '21, p.36  
Wellness, social distancing-June '20, p.47; pandemic-related stress-June '21, p.30  
Your Health: UAMS tips-April '20, p.38; exploring blood plasma treatment-June '20, p.40; diabetes during pandemic-July '20, p.42; tips for masking-Sept. '20, p.48; vaccines, new tools in the fight-Feb. '21, p.50

## Delta

Ark. Delta Byways, Delta Awards-March '19, p.12; March '20, p.34; March '23, p.18  
Delta Heritage Trail, Walton Foundation grant-March '20, p.10  
Delta Population Health Inst., overview-Aug. '20, p.36

Delta Regional Authority (DRA), funding awarded cities-Nov. '19, p.8; workforce development funding-June '22, p.12  
Jones Bar-B-Q, reopens after fire-Aug. '21, p.22  
Great River Road, All-American Road designation-March '21, p.12  
Miss. Delta Grassroots Caucus, coverage-Dec. '19, p.20; June '21, p.15; Dec. '21, p.20

## Disaster

(see also Emergency Preparedness)  
Ark. Continuity of Operations Program (ACOO), overview-Dec. '19, p.41  
Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)-May '22, p.26  
Crisis management, 10 Rs of-June '20, p.16  
FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program-May '22, p.24  
Flooding, legal assistance available-Aug. '19, p.26  
Governor's Disaster Emergency Fund-May '22, p.24  
Hunger, Ark. Food Bank responds to increased demand during COVID-19-Dec. '20, p.20  
Winter storm of 2021-March '21, p.34

## Drugs and Drug Testing

Alcohol, effects-April '19, p.18  
Drug testing, General: HHS revisions-Oct. '20, p.52; prepping for new year-Feb. '19, p.28; survey reports increases-June '19, p.38; positivity rates-Nov. '19, p.34; Sept. '20, p.56; 2020 testing updates-Feb. '20, p.54; during COVID-19-July '20, p.48  
Inhalants-July '19, p.42  
Marijuana, medical, banking rules-Dec. '19, p.44; recreational vies for ballot in Arkansas-April '20, p.44; Oregon voters decriminalize-Dec. '20, p.64  
NSDUH, survey overview-Jan. '20, p.44  
Opioids, at work-Aug. '19, p.30; state receives grant-Aug. '20, p.10  
Ritalin, safety issues-Oct. '19, p.42  
Sevier County, Residential Substance Abuse Treatment program-Aug. '21, p.38  
Substance abuse, increase during crisis-May '20, p.52; and mental illness-Aug. '20, p.44; state receives opioid grant-Sept. '20, p.10  
Treatment, understanding facts about addiction-Sept. '19, p.40  
Vaping, smoking and COVID-19-June '20, p.46; youth rates of-Jan. '21, p.55

## Economic Development

Airports, drive local economy-March '20, p.48  
Ark. Black Hall of Fame, minority business development-April '21, p.19  
Ark. Community Foundation, Aspire Arkansas-Jan. '19, p.32  
Ark. Economic Development Commission, grants awarded-Dec. '19, p.10  
Aspire Arkansas, Ark. Community Foundation-Jan. '19, p.32  
Competitive Community, Little Rock named-May '19, p.52; Crossett named-July '19, p.56  
Destination Downtown, North Little Rock hosts conference-Aug. '22, p.17  
Little Rock, Port of, expansion-Dec. '20, p.26  
Opportunity Zones, Bioeconomy Development Opportunity Zone, Siloam Springs-Nov. '21, p.29  
Retail, recruitment-June '21, p.38  
Siloam Springs, Bioeconomy Development Opportunity Zone-Nov. '21, p.29  
Small business, America's New Business Plan-March '20, p.32; reduce regulatory burdens to support-Dec. '21, p.50  
Workforce, public workforce of the future-Dec. '20, p.56

## Education

COVID-19, cities celebrate Class of 2020-June '20, p.18  
Early childhood education, economic investment-Feb. '19, p.24

## Elections

Ballot measures, Issue 1 of 2020, "Vote for Roads, Vote for Issue 1"-Dec. '19, p.34  
COVID-19, absentee voting an option-July '20, p.11; Aug. '20, p.11  
Municipal election info-Oct. '19, p.12; July '20, p.28; June '22, p.13; July '22, p.15

## Emergency Preparedness

(see also Disaster)  
Ark. Continuity of Operations Program (ACOOP), overview-Dec. '19, p.41  
Crisis management, 10 Rs of-June '20, p.16  
Planning, from loss control perspective-Sept. '21, p.42  
Workshop, League hosts-April '22, p.35

## Employment

Affordable Care Act, IRS forms-Feb. '20, p.18  
Discrimination, the ADA, FMLA and PDA-Feb. '20, p.19  
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), training-Oct. '19, p.22  
Sexual harassment, "me too" movement-Jan. '19, p.10

## Energy

Alma project-April '22, p.12  
Cabot, CAW break ground on plant-May '21, p.28  
Fayetteville, solar array-June '19, p.56  
Jonesboro, solar farm-June '20, p.14  
Solar, Act 464 of 2019 and affordability-Jan. '20, p.32

## Engineering

Airports, drive local economy-March '20, p.48; airfield pavement restoration-March '21, p.54; Texarkana Regional Airport, expansion-Dec. '21, p.60  
Alma, downtown redesign-Sept. '22, p.44  
Bioswales-July '22, p.56  
Connectivity, improving-June '22, p.48  
Construction observers-June '20, p.44; March '23, p.40  
Design, 3-D modeling-Oct. '20, p.50  
Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE), utilizing-Sept. '19, p.48  
Easements and rights-of-way-Oct. '19, p.50  
Ecologically responsible design-May '22, p.44  
Environmental, site assessment-Aug. '19, p.38; compliance-April '20, p.42  
Firestop system, inspections-Feb. '23, p.44  
Floodplain, development-June '19, p.50; Aug. '21, p.44  
Funding, American Rescue Plan Act-Feb. '22, p.44  
GIS, data layers-Oct. '21, p.38  
Land development-April '23, p.44  
Land title surveys, overview-Oct. '22, p.50  
Landscape, design and maintenance-Sept. '20, p.52  
Levees, inspection and maintenance-Dec. '20, p.60  
Low-impact development-Dec. '19, p.52  
Manholes, rehab.-Aug. '20, p.42  
Materials lab accreditation-May '20, p.50  
Parks and trails, essential during pandemic-Feb. '21, p.54  
Pavement, surface treatments-April '19, p.42; preservation Nov. '20, p.46; airfield-March '21, p.54  
Pocket parks-July '21, p.52  
Roundabouts-Feb. '20, p.60  
Site assessments, preliminary-Dec. '22, p.44

Smart metering-Nov. '19, p.42  
Southwest Trail, development-May '19, p.46  
Special inspections-April '22, p.48  
Stormwater pipes, maintenance-Aug. '22, p.40  
Streetscapes, enhancement-July '19, p.50  
Supply chain, woes-Nov. '21, p.44  
Surveying, via drone-Jan. '20, p.52; types of-Jan. '21, p.52  
Trails, geotechnical investigations-Sept. '21, p.52  
Traffic studies, improve safety-June '21, p.44  
Trees, protecting urban canopy-Summer '23, p.62  
Variable speed limits, benefits-March '22, p.56  
Water, metering, new tech-April '21, p.40; improving quality of runoff-May '21, p.48; copper levels-Jan. '23, p.56  
Wastewater, what not to flush-Feb. '19, p.38; alkalinity-March '19, p.50; upgrading lift stations-Nov. '22, p.48; copper levels-Jan. '23, p.56; screening-Autumn '23, p.48  
Winter, weather preparedness-Jan. '22, p.52  
Women in the profession-July '20, p.46

## Environment

Keep Ark. Beautiful, Great American Cleanup-March '19, p.14; March '20, p.36; March '21, p.12; March '22, p.24; March '23, p.19; Great Arkansas Cleanup-Aug. '19, p.17; Aug. '20, p.30; Aug. '22, p.12  
Light pollution, artificial light at night (ALAN)-Feb. '23, p.34  
Water, improving runoff quality-May '21, p.48  
White River Basin, system study-Sept. '19, p.55

## FEMA

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)-May '22, p.26  
Flooding, legal assistance available-Aug. '19, p.26  
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program-May '22, p.24

## Finances

Ark. Insurance Department (AID) Self-insured Fidelity Bond Program, coverage avail.-Aug. '22, p.15  
Budget information, annual report-Sept. '19, p.14; Oct. '20, p.20; Sept. '21, p.24; Sept. '22, p.22; Autumn '23, p.14  
Budgeting, statutes governing-Dec. '19, p.38; Jan. '20, p.18; Jan. '21, p.28; Jan. '22, p.16; Jan. '23, p.18  
Financial statements, annual-Jan. '19, p.14; Jan. '20, p.12; Jan. '21, p.16; Jan. '22, p.14; Jan. '23, p.16  
Highway revenue & severance turnback reporting due-Jan. '19, p.48; Nov. '20, p.32; Jan. '21, p.31; online turnback reporting system updated-Aug. '20, p.10; Act 517 of 2021 repeals requirement-Nov. '21, p.12  
Inflation, affects local governments-Aug. '22, p.26  
Interlocal agreements-Sept. '21, p.40  
State Treasurer, updates online turnback reporting-Aug. '20, p.10

## Fire Fighting

Act 833 deadline-Jan. '19, p.29; Jan. '20, p.10; Jan. '21, p.12; Jan. '22, p.12; Jan. '23, p.12  
Crossett, firefighting mascot Ember-April '19, p.14  
Firestop system, inspections-Feb. '23, p.44  
FireWise USA, join to reduce wildfire threats-Nov. '21, p.42  
State Fire Grant, Act 833 deadline-Jan. '19, p.29; Jan. '20, p.10; Jan. '21, p.12; Jan. '22, p.12

## Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

(see also Legal Articles, Questions, Opinions, 2019-2023 index)

## Grants

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), think big-Oct. '22, p.40  
Ark. Black Hall of Fame, minority business development-April '21, p.19  
Ark. Economic Development Commission, grants awarded-Dec. '19, p.10  
Ark. Historic Preservation Program, grants awarded-July '19, p.36; July '20, p.10; Summer '23, p.13; Certified Local Government grants awarded-May '19, p.52  
Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)-May '22, p.26  
CARES Act, grants awarded-Feb. '21, p.12  
Certified Local Government grants awarded-May '19, p.52  
Farmers market grants-Feb. '22, p.12  
FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program-May '22, p.25  
Grant opportunities for cities and towns, current-Sept. '20, p.36  
Hazard mitigation, Governor's Disaster Emergency Fund-May '22, p.25  
League grants service, launches-May '20, p.39; webinars-Aug. '20, p.31  
Little Rock, playgrounds grant-Jan. '19, p.60  
Pine Bluff, receives grant for youth sports-Oct. '19, p.56  
Rural Community Grant Program, rural fire departments receive-June '19, p.56  
State Fire Grant, Act 833 deadline-Jan. '19, p.29; Jan. '20, p.10; Jan. '21, p.12  
State Opioid Response Grant, Arkansas receives-Sept. '20, p.10  
Workshop, League hosts-Aug. '19, p.25

## Health

Acid reflux-FDA removes Zantac, options available-May '20, p.46  
Allied health professionals, role of-Nov. '21, p.40  
Ark. Prostate Cancer Foundation, No Shave November-Nov. '20, p.30  
Asthma, in children-Oct. '22, p.46  
Blood, donating-April '23, p.40  
Breast cancer, in men-Oct. '20, p.44  
Cancer, gynecologic-Sept. '21, p.48  
Carbon monoxide poisoning-Jan. '23, p.54  
Cataracts-June '22, p.44  
CBD, regulation of-Aug. '19, p.34  
Cholesterol-Feb. '22, p.40  
Chronic pain, managing without opioids-Sept. '22, p.40  
Colonoscopy-March '20, p.44  
COVID-19, What Cities Should Know-April '20, p.11; May '20, p.26; June '20, p.22; July '20, p.20; Aug. '20, p.22; Sept. '20, p.28; Dec. '20, p.34; Feb. '21, p.36; UAMS tips-April '20, p.38; exploring blood plasma treatment-June '20, p.40; diabetes-July '20, p.42; tips for masking-Sept. '20, p.48; state vaccination plan-Jan. '21, p.35; vaccines, new tools in the fight-Feb. '21, p.50; Long COVID and the ADA-Feb. '22, p.22; national public health emergency, end of-April '23, p.20  
Diabetes, during COVID-19-July '20, p.42  
Diet, heart healthy-Feb. '19, p.34  
Diversity, leads to healthier communities-April '21, p.36  
Eyesight, blue light-Dec. '21, p.56; cataracts-June '22, p.44  
Flu (see influenza)  
Headaches, identify triggers-June '21, p.40  
Health literacy, get most out of doctor visit-Nov. '19, p.38; well-informed decisions-Oct. '21, p.34

Healthier life, keys to-Aug. '20, p.38  
 Hearing, protecting-Nov. '22, p.44  
 Heart disease, diet-Feb. '19, p.34; preventing heart attack-Feb. '20, p.58; causes of-March '21, p.50  
 Heat-related illness-June '19, p.30  
 Hydration-Jan. '21, p.48  
 Immunizations, check your record-Aug. '21, p.40  
 Influenza, flu shot-Nov. '20, p.42  
 Kidney stones-May '22, p.42  
 Lake Village, RWJF Culture of Health prize-April '19, p.16  
 Measles, vaccination-July '19, p.46  
 Mental health-May '21, p.44; pandemic-related stress-June '21, p.30; fighting the stigma-Summer '23, p.60  
 MHBP Tips: wellness program benefits-Feb. '19, p.29; customer service-April '19, p.32; in- and out-of-network-June '19, p.40; appeals procedure-Aug. '19, p.16; program changes for 2020-Dec. '19, p.56; coordination of benefits-Feb. '20, p.50; forms used, overview-March '21, p.44  
 Mindfulness, through meditation-May '19, p.42; antidote for stress-May '22, p.22  
 Multiple sclerosis-March '23, p.36  
 Natl. Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, League helps launch-Sept. '20, p.12  
 New Year's resolutions-Feb. '23, p.40  
 Opioids, pain management-June '19, p.46; Sept. '22, p.40  
 Oral health-Autumn '23, p.46  
 Pain management, opioids-June '19, p.46; Sept. '22, p.40  
 Polycystic ovary syndrome-March '22, p.50  
 Prenatal health-Jan. '22, p.48  
 Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)-Dec. '22, p.40  
 Seasonal Affective Disorder-Jan. '19, p.50  
 Shingles-Aug. '22, p.36  
 Sitting, bad habit-July '22, p.52  
 Sleep, deprivation-April '22, p.44  
 Suicide, prevention-Sept. '19, p.44  
 Sun, protection against-July '21, p.48  
 Technology, digital health-Jan. '20, p.48  
 Testicular cancer-Oct. '19, p.48  
 Tobacco, quitting-Dec. '20, p.55  
 Trees, health benefits-April '23, p.42  
 Vaccination, measles-July '19, p.46; COVID-19-Feb. '21, p.50  
 Vaping-April '19, p.38; dangers-Dec. '19, p.48  
 Vision, glaucoma-March '19, p.46

## History

(see also Centennial/Sesquicentennial Incorporation)  
 Ark. Historic Preservation Program, tours-Jan. '19, p.44; Jan. '20, p.58; Feb. '22, p.12; Feb. '23, p.12  
 Ashley, Hugh, from Beverly Hill Billy to Harrison mayor-Dec. '21, p.18  
 Centennial celebrations-April '19, p.11; July '20, p.14; April '21, p.20; March '22, p.20; March '23, p.20  
 Heritage tourism, building upon assets-May '19, p.40  
 Sesquicentennial celebrations-July '20, p.12; March '22, p.20; March '23, p.20  
 Sherwood History and Heritage Museum, opens-May '22, p.14  
 World War II Japanese American Internment Museum, 10-year anniversary-Summer '23, p.14

## Holidays and Celebrations

501 Day-April '21, p.11; April '22, p.12; April '23, p.12  
 Batesville, 76th White River Carnival-Oct. '19, p.36  
 Cave City, 40th watermelon festival-Aug. '19, p.12  
 Food Truck Fest, 10th anniv.-Nov. '21, p.27

Magnolia Blossom Festival, 33rd-June '22, p.14  
 Pulaski County Fair, second, first-annual-Nov. '21, p.26  
 River Valley Bike Fest, inaugural-Sept. '21, p.18  
 Sherwood, 43rd Sherwood Fest-Oct. '19, p.10

## Housing

Opinion: Housing crisis, cities and states must work together-May '19, p.22  
 Short-term rentals-Dec. '22, p.36; Jan. '23, p.50  
 Sober living homes, regulation of-Jan. '21, p.24

## Human Resources

ADA League holds workshop-April '19, p.10; Long COVID-Feb. '22, p.22  
 Communication, effective-June '22, p.36  
 COVID-19, keeping employees safe-June '20, p.36  
 Employee data, protection of-Dec. '21, p.48  
 Fair Labor Standards Act, overtime changes-Nov. '19, p.20  
 Family Medical Leave Act, certification 101-Sept. '21, p.38; the basics-March '23, p.30  
 Form I-9, DHS U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services-June '19, p.36  
 "Great Resignation," retaining talent-March '22, p.40  
 HR Tips, General: make employees feel safe, valued-Sept. '22, p.34  
 League resources available-March '21, p.40  
 Minimum wage, increases-Nov. '19, p.20  
 Overtime, U.S. Dept. of Labor proposes rule change-Nov. '19, p.20; for uniformed personnel-Autumn '23, p.40  
 Sexual harassment, "me too" movement-Jan. '19, p.10  
 Social media, employee use of-Dec. '20, p.45  
 Title VII, protects LGBTQ+ employees-July '20, p.38  
 Unemployment fraud-Sept. '20, p.42

## Hunger

Ark. Hunger Relief Alliance, food desert summit-Autumn '23, p.36  
 Childhood hunger, Cities Combating Hunger convening-Aug. '19, p.18; Nov. '19, p.16  
 Governor's Food Desert Working Group, field trip to Miss. Delta-Oct. '22, p.24; releases report-Jan. '23, p.14  
 Little Rock, Be Mighty campaign-March '19, p.57; Cities Combating Hunger convening-Aug. '19, p.18

## Information Technology

(see also Communications)  
 Bethel Heights, hosts cybersecurity workshop-June '19, p.27  
 Conway, SAG award for open data-Oct. '19, p.56  
 Cyberattacks, prevention-Aug. '19, p.22  
 Cybersecurity, seminar-Nov. '22, p.24  
 Engaging Local Government Leaders (ELGL), Little Rock hosts training-Oct. '19, p.24  
 Security, wire transfer fraud-Jan. '19, p.62; cybersecurity workshop-June '19, p.27; city vulnerabilities-Aug. '19, p.22  
 Southern Municipal Conference, Fayetteville hosts IT summit-May '19, p.15

## Infrastructure

Act 605 of 2021, training required for water providers-Sept. '22, p.26  
 Arkansas Rural Connect (ARC), update-Jan. '20, p.14  
 Bridge-load certification, deadline-Nov. '19, p.20; Nov. '20, p.31; Jan. '21, p.12; Nov. '22, p.12; Autumn '23, p.12  
 Broadband, Arkansas opens door for municipal broadband-May '19, p.20; Jan. '20, p.14

Crossett partners with ARDOT on Main Street-Aug. '22, p.16  
 Delta Heritage Trail, Walton Foundation grant-March '20, p.10  
 Flood mitigation, community development-Summer '23, p.58  
 Funding, half-cent sales tax sunsets in 2023-Jan. '19, p.54  
 Infrastructure Week, strong federal partner needed-June '19, p.10  
 Levees, Arkansas Levee Task Force formed-Feb. '20, p.10; inspection and maintenance-Dec. '20, p.60  
 Street lights, light pollution-Feb. '23, p.34  
 Solar, Act 464 of 2019-Jan. '20, p.32  
 Water/wastewater, funding received-Feb. '20, p.10  
 White River Basin, system study-Sept. '19, p.55

## Law Enforcement & Public Safety

Ark. Assoc. of Chiefs of Police, Gaskill mayor of the year-Oct. '19, p.34  
 Ark. Attorney General, Outstanding Law Enforcement Officers of the Year named-Oct. '19, p.35  
 Ark. Law Enforcement Accreditation Program, overview-April '20, p.32  
 Cave Springs, hybrid fleet-Aug. '20, p.18  
 First responders, training program scholarship-Jan. '21, p.22; Sherwood honors-Aug. '21, p.29  
 North Little Rock Justice Center, opens-March '22, p.16  
 Taser, law update-March '20, p.40

## Legal

(see also Legal Articles, Questions, Opinions 2019-2023 Index)  
 Act 605 of 2021, training required for water providers-Sept. '22, p.26  
 Affordable Care Act, IRS forms-Feb. '20, p.18  
 Annexation reports, due-Jan. '19, p.29; Jan. '20, p.19; Jan. '21, p.29; Jan. '22, p.17; Jan. '23, p.19  
 Arkansas legislature, new laws effective date-June '19, p.32  
 Broadband, Act 198 of 2019 opens door for municipal broadband-May '19, p.20  
 Budgeting, statutes governing-Dec. '19, p.38; Jan. '20, p.18; Jan. '21, p.28; Jan. '22, p.16; Jan. '23, p.18  
 City council, first meeting of year-Jan. '19, p.16; Jan. '20, p.20; Jan. '21, p.30; Jan. '22, p.18; Jan. '23, p.20  
 County equalization boards, AACD training-May '19, p.15  
 Discrimination, the ADA, FMLA and PDA-Feb. '20, p.19  
 Fair Labor Standards Act, overtime rules-Nov. '19, p.20  
 Family Medical Leave Act, certification 101-Sept. '21, p.38; the basics-March '23, p.30  
 Financial statements, annual-Jan. '19, p.14; Jan. '20, p.11; Jan. '21, p.16; Jan. '22, p.14; Jan. '23, p.16  
 Form I-9, DHS U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services-June '19, p.36  
 Highway revenues & severance turnback reporting due-Jan. '19, p.48; Jan. '20, p.21; Jan. '21, p.31; Act 517 of 2021 repeals requirement-Nov. '21, p.13; Jan. '22, p.13  
 Legal Articles, Questions, Opinions index-Jan. '19, p.72; Jan. '20, p.69; Jan. '21, p.72; Jan. '22, p.68; Jan. '23, p.72  
 Legislative Audit, new requirements take effect-Aug. '21, p.12  
 Minimum wage, state increases-Nov. '19, p.20  
 Opioid litigation, update-Feb. '21, p.42; first settlements reached-Nov. '21, p.18

Record retention, Ark. laws-Jan. '19, p.38; Jan. '20, p.38; Jan. '21, p.32; Jan. '22, p.20; Jan. '23, p.22  
Redistricting, overview of statutes guiding-Oct. '21, p.40; assistance available-Oct. '21, p.42  
Sexual harassment, "me too" movement-Jan. '19, p.10  
Title VII, protects LGBTQ+ employees-July '20, p.38  
Turnback reporting, requirement repealed by Act 517 of 2021-Nov. '21, p.12; Jan. '22, p.13  
U.S. Supreme Court, Ruth Bader Ginsberg, pragmatic approach to local government-Oct. '20, p.34

## Legislature

92nd General Assembly, review-May '19, p.6  
93rd General Assembly, review-May '21, p.18  
Communicating with your legislators-Jan. '23, p.26  
First Extraordinary Session of 2020, overview-May '20, p.40  
Fiscal Session of 2020, overview-May '20, p.40  
Honors Don Zimmerman-March '19, p.8  
New laws, effective date-June '19, p.32

## Loss Control

(see also Safety)

Emergency response planning-Sept. '21, p.42  
Green, Allen, League welcomes-Sept. '20, p.39  
Halloween, safety-Oct. '20, p.46  
Health and safety plan (HASP)-March '20, p.52  
Heat-related illness-June '19, p.30  
MLWCP, new safety program-Jan. '22, p.42  
Return-to-work programs-Sept. '19, p.32  
Safety, goals-Nov. '21, p.34; from paper to practice-Feb. '22, p.34; creating culture of-Aug. '22, p.30  
Safety program, 10 tips to jumpstart-Nov. '20, p.43; seven components of effective program-Feb. '21, p.40; March '21, p.42; April '21, p.32; May '21, p.38; June '21, p.34; July '21, p.42  
Seminar, League hosts-June '19, p.9  
Signage-Oct. '21, p.28  
Training, safety video library now online-Sept. '19, p.32  
Violations, top 10 OSHA-Jan. '20, p.41  
Workers' Comp 101-March '22, p.44; April '22, p.38; May '22, p.36; June '22, p.38  
Workplace hazards, hierarchy of controls-Aug. '21, p.34

## Mayors

African-American mayors, panel discussion-March '19, p.10  
Anderson, Jonas, profile-Nov. '20, p.18; Autumn '23, p.28  
Baxter, Gary, profile-Aug. '19, p.9; Oct. '20, p.12  
Behling, Dennis, profile-Sept. '21, p.14  
Bell, Ruth Penney, retires-Jan. '19, p.30  
Berry, Robert "Butch," profile-Autumn '23, p.32  
Bush, JoAnne, retires-Jan. '19, p.30; Don A. Zimmerman Dean's Chair inaugural recipient-Feb. '19, p.9  
Christie, Peter, profile-Nov. '21, p.14  
Collins, Jeff, from meth to mayor-Nov. '20, p.26  
Crabtree, Jackie, receives Don A. Zimmerman Dean's Chair-Feb. '23, p.22  
Dillard, Joe, retires-Jan. '19, p.30  
Fowler, Doyle, profile-Sept. '22, p.14  
Gaskill, Mike, named mayor of the year-Oct. '19, p.34; receives Don A. Zimmerman Dean's Chair-Feb. '21, p.28; Honorary Life Member-Feb. '21, p.28  
Gilbert, Lisa, field rep. visit-March '23, p.26  
Hudson, Sonny, AML life member-Feb. '23, p.22  
Johnston, Kevin, profile-Jan. '21, p.18  
Jones, Kenneth, profile-Autumn '23, p.30  
Jordan, Lioneld, receives award for solar-July '19, p.57  
Kinslow, Doug, profile-Nov. '22, p.16  
Loring, Alan, AML life member-Feb. '23, p.22

Marshall, Crystal, profile-Dec. '22, p.14  
McCann, Billie, retires-Jan. '19, p.30  
McCormac, Richard, profile-Autumn '23, p.31  
McKinney, Tim, profile-Aug. '21, p.14  
McGill, George, panel discussion-March '19, p.10  
Neal, Bobby, AML life member-Feb. '23, p.22  
Perrin, Harold, Miracle League Park named in honor-Oct. '20, p.30; Honorary Life Member-Feb. '21, p.28  
Sanders, James, AML life member-Feb. '23, p.22  
Scott, Jr., Frank, panel discussion-March '19, p.10  
Shackelford, Lottie, panel discussion-March '19, p.10  
Smith, Joe, named to NLC committee-Jan. '19, p.43; Honorary Life Member-Feb. '21, p.28  
Smith-Creer, Veronica, panel discussion-March '19, p.10  
Stodola, Mark, retires-Jan. '19, p.31; NLC YEF Institute, overview-March '19, p.16; infrastructure, federal partner needed-June '19, p.10; youth engagement-Sept. '19, p.20; Nov. '19, p.22  
Turner, John Mark, profile-Aug. '19, p.9; Oct. '19, p.6; Honorary Life Member-Feb. '21, p.28  
Vann, Parnell, profile-Aug. '19, p.9; Nov. '19, p.10; Autumn '23, p.29  
Watson, Mike, retires-Jan. '19, p.31  
Washington, Shirley, panel discussion-March '19, p.10; profile-Feb. '21, p.18  
Wellenberger, Paul, profile-Aug. '19, p.9; Dec. '19, p.12; Honorary Life Member-Feb. '21, p.28  
Young, Virginia, profile-Aug. '22, p.18; AML life member-Feb. '23, p.22

## Municipal League

Adams, Jamie, retires-March '21, p.32  
Annual Planning Meeting, coverage-Sept. '19, p.6; Oct. '20, p.16; Sept. '21, p.20; Autumn '23, p.26  
Ark. Directory of Municipal Officials, moves online-June '20, p.11  
Baker, Patrice, 25 years of service-July '22, p.24  
Be Local. Be Heard initiative, launches-March '20, p.24; overview-Jan. '23, p.34  
Black Mayors Association, American Rescue Plan Act guidance-Dec. '21, p.26  
Boyd, Sheila, profile-May '20, p.36  
City & Town, index-Jan. '19, p.63; Jan. '20, p.59; Jan. '21, p.60; Jan. '22, p.58; Jan. '23, p.62; statement of ownership-Oct. '19, p.57; Oct. '20, p.53; Oct. '21, p.57; Oct. '22, p.52; Autumn '23, p.34  
Defensive driving program, recognized-Dec. '22, p.12  
Dixon, Steve, field representative-March '23, p.26  
Employee profile, Paladino, Rick-Nov. '19, p.26; Busby, Katy-Dec. '19, p.36; Michelle Philmon-Jan. '20, p.36; Jeff Melton-Feb. '20, p.48; Lanny Richmond-March '20, p.30; Cindy Frizell-April '20, p.30; Sheila Boyd-May '20, p.36; Sara Jansen-June '20, p.32; David Baxter-July '20, p.34; Karen Mitchell-Aug. '20, p.32; Jack Critcher-Sept. '20, p.34; Mark Potter-Oct. '20, p.36; Amanda Woodyard-Nov. '20, p.36; Breanna Keith-Dec. '20, p.48; Mary Caffee-Jan. '21, p.42; Tricia Zello-Feb. '21, p.44; Patrice Baker-March '21, p.38; Linda Burgess-April '21, p.30; Allen Green-May '21, p.36; David Williams-June '21, p.28; Darlene Cooper-July '21, p.40; Tammie Dodson-Aug. '21, p.32; Beth Chappell-Sept. '21, p.36; Rebecca Williamson-Oct. '21, p.26; Brian Golden-Nov. '21, p.33; Deb Hudson-Dec. '21, p.40; Traci Squires-Jan. '22, p.40; Andrea Sayre-Feb. '22, p.32; Jason Simpson-April '22, p.36; Amber Kidd-May '22, p.34; Eli Singer-June '22, p.34; Jennifer Johnson-Aug. '22, p.28; Jill Sloan-Sept. '22, p.32; Ashley Garrett-Oct. '22, p.38; Stephanie Stroncek-Nov. '22, p.36; Steve Dixon-Dec. '22, p.34

Executive Committee, annual planning meeting-Sept. '19, p.6; Oct. '20, p.16; Sept. '21, p.20; Sept. '22, p.18  
Field representatives, new program-March '23, p.26  
Grants service, new-May '20, p.39; webinars-Aug. '20, p.31  
Hayes, Mark R., elected to NLC board of dir.-Dec. '22, p.13  
Law clerk program, essential to MLDP-June '22, p.18  
League staff, pet photos-July '22, p.9  
Loss control, League welcomes Allen Green-Sept. '20, p.39  
Mann, Bill, Ark. Bar Assoc., Outstanding Lawyer-Humanitarian Award-Aug. '20, p.10  
Municipal Health Benefit Program, General: joint MHBP/MLWCP seminar-Dec. '19, p.32; COVID-19, expanded coverage-April '20, p.17; plan changes for 2021-Dec. '20, p.46  
Municipal Health Benefit Program, MHBP Tips: benefit updates-March '22, p.52; wellness program benefits-Feb. '19, p.29; customer service-April '19, p.32; in- and out-of-network-June '19, p.40; appeals procedure-Aug. '19, p.16; program changes for 2020-Dec. '19, p.56; coordination of benefits-Feb. '20, p.50; forms used, overview-March '21, p.44  
Municipal League Workers' Compensation Program, joint MHBP/MLWCP seminar-Dec. '19, p.32; COVID-19 guidance-April '20, p.16; new safety program-Jan. '22, p.42  
Municipal Legal Defense Program, Municipal Sidebar: legislative advocacy-Jan. '20, p.49  
Municipal Property Program, rates-Oct. '19, p.20; Oct. '20, p.23; Sept. '21, p.27; Sept. '22, p.25; Autumn '23, p.16  
Municipal Vehicle Program, rates-Oct. '19, p.20; Oct. '20, p.22; Sept. '21, p.26; Sept. '22, p.24; Autumn '23, p.17  
National Day of Racial Healing, League partners with Arkansas Peace & Justice Memorial Movement, UCA-Jan. '21, p.14; proclamation-Dec. '20, p.42; Jan. '21, p.15; observance coverage-Feb. '21, p.32; Feb. '23, p.32  
National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, League helps launch-Sept. '20, p.12  
Opioid epidemic, League sponsors Sam Quinones at Six Bridges Book Festival-Sept. '22, p.28  
Opioid litigation, update-Feb. '21, p.42; Nov. '22, p.20; first settlements reached-Nov. '21, p.18; Arkansas Assoc. of Counties honors League's Hayes, Wilkerson-Sept. '22, p.27  
Person(s) of the Year-Sept. '20, p.20  
Policies & Goals, insert-Aug. '19; Oct. '20; Aug. '21; Aug. '22; Aug. '23  
Sander, Lori, retires-May '22, p.12  
Sen. Boozman visits-Dec. '21, p.24  
State of the League, July '22, p.43; Summer '23, p.50  
Training, year in review-May '19, p.12; new advanced training, ACCRTA gets preview-Oct. '19, p.26  
Workshops and Seminars, MHBP-Dec. '19, p.32; finance & budgeting-Oct. '19, p.22; Oct. '21, p.18; Oct. '22, p.28; HR, personnel matters-Nov. '19, p.18; Nov. '21, p.22; Nov. '22, p.26; planning and zoning-May '19, p.26; City Gov. 101-May '22, p.18; grants-Aug. '19, p.25; ADA-April '19, p.10; loss control-June '19, p.9; joint MHBP/MLWCP seminar-Dec. '19, p.32; Municipal Finance 201-Feb. '20, p.14; March '22, p.26; MLWCP seminar-Dec. '21, p.24; disaster prep-April '22, p.35; Level 2 Leadership 101-June '22, p.16; cybersecurity-Nov. '22, p.24

Zimmerman, Don, ACCRTA scholarship honors-Oct. '19, p.56; Don A. Zimmerman Dean's Chair, inaugural-Feb. '19, p.9; ABPG Don A. Zimmerman Pinnacle Award-Feb. '19, p.10; Arkansas legislature honors-March '19, p.8; League HQ renamed Don A. Zimmerman Campus-March '20, p.14

### Annual League Convention

Awards, cities, officials recognized-July '19, p.10; Sept. '20, p.20; July '21, p.20; July '22, p.26; July '23, p.27  
Coverage-July '19, p.6; Sept. '20, p.14; July '21, p.14; July '22, p.18; Summer '23, p.21  
Entertainment, Steve Augeri, Al Paris, Sixwire-May '19, p.31  
Executive director's report-Sept. '20, p.18; July '21, p.22  
Preview, 86th Annual Virtual Convention-Aug. '20, p.14; 87th, new virtual platform-June '21, p.18  
Speakers, Dr. Rick Rigsby-May '19, p.30; Aug. '20, p.14

### Winter Conference

Coverage-Feb. '19, p.6; March '20, p.16; Feb. '21, p.22; April '22, p.20; Feb. '23, p.18  
Preview, 2020-Jan. '20, p.22; Feb. '20, p.43; Jan. '22, p.28; League Services-Feb. '20, p.40; awards-Feb. '20, p.42; League reschedules conference-Feb. '22, p.24  
Speakers, Leon Andrews-Dec. '19, p.18

### League Officers

New officers, named-July '19, p.8; Sept. '20, p.18; July '21, p.22; Aug. '21, p.20; July '22, p.24; Summer '23, p.28  
President, profiled-Aug. '19, p.6; Oct. '20, p.12; Aug. '21, p.14; Aug. '22, p.18; Autumn '23, p.28  
Vice Presidents, profiled-Aug. '19, p.9; Sept. '19, p.8; Oct. '19, p.6; Nov. '19, p.10; Dec. '19, p.12; Nov. '20, p.18; Dec. '20, p.16; Jan. '21, p.18; Feb. '21, p.18; Sept. '21, p.14; Oct. '21, p.14; Nov. '21, p.14; Dec. '21, p.14; Aug. '22, p.24; Sept. '22, p.14; Oct. '22, p.14; Nov. '22, p.16; Dec. '22, p.14; Autumn '23, p.29

### National League of Cities (NLC)

Andrews, Leon, speaker profile-Dec. '19, p.18  
CHAMPS: Cities Combating Hunger program, convenes in Little Rock-Aug. '19, p.18; Nov. '19, p.16; Little Rock Be Mighty campaign-March '19, p.57  
City Summit, coverage-Dec. '19, p.22; Dec. '20, p.24; Dec. '21, p.28  
Congressional City Conference, coverage-April '19, p.6; April '20, p.18; April '21, p.14; April '22, p.31; April '23, p.16  
Hayes, Mark R., elected to board of dir.-Dec. '22, p.13  
Infrastructure Week, strong federal partner needed-June '19, p.10  
Institute for Youth, Education and Families, overview-March '19, p.16  
Opinion: Housing crisis, cities and states must work together-May '19, p.22  
Smith, Joe, named to NLC committee-Jan. '19, p.43  
Strong Southern Cities Initiative, League hosts-May '19, p.14

### Obituaries

Adams, Roger Dewayne-June '20, p.15  
Adams, Wesley Edward-Jan. '22, p.12  
Aden, Randy Ray-March '23, p.12  
Allen, Daniel-March '22, p.13  
Ashcraft, Elizabeth "Sue"-March '22, p.13  
Ashlock, Lawrence Woody Jr.-July '21, p.12  
Bailey, Bobbie Rae-April '21, p.11  
Bailey, Carl Lee-Jan. '21, p.13  
Baker, Michael Anton Sr.-June '21, p.13

Balwanz, Richard Lloyd-Oct. '19, p.56  
Bartholomew, Todd Allen-April '23, p.12  
Barton, Zachary Ryne-July '20, p.11  
Bell, Lelia Mae-Nov. '22, p.12  
Bellers, Ted-Feb. '21, p.13  
Bigger, Benjamin Franklin "Frank" II-May '19, p.29  
Bradrick, Royce "Alan"-May '20, p.11  
Brandolini, Maureen Janette-March '22, p.13  
Brewer, Dennis-June '20, p.15  
Brown, Thomas Wayne Sr.-Jan. '20, p.10  
Burton, Dona-Aug. '20, p.12  
Calhoun, James Travis-March '20, p.51  
Camden, Neal-April '19, p.48  
Camp, Aaron Wayne-May '22, p.12  
Carty, Charles Lee-Nov. '22, p.12  
Cerasale, Michael Dominic-May '20, p.11  
Christensen, Philip "Phil" Patrick-March '23, p.12  
Colburn, Linda Ruth-Sept. '19, p.55  
Conley, Patsy Ruth (Knowles)-Sept. '19, p.55  
Cook, Nancy Anita (Elmore)-Feb. '23, p.12  
Cotham, Rodney Joe-July '21, p.12  
Dancy, J.L. "Buck"-Dec. '20, p.13  
Darter, Mary Lynn-Aug. '21, p.12  
Delgiorno, Gabriel (Gabby) Alfonz II-April '21, p.11  
Dickson, Thomas "Tommy" Richard-Sept. '21, p.12  
Dobson, Gary W.-May '20, p.11  
Dobson, Olivia Christine "Christi" Denton-Sept. '22, p.13  
Duch, David Lynn-Feb. '20, p.20  
Duke, Robert "Bob"-Nov. '22, p.12  
Eads, Clayton-May '20, p.11  
Elrod, David Nolen-Sept. '20, p.11  
English, Albert Dale-Oct. '20, p.10  
Finch, James Earl-May '20, p.11  
Fritsch, Charles Henry Jr.-April '21, p.11  
Fulginiti, William "Bill"-March '20, p.51  
Gaskill, Billy Wade "Doc"-Oct. '19, p.56  
Gibbins, James Larry-Sept. '21, p.12  
Gies, Joe-Nov. '20, p.12  
Glover, Bobby L.-Nov. '21, p.13  
Graham, Brenda Stell Hollis-June '21, p.13  
Granata, Tommy-Jan. '21, p.13  
Hall, Larry James-Dec. '20, p.13  
Hamilton, James Andrew-April '23, p.12  
Hatcher, Lynn-March '22, p.13  
Hendrix, B.G.-April '20, p.10  
Hensley, Jerry L.-Feb. '23, p.12  
Hibbs, Larry Ray-March '23, p.12  
Hicks, Frances Elizabeth-Aug. '20, p.12  
Hicks, Larry E.-March '19, p.56  
Hollingshead, Charles Thomas "Chuck"-Oct. '19, p.56  
Howard, Don-July '22, p.14  
Hutton, Scott Anderson-June '20, p.15  
Johnson, Robert "Bit" Jr.-Aug. '22, p.13  
Johnson, Veta Louise (Duncan-Nichols)-April '22, p.12  
Johnson, William H. "Billy"-Nov. '19, p.44  
Kelley, Gary-Feb. '21, p.13  
Kennemore, Charles Richard Jr.-Jan. '21, p.13  
Kidd, Betty Ruth McDowell Morton-March '20, p.51  
Lang, Jason Connor-March '22, p.13  
Lawson, Norma Correne-Nov. '22, p.12  
Loe, Vernell McKelvy-April '21, p.11  
Long, Eldon Dale-Feb. '22, p.13  
Lunsford, Andrew M. "Andy"-Feb. '21, p.13  
Markham, Roseanna-March '20, p.51; June '20, p.15  
Martin, Frank L.-June '20, p.15  
Matheny, Gary Reginald-March '22, p.13  
Mathis, Bobby "Bob" Wayne-May '20, p.11  
May, Jack-Dec. '20, p.13  
McCormick, Scott-May '20, p.11  
McHaffey, William F. "Bill"-Oct. '22, p.12  
McMinn, Timothy W.-June '22, p.12

Melton, Tommy-Sept. '22, p.13  
Meredith, Scott-Aug. '22, p.13  
Milburn, Danny-July '22, p.14  
Miller, James Allen-Feb. '21, p.13  
Moore, Don-Feb. '19, p.44  
Moore, Eddie-Feb. '23, p.12  
Morgan, Mary Ruth-April '20, p.10  
Morris, Robert W.-Dec. '22, p.12  
Moser, Melvin "Pete"-Oct. '19, p.56  
Mullins, Joe-March '20, p.51  
Nelson, Joann Smith-June '20, p.15  
Newkirk, Robert Bruce-Aug. '19, p.45  
Overton, Lemuel Glenn-Sept. '20, p.11  
Patrick, Robert Franklin-Sept. '22, p.13  
Pavatt, Leon "L.B."-March '23, p.12  
Payne, John Lee-Feb. '20, p.20  
Pendergraft, Jerry David-Oct. '22, p.12  
Peters, John-Feb. '19, p.44  
Pickard, Carl Edward-June '21, p.13  
Pinkston, Anthony-July '20, p.11  
Plegge, John Bertran-Sept. '21, p.12  
Ponder, Jeanette Patricia-Sept. '22, p.13  
Rainey, Gary Lynn-Aug. '21, p.12  
Reeves, James Leroy-May '20, p.11  
Richardson, Thomas "T-Tom" Joseph-June '21, p.13  
Riley, Kenneth Drew-May '21, p.13  
Schoonover, Mary-Jan. '21, p.13  
Scoby, Donald Mark-Jan. '23, p.12  
Simpson, Jimmy Alvin Sr.-Feb. '20, p.20  
Smith, Sondra Elaine-Nov. '19, p.44  
Steed, Margaret Martin-July '21, p.12  
Stephenson, Lucas Brian-Nov. '21, p.13  
Sterling, Steve Wayne-March '19, p.56  
Stracener, Maryann-Aug. '20, p.12  
Stormes, Connie-May '22, p.12  
Strickland, Ronald Dean-Dec. '20, p.13  
Sullivan, Louise Banks-April '23, p.12  
Swaim, Thomas "Tommy" Melvin-Nov. '22, p.12  
Tarno, Ginger Dianne-Feb. '22, p.13  
Temple, Timothy Stewart-Jan. '21, p.13  
Todd, Herbert G.-Feb. '19, p.44  
Tomlin, Marguerite-Feb. '21, p.13  
Turner-Hendrix, Martha Raye-Nov. '22, p.12  
Underwood, Clifford Ray "Cliff"-Feb. '22, p.13  
Useton, Bobby O'Neal Jr.-July '22, p.14  
Van Hoose, Jerre Max-Jan. '23, p.12  
Vincent, Benjamin Tyler-Jan. '23, p.12  
Volz, Mike-June '19, p.57  
Vonree, Mike-Aug. '22, p.13  
Wagner, Tommy Wayne Sr.-July '22, p.14  
Walker, Anna Lea Gieck-April '19, p.48  
Walker, John W. Sr.-Nov. '19, p.44  
West, Harold Dewayne-Aug. '21, p.12  
Wier, James Harold Sr.-Dec. '22, p.12  
Wilkinson, Rose Marie-Dec. '22, p.12  
Wilson, Larry-Feb. '23, p.12  
Witt, Carol-May '19, p.29  
Woods, Tina S.-Nov. '21, p.13  
Wray, Robert Lee-May '20, p.11  
Wyrick, Crystal-April '23, p.12  
York, Larry-Nov. '19, p.44

### Opinion

Bias, wrestling with-April '21, p.28  
Housing crisis, cities and states must work together-May '19, p.22  
Incivility, on the rise-Dec. '21, p.46  
Partisan politics, common ground-Dec. '22, p.21  
Race and equity, white leaders must leave comfort zones-Oct. '20, p.26  
Tourism, building community-April '23, p.22

## Parks and Recreation

Cycling, NWA named top 25 for bikes-June '19, p.56  
Delta Heritage Trail, Walton Foundation grant-March '20, p.10  
Great River Road, All-American Road designation-March '21, p.12  
Jonesboro, Miracle League ballpark and playground-June '19, p.6  
Morrilton, Playland opens-Dec. '22, p.18  
Outdoor Recreation Grants, \$6.5 million awarded-April '23, p.24  
Paragould, trail system groundbreaking-June '21, p.16  
Parks and trails, essential during pandemic-Feb. '21, p.54  
Pine Bluff, new aquatic center-Aug. '19, p.14; receives grant for youth sports-Oct. '19, p.56  
Pocket parks-July '21, p.52  
Rogers, Railyard Park-May '21, p.22; Mt. Hebron Park, grand opening-Autumn '23, p.38  
Siloam Springs, accessible pier & kayak launch-Dec. '21, p.23

## Planning and Zoning

Code enforcement, the glue of planning-March '20, p.38  
Conditional use requests-Aug. '22, p.32  
Density-Aug. '21, p.36  
Deregulation-July '22, p.48  
Development regulations, origins of-April '22, p.40  
Hodges, Tom, a legacy in Arkansas-Sept. '20, p.40  
Home occupations, zoning of-Oct. '20, p.38  
Interstate system, help or hurt-Oct. '19, p.40  
"Mayor Furlough Thompson"-Sept. '19, p.38; March '21, p.46; March '22, p.46; Feb. '23, p.36  
Planners, dearth of-June '22, p.40  
Planning, General: implementing your plan-Jan. '19, p.46; when reasonable people disagree-Feb. '19, p.30; development regulations, common problems-March '19, p.42; information, gathering useful-April '19, p.36; heritage tourism-May '19, p.40; strategies, tactics and decisions-July '19, p.40; when the plans don't work-Aug. '19, p.28; development codes, administering-Nov. '19, p.32; next generation of planners-Dec. '19, p.42; marking 50-year planning career-Jan. '20, p.42; new year, new challenges-Feb. '20, p.52; code enforcement-March '20, p.38; Oct. '22, p.42; planning commission, role of-April '20, p.34; Nov. '22, p.40; March '23, p.32; change: here we go again-May '20, p.42; future of the planning function-June '20, p.34; to regulate or not to regulate-July '20, p.36; normalcy, return to-Aug. '20, p.34; policy statements, strictures or suggestions-Dec. '20, p.50; land uses we love-Jan. '21, p.44; start with the present-June '21, p.36; planning made simple (simpler)-Sept. '21, p.44; losing control, perils of-Nov. '21, p.36; be bold, cautious, realistic, united-Dec. '21, p.52; selling the plan-Jan. '22, p.44; terminology, then and now-Feb. '22, p.36; planning Q&A-May '22, p.38; where cities can plan, where they can regulate-Sept. '22, p.36; enlist friends for assistance-Autumn '23, p.42  
"Potluck, Ark." (see also "Mayor Furlough Thompson")-Sept. '19, p.38; March '22, p.46; Feb. '23, p.36  
Short-term rentals-Dec. '22, p.36; Jan. '23, p.50  
Sober living homes, regulation of-Jan. '21, p.24  
Strategic plan, importance of-March '22, p.42  
Subdivision regulations-June '19, p.44  
Tools for planning: planning commission-March '23, p.32; information-April '23, p.36; expertise-Summer '23, p.56

Visual aids, illustrations, tables and diagrams-Feb. '21, p.46

Workshop, League hosts-May '19, p.26

Zoning, code battered but standing-Nov. '20, p.38; when it doesn't quite fit-April '21, p.34; confusing terms-May '21, p.40; "grandfathered"-July '21, p.44; specialty zoning districts-Oct. '21, p.30

## Police

(see Law Enforcement)

## Preservation

Ark. Historic Preservation Program, grants awarded-July '19, p.36; July '20, p.10; Summer '23, p.13; tours-Jan. '19, p.44; Jan. '20, p.58; Jan. '21, p.12; Feb. '22, p.12; Feb. '23, p.12; report: preservation good for economy-Nov. '20, p.12  
Jones Bar-B-Q, reopens after fire-Aug. '21, p.22  
Jonesboro, Forum gets facelift-Feb. '20, p.16  
Tours, AHPP-Jan. '19, p.44; Jan. '20, p.58; Jan. '21, p.12; Feb. '22, p.12; Feb. '23, p.12

## Race & Equity

Ark. Black Hall of Fame, minority business development-April '21, p.19  
Bias, wrestling with-April '21, p.28  
Community development and equity-Jan. '21, p.46  
Health care, diverse workforce, healthier communities-April '21, p.36  
National Day of Racial Healing, proclamation-Dec. '20, p.42; Jan. '21, p.14; observance coverage-Feb. '21, p.32; Feb. '22, p.20; Feb. '23, p.32; building inclusive institutions-March '22, p.48  
Opinion: White leaders must leave comfort zones-Oct. '20, p.26  
Tree equity-Aug. '21, p.42; March '23, p.38

## Recorder/Treasurers

Bailey, Tina, MMC designation-Nov. '21, p.13  
Bennett, Stacey, MMC designation-Oct. '21, p.12  
Brown, Bobby, profile-Jan. '21, p.43  
Duncan, Elishia, CMC designation-Feb. '23, p.13  
Fulkroad, Marlene, receives Zimmerman scholarship-Oct. '19, p.56; profile-Feb. '21, p.45  
Hawkins, Alicia, MMC designation-Nov. '21, p.13  
Westergren, Carol, profile-Oct. '21, p.14

## Safety

(see also Loss Control)

Ark. Continuity of Operations Program (ACOO), Dec. '19, p.41  
Defensive driving, League program recognized-Dec. '22, p.12  
Distracted Driver Safety Month-May '19, p.24  
Firestop system, inspections-Feb. '23, p.44  
Halloween, safety-Oct. '20, p.46  
Heat-related illness-June '19, p.30  
MLWCP, new safety program-Jan. '22, p.42  
National Safety Month-June '20, p.48  
Rural Road Safety Awareness Week-Sept. '20, p.13  
Training, safety video library now online-Sept. '19, p.32

## Sales Tax

(see also Taxes)

## Southern Municipal Conference

IT Summit, Fayetteville hosts-May '19, p.15

## Taxes

(see also Sales Tax)

Property tax, time to levy-Aug. '19, p.24; Jan. '20, p.10; Jan. '21, p.12; Jan. '22, p.12; Summer '23, p.12

## Tourism

Ark. Delta Byways, Delta Awards-March '19, p.12; March '20, p.34  
Ark. Historic Preservation Program, tours-Jan. '19, p.44; Jan. '20, p.58; Jan. '21, p.12; Feb. '22, p.12; Feb. '23, p.12  
Building community-April '23, p.22  
Eclipse 2024, preparing for-Sept. '21, p.46  
Governor's Conference on Tourism-Feb. '19, p.27  
Great River Road, All-American Road designation-March '21, p.12  
Henry Awards, 2020 winners-May '20, p.10  
Heritage tourism, building on your assets-May '19, p.40; tell cities' stories-April '21, p.23  
Mountain Home, The District-Sept. '21, p.28  
Sevier County, new slogan-May '19, p.27  
Southwest Trail, development-May '19, p.46

## Trails

Delta Heritage Trail, Walton Fdn. grant-March '20, p.10  
Great River Road, All-American Road designation-March '21, p.12  
Paragould, trail system groundbreaking-June '21, p.16  
Southwest Trail, development-May '19, p.46

## Transportation

(see also Infrastructure)

Airports, General: Texarkana Regional Airport, expansion-Dec. '21, p.60  
Bridge-load certification, deadline-Nov. '19, p.20; Nov. '20, p.31; Jan. '21, p.12; Dec. '22, p.12; Nov. '22, p.12  
Crossett partners with ARDOT on Main Street-Aug. '22, p.16  
Funding, half-cent sales tax sunsets-Jan. '19, p.54  
Issue 1 of 2020, "Vote for Roads, Vote for Issue 1"-Dec. '19, p.34  
Next gen transportation, electric aerial-Nov. '22, p.38  
Rogers, zero-fare transit debuts-June '20, p.38  
State Aid Street Program, 2020 overview-April '20, p.24  
TRIP report, roadways deficient-Oct. '20, p.24

## Trees

(see Urban Forestry)

## Turnback

Estimates, budget information-Sept. '19, p.14; Oct. '20, p.20; Sept. '21, p.24; Sept. '22, p.22; Autumn '23, p.14  
Highway revenues & severance turnback reporting due-Jan. '19, p.48; Nov. '20, p.32; Jan. '21, p.31; Act 517 of 2021 repeals requirement-Nov. '21, p.13; Jan. '22, p.13

## Urban Forestry

Arbor Day, spring planting-Feb. '21, p.52; Tree City USA, cities designated-March '22, p.12  
Christmas tree, selection & disposal-Dec. '21, p.58  
Emerald ash borer, preparation-Sept. '19, p.47  
Fall, color-Nov. '20, p.44; plantings-Sept. '22, p.42  
FireWise USA, join to reduce wildfire threats-Nov. '21, p.42  
Food forests-July '21, p.50  
Gravel bed nurseries-Oct. '22, p.48  
Invasive species-April '19, p.40; join the fight-Nov. '19, p.40  
Little Rock, Tree Streets-March '19, p.48  
Mulch, mulching-Feb. '23, p.42  
Planning for planting-Aug. '22, p.38  
Pruning, proper techniques-Feb. '19, p.36  
Roots, protecting-July '22, p.54  
Runoff, stormwater-May '21, p.46

Shade Trees on Playgrounds (STOP) program, deadline for-Sept. '20, p.10

Street trees, care of-March '21, p.52

Tree care, winter storms-Jan. '21, p.50; proper pruning-Feb. '19, p.36; protection from construction-May '19, p.44; prevent sunscald-Dec. '19, p.50; storm damage-May '20, p.48; summer care-July '20, p.44; prune in winter-Jan. '22, p.50; beware the string trimmer-April '22, p.46

Tree board, establishing-April '21, p.38

Tree City USA, participation-Sept. '20, p.50; cities designated-March '22, p.12

Tree equity-Aug. '21, p.42; March '23, p.38

Tree ordinances-Feb. '22, p.42; March '22, p.54

Tree selection, right tree for right place-March '21, p.52; edible landscaping-Aug. '19, p.36; climate-ready trees-June '22, p.46

Urban Forestry, General: funding strategies-Jan. '19, p.52; Nov. '22, p.46; community forest management plan-June '19, p.48; health benefits-July '19, p.48; April '23, p.42; edible landscaping-Aug. '19, p.36; reduce heat island effect-Oct. '19, p.32; curbing climate change-Oct. '19, p.46; tree care professionals, selecting-Jan. '20, p.50; combating climate change locally-Feb. '20, p.59; reusing wood-March '20, p.46; growing trees on wet sites-April '20, p.40; hedges and screens-June '20, p.42; increase tree canopy-Aug. '20, p.40; trees and turf-Oct. '20, p.48; controlled burns-Dec. '20, p.58; big trees, big benefits-Sept. '21, p.50; tree-planting trivia, test your knowledge-Oct. '21, p.36

Winter storms-Jan. '21, p.50; Dec. '22, p.42; affecting oaks-June '21, p.42

#### Veterans

Jonesboro Veterans Village, ADFA awards \$1 million-March '19, p.36

#### Volunteerism

Hunger, Ark. Food Bank responds to increased demand during COVID-19-Dec. '20, p.20

Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service-Feb. '23, p.38

Volunteer Communities of the Year, recipients-Nov. '18, p.20; Feb. '19, p.10; Feb. '21, p.30; April '22, p.25; Feb. '23, p.22

#### Water/Wastewater

Act 605 of 2021, training required for water providers-Sept. '22, p.26

Central Arkansas Water, 20th anniversary-Aug. '21, p.26

Copper, levels-Jan. '23, p.56

Funding, eight communities receive-Feb. '20, p.10; six communities receive-June '20, p.10; four cities and towns receive-July '20, p.10; five communities receive-Aug. '20, p.11; seven communities receive-Dec. '20, p.12; nine cities receive-Sept. '22, p.12

Metering, new tech-April '21, p.40

Screening-Autumn '23, p.48

Sewer, rehab-Nov. '22, p.48

USDA Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program, cities receive funding-Oct. '19, p.56

Water and Wastewater Advisory Committee (WWAC), funding assistance-June '22, p.20

White River Basin, system study-Sept. '19, p.55

#### Wellness

(see also Health)

COVID-19: social distancing-June '20, p.47

Diet, heart health-March '19, p.30

Exercise, HHS guidelines overview-Sept. '19, p.22; for chronic pain-Dec. '19, p.54

Mindfulness, antidote for stress-May '22, p.22

Osteoporosis, causes and treatment-Sept. '20, p.54; Dec. '20, p.62

Sitting, the new smoking?-March '20, p.50

Stress, management through exercise-June '19, p.26; pandemic-related-June '21, p.30

#### Youth

Childhood hunger, Cities Combating Hunger convening-Aug. '19, p.18; Nov. '19, p.16

Engagement essential-Sept. '19, p.20; authenticity the key-Nov. '19, p.22

Little Rock, Be Mighty campaign-March '19, p.57; Cities Combating Hunger convening-Aug. '19, p.18

Outreach, youth and millennial-June '21, p.32

Pine Bluff, receives grant for youth sports-Oct. '19, p.56

Springdale, junior police academy-Sept. '19, p.24

Youth and Millennial Leadership Program-Sept. '20, p.44

Youth council, establishing-Summer '23, p.54

# Legal Articles, Questions, Opinions 2019-2023 Index

## Ark. General Assembly

(see also Legislation)

92nd General Assembly, review-May '19, p.6

93rd General Assembly, review-May '21, p.18

New laws, effective date-June '19, p.32; July '21, p.13

## Bids

(see Financial Affairs)

## Boundary Changes

(annexation, consolidation, etc.)

(see also Property)

Annexation reports, due-Jan. '19, p.29; Jan. '20, p.19; Jan. '21, p.29; Dec. '21, p.43; Jan. '22, p.17; Jan. '23, p.19

Townships, county authority over-Oct. '20, p.11

Utility, municipal electric and annexation-Oct. '20, p.11

## Budget

(see also Financial Affairs)

Municipal budget, statutes governing-Dec. '19, p.38; Dec. '20, p.30; Jan. '21, p.28; Jan. '22, p.16; Jan. '23, p.18

## City Council

City council, first meeting of year-Jan. '19, p.16; Jan. '20, p.20; Jan. '21, p.30; Jan. '22, p.18; Jan. '23, p.20

Meetings, virtual vs. in person-Sept. '21, p.13

## City Employees

(See Employment)

## Commissions, Committees and Boards

Civil service commission, executive session-Feb. '22, p.17

County election commission, polling sites-Oct. '20, p.11

County equalization boards, AACD training-May '19, p.15

Dual service-April '23, p.13

Executive session, civil service commission-Feb. '22, p.17

Meetings, virtual vs. in person-Sept. '21, p.13

Members, number of-Jan. '23, p.13

Planning commissions, overview-Nov. '22, p.40

## County Services

Equalization boards, AACD training-May '19, p.15

Fees, emergency services-Aug. '19, p.45

## Courts and Laws

Gambling, amusement vs. gambling devices-April '23, p.13

Opioid litigation, League's Hayes, Wilkerson honored-Sept. '22, p.27; settlement update-Nov. '22, p.20

U.S. Supreme Court, Ruth Bader Ginsberg, pragmatic approach to local government-Oct. '20, p.34

## COVID-19

(see Public Health)

## Disasters and Emergencies

Emergency declaration, retroactive-May '21, p.15

## Elections

County election commission, polling sites-Oct. '20, p.11

Municipal elections, filing dates-Oct. '19, p.12; June '22, p.13; Aug. '22, p.15

COVID-19, absentee voting an option-July '20, p.11; Aug. '20, p.11

Redistricting, overview-Oct. '21, p.40

Vacancy-March '23, p.13

## Employment

Affordable Care Act, IRS forms-Feb. '20, p.18

Discrimination, the ADA, FMLA and PDA-Feb. '20, p.19

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), training-Oct. '19, p.22

Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), overtime changes-Nov. '19, p.20

Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA), certification-Sept. '21, p.38; the basics-March '23, p.30

Form I-9, DHS U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services-June '19, p.36

Leave, military-Oct. '21, p.13; sick leave accrual-Nov. '22, p.13

Minimum wage, increases-Nov. '19, p.20

Overtime, changes-Nov. '19, p.20

Sick leave, accrual-Nov. '22, p.13

Title VII, protects LGBTQ+ employees-July '20, p.38

## Environment

(see Zoning, Land Use and Environment)

## Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA)

Overtime, changes-Nov. '19, p.20

## Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

Certification-Sept. '21, p.38

Overview-March '23, p.30

## Fees

Emergency services, Ambulance Licensing Act-Aug. '19, p.45

Volunteer fire departments, dues-June '22, p.13

## Financial Affairs

(see also Budget)

A&P funds, statutes govern-March '20, p.11

Bids, extending existing-Oct. '20, p.11; commodities-Aug. '21, p.13

Budget, statutes governing-Dec. '19, p.38; Jan. '20, p.18; Jan. '21, p.28; Jan. '22, p.16; Jan. '23, p.18

Debt, collection of-May '21, p.14

Financial statements, annual-Jan. '19, p.14; Jan. '20, p.12; Jan. '21, p.16; Jan. '22, p.14; Jan. '23, p.16

Highway revenue & severance turnback reporting, due-Jan. '19, p.48; Jan. '20, p.21; Jan. '21, p.31; Act 517 of 2021 repeals requirement-Nov. '21, p.13; Jan. '22, p.13

Purchasing, commodities-Aug. '21, p.13

## Fire Departments and Firefighters

Act 833, certification deadline-Dec. '21, p.13; Feb. '22, p.12; Jan. '23, p.12

EMS, laws governing-May '21, p.14

Volunteer fire departments, raising dues-June '22, p.13

## Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Coroner's report, COVID-19-related death-March '21, p.13

Custodian of records, can't consider motives-April '23, p.13

Executive session, must meet guidelines-March '21, p.13; civil service commission-Feb. '22, p.17

Internal affairs, files releasable-April '23, p.13

Legal notices, publication of-Aug. '22, p.14

Personnel records, redactions-May '19, p.16; disclosure of employee evaluation records-May '19, p.16; Nov. '20, p.13; disciplinary record-May '19, p.16; privacy-Nov. '20, p.13; releasable-May '21, p.14; payment records are personnel records-Feb. '22, p.17

Salaries, disclosure-Jan. '20, p.11; releasable-July '21, p.13

Tax scofflaws, names releasable-March '21, p.13

Voted ballots, not public-Jan. '23, p.13

## Firearms

Concealed carry, public property-June '19, p.32; employee vehicle-June '19, p.32

"Enhanced" concealed carry, applies to retired officers-May '21, p.14

Public buildings, concealed carry-June '19, p.32; litigation pending-Feb. '22, p.17

## Governing Bodies

City council, first meeting of year-Jan. '19, p.16; Jan. '20, p.20; Jan. '21, p.30; Jan. '22, p.18; Jan. '23, p.20

Meetings, virtual vs. in person-Sept. '21, p.13

Vacancy-March '23, p.13

## Highways

(see Streets, Roads, Bridges and Highways)

## Index

Legal Articles, Questions, Opinions-Jan. '19, p.72;

Jan. '20, p.69; Jan. '21, p.72; Jan. '22, p.58; Jan. '23, p.72

## Land

(see also Zoning, Land Use and Environment)

Bidding, exchange value-March '19, p.40

## Legislation

(see also Ark. General Assembly)

Act 605 of 2021, water board training requirement-Sept. '22, p.26

92nd General Assembly, review-May '19, p.6

93rd General Assembly, review-May '21, p.18

New laws, effective date-June '19, p.32; July '21, p.13

## Pension Benefits

(see Retirement and Pensions)

## Police and Law Enforcement

Act 714 of 2021, setting police dept. policy-May '22, p.13

Behavioral Health Crisis Intervention Protocol Act of 2017, police authority under-March '19, p.40

Constables, not employees under APERS-Nov. '22, p.13

"Enhanced" concealed carry, applies to retired officers-May '21, p.14

Taser, law update-March '20, p.40

Texarkana, interlocal agreement-Jan. '20, p.11

## Property

Condemned, razing of-Jan. '20, p.11

## Public Health

County judge's authority, COVID-19 testing mandate-March '21, p.13

COVID-19: testing mandates, guidance-Jan. '21, p. Feb. '21, p.36

Opioid litigation, League's Hayes, Wilkerson honored-Sept. '22, p.27; settlement update-Nov. '22, p.20

## Purchasing

Commodities, local firm preference-Aug. '21, p.13

## Records

(see also Freedom of Information Act)

Record retention, Ark. laws-Jan. '19, p.38; Jan. '20, p.38; Jan. '21, p.32; Jan. '22, p.20; Jan. '23, p.22

## Retirement and Pensions

APERS, opt out-Jan. '19, p.61; Jan. '21, p.12; Jan. '22, p.12; Jan. '23, p.12; constables not employees under-Nov. '22, p.13

Eligibility, dual retirement-Nov. '19, p.14; resignation-March '23, p.13

## Sales Tax

(see also Taxes)

Use of, for economic development projects-May '22, p.13; ballot title, ordinance guide use of-Jan. '23, p.13

## Streets, Roads, Bridges and Highways

Act 517 of 2021 repeals reporting requirement-Nov. '21, p.12

Bridge-load posting, deadline-Jan. '21, p.12; Nov. '21, p.12; Jan. '22, p.12; Nov. '22, p.12; Autumn '23, p.12

Highway revenue & severance turnback reporting due-Jan. '19, p.48; Jan. '20, p.21; Jan. '21, p.31; Act 517 of 2021 repeals reporting requirement-Nov. '21, p.12; Jan. '22, p.13; Feb. '22, p.13

## Taxes

(see also Sales Tax)

Property tax, time to levy-Aug. '19, p.24; Jan. '20, p.10; Jan. '21, p.12; Jan. '22, p.12; Dec. '22, p.12; Summer '23, p.12

## Water

Act 605 of 2021, water board training requirement-Sept. '22, p.26

Water Authority Act-Feb. '22, p.17

## Zoning, Land Use and Environment

Planning commissions, overview-Nov. '22, p.40



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**ACCOUNTANT-GRANTS/BONDS**—The city of Springdale is accepting applications for the position of accountant-grants/bonds. Interested persons should submit an application to the Human Resources Department. Position open until filled. The incumbent assists the finance director in providing financial and accounting services for the city. The incumbent is responsible to perform technical and administrative professional accounting work in maintaining the fiscal records and systems of the city. The job objective is to ensure grants, bonds and other special program accounts are reconciled, balanced and maintained in accordance with established policies and procedures. Qualified applicants must possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with a major in accounting or related area. Two-four years of experience in accounting, management reporting or auditing in a Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) or Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) environment. Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Certified Public Finance Officer (CPFO) or Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) preferred. Annual salary \$52,345-\$65,432. To apply, you must submit a city of Springdale application. Visit [ar-springdale.civicplushrms.com/careers](http://ar-springdale.civicplushrms.com/careers) to apply or email [jobs@springdalear.gov](mailto:jobs@springdalear.gov) to request an application. Resumes will not be accepted without an accompanying application. EOE and drug free workplace.

**CITY ENGINEER**—The city of Sedalia, Missouri, is searching for an experienced and customer-focused servant leader eager to get their hands dirty. The community's next city engineer will have broad technical expertise, excellent project management skills and experience with streets and traffic, solid waste and recycling, water and wastewater treatment operations, storm and sewer maintenance, and infrastructure financing. They will understand the relevant federal, state and local laws, regulations and policies regulating their industry and the customer service and community relations expectations of city leaders. The right person for this position has experience developing and implementing short- and long-range goals and objectives, an annual departmental budget and a capital Improvements program. They work well under pressure, have the organizational skills needed to oversee multiple high-profile capital construction projects and initiatives, and have the communication and people skills to work in a typical municipal environment focused on collaboration and cooperation. The ideal candidate is open-minded, adaptable and strategic. They excel in building relationships with colleagues, elected leaders, consultants, engineers, architects, contractors and stakeholder agencies, and they will take the time to settle in and learn about the organization and community to help ensure their success. This position requires a bachelor's degree in civil engineering or a related field from an accredited college or university and five years of progressively responsible in public works, utilities, engineering, or any combination thereof. Candidates must also have knowledge of municipal government accounting practices and planning and a valid driver's license. Certification as a project manager is preferred. A professional engineering license (PE) is required. Sedalia is offering a salary range of \$75,845-\$113,347 for this role, based on the selected candidate's experience and qualifications. Please apply online. For more information on this position, contact Kurt Hodgen a [KurtHodgen@GovernmentResource.com](mailto:KurtHodgen@GovernmentResource.com), 540-820-0531.

**CITY MANAGER**—The city of Moberly, Missouri, seeks a creative, experienced leader to serve as its next city manager. Moberly is known as The Magic City. It was born of a railroad auction in 1866 and, like magic, it sprung up out of the prairie seemingly overnight. With a population of 13,904 in 13.22 square miles, Moberly is a full-service community, with unique downtown shops, the "Magic Mile" retail, growing industrial parks and numerous recreational activities. It's fun to visit Moberly and even more rewarding to call it home! The city of Moberly operates under a council-manager form of government. The mayor is selected annually by five council members who are elected at large. Positions that are appointed and/or confirmed by the governing body include the city manager, city clerk and city treasurer. The city has 129 full-time employees and a total 2024 fiscal year budget of \$49,782,926.38. It has an ad valorem tax rate of \$0.7294 per \$100 of valuation. The ideal candidate is someone who is active and engaged in the community, handles conflict well, and is able to prioritize and make difficult decisions. They should possess strong budgeting and financial management skills and be able to identify funding sources for projects and have downtown rehabilitation experience. The next city manager should have utility management and economic development experience. Collective bargaining experience is a plus, as the city police and fire departments are unionized. They should be experienced managing competing interests and building effective working relationships with other local governments, state, and federal agencies. This position requires a master's degree in public administration, business administration, management, or a related degree plus 10 years of increasingly responsible local government management experience in a full-service city of similar or larger size. ICMA-CM and advanced leadership/training credentials are desirable. Residency in Moberly within six months of hire is required. The salary range for this position starts at \$110,000 DOE. Please apply online: [www.governmentresource.com/recruitment-employer-resources/open-recruitments/moberly-mo-city-manager](http://www.governmentresource.com/recruitment-employer-resources/open-recruitments/moberly-mo-city-manager). For more information on this position contact Kurt Hodgen a [KurtHodgen@governmentresource.com](mailto:KurtHodgen@governmentresource.com), 540-820-0531.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER**—Forrest City is seeking a full-time, dedicated, self-motivated code enforcement officer to join our team. The ideal candidate will have experience in the field of building construction, gas/plumbing and HVAC as well as the ability to work well with the public to enforce ordinances and codes. The code enforcement officer reviews plans for completeness and code compliance, inspects additions, remodels, and new construction to ensure work complies with the Building Code, National Electrical Code, Arkansas Plumbing/Gas Code, and the Arkansas Mechanical Code, and enforcing other city codes and ordinances such as demolition and condemnations. The code enforcement officer will also serve as the safety coordinator for all departments. The city offers a competitive benefits package, including health insurance, dental insurance, vision insurance, life insurance, retirement benefits and paid time off. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status or any other characteristic protected by law. To apply, submit resumes to Mayor Larry S. Bryant, 225 N. Washington, Forrest City, AR 72335; or email [glynch@cityofforrestcityar.com](mailto:glynch@cityofforrestcityar.com).

**DISTRICT MANAGER**—The Holiday Island Suburban Improvement District is seeking a district manager. Holiday Island is a planned community in the scenic Ozark Mountains on Table Rock Lake, located within the city's boundaries. The city and suburban improvement district share responsibilities in providing essential public services throughout the district. The suburban improvement district is the owner and operator of the community's public infrastructure and facilities. The district manager is responsible for the overall management of district provided facilities and services, including roads, water, sewer, fire/EMS, law enforcement, marina, campground and recreation. The district manager is the chief executive and operational officer and is responsible to an elected board of commissioners for the overall affairs of the district. The district manager must establish rapport and maintain an effective and contractual relationship with the city, Holiday Island Planning Commission and Carroll County Sheriff's Department. The district manager routinely speaks in public to large groups of people and provides the utmost in personal attention with individual responses to help and assist Holiday Island property owners. A bachelor's degree in public administration, business administration or related field is required. MBA and/or planned community experience a plus. Applicants should have substantial management and administrative knowledge and experience in municipal government or a public agency. Strong skills in team building, personnel management and budget preparation are essential. General information about Holiday Island can be found on-line a [www.holidayisland.us](http://www.holidayisland.us). Applicants should send resume, cover letter and detailed salary history to: Holiday Island Suburban Improvement District, ATTN: District Manager Search, 110 Wooddale Drive, Holiday Island, AR 72631; or email [districtmgr@holidayisland.us](mailto:districtmgr@holidayisland.us).

**ENGINEERING MANAGER**—Benton Utilities is currently accepting applications for the position of engineering manager. Interested persons should submit an application to the Human Resources Department. Application and job description can be found on our website a [www.bentonutilities.com/personnel](http://www.bentonutilities.com/personnel). The position will remain open until filled. Questions can be emailed to [tslossamon@bentonutilities.com](mailto:tslossamon@bentonutilities.com).

**F/T & P/T POLICE OFFICERS**—Are you looking for a small-town vibe? Are you willing and ready to serve your community with pride and joy? Do you want that feeling of warming the hearts of the citizens in your community, while serving and protecting it? If this is you then Kensett is your home! We are hiring certified full-time police officers and part-time police officers for the City of Kensett. It includes the following benefits: accumulated sick time (F/T or P/T), paid vacation (F/T only), paid LOPFI (F/T and P/T), paid holidays (F/T), paid individual insurance (F/T), take home car within 10 miles (F/T). To apply please contact Angel Wells a [cityofkensett@gmail.com](mailto:cityofkensett@gmail.com), or come by Kensett City Hall and fill out an application. Please bring all documentation and certificates to 202 NE 1st Street, Kensett, AR 72082.

**PURCHASING MANAGER**—The city of Rogers is seeking applications for a purchasing manager. Salary: Range begins at \$84,388 DOE. Work involves managing the purchasing for the city of Rogers. Develop and administer purchasing objectives, policies, programs and procedures for the negotiation and acquisition of materials, equipment, supplies and services. Work is performed under the direct supervision of the director of finance. Work is performed with considerable independent action. Supervises and evaluates Purchasing Department staff. Essential duties and responsibilities: Establish and implement purchasing procedures for the city, to include establishing a formal purchasing policy in accordance with city budget policies and state laws. Collaborate with all departments during the establishment and implementation of the policy. Once policies are established, provide training and implementation guidance on new purchasing procedures. Continue to provide ongoing management, monitoring, support and training to purchasing staff and other departments on all matters pertaining to purchasing and ensure compliance with purchasing policies within all departments in the city. Prepare and/or supervise the preparation of specifications for bid/quote/RFP and RFQ items, upload to website, receive responses, analyze bids, prepare tabulation and recommend award of acceptable responses to the requesting department. Maintain bid files in accordance with state law and as directed by city clerk. Review purchases for all expenditures over a specified amount as determined in the purchasing policy. May on occasion negotiate directly with vendors or make recommendations to directors for large purchases to ensure the best use of city monies on purchases. Oversee the Procurement Card (P-Card) program. Responsibilities may include training employees, department heads and elected officials on proper use of card. Oversee the setting up new users of the cards and authorizing limits and controlling of those limits. Oversee the WEX Fuel card program. Monitor and oversight of long-term contracts across all departments, to include monitoring/maintenance of bond contracts and bond spending. Monitor expenditures/spending as compared to the budgeted amounts. Provide departments with assistance on items that will need council approval. Coordinate with legal department to include the purchase of the items on council agenda. Oversee the preparation of annual tax documents related to purchases, to include 1099-M and 1099-S. This duty is performed annually. Oversee the maintenance of W-9 forms from vendors. Perform any other related duties as required or assigned. Qualifications: To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty mentioned satisfactorily. The requirements listed are representative of the knowledge, skill, and/or ability required. Education and experience: Broad knowledge of such fields as accounting, marketing, business administration, finance, etc. Equivalent to a four-year college degree, plus six years related experience and/or training, and four years related management experience, or equivalent combination of education and experience. Preferred certificates, licenses, registrations: Current Certified Public Accountant (CPA) license. For full job description and to apply, please visit the city of Rogers website: [www.rogersar.gov/jobs.aspx](http://www.rogersar.gov/jobs.aspx).



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