

City & Town

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What will Proposed Constitutional Amendments 1 and 2 do for Arkansas's Cities and Towns?





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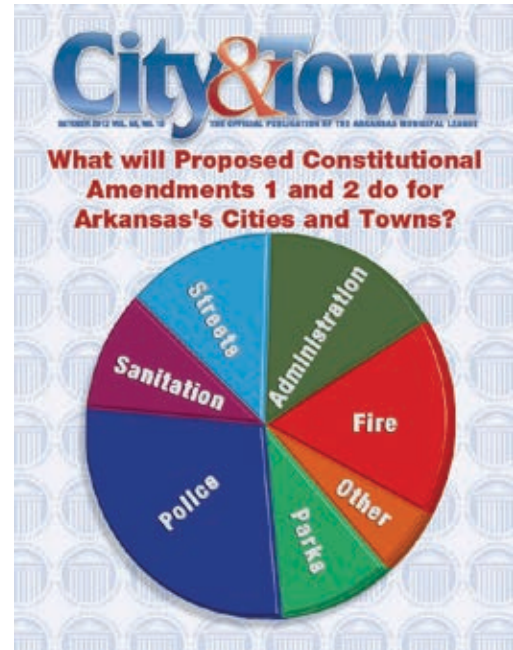
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FEATURES

6 A vote for 1 and 2 is win-win
 Proposed Constitutional Amendments 1 and 2, on the ballot in November's general election, will each benefit cities and towns in several ways, including providing increased funds in the State Aid Street Fund, increased turnback for transportation projects, better bond options, and more.

10 Maumelle a gem for League District 2 VP
 Mayor Mike Watson, the League's 2012-2013 District 2 vice president, was sold on Maumelle from his earliest visits to the city, and he continues to help the growing city with a unique history maintain that community spirit.

18 Rison recovers from arson
 In April an arsonist set fire to city hall, nearly destroying the building and everything in it, but he didn't quite succeed. Rison has rebuilt, and it's even better than before.



ON THE COVER—The November 6 general election is less than a month away, and Proposed Constitutional Amendments 1 and 2 each would benefit cities and towns if passed. Read inside the details on each, and consider proposing the included sample resolutions at your next city council meeting to show your community's support for the issues. Read also inside about your League District 2 vice president, Rison's rebuilt city hall, and more.—atm

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Dear Friends:

It seems like just last week that we were getting ready to attend the League's 78th Convention and enduring the heat of Arkansas's June weather. It certainly doesn't seem like a whole year has gone by since past president and Marion Mayor Frank Fogleman was encouraging us to sign up for the 2012 Winter Conference, but it has been. And here it is again, time to encourage you to sign up for the 2013 Winter Conference, Jan. 16-18, 2013, in Little Rock. Registration and payment must be received in the League office by Friday, Dec. 14 in order to qualify for early/advance registration. December 14 is also the cut-off date for hotel reservations. It's not too early to make those reservations now. As hot as it has been this past spring and summer, just saying the words "Winter Conference" brings a certain feeling of relief!



I had a great opportunity Aug. 23-25 to ride out to Huntsville, Ala., with League Executive Director Don Zimmerman and League past presidents Mayor Mike Gaskill of Paragould and Mayor Gene Yarbrough of Star City to the Southern Municipal Conference. Friday night we enjoyed a reception and dinner at the incredible U.S. Space and Rocket Center. Not only did we experience the excellent history of the U.S. space program, which included many actual and mock-ups of rocket engines, a complete (huge) Saturn V rocket and a Gemini space capsule, but I also got to see my son who came down from Nashville, Tenn., to spend the evening with us. The other highlight of the trip was seeing Mike Gaskill take over as chairman of the Southern Municipal Conference. Congratulations, Mike.

By the time you get this issue of *City & Town*, we will be closing in on the November elections. I'm sure that you are growing as tired of all the negativity associated with this year's elections as I am. There are two positive items on the ballot this year, Proposed Constitutional Amendment No. 1 and Proposed Constitutional Amendment No. 2. Both issues were approved for League support at the Annual Convention in June. Sample resolutions in favor of these issues prepared by League staff for adoption by city councils are available in this issue. Many cities in the state have already passed similar resolutions.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment No. 1 would provide a temporary one-half cent sales tax for a \$1.3 billion bond issue to continue a four-lane highway network connecting most parts of the state as determined by the state Highway Commission. Cities and counties would also see an increase in state turnback revenue. This amendment would also place in the Constitution a \$20 million a year city State Aid Street Fund.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment No. 2 will improve financing options available to local governments. Two important parts of this amendment would 1) allow cities and counties to create districts within their boundaries for development and redevelopment projects and to issue bonds payable from the increased sales tax collections within those districts, and 2) allow a municipality to issue bonds and levy a local sales tax for the purpose of retiring unfunded liabilities of closed local police and fire pension plans.

One last item: As part of the League's Voluntary Certification Program, a seminar on Municipal Finance and Budgeting was held at League Headquarters on Sept. 19 and 20. It was well attended on both days. First Vice President Jackie Crabtree, mayor of Pea Ridge, presided over the Sept. 19 workshop. If you haven't been attending these seminars, you are missing out on a wealth of information. The next certification seminar, Human Resources and Personnel Matters, will be held Thursday and Friday, Oct. 18-19.

Chris Claybaker
Mayor, Camden
President, Arkansas Municipal League

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What will Proposed Constitutional Amendments 1 and 2 do for Arkansas cities and towns?

A Vote For Issue No. 1 ...

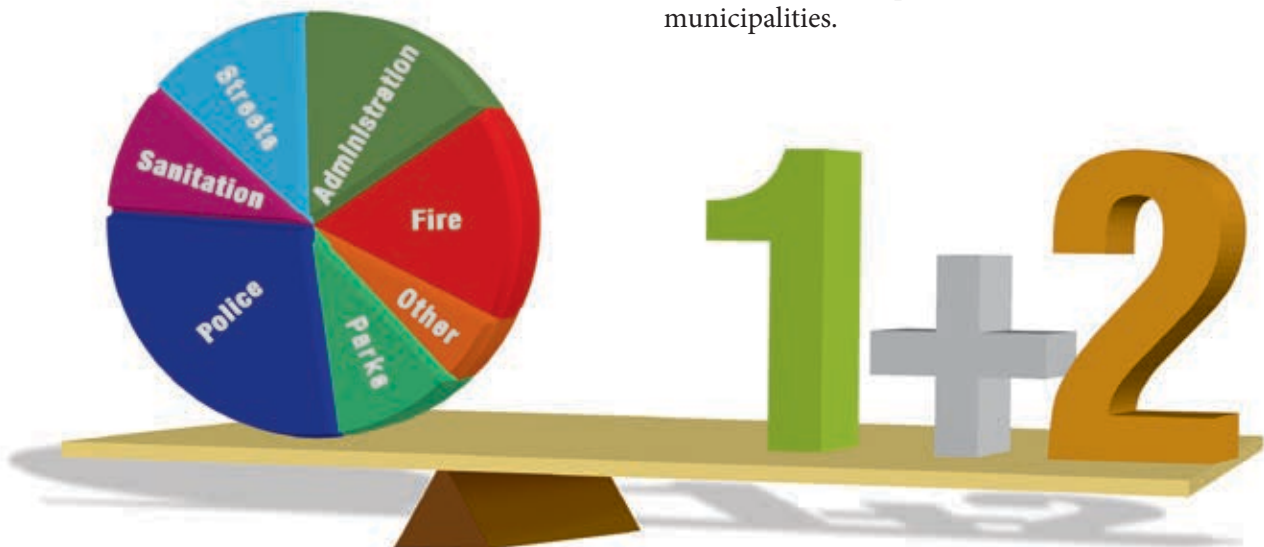
- ✓ Allows for a temporary half-cent state-wide sales tax that will provide permanent benefits to local governments
- ✓ Provides increased turnback to cities and counties for local transportation projects
- ✓ Gives cities and counties a permanent boost through existing fuel taxes to fund city streets, bridges, and other transportation projects through a \$20 million State Aid Street Fund
- ✓ Funds the state's construction and maintenance of the four-lane highway system connecting all parts of the state
- ✓ Supports an expected 40,000 Arkansas jobs while improving safety and access
- ✓ Supports a sustainable, bipartisan solution to our state's outdated and inadequate system of highway funding

A Vote For Issue No. 2 ...

- ✓ Keeps Arkansas competitive by giving cities and counties more creative, flexible, and fiscally responsible financial and economic development tools to fund public projects through STAR (Sales Tax Anticipated Revenue) bonds
- ✓ Allows local governments to issue bonds to retire unfunded liabilities of closed police and fire pension plans
- ✓ Gives local governments the ability to use special revenue to pay principal and interest on short-term debt

Show your support: Pass a resolution

On the following pages are two sample resolutions prepared by the League's legal staff that your city council can pass to show support for Proposed Constitutional Amendments 1 and 2 and help spread the word in your communities about how these important issues will benefit Arkansas's municipalities.



SAMPLE

Proposed Constitutional Amendment No. 1

Resolution No. _____

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 1 FOR THE CITY (OR TOWN) OF _____, ARKANSAS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, The Governor signed bill HJR 1001 on April 4, 2011 and the matter will be placed on the November 6, 2012 ballot as Proposed Constitutional Amendment No. 1 for approval by Arkansas voters; and,

WHEREAS, the economic health of Arkansas cities and towns depends on the ability to safely move goods, services and individuals on well-constructed and maintained roadways; and

WHEREAS, the safest and most economical statewide mode of transportation is via a four-lane system of highways connecting all parts of the state, as well as local improvements to municipal roads and bridges; and

WHEREAS, every Arkansas city and town will benefit from over 40,000 jobs supported through a \$1.3 billion bond-financed program for the construction, improvement and maintenance of a four-lane highway system in the state, which, with existing revenue, will provide \$1.8 billion for four-lane projects; and

WHEREAS, every city and town in Arkansas will share in over \$700 million in revenue for transportation-related projects; and

WHEREAS, Arkansas cities and towns will permanently benefit from an additional \$20 million annually from a new State Aid Street Fund, without raising gas taxes;

WHEREAS, a temporary ½¢ sales tax will be shared by all Arkansas road users and consumers to improve the economy and create jobs through highway, road and street construction programs, all without raising taxes on groceries, medicine or gasoline; and

WHEREAS, state and local construction and improvement programs will make roads and bridges safer for everyone, including school buses, emergency vehicles, and drivers sharing the roads with big trucks; and

WHEREAS, the temporary sales tax will be abolished in 10 years, upon the retirement of the bonds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY (OR TOWN) COUNCIL OF _____, ARKANSAS:

Hereby endorses and recommends voter approval of Proposed Constitutional Amendment No. 1 at the November 6, 2012, General Election, which will fund important highway improvements that are greatly needed to support transportation and safety needs in the State, and which will promote the creation of jobs and improve the economic conditions of Arkansas’s cities and towns.

DATED: _____ APPROVED: _____

Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Recorder or City Clerk

SAMPLE

Proposed Constitutional Amendment No. 2

Resolution No. _____

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 2 FOR THE CITY (OR TOWN) OF _____, ARKANSAS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, The Governor approved SJR5 on April 4, 2011 and the matter will be placed on the November 6, 2012 ballot as Proposed Constitutional Amendment No. 2 for approval by Arkansas voters; and,

WHEREAS, Proposed Constitutional Amendment No. 2 will improve and enhance financing options available for local governments in Arkansas; and,

WHEREAS, Proposed Constitutional Amendment No. 2 will allow cities and counties to create districts within the city or county for development and redevelopment projects within the district and to issue bonds payable from the increased amount of sales and use tax collected within the district for financing such projects; and,

WHEREAS, Proposed Constitutional Amendment No. 2 will authorize a municipality or county, with voter approval, to issue bonds and levy a sales and use tax for the purpose of retiring unfunded liabilities of closed local police and fire pension plans; and,

WHEREAS, Proposed Constitutional Amendment No. 2 also provides that the annual principal and interest payments on "short-term" financing obligations authorized by Amendment 78 of the Arkansas Constitution may be paid from special revenues authorized to be used for the property financed, in addition to general revenues for the fiscal year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY (OR TOWN) COUNCIL OF _____, ARKANSAS:

Hereby endorses and recommends voter approval of Proposed Constitutional Amendment No. 2 which will enhance and improve financial options available to better serve the needs of the citizens by providing new and additional funding for necessary public programs, facilities and services;, as well as clarifying and improving the existing short-term financing provisions of Amendment 78 of the Arkansas Constitution.

DATED: _____ APPROVED: _____

Mayor

ATTEST:

Recorder or City Clerk



Municipal Property Program



Your Municipal Property Program offers broad coverage for your municipal property. The limits of coverage are \$500 million per occurrence per member for damages from fire, windstorm and other incidents in excess of \$5,000.

Coverage is \$50 million for losses exceeding \$100,000 on earthquakes and flooding.

The Municipal Property Program's 2011 annual meeting in November adopted rates according to the following scale. See the new rates below.

FIRE CLASS I	—	.0021	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS II	—	.0022	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS III	—	.0023	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS IV	—	.0024	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS V	—	.0025	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS VI	—	.0026	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS VII	—	.0027	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS VIII	—	.0028	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS IX	—	.0029	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS X	—	.003	X	covered value	=	Premium
FIRE CLASS Unincorporated	—	.003	X	covered value	=	Premium

For more information, call Linda Montgomery at League headquarters, 501-978-6123 or 501-374-3484, Ext. 233.

League District 2 Vice President helms “hidden gem”

By Andrew Morgan, League staff



Maumelle Mayor and League District 2 Vice President Mike Watson's background as a surveyor serves him well as leader of Maumelle, one of the most successful of HUD's "New Town" planned communities from the early 1970s.

The population was just 8,000 when Mayor Mike Watson, the League's 2012-2013 District 2 Vice President moved to Maumelle in 1996 to be closer to his daughter's high school. He has witnessed his city's population more than double in his time there.

It's now the 23rd largest city in the state, with a population of 17,163, and it's the city with the highest per capita income in the state, and the city with the most educated citizenry, according to the 2010 Census.

"In 1970 we didn't even exist, so it's kind of strange," he says.

Maumelle has a unique, brief history. It was founded in 1973 by Jesse P. Odom, Dowell Naylor and Dean Files as one of HUD's "New Towns." The idea was to plan and build communities from scratch rather than letting them evolve pell-mell from a four-way stop or a train depot.

Of the original 13 HUD New Towns, Maumelle is one of only three in the country that is still viable, Watson says. The other two are Reston, Va., and The Woodlands, Texas. The others may exist in some form or fashion, but several went broke early on, or never really got off the ground, he says.

Maumelle New Town, which was designed to be home to 45,000 people, struggled in its early years and population growth lagged. The interest rates of the 1980s hurt a bit as well, Watson says.

"But then by the late 80s and early 90s we started booming," he says.

Watson grew up in what is now Southwest Little Rock. It was in the county then. It was a great time and place to grow up, he says.

"We lived on an acre and a half of ground, and we had woods all around us where we could run, explore, fish, ride bicycles and all that. But we had the amenities of living in Little Rock at the same time. I had kind of a rural/urban interface growing up."

He went to college at Arkansas State University and has made his and his family's home in Arkansas ever since. He and his wife, Debbie, have been married for 33 years. Their daughter, the original impetus for the move to Maumelle, is now grown, married and the mother of Mayor Watson's five-month-old granddaughter. Watson's mom and dad live in Maumelle now.

"They moved here right after we did, and they're active in the community. In fact my mom's cooking today down at the senior wellness center, and my dad drives the van to pick up the people who don't have transportation to get to the center."

His wife's parents also moved to Maumelle. His daughter now lives in Little Rock, but Watson believes she and her family will eventually choose to live in Maumelle.

He and his family had been coming to Maumelle for the city's popular July 4th festival and fireworks show at the city's Lake Willastein Park for years before ever considering making it their home, Watson says.



The "swinging" bridge is a recognizable landmark at Lake Willastein Park in the heart of Maumelle. The bunker at right is a remnant of a WWII-era munitions manufacturing and storage facility.

"We loved that atmosphere that was around the fourth of July. Plus we had friends who really enjoyed it. So we decided to move out here and fell in love with it."

Before becoming mayor in 2006, Watson had spent his professional career with engineering firms as a surveyor, running survey crews on developments in Little Rock and all across central Arkansas. He worked for the Mehlburger firm for 24 years, and then for Crafton Tull.

His experience at Mehlburger in particular gave him a unique perspective on local government issues, Watson says. The firm was at one time or another the city engineers for Monticello, Fordyce, Atkins, Clinton, El Dorado and several others. Back then he didn't realize how important those connections would prove.

"I used to work with mayors all across the state, but never knew that I was going to be a mayor, never had any desire to be a mayor. It was never on my radar screen."

When he lived in Little Rock, it never really crossed his mind to participate directly in city government, perhaps because it was so big, he says.

"I never even thought of getting involved in Little Rock, but the minute I moved to Maumelle people started asking me to get on the Planning Commission and things like that. Everything started falling into place."

"We did subdivision developments all over, so I understand subdivisions. I understand how developers have to work with the city and make things happen. I understand roadway projects. We worked on several projects with the Highway Department through the years. We also worked with the Corps of Engineers. So

I had a relationship with all those agencies and all those people through those projects, and I still work with some of those same people today.

"I used to be at the podium proposing something to a city council. Now I'm on the other end listening to the proposal. It's a strange role reversal."

Before considering a run for office, Watson got involved in community service in other ways. He joined the Maumelle Fire Department in 1997, where he served for 10 years, working his way up to captain of the then-volunteer service. He joined the Planning Commission in 1998 and served there for nine years, six years as chairman. He resigned both of those positions in 2006 when he was elected mayor.

"I got fully invested, I guess. I went from a volunteer role to being a leader in the city.

In its relatively brief history Maumelle has been known mostly as a bedroom community, but that is changing. The city's growing industrial park is a point of pride for the mayor and the city. The park was part of the founders' original vision but has taken off in recent years. It's anchored by businesses such as Molex, the city's largest employer, Kimberly-Clark, and Little Rock retail giant Dillard's has a 800,000-square-foot internet order fulfillment center in the park, which will soon also be handling the company's international orders.

"It's a really good industrial area that provides high-quality jobs, not just for Maumelle but for all of central Arkansas," Watson says. "We call it our city's hidden gem."

Engage department heads in strategic budgeting

By Chad Gallagher

It's that time of year again. Fall is upon us and the holidays are only around the corner. For municipal officials, budget time looms near. It's time to set priorities, evaluate income, sales tax receipts, utility rates, expenditures, capital needs, and figure out a way to make the money stretch. Having built municipal budgets and closely watched the construction of state budgets, I know firsthand what a frustrating process it can be.

Municipalities have a wide range of responsibilities, and these only seem to grow over the years. Cities and towns are responsible for police and fire protection, code enforcement, utility services, solid waste, economic development, infrastructure improvements, animal control, parks and recreation, planned growth, and much more. City leadership must find enough funding opportunities to keep pace with new and proposed projects. This is one reason that the grant process is important. However, it is also why creating the municipal budget should be a purposeful, strategic exercise.

In its simplest form, the annual budget is a projection of income and plan for expenditures. Your expenditures play a pivotal role because they impact the quality of life of citizens. Because it is one of the most important documents created by municipalities, the budget should become a strategic document. Since the municipal budget determines the amount of resources available to each department, budgeting usually exerts more influence on what gets done than a strategic plan. It is because the budget is such an important part of municipal government that it should be tied to a strategic plan.

Every municipality should have a governing strategic document. I like to call this a community blueprint. It maps out a future direction. Each community blueprint should cover a broad spectrum of issues and clearly articulate the community's overall vision, values, mission, and objectives. It should paint a clear picture of the community's destination. In return, the budget should advance the fulfillment of this vision. Every mayor and city council can articulate what they hope to accomplish and what they would like to see transpire in the community, even if a formal process has not been conducted. While we recommend a formal process be initiated, it is fundamental that the budget be tied to these larger goals.

Many strategic plans do not achieve their goals because there is no organizational mechanism to drive the strategic plan through the budgeting process. The big-picture strategic plan and short-term tactical management of the organization are disconnected. The tactical is more specific, more immediate, and more tangible in its urgency and its payoffs. For this reason the tactical tends to usurp the strategic. Without a strong link between these two worlds, the strategic drifts out of focus and becomes less relevant.

Creating departmental objectives is a key to preventing your overall strategic plan from being lost. Each department should be asked to create a list of objectives, as well as a list of long-term capital improvements needed to achieve these objectives. Then the objectives should be rigorously tested. Each objective should be challenged against questions such as: Does the objective drive the overall strategic plan (mission, values, vision)? Does the department objective fit into the sum total of the plan? The key is to cause your department heads and managers to think more broadly, to consider the overall direction of the community and to cause each departmental objective to help achieve that goal. This will begin to weed out unnecessary spending or spending that might appear good but does not help achieve the goals of the community.

As you engage in the budget process with municipal department heads, try to be succinct. Do not let the budget process own you—instead take ownership of it. Give clear instructions and help the department managers see the overall direction the council and mayor are leading the city. Lastly, ask each department head to make a list of every department activity, service and responsibility. Ask them to evaluate those services against the overall community plan and to analyze if it is a core piece of business or something peripheral that the city started doing at some point. Then ask each leader to compare each activity to an alternative way of achieving the desired result.

Budgets must be built from the departments up, not from city hall down, and they must be tied to the overall vision of your community. Helping develop your department leaders into strategic planners will only lighten your load as a community leader and help achieve the greater good for the citizens. Give your department heads the guidance and tools necessary to create a strategic plan for their departments.

Creating a strategic budget also helps your grant writing efforts. It allows you to demonstrate a thoughtful, organized approach to handling funds. It also allows the funder to see the city's good stewardship of resources and its practical planning capacity. It ultimately helps prove that when a grant request is made the need is genuine and any assistance given compliments the city's thoughtful efforts.



Chad Gallagher is principal of Legacy Consulting and a former mayor of De Queen. Contact him in De Queen at 870-642-8937, 501-246-8842 in Little Rock, or email chad.gallagher@legacyincorporated.com.

Announcing...

The 2012-2013 Voluntary Certified Continuing Education Program

The League's Voluntary Certified Continuing Education Program continues in 2012 with a series of workshops covering topics helpful to municipal leaders. The first 2 years of workshops were a great success and drew capacity crowds to cover issues such as municipal finance and budgeting, personnel matters and municipal operations.

- Who?** For Arkansas mayors, city managers, city directors and aldermen.
- What?** The certification plan is voluntary, approved by the Executive Committee, and consists of 21 credit hours of topics.
- Why?** To increase the knowledge of local officials on how cities and towns function and equip them with the leadership skills needed to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.
- When?** The next workshop is focused on Human Resource and Personnel Matters. The workshop will be held October 18 or 19, 2012, from 9AM to 3PM.
- Where?** Arkansas Municipal League headquarters, 301 W. Second Street, North Little Rock.

Schedule and topics to be covered:

- State and Federal Employment Law, Employment Policies, At Will Employment, Discipline and Discharge, Hiring Process, Personnel Policy Handbooks, Record Retention and more.
- *For those city officials who have completed the 21 hours of core curriculum, you must obtain 6 hours of continuing education to maintain your certification status. The required 6 hours must be gained by attending 3 hours of Continuing Education offered at the Annual Convention and Winter Conference.

For more information on the Certification Program, contact Ken Wasson at 501-374-3484 Ext. 211, or email kwasson@arml.org.

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I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

PS Form 3526, August 2012 (Page 2 of 3)



2013 Winter Conference

Peabody Hotel/Statehouse Convention Center
January 16-18, 2013

Registration and payment must be received in League office by Friday, December 14, 2012, to qualify for advance registration.

REGISTRATION

Advance registration for municipal officials	\$150
Registration fee after December 14, 2012 , and on-site registration for municipal officials.	\$175
Spouse/guest registration	\$75
Child registration	\$75
Other registrants.	\$200

- Registration will be processed **ONLY** with accompanying payment in full. Make checks payable to the Arkansas Municipal League.
- Registration includes meals, activities and a copy of **Handbook for Arkansas Municipal Officials, 2011-2012 edition**.
- No daily registration is available.
- Registration must come through the League office. No telephone registrations will be accepted.
- **No refunds after December 14, 2012.**
- Cancellation letters must be postmarked by **December 14, 2012**.
- **Peabody guests:** In order to avoid a cancellation penalty of one night's room and tax, reservations must be cancelled at least seven (7) days prior to arrival. **See page 16** for more information.

HOTEL RESERVATION

Hotel Room Rates

Peabody Hotel (headquarters hotel)		
Single/Double.	\$129	Check-in..... 3 p.m.
Capital Hotel		
Single/Double.	\$160	Check-in..... 3 p.m.
Doubletree Hotel		
Single/Double.	\$136	Check-in..... 3 p.m.
Wyndham Hotel		
Single/Double.	\$94	Check-in..... 3 p.m.

- Cut-off date for hotel reservations is **December 14, 2012**.
- Rooms in Little Rock are subject to an 11.5 percent tax.
- Rooms will be held until 6 p.m. and then released unless guaranteed by credit card.
- Contact the hotel directly to make changes or cancellations in hotel accommodations.
- Hotel confirmation number will come directly from the hotel.
- Please check on cancellation policy for your hotel.

TWO WAYS TO REGISTER OR

1 Register online at www.arml.org and pay by credit card.

2

Complete the steps and **mail with payment** to:
 ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
 Attn: 2013 Winter Conference
 P.O. Box 38
 North Little Rock, AR 72115-0038

Step 1: Delegate Information

I am a newly elected official.

Name:

Title: City of:

Address:

City: State: Zip: Telephone:

Spouse/Guest will attend: Yes No Name:

Children will attend: Yes No Name(s):

Step 2: Payment Information

• **WHAT IS YOUR TOTAL?** (see opposite page for fees)

Advance Registration Regular Registration Spouse/Guest Child Other Registrants Total
 \$150 \$175 \$75 \$75 \$200 \$_____

• **HOW ARE YOU PAYING?**

Check

Mail payment and form to: Arkansas Municipal League
 2013 Winter Conference
 P.O. Box 38
 North Little Rock, AR 72115

Credit Card Complete information below and send to address above.

Credit Card: Visa MasterCard

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: ____/____/20____

Card Holder Name (as it appears on card):

Billing address (as it appears on statement):

City: State: Zip: Telephone:

E-mail address (**required for credit card payment**)

Step 3: Hotel Reservations

To obtain hotel reservations, registered delegates must directly contact participating hotels listed below. Please mention that you are with the Arkansas Municipal League to get the negotiated hotel rate.

- Peabody Hotel** Reservations _____ 800-732-2639 or 501-906-4000 (Jeanna Pearson, lead reservationist)
- Capital Hotel** Reservations _____ 877-637-0037 or 501-374-7474
- Doubletree Hotel** Reservations _____ 800-222-8733 or 501-372-4371
- Wyndham Hotel** Reservations _____ 866-657-4458 or 501-371-9000

Step 4: Hotel Payment

Payment Options: Credit Card or Direct Bill (Note: only two payment options.) To obtain direct billing as a payment option, registered delegates must directly contact hotel accounting offices listed below:

- Capital Hotel** Accounting _____ 501-370-7062
- Doubletree Hotel** Accounting _____ 501-372-4371
- Wyndham Hotel** Accounting _____ 501-371-9000

Changes to 2012 Directory, Arkansas Municipal Officials

Submit changes to *Whitnee Bullerwell*, wvb@arml.org.



Benton			Huttig		
Delete	PRD	Curtis McCormack	Delete	FC	Marcus Barr
Add	PRD	John Eckart	Add	FC	John Gilmore
Centerton			Johnson		
Delete	AL	Tyler Steele	Delete	CEO	Paul Sullins
Add	AL	Misty Elam	Add	CEO	Clay Wilson
De Queen			Lead Hill		
Delete	AL	Linda Polk	Delete	AL	Rodney Fry
Add	AL	Walter Smith, Jr.	Add	AL	Jennifer Archer
Des Arc			Paris		
Delete	R/T	Phillip Mapps	Delete	AL	Blake Schluterman
Add	R/T	Chrisana Knupp	Add	AL	(Vacant)
Dover			Springtown		
Add	WEB	www.doverar.com	Delete	AL	Marvin Riley
Greenway			Add	AL	(Vacant)
Delete	R/T	Angel Lynch	Delete	AL	Lisa Lawrence
Add	R/T	Sarita Rowton	Add	AL	(Vacant)
Delete	AL	Thomas Johnson	Wheatley		
Add	AL	Patty McHaffey	Delete	MA	P.O. Box 3
Delete	AL	(Vacant)	Add	MA	P.O. Box 179
Add	AL	Joyce Bond			
Hampton					
Delete	AL	James McLean			
Add	AL	Bill Ingram			
Delete	AL	Bobbie Rogers			
Add	AL	Wesley Gresham			

ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS DIRECTORY CHANGES

October is Act 833 funding deadline

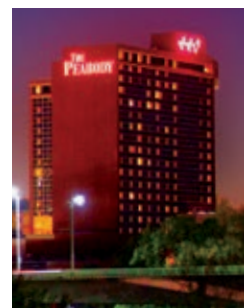
The deadline to apply for 2012 State Fire Grant Act 833 funds through the office of Fire Protection Service is October 31. Applications must be postmarked by that date to qualify for the 2012 funding year. Applications and program guidance documents are available on the ADEM website, www.adem.arkansas.gov. For more information on the grant program, contact Kendell Snyder, Fire and EMS Coordinator, at 501-683-6781, or email kendell.snyder@adem.arkansas.gov.

Mail completed applications to Office of Fire Protection Services c/o Arkansas Department of Emergency Management, Bldg. #9501 Camp Joseph T. Robinson, North Little Rock, AR 72199-9600.

Attention Winter Conference Peabody Guests:

“Reservations must be made in advance before the Peabody cut-off date of Friday, December 14, 2012. Reservations may be accepted after this date subject to availability.

Once reservations are made, in order to avoid a cancellation penalty of one night’s room and tax, reservations must be cancelled at least seven (7) days prior to arrival. Reservations canceled after that date will be billed one night’s room and tax (\$150.29), to the credit card on file.”



Peabody Hotel

Reservations 800-732-2639 or 501-906-4000
(Jeanna Pearson, lead reservationist)

Summaries of attorney general opinions

Recent opinions that affect municipal government in Arkansas

From the Office of Attorney General Dustin McDaniel

Electioneering prohibited near poll entrance

Opinion: 2012-086

Requestor: Hunter, S. Kyle—Pros. Atty., 11th Judicial Dist. West

Arkansas Code Annotated 7-1-103(9) prohibits “electioneering of any kind whatsoever within 100 feet of the primary exterior entrance used by voters to the building.” Suppose someone stands outside the 100-foot zone and shouts or uses a sound amplifier (e.g., a bull horn or megaphone) to ask voters to support a certain candidate. Does subsection 7-1-103(9) prohibit such activity? **RESPONSE:** No, in my opinion. This statute prohibits the conjunction of two things: (1) “electioneering of any kind whatsoever” (2) that is done within a certain distance from the primary exterior entrance used by voters at a polling place. The activity you describe clearly meets the first element, but does not meet the second. This statute simply does not prohibit electioneering that occurs outside the 100-foot zone. I understand that the speakers’ voices are carrying over into the prohibited area. But if the legislature intended to prohibit certain activities outside the 100-foot zone, then, like some other states’ legislatures, it could have easily done so.

Nepotism policy may not apply to step-relations

Opinion: 2012-089

Requestor: Harrelson, Steve—State Senator

Does the nepotism provision in ACA 14-47-135, which bars anyone related to a city board member “by blood or marriage in the third degree” from being employed by a city with the city manager form of government, apply to disqualify a police department job applicant whose step mother-in-law is a city board member? **RESPONSE:** No. While the applicant’s husband is clearly “related by marriage” to the board member, within the meaning of § 14-47-135, it seems that the applicant is not. Courts have generally held that step-relations other than the relationship of a step-child and step-parent do not fall within statutes such as this. “Related by marriage” under a statute such as this refers only to the relationship that one spouse has to the blood relatives of another spouse. See opinion for full discussion.

Firearm ordinance may run afoul of Due Process Clause

Opinion: 2012-099

Requestor: Elliott, Efreem—State Representative

Is it lawful for a Pine Bluff City Ordinance, adopted to regulate the discharge of firearms within city limits, to create a presumption that “possession of loaded weapons or instruments listed in Pine Bluff Code of Ordinances, Sec 14-26(a) or (c) in a city park or upon other municipally-owned or maintained property, in contravention of the exceptions listed in subsections (a) or (c), is for the purpose of or to aid in the discharging of firing said weapon or instrument unlawfully.”

Q2) Is it lawful for the U.S. Corps of Engineers to permit the discharge of firearms on Boyd Point, in contravention of the existing ordinance?

RESPONSE: I cannot definitively opine on these questions because they necessarily entail construing the ordinance to determine legislative intent. I will note, however, in response to your first question, that the enforceability of presumptions of the sort established under this ordinance can give rise to concerns under the Due Process Clause of the Arkansas Constitution. As for Q2) while it seems clear that the so-called “no discharge” ordinance will be applicable to Corps of Engineers property that has been annexed into the city limits, consideration must also be given to the several exceptions to the discharge prohibition in order to determine whether the Corps is acting in contravention of the ordinance in any given instance.

For full Attorney General opinions online, go to www.arkansasag.gov/opinions.

Visit Us.

www.arml.org

Rison opens new city hall after arson

By Sherman Banks

At 3:30 a.m. on Monday, April 8, Rison Mayor Vernon Dollar received a call that city hall was on fire. He arrived to find the building completely engulfed in flames. His first reaction was the realization that all municipal records, equipment, and furniture would be lost. The volunteer fire department was unable to salvage the interior of city hall, but the computer hard drives and most of the valuable records were salvaged.



The fire-gutted interior of Rison City Hall the morning after the arsonist struck.

Investigators of the Cleveland County Sheriff's office found that the fire was set in the area of city hall where the police department was located.

"It is a large blow to the city, and it sets us back a little bit, but it's not going to stop us," Dollar said after the fire. "The arsonist thought he could ruin us but he didn't at all, he just gave us a little bit more desire."

Shortly after city hall reopened in a temporary office, Dollar began working with the insurance company to assess damages and started the process for opening bids for city hall reconstruction.

Dollar, who is an architect as well as the city's mayor, drew up the plans for the city's new high-tech, user-friendly office space. The contract for reconstruction was signed on May 29 with the Failla Construction Company of Pine Bluff. Since the shell of the circa-1991 structure was still standing, the reconstruction cost of just over \$161K was completely covered by insurance. The cost to the taxpayers of the City of Rison was \$500 for the insurance deductible.



Mayor Vernon Dollar and the Rison City Council hold their first meeting in the rebuilt city hall.

With the new city hall under reconstruction, Mayor Dollar and his team began searching for ways to inexpensively replace office furniture and equipment. He found deals through the DFA's State Surplus and FEMA.

The city was able to move into its reconstructed city hall over Labor Day weekend, just five months after the arsonist's attempt to destroy the facility. A ribbon cutting ceremony and an open house for the community let citizens see how efficient the new offices would be in providing city services. To thank the contractors and construction company for working within the city budget for reconstruction, the mayor and the city council held a fish fry in their honor.

The local business community also pitched in. Walmart and other merchants in the area worked with the city to provide the equipment needed to conduct city business, including state-of-the-art audio/visual equipment and satellite for closed circuit television in the council's meeting room.

Mayor Dollar and the city council held their first council meeting in the new Rison City Hall on September 11. That date, of course, has national significance. For Rison, September 11 now also marks a new beginning.



Contact Sherman Banks at 501-374-8493, email sbanks@aristotle.net, or write to P.O. Box 165920, Little Rock, AR 72216.



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Drought damage long lasting

Just because a drought comes to an end doesn't mean your trees are out of the woods.

By John Slater

When I became interested in urban forestry years ago, I made a trip with Jim Northum, our entomologist, to look at six willow oaks in two yards for a landowner. We had been in a drought for several months, so we expected to find the trees damaged from the drought. When we arrived, we saw that red oak borers had infested all the trees, causing insect damage. Gravel driveways were placed over the trees' roots, causing soil compaction and damage to roots. The water district was putting in a new water line just outside of the fence, and since the trees' roots extended outside the fence, they were cut as well as compacted. Being an urban tree can be hazardous to its health, even without the threat of drought.

Damage caused by a drought will seriously affect your trees for years to come, so critical intervention is needed. Just because the drought ends doesn't mean your trees are safe and won't need some extra care.

What happens to your trees when the drought ends? Dry spells over the last three summers have impacted our trees in a serious way. To bring the trees back to a healthy state will take time, and some trees will never come out of it. If you have not been watering your trees, you need to start even if the trees don't appear to need it.

What to do:

- When trees are stressed they are more susceptible to pests, so monitor them closely, and if you see something out of the ordinary call your county forester.
- If your soils are compacted, loosen up the top layer for better movement of air and water.
- If the drought continues, water your trees through the winter months as well.
- Add a three-inch layer of shredded wood mulch over the root system. This will help retain moisture



Patches of dead leaves indicate this oak is stressed by drought.

in the soil, moderate the soil temperature, and keep grass and weeds from competing for the moisture.

- You can purchase mycorrhizae products, beneficial fungi that can be mixed with water and added to the root system. These fungi break down organic materials and move nutrients into the root system as well as extending the root system to assist with increased uptake of water.
- For smaller trees you can purchase ooze tubes or gator bags that you fill with water and allow water to slowly soak in the soil. Use a 15 or 20-gallon size gator bag for smaller trees; fill once a week. When you water mature trees, soak the soil up to 6-8 inches deep per week, which is the equivalent of about one inch of rain.

What not to do:

- Do not allow anyone to climb trees using spikes if the tree is alive, and absolutely do not top trees.
- Do not fertilize your trees, as this will only stress them out more.
- Wait until next spring before removing trees to see if they will leaf back out.
- Do not prune live branches at this time unless it is for safety reasons.
- Keep a lookout for Hypoxylon Canker Disease. Prevention can be achieved in high-value trees by keeping the tree vigorous and unwounded. Water trees during drought periods. Once infection has occurred, remove infected limbs or trees, because they rapidly become hazardous to people and property.

What's out there and what's best for the future:

- Except for pin oaks and sawtooth oaks, if the trees hold their brown leaves all winter they are probably dead.
- You can bend a branch and see if it is still pliable, which indicates the tree is still alive.
- You can also scrape the branch with a sharp object and see if there is any green underneath.
- Consider planting trees that are acclimated to the plant hardiness zone you live in. Arkansas is in the 6b–8a zone. Go to www.arkansasforestry.org to see our guide to selecting trees.
- If you discover you need to have some selected pruning done to remove dead branches, be sure to hire a certified arborist. Go to the International Society of Arboriculture website at www.isa-arbor.org, click on certification, and enter your zip code for a list of arborists.

Remember, even if you have to make an investment to keep your mature trees alive, the benefits outweigh the cost many times over. One shade tree on the west side of the home can provide up to 35 percent in energy savings, and that's just one of the many benefits.

Make a Memory...Plant a Tree



John Slater is urban forestry partnership coordinator with the Arkansas Forestry Commission. Contact him at 501-984-5867, or at john.slater@arkansas.gov.



PHOTOS BY JOHN SLATER

Hypoxylon Canker Disease will rapidly deteriorate a tree, endangering people and property beneath it.

Fairs & Festivals

Oct. 6, **KEO**, 10th Keo Fall Days, 501-842-0100

Oct. 12-13, **DE QUEEN**, 23rd Hoo-Rah Days Festival, 870-784-6189, seviercountymuseum@yahoo.com; **MCGEHEE**, 6th Owlfest, 870-222-4451, www.mcgeheechamber.com; **WEINER**, 36th Arkansas Rice Festival, 870-919-0726, www.arkansasricefestival.com

Oct. 12-14, **LESLIE**, 1st Leslie Mountain Man Rendezvous, 501-941-4828, elkeagle@windstream.net

Oct. 13, **BENTON**, 38th Old Fashioned Day Festival, 501-776-0255, sparsons@cadc.com; **CABOT**, 34th CabotFest, 501-843-2136, www.cabotcc.org; **CRAWFORDSVILLE**, 6th Harvest Festival, 870-636-5822, susanmarotti@att.net; **CROSSETT**, 34th Wiggins Cabin Festival, 870-364-3648, www.wigginscabinfestival.com

Oct. 19-20, **LAKE VILLAGE**, 16th Lake Chicot Fall Festival, 870-265-5997, www.lakevillagechamber.org

Oct. 20, **BEEBE**, 16th Beebe Fall Fest, 501-827-0353, beebenow.com; **BOONEVILLE**, 11th October Festival, 479-675-2666, information1@booneville.com; **MAGNOLIA**, 3rd Fall Festival and Chili Cook-Off, 870-234-4352, www.magnoliachamber.com; **OZARK**, 40th Old Fashion Square Gathering, 479-667-5337, www.mainstreetozark.com

Oct. 26-27, **MOUNTAIN VIEW**, 30th Bean Fest & Great Arkansas Championship Outhouse Races, 870-269-8068, www.YourPlaceintheMountains.com

Oct. 27, **CARAWAY**, Caraway Harvest Fest, 870-482-3431, cityofcaraway1@centurytel.net; **GURDON**, 27th Gurdon Forest Festival, 870-353-2514, tambrad_1962@yahoo.com; **HAZEN**, 36th Grand Prairie Rice Festival, 870-255-3042, dhardke@mebanking.com; **HUMPHREY**, Humphrey Fall Festival, 870-873-4615; **RUSSELLVILLE**, 21st Downtown Fall Fest & Chili Cook-Off, 479-967-1437, msrsvl@centurytel.net

Oct. 31-Nov. 6, **EUREKA SPRINGS**, 65th Ozark Folk Festival, 479-253-7333, www.eurekasprings.org

Nov. 9-11, **BANKS**, 26th Buck Fever Festival, 870-820-2586, merchantcsr_007@yahoo.com

Save the Date!

"Health and Wellness Seminar"

9:30 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 15 at League headquarters

Covering:

- MHBF changes for 2013
- PPACA—What you need to know
- Chemical dependency program
- eDocAmerica services
- Allcare specialty pharmacy program
- And more!

Registration to be mailed soon and will also be available at www.arml.org

Time To Levy Property Taxes

City and town councils may levy general property taxes of up to five mills on the dollar (ACA 12 § 4; ACA 26-25-102 and 103). ACA 14-14-904(b) requires the Quorum Court to levy the county, municipal and school taxes at its regular meeting in November of each year. ACA 26-73-202 requires the city or town council on or before the time fixed by law for levying county taxes to certify to the county clerk the rate of taxation levied by the municipality (ACA 26-73-202). ACA 14-14-904(b) establishes the November meeting of the Quorum Court as the time to levy those taxes.

In other words, the governing body of the city or town must levy and certify its property tax to the county court every year prior to the November meeting of the Quorum Court. As the Attorney General has explained, the “millage is an annual levy, and failure to levy by the required date results in a millage of zero for the following year.” (Ark. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 91-044; citing Ark. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 85-5.)

The bottom line: If your city or town wishes to collect property taxes for the following year, make sure that council approval and certification to the county clerk occur prior to the November meeting of the Quorum Court. It would be advisable to have this done at the council’s October meeting at the latest.

CALENDAR

**National League of Cities
2012 Congress of Cities and Exposition
Boston, Massachusetts
November 28 - December 1, 2012**

**Arkansas Municipal League
Winter Conference
Wednesday-Friday
January 16-18, 2013
Little Rock, AR**



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Arkansans exposed to HPV have access to vaccine trial

By Mayumi Nakagawa, M.D., Ph.D.

For 50 to 80 percent of sexually active women who have already acquired an HPV infection, there has been no therapeutic vaccine available to alleviate any potentially serious future health risks. But such a vaccine is inching closer to one day becoming a reality as a University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) study has begun enrolling women for its first phase of clinical testing.

Nearly 20 million Americans are currently infected with HPV. Another six million people become newly infected each year. The best protection is to find a vaccine that can treat those already infected with HPV. This will potentially eliminate future serious health risks. HPV can cause normal cells on infected skin to turn abnormal. Most of the time, people can't see or feel these cell changes. In most cases, the body fights off HPV naturally and the infected cells go back to normal. But in cases when the body does not fight off HPV, it can cause visible changes, sometimes even cancer.

What is HPV?

HPV (human papillomavirus) is passed through sexual contact. In about 90 percent of its overall cases the virus clears itself from the body naturally. It's the remaining 10 percent of those cases where the virus persists that has been the focus of our research. It's within that group where the vaccine is aimed. Those with precancerous cervical lesions are at most risk for developing cervical cancer.

According to the American Cancer Society, about 12,200 new cases of invasive cervical cancer were diagnosed in 2011 and about 4,210 women died from it. Worldwide, it's the second-most common cancer among women, with more than 470,000 new cases found each year.

Most vaccines are typically administered to healthy individuals to prevent a disease or infection, such as the existing prophylactic HPV vaccine. But now there is a growing trend to develop and use vaccines aimed at alleviating the potential suffering of those already with a disease or infection.

On trial

The clinical trial is supported by a \$3.3 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Cancer Institute (NCI). Phase I clinical trials include evaluating a new drug or treatment in a small group of people to determine such things as a safe dosage range and potential side effects before the trial becomes available to a larger group of participants.

Our vaccine differs from an existing HPV vaccine that is used for women or girls who have never been exposed to HPV. It will be tested on women who have precancerous lesions. About 300 women with recent abnormal Pap smears indicating possible high-grade intraepithelial lesions (HSIL) will be screened. Those who are confirmed to have HSIL will be eligible for vaccination.

Study participants will be enrolled at the UAMS Gynecology Clinics by William Greenfield, M.D., associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, and his colleagues. Vaccinations will be administered at the Translational Research Institute's Clinical Research Services Core on the UAMS campus.

To learn more about the study, visit www.uams.edu/papresults.



Mayumi Nakagawa is Associate Professor of Pathology, Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

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Texarkana top dog in competition

By Lareign Ward

In the end, Texarkana barked the loudest. The city was awarded \$100,000 for a dog park Friday evening from PetSafe for collecting the most votes in the company's Bark for Your Park competition. The presentation came during a downtown party that was organized before the results were known publicly.

However, a select few were clued in, including the Police Department, as PetSafe personnel were sneaked into the Front Street Plaza Festival via an unmarked police car.

After a few speeches and some songs, four people in blue PetSafe polo shirts scaled the back stairs onto the stage. Robin Rhea, senior brand manager for PetSafe, approached the microphone. She introduced herself and talked a bit about the Knoxville, Tenn., pet products company.

Rhea described how the PetSafe team closely followed the competition, which in June was narrowed from more than 1,000 cities to 15 finalists.

"We watched you as you shot paintball guns at your local celebrities, and that was crazy," Rhea said. "But then we saw [local animal rescuer] Jeff Tarpley kiss a pig. But we saw even more than that.

"We saw a community of people that were not divided by an invisible line."

Instead, Rhea said the company saw the Twin Cities coming together in pursuit of a common goal.

By this point, the sense of anticipation in the air was almost as thick as the humidity. Rhea announced that 650,000 votes were logged in the competition.

"We got up bright and early this morning in Knoxville, and we went westbound and down to tell you that you had 167,000 votes," Rhea said.

The crowd roared its approval as she added, "That means you get \$100,000 to build your dog park! Give yourselves a hand. You guys so deserve this."

Chrystal Sloan, one of two local women who led the effort for the park, was seated on the stage and became visibly emotional as Rhea spoke.

"I had no idea they were back there," Sloan said after the city was presented with a ceremonial check for \$100,000. "I just thought it was a cop car. My head is spinning."

After PetSafe made its announcement, there was more good news to come. Mike Richardson, who owns a fencing company, announced he was donating the fencing and labor for the shelter play area of the dog park. Work on that is slated to begin next week in Jefferson Park, a portion of which will be renamed JeffURson Park. In addition to the \$100,000 check, PetSafe will donate outdoor water fountains to the shelter play area.

"You guys live in a wonderful place," Rhea said. "It's wonderful to see."

The final vote tally for Texarkana was 167,373 votes, with second place Oak Forest, Ill., collecting 123,417 votes. The PetSafe.net leader board went dark July 25 to create suspense, but Texarkana maintained a steady lead during the last days of the competition, Rhea said.

Texarkana also got 1,000 extra votes by logging the most views of its short video, which portrayed the story of two dogs named Georgia and Jager, whose budding romance was threatened by Texarkana's lack of a dog park.

PHOTOS BY DOUG STRICKLAND, TEXARKANA GAZETTE



Texarkana dog lovers at the city's Front Street Festival Plaza cheer the announcement that the city won the PetSafe "Bark for Your Park" contest, which awarded Texarkana \$100,000 for a dog park.

Marshall recorder/ treasurer retires



Congratulations to Beverly Morton, center, who on August 17 retired after 20 years as Marshall's recorder/treasurer. Marshall Mayor Jim Smithson, left, and League Executive Director Don Zimmerman, right, were on hand to wish her a happy retirement and thank her for her years of dedicated public service.

New economic development group meets



The League hosted on Sept. 7 a meeting of CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy), a new steering committee formed by UALR and tasked with developing a statewide economic development strategic plan. The League's new Economic Development Advisory Council, made up of a municipal leader from each of the state's eight planning and development districts, represents municipalities on the steering committee.



Heather Keith gives her 10-month-old bulldog Minnie some water at the "Bark for Your Park" party.

PetSafe will now review Texarkana's plan for JeffFURson Park and also assist as needed, Rhea said.

"We want to make sure you guys get the park you want," she said. "We're here to be a resource and provide some funding."

PetSafe representatives will return to Texarkana for the park's grand opening.

DeAnna O'Malley, the other leading proponent of the dog park, said she hopes the park will open within a year. As she posed for photos with PetSafe officials and accepted congratulations, O'Malley pointed to her arms: "I've had chills in 110-degree weather all day."

"There are no words to describe that feeling when they jumped out of that police car," she said.

Oak Forest will receive \$25,000 as the runner up, while Derby, Vt., came in sixth place but will also receive \$25,000 for winning the Bark From Your Heart prize, which went to the city with the highest percentage of votes based on population.

This story appeared originally in the Texarkana Gazette and is reprinted with permission. Contact Lareign Ward at lward@texarkanagazette.com.

Six cities receive millions for economic development

The U.S. Department of Commerce is investing \$6.9 million in Arkansas to build infrastructure as well as boost economic and job growth, KARK reported Sept. 5. The funds will also help rebuild infrastructure damaged by storms in 2011.

The millions in Economic Development Administration (EDA) disaster grants will go to the cities of Clinton, Fairfield Bay, Heber Springs, and Stuttgart as well as Mid-South Community College in West Memphis to rebuild critical infrastructure damaged by severe storms and flooding in 2011. Funding will also benefit the Little Rock Port Authority in Little Rock, helping it expand facilities and attract new business in a competitive global market.

"These \$6.9 million in EDA investments in Arkansas are examples of the Obama administration's commitment to support critical infrastructure essential to fostering economic growth," said Acting U.S. Commerce Secretary Rebecca Blank. "The six grants announced today will help Arkansas communities recover from flood damage and rebuild infrastructure crucial for strengthening the local economy and creating jobs."

The investments include:

- In Clinton, an EDA grant of \$1.4 million will help rebuild and upgrade the city's water treatment facilities, which were severely damaged by floods in 2011.
- In Fairfield Bay, an EDA grant of \$1.1 million will help fund repairs to the Fairfield Bay Conference Center and the rebuilding of West Cliff Drive, the main thoroughfare for an adjoining 400-slip marina. Both suffered major damage from storms and flooding in 2011.
- In Heber Springs, an EDA grant of \$1 million will help fund repairs to the city's water treatment plant, which experienced high turbidity spikes and sedimentation in its water supply as a result of runoff caused by floods in 2011. An upgraded filtration system will increase the city's treatment capacity, allowing it to better meet current and future needs of the region's residents and businesses.

- In Stuttgart, an EDA grant of \$1 million will help fund repairs to Hartz Road, a major access route into the Stuttgart East Industrial Park. The road was severely damaged by floods in 2011, limiting access to the park and its business tenants by heavy trucks.
- At Mid-South Community College in West Memphis, an EDA investment of \$1.5 million will help construct the Mid-South Aviation and Manufacturing Training Facility. The Arkansas Delta, where the project is located, suffered extensive storm damage in 2011. The new training facility will support the workforce development programs of the Arkansas Delta Training and Education Consortium, a partnership of five community colleges that are committed to the economic development of the 12 counties of eastern Arkansas.
- A \$960,000 EDA public works investment in the Little Rock Port Authority will help fund construction of the Arkansas River Resource Center. This state-of-the-art facility will provide new marketing opportunities for the port, helping it to realize the untapped economic potential of the Arkansas River, and will also benefit the adjacent Little Rock Port Industrial Park. According to grantee estimates, 45 new jobs will be created by this project.

These projects, with the exception of the Little Rock Port Authority grant, are part of a \$200 million appropriation made by Congress to EDA to help communities that received a major disaster designation in fiscal year 2011 with long-term economic recovery and infrastructure support.

Obituaries

BEN F. MCCRAW, 58, who retired as Ashdown's chief of police in 2010 having served 40 years in local law enforcement, died Sept. 10.

LINDA NELSON POLK, 49, a De Queen alderman since 1999, died Sept. 3.

Cities to take part in tree study

Five Arkansas cities will join with the Arkansas Forestry Commission for a study of what's called "urban tree canopy," the AP reported Sept. 12. The study is being paid for in part with a grant from the U.S. Forest Service to determine how much tree cover the cities of Little Rock, North Little Rock, Fayetteville, Jonesboro, and West Memphis have.

State urban forestry coordinator Patti Erwin with the Forestry Commission told the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* that the study will help cities use what is called green infrastructure to improve air quality, cool the communities and promote wildlife habitat.

The Washington-based nonprofit conservation group American Forests recommends a 40 percent urban tree canopy. A \$90,000 U.S. Forest Service grant is to be used to offset the expected costs of \$15,000 to \$40,000 per city for the study.

Fayetteville Farmers Market tops list

The Fayetteville Farmers Market topped this year's list of America's favorite farmers markets in the large-market category with 1,439 votes, *Arkansas Business* reported Sept. 17. As a national winner, it will receive a promotional package to help grow the event. Fayetteville finished fifth last year in the annual contest held by the American Farmland Trust.

The Trust posts the top 20 markets with the most online votes in each category. Large markets have 50 or more vendors. Other local markets took kudos in this year's contest. Bentonville Farmers Market's 354 votes ranked it 11th among large markets. In the small-market category, with 15 or fewer vendors, the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks in Fayetteville took fourth place with 151 votes. Also, the Eureka Springs Farmers Market came in at No. 14 among small markets, garnering 68 votes.

Rogers named in Top 100 Cities list

CNN confirms what Rogers residents already believe: Their city is one of the best in the country, KNWA has reported. Rogers was named the 67th best small town in the country by *CNN Money Magazine*. The magazine ranked the 100 best places to live in the country based on income, crime, and student test scores, among other criteria. The proximity to Walmart and the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship, an official stop on the PGA Tour, helped the city get into the top 100. Rogers is the only Arkansas city to make it into the top 100.

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NEWSLETTER

The *Newsletter*, provided by a'TEST consultants, is included in *City & Town* as a service of the Arkansas Municipal League Legal Defense Program.

Seminar scheduled: "Avoiding the 'tangles' in corporate management"

Topics include:

- Encouraging and recognizing employees
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- Interpretations
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The seminar will be Nov. 7 in the Virginia Bailey Room, Suite 208, Union Station, Little Rock. Lunch will be included.

For more information call Nancy at 501-244-2332 or Judy at 501-376-9776. Early registration deadline is Oct. 18 with a fee of \$125. The final registration deadline is Nov. 2 with a fee of \$150.

School drug testing begins

At this time of the year, parents and students are shopping for new clothes, school supplies, arranging carpools, etc. It's a hectic, stressful time. Students are generally happy to see old classmates, but some students are also going to be glad to see their drug dealers. Yes, this is a reality in our schools.

The federal courts have allowed students involved in extra-curricular activities to be in a drug-testing program. Students not involved in extra-curricular activities are generally not being tested.

Unfortunately, many times it's the students who are not the ones being tested who are the ones involved in drug abuse, and that is a shameful situation. There are

ways of expanding the drug testing program in schools to students not involved in extra-curricular activities, but it takes overcoming several hurdles, including doing surveys to establish that a drug problem exists. a'TEST can provide help and information to parents and school officials on the legal means of expanding testing to other students.

Please talk to your kids about drugs. Don't wait until it is too late.

Arizona official denies expansion of medical pot program

Arizona State Health Director Will Humble recently refused to expand the conditions for which marijuana can be legally recommended. He commented that there were many "moving stories" from people who said marijuana helped them deal with medical conditions, but he said these were not enough to convince him to expand the medical pot program.

To help with this decision, he asked the University of Arizona College of Public Health to find research to support the effectiveness of medical pot, and that study came up lacking. There was insufficient research to support the expansion of the program.

Humble's own medical advisory committee also recommended against expanding the program. With the fact that marijuana has not been subjected to any high quality, scientifically controlled testing for any medical conditions, Humble found there was no evidence that marijuana provides any benefit. This Arizona action adds to the recent closing of 900 medical pot clinics in Los Angeles. More information to come on this topic in the future.



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





NLC committee meets in NLR



The National League of Cities' Energy, Environmental and Natural Resources (EENR) steering committee met Sept. 14 at the League's North Little Rock headquarters. The group focused on energy policy issues, including natural gas production and the hydraulic fracturing process. North Little Rock Mayor Pat Hays sits on the committee and shared some of his city's sustainability efforts, including the growing Fit 2 Live program.

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Think simplicity and balance in landscaping regulations

By Jim von Tungeln

One of the most ticklish tasks of public administrators involves transforming the vision of their city into equitable regulations that carry out or protect provisions of the community's plans. Results can range from the patently absurd to the ridiculously complicated. Sometimes the regulations turn out harmless but weak. They might even prove effective, "a consummation devoutly to be wished," in the words of Hamlet. Achieving this is tricky.

As an example, we might take landscape regulations, a solution that many cities are currently sending in search of a problem. How might a person seek equitable public policy outputs by requiring private landowners to spend more money on land development? It requires a great deal of balance between the need for good civic design and the high regard in which Americans hold private property rights.

In short, we should take it very seriously.

Assume that our hypothetical city has adopted a plan to guide its growth, and that plan grew from an appropriate level of citizen participation. Those are big assumptions, but space is limited.

Assume further that our plan calls for improved landscaping, for any of several considerations. There are universal health benefits associated with trees and landscaping since they convert our waste carbon dioxide into life-supporting oxygen. There are also the cooling benefits of shade. We might even document the value of landscaping in calming the mind and humanizing our bleak urban setting. With more and more modern buildings looking as if they were assembled from those plastic shipbuilding kits used to fashion aircraft carriers, landscaping can provide a welcome counterpoint.

"We want a landscape ordinance because [our rival city] has one" may not provide the best reason.

Assuming we have established a rational basis for landscape regulations, how do we go about preparing them? There are several approaches. The absolute worst of these involves copying another city's regulations. Bear in mind, that city may well have copied another city's, that city having copied another's, until we stare into a never-ending abyss of regulations that hardly serve our particular purpose.

We may be copying regulations from a city with a different vision for itself. We may find ourselves copying regulations from a city whose per capita income is higher than our city budget. Worse still, and this occurs, we might be requiring planting that cannot survive our local climate.

Another, and better, approach is to involve those who understand local demographics, the local setting, local politics, and the local temperament. Landscape architects are essential but may not understand the intricacies of public administration. Urban planners provide the "big picture" view but will need technical input. In summary, the preparation of landscape regulations should be a team effort.

First steps are the hardest in many human endeavors, and creating landscape ordinances will prove no different. A good first move, though, is to tour the city and see what some developers and private property owners have done on their own, without regulations. It will always be easier to ask others to follow good examples than to pile requirement on top of requirement simply because some other city did.

Our capital city has long been a forerunner in the administration of landscaping regulations. A major reason for its success resulted from a major office park development in the 1980s that included a tour de force of a well-planned landscaping. It set the landscaping bar so high that regulations requiring other developments to provide landscaping followed, with less resistance than one might expect. It is hard to say you can't do something that somebody else just did.

Having established a baseline from existing examples, the designers of landscaping requirements must develop some guiding principles. A major one: Would it be better to have less landscaping with better irrigation systems or more landscaping with less emphasis on perpetual care?

Another decision point determines what we will regulate. Perimeter landscaping is fairly simple. Parking lot landscaping is less so, and actual building landscaping regulations slide over into a real battlefield in which the prerogatives of the architect may be threatened. One remembers from his youth what one of Frank Lloyd

Wright's residential clients recalled as his landscaping directives. Wright simply said, the owner told me, to "plant it low" and later left a note scrawled on the façade by the front door saying "good job." I think about that when I review a 30-page landscape ordinance.

Flexibility is often missing in landscape regulations. Requiring, for example, a perimeter strip along the front property line with a tree planted every 10 feet like marching soldiers is typical. Usually, at least one of the trees dies, and then we face a "missing soldier" formation. Like a broken window, the scene can be counter-productive to the area's long-term health by highlighting decline.

A more reasonable approach allows the landscape designer to make decisions regarding placement and the city to make requirements concerning the actual amount of landscaping and the required maintenance. This can also help avoid uncomfortable transition periods during which developers must adjust to new regulations.

Finally, landscaping is not the ultimate urban cure. Each year, Americans spend millions, if not billions,

touring historic urban sites that contain no planting at all. Piazza San Marco, in Venice floods too often for landscaping to survive even if it were appropriate. And one can't imagine that Bernini even contemplated landscaping when he designed the Basilica of St. Peter's in Rome.

So let us maintain a sensible perspective when dealing with landscape regulations, as we should with any others. Keep things local. Keep things in balance. Keep things simple. Strive for the least expensive approach, and base regulations upon planning. Those who must pay for the improvements will appreciate our efforts as will our community in general.



Jim von Tungeln is staff planning consultant and available for consultation as a service of the Arkansas Municipal League. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. Contact him at 501-944-3649. His website is www.planyourcity.com.



PHOTO BY JIM VON TUNGELN

This 1980s office development set the standard for excellent landscaping in Little Rock.

A tale of two sectors

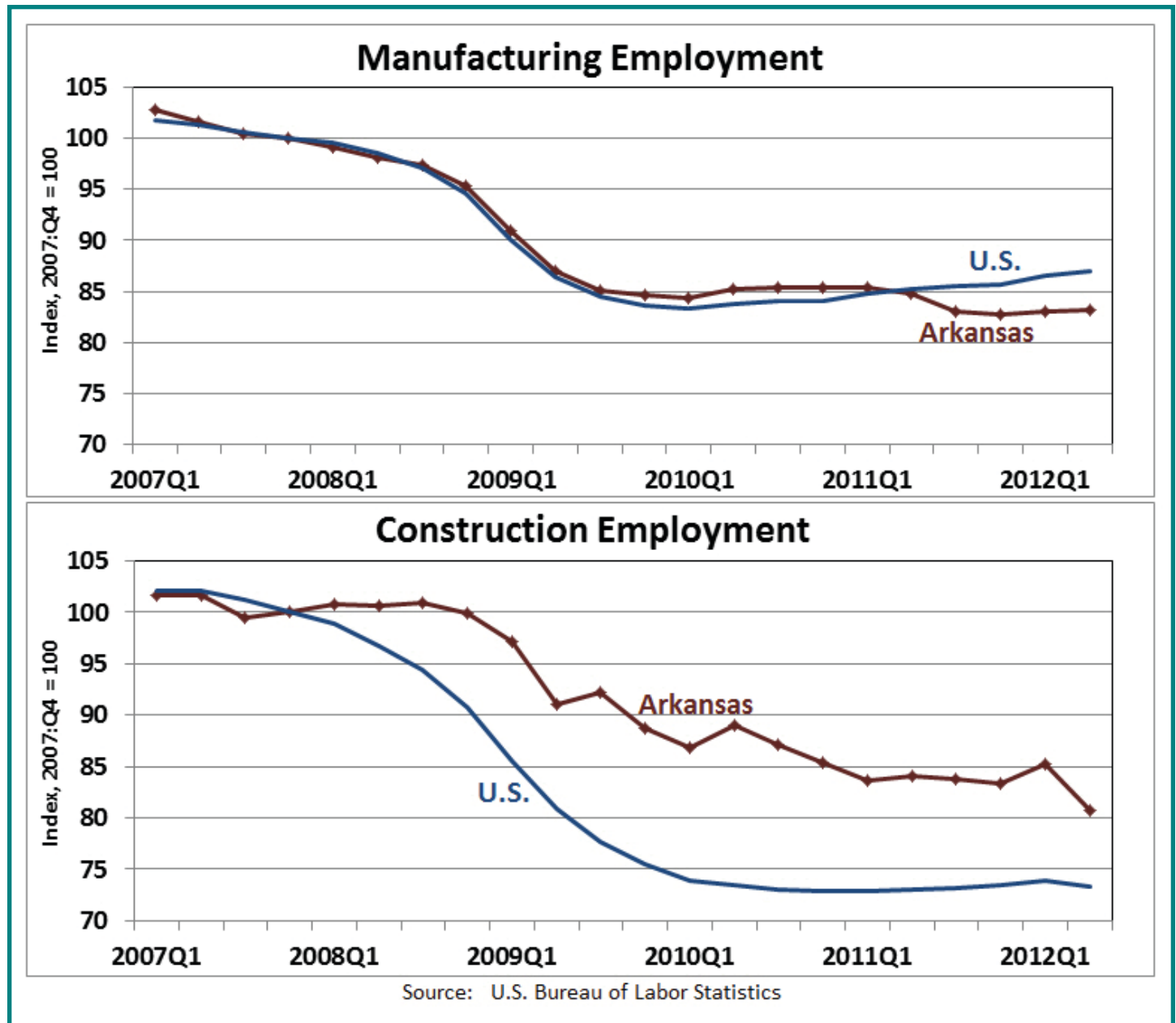
Dr. Michael Pakko

Two of the sectors suffering the largest employment losses during the great recession were manufacturing and construction. They also share the distinction of being the sectors slowest to show signs of recovery. As shown in the accompanying charts, the downturns in these two sectors have been pronounced and prolonged both in Arkansas and nationwide. Although the employment patterns share some features, their stories differ in many respects as well. Understanding the similarities and differences is important for assessing the prospects for the eventual recovery of the two sectors.

Manufacturing

The first chart compares manufacturing employment in Arkansas and nationwide. From the onset of the recession through the early part of 2010, both suffered declines of over 15 percent. Manufacturing employment in the U.S. has shown some tenuous signs of recovery since then, but remains nearly 13 percent below its pre-recession level. In Arkansas, an early recovery phase gave way to a renewed period of contraction in 2011, and recent signs of growth suggest a sluggish recovery at best.

The relative weakness in Arkansas manufacturing employment since early 2011 is attributable in part to some



high-profile plant closures in the state. New ventures are likely to eventually absorb some of this capacity, putting Arkansas on a recovery profile consistent with the nation as a whole. But the longer-term prospects for manufacturing employment are not particularly promising.

The recession-related downturn exacerbated a longer-term trend. Even before the recession, manufacturing employment was in decline: From the beginning of 2002 through 2007, it fell approximately 10 percent in both the U.S. and Arkansas. Manufacturing output grew substantially over this period, but a rising productivity trend limited the potential for job creation. In a competitive global environment, the manufacturing processes that thrive are those that exploit capital-intensive, skill-intensive technologies. The manufacturing sector is unlikely to be the engine of job growth that it once was, particularly for low-skilled labor. This is not to say that manufacturing employment will wither away, but it will increasingly require workers with advanced technological training.

Construction

The second chart looks at the construction sector. Here, Arkansas did not suffer job losses that were as severe as the U.S., but the downturns for both the state and the nation have been even more protracted than in manufacturing. Both data series show contractions through at least 2010. In 2011, construction employment in Arkansas stabilized at around 16 percent below its pre-recession level, while the comparable job loss for the U.S. was around 27 percent.

The relatively smaller job-losses in Arkansas's construction sector largely reflect the pattern of the housing-market boom and bust. Speculative real estate spending never caught on in Arkansas during the housing bubble, as evidenced by home price appreciation that was below the national average and far below that in many parts of the country. Consequently, the collapse in residential real estate markets has been relatively smaller in Arkansas. But to the extent that we are suffering the same fate of a long period of low employment in the construction sector, the residential real estate market is both the culprit and the key to recovery.

Indeed, Arkansas employment in the sub-sector of "Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction" was about the same in 2011 as it was in 2007, but employment in "Construction of Buildings" was down 28 percent, with job losses in residential down 35 percent compared to nonresidential, down 24 percent. In the much larger support-sector known as "Specialty Trade Contractors," employment with residential contractors declined 33 percent over the same period, while employment with nonresidential contractors was down only 23 percent. Overall, employment in nonresidential construction stabilized in 2011, with employment in residential construction continuing to decline.

Two sectors among many

Clearly, the key to recovery in the construction sector is recovery of the residential real estate market. In this regard, the two sectors of manufacturing and construction are somewhat interdependent. Lacking a robust recovery in manufacturing employment, the demand for new residences in Arkansas will depend on the prospects for job growth in other sectors. Fortunately, there is some good news in this regard: As of July of this year, private service-providing sectors had recovered approximately two-thirds of the jobs they lost during the recession. Some sectors, such as health services and leisure and hospitality services have higher employment now than before the recession. However, the availability of stable, well-paying jobs in these sectors will depend on the same factors providing future jobs in manufacturing: education and training of the Arkansas workforce.



Dr. Michael Pakko is Chief Economist and State Economic Forecaster at the UALR Institute for Economic Advancement. He will be presenting his annual outlook for the state at the 2012 Arkansas Economic Forecast Conference, Tuesday, Oct. 30 at the Clinton Presidential Library. For more information visit www.aiea.ualr.edu.

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MONTH	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
January	\$3.5720	\$3.4786	\$0.3285	\$0.2859	\$3.3436	\$3.1339
February	\$4.0199	\$3.7795	\$0.2906	\$0.2584	\$1.0700	\$1.0053
March	\$3.2159	\$3.2521	\$0.3725	\$0.4307	\$1.0000	\$1.0055
April	\$3.3681	\$3.4633	\$0.3751	\$0.2705	\$1.0000	\$1.0017
May	\$3.7030	\$3.6848	\$0.3460	\$0.1999	\$0.9900	\$1.0053
June	\$3.6759	\$3.8035	\$0.3406	\$0.2104	\$1.0100	\$1.0056
July	\$3.6615	\$3.7480	\$0.3633	\$0.1996	\$2.9000	\$3.1087
August	\$3.8180	\$3.5350	\$0.4115	\$0.1567	\$1.0100	\$1.0052
September	\$3.7317	\$3.6430	\$0.3947	\$0.1899	\$1.0100	\$1.0056
October	\$3.5307		\$0.4021		\$1.0100	
November	\$3.5115		\$0.3930		\$0.9200	
December	\$3.2842		\$0.3761		\$1.0100	
Total Year	\$43.0924	\$32.3878	\$4.3940	\$2.2021	\$16.2736	\$13.2767
Actual Totals Per Month						
	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
MONTH	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
January	\$6,297,470.92	\$6,537,582.03	\$578,646.75	\$537,347.01	* \$5,889,430.45	* \$5,889,623.14
February	\$7,080,721.02	\$7,103,104.25	\$511,874.74	\$485,627.91	\$1,889,837.05	\$1,889,245.23
March	\$6,041,952.97	\$6,111,822.72	\$699,895.94	\$809,523.74	\$1,878,361.11	\$1,889,603.23
April	\$6,328,001.75	\$6,508,820.12	\$704,744.69	\$508,320.37	\$1,883,619.31	\$1,882,530.42
May	\$6,957,111.57	\$6,925,015.17	\$650,134.81	\$375,733.12	\$1,860,445.27	\$1,889,362.42
June	\$6,906,168.25	\$7,148,252.90	\$639,925.58	\$395,417.87	\$1,889,921.24	\$1,889,865.20
July	\$6,879,119.02	\$7,043,886.87	\$682,553.18	\$375,173.84	** \$5,443,030.68	** \$5,842,460.26
August	\$7,173,125.80	\$6,643,716.19	\$773,146.02	\$294,503.90	\$1,889,129.92	\$1,889,164.55
September	\$7,011,103.63	\$6,846,853.12	\$741,466.34	\$356,918.13	\$1,890,081.33	\$1,890,041.23
October	\$6,633,476.96		\$755,415.22		\$1,890,081.33	
November	\$6,597,419.28		\$738,267.62		\$1,734,293.45	
December	\$6,170,333.10		\$706,663.00		\$1,890,081.33	
Total Year	\$80,076,004.27	\$60,869,053.37	\$8,182,733.89	\$4,138,565.89	\$30,028,312.47	24,951,895.68

* Includes \$4 million appropriation from the Property Tax Relief Fund

** Includes \$3,517,657 supplemental in July

Local Option Sales and Use Tax in Arkansas



KEY: Counties not collecting sales tax

2012 ELECTIONS

- PIKE CO.**, Feb. 14
Passed. 3/8% removed
- CONWAY**, Feb. 14
Passed. 1/4% continued
- SALESVILLE**, Feb. 14
Passed. 1%
- STUTTGART**, Feb. 14
Passed. 1% continued
- BATESVILLE**, Mar. 13
Passed. 1/2% temporary
Passed. 1/2% permanent
- BLYTHEVILLE**, Mar. 13
Passed. 1%
- FORT SMITH**, Mar. 13
Passed. 1% continued
- LINCOLN**, Mar. 13
Passed. 1%
- TONTITOWN**, Mar. 13
Failed. 1%
- DEWITT**, April 10
Passed. 1.5%
- MELBOURNE**, April 10
Passed. 1%
- TRUMANN**, May 22
Failed. 1%
- WASHINGTON CO.**, May 22
Failed. 1/4% increase
- MAGNOLIA**, May 26
Passed. 1/4% increase
- VAN BUREN**, July 10
Passed. 1/2% increase
Passed. 1/2% increase
- BRADLEY CO.**, Aug. 14
Failed. 1/2%
- YELLVILLE**, Aug. 14
Passed. 1%


Source: Debbie Rogers, Office of State Treasurer

See also: www.dfa.arkansas.gov

Sales and Use Tax Year-to-Date 2012 with 2011 Comparison (shaded gray)

Month	Municipal Tax		County Tax		Total Tax		Interest	
January	\$37,846,866	\$35,123,247	\$37,289,267	\$35,666,555	\$75,136,134	\$70,789,802	\$12,533	\$27,640
February	\$46,523,853	\$42,235,810	\$44,592,756	\$42,753,266	\$91,116,609	\$84,989,076	\$22,619	\$34,351
March	\$40,360,002	\$33,606,662	\$36,819,087	\$34,174,199	\$77,179,089	\$67,780,861	\$13,222	\$35,321
April	\$41,324,697	\$35,244,719	\$37,882,489	\$35,257,864	\$79,207,186	\$70,502,583	\$27,247	\$23,355
May	\$46,157,943	\$39,976,322	\$41,661,276	\$40,107,935	\$87,819,219	\$80,084,257	\$8,489	\$9,286
June	\$43,883,127	\$37,765,150	\$40,430,123	\$37,056,613	\$84,313,250	\$74,821,762	\$30,892	\$25,409
July	\$44,736,261	\$37,831,729	\$40,688,525	\$36,634,846	\$85,424,786	\$74,466,575	\$11,606	\$14,470
August	\$45,618,216	\$40,620,093	\$41,616,180	\$40,946,986	\$87,234,396	\$81,567,078	\$27,685	\$22,415
September	\$44,215,998	\$39,596,088	\$40,815,883	\$39,895,996	\$85,031,881	\$79,492,083	\$14,110	\$14,702
Total	\$390,666,963	\$341,999,820	\$361,795,586	\$342,494,260	\$752,462,550	\$684,494,077	\$168,403	\$206,949
Averages	\$43,407,440	\$37,999,980	\$40,199,510	\$38,054,918	\$83,606,950	\$76,054,897	\$18,711	\$22,994

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FOR SALE—1990 Chevrolet single axel dump truck with 65,985 miles, hydraulic drive, Henderson sand spreader and Model 112 Good Roads snow plow. \$19,000 OBO. Email questions to bbaldwin@vbgis.org or call 479-471-5025, City of Van Buren Public Works.

FOR SALE—The City of Ashdown is accepting sealed bids on a 2008 Asphalt Zipper model AZ-360S on a trailer, extra teeth included. Virtually new, only 12 hours. Bids accepted until Oct. 15. The city reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids. Mail bids to City of Ashdown, ATTN: Asphalt Zipper Bid, P.O. Box 135, Ashdown, AR 71822.

FOR SALE—Dover has for sale a 2007 Chevy Impala. 95K miles, good tires, serviced regularly. White in color with bumper guard and spotlight. Asking \$8,000. Call 479-331-3270 or email mayorofdoover@centurytel.net.

FOR SALE—The Ozark Fire Department is accepting sealed bids for the following self-contained breathing apparatus: seven 2216 Scott 2.2 w/Visualert; 12 2216 Scott 2.2; three 2216 composite bottles; and 24 2216 steel bottles. For more info call 479-667-2062 or email ozarkfd@centurytel.net or call Ozark City Hall at 479-667-2238. Bids will be received until Nov. 1. The city reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

MANAGER OF ACCOUNTING—Siloam Springs is accepting applications for a Manager of Accounting with experience in gen. ledger transactional accounting, month-end and year-end financial reporting, payroll and payroll tax reporting, and accounting for fixed assets. Primary responsibility for account reconciliations, journal entries, annual budget development, and audit prep. Reports directly to city finance director. Requires BS or BA in Accounting, 2 years min. experience preferred. The City requires a completed application be submitted for all positions. Applications available at City Hall, 400 N. Broadway, Siloam Springs, or can be accessed online at www.siloamsprings.com. Salary range: \$49,424-\$61,677. Generous benefits package. For more information call 479-524-5136 or email humanresources@siloamsprings.com. Open until filled. EOE.

POLICE CHIEF—Austin is seeking qualified candidates for the position of Police Chief. Must be certified Arkansas Law Enforcement Officer with minimum 5 years law enforcement experience with some supervisory or management experience. The Police Chief will perform regular patrol duties, oversee departmental operation, develop and coordinate department schedules and other duties. Resumes may be turned in at Austin City Hall, 3181 Hwy 367 N., or mail to P.O. Box 129 Austin, AR 72007. Deadline is Nov. 1. We reserve the right to reject any resume.

POLICE OFFICER—Harrison is seeking qualified applicants for the position of police officer. Requirements: U.S. citizen, at least 21 years of age, possess a valid AR DL; no felony record/arrests; able to pass background check, psychological exam, physical exam and polygraph exam; ability to work rotational shifts; must be fingerprinted; must purchase uniforms and equipment. Reports to Shift Commander and will be under the direction of the Chief of Police. Salary: \$29,353. For detailed duties and for an application, contact Leta Price, Harrison Police Department, 116 S. Spring St., or call 870-741-5463.

STREET SUPERINTENDENT—The City of Malvern, is seeking a highly qualified professional to direct their Street & Parks Department with a staff of 14 personnel. Applications & a job description can be picked up at City Hall/ Human Resources Dept./ 305 Locust St./Malvern, AR. 72104 or on our website @ www.malvern.gov. For more information contact: Virginia Harrison, Human Resources Director, @ 501-332-3638 ext. 236. The City of Malvern is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

TREASURER/FINANCE DIRECTOR—Bella Vista seeks a Treasurer/Finance Director. Responsible for all city financial activities. Requires BA or BS degree in Accounting or Business with minimum of 4 years managerial experience in accounting and finance. Financial certifications preferred. Must be able to communicate effectively with city council, staff and citizens. Salary DOE. Send completed application and resume to: City of Bella Vista, P.O. Box 5655, Bella Vista, AR 72714. Phone: 479-876-1255. Application available online at www.cityofbellavista.com. Open until filled. EOE.

WATER SUPERINTENDENT—Danville is accepting applications for a Water Superintendent. Applicants must have a minimum of a Class IV water treatment license and a Class II distribution license. Salary DOE and qualifications. Benefits include health insurance package, paid vacation, sick leave and retirement. For more information contact Danville City Hall at 479-495-2013, email resume to danville@arkwest.com, or mail to Danville City Hall, P.O. Box 69, Danville, AR 72833.

WATER & SEWER OPERATIONS MANAGER—Fayetteville seeks a Water & Sewer Operations Manager within the city's Utilities Dept. The division is responsible for water/wastewater distribution and collection but not treatment. Applicant should have experience in budgeting and master planning, be able to supervise 70 field personnel. Min. qualifications: HS diploma or GED, 10 years experience, 5 in managerial pos. BS in Engineering or related pref. Valid DL required, AR CDL Class A pref. Salary \$75,000 DOE plus benefits. Position open until filled. Online application available at www.accessfayetteville.org/careers. For more information and complete qualifications, contact James Mercer, The Mercer Group, 551 W. Cordova Road, #726, Santa Fe, NM 87505; 505-466-9500; fax 505-466-1274; email jmercer@mercergroupinc.com; www.mercergroupinc.com. EOE.

WATER/WASTEWATER DIRECTOR—Siloam Springs is accepting applications for a Water/Wastewater Director. Under the direction of the Director of Operations, position is responsible for planning, organizing, directing and integrating the city's water and wastewater activities and functions. Provides professional assistance to city management regarding municipal drinking water, drinking water treatment, wastewater collection, wastewater treatment and environmental matters. Requires degree in Civil Engineering, Public Admin., or closely related field; minimum of 5 years experience in public works with increasing supervisory experience, or equivalent combination of education and experience. Must possess valid DL, submit to a background check, be willing to relocate, and possess or have the ability to obtain an AR Class IV Water/Wastewater License within one year. The City requires a completed application be submitted for all positions. Applications available at City Hall, 400 N. Broadway, Siloam Springs, or can be accessed online at www.siloamsprings.com. Salary range: \$68,170-\$79,614. Generous benefits package. For more information call 479-524-5136 or email humanresources@siloamsprings.com. Open until filled. EOE.

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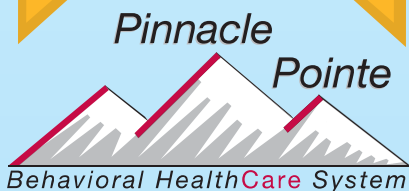
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