

City & Town

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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE





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 Edamame, the delicious and healthy soybean snack, is winning fans in Mulberry, which is now home to the only plant in the nation dedicated solely to the production of the sweet beans.

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 The Argenta Arts District in downtown North Little Rock in March displayed nearly 120 images depicting the life and times of President John F. Kennedy, many of which had never or had rarely been seen before.



ON THE COVER—Each year the NLC Congressional City Conference in Washington, D.C. is a great opportunity for municipal leaders from across the country to share ideas with each other and concerns with our nation's leaders. This year's conference featured a host of prominent speakers including Vice President Joe Biden, Sen. John McCain and many more. Read coverage of the conference inside starting on page six. Read also inside about Mulberry's edamame connection, Jacksonville's therapeutic swimming program, and more.—atm

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Dear Friends:

Talk about a busy time of the year! I know you can relate to this feeling. I have a hard time believing we are halfway through the month of April.

This issue of *City & Town* is full of all good things municipal. Be sure to read about the National League of Cities' meeting coverage. All who had the privilege of attending returned to Arkansas with knowledge on how to make our cities better. Be sure to check out Mayor Stewart Nelson's coverage of an NLC speaker on page 11. Kudos are in order for cities recognized for receiving block grant funding through the Department of Rural Services. Several municipalities also received Henry Awards through Arkansas Parks and Tourism. Congratulations to all on these accomplishments.

Be sure to check out North Little Rock's purchase and repurposing of a defunct post office, as well as municipalities celebrating their centennials. And in this issue we tout our neighbor, Mulberry, for housing a one-of-a-kind plant in the United States. Mulberry is the only city in the nation with a plant solely dedicated to the production of edamame.

The 89th General Assembly should conclude this month. Many thanks to all of you for being so responsive in contacting your legislators. Just remember, the session isn't over yet. Please stand ready to continue contacting them should the need arise. As always, we can access bills of municipal interest via www.arml.org on the "Legislative Action Center" page.

The League will host a continuing education seminar entitled "Planning and Land Use Issues" this month. Registration for both days is near capacity as this issue goes to print. As always, it's nice to know that so many of you are committed to maintaining your certification status. Doing so equips us to better serve our citizens.

And lastly, the upcoming 79th Convention will be an event you do not want to miss. Registration and hotel reservations are being accepted now. To qualify for the early bird rate, you must register by June 7. Also, don't forget to submit names of elected officials celebrating their 25th year of service to the League. As we all know, that is a milestone that should be celebrated.

I hope to see all of you in June.



Chris Claybaker
Mayor, Camden
President, Arkansas Municipal League



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NLC conference takes cities' concerns to D.C.

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

Collecting tax on Internet sales, comprehensive immigration reform, and protecting municipal bonds led the agenda at the National League of Cities Congressional City Conference, held March 9-13 in Washington, D.C. The Conference also provided municipal leaders from across the nation the opportunity to hear from members of the President's administration, members of Congress, and other policy makers on issues important to cities and towns.

Conferees were treated to a slate of high-profile speakers this year, including late program addition Vice President Joe Biden, Sen. John McCain, Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan, Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Martin Dempsey.



Rogers

This year's NLC President Marie Lopez Rogers, mayor of Avondale, Ariz., welcomed delegates to the Conference and touted the role the organization plays in bringing local leaders together to help build better communities and strengthen families and neighborhoods. She stressed the importance of using the D.C. visit to share municipal concerns with our Congressional delegation.

"Then, we will head to Capitol Hill to stand up for our cities by advocating on the issues that matter to us," Rogers said. "We will remind each of our Senators and Representatives that our hometown is also their hometown and that we need them as full partners.

"Right now, Washington is considering a number of issues that will greatly impact the work we do in our cities and towns," she said, "which is why we need to be

at the table. Because if we're not at the table, we're going to be part of the meal."

The proposal to change the way tax-exempt bonds are accounted for is seen by Washington as a cost-saving measure, but in reality it will be a backdoor tax hike on residents, Rogers said. Cities forced to pay more to borrow money for capital improvement projects will instead put off much needed improvements, she warned.

"Cities are not a tax loophole," Rogers said. "Your Senators and Representatives need to know how you feel about this. Tell them to say no to placing an interest rate reduction cap on municipal bonds. It is only with the full functioning bond market that we are able to do what we do."

Making sure our local business can compete with online retail is another priority for cities. The Marketplace Fairness Act will level the playing field by collecting and remitting sales tax for online transactions, just like brick and mortar businesses are required to do.

"This bill will mean \$26 billion in revenue for cities and towns across the country," Rogers said. "Just think of all that we could do in our communities with that additional revenue."

The legislation has bipartisan support, although there are some holdouts, she said.

Comprehensive immigration reform is a much-discussed issue in Washington, but no legislation has emerged to deal with it, she said. Delaying reforms to help the millions of immigrants seeking to contribute to our country's success comes at "a huge cost," she said.

"With members of both parties finally accepting the political realities of the situation, it is time for reform. We must take advantage of it."

Vice President Biden, speaking at the March 12 delegate's luncheon, acknowledged the difficult work municipal officials do.

"You guys have real jobs," he said. "People know where you live. You've got to deliver."

Biden asked city leaders to participate in the effort to increase gun safety in the country in the wake of several recent mass shootings. He acknowledged that for many, approaching the issue of guns is politically treacherous, like touching "the third rail," but he argued the time is now to take action and referenced the recent mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Conn.

"Folks, I think we'll pay an immense political price if we don't become the voices for those 20 beautiful children who died at Sandy Hook 75 days ago."



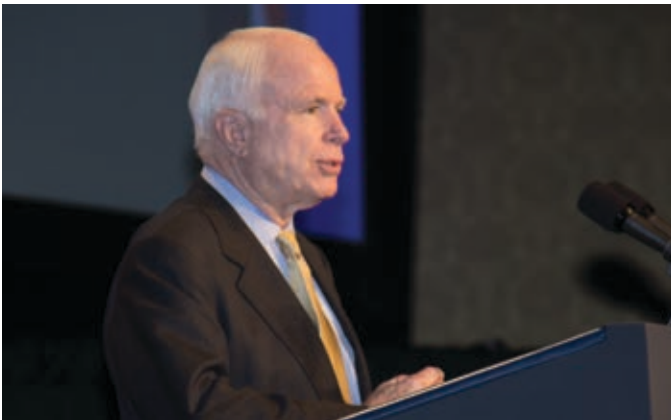
Biden

The Vice President promoted smarter regulation, background checks, and improved care for our nation's mentally ill, and, he argued, it can all be accomplished without violating the 2nd Amendment rights of law-abiding gun owners.

Parents of the Sandy Hook victims have shown incredible courage in speaking about the tragedy, Biden said.

"It's not too much to ask for our political establishment in this country to show the same kind of courage."

Sen. McCain said that the time is right for immigration reform in this country. He's seen a change in the attitude on the issue in recent years, he said.



McCain

"I think to a large degree Americans believe that if a person who's come to this country illegally pays their back taxes, learns English, does all the things necessary to rectify the illegal act of coming to this country, then, like all of us who have sinned or have broken the law, we should put that behind us," McCain said.

Our immigration system is broken, he said, and we've for too long allowed illegal immigrants to work in our communities without offering them a path to citizenship.

"It's not beneficial for our country to have these people hidden in the shadows," he said. "Let's create a system to bring them forward, allow them to settle their debt to society, and fulfill the necessary requirements to become law-abiding citizens of the country. This is

consistent with our country being a nation of laws and a nation of immigrants."

Secretary Vilsack thanked the NLC for working with the USDA in their efforts to fight hunger and obesity in the country. Despite budget setbacks, the agency is "still open for business when it comes to nutrition," he said.



Vilsack

Nutrition and fitness are not just health issues, he said, but are also national security issues. The pool of young people fit for military service is shrinking.

"Today only 25 percent of youngsters ages 17 to 24 are physically fit and overall fit for military service, and the result of that is our capacity to draw out an all-voluntary military could be potentially compromised," Vilsack said.

He encouraged local leaders to continue working with the USDA on programs like school breakfast, summer food programs, fitness programs and more.

Local leaders understand the consequences of poor health, HHS Secretary Sebelius told NLC members.



Sebelius

"You also understand the benefits of improving health," she said. "You are also often purchasing health-care for your employees, so we want to work with you on achieving that goal."

The agency is working with local governments on programs like *Let's Move!* to improve health, and more than 700 cities and towns have already shown progress, she said. The agency is working to implement

the Affordable Care Act, and millions of Americans are already seeing lower healthcare costs and better access to coverage, she said. A key component of the law takes effect in January 2014 with the expansion of coverage for millions more of Americans through health insurance marketplaces in every state and by giving every state the opportunity to expand their Medicaid programs.

“What we’re seeing is governors from around the country—Republicans and Democrats—doing their return-on-investment analysis, talking to their health-care providers and stakeholders, and stepping up to say this is a good deal,” Sebelius said. “If states choose to not expand their Medicaid program, a lot of people fall through the cracks.”

The economy is showing signs of moving in the right direction again, HUD Secretary Donovan said, even in our hardest hit cities. Partnering together is even more important as we work our way back, he said.



Donovan

“We have to reverse the sequestration,” he said. “We have to figure out how to put these crazy cuts behind us. We understand already, even without sequestration, that some of the biggest challenges we face are fiscal. We’re all having to figure out how to do more with less.”

Donovan urged municipal leaders to continue to fight with him for the HOME block grant program, the largest federal block grant program to states and local governments dedicated to creating affordable housing for low-income families. The program has been cut in half since 2010, he said.

“Unfortunately, HOME remains an easy target for those who fail to understand how vital this funding is to the production of affordable housing, to construction jobs, and all the other impacts it has,” Donovan said.

HOME is essential to keeping the recovery going, he said.

Gen. Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the sequestration has the potential to affect our military readiness.

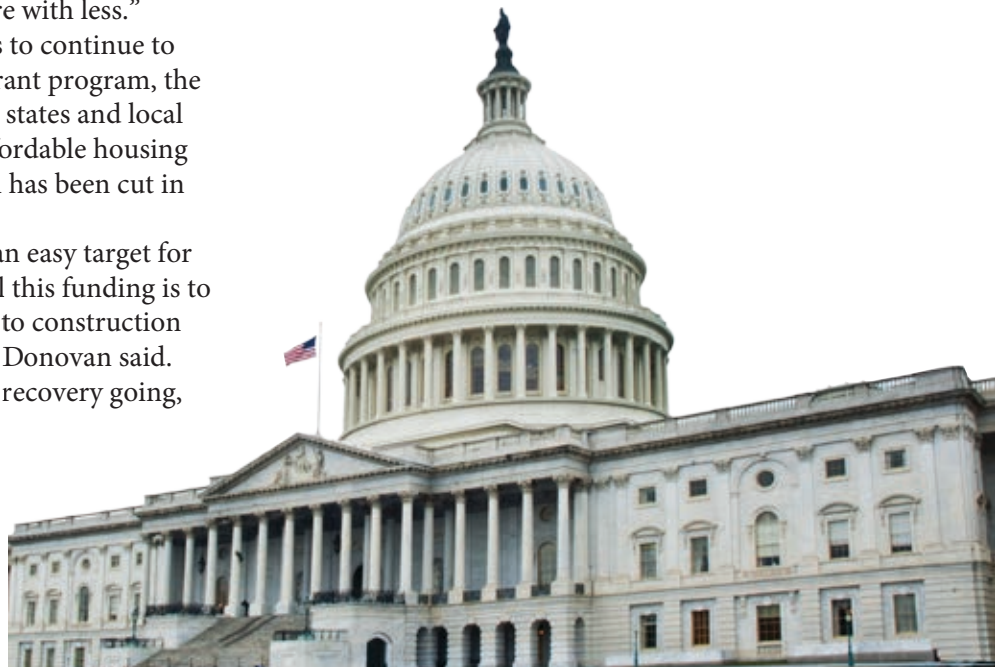


Dempsey

“We have to consider that to be imperative,” he said. “As we go forward to figure out these budget challenges, we can’t ever forget that if we’re going to ask some young man or woman from your community, from my military, to go out and do that kind of work, we have to support them. It’s just not an option.”

Dempsey encouraged local leaders to continue to welcome those who’ve served back into the community and to help those who need help.

“I want you to see them as the incredible resources they are,” he said.



Arkansas Congressional delegation talks Internet fairness

Sen. Mark Pryor supports the Marketplace Fairness Act, he said at a March 13 lunch meeting with Arkansas municipal leaders in the Russell Senate Building, and is positive despite some roadblocks in both the Senate and House that it has the support to pass, but he doesn't know how quickly.

"I just hope we get it done this year," he said. "It's long overdue."

When it comes to doing a better job of working across the aisle to move things forward, Pryor said he's seen some encouraging signs in the Senate. Filibusters over appointments and other issues have stalled things a bit, he said.

"That's not a good way to start the new year, but hopefully some of that's behind us now."

Sen. Boozeman also supports the legislation and said it's getting a lot of attention in Washington.

"The good news is there's lots of talk about it," he said, "and you all have done a really good job in the state of Arkansas fighting for it out there, and that's helpful up here. It makes it



Members of Arkansas's delegation stop for a photo in front of the Russell Senate Building on the morning of March 13 before meeting with our members of Congress.



Pryor



Boozeman

easier, and many other states have done the same thing. So I think we've got good momentum."

Rep. Tom Cotton to this point has been the only member of Arkansas's Congressional delegation to not

pledge support for the legislation, and Malvern Mayor Steve Northcutt asked him to give his take on the issue. Businesses in the city who sell online don't contribute

taxes on those sales, Northcutt said, but they still receive city services funded by sales and use taxes.

"If they're robbed," he said, "they still want our police department to respond. If they catch fire they want our fire department, and we don't have the revenue."

Cotton said he understood that concern since local sales tax revenue funds local services like police and fire, but he wants more time to study the bill.

"On the practical side, though, the legislation has an exemption for small businesses and we're worried the revenue

cap exemption is a bit too low," Cotton said. "I also need more time to study the practical nature of collection of sales taxes and that's kind of a complicated matter of law and practical administration."

League Executive Director Don Zimmerman asked our delegation to support legislation that was filed the previous night by Rep. Ralph Hall of Texas, HR1076, that protects the Texas and Arkansas municipal health pools (our Municipal Health Benefit Fund), whereby they can participate in the new health insurance exchanges on a level playing field.

"The pools are much cheaper and save federal and local money and they save employees money," Zimmerman said. "It's a winner all the way around."



Cotton

Batesville mayor touts health efforts in conference workshop



Elumbaugh

The Congressional Cities Conference offered municipal leaders the opportunity to attend numerous workshops covering a variety of issues important to

cities including housing, infrastructure, disaster preparation, and transportation. Batesville Mayor Rick Elumbaugh had the opportunity to share some of his city's successes during the workshop Building Healthy Communities.

"We feel like, in the city of Batesville, that if we're going to be an economically vibrant community we must also have a healthy community," Elumbaugh said.

To get started, the city first reached for what he called low-hanging fruit. One of the first projects was restriping some of the city's existing streets that were wide enough to create bicycle lanes. They've established a farmer's market and a community garden to increase the amount of fresh fruits and vegetables available, and city vending machines include healthy snack options. They've also made progress on the city's system of walking and bicycling trails, and all new developments are required to include sidewalks. Last year at this time, Elumbaugh said, voters in the city approved a sales tax to build Batesville's first ever community center, which will also include an aquatic center.

The Sky's the Limit

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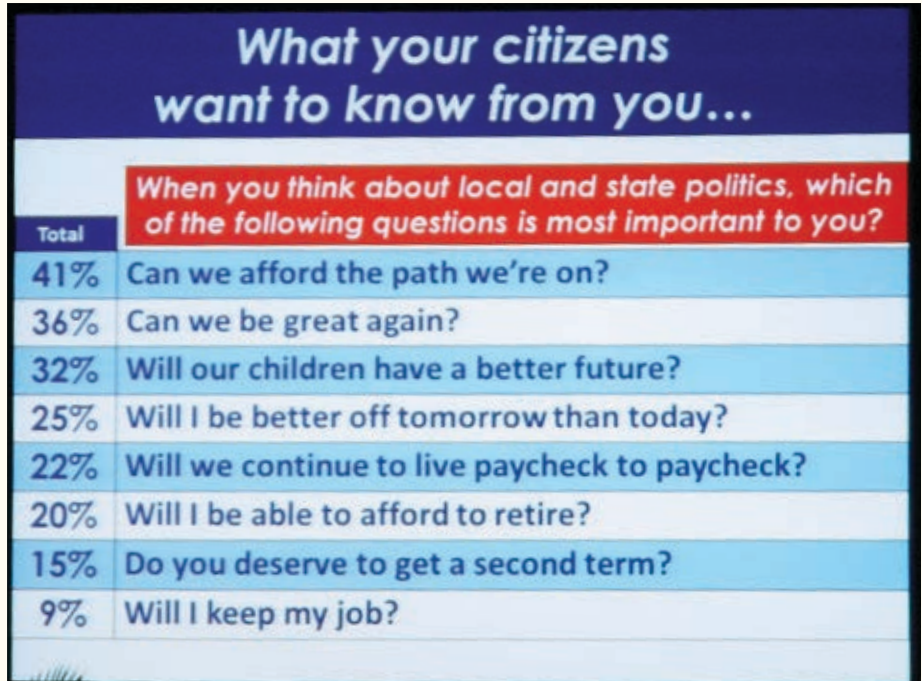
By Stewart Nelson

Attending NLC meetings, it's a fact that some sessions are better than others, and this year there was a presentation from Frank Luntz, a bipartisan political pollster, that was outstanding. He identified what it was that the public wants of its leaders, and what they want to hear. He encouraged us to consider the words and phrases we use to describe the budget process and other local government business and how, based on polling data, our constituents perceive them. His words speak for themselves. My first response was of course I believe this, but do I say the words and mean it?

Luntz offered phrases such as:

- "Believe in Better"
- "Genuine Accountability"
- "Efficient, Effective"
- "Disciplined"/"Focused"
- "Fight for me"
- "No Fine Print"
- "Common Sense"
- "No excuses"
- "No surprises"
- "You deserve..."
- "Put the taxpayer in control"
- "Let's get to work"
- "Let's get the job done"

These words and phrases represent what our citizens want to hear from us.



Pollster Frank Luntz, speaking at the conference's opening general session, presented slides depicting what polls show are issues important to our constituents and the words they like to hear.

A statement about America's future that women find most persuasive? "We need to deliver a more efficient, effective government that spends less, serves better and is genuinely accountable to American taxpayers."

Statements that are most important for citizens when they are deciding for whom to vote for mayor? Phrases and words such as "says what he means and means what he says," "accountability," "respectful of the people he represents," and "a fighter for hard working tax payers" weigh heavily with citizens.

According to Luntz, for cities to be at their best, terms such as "continuous improvement," "always seeking a better approach to the challenges and life goals of the people we serve," and "total commitment and no excuses" must be prevalent in leaders' communication.

If you would like to read more of Luntz's thoughts, I recommend his book *Words That Work: It's Not What You Say, It's What People Hear*.

Stewart Nelson is mayor of Morrilton.



Luntz

Jacksonville therapeutic swimming program a splashing success

By Diane Novotny

The Jacksonville Parks and Recreation takes the phrase “swimming lessons for everyone” to heart.

People with disabilities can lead an isolated life due to their lack of movement, the cycle of pain, or the bombardment of lights and sounds. All of this can frighten the person to try normal activities. In the pool the playing field is neutralized because of the properties of the water.

The Jacksonville Parks and Recreation Department recommends that individuals with disabilities enroll in its swimming lesson program. Lessons can be taught privately or in a group setting depending on the needs of the individual. Over the last year, three swim instructors have branched out to include private lessons for individuals with special needs.

Lessons range from 30 to 40 minutes and the duration can last as long as necessary.

Most swim lessons are designed for the average person and not for the special needs person. The Jacksonville’s aquatic program focuses on the needs of each individual. If a child has autism, an instructor may choose to work with the child in a private lesson, while a child with Asperger’s Syndrome may do well in a small group. Using the properties of the water, the person is taught water safety, movement through the water, breath control, and, in most incidents, arm and leg movement. Each person benefits differently, but all benefit.

Children with autism have significant sensory difficulties and distract very easily. They tend to underreact or overreact to stimuli and have strong reactions to some textures. The hydrostatic pressure of the water supports the person in a safe environment that calms and soothes the sensory input they crave. Aquatic activities are fun, enjoyable, and provide physical, psychosocial, cognitive, and recreational benefits. Warm water also relaxes the



Therapeutic swimming sessions have proven very effective for children with special needs in Jacksonville.

muscles. Instructors focus on functional movements and play and interact with the participant to get the person to respond in a positive way.

Whether taught privately or in a group, the swimming lessons allow the department to offer activities for everyone. People who come from neighboring communities are exposed to all the programs offered through Jacksonville Parks and Recreation. Private lessons are beneficial to the Department as well, since they are offered when the pool is not crowded and thus there is no need for additional staff. Private lessons are usually taught by contracted staff, so the Department receives a percentage of what is charged.

The benefits from swimming lessons are numerous. Seeing a closed-off child squeal with excitement is most rewarding.

Diane Novotny is Aquatics Manager, Jacksonville Parks and Recreation.



It's Convention time again.

June 19-21—Hot Springs, Ark.

See next page for more information.

Register online at www.arml.org.

Exhibitors, contact the League immediately to reserve space for your display.

Contact Whitnee Bullerwell
at 501-978-6105.

Cost for the exhibit space is \$500.



79th CONVENTION

Hot Springs Convention Center

June 19-21, 2013

REGISTRATION

Registration and payment must be received in League office by Friday, June 7, 2013, to qualify for advance registration.

Advance registration for municipal officials	\$150
Registration fee after June 7, 2013 , 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 the **2013 General Acts Affecting Arkansas Municipalities**.
- No daily registration is available.
- Registration must come through the League office. No telephone registrations will be accepted.
- **No refunds after June 7, 2013.**
- Cancellation letters must be postmarked by **June 7, 2013**.

HOTEL RESERVATION

Hotel Room Rates

SOLD OUT			
EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL (headquarters hotel)			
Single	\$140	Double	\$150
		Check-in 3 p.m.	
SOLD OUT			
AUSTIN HOTEL			
Single/Double	\$87	Check-in 3 p.m.	
ARLINGTON HOTEL			
Single	\$91	Double	\$101
		Check-in 3 p.m.	

- Cut-off date for hotel reservations is **June 7, 2013**.
- Rooms in Hot Springs are subject to a 13 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

2

Complete the steps and **mail with payment to:**
ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
Attn: 79th Convention
P.O. Box 38
North Little Rock, AR 72115-0038

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

OR

Step 1: Delegate Information

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)

<input type="checkbox"/> Advance Registration	<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Registration	<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest	<input type="checkbox"/> Child	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Registrants	Total
\$150	\$175	\$75	\$75	\$200	\$

• **HOW ARE YOU PAYING?**

Check Mail payment and form to:
Arkansas Municipal League
79th Convention
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:

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:

Arlington Hotel	Reservations _____	800-643-1502 or 501-609-2533
Austin Hotel	Reservations _____	877-623-6697
Embassy Suites Hotel	Reservations _____	501-321-4430 Andrea Medina, Lead Reservationist

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:

Arlington Hotel	Accounting _____	800-643-1502 or 501-609-2533
Austin Hotel	Accounting _____	800-844-7275
Embassy Suites Hotel	Accounting _____	501-321-4413 Melody Fruen

TENTATIVE PROGRAM IN BRIEF

WEDNESDAY JUNE 19	2:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M. 5:30 P.M. 7:00 P.M.	REGISTRATION AND EXHIBIT HALL OPEN RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE MEETING OPENING NIGHT BANQUET
THURSDAY JUNE 20	7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. 7:30 a.m.-8:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m. 1:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.	REGISTRATION OPEN EXHIBITS OPEN HOST CITY BREAKFAST GENERAL SESSIONS LUNCHEON CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS EVENING OPEN—ENTERTAINMENT OPTIONS
FRIDAY JUNE 21	7:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. 7:30 a.m.-8:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Noon -1:30 p.m.	REGISTRATION OPEN BREAKFAST OFFICIALS' EXCHANGE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETINGS AWARDS AND NEW OFFICERS' LUNCHEON

RESOLUTIONS

Suggested Convention Resolutions for consideration at the 79th Annual Convention should be mailed to:
 79th Convention Resolutions
 Arkansas Municipal League
 P.O. Box 38
 North Little Rock, AR 72115-0038

The deadline for Resolution submission is May 16.

Resolutions may be drafted by an official of any member city or town and can relate to any matter of municipal concern. See your **2012-2013 Policies and Goals** for resolutions adopted at the 78th Convention.

WANTED: Elected City officials with 25 years of service

Were you elected in 1988? The League would like to know!

The League will give special recognition to elected city and town officials who are in their 25th year of municipal service at the 79th League Convention, June 19-21, in Hot Springs.

Names must be submitted to the League by May 20.

Call Ken Wasson at 501-374-3484, ext. 211; Sheila Boyd, ext. 218; or write to P.O. Box 38, North Little Rock, AR 72115-0038.

NOTICE TO EXHIBITORS

At the 79th Convention, a special Exhibit Hall is available for businesses, companies and manufacturers to display their products and services that are available to Arkansas municipalities.

To guarantee your firm's exhibit area, contact the League immediately to reserve space for your display. Your name will be added to the list of exhibitors, and we will reserve a space for your exhibit when you arrive.

The cost this year for exhibit space is \$500. We cannot guarantee space for companies that do not register before June 7.

Call Whitnee Bullerwell at 501-978-6105, or write to Arkansas Municipal League, P.O. Box 38, North Little Rock, AR 72115-0038.

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- » Staffed with nearly 15,000 employees, the parent company, NextEra Energy, Inc. is capable of providing customized ISO market services and power supply products, including fixed price full requirements for multiple years
- » Ranked by Platts as a top five power marketer in the nation
- » Maintains a 24-hour desk to respond to around-the-clock issues

Let NextEra Energy Resources Handle Your Market Participant Registration Process

- » Obtain Dun & Bradstreet Number
- » Register with the Transmission System Information Network
- » Obtain a client-side digital certificate from a trusted Certificate Authority
- » Request access to the online registration tool
- » Complete online registration application by June 1st deadline
- » Submit all required legal documents
- » Meet all credit requirements
- » Validate participant and asset modeling information

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- » MISO Market Participant – interface with MISO to receive and reconcile detailed settlement statements vs. meter data, pay MISO invoices, and assist with dispute resolution
- » Additional Services – act as agent and point of contact for generator assets; schedule voltage, capacity, and other required testing; fuel management; ARR/FTR analysis

For more information about NextEra Energy Resources, please visit www.NextEraEnergyResources.com or call:

Dustin Collins
 713-374-1574
Dustin.Collins@NEE.com

Dan Saavedra
 561-304-5848
Dan.Saavedra@NEE.com

Soybean snack maker finds home in Mulberry

By Sherman Banks

Edamame, the in-the-pod soybean snack you might commonly order as an appetizer at a Japanese restaurant, is becoming a hit in Mulberry with the opening of the only plant in the United States dedicated solely to the production of the sweet flavored bean. American Vegetable Soybean & Edamame, Inc., opened in the summer of 2012 in the Crawford County city of 1,655.

“Mulberry has found its place in history through the health food industry,” Mayor Gary Baxter said.

The city was a perfect fit for the new industry, said Raymond Chung, VP and CFO of the company, with its location off of Interstate 40 and its history as a farming and ranching community. Its close proximity to farmers in the Arkansas River Valley reduces the time it takes to transport the crop to the facility for processing. He has also been impressed with the coordination between business and government in the area.

“What is so unique about the state of Arkansas is that everything works so well, from state agencies, the University of Arkansas, to the local community of Mulberry,” Chung said. “Everyone has been very welcoming and understanding of what it takes to help a small business like AVSE to succeed.”

Mulberry is a health-conscious city, Baxter said, and the plant is a great addition to the community. Edamame has become a regular feature on his dinner table.

“My wife and I have edamame at meals and as a snack,” he said.

Edamame is planted in May the same as soybeans, but it is harvested while it is still young, green and tender. Within 24 hours after harvesting the product is washed twice, blanched and frozen to maintain its sweet flavor. The plant has provided 40 to 50 full-time jobs in the city, plus seasonal workers during planting and harvesting seasons.



Mulberry Mayor Gary Baxter, left, and plant VP Raymond Chung display some of the edamame varieties available from American Vegetable Soybean & Edamame.

“Our beans are non-genetically modified, from non-GMO seeds,” Chung said. “Edamame is an easy product to prepare at home and can be purchased in Sam’s Club in the freezer section under the Imperial Gourmet brand.”

Chung expects to sell his product in California and other major natural and organic markets throughout the nation soon.



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

Fairs & Festivals

April 13, **ENGLAND**, 10th England Celebration, 501-231-5919, kingjohnnie40@yahoo.com

April 18-21, **LITTLE ROCK and NORTH LITTLE ROCK**, Arkansas Literary Festival, 501-918-3098, www.arkansasliteraryfestival.org

April 19-20, **ALMA**, 26th Alma Spinach Festival, 479-632-4127, www.almaspinachfestival.com;
STAR CITY, 10th StarDaze Festival, 870-628-6400, www.stardazefestival.com

April 19-21, **MOUNTAIN VIEW**, 51st Arkansas Folk Festival, 870-269-8068, mvchamber@mvtel.net

April 22-27, **FORDYCE**, 33rd Fordyce on the Cotton Belt Festival, 870-352-3520, fordyce@ipa.net

April 25-26, **MCNAB**, 12th Twin Rivers Festival, 870-896-2281, conway@swat.coop

April 26-27, **GLENWOOD**, 3rd Caddo River Fest, 870-356-5266

April 26-28, **HEBER SPRINGS**, Springfest, 501-362-2444, www.heber-springs.com;
SILOAM SPRINGS, 39th Dogwood Festival, 479-524-6466, www.siloamchamber.com

April 27, **CABOT**, 11th Strawberry Festival, 501-628-4044

May 3-4, **COTTER**, 12th Greater Cotter Trout Festival, 870-321-1243, www.cotterarkansas.com

May 4, **MELBOURNE**, 62nd Pioneer Day, 870-368-4215

May 10-11, **ASHDOWN**, 17th Whistlestop Festival, 870-898-2642;
BLYTHEVILLE, Mayfest, 870-763-2525, www.mainstreetblytheville.com

May 11, **HORSESHOE BEND**, Dogwood Days, 870-670-5433, www.horseshoebendarcc.com



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The Arkansas Municipal League.

Send **Directory** to:

Name _____

Title _____

Mailing Address:

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Clip and mail to: **Arkansas Municipal League**

2013 Directory

P.O. Box 38

North Little Rock, AR 72115-0038

Arkansas Poison Hotline offers help to every county

By Howell Foster

A mother discovered her toddler was eating a laundry detergent pod. Alarmed at the possible threat to her child's health, she remembered putting the number for the Arkansas Poison Hotline into the contacts list in her cell phone when she saw it on a flyer weeks before.

She touched the entry and dialed the hotline number: 1-800-222-1222. A University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) College of Pharmacy-trained professional immediately answered and was able to calm her down, find out the status of the child, ask her some questions and then recommend a course of action.

That's just one example of the kind of calls the hotline receives from across Arkansas.

The missions

A large part of the Arkansas Poison and Drug Information Center's mission is its statewide outreach. In 2009, it distributed more than 180,000 pieces of educational material to Arkansans. The center provides two distinct services, and calls to the general hotline are directed appropriately.

The Poison Center side operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week and deals with emergency questions from the public about poison or drug exposures. The Drug Information side takes calls mainly from pharmacists and health care facilities inquiring about drug interactions, compatibility, formulation, dosage, and so on.

The Drug Information Center can swiftly browse UAMS' medical library, including a system that allows the search of more than 5,000 top-rated journals and disease state databases. It operates 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday. After-hours calls are answered by the Poison Center and because of their often non-emergency nature, may be answered the following day.

The threats

Instances of small children consuming laundry detergent pods seem to be increasing, based on the number of calls about them coming into poison control centers. The children appear to get sicker from eating the pods than they did in the past from consuming powder detergent.

Manufacturers are cooperating with public health officials in devising childproof packaging. The Center is urging parents of toddlers to be sure to keep the pods, along with other cleaning products, in a secure place their children can't easily reach.

Problems with teens and adults purposefully ingesting so-called bath salts and synthetic marijuana as recreational drugs also are a recent problem. The Center recently took a lead role in working with state lawmakers to outlaw the substances.

The trends

When people have questions about drug information or exposure to non-toxic or mildly toxic chemicals, they sometimes turn to the Internet for answers. No one is regulating or overseeing the quality of that information and some of it can be misleading.

If you have any doubt about your safety or the safety and health of someone you know from exposure to a chemical and potential toxin, you shouldn't hesitate to call the Arkansas Poison and Drug Information Center. The center has seen an eight to nine percent increase in the number of calls seeking information or help in dealing with serious cases of exposure to toxins or possible toxins. In 2012, the center received a total 32,091 calls, and of those, 22,400 were for poisoning cases and the rest were non-emergency calls. A total 14,477 calls in 2012 originated from private residences and 12,424 were managed from home.

It is reassuring for thousands of Arkansans each year to hear a calm voice in a moment of great anxiety provide the crucial expertise and advice needed to cope with the possible danger of poisoning or drug exposure. For more information, visit through a link on the UAMS College of Pharmacy website at www.uams.edu/cop. The hotline number is 1-800-222-1222.

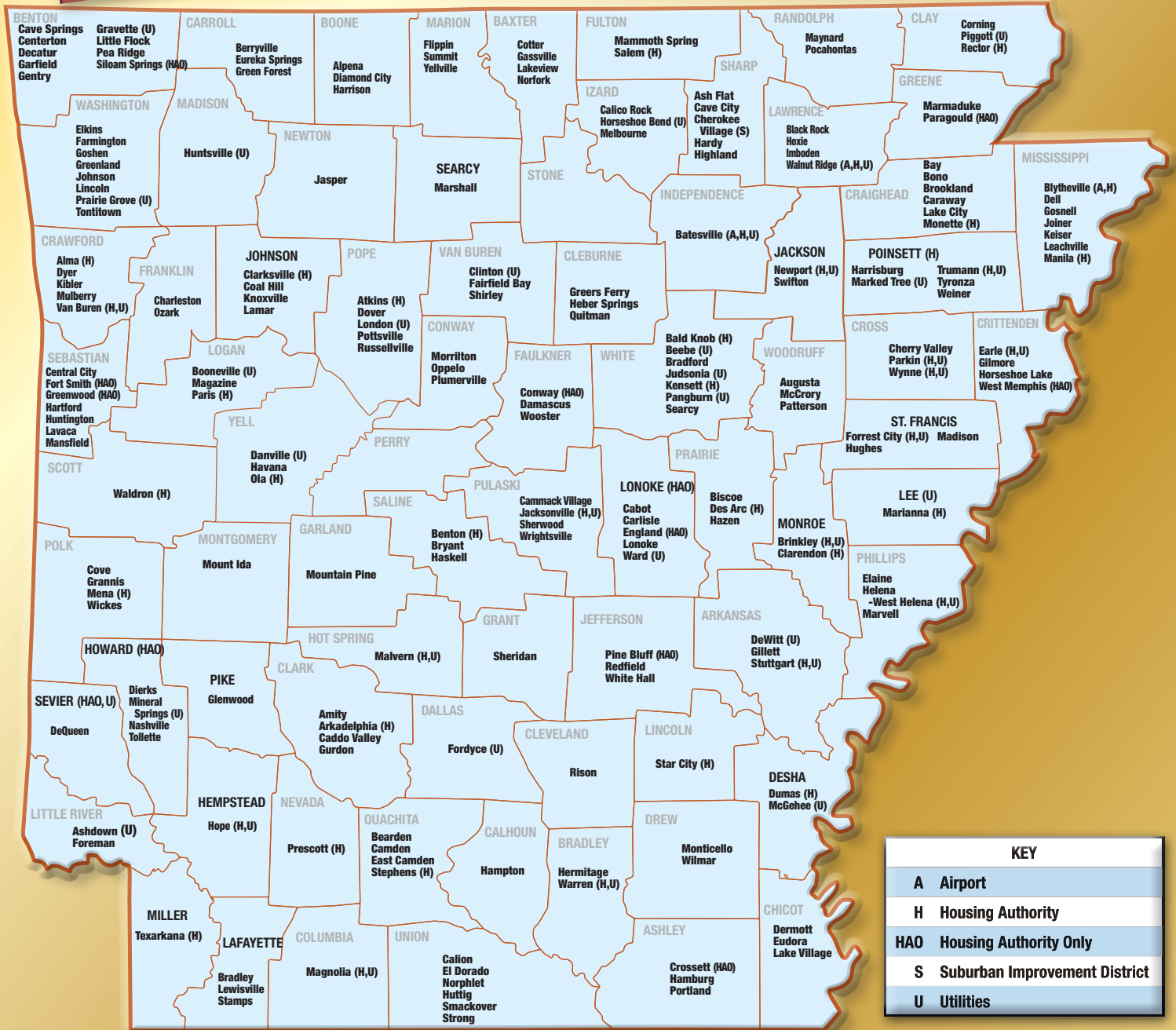


Howell Foster is Arkansas Poison and Drug Information Center director, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.



The Municipal Health Benefit Fund offers quality health care coverage to municipal entities across Arkansas. We are 369 members strong!

For further information, call (501) 978-6137.



Other Municipal Entities Covered by MHBF

Argenta Community Development Corp. North Little Rock
 Barton-Lexa Water..... Phillips County
 Central Arkansas Planning & Development District..... Lonoke
 Eighth Judicial Drug Task Force DeQueen
 Fifth Judicial District Prosecuting Attorney Russellville
 Fifth Judicial District Russellville
 Grand Prairie/Bayou Two Water.....Lonoke and Prairie Counties
 Holiday Island Suburban Improvement DistrictCarroll County
 Ladd Water Users Association Pine Bluff
 Lakeview Midway Public Water Lakeview

Lee County Water Association Marianna
 Local Police & Fire Retirement System..... Little Rock
 Mena Regional Health System Mena
 Montgomery County Nursing Home Mount Ida
 NE AR Region Solid Waste Management District..... Paragould
 North Little Rock - Library..... North Little Rock
 North Little Rock - Sewer/Waste Water..... North Little Rock
 Northeast Public Water..... Mountain Home
 Northwest AR Conservation AuthorityRogers
 Northwest AR Economic Development District Harrison

Ozark Mountain Regional Public WaterDiamond City
 Ozark Regional TransitOzark
 SE AR Economic Development District..... Pine Bluff
 Sevier County Water Association DeQueen
 Thirteenth Judicial District Drug Task Force.....Camden
 Upper SW Regional Solid Waste Management District .. Nashville
 Western AR Planning & Development District.....Fort Smith
 White River Regional Housing.....Melbourne
 Yorktown Water Association Star City

Argenta displays archival JFK photographs

An archival collection of photographs depicting events from the life of President John F. Kennedy was displayed across the Argenta Arts District in downtown North Little Rock March 25-30. Eight businesses in the district displayed the nearly 120 images, many of which had never or rarely been seen. The exhibition was presented by Rogers Photo Archives and Argenta Images.



Starving Artist Cafe featured a collection of photographs of JFK's youth and his family.



The Joint Cafe exhibited photographs depicting the Space Race years.

New Argenta library coming to North Little Rock

North Little Rock's William F. Laman Public Library System officially began work on a \$2.8 million renovation project for its new Argenta branch location March 5. The new branch will be in the old Main Street Post Office Building in downtown North Little Rock, which was purchased in October 2012. When the new branch opens in early 2014 it will replace the existing Argenta branch a few doors down on Main Street.

The new branch will be 15,300 square feet, six times the size of the existing Argenta branch, and will feature meeting space, a 140-seat auditorium, research and reading rooms, exhibit space, a café and patio, a large children's department, and computer lab.

The U.S. Post Office closed the 82-year-old building in June 2012. It is on the National Register of Historic Places. To kick start the renovation and dedicate the building, library and city leaders used golden hammers to begin tearing down the first wall.



PHOTO BY RICHARD THEILIG

North Little Rock Mayor Joe Smith takes a swing at a wall with a ceremonial golden hammer to begin the transformation of the former Main Street Post Office into a new library.



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Resources abound for those who look

By Chad Gallagher

One of the things I often notice in grant-writing efforts and in community development in general is the under-utilization of available resources. I've been guilty of this myself. Too often available resources are untapped. Sometimes it's by accident, sometimes it's ignorance, and on occasion it's intentional, but it is never helpful. Accessing resources is a key factor to success in community development.

When working on a grant application or tackling any community development project, don't forget some key resources that can provide you help and guidance. Be sure to tap into these:

- **Other communities**—Don't reinvent the wheel. Many of your peers in municipal government in other cities and towns have faced similar challenges. Utilize the League's list-serve or call us for help in finding out who else around the state has faced what you are facing. Adopting their best practice or avoiding their costly mistake is a great result of a resource.
- **Other grant applications**—If imitation is the highest form of flattery then start flattering. When making application for funding with a government agency or the private sector, it pays to review the successful applications submitted by others. Pay attention to common themes in the applications. Note the applicant's style and any similarities. Let it become a role model for your request.
- **Local business community**—You might be surprised how resourceful your local business community can be. Anyone who can start, operate and survive in business in this challenging economy might be able to provide you some great assistance in your community development efforts. Local business leaders can offer great ideas, access to their business network and relationships, technical support on writing an application, and good solutions to your challenges.
- **Elected officials and staff**—Most elected officials have staff members who are skilled, knowledgeable and willing to help municipal leaders with any undertaking. In fairness, you cannot expect the staff to work miracles. They don't have buckets of money under the desk, but they can help you cut red tape, put you in touch with the right person, and give you good guidance. Arkansans are fortunate to have great staff members working for our elected officials across the aisle and at both the federal and state levels.
- **The Arkansas Municipal League**—Across the nation your League is hailed as one of the best among its counterparts in other states. The League has developed a variety of services designed to provide practical assistance to its members, including help with legal issues, planning and zoning, grant funding and community development, and much more. The League and its services are available to help you be successful as a municipal official. It starts with attending the Annual Convention and Winter Conference.
- **Funding agency staff**—Never underestimate how much assistance the staff at a funding agency can be to you while preparing an application. These agencies issue RFPs and fund programs and needs based on the mandate and purpose of their agency. They want every grant they fund to become a fantastic success story, and consequently they are eager to answer questions, offer guidance on your application, and may even review your application with feedback prior to submission. Don't miss this resource.
- **Hire assistance**—In many instances cities are fortunate to have a local volunteer or municipal employee skilled in writing grants and able to devote the necessary time and energy to doing so. For those needing some assistance along the way you can utilize help from our firm, Legacy Consulting, through your League membership. For some cities, it isn't a helping hand that's needed but a full effort. In these cases it makes more sense to hire a firm or individual to work regularly on implementing your long-term community and economic development goals. Having a staff member or firm focused on this will yield a greater return in the end.

When taking on your community's biggest challenges or applying for the next grant opportunity, don't forget to look around. Your resources aren't just articles and studies you reference in your application. They are all around you. For more ideas on accessing these resources email me or give me a call today.



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.

Having a hard time connecting?



You may now reach the Municipal Health Benefit Fund and the Workers' Compensation Trust directly, by phone or by fax, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mon.–Fri.

Municipal Health Benefit Fund

501-978-6137,
fax 501-537-7252

Municipal League Workers' Compensation Trust

501-978-6127,
fax 501-537-7253

Missed us?

You can download last month's issue or older issues of *City & Town* that you might have missed.

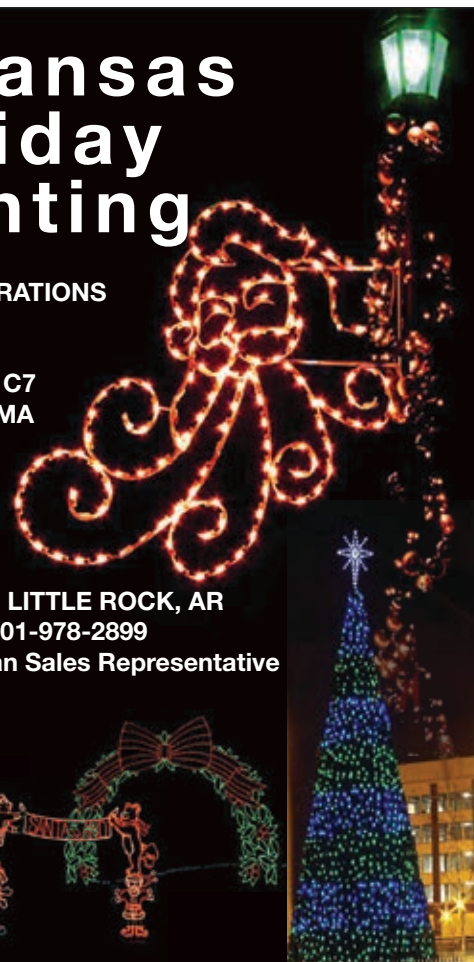
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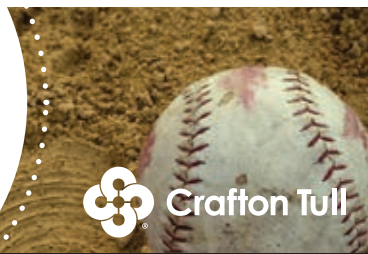
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NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2013

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

Trucking reps express concerns on FMCSA rule

A group of trucking industry representatives has decided to fight a proposed rule that would allow fleets to be shut down when there has been "egregious disregard" for safety. They believe this rule is too vague and burdensome.

According to the rule proposed by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCA) in November 2012, it would allow the agency to revoke a carrier's operating authority if someone with "controlling influence" over the trucking company's operation shows a pattern or practice of avoiding regulatory compliance or masking noncompliance while working for a carrier. These are, indeed, powerful words and very far-reaching in the trucking industry. The two immediate concerns expressed are (1) more clarity of the regulations is needed, and (2) how could a carrier reasonably comply with the rule and what would trigger a fleet being shut down.

According to FMCSA, "An employee, contractor or consultant" could be considered an officer under the rule. Questions on how this regulation would impact owner-operators were asked, but the answer given was not conclusive.

Although the intention of such a new rule is noteworthy and needed, the specifics are not clear enough for trucking officials to be comfortable with how the enforcement would be managed. They further recognize that FMCSA needs to exercise enforcement and has not objected to the need; however, they hope a more exact formula to define "patterns or practice" will be forthcoming.

It may be time for trucking employers to review their company's operating patterns, decisions makers, and contractors for compliance.

Waivers available to hearing impaired CDL applicants

The first 40 deaf or hard of hearing people to apply for commercial driver licenses have obtained waivers on the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's medical hearing requirements. This waiver is a huge step forward for any hearing impaired persons who desire to be truck drivers. The waivers are valid for two years and the applicants will be able to apply for extensions at the time of their next physical.

Ray LaHood retires

Ray LaHood, U.S. Transportation Secretary, has announced that he intends to retire, but not until a replacement is confirmed. Interestingly, LaHood has been the only Republican in the President's cabinet.

It has been said by many that LaHood has done a great job in focusing on driving issues, addressing topics related to driver safety, and preventing driver distractions. Opponents have criticized him for promoting biking and high-speed rail over freight issues.

The ban on cell phone use by drivers while traveling ruffled a lot of feathers when suggested; however, it has met with favor by other entities and many states are passing laws that prohibit anyone from talking on a cell phone while driving. LaHood was very insightful on this matter and through his actions, many accidents by distracted drivers will be prevented. Good job, Ray!



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



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Income and price parities for Arkansas

By Dr. Michael Pakko

It is widely recognized that changes in income and spending over time should be adjusted for changes in prices, i.e. inflation. Comparisons of income across countries are also routinely adjusted for differences in prices using exchange rates or other relative price measures. Less common is the adjustment of state and local data to account for differences in relative prices across regions within the United States. In recent years, researchers at the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) have been developing statistics on regional price differences that can be applied more generally to income and consumption data for states and metropolitan areas. This year, the BEA is scheduled to publish the first set of annual updates for personal income adjusted by regional price parities (RPPs).

The baseline estimates for these regional price parities were recently published in the Survey of Current Business (August 2012). Using data on rents from the American Community Survey (Census Bureau), price data from the Consumer Price Index (Bureau of Labor Statistics), and expenditure shares from the Personal Consumption Expenditure survey (BEA), the newly developed RPP statistics allow for the comparison of the cost of living among states and metro areas.

Normalizing the U.S. average to an index value of 100, the estimate of Arkansas's relative price level is calculated to be 89.3. That is, the overall level of prices in Arkansas is more than 10 percent lower than the national average. For the calculation period 2006-2010, the highest and lowest price parities in the nation were calculated for Hawaii (116.1) and South Dakota (87.2), respectively. At 89.3, Arkansas has the sixth lowest prices in the nation.

Table 1 displays the 2006-2010 price parities by major expenditure class (along with state rankings). In nearly every category, prices are lower in Arkansas than the national average. The only exception is recreational goods, which are five percent higher than average. In this category, Arkansas has the fourth highest prices in the nation. The category for which the most detailed local data exist is rents. In Arkansas, rents are nearly 30 percent below the national average, with the state ranking

Table 1:

Arkansas Price Parities by Expenditure Class		
<i>(Rank among 50 states plus D.C.)</i>		
	Goods	Services
Education	93.5(40)	87.0(47)
Food	95.6(41)	92.5(44)
Housing	95.2(37)	90.1(44)
Medical	94.8(33)	94.1(42)
Other	89.5(45)	95.1(40)
Recreation	105.0(4)	96.8(33)
Transportation	99.3(22)	95.7(30)
Rents	70.7(47)	NA
Apparel	92.6(34)	NA

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

as the fifth lowest among the 50 states and District of Columbia.

These are interesting findings in their own right, but are even more important in what they tell us about relative incomes and purchasing power. For example, it is widely known that Arkansas has one of the lowest levels of average income in the nation. But to the extent that prices are also lower than in other regions, the differences in price-adjusted standards of living are less extreme than the unadjusted dollar values suggest. Arkansas is one of the states where the purchasing power of income is increased the most by this adjustment. Specifically, price-adjusted per capita income for 2010 is 12.2 percent higher than unadjusted per capita income.

The average per capita income in all 50 states plus the District of Columbia was \$39,900 in 2010. By construction, this is also the price-parity-adjusted level of income for the U.S. Without price adjustment, Arkansas's per capita income was \$32,800—approximately 82.2 percent of the national average. After adjusting for the relatively low cost of living in Arkansas, however, the RPP-adjusted income in Arkansas was the equivalent of \$36,800—about 92.2 percent of the U.S. average.

Table 2:

Per Capita Personal Income and Regional Price Parities					
	Regional Price Parities, 2007-2010	Per Capita Personal Income, 2010			
		Unadjusted		Adjusted for RPP	
		Dollars	Percent of U.S.	Dollars	Percent of U.S.
ARKANSAS-STATEWIDE:	89.3	32,800	82.2	36,800	92.2
Nonmetropolitan Portion	85.2	29,100	72.9	34,300	86.0
Metropolitan Portion	91.5	35,200	88.2	38,700	97.0
METROPOLITAN AREAS:					
Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers	91.9	33,300	83.5	36,400	91.2
Fort Smith	88.3	31,700	79.4	36,100	90.5
Hot Springs	87.0	34,600	86.7	40,000	100.3
Jonesboro	82.8	31,300	78.4	38,000	95.2
Little Rock-N. Little Rock-Conway	93.8	38,500	96.5	41,300	103.5
Memphis	94.7	37,600	94.2	39,900	100.0
Pine Bluff	88.4	30,700	75.7	34,400	86.2
Texarkana	90.3	33,700	84.5	37,500	94.0

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

As shown in Table 2, the BEA data show differences in prices in different regions within the state, with implications for the relative purchasing power of local incomes. This table summarizes this comparison and presents data on RPP-adjusted incomes for the eight metropolitan areas that include parts of Arkansas. Prices in metropolitan areas of the state are higher than non-metropolitan, which tends to narrow differences in living standards implied by discrepancies in money income. Adjusted for RPP, per capita income is 97 percent of the national average in metropolitan areas, and 86 percent in non-metropolitan areas.

Among the state's metropolitan areas, the RPP indexes are all below the national average of 100, ranging from 82.8 in Jonesboro to 94.7 in the Memphis metro area. In unadjusted dollar terms, per capita income in Arkansas metro areas range from 75.7 percent of the national average in Pine Bluff to 96.5 percent in Little Rock. After adjusting for regional price parities, however, incomes in Pine Bluff rise to 86.2 percent of the national average and incomes in Little Rock are 3.5 percent higher

than the national average. In fact, after re-calculating incomes to account for their greater purchasing power, the RPP-adjusted measures of personal income are above the national average in three of the state's metro areas.

The research on RPPs is still considered to be experimental, with economists at the BEA and elsewhere working to improve the quality of regional price data and the methodology for compiling them into regional index values. The data will undoubtedly be refined and revised as research continues. But the overall implications of the findings are clear: After adjusting for a relatively low cost of living, incomes in Arkansas allow for a higher standard of living than in some of the higher-cost regions of the country.



Dr. Michael Pakko is the Chief Economist and State Economic Forecaster at the Institute for Economic Advancement. You can follow his analysis of the Arkansas economy on his website, www.arkansaseconomist.com.

Could treeless cities be in our future?

Just think what it would be like to live among unrelenting aspects of concrete, brick, and asphalt without the visual relief of trees. Hard to imagine, isn't it? Not only do we depend on our urban forests to improve the aesthetic value of our surroundings, we also rely on them to provide wildlife habitat, economic stimuli, outdoor recreation, and for cleaner, healthier living spaces.

While trees play a vital role in our health, we make life difficult for trees. Land clearing for both residential and commercial development continues at a rapid pace throughout the country. Acres and acres of forests are being stripped away in order to make room for new homes, shopping centers, and industrial parks. When we do allow trees to share our space, man-made stresses significantly shorten their life spans. Our urban trees age prematurely due to a number of factors including improper pruning and planting, poor species selection, wounds from machines and people, water availability, heat and wind exposure, and compacted and contaminated soils. According to American Forests, a nonprofit conservation organization, there are over 600 million planting spaces along U.S. city streets. At full capacity, a well-maintained urban forest will save a community millions of dollars in stormwater runoff expenses, remove millions of pounds of air pollutants, and reduce energy costs by millions of dollars. These are no small numbers!

In addition to saving money on energy, treed landscaping can also save your city on maintenance expenses. For example, just 20 acres of trees planted along Interstate 71 outside Cincinnati is projected to save about \$6,000 a year in mowing costs. The upshot is that we need trees for a variety of reasons. Here are some ways you can help protect your neighborhood trees:

1. Promote long-term tree care programs. While we can't do much about the harshness of the urban environment, we can develop proactive tree care programs that enhance tree longevity.
2. Make sure that the tree is right for the site. For example, avoid planting tree species with mature heights of over 25 feet under electric lines.
3. Implement policies to protect existing, mature trees from damage by construction activity. Encourage your community to implement a construction policy or Tree Preservation Ordinance for municipal trees.
4. Keep a street tree inventory so you can easily track trees that need to be replaced. This inventory can also be used to schedule pruning, removal, and other maintenance needs. An inventory is most helpful in letting you and community officials see the overall condition and composition of your

urban forest so that you can design effective management strategies.

5. Turn the unpopular task of tree removal into a positive by harvesting "waste" urban trees. Find sawyers in your area who can convert your waste trees into lumber that can be used to build park benches, playground equipment, and landscape timbers. This way, your parks and recreation department can use funds once designated for building materials to buy replacement trees instead.

Part of our legacy for future generations entails convincing our appointed officials that trees are more than a glamorous add-on to our municipal budget. Trees are a critical component of our urban infrastructure on par with transportation, water and drainage, utilities, and safety systems. Help to ensure that our children and their children will be rewarded with the benefits and beauty of our urban forests for years to come.

This article was provided by the Alliance for Community Trees, a national nonprofit supporting urban forestry. For additional information about what you can do to improve your community tree care program, visit www.treelink.org.

Conservation

Defenders of the short-sighted men who in their greed and selfishness will, if permitted, rob our country of half its charm by their reckless extermination of all useful and beautiful wild things sometimes seek to champion them by saying the 'the game belongs to the people.' So it does; and not merely to the people now alive, but to the unborn people. The 'greatest good for the greatest number' applies to the number within the womb of time, compared to which those now alive form but an insignificant fraction. Our duty to the whole, including the unborn generations, bids us restrain an unprincipled present-day minority from wasting the heritage of these unborn generations. The movement for the conservation of wild life and the larger movement for the conservation of all our natural resources are essentially democratic in spirit, purpose, and method.

—Theodore Roosevelt

ACCRTA seeks nominations for Clerk of the Year

The Municipal Clerk of the Year Award recognizes a member of the Arkansas City Clerks, Recorders, Treasurers Association (ACCRTA) who has made significant contributions to the objectives of the municipal clerks profession and to the improvement of municipal government in Arkansas and the clerks own community.

Qualities are length of service, good relationship with other clerks, interest in education, attendance at national and regional conferences, community service, advancing and supporting the municipal clerks association.

Any municipal official or ACCRTA member may nominate a candidate for Municipal Clerk of the Year for 2013. **The deadline for nominations is May 1, 2013.** The finalist will be honored at the 79th Annual Arkansas Municipal League Convention, June 19 - 21, 2013 in Hot Springs.

Requirements for nominees:

- Has been an active ACCRTA member for at least five years
- Holds a city clerk/recorder/treasurer or deputy position
- Is a Certified Municipal Clerk or Certified Arkansas Municipal Clerk
- Provides service to other municipal clerks in the state as the opportunity exists
- Exhibits leadership

Complete the nomination information below and send to:

City Clerk / Treasurer Sondra E. Smith
113 West Mountain
Fayetteville, AR 72701
ssmith@ci.fayetteville.ar.us
(479) 575-8323

Municipal Clerk of the Year 2013

Please Submit the Following Information

NOMINEE'S FULL NAME _____
ADDRESS, CITY, ZIP _____
BUSINESS PHONE _____

NAME OF THE CITY THE MUNICIPAL CLERK REPRESENTS _____

YEARS SERVED AS MUNICIPAL CLERK AND YEAR APPOINTED OR ELECTED _____

NUMBER OF YEARS AS ARKANSAS CITY CLERKS, RECORDERS, TREASURERS ASSOCIATION (ACCRTA) MEMBER _____

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE MUNICIPAL CLERK (IIMC) PARTICIPATION _____

CERTIFICATION RECEIVED:

IIMC CERTIFIED MUNICIPAL CLERK, IIMC MASTER MUNICIPAL CLERK OR CERTIFIED ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL CLERK

DATE OF CERTIFICATION _____

ACCRTA MEMBERSHIP DATE _____

ACCRTA OFFICES HELD _____

ACCRTA MEETINGS ATTENDED _____

ACCRTA, IIMC, OR ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE COMMITTEE SERVICE _____

EDUCATION PROGRAM PARTICIPATION (INSTRUCTOR, PANEL MEMBER, MODERATOR) _____

COMMUNITY SERVICE _____

LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES _____

OTHER ACTIVITIES _____

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL SUBMITTING NOMINATION _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

NOMINATOR: PLEASE BRIEFLY SUMMARIZE THE REASONS WHY YOU BELIEVE YOUR NOMINEE SHOULD BE SELECTED AS THE 2013 MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR. _____

El Dorado makes CNN best-of list

CNN has included El Dorado on its list of Best Small Town Comebacks, ArkansasMatters.com reported March 12. CNN praised the work of the citizens who've kept downtown alive. Thanks to them, El Dorado has recouped its reputation as "the pride of south Arkansas." The once desolate downtown is now lined with more than 65 shops.

A 1920s oil rush brought high hopes, rows of new buildings, and 30,000 people to "Arkansas's Original Boomtown." The golden opportunity of El Dorado's namesake gave way to the Great Depression and perpetual economic hardship. By 1980, the city's commercial district was barely ticking.

Thanks to a huge civic mobilization, mass restorations, a new \$14.4 million conference facility, and a roster of annual festivals, El Dorado is now a model for other cities looking to revive Main Street.

Cities, towns celebrate 100 years

Six cities and towns across Arkansas this year celebrate 100 years of incorporation. This year's centennial cities, all incorporated in 1913, are:

- The town of Alpena in Boone County, pop. 392
- The city of Bay in Craighead County, pop. 1,801
- The town of Gilbert in Searcy County, pop. 28
- The town of Lonsdale in Garland County, pop. 94
- The town of O'Kean in Randolph County, pop. 194
- The city of Taylor in Columbia County, pop. 566

Little Rock good place to retire

Forbes.com has named Little Rock as one of the 25 best places to retire in the United States, KARK has reported. The rankings took into consideration the cost of living, taxes, weather, air quality, doctor availability, crime rates, and active lifestyle rankings. The site lists Little Rock's pros as low cost of living, low median home prices, good weather, and abundant doctors. Cons include below-average air quality and crime.

Rural block grant recipients announced

The Arkansas Department of Rural Services have announced the 12 recipients to receive Rural Services Block Grant funding for fiscal year 2013. The recipients, amounts and funded projects are:

- Altus—\$73,000 to construct a new substation in Denning
- Augusta—\$73,000 to expand existing fire station
- Black Fork—\$14,000 to purchase water supply truck
- Caraway—\$47,500 to renovate community center
- Chidester—\$69,000 to build new fire station
- Cushman—\$70,000 to renovate community center
- Emmet—\$12,000 to replace roof on community center
- Jasper—\$61,000 to purchase tanker truck
- Lake Village—\$73,000 to purchase new pumper/tanker truck
- Lincoln—\$73,000 to build substation in Summers
- Maddox Bay—\$73,000 to construct new fire station
- Tinsman—\$73,000 to build new fire station

Springdale leads state in job creation

Springdale leads Arkansas cities in job creation, KNWA News in Fayetteville reported March 15. Springdale created 43 percent of the jobs in Northwest Arkansas between January 2010 and December 2012, according to the Arkansas Department of Labor.

"We're just very excited and pleased that we're showing such strong numbers," Mayor Doug Sprouse said. "Springdale has traditionally been a very strong job creator and we've got a lot of industry here. We've certainly got a fast growing school district."

With job creation comes development. The city is looking to add 200 acres of parks, three fire stations, and an interstate exchange.

State honors tourism industry winners

The Arkansas Department of Tourism honored individuals and organizations that have made important contributions to the state's tourism industry in the previous year at the annual Henry Awards Banquet March 5 at the conclusion of the Arkansas Governor's Conference on Tourism. The 2012 Henry Award recipients include:

- Media Support Award—Rex Nelson, North Little Rock
- Bootstrap Award—Downtown Walnut Ridge/Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce
- Arkansas Heritage Award—Civil War Helena
- Grand Old Classic Special Event Award—MusicFest El Dorado
- Outstanding Volunteer Service Award—Arkansas Master Gardeners
- Community Tourism Development Award—City of Bentonville
- The Natural State Award—Great Arkansas Cleanup
- Tourism Special Achievement Award—Southland Park Gaming & Racing, West Memphis



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Obituaries

COL. C.V. "CLAY" FORD JR. (RET.), 74, died March 18. Ford was an alderman in Gulf Breeze, Fla., for 16 years and a past president of the Florida League of Cities. In 1970 he was elected to the Arkansas House of Representatives. He had served in the Florida House of Representatives since 2007.

SHELBY HAWKINS, 74, died March 27. Hawkins served 21 years on the Morrilton City Council.

GUY HENDRIX, 69, a former Bauxite alderman, died Jan. 17.

FRED R. JACK, 56, of Seligman, Mo., died March 1. Jack was a former Bethel Heights police officer and served as the city's mayor from 2003-2010.

MARRICE JACKSON, 91, a Ward alderman, died March 16.

BILL WALTERS, 69, former state senator of Greenwood, died March 5. He served in the Arkansas Senate for 18 years.

Amending the land-use plan

By Jim von Tungeln

AERIAL VIEW OF CRYSTAL BRIDGES MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART, DESIGNED BY SAFDIE ARCHITECTS; PHOTOGRAPHY BY TIMOTHY HURSLEY. COURTESY OF CRYSTAL BRIDGES MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART, BENTONVILLE, ARKANSAS



A city's plan could never anticipate a treasure like the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville.

As sure as there are plans adopted by cities, there will be requests to amend those plans. If we don't take our plans seriously, this doesn't cause us much heartburn. As an alderman told me about 20 years ago, "Let's go ahead and adopt this thing so we can forget about it." And he proceeded to do exactly that.

Problem is, today's public servants take their plans much more seriously for any number of reasons. The

main one is a lack of resources to correct problems caused by poor, or no, planning. Another is the presence of an informed electorate that increasingly holds elected officials accountable for doing what they said they would do. As a song popular in my college days said, "The times they are a'changing."

One might observe that if we take our plans seriously, perhaps we shouldn't consider changing them in any event until a significant period of time has elapsed.

There is some logic in this, but, as with many aspects of local governance, there is more to the story. The fact is that planners are not the all-seeing, all-knowing prophets that some claim to be. It is not uncommon for conditions to change or for a wonderful opportunity to pop up after the adoption of a plan.

So how do we maintain a land-use plan as a living “constitution” that connects city government and the citizens?

Many of us come from the “old school” that maintains plans are general in nature and that they represent policy instead of municipal law. We recommend that they be adopted by resolution as opposed to ordinance. Policies can evolve to meet current conditions.

Further, adopting plans by resolution follows the planning maxim that has ruled since the decision in *Euclid v. Ambler Realty*, the U.S. Supreme Court case that made zoning legal. This maxim is simple: First we plan, then we regulate. The plan is a vision stating our community’s policies with regard, in our case here, to future land use. The regulations are municipal laws designed to carry out or protect the provisions of that plan.

Under this approach, if we find that our regulations aren’t working as we had hoped, we first look at changing our policies and plans.

Remember, though, that the need for a plan amendment sometimes results from actions beyond the city’s control. There was a time, for example, when the location of schools was considered part of a community’s land-use planning. Today, some cities allow school boards to act without input from the local planning commission whatsoever. Years later, those cities will be spending the taxpayers’ money to solve problems created by this lack of coordination.

There are also changes that result from actions of state or federal agencies that do not fall under the control of local land-use controls. Some are better than others at cooperating with local officials.

The remainder of our space here will confine itself to situations over which the local planning commission can, and typically does, exercise its authority to control land use. In these cases, the question of amending the land-use plan typically arises when a property owner or agent files a request for re-zoning a parcel of land.

In many cities, such requests are typically considered as stand-alone issues. The city may simply consider the re-zoning without altering the plan. Other cities assume that the re-zoning approval automatically amends the plan.

Some cities are beginning to see problems with this approach. If the plan is ignored for too long, it can lose all or part of its validity. Imagine a case in which, after

years of routinely ignoring the land-use plan, a city suddenly decides to turn down a re-zoning because it doesn’t conform. Adherence to the land-use plan should not, to paraphrase Samuel Johnson, be our “last refuge.” This sort of thing keeps city attorneys awake at night.

On the other hand, a calcified and unyielding approach to altering an adopted land-use plan could wreak havoc in terms of opportunities missed. Imagine the planning commissioner who said, “No ma’am, we can’t allow your art museum at that location, even if it will be an international attraction. Our plan calls for the area to be multi-family.”

If logic suggests that we respect our plan while, at the same time, allowing the consideration of better ideas, how do we achieve that? What has occurred in some cities is a two-step process. The first involves a request to amend the plan. If that step is successful, the re-zoning request follows. This keeps the plan up-to-date and relevant to the development of our community. It also allows an opportunity to consider better solutions.

There are some details to this approach that must be addressed. The first involves the cost to the applicant in conducting two requests. One city solved this problem in the following manner. If a request is not consistent with the land-use plan, the applicant asks the city to study the possibility of amending the plan based on information the applicant provides. The planning commission can study the request as a part of the comprehensive planning effort and avoid much of the notification costs involved by a private individual making a re-zoning request.

If the planning commission—after the study, recommendations, and a public hearing—approves the change to the plan, the applicant can proceed with the re-zoning request with a reasonable expectation of approval. This seems like a fairly equitable method of approaching the issue.

It should not surprise us that implementing a land-use system for our planning area is as much of an art as it is a science. It is a complicated process that, if carried out successfully, places a great of reliance on the plan. At the same time, it recognizes that there is no shortage of good ideas that can rebound to the benefit of our cities. Our job is to steer this ship that is our municipality through the turbulent seas that confront us without losing headway.



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.

2013 State Turnback Funds

Actual Totals Per Capita						
	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
MONTH	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013
January	\$3.4786	\$3.2369	\$0.2859	\$0.3020	\$3.1339	\$3.1338
February	\$3.7795	\$3.4064	\$0.2584	\$0.3873	\$1.0053	\$1.0094
March	\$3.2521	\$3.0946	\$0.4307	\$0.3953	\$1.0055	\$1.0055
April	\$3.4633		\$0.2705		\$1.0017	
May	\$3.6848		\$0.1999		\$1.0053	
June	\$3.8035		\$0.2104		\$1.0056	
July	\$3.7480		\$0.1996		\$3.1087	
August	\$3.5350		\$0.1567		\$1.0052	
September	\$3.6430		\$0.1899		\$1.0056	
October	\$3.4734		\$0.2654		\$1.0056	
November	\$3.4269		\$0.2902		\$1.0054	
December	\$3.4321		\$0.2501		\$0.91	
Total Year	\$42.7202	\$9.7379	\$3.0077	\$1.0846	\$16.1978	\$5.1487

Actual Totals Per Month						
	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
MONTH	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013
January	\$6,537,582.03	\$6,083,989.12	\$537,347.01	\$567,571.55	* \$5,889,623.14	* \$5,890,046.27
February	\$7,103,104.25	\$6,402,534.31	\$485,627.91	\$728,037.16	\$1,889,245.23	\$1,897,309.37
March	\$6,111,822.72	\$5,816,498.28	\$809,523.74	\$742,998.16	\$1,889,603.23	\$1,889,913.31
April	\$6,508,820.12		\$508,320.37		\$1,882,530.42	
May	\$6,925,015.17		\$375,733.12		\$1,889,362.42	
June	\$7,148,252.90		\$395,417.87		\$1,889,865.20	
July	\$7,043,886.87		\$375,173.84		** \$5,842,460.26	
August	\$6,643,716.19		\$294,503.90		\$1,889,164.55	
September	\$6,846,853.12		\$356,918.13		\$1,890,041.23	
October	\$6,528,081.50		\$498,817.98		\$1,890,041.23	
November	\$6,440,629.62		\$545,491.57		\$1,889,559.03	
December	\$6,450,883.49		\$470,059.64		\$1,703,306.66	
Total Year	\$80,288,647.98	\$18,303,021.71	\$5,652,935.08	\$2,038,606.87	\$30,434,802.60	\$9,677,268.95

* 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



2013 ELECTIONS
JACKSON Co., Feb. 12
 Passed. 3/8%
 Passed. 3/8%

KEY: Counties not collecting sales tax

Source: Debbie Rogers, Office of State Treasurer See also: www.dfa.arkansas.gov

Sales and Use Tax Year-to-Date 2013 with 2012 Comparison (shaded gray)									
Month	Municipal Tax		County Tax		Total Tax		Interest		
January	\$43,764,256	\$37,846,866	\$39,379,372	\$37,289,267	\$83,143,628	\$75,136,134	\$12,329	\$12,533	
February	\$51,585,273	\$46,523,853	\$44,215,215	\$44,592,756	\$95,800,488	\$91,116,609	\$26,338	\$22,619	
March	\$42,875,487	\$40,360,002	\$38,040,827	\$36,819,087	\$80,916,314	\$77,179,089	\$8,508	\$13,222	
Total	\$138,225,016	\$124,730,721	\$121,635,414	\$118,701,110	\$259,860,430	\$243,431,832	\$47,175	\$48,374	
Averages	\$46,075,005	\$41,576,907	\$40,545,138	\$39,567,037	\$86,620,143	\$81,143,944	\$15,725	\$16,125	

Earle	12,760.24	11,913.21	Jacksonport	1,951.49	1,727.31	Manila	34,110.15	37,908.52	St. Joe	687.04	773.36
Edmondson	2,257.09	2,107.27	Newport	72,527.23	64,195.75	Marie	857.35	952.82	Sebastian County	700,449.47	732,456.62
Gilmore	1,251.18	835.01	Swifton	7,345.69	6,501.87	Osceola	79,171.89	87,988.15	Barling	64,017.73	66,943.02
Horseshoe Lake	1,543.49	1,441.03	Tuckerman	17,139.95	15,171.02	Victoria	377.64	419.69	Bonanza	7,917.87	8,279.68
Jennette	547.09	510.78	Tupelo	1,656.92	1,466.59	Wilson	9,216.49	10,242.77	Central City	6,912.65	7,228.52
Jericho	629.03	587.27	Weldon	690.39	611.10	Monroe County	NA	NA	Fort Smith	1,187,116.39	1,241,361.82
Marion	65,254.81	60,923.17	Jefferson County	608,890.48	612,891.53	Montgomery County	29,653.57	32,519.08	Greenwood	123,270.96	128,903.84
Sunset	941.95	879.43	Alzheimer	8,772.96	8,830.61	Black Springs	383.25	420.29	Hackett	11,181.41	11,692.35
Turrell	2,925.77	2,731.55	Humphrey	2,746.01	2,764.05	Glenwood	162.59	178.30	Hartford	8,840.48	9,244.44
West Memphis	138,729.25	129,520.36	Pine Bluff	437,604.89	440,480.41	Mount Ida	4,165.44	4,567.95	Huntington	8,744.09	9,143.65
Cross County	214,770.55	210,461.05	Redfield	11,563.55	11,639.53	Norman	1,463.32	1,604.73	Lavaca	31,520.02	32,960.33
Cherry Valley	5,516.50	5,405.81	Sherrill	748.91	753.83	Oden	898.12	984.91	Mansfield	9,955.86	10,410.80
Hickory Ridge	2,304.90	2,258.65	Wabbaseka	2,273.48	2,288.42	Nevada County	29,650.17	27,968.40	Midland	4,475.32	4,679.82
Parkin	9,363.64	9,175.75	White Hall	49,267.66	49,591.41	Bluff City	822.14	775.51	Sevier County	213,344.10	222,147.84
Wynne	70,900.97	69,478.31	Johnson County	99,384.78	102,607.36	Bodcaw	914.96	863.07	Ben Lomond	971.86	1,011.96
Dallas County	120,795.15	136,691.20	Clarksville	73,001.48	75,368.58	Cale	523.78	494.07	DeQueen	44,195.97	46,019.74
Desha County	90,654.68	89,420.55	Coal Hill	8,049.41	8,310.42	Emmet	3,149.34	2,970.70	Gillham	1,072.39	1,116.65
Arkansas City	3,508.47	3,449.40	Hartman	4,128.11	4,261.96	Prescott	21,853.07	20,613.56	Horatio	6,997.36	7,286.11
Dumas	45,111.66	44,352.14	Knoxville	5,814.35	6,002.88	Rosston	1,730.48	1,632.32	Lockesburg	4,953.11	5,157.51
McGehee	40,443.28	39,762.36	Lamar	12,766.12	13,180.06	Willisville	1,007.79	950.63	Sharp County	62,174.11	60,083.21
Mitchellville	3,450.96	3,392.85	Lafayette County	73,610.60	77,885.55	Newton County	41,148.88	45,182.83	Ash Flat	7,436.91	7,186.81
Reed	1,648.79	1,328.87	Bradley	3,469.16	3,670.63	Jasper	1,646.66	1,808.09	Cave City	13,219.49	12,774.92
Tillar	201.31	197.92	Buckner	1,519.14	1,607.36	Western Grove	1,356.91	1,489.93	Cherokee Village	29,428.93	28,439.24
Watson	2,022.63	1,988.58	Lewisville	7,070.90	7,481.55	Ouachita County	298,346.00	295,742.42	Evening Shade	3,278.31	3,168.06
Drew County	379,562.04	373,552.02	Stamps	9,352.38	9,895.53	Bearden	8,727.75	7,759.44	Hardy	5,539.74	5,353.44
Jerome	412.52	405.99	Lawrence County	111,526.08	107,497.64	Camden	98,722.08	97,860.55	Highland	7,930.18	7,663.49
Monticello	100,135.54	98,550.78	Alicia	601.48	579.75	Chidester	2,341.84	2,305.34	Horseshoe Bend	60.71	58.67
Tillar	2,157.77	2,123.63	Black Rock	3,211.13	3,095.14	East Camden	7,544.14	7,478.30	Sidney	1,373.55	1,327.36
Wilmar	5,405.01	5,319.47	College City	2,207.04	2,127.32	Louann	1,328.94	1,317.34	Williford	569.16	550.01
Winchester	1,766.42	1,738.45	Hoxie	13,484.80	12,997.71	Stephens	7,220.01	7,157.01	St. Francis County	117,218.25	119,694.88
Faulkner County	606,975.19	621,112.15	Imboden	3,283.89	3,165.27	Perry County	90,747.53	89,248.36	Caldwell	7,712.64	7,875.60
Damascus	NA	737.26	Lynn	1,396.99	1,346.53	Adona	808.71	795.35	Colt	5,252.94	5,363.92
Enola	1,848.23	1,887.83	Minturn	528.72	509.62	Bigelow	1,218.87	1,198.73	Forrest City	213,605.41	218,118.55
Holland	3,045.76	3,111.01	Portia	2,119.73	2,043.17	Casa	661.67	650.74	Hughes	20,025.08	20,448.18
Mount Vernon	792.88	809.87	Powhatan	349.25	336.63	Fourche	239.90	235.94	Madison	10,686.52	10,912.32
Twin Groves	1,831.83	NA	Ravenden	2,279.80	2,197.46	Houston	669.41	658.35	Palestine	9,463.62	9,663.57
Wooster	4,702.61	4,803.34	Sedgwick	737.30	710.67	Perry	1,044.74	1,027.48	Phreatley	4,933.32	5,037.54
Franklin County	147,649.85	146,273.09	Smithville	378.35	364.68	Perryville	5,649.35	5,566.03	Widener	3,793.77	3,873.93
Altus	5,754.85	5,722.43	Strawberry	1,464.90	1,411.98	Phillips County	98,918.56	89,081.86	Stone County	67,531.64	74,891.24
Branch	2,800.75	2,770.62	Walnut Ridge	23,716.96	22,862.89	Elaine	11,073.12	9,971.99	Fifty Six	1,233.29	1,367.70
Charleston	19,246.56	18,828.16	Lee County	27,116.95	25,543.63	Helena-West Helena	175,464.70	158,016.12	Mountain View	19,590.09	21,725.02
Denning	3,594.42	3,555.76	Aubrey	840.30	791.55	Lake View	7,712.88	6,945.90	Union County	448,747.48	459,292.27
Ozark	28,114.33	27,811.93	Haynes	741.44	698.42	Lexa	4,979.42	4,484.26	Callon	13,082.44	13,389.85
Wiederkkehr Village	290.00	286.89	LaGrange	439.92	414.40	Marvell	20,648.94	18,595.56	El Dorado	557,034.89	570,124.23
Fulton County	85,428.23	86,460.48	Marianna	20,340.18	19,160.05	Pike County	114,029.43	138,923.13	Feisenthal	3,205.63	3,280.95
Ash Flat	337.98	428.38	Moro	1,067.67	1,005.73	Antoine	731.28	723.10	Huttig	17,930.96	18,352.30
Cherokee Village	2,627.61	3,330.41	Rondo	978.71	921.92	Daisy	718.78	710.74	Junction City	15,994.52	16,370.37
Hardy	139.17	176.39	Lincoln County	46,494.55	45,105.38	Delight	1,743.82	1,724.32	Norphlet	20,180.76	20,654.97
Horseshoe Bend	56.33	71.40	Gould	3,680.34	3,570.38	Glenwood	13,663.03	13,510.29	Smackover	53,093.19	54,340.78
Mammoth Spring	3,237.29	4,103.17	Grady	1,974.28	1,915.29	Murfreesboro	10,256.65	10,141.99	Strong	15,106.27	15,461.25
Salem	5,417.58	6,866.61	Star City	9,998.93	9,700.18	Poinsett County	97,238.41	101,690.86	Van Buren County	293,535.28	217,486.97
Viola	1,116.64	1,415.31	Little River County	150,522.97	141,069.53	Fisher	1,454.36	1,514.15	Clinton	26,074.66	19,319.31
Garland County	1,360,498.15	586,998.15	Ashdown	30,702.99	28,774.72	Harrisburg	15,013.18	15,535.33	Damascus	2,505.25	1,856.20
Fountain Lake	3,187.57	3,119.26	Foreman	6,572.25	6,159.48	Lepanto	12,345.77	12,853.31	Fairfield Bay	21,595.27	16,000.42
Lonsdale	595.69	582.92	Ogden	1,170.13	1,096.64	Marked Tree	16,734.94	17,422.92	Shirley	2,916.11	2,160.61
Mountain Pine	4,879.59	4,775.02	Wilton	2,431.28	2,278.58	Trumann	47,583.06	49,179.36	Washington County	1,113,798.83	1,049,763.24
Grant County	148,228.95	146,911.86	Winthrop	1,248.13	1,169.76	Tyronza	4,969.61	5,173.92	Elkins	33,172.84	31,265.64
Greene County	437,371.00	123,159.68	Logan County	87,413.63	85,834.89	Waldenburg	397.83	414.18	Elm Springs	18,753.68	17,675.48
Delaplaine	1,128.18	1,065.92	Blue Mountain	861.29	845.73	Weiner	4,669.61	4,861.58	Farmington	74,839.33	70,536.60
Lafe	4,454.38	4,208.55	Booneville	27,713.98	27,214.42	Polk County	235,226.77	207,701.65	Fayetteville	921,774.05	868,778.53
Marmaduke	10,805.29	10,208.94	Caulksville	1,479.47	1,452.75	Cove	7,055.88	6,230.24	Goshen	13,416.96	12,645.58
Oak Grove Heights	8,646.18	8,168.99	Magazine	5,883.14	5,776.89	Grannis	10,232.88	9,035.48	Greenland	13,927.03	14,865.35
Paragould	253,968.02	239,951.39	Morrison Bluff	444.53	436.51	Hatfield	7,628.48	6,735.82	Johnson	42,017.26	39,601.57
Hempstead County	494,829.57	490,901.74	Paris	24,532.77	24,089.70	Mena	105,967.49	93,567.68	Lincoln	28,174.37	26,554.54
Blevins	3,074.82	3,050.42	Ratcliff	1,403.06	1,377.72	Vandervoort	1,606.96	1,418.92	Prairie Grove	54,870.49	51,715.82
Emmet	419.74	416.41	Scranton	1,555.87	1,527.77	Wickes	13,927.05	12,297.38	Springdale	798,540.95	752,630.47
Fulton	1,962.03	1,946.46	Subiaco	3,973.04	3,901.27	Pope County	276,107.26	281,045.80	Tontitown	30,817.67	29,045.87
Hope	98,540.80	97,758.62	Lonoke County	219,039.35	211,771.01	Atkins	33,159.70	33,752.80	West Fork	29,026.24	27,357.43
McCaskill	937.09	929.65	Allport	885.71	856.32	Dover	15,150.55	15,421.54	Winslow	4,898.25	4,616.61
McNab	663.77	658.50	Austin	15,696.28	15,175.43	Hector	4,947.57	5,036.06	White County	780,589.46	813,897.22
Oakhaven	614.96	610.08	Cabot	183,118.13	177,041.75	London	11,423.38	11,627.71	Bald Knob	30,377.17	31,673.36
Ozan	829.71	823.13	Carlisle	17,051.80	16,485.97	Pottsville	31,202.66	31,760.76	Beebe	76,703.14	79,976.06
Patmos	624.73	619.77	Coy	739.37	714.84	Russellville	306,969.08	312,459.62	Bradford	7,958.67	8,298.27
Perrytown	2,655.09	2,634.01	England	21,757.60	21,035.62	Prairie County	33,431.83	28,958.84	Garner	2,977.95	3,105.02
Washington	1,757.05	1,743.09	Humnokke	2,187.31	2,114.73	Biscoe	2,771.99	2,401.19	Georgetown	1,300.23	1,355.71
Hot Spring County	188,535.88	258,847.28	Keo	1,971.66	1,906.24	Des Arc	13,111.57	11,357.71	Griffithville	2,359.29	2,459.96
Donaldson	1,525.33	2,094.46	Lonoke	32,694.16	31,609.28	DeValls Bluff	4,726.89	4,094.60	Higginson	6,511.64	6,789.49
Friendship	891.89	1,224.67	Ward	31,323.24	30,283.85	Hazen	11,210.12	9,710.61	Judsonia	21,170.70	22,074.05
Magnet Cove	NA	34.79	Madison County	130,531.82	154,019.28	Ulm	1,298.17	1,124.52	Kensett	17,280.49	18,017.85
Malvern	52,287.04	71,796.29	Hindsville	275.38	324.94	Pulaski County	759,091.14	747,480.28	Letona	2,673.86	2,787.96
Midway	1,971.28	2,706.80	Huntsville	10,590.98	12,496.69	Alexander	3,674.63	3,618.42	McRae	7,151.27	7,456.42
Perla	1,221.28	1,676.96	St. Paul	510.14	601.92	Cammack Village	11,958.11	11,775.21	Pangburn	6,301.93	6,570.83
Rockport	3,826.01	5,253.57	Marion County	65,833.96	62,898.04	Jacksonville	441,640.57	434,885.35	Rose Bud	5,054.12	5,269.78
Howard County	301,424.40	271,658.33	Bull Shoals	11,341.66	10,835.87	Little Rock	3,013,257.99	2,967,167.97	Russell	2,264.92	2,361.56
Dierks	14,766.38	13,308.18	Flippin	7,881.00	7,529.54	Maumelle	267,235.83	263,148.26	Searcy	239,682.90	249,910.17
Mineral Springs	15,743.85	14,189.12	Pyatt	1,285.39	1,228.07	North Little Rock	970,102.03	955,263.60	West Point	1,939.86	2,022.63
Nashville	60,303.65	54,348.58	Summit	3,513.01	3,356.34	Sherwood	459,686.73	452,655.49	Woodruff County	15,261.09	14,694.64
Tollette	3,127.92	2,819.03	Yellville	7,002.73	6,690.45	Wrightsville	32,915.96	32,412.48	Augusta		

Changes to 2013 Directory, Arkansas Municipal Officials

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



Alexander

Delete T Jo-An Churchill
Add T (Vacant)

Bauxite

Delete AL Guy Hendrix
Add AL (Vacant)

Flippin

Delete R/T Kimberly Williams
Add R/T Jodi Howard

Fountain Hill

Delete R/T Angela Daniel
Add R/T Lizzette Slaughter

Garland

Delete AL Robert Hector
Add AL Emmitt Forte`

Gravette

Delete TEL 479-787-3971
Add TEL 479-787-5757

Greenway

Delete AL Jerry Carroll
Add AL Phillip Toombs, II

Harrell

Delete AL Rhonda Williams
Add AL Glenn Johnston

Maynard

Delete M Don Sikes
Add M Gary Hart
Delete CEO Don Sikes
Add CEO Gary Hart

McCrary

Delete AL James M. Jackson
Add AL Lou Dallas
Delete AL Joe Baker
Add AL Thomas Kindrick
Delete AL Verna Brown
Add AL Mark Cain
Delete FC Tommy Hall
Add FC Joe Slocum, II

Mineral Springs

Delete R/T Beverly Henry
Add R/T Kathy Jones

Pea Ridge

Delete R/T Sandy Button
Add C/T Sandy Button

Pocahontas

Add FC James Shields

Quitman

Delete R/T Kim Crow
Add R/T Linda Moore

Rogers

Delete T Richard McComas
Add T Casey Wilhelm

Texarkana

Delete CM Harold Boldt
Add CM (Vacant)

Van Buren

Add PLD Joseph Hurst

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To place a classified ad in *City & Town*, please contact the League at 501-374-3484 or e-mail citytown@arml.org. Ads are FREE to members of the League and available at the low rate of \$.70 per word to non-members. For members, ads will run for two consecutive months from the date of receipt unless we are notified to continue or discontinue. For non-members, ads will run for one month only unless otherwise notified.

CHIEF OF POLICE—Hampton is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Chief of Police. Call 870-798-2753 for a complete job description and an application, or mail a resume to: City of Hampton, Attn: Mayor, P.O. Box 783, Hampton, AR 71744, or email Hamptontreasurer@yahoo.com.

CITY TREASURER—Lakeland, Tenn., pop. 12,460, is accepting applications for the position of City Treasurer. Position reports to city manager. Degree in finance or related field and local government experience preferred. Salary negotiable DOE. Benefits include 12 days paid sick and vacation leave, paid disability, TCRS retirement, paid health and dental insurance. Applications available at Lakeland City Hall, 10001 U.S. Hwy. 70, Lakeland, TN 38002; or online at www.lakelandtn.gov. Mail applications to City Hall, fax to 901-867-2063, or email to Rwherry@lakelandtn.org. EOE/drug testing employer.

CONTROLS FIELD ENGINEER—West Memphis Utilities seeks a F/T Controls Field Engineer. Position reports directly to the Utility Engineer and will research, design, develop, or test electronic components and systems for commercial, industrial, or municipal use; employ knowledge of electronic theory and materials properties; will provide technical support to all departments of West Memphis Utilities. Qualifications: BS in Engineering preferably in electrical or electronic. Must possess a Class IV Arkansas Wastewater Treatment Operator license, Water Treatment IV and Water Distribution IV Arkansas Operator License or obtain within the designated period determined by management; must also have a valid driver's license; and obtain a successful Drug Screen and Background Check. 2013 graduates encouraged to apply. Salary: \$40,000-\$60,000. Applications available at the City of West Memphis Human Resources Department, 604 E. Cooper, West Memphis, AR. Open until filled. Mailing address: P.O. Box 1868, West Memphis, AR 72303. Phone 870-702-5121.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & BUDGET—North Little Rock seeks a Director of Finance & Budget. Directs city's financial planning and accounting practices, and its relationship with lending institutions, financial community, and taxpayers. Min. requirements: BA/BS in Accounting or related field, CPA license, seven years directly related experience or equiv. of education and experience, basic knowledge and understanding of computerized accounting systems. Salary: Neg. Excellent benefits package. Applications available at Human Resources Dept., 3rd Floor, 120 Main St., North Little Rock, AR. Jobline: 501-975-3724. Tel.: 501-975-8855. Open until filled. EOE.

FOR SALE—The City of Decatur is accepting sealed bids on two used Police Cars. A 1999 Ford Crown Victoria, 4dr 130,446 miles, white and a 1999 Ford Explorer, 4dr, 4X4, white 145,779 miles. All bids must be turned in to the Decatur City Hall no later than 5PM on May 13th, 2013. For more information contact the Decatur City Hall at 479-752-3912 or PO Box 247 Decatur Ar. 72722. The city reserves the right to reject all bids.

GENERAL MANAGER—Clarksville Light & Water Commission seeks applicants for the position of General Manager. The General Manager is responsible to the Utility Commission for the daily management and operations of CL&W, which serves approximately 4,500 residential, commercial and large industry customers and consists of a 50-megawatt peak electric system, a 12 MGD water treatment facility and a 2 MGD wastewater treatment facility. CL&W has 70 employees and an annual budget in excess of \$25 million. Minimum qualifications include a Bachelor's degree in Business or related field and experience in electric or water distribution, water treatment operations and/or engineering. Must have management and leadership experience and a solid understanding of both public utilities and public finance. Must have proven organizational and personnel management skills. Must hold or be eligible to obtain an Arkansas Health Department Grade 4 Water Operator's License. Send resume and cover letter with present salary by April 20, 2013 to: Robert E. Slavin, President, Slavin Management Consultants, 3040 Holcomb Bridge Road, Suite A-1, Norcross, GA 30071; Phone: 770-449-4656; Fax: 770-416-0848; email: slavin@bellsouth.net; website: www.slavinweb.com. Salary DOQ, excellent benefits. EOE.

LEGAL ASSISTANT/MAYOR'S SECRETARY—Bryant is seeking qualified candidates for the position of Legal Assistant/Mayor's Secretary. Under the direction of the mayor and staff attorney, this position maintains and organizes correspondence and documents; assists in legal preparation; responds to public inquiries; prepares proclamations, memorandums and other certifications; submits invoices; investigates facts of a limited scope; communicates with staff and department heads; responds to general public; and other duties. Requirements: broad knowledge of such fields as accounting, marketing, and business administration; HS diploma or equivalent, plus specialized training equal to two years of college or four years related experience and/or training and 1-6 months related management experience or equivalent combination of education and experience; valid Ark. DL or valid DL recognized by the State of Arkansas. Paralegal Certificate preferred but not required. Pay range: \$26,531 to \$33,164 DOE and qualifications. Benefits include vacation, sick leave, paid holidays, APERS retirement, health insurance as well as dental, vision, and life insurance. Full job description available at www.cityofbryant.com. Apply in person at the City of Bryant, Human Resources Department, 210 SW 3rd St., Bryant, AR 72202; or on the City of Bryant website. For additional information, contact the Human Resources Department at 501-943-0999.

POLICE OFFICER—Fordyce is accepting applications for the position of full-time police officer. Candidates must be able to meet all requirements of law enforcement standards and training. Fordyce maintains a residency requirement for full-time officers. Benefits include health insurance package, paid vacation, sick leave and retirement. Certified and/or military veterans preferred. For applications contact Chief Jimmy Vaughan at 870-352-2178.

POLICE OFFICER—Weiner is taking applications for a certified police officer. Contact 879-684-2284.

WATER & SEWER SUPERINTENDENT—Bay is seeking applications for a Water and Wastewater Superintendent. Applicants must have a minimum of a class 2 water treatment and distribution license and class 2 wastewater license. Benefits include health insurance package, paid vacation, sick leave, and retirement. For more information call Bay City Hall at 870-781-3386. Email resume to darrell@bayarkansas.org or mail to City of Bay, P.O. Box 99, Bay, AR 72411.

WATER UTILITIES MANAGER—Mena Water Utilities is seeking applications for a General Manager to direct the operations and oversee the finances of the Utility. Applicants should have either a BA in Management or equivalent experience. Applicants with water utility experience and background preferred. Relevant attributes include knowledge of water treatment and distribution, wastewater treatment and collection, accounting and financial controls, and state and federal regulations. Must possess a Class III Water Treatment, Class III Water Distribution, and Grade II Wastewater licenses, or the ability to obtain them within one year. Must be able to maintain positive team environment, and balance current utility demands with future goals and performance requirements. Applications with resumes and copies of certifications will be accepted at the Arkansas Employment Security Department, 479-394-3060, Mena, AR 71953. Open until filled. EOE.

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