

City & Town

JULY 2014 VOL. 70, NO. 07

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE



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Little Rock
President



Mayor Rick Elumbaugh
Batesville
First Vice President



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Blytheville
Vice President, District 1



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Russellville
Vice President, District 3



Mayor Billy Ray McKelvy
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Vice President, District 4

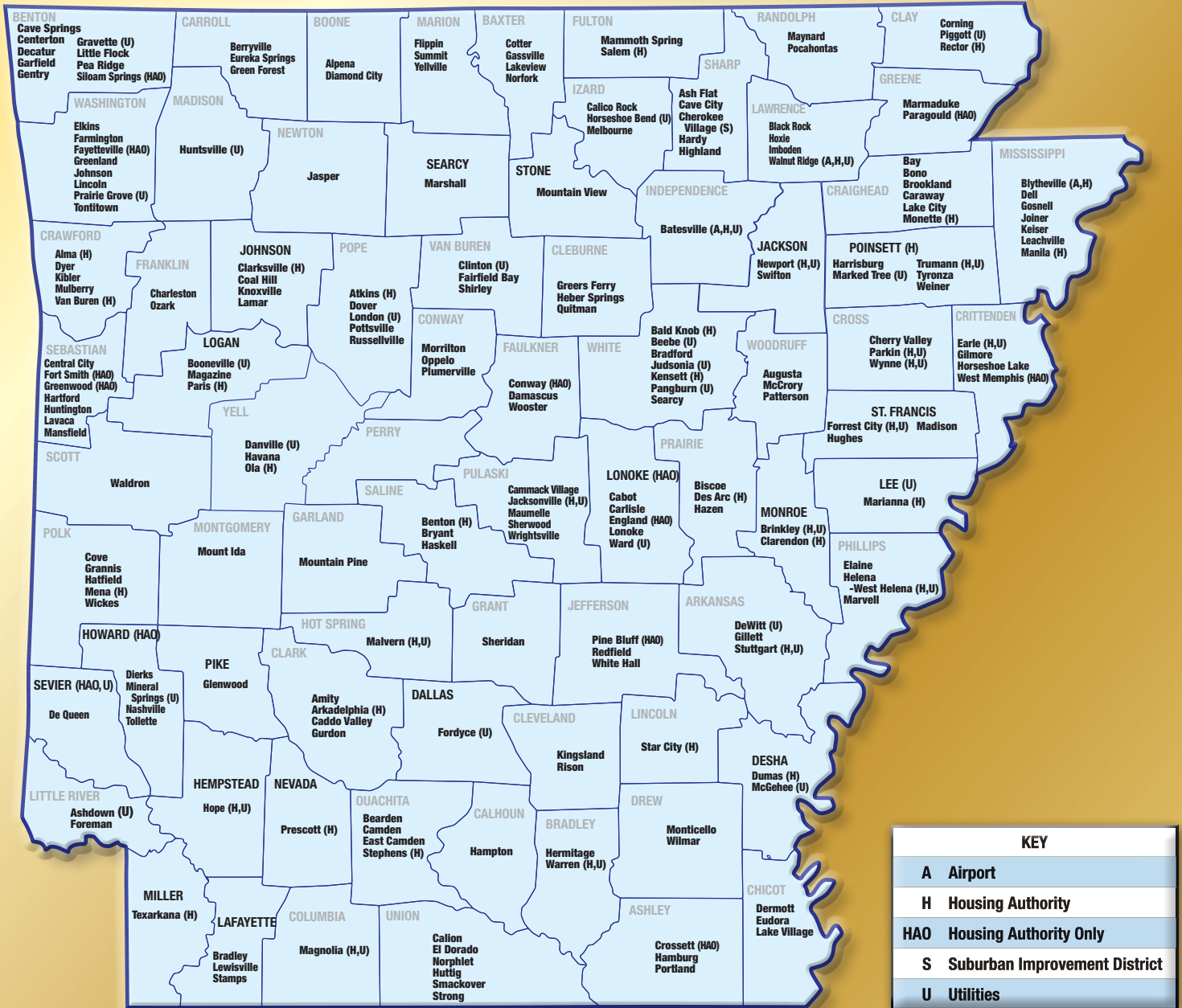
New leaders named during 80th Convention

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 North Little Rock - Sewer/Waste Water..... North Little Rock
 Northeast Public Water..... Mountain Home
 Northwest AR Conservation Authority Rogers
 Northwest AR Economic Development District Harrison

Ozark Mountain Regional Public Water Diamond City
 Ozark Regional Transit Ozark
 SE AR Economic Development District Pine Bluff
 Sevier County Water Association De Queen
 Third Judicial District Drug Task Force Jackson County
 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

FEATURES

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47 President Clinton talks Delta issues

Former President Bill Clinton called in to the recent annual meeting of the Mississippi Delta Grassroots Caucus to share his thoughts on ways to lift the struggling region, including a renewed focus on the new markets tax credit and expanding broadband Internet access.



ON THE COVER—The League welcomes its new slate of officers for 2014-2015. They were elected and began their terms June 20, the final day of our landmark 80th Convention in Little Rock. New League President Mark Stodola, mayor of Little Rock, will appoint a new Executive Committee, the members of which, along with advisory council members, will appear in the August issue of *City & Town*. Revisit the 80th Convention inside beginning on page 6.—atm

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Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for entrusting me to advance the issues of cities and towns throughout Arkansas this next year as your League president.

As we approach the upcoming session of the Arkansas General Assembly, your input to your local legislators on issues important to us will be critical. We continually face unfunded mandates which place a strain on our municipal budgets.

Your input is also important on the national level as cities and towns throughout the country fight to maintain tax-exempt bonding authority for capital infrastructure projects, and advocate for passage of the Marketplace Fairness Act and immigration reform.

It is clear that local government is where the "job gets done" and you are to be commended for all that you do to make your city and town that special place to live!

I look forward to a productive year and encourage you to contact me with your thoughts, ideas, and comments. My email address is Mstodola@littlerock.org and my phone number is 501-371-4510. Please stop by and see me in City Hall when you are in town. My door is always open!

Most Sincerely



Mark Stodola
Mayor, Little Rock
President, Arkansas Municipal League



Arkansas Municipal League Officers

Mayor Mark Stodola, Little Rock	President
Mayor Rick Elumbaugh, Batesville	First Vice President
Mayor James Sanders, Blytheville	Vice President, District 1
Mayor David Morris, Searcy	Vice President, District 2
Mayor Bill Eaton, Russellville	Vice President, District 3
Mayor Billy Ray McKelvy, De Queen	Vice President, District 4
Don A. Zimmerman	Executive Director

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: TBA

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FIRST CLASS CITIES ADVISORY COUNCIL:TBA

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League celebrates 80 years at Convention

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

Municipal leaders from across Arkansas convened for the 80th Convention of the Arkansas Municipal League, June 18-20 at the Marriott Hotel and Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock, where they discussed issues of mutual concern, heard from candidates for statewide office, and much more. The Convention drew 710 delegates from 209 cities and towns and had a total attendance of more than 1,300.

The location of the Convention was significant for this landmark anniversary. The League was formed at a meeting of municipal officials at the old Marion Hotel in 1934. Demolished in the early 1980s, it was located at the same riverfront location as the Marriott Hotel stands today.

In addition to the full schedule of general sessions, speakers, and workshops, several special Convention events served to celebrate the League's 80th anniversary, including the premier of a video that highlighted 80 years of successes with a focus on the League's advancements in the last five years since our 75th anniversary. The League also welcomed 34 past presidents at a luncheon on June 19, where those no longer in office were invited to share a unique memory of their public service.



Beebe

The Convention was honored to welcome Gov. Mike Beebe at its June 18 opening night banquet, where the League presented him with the inaugural Allen Maxwell Distinguished Public Service Award. Beebe has been a longtime supporter of municipal issues in his public service career, as a municipal attorney, state legislator,

attorney general, and in his two terms as Arkansas's governor.

Beebe praised our state's local leaders, who he said have some of the toughest jobs around.

"When you're close to your constituents, they will talk to you about anything and expect you to do just about anything," he said.

"I gotta tell you, my job's easy compared to yours. We need you so badly because municipal leadership creates, in each individual city, the opportunity to make a better state."

Candidates for statewide office share views



Gubernatorial candidates Asa Hutchinson and Mike Ross visited with Arkansas municipal leaders and shared their visions for the state's future on June 19. Rather than appear separately or in a traditional debate format, they agreed to sit together and discuss their platforms in a more informal way, guided by questions posed by League President Jackie Crabtree and League First Vice President Mark Stodola.

Both candidates acknowledged the importance of the League and touted their connections to local government and even agreed on issues like preserving home rule, protecting cities from unfunded mandates, and broadening the tax base. Ross has always listened to the concerns of municipal leaders, he said, both when he was a member of the State Senate's City, County, and Local Affairs Committee and as a U.S. Congressman. Hutchinson cut his teeth as a city attorney for Bentonville, he said, and his father was a mayor.

When asked whether they would consider either capping the three percent fee the state charges for the



Hutchinson

collection of local sales tax or basing the fee on the actual cost of collection, each candidate agreed the issue was worth looking into. About \$30 million annually is kept by the state. Hutchinson said he'd like the fee to be rationally related to the cost of collection.

"I would like to see and maybe study what is the cost of that collection," Hutchinson said. "I doubt that it's the \$32 million."

He suggested over time it's possible to reduce that three percent amount.



Ross

"I think three percent is enough," Ross said. "You should not have to pay more like we charge the feds. And if we can collect that and break even for less than three percent, then we should lower that number."

The more local sales tax you can keep in your city the better, he said.

The League also welcomed many of the candidates vying for the state constitutional offices, including candidates for lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state, treasurer, and land commissioner.

NLC president discusses national issues affecting cities

Saint Paul, Minn., Mayor Chris Coleman, president of the National League of Cities addressed the 80th Convention June 20. He covered several important national issues that affect local cities and towns, in Arkansas and across the country.



Coleman

Advocating on behalf of transportation priorities is a major goal for cities nationwide, he said and encouraged Arkansas's municipal leaders to join the NLC in supporting the Grow America Act. It's especially important now, Coleman said, as the Highway Trust Fund is depleted and our nation's infrastructure continues to crumble due to Congress' inaction.

"If Congress doesn't act very quickly, projects in every state, in every region of this country will be threatened."

Pushing for passage of the Marketplace Fairness Act, led by Arkansas's own Rep. Steve Womack in the House, is another priority of the NLC, Coleman said. Not collecting sales tax on Internet sales puts our local, bricks-and-mortar businesses at a huge disadvantage, he said.

"As someone said, it's not a new tax, it's a due tax," Coleman said.

It hurts our local businesses, and it hurts our ability to provide crucial municipal services like public safety, he said. Even though the legislation has received bipartisan support, it's still difficult to get bills passed, and he encouraged local leaders to talk to their Congressional delegates.

While the nation's big cities tend to dominate headlines, Coleman said, the NLC has a strong focus on small cities through initiatives like the Small Cities Council. He encouraged our small cities to participate in the council and take advantage of the resources available through the NLC at www.nlc.org.

"We want to be your voice at the national level," he said.

Resolutions, Policies and Goals set for 2014-2015

The Resolutions Committee, which is made up of one delegate from each member city, met twice during the 80th Convention to discuss and then vote upon the resolutions that will guide League policy for the coming year and our legislative advocacy efforts in the coming General Session. The resolutions approved by the Committee were approved by the full body of Convention delegates at the Annual Business Meeting on Friday, June 20. Several of the 24 new resolutions for 2014-2015 include:

- A resolution supporting an amendment to Arkansas code to allow a mayoral vacancy to be filled by appointment rather than election if the vacancy occurs within a year of the term expiring rather than the current six-month requirement;
- A resolution supporting an amendment to state law to give city and town councils the flexibility to lower salaries of elected officials in certain circumstances;
- A resolution to allow local governments to refer to the voters the issue of alcohol sales within municipal limits regardless of whether or not the county is “wet” or “dry;”
- A resolution supporting an increase in the cap local governments may assess to fund local police and fire pension plans;
- A resolution asking the Legislature to clarify when weapons can be released to those who’ve been determined “mentally irresponsible;”
- A resolution to amend state law to adjust the three percent administrative charge the DFA charges for collecting municipal sales tax; and
- A resolution supporting the amendment of Arkansas law to exempt military pensions from state income tax.

The new resolutions will appear in the League’s revised *Policies and Goals 2014-2015*, which will be included as a supplement to the August issue of *City & Town*.

League had strong year, executive director reports

The League and its optional programs had a good year, Executive Director Don Zimmerman reported during the 80th Convention’s Annual Business Meeting, June 20. Zimmerman thanked outgoing League 2013-2014 President Jackie Crabtree for the Pea Ridge mayor’s service this past year.

“It’s been a great year under a great leader, and we just appreciate him so much,” Zimmerman said.



Zimmerman

He credited Crabtree with several League advancements this year, including pushing for the newly expanded reporting from DFA on local sales tax collections, fostering a stronger presence on social media, strengthening technological security for cities via the IT in a Box program, improvements in the vehicle program, rate reductions in the property program, and more.

He also thanked the other officers, members of the Executive Committee, boards, advisory councils, and the League staff for the hard work they’ve done this year.

For the 10th year in a row, the League is at 100 percent membership, Zimmerman reported. All 500 cities and towns in Arkansas are members of the Municipal League.

Most of the League’s optional programs added members in the last year, and each received a clean audit report. The Municipal Legal Defense Fund, which has about 150 lawsuits going at any given time, has 431 member cities and towns, up three from last year. The Municipal Health Benefit Fund has 209 participating entities, one more than last year.

The Municipal Vehicle Program has 401 participants, up one from last year. The Municipal Property Program has 295 participants, 10 more than last year.

The Municipal Workers' Compensation Trust is down one from last year, but at 489 participating entities, it remains the most popular League optional program.

The Accidental Death and Dismemberment Program has 199 members, up eight from last year. The Volunteer Firefighter Supplemental Income Program is at 248 members.

The Pension Management and Municipal Other Post Employment Benefits Trust has 24 participants, 11 fewer than last year because the Cash Management Trust was discontinued this year. The Non-CDL Drug Testing program has 95 participating cities, up six from last year.

Five cities—Heber Springs, Highland, Lake Village, Marked Tree, and Stamps—participate in all nine of the League's optional programs. Twenty-four cities participate in eight of the nine.

The League's optional programs have saved cities and towns millions of dollars over the years, Zimmerman said, and are successful because they are designed by the membership to specifically serve the needs of Arkansas municipalities. He encouraged city officials to consider participating in the programs if their cities aren't already involved.

In addition to being the League's 80th anniversary, this year marks Don Zimmerman's 40th year as executive director, and the League honored him during the business meeting for his dedication and service to Arkansas's cities and towns. The presentation included a video showing highlights of his career so far. It also included a message from National League of Cities Executive Director Clarence Anthony, who has known and worked with Don in various capacities for more than two decades. Zimmerman's passion for cities was evident when the two first met, Anthony said.

"No matter the size, the political weight, or the history, Don cares intimately about each and every city and town in Arkansas, period," he said.

Zimmerman also recognized two League staff members for their longtime service to the organization and the cities and towns of Arkansas: League Operations Manager Lori Sander, who has been with the League for 27 years, and Director of Legal Services Mark Hayes, who has been with the League for 25 years.

Sander deals with the facts and figures that keep our League programs operating so well, Zimmerman said.

"The one thing I don't like about Lori," he joked "is I can't ever find her making an error. She's just magnificent at what she does."

Hayes is effectively the city attorney for about half the cities and towns in the state, Zimmerman said. Hayes will continue the legal work he's done for years as League General Counsel, but his new title will include an expanded role lobbying the Legislature on behalf of municipalities, Zimmerman said. For example, Hayes will now be the "go-to guy" for the City, County, and Local Affairs Committee, which is where most League-sponsored legislation is introduced.

New League officers elected

Outgoing League President Jackie Crabtree, mayor of Pea Ridge, introduced the League's new slate of officers for 2014-2015 at the 80th Convention's closing new officers and awards luncheon on June 20.

The new officers are: Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola, president; Batesville Mayor Rick Elumbaugh, first vice president; Blytheville Mayor James Sanders, District 1 vice president; Searcy Mayor David Morris, District 2 vice president; Russellville Mayor Bill Eaton, District 3 vice president; and De Queen Mayor Billy Ray McKelvy, District 4 vice president.

Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola, far right, new League president, presents outgoing President Jackie Crabtree, mayor of Pea Ridge, with the President's Award



PHOTOS BY ANDREW MORGAN

General sessions, continuing education, and workshops cover array of issues

In addition to providing opportunities for municipal leaders to hear from candidates, the general sessions provided information on issues of mutual interest, including a breakdown of the Supreme Court's recent ruling on the constitutionality of prayer at local government board meetings, mitigating cyber liability when doing city business online and using electronic storage technology, the importance of comprehensive Continuity of Operations Plans for cities, and more.



Madison

At the Convention's Opening General Session, Bryant City Attorney Chris Madison, who as a child lost a leg in an accident, encouraged municipal leaders to not let obstacles, even debilitating ones, get in the way of achieving their goals. Madison's message was inspiring. He has beaten the odds in his own life, competing in triathlons and running the Boston Marathon.

The Convention featured one session of continuing education as part of the League's Voluntary Certified Municipal Official program, which featured Dr. Marianne Jennings of the Carey School of Business at Arizona State University on the subject of avoiding ethical lapses in local government.

The Convention also featured a variety of workshops covering issues affecting cities and towns. Emergency preparedness and response are always concerns for local leaders, and the mayors of Mayflower and Vilonia were each on hand to discuss their experiences handling the aftermath of the tornado that devastated their cities earlier this year. David Maxwell, director of the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management, said it's not



Jennings

a matter of if your city will have to deal with an emergency; it's a matter of when.

"Something is going to hit your community at some point in time," he said.

During the session Creating Economic Development Strategies for Your City, Jim Youngquist, director of UALR's Institute for Economic Advancement, said strategies aren't just for large cities.

"No matter the population of your municipality, your economic development strategy may differ in location but they are the same in concept," he said. "Look around and see what others have done. We must foster vibrant communities as good places in which to live, work, invest, and do green state business."

Nathan Eisner with Sophicity, a League partner helping cities secure their electronic storage, offered ways cities can mitigate cyber liability.

"Most cities have done little to mitigate IT problems," he said. "Of all IT issues faced by cities, data loss is the most common."

Batesville Mayor Rick Elumbaugh and Lake Village Mayor JoAnne Bush shared successes in their cities in the workshop Health, Wellness and Your Municipality. Batesville employees have been successful in the weight loss category, Elumbaugh said.

"Do you know your numbers," he asked? "Find them out. They are important."

Lake Village used resources already on hand and worked with local partners to improve health in the city, Bush said.

"In one year, Lake Village has had eight 'big losers' who have lost a cumulative 636 pounds," she said. "That's amazing."

Certificates of Appreciation

The League each year awards Certificates of Appreciation to those who have served on various boards or commissions in the past year. Recipients were recognized at the Opening Night Banquet of the 80th Convention.

Alderman Julian Jaeger, **Arkadelphia**,
Advisory Council

City Director Bruce Farrar, **Barling**, Advisory
Council

Alderman John Musgraves, **Blytheville**,
Advisory Council

Alderman Stan Parks, **Blytheville**, Advisory
Council

City Clerk Heather McKim, **Bryant**, Advisory
Council

Alderman Kevin Davis, **Cabot**, Advisory
Council

Alderman Larry Fletcher, **Cave Springs**,
Advisory Council

Alderman Eddie King, **Clarksville**, Advisory
Council

Mayor Charles Linam, **Decatur**, Advisory
Council

Mayor John MacNichol, **Fordyce**, Advisory
Council

Mayor William "Dubs" Byers, **Gould**, Advisory
Council

Mayor Byron Warren, **Gravette**, Advisory
Council

Mayor Roy Stewart, **Greers Ferry**, Advisory
Council

Mayor Dane Weindorf, **Hamburg**, Advisory
Council

Recorder/Treasurer Sandy Nash, **Harrell**,
Advisory Council

Mayor Ken Slach, **Hartman**, Advisory Council

Mayor Larry Stricklin, **Hatfield**, Advisory
Council

Mayor Ronnie McGaha, **Holland**, Advisory
Council

Mayor Buddy Curry, **Johnson**, Advisory
Council

Alderman Evelyn Thomas, **Lake View**,
Advisory Council

Assistant City Manager Bryan Day, **Little
Rock**, Advisory Council

Treasury Manager Scott Massanelli, **Little
Rock**, CMT-PMT-MOPEBT

Mayor Gary Hart, **Maynard**, Advisory Council

Recorder/Treasurer Sherry Beeson, **Mount
Vernon**, Advisory Council

Mayor Danny Gifford, **O'Kean**, Advisory
Council

Mayor Jackie Pearcy, **Perry**, Advisory Council

Alderman Steven Mays, **Pine Bluff**, Advisory
Council

Assistant Police Chief Allen Spears, **Shannon
Hills**, Advisory Council

Alderman Betty Cook, **Sheridan**, Advisory
Council

Alderman Toni Butler, **Sherwood**, Advisory
Council

Mayor John Turner, **Siloam Springs**, Advisory
Council

Alderman Bill Shrum, **Stuttgart**, Advisory
Council

City Director Ruth Penney Davis, **Texarkana**,
Advisory Council

Mayor Libby Coates, **Thornton**, Advisory
Council

Alderman Jeff Taylor, **Walnut Ridge**, Advisory
Council

League honors cities, leaders for service

LITTLE ROCK—The Arkansas Municipal League honored municipal leaders and cities and towns for their outstanding service at the League's 80th Convention, June 18-20 in Little Rock.

The League named Stuttgart Finance Officer Jane Jackson its John Woodruff City Above Self Award winner. Jackson will retire later this year after serving her city for 37 years. The award is named for the League's former communications coordinator and editor of *City & Town*. Before his death in 2007, John Woodruff worked tirelessly for Arkansas's cities and towns.



Longtime Stuttgart Finance Officer Jane Jackson, center, is this year's winner of the John Woodruff City Above Self Award. Pea Ridge Mayor Jackie Crabtree, left, and Diane Woodruff, right, present the award.

The Arkansas City Clerks, Records and Treasurers Association named Batesville City Clerk/Treasurer Denise Johnston its Municipal Clerk of the Year for her contributions to the profession and dedication to her community.



Batesville City Clerk/Treasurer Denise Johnston, left, is this year's ACCRTA Clerk of the Year. Fort Smith City Clerk Sherri Gard presents her with the award.



League staff attorney Mike Mosley, left, receives the Glenn G. Zimmerman Award for his outstanding work on the Plumhoff v. Rickard case. West Memphis City Attorney David Peeples presents the award.

The Arkansas City Attorneys Association awarded Mike Mosley, League staff attorney, its Glenn G. Zimmerman Award for outstanding contributions to municipal law. Zimmerman was director of the League from 1942 until his death in 1974 and was a former city attorney. Mosley successfully defended West Memphis police officers in the *Plumhoff v. Rickard* case, which went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court in March and resulted in a landmark victory for municipalities and public safety. It was the League's first ever appearance before the nation's highest court.

The League premiered the Allen Maxwell Distinguished Public Service Award at the 80th Convention. The award is named in honor of the mayor of Monticello who died this year after a lifetime of dedicated service to his city and state. The award goes to an individual who has worked with public and private entities and across political lines to further cities and towns in Arkansas. The League presented the inaugural award to Gov. Mike Beebe, who has long been a friend to cities in his time in the state Legislature, as Arkansas's attorney general, and in his two terms as our state's governor.

Nine city officials this year received the Adrian L. White Municipal Leadership Award. The award is presented to city officials who have served with distinction and dedication to their cities and the League's boards, councils, or committees for six years. The award is named in honor of White, who was mayor of Pochontas from 1967-1974 and a former League president and vice president. The recipients are Mayor Darrell Kirby, Bay; Mayor Bob McCaslin, Bentonville; Mayor Bruce Powell, Bull Shoals; Alderman C.T. Foster, Crossett; City Clerk/



Gov. Mike Beebe, center, is the first recipient of the League's Allen Maxwell Distinguished Public Service Award. Presenting the award are, from left, Acting Monticello Mayor Tim Chase; Maxwell's daughter, Leslie Maxwell Chase; his widow, Dana Maxwell; and League President Jackie Crabtree.

Treasurer Sondra Smith, Fayetteville; Mayor Harold Perrin, Jonesboro; Mayor Doyle Fowler, McCrory; Mayor Jack May, McGehee; and City Clerk/Treasurer John Barclay, Ward.

The Marvin L. Vinson Commitment to Excellence Award, named for the Clarksville mayor who served from 1983 until his death in 2001 and was League president in 1992-1993, went this year to seven municipal leaders who have served their cities and the League for 12 years. The recipients are Mayor Bobbie Bailey, Alpena; Alderman Bill Howard, Jacksonville; Alderman Joe Gies, Lakeview; Mayor Frank Fogleman, Marion; Mayor Sonny Hudson, Prairie Grove; City Clerk/Treasurer Mitri Greenhill, Stuttgart; and Alderman Allan Loring, Wrightsville.

Four city officials this year received the Jack R. Rhodes Sr. Distinguished Service Award for 25 years of service to their communities. The recipients are City Attorney Jay Metzger, Ashdown; Alderman Reddie Ray, Jacksonville; City Clerk/Treasurer Charlotte Kindle, Morrilton; and Alderman David Moore, Van Buren.

Twenty-eight cities and towns received the Four Star Municipality Award for demonstration of excellence in loss control and employee safety, wellness, vehicle safety, and prevention of liability: Arkadelphia, Biscoe, Bradley, Central City, Charleston, Cherry Valley, Cove, Foreman, Harrisburg, Havana, Hermitage, Highland, Huntington, Imboden, Jasper, Keiser, London, Mansfield, Marshall, Oppelo, Patterson, Pea Ridge, Portland, Prairie Grove, Smackover, Star City, Wickes, and Wrightsville.

ACCRTA, ACAA elect officers for 2014-2015

The Arkansas City Clerks, Recorders and Treasurers Association elected a new slate of officers for the year at the League's 80th Convention in June. The new officers are, from left, Bryant City Clerk/Treasurer Heather McKim, secretary; Lake City City Clerk/Treasurer Linda Simpson, president; Fort Smith City Clerk Sherri Gard, vice president; and Bella Vista City Clerk Jane Wilms, treasurer.



The Arkansas City Attorney's Association held two days of continuing legal education at the League's 80th Convention. The group also elected its new officers for the year. They are, from left, League Director of Legal Services Mark Hayes, secretary/treasurer; Bethel Heights City Attorney Joe Summerford, president; Morrilton City Attorney Paul Dumas, first vice president; and (not pictured) Van Buren City Attorney Candace Settle, second vice president.



80th Convention Snapshots





Photos by Andrew Morgan and Mark Potter

710 delegates represented 209 cities and towns at the 80th Arkansas Municipal League Convention



Alexander

Mayor Michelle Hobbs
 Police Chief Derrick Jackson
 Alderman Johnnie Faye McKeon
 Alderman Juanita Wilson

Alpena

Mayor Bobbie Bailey
 Acting Recorder/Treasurer Gale Battenfield
 City Attorney James Goldie
 Court Clerk Phyllis McNair

Altheimer

Alderman Linda Gipson
 Recorder/Treasurer Zola Hudson

Altus

Mayor Larry Stacy

Arkadelphia

City Manager Jimmy Bolt
 City Clerk Rendi Currey
 City Director Roland Gosey
 Mayor Chuck Hollingshead
 City Director Julian Jaeger
 City Director Jason Jones
 City Treasurer Jennifer Story

Ash Flat

Alderman Rickey Crook
 Recorder/Treasurer Charlotte Goodwin
 Alderman Fred Goodwin
 Mayor Danny Traw

Ashdown

Alderman Shirley Jackson
 City Attorney Jay Metzger

Barling

City Clerk Kim Bentley
 City Director David Brigham
 City Director Bruce Farrar
 City Treasurer April Robertson
 City Administrator Mike Tanner

Batesville

Alderman Tommy Bryant
 City Attorney Lindsey Castleberry
 Assistant to Mayor Jennifer Corter
 Mayor Rick Elumbaugh
 Alderman Margaret Henley
 Alderman Paige Hubbard
 City Engineer Damon Johnson
 Clerk/Treasurer Denise Johnston
 Alderman Fred Krug
 Alderman Douglas Matthews

Bauxite

Mayor Johnny McMahan
 City Attorney Pam Perry

Bay

Code Enforcement Officer Tommy Cole
 Alderman Larry Hall
 Mayor Darrell Kirby
 Alderman Mike Owens

Beebe

Alderman Linda Anthony
 Police Chief Wayne Ballew
 Planning Director Kristen Boswell
 Assistant to Mayor Angie Gibbons
 Street Superintendent Jim Greer
 Alderman John Johnson
 Alderman Tracy Lightfoot
 Code Enforcement Officer Milton McCullar
 Fire Chief William Nick, Jr.
 Mayor Mike Robertson
 City Attorney Barrett Rogers
 Alderman Becky Short
 Assistant to Clerk/Treasurer Kim Weeks
 Clerk/Treasurer Carol Westergren

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Honorary commanders inducted at LRAFB

By Sherman Banks

The Little Rock Air Force Base 19th, 314th, and 189th Airlift Wings inducted 25 new honorary commanders during a ceremony at the Hangar 1080 Club On June 19, 2014. The honorary commanders program is designed to maintain close working partnerships with the base's civilian neighbors in an effort to increase public awareness and understanding of the base mission, policies and other programs. To do this, base leadership is partnered with civic leaders from the surrounding community.

The intent of an honorary commanders program is to educate those with limited knowledge about the Air Force and the installation. Honorary commanders are selected from local or state elected officials, chamber of commerce members, principals of local schools, Military Affairs Committee members, and others who, because of their position or influence in the community, have a positive impact on the public support for the air base.

The program allows for frequent opportunities for the honorary commanders to visit the base and learn about the mission, to participate in base functions, and to express their views on issues of mutual concern. Additionally, the program allows base airmen and families to learn more about the state of Arkansas.

"This program and our partnership with the community are instrumental to our Airmen's success during these times of fiscal uncertainty," said Colonel Patrick Rhatigan, 19th Airlift Wing commander. "When the sequestration and subsequent government shutdown happened last year, I was able to go to my honorary commander and ask her to see what the community could do to help our Airmen. Through that partnership, two banks and several businesses stepped up and offered special deferments and discounts to our Airmen."

I was one of the 25 inducted as an honorary commander to the 19th Airlift Wing, 34th Combat Training



PHOTO COURTESY LITTLE ROCK AIR FORCE BASE.

Col. Patrick Rhatigan inducts the most recent class of honorary commanders at a ceremony on June 19.

Squadron. Through its Green Flag Little Rock Mission, the squadron provides the most realistic tactical level, joint combat employment training, tailored to meet user and mobility Air Force needs and requirements. The tasks come down from the Department of Defense to the Air Force Command on the Airlift Mobility.

My assigned squadron in the first half of the FY 2013 made 205 missions, 726 sorties dropping cargo or people, transported 1,009 people and 1,869 tons of cargo, made 161 airdrops of parachuted cargo with a weight of 479,085 pounds, made 294 personnel parachute drops, and dropped 390 4x4x4 bundles.

The 34th Combat Training Squadron facilitates training of approximately 30,000 U.S. Army personnel, 1,000 U.S. Air Force personnel, and 100 international coalition personnel across 10 annual rotations.



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



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Protect your dog from the heat this summer

By Sgt. Larry Rogers

On an 85-degree day it takes only 10 minutes for the interior of your parked car to climb to 102 degrees. In a half hour, it can reach over 120 degrees. Leaving windows partially open doesn't help to cool things down inside the vehicle. To make matters worse, dogs have a higher body temperature (101.5-102 degrees F) than people and they don't cool down as efficiently as we do. Your canine buddy is designed more for staying warm from the cold than for cooling down.

You have sweat glands all over your body, but your dog's are confined to her nose and the pads of her feet. A dog that is heating up can only normalize her body temperature through panting, which just doesn't get the job done under extreme conditions.

In a very short period of time, an overheated dog can suffer critical damage to her brain, heart, liver and nervous system. Symptoms of overheating include:

- Heavy panting
- Excessive thirst
- Glazed eyes
- Vomiting and bloody diarrhea
- Bright or dark red tongue, gums
- Staggering
- Elevated body temperature (104 F and up)
- Weakness, collapse
- Increased pulse and heartbeat
- Seizures
- Excessive drooling
- Unconsciousness

In the early stages of a heat-related illness it can be difficult to assess your dog's condition, since it's normal for him to pant when he's warm or while exerting himself. I recommend you learn from your veterinarian how to properly take your dog's temperature, and invest in a digital thermometer that you designate for animal use only. This knowledge and instrument could come in very handy if you think your dog is becoming or has become overheated.

I can't stress enough how important it is for dog owners to take every precaution to keep their pets from getting overheated. An additional risk that is not thought of is riding a dog in the bed of a truck. At 90 degrees the surface of the truck bed can easily reach 140 to 150 degrees. Imagine standing barefoot on this. A dog cools

by panting and through the pads on its feet. It would be very difficult to cool down while standing on a surface that is 150 degrees. ACA 5-62-103, Offense of Cruelty to Animals, has a section that states: "Carries or causes to be carried in or upon any motorized vehicle or boat an animal in a cruel or inhumane manner."

Some dogs more at risk

If your dog is one of the following, you'll need to be extra vigilant about keeping her safe from heat-related illness:

- Dogs with flat faces and short noses (Pugs, Boston Terriers, Pekinese, Boxers, Bulldogs, Shih Tzus, and other brachycephalic breeds don't pant as efficiently as breeds with longer noses)
- Older dogs
- Puppies
- Sick dogs and those with chronic health conditions like heart disease
- Dogs not acclimated to warm weather
- Any healthy dog left outside in hot weather
- Dogs that are over-exercised or are allowed to overexert themselves in the heat

If you think your dog (or any dog) is suffering from heatstroke, you need to take immediate action. Move him immediately to a cool area, either into the shade or, preferably, into air conditioning. Assess his condition. Is he able to stand? Is he conscious and panting? If so, offer him small amounts of water to drink and take his temperature if possible.

If he's at 104 F or lower, remain with him in a cool environment, watch him carefully, and keep offering small drinks of water. A large volume of water all at once might cause him to vomit, which will add to the risk of dehydration.

When he seems more comfortable, call your veterinarian for next steps. The doctor may want to evaluate your dog even if he seems fully recovered.

If your pet is unable to stand on her own, is unresponsive to your voice, touch, or the sight of you, or is having seizures, check for breathing and a heartbeat. At the same time, have someone contact a veterinary hospital (or make the call yourself if you're alone with your pet) to let them know you'll be bringing her in right away. It's important to alert the clinic you're on the way so they can prepare for your arrival.

Keep your dog safe from the heat all summer long

Dogs can dehydrate very quickly, so make sure yours has plenty of fresh, clean water available at all times. If he'll be outside on warm days for any length of time, he should have access to complete shade. Use a plastic bowl to keep the water from heating up fast.

Give your dog a shorter summer "do". A long-coated dog can be shaved to a one-inch length to help him weather the hot temperatures. Don't go any shorter than an inch, though, because his fur protects him from the sun. If you don't want to cut your dog's coat, regular brushing, bathing and grooming will help prevent problems caused by excessive heat.

Exercise your pup early in the morning or after the sun goes down, during the coolest parts of the day. Stay in the shade if possible, and if it's 90 degrees or hotter, your dog should be kept indoors. Play in the sprinkler with your dog or hose him down with cool water if he must stay outside and can't avoid temperatures over 90 degrees. Don't overdo exercise or play sessions,

regardless of the time of day. Over exertion in hot weather, even after dark, can bring on heat-related health problems.

Don't allow your dog on the hot pavement. It can burn his paws, and the heat rising from the concrete or asphalt can quickly overheat your low-to-the-ground pet.

Cut down the food intake. It is harder on a fat and out-of-shape dog, but your animal does not need all the extra calories.

And, of course, never leave your dog alone in a parked car on a warm day. Leave him where he's cool, hydrated, and eagerly awaiting your return.



Sgt. Larry Rogers is Supervisor, Jonesboro Police Department Animal Control Division.

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Developing trees for urban conditions

By Alison Litchy

Choosing the right tree for the right place can be a confusing and daunting task. Take for example a species name such as: *Liriodendron tulipifera* “Arnold.” *Liriodendron* is the genus and *tulipifera* is the species, but what is “Arnold?” Understanding different cultivars can make the decision of what to plant easier.

A cultivar is an adaptation of a species to promote a specific characteristic or trait. Examples of desirable traits include disease resistant, ability to tolerate compacted soils, ability to tolerate salt, specific crown shape, enhanced leaf color, and drought tolerant.

New cultivars come out each year. An argument can be made to support only native plantings. Native species are important to plant for many reasons. They are adapted to the local environment, require less water, attract native wildlife, and more. However, our urban soils are not the same as they are in our native lands. This is where tree cultivars help us choose the right tree for the right place.

Liriodendron tulipifera, or Tulip poplar, is a great tree that grows up to 70 feet and spreads fairly wide. It also has green-yellow flowers making it a wonderful landscape tree. *Liriodendron tulipifera* “Arnold” grows upright and narrow. It is great for tight places in our urban environments. Characteristics between the two are similar: same leaf shape, same bark, same flowers, and more. The difference is the shape of the crown. This trait was enhanced over time to create this new variety. It is important to understand the different cultivars of different tree species to help choose the right tree for the right place.

So how are these cultivars developed? If a tree is found to have a desirable characteristic, such as more showy flowers, then cuttings or grafts can be taken from that tree to produce offspring with the same traits. If this is successful, over time the new variety of the tree can be patented, produced, and sold. This process takes several years.



The more narrow "Arnold" variety of tulip poplar can be a good choice for our more crowded urban environments.

Some terms that are important in understanding different trees are listed below and defined by the Arbor Day Foundation:

- Genus—A group of tree species that have fundamental traits in common but that differ in other, lesser characteristics.
- Species—A natural group of trees in the same genus made up of similar individuals that can produce similar offspring.
- Variety—A subdivision of a species having a distinct though often inconspicuous difference, and breeding true to that difference.
- Cultivar—A variety, selected for one or more outstanding characteristics, which is being cultivated and usually reproduced by asexual means to preserve genetic makeup.
- Superior selection—Individual trees that display one or more notable, desirable traits.
- Hybrid—A tree that results from mating genetically unlike individuals.

- Clone—A tree derived vegetatively from one parent, and genetically identical to the parent tree.

How are new cultivars created? New and useful cultivars come to market either by being discovered or created through genetic improvement. This is done through several steps. First, a superior tree selection is made. This is followed by initial cross breeding. This step can be repeated to get the greatest potential. Progeny tests are done to determine the best of the best. Those are then bred for their characteristics and field tested. Once proven, the tree can be put into production and marketed. This step takes about two to three years.

Research is always being done to produce better trees, and new trees are always being introduced on the market. However, with all these choices, there are some things to avoid as well. Widespread planting of the same cultivar or any species creates a monoculture. Long-term health of the variety may not be known, and a new disease or insect can come around in the future and wipe out the entire species. This happened in the 1960s with Dutch elm disease.

Planting more than one species reduces your chance of losing all your plantings in years to come. Also, where the tree is grafted could become an issue as either a weak point or incompatibility in the future. Finally, if a tree needs to be replaced, and records of what was planted are not kept, it may be impossible to replace in the future.

Experiment with the new cultivars as part of your urban forestry program. There are many unique varieties, and there is sure to be one that is the right tree for the right place.



Alison Litchy is urban forestry partnership coordinator with the Arkansas Forestry Commission. Call Alison at 501-984-5867 or email alison.litchy@arkansas.gov.

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Complete streets improve public safety

By Kevin Beaumont

Pedestrian fatalities in Arkansas totaled 403 from 2003 through 2012 according to the Dangerous by Design 2014 study released in May by the National Complete Streets Coalition, a program of Smart Growth America. Nationally, during this same period, 47,025 pedestrian deaths occurred, accounting for about 12.3 percent of total traffic deaths.

According to this study, Arkansas's fatality rate for people who were killed while walking is 1.41 deaths per 100,000 residents, slightly lower than the national rate of 1.56, but fatality rates don't tell the entire story because pedestrian danger is relative. Those who rarely travel by foot are at far less danger of pedestrian death as compared to those who frequently walk, so a Pedestrian Danger Index (PDI) based on the share of local commuters who walk to work for was developed for the report. The higher the PDI, the more dangerous a place is for pedestrians. Arkansas ranked 14th nationally with a statewide PDI of 79.98 compared to a national PDI of 52.2.

From 2003 through 2012, deaths of vehicle drivers and passengers has dropped by about a third, which has been attributed to a focus on safety, both in terms of vehicle design and driver education. While roads have long been designed with the safety of traveling automobiles in mind, minimal consideration has been made for pedestrians, and even more so cyclists for that matter, until relatively recently.

MacArthur Park Street Improvements, designed by MCE, is a pedestrian-friendly complete street project that includes traffic calming elements and enhanced lighting to maximize pedestrian safety, and new parking for users of the park and adjacent properties. The project also uses low impact development techniques including pervious pavement and rain gardens. The project has been awarded numerous honors including the Grand Conceptor award by the Arkansas Chapter of the American Council of Engineering Companies and Project of the Year by the Arkansas Chapter of the American Public Works Association.

The good news is that state and local leaders have opportunities to affect change as they plan for transportation improvements by embracing a complete street transportation policy and design philosophy.

Complete streets allow for safe access and travel for all users—motorists, pedestrians, cyclists, and public transportation users alike—regardless of age or ability level. Elements of complete streets typically include driving lanes, sidewalks, bicycle lanes, shared use paths, designated bus lanes, and safe, accessible transit stops, as well as crosswalks and traffic calming measures. There is no one-size-fits-all complete street design. Ultimately, a complete street design is driven by end users, the location (urban or rural), and topography, and it is up to community leaders and transportation designers to ensure that final plans balance safety and convenience for all.

Throughout Arkansas, cities and organizations are already stepping up to this challenge. The Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department, in conjunction with the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, Arkansas Department of Health, and Arkansas



PHOTO COURTESY MCCLELLAND CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC.

State Police are developing a statewide bicycle and pedestrian plan to be released in 2015, which will build upon the state's earlier plan developed in 1998.

Since 2000, long-range planning for the Razorback Regional Greenway has been underway. The Greenway was first envisioned as the Northwest Arkansas Heritage Trail combining existing trails with historic routes including the Butterfield Stage Coach route, Civil War routes, and the Trail of Tears, which would require construction primarily on roadways. The plan was later updated to include an additional off-road system. The Greenway is now defined as a primarily off-road, mixed-use trail connecting several cities within the Northwest Arkansas corridor. Thirty-six miles in length, the trail extends from the Bella Vista Trail in north Bentonville to south Fayetteville. When completed later this year, the trail will connect six downtown areas, three major hospitals, 23 schools, the University of Arkansas campus, and corporate headquarters for Walmart, JB Hunt, and Tyson Foods, as well as numerous arts and entertainment venues, shopping, parks, playgrounds and neighborhoods.

In May, Arkansas State University announced a master plan for bicycle and pedestrian usage on campus including campus roads and mixed-use paths. The University is also working with the city of Jonesboro to create a citywide master plan to enhance bicycle usage.

Although public safety benefits alone are reason enough to implement a complete street design, other positive outcomes of such projects are abundant. Cities experience better health due to increased physical activity and lower pollution levels due to reduced carbon emissions. Complete streets create a sense of place, improve social interaction, and generally cause an increase in adjacent property values.



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Collaborate to survive

By Terre McLendon

A few months ago, in a prominent economic development journal, there was an article with the headline “Aren’t You Glad You Don’t Work Here?” It was about two impoverished regions in a Maryland county where the traditional agricultural, fishing, and food processing industries had long ago disappeared. The economic developers in the county, employed by city and county governments, chambers of commerce, and regional nonprofit organizations, were unsuccessful in recruiting industries for many years, with the exception of one food processing facility. Even this facility, which received incentives to move in, moved out after an unsuccessful year, and left an environmental mess that threatened the tourism industry in its wake.

Why were the economic developers so unsuccessful? What was it about this county that made business growth so difficult to achieve? The county had many of the assets normally desired by industries, including an available labor force adequate for many industrial jobs. Widespread poverty in the area justified the granting of public incentives for incoming industries. Professionally performed studies and business development consultants identified industries to target and strategic plans were drawn up and followed.

Surprisingly, the problem was ultimately identified as the area’s residents. The people of the region simply did not want economic development to take place. They were used to their way of life, such as it was, and did not want it to change, even with the promise of jobs and better incomes. Without the support of the people in the community, even the best economic development strategy was bound to fail.

Successful economic developers incorporate the desires and values of all affected parties when they create plans and strategies. One of the best ways of accomplishing this is through collaboration with all the parties involved.

Economic development is difficult for a community to achieve even in the best of times, and is more difficult than ever today for rural communities. Along with the more visible economic development activities of a local government—e.g., planning and managing land use; providing transportation, water, and other infrastructure; assuring businesses of an adequately-trained workforce; and creating municipal codes that are not unfriendly to business—is the government’s less visible but equally important community development duty of collaboration.

Collaboration is necessary among government officials and employees, between government and citizens, nonprofit organizations, and the business community, and the skills needed to achieve it are often overlooked

in today’s highly-charged political environment. Yet one of the most common symptoms of a culture lacking in collaborative behavior is the failure of economic development.

In his article “Seven Signs Your Local Government is Dysfunctional,” Paul Wolf, at reinventinggov.org, suggests that warring factions within local governments are far too common and can be extremely destructive. He states: “In some communities feuds along political party lines are common place and accepted as just the way government works. Heck, as I have talked about in a previous post Democrats and Republicans are not even allowed to sit next to each other. In the City of Buffalo all nine Councilmembers are Democrats and they are split into a 5-4 faction that fights over power and patronage in the third poorest city in the nation. Warring factions are dysfunctional, divisive and they foster rivalry instead of cooperation.”

Without successful collaboration skills practiced routinely, economic development cannot occur. Collaboration must cross the public, private, and nonprofit sectors, and must also cross political boundaries. Regions that may revel in cheering on competing sports teams must be able to form an indelible bond when a prospective business has needs that are better addressed by the region than by a single community within it.

Of course, the first requirement to achieve collaboration is a certain level of trust among the collaborators. And although trust may be difficult to win, about three out of four Americans trust their local governments; 65 percent have at least a fair amount of trust in their state government, according to a 2012 Gallup poll.

The University of Kansas has published an online “Community Tool Box” as part of its role as a designated World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Community Health and Development. At ctb.ku.edu they cite several problems that may crop up during attempts to collaborate, including mistrust, the belief that individual effort is better than cooperation, lack of necessary communication skills, racism and other forms of discrimination, lack of strong leadership, or a feeling of powerlessness.

The Tool Box also provides some recommendations for ways to build the organizational relationships needed for successful collaboration. They are:

- Involve the stakeholders. Make sure everyone who will be affected by the decisions made is at the table, from the organizational leadership to the employees to potentially affected citizens of the community.

- Establish one-to-one relationships and begin to build trust. This may take a while; be patient, and allow everyone to have his or her say.
- Clarify the goals each organization wants to accomplish. Get everything out on the table, so there are no misunderstandings.
- Decide on an organizational relationship that makes sense. Don't base the collaboration on historic patterns, but on what is needed at the moment.
- Establish procedural ground rules. Talk about things like how decisions will be made, who will speak to the media, how information will be distributed, what will be considered confidential, and the role of representatives.
- Learn how to listen. Difficult, but necessary in every relationship!
- Build on points of agreement. Don't require total agreement on every point, but keep track of agreement when it happens, and build on those.
- Learn about each other's cultures. This might include everything from an organizational culture (e.g., "Fridays are always casual; otherwise we wear formal business attire.") to "the residents of the neighborhood where the industry project is proposed are accustomed to walking regularly, so disruptions to their walking path should be minimized."
- Don't require organizations to give up their identities. Allow each organization involve to retain its individuality and relationship with its own members.
- Expect problems and disagreements, and have patience. There will be setbacks and disagreements. Make sure there are ways incorporated into the process to listen, and respond, to concerns. Try to regain the focus on the big picture and what has been accomplished and agreed to by all.

There are numerous YouTube videos circulating of city council meetings that degenerate into free-for-all fistfights. These videos circulate widely on the Internet and stay there forever, where they are viewed over and over by potential business investors, industrial site locators, possible future residents, and, worst of all, your community's economic development competitors. Don't let your community be a poster child for how not to do it.




Terre McLendon is Director of Community and Industry Strategies at UALR's Institute for Economic Advancement. Contact Terre at tamclendon@ualr.edu.

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Some useful questions

By Jim von Tungeln

There was an old saying back in the rebellious 1960s that urged young people to question authority. In the case of municipal land use and development regulations, there is a need, on occasion, to question our own authority. It is not something we normally like to do, but it is better that we do it than our detractors. Stay tuned.

As it regards planning, questioning authority means looking at development regulations with a critical eye to see if we have missed something or are wandering off into legal minefields. It might also help in determining if such regulations are doing what they are supposed to do, i.e. protect the health, safety, welfare, and morals of our community.

The occasion might be the consideration of a new regulation, or it might be a simple review to see if old regulations would stand the test of time. The latter is particularly important as some of the cities in our state are still using regulations adopted more than 30 years ago. This was before any number of epochal legal decisions occurred or major trends came to be.

To aid in this task, there are a number of questions that planning commissioners or elected officials might employ. There are many, but following are a few that would be helpful in testing the validity of a regulation.

Does it meet what I call “The Bank President Rule?” This one is cousin to the rule of football coaches that one must never enact a rule that one could not bear to apply to the star quarterback. The old timers tell me that player will invariably be the first to violate it.

Likewise, it is often the case that the most powerful person in the city will be the first person aggrieved by a new regulation. And it isn’t always the banker. I saw a city council turned to a quivering mass of moral gelatin once by a group of elderly women representing a bridge club that didn’t approve of a regulation. Seems the group contained every grandmother, schoolteacher, Sunday school leader, “nanny,” or benefactor that ever crossed the lives of the council members. It was a pitiful sight.

Is it the least restrictive alternative? This is a standard of the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act passed at the national level. No matter how troublesome the act may eventually prove to municipalities, we still might find this question helpful. We are not above—as a regulatory metaphor—using a sledgehammer to kill a gnat.

Consider the solutions to blighting problems surrounding older apartment complexes in some cities. As clientele changes result in crime and blight, there is a tendency to blame, and design regulations to restrict, multi-family development in general. Then another question, one used by our Rotarian friends, comes into play. Are our regulations fair to all? Sometimes regulations result from generalizing a whole class based on the behaviors of a small portion of that class.

Is the regulation efficient? Economists inspire this question. They speak of the principle of efficiency as it applies to taxation. At some point in devising a tax, the cost of collecting it, due to both resistance and complexity, exceeds the amount of tax collected. In a similar fashion, there are land use and development regulations that require so much effort to enforce, and create so much ill will, that they simply aren’t worth the effort.

Anyone who has ever sat through a two-hour ordeal in which an elected body attempts to pass a law regulating yard sales in a room full of angry citizens understands. And once the city passes a regulation, the citizens, for some inexplicable reason, expect that it be enforced uniformly (see “Bank President’s Rule”).

This brings us to the topic of “the elegant solution.” Frequently mentioned with regard to problems in disciplines such as mathematics, engineering, and programming, the elegant solution is one in which the maximum desired effect is achieved with the smallest, or simplest effort. Engineers, for example, seek the elegant solution as a means of solving a problem with the least possible waste of materials and effort.

Municipalities would do well to seek the elegant solution as they seek to carry out their plans through the regulatory process.

Is the regulation clear? Reportedly, General Douglas MacArthur once told his subordinates, “I don’t want you to communicate so you can be understood. I want you to communicate so that you can’t be misunderstood.” Anyone who has ever tried to design regulations with a committee knows what happens. The first draft is fairly straightforward. Then the “exceptions” creep in and confusion rises forth like a science fiction monster oozing from the earth.

Then, the “say a man” questions start, as in “Well, say a man were to so and so, how would this regulation work?” Ultimately, only the primary author, and



PHOTO BY JIM VON TUNGELN

A simple attempt to regulate "snipe-signs" can become a nightmare when balancing the interests of retailers, nonprofits, and real estate professionals.

sometimes not even she or he, understands what the regulation says.

Does the regulation pass “The Smell Test?” The smell test doesn’t test legality. It provides an informal method for determining whether something is authentic, credible, or ethical, by using one’s common sense or sense of propriety. A municipal law, for example, that mandates a minimum size for any home may not appear illegal to some. But to some, it reeks of social and racial bigotry and a rule that is best left to private covenants.

Finally, does the regulation serve a legitimate planning purpose? The function of planning, and its supporting regulations, is to protect the health, safety, welfare, and morals of the community, as stated above. Plans and regulations that proceed beyond this are the things that plaintiff’s attorneys’ dreams are made of.

The foregoing does not suggest that we avoid regulations that carry out or protect the provisions of our plans. They are essential and nourish civilization. It only suggests that we should respect the regulatory process and treat it accordingly. Frivolous, ill-conceived, or limited-purpose regulations waste resources, divert us from more serious issues, and undermine the public’s faith in government. Anyone dealing with the public sector at present knows that we need faith in good government in our cities now more than ever in our history.



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.

Celebrate Park and Recreation Month by getting outside

Since 1985, the United States has celebrated July as the nation's official Park and Recreation Month. Created by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), Park and Recreation Month specifically highlights the vital role local parks and recreation play in conservation, health and wellness, and social equity efforts in cities and towns all across the country.

This year, NRPA and the Arkansas Recreation and Parks Association (ARPA) want everyone to go OUTside, get INspired, change their OUTlook and get INVolved in the community. ARPA encourages and invites all people in Arkansas to celebrate Park and Recreation Month during July by getting OUTside and INTO their local parks.

This year's theme, "OUT is IN," was crowdsourced and then voted on by NRPA members via social media. The theme is intended to bring awareness to the need to connect more people—adults and children alike—to nature and the outdoors. In fact, a recent nationwide survey released by NRPA and conducted by Ipsos Public Affairs found that nearly three in 10 U.S. adults do not spend time outside on a daily basis, and of those who do spend daily time outside, almost half spend less than 30 minutes in the fresh air.

In Arkansas you can help reverse this trend and take the OUT is IN challenge by doing a typical indoor activity outdoors everyday in July.

"We are so excited to celebrate Park and Recreation Month and highlight the benefits of the great outdoors right here in Arkansas," says Steve Ibbotson, ARPA President. "Park and Recreation Month is a great time to just get out there and experience all the wonderful aspects of parks and recreation and gain an appreciation for the benefits they bring to the lives of the people of Arkansas."

Arkansas is leading initiatives and providing opportunities for people to achieve healthier lifestyles,



promote and understand nature and conservation as well as bringing the community closer through a variety of programs and services. Nationally, NRPA is encouraging all people to participate in a 31-day social media challenge on Twitter and Instagram. Anyone can participate by posting photos of themselves doing typical inside activities outside with the hashtag #JulyOUTisIN. For more information, visit www.nrpa.org/July.

Learn about the exciting Park and Recreation Month activities planned for in Arkansas at www.arkarpa.org.



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Municipal Notes

Conway named second best college town

Conway, the City of Colleges, has been named the second Best Affordable college town to live in by the Great Value Colleges, the *Log Cabin-Democrat* reported June 24. The national list was compiled by looking at the Council for Community and Economic Research to determine the cost of living scores for each town. The cost-of-living factors look at average costs of grocery items, housing, utilities, transportation and health care within a given area. For many, Conway is a place of hometown values with the buzz of college excitement, and offers the perfect mix of freedom and safety. It is the home of three institutes of higher learning: the University of Central Arkansas, Central Baptist College, and Hendrix College.

"We are excited to hear that Conway was chosen as a great value college town. Conway offers a variety of choices on many scales, including education," said Deanna Ott, director of public relations at Central Baptist College.

Utilities, regulators prep for EPA rules to cut pollution

Arkansas utility executives met with state regulators and environmentalists June 23 to begin organizing a plan for how to address new federal rules that will require the state to cut its climate-warming air pollution by nearly 45 percent by 2030, the Associated Press has reported. The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality and state Public Service Commission called the meeting to discuss coming rules being imposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Participants said the EPA appears to be targeting coal-fired plants, particularly older ones.

ADEQ Director Teresa Marks said the state has a broad portfolio of fuel sources that power its electric generation plants: coal, natural gas, nuclear and hydroelectric. She said it will be a balancing act to adjust outputs and enact energy efficiency measures to meet EPA requirements.

The state is home to two regional electrical transmission organizations—Southwest Power Pool and Midcontinent Independent System Operator. Each manages the electric grid for utilities in multiple states.

Lanny Nickel, a vice president at Little Rock-based Southwest Power Pool, suggested a regional approach of working with other states. MISO regulatory adviser Chad Allen said it helps that the EPA is allowing states to develop their own plans, which will offer flexibility for them to work together. The EPA will step in and create plans for states that don't address the proposed regulations on their own.

Entergy Corp. attorney Chuck Barlow said the electricity supplier expects the regulations to be challenged in court. Entergy has four older coal-fired plants in Arkansas spread between two sites. He and other utility representatives expressed frustration that the rule proposal won't give utilities credit for upgrades and other work that has already cut emissions, or credit for nuclear-generated power, which produces no carbon emissions.

The group meets next on Aug. 27. Marks said she wants participants to prepare information on the economic benefits of the proposed rule, such as jobs that would be created as utilities develop energy efficiency methods and new sources of renewable energy. She also wants them to provide a better idea of the costs that will be involved in complying.

Real estate blog ranks safest Arkansas cities

The Movoto Real Estate Blog (www.movoto.com/blog) has published a list of the 10 safest places to live in Arkansas. They are: Siloam Springs, Bella Vista, Sherwood and Mountain Home (tie), Rogers, Bentonville and Magnolia (tie), Russellville, Maumelle, and Cabot. Movoto looked at Census data and the FBI's Uniform Crime Report for crimes in four categories to come up with its rankings, and calculated crime rates based on crimes per 100,000 people.

Pine Bluff wastewater facility recognized

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) has recognized Pine Bluff's Boyd Point Treatment Facility with its prestigious Platinum Award, the Association has announced. The award recognizes the city Wastewater Utility for 100 percent compliance with its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for five consecutive years. The Pine Bluff Wastewater Utility was honored at the NACWA's Summer Conference and 44th Annual Meeting, July 15 in Portland, Ore.

Bentonville remains atop Arkansas Tech Business Index

Once again, Bentonville remains atop the Arkansas Tech Business Index's ranking of 16 municipalities in Arkansas, according to data compiled for February, *Arkansas Business* reported May 30. The index, known as ATBI, ranks 16 cities in Arkansas based on economic activity. The index is based on 100. A city above that rating shows the city is doing better than the state average from 2009 to present. In February, 10 cities saw economic activity better than the state average, and eight cities improved their index value from results of January's data.

While Bentonville remained atop the index, its rating fell 1.02 points from 107.26 to 106.24. Rogers, at 105.16; Fayetteville, 104.99; Springdale, 104.47; Fort Smith, 102.35; Conway, 101.62; Hot Springs, 101.41; North Little Rock, 101.29; Jonesboro, 101.20; and Russellville, 100.04, were the other cities with a rating above the state average.

Of the top-performing cities, Jonesboro, at 1.04 points, saw the largest jump from January to February. Fort Smith, 0.89 points; Russellville, 0.57 points; and Springdale, 0.18 points, were the only other cities above the state average to see an improvement from January to February. North Little Rock at 1.11 points saw the sharpest decline of the top-performing cities in the February numbers. Elsewhere, Bentonville, 1.02 points, Conway, 0.87 points, Hot Springs, 0.85 points, Rogers, 0.62 points, and Fayetteville, 0.22 points, saw decreases as well.

Obituaries

BUEL "BUDDY" LYLE, 78, a Prairie Grove alderman since 2005, died June 3.

GERALD MORRIS, 81, mayor of Piggott for the last 12 years and the outgoing League District 1 vice president, died June 26. Morris had also served on the League's First Class Cities Advisory Council and the Executive Committee for a total of eight years.

MICHAEL "BUTTON" WALLIN, 65, a Walnut Ridge alderman for 12 years, died June 17.

Volunteer Community of the Year nominations open now

It's time to consider nominating your city or town for the annual Arkansas Volunteer Community of the Year Awards. The awards, co-sponsored by the Arkansas Municipal League, the Governor's Office and the DHS Division of Community Service and Nonprofit Support, honor 12 communities each year for outstanding citizen volunteerism.

For nomination details and to download an entry form online, visit www.humanservices.arkansas.gov/dcsns and click the Volunteer Community of the Year Award link.

Nominations were accepted beginning in July. The nomination deadline is Sept. 30. If you have any questions about the nomination process, please call Dekitra Ross-Larry at 501-682-7540, or email dekitra.ross-larry@arkansas.gov.

HPV causing more head and neck cancer

By James Y. Suen, M.D.

In the not-so-distant past, head and neck cancers were almost entirely diagnosed in a specific group of patients—those who smoked and drank alcohol. Because of a rise in the spread of the human papilloma virus (HPV), that is no longer the case.

These cancers, which may occur in areas such as the mouth, nose, or throat, are referred to as squamous cell carcinomas because they generally originate in the squamous cells located in the moist, mucus-covered surfaces of the head and neck.

Symptoms typically include a lump or sore in the mouth or throat that does not heal, swelling in the jaw, a chronic sore throat or sinus infection that does not respond to treatment, difficulty swallowing, or a hoarseness in the voice.

While tobacco use still causes a high percent of cancer of the oral cavity, 50 percent to 60 percent of tonsil and base of the tongue cancers now are related to the sexually transmitted HPV virus. In the next 10 to 15 years, this number is expected to increase steadily and significantly.

About 79 million Americans are affected by the HPV virus, and about 14 million will become infected this year. While most of these cases will clear on their own, thousands will result in a diagnosis of genital warts or in cancers of the head and neck, cervix, vagina, vulva, anus, and penis.

New treatment options

However, there is good news. While head and neck cancer caused by the HPV virus is still squamous cell carcinoma, it is less aggressive than those caused by tobacco or alcohol use. It also provides patients a better prospect for long-term recovery and may allow them to undergo a less-aggressive treatment plan.

In the past, cancers of the head and neck were treated vigorously with complicated surgery, radiation and chemotherapy. Patients had huge side effects, sometimes resulting in their inability to swallow, talk, or breathe. Differences in appearance may also result from surgery, depending on the location of the tumor.

But surgery has evolved. What previously was accomplished with incisions through the neck and face can now be done through the mouth with a robotic device, such as those in use at UAMS.

Hospital stays for these minimally invasive procedures generally last one to two days, as opposed to five or more days required by previous types of surgery. Patients often don't require feeding tubes, scar tissue is minimized, and complications are reduced. Many patients with these types of head and neck cancers can even forego surgery and be treated successfully with just radiation and chemotherapy.

Vaccine protects

Further good news lies in that fact that the HPV vaccine, commonly known as Gardasil, successfully protects against HPV 16, the virus' strain that commonly causes oropharynx cancer found in the base of the tongue and tonsil areas.

Parents are highly encouraged to have their sons and daughters vaccinated with the three-shot Gardasil series between the ages of 9 to 26. Most people become infected with HPV during their first two to three years of sexual contact, and they generally exhibit no symptoms. Therefore, it is important to receive the full series of three vaccinations before sexual activity begins.

UAMS treats hundreds of patients with head and neck cancer each year, allowing our physicians to develop the expertise to personalize treatment for each person's individual situation. Every cancer is unique, just as every cancer patient is unique. It's vital for anyone diagnosed with head and neck cancer to seek out a physician who can provide the most advanced treatment options and the best possible outcome for their situation.



James Y. Suen, M.D. is Chair of the Department of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery, College of Medicine, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

Clinton shares ideas for rural progress with Delta Caucus

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

In what has become a tradition at the annual meeting of the Mississippi Delta Grassroots Caucus, which met June 12-13 at the Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock, former President Bill Clinton spoke with the group via telephone to share his vision for improving life and the economy in the nation's most impoverished region.

Clinton said the successes the Delta Regional Authority has helped foster over the years have most often been the result of bipartisan support, particularly among the political leaders from across the eight-state Delta region. He praised the DRA and the Delta Caucus for continuing to reach out to partners from both parties.

"Whenever people are practicing on a consistent basis the policy of inclusion—if they argue, they differ, but they do it with the purpose of reaching an agreement on what the heck we're going to do—whenever that's happening, good things follow," he said.

Working together is the key, and he cited several cities—such as Chattanooga, Tenn., which has reinvented itself as an IT center—that are all better off than they were before the recent recession because of what he called "complex networks of cooperation."

"We need to look at ways that we can do things together."

NGOs (non-governmental organizations) are very important, Clinton said, but good government policy is essential to initiatives that lift women and children out of poverty, increase educational opportunities, increase access to healthcare, and more.

"Here on the 50th anniversary of the War on Poverty, you hear people say that it failed," Clinton said. "It didn't fail; it just didn't completely succeed. There's no question that child poverty is much lower than it would be if wasn't for the WIC program, the school meals, the SNAP program. Hunger is lower and child poverty is lower, but it's still way too high."

The programs have made all the difference for millions of working poor, Clinton said. He credited the Earned Income Tax Credit for keeping 6 million people out of poverty in 2011. SNAP kept 4 million out of poverty that same year, he said, and the government's outlay for SNAP will go down as the economy improves.

There's a troubling divide between rural and urban/suburban America, Clinton said, and many voters in rural areas are frustrated with their political choices. He cited a recent conversation with a voter in Carroll County whose friend said, "I have decided neither party is going to do anything for me, so I'm going to vote for the party that won't do anything to me."

Clinton urged support for the new markets tax credit, which gives a tax credit for people who invest in areas of the country with incomes below the national average, and poverty and unemployment rates above the national average. The initial legislation passed with bipartisan support at the end of his final term in office, he said.

"We need to look at that and see what can be done to modernize it and make it more user friendly to try to get more investment," Clinton said.

He predicted a return of manufacturing to the United States because of low natural gas costs, competitive labor costs, and other reasons.

"The Delta should be a part of that," he said. "There ought to be a manufacturing strategy for the Delta."

A big help toward that goal would be to bring broadband access "to every place in the Delta in a hurry," Clinton said.

"Google got a lot of publicity for moving a center to Kansas City and spending a billion dollars there to give it the most rapid broadband speeds in the world, and then they said, 'We're going to do 45 more.'"

Clinton suggested Delta leaders convince Google to make the region one of their next projects.

Trends and tips in grant writing

By Chad Gallagher

One of the most interesting trends in grants and grant writing is that there is much more competition for grants than there was just a few years ago. In 1992 there were 516,000 public charities in the United States, in addition to local governments and tribal entities, eligible to seek grant funds. Today, there are nearly 1.5 million public charities in the United States. This increase in organizations has certainly increased the number of organizations who are actively pursuing grants.

That increase has even created a new career opportunity, with some people making grant writing their full-time profession. Some universities now offer coursework and majors in grant writing or as a course in nonprofit management. This new level of competition overall benefits the grant world because it requires grant seekers to have better ideas and write better proposals.

An increased focus on research and data to support grant requests is another major trend. Grant funders are expecting applications to provide more proof of concept and demonstrate research-tested ideas. Grant applicants are now expected to provide thorough and applicable research to support their proposal.

Grant writing has entered the new age! Grant writing has become by and large a job for the Internet savvy. Once upon a time notices and RFPs were sent out through the U.S. Postal Service, and RFP responses as well as applications (in triplicate or more) were also mailed—carefully postmarked by the deadline—back to the agency. Grants now are most often submitted through online portals for most government agencies and almost all major foundations.

Fortunately, as the ranks of grant seekers have increased so have available grants. In the United States charitable giving among Americans is now more than \$300 billion annually. Americans are considered the most generous people on the earth with their resources. Since 1975 giving by private foundations has increased 475 percent while corporate giving through grants has increased 185 percent. Not to be outdone the federal government gave out over \$537 billion in grants through 26 federal agencies overseeing more than 1,000 programs last year. During the same period private foundations granted \$476 billion dollars.

It's also noteworthy that identifying and utilizing best practices matters more than ever before. This trend is on the increase and likely here to stay. Funding agencies are a bit more pragmatic than they once were. Everyone appreciates innovation and risk taking, but funding agencies and entities are more likely to fund a proven concept. To this end it is important to study what has worked elsewhere. Funding the application of a proven model reduces a funder's risk of failure.

Funding entities are requiring more accountability and oversight than ever before. When handling funds it is critical to follow the agreed rules with precision. Competition among applicants has caused funders to more closely watch and see that the causes they fund are well managed and effective. Documentation is critical and utilizing an independent third party evaluator is an effective tool in building credibility and accountability into your grant program.

Noting these trends in the grant world and writing a strong thoughtful application are keys to being successful. Remember that assistance from our company is free to your city as a member of the Arkansas Municipal League. If we can be of help, feel free to give us a call.

Announcement:

Legacy Consulting and The Arkansas Grant Book will be hosting a new series of grant writing workshops in each region of the state. These workshops are sponsored by the Municipal League and are offered at no cost for municipal representatives to attend. If your city is willing to host one of these in your area please contact Alisha Williams at Alisha.williams@legacymail.org or call 501-246-8842.



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.

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Act 35 of 1979 governs fee assessments for fire protection districts

Opinion: 2014-032

Requestor: Lea, Andrea—State Representative

Q1) If a volunteer fire department petitions to become a fire protection district under ACA14-284-205 (Act 35 [of 1979]) and the ballot measure is successful, the Board is given broad authority and responsibilities as to how to oversee the department. Are the fees/dues that the board is allowed to assess classified as taxes? Q2) If the petition used to put a referendum on the ballot to create the fire protection district specifically lists the maximum amount of assessed levy that can be charged by the district—in this case \$20— and does not provide for a method to change those limits and there have been no other elections to increase the maximums, can the Board of Directors randomly override or exceed those assessment caps or levies without going back to the ballot to have those caps or windows increased based once again on the wording and structure of the original petition for this ballot measure? Q3) If the Board of Directors chooses to use the flat fee assessment method provided in Act 35 and assigns a rate of levy to each [of] the residential and commercial property categories, can the commercial levy differ for different types of commercial properties or must that flat rate apply consistently throughout the district for all commercial property? **RESPONSE:** Q1) In my opinion, a court directly faced with the issue would probably decline to classify as “taxes” assessments imposed pursuant to Act 35 of 1979. Although “assessments” are at times referred to as “taxes,” the Arkansas Supreme Court, in directly confronting the issue, has expressly distinguished between the two categories. Q2) I interpret your question to be whether the board of commissioners may exceed legally mandated assessment caps without first obtaining voter approval to do so. In my opinion, the answer to this question is “no.” Q3) Act 35 authorizes the adoption of a “flat fee assessment method” only in districts formed after July 3, 1989. The district here at issue was formed in 1982, meaning it is not authorized to impose any flat-fee assessments, whether differential or uniform.

Commission member shouldn't vote for own reappointment

Opinion: 2014-050

Requestor: Hickey, Jimmy Jr.—State Senator

Are members of the Texarkana A&P Commission, who continue to serve after expiration of their regular terms, legally authorized to vote on the nomination of two new members or possibly their own nomination for reappointment? **RESPONSE:** In my opinion, such a member may vote to appoint a new member to either position and to reappoint the other member, but should not vote for his own reappointment.

Local officials, not petitioners set election date

Opinion: 2014-051

Requestor: Nickels, Jim—State Representative

Do petitioners requesting an annual tax be levied on real and personal property for the purpose of building a new public library have the authority to set the month of the special election? Q2) Does the city council have the authority to determine whether the question of issuing tax-backed bonds for the library will be submitted at a general election or special election? **RESPONSE:** Q1) No. The Arkansas Supreme Court has said that the actual scheduling of a date for an election is generally a matter for local officials, rather than the petition sponsors. Q2) Yes. Section 14-142-208, part of the Local Government Library Bond Act of 1993, indicates that the city's governing body has the discretion to call a special election, or to decide that the matter will be presented to the voters at a general election. Compare ACA 13-2-409 (regarding “requests” for a special election on a county library tax); Op. Att’y Gen. 2001-043. See opinion for further discussion.

MEMS subject to FOIA

Opinion: 2014-059

Requestor: Swanson, Jon—Executive Director, MEMS

Is the decision of the custodian of records to release the name, job title, department, base salary, and annual salary of all current full and part-time MEMS (Metropolitan Emergency Medical Services) employees, in response to a Freedom of Information Act request, consistent with provisions of the FOIA? **RESPONSE:** Yes. MEMS is an entity subject to FOIA. See Op. Att’y Gen. 95-326. And this office has repeatedly concluded that the kinds of records at issue constitute personnel records that are generally subject to disclosure. See Op. Att’y Gen. 2011-156.

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

College grads good for cities

Increasing the number of adults with a college degree is essential for vibrant cities, Dr. Noel Harmon with the group CEOs for Cities told a crowd of city government, business, and other community leaders at the Argenta Downtown Council's annual luncheon, June 24 in North Little Rock. The Council is a partnership of public and private organizations that advocates for a safe, clean, green, and vital downtown North Little Rock.

"CEOs for Cities did research that said 58 percent of a city's success as measured by per capita income can be directly attributed to the number of adults with a college degree," Harmon said. "So linking a city's economic success with post-secondary completion was huge."



Harmon

Harmon directs CEOs for Cities' initiative called the Talent Dividend, which aims to help cities nationwide find ways to increase post-secondary education rates. To learn more about the organization and this initiative, visit ceosforcities.org.

CALENDAR

National League of Cities
2014 Congress of Cities and
Exposition

Wednesday-Saturday

November 19-22, 2014

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Arkansas Municipal League

Winter Conference

Wednesday-Friday

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2014 State Turnback Funds

Actual Totals Per Capita						
	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
MONTH	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
January	\$3.2369	\$5.1428	\$0.3020	\$0.3163	\$3.1338	\$1.9533
February	\$3.4064	\$4.5811	\$0.3873	\$0.4833	\$1.0094	\$1.0052
March	\$3.0946	\$4.7165	\$0.3953	\$0.4463	\$1.0055	\$1.0055
April	\$3.2024	\$4.8363	\$0.3438	\$0.5347	\$1.0056	\$1.0055
May	\$3.5348	\$5.1527	\$0.3138	\$0.5897	\$1.0028	\$1.0053
June	\$3.6607	\$4.9881	\$0.3573	\$0.6126	\$1.0055	\$1.0050
July	\$3.5917		\$0.4276		\$2.8863	
August	\$4.0882		\$0.4603		\$1.3763	
September	\$5.0401		\$0.4348		\$1.0055	
October	\$5.0134		\$0.3953		\$1.0055	
November	\$4.3811		\$0.3652		\$1.0053	
December	\$4.4869		\$0.3649		\$1.0055	
Total Year	\$46.7372	\$29.4175	\$4.5476	\$2.9829	\$16.4470	\$6.9798

Actual Totals Per Month						
	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
MONTH	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
January	\$6,083,989.12	\$9,666,249.40	\$567,571.55	\$594,574.44	*\$5,890,046.27	*\$3,671,282.93
February	\$6,402,534.31	\$8,610,432.52	\$728,037.16	\$908,313.92	\$1,897,309.37	\$1,889,234.55
March	\$5,816,498.28	\$8,864,931.29	\$742,998.16	\$838,837.95	\$1,889,913.31	\$1,889,913.97
April	\$6,019,069.40	\$9,090,103.48	\$646,153.53	\$1,005,050.29	\$1,890,083.64	\$1,889,913.97
May	\$6,643,763.23	\$9,684,675.50	\$589,734.49	\$1,108,429.75	\$1,884,771.73	\$1,889,592.55
June	\$6,880,560.47	\$9,380,093.69	\$671,509.25	\$1,151,947.00	\$1,889,910.83	\$1,889,914.20
July	\$6,750,810.43		\$803,621.40		**\$5,424,973.20	
August	\$7,684,015.71		\$865,190.21		\$2,586,803.92	
September	\$9,473,119.80		\$817,319.05		\$1,889,909.64	
October	\$9,422,855.56		\$742,984.39		\$1,889,909.64	
November	\$8,234,597.41		\$686,466.96		\$1,889,429.45	
December	\$8,433,440.86		\$685,869.13		\$1,889,909.64	
Total Year	\$87,845,254.58	\$55,296,485.88	\$8,547,455.28	\$5,607,153.35	\$30,912,970.64	13,119,852.17

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

** Includes \$3,516,799.83 supplemental in July 2013

Local Option Sales and Use Tax in Arkansas



2014 ELECTIONS

- YELL Co.,** Jan. 14
Passed. 1%
- BRADFORD,** Feb. 11
Passed. 2%
- SEARCY,** Feb. 11
Passed. 1% temp. increase
- CONWAY Co.,** Mar. 11
Failed. .25%
- SHARP Co.,** Mar. 11
Failed. 1.5%
- STUTTART,** Mar. 11
Passed. 1%
- HARRISON,** April 8
Failed. 1%
- BAUXITE,** May 20
Failed. .5%
- CRAWFORD Co.,** May 20
Passed. .5%
Passed. .25%
- CRITTENDEN Co.,** June 24
Passed. 1%
- ELKINS,** June 24
Passed. .75%

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 2014 with 2013 Comparison (shaded gray)									
Month	Municipal Tax		County Tax		Total Tax		Interest		
January	\$44,899,051	\$43,764,256	\$41,135,484	\$39,379,372	\$86,034,535	\$83,143,628	\$4,805	\$12,329	
February	\$51,556,660	\$51,585,273	\$46,326,186	\$44,215,215	\$97,882,846	\$95,800,488	\$5,765	\$26,338	
March	\$41,142,676	\$42,875,487	\$37,596,230	\$38,040,827	\$78,738,906	\$80,916,314	\$5,571	\$8,508	
April	\$44,819,678	\$44,204,032	\$41,824,879	\$39,707,294	\$86,644,557	\$83,911,326	\$6,185	\$24,953	
May	\$48,373,032	\$47,315,206	\$43,431,803	\$42,055,467	\$91,804,835	\$89,370,673	\$6,011	\$5,611	
June	\$45,121,494	\$46,455,658	\$40,770,568	\$41,846,373	\$85,892,061	\$88,302,031	\$7,080	\$27,062	
Total	\$275,912,591	\$276,199,912	\$251,085,150	\$245,244,548	\$526,997,740	\$521,444,460	\$35,417	\$104,801	
Averages	\$45,985,432	\$46,033,319	\$41,847,525	\$40,874,091	\$87,832,957	\$86,907,410	\$5,903	\$17,467	

Mountainburg	5,021.70	5,252.58	Jackson County	253,644.00	127,561.19	Gosnell	40,703.51	41,304.77	Gilbert	168.51	165.91
Mulberry	13,171.03	13,776.59	Amagon	909.74	904.20	Joiner	6,608.01	6,705.62	Leslie	2,653.96	2,613.04
Rudy	485.46	507.78	Beedeville	993.29	987.24	Keiser	8,707.43	8,836.05	Marshall	8,154.46	8,028.74
Van Buren	181,378.19	189,717.32	Campbell Station	2,367.19	2,352.76	Leachura	22,864.17	23,201.92	Pindall	674.02	663.63
Crittenden County	633,030.45	647,035.66	Diaz	12,235.10	12,160.55	Luxora	13,514.30	13,713.93	St. Joe	794.39	782.13
Anthonyville	924.60	945.08	Grubbs	3,583.27	3,561.44	Manila	38,340.22	38,906.58	Sebastian County	679,256.69	730,728.34
Clarkedale	2,130.60	2,177.80	Jacksonport	1,956.01	1,956.02	Marie	963.67	977.90	Baring	62,080.81	66,785.07
Crawfordsville	2,750.83	2,811.77	Newport	73,141.41	72,695.72	Osceola	88,990.16	90,304.71	Bonanza	7,678.31	8,260.14
Earle	13,863.27	14,170.37	Swifton	7,407.90	7,362.76	Victoria	424.47	430.74	Central City	6,703.50	7,211.47
Edmondson	2,452.20	2,506.52	Turckeman	17,285.10	17,179.77	Wilson	10,359.43	10,512.47	Fort Smith	1,151,199.02	1,238,432.75
Gilmore	1,359.33	1,389.45	Tupelo	1,670.95	1,660.77	Monroe County	NA	NA	Greenwood	119,541.27	128,599.68
Horseshoe Lake	1,676.92	1,714.06	Weldon	696.24	691.99	Montgomery County	41,522.74	40,774.45	Hackett	10,843.11	11,664.76
Jennette	594.39	607.55	Jefferson County	649,363.11	676,351.66	Black Springs	536.65	526.98	Hartford	8,573.00	9,222.63
Jericho	683.40	698.54	Altheimer	9,356.09	9,744.95	Glenwood	227.67	223.57	Huntington	8,479.53	9,122.07
Marion	70,895.62	72,466.14	Humphrey	2,928.53	3,050.25	Mount Ida	5,873.70	5,727.59	Lavaca	30,566.35	32,882.56
Sunset	1,023.38	1,046.05	Pine Bluff	466,692.26	486,088.72	Norman	2,049.03	2,012.11	Mansfield	9,654.64	10,386.23
Turrell	3,178.67	3,249.09	Redfield	12,332.17	12,844.71	Oden	1,257.61	1,234.94	Midland	4,339.91	4,668.78
West Memphis	150,721.40	154,060.26	Sherrill	798.69	831.89	Nevada County	92,187.75	30,501.50	Sevier County	231,900.53	218,863.85
Cross County	242,817.21	238,795.57	Wabbaseka	2,424.60	2,525.37	Bluff City	848.71	845.75	Ben Lomond	1,056.39	997.00
Cherry Valley	6,236.89	6,133.59	White Hall	52,542.47	54,726.19	Bodcaw	944.53	941.24	De Queen	48,040.09	45,339.44
Hickory Ridge	2,605.89	2,562.73	Johnson County	108,486.38	105,085.81	Cale	540.71	538.82	Gillham	1,165.67	1,100.14
Parkin	10,586.43	10,411.09	Clarksville	79,686.91	77,188.72	Emmet	3,251.11	3,239.76	Horatio	7,605.98	7,178.40
Wynne	80,159.86	78,832.23	Coal Hill	8,786.57	8,511.11	Prescott	22,559.27	22,480.53	Lockesburg	5,383.93	5,081.26
Dallas County	139,943.33	134,351.65	Hartman	4,506.16	4,364.89	Rosston	1,786.40	1,780.16	Sharp County	71,518.08	66,543.20
Desha County	100,398.07	111,375.44	Knoxville	6,346.82	6,147.85	Willisville	1,040.36	1,036.72	Ash Flat	8,554.59	7,959.52
Arkansas City	3,885.55	4,310.40	Lamar	13,935.23	13,498.35	Newton County	47,610.46	50,930.33	Cave City	15,206.21	14,148.45
Dumas	49,960.17	55,422.74	Lafayette County	82,143.05	70,566.06	Jasper	1,905.24	2,038.09	Cherokee Village	33,851.72	31,496.95
McGehee	44,790.04	49,687.32	Bradley	3,871.28	3,325.68	Western Grove	1,569.98	1,679.45	Evening Shade	3,771.00	3,508.69
Mitchellville	3,821.86	4,239.73	Buckner	1,695.23	1,456.31	Ouachita County	333,856.78	332,200.99	Hardy	6,372.29	5,929.03
Reed	2,025.65	2,025.65	Lewisville	7,890.52	6,778.45	Bearden	8,759.46	8,716.01	Highland	9,121.98	8,487.45
Tillar	222.94	247.32	Stamps	10,436.44	8,965.56	Camden	110,472.52	109,924.62	Horseshoe Bend	69.83	64.98
Watson	2,240.03	2,484.96	Lawrence County	201,721.50	126,518.38	Chidester	2,620.58	2,607.59	Sidney	1,579.98	1,470.07
Drew County	388,250.57	403,041.45	Alicia	725.28	682.34	East Camden	8,442.08	8,400.22	Williford	654.69	609.14
Jerome	421.96	438.03	Black Rock	3,872.06	3,642.80	Louann	1,487.11	1,479.74	St. Francis County	133,988.56	130,483.78
Monticello	102,427.74	106,329.85	College City	2,661.31	2,503.73	Stephens	8,079.38	8,039.29	Caldwell	8,816.08	8,585.48
Tillar	2,207.17	2,291.25	Hoxie	16,260.32	15,297.54	Perry County	84,066.41	90,145.78	Colt	6,004.46	5,847.40
Wilmar	5,528.74	5,739.36	Imboden	3,959.80	3,725.34	Adona	749.17	803.35	Forrest City	244,165.76	237,779.03
Winchester	1,806.84	1,875.69	Lynn	1,684.52	1,584.78	Bigelow	1,129.13	1,210.78	Hughes	22,890.04	22,291.30
Faulkner County	638,641.25	703,742.50	Minturn	637.54	599.80	Casa	612.96	657.28	Madison	12,215.44	11,895.92
Enola	1,944.66	2,142.89	Portia	2,556.03	2,404.69	Fourche	222.24	238.31	Palestine	10,817.58	10,534.62
Holland	3,204.66	3,531.33	Powhatan	421.13	396.20	Houston	620.13	664.97	Perry	1,037.82	5,491.62
Mount Vernon	834.25	919.29	Ravenden	2,749.05	2,586.28	Perryville	5,233.41	5,611.89	Phillips County	107,635.55	107,346.17
Twin Groves	1,927.40	2,123.87	Sedgwick	889.05	836.41	Elaine	11,947.82	12,048.93	Elaina	11,947.82	12,048.93
Wooster	4,947.93	5,452.32	Smithville	456.22	429.21	Helena-West Helena	189,324.97	190,927.22	Lake View	8,322.14	8,392.57
Franklin County	152,785.17	153,791.12	Strawberry	1,766.41	1,661.82	Lexa	5,372.75	5,418.23	Marvell	22,280.03	22,468.59
Altus	5,985.85	6,025.26	Walnut Ridge	28,601.79	26,908.26	Marvell	22,280.03	22,468.59	Pike County	134,550.72	128,223.16
Branch	2,898.16	2,917.24	Lee County	31,562.70	31,282.20	Antoine	862.88	822.30	Daisy	848.13	808.25
Charleston	19,915.97	20,047.10	Aubrey	978.06	969.37	Delight	2,057.64	1,960.88	Delight	2,057.64	1,960.88
Denning	3,719.43	3,743.93	Haynes	863.00	855.33	Glenwood	16,121.89	15,363.73	Morphlet	21,466.75	22,138.26
Ozark	29,092.16	29,283.71	LaGrange	512.05	507.49	Murfreesboro	12,102.48	11,533.34	Smackover	56,476.45	58,243.13
Wiederkehr Village	300.08	302.05	Marianna	23,674.90	23,644.50	Poinsett County	107,355.91	111,765.52	Strong	16,068.90	16,571.56
Fulton County	89,967.66	90,937.63	Moro	1,242.72	1,231.67	Fisher	1,605.69	1,671.64	Van Buren County	278,366.92	249,527.48
Ash Flat	355.94	359.77	Rondo	1,139.15	1,129.05	Harrisburg	16,575.28	17,256.11	Clinton	24,727.25	22,165.45
Cherokee Village	2,767.23	2,797.07	Lincoln County	49,220.62	53,341.42	Lepanto	13,630.33	14,190.19	Damascus	2,375.79	2,129.66
Hardy	146.56	148.45	Gould	3,896.13	4,222.32	Marked Tree	18,476.18	19,235.09	Fairfield Bay	20,479.34	18,357.63
Horseshoe Bend	59.32	59.96	Grady	2,090.04	2,265.02	Trumann	52,534.00	54,691.81	Shirley	2,765.42	2,478.92
Mammoth Spring	3,409.31	3,446.07	Star City	10,585.17	11,471.37	Trumka	5,486.69	5,712.06	Washington County	1,167,798.20	1,145,203.28
Salem	5,705.45	5,766.96	Little River County	144,571.22	156,829.09	Waldenburg	439.22	457.26	Elkins	34,972.70	34,108.18
Viola	1,176.00	1,188.67	Ashdown	29,488.98	31,989.28	Weiner	5,155.47	5,367.22	Elm Springs	19,771.20	19,282.45
Garland County	1,779,926.86	1,805,258.82	Foreman	6,312.38	6,847.59	Polk County	229,001.28	230,319.94	Farmington	78,899.89	76,949.49
Fountain Lake	6,042.70	6,128.69	Ogden	1,123.87	1,219.16	Cove	6,869.14	6,908.70	Fayetteville	971,786.67	947,764.21
Hot Springs	181,193.38	183,772.13	Wilton	2,335.14	2,533.13	Grannis	9,962.06	10,019.42	Goshen	14,144.92	13,795.26
Lonsdale	1,129.25	1,145.32	Winthrop	1,198.78	1,300.43	Hatfield	7,426.58	7,469.34	Greenland	17,090.13	16,216.84
Mountain Pine	9,250.24	9,381.91	Logan County	81,175.90	86,901.88	Mena	103,162.96	103,757.00	Johnson	44,296.99	43,201.97
Grant County	153,874.67	174,296.84	Blue Mountain	799.83	856.24	Vandervoort	1,564.44	1,573.44	Lincoln	29,703.02	28,968.76
Greene County	466,161.23	466,612.91	Booneville	25,736.34	27,551.73	Wickes	13,558.46	13,636.54	Prairie Grove	57,847.59	56,417.60
Delaplaine	1,202.45	1,203.61	Caulksville	1,373.89	1,470.81	Pope County	323,150.66	324,154.72	Springdale	847,836.99	821,056.46
Lafe	4,747.60	4,752.20	Magazine	5,463.33	5,848.70	Dover	17,731.92	17,787.01	Tontitown	32,489.74	31,686.60
Marmaduke	11,516.55	11,527.71	Morrison Bluff	412.81	441.93	Hector	5,790.54	5,808.53	West Fork	30,601.11	29,844.65
Oak Grove Heights	9,215.32	9,224.24	Paris	22,782.14	24,389.15	London	13,369.71	13,411.25	Winslow	5,164.02	5,036.39
Paragould	270,685.62	270,947.91	Ratcliff	1,302.94	1,394.85	Pottsville	36,519.00	36,632.47	White County	822,852.71	939,527.41
Hempstead County	489,605.51	460,344.91	Scranton	1,444.85	1,546.76	Russellville	359,270.74	360,387.05	Bald Knob	32,021.87	36,562.35
Blevins	4,571.55	2,860.54	Subiaco	3,689.53	3,949.77	Prairie County	10,303.30	28,490.97	Beebe	80,856.06	92,320.88
Emmet	624.05	390.49	Lonoke County	248,824.83	254,450.69	Des Arc	2,025.16	11,173.82	Bradford	8,389.58	9,579.16
Fulton	2,917.08	1,825.30	Allport	1,006.15	1,028.90	DeValls Bluff	730.09	4,028.30	Garner	3,139.18	3,584.30
Hope	146,507.22	91,673.50	Austin	17,830.70	18,233.84	Hazen	1,731.47	9,553.39	Georgetown	1,370.63	1,564.97
McCaskill	1,393.23	871.78	Cabot	208,018.96	212,722.21	Ulm	200.51	1,106.32	Griffithville	2,487.03	2,839.67
McNab	986.87	617.51	Carlisle	19,370.54	19,808.50	Pulaski County	752,309.48	810,982.22	Higginson	6,864.20	7,837.49
Oakhaven	914.31	572.11	Coy	839.92	858.91	Alexander	3,641.80	3,925.82	Judsonia	22,316.94	25,481.32
Ozan	1,233.59	771.89	England	24,716.25	25,275.08	Cammack Village	11,851.28	12,775.57	Kensett	18,216.10	20,799.02
Patmos	928.82	581.19	Humnoke	2,484.75	2,540.93	Jacksonville	437,694.99	471,830.90	Letona	2,818.63	3,218.29
Perrytown	3,947.50	2,470.05	Keo	2,239.77	2,290.41	Jacksonville	437,694.99	471,830.90	McRae	7,538.46	8,607.36
Washington	2,612.33	1,634.60	Lonoke	37,139.99	37,979.72	Little Rock	2,986,337.78	3,219,242.78	Pangburn	6,643.13	7,585.08
Hot Spring County	277,292.79	268,112.99	Ward	35,582.64	36,387.16	Mauumelle	264,848.37	285,503.94	Rose Bud	5,327.77	6,083.21
Donaldson	2,243.41	2,169.15	Madison County	186,069.50	160,437.20	North Little Rock	961,435.22	1,036,417.72	Russell	2,387.55	2,726.08
Friendship	1,311.76	1,268.34	Hindsville	392.55	338.48	Sherwood	455,579.93	491,110.69	Searcy	252,659.98	288,485.39
Malvern	76,902.18	74,356.33	Huntsville	15,097.15	13,017.42	Wrightsville	32,621.88	35,166.06	West Point	2,044.89	2,334.84
Midway	2,899.30	2,803.32	St. Paul	727.19	627.01	Randolph County	113,741.96	113,284.99	Woodruff County	15,907.44	17,495.59
Per											

Changes to 2014 Directory, Arkansas Municipal Officials

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



Alexander

Delete MA P.O. Box 261
Add MA P.O. Box 610

Cave City

Delete R/T (Vacant)
Add R/T Jessica Stout

Dermott

Delete AL Warren Strickland
Add AL Pam Esters

Elkins

Delete CLASS 1st
Add CLASS 2nd

Little Rock

Delete PC Stuart Thomas
Add PC Kenton Buckner

McDougal

Delete AL Carol Brown
Add AL Caroll Shipman

Monticello

Add FO Vickie Tiner

Ogden

Delete FAX 870-898-4519
Delete TEL 870-898-4519
Add TEL 870-898-6803
Add AL Ricky Ward
Delete FC Bob Furlow
Add FC T.J. Badgett

Piggott

Delete M Gerald Morris
Add M (Vacant)

Plainview

Delete PC Jim McCoy
Add PC Jason Richardson

Prairie Grove

Delete AL Bud Lyle
Add AL (Vacant)

Tupelo

Add AL Karen Ray



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Clip and mail to: **Arkansas Municipal League**
2014 Directory
P.O. Box 38
North Little Rock, AR 72115-0038

MUNICIPAL MART

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.

CITY PLANNER—Texarkana is seeking qualified candidates for the position of City Planner. The purpose of this position is to provide a wide range of short and long-term planning services to promote the orderly development, redevelopment and use of land within the community while being responsible for the detailed oversight of the City's zoning and subdivision ordinances. Starting annual salary range of \$40,000 to \$70,000 DOE/Q. Benefits include: 13 days vacation, 13 days sick time, 13 holidays, Municipal Retirement System, ICMA-RC 457, IRA, longevity pay, medical, dental, and other benefits per the Personnel Policy. Apply online at arkansas.txkusa.org, or contact Human Resources at 870-779-4997.

FINANCE DIRECTOR—Texarkana is accepting applications for the position of Finance Director, accountable for managing the investment of city funds in a fiduciary, responsible manner in accordance with applicable laws. He/she will also develop, monitor and maintain long-term investment policies, procedures and practices. For a job description, please visit arkansas.txkusa.org. Salary is DOE and will be negotiated during the selection process. A competitive benefit package is also offered, and includes a car allowance, medical, vision and dental insurance, and a 401(a) retirement plan. Additional benefits include vacation and sick leave, longevity pay, and 13 City-paid holidays. Supplemental insurance and optional retirement plans are available for enrollment as well. Applications will be accepted at the Arkansas City Hall at 216 Walnut St., faxed to 870-772-8182, or emailed to jessica.hyman@txkusa.org until noon, July 18. Applications and resumes may also be submitted online at arkansas.txkusa.org/departments/personnel.

INTERNAL AUDITOR—Fort Smith is recruiting a professional to fill the role of Internal Auditor. This position provides an independent, objective assurance and consulting role in service to the board, administration, and the citizens. Starting salary \$54,787 to \$70,470 with growth potential to \$86,174 + excellent benefits. A detailed recruitment brochure is available by calling the City of Fort Smith human resources department at 479-784-2221 or online at www.fortsmithar.gov/humanresources under the documents tab. EOE.

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR—Mena is accepting applications for a Parks and Recreation Director. A degree in Parks and Recreation Administration or closely related field is preferred for this position and at least 5 years previous experience in parks and recreation management is desired. Any equivalent combination of education and experience will be considered. Former experience and related skills in parks facility and grounds maintenance (including baseball/softball and soccer field preparation), business management techniques, budgeting, and an understanding of parks and recreation principals and practices is desired. Paid vacation, holidays, and sick leave. Salary negotiable DOE. A comprehensive background investigation will be conducted. Applications with resumes and copies of certifications will be accepted at the Arkansas Employment Security Department, Northside Shopping Center, Mena, AR 71953. Open until filled. For more information contact Becky Horton, 479-394-4585. EOE.

POLICE OFFICER—Clinton is seeking certified applicants for the position of full-time police officer. Paid vacation, holidays, and sick leave. Send resume to Clinton Police Department, P.O. Box 1050 Clinton, AR 72031; or email chiefclintonpd@clintoncable.net.

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.

SANITATION SUPERVISOR—Arkadelphia is accepting applications for a Sanitation Supervisor. Under the direction of the City Manager, the Sanitation Supervisor is responsible for managing and directing the day to day operations of the workers to include trash collecting/ recycling, animal control and minor repairs of vehicles. Responsible for annual budget review and keeping within this budget. Responsible for all supervisory functions including evaluating, disciplining, completing time-cards. Experience in sanitation or related field preferred with 3 years of managerial experience preferred. Salary DOE. Benefits include vacation, sick leave, paid holidays, APERS retirement, health insurance as well as dental, vision and life insurance. Submit resume and cover letter to City of Arkadelphia, Attn: City Manager 700 Clay St., Arkadelphia, AR 71923.

WATER/SEWER/STREET OPERATOR—Hermitage is hiring a part-time water/sewer/street operator. For information call 870-463-2209 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

FOR SALE—1996 Leach Alpha 20 cubic yard rear loading trash compactor bed. In good condition. Contact City of Judsonia 501-729-5222 or 501-284-9155.

FOR SALE—Hampton has for sale 2 pothole/spreader machines. One runs, the other does not. Anyone interested can call Rick at 870-866-7562.

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Standing from left:
Mark McBryde (Executive Vice
President and Director of Public
Finance), Michael McBryde,
Kevin Faught, Jack Truemper,
Chris Angulo and Bobbie Nichols

Seated from left:
Lindsey Ollar, Jason Holsclaw,
Michele Casavechia
and Dennis Hunt

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