

# City & Town

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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

JOSEPH TAYLOR ROBINSON  
MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM

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Cover photo by Andrew Morgan.



**ON THE COVER**—The William Still Ballroom at the newly renovated Robinson Auditorium was a wonderful location for the Thursday night reception during the League’s 2017 Winter Conference. Revisit the successful meeting with our coverage beginning on page 6. Read also about the 2016 Volunteer Communities of the Year, leadership tips from veteran municipal officials, CDBG funding opportunities, and much more.—atm

## Features

### 6 Leaders prep for year at 2017 Winter Conference

City and town leaders from across Arkansas gathered at the 2017 Winter Conference, Jan. 11-13 in Little Rock, to discuss the 91st General Assembly of the Arkansas Legislature, new constitutional amendments, and to prepare for a successful year ahead.

### 16 Veteran officials offer tips

One of the main functions of the Arkansas Municipal League is to provide a forum for municipalities to learn from one another, and many of our veteran city and town leaders have great advice, whether you are newly elected or an old hand.

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Building trust in local government, avoiding conflict, and reducing alienation may seem more difficult than it used to be, but there are steps municipal leaders can take to break the status quo.

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Financing public projects through municipal bonds is a team effort in which both the city and issuer have important responsibilities.

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Dear Friends,  
Well, we have been busy since the start of 2017! The 91st General Assembly kicked off Jan. 9, and we held our Winter Conference Jan. 11-13. The conference was fun, informational, and very well attended.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Mayor Mark Stodola and the City of Little Rock for being such a gracious and hospitable host city. I'd also like to thank all the legislators and constitutional officers for attending and speaking at our Opening Night Banquet. What a tremendous event that was.

During our Opening General Session, we heard a very motivational and inspiring message from Dr. Phillip Pointer of St. Mark Baptist Church, as well as a panel discussion led by Roby Brock on what we can expect from the 91st General Assembly.

We were honored to have Gov. Asa Hutchinson address the League at the Volunteer Community of the Year Awards Luncheon on Thursday. The day was made complete with a reception and entertainment by Sonny Burgess and Legendary Pacers in the beautifully renovated William Still Ballroom at Robinson Center. Robinson Center is an outstanding venue in so many ways.

Our voluntary certification classes, both core and continuing, were loaded with great information on how we can best do our jobs in our hometowns. I was impressed with the information and came away from the conference armed with knowledge that has reinvigorated me to do more in Stephens. I hope the same holds true for each of you.

Things won't slow down in February. After our Feb. 1 Executive Committee meeting, I'll be traveling to Washington, D.C., on Feb. 7-8 to attend the National League of Cities' State League Directors and Presidential Fly-In meeting. At this meeting, we will meet with members of President Trump's Administration. I will update you on this meeting in next month's letter.

As we zoom through February don't forget there will be two rounds of Executive Committee and Advisory Council meetings held soon. Please be sure to make these meetings, as we will discuss the happenings of the 91st General Assembly. Don't forget to stay in touch with your legislators and pay attention to the Legislative Action Center on the League's website, [www.arml.org](http://www.arml.org).

Be sure to read all of the great coverage of the 2017 Winter Conference in this issue. This year is off to an incredible start. Keep up the good work so we can all ensure that "Great Cities Make A Great State."

Sincerely,



Harry Brown  
Mayor, Stephens  
President, Arkansas Municipal League



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# League preps for year, 91st General Assembly at 2017 Winter Conference

By Andrew Morgan, League staff

Municipal leaders from across the state came together to discuss mutual challenges, learn what to expect from the 91st General Assembly of the Arkansas Legislature, and prepare for a successful 2017 at the League's 2017 Winter Conference, held Jan. 11-13 at the Statehouse Convention Center and Marriott Hotel in Little Rock. Attendance was strong, with more than 1,100 registered participants overall and with 197 cities and towns represented. Newly elected local officials made a strong showing at the conference, with 114 in attendance.



Hutchinson

The League was honored to host Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson at the conference, who shared with municipal leaders his priorities for the legislative session. The governor spoke at the Jan. 12 Volunteer Community of the Year Awards luncheon at the Statehouse Convention Center.

Hutchinson thanked the League for the work it does with both the larger, growing cities and the smaller cities and towns, which he called "so critical to our state, to our way of life, and to our sense of community." The governor thinks fondly of the League and municipal leaders, he said, in part because his father was a mayor of Sulphur Springs in Benton County.

"The best title he had, I'm sure, was 'Dad,' but the next best title he had was 'Mayor Hutchinson.'"

He praised the passage of Issue 3 in November's election, now Amendment 97, which gives cities leeway to spend taxpayer money on economic development. It will help the state as a whole in recruiting new businesses, he said, by showing them a commitment on the local level to partner with regional and state efforts.

The economy remains a priority for the governor as the 91st General Assembly gets underway, he said, and he proposed a \$50 million tax cut aimed mostly at middle and lower income earners, which is a more modest cut than others in the legislature were hoping for. The legislature has since passed his proposal, which Hutchinson signed into law Feb. 1. The tax cut affects 650,000 Arkansans and goes into effect in 2019. The legislation also creates a task force to propose more tax cuts between now and then.

Hutchinson acknowledged the ongoing federal investigation into misuse of general improvement funds, which he said was one reason he has left them out of his proposed budget, though he realizes how much good they've done over the years for cities and towns, particularly smaller ones. There have been some indictments and more will probably come, he said. As a workaround he proposed increasing grants available through the Department of Rural Services.

Hutchinson pledged to work in the best interest of cities during the legislative session.

"I want to continue to push against unfunded mandates on our cities that have to bear the burden of them. So when a bill comes to my desk, I'm going to look at it under that prism. What does this do in terms of local control? Is there a necessity for a statewide policy? Is it a mandate that's going to cost you more money that we're not helping you with? And so I assure you that I will listen to you."

Speaker of the House Jeremy Gillam addressed the Winter Conference's opening night banquet, Wednesday, Jan. 11. Since much of the League's legislative agenda passes through the City, County and Local Affairs Committee, Gillam assured municipal leaders that local issues would be heard.

"They are going to be, I think, a very good voice for you during the session," he said. "I think the Senate



Gillam

members of the committee on their end of the building will do the exact same.”

Statewide issues like tax policy and the budget get the headlines, Gillam said, while the legislation that most affects local government, though sometimes overlooked, is just as important. He cited the great success of the State Aid Street Program that has helped hundreds of cities and towns thus far.

“Those are the kind of issues that we dig into the trenches and work on every day,” he said.

Other statewide officers also spoke briefly during the opening night banquet, including new Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Dan Kemp, Attorney General Leslie Rutledge, State Auditor Andrea Lea, Lieutenant Governor Tim Griffin, and Secretary of State Mark Martin.

Continuing with the legislative focus of this year’s conference, the League hosted a panel discussion with Andrew DeMillo, Capitol correspondent with the Associated Press, and Bill Vickery, managing partner with Capitol Advisors Group, and moderated by Roby Brock, executive producer and host of *Talk Business & Politics*. They discussed a variety of issues arising during the legislative session, including the governor’s tax cut

proposal, implementing the legalization of medical marijuana in the state, new Amendment 97, and expanding Medicaid in the state amidst the uncertainty coming from Washington, D.C.



Preston

Arkansas voters passed several new amendments to the state constitution in last November’s general election, and two in particular will directly affect Arkansas cities—Amendment 97, which lets cities invest taxpayer funds on certain economic development projects, and Amendment 98, which legalizes medical marijuana.

Arkansas Economic Development Commission Director Mike Preston said Amendment 97 will give local governments the ability to invest in economic development projects that continue the governor’s strong work of the last two years in drawing business to the state. It’s a “new tool in our tool chest,” he said.

The League, though supportive of the issue, believes cities must move forward carefully on Amendment 97. As the enacting legislation is being written, the League is working with state leaders to include protections for cities and taxpayers, who could be at risk if there is no return on investments. Prospects pitting cities



From left, DeMillo, Brock, Vickery

against each other competing for their business is also a great concern.



Aquia

In implementing this amendment, the state and its municipalities can learn from past mistakes, which Terra Aquia, research associate with the Arkansas Center for Research in Economics spoke to. In the early 20th Century, in an effort to build roads in the state, local improvement districts across the state took on massive amounts of debt. The state tried to mitigate the situation, but a series of natural disasters, coupled with the Great Depression compounded the problem. By 1933 the state was \$160 million in the hole.

Aquia recommended that cities take lessons from our history and move forward with caution when pursuing economic development projects with taxpayer money by regularly reevaluating the system in place and all contracts made.

“Are they really creating jobs? Are they really doing what they say they’re going to do? Or are they costing taxpayers? Are they costing cities more than they can afford?”

Cities who make poor decisions moving forward with this new authority could easily become the burden of the state and taxpayers, she said.



Roberts

Hammering out the rules and regulations governing medical marijuana growth, sales, and usage in the state may be a slow process, said Bud Roberts, director of Arkansas’s Alcohol Beverage Control Division.

“I can’t stress this part enough: Medical marijuana in Arkansas is in its infancy,” he said.

Cities will have a say when it comes to zoning, for and against, grow operations and dispensaries, he said. And as municipal employers, drug testing in sensitive positions will be a consideration just as it is for other drugs.

The annual Winter Conference includes a strong educational component, and features opportunities for city and town leaders to participate in the League’s voluntary certification program for municipal officials. This year’s conference included eight hours total of core and continuing education classes as part of the program, including two sessions of the League’s popular City Government 101 training, which provides a broad overview of the legal basis for running local governments in Arkansas and covers who does what at city hall.



League Director of Legal Services Mark Hayes leads City Government 101 training.

As part of the continuing education program this year, the League welcomed Jim Hunt, founder of the organization Amazing Cities, to share his thoughts on what it takes to take your city from great to amazing and how to build a more inclusive community. Hunt brings considerable experience to the table as a former longtime elected official in Clarksburg, W.Va., and a former president of the National League of Cities.

Hunt encouraged Arkansas municipal leaders to build upon what’s unique in their communities and to actively pursue diversity and practice inclusion. When it comes to improving, growing, and creating amazing municipalities, city size doesn’t matter, and it’s not a competition, he said.

“There are 500 opportunities in Arkansas to build amazing cities, and not one of you are pre-empted or not eligible for that designation,” Hunt said.





Hunt

The Arkansas City Clerks, Recorders and Treasurers Association held training in conjunction with Winter Conference. North Little Rock City Attorney Jason Carter provided an overview of the statutory duties of the office. The session was geared toward newly elected officials, but also made a good refresher for veteran clerks.

The Arkansas City Attorney’s Association held a continuing legal education session on Friday, Jan. 13, the last day of the Winter Conference, at the League’s North Little Rock headquarters. The six hours of CLE covered topics such as due process in code enforcement, accessing police-generated digital video, and an overview of recent federal cases. 🏛️



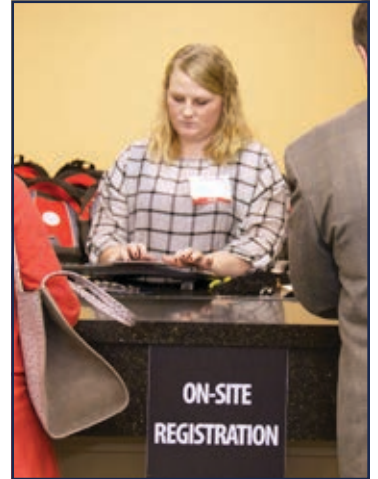
Arkansas City Clerks, Recorders and Treasurers Association members hear from North Little rock City Attorney Jason Carter.



Arkansas City Attorney’s Association members meet for a continuing legal education session.



# 2017 Winter Conference Snapshots





# 2017 Winter Conference Snapshots





# Volunteer Communities of the Year honored at Winter Conference

Each year the Arkansas Department of Human Services Division of Community Service and Nonprofit Support honors 12 communities for their volunteer efforts throughout the year. The winning Volunteer Communities of the Year for 2016 are Benton, Bentonville, Cherokee Village, Clarkridge, Fayetteville, Greenbrier, Heber Springs, Little Rock, Maumelle, McNeil, Mountain Home, and Van Buren. DHS, in partnership with the League and the Governor's Advisory Commission on National Service and Volunteerism, honored the recipients at a Jan. 12 luncheon during the League's 2017 Winter Conference in Little Rock, with Gov. Asa Hutchinson and DHS Chief Communications and Community Engagement Officer Amy Webb presenting the awards.



## Benton

Benton citizens in 2016 contributed more than 290,339 hours with a total of 9,699 volunteers.



## Clarkridge

Residents of the Clarkridge community contributed 17,111 hours with a total of 672 volunteers.



## Bentonville

Bentonville citizens contributed 403,047 hours with a total of 32,032 volunteers.



## Fayetteville

Fayetteville citizens contributed 681,418 hours with a total of 65,549 volunteers.



## Cherokee Village

The citizens of Cherokee Village contributed more than 12,073 hours with more than 836 volunteers.



## Greenbrier

Greenbrier's residents contributed 71,473 hours with a total of 2,348 volunteers.



### Heber Springs

Heber Springs has contributed 304,418 hours with a total of 4,971 volunteers.



### McNeil

McNeil citizens contributed over 2,000 hours with a more than 39 volunteers.



### Little Rock

Over one million hours have been volunteered over the past year in Little Rock with a total of 20,000 volunteers.



### Mountain Home

Residents of Mountain Home contributed 321,653 hours with a total of 8,321 volunteers.



### Maumelle

Maumelle has contributed 297,678 hours with a total 14,503 volunteers.



### Van Buren

Van Buren citizens contributed 399,024 hours with a total 12,354 volunteers.

# Veteran municipal leaders share their insights

One of the great benefits of participating in the Arkansas Municipal League is the opportunity to learn from our state's many experienced municipal leaders. We asked several of our veteran officials to share some words of wisdom for the benefit of 2017's newly elected local leaders.

"Always remember that it's not about you. We serve at the will of the people and must always do what's best for the people."

—Mayor James Sanders,  
Blytheville

"Attending League seminars, Winter Conference, and Conventions allows for tremendous networking opportunities that you won't find anywhere else. The information you gain by attending League events will not only make you a productive city official, it will make your job more enjoyable and will be an invaluable asset to your city. Remember, no matter the problems you face or the size of your city, the Municipal League can be a valuable partner and helpmate to you and your city. Check out the programs offered by the League. You won't find more competitively priced services and you will be amazed at the League's rates. And join the Municipal Legal Defense Program; you will sleep better at night."

—Mayor Robert Patrick, St. Charles

"Communication is important. Get to know your media and use them to your advantage to communicate your message. When responding to media about any 'hot-button' or controversial issue, ask the reporting individual to read back or reply what they understood that you said so that you may correct any misinterpreted comments. Or, if a reporter sticks a microphone in your face, never reply if you are angry. You may, on occasion, have to say no to someone's idea or request. To gain their favor ask the party 'work with me on how to get to where I can say yes.'"

—Former Alderman and Lifemember  
Bill Eaton, Russellville

"The advice I would give any newly elected official would be to contact the Arkansas Municipal League. There is so much information available and the staff is always courteous and more than willing to help in any way they can. The Arkansas Municipal League offers educational opportunities for all officials, and certification classes each year for all officials if you choose to participate in the Voluntary Certification Program."

—City Clerk/Treasurer Linda Simpson, Lake City

"Always remember we are elected to SERVE the people of our community. Become an ACTIVE member of the Arkansas Municipal League. There is no better way to learn all aspects of municipal government. The Arkansas Municipal League is one of the strongest state leagues in the country. Their programs, services, and staff CANNOT be matched!"

—Mayor JoAnne Bush,  
Lake Village

"Cities are where the action is. As cities have become more influential and important, it is critical that all elected officials support the action, innovation, collaboration, and results that are unique to their respective municipal government."

—Alderman Dorothy Henderson, Warren



“As elected officials, we are sometimes used as a ‘sounding board’ to allow people to vent. I think that, as an elected official, we should make an effort to listen to what is being said and, when appropriate, reply to what is said. You don’t always have to agree with the constituent. It is OK to disagree with them but do so with in a manner in which your mother would approve.”

—Mayor Frank Fogleman  
Marion

“I would advise a newly elected clerk/recorder/treasurer to purchase the ACCRTA Handbook and also to join the League’s list serv. ACCRTA has meetings for newly elected clerks/recorders/treasurers to outline the most important items pertaining to their job duties. If they cannot attend the League Winter Conference or Summer Convention, we have district meetings which are set up to obtain credits for certification. The list serv is a wonderful tool and you don’t have to ‘reinvent the wheel’ if you have a question. Be sure to subscribe.”

—City Clerk Mitri Greenhill,  
Stuttgart

“New elected officials should spend some time with the *Handbook for Arkansas Municipal Officials* to learn firsthand their powers and responsibilities. No one of the three branches of government has all of the power. If everyone learns their role and stays within it, it will minimize conflict.”

—Mayor Billy Ray McKelvy,  
De Queen

“You are elected by citizens of the city you live in; you work for them and represent them. It is important to treat all citizens as if they voted for you and realize that when they have a problem, it is important to them, or they would not request your help. Place yourself in their shoes to fully understand the issue. Respond as quickly as possible, even if it’s not what they want, and share with them information on the response.”

—Mayor Mike Gaskill, Paragould

“For clerks, recorders, and treasurers I would encourage them to join the Arkansas City Clerks, Recorders and Treasurers Association (ACCRTA). Our workshops and institute provide training specific to our role within the city or town. For all officials, I would also suggest finding a mentor. It can be a mayor or alderman from a similar sized city or town. ACCRTA members are provided mentors from within our membership who have been in office for several years. And finally, I would tell everyone, ‘Don’t be afraid to ask questions.’”

—City Clerk/Collector Diane Whitbey,  
North Little Rock

“As a Mayor, I would encourage you to set goals for yourself and for your city. Be transparent in your business and be involved with the business community of your area. A good working relationship with your business community is a great asset. If you are willing to help in their endeavors they, in return, will be more willing to help you when the need arises. It is also advantageous to seek high quality supervisors and department heads. These people are responsible for the day-to-day operations that keep your city alive. A good supervisor will usually seek to find good employees who will make your city run smoothly and more efficiently.”

—Mayor Rick Elumbaugh, Batesville

“I would advise mayors across our state to see the potential in the neglected parts of their cities. In Little Rock, Main Street struggled for decades without a significant investment from the community or stakeholders. It languished without an identity and without the necessary commercial development that all Main Streets need. After several years of targeted focus on this area, I’m proud to say Little Rock’s Main Street is alive with new businesses, exciting cultural amenities and a renewed spirit of growth. That potential exists in all our cities and, as mayors, we must lead the effort to identify those areas and make that potential a reality.”

—Mayor Mark Stodola,  
Little Rock

# Managing Local Government Tougher Than Usual

What Is a Manager to Do?

by Ed Everett

**A**lienation, anger, and a lack of trust in local government are making it extremely challenging to manage our cities and towns and build relationships with residents. Unfortunately, some city officials feel there is nothing they can do to reduce alienation, minimize anger and build trust so they just accept the status quo. Other city officials have attempted to connect with residents in a variety of ways:

- Many officials try to improve services as a way to connect with residents, which has proven to have little impact.
- Some officials think the answer lies in more rigorous management systems, such as strategic plans or performance measures, but that is not the answer.
- A few officials opt for “transparency” by showing residents all the data, but that is only a small part of the solution.

Developing relationships with our residents is the only way to mitigate alienation, anger, and a lack of trust.

Local government has begun to turn to more effective citizen engagement as a way to build relationships and trust. Civic engagement will only be successful if combined with three other important and complementary strategies: build community, enact a partnership model, and treat residents like citizens. The relevance and importance of each of the three strategies are briefly described below prior to discussing engaging citizens.

## Build community

If you don’t build community, you will never be successful in your efforts to reduce alienation, minimize anger, and build trust.

What is community? Community is the feeling of:

- Belonging
- Inclusiveness
- Togetherness
- Pride in your neighborhood.

Community is knowing that your neighbors are there to help you and you are there to help your neighbors. It starts with people feeling connected to the place they live, to their neighbors and their neighborhood. Community is all about establishing and maintaining successful relationships.



People must know their neighbors to begin building community. Unfortunately, a Pew survey in 2010 showed that the majority of our residents don’t know 50 percent of their neighbors by name! Unless local government helps correct this situation, we will never overcome alienation, anger, and mistrust toward local government.

Local government cannot build community alone. We must build a partnership with our residents. Community building starts at the neighborhood level and grows and expands from this grassroots effort. Government can play four distinct roles to help to build community: consciousness raising, convener, catalyst, and facilitator.

Improving trust with our residents means first helping build relationships between neighbors and second, helping build relationships between our neighbors and local government. Nextdoor.com is an easy first step for local governments to help build community with minimal staff resources. Nextdoor.com is a free, online application that connects neighbors to each other and allows government to connect to neighbors and neighborhoods.

## Fix the outdated local government management model

Local government must change its modus operandi.

**Old Model:** We are operating under an old model, which is doomed. Most local governments operate under a “complain and fix” model. Our residents complain and find fault and we are expected to fix their problems. If we continue this model, we endanger the success of other efforts, such as being transparent, engaging residents, developing performance measures, etc.

The old model is based on outmoded and ineffective assumptions and beliefs, which drive our behavior and actions. Under the old model, we have operated under the faulty assumptions in which local government:

- Is responsible for the quality of life in a community
- Must solve people’s problems
- Requires little of residents.

**New Model:** The alternative is a “partnership” model. We must be honest and admit to our residents and ourselves that none of the big problems we face, including crime, drugs, affordable housing, child obesity, sustainability, failing schools, gangs and others, can be solved by local government alone. Complaining

and anger are not answers to these tough problems. We must ask and expect our residents to help solve these problems.

The new model sets forth completely different assumptions to the one listed above. The new model assumes local government:

- Cannot solve all problems alone and never could
- Is partially, but not completely, responsible for the quality of life in a neighborhood or city,
- Needs the intelligence and ideas of committed residents to be successful.

Below is a summary of the two models:

Complain and Fix	Partnership
Resident as Customer	Resident as Citizen
City as “Decider”	Citizen Engagement
Service Orientation	Service plus Community Building
Public as necessary Evil	Public as Partner

## Treat residents like citizens, not customers

Local government has made a big mistake by treating our residents like customers. Instead, we need to treat them like citizens.

**Customers:** Yes, our residents are sometimes customers; however, when solving big problems, they need to act like citizens. Customers behave in set patterns when they are not satisfied: they name, blame, complain and, find fault. Customers think in terms of “I” and “me” and not the greater good of the community and they expect someone else to solve their problems. Complaining will never solve our big problems.

**Citizens:** On the other hand, citizens (anyone who works and lives in your community) feel a shared responsibility and accountability for the welfare of their community. Citizens understand they have a role to play to improve and strengthen their neighborhood and town. We need the creativity and intelligence of our citizens to help solve our collective problems. If engaged correctly, citizens will become a powerful ally and partner.

We cannot allow our residents to act solely like customers. If we want local government to be successful and reduce alienation, minimize anger, and build trust, then we must change our expectations and assumptions regarding our residents.

## Engage citizens

Civic (or civil, citizen, public) engagement is the final key to building relationships and trust to solve our tough problems.

It is critical to understand what civic engagement is and is not. Civic engagement is not:

- Selling or convincing the public to accept or buy into your ideas
- Three minutes at the microphone at public hearings
- The mayor or manager holding forth in front of a community meeting
- Does not, cannot and will never happen in a council, director or city subcommittee.

### Civic engagement is:

- Staff asking the right series of questions
- Letting citizens discuss these questions among themselves in groups of 6-8 people
- Staff and elected officials listening, learning, and using the public input to develop recommendations.

Residents will learn to act and think differently if they experience a well-designed and facilitated engagement process.

## Summary

To break through the mistrust, alienation, and anger in local government, it is imperative for city officials to:

1. Build community within neighborhoods and throughout the community
2. Move from a “Complain and Fix” to a “Partnership” model
3. Treat and expect your residents to act like citizens, not customers
4. Engage the creative wisdom and intelligence of your citizens to help solve the tough problems.

We must integrate these four strategies into a comprehensive effort if we hope to be successful. I am not suggesting this will easy. You will make mistakes, confront challenges, have some failures and, at times, feel insecure.

It will take years to accomplish but the rewards will be substantial. You will:

- Positively change the culture in your city, town or county
- Find that the almost impossible job you have will become easier and less stressful
- Allow your staff to feel less stressed and more hopeful as they see citizens helping them solve problems.

Changing our attitudes toward our residents and partnering with our citizens makes political sense for you, the city officials.



*Ed Everett is a retired city manager and recipient of the ICMA highest award: Mark E. Keane Award for Career Excellence. He is a Senior Fellow at the Davenport Institute, Pepperdine University. everett@comcast.net.*

PHOTO BY JIM VON TUNGELN



A charming lakeside park in the center of Lake Village builds upon the city's main asset and regional attraction.

# The city as an economic development engine: Salvation or disaster?

By Jim von Tungeln

**C**ity council members in Roanoke Rapids, N.C., knew a good, solid economic development idea when they saw it. Or so they thought when they bought into it. A decade later, they struggled to make payments on the \$17 million they still owed on the failed venture.

It wasn't easy for a town of 5,500 with an annual operating budget of \$15.5 million. Of that, \$1.7 million, or 11 percent, went for debt payment on a disastrous idea first called "The Randy Parton Theater."

Originally, the idea seemed to have at least two strong selling points. Dolly Parton was involved, along with her musician brother Randy. He would operate the theater, and perform at it on some nights. He would use the family name and contacts to fill it otherwise. The facility would bring fame, fortune, tourists, and celebrities to this town in need of economic revitalization.

Needless to say, things didn't work as planned. Find a full account of the disaster at: [www.carolinajournal.com/news-article/andy-parton-theatre-still-haunts-roanoke-rapids](http://www.carolinajournal.com/news-article/andy-parton-theatre-still-haunts-roanoke-rapids).

The Roanoke Rapids experience provides a cautionary tale to all cities. This seems appropriate at a time when local elected officials in our state are showing

increased interest in turning their community into an economic development engine. This is a laudable impulse, though one subject both to the Law of Unintended Consequences and The In-Line Skating Syndrome. The latter, of course refers to the temptation to watch someone else do something such as in-line skating or picking business winners, and think, "Gosh that looks easy. I could do that."

The impulse will certainly grow stronger as Arkansas cities await the impact of Amendment 97 enacted by the voters in November 2016. Named "An Amendment to the Arkansas Constitution Concerning Job Creation, Job Expansion, and Economic Development," it allows, among other things, for cities to:

- Obtain or provide money for other entities to support economic development projects or services,
- Issue bonds for economic development projects, and
- Form compacts for economic development projects.

At press time, there were no limitations, financial or qualitative, on the exercise of these new powers. If this doesn't make a person feel a bit uneasy, that person

has not been associated with public administration long enough.

The skills needed in operating a successful city vary from those skills involved in operating a successful business. A city's decisions, by ancient mandate, must pass the test of benefiting the public health, safety, welfare, or morals of all citizens. For some private businesses, this may be a moral imperative, but it isn't a legal one. Conflicting goals don't always provide a clear path to success.

Placing future generations in debt for speculative ventures is an action loaded with danger. Advocates talk of "claw backs" in the event of nonperforming recipients of taxpayer money. As Arkansans know, however, one cannot claw back "blood from a turnip." Nor can cities simply walk away from bad economic decisions. Ask the folks in Roanoke Rapids.

The ballot issue also expanded economic development from traditional industrial development projects to ones directed at increasing sales tax revenue. Perils lurk in this approach like monsters in a bad dream. First, there is the inherent danger of local elected officials placing themselves in the position of picking winners and losers among retail ventures. Along with this is the impossibility of foreseeing changes in the fundamental structure of the economy, the environment, and higher levels of government. Witness the collapse of outlets renting videos or the current decrease in sales tax revenue attributed to Internet sales. So-called "big box" outlets themselves are feeling the impact of this trend.

Chasing sales tax revenue can end up similar to the so-called "zero-sum game." Researchers at Stanford describe this as "... one in which no wealth is created or destroyed. So, in a two-player zero-sum game, whatever one player wins, the other loses." For our purposes, we may consider that, for some cities, an increase in sales tax revenue from one business is offset by a loss of similar revenue from another. Rapidly growing cities may avoid this phenomenon, but others should take caution.

There is also the possibility that those seeking financial help might encourage neighboring cities to compete with one another for a business. At best, this could generate an era of "winners and losers" among cities. At the very worst, it could descend into a kind of high-pressure nightmare. Again, caution should rule.

Are there alternatives to contributing assistance directly to individual developers or businesses? Fortunately, there are. One vital step involves removing basic barriers to development in a community. This might include, among other things: substandard utilities, blight, unsightliness, lack of housing, poor or no broadband service, and a lack of educational opportunities.

A second step, as proposed by the Brookings Institution, involves building on the assets already

existing in the community. This includes finding existing economic generators and supporting those. Historically in our state, at least half of all private sector jobs created each year are from existing businesses. Cities ignore them at their peril when they concentrate solely on new prospects.

Another approach is that of American urban studies theorist Richard L. Florida, PhD. His strategy for local economic development focuses on "growing the people" rather than on attracting businesses directly. It calls for investing in amenities and adopting land use policies that are attractive to young professionals in "creative" fields (arts and the sciences). This includes outdoor amenities like bike trails; cultural amenities like historical sites; and a land use strategy that is more urban and walkable. The logic is that these things support a lifestyle that is more in demand by such "creative professionals."

And we can always follow the advice of State Representative Warrick Sabin and the other speakers at the Arkansas Municipal League's Winter Conference. They urged attention to promoting entrepreneurship as a method of growing our communities from within.

In summary, Amendment 97 is a tool. As with any tool, used wisely it can help build our cities. Conversely, any tool used unwisely can turn dangerous in less time than it takes to recognize the risk. Our cities should immediately develop clear strategic plans to oversee the use of this new tool. City officials should also be prepared for the pressure that is bound to come, from bad proposals as well as good. It will not always be easy.

City officials can and should support the efforts of the Municipal League staff in promoting legislation that will place safeguards and directives on the use of resources available through the ballot issue. Any immediate benefits must be weighed against life-cycle costs to the taxpayers. Above all else, however, city officials should make sure that future elected officials aren't faced with the tasks of cleaning up after disastrous investments, despite the difficulties they may face in saying "No."

Thanks to Hunter Bacot, PhD, and Michael Crow, PhD of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock for contributing ideas for this column.

Oh, and what happened to the Randy Parton Theater? At last account, city officials hoped to sell it at auction for an estimated 10 percent of the amount left on the loan.



*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](http://www.planyourcity.com).*

# It's your deal: Understanding the roles and responsibilities when issuing municipal bonds

By Lynnette Kelly

**F**inancing a public project with municipal bonds is a team effort in which many professionals work together to achieve the goals of the municipality. But as government officials considering issuing municipal bonds in 2017, keep in mind that it's your deal.

You are the stewards of taxpayer dollars, and you make the decision to borrow. You decide whether to hire a municipal advisor to act as your fiduciary and you select the underwriter through the process—competitive or negotiated—of your choice. Throughout the life of any municipal bond, you assume responsibility for providing investors with information that is timely, accurate, and complete.

And while the issuance of municipal bonds is your deal, municipalities have an important ally in the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB), the national regulator responsible for promoting a fair and efficient municipal securities market. Protecting municipal bond issuers is a central aspect of the MSRB's mission. Importantly, the MSRB does not regulate state or local governments; its rules are designed to make sure you are treated fairly by the underwriters and with the utmost good faith by municipal advisors you hire.

The MSRB also operates a public platform called the Electronic Municipal Market Access, or EMMA®, website, which is your key to accessing important information about the municipal market and communicating information to investors. Additionally, the MSRB provides free, objective educational materials for municipal issuers.

Since issuing bonds may be only an occasional event for certain cities, it's helpful to understand how the MSRB can support you when you decide to issue bonds.

## The decision to borrow

The decision to access capital from the \$3.8 trillion municipal securities market is always handled at the state and local level. Government officials have a responsibility to their taxpayers to make informed decisions about how to finance a public project. Understanding conditions in the municipal securities market and evaluating your locality's existing bonds are important steps in the decision to borrow.

The MSRB's EMMA website provides free access to information and data about the municipal market and nearly all existing municipal bonds. Before deciding to issue bonds, visit EMMA's Tools and Resources page to see what issues are scheduled to come to market and how they are priced, monitor the trade activity of your locality's existing bonds and view upcoming federal economic reports or other events that can have an impact on the municipal bond market.

## Working with financial professionals

Once a municipality has decided to issue bonds, an important step is assembling the deal team, which can include municipal advisors and underwriters. Check the MSRB's website, at [www.msrb.org](http://www.msrb.org), to ensure that any firm you are considering is properly registered with the MSRB and that individual professionals have passed the appropriate professional qualification examinations. Working with unregistered or unqualified financial professionals puts a municipality at risk.

MSRB rules and professional qualification requirements are designed to ensure the advice you receive from a municipal advisor is in the municipality's best interest. MSRB rules require underwriters working with a municipality to deal fairly, disclose potential conflicts of interest, and honor your wishes about some of the ways bonds are marketed and distributed to investors. You can read more about protections for municipal bond issuers in the Education Center on the MSRB's website. If at any time you suspect a municipal finance professional of violating MSRB rules or acting unfairly, report it to the MSRB by phone at (202) 838-1330 or by email to [complaints@msrb.org](mailto:complaints@msrb.org) and the MSRB will forward your complaint to the appropriate enforcement authority.

## Continuing disclosure

Once a municipality's bonds have been issued, it is the municipality's responsibility to provide investors with required ongoing material information in a timely and complete manner. Annual financial and operating information, notices of major events that may affect bondholders and other information is essential to helping investors make fully informed decisions about buying, selling or holding a municipality's bonds. The

MSRB's EMMA website serves as the official platform to disclose this information to investors.

Municipalities can schedule free email reminders from the MSRB to alert key individuals of upcoming filing deadlines. The MSRB also offers free phone support, how-to videos, and educational resources to support state and local governments with understanding and fulfilling their continuing disclosure obligations.

Whenever a municipality decides to issue bonds, remember: It's your deal, and rules and resources of the MSRB are there to help ensure the process is fair. Take advantage of these tools and resources to help you make informed decisions about issuing municipal bonds and communicating with investors.

*Lynnette Kelly is Executive Director of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB), the organization established by Congress to protect investors, state and local governments, and other municipal entities by promoting a fair and efficient municipal securities market. Contact Kelly at lkelly@msrb.org, (202) 838-1500. Follow the MSRB on Twitter: @MSRB\_News.*

## Missed us?

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

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# City van wrapped to promote government channel

Thanks to another public-private partnership, Jonesboro's Information Technology van is now wrapped with a design promoting Channel 24, the city's Suddenlink government channel.

Haag-Brown commercial real estate paid for the wrap, and Nettleton High School EAST Lab initiated its design. The van travels the city daily to service technology devices at city-owned facilities.

"We are getting out the word about all that we offer on Channel 24," Mayor Harold Perrin said. "I hear from so many people asking how to keep up with the city, and Channel 24, along with our social media, is the best way to do it."

Channel 24 features include the most recent city council meetings live and replayed three times per day, plus meetings of the city's committees and commissions. It also airs regular programming, such as "Let's Talk Jonesboro" and "Serving Jonesboro," that highlights city projects and many of the great nonprofit agencies that serve the city. 



From left, Jonesboro Mayor Harold Perrin, Josh Brown of Haag-Brown commercial real estate, and Jonesboro Communications Director Bill Campbell worked on a public-private partnership to promote Channel 24, the city's government TV channel provided by Suddenlink.

ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE



GREAT CITIES MAKE A GREAT STATE

## Voluntary Certified Continuing Education Program

The League's Voluntary Certified Continuing Education Program continues in 2017 with a series of workshops covering topics helpful to municipal leaders. The voluntary certification plan is, approved by the Executive Committee, and consists of 21 credit hours of topics.

For those city officials who have completed the 21 hours of core curriculum, you must annually obtain 6 hours of continuing education to maintain your certification status. The required 6 hours must be gained by attending the hours of continuing education offered at the 2017 Winter Conference, the 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention, or the 2017 Planning & Zoning Workshop.

The Program is for Arkansas mayors, city administrators, city managers, city directors and aldermen, city recorders, recorder/treasurers, city clerks, clerk/treasurers.

The next workshop at League Headquarters is:

- Planning & Zoning Workshop (5 continuing hours), 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. April 19, 2017, at League headquarters.

For more information contact Ken Wasson at (501) 374-3484 Ext. 211, or email [kwasson@arml.org](mailto:kwasson@arml.org).





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## Certain municipal officials in first class cities may opt out of APERS

The Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System (APERS) provides cities with the opportunity to cover its employees and officials (Ark. Code Ann. § 24-4-303). The law states generally that the mayor and clerk “shall become participating employees upon taking office.” On the other hand, the statute permits mayors and clerks of first class cities to opt out of APERS in order to participate in the local retirement plans provided for in Ark. Code Ann. §§ 24-12-121 and 24-12-123.

In order to make this election, the mayor or clerk must provide written notice to APERS within 90

calendar days of the date the official assumed office. Once made, this choice is irrevocable. Any employer contributions previously made on behalf of an official who elects not to participate will be refunded to the city and the official will forfeit service credit in the system.

Newly elected city attorneys or city treasurers in cities of the first class who are otherwise covered by a local pension fund may also take advantage of these provisions.

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

# NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2017

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

## What does medical marijuana mean for Arkansas?

Five states recently voted on the legalization of recreational marijuana in the recent elections and four more voted on medical use. What is at stake with these votes? How does this impact you and your workplace? Employers and employees need to fully understand the ramification of the new Arkansas Medical Marijuana Act.

Have you considered how the Medical Marijuana Act and the American Disabilities Act work together—or not? Do you know if you can legally terminate an employee under the influence of medical marijuana? How about the differences between state and federal laws, and which laws take precedence? What do employers do

when an employee tests positive? What safety and workplace employer responsibilities under OSHA and the General Duty Clause are to be considered? What type of training is needed at work to handle medical marijuana issues and who needs the course?

All of these questions need to be answered before the medical marijuana program begins in Arkansas. Handbooks will need to be updated right away to incorporate answers to these questions and need to be ready for distribution to workers. Medical marijuana cards will be showing up at your place of work in the near future and you must be prepared to handle the situation in a legally sound manner.

## Where is the Most Marijuana Being Consumed in the U.S.?

Marijuana legalization in the U.S. has continued to rise and more states seem to be moving towards forms of legalization. A majority of Americans seemingly are in favor of legalizing the drug, whether for medical purposes or recreational use, and it is for this reason that most states are looking at legalization. According to governmental studies, more than 13 percent of Americans 12 years old and older report using marijuana in the past year. Colorado, however, leads the nation with 21.6 percent of people reporting use of the drug.

It seems that states with more relaxed marijuana restrictions tend to have higher use of cannabis. There are 25 states where medical marijuana is legal with more to come. Medical marijuana cards may be issued for the following medical conditions: cancer, Crohn's disease, glaucoma, HIV/AIDS, eating disorders, chronic pain, PTSD, and epilepsy. Other ailments may be identified for future consideration to obtain a medical marijuana card. It is easy to see from this list of illnesses allowed for a card, there will be many new ones issued in Arkansas.

The evidence for marijuana use is questionable. It appears to benefit certain medical conditions, but a number of studies have suggested heavy marijuana use during adolescence can have long-term negative impacts. A lowering of cognitive functioning, difficulty in learning, memory issues, and sexual (dysfunction and anatomical) issues are all serious enough issues to cause a serious study to continue on heavy marijuana users. Is there a safe level of marijuana use? How is the brain impacted and when? And, is any use causing permanent damage? These questions must be answered by researchers soon.

A recent study by the *Huffington Post* identified the 12 states smoking the most marijuana. They are, in order, Colorado, Oregon, Vermont, Alaska, Washington, Maine, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Michigan, and California. The study provided information on the percentage of marijuana users in the past year, the total number of users, percent using illicit drugs other than marijuana in the past month, and maximum fine for possession. You might

note that there were no southern states among the highest marijuana using states. Hopefully, this is an indicator that our state's ranking in the number of users will remain limited.

With all the information floating around on marijuana, it is important that our state set up our program correctly. Some states are already experiencing negative consequences from their programs, and we do not want to find ourselves in the same situation. What starts out with a "selling point" to help the most severely ill (who would not normally be in the workplace or in safety-sensitive positions) becomes more and more prevalent where workplace use become an issue and driving under the influence of marijuana becomes a safety issue.

Marijuana Commission Chairman Dr. Rhonda Henry-Tillman is leading the debates on cultivation facilities, fees, locations, fines, and other very important matter of concern for Arkansas. The Commission is comprised of five members and these persons are facing daunting challenges as they decide our state's medical marijuana future.



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



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# Pipe bursting a useful option for replacing, upgrading utility lines

By Jacob Gillip, PE

Utilities across the state face a constant struggle to maintain their utility distribution and collection systems. This often involves reactive repairs—patching lines when they break, clog, or leak—until they reach the point of needing to be replaced. Additionally, many utilities were installed at a time when populations were more sparse, so lines may need to be upsized. However, utility line replacement in developed areas can often be difficult due to encroaching construction, landscaping, and environmental restrictions around existing lines, and sometimes lack of easement documentation. “Pipe bursting” is a method of trenchless construction that can be particularly well suited to replacement of gravity sewers in many situations.

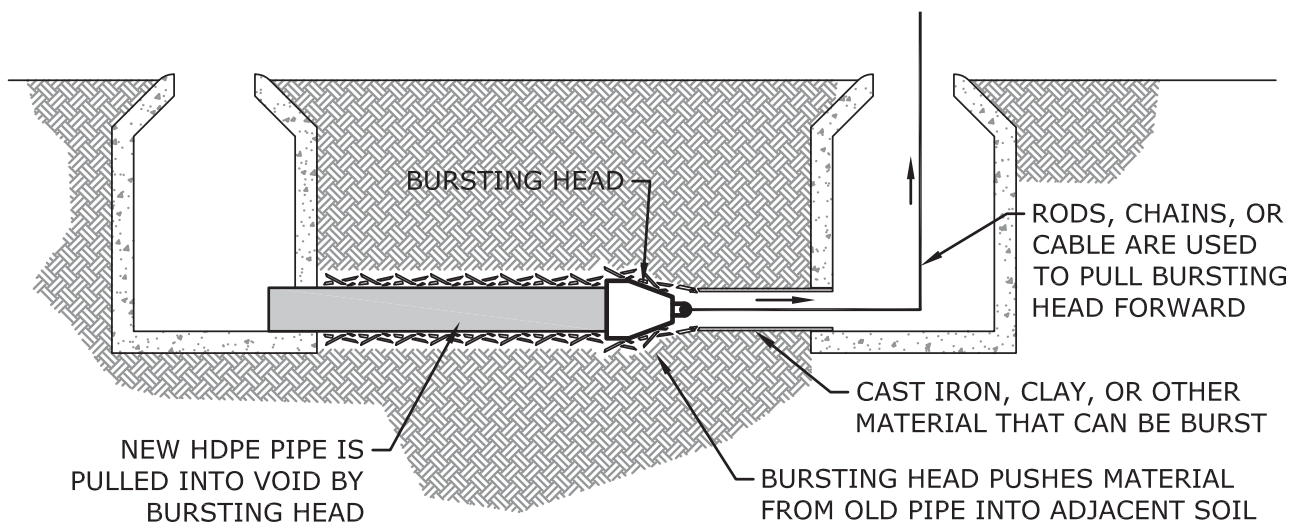
Most municipal utilities are quite familiar with trenchless technologies in the form of boring. Water and sewer mains are commonly installed beneath critical streets, highways, or interstates through traditional auger boring methods, in which pipes are installed on skids or rollers inside of a straight, steel encasement that is drilled through the ground in a straight line. Utilities such as electric, natural gas, and communication lines are commonly installed with directional boring methods, which allow continuous pipes or conduits to be placed directly into the soil. Additionally, water and sewer lines can also be installed with directional boring by using mechanically interlocking pipes, and this method is becoming an increasingly popular and cost-effective option.

Pipe bursting is an alternate trenchless technology that can be used as a method of replacing buried

pipelines in situ without the need for a traditional construction trench. It involves the replacement of an old pipeline with a pipe of the same or even larger diameter and the simultaneous “demolition” of the original pipe as the new one is installed. The pipe bursting head, which is pulled through the pipeline by a cable, chain, or rods, forces its way through existing pipe materials, fragmenting the pipe and compressing the broken pieces outward into the surrounding soil as it progresses. As the pipe bursting head is pulled through the existing pipe, it pulls a new line into place at the same time.

Pipe bursting technology can be used for almost any type of pipe including: clay, asbestos cement, cast-in-place and reinforced concrete, cast iron, steel, ABS styrene, polyethylene, and polyvinyl chloride. However, pipe bursting requires a launching and receiving pit at each end of the line to be burst. On a continuous pipeline, this would mean excavating the pipe and cutting into it to gain access to the pipe to be replaced. This may make the method less appealing for most utilities, but makes it a natural solution for gravity sewer lines, which effectively already have such “pits” at regular intervals in the form of manholes. The manholes on gravity sewer lines can often be used as launching and receiving pits without the need for any excavation. Additionally, gravity sewer lines are not under pressure, so they do not have the pipe strength requirements that many utility lines have. Old sewer pipe is usually replaced with high-density polyethylene pipe, which is easy to weld continuously and relatively flexible.

Benton Utilities has almost a decade of experience with pipe bursting as a method of repairing, replacing,



and even upgrading their gravity sewer lines. Randy Hawkins, the assistant wastewater manager, has found pipe bursting to be a valuable tool in performing necessary repairs around the city. He has noted the following advantages to pipe bursting for replacement of gravity sewer lines:

- Pipe bursting can be performed much quicker than traditional trenching methods, which is especially beneficial for emergencies.
- Unless manholes have to be replaced, there is not any disturbance to soil, so erosion control and stormwater runoff quality is not an issue.
- Pipe bursting can be done beneath streets with minimal disruption to traffic.
- In residential areas, landscaping and lawns are not damaged, which aids in public relations.
- Pipes can often be upsized by one or two sizes, which gives pipe bursting a huge advantage over liner technologies.

Several issues should factor into a city's decision on whether or not to use pipe bursting, including:

- Soil type: The soil type should be identified prior to considering pipe bursting. Some soil types are easily expanded, while others may require the use of a lubricant. The potential for expanding the void space and pulling a larger pipe through depends on several factors, but soil type and conditions are primary considerations. Very weak soils cannot support the weight of the pipe bursting equipment and are not suitable for pipe bursting. For rocky soil types, upsizing may not be possible.
- Site conditions: Factors relating to the site that must be considered include depth of the water table, presence of rock, type of original construction (and width of original trench), and accessibility.
- Adjacent utilities: Pipe bursting is generally not an option if you are replacing a sewer line adjacent to other utilities, especially potable water lines.
- Pipe material: Pre-construction planning and design are important prior to planning a pipe bursting replacement. Existing utility lines should be evaluated to accurately confirm material type and pipe size.
- Pipe condition: The pipe should be cleaned and inspected by closed-circuit TV (CCTV) to accurately determine the existing pipe's condition.

- Service connections: Service connections cannot be performed during pipe bursting. Existing service connections are destroyed and must then be excavated and repaired after the completion of the pipe bursting.

Certainly, there is no one-size-fits-all answer for repair or upgrade of any utility system. However, pipe bursting may well be a tool for municipal utilities to evaluate for their gravity sewer systems.



*Jacob Gillip, PE, is a project manager/engineer for McClelland Consulting Engineers, Inc. Contact Jacob at [jgillip@mce.us.com](mailto:jgillip@mce.us.com).*



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# Training program helps law enforcement assist troubled veterans

By Blair Myhand, guest writer

Every day in this country, thousands of men and women volunteer to serve in our military. That often means that those volunteers must prepare to join the nation in its global fight against determined enemies. It should be of no surprise to learn that not everyone is mentally ready to process how these experiences can affect their lives forever when they return home and attempt to rejoin society. Some veterans may begin to feel like the proverbial “square peg in a round hole” and find it difficult to fit in with the rest of society. In some cases this can lead to dangerous situations for the veteran, friends and families, the public, and for local law enforcement.

In the summer of 2014, two young police officers, both former Marines, met just such a veteran. His father came to the police department and asked for help in dealing with his son, an Air Force combat veteran diagnosed with PTSD. Even though in full police uniform, the officers decided to approach the situation as veterans rather than as police officers. They figured it would be easier to interact with a veteran in the midst of a crisis by expressing that they had similar experiences and that they understood the difficulties he was facing. This approach worked. They were able to quickly establish a rapport and stop the situation from deteriorating before the use of force became their only option.

The two officers spent the next few hours working to identify the root problem and help develop a solution to remedy what was causing his uncharacteristic behavior. As it turned out, the veteran was struggling through the anniversary date that involved the death of one of his combat friends. To compound the issue, his girlfriend had also recently left him and took their dog with her in the process. Within days, the officers were able to get a local nonprofit to donate a dog to the veteran in an effort to replace one of the things that had brought him so much peace. Moreover, they not only promised to check in with him periodically, they actually followed through and still stay in touch with him today.

The concept of having military veteran police officers respond to a veteran in a crisis was so painfully obvious now. However, up to that point, it was one concept that had completely escaped us. It took two officers, thinking outside the box, to come up with a simple and effective solution.

Subsequent research has shown that encounters between law enforcement and veterans in crisis happen in every city, large and small, across the country. These encounters can be dangerous and even deadly, either for the officers or the troubled veterans involved. Clearly, there had to be a better way for law enforcement to plan for and respond to a veteran in crisis in such a way

that the response protects the officers, the veteran, and their families.

Pay closer attention the next time you see two veterans meet each other. They might share a slight head nod or they might go further and take lighthearted jabs at one another about their branches of service, their specific units, or even their occupational specialties before striking up more friendly conversations. It matters not their age, sex, race, or religion. Veterans share a common connection because of their service. And, since many veterans become police officers, it only seems logical to use this available cadre of folks who speak a similar language and who share similar experiences of military service with one another. That simple concept has evolved into a unique program called Veteran Crisis Intervention Training (VCIT).

## Veteran Crisis Intervention Training

VCIT is a 20-hour “train-the-trainer” program that teaches police officers who are military veterans and who are also Crisis Intervention Team trained how to respond to a veteran in crisis. It relies heavily on the idea that veterans, of all branches and generations, share a common language and experiences that make them better able to talk to one another. Students learn how to leverage their shared consciousness as a means to resolve a situation before violence occurs.

Because veterans may have preconceived expectations of how going to a VA Hospital can be a negative experience, VCIT focuses on veteran-specific issues and local resources. Right or wrong, practice validates that some veterans are willing to trust a local resource more than they are in trusting “big VA.”

Students are introduced to a variety of issues that affect veterans. These include substance abuse, combat trauma, thoughts of suicide, survivor’s guilt, and homelessness. They also learn veteran-centric diversion skills. While much of the program is conducted in the classroom, time is also spent practicing these concepts during role-play scenarios.

Every segment of instruction is facilitated by a veteran, or by a veteran service professional. Additionally, every role-player is also a military veteran. This adds a sense of realism and helps students open up about their own experiences. As the students begin to practice their skills and talk to one another, as much healing takes



place for them as may be seen from their work after class. The last portion of the class is an hour-long “wrap session.” During this hour, students are reintroduced to that sense of camaraderie and belonging that nearly all veterans revered while in the military.

VCIT has conducted three classes since September 2015 and trained over 60 students from police departments across the country. Since the initial class, there have been no less than 20 known encounters between VCIT-trained police officers and veterans in crisis. In each of these encounters, the officers were able to avoid a conflict and divert the veteran before the situation turned violent. There have been no instances of violence and no loss of life or injury to anyone involved in any one of these encounters. This further validates that the idea that veterans have a unique ability to talk to one another in such a way that others may not. This ability to connect on a shared level gives officers time to find alternative methods that can mitigate the dangers from these otherwise dangerous encounters.

In the end, we are veterans helping veterans. Regardless of your politics or beliefs, we owe our veterans a debt of gratitude for volunteering to be part of something larger than themselves in service of this country. In the same token, we owe it to our police officers and first responders to protect them so that they are able to do their jobs the best way they know how.

Consider training your police officers so that they might be more capable of influencing the outcomes in these encounters for the better. The next VCIT class will be held March 20-22 in Apex, N.C. Please call Apex Police Department Captain Blair Myhand at (919) 249-3445 or email [christopher.myhand@apexnc.org](mailto:christopher.myhand@apexnc.org) for more information. @VeteranCIT can also be found on Facebook.



*Blair Myhand was born in Little Rock and now lives in North Carolina. His military service spans 23 years and includes combat tours to Iraq and Afghanistan where he was awarded the Bronze Star. He has a Master’s in Public Administration from Villanova University and is a graduate of the FBI’s National Academy.*



# Tab Townsell: From mayor to planner

By Sherman Banks

**T**ab Townsell was elected mayor of Conway at the age of 37 in 1998 and served for 18 years. At the end of 2016 he stepped down to become the executive director of Metroplan, the designated planning organization for central Arkansas.

During his tenure as mayor he helped to orchestrate changes that focused on structural and financial stability. He watched Conway grow in population from 36,000 in the 1990s to more than 64,000, making it the seventh largest city in Arkansas. He served the League on the executive committee and as president in 2007.

## Change an absolute

Asked why he decided not to run again for another term, Townsell simply replied, “It was time for a generational change.” He also pointed out that there are always changes and things to do in a city and there is really never a good time to decide to step aside. Change is an absolute and it is always a quest to want to move forward, he said. He turns 55 this year, which also figured into his decision. Just getting elected and holding onto the office was never intended to be the ultimate achievement, he said. Rather, it’s the goals you achieve while in office.

## Three objectives

As for Townsell’s vision as the new leader of Metroplan, he lists three immediate objectives.

1. **Improving the central Arkansas transportation system.** The most immediate project is the coming transformation of the I-30 corridor through Little Rock and North Little Rock. It will be a major challenge, as it requires cooperation among all

levels of government—federal, state, and local—in addition to addressing the concerns of local businesses, neighborhoods, and residents.

2. **Developing a regional approach that improves transportation while also improving the quality of life.** The key is helping communities recognize that what affects their city affects the surrounding cities, Townsell said. “It is paramount for our elected officials to reach beyond their respective districts to encompass the whole of the area in order to accomplish the metropolitan concept,” he said.
3. **A focus on people.** Improving the quality of life for citizens is about more than infrastructure, he said. It is only through people that you find a better quality of life. It’s a concept that gets lost in the politics of the issues.

## Final thoughts

As he steps into his new role, Townsell encourages municipal leaders across the state to consider broader effects of decisions made locally. What affects your town or city also affects the surrounding towns and cities. And remember that it’s people that make the quality of life, he said.



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





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Even just two trees in a small area, like this city park in Conway, provide measurable benefits, and the i-Tree application helps calculate that information.

PHOTO BY ALISON LITCHY.

# i-Tree software helps calculate benefits of trees

By Alison Litchy

Picture a beautiful, sunny day at the park with the family. In your mind's eye, does that picture include trees? Most likely it does. Trees have a way of calming us and bringing back fond memories that help in picturing that perfect day.

Trees' value to us surpass mere aesthetics, of course, and now there is a way to quickly and easily find the additional benefits that specific trees have to offer. i-Tree is a set of software tools that are used for assessing and managing forest and community trees. There are many options in the i-Tree toolbox. i-Tree Landscape is a web app that provides analyses of tree benefits within minutes for cities and counties. i-Tree Design provides a parcel level analysis for current and future tree benefits. i-Tree Eco is one of the most detailed and complex inventory analysis that includes pest data. i-Tree Canopy is a tool that quickly estimates tree canopy and benefits using aerial maps.

MyTree Benefits	
Serving size: 2 trees	
<b>Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)</b>	\$13.08
CO <sub>2</sub> absorbed each year	1308.28 lbs
<b>Storm Water</b>	\$133.72
Rainfall intercepted each year	13507 gal.
<b>Air Pollution removed each year</b>	\$2.43
Ozone	5.76 oz
Nitrogen dioxide	0.64 oz
Sulfur dioxide	0.00 oz
Large particulate matter**	32.48 oz
<b>Energy Usage each year*</b>	\$0.00
Electricity savings (A/C)	0.00 kWh
Fuel savings (NG, Oil)	0.00 therms
<b>Avoided Emissions</b>	
Carbon dioxide	0.00 lbs
Nitrogen dioxide	0.00 oz
Sulfur dioxide	0.00 oz
Large particulate matter**	0.00 oz

Benefit values are estimates based on USDA Forest Service research and are meant for guidance only. [itreetools.org](http://itreetools.org)

\*Positive energy values indicate savings or reduced emissions. Negative energy values indicate increased usage or emissions.

This article will focus on the brand new My Tree application, which can be easily accessed online or as an application for your smartphone. The program provides calculations for determining the value of an individual tree or multiple trees that are being assessed to demonstrate the benefits they provide for our urban environments. Best of all there is no financial cost.

There is a very small park in Conway located at 690 Pine Street. It sits on just 1.5 acres of land. Despite its small size, the park has a basketball court, two playground areas, a wooden play center, two crawl tunnels, two rocking animals, and four benches. A person might think there is not enough room for trees with all that going on in such a small area. However, that small park does have two trees, and it even has room for one or two more. Those trees provide shade for the kids playing basketball and for anyone who just wants to cool down on a hot summer

day. But what other benefits do just these two trees provide? This is where My Tree will help us.

In order to determine the benefits we need information about the species of trees on the site. There are many tree id resources available online and through the Arkansas Forestry Commission. In our scenario there is one American elm and one willow oak tree. First, look at the tree and do a basic condition assessment. Use a scale ranging from excellent to good, fair or bad. Make this assessment based on any obvious issues that may be seen such as dead limbs, hollow in the trunk, rot, etc.

The next piece of information collected is the diameter at breast height (DBH). There are a couple of ways to get this measurement. Borrow a diameter tape and measure around the tree at a height of 4.5 feet from the base of the tree. However, this can also be done with some string. Again, at 4.5 feet from the base of the tree, place a string tightly around the tree and make a mark or cut the string. Measure the length of the string to get the circumference. Finally, convert the circumference measurement to diameter by dividing circumference by pi (3.14). The elm's diameter is 16 inches and the oak's diameter is 29 inches. They are not surrounded by any tall buildings or other trees, and they receive full sun, which is another function in the calculation.

Other pieces of information you are going to need are distance and direction from the nearest building if it is near one and, if so, the building's age. The trees can be calculated together or separately. The results are laid out like nutrition information seen on a food product.

Our two example trees in Conway are absorbing 1,308.28 lbs. of CO<sup>2</sup> a year and intercepting 13,507 gallons of rainfall that will not have to be treated or displaced in storm water systems, thus saving tax dollars. It also gives a breakdown of the air pollution that the two trees remove each year. If these trees were near buildings and assisting in the cooling of them in the summer there would be energy savings and avoided emissions as well. It's amazing what the benefits of two trees in a small park can provide for a community.

Each tree matters and helps make up our urban forest. i-Tree and the My Tree tool can be found at [www.itreetools.org/mytree](http://www.itreetools.org/mytree).



*Alison Litchy is urban forestry partnership coordinator with the Arkansas Forestry Commission. Call Alison at (501) 984-5867 or email [alison.litchy@arkansas.gov](mailto:alison.litchy@arkansas.gov).*



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# Annual Statements

The suggested **FORM A** is for use by cities of the first class, second class, and incorporated towns to comply with 14-59-116.

<b>Form A</b>		
City or Town of _____		
(Cities of the first class, second class, and incorporated towns)		
Financial Statement January 1, 2016—Dec. 31, 2016		
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>		
Balance January 1, 2016	\$ _____	
Cash Receipts		
State Revenues	\$ _____	
Property Taxes	\$ _____	
Sales Taxes	\$ _____	
Fines, Forfeitures, and Costs	\$ _____	
Franchise Fees	\$ _____	
Transfers In	\$ _____	
Other	\$ _____	
Total Receipts	\$ _____	
Total General Fund Available	\$ _____	
Expenditures		
*Administrative Department:		
Personal Services	\$ _____	
Supplies	\$ _____	
Other services and charges	\$ _____	
Capital Outlay	\$ _____	
Debt Service	\$ _____	
Transfers Out	\$ _____	
Total Expenditures	\$ _____	
Balance General Fund Dec. 31, 2016	\$ _____	
<b>STREET FUND</b>		
Balance January 1, 2016	\$ _____	
Cash Receipts		
State Revenues	\$ _____	
Property Taxes	\$ _____	
Sales Taxes	\$ _____	
Franchise Fees	\$ _____	
Transfers In	\$ _____	
Other	\$ _____	
Total Street Receipts	\$ _____	
Total Street Fund Available	\$ _____	
Expenditures		
Personal Services	\$ _____	
Supplies	\$ _____	
Other services and charges	\$ _____	
Capital Outlay	\$ _____	
Debt service	\$ _____	
Transfers out	\$ _____	
Total Expenditures	\$ _____	
Balance Street Fund Dec. 31, 2016	\$ _____	
The classification of expenditures shall be by department, i.e., administrative, police department, fire department, parks department, etc.		
<b>INDEBTEDNESS</b>		
<b>Type of Debt</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Date Last Payment Due</b>
Property Tax Bonds	\$ _____	_____
Short term financing obligations	\$ _____	
Sales & Use Tax Bonds	\$ _____	
Revenue Bonds	\$ _____	
Lease Purchase Agreements	\$ _____	
		Date Free of Debt
<b>Total</b>	\$ _____	_____
All financial records for the City of _____ are public records and are open for public inspection during regular business hours of ____ A.M. to ____ P.M., Monday through Friday, at City Hall in _____, Arkansas.		
If the record is in active use or in storage and, therefore, not available at the time a citizen asks to examine it, the custodian shall certify this fact in writing to the applicant and set a date and hour within three (3) days at which time the record will be available for inspection and copying.		

# Municipalities must publish annual financial statement


The time is rapidly arriving for the annual reporting of each city and town's financial statement. Refer to the *Handbook for Arkansas Municipal Officials*, 2015-16 ed., section 14-59-116 and section 14-237-113. Although these statements were required semiannually in the past, Acts 620 § 11 and 621 § 10 of 2011 amended the law to provide for annual publication instead.

Ark. Code Ann. § 14-59-116 now provides that the governing body of each municipality shall publish annually in a newspaper published in the municipality a FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MUNICIPALITY by April 1 covering the previous calendar year (January through the end of December).

The financial statements should include the receipts and expenditures for the year. In addition, they should contain "a statement of the indebtedness and financial condition of the municipality."

Section 14-237-113 provides similar publication requirements for the operating authority of the WATER and SEWER DEPARTMENTS. Water and sewer departments administered by one or two commissions must comply with the law. If the water and sewer departments are administered by the city council, then it is the responsibility of the city council to comply with the statute.

What if no newspaper is published in the city or town? In that case, the statements may be posted in two public places in the municipality. Note that this is a change from the previous law, which only allowed incorporated towns to post and required that the postings appear in five public places.

Suggested Forms A and B appear on these facing pages. For additional information, call the League at (501) 374-3484. You can buy a copy of the *Handbook for Arkansas Municipal Officials* at [www.arml.org/store](http://www.arml.org/store). 

The suggested **FORM B** is for use by Water and Sewer Departments to comply with 14-237-113.

<b>Form B</b>		
City or Town of _____		
Financial Statement January 1, 2016—Dec. 31, 2016		
<b>WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENTS</b>		
Balance January 1, 2016	\$ _____	
<b>Cash Receipts</b>		
Water Payments	\$ _____	
Sewer Payments	\$ _____	
Sanitation Funds	\$ _____	
Other	\$ _____	
Total Receipts	\$ _____	
Total Funds Available	\$ _____	
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Personal Services	\$ _____	
Supplies	\$ _____	
Other services and charges	\$ _____	
Capital Outlay	\$ _____	
Debt Service	\$ _____	
Transfers Out	\$ _____	
Total Expenditures	\$ _____	
Balance Water and Sewer Fund Dec. 31, 2016	\$ _____	
<b>INDEBTEDNESS</b>		
<b>Type of Debt</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Date Last Payment Due</b>
Short term financing obligations	\$ _____	_____
Water Revenue Bonds	\$ _____	_____
Sewer Revenue Bonds	\$ _____	_____
		Date Free of Debt
		_____
<b>Total</b>	\$ _____	
All financial records of the Water and Sewer Department of (City or Town) of _____ are public records and are open for public inspection during regular business hours of ____ A.M. to ____ P.M., Monday through Friday, at the Water Department in _____, Arkansas.		
If the record is in active use or in storage and, therefore, not available at the time a citizen asks to examine it, the custodian shall certify this fact in writing to the applicant and set a date and hour within three (3) days at which time the record will be available for inspection and copying.		



# Annual pump service tests essential for fire departments

By Capt. Bob Franklin, LRFD (Ret.)

Spring is approaching, and fire departments will soon be doing their annual chores such as hose testing, ladder testing, and of course pump testing. These are all mandated by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), which guides what tests must be done, who is certified and what qualification's one must possess to perform such test. The NFPA updates its guidelines every four years. This month's article brings you up to date on the changes for conducting the annual pump service test.

The annual pump service test does more than show the pump can still perform as it was designed. It gives an indication to the condition of the engine, the cooling system, and transmission. A deviation in flow capacity does not mean that the pump may have a problem, but a problem developing with the motor and-or transmission or a combination of both. The motor, radiator, and transmission seem to get the most attention for maintenance, I would guess because they are readily accessible.

I have found in my 43 years of experience that the most abused and forgotten item is the most important—the fire pump. Just checking that the pump flows water during a monthly apparatus check isn't enough. Last year we tested 330 fire pumps across Arkansas and Oklahoma and found 248 with contaminated lubrication in the pump gearbox. We found everything from oil contaminated with water and dirt to no oil, and a gearbox full of water. We found four apparatus that had major problems warranting immediate removal from service to prevent a potential failure that could have injured firefighters or civilians. These apparatus had to be repaired at a certified pump facility before being returned to service.

The surprising thing was that when this was brought to the attention of the department, a majority did not even know the pump had a gearbox let alone one with lubricant in it. One pump we checked was 14 years old and still had the original break-in oil from the factory in the case.

The NFPA became aware of the high cost of major repairs to fire pumps due to bearing failures and through that research has come up with corrective measures. Now there are a series of inspections that are to be performed prior to testing the pump. There are about 44 items to be inspected, documented, and in some cases repaired before said test can began.

The NFPA's 1911-2012 guidelines stipulate that, in order to be certified to inspect and make repairs, a person must be an Emergency Vehicle Technician (EVT) and be certified from a major pump manufacture such as Waterous, Hale, or Darley. They have outlined specific documentation that needs to accompany each apparatus inspected and tested. Pump classes are offered at the various pump manufactures and last four to five days. The EVT course goes into great detail on the NFPA guides and definitions. This class normally takes two to three days with a test on each subject.

If you hire an independent company to conduct your annual pump service test, these companies or individuals are referred by the NFPA as third-party testing.

Who is responsible for knowing the persons testing have the proper documentation? That falls under the NFPA term "authority having jurisdiction," or AHJ. In most cases AHJ refers to the fire chief, but could also include the mayor and city council, or, in the case of a rural fire department, the board of directors. When looking for a third-party testing organization, simply ask them to produce their documentation. The third-party test person(s) should have copies of their certifications with them on their test unit as well as current copies of the NFPA 1901/1911. If the requested documentation cannot be produced, don't use them.

Just to be clear, Arkansas is a NFPA state. Just ask the Arkansas Fire Academy, Arkansas Fire Licensing Board, or call me. We are not an OSHA state nor NIOSH state, until something bad occurs and then OSHA, NIOSH, and NFPA will pay you a visit! Every part of our fire service is guided by the NFPA, from the fire truck construction, hose construction, nozzles, and air packs—everything tied to our fire service. The NFPA documents are court recognized guides when making judgments in determining fault or failure.

I hope this information helps you to understand the new standards coming forth. If you have any questions or comments, please give me a call.

*Bob Franklin served 30 years with the Little Rock Fire Department, has more than 43 years of service in the Arkansas Fire Service, and is a certified fire pump specialist, an emergency vehicle technician, and instructor for the Fire Department Instructor's conference in Indianapolis.*

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# Untreated atrial fibrillation may lead to stroke

By Hakan Paydak

**D**o you often find yourself short of breath? No matter how much sleep you get at night, do you seem fatigued the next day? It's possible you could have atrial fibrillation, a heart rhythm problem commonly referred to as AFib.

AFib is an irregular beating, or arrhythmia, of the heart. It occurs when the upper chambers of the heart, or the atria, are unable to properly pump all the blood to the lower chambers, or the ventricles.

Symptoms of AFib differ from patient to patient. Some describe a fluttering or skipped heartbeat while others feel like their heartbeat is erratic or too fast. Other symptoms include chest pain, shortness of breath, and sweating. However, the most common symptom is fatigue.

AFib is the most common form of arrhythmia. According to the American Heart Association, at least 2.7 million Americans live with it.

## AFib increases the risk of stroke

It's important for patients to seek treatment for AFib because of the condition's increased risk of stroke. The blood pools in the upper chamber and produces clots that may travel to the brain and cause a stroke. About 15 percent of strokes are believed to be the result of untreated AFib.

With AFib, other risk factors can further increase the chance of stroke, including diabetes, sleep apnea, and high blood pressure. Aging also increases your risk of developing AFib, as well as your risk of suffering a stroke because of AFib.

## Living with AFib

I tell many patients: AFib is not fatal. It's more of a nuisance than anything else. However, its role in increasing the likelihood of stroke makes seeking treatment critical.

Taking a blood thinner, which prevent clots, is the main treatment method. Warfarin is a popular medication used for many decades. However, it requires careful monitoring and periodic blood testing so the blood doesn't become too thin. In these instances, vitamin K, which is found in many green, leafy vegetables, serves as a reversal agent.

Home monitoring equipment, which allows patients to avoid frequent visits to the doctor, is available. Medicare recently approved coverage for self-testing, and some private insurers also cover it.

New medications have recently been approved that do not require extensive monitoring like warfarin. However, there is only a reversal agent for one of the new drugs and it is not universally available.

Remember lifestyle when discussing which medication is best. If you participate in activities where injuries can occur, warfarin may be a better choice because there is an easy and quick reversal agent for bleeding. If you would rather not have monthly blood monitoring check-ups and would like to be able to eat green vegetables, new oral anticoagulant agents may be better.

## Getting back in rhythm

In addition to preventing stroke, it's important to return to a normal rate and rhythm. There are medications that can convert AFib back to normal rhythm, but the most effective method is electrical cardioversion, where an electrical shock is delivered through paddles. It takes a minute and is done with the patient under a sedative. It is not painful.

Within a few days, most patients notice significant improvements. Returning to a normal heart rate and rhythm is crucial to prevent the weakening of the heart muscle and decreased pump function in the heart, which can lead to heart failure.

For some, avoiding caffeine and alcohol is enough to correct AFib. Several patients have told me their symptoms improved by getting rid of these two.

After treatment, some patients remain in normal rhythm without recurrence. Others experience recurrence up to four times a year. If recurrence is more often, consult your doctor about changing medications and other treatment methods.

Because of its increased risk of stroke and developing other conditions, seeking treatment for AFib is important. Discussing your options with your physician can help you find the right treatment to get you back on track.

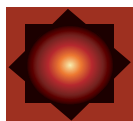


*Hakan Paydak is Professor, Department of Internal Medicine, UAMS College of Medicine.*



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# ACCRTA scholarships available

The executive board of the Arkansas City Clerks, Recorders and Treasurers Association (ACCRTA) awards scholarships for tuition to attend the Municipal Clerks' Training Institute, the Academy for Advanced Education and the International Institute of Municipal Clerks' annual conference, all of which will enable Arkansas clerks to further educational training.

A scholarship honoring the memory of Bill S. Bonner will be awarded to a first-year attendee in the certification program at the Municipal Clerks' Institute in September 2017. This scholarship covers the registration fee.

Additional scholarships include: four local \$400 scholarships to attend the Municipal Clerks' Institute, Sept. 10-14, 2017, in Fayetteville; one \$400 scholarship for the Academy for Advanced Education, Sept. 11-12,

2017, in Fayetteville; and one \$400 scholarship to attend the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) annual conference, May 21-24, 2017, in Montreal, Canada.

These scholarships are in addition to the 11 regional scholarships awarded by the IIMC.

Fill out the scholarship application below and return it to:

**Donna Stewart, City Clerk**  
**City of Camden**  
**PO Box 278**  
**Camden, AR 71711**

For more information, contact: Scholarship Chairman Donna Stewart at **(870) 836-6436** or email **payroll.camden@cablelynx.com**.

## 2017 APPLICATION FOR SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE

I, \_\_\_\_\_ am a member of the Arkansas City Clerks, Recorders and Treasurers Association and the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, and do hereby apply for assistance from ACCRTA. (Applicant must be a City Clerk, Deputy City Clerk, Recorder, Treasurer or related title at the time of application.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address or P.O. Box \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Date assumed present position \_\_\_\_\_

Other related experience: Title \_\_\_\_\_ Municipality \_\_\_\_\_ Years \_\_\_\_\_

Education: H.S. \_\_\_\_\_ Graduate College (years) \_\_\_\_\_ Degree \_\_\_\_\_

Check one: This application is for a \_\_\_ First \_\_\_ Second \_\_\_ Third year Institute

What are the approximate costs of the institute you plan to attend? \_\_\_\_\_

Travel/Transportation \_\_\_\_\_ Registration Fee/Tuition \_\_\_\_\_

Lodging and Meal \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount \_\_\_\_\_

How much does your municipality budget your department yearly for education? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your reason(s) for applying for this scholarship \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that if a scholarship is awarded to me, it must be used between Jan. 1, 2017, and Dec. 31, 2017, and that I must attend all sessions.

Please attach written evidence that your Chief Executive or legislative body supports your attendance at the institute and that in the event that a scholarship is awarded, you will be given the time to attend the institute.

I do hereby attest that the information submitted with this application is true and correct to my best knowledge.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### CHECK THE SCHOLARSHIP FOR WHICH YOU ARE APPLYING:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Municipal Clerks' Institute, Fayetteville	September 10-14, 2017	<b>Deadline: May 26, 2017</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Academy for Advanced Education, Fayetteville	September 11-12, 2017	<b>Deadline: May 26, 2017</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	IIMC Conference, Montreal, Canada	May 21-24, 2017	<b>Deadline: May 31, 2017</b>

**Disclaimer:** ACCRTA will not be responsible for applications that do not reach the chairman by the deadline. Please feel free to call after a few days to be sure your application was received

# ACCRTA seeks nominations for Clerk of the Year

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

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

Any municipal official or ACCRTA member may nominate a candidate for Municipal Clerk of the Year for 2017. The finalist will be honored at the 83rd Annual Arkansas Municipal League Convention, June 14-16, 2017 in Little Rock.

**The deadline for nominations is April 14, 2017.**

## Requirements for nominees:

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

## Complete the nomination information below and send to:

**Andrea Williams, ACCRTA Vice President  
City of Paragould, City Clerk/Treasurer  
P.O. Box 1175  
301 West Court Street  
Paragould, AR 72451  
(870) 239-7500  
andrea.williams@paragouldcity.org**

## Municipal Clerk of the Year 2017 Please Submit the Following Information

NOMINEE'S FULL NAME AND TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS, CITY, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

BUSINESS PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF THE CITY THE MUNICIPAL CLERK REPRESENTS \_\_\_\_\_

YEARS SERVED AS CLERK, RECORDER, TREASURER OR DEPUTY CLERK AND YEAR APPOINTED OR ELECTED \_\_\_\_\_

ARKANSAS CITY CLERKS, RECORDERS, TREASURERS ASSOCIATION (ACCRTA) MEMBER YEARS SERVED AND DATE OF MEMBERSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

ACCRTA OFFICES HELD \_\_\_\_\_

ACCRTA MEETINGS ATTENDED \_\_\_\_\_

ACCRTA, IIMC, OR ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE COMMITTEE SERVICE, COMMITTEES SERVED ON AND NUMBER OF YEARS SERVED \_\_\_\_\_

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE MUNICIPAL CLERK (IIMC) PARTICIPATION AT ANNUAL AND REGIONAL MEETINGS \_\_\_\_\_

IIMC WORKSHOPS (DISTRICT MEETINGS) ATTENDED \_\_\_\_\_

MUNICIPAL CLERKS INSTITUTE ATTENDANCE (NUMBER OF YEARS AND CLASSES ATTENDED) \_\_\_\_\_

CERTIFICATION RECEIVED:

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

DATE OF CERTIFICATION \_\_\_\_\_

ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE CONFERENCES ATTENDED \_\_\_\_\_

EDUCATION PROGRAM PARTICIPATION (INSTRUCTOR, PANEL MEMBER, MODERATOR) \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT \_\_\_\_\_

LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER ACTIVITIES \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL SUBMITTING NOMINATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NOMINATOR: PLEASE BRIEFLY SUMMARIZE THE REASONS WHY YOU BELIEVE YOUR NOMINEE SHOULD BE SELECTED AS THE 2017 MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# CDBG funding available for local projects

By Corey Parks

Cities should utilize a variety of funding and financing strategies to meet their local community and economic development initiatives. Grant funds, the issuance of bonds, fundraisers, and public-private partnerships are a few of the ways that a project might be funded.

For projects that benefit low-to-moderate income individuals, the Arkansas Community and Economic Development Program, through the Grants office of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AEDC), may provide needed resources.

The Arkansas Community and Economic Development Program is the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program for Arkansas. AEDC administers the CDBG program through an agreement between the State of Arkansas and the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. This program allows non-entitlement cities and counties to apply for grants to fund projects not covered under other funding categories. The project should benefit low-and-moderate-income community members, eliminate conditions of slum and blight, or address an urgent need.

Grants in the amount of \$75,000 to \$200,000 are available for projects such as homeless shelters, public libraries, food pantries, and infrastructure needs. This list is not fully comprehensive but it gives examples of projects funded in the past. Recently funded projects can be found throughout the state of Arkansas. Benton County was awarded \$185,000 for residential septic system improvements. Conway County's renovation of the Center for Exceptional Children's kitchen/cafeteria received \$182,435. Etowah received \$168,115 for drainage culverts and Howard County's new construction of the Rainbow Learning and Therapy Center was funded \$200,000.

General assistance funding helps cities complete projects that likely would not be possible otherwise. Applications for the upcoming cycle of General Assistance funding are due to the Grants Division by March 30. If you are interested in applying for these funds you should consider the following:

- Does my community project meet one of the national objectives?

- Is the project an eligible CDBG activity?
- Will the project address one of the high priority goals in the state's current Consolidated Plan?
- Is this project eligible for funding under another program in the current Annual Action Plan, making it an inappropriate fit for general assistance funding?

Seeking professional guidance can ensure the application is compliant with guidelines and is completed properly. While it is not required, AEDC recommends applicants work closely with their area Planning and Development District or a private professional who has received proper training from the AEDC. More information can be found on the Planning and Development Districts at [www.arkansaseconomicregions.org](http://www.arkansaseconomicregions.org) and AEDC at [www.arkansasedc.com/grants](http://www.arkansasedc.com/grants). Those applying for general assistance funds should also consider attending a training offered by AEDC so they are more familiar with the CDBG process.

UCA's Center for Community and Economic Development's (CCED) is partnering with AEDC to provide one of these trainings. Completion of the training results in a CDBG Grantee Training Certificate and 30 bonus points for the General Assistance grant application. Participants will gain an understanding of the grants management process, what qualifies as a good project, and how to audit proof their grant.

The next training session will be held on Friday, May 12 in Arkadelphia at the Dawson Education Cooperative. For more information on the Community and Economic Development training series visit [uca.edu/cced/ced-training-series](http://uca.edu/cced/ced-training-series) or contact us by phone at (501) 450-3460.



*Corey Parks is the Project Coordinator of the Center for Community and Economic Development at the University of Central Arkansas.*

# **IMPORTANT REMINDER: Highway Revenues and Severance Turnback Reporting Due**

**A**ct 265 of the 2014 Fiscal Session of the Arkansas Legislature requires municipalities receiving \$2 million or more in total highway revenues and highway severance turnback to submit reporting for 2016 projects to the Bureau of Legislative Research. The reporting deadline is March 15, 2017.  
You can access Act 265 and the required reporting document online at:  
[www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2013/2014F/Acts/Act265.pdf](http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2013/2014F/Acts/Act265.pdf).

Please take note of Section 13 of Act 265:

SECTION 13. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. TURNBACK REPORTING.

Each calendar year, beginning with calendar year 2013, each county and municipality receiving total highway revenues and highway severance turnback per A.C.A. § 27-70-207 and A.C.A. § 26-58-124 of \$2,000,000 or more shall report to the House Public Transportation Committee and the Senate Transportation, Technology and Legislative Affairs Committee indicating how highway revenues and highway severance turnback funds were utilized. The report shall include a general ledger accounting of the city or county street/road fund. The report shall also include the percentage of the street/road fund that is comprised of state funds. Further, the report shall include details of each contracted project including type and description of project, location of project and total amount of money spent on the project. HB1054 01-27-2014 09:18:30 WLC013

The report shall be submitted annually no later than March 15th for the previous year's projects.

Please ensure this message is forwarded to the appropriate personnel. Direct all questions regarding this reporting requirement to:

**Estella Smith, Administrator  
Committee Staff Services  
Bureau of Legislative Research  
One Capitol Mall, 5th Floor  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
(501) 537-9192 or [smithe@blr.arkansas.gov](mailto:smithe@blr.arkansas.gov)**

# GIF abuses don't outweigh need for funds

By Chad Gallagher

The news has had plenty to say over the last couple of months about Arkansas's unique spending mechanism known as General Improvement Funds (GIF). The funds have been the subject of controversy and disputes among the branches of government for more than a decade. Now, after federal indictments reveal that the funds have been used in a scandal that includes kickbacks to members of the General Assembly, there's reason to believe that the funds could come to an end, at least as we know them.

General Improvement Funds have historically had a great deal of flexibility in how they are spent, with the funds being distributed across the state for statewide and local needs as diverse as Arkansas is itself. In 1997, in a well-documented dispute with Gov. Mike Huckabee, the General Assembly stripped these funds from the executive branch, giving the legislative branch unfettered control of how the funds would be distributed. In 2005, after a lawsuit was filed by a former member of the legislature, the courts ruled that practice unconstitutional, primarily because the constitution requires that tax dollars have a "statewide benefit."

As a result of the lawsuit, the legislature created a "fix" that directed the funds to particular grant programs operated by the Arkansas Department of Rural Services and other state departments, with the lion's share of funds being sent to the state's eight economic development districts. These districts would be responsible to distribute the funds through grant programs. In truth, the members of the General Assembly remained involved by directing the districts how the funds should be spent and to whom the funds should be distributed. Critics say that, in many ways, little had changed.

In the 2015-2016 budget, his first in office, Gov. Hutchinson proposed zero dollars for GIF. The General Assembly eventually added \$40 million to the budget. Each House member directed approximately \$100,000 and each member of the Senate directed about \$285,000 in general improvement funds once the dust settled and it was determined how many actual dollars of appropriated funds would be available.

Gov. Hutchinson has now proposed a budget for the 2017-18 biennium, which again appropriates zero dollars for GIF. Members of the General Assembly must now grapple with the best way forward. At the Arkansas Municipal League's Winter Conference in January, Hutchinson told the members that he could not support funding GIF through the state budget in its present form. Acknowledging that it has done some good things, he went on to say such funds should be used for statewide projects.

This topic is important to municipal leaders. For every example of abuse or mismanagement, there are countless examples of GIF money being used for the greater good. In our smaller communities, especially, GIF money can go a very long way in achieving what cities and towns cannot achieve on their own. Arkansas cities are responsible for the execution of government services that our citizens rely upon—city streets, water and sewer services, fire and police protection, and much more. GIF dollars have been spent for a wide array of crucial needs and services. GIF dollars have purchased life-saving equipment for volunteer fire departments, sustained senior centers, repaired local streets, kept open local libraries, and have assisted with local economic development and other community improvement projects.

Taxpayers deserve a process of expending funds that ensures their dollars are not used as a slush fund to preserve power for politicians. They deserve a process that is transparent, thorough, legitimate, and well structured. I would argue that the weakness of the system and the failings of a few should not be used to penalize the small communities in Arkansas for which GIF can make all the difference. The state should take a long, serious look at how cities receive funding and at what level turnback funds are shared with cities. The growth of state income has far outpaced the growth of the percentage of funds turned back to the local level. Local governments serve in the most accountable and most direct position possible for the taxpayers. Citizens have easier access to the local government than any other level.

I encourage the Governor and the General Assembly to have long discussions on how best to reform the method through which these funds are distributed. What structures should be in place, who should administer and track the funds, for what type of local needs may the funds be used, and how will the system ensure the funds continue to be used in every county of the state? These are all valid questions. The system must be improved and operate with the highest level of integrity. The taxpayers deserve this, but the funds shouldn't be shuffled off to state agencies for the vast statewide budget in which the dollars are swallowed by the bureaucracy. The funds should continue to find their way to the local level where they are put to good use for good projects by the public servants closest to the needs. The taxpayers deserve this, too.



*Chad Gallagher is principal of Legacy Consulting and a former mayor of De Queen. Contact him at (501) 246-8842 or email [chad.gallagher@legacymail.org](mailto:chad.gallagher@legacymail.org).*

# NOTICE: Annexation Reports Due March 1

## **Arkansas Code Ann. sections 14-40-2201 and 14-40-2202 provide:**

- (a)(1) Beginning March 1, 2014, and each successive year thereafter, the mayor or city manager of a city or incorporated town shall file annually with the city clerk or recorder, town recorder, and county clerk a written notice describing any annexation elections that have become final in the previous eight (8) years.
- (2) The written notice shall include:
  - (A) The schedule of services to be provided to the inhabitants of the annexed portion of the city; and
  - (B) A statement as to whether the scheduled services have been provided to the inhabitants of the annexed portions of the city.
- (b) If the scheduled services have not been provided to the new inhabitants within three (3) years after the date the annexation becomes final, the written notice reporting the status of the extension of scheduled services shall include a statement of the rights of inhabitants to seek detachment.
- (c) A city or incorporated town shall not proceed with annexation elections if there are pending scheduled services that have not been provided in three (3) years as prescribed by law.

## **Ark. Code Ann. § 14-40-2202. Inhabitants of annexed area**

- (a) In all annexations under § 14-40-303 and in accordance with § 14-40-606, after the territory declared annexed is considered part of a city or incorporated town, the inhabitants residing in the annexed portion shall:
  - (1) Have all the rights and privileges of the inhabitants of the annexing city or incorporated town; and
  - (2)(A) Be extended the scheduled services within three (3) years after the date the annexation becomes final.
  - (B) The mayor of the municipality shall file a report with the city clerk or recorder, town recorder, and county clerk of the extension of scheduled services.
- (b) If the scheduled services have not been extended to the area and property boundaries of the new inhabitants within three (3) years after the date annexation becomes final, the written notice reporting the status of the extension of scheduled services shall:
  - (1) Include a written plan for completing the extension of services and estimated date of completion; and
  - (2) Include a statement of the rights of inhabitants to seek detachment.
- (c) A city or incorporated town shall not proceed with any additional annexation elections if there are pending scheduled services that have not been extended as required under this subchapter.

To obtain a sample *Notice Describing Annexation Elections, and Schedules of Services* access the "Legal FAQs" page of [www.arml.org/mldp](http://www.arml.org/mldp). 

## CALENDAR

**National League of Cities'  
Congressional City  
Conference 2017**  
March 11-15, 2017  
Saturday-Wednesday  
Washington, D.C.

**Arkansas Municipal  
League's 83rd Convention**  
June 14-16, 2017  
Wednesday-Friday  
Little Rock, Arkansas

# State Aid Street Committee approves 78 projects

The State Aid Street Committee met Jan. 11 at the Marriott Hotel and approved 78 projects, including four new design projects, for a total of \$18,328,886. Since its inception, the Arkansas State Aid City Street Program has approved 413 projects for the cities and towns of Arkansas. The 413 projects approved total \$93,924,195.



Cities and towns receiving approval for 2017 calendar year funding are:

<b>Alma</b>	<b>Elkins</b>	<b>Mayflower</b>	<b>Prescott</b>
<b>Antoine</b>	<b>Farmington (design)</b>	<b>McCaskill</b>	<b>Russell</b>
<b>Austin</b>	<b>Fifty-Six</b>	<b>McDougal</b>	<b>Shirley</b>
<b>Bearden</b>	<b>Fourche</b>	<b>Menifee</b>	<b>South Lead Hill</b>
<b>Bella Vista</b>	<b>Garner</b>	<b>Midway</b>	<b>Subiaco</b>
<b>Bellefonte</b>	<b>Gassville (design)</b>	<b>Mount Ida</b>	<b>Traskwood</b>
<b>Bergman (design)</b>	<b>Georgetown</b>	<b>Mountain Pine</b>	<b>Vilonia</b>
<b>Blevins</b>	<b>Gillham</b>	<b>Murfreesboro</b>	<b>Washington</b>
<b>Blue Eye</b>	<b>Greenbrier</b>	<b>Nimmons</b>	<b>Damascus</b>
<b>Calion</b>	<b>Hatfield</b>	<b>Norphlet</b>	<b>Heber Springs</b>
<b>Camden</b>	<b>Horatio</b>	<b>O’Kean</b>	<b>Hector</b>
<b>Carlisle</b>	<b>Humnoke</b>	<b>Oppelo</b>	<b>Jacksonport</b>
<b>Casa</b>	<b>Huttig</b>	<b>Parkin</b>	<b>Rockport</b>
<b>Cash</b>	<b>Jennette</b>	<b>Patterson</b>	<b>Rosston</b>
<b>Central City</b>	<b>Kibler</b>	<b>Pea Ridge</b>	<b>Southside</b>
<b>Clarkedale</b>	<b>Leola</b>	<b>Pleasant Plains</b>	<b>Tuckerman</b>
<b>Clarksville</b>	<b>Lockesburg</b>	<b>Plainview</b>	<b>Walnut Ridge</b>
<b>Denning</b>	<b>London</b>	<b>Plumerville</b>	<b>Yellville (design)</b>
<b>Des Arc</b>	<b>Lonsdale</b>	<b>Powhatan</b>	
<b>Diamond City</b>	<b>Marvell</b>	<b>Poyen</b>	

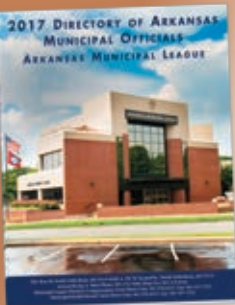




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Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies of the 2017 Directory of Arkansas Municipal Officials at: \$25 each.  
My check of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed, payable to: The Arkansas Municipal League.

Send Directory to:  
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Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Clip and mail to: Arkansas Municipal League  
2017 Directory  
P.O. Box 38  
North Little Rock, AR 72115-0038

# MHBF Tips: Understanding your prescription drug plan

**T**he Prescription Drug Plan for the Municipal Health Benefit Fund (MHBF) is managed by OptumRx. This is why MHBF members are directed to OptumRx when they call with questions regarding prescription drugs. OptumRx is entrusted with filling prescriptions for members according to the approved prescription formulary.

Most pharmacies accept OptumRx prescription coverage, but if you need to locate a participating pharmacy, go to [www.mycatamaranrx.com](http://www.mycatamaranrx.com) and enter your address or zip code. In order to save money on generic prescriptions, MHBF members can utilize an Align pharmacy in the OptumRx network. When an Align pharmacy is utilized, most generic drugs can be filled at a cost of \$4 for a 30-day supply, rather than the usual \$10 co-payment. Align pharmacies can be found on the website referenced above.

For tech-savvy individuals, OptumRx offers MHBF members with access to its online prescription tool at [optumrx.com/mycatamaranrx](http://optumrx.com/mycatamaranrx). On this site, a member can compare medication costs at local pharmacies, see savings between brand names and generic medications, and much more. If you would rather speak to a live person, OptumRx Customer Service Center can be contacted by calling (855) 253-0846. OptumRx's call center is operated 24/7.

MHBF has chosen to implement an **evidence-based drug program** with the assistance of RxResults. RxResults helps MHBF meet the challenge of ensuring access to medications proven to be safe and effective while controlling costs. This is done by identifying high-cost drugs that have lower-cost alternatives clinically proven to be just as effective.

How does the evidence-based plan work? In most cases, brand-name drugs that have generic equivalents will be excluded from coverage. Dosage guidelines or quantity limits are employed by MHBF to ensure safe and effective drug usage. These guidelines are consistent with the FDA-approved labeling and limit the amount of a particular medication that can be dispensed. The list of drugs excluded by the plan or those that have quantity limits can be found at [www.arml.org/mhbf](http://www.arml.org/mhbf).

Another way the plan works is using **step therapy**. Step therapy is designed to manage drug therapy in a “stepped” fashion that is consistent with established treatment guidelines. Step therapy promotes cost-effective drug therapy where appropriate, so that the most cost-effective drugs are tried before other more expensive therapies can be used. It is important to know that Step therapy does not promote or require the use of inferior drug products and is not based solely on cost. Often the newest and most heavily promoted drugs lack documented evidence that they are better than the less expensive alternatives.

**Reference pricing** is applied to drug classes where little to no clinical difference exists among drugs in the class, but where significant differences exist in cost. Based on published clinical evidence, MHBF has selected the best-in-class referenced drug for each drug class involved in reference pricing. The amount paid by MHBF per tablet or capsule for the referenced drug will be the amount MHBF will pay for all other drugs in the same class. The member will be able to obtain and fill a prescription for the reference drug at MHBF's standard co-payment amount. For all other drugs in the same category, the member will pay the difference between the total cost of the drug dispensed and the cost of the referenced drug. Depending on the medication, this cost can be substantial. It is important to note that the difference in cost does not apply to the out-of-pocket maximum.

To ensure appropriate medication use, **prior authorization** is sometimes necessary for certain medications. Consideration for coverage will be given for those medications listed on MHBF's prior authorization list. This list can be found [www.arml.org/mhbf](http://www.arml.org/mhbf). Your doctor must contact RxResults at (844) 853-9400 to request and start the prior authorization process.

## Did you know that MHBF members can get free diabetic supplies?

Blood glucose meters allow members with diabetes to become an active participant in the management of their diabetes by allowing them to detect and treat changes in blood sugar. In an effort to help members

effectively self-manage their diabetes, MHBF allows members with diabetes to receive one free blood glucose meter per year per year at no charge. The monitors available for 2017 are ONETOUCH® UltraMini™ Meter, ONETOUCH® Ultra®2 Meter, or an ACCU-CHEK® Aviva system. In addition, you can receive your blood glucose strips and lancets at your local pharmacy for a \$0 co-pay when purchased within 100 days of your insulin or diabetic medication before processing the supplies.

## Did you know that MHBF provides members with access to mail-order pharmacy?

In addition to the traditional retail pharmacy network, MHBF members may obtain their medications through MedVantx mail-order pharmacy. The mail-order co-payment structure is the same as that for retail. Information and instructions on how to use the mail-order pharmacy can be obtained by calling MedVantx at (866) 744-0621 or visiting [www.MedVantxRx.com](http://www.MedVantxRx.com).

MHBF is working to control rising prescription drug costs while offering our members a safe and effective prescription drug benefit. If you have questions regarding your prescription benefit, please do not hesitate to call OptumRx at (855) 253-0846. Customer service representatives are available to help you 24 hours per day, seven days a week.



## Main Street cities record more than \$15 million in projects

Main Street Arkansas cities recorded \$15,398,746 in investments in downtown projects in 2016, Main Street Arkansas Director Greg Phillips has announced in a news release. Main Street Arkansas is a program area of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage.

"Investments in the historic commercial cores of our Main Street Arkansas towns show a renewed commitment to historic preservation around the state," Department of Arkansas Heritage Director Stacy Hurst said. "Not only do these projects restore some of our finest historic buildings, they also help create jobs in small towns all over Arkansas."

Cities currently involved in Main Street Arkansas are Batesville, Blytheville, Conway, Dumas, El Dorado, Eureka Springs, Helena-West Helena, Jonesboro, Downtown Little Rock Partnership, Little Rock's South Main Street (SoMa), Osceola, Ozark, Paragould, Rogers, Russellville, Searcy, Siloam Springs, Texarkana and West Memphis. Members of Main Street's Arkansas Downtown Network are Hardy, Pine Bluff, Heber Springs, Fort Smith, Morrilton, Rector, Monticello, Arkadelphia, Clarksville, Warren, Wynne, Fayetteville, Forrest City, Malvern, Pocahontas, Newport and Paris. Other sponsors of the Main Street Arkansas program are Preserve Arkansas and the Arkansas Economic Development Commission. 🏛️

## Obituaries

**ROBERT "BOB" COLLINS**, 88, a Springdale alderman from 1986 to 1998, died Jan. 29.

**WILLIE J. PATTERSON**, 68, Parkin mayor and a former alderman, died Dec. 17.

**STANLEY RUSS**, 86, of Conway who served in the Arkansas Senate from 1975-2000, died Jan. 5.



# AHPP schedules 2017 Walks through History and Sandwiching in History tours

The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program's annual Walk through History and Sandwiching in History tour series visit historic properties in Arkansas. All tours are free and open to the public.

In the Walk through History program, AHPP historians each month provide guided walking tours of historic structures and districts across Arkansas. Most tours begin at 11 a.m. on Saturdays. The 2017 schedule includes:

- March 11—Historic Downtown Jonesboro**
- April 15—Keo Commercial Historic District**
- May 13—Downtown Hope Commercial District**
- June 10—Arkansas Tech University**
- July 15—Downtown Searcy**
- August 12—Siloam Springs Downtown Historic District**
- September 9—Mountain Home Commercial Historic District**
- October 14—Camp Chaffee Historic District**
- November 11—Dumas Downtown Historic District**
- December 9—El Dorado Historic Downtown**

The Sandwiching in History tours target Pulaski County structures and sites. The noontime series includes a brief lecture and tour of the subject property. Participants are encouraged to bring their lunches with them. 2017 tours include:

- March 3—Old Central Fire Station, North Little Rock**
- April 7—Dibrell House**
- May 5—Arkansas Ordnance Plant Guard House, Jacksonville Museum of Military History**
- June 2—Carmelite Convent and Chapel**
- July 7—Albert Pike Hotel**
- August 4—Acme Brick**
- September 1—Park Hill Fire Station and Water Company Complex, North Little Rock**
- October 6—Gustave Kleinschmidt House**
- November 3—Pulaski County Courthouse**
- December 1—Little Rock City Hall**

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# 2016 State Turnback Funds

Actual Totals Per Capita						
MONTH	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
January	\$5.0284	\$5.3276	\$0.2297	\$0.3041	\$2.1382	\$2.1473
February	\$5.1992		\$0.1524		\$1.0775	
March	\$4.6255		\$0.1655		\$1.0778	
April	\$5.5340		\$0.2342		\$1.0777	
May	\$5.4590		\$0.0745		\$1.0773	
June	\$5.2768		\$0.0968		\$1.0778	
July	\$5.6734		\$0.0987		\$2.8803	
August	\$5.0337		\$0.1292		\$1.2006	
September	\$5.3389		\$0.1482		\$1.0906	
October	\$5.5217		\$0.2562		\$1.0896	
November	\$5.3393		\$0.2306		\$1.0881	
December	\$4.9184		\$0.2078		\$1.0884	
<b>Total Year</b>	<b>\$62.9483</b>	<b>\$5.3276</b>	<b>\$2.0238</b>	<b>\$0.3041</b>	<b>\$15.9639</b>	<b>\$2.1473</b>

Actual Totals Per Month						
MONTH	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
January	\$9,482,577.19	\$10,065,525.00	\$433,179.54	\$574,575.98	* \$4,032,277.00	*\$4,056,819.92
February	\$9,804,689.33		\$287,481.18		\$2,031,997.39	
March	\$8,722,769.73		\$312,010.76		\$2,032,596.84	
April	\$10,436,025.60		\$441,661.71		\$2,032,297.66	
May	\$10,294,480.80		\$140,536.93		\$2,031,495.51	
June	\$9,950,873.55		\$182,493.78		\$2,032,597.66	
July	\$10,698,830.40		\$186,206.19		** \$5,431,589.73	
August	\$9,492,433.07		\$243,594.47		\$2,264,157.25	
September	\$10,068,067.87		\$279,548.09		\$2,056,681.01	
October	\$10,421,889.30		\$483,529.74		\$2,056,531.47	
November	\$10,087,659.40		\$435,692.77		\$2,055,823.30	
December	\$9,292,326.92		\$392,523.22		\$2,056,318.09	
<b>Total Year</b>	<b>\$118,752,623.16</b>	<b>\$10,065,525.00</b>	<b>\$3,818,458.38</b>	<b>\$574,575.98</b>	<b>\$30,114,362.91</b>	<b>\$4,056,819.92</b>

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

\*\* Includes \$3,517,035.84 supplemental for July 2016

# Local Option Sales and Use Tax in Arkansas



KEY: Counties not collecting sales tax

Source: Rachel Garrett, Office of State Treasurer

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

Sales and Use Tax Year-to-Date 2017 with 2016 Comparison (shaded gray)

Month	Municipal Tax		County Tax		Total Tax	Interest	
January	\$51,749,675	\$49,037,009	\$46,139,133	\$43,720,229	\$97,888,807	\$92,757,238	\$15,903
February	\$59,477,239	\$59,477,239	\$51,693,904	\$51,693,904	\$111,171,143	\$111,171,143	\$20,455
March	\$45,484,389	\$45,484,389	\$41,503,958	\$41,503,958	\$86,988,347	\$86,988,347	\$17,357
April	\$51,278,433	\$51,278,433	\$46,543,122	\$46,543,122	\$97,821,554	\$97,821,554	\$19,032
May	\$51,716,750	\$51,716,750	\$46,509,945	\$46,509,945	\$98,226,695	\$98,226,695	\$16,799
June	\$48,045,270	\$48,045,270	\$42,836,823	\$42,836,823	\$90,882,093	\$90,882,093	\$17,947
July	\$52,527,961	\$52,527,961	\$47,321,806	\$47,321,806	\$99,849,766	\$99,849,766	\$17,750
August	\$52,254,925	\$52,254,925	\$47,594,177	\$47,594,177	\$99,849,102	\$99,849,102	\$17,169
September	\$53,746,167	\$53,746,167	\$49,430,573	\$49,430,573	\$103,176,740	\$103,176,740	\$18,913
October	\$52,105,594	\$52,105,594	\$47,384,899	\$47,384,899	\$99,490,493	\$99,490,493	\$17,666
November	\$53,632,182	\$53,632,182	\$48,831,434	\$48,831,434	\$102,463,617	\$102,463,617	\$17,523
December	\$51,969,068	\$51,969,068	\$46,917,820	\$46,917,820	\$98,886,888	\$98,886,888	\$17,198
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$51,749,675</b>	<b>\$621,274,986</b>	<b>\$46,139,133</b>	<b>\$560,288,690</b>	<b>\$97,888,807</b>	<b>\$1,181,563,676</b>	<b>\$15,903</b>
Averages	\$4,312,473	\$51,772,916	\$3,844,928	\$46,690,724	\$97,888,807	\$98,463,640	\$1,325







# MUNICIPAL MART

To place a classified ad in City & Town, please email the League at [citytown@arml.org](mailto:citytown@arml.org) or call (501) 374-3484. Ads are FREE to League members 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 MANAGER**—Garnett, Kan. (pop. 3,258; \$15.4 million budget; municipal utilities; 53 employees), a growing family-oriented community located about an hour southwest of Kansas City, is seeking a city manager. For additional community information visit [www.simplygarnett.com](http://www.simplygarnett.com). Garnett is an EOE. Competitive benefits, Salary \$70,000 - \$85,000 DOQ. Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, resume, and three work-related references to LEAPS-Garnett, email to [LEAPS-Garnett@lkm.org](mailto:LEAPS-Garnett@lkm.org) or mail to LEAPS-Garnett 300 SW 8th, Topeka, KS 66603. If confidentiality is requested, please note in application materials. Position open until filled. Application review will begin February 17.

**BOOKKEEPER/ACCOUNTING CLERK**—The City of Farmington is looking to fill the position of Bookkeeper/Accounting Clerk for full or part-time. This person will be responsible for managing the day to day accounting, budgeting and purchasing activities of the city including all AR/AP processing. Successful applicant will handle technical reporting for each department and participate in financial and budget recommendations. Will be responsible for all yearly state and local audits. Experience with the CSA Accounting program a huge plus. College degree in accounting or finance preferred but not required. A minimum of three years verifiable accounting/finance experience is required. Must be able to pass a pre-employment drug screen and background check. Starting salary is negotiable based upon your knowledge and experience. Please include your salary requirements when applying. Applications are available online at [www.cityoffarming-tonar.com](http://www.cityoffarming-tonar.com). You can email the application along with a color copy of your driver's license to [melissamccarville@cityoffarmington-ar.gov](mailto:melissamccarville@cityoffarmington-ar.gov) or you can mail it to: City of Farmington ATTN: Melissa McCarville, P.O. Box 150 Farmington, AR 72730. No phone calls please. EOE.

**DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**—The city of Republic, Mo., seeks a Director of Finance. The new director will need to be visionary and a self-starter to address the following in the 18 months: Evaluate, adjust and provide action plan(s), think outside the box building solid fiscal processes and direction; establish vision and leadership to the finance and utility billing department; work with a new auditing firm; work towards relationships, processes (internal controls) and trust; and participate in replacing the city's operating software. Pay Range: \$62,500-\$80,000 Annually DOQ (Re-evaluation in 6 months for further consideration). Applicant must successfully complete background investigation and pre-employment substance abuse testing and may be subject to random substance abuse testing. Application and complete job description available at [www.republicmo.com](http://www.republicmo.com). Application must be completed and submitted to HR, City Hall, 213 N. Main, Republic, MO 65738. Open until filled. Current city employees must complete city application for consideration. EOE.

**DISPATCHER**—The City of Siloam Springs is accepting applications for the position of Communications Dispatcher. This position is responsible for answering multiple phone lines including 911. The position requires simultaneous data entry into a computer aided dispatch program while dispatching routine and emergency calls to include police, fire, ambulance and other emergency response, maintain logs and tapes and other duties as required. The successful applicant should possess strong computer and typing skills and the ability to multi-task. Knowledge of modern office practices and procedures as well as office equipment, radios, computer and Internet applications is required. Applicants must possess the ability to communicate effectively and perform cashier duties accurately. Previous experience and certification preferred. Qualifications/requirements: Must be a U.S. citizen, be at least 18 years of age, possess a valid DL, HS diploma or equivalent, no felony convictions. Must be able to work nights, weekends and holidays. Applicant must successfully pass a background investigation Hire rate: \$12.88 per hour. The city offers a generous benefit package including, but not limited to medical, dental, vision, LTD, 457 Deferred Compensation, vacation and sick leave. The city requires a completed application be submitted for all positions. Applications are available at City Hall, 400 N. Broadway, Siloam Springs, or can be accessed on our web site [www.siloamsprings.com](http://www.siloamsprings.com). Position open until filled. For further information please call (479) 524-5136 or email [humanresources@siloamsprings.com](mailto:humanresources@siloamsprings.com). EOE.

**ELECTRICAL LINEMAN**—The City of Nixa, Mo., has an opening for Electrical Lineworker. Under general supervision of the Electric Superintendent, Electric Department performs a variety of skilled, journey level electrical installation, maintenance, and repair activities on electrical high voltage overhead and underground transmission, distribution, and service lines. For a complete job

description, please visit our website at [www.nixa.com](http://www.nixa.com). Must possess HS diploma or GED. Possess valid State of Missouri certification for journey level electrical work or level of experience equivalent. Possess valid State of Missouri CDL-B driver's license at a level appropriate to the equipment operated. Starting Salary: \$30.50 per hour. If interested in applying, please visit our website: [www.nixa.com](http://www.nixa.com) or come by the City of Nixa Human Resources office, located at 715 W. Mt. Vernon St., Nixa, Mo., to fill out an application. You may also call (417) 724-5626 for more information.

**ENTRY LEVEL POLICE & FIRE EXAMINATIONS**—The City of Maumelle will be testing Saturday, March 4, for Entry Level Police Examination and will be accepting applications through 5 p.m., Friday, Feb. 24. NOTE: A City of Maumelle Employment Application must be completed. Applicants may order the study guide available exclusively from IPMA-HR online at: [www.publicsafetycompass.com/study](http://www.publicsafetycompass.com/study). Please allow several weeks prior to your scheduled test date to prepare with the study guide. A priority shipping option is available at checkout if necessary. A job description and an application may be found at the City of Maumelle website ([www.maumelle.org](http://www.maumelle.org)) Human Resources Department webpage. Completed applications should be mailed to: City of Maumelle Human Resources Department, 550 Edgewood Drive, Suite 590, Maumelle, AR 72113. For questions, you may contact the Human Resources office at (501) 851-2784, ext. 242. EOE.

**PATROL OFFICER**—Farmington is accepting applications for a full-time patrol officer. Candidates must be able to meet all requirements of law enforcement standards and training. Starting salary is based upon experience. No law enforcement experience is required for this position. Contact Farmington Police Department at (479) 267-3411 or go to [www.cityoffarmingtonar.com](http://www.cityoffarmingtonar.com) for an application.

**POLICE OFFICER**—The City of Calion is accepting applications for a certified police officer to work 20-30 hours per week. Candidates must meet all requirements of law enforcement standards and training. Prefer live in the city limits. Contact Calion City Hall at 125 E. Main St., P.O. Box 406, Calion, AR 71724; (870) 748-2564. Office hours are 8 a.m.-3 p.m., M-F.

**PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR**—McAlester, Okla., seeks a full-time Public Works Director. Pay range is \$75,150 to \$100,288. For a complete job description and application, contact the City of McAlester Human Resources Department, P.O. Box 578, McAlester, OK 74501; or call (918) 423-9300. Position open until filled. EOE.

**WATER SUPPLY OPERATOR**—Forrest City Water Utility seeks a water supply operator. Position is responsible for the operation of the water treatment plant, storage tanks and distribution pumping and metering on an assigned shift. Knowledge, skills and abilities required: Ability to read, write and perform mathematical calculations for required records and laboratory test; ability to perform required laboratory tests; ability to read charts and meters; ability to read and interpret equipment operation and maintenance manuals; ability to write plainly for record keeping; ability to lift and move 60 pounds sacks, move up and down ladders, & pass through a 24-inch manhole ring; ability to work in inclement weather; ability to use SCBA respirators. Other qualifications: Must maintain a Utility issued cellphone and subject to call 24-hours a day, 365 days a year; must have and maintain a valid Arkansas DL and be insurable with the Utility's insurance; must be willing to work overtime when needed; must maintain residence within a 15 mile radius of Forrest City. Special qualifications: Must have and maintain a Class IV Water Treatment License, a Class IV Distribution License or a combination of experience and education to provide the required level of knowledge and abilities. Must pass the Treatment and Distribution test within 18 months of hire or assuming the position. For more information contact Forrest City Water Utility at (870) 633-2921 or (870) 270-5017.

**FOR SALE**—The City of McNeil Fire Department has a 71' Ford Pumper, 750 for sale for \$3,000 and a 79' Chevy Pumper for \$4,500. For more information contact Fire Chief Bo Huffman AT (870) 904-0198 or Assistant Fire Chief, Terry Price at (870) 904-2304.

**FOR SALE**—The City of Mineral Springs (Howard Co.) is taking over fire protection duties from the defunct Cottonshed community fire dept. Three trucks that do not work are for sale. Call (870) 287-4221 for more information.



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